

February 2020

# Our JOYFUL Noise

---

The Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Britton SD  
Pastor Donald Buck 605.551.9001; Mindi Buck 605.551.9005  
Church 605.448.2460

---



## **The Bucks' Blog:**

What happened? Weren't we talking about New Year resolutions and goals for 2020 a few days ago?

Turn around once and it's February!

How's it going with the resolutions and goals??

I know... don't ask, don't tell. (If we only had a 10-day week with 30-hour days, we could get everything done... (or not).

So then... it's February, the month of Valentine's Day.

How did we get to it and why?

History says that there is no real decision on who was the person or persons named Valentine. One such priest, said to have died in AD 270, was so named. In AD 496, the Pope questioned it, and others were named Valentine as well.

In truth, a Roman holiday named "Lupercalia" celebrating the arrival of Spring on the Ides of February, or February 15<sup>th</sup>.

(Spring was thought to arrive in February.) Of course, being Romans, they turned the festival into a day of fertility, mating, and love. Young women were "anointed" to be more fertile. Their names were put into a lottery from which young available

men would draw a name. Together, the man and woman, lived together for a year. Many times, marriage resulted.

The Pope found the practice and festival abhorrent. He changed the festival day to February 14<sup>th</sup>, and named it Valentine's Day in remembrance of martyrs who died for their love of the church. Naturally, sweethearts of the time picked up the theme and declared their everlasting love for each other, even unto death.

Today, Valentine's Day can be love between lovers or simply close affection between friends, companions, or even schoolmates.

It causes one to wonder... on this day of love, what are we to make of the love of God as expressed in Jesus, the Christ? (Take a minute or two to ponder...) One of God's descriptions of God's self is Love. God is love. But how in the world can we as finite humans ever get our minds around that kind of Love? The truth is, we can't. And God knew it. So, God sent the love of God in human form in the person of Jesus. It is believed that of all the major religions of the world, Christianity is the only one that, instead of having to prove our love for God by doing all sorts of works

as other religions require, God in Christ Jesus proves his love for us. Jesus walked the earth as the embodiment of God's love which was demonstrated in love, acceptance, and forgiveness that culminated in giving his life for us and providing the freedom in life and living that we could only imagine. Now... as by faith we receive the love of God, we then have the Spirit of God instilled in us that gives us the ability to demonstrate our love back to God. The way we do that is by the simple instruction (yet sometimes difficult) Jesus gave to us.

Love God, Love neighbor. When we love God and love our neighbor (humankind) we demonstrate our love for God in Christ Jesus.

WOW!! Just imagine! Since God loved us first, we can love God and those around us and have total acceptance of God's love.

Now that's a true Valentine's Day... every day.

Donald and Mindi





**Group # 1** is the serving group this month. This group consists of:

Carol Jones (448.2117, cell: 448.8188)  
Marcey Jones, Tomi Hagen, Ashley Hagen & Nancy Hagen.



**Ladies' Sewing Group will meet on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> this month.**



### **Session Notes:**

As Session met late this month, I am unable to get notes for the meeting, but will include information next month.

**Next meeting of the Session will be Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m.**

# **How to Pray When You Don't Have Time**

Each day offers moments when you can connect with God. Here's how to find them.

by **Rick Hamlin** Posted in **How to Pray**, Jan 7, 2020

Too busy to pray? Happens to all of us. The real question is: how do you stay connected to your faith when you've got a thousand things to do? Here are six things you might try.

#### **1. Throw your nets on the other side.**

Remember what happened to the disciples when they went fishing and couldn't catch a thing. The Lord appeared to them and told them to [cast their nets on the other side](#). God's endless bounty was there. You can do the same thing in the midst of your busyness. Drive home by another route. Walk on the opposite side of the street. Sit in a different pew. A different view—even on the busiest of days—can open you up spiritually.

#### **2. Make elevator prayers.**

A member at a church I was visiting mentioned how he always says [a prayer in the elevator](#) as he's heading to the office. Just a short prayer, something to set the day right. The doors open, he steps out. Renewed. There are empty times in all of our days. We can fill them by staring at our phones or do something more intentional like commune with God.

#### **3. Feel someone's pain, hear someone's sorrow.**

Some friend asks you to pray for them. You promise you will after you hear their heartbreaking news. Write down their name somewhere. I like to use Post-It notes. Send them an email or a text from time to time. As for prayer, consider this: your compassion, your outpouring of love is a form of prayer. Being [a sympathetic listening ear](#) is a Godsend.

#### **4. Hold a song in your heart.**

It could be a hymn from church or praise

music. It might be some pop tune. Whatever it is, it connects to a deep, soulful part of you. Sing it to yourself. Hold it in your head. The psalms were all songs, not just words on the page. Not a perfect singer? Fret not. As the Psalmist said, [we are to make a joyful noise](#). That's good enough.

**5. Keep a prayerful phrase on your lips and in your head.**

Take just a single phrase from the Lords' Prayer or from a psalm. "Hallowed be thy name." "The Lord is my shepherd." "Thy will be done." "Know that the Lord is God." "Deliver me from evil." Maybe the meeting at work has gotten a little contentious. [That little prayer in your head](#) will remind you what's most important.

**6. Look up.**

It occurred to me the other day when I was jogging in the park that I'm always staring down at the ground when I run. Sure, it's because I don't want to trip on a branch or crack in the sidewalk. But it's also important to look up. To see the sun rising over the trees, to see the branches shimmering. Look up from your computer. Look up from your book. Look up from your phone. Look up from the newspaper. [See the beauties of the world.](#)



**We will be having  
communion on Sunday,  
February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020.**



**PWC Hope Circle will meet on  
Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00  
p.m. All women of the church are  
invited to attend.**



## *New Website*



Our New Website is almost there. It has been open for the Session to view and will be up permanently very soon. Keep checking on line . . .

**fpcbritton.com**



### **A Time to Think**

Problems are to the mind what exercise is to the muscles, they toughen and make strong.

-Dr. Norman Vincent Peale



**First Presbyterian Church**

**804 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Box 127, Phone: 605.448.2460**

**Pastor Donald Buck 605.551.9001**

**Mindi Buck 605.551.9005**

**fpcbritton.com**

## **Ordination and Installation of Officers, Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>**



Warren Symens was ordained as an Elder to join the the Session this past Sunday, which also includes Peggy Pearson and Brenda Johnson as the Class of 2022.

Members of the Trustees, Class of 2022, include Rhonda Buer, Dirk Weber and Mark Wismer.