

April 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:

Well now, we're in the thick of it aren't we? Just think of it, at Christmas time our world, our lives, and our future looked completely different. How quickly life changes. As with almost every major change in life, a retrospective look reveals little signs here and there that were telling us change is coming. So it was with Covid-19. For at least a year or more, medical science told us that a pandemic was on the horizon. Yet, being a people who believe we are exceptional, privileged, and entitled, we chose to ignore

science and believe that it just couldn't happen to us.

After all, we were busy remaking America better than ever.

And so, what appears to have overtaken us in 60 days or less, has in fact been in the making for a long time. And now, here we are. For the most part, confined to our homes and no longer in control of our lives. The unseen enemy is in our house. The proverbial "nose of the bear," with its smelly breath and stinking odor, is in our tent; and we are without a defense.

What are we to do? To whom do we turn?

Friends, I have great news for you!

The Psalmist said it best, "Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord." The answer has been with us all along. The exception is that we have ignored the source and considered ourselves self-sufficient. Now... we seem ready (some are still depending on their own wisdom) to embrace the still small voice that has always

been there, the voice of the Spirit of God within us.

Use this time to reacquaint yourself with God in Christ Jesus.

Use this time to pray (you don't have to be good at it, you know) and express to God your need of His wisdom, comfort, and peace.

Use this time to dust off your Bible, or go online to biblegateway.com, and turn to the Psalms to find the God who is always there... waiting for you to have time for Him.

Friends, even as followers of the teachings of Jesus, the Christ... Christians, we are not guaranteed a free and easy life without pain, sickness, hardship, or disappointment. What we are guaranteed is that God in Christ by the Spirit will take us through the highs and the lows of life. I like to remind people that you have made it through 100% of the challenges in your life, and God and you together will make it through this time of challenge as well. None of us is an island unto ourselves. We need God, and we need each other.

Together, we will prevail with the blessing of God.

Mindi and I pray for you all every day. We love you and share your cares and joys with you. Blessings on you and yours in these coming days. Days of the darkness of life's winter, and at this time remembering the death of Christ.

And, thankfully, the days of Spring, of new life, and celebrating the resurrection of Christ, who because He lives we also can live enveloped in His love, comfort, and peace.

We pray for a special resurrection Easter in your life this very day.

Shalom and joy,

Donald and Mindi



Although we are so grateful for those serving coffee during 'normal' months of our church, it will not be necessary to have servers at this time.



Ladies' Sewing Group has finished for the year, and the Spring Rummage sale has been postponed until further notice.



This year's quilts made & distributed by the sewing group.

Please continue to pray for:

Lonnie Furman, Deanna Jahnig, Lance Jahnig, Sandi Ellingson and Terry Price.

The problem is, many of the people in need of saving are in churches, and at least part of what they need saving from is the idea that God sees the world the same way they do.



Session Notes: from 3-17-20

- *Approved not to have church 3-22-20 because of the corona virus and to comply with the 10 person in a group restriction. People will be notified by way of the prayer chain, Facebook and the church web site.
- *Approved deciding whether to have church services week by week because of the corona virus.
- Pastor is working on getting the website ready to live stream services on the website.
- Online giving for church offering is a possibility by way of the church website.
- There will be no confirmation classes held when church services are not held the previous Sunday due to the corona virus.
- The church has two defibrillators to be placed in the church.
- *Easter sunrise will be at 7:30 a.m.
*Obviously many of these decisions have been rescinded with the threat of Covid-19.

**The Session later voted on-line
that all church activities
and worship services are to be
suspended
until further notice.**

How to Pray in Times of Uncertainty and Stress

In a time of uncertainty and stress, here's the path to finding calm and distancing ourselves from fear.

by **Bob Hostetler** Posted in **How to Pray**, Mar 10, 2020

Fear is contagious.

It spreads quickly and many are susceptible to infection. The cause may be financial, prompted by a layoff or a falling stock market. It can be rooted in health concerns, such as the global reaction to the coronavirus. It might be rational or irrational, specific or general. Wherever the fear comes from, it is usually a combination of two sensations: fear of the future and a perceived lack of control. After all, if we knew what was going to happen, or had a sense of control over the coming events, the fear would likely subside.

That's why prayer can help. That may sound like a platitude. Like so much wishful thinking. But it's true. Many years ago, God told His people who were facing an overwhelmingly threatening situation:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone,
a precious cornerstone for a sure
foundation;
the one who relies on it
will never be stricken with panic"
(Isaiah 28:16, NIV).

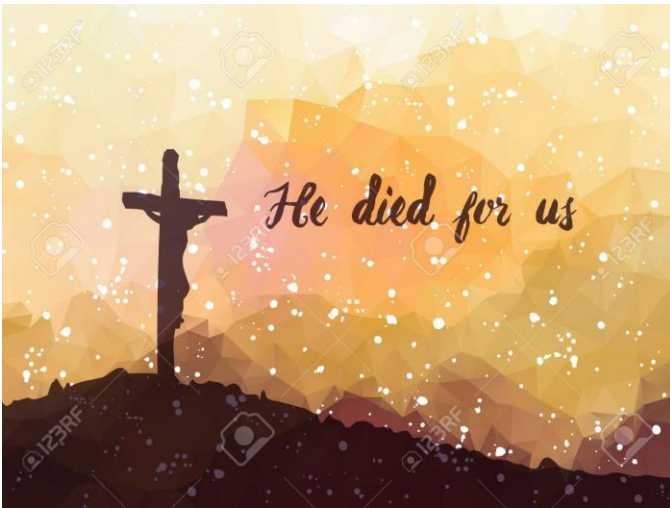
Turning to God in faith can relieve the uncertainty and stress that induces fear. We may have limited control when it comes to the outbreak of pandemics, sudden natural disasters and spiraling stock markets. But while praying may or may not change the circumstances in which we find ourselves, it can change *us*. Prayer can center us, calm us and point our minds and hearts to God. So, sure, we can flip channels and obsess over the latest unsettling news. Or we can see the wisdom in the biblical prescription for fear and worry: "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all He has done" (Philippians 4:6, NLT).

That writer knew what we need to discover: prayer displaces worry and pushes back on fears. If we're feeling stress, we should pray. If we finish praying and we're still stressed, we should pray. If we feel the fear returning, we should return to prayer, as often as necessary.

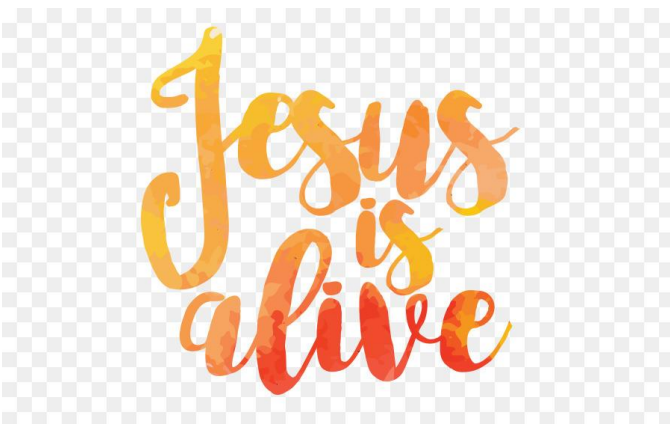
**Dear Lord, I place this day, my life,
my loved ones, my work in Your
hands. There is no harm in Your
hands, only good. Please watch over
us in this time of crisis and help us
to keep our faith, secure in the
knowledge that no virus, no
obstacle, no fear is greater than
You. Amen."**



dreamstime.com



Lance Griese was ordained as Ruling Elder of the Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 8th and here you see the laying on of hands by the rest of the Session and church members.



Confirmation classes began for our kids on Wednesday, March 4th, from 3:30 – 5:00 P.M., and are currently suspended due to the Covid-19 concerns. Pastor Buck was teaching the class and those involved are: Ty Fagerland, Collin Beaner and McKenna Heer.



Has been suspended until further notice and The State-wide Youth Rally that was scheduled in April has been cancelled.



The Women's Bible Study has been suspended for the time being and some are finding Bible studies on-line and on Facebook. Please find hope in the pages of your Bible and the love of communicating with one another by whatever means are available to you at this time. Hopefully, we will be able to have these Bible studies again in the future.

Church's Per Capita Amount

Our church will be paying in \$34.75 per active member this year, so if you know of anyone who has transferred to another church or should be considered inactive, please contact Jane and they will be presented to the Session for review.

Thank you.

Pastor Buck and Mindi are currently doing live streaming every day on the church's new Facebook page at 10:00 Central Time. Archived videos can also be found on Facebook at First Presbyterian Church Britton – the page with the smiling Jesus. Watch for them!!!!

For those not using i-phones and computer, weekly sermons are being sent by mail along with a Home Touch page. If you would like to receive a copy, please phone the church at 605-448-2460 and leave a message.



First Presbyterian Church

804 5th Street, Box 127, Phone: 605.448.2460

Pastor Donald Buck 605.551.9001

Mindi Buck 605.551.9005

fpcbritton.com