

June 2020

Our JOYFUL Noise

The Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Britton SD
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The Bucks' Blog

It's June! The month of the first day of summer.

I'm sure we all agree that we are living in interesting times. Times when all about us seems unsteady and unfamiliar. It seems that now, change and revision comes daily. We seem to be walking not so much

on egg shells as on constantly shifting ball bearings.

We are told that what was true yesterday is not necessarily true today. And today's truth may not be tomorrow's truth. It all depends on who's doing the talking.

In this time, the hymn comes to mind... "On Christ the solid rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand." God in Christ Jesus is our solid rock, our solid foundation, our tap root that is unaffected by surface conditions. We know and trust him because the Spirit of God in Christ within us tells us so, as does the Bible. Time in prayer and reading the Bible strengthens that knowing and trust.

Today, there are many voices loudly telling us what is true and what is fake, what to believe and what to disregard. Make no mistake, it is rampant throughout all aspects of our society, lest you think I have become political.

Friends, use this summertime to reassess... everything. Don't listen to every voice you hear, and don't believe everything you think.

Use your critical thinking skills. Test what you hear and what you think by the Spirit within you with the teachings and way of Jesus, and the Bible, through time in prayer and in the Bible.

The following was written by Tom Nichols, a professor of national security affairs at the U.S. Naval War College and an adjunct at the Harvard Extension School, entitled "The Confidence of the Dumb."

"There's also that immutable problem known as "human nature." It has a name now: it's called the *Dunning-Kruger effect*, which says, in sum, that the dumber you are, the more confident you are that you're not actually dumb. And when you get invested in being aggressively dumb... well, the last thing you want to encounter are experts who disagree with you, and

so you dismiss them in order to maintain your unreasonably high opinion of yourself.

(There's a lot of that loose on social media, especially.)

All of these are symptoms of the same disease:

A manic reinterpretation of "democracy" in which everyone must have their say, and no one must be "disrespected." (The verb to disrespect is one of the most obnoxious and insidious innovations in our language in years, because it really means "to fail to pay me the impossibly high requirement of respect I demand.") This yearning for respect and equality, even – perhaps especially – if unearned, is so intense that it brooks no disagreement. It represents the full flowering of a therapeutic culture where self-esteem, not achievement, is the ultimate human value, and it's making us all dumber by the day. Thus, at least some of the people who reject expertise are not really, as they often claim, showing their independence of thought. They are instead rejecting anything that might stir a gnawing insecurity that their own opinion might not be worth all that much."

Nuf said...

Trust the Spirit of God in Christ that is in you. Use your critical thinking skills for yourself.

Enjoy this first month of summer!

--- Donald & Mindi

Taken from Guideposts on line posting:

A Time to Think

You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving. –Amy Carmichael, author and missionary

A Time to Act

Today, be kind in all that you do and say.

A Time to Pray

Lord, thank You for renewing me and giving me a life that has purpose and meaning.



3 Spiritual Reflections to Help You Find Meaning in Quarantine

Let your faith guide you toward hope even in the midst of isolation.

by **Pablo Diaz** Posted in **Positive Living**, May 12, 2020

Every Sunday I call my parents in New York. It is a joyful time of catching up and talking about the weekly online sermon I've given for my new church in Florida. In every call, Covid-19 and its impact is mentioned.

My 83-year-old dad misses his daily walk with his best friend Johnny to McDonalds for a cup of coffee. "I feel like I'm in prison in my own home," he says. He is not alone in feeling isolated and confined in this time of quarantine and social distancing. But one thing these strange circumstances have offered is the opportunity to take a deeper look at our lives.

Here are a few things the coronavirus is causing me to reflect on:

1) Explore the Past

Our past offers a window into our hearts, where our treasure is. If you're struggling with social distancing, one thing I would suggest is to allow yourself to think about the past.

*How did I live my life before the pandemic?
What were my priorities? Who are the people
that I love and miss today?*

What lessons can you learn from the things and people you are missing? Are there things that were in your life that you believe you should not go back to once the pandemic has passed? As someone wise once said: "The past is where you learned the lesson. The future is where you apply the lesson." Looking back is about learning, not feeling guilty.

2) Recognize and Admit Mistakes

There is no learning until we become aware of past missteps and missed opportunities. If you find yourself feeling bad, pause and say a prayer. Then let it go. It takes courage to look at ourselves in the mirror and admit our errors. "As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart," states Proverbs 27:19. Now is a good time to closely examine all aspects of our lives, including the ways we have fallen short and can do better.

3) Move Forward with Hope

One of the most important things we can do during this crisis is to open ourselves to the prospect of a better future. Looking back to move forward with hope is the aim. Remain adaptable and flexible as you walk into the unknown, knowing you can create new and better experiences. People gain greater insight when they intentionally pause to reflect on where they have been and where they want to go. A promising outlook on life is possible even if life is turning out very different from what we thought it would be.

These unprecedented times of isolation offer a great opportunity for personal growth when we choose to examine our lives with courage, truth and grace. Time alone, if used wisely, can help us become a better, caring and loving person.

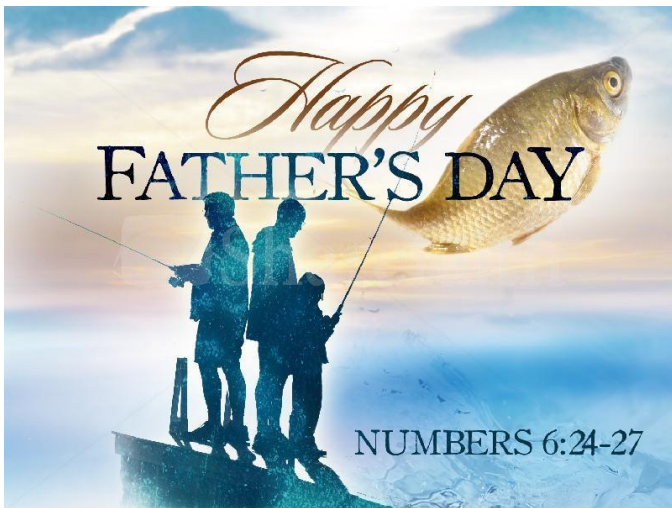


Please remember that the church is counting on your gifts, pledges and assistance during these trying times, so as you are able, please forward your gifts to:

PO Box 127, Britton, SD 57430.

You may also give your gifts by going to our web site and hitting the giving button which will take you to the site for setting up your profile to make a one-time gift or a repeating gift to First Presbyterian Church Britton. That's at fpcbritton.com. Check it out!!!





Lourdes with her cake

Our youth group had the pleasure of welcoming someone new to the crew this past year! Lourdes Moreno, from Baena, Spain, was a foreign exchange student living with the Warren Symens family this past school year. "Lou" brought an interesting perspective to our group, which led to some interesting discussions on various topics in our gatherings. We celebrated having her with us this last year with a going away party Tuesday, May 19. Our church was so fortunate to have her join us and wish her blessings and continued prayers as she has made her journey back to Spain.



Local youth of the church, along with Lorders, the foreign exchange student.

A father's responsibilities are profound. Being a godly parent in today's difficult world requires insight, discipline, patience, prayer and willingness to teach.

Do you sincerely seek to leave a lasting legacy for generations to come? If so, you must start by teaching your children the ways and the Word of God. And remember always that your most enduring lessons are not only the ones you teach with words; they are also the ones you teach by example. When you obey God's commandments and trust His promises, your life will be a shining lesson for your children ... and for theirs.

*---Taken from "A Father's Book"
A collection of devotional reading for fathers.*

Begin very early to instruct a child on the true values of life: love for all mankind, kindness, integrity, trustworthiness, truthfulness, and devotion to God.

James Dobson

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