

December 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



PASTOR'S CORNER

November 24, 2020

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

(John 1:1-5).

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church in Britton:

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We are writing this article to update you on what has been happening in the past few months. Let us introduce ourselves: The Rev. Ruth E. Clendenin, pastor at First, Aberdeen, is the church's liaison from the Congregational & Pastoral Care Ministry Team of the Presbytery of South Dakota. The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Visser, Honorably Retired pastor, is the Moderator of the Coaching & Visioning Ministry Team of the Presbytery of South Dakota.

We were asked to come meet with the session of First, Britton in August and to work a process for reconciliation between members of the congregation and session with Pastor Donald. We have been faithfully facilitating the process over these

nearly 4 months--you may remember filling out a survey form for us in October.

As we reviewed the results of those surveys and engaged in conversation with the Session and other leaders in the congregation, it became apparent that the process to resolve conflict and to facilitate reconciliation would take quite a bit more time than any of us had anticipated. It also became clear that relationships among members and the pastor have been fractured, resulting in deep wounding for all as well as an inability to relate to one another in an effort to carry out the mission and ministry of this congregation.

In an effort to relieve the stress and anxiety caused by the ongoing conflict, the Congregational & Pastoral Care Ministry Team took action to place Pastor Donald on Administrative Sabbatical. This time away was to provide an opportunity for healing and to discern the voice and call of God. We are working to ensure there is pulpit supply arranged during this time. We have also been appointed as temporary Co-Moderators of the session. Other pastoral duties will be supplied by the Ruling Elders. (Please contact one of the session members or the church office for pastoral care needs.)

At the session meeting on November 24th, the session voted to call a Congregational Meeting for December 13th following worship for the purpose of presenting the 2021 budget, electing elders and trustees to the Class of 2023, and to vote whether or not to dissolve the pastoral relationship with the Reverend Donald Buck.

We urge you to be in prayer for this congregation, its leaders, and pastor. We truly believe that God will light the way as we work together: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5).

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Ruth or Carolyn.

Grace and peace to you,

The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Visser
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The Rev. Ruth E. Clendenin
clendeninruth@gmail.com (806) 893-4261 cell



A New Way to Pray the Apostle's Creed

A slight personal change to an ancient prayer makes it even more precious.

by **Bob Hostetler** Posted in **How to Pray**, Nov 12, 2020 (Guideposts)

I was touring Egypt some years ago, when my guide, a Coptic Christian, referred to the importance of a specific prayer in his tradition, comparing it to the Apostles' Creed in the churches of the Western world.

Until that time, though I had often recited the creed in private and public worship, I hadn't considered it to be a prayer—though it always ended with “amen.”

The Apostles' Creed is an ancient statement of Christian belief, dating to at least the 4th century A.D. and possibly much earlier. Its exact wording differs in various churches and denominations, but it's always something like the following:

I believe in God, the Father
Almighty, creator of heaven and
earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His
only Son, our Lord. He was
conceived by the power of the Holy
Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was
buried. He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again. He
ascended into heaven, and is
seated at the right hand of the
Father. He will come again to
judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of the saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

I suppose I didn't relate to it as a prayer because it's not addressed to God; it refers to each member of the Trinity, but in the third person. However, though I've continued to recite it regularly in the course of my prayers, since that conversation with my Coptic friend, I've also occasionally turned it slightly to enhance my private worship. Like this:

I believe in You, God, my Father.
You are almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in You, Jesus Christ, the
Father's only Son, our Lord.
I believe You were conceived by

the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
You suffered under Pontius Pilate,
were crucified, died, and were
buried. You descended to the
dead. On the third day You rose
again. You ascended into heaven,
and are seated at the right hand of
the Father.
You will come again to judge the
living and the dead.

I believe in You, Holy Spirit,
and in the holy catholic Church,
the communion of the saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

It's a slight change, but one that has
made the creed even more precious to
me. I hope it will do the same for you.



Session Notes:

The Session met on Monday, November
24th, at 7:00 PM. by zoom, with the
following:

1. Approved the budget for 2021.
2. Approved not to have a Stewardship Sunday but will mail a letter with a pledge card.
3. Approved Local Mission Giving for 2020-Food Pantry \$1250, Bishop Dudley House in Sioux Falls \$1250, Safe Harbor \$1000. Children's Home Society \$1000.
4. Approved Lance Griesse to purchase Study Bibles for the youth in the amount of \$200.
5. Approved elders to call off worship services due to weather, covid, etc. and notify session moderator of decision.
6. Next meeting will be December 9, 2020.

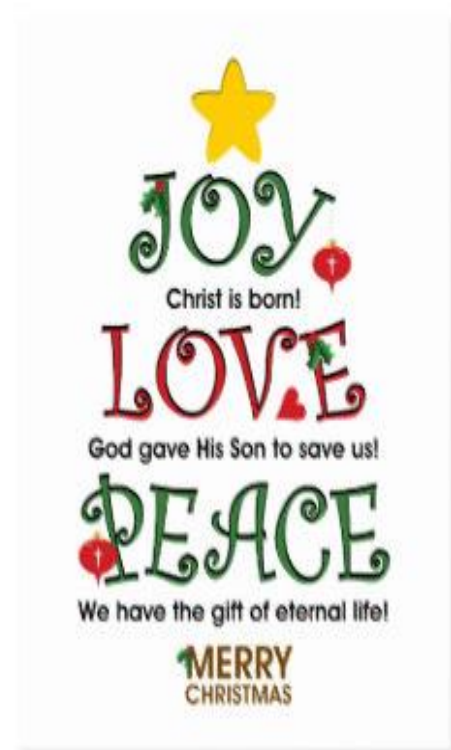


The 2020 budget has a deficit of \$50,000 as of November this year. Prayerfully consider your support for the work of the church.

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 secure one-time gift or a repeating gift through the Presbyterian Foundation to First Presbyterian Church, Britton.



Sunday School is back in session every Sunday following worship service.



Youth Group is now meeting every Wednesday at 6:30 P.M.

Name That Christmas Carol

Write the more common name of these Christmas carols:

Example: Quiet Eve
_____ Silent Night _____

Slogan Chimes: _____

Wee Tom-tom Tot: _____

Primary Christmas: _____

Dozen Units of Yule: _____

Felicitations to the Universe: _____

Off in the Barn _____



- Carol Anderson, as she continues to fight cancer.
- Sandy Ellingson, who recovers at home with improvement each day.
- Jan Pearson's sister, Jo Griffin, who suffered a brain bleed and is in critical condition, holding her own, in a Denver Hospital.
- Sharon Tisher, who is at home getting stronger following her stroke.
- Mark Wismer's sister, Carol Vansicle, who continues to take treatments for a third time.
- Trevor Zuehlke, in our community, recovering from a serious brain injury, who is an inspiration to us all.
- Prayer chain addition: 31 year old Kelli Nimmer of Webster, daughter of Steve & Shelly Kann. She has recently begun chemo for ovarian and endometrial cancer. She and her husband, Landon, have three young children. She is the goddaughter of Patty Niesen.



Thank You!

A big "thank you" to all the ladies of First Presbyterian, who so generously supported the Bake-less Bake Sale.

Combined, your donations will support many mission projects.

Together, we can do God's work.



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Pastoral Appointments
Monday thru Thursday
10:00 – 4:00