

February, 2021

Our JOYFUL Noise

The Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Britton SD
Church Office: 605 448 2460; Jane's cell: 470 0578

hello

february

February is already here and much has occurred in January. It was horrific as we all watched the take-over of our United States Capitol building and the constant unrest in our country. As a new President is installed, we must pray for him and the Congress and Senate members who represent us. Perhaps

this division will heal and we can live in harmony once again.

We pray for those across the nation filling our hospitals to overflowing, and their caretakers.

We give thanks to the Lord for the knowledge and talents of our scientists who have come up with a vaccine to fight this pandemic and pray that it will be circulated soon with the hope of all Americans getting back to normal lives. We are grateful for the hope this brings.

The work-from-home issues may have changed some of our education, work-places and businesses forever. We look to the future for what is to come.

We must also give thanks for a mild winter with spring already just around the corner. We pray for adequate moisture for our farm families, and the return of opportunities for our business people. Hopefully, you are doing what you can to keep our local merchants working.

And we give thanks for good health, if we have it, and pray for those afflicted. We look forward to much change in 2021.

--Jane



Session Notes:

The Session met on Wednesday, January 20th, at 6:30, by zoom, with the following:

1. Lance Griese has agreed to represent our church at the Britton Ministerium meetings.
2. Approved 2021 Local Mission Giving of \$4500 as follows: \$1250 Food Pantry, \$1250 Bishop Dudley Hospitality House in Sioux Falls, \$1000 Safe Harbor in Aberdeen, \$1000 Children's Home Society in Sioux Falls.
3. Approved \$10,500 for the 2021 Shared Mission Pledge.
4. Faith and Nurture committee has been making arrangements for pulpit supply.
5. Confirmation classes will be continuing soon.
6. Approved purchasing an iPad for the church to use for livestreaming worship services.
7. The trustees will lock the church during night time hours.
8. Work will be done on developing a Policy and Procedure manual for the church.
9. A new moderator will be appointed for our session meetings beginning in February. Rev. Dr. Carolyn Visser and Rev. Ruth Clendenin have completed their work with us.
10. The next session meeting is Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

-- Lynn Eberhart

4 Prayers of Hope for the New Year

As we say goodbye (good riddance?!) to 2020, it's time to turn the page, even a corner.

by **Bob Hostetler** Posted in **How to Pray**, Oct 5, 2020



For many of us, 2020 has been a year like no other—so much has been disruptive, stressful, disturbing and even traumatic. It seems as though we've been through one disappointment, derailment and disaster after another. We never asked for such a stormy year, but we weathered it. Now we turn a page, a corner. We may even turn over a new leaf.

So, what should we pray as we say goodbye—perhaps good riddance—to 2020? Here are four suggestions. You can fill in your own petitions and names

to tailor these prayers to your life and needs.

1) Pray to Process the Past

For many of us, this past year came at us so fast that we had no time to think or recover before the next crisis hit. So, it may be wise here, to breathe a bit more deeply and think reflectively. A prayer such as the following may help:

God, clear my mind and help me to process all I've been through in 2020.

Give me wisdom. Enlighten me. Help me, especially, to see Your hand in _____.

What were the moments when I drew closer to You?

When I strayed from You?

When I forgot that You were there, that You are always there?

What did I learn? What do I still need to learn in order to move on from 2020?

2) Pray to Remember...and Forget

There are, of course, many things about this past year that we would like to forget. But let's not be too hasty.

Perhaps a prayer like the following may help make peace with regrets and nurture hope for a fresh start:

God, this has been a year filled with loss and pain.

Hold my hand as I grieve the losses and bear the pain, especially _____.

Hear my prayer as I confess my sins and surrender my regrets, especially _____.

Wipe from my memory the things that aren't worth carrying into 2021, especially _____.

Help me to hold onto 2020's lessons, blessings and victories, especially _____.

3) Pray to Look Ahead in

Newness, Hope, Faith and Love

Many of us saw our plans for the year demolished as 2020 got underway. But that doesn't mean we can't create new dreams for 2021:

God, I'm sure You understand my trepidation as I anticipate the new year. So little in 2020 went according to plan.

But those were my plans, I admit, and a new year unfolds before me.

Let this new year mark the beginning of newness of life for me and mine.

Let this year dawn in hope and

proceed in hope; let the "deferred" hope of 2020 blossom into fruitful fulfillment in 2021 (see Proverbs 13:12). Give me hope especially for _____.

Let this year deepen and strengthen my faith in You, especially as concerns _____.

And let 2021 be a year in which Your love is shed abroad in my heart and the hearts of those around me, especially _____.

4) Pray to Begin Anew

And with new plans and dreams on the horizon, here's a prayer to open your heart to receiving God's love and guidance as you begin to put them in place:

God, let this new year mark a new beginning for me and those I love. Grant us, and especially _____, a new sense of Your closeness and care.

Give new strength and vitality, especially for _____.

Send a new level of hopeful trust to me, a new sense of your closeness and care, especially when _____.

Fill 2021 with new love, new joy

and new peace;
with new outpourings of patience,
kindness, goodness and
faithfulness;
with new infillings of gentleness
and self-control (see Galatians
5:22).

Let this coming year be ruled by
whatever is true, whatever is
honorable, whatever is right, pure,
lovely, admirable, excellent and
worthy of praise (see Philippians
4:8).

Let those prayers be only a starting
point for the end of 2020 and the year to
come. Pray that 365 days from now,
you'll look back with praise and
thanksgiving on all of the ways God
answered, even beyond what you
thought to ask (see Ephesians 3:20).



SHARING BRINGS JOY

TO US. TO OTHERS. TO GOD.

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 (fpcbritten.com) 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 held every
Sunday following worship
service.



**Youth Group is now meeting every
Wednesday at 6:30 P.M., in the
church basement.
(Snacks provided!!!)
Bring a friend!!!**



- **Carol Anderson**
- **Sharon Tisher**
- **Kelli Nimmer with cancer.**
- **Others who may be suffering with Covid-19.**
- **And continue to pray for those with lingering health concerns.**



**Check out the new selection of
greeting cards available in the
secretary's office!**



**First Presbyterian Church
804 5th Street, Box 127, Phone: 605 448 2460
fpcbritton.com**