

March, 2021

Our Joyful Noise

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

well hello,
march



Session Notes:

The Session met on Tuesday, February 16th, at 7:00 p.m. with the following:

1. Jerry Lutkemeier has been approved as our session moderator.
2. With Warren Symens consent the session approved using his tablet for putting worship services online.
3. The clerk's annual statistical report was approved by session.

4. Approved communion for Maundy-Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. for Thursday, April 1.
5. Confirmation classes are ongoing under Lance's leadership.
6. Paul Symens is holding Sunday School classes for the youth.
7. Plans call for updating the church membership list, church bylaws, and drawing up a manual of operations for the church.
8. Elder committee assignments have been completed.
9. There will not be a breakfast at the Easter sunrise service because of Covid.
10. The next session meeting is Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.



3 Ways to Pray for the Power to Forgive.

Forgiveness takes work. Here's how we, with God's help, can make it happen.

by **Rick Hamlin** Posted in **How to**



Jesus told us we needed to do it. He did it himself on the cross, saying, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” He gave us words to pray: Forgive us our “debts” or “sins” or “trespasses”—choose your translation—as God forgives us.

[But how?](#) There are times in my life when I didn't think it would even be possible. The hurts, the anger, the stubborn pride that creates an impenetrable web.

Even now, during this pandemic, I think forgiveness should be easier. Fewer face-to-face interactions or confrontations. Alas, more time to

ruminate can even increase the bitterness. [Forgiveness takes work](#); working with God all the way.

1) Acknowledge the wrong.

A few years ago, [someone who'd wronged me](#)—or at least that's how it felt—died very suddenly. I sent the appropriate sympathy notes and emails. But I was surprised by the sense of betrayal. Deep inside. What a shock. I thought I'd moved on.

I was reminded of something that World War II heroine Corrie Ten Boom [acknowledged in her book *The Hiding Place* and also in *Guideposts*](#). She thought she had done her best to forgive the Nazis for murdering her sister and so many others.

Her revelation? That forgiveness is not necessarily something you do just once. No, you do it over and over. [The most painful wrongs](#) often need to be addressed again and again.

2) Give it up in prayer.

Prayer is not only a time for asking but also a time of letting go. I'll sit down in the morning to pray, looking forward to a restful time with the divine. And out of nowhere,

something will come up. Some memory. Some conversation.

Note to self: don't get up then and do something about it. Give it to God first. That's what prayer is for. The word that [Catherine Marshall used so well](#) is relinquishment. The giving up. If there's something you need to do, you can do it later. Pray first. Act later.

I often say the Lord's Prayer to myself when I'm washing my hands. It's perfectly timed for that recommended 20 seconds. Cleansing ourselves in and out. When it comes to forgiveness, I try to put a name or a face or a memory there. Forgiveness from God comes when *we* forgive.

3) Feast on divine forgetfulness.

You know that old expression, "To err is human, to forgive, divine," but what about forgetting? I fear I have a brain that tabulates every slight I've ever received, every imagined wrong. Guess what? God can also help us forget.

I remember fearing I'd never forget some secret I'd promised never to share. How would I move on? A

couple years later the person involved made a veiled reference to it.

For a moment I didn't know what he was talking about. Then I did. I had completely forgotten. That power didn't come from me. Not a chance. [It was God's gift.](#) It is divine.



Taken from Hometouch, subscribed to and mailed to those unable to attend worship:

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Say what you will about the Ten Commandments, you must always come back to the pleasant fact that there are only 10 of them. - H.L.Mencken

Do you like ice cream? I do. But ice cream, especially the real creamy kind, has lots of calories.

Now there is an ice cream maker that claims to provide the creamy taste with fewer calories. I won't mention the name of this company, but it got started in 2012 when a former attorney decided to create a lower calorie alternative to traditional ice cream. Today, his low-calorie ice

cream is sold in pints around the world.

One of their advertising campaigns reminds us of all the things we tell ourselves that we should do:

- We “should” work out.
- We “should” lose weight.
- We “should” eat more salads.
- We “should” skip desserts.

The ad tells us to “Stop ‘shoulding’ yourself.” (Notice, the ad is telling us what we *should* do!)

But in life, we can’t stop “shoulding” ourselves, can we? We should obey municipal, state and federal laws. We should wear seat belts. We should wear masks. We should practice social distancing. We should pay our taxes.

And, then, when we look at the Bible (like the above reading from Exodus, for example), we learn that there are at least 10 commandments that involve things we should and should not do. And the rest of the Bible has more: We should be kind one to another. We should be patient. We should share. We should put others first. We should pray. We should love God. We should love our neighbors as ourselves. We should be compassionate. We should be humble and resist pride. That’s a lot of “shoulds”!

So, let’s eat ice cream, if our doctors give us permission. But let’s also remember that it is okay to remember the “should” and the “ought to’s” in our lives. We owe it to our communities, our houses of worship, our neighbors, our friends.

We owe it to ourselves.

Timothy Merrill

Prayer: God, thank you for giving us boundaries, guidelines and directions. We are happy to do what you ask us to do. Amen.

**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 (fpcbritton.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 meets every Wednesday at 6:30 P.M., in the church basement.
(Snacks provided!!!)
Bring a friend!!!**



- **Carol Anderson, continuing to fight cancer and a serious infection in a finger.**
- **Others who may be suffering with Covid-19.**
- **And continue to pray for those with lingering health concerns.**
- **Lance and Aimee's grandson, Crue, and Aimee's mother.**
- **Judy Gulleeson, diagnosed with a brain tumor.**



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



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