

March 2022

Our JOYFUL Noise

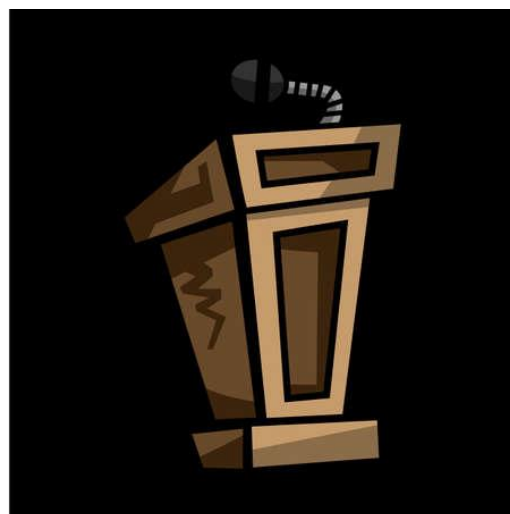
The Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Britton SD
Church Office: 605 448 2460; Secretary's cell: 605 470 0578

well hello,
march

Hey Folks!

So sorry this is arriving so late. My brain is still on vacation! I prayed for a blessed trip before we left, on the 15th, and God did provide a wonderful trip to Arizona. I was fortunate to get to see an awesome art show in Scottsdale with the best of the best in the field, and met a gourd artist. I also had a wonderful visit with my brother, Randy and his partner, Debbie. That's really why we went. But, I'm back now and plan to get back to work! Blessings to you all,

Jane



PULPIT SUPPLY FOR JANUARY

Sunday, March 6th – Lance Griese
Sunday, February 13th – Lance Griese
Sunday, February 20th – Gretchen Christenson
Sunday, February 27th – Rosemary Heitmann





Session Notes:

The Session met on Tuesday, February 15th, at 7:00 p.m. with the following summary of the meeting:

1. Approved the Freeman family to use the church for a wedding September 24, 2022. Work is being done to update the wedding policy.
2. Approved a donation to the Commissioned Ruling Elder program at presbytery in memory of Jerry Lutkemeier.
3. Discussed updating the microphone for the preachers.
4. Real estate taxes will be paid on the manse since it is rented.
5. Completed elder committee assignments.
6. Approved the clerk's statistical report.
7. Approved \$6000 for 2022 Local Mission Giving and \$9000 for 2022 Shared Mission Support.

8. Approve Susan Wismer as commissioner to presbytery meetings.
9. Next presbytery meeting is Friday, February 18, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. by Zoom.
10. Discussed Youth Triennium July 24-27, 2022 in Indianapolis with 6 kids interested.

**Next meeting is March 15th, 2022,
at 7:00 p.m.**

--Lynn Eberhart



Scripture Reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The difference between mercy and grace? Mercy gave the prodigal son a second chance. Grace gave him a feast. —Max Lucado

In Luke 15, Jesus tells several stories about objects that are lost.

First, there is the shepherd who has 100 sheep, but notices that one is missing. What does the shepherd do? He “leaves the ninety-nine in the wilderness and goes after the one that is lost until he finds it” (vv. 4-5).

Second, there’s a woman with 10 coins, but she loses one of the coins. What does she do? She sweeps and cleans and sweeps until she finds it! (vv. 8-10).

Third, there’s a father with two sons. One of the sons, the youngest one, makes some terrible choices. He asks for his part of the father’s inheritance, and then leaves home and lives a life of sin and degradation.

We know this story as the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

The young man comes to his senses. He repents of his sin, decides to throw himself on the mercy of his father, willing to work for him as a servant.

Overjoyed, the father sends orders that a huge feast be prepared. Everyone is happy except the older brother, who has worked long and faithfully for his father. No banquet has been prepared for him! It is not fair!

Rob Bell, in his book, *Love Wins*, notes that at this point the father interrupts

his eldest son: “The father redefines fairness. It’s not that his father hasn’t been fair with him; it’s that his father never set out to be fair in the first place. Grace and generosity aren’t fair; that’s their very essence. The father sees the younger brother’s return as one more occasion to practice *unfair-ness*. The younger son doesn’t deserve a party — that’s the point of the party. That’s how things work in the father’s world. Profound unfairness. People get what they don’t deserve. Parties are thrown for younger brothers who squander their inheritance.”

This is an excellent insight. God does not give us what we deserve! Instead, God treats us unfairly by bestowing grace, love and mercy.

The psalmist makes this very point:
*He does not deal with us according to our sins,
Nor repay us according to our iniquities ...*
(Psalm 103:10)

Let’s thank God for God’s amazing unfairness.

It’s called grace!

—Timothy Merrill, Home Touch

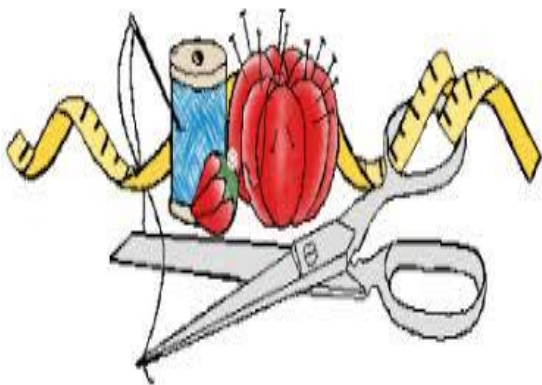
Prayer: God, your love and mercy are beyond understanding. I am humbled in your presence and offer myself anew in your service. Amen.





YOUTH GROUP

The youth of our church—7th-12th grades meet every Wednesday at 6:30 P.M. Bring a friend and come join Lance & Aimee for a fun evening.



The Sewing Ladies' Schedule for March:

Thursday, March 3rd – 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, March 17th – 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, March 31st – 9:00 a.m.



**If you would like to be a member of the choir, please contact Peggy Davidson,
605.237.0624**



*Kids, come join us every
Sunday morning following
the worship service.*



This message was sent last fall and although it was posted on the bulletin board, it did not get put in the newsletter until now:

Please pray for the Yelkin family who have lost their home in a fire. Please pray for Cindy Underberg, Jeanine Jarrett, Leah Luitjens, Deb Mack, Carol Anderson, Alan Grupe, and others in our church and community who continue to undergo cancer treatments; those dealing with Covid and other health concerns, and those who have lost loved ones.

Don't forget the greeting cards available in the office for \$6.00 a box, and be sure to check out the library in the overflow room at the back of the church.

We would like to thank the congregation for welcoming us to the church family when we walked in more than 17 or 18 years ago.

Our move to Sioux Falls has gone well, and although there are still many boxes to empty, we are feeling settled.

We are not saying 'Good bye' but rather, we are looking forward to visiting and seeing you again next summer.

God's blessings to you all,

Byron and Deanna Peterson
5408 S. Durham Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57108



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