

December 2024

Our JOYFUL Noise

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



PULPIT SUPPLY FOR DECEMBER:

Sunday, Dec 1st – Lance Giese
Sunday, Dec 8th – Lance Giese
Sunday, Dec 15th – Lance Giese
Sunday, Dec 22nd – Lance Giese
Christmas Eve -24th – Lance Giese
Sunday, Dec 29th – Rosemary H



*“May you enjoy the
magic of the Holiday
Season, and make
memories to last a
lifetime.”*
Blessings to all . . .

Jane



Session Notes:

The Session met on Tuesday, November 19th, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. with the following summary of the meeting:

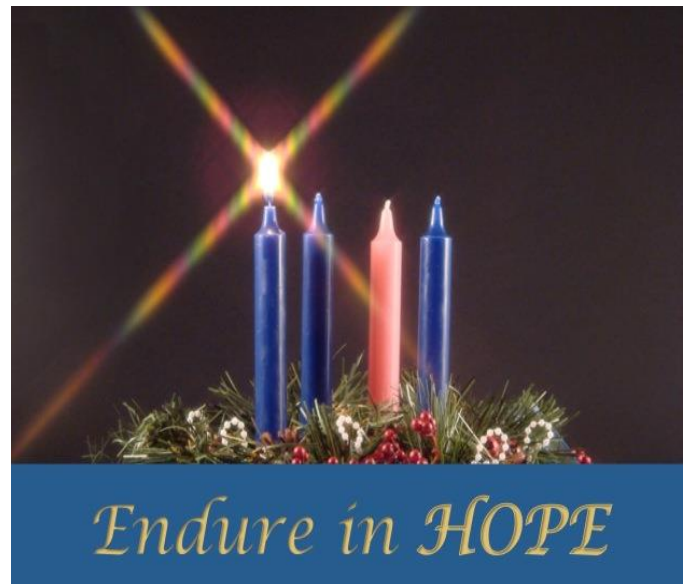
- A grant was received from the Lamport Foundation for the roof project. Several loads of tiles have been picked up by Garlock-French Company.
- We are still looking for one more Sunday School teacher.
- The youth Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 15, during the morning worship service.
- Session will meet again on December 17, 2024.

--Jill Beaner

Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-16

" 'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.' 'In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteousness.'

***Let your hopes, not your hurts,
shape your future. —Robert H.
Schuller***



Advent has spawned many traditions over the centuries since the birth of Christ. These include setting up and decorating a Christmas tree, an exchange of gifts, putting together a nativity scene, serious baking of regional or cultural sweets, the singing of

carols, keeping an Advent calendar and more. One ritual that has a long history is the lighting of Advent candles. But the arrangement of the candles into a wreath is relatively recent. According to one source, Johann Wichern created the first Advent wreath in 1839. He took a decrepit cartwheel and fastened 20 red and four white candles on it. With 24 days leading up to Christmas Day, Wichern lit a new red candle on each weekday of December and a new white candle on each Sunday service, finally lighting the last white candle on Christmas Eve. Thus started the tradition of the Advent wreath now observed by many churches today. The wreath today has four candles, usually purple (except for the third candle which is pink) and they stand for HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE. In the center of the wreath is a larger, white candle which is known as the CHRIST candle and it is lighted on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. December 1st is the First Sunday of Advent, and the purple candle stands for HOPE. It is also known as the "prophecy candle" because it reminds us of the hope that God will fulfill the prophecies declared in the Old Testament about Jesus. It reminds us that in a world often clouded by uncertainty and darkness, this tiny flame serves as a beacon of light, illuminating our path and filling our hearts with anticipation. Hope is not merely

wishful thinking or blind optimism. It is a powerful force that sustains us in times of despair and guides us through the darkest of nights. It is the assurance that better days are ahead, even when the present seems bleak. The first candle of Advent symbolizes this hope — a hope rooted in the promise of a Savior who brings light into the world. Just as this candle dispels the shadows around us, so, too, does Christ dispel the darkness of sin and despair, offering us a renewed sense of purpose and direction. As we journey through this season of Advent, let us hold fast to the hope that Christ offers us. For in him, we find the promise of redemption, restoration and everlasting joy. Amen. —Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, thank you for the hope that we have in Christ Jesus, the Savior of the world! Amen.





Our Presbyterian Youth Group meets the first and second Wednesday of every month, at 6:30 P.M.



The Sunday School Christmas program will take place during worship on December 15th.

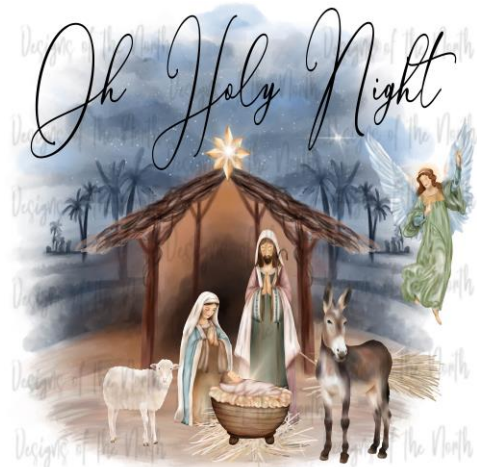
Sunday School is held every Sunday morning at 10:15. The children will be excused from the worship service, and meet until they are finished in time to gather for fellowship with their families.



Group #2 will be serving coffee and treats in December.



You have all received letters explaining the projected roofing issues. Donations will be greatly appreciated.



Christmas Eve Service with Communion will be at 5:00 P.M. Christmas Eve.



**The Hope Circle Noon
Christmas Luncheon will be
Thursday, December 5th
(at noon).**



In our thoughts & prayers: Please pray for Jeani Amacher and others dealing with cancer; for Deanna Jahning, Lyle “Bumper” Jahnig, and DaRae Jones’ father, Dave Dinger, who is in hospice care; and others dealing with serious health concerns; The family of Grace Eclov, and others dealing with the loss of loved ones; and all people around the world dealing with devastation.



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