

# January 2026

# 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:**

Sunday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> – Rosemary H.  
Sunday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> – Lance Griese  
Sunday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> – Lance Griese  
Sunday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> – Lance Griese



Dear Friends in Christ,

The Holy time of Advent and Christmas have come and gone, but hopefully we will keep peace and love in our hearts throughout the coming year. I hope you have been blessed by the joy of the season! This is a wonderful time, but now we look ahead to a new year. Yet even as we look ahead, we also look back on the year that has passed. So, we thank God for the blessings of the past and prepare to face the challenges of the future.

Best wishes for the New Year,

--Jane



## Session Notes:

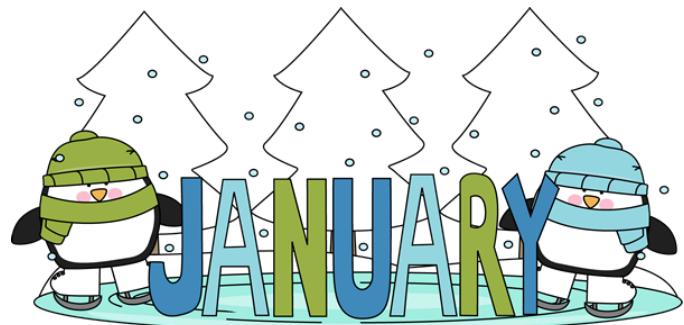
The Session met on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. with the following summary of the meeting:

- Diaper ministry has now provided diapers for 33 families.
- Congregational meeting will be held January 25, 2026.
- Ordination and Installation of Elders and Trustees will be February 1, 2026.
- Next Communion will be February 15, 2026.
- Next session meeting will be held January 20, 2026.

--Jill Beaner



Diaper Ministry continues. Contact Heidi Eimers at 605.216.6065. We continue to need volunteers for upcoming Saturday mornings. Please sign up in the fellowship room.



## Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will

have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

*Write it on your heart  
that every day is the best  
day in the year. —Ralph  
Waldo Emerson*

The first week of a new year is always shocking to me. I wonder where the past year went. It all happened so fast! Most of us probably feel the same way. We look back over the months behind

us — the joys and the sorrows, the triumphs and the trials, and take stock. For some of us, this past year was marked by health challenges, the loss of loved ones or changes we never anticipated. For others, it may have brought unexpected blessings, new friendships or milestones celebrated with those we love. No matter what the year held, the apostle Paul's words in verse 3 of today's reading offer us a profound truth to carry forward as we go into 2026: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places." Think about that for a moment — every spiritual blessing. Not just some, not just enough to get by, but every blessing in Christ. What are these blessings? Paul goes on to list them:

- We are chosen before the foundation of the world (v. 4).
- We are adopted as God's children through Jesus Christ (v. 5).
- We are redeemed and forgiven by the grace of God (v. 7).
- We are lavished with grace, given insight into the mystery of

God's will (v. 8-9). • We are sealed with the Holy Spirit, a guarantee of our inheritance (vv. 13-14). This list provides the inspiration for two powerful responses as we step into a new year: gratitude for the past and courage for the future. Gratitude for the past year. Gratitude is more than just saying "thank you." It's a posture of the heart that recognizes God's faithfulness in every season. Perhaps you might take a few moments today to remember the small blessings that brightened your year. These are whispers of God's grace — evidence that God has been with you every step of the way. Courage for the year ahead. The new year stretches before us like a blank page, and while it holds promise, it can also feel uncertain. But here is the good news: you are blessed in heavenly places. Your life is hidden with Christ, and nothing that comes your way is beyond God's reach. God has already secured your future, marked out your path and promised to be with you.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Loving God, I thank you for the blessings of the past year. As I step into this new year, help me to remember that, in Christ, I am incredibly blessed. Give me courage for the days ahead and a heart that trusts in your unfailing love. In Jesus' name. Amen.*



## Children's Christmas Program

December 14<sup>th</sup> ~





**Emersyn Eimers, Narrator**



**The Entire Cast & Crew**



**The angel and the shepherds**



**The Three sheep**



We Three Kings



*We will collect diced tomatoes for the food pantry in January.*

**Tyson Myles Kraft is baptised on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> also.**



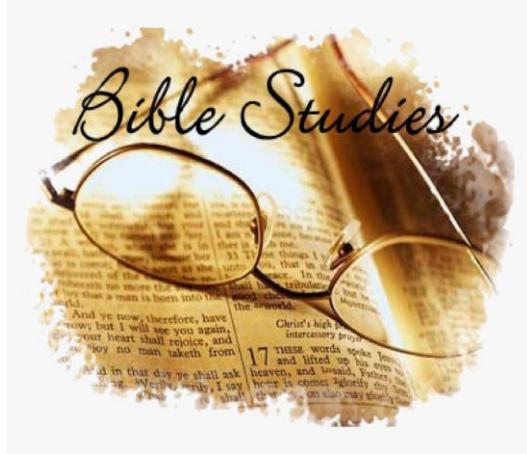
**Tyson, whose first birthday was December 12<sup>th</sup>, was baptized by Lance Griese with parents, Kevin and Trisha Kraft and big sister, Katie, looking on.**



**Our Youth Group** meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month at 6:30 PM. Cornerstone Church is going to host youth group on the Wednesdays that the Presbyterian Church does not.



*Group #5 will be serving coffee and treats in January.*



## **Men's and Women's Bible Studies will resume on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.**



Church Choir members are always welcome. Practices are usually held on Sunday mornings prior to worship. If interested, contact Peggy Davidson.



**In our thoughts & prayers:** Please pray for those dealing with cancer; for Sharon Johnson, JoAnn Hansen, and others dealing with serious health concerns; for those dealing with the loss of loved ones; and all people around the world dealing with loss and devastation.



**First Presbyterian Church  
804 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Box 127, Phone: 605 448 2460  
[fpcbritton.com](http://fpcbritton.com)**