

August 2026



The Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Britton SD
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I have a lovely view of the Lutheran Church from my living room window. As light begins to fade in the evening, the stained glass is illuminated from within, and the cross on the peak above dominates the skyline.

Late one evening, while gazing at the church, I noticed that it dominates the view from the playground. And then, I realized that our school is shadowed on all four sides by a church...

When children and youth arrive in the morning, and depart in the afternoon, they see signs on our church, telling

them we choose to love them, and welcoming them as neighbors. I hope they know that our doors are open every day as a safe space for them.

While on the playground, they see both our church and the Lutheran church.

Looking out classroom windows, some see the Methodist church.

And exiting the east doors onto main street, they see either the steeple or the front of another Lutheran church just a block or so down the street.

The children and youth in our community are surrounded by steeples and sanctuaries.

I don't know how many children who attend school here regularly attend a church. But I do know that as they study

and play, learn and grow, they are under the shadow of one.

Proverbs 22:6 tells us to *“train up a child in the way it should go, and when that child is old, it will not depart from it.”*

The shadow of the sacred is silently cast upon our next generation each and every time they open a book, participate in an activity, or attend a school function.

God bless our children, our teachers, the staff and administration as the new academic year begins. And may each of you live your life in the Shadow of the Sacred as well.

Pastor Sandi



PULPIT SUPPLY:

Sunday, Aug 2nd – Pastor Sandi
Sunday, Aug 9th – Pastor Sandi
Sunday, Aug 16th – Pastor Sandi
Sunday, Aug 23rd – Pastor Sandi
Sunday, Aug 30th – Pastor Sandi





Scripture Reading: Genesis 45:1-15

Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers

45 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed

or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.’ ¹² And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³ You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” ¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.



Reconciliation requires two people. Forgiveness requires one. —Anon.

If you've ever been estranged from a family member and then later, by some miracle, experienced a genuine reconciliation, reading today's Bible story is likely to bring tears to your eyes. Some moments in Scripture feel so raw and emotional that we almost hesitate to step into them. Genesis 45 is one of those moments. Joseph, now a powerful leader in Egypt, stands before the very brothers who once betrayed him. He tries to speak, but bursts into tears. Years of pain, separation and longing spill out all at once. Many of us know what it's like to carry old wounds — family hurts, broken relationships, misunderstandings that were never resolved. Some reconciliations remain out of reach. But in this story, something remarkable happens. Joseph doesn't seek revenge. Instead,

he offers help and gracious understanding. "Do not be distressed," he says. "God sent me before you to preserve life" (v. 5). Joseph sees his suffering through the lens of God's larger purpose. He doesn't deny the pain. He doesn't pretend the betrayal didn't happen. But he chooses to see how God worked through it. In this story, we learn a lot about God. We learn, for example, that God can redeem even what others meant for harm. Joseph's forgiveness comes from a long journey of healing — years of waiting, reflecting and trusting. Reconciliation doesn't happen quickly, and it certainly doesn't happen cheaply. But when it does happen, it's a gift. Does this story stir memories? Relationships that healed beautifully, and others that never did? Joseph's experience with his brothers reminds us that God is still weaving redemptive threads even in places where we see only knots. We also learn that we can entrust our broken relationships to God, who can bring peace where we cannot. God can write endings we could never imagine. Joseph weeps, embraces his brothers and restores the family. But the glory belongs not to Joseph's strength, but to God's grace. —Timothy Merrill

Prayer: God of mercy and healing, you know every relationship that has shaped our lives — the joyful ones and the painful ones. Where reconciliation is possible, bring humility, grace and peace. Where it is not, bring comfort, release and your healing presence. Write your love into every chapter of our stories. Amen.

*No Worship
Service on
August 9th !!!
We encourage
you to participate
in the Community
Service
at 10:00 A.M.
(by the pool)*



Session Notes:

**The Session met on Tuesday,
July 28th, at 7:00 p.m.**

- Diaper ministry has served 8 new families since May, bringing total families served to 50.
- No Presbyterian church service will be held on Sunday, August 9, due to Harvest Day's community service.
- Next communion will be October 4, with potluck dinner following.
- Session will meet again on Tuesday, August 18.

--Jill Beaner

Here we are, Lord,
at the start of a brand new day.
A new day of opportunities,
a new day of open doors,
a new day of endless moments
to share Your name and tell of Your love.

May I have Your eyes to see
those you bring across my path.
May I have Your heart to feel
the needs of those around me.
May I have Your words to bring
healing, comfort, encouragement and hope.
May I have Your touch to change
hearts and change lives.

Here we are, Lord,
at the start of a brand new day.

*I am Yours.
You are mine.
And the world awaits.*

Stacy L. Sanchez

@heartprintsofgod



Diaper Ministry continues. Please contact Heidi Eimers at 605.216.6065. We continue to need volunteers for upcoming Saturday mornings, the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. This ministry now serves 50 families in our area. Please sign up in the fellowship room on the end of the cabinets.



We will be collecting Boxed Potatoes for the Food Pantry during the month of August. Please leave items on the table in the back of the church.



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

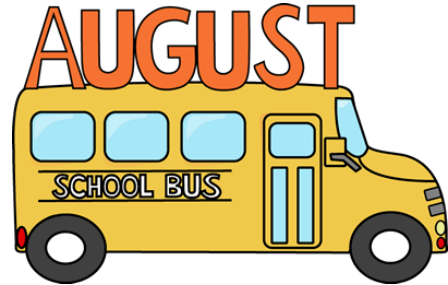


Session will meet on Tuesday, August 18th, at 7:00 P.M.



In our thoughts & prayers: Please pray for Sharon Johnson, Jeani Amacher, Vicki Beck, Ryan Furman and others dealing with cancer; for Bev Seibel 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 due to war, famine and natural disasters.

Rocky Winder will be leaving our community on Monday to move to a home nearer to her children. Her new address is: The Boden, 5399 155th St. W., Apt. #125, Apple Valley, MN 55124. Her cell #605.237.2280. Any contact from home would be appreciated.



With our kids heading back to school, be mindful of them on our streets near the school.



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