

August 2017

Our JOYFUL Noise

First Presbyterian Church of Britton's Newsletter

Do You Even Care?

From Your Pastors' Desk

For many of us the church has had significant impact on our lives, it raised us up in scripture during Sunday school, it has been there in our time of grief or pain, and it sent us to camp or on that mission trip where we became closer to God. And the beautiful gift of the church is it seemingly will always be there. Like God, even if you get busy and have other commitments, or go on vacation, or just grow distant from the church we know that when we are ready to come back there will be Sunday worship on Sunday morning in that same building. We count on it. But, as Sunday morning attendance decreases along with membership we know these days might just be numbered.

If we care about our future as a Christian community, we know the church has a lot of work to do. We have to welcome others into our family of faith. We have to build stronger relationships within our community. We have to serve those in need here in Britton and in the world. We have to reevaluate what it means to be church in this new time and place, and it will not look like the church did 50 years ago. But to do all that important work first we have to care. We have to believe the church plays a significant, indispensable role in our lives, our families' lives, and in our society. Do you care?

Do you hope that the church is still here to support your children and grandchildren throughout their life? This is a question we don't just answer with our words but with our actions.

And you might be thinking well, "I am no leader, I am not capable or qualified to do all this work of the church." Well, that's kind of true, but you are in good company.

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Preaching Schedule

August 6, 2017

- Rev. Bala Khylllep
- Communion
- Psalm 1 & I Cor. 9:16-23

August 13, 2017

- Rev. Cheryl Khylllep
- I Cor. 12 & John 4:1-26

August 19, 2017

- Rev. Bala Khylllep
- Outdoor Worship
- Psalm 46
- **No Worship on Sunday, the 20th**

August 27, 2016

- Rev. Cheryl Khylllep
- Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30



Evening Vesper on the Intergenerational Mission Trip.

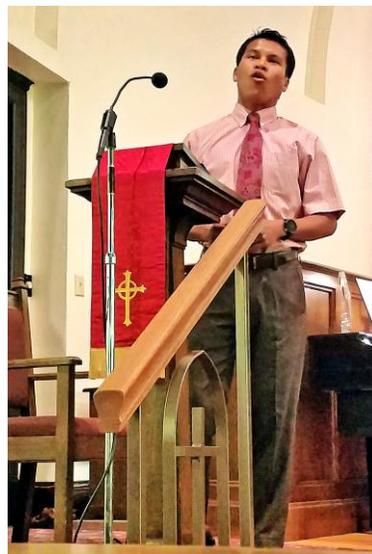
From Moses saying he was not a good public speaker, to Jeremiah who was just a child, from Isaiah with his sinfulness that needed to be cleaned with fire to Paul with his thorn in the flesh, none of us are capable or able to do what God calls us to do, if it were not for God. So it doesn't matter how learned you are, how old you are, or how physically able you are, God is calling you to show up and care.

We have many exciting things happening in the life of the church that you can participate in. Every sermon during August and the first week of September we will be focusing on technology and our lives of faith. Join us as we have critical conversations about how we can be faithful to Jesus in this technologically advanced world. At Harvest Days, members will be handing out water bottles to reach out to others within our community. And along with the water bottles we will be collecting a special offering for the purchase of water filters for communities in the United States that are struggling with unhealthy amounts of lead in their water. You can volunteer to hand out bottles or donate to this important cause. Then on September 10th in worship we will be having a "Let's be Neighbors" Sunday where we will celebrate new banners that welcome all God's people into our church. Please show up on that special Sunday and bring a friend.

God has gifted us with this incredible gift of Christian community; it is time we showed our gratitude to God by singing with our hearts and actions, "Here I am Lord...I will go where you lead me."

In Christ,

Pastor Bala and Pastor Cheryl



Above Pictured Left: Dorothy Jones on June 11th, the day the church celebrated her service as an organist for many many years. **Above Pictured Right:** Pastor Bala sang 'How Great Thou Art' in Khasi, his native language on Sunday, June 18th.

Outdoor Worship

We will gather once again at the Tisher's residence on Clear Lake for our annual outdoor worship on **August 19th at 5:30pm**. We will enjoy a potluck supper with worship to follow. Please bring a lawn chair. If you need directions, have question or would like to carpool please contact pastor Bala or Pastor Cheryl. **Please note there will be no morning worship service that following Sunday.**

Blessing of the Backpacks

All students young and old are encouraged to bring their backpack and/or school supplies to be blessed at the Outdoor worship on August 19th.

Special Offering

On August 13th in worship we will be collecting a special offering for the Presbyterian Mission Agency to purchase water filters for United States communities struggling with unhealthy levels of lead in their water. For every 50 dollars donated we will be able to purchase one filter for a family home. We are blessed with clean water; let us give generously to our brothers and sisters in need.

Keep in Your Prayers...

- Mary Brandt as she continues treatment
- Brian Loeb as he recovers from his stroke
- Carol Benda as she seeks radiation treatment.

Sunday School Teachers Wanted

Sunday School will begin on September 10th. We are looking for new Sunday School teachers! If you are interested in teaching, please talk to Stephanie Symens, Jill Beaner or the pastors.

Let's Be Neighbors Sunday

Our church has received a grant from the South Dakota Faith in Public Life. This grant is for the purchase and installment of vinyl banners that will be put around our outside front doors. These banners will quote Jesus' commandment to love one another, and reminds us that no matter who you are you are welcome in our church. To celebrate these new banners we will be having a "Let's be neighbors" Sunday on September 10th. This will be the first day of Sunday school, but we will also be taking a congregational photo after worship. So mark your calendars now for what will be a fun and lively Sunday, and bring a friend.

Backpack Program

Each year the Session at First Presbyterian Church designates funds to go to local missions. One of those organizations is the Back Pack program that is supported by organizations and churches in the Britton Community. The program is run through the Britton-Hecla school district and various local helpers. The program reaches out to 20-25 students from K-12. It is a program that each family or student signs up for at the beginning of school year. Each Friday throughout the school year backpacks are distributed with various non-perishable quick foods that each student can take home for the weekend. Once each month fruit is put in with the food snacks. The cost of this program is about \$150.00 per semester for each student. Thank you for your giving spirit in supporting this local mission.

Pastor's Hours:

Tuesday 9:00 am-noon

Wednesday 1:00 pm-5:00 pm

Thursday 9:00 am-noon

Pastor's Contact:

Manse: 605/448-2417

Pastor Cheryl's cell: 330/464-5862

Pastor Bala's cell: 330/749-2061

Secretary's Contact:

Office: 605/448-2460

Bulletin announcements due to secretary by 9am on Thursday.

We also welcome you to submit newsletter articles. Please submit any articles to the pastors by the third Wednesday of each month.



Pictured Left Top: Some of our mission team at the top of the trail they had just cleared.

Pictured Left Bottom: The youth helped Pastor Bala with Communion during Youth Sunday on Pentecost Sunday.

Pictured Right: Stephanie Brandt and Stephanie Symens painted the floor in one of the cabins at Camp Rimrock. There were 18 of us both young and old who gave their time and energy painting 3 cabins including bunks, ceilings, walls and floors, putting a new tin roof on one cabin and clearing one trail.



First Presbyterian Church

Britton, South Dakota | (605) 448-2460