



Worship Services

March 7

8:30 Worship - Church Choir & Jubilee Ringers

11:00 Worship - Chiming Children

March 14 - Communion - One Great Hour of Sharing

8:30 Worship - John Prohaska

11:00 Worship - Church Choir

March 21 - Camp Sunday

8:30 & 11:00 Worship - Praise Team

Thursday Evening Lenten Soup Suppers and Worship Services

Lenten soup suppers are a wonderful time of community and reflection. The soup is served at 6:00 p.m. and at 6:30 we will move to the sanctuary for a time of worship. We are structuring our worship time a bit different this year and we are excited about it!

March 11 - served by UMW

March 18 - served by UMM

March 25 - served by COE

This year the Worship Committee would like to re-energize the Lenten Soup Suppers and encourage more participation by putting a little more emphasis on the devotion portion of the evening. Various members from the congregation will lead the devotion time to include prayer, scripture, special music, lesson and singing of your favorite hymns. Even if you are unable to attend the soup supper, please plan to attend these meaningful services as we move through the time of Lent.

New Member Classes

We will be offering a series of new member classes on April 14, 21, & 28. If you have been wondering what is involved in becoming a member, or would like to be more involved in the life our church, then this is the class for you. If you would like to transfer your membership from another church, this is also the class for you. We would love to get to know you and you will get to know the pastors and support staff better. This is a great way to meet and get to know a few people and get some of your questions about our church answered. Please call Peggy Eggers at 692-8991 or the church office at 692-4345.

UMW Plant and Bake Sale

Medary Acres says the “dirt is here!” Seed catalogs are in the mailboxes. A sure sign that spring is on the way and time to start reviewing planting needs. If you have some perennials that need dividing, please consider donating to this fund raiser in May. More info to come.

Brookings FUMC Scholarship

Brookings First United Methodist Church will award scholarships to high school seniors who will be attending college or trade school in 2010 - 2011. Specific requirements for this scholarship include membership at FUMC, consistent worship attendance and active church involvement during the past four years. Scholarship applications can be picked up in the church office. The deadline for scholarship applications to be returned to the church office is **Friday, March 5.**

RENS

RENS will meet March 8 in the youth room at 7:00 p.m. There will be a presentation on the UMW reading program. We are always looking for new members. We are rather non-conventional. Fellowship is our focus at meetings. Toothpaste is the item to bring for the Harvest Table.

Susan' Saga

International Mother Language Day, as designated by UNESCO's General Conference in 1999, was celebrated around the world last week, including here in Oaxaca, where there is a rich diversity of languages. At the event here, the keynote speaker pointed out that around half of the world's almost 7,000 languages are in danger of extinction, and many of those endangered languages are right here in Oaxaca.

The celebration also included participation by groups from a variety of languages, with dances, traditional costumes, and music.

It was special for me, as a number of community promoters were there. We have been involved over the past year in leading training modules so that these people can promote their respective languages in their communities. Quite a few of them were there with the classes from their towns. It was great for the people in their classes to hear about the importance of the languages and see that they are part of a larger movement.

Our organization was invited to have a book table, where dictionaries, grammars, and other materials from the languages in Oaxaca were on display. We have a part in promoting minority languages, by learning them, studying them, training writers, and producing written materials in the languages.

Each language is a precious part of the global mosaic, representing the aggregate of human knowledge for that cultural group. And most importantly, each people group is precious to God.

Susan Huggins, reporting from Oaxaca, Mexico

Susan Huggins is daughter of this church serving in full-time ministry as a Bible translator among the Mixtec people of Oaxaca, Mexico. Susan's sending agency, Wycliffe Bible Translators, is a non-denominational group; and she raises her own funds to support this ministry.

Renewing the Gift ... Renewing the Mission

The campaign team has been busy calling on members and have been reporting what a joy it has been to hear the enthusiasm about our new community life center! We are nearly half-way to our celebration goal of \$1.1 million and continue to strongly urge everyone to make a gift! Remember, if you made a pledge during our first campaign, your second mile gift/extension will be matched dollar-for dollar!

Building Project Update

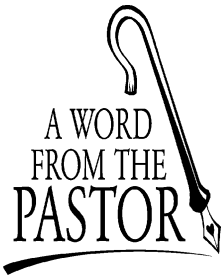
The open lot north of the church may be ice-covered and partially filled with a mountain of snow, nevertheless, the Building Committee has kept moving forward with the project that the church approved in November 2009.

While the plans and bid documents for the Community Life Center and Narthex were in their final process, we conducted a contractor pre-qualification. The purpose of the pre-qualification process was to make sure that only the most qualified contractors were invited to submit bids on our project. In the end, we have decided to invite six contractors to bid on this project. All of these contractors received the plans and bid documents on February 23 & 24. At this time, the bids are due at the church on Wednesday, March 17th. All bids received will be opened privately on March 18th.

If all goes well and we get a little cooperation from the weather department, we should be breaking ground on the Community Life Center in April 2010. This truly is an exciting time for Brookings First United Methodist Church.

Thank you all for your support of this project and of the Building Committee.

Tom Becker, Building Committee Chair



A couple of Sundays ago as I was talking with a member after worship, a visitor approached me and asked me to do a favor for her. I had never seen this particular visitor before in worship and I suspect it was her first time with us, but nonetheless she marched right up to me and boldly asked me to do something for her. Immediately. She did not say “excuse me,” she did not introduce herself, she did not even stand quietly by until my conversation with the person I was talking to was over. Nope. She boldly approached me with arms full of winter coats and asked, “say, could you watch my baby while I take these coats to my seat?” And no sooner had she asked the question when there was a loud thud and I discovered her baby had fallen to the ground and was lying there at my feet. But the visitor remained calm, all the while hanging onto the bundle of winter coats.

Her baby was in fact a doll, and the visitor was all of about five years old. But I was deeply touched on many different levels. First of all, she had a need and secondly, she cared about her doll. Her little arms could not manage all the winter coats plus her doll, so she asked for help. Help from a stranger. I was touched. I told her that I would love to watch her baby and would be the “baby-sitter” until she returned. Seconds later she returned and I gave back her doll and asked what her baby’s name was. There was a very long pause after which she replied, “I don’t know yet.” The doll did not look new but did look loved!

Another reason this five-minute encounter touched me was that it demonstrated the little girl knew herself. She knew herself. She knew she could not handle it all, so she calmly asked for help. I think there is a Lenten lesson there: know yourself better. Challenge your self-deceits. The Gospel of Thomas has Jesus saying: “Know yourself. For those who know themselves shall reign.” They shall be in charge of themselves.

But how do we do that? I think it begins by really listening to ourselves. Hearing our softly spoken thoughts, dragging into the light the thoughts and feelings we try to hide, and to truly feel our feelings. The journey of Lent is about living in our wilderness time, that time where we discover who we really are and what our lives are really about. Sounds like bad news, doesn’t it? But it’s not! These 40 days of Lent can be some of the most reality-based, spirt-filled, life-changing days of our lives!

So, here is my Lenten challenge for all of us: Let’s get to know ourselves better! Let’s challenge our own self-deceits and no longer permit ourselves to “fudge” in those areas of weaknesses and strengths! This all became crystal clear to me one morning when I was asked to “babysit” and the sad part was the encounter was much too short and the little visitor left all too soon. But her lesson was powerful and remains with me still.

Sharing in Ministry,

Dear Friends of Campus Ministry,

We are excited to bring back the tradition of a talent show at Brookings First. On Saturday, March 20th the campus ministry will be hosting “who’s got talent” following a spaghetti dinner. The dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m., in the dining room and the show will start at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Families Forever has volunteered to assist the ministry as well. We will be selling tickets at the church, look for our booth in the Narthex before and after services. Show participants and children under 5 are free, children 6 & under \$6, youth 12 & up and adults \$10 (deduct \$3 if attending either the dinner or the show). We will also have tickets available on the night of the program. And if you are interested in sharing some talent, we have our sign-up sheet posted as well. If you don’t have the opportunity to purchase a ticket until the night of the program please RSVP so that we can accurately prepare enough spaghetti! You can email us at unitedfaith_agape@yahoo.com or call the Agape House at 692.8991.

We are also collecting silent auction items for our annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction which is a fundraiser for the Campus Ministry programming budget. This year’s event will be on April 25th from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the dining room.

Rev. Matt Richards, Campus Pastor/ Director of Campus Ministry

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CALENDAR

Phone: 605-692-4345 Fax: 605-692-0909

e-mail: firstum@brookings.net

Pastor Teri Johnson: docteri@brookings.net

Pastor Duane Coates: rdcoates@brookings.net

Church Website: www.brookingsmethodist.org

<p>Thurs, March 4 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Lenten Soup Supper served by Witness Committee Lenten Worship; Sanctuary Bible Study; Agape House</p>
<p>Fri, March 5 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>World Day of Prayer</p>
<p>Sat, March 6 9:00 - 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>PieceMakers; Library</p>
<p>Sun, March 7 9:45 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>8:30 & 11:00 Worship; Sanctuary Nursery Care (0 - 2 yr) Room 101 3 - 5 Child Care; Room 103 Sunday School (2 yr - High School) Parlor Class DVD Presentation "Creation Spirituality" "24 Hours That Change the World"; Conf Room Seekers "Christianity's Family Tree"; Room 102 Children's Musical Practice; Sanctuary Middle School UMYF; Youth Room Youth Bells; Music Room Sr. UMYF; Youth Room</p>
<p>Mon, March 8 5:15 p.m. 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Outreach Committee; Conference Room Harvest Table served by Trinity Lutheran Jubilee Bells; Music Room Financial Peace University; Conference Room RENS; Youth Room</p>
<p>Tues, March 9 9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>CARE; Stoneybrook Book Study; Agape House</p>
<p>Wed, March 10 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. 2:30 - 4:00 4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. 8:15 p.m.</p>	<p>TOPS; Conference Room Good News Bearers; Basement Chiming Children; Music Room 8th Grade Confirmation - No Meal - Funeral Home Visit Church Choir Practice; Sanctuary Campus Ministry Meal; Agape House Campus Ministry Worship; Agape House Praise Team Practice</p>
<p>Thurs, March 11 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Lenten Soup Supper served by UMW Lenten Worship; Sanctuary Bible Study; Agape House</p>
<p>Fri, March 12 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Mission to Mission</p>
<p>Sat, March 13 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Military Support Group; Dining Room</p>

<p>Sun, March 14</p> <p>9:45 a.m.</p> <p>9:45 a.m.</p> <p>9:45 a.m.</p> <p>9:45 a.m.</p> <p>2:30 - 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>4:00 p.m.</p> <p>5:00 p.m.</p> <p>5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>8:30 & 11:00 Worship - Communion - One Great Hour of Sharing</p> <p>Nursery Care (0 - 2 yr) Room 101</p> <p>3 - 5 Child Care; Room 103</p> <p>Sunday School (2 yr - High School)</p> <p>Parlor Class DVD Presentation "Creation Spirituality"</p> <p>"24 Hours That Changed the World; Conf Room</p> <p>Seekers "Christianity's Family Tree"; Room 102</p> <p>Children's Musical Practice; Sanctuary</p> <p>Middle School UMYF; Youth Room</p> <p>Youth Bells; Music Room</p> <p>COE; Library</p> <p>NO Sr. High UMYF</p>
<p>Mon, March 15</p> <p>Noon</p> <p>5:30 - 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>7:00 p.m.</p> <p>7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>FOCUS Deadline; Office</p> <p>Harvest Table served by VFW</p> <p>Jubilee Bells; Music Room</p> <p>Financial Peace University; Conference Room</p>

“Thank you” to the thoughtful, wonderful people of Brookings First United Methodist Church who helped us through our difficult time with Grant. Over the past two months your cards, visits, donations, gifts and thoughtful gestures touched our hearts. The donations will help with medical bills. Grant’s fundraising benefit last week went well. He is improving daily with his swallowing abilities but still requires the use of a feeding tube. We are continually encouraged by the support and prayers we have received. We feel blessed to be uplifted by our friends from FUMC!

Much love,
 Anna, Eric, Ella and Grant Tellekson

Thank you to the February Love-In-Action Group - Co-Chairs Marilyn Gjerets and Robyn Emmett would like to thank all those on the February group for their help last month.

The Living Last Supper

Christ’s last night on earth was shared with his disciples during a meal full of touching camaraderie and communion, but with a warning fo impending deceit and betrayal. Watch the story unfold as each disciple shares what may have been on his mind that fateful night. The production of The Living Last Supper will take place in the sanctuary on Thursday, April 1st at 7:30 p.m. Make plans to attend now as this wonderful production is only offered every other year.

LIFE-CHANGING MINISTRY - A RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

Join United Methodists everywhere by participating in this special offering that supports UMCOR's vital work. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation for UMCOR to seek justice and mercy for suffering people everywhere. You can be assured that when catastrophes cause suffering, your church, impelled by Jesus' love and compassion, will be in the lead to ease the pain.

THE 2010 OFFERING - ESSENTIAL TO UMCOR

Gifts to this offering underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." That helps us keep our promise that 100 percent of every other gift you make to a specific UMCOR project can be spent on that project not on home office costs. UMCOR is a good steward of God's gifts. UMCOR's top ratings by both Charity Navigator and the American Institute of Philanthropy attest to UMCOR's financial accountability. Offering gifts over and above those used to cover administrative costs are channeled where they're most needed. UMCOR's specialized ministries responding in disaster, fighting hunger, alleviating poverty, providing relief supplies around the world, and offering hospitality to immigrants and refugees all assist the most vulnerable people whose need is greatest.

CELEBRATE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING MARCH 14

While One Great Hour of Sharing is traditionally celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent, you can choose the date that works best for your church schedule. Offering materials are available online and in print throughout the year to support your offering celebration.

NO WORLD SERVICE FUNDS COME TO UMCOR

UMCOR receives no World Service funds or any other apportionments. Your gifts mean we're right there with hardworking families, people who are affected by storms or war, disaster or disease. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering provides essential support to UMCOR. Without this offering so much of what UMCOR does to bring hope and healing to the world could not happen.

HOW YOUR GIFTS HELP

Keep the Lights On: Most gifts coming to UMCOR have been designated for specific programs and those programs receive 100 percent of those gifts. So part of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering plus a small percentage of other general donations support UMCOR's cost of doing business.

Fill-in Fundraising: Donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering also assist UMCOR programs that have not been fully funded through designated Advance gifts.

Answering Jesus' Call: United Methodist's donations often become the springboard for additional funding.

The compassion of Jesus makes all things new. As Christians, we're called to do the same: to offer the hands, the heart and the hope of the church wherever people are suffering. Your gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing, channeled through UMCOR, enable the church to answer that call.

Youth News

Mission to Mission

Six high schoolers and two adults are now registered for the Mission to Mission, on March 12-14. This mission is to Tree of Life, a Native American ministry in Mission, S.D., related to The United Methodist Church.

As it turns out, we have more cash flow left after the ski trip than anticipated. Therefore, the youth group funds will pay for the lodging. Also, since we will be there only two nights, the mission has reduced their cultural-event fee from \$200 to \$50. Therefore, adults may go for free and youth may go for \$20. We are still looking for a woman chaperone. Please see Pastor Duane.

Tree of Life is a United Methodist Volunteer in Mission agency, and as such, there are specific forms that need to be signed by each team member. Therefore, they have their own health form and safety policy that need to be signed in addition to the local church youth covenant.

On Friday, March 12, we will gather to load at the church at 4 p.m., and we hope to return on Sunday, March 14 before 5:30 p.m.

30-Hour Famine

On March 19-20, Senior High youth are invited to participate in 30-Hour Famine with other Christian youth in Brookings. This hunger-awareness program involves raising money for World Vision to alleviate hunger in such places as Haiti and the African country of Niger. It also involves doing activities throughout Friday night and Saturday with other Christian youth your age. And, of course, it means 30 hours without food to know really what hunger is like.

Later this week, there will be fund-raising packets available for youth to use to sign-up sponsors for this World Vision program. Stop by the office and see Pastor Duane, or come to youth group on March 7 and get them there. To find out more, go to www.30hourfamine.org.

Missing item from ski trip - One pillow didn't make it to the right home after the ski trip. The pillow case is a solid light purple/blue color. If it got to your house please contact Pastor Duane.

Senior High calendar

Sunday, March 7 – Discuss Mission to Mission

Friday, March 12-Sunday, March 14 – Mission to Mission

Friday, March 14 – No meeting (Mission to Mission)

Friday, March 19-Saturday, March 20 – 30-Hour Famine, Bethel Baptist Church

March 21 – TBA

March 28 – No meeting. Go to “Once Upon a Tree” instead, 7 p.m. in the sanctuary

April 4 – No meeting (Easter)

Middle School calendar

March 7 – Easter sunrise service planning

March 14 – Easter sunrise service planning

March 21 – Easter sunrise service planning

March 28 – Rehearsal for Easter sunrise

April 4 – No meeting (Easter)

**First United Methodist Church
625 5th Street
Brookings, South Dakota 57006**

RETURN SERVICE REQUEST

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Camp Sunday - Are you ready to celebrate and get energized for church camp? Then be sure to attend church on March 21, our Camp Sunday! This church has a long history of supporting camping through attending camp as a camper, dean, bus chaperone, as well as giving to the scholarship fund. We will be celebrating camp through a 'camp' style worship, so wear your camp clothes and be ready to enjoy a great service.

Summer Church Camp- A very few people are starting to sign up for camp. It's never too early, and the earlier you sign up, the more assured you are of being able to attend the camp of your choice. If the camp that you wish to attend has a limited number of campers allowed, I would suggest you sign up for that camp by sending in your \$30 deposit, which will reserve your spot. Be sure to pick up a camp flyer and start thinking about which camp you might want to attend this year. There are camps for EVERY age, so just because you are what you might think is past the camping age don't think there isn't something out there for you! Just take a look!

Early Bird Deadline - The early bird deadline for camp this year is Tuesday, April 27 – for the conference office. That means that you need to have your camp paid in full by that date to take advantage of the discounted price. The church is also expected to have our 50% scholarship portion into the conference office by April 27. In order for us to be able to calculate this total and cut a check in time, we are asking that you have your registration in to the office by April 21.

Camp Scholarship – The church is offering a 50% scholarship for one camp per camper. Please let Gretchen know if you plan on taking advantage of this scholarship – especially true when registering on-line. It is available to children, youth and adults.

On-line Registration – Registering on-line is again available and encouraged by the conference office. It does provide immediate notice of acceptance into a camp. Please let Gretchen know – and one way to do that is to forward your on-line confirmation to gkknutson@yahoo.com. Just a note, I cannot register you on-line in my office. If you would like help in registering or have questions, please come in to the education office or call 692-4345.

Vacation Bible School - Just a FYI - VBS is planned for June 1-4 with Penny Eliason and Dusty Holen as co-leaders. Be watching the FOCUS for more information in the future!