



First United Methodist Church
625 Fifth Street
Brookings, SD 57006

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FOCUS

NEWSLETTER

February 2019

FROM THE PASTOR

“Together” Capital Campaign Kicks-Off!

On Sunday, January 27, the church officially kicked-off our “Together” Capital Campaign with a special event to introduce the official Campaign Brochure and Campaign Video, along with addresses from some of our Campaign leaders. We began in the Narthex/Foyer area between the Sanctuary and Education wing as we had a (weather-adjusted) impromptu youth choir lead us in a call-and-response version of “This Little Light of Mine.” Heart-shaped reminders of some of the many ministries of the church and community decorated the walls, and attendees were invited to pick up one of the miniature “prayer-hearts” for their nametag. (I chose our Financial Peace University class, in prayer for those families).

We then made our way across the alley to the Community Life Center where we heard from some of our campaign leaders and watched the video. The video and brochure will soon be available on our website. We finished the afternoon event with an announcement of pledges and gifts, then shared our Campaign Prayer together. As of that afternoon, we had received \$274,400 in gifts and pledges on our way to our \$1,000,000 goal. This campaign will do a great deal to set up the church for continued ministry and success, and we hope that all our families will find a way to support Brookings First UMC in this important campaign.

Commitment Sunday is March 3, and we will celebrate on March 24. What a great way to start the new year and celebrate and strengthen the ministries of our church, “Together!”

Blessings, *Pastor Wade*



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
BROOKINGS

AT THE
CORNER OF
CHURCH &
COMMUNITY

625 Fifth Street, Brookings
605-692-4345

www.brookingsmethodist.org

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays

- 9:00am **'The Well' Worship**
Located in the Community Life Center
- 9:30am **Radio Broadcast**
(KBRK 1430AM)
- 10:00am **Sunday School (2yr-HS)**
- 11:00am **Traditional Worship**
Located in the Sanctuary

Missed the Sunday sermon? Find recent messages on our website:
www.brookingsmethodist.org/worship

Wednesdays

- 6:00pm **Manna in the Middle Worship**
Located in the Community Life Center

CHURCH STAFF

Pastoral Staff

Wade Miller pastorwade@brookingsmethodist.org
Theta Miller pastortheta@brookingsmethodist.org

Education Director

Gretchen Knutson education@brookingsmethodist.org

Worship & Music Director

Teresa Person music@brookingsmethodist.org

Community Life Center Director

Vonda Kirkham communitylife@brookingsmethodist.org

Office Manager

Amy Merchant office@brookingsmethodist.org

Financial Secretary

JoAnn Lee finance@brookingsmethodist.org

Faith Community Nurse

Joanie Holm jholm229@gmail.com

Tech Coordinator

Paul Schmidt tech@brookingsmethodist.org

feed your soul • Wednesdays

MANNA in the MIDDLE

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

- 3:00pm WAM! (Wednesday Afternoon Music)
- 4:00pm Wednesday Afternoon Childcare
- 4:00pm Chiming Children
- 5:00pm Youth Bells
- 5:00pm Manna Meal
- 6:00pm "Manna in the Middle" Worship
- 6:45pm Men's Study
- 6:45pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 6:45pm College Age Ministry
- 6:45pm Confirmation
- 6:45pm High School Youth Group
- 6:45pm Wednesday School (1st-5th graders)

CONNECT WITH US

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8:30 am-12:00 pm and 1:00-4:30 pm,
Fridays 8:30am-Noon

Need prayer? Email

prayer@brookingsmethodist.org
and one of the pastors will pray with you.

[Facebook.com/FUMCBrookings](https://www.facebook.com/FUMCBrookings)

www.brookingsmethodist.org

Susan's Saga

As we were revising Paul's Epistle to the Galatians last week, a verse popped out at me, "So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up."

This reminder was a timely admonishment for me. The task of Bible translation is painstaking and time consuming. Sometimes one wonders if one will ever see the light at the end of the tunnel. Many doubts and worries can assail the Bible translator.

This verse enjoins me to keep at it, to not lose heart, and to continue toward the finish line. I need to trust in God for the harvest of blessing. My task is to not let myself succumb to weariness.

Perhaps some of you face discouraging situations, with no short-term solutions. Whether it's ministry, or raising a family, or any other life condition, let's keep going. I appreciate my home church which has also stuck with me through this long process. Let's not give up!

Susan Huggins

Scripture quote Galatians 6:9, taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation.

Susan Huggins is a 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 organization; she raises her own funds to support this ministry.

#onething

In **February**, our #onething will be the **Diaper Project**. We want to continue to support a project started by Corrine Stremmel and brought to us through her mother, our organist, Joan Riessen. Please bring diapers and wipes to the #onething tubs to help out our littlest Harvest Table guests. Harvest Table is most in need of the larger (size 4-6) diapers, but all sizes and brands are welcome.

We want to **Pamper** the babies with **Luvs** and **Huggies**.

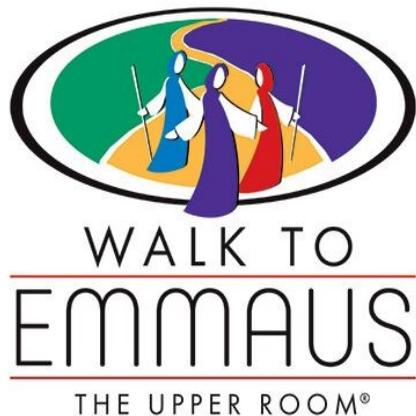
Thank you to all who have contributed to the #onething **January** project-UMCOR Sager Brown Hygiene Kits. Hygiene kits are distributed throughout the world as disasters occur and are always needed in the Sager Brown warehouse. Thank you for your kit supply donations!

Outstanding Response to “90 Day Challenge”

The FUMC Finance Committee wants to thank church members and friends for the outstanding response to the “90-Day Challenge.” Nearing the end of 2018, we found ourselves in a precarious financial state, with income falling short of expenses. In response, we issued a challenge to our donors to contribute an extra amount corresponding to 1% of their income over the months of November, December, and January. A generous anonymous donor stepped up to match up to \$20,000 of these donations.

While we expect a few more contributions to come in at the end of January, we can report an outstanding response to the challenge! As of January 20, \$39,015 was contributed through the 90-Day Challenge. When the match is added, this means a total of \$59,015 was raised!

It is very affirming for us to know that, in times of need, our members and friends place enough value in what we do to come through so generously. We want to thank each and every one of you – and particularly our generous match donor – who met our challenge. As a result, we are in a very solid financial state as we enter 2019.



A Journey with Christ

CrossWork (Emmaus Reunion Group) invites you to Perkins on Sunday, February 3rd, at 3 p.m. to learn more about an experience of Christian renewal and formation called the Walk to Emmaus. The Walk to Emmaus is similar to the story in Luke in which Christ joins two disciples who were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus. By walking with Jesus, reflecting on the scriptures, breaking bread together, and sharing their resurrection stories, the disciples experienced Christ's presence and their hearts burned within them. The Walk to Emmaus is your opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers.

Dakotas Walk to Emmaus will be in March – Men's March 21-24, 2019 and Women's March 28-31, 2019. For additional information check out these websites: dakotawalk.org and emmaus.upperroom.org. If you are interested but unable to attend the informational session, please contact an Emmaus pilgrim such as Nancy Bohlen at nbohlen@swiftel.net or call 692-7744.

Ministry Recognition

Did you know that each time we baptize a baby or child in the church, he or she is given a beautiful quilt, lovingly made by the Piecemakers and a faith chest built by Friends of the Carpenter? The Piecemakers also give quilts to graduating seniors and comfort quilts to those in need of warmth and care from the church. Join us in worship on Sunday, February 3 as we lift up these wonderful ministries.

The Big Game Party

All are welcome at the Big Game party on Sunday, February 3. The doors to the Community Life Center will open at 4:30 p.m. for pre-game fun as we gather to watch the football game on our three giant screens. Feel free to bring your favorite snack to share. To view the snack sign up link created by the Men's Study Group: <http://bit.ly/FUMCBigGame>

Ice Fishing Day!

The Education Committee is sponsoring a church-wide Ice Fishing Day on Lake Poinsett on Saturday, February 9, from 3p.m. until sundown. All equipment will be supplied along with a couple of ice fishing shacks. Just bring any snacks you may want and get ready to have a great day on the ice with your church family! And don't forget to bring a friend or two. Meeting location will be at the Lake Poinsett boat dock.

Camp Sunday

This year we will be celebrating the start of summer camping season and taking an offering for the scholarship program on **Camp Sunday – February 24**. This is a bit earlier than we have been doing it, but since registration is open we thought we would get everyone in the spirit and ready to sign up for camp! Come ready to celebrate camp and wear your comfy camp clothes.

New Member Class, Feb. 17

Our “New Member” Class will meet in the Conference Room from 10-10:45a.m. on Sunday Feb. 17th. We start with getting to know one another, then share a brief introduction of our church and tradition's basic beliefs. We end our time together with examples of how we can grow in faith with one another. Child care is provided. There's no need to register but we'd love to know if you are coming (contact Pastor Theta).

2018 Donation Statements

Donation statements for 2018 have been mailed. Please contact JoAnn Lee at the church office if you have any questions about your giving information. Also, if you did not receive a statement and believe you should have, please contact JoAnn.

Church Offering Senior Scholarship

It has been a tradition of this church to offer a scholarship to graduating seniors who are going on to further schooling. An email has been sent out to those seniors. If you are a senior or have a senior in your household and have not received this email, please contact Gretchen at education@brookingsmethodist.org for the scholarship form. Please turn in your form by March 15 to the office.



Lenten Soup Suppers

This church has a wonderful tradition of hosting soup suppers during the season of Lent. These suppers take place during our regular Manna in the Middle meal time in the Community Life Center from 5-6 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. During Lent, these soup and sandwich meals are purposefully lighter fare as we reflect on Jesus' sacrifice in the days leading to Holy Week and Easter. Various committees and groups in the church are asked to provide 12 large crockpots of soup (5+ quart size) along with 16 loaves of French bread. Our Manna cook will also provide a roaster of kid-friendly Campbell's Chicken Noodle Soup and Campbell's Tomato Soup each week.

- Mar. 6 — Confirmation and High School Youth Group
- Mar. 13 — Education
- Mar. 20 — UMM & Trustees
- Mar. 27 — SPR & Finance
- Apr. 3 — Worship & Health Ministry
- Apr. 10 — UMW & Memorials
- Apr. 17 — Missions & History

Library News

The library has had several books, a pamphlet, and a book on CD donated. We have processed them and they are available to check out. The titles: *Bible Gender Sexuality* by James V. Brownson; *God and the Gay Christian* by Matthew Vine; *Unfair Christians and the LGBT Question* by John Shore; *Torn Rescuing the Gospel from The Gay-vs-Christian Debate* by Justin Lee; *First We Imagine: 22 Creative South Dakotans Speak on the Subject of Creativity*, compiled and edited by John E. Miller; a pamphlet *Miscarriage* for parents experiencing fetal death by Marvin and Joy Johnson and others; a CD *Please Look After Mom* by Kyumh-Sook Shin. There are many more books and topics in the library. Thank you to our donors!

Camping Registration is Open

Registration is open on the Dakotas website which is www.dakcamps.org. Be sure to take a look and get a head start on your summer schedule before it gets too full! Some from our church members have already signed up!

Due to very generous donations from the Children's Christmas program offering, individuals, and the Church's Foundation, the Education Committee would like to announce that we will be offering a **65% scholarship** toward summer camps! This church has always been very supportive of camp and we are very glad to be able to offer this scholarship.

Please never let the expense of attending camp be a deterrent—talk to Gretchen as funding beyond the 65% percent is available locally and other funds are available at the conference level. We want everyone who wants to attend a camp to be able to do just that!

College Ministry and Confirmation Serving Harvest Table

We celebrate when ministries work together to be the hand and feet of Christ. On Feb. 11th our college and confirmation students are joining together to prepare and serve the meal at Harvest Table. Please pray for all our leaders for this important witness of love.

SOUPER Bowl of Caring

Our High School Youth will take our annual Souper Bowl of Caring offering on Sunday, February 3. The offering will be collected by the HS Youth in soup pots at the end of each worship service. Funds collected for this event will go toward Harvest Table. Please share your gifts of soup or canned goods for Harvest Table to combat hunger locally. Collection areas are in the Sanctuary and by the Community Life Center. Look for the tub/box near the large soup can.

Summer Mission Trip

You are invited to Youth19/Urban Plunge, **July 6-14**, in Kansas City, Missouri. This event is a National Gathering for thousands of UMC Youth that happens every 4 years. The event focuses on worship, Bible study, service opportunities, and discipleship. The cost is \$800 and we will have fundraisers. Please contact Pastor Theta for questions.

Confirmation

Our 8th graders are preparing for their Confirmation on Sunday on April 7. This year the 8th graders will be sharing their Faith Statements in a video they created for you, their church family. We will show this video of their testimonies of faith at Manna Worship at 6p.m. on February 13. You are invited to join us for this special showing in the Community Life Center.

Faith Community Nurse Note: Preventing Heart Disease - Healthy Living Habits

Choosing healthy meal and snack options can help you avoid heart disease and its complications. Be sure to eat plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables. By living a healthy lifestyle, you can lower your risk for heart disease and heart attack. A healthy lifestyle includes the following:

- Eating a healthy diet.
- Maintaining a healthy weight.
- Getting enough physical activity.
- Not smoking or using other forms of tobacco.
- Limiting alcohol use.

Healthy foods help prevent illnesses:



Fewer than **1 in 10 children and adults** eat recommended daily amount of vegetables.



Only **4 in 10 children** and fewer than **1 in 7 adults** eat enough fruit.

February Ushers & Greeters

Traditional Service Ushers, Greeters, & Hospitality

Ushers: Brenda Buus, Rich and Darla Strande, Barb Meyer, Lisa Miller, Rick and Lorna Jost
Greeters: Craig and Diane Culver, Steph Bultje

“The Well” Greeters

Greeters: Roger Sandness; Perry & Barb Johnson

2019 Radio Broadcast Sponsorships Needed

Starting in March, we still have several weeks available in 2019 open for radio broadcast sponsorship. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast in memory, honor, recognition, or celebration of a loved one or anniversary next year, a sign up sheet is available at the welcome center in the Sanctuary. You may also contact Amy at 692-4345 to sign up. Each broadcast is \$60 and airs at 9:30am on KBRK 1430AM. Sponsors are recognized in the Sunday bulletins.



New Giving Options: Questions and Answers

Our church is offering new ways for church members and supporters to make monetary donations! We are partnering with Vanco, a long-standing provider of electronic giving systems, to make these new options available. These include an enhanced website: (<http://www.brookingsmethodist.org/give.html>), the Give+ app, and donation by text.

To give via the **website**: Go to <http://www.brookingsmethodist.org/give.html>

To give via the **Give+ app** on your phone: Download the Give+ app from the App Store or Google Play. Once installed search for ‘Brookings,’ select our church, and follow directions.

To give via **text**: Send a text message to 605-250-0807 with the dollar amount of the gift and follow the directions.

Our website also has a document with common questions and answers about these new options. We have added our special Christmas offering designation on the giving page.

Commission On a Way Forward

Our Sunday morning study on Homosexuality and the United Methodist Church’s response continues to meet during the Sunday School hour (10-10:50a.m.) with Pastor Wade and Dr. James Murphy, Head of the Religion Department at SDSU. We encourage you and your friends to join us to further discuss scripture regarding homosexuality and potential changes for the Dakotas Conference and our local church.

We have also moved a Town Hall meeting to Wednesday, February 27 at 6:45-7:45p.m., the day after the final votes of the Special General Conference in St. Louis. If you are interested in this issue and the church’s response, you are encouraged to attend.

(CLC) = Community Life Center

(Sanc) = Sanctuary

FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Wednesday Schedule—# 3pm—WAM! (CLC) 4pm—Chiming Children 4pm—Wednesday Afternoon Childcare (Education Unit) 5pm—Youth Bells (basement) 5pm—Manna Meal (CLC)	Wednesday Schedule—# 6pm—Manna Worship (CLC) 6:45pm—Men’s Study, High School Youth Group, Chancel Choir, Wednesday School, Confirmation, College Age Ministry				1 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	2
3 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am—Adult Sunday (Parlor) 10am—Sunday School (2yr-HS) 10am—COWF Study (basement) 11am—Traditional Worship 3:00pm—Walk to Emmaus In-formational Session at Perkins 4:30pm—Big Game Party (CLC)	4 10am—Healthy Movement 5:30pm—Harvest Table (CLC) 5:30pm—Health Ministry Team (Library) 6pm—Open Door Singles Grp 7pm—Open Door Retired Grp 7pm—Staff Parish Committee (Conference Room)	5 9am—CARE Group (basement) 10am—Staff Meeting 5:30pm—Disciple Fast Track 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon 5:30pm—Financial Peace Univ. (Sr. High Youth Room) 6pm—Jubilee Ringers’ 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8	6 # 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	7 2pm—Brookhaven Bible Study	8 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	9 3pm—Ice Fishing at Lake Poinsett
10 Scout Sunday 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am—Adult Sunday School (Parlor) 10am—Sunday School (2yr-HS) 10am—Commission on a Way Forward Study (basement) 11am—Traditional Worship	11 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table (CLC) 7pm—Open Door Retired Grp (Parlor)	12 9am—Memorial Committee 10am—UMW Board Meeting 10am—Staff Meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon 5:30pm—Disciple Fast Track 5:30pm—Financial Peace Univ 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8	13 # 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 6:45pm—Grief Support Group (Conference Room) 6:45pm—Guest Readiness Quarterly Coordinators Meeting (Teresa’s office)	14 2pm—Brookhaven Bible Study 5:30pm—Missions Committee (3rd Grade Room)	15 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	16 9am—Piecemakers Quilting Group (church basement)
17 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am—Adult Sunday School 10am—Sunday School (2yr-HS) 10am—COWF Study (basement) 10am—New Member Class (Conference Room) 11am—Traditional Worship 4:30pm—CrossWork Emmaus	18 Presidents’ Day Office Closed 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table (CLC) 6pm—Finance Committee 6pm—Open Door Singles Grp 7pm—Open Door Retired Grp	19 9am—CARE Group (basement) 10am—Staff Meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon 5:30pm—Disciple Fast Track 5:30pm—Financial Peace Univ 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Trustees Meeting 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8	20 # 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	21 9:45am—Neighborhoods Comm. 10:30am—Edgewood Vista Communion 2pm—Stoney Brook Comm. 3pm—ULC Communion 6pm—United Methodist Men 6:30pm—Alzheimer’s Support Group (Parlor)	22 FOCUS DEADLINE 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast Fellowship (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	23 UMC Special General Conference, St. Louis, MO (through Tues, the 26th)
24 CAMP SUNDAY 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am—Adult Sunday School (Parlor) 9:45am—Seeker’s Study (Rm 102) 10am—Sunday School (2yr-HS) 11am—Traditional Worship	25 10am—Healthy Movement 12pm—SOUL Potluck (CLC) 1:15pm—Aging & Spirituality Group (basement) 5:30pm—Harvest Table (CLC) 7pm—Open Door Retired Grp (Parlor)	26 10am—Staff Meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon 5:30pm—Disciple Fast Track 5:30pm—Financial Peace Univ (Senior High Youth Room) 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8	27 # 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 6:45pm—Grief Support Group (Conference Room) 6:45pm—Commission on a Way Forward After Vote Discussion Townhall (basement)	28 9:30am—Hannah Circle (church basement) 2pm—Brookhaven Bible Study 2pm—Naomi Circle (Library)	March 1 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast Fellowship (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	