



First United Methodist Church
625 Fifth Street
Brookings, SD 57006

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FOCUS

NEWSLETTER

March 2019

FROM THE PASTOR

Farewell Celebration

First, I want to thank Brookings FUMC and countless leaders and volunteers who have supported Theta's and my ministries over these past 4 years. Together, we have accomplished some wonderful ministry (breakthrough prayer, community outreach events, Habitat House #65, etc.), made some mistakes along the way, and we have also put the church on a firmer foundation (financially, spiritually, and organizationally) for the years ahead.

Today, I shared with our staff the words of Paul to the church in Corinth...⁴*I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,*⁵*for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—*⁶*just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—*⁷*so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.*⁸*He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*⁹*God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

These words of thanks and blessing certainly approach my feelings for you all. You have been a blessing to our family, and you will continue to be a blessing to the community through your faithfulness and gifts given for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your tears, your trust, your support, your prayers, your work, your gifts, and most importantly, your love. We will continue to read about you and keep up with you on social media, but our hope is that you will give your wholehearted love and support to Pastor Pete and his family as they make Brookings their home. Blessings and Peace for the journey ahead. We hope to see you at our farewell celebration on April 6 from 6-7:30pm.

Pastors Wade & Theta



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
- 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

- 4:00pm WAM! (Wednesday Afternoon Music)
- 5:00pm Chiming Children OR 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 a pastor will pray with you.

Facebook.com/FUMCBrookings
www.brookingsmethodist.org

Susan's Saga

How are we to think and live and act in this fallen world? God's Word from Luke 13:1-5 provides perspective: "Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate has mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, 'Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.'"

Jesus' take might seem slightly indifferent, even a bit callous. But His response is actually profoundly compassionate. Our reaction is outrage and fear. Jesus is more deeply concerned about what happens to us after death. He doesn't downplay that events in this life can be terribly difficult. In this Lenten season, we are reminded of the horrendous suffering He underwent—and totally undeserved. He turns our sight upward to eternal life with God. But we need to repent, because if we don't, the result is to perish, which means eternal separation from God. We have to be aware of how holy God is. Jesus very clearly sees (much more acutely than we do) that our position is desperate. We need to acknowledge that we have fallen far short of the glory of God, and that the broken relationship with God can't be restored by our own inadequate efforts.

That is the lens with which we are to view upsetting current events. We need to look beyond the sensation to God's long-range view: He longs for the shattered relationship to be restored. And God made provision for that reconciliation: through the blood of Jesus. No matter how disastrous the events in our world are, the ultimate catastrophe on the cross is the means by which God ushered in the final solution to sin and death.

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.



In April, our #onething will be Solar Oven Partners. Solar Oven Partners (SOP) is a United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) project that works to place solar ovens in the hands of the poor in deforested lands. SOP partners with the indigenous church and relief organizations to help alleviate human suffering and environmental destruction, following the UMVIM motto of Christian Love in Action! SOP is currently helping in the Dominican Republic, Sierra Leone, and the Navajo Reservation, Flagstaff Arizona. Since January 2000, SOP has equipped over 10,000 families with training in solar cooking. Below are the costs of providing a solar oven to a family. The families who are trained and receive an oven invest 10% of the full cost so they have ownership in their oven.

Shipping and training: \$50
Component parts of ovens: \$100
Complete Package: \$150

We will be collecting measuring cups, measuring spoons, or potholders made from a provided pattern. Please drop off the completed potholders and measuring cups and spoons in the #onething collection tubs by the end of April. Please also consider making a monetary donation.

April Ushers & Greeters

Traditional Service Ushers, Greeters, & Hospitality

Steve & Penny Eliason, Matt & Lisa Miller, Denny Carmichael, Doug & Teresa Telkamp

“The Well” Greeters

Craig & Kim Carson

Quarterly Coordinator: Barb Meyer



Commission on a Way Forward

For the last couple of months, leading up to the recent special General Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMC), a group of 25-35 adult Sunday School participants have studied the issue of exclusion or inclusion of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, and queer (LGBTQ) community in our church. Led by Pastor Wade and Dr. James Murphy, we reviewed the Biblical passages often cited as evidence for or against inclusion. We invite you to read the letter and share your stories around this issue to be posted on FaceBook. The letter will also be at the Welcome Centers to pick up to read. If you are interested in another class like this, please call the church office at 692-4345 or Lorna Jost at 695-0782.

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY—May 5

TOGETHER, WE EMPOWER LOCAL SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND
EDUCATE NATIVE AMERICAN SEMINARY STUDENTS
TO SERVE GOD FAITHFULLY.

Our Giving Allows Native Americans to Encounter, Worship and Serve Jesus

When you support Native American Ministries on Sunday, May 5, you equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. You will also empower congregations that are finding fresh new ways to minister to their communities with the love of Christ. Dr. Richard Twiss, a member of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate from the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, asked, “Will we be allowed to develop new ways of doing church that honor God’s purposes for the creative expression of our cultures? Will new ministry partnerships and coalitions form? Will you help be a part of this wonderful process of reconciliation, restoration, and release?” **Say yes.**

Missions Committee

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, April 14

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday processions at both of our morning worship services. A beautiful presentation of song and dance by the Exaltation Dance Company tells the Easter story in “Once Upon a Tree.” Performances will take place on Saturday, April 13, and Sunday, April 14, both at 7:00p.m. in the church sanctuary.

Wednesday, April 17

As we enter the passion period of the week, join us for the last soup supper and Wednesday Lenten service as we continue our Psalms of Lent series, focusing on “The Rejected Stone.” This will also be the last opportunity to add prayer butterflies to the cross.

Maundy Thursday, April 18

“The Living Last Supper” will be presented in the Community Life Center at 7:00p.m. Join us for a dramatic retelling of what may have been on the minds of the disciples on their last night with Jesus. Communion and a Seder meal are also a part of this service, but please know that a Seder meal is a symbolic “tasting meal” and not a traditional meal that would take the place of your dinner. Young children may not enjoy the somber nature of this event; childcare will be provided in the nursery for those up to 8 years old.

Good Friday, April 19

A moving Good Friday service will take place in the Sanctuary at 7:00p.m. on Friday, April 19, with poignant music and readings from *Faces at the Cross*. Childcare will be provided.

Easter Sunday, April 21

Finally, we will celebrate our risen savior together on Easter morning during our regular worship services. There will be no Sunday School classes to allow families the opportunity to enjoy this holy day together.

Looking ahead...

March 29-31 — Women’s Walk to Emmaus

April 6 — Farewell reception for Miller’s

April 7 — Confirmation Sunday

April 13-14 — Once Upon a Tree

April 14 — Palm Sunday

April 18 — Living Last Supper

April 19 — Good Friday worship

April 21 — Easter Sunday

April 24 — Last Manna in the Middle
(last day for Wednesday activities)

April 28 — Children’s Musical;
Last day of Sunday School

May 5 — Senior Recognition Sunday

Prayer Chain

Do you feel called to pray for others? The church is in need of a few more friends to be part of our prayer chain. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please contact Sharon Anderegg at 692-4925.

Grassow's to Visit FUMC

Pete and Jenny Grassow, our new appointed pastor and his wife from Johannesburg, South Africa, have received their visitor visas and will be in worship with us at both services on Sunday, March 31. Pastor Pete will also give the message during the sermon times. He and Jenny will be introduced and present to visit with you between worship services. Pete's letter of introduction is also available at the Welcome Centers. The Grassow's will later return to Brookings to start their appointment on July 1, 2019. We hope you can join us in welcoming them on March 31!

Miller Family Farewell

Mark your calendars on Saturday, April 6, from 6:00 to 7:30p.m. to attend a dessert farewell party for Pastors Wade and Theta, Clarissa, Quinn, and Bill. The Miller's final Sunday with us will be April 7, Confirmation Sunday. You are invited to bring cards of encouragement, thanks, and farewell. There will be a short program and presentation to the Millers around 6:30p.m. We hope you are able to join SPR as we lift up the Millers for their years of ministry in Brookings, and to wish them well at the next church and community they serve. (April 5 is also Wade's 50th birthday - all the more reason to celebrate!)

Children's Musical

"Joseph and the Dream Team Xtreme" will be presented at The Well (9:00 a.m.) worship service in the Community Life Center on Sunday, April 28th. There will only be one performance this year, so be sure to mark your calendars for this awesome event. The kids are excited to share all they have learned about this biblical story.



Wednesday After-School Schedule Changes

Due to the Brookings School Board's decision on extending Wednesday school hours to help make up time for school days lost during this harsh winter season, please take note of our scheduling changes in our bulletin, website, and FOCUS calendars. These changes start on March 27.

Part-time Janitor Position

The church is in need of a part-time janitor to work approximately 10 hours weekly for cleaning duties and also the setting up and tearing down of tables and chairs as needed. This janitorial position will begin the week of April 7. If you are interested or know of someone who would be a good fit, please contact Brenda Hieb at 692-2697 or email bfkhieb@gmail.com.

Camping Registration is Open – Prime time to Register!

Don't forget to register for camp before your summer schedule gets too full! The camp books are on the Welcome Centers in both buildings but another great way to see camps is on the camp website – www.dakcamps.org. Go online now to find a camp for you!

- This year we will be offering a **65% scholarship** for summer camps.
- The code for the 65% camp scholarship is: **brookingscampers**.
- The **Early Bird deadline the register is Tuesday, April 30**, but you can sign up for camp all summer long. If you don't know right now which camp will work, then sign up later.
- **Bring-a-Friend Discount** – For each new camper (hasn't been to a Dakotas UM camp for the past three years) you or your child brings to camp in 2019, you will receive \$25 off the price of your camp – not to exceed registration fee. So, invite away!
- There are 3 camps sites from which to choose: Wesley Acres in North Dakota, Storm Mountain in the Black Hills, and Lake Poinsett.

Last Day of Sunday School

The Education Committee has decided that April 28 will be the last day of Sunday School.

Summer Mission Trip

You are invited to **Youth19/Urban Plunge** on 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. This year's High School Summer Mission Trip group will be **selling Medary Acres gift cards** in the next few weeks. We will be selling them on Wednesday during the Manna meal, after Manna worship, and on Sundays before and after each worship service. We appreciate your support as this year's mission is both a mission trip and the National UM Youth Convention that happens only every four years. Questions? Contact James Honomichl at jhonomichl@dakotalink.net.

Confirmation

Please pray for the following as they pray-fully move toward Confirmation Sunday on April 7, 2019:

Tammy Dobrenski, Sponsor/Family Group Leader

Tayla Dobrenski, Spencer Christie, Blake Wallenberg, Gabrielle Rebelein

Steph Bultje, Sponsor/Family Group Leader

Justin Alfson, Lexus Bartling, Camden Eliason, Quinn Miller, Madison Pantzke, Tess Pantzke, Noah White

Foundation News

The First United Methodist Church Foundation is excited to announce more support for church ministries. So far this fiscal year, the Foundation funded the capital campaign feasibility study in the amount of \$11,735.00, there was a Ministerial Scholarship given to Teresa Person, two Student Scholarships were given to William Reynolds & Brittany Fyler, the Advent banners were purchased for Worship Enhancement, and new computers were bought for both pastors' offices.

This month the Foundation is assisting the Committee on Education to purchase a new TV for the education wing to use throughout different education opportunities.

The nine ministries Foundation support emphasizes: Camping Scholarships, Capital Improvements, Christian Education, Ministerial Scholarships, Missions/Outreach, Music Enhancement, SDSU Campus Ministry, Student Scholarships, and Worship Enhancement.

If you have any interest in supporting the Brookings First United Methodist Church Foundation with your gifts, please contact any of the board of director members: Pastor Wade Miller, Laura Gerjets, Van Fishback, Margaret Denton, or Rich Howard.

Vacation Bible School

The theme for VBS this year is *Roar! Life is Wild – God is Good*. The dates are Tuesday, June 11- Friday, June 14, in the evenings from 5:15-8p.m. If you would like to help, email Gretchen at education@brookingsmethodist.org or you may go to sign up genius at <http://bit.ly/roarvolunteers> and sign up that way.

The ages for VBS will be those who are in the 3-year-old to 5th grade (present grade). Registration for VBS is open and online at: <http://bit.ly/roarregistration>.

VBS Set Help Needed

We will need help with creating the set for VBS. In the past several years we have been blessed to have the creative help of a few people – mainly Bill Miller. We will deeply miss Bill for his leadership and creativity this year.

If you like to create sets or could help with parts of it, please contact Gretchen at education@brookingsmethodist.org.

We'd love to have your help!

Celebrating our Graduates

On May 5 during The Well service (9a.m.) in the Community Life Center, we will celebrate our high school seniors as they get ready to go on to the next adventure in life. We will honor them with a special recognition during the service, and we will also have pictures along with a display of quilts made especially for them by our Piecemakers quilting group.

United Methodist Committee on Relief Special Offering

Since 1940, UMCOR has been responding to nations in crisis after natural disasters, war, and other tragic events. Right now, UMCOR response teams and workers are providing relief in current disaster areas. Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today.

When we meet the needs of those who suffer we actually minister to Jesus, who said, "I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me." (Mt. 25:35-36, CEB). **A special offering will be taken on March 31**, which will equip efforts all over the world through UMCOR. We share what we've been given so that others may experience hope and healing. Missions Committee

Puerto Rico Missions Trip—April deadline

Brookings FUMC has accepted the challenge to take on an 8-10 day mission team to Puerto Rico next February, 2020, exact dates TBA. Approximate cost will be \$1800 to \$2000, and is largely dependent upon plane costs at that time and the number of people on the team. We would be working on Methodist affiliated churches or people's homes that were destroyed or damaged by the devastating hurricane that hit that island last year. Construction and personal relationship building will be key components of the team. If you are interested, please call Lorna Jost at 605-695-0782 or email lkjost51@gmail.com. Only those 18 or older will be accepted by the church in Puerto Rico. **Last date to get on the team list is April 15, 2019.** Several informational meetings will be held over the course of next summer and fall to get us ready for this mission!

Support the Hahn's

Lincoln and Emily Hahn are a military family in our church, and Lincoln is now deployed for a year. Emily is single-parenting it now – with 3 children and a busy schedule. Although most of us cannot fully understand what they are going through, we can offer support through gift cards to pizza places, Hy-Vee, any fast food chain, Cinema 8, offers of child-care so that Emily can get a break, help with mechanical work, offers to mow lawn, and help with other household and yard work, etc. If you would like to support the Hahn's, you may bring donations to the office or send them to Emily at 1920 3rd St in Brookings.



(CLC) = Community Life Center

(Sanc) = Sanctuary

APRIL 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10am—Healthy Movement 5:30pm—Harvest Table (CLC) 5:30pm—Health Ministry Team (Library) 6pm—Open Door Singles Grp (Senior High Youth Room) 7pm—Staff Parish Committee (Conference Room)	2 9am—CARE Group (basement) 10am—Staff Meeting 5:30pm—Disciple Fast Track 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon (Parlor) 6pm—Jubilee Ringers' 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8	3 # *Please see below for Wed. schedule/time changes! 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 6:45pm—5th Graders Invited to Confirmation	4	5 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	6 9am—Piecemakers Quilting Group (basement) 6pm—Miller Farewell Reception (CLC)
7—Confirmation Sunday 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am—Adult Sunday Sch (Parlor) 10am—Adult Study (basement) 10am—Sunday School (2yr-HS) 10am—Conf. Reception (CLC) 11am—Traditional Worship 4:30pm—CrossWork Emmaus 7pm—Living Last Supper Reh.	8 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table (CLC)	9 9am—Memorial Committee 10am—Staff Meeting 10am—UMW Board Meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon 5:30pm—Disciple Fast Track 6pm—Jubilee Ringers' 7pm—Trustees Mtg (Library) 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8	10 # 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 6:45pm—All Youth End of the Year Party and Talent Show	11 5:30pm—Missions Committee (3rd Grade Room)	12 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	13 7:00pm Once Upon a Tree presentation by Exaltation Dance Company (Sanctuary)
14 Palm Sunday 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am—Adult Sun. School (Parlor) 10am—Adult Study (basement) 10am—Sunday School (2yr-HS) 11am—Traditional Worship 7pm— Once Upon a Tree presentation (Sanctuary)	15 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table (CLC) 6pm—Open Door Singles Grp (Sr. High Youth Room)	16 9am—CARE Group 10am—Staff Meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon (Parlor) 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Living Last Supper Rehearsal (CLC) 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8	17 # 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) *No Confirmation or Wed. School—done for season	18 9:45am—Neighborhoods Comm. 10:30am—Edgewood Vista Comm. 2pm—Stoney Brook Communion 3pm—ULC Communion 6pm—United Methodist Men (CLC) 7pm—Maundy Thursday—Living Last Supper (CLC)	19 Good Friday 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 7pm—Good Friday Service (Sanctuary)	20
21 Easter Sunday *No children’s Sunday School 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am—Adult Sun. School (Parlor) 11am—Traditional Worship 4:30pm—CrossWork Emmaus (Library)	22 Easter Monday 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 12pm—SOUL Potluck (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table (CLC) 6pm—Finance Committee 7pm—Open Door Retired Grp	23 FOCUS Deadline 10am—Staff Meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon (Parlor) 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8	24 # 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 6:45pm—Confirmation Parent Meeting for 5-7th graders (basement) 6:45pm—8th Graders Invited to HS Youth (HS Youth Rm)	25 9:30am—Hannah Circle (basement) 2pm—Naomi Circle (Library)	26 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast Fellowship (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	27 9am—Piecemakers Quilting Group (basement) 3pm—Children’s Musical Dress Rehearsal (CLC)
28 9am—The Well Worship/ Children’s Musical (CLC) 9am—Adult Sun. School (Parlor) 10am—Adult Study (basement) 10am—Children’s Sunday School (last day) 11am—Traditional Worship	29 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table (CLC) 6pm—Open Door Retired Group (basement)	30 10am—Staff Meeting 5:30pm—BFUMC Foundation (Library) 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon (Parlor) 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8	Wednesday Schedule—# 4pm—WAM! (CLC) 5pm—Chiming Children OR Youth Bells 5pm—Manna Meal (CLC) 6pm—Manna Worship (CLC)	Wednesday Schedule—# 6:45pm—Men’s Study, High School Youth Group, Chancel Choir, Wednesday School, Confirmation, College Age Ministry		