

First United Methodist Church
625 Fifth Street
Brookings, SD 57006

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FROM THE PASTOR

Unexpected Blessings

A couple of weeks ago I received an email from someone named Mike whose name I did not recognize. As I read the email, I discovered that Mike and I had been in seminary together for two years while I was in Boston. Mike, who lives in Boston, was in town to visit his daughter who lives here and happened to walk past the church and noticed my name on the church billboard. After seeing my name, he searched his memory and recalling that we had a good friend in common by the name of Jeff, sent me an email.

I do not remember running around much with Mike but our common friend, Jeff, was someone I had been thinking about recently because Jeff had lived with our family for a while. We had lost track of each of other and I did want to connect again but was not quite sure how to do it. Mike helped make that happen. When I came to Brookings in April, it was with the expectation I would be done being interim pastor by July 1. That as we know has not happened. But had I left in June, Mike would never have seen my name and I would not have been able to reconnect with Jeff.

As I pondered on that, I thought about how we often make plans for our life. And from time to time things do not go as we might have hoped, and our first reaction may be to get upset. But my experience with Mike reminded me that God has the power and the desire to bring good things out of that which has gone wrong. Our challenge is to be on the lookout for the blessings that may come in those difficult times for in the midst of it all, we may discover God at work.

Howard Grinager, Interim Pastor

PS—And I'm glad my stay was extended.

The logo consists of a white cross with a flame-like shape on the left side, set against a dark teal background. Below the logo, the text "FIRST UNITED METHODIST BROOKINGS" is written in white, stacked vertically. Underneath that, "AT THE CORNER OF CHURCH & COMMUNITY" is written in a smaller font. At the bottom, the address "625 Fifth Street, Brookings" and phone number "605-692-4345" are listed, along with the website "www.brookingsmethodist.org".

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
BROOKINGS
AT THE
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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)
- 11:00am **Traditional Worship**
Located in the Sanctuary

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

Office Closed Fridays During Summer

As a reminder, the church office will be closed for the remaining Fridays over the summertime. The Education Unit, Worship Office, and CLC will remain open 8:30-noon.

CHURCH STAFF

- Pastoral Staff**
Howard Grinager grinagerh@gmail.com
- 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

{PR&Y@625}

Join us daily in prayer at 6:25 (a.m., p.m. or both)

Holy God, you know times of change bring an uncertainty to our lives. In this time of transition within our congregation, we ask for your gift of peace for ourselves and our church family. We pray also for our new pastor, Pete, and his wife, Jenny, as they transition not only from one church to another but also from one nation to another. Help us all to sense your presence in the midst of all that is happening. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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](https://www.facebook.com/FUMCBrookings)
www.brookingsmethodist.org

Susan's Saga

Music has a mysteriously calming effect on the soul. The words of Christian hymns and songs can be very moving. The interplay of music and words penetrate in a profound way, especially at crisis points in life. The *Hopeful Spirit*, under the initiative of Dr. Rick Holm, has tapped into this mystery over the past decade or so. Singing hymns has a profoundly comforting effect on ill people and their loved ones. It is a special ministry that touches at a deep level.

Just last week, I saw this mystery played out in Oaxaca. While we were checking Scripture in Mixtec in one of the villages, word was sent to some of the ladies that there was a very ill person. Prayer was solicited. Since I have known the family for some time, I tagged along. (Actually I gave the group a ride in the truck through the high pine forest). We clambered down the muddy red clay slope to the home. The blind man was sitting up in bed to receive us. He was only 49, but had gone blind from diabetes several years ago. Now his organs were shutting down. He had stopped eating a few days before. His wife, siblings, elderly father, and grown sons had assembled. Soon he was groaning, as apparently he had pain all over, so he lay back down on the bed.

They started the prayer service in Spanish, but Mirsa, our main co-translator, soon took the reins and switched to Mixtec. We sang a couple of songs in Mixtec, including 'When the Roll is Called up Yonder,' which in Mixtec talks of how we will praise Jesus when we see Him face to face. I read a brief Scripture passage in Mixtec, and several of us prayed in Mixtec. Since he had relaxed and fallen asleep, we kept it short and filed away. Apparently hearing the mother tongue had comforted him, and he was at peace. Less than 48 hours later, we received word that he had passed away. We had been part of a mystery. Thank you for your part in bringing the ministry of God's Word, through music and Scripture, to the Mixtec people.

Susan Huggins

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 August, we are going to continue to collect school supplies for be the **Brookings Back 2School Project**. The distribution date is August 8 for the Back 2School project, but there are teachers who still supplement the needs of their classrooms from their own pocketbooks. Let's work to help out some of those very generous teachers. Please drop off school supplies in the #onething tubs located in the narthex, Education Unit, and CLC.

Most needed school supplies include:

- Thin tip black markers
- Loose leaf paper
- Spiral notebooks
- 8/10 pack classic markers
- Glue sticks
- Scissors – children's size
- Pencil pouches
- Dry erase markers
- 12/24 pack colored pencils
- 3-pronged pocket folders
- Plain colored pocket folders
- 3-ring binders (1", 1 1/2" and 3")
- Kleenex
- #2 lead pencils
- 24 pack crayons
- Deodorant
- Flash drives

Upcoming Turkey Dinner

The Missions Committee would like to remind all that the Turkey Dinner is set for Sunday, September 29, for this year.



Arts Festival Slush Booth

The Missions Committee wants to THANK YOU all for making the Slush Booth successful for 2019. Your dedication on signing-up, picking and freezing strawberries, making the slush, and working at the booth is so much appreciated. Thank you all again!

Everyone is Invited to Raise Money for Missions

The church rummage sale sponsored by the Methodist Women is Friday, August 16, at the CLC. **Please note the time change—the sale will now be from 8am to 2pm.** Everyone is encouraged to donate their unused, but still workable and in good condition items to recycle for Missions! Suggested items to bring include: clean clothing, shoes and boots, kitchen items, nick knacks, towels, bedding, blankets, home décor, picture frames, jewelry, books, toys, and small appliances. All items need to fit in a 13 gallon plastic bag. They can be dropped off on August 13-15 at the CLC. If you must drop off earlier, please bring to the church office.

To make shopping more relaxing, there will be coffee and cookies available on sale day. Come, shop, and contribute to Missions on August 16! For any questions, please call 692-9798.



News from the FUMC Mission Committee

The FUMC Mission Committee has committed to maintaining covenant relationships with two missionaries. They are Teri/Walter Erbele and Ardell/Gorden Graner.

Rev. Teri Erbele is a missionary with the GBGM of The United Methodist Church. Teri is assigned as co-pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Ketchikan, Alaska. Ketchikan is located on an island within the Tongass National Forest. Erbele's ministry is deeply involved in local care of the homeless.

The second covenant is missionary Ardell Graner with the GBGM of The United Methodist Church serving within the Dominican Republic. Graner's mission focuses the development of Christian education/materials for some 70 Christian churches in the area.

Please consider these two missionaries in your prayers and designated financial support.

Worship in the Park

Join us for Worship in the Park at the Pioneer Park bandshell on Sunday, August 25th, at **10:00a.m.** Although there are some picnic tables in the park, we advise you to bring your lawn chairs or a blanket to make yourself comfortable. Following the service, everyone is invited to enjoy a meal catered by Hy-Vee. Free will donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of the meal, which is approximately \$7/person. We will not hold any services at the church building that Sunday as we invite our whole church family to worship together at one service in the park. We have had a great turnout the past couple of years and encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to this worship and fellowship experience.

Methodist Day @ the Pool

Join us for a fun afternoon at the pool on Sunday, August 11th, from 2:00—5:00 p.m. We reserved a party pad by the zero-depth entry pool, and we'll supply some snacks and drinks for you to cool off while you have fun with all your Methodist friends! Approximately 50 friends joined together last year for this event on an unseasonably cool evening, so a nice, hot Sunday afternoon should be the perfect time this year. Feel free to bring your friends! (Regular pool admission applies \$5/person; pool passes accepted).

Radio Broadcast Sponsorships Needed

Starting mid-September, we have several weeks remaining 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 9:30a.m. on KBRK 1430AM. Sponsors are recognized in the Sunday bulletins.



Faith Community Nurse Note—

August is National Immunization Awareness Month

Here are just a few ideas on how you can promote immunizations:

- Talk to friends and family members about how vaccines aren't just for kids. Shots can protect people of all ages from serious diseases.
- Encourage people in your community to get the flu vaccine every year.
- Invite a doctor or nurse to speak to parents about why it's important for all kids to get vaccinated.

Office Manager Job Share Opportunity

We are seeking a motivated team player to job share the duties of Office Manager at First United Methodist Brookings. Previous office experience and familiarity with Microsoft Programs is desirable. For an application and full job description, go to www.brookingsmethodist.org/job-openings.

Manna Cook Job Opening

Join our team! Plan, shop, and cook a nutritious family meal on Wednesday evenings at First United Methodist Church for the months of September through May, up to 10 hours weekly. For a full job description, please go to brookingsmethodist.org.

Library News

The UMW Reading Program has had some changes which include: The *New World Outlook* is no longer being published. *Response Magazine* is now a bi-monthly publication. Reading the books for the different plans has remained the same (e.g. Plan 1: read one book from each of the five categories and read the Response Magazine each month). The five categories are Education for the Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. The church has only purchased thirteen books for the UMW Reading Program this year. They are being processed and will be located on the cart in the library with a note saying 'New Books.'

Your list of books read for the UMW Reading Program are due July 25th. We have processed these books that have been donated—the list is as follows: ***Gentle Mercies*** by Hal Haralson – Stories of faith in faded blue jeans; ***Who I Am In Christ*** by Neil T. Anderson – A devotional; ***A B Cs of Healthy Grieving*** – A companion for everyday coping; ***About Dying*** by Sara Bonnett Stein – An open family book for parents and children together; ***The Dyslexia Empowerment Plan*** by Ben Foss – A blueprint for renewing your child's confidence and love of learning; and ***How Soccer Explains the World*** by Franklin Foer. We thank all those who have donated the books to the library.

We have many more to process in the months ahead, plus withdrawing old books and those that aren't being checked out. We plan to pull books on August 9th. We need at least four ladies to help Linda Kay and myself. Please email us or the church office if you can help.

Sandra Ballou and Linda Kay Hai

Recruiting for Sunday School Volunteers

Do you have a love for children/youth? Would you like to be a part of passing on the Christian faith to our children and youth? There is a spot for you in our Christian Education program. We will begin calling people on Sunday, July 28, to find volunteers for our Christian Education program to begin this fall. It truly does take a village to raise a child and that includes raising them in our faith.

Please know that helping with the education program does not mean that you will need to be there every Sunday. Life is busy and it simply isn't possible to be there every week. It is staffed so that it is very possible to be gone when needed. There is also no upper age limit to helping! Having 'seniors' help in the classroom is a blessing – to both the children and the 'senior.' We apologize if you don't get a call and would like to help—please give Gretchen a call or email.

Nursery Volunteers Still Needed

We are still looking for volunteers for nursery help during the 11:00 service for the remainder of the summer. If you would be willing to volunteer your time on occasion, please sign up on the schedule posted on the nursery door, or you may email Gretchen at: education@brookingsmethodist.org.



We Need You!!!

Our current photo directory, printed three years ago, is already out of date. Our interim pastor, Howard Grinager, and our new pastor, Pete Grassow, have expressed a desire to get to know the congregation by name. As a welcome gift for each of them, SPR will be putting together a digital photo directory just for their use only. **Here is how you can help:**

- 1) Take a selfie or have someone take a candid picture of you and your family with a smart phone.
- 2) Email the photo to the pastor's computer - PastorHoward@brookingsmethodist.org. **Be sure to include the names of all the people in the picture, including last names.**
- 3) You may submit a printed picture to the church office or Narthex Welcome Center on Sunday mornings. Be sure this is labeled legibly with all first and last names.
- 4) You may request someone take a picture with their smart phone of you and your family on a Sunday at the Narthex Welcome Center. Be sure they have all of the names to be included. Have them email the photo and names to the above address.

This will be an ongoing project; we hope to have everyone included. Thanks for helping us get this done!

Summer Church Campers

Please keep the following campers in your prayers as they attend church camp soon:

Alison Glover	Taira Buus
Marley Huyck	Nate Buus
Jackson Hahn	Chris Buus
Brynn Flemming	Riley Ness
Amelia Wendell	Samantha Alfson

Meals on Wheels Volunteers

60 Plus Dining is in search of volunteers for meal delivery starting at 11 a.m. daily, from August 26-30 and September 3-6 (there is no Labor Day delivery).

If you would like to help make these meal deliveries, please contact Sharon Anderegg at 692-4925. Your time and help is greatly appreciated!

Church Camping Weekend, August 2-4

Join us for a weekend of camping at Oakwood! If you enjoy camping and would like to get to know some church members better, we have some spots reserved and waiting. We will share a couple of meals, roast marshmallows, have some good conversation, and kick back!

If you don't like to camp, come for the day or evening. We will have a potluck supper on Saturday evening and a brunch on Sunday (after the church service in the park). Contact Gretchen to reserve your spot at education@brookingsmethodist.org, or call 692-4345.

Salad Supper

The Elkton United Parish Women invite the women of FUMC to join them for a salad supper at 6p.m. on Wednesday, August 7, at the Elkton United Parish Church located at 710 Cornell Avenue in Elkton. Please RSVP by August 2nd to Sherry Bauman at 605-542-3041 or email SLBAUMAN91@gmail.com. They ask that guests and members bring a non-perishable item, which will be donated to the Elkton Community Cupboard and the Flandreau Bread Basket. Please contact Linda Kay Hai at 690-3152 for carpooling to Elkton.

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Please join us in the celebration of Ron & Linda Thaden's 50th wedding anniversary on August 11th, from 2-5p.m. in the Community Life Center. No gifts, please.



80th Birthday Celebration

The family of Ruth Anderson would like to invite you to an open house in honor of her 80th birthday. The celebration will take place on her actual birthday, Saturday, July 27, from noon to 2p.m. at the Community Life Center of the First United Methodist Church located at 625 5th Street. A light lunch will be served. No gifts please—let your presence be your gift.

Chancel Choir Dessert Party

Did someone say *dessert*? Join the choir for our first rehearsal of the season on Wednesday, August 28th. We will rehearse in the Sanctuary from 6:45—7:45p.m. and then gather in the narthex for desserts. All singers and *wannabe singers* are welcome, young and old, regardless of experience. Come and check us out — even if it's just for the delicious desserts!

Fall Program Start Dates

School supplies are already on the shelves, and that means our Fall programming is right around the corner. Here are a few important upcoming dates to have on the calendar:

- August 28 — Chancel Choir practice begins in the Sanctuary at 6:45p.m.
- September 4 — Wednesday afternoon programs for kids and Manna in the Middle return
- September 8 — Fall Kickoff/Sunday School begins
- September 29 — Turkey Dinner

Be sure to watch for a special Back-to-School/Fall edition of the Focus next month that will have all the details for our programs and activities.



(CLC) = Community Life Center

(Sanc) = Sanctuary

AUGUST 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 28 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 10am—Adult Study (basement) 11am—Traditional Worship 6:30pm—Education Committee (library)	29 Office Closed 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 12pm—SOUL Potluck (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by St. Thomas More Church (CLC)	30 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group (parlor) 6pm—Finance Committee (library) 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8	31 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 1pm—Quilting Group (basement)	August 1	2 Church Camp Weekend 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	3 Church Camp Weekend
4 Church Camp Weekend 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 10am—Adult Study (basement) 11am—Traditional Worship 4:30pm—CrossWork Emmaus (library)	5 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by Peace Lutheran Church (CLC) 5:30pm—Health Ministry Team (library)	6 9am—CARE Group (basement) 10am—Staff Meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group (parlor) 7pm—SPR Committee (conference room) 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8	7 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 1pm—Quilting Group (basement) 6:30pm—Confirmation Fall Planning Meeting (Senior High Youth Room)	8 5:30pm—Missions Committee	9 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	10 9am—Piecemakers Quilting Group (basement)
11 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 10am—Adult Study (basement) 11am—Traditional Worship 2pm—Ron & Linda Thaden’s 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration (CLC until 5pm) 2pm—Methodist Day @ the Pool (Hillcrest Aquatic Center)	12 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by Preston Christian Church (CLC)	13 9am—Memorial Committee (library) 9:30am—UMW Board Meeting 10am—Staff Meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group (parlor) 7pm—Trustees (library) 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8	14 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 1pm—Quilting Group (basement)	15 9:45am—Neighborhoods Communion 10:30am—Edgewood Vista Communion 2pm—Stoney Brook Comm. 3pm—ULC Communion	16 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 8am—UMW Rummage Sale (CLC until 2pm) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	17 9am—Piecemakers Quilting Group (basement)
18 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 10am—Adult Study (basement) 11am—Traditional Worship 4:30pm—CrossWork Emmaus (library)	19 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by Avera Medical Group (CLC) 6pm—Finance Committee (library)	20 9am—CARE Group (basement) 10am—Staff Meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group (parlor) 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8	21 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 1pm—Quilting Group (basement)	22	23 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast Fellowship (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	24
25 FOCUS Deadline 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 10am—Adult Study (basement) 11am—Traditional Worship	26 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 12pm—SOUL Potluck (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by Arlington and Lake Preston United (CLC)	27 10am—Staff Meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group (parlor) 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8	28 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 1pm—Quilting Group (basement) 6:45pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal & Dessert Party (Sanctuary & Narthex)	29	30 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast Fellowship (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	31