

First United Methodist Church
625 Fifth Street
Brookings, SD 57006

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FROM THE PASTOR

Vision for 2020

How well do you see? The ideal is that we have “20/20 vision” - a term used to describe the sharpness of vision measured at a distance of 20 feet. If you do not, then you can use spectacles to assist you to obtain “normal” vision.

So the question: Do you have 20/20 vision for 2020? We might be eagerly anticipating next year - or we might be dreading the challenges that lie ahead. Here is the one truth about the new year: We might think that we can predict the events of next year - but beware of the way our faulty human limitations prevent us having 20/20 vision for 2020.

Let me invite us to try new lenses to assist us gaining vision for 2020: I am inviting us to put on the “spectacles” of Jesus. St Paul suggests that we can “*put on the Lord Jesus Christ*” (Rom 13:14). Let us see life through the teaching and example of Jesus, and we will have 20/20 vision for year 2020. We can put on spiritual spectacles through prayer, being open to learning new things about our faith, through worship - and through extending a loving hand to all who cross our path.

My wish is that you and I might have 20/20 spiritual vision for 2020.

Pete Grassow, Pastor



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)
- 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**
Howard Grinager grinagerh@gmail.com
- Education Director**
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- Worship & Music Director**
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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 Wed. School (1st-5th graders)
- 6:45pm Confirmation/MS Youth Group
- 6:45pm High School Youth Group
- 6:45pm Men's Study
- 6:45pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

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

As we conclude one year and look ahead to another one, these words from Isaiah are very pertinent—"This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: 'Only in returning to me and resting in me will you be saved. In quietness and confidence is your strength...' " This admonition from Scripture flies in the face of what we humans try to do. We tend to attempt to find our strength in busyness, our own efforts, frenetic activity, accomplishment, achievement, planning, and strategy. We try to do it backwards from what Scripture says. And the results are confusion, feelings of futility, spinning our wheels, exhaustion — the polar opposites of rest and quietness.

Earlier in the same chapter come these stern words from God, "...You make plans that are contrary to mine. You make alliances not directed by my Spirit, thus piling up your sins. For without consulting me..." At this time of year, it is typical to set goals and make plans, figure out where we want to go and how to get there. Advice and handy tips abound — how to lose weight, what to include in an exercise program, how to organize your finances and your life. The internet dictates pertinent solutions. Conventional wisdom offers supposed advice. Social media is rife with many ideas.

But what is essential is to consult God. We need to take our cues from what the Lord considers to be priorities. We need to stop and listen to what God says is important. It is hard to be counter-current, to take time in the midst of raging demands and responsibilities to be quiet before God instead of barging ahead with our own schemes and plans. There is a poignant verse in the same chapter, "So the Lord must wait for you to come to him so he can show you his love and compassion. For the Lord is a faithful God. Blessed are those who wait for his help."

Amazingly, God *waits* for us, instead of giving up on us in the throes of our frenetic, ridiculously futile efforts. The Lord shouldn't have to wait on us. That is backwards. Yet God does so in order to show us love and compassion. The verse ends with setting it aright: blessed are those who wait for God's help. As we move into a New Year, may we return to the Lord and quietly rest on God's undergirding strength.

Susan Huggins

Scripture quotation taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, Isaiah 30:15, 1b-2a, 18.

#onething

Thank you to all who have contributed to the #onething projects during December and the Christmas season. We were able to make some children's sleeping arrangements more comfortable by providing sheets and pillows for their new beds. The beds are built by **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**, who supplies sheets, a pillow, and a quilt with each bed. December's other project was **Manger Gifts** of diapers and wipes. Harvest Table and their small guests thank you.

In **January**, lets fill the #onething tubs with **Hygiene Kit supplies for UMCOR Sager Brown**. The Sager Brown Depot is always in need of Hygiene Kits and kit supplies. Lists will be available with the #onething tubs. **The needed Hygiene Kit Materials and an important notice are listed on the preceding page.**



Human Relations Day Sunday—January 19

Turn on the news or drive around the outskirts of your town and you will find what Jesus called “the least of these.” Those living in the margins of society, struggling to survive. People like:

- An immigrant teenager in Texas’ poorest county, being recruited by a local gang
- A father struggling for sobriety in Little Rock, Arkansas
- An Oklahoma woman recently released from incarceration looking for work

Over and over Jesus served people like this, embracing them. And that’s what we want to model as the people of the United Methodist Church. To continue the ministry of Jesus, we established Human Relations Day as a Special Sunday that calls all of our churches to participate in helping all God’s children to realize their potential.

Will you continue to support Human Relations Day?

Rev. I Maliik Safir, whose church works with those gripped by addiction in Little Rock, sums up the work of Human Relations Day by recalling Jesus’ story of the Good Samaritan: “to meet the poor, the disadvantaged, and the underserved at the places where others have robbed them, and help them to recover from the wounds of social inequality.”

Missions Committee

“#OneThing” Hygiene Kit Materials (See OneThing Article):

1 Washcloth & 1 Hand Towel—15 x 25 to 17 x 27 inches

1 Toothbrush – adult size

10 Adhesive Bandages – ¾ inch x 3 inch size; Common household Band-Aids

1 Bath-size Soap—3 oz. and larger sizes only

No Ivory or Jergens soap accepted due to moisture content.

Do not remove from original packaging.

1 Comb - Comb needs to be sturdy and longer than 6 inches. Rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable with a minimum of 6 inches of teeth.

1 Toenail or Fingernail Clippers - No emery boards or files.

1 One gallon size Re-sealable Bag

\$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

Important Notice: All items must be new. Do not wash any of the items as they will be considered used. Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military, or camouflage symbols. DO NOT include any personal notes, extra money, or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services

Tuesday, December 24

- ◇ 5:30 p.m. Family Friendly Carols & Candlelight in the Community Life Center
The Manna Band leads the music at this service with a mix of old and new favorites. Children from our WAM group will present the scripture through the use of drums and singing.
- ◇ 7:30 p.m. Traditional Carols & Candlelight in the Sanctuary
This service features the traditional Lessons & Carols format using a wide variety of musical resources including organ, handbells, choir, and soloists/instrumentalists.
- ◇ 9:30 p.m. Traditional Carols, Candlelight & Communion in the Sanctuary
If you are looking for a casual, less crowded service with an intimate feel, this service is for you. In addition to the beautiful music offerings, we celebrate the gift of Holy Communion.

Together Campaign— An Almost End of the Year Report

As I write this note on Dec. 17, I want to begin by thanking you for your faithful support of the Together Campaign. Even though I was not here as you began it, I suspect raising a million dollars seemed like an almost impossible task when you considered that we often struggled with our regular budget. And yet you made the commitment to move forward and because you did, significant things have happened. As I write this:

- Our building has been Tuck Pointed (\$59,979)
- Our new Boiler/Heating system has been installed (\$260,838)
- Our debt has been reduced to \$127,855
- We have funds on hand that will allow us to:
 - 1) increase our WIFI (internet) coverage
 - 2) proceed with the purchase of improved Hearing Assistance for both the Sanctuary and CLC
 - 3) purchase equipment that will enable us to live stream our worship services
 - 4) improve our internal signage so that newcomers can find their way around our buildings

To date we have received a total of \$582,659. And all this has happened because of your support and generosity of our church and its ministry. Thanks again. Howard Grinager



A Christmas Message from Bishop Ough

A Home for Jesus

In October, Char and I were blessed to visit the cave on the island of Patmos in Greece, where John received and wrote Revelation – his letter of prophecy to the seven churches in Asia. Revelation is a difficult and disturbing book for many people. But actually, it is a book of hope. Because in the end, John describes the climax to God’s redemption story. He describes the “new heaven and new earth” that will break forth. And, with amazing clarity, John eagerly declares three different times that the new heaven and new earth ultimately means God dwells with God’s people. Listen again to John’s declaration:

“See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them as their God; they will be God’s people. And God will be with them.” (Revelation 21:3)

Or as Eugene Peterson says in *The Message*: “Look! Look! God has moved into the neighborhood, making his home with men and women! They are his people; he is their God.”

Immanuel – God with us! Two thousand years ago, God made a dramatic move into the neighborhood, when he sent his only son, Jesus, to dwell with us. You know the story well. A very pregnant Mary and an equally expectant, if not conflicted, Joseph made the arduous journey from Nazareth to Joseph’s hometown of Bethlehem. They went to be counted in the census ordered by the Roman Emperor Augustus. But, when they arrived in Bethlehem, there was no room in anyone’s home or inn for Mary and the child she carried. So, the baby Jesus – the son of God, the fullness of God – was born in a stable and laid in a manger.

It remains a wonderous, joyous mystery why God chose to come into the world in the form of a tiny, vulnerable, poor and homeless baby. I personally think it was God’s way of demonstrating his twin desires: first, for us to make room for Christ in our homes, our lives, our relationships, our politics, our hearts; and, second, to provide a home for all of God’s beloved, vulnerable, poor, homeless, and searching people. This is the Gospel narrative. This is the Gospel imperative. God can only move into the neighborhood – God can only dwell with us and be our God – if we make a home for Jesus in our hearts and we make a home for all of God’s people.

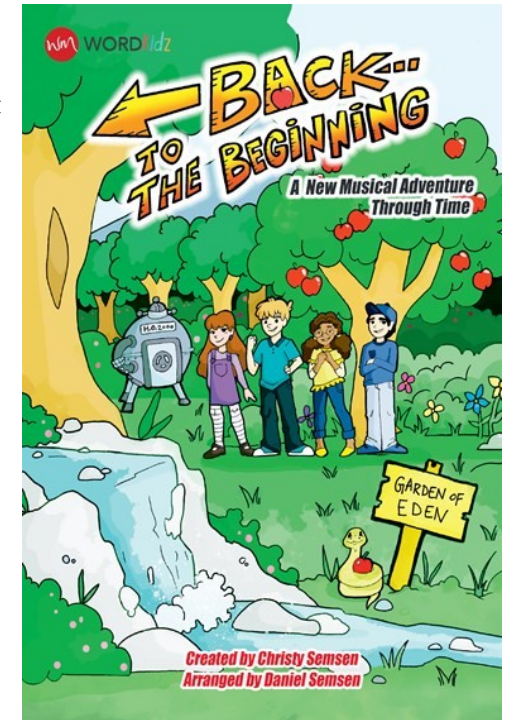
I enjoy the Christmas season. I look forward to our sons, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren coming home for Christmas. But I must confess that the hectic pace and extra demands on finances and time often cause me to leave Jesus out in the cold. And, in my most reflective and honest moments I realize if I am to make a home for the God who came to dwell with me and within me:

- I can’t put off making time to sit at Jesus’ feet and listen and learn.
- I can’t wait to become a peacemaker, or find a hungry person to feed, or a naked person to clothe, or a prisoner to visit.
- I can’t avoid telling the spiritually hungry and sin-sick where to find the living water.
- I can’t ignore the tens of millions of immigrants, refugees, and displaced persons seeking a safe and secure home.
- I can’t be silent when racism and exclusion prevent persons from being welcomed in Christ’s Church.
- I can’t delay praying for the Holy Spirit to break through and usher in the new heaven and new earth in The United Methodist Church. (continued...)

Children’s Musical Practices

Practices for this year’s children’s musical will begin after Christmas break and take place as part of our Wednesday Afternoon Music (WAM) programming, resuming on January 8. During the first half of the school year, WAM is designed for kids in grades K-5, but we invite 6-8th graders to join us for the second half of the year to take part in the musical. All kids in grades K-8 are welcome to take part and do not need to be a member or regular attender of the church. Kids - invite your friends for this fun experience!

“Back to the Beginning” will be presented on Sunday, May 3 and Wednesday, May 6. For more information about our WAM programming, visit our [website](#) or contact Teresa Person at music@brookingsmethodist.org or through the church office at 692-4345.



Confirmation and HS Youth, 6-12 Grade- Winter Connection

Winter Connection is an annual event for middle school and high school youth that will take place in Sioux Falls this year. This is an opportunity for youth to gather, share, worship, and serve others. Each year there is a focus on a particular theme and scripture along with a unique and important component of service. Our theme for 2020 is “Love Is.” Our scripture is **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**.

To register for Winter Connection please go to the camping website – we will not be registering youth through the church. We already have a male and female chaperone willing to go – so all we need is the kids! Please let Gretchen know if your child will be going.

No Sunday School

There will be no Sunday school on December 22 and 29. Enjoy the holidays! Sunday school will resume on January 5.

Financial Peace

Financial Peace University, a 9-week financial course, will be offered on Mondays, from January 13 – March 9. We will meet at 6p.m. in the Senior High Youth Room. Contact Gretchen at education@brookingsmethodist.org or 692-4345 for questions.

Here is a description of what FPU is and what is included:

Financial Peace University includes nine video lessons featuring Dave Ramsey, Rachel Cruze, and Chris Hogan. Follow along in your workbook as they teach you:

Lesson 1: Build a Starter Emergency Fund and Learn How to Budget

Lesson 2: Pay Off All Debt

Lesson 3: Save a Fully Funded Emergency Fund

Lesson 4: Invest for the Future and Build Wealth

Lesson 5: Buyer Beware

Lesson 6: The Role of Insurance

Lesson 7: Retirement Planning

Lesson 8: Real Estate and Mortgages

Lesson 9: Living and Giving Like No One Else



Puerto Rico Mission Trip

Our congregation is sending a mission team of 6 persons to help with rebuilding homes in Puerto Rico, after hurricane damage in late 2017. Long term recovery will continue there for a couple more years. The team will be stationed at a Methodist Camp in the Jayuya region of Puerto Rico. Team members would ask for your prayers as they travel to work and learn about our American brothers and sisters on this island.

We hope to be able to post information about the team and the work being done on our church Facebook page. Team members are Brenda and Rick Hieb, John and Kim Prohaska, Nancy Bohlen, and Rick and Lorna Jost.

Meals on Wheels Volunteer Drivers Needed

60-Plus Dining is in need of volunteer drivers to deliver meals the weeks of January 6-10 and 13-17, starting at 11a.m. daily. If you could help carry out this important community service one week or both, please contact the office at 692-4345. Your help is appreciated!

BATA Bus Service

If you are in need of a ride to attend church on Sundays, we have BATA bus volunteer drivers available who can pick you up and drop you off back home. Please contact the office at 692-4345 if you would like to be on the pick up list, or would like to volunteer to be a driver.

(Bishop Ough's message continued...)

In the end, when all else is said, God made it clear in the coming of Jesus at Christmas, that God intends to dwell with us – to make God's home within our homes, within our hearts, within our lives – to make us God's people for the sake of the world.

The best gift we can offer God and one another this Christmas is to make a home for Jesus in our lives. The best gift we can offer God and one another this Christmas is to allow Christ's love and grace, justice and mercy, to take deep root in our homes.

May God bless you with a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Bishop Bruce R. Ough
Dakotas-Minnesota Area
Christmas, 2019

Foundation Update

The First United Methodist Church Foundation would like to inform the congregation of the payout made in the year of 2019. We are so fortunate that because of our donors we are able to give back to the church! The 2019 payouts were:

\$122 to Education - DakYouth hotel room
\$2,000 for the Pastor Pete Love donation
\$500 to Teresa Person for Ministerial Scholarship
\$200 for Capital Improvements (striping the parking lot)
\$1,000 to the Pastor Emergency Fund
\$450 to Education - new TV and stand
\$1,845 for camping scholarships
\$600 to Missions

The FUMC Foundation will continue giving back to the church as we enter into the new year. The nine ministries the Foundation supports are: Camping Scholarships, Capital Improvements, Christian Education, Ministerial Scholarships, Missions/Outreach, Music Enhancement, SDSU Campus Ministry, Student Scholarships, and Worship Enhancement. Along with these ministries, we use our undesignated fund to assist in other ways throughout our church.

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 Howard Grinager, Laura Gerjets, Van Fishback, Margaret Denton, Rich Howard, or Russ Daly.



(CLC) = Community Life Center

(Sanc) = Sanctuary

JANUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Wednesday Schedule—#</u> 3pm—WAM! (CLC) 4pm—Afternoon Childcare 4pm—Chiming Children 5pm—Youth Bells 5pm—Manna Meal (CLC) 6pm—Manna Worship	<u>Wednesday Schedule—#</u> 6:45pm—Chancel Choir, Men’s Study, Wednesday School, Confirmation/MS Youth Group, HS Youth Grp		1—New Year’ Day *Office Closed	2	3 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	4
5 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am/10am—Adult Classes (parlor) 10am—Sunday School 11am—Traditional Worship 4:30pm—CrossWork Emmaus (library)	6 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by The Book Bags 5:30pm—Health Ministry Team (library) 7pm—Retired Group (parlor)	7 9am—CARE Group (basement) 10m—Singles Group 1pm—Staff meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Staff Parish Relations 7pm—Movie Night @Cinema 8	8—# 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	9 5:30pm—Missions Committee	10 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	11
12 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am/10am—Adult Classes (parlor) 10am—Sunday School 11am—Traditional Worship	13 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by Aleycia & Friends (CLC) 6pm—Financial Peace Uni- versity (Sr. High Youth Rm)	14 9am—Memorial Committee (library) 9:30am—UMW Board Meeting 1pm—Staff meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Movie Night @Cinema 8	15—# 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 10am—Dementia/Alzheimers Caregivers Support Group (parlor)	16 9:45am—The Neighborhoods Communion 10:30am—Edgewood Vista Communion 2pm—Stoney Brook Comm. 3pm—ULC Communion 6pm—UMM (CLC)	17 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	18 9am—Piecemakers Quilting Group (basment)
19 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am/10am—Adult Classes (parlor) 10am—Sunday School 11am—Traditional Worship 4:30pm—CrossWork Emmaus (library)	20—Office Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day 10am—Healthy Movement 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by SDSU Interior De- sign Club (CLC) 6pm—Financial Peace Uni- versity (Sr. High Youth Rm) 7pm—Retired Group (parlor)	21 9am—CARE Group (basement) 10m—Singles Group 1pm—Staff meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group (parlor) 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Movie Night @Cinema 8	22—# 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	23 FOCUS Deadline 9:30pm—Hannah Circle (basement) 2pm—Naomi Circle (library)	24 Youth Winter Connection in Sioux Falls at Sunny Crest 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	25 Youth Winter Connection in Sioux Falls at Sunny Crest
26 Youth Winter Connection in Sioux Falls at Sunny Crest 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am/10am—Adult Classes (parlor) 10am—Sunday School 11am—Traditional Worship	27 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 12pm—SOUL Potluck (CLC) 1:15pm—Aging & Spirituality Group (basement) 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by St Thomas More 6pm—Financial Peace Uni- versity (Sr. High Youth Rm)	28 1pm—Staff meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group (parlor) 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Movie Night @Cinema 8	29—# 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	30	31 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	