

First United Methodist Church
625 Fifth Street
Brookings, SD 57006

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FROM THE PASTOR

The Ten Best Ways

In the same way that we carefully prepare for events such as a wedding, or a birthday, the Christian community has a period of careful preparation for the celebration of Easter. This is a 40 day period called Lent. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, which this year is on February 26. Lent ends six weeks later on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday, on April 12, 2020.

Followers of Jesus are invited to use these 40 days to prepare for Easter. Some mark this by abstaining from something, while others might use Lent to study their Bibles and pray more intensively. I am inviting us to renew our faith by using Lent 2020 as a time to think about the structure and rules that help us to live a Godly life - I am challenging us to re-read the 10 Commandments.

Too often we have understood the 10 Commandments as a set of rules to crush us into submission, rather than an invitation to living an abundant life. Join me this Lenten season on Sundays and Wednesdays, as well as through a devotional booklet available from the church. The booklets will be available at the Welcome Centers, in the church office, and on our website.

A Word of Thanks:

My wife Jenny and I have been overwhelmed by the generous hospitality we have received from Brookings FUMC. Your kindness and friendship has touched us deeply and we are grateful. Our prayer is that our shared journey with you might bring us all closer to the love of God.

Pete Grassow, Pastor

The logo consists of a white stylized cross with a flame-like shape on the left side, set against a dark teal background. Below the graphic, the text "FIRST UNITED METHODIST BROOKINGS" is written in white, stacked vertically. Underneath that, "AT THE CORNER OF" is written in a smaller font, followed by "CHURCH & COMMUNITY" in a larger, bold 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".

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625 Fifth Street, Brookings
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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

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

CHURCH STAFF

- Pastoral Staff**
Pete Grassow.....petegrassow@gmail.com
- Education Director**
Gretchen Knutsoneducation@brookingsmethodist.org
- Worship & Music Director**
Teresa Person.....music@brookingsmethodist.org
- Community Life Center Director**
Vonda Kirkham.....communitylife@brookingsmethodist.org
- Office Managers**
Amy Merchant/Deb Cowan ... office@brookingsmethodist.org
- Financial Secretary**
JoAnn Leefinance@brookingsmethodist.org
- Faith Community Nurse**
Joanie Holmjholm229@gmail.com
- Tech Coordinator**
Paul Schmidt tech@brookingsmethodist.org

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

#onething

of 6 very hard workers! Check out Brookings First UMC on Facebook for more photos and more stories from the other team members! *The team feels strongly that Brookings FUMC needs to return to help enable the work of ReHace. Perhaps during Spring Break 2021? Anyone interested? Talk to a team member!*



Thank you to all who have contributed to the #onething February project- the Diaper Project. The little ones at Harvest Table appreciate your contributions, as do their parents. The need for diapers and wipes is ongoing. Between 1,600 and 2,000 diapers are distributed weekly.

In **March**, our #onething will be the **American Red Cross**. March is National Red Cross Month. Each year since 1943 when Franklin D. Roosevelt was the first, the president of the United States proclaims March "Red Cross Month." [The Mission Statement: The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.](#)

The American Red Cross is a charitable organization, and not a government agency. The Red Cross relies on donations of time and money to perform and fulfill its mission. Donations are invested in humanitarian services and programs. Every 8 minutes, the American Red Cross brings help and hope to people in need. Please give generously by dropping monetary donations off in the church office and marking them "Red Cross" or #onething. and consider donating blood during this month of March.

SUSAN'S CORNER

Susan's Saga

International Mother Language Day, as declared by UNESCO, is celebrated on February 21. Its purpose is to highlight linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. No matter what language we speak, it's important to realize that there are other languages spoken around the globe, maybe in our own neighborhood and town and state. Each language is valuable, because it represents a unique and complex way of encoding how the world is perceived and conceptualized.

"Each language matters, because all people matter" affirms Dr. Michel Kenmogne, the Executive Director of SIL, the field organization with which I collaborate. The International Mother Language Day presents an excellent reminder of the value of each language, whether we speak one or many languages. It is also an opportunity to express my appreciation for the ongoing participation of the church in the endeavor to promote a couple of variants of the Mixtec language in southern Mexico, through linguistics, literacy, and Bible translation.

Susan Huggins

Puerto Rico Mission Trip; February 8-15, 2020

Brenda Hieb: The mission trip to Jayuya, Puerto Rico, exceeded my expectations in almost every way. We were met and greeted by very gracious UMCOR staff and hosts all along the way. Each detail regarding the integration of volunteers into the rebuilding of homes in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria was well thought out. Transportation, meals, and accommodations were most satisfactory. Our team was divided into two small groups of workers. I worked at a home that was in the beginning stages of rebuilding; John and Kim Prohaska and Rick were also working on this house. Most of the debris from the hurricane had been cleared away, and some of their belongings, in poor condition, were in storage in the lower level of the home. It was lovely to see the foliage around the home in bloom in spite of the destruction—a sure sign of hope in the midst of such great loss. We spent the first day tying rebar for use to strengthen the walls to code to withstand future earthquake and hurricane damage. The next three days were spent mixing cement and installing it into the rebar corners and joints of the house as the block walls were completed. Our foreman, Antonio, was a wonderful teacher and positive role model for all at the work site. The owner of the home stopped in daily. It was a treat to see Antonio's respect for and ability to communicate positively with the owner with regards to their preferences in the rebuilding. As we worked together with the local builders, we established the kind of trust that allowed us to freely share photos with each other, hear their stories about how they survived the hurricane and coped in the aftermath, as well as learned more about the beautiful island they call home. It was especially significant to me that on the last day one of the workers picked oranges from a tree nearby and brought them to us to enjoy. We connected and were in community with one another with a common purpose for the week we were in Jayuya.

Rick Hieb: The trip to P.R. was a great success on so many levels. The thing I was most struck by was the hospitality and gratitude of all those we worked with, as well as those we met along the way. It was great to build relationships within our team, as well as with our hosts and those we worked with. At one point there was a conflict with one of the homeowners and our hosts were very apologetic about putting us through an uncomfortable situation. They were much more upset about the situation than we were, and after a brief discussion it became obvious to all that we were present to help everyone, especially those who are in tough situations or do not fit our expectations. This reminded us that we are called to humbly serve all without expectation of reward or immediate success. This trip strengthened our commitment to each other in global service. Although we served, we gained so much more than we gave. Miracles given and received!

Lorna Jost: Nancy B. and I did scraping and painting of walls and ceilings on a house very damaged by Hurricane Maria. The four-man Puerto Rican work crew concentrated on roof sealing, windows, doors, and plumbing. This central region of the island has beautiful green, lush hills coming back to life after hurricane Maria (Oct. 2017). ReHace is UMCOR's partner run by the Methodist church of Puerto Rico and hosts United Methodist Volunteer In Mission teams. Over 750 houses have been rehabbed through this group in the two years it has been up and running. Over 800+ more families are asking for help. ***This is the most organized and efficient hosting of teams I have ever experienced!***

This brings us to UMCOR Sunday, March 22. The team experienced firsthand the work of UMCOR in disaster recovery. UMCOR supplied the funds (donated by you to this disaster) for materials and salary of several ~ 4 man Puerto Rican construction teams. They need our labor and donations to UMCOR to keep the projects going. Thank you to ReHace, UMCOR, Brookings FUMC, and this wonderful team

Ash Wednesday Services — 2/26

This year we are offering a new service on Ash Wednesday in the Sanctuary from 12:15-12:45 p.m. We will continue to hold our usual Ash Wednesday service as part of Manna worship in the CLC at 6:00p.m. Both services will feature scripture, pastoral message, music, and the Imposition of Ashes.

Lenten Services

Join us in the Community Life Center on Wednesdays as our Manna Cook, Deb Bortnem, serves delicious soup and sandwiches for our Manna meal from 5-6p.m. Deb has graciously offered to prepare these meals rather than asking each of the committees to provide the soup. While it has been a wonderful tradition for committees to bring soup, it has been a hardship for some to participate, and we are very thankful that we have such a capable cook to take care of our needs. If committees would still like to be involved, helping with cleanup would be very appreciated. We hope you will plan to stay for Lenten themed worship services from 6:00-6:30p.m. after the meal, and then you can feel free to plug in to one of the many ministry groups offered later in the evening.

Conversations at the Corner of Church and Community

The Church Council will host a series of conversations, beginning with the current issues before the United Methodist Church General Conference regarding the LGBTQ community. These Sunday night conversations will take place in the church basement from 7-8p.m. on March 15 and 22. The first conversation on March 15 will be centered around the legislative process and possible plans that are circulating in the news. The following session on March 22 will continue with a conversation about the Dakotas Conference resolution regarding LGBTQ persons. These two sessions will be repeated on April 19 and 26, respectively. On the evening of May 3, we will hold a prayer vigil in the Sanctuary for members to gather and pray for the delegates at General Conference, which begins later that week. It is important that we gather and offer our prayers regarding the conversations that will occur during the Conference.

Think Spring—Youth Mission Fundraiser

Once again, this year's High School Mission Trip group will sell Medary Acres gift certificates to help raise funds for their trip. The gift certificates will be available from early April through Mother's Day (in case you need a last-minute gift). The youth will sell them on Wednesdays during the Manna meal, and on Sundays before and after both the 9a.m. and 11a.m. services. We are grateful to Medary Acres for their partnership, and we appreciate your support in helping our youth in mission to God's children!

UMCOR Sunday—March 22, 2020

United Methodist Committee on Relief

UMCOR Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Lent. Previously known as One Great Hour of Sharing, this Sunday enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief to reach out through worldwide ministries of food, shelter, health, and peace. UMCOR lives out signs of Christ's extravagant grace in the world by prayerfully working with communities that are overwhelmed by natural or man-made disasters. UMCOR builds on the strengths of what is already available in a community and actively involves the people affected in recovery efforts. One of the wonderful aspects of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so much more together than we ever could do on our own – and through our connection UMCOR has been doing this for 80 years.

By mobilizing trained volunteers who are already living in the community, purchasing emergency supplies and food from local merchants and channeling funds through trusted partners who are already on the ground, UMCOR is uniquely positioned to respond quickly after a disaster. They remain invested in rebuilding, even after these needs are no longer in the news. Recovery is a long process for individuals and communities. UMCOR also works with communities to train leaders to address infrastructure concerns, climate change, and environmental degradation. The special offering received on UMCOR Sunday helps support the small but impactful UMCOR staff who are specialists in disaster response and recovery. Funds also ensure adequate training for emergency response coordinators, construction volunteers, and case managers who assist victims of disasters, chain saw gangs, and sheet-rock installers.

Because we join our church's offerings with those of United Methodist congregations around the world, UMCOR remains strong in its day-to-day operations. When needs are immediate, UMCOR can respond quickly and efficiently with signs of extravagant grace and expert assistance. Let us continue to ministry together.

Radio Broadcast Sponsorships

Starting the beginning of April, we have several weeks available for radio broadcast sponsorship in 2020. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast in memory, honor, or celebration of a loved one or anniversary next year, a sign-up sheet is available at the welcome center in the narthex. You may also call the church office 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.



Camping Registrations

The camping website is open for summer church camp 2020! Make sure to plan for your church camping experience this summer. The church is offering a 65% scholarship to anyone who attends a camp. The code to receive this scholarship is brookingscampers. There are camps for everyone – and I truly mean everyone. The Dakotas Conference has three wonderful camps – Storm Mountain in the Black Hills, Lake Poinsett near Arlington, and Wesley Acres in North Dakota. Take a look and find a camp for you! The camp website is www.dakcamps.org.
Gretchen Knutson

Senior Scholarship Available

It has been the tradition in this church to offer a scholarship to those going for further education. Senior parents have been emailed the form. If you have a senior in your household or are a high school senior and have not received the scholarship form, please contact Gretchen at education@brookingsmethodist.org. Forms are due in the office by Sunday, March 15.

High School Mission Trip

It's not too late to sign up for the Dakotas Conference High School Mission trip to Colorado Springs! While there, we will mission to the poor and disadvantaged in Colorado Springs by serving in homeless shelters, food banks, community gardens, thrift stores, and with other agencies that meet the basic needs in the community and larger region. A mission trip is an excellent way for youth to experience serving, giving, and getting outside of themselves. It also affords youth to meet other United Methodist youth from around the conference – many times making friends which they will have for a lifetime!



The mission trip cost is \$575 and is open to current grades 8-12. The group will leave from Piedmont, SD on Sunday, July 5, and return on Saturday, July 11. (We will travel from Brookings to Piedmont on July 4). We will begin fundraising in April to help defray the cost of the trip. Medary Acres has graciously partnered with us to sell gift certificates for the fundraising. Please do not let funds for the trip be a detriment for your youth to attend—there are monies which can be accessed to help your youth attend! For more information, contact James Honomichl (690-5348 or jrhonomichl@gmail.com) or Gretchen Knutson (692-4345 or education@brookingsmethodist.org). For registration info, see this page and click on "Register Online" ... <https://www.dakotasumc.org/dakoyouth/mission-trips>.

Together Campaign – Progress Report

2019 was a wonderful year for our church and 2020 is shaping up to be another great one “At the Corner of Church and Community.” Thank you for your faithful support of the **Together** Campaign. Our campaign planning began in October 2018 and culminated with Commitment Sunday on March 21, 2019. We set an aggressive goal for ourselves and we worked together to exceed that goal, and received commitments of over \$1 million. Since that time, we have received more than 58% of the total pledges made to the **Together** Campaign.

These generous gifts made it possible for us to begin making progress on the plans shared during the campaign. The church has been able to accomplish the following with your gifts:

\$236,570 used to reduce the building debt (only \$62,605 remains to eliminate this debt);
 \$59,979 used to tuckpoint the building;
 \$260,838 used to install a new boiler and heating control system in the Sanctuary and Education Unit.

Funds currently on-hand are also being used to:

1) Increase WiFi (Internet) coverage and security; 2) Install improved Hearing Assistance equipment in both the Sanctuary and CLC; 3) Install new interior directional signage; 4) Purchase equipment needed to Live Stream our worship services; 5) Additional debt reduction payments; 6) Begin funding the Contingency Fund.

As of February 5, 2020, we have received a total of \$636,665, and additional pledge payments are received each month. This has all happened because of your support and generosity for our church and its ministry. Thank You.

Together Campaign Chairs



Meals on Wheels

Perry Johnson has taken on the job of coordinating with the FUMC portion of the "Meals on Wheels" program for Brookings community. Each year FUMC is assigned 8 weeks to deliver meals. He will be contacting past FUMC volunteers, recruiting new volunteers, and streamlining the scheduling process. Being a volunteer will require a 45 minute/day commitment for 5 days. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate the love of Christ. Meals on Wheels is dedicated to providing seniors with the necessary nutritional support to protect them against food insecurity, and to help them continue to live independent and fulfilling lives. FUMC is responsible to deliver meals on the following dates in 2020: April 14-24; August 3-14; Oct 26-Nov 6. The Missions Committee would like to recognize and thank **Sharon Anderegg** for her 15 years as the FUMC Meals on Wheels Coordinator. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Perry at perbar3@me.com.

Community Health Nurse Note—Coronavirus (COVID-19)

CDC is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which continues to expand. On February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization named the disease coronavirus disease 2019 (abbreviated “COVID-19”). It’s unclear how the situation will unfold, but risk is dependent on exposure. At this time, some people will have an increased risk of infection, for example healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19, and other close contacts of patients with COVID-19. **For the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low at this time.**

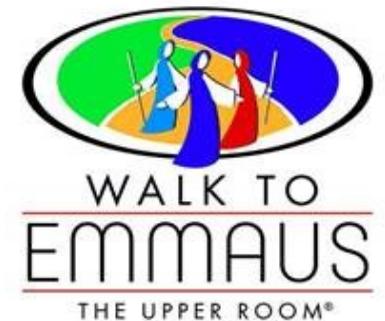
Everyone can do their part to help us respond to this emerging public health threat. The **CDC recommends** getting a flu vaccine, taking everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of germs (like frequent handwashing), and taking flu antivirals if prescribed. Talk with your health care provider if you have cold or flu symptoms (fever, cough, fatigue), or have traveled internationally in the recent past.

Emmaus: A Journey With Christ

The Walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God’s grace and love is revealed to you through other believers. Through the formational process of accountable discipleship in small groups and participation in the Emmaus community, each participant’s individual gifts and servant-leadership skills are developed for use in the local church and its mission. Participants are encouraged to find ways to live out their individual call to discipleship in their home, church, and community.

The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip the local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities, and places of work. Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace-filled lives to be lived and shared with others. CrossWork Emmaus will host an informational session on Sunday, March 15, at 3:00pm at Perkins in Brookings. Learn about The Walk to Emmaus by watching this video: <https://youtu.be/PvS8AJ0Zs4s>, Dakotas Walk to Emmaus website: <http://dakotawalk.org>, or by contacting pilgrims: Charlie Schnabel, Steve Eliason, Lea Hamer, or Nancy Bohlen.

Dakotas Walk to Emmaus will be at: Lake Poinsett Camp, 20 S Lake Dr, Arlington, SD
Men’s Walk: April 23-26; **Women’s Walk:** April 30-May 3



(CLC) = Community Life Center

(Sanc) = Sanctuary

MARCH 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am/10am—Adult Classes (parlor) 10am—Sunday School 11am—Traditional Worship 4:30pm—CrossWork Emmaus (library)	2 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by FUMC Church Council (CLC) 6pm—Financial Peace Univ. 7pm—Retired Group (parlor)	3 9am—CARE Group (basement) 10m—Singles Grp (Conf. Rm) 1pm—Staff meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Staff Parish Relations 7pm—Movie Night @Cinema 8	4—# 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	5	6 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	7
8—Daylight Savings Time 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am/10am—Adult Classes (parlor) 10am—Sunday School 11am—Traditional Worship	9 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by First Lutheran Church (CLC) 6pm—Financial Peace Univ. (Sr. High Youth Room)	10 9:30am—UMW Board Meeting (basement) 1pm—Staff meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group (parlor) 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Movie Night @Cinema 8	11—# 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	12 5:30pm—Missions Committee (Conference Room)	13 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	14
15 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am/10am—Adult Classes (parlor) 10am—Sunday School 11am—Traditional Worship 3pm—Walk to Emmaus Informational Session (Perkins)	16 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by United Living Community (CLC) 7pm—Worship Committee 7pm—Retired Group (parlor)	17 9am—CARE Group (basement) 10m—Singles Grp (Conf. Rm) 1pm—Staff meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group (parlor) 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Movie Night @Cinema 8	18—# 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 10am—Dementia/Alzheimer’s Caregiver’s Support Group (parlor) 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Movie Night @Cinema 8	19 9:45am—The Neighborhoods Communion 10:30am—Edgewood Vista Communion 2pm—StoneyBrook Comm. 3pm—ULC Communion	20 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	21 9am—Piecemakers Quilting Group (basement)
22 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am/10am—Adult Classes (parlor) 10am—Sunday School 11am—Traditional Worship 5:30pm—Church Council	23 FOCUS Deadline 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by Ascension Lutheran Church (CLC)	24 1pm—Staff meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group (parlor) 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Movie Night @Cinema 8	25—# 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	26 9:30am—Hannah Circle (basement) 2pm—Naomi Circle (library)	27 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	28
29 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am/10am—Adult Classes (parlor) 10am—Sunday School 11am—Traditional Worship	30 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 12pm—SOUL Potluck (CLC) 1:15pm—Aging & Spirituality Group (basement) 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by Brookings Rotary (CLC)	31 1pm—Staff meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group (parlor) 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Movie Night @Cinema 8		Wednesday Schedule—# 3pm—WAM! (CLC) 4pm—Afternoon Childcare 4pm—Chiming Children 5pm—Youth Bells 5pm—Manna Meal (CLC) 6pm—Manna Worship	Wednesday Schedule—# 6:45pm—Chancel Choir, Men’s Study, Wednesday School, Confirmation/MS Youth Group, HS Youth Grp	