



First United Methodist Church
625 Fifth Street
Brookings, SD 57006

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FOCUS

NEWSLETTER

December 2018

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Church,

“The Gratitude Path”

Thank you to all who have turned in pledge cards so far for our “Gratitude Path” Annual Stewardship effort. As we begin the holiday season, we have so much for which to be thankful. Your faithful gifts to the church will multiply those blessings for the church and for others through the good work being done to love and serve God, “At the Corner of Church and Community.” If you have not yet turned in a pledge card for 2019, you may still contact the office with the details of your pledge. You also still have time to take advantage of our special donor’s 90-Day Challenge with a special match of gifts over and above your current pledge this December & January. Thank you for your support. Your gifts make a difference to all we serve.

“What Child is This?”

Advent, or the four Sundays before Christmas, declares the “arrival” of the Christ Child. Just as expectant parents wait for their new little one(s), during the season of Advent, Christians the whole world over anticipate the arrival of Jesus. Join Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, and the Wisemen as they tell the story of Jesus and the difference He would make in their lives. And be sure to enjoy our special Christmas events – Cocoa & Carols, “A New Star” childrens’ Christmas program, “The Glory of Christmas” choir cantata (a choral telling of the Christmas story), and our special Christmas Eve services (5:30, 7:30, & 9:30pm). Maybe, along the way, you might just discover (or remember) how important this little child can be in your life.

Blessings, *Pastor Wade*

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
BROOKINGS
AT THE
CORNER OF
**CHURCH &
COMMUNITY**
625 Fifth Street, Brookings
605-692-4345
www.brookingsmethodist.org

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays

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

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

Wednesdays

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

CHURCH STAFF

Pastoral Staff

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

Education Director

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Faith Community Nurse

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Tech Coordinator

Paul Schmidt tech@brookingsmethodist.org

feed your soul • Wednesdays

MANNA in the MIDDLE

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

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

CONNECT WITH US

Church Office Hours are
Monday-Thursday 8:30 am-
12:00 pm and 1:00-4:30 pm,
Fridays 8:30am-Noon.

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

Facebook.com/FUMCBrookings
www.brookingsmethodist.org

Susan's Saga

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

As we move into the Advent season, we commemorate the Incarnation, the marvelous mystery of "the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us."

This year, we have just published five Scripture passages in Mixtec, plus a 2019 calendar with six Scripture portions. They are in both of the varieties of Mixtec that we are learning, so that comes to 12 new publications.

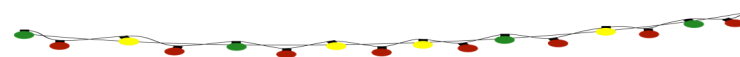
These Scripture portions are a part of the Word becoming flesh for these two people groups. The reality of the Incarnation is made manifest through the Word being made available in the language one best understands - the mother tongue.

Thank you for your part in making the truth of the Incarnation become available to the Mixtecs.

Merry Christmas!!!

Susan Huggins

Scripture quote from John 1:14, taken from the New American Standard Bible.



Susan Huggins is a daughter of this church serving in full-time ministry as a Bible translator among the Mixtec people of Oaxaca, Mexico. Susan's sending agency, Wycliffe Bible Translators, is a non-denominational organization; she raises her own funds to support this ministry.

#onething

In December, our #onething will be **Diaper Collection**. You are invited and encouraged to help our little ones in the community by contributing to our **manger gifts**. Please bring diapers and/or wipes to any of the worship services or drop off anytime in the #onething tubs or at the CLC during the advent season. These diapers and wipes will be available to the children through the Harvest Table Diaper Den.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the #onething **November** project- Feeding Brookings Christmas Meal – Cream of Mushroom Soup! **We have met about half our goal are still in need of 80 more cans of soup to be added to meal boxes to help those in need enjoy a Christmas dinner with all the delicious trimmings. We will continue to collect more cans of Cream of Mushroom Soup.** Thank you for your soup donations!

Christmas Eve Offering Destinations

The Missions Committee has designated the Christmas Eve offering for the following: 1/3 for Brookings Backpack Program, 1/3 for Tree of Life Mission in Mission, SD, 1/3 to remain with the Missions Committee for unexpected needs arising early in 2019.

Brookings Backpack Program (BBP) (brookingsbackpackproject.org) offers our community's hungry children sustenance, served with tender care and genuine respect. We feed our children hope, one child at a time. Our mission is to assist children and youth in Brookings, SD, who may not have enough food to eat at home by providing them with easy-to-prepare weekend meals and snacks throughout the year. By aiding to sustain these children, we seek not only to help meet their nutritional needs but also to promote their physical, cognitive, and social development, along with enhancing their overall sense of well being.

In a small county like Brookings, hunger isn't always in plain sight. The suffering of the hungry child, like that of the hungry parent or elder, is all too often hidden and silent, seemingly removed from "the rest of us." Ask volunteers at the Harvest Table, the Brookings Food Pantry, and Feeding Brookings and other area organizations, as well as the teachers and staff in our schools who are fully aware that many of our neighbors are struggling. The hungry child is *our* child—part of the extended family we call community.

Tree of Life (TOL) (treeofliferelief.org) is a relief organization located in Mission, SD, started by the Dakotas Conference of the UMC. Its roots are in the community and offers Construction Projects, Empowerment Options, and Ministry Goals to the people of the Lakota Nation.

The Tree of Life Ministry is a part of the working hands and feet of God to the Lakota Nation residing on the Rosebud Reservation serving body, mind, and soul. TOL feeds, clothes, shelters, and loves. They demonstrate Christ's love, power, and grace to broken and hurting society. Some may think it is a handout, others feel it is a hand-up, however to God it may look like an answer to prayer. It is a witness of love toward salvation.

Missions Committee: Over the past few months, donations from this congregation and events like the Arts Festival and Turkey Dinner have served the following needs: FUMC Emergency Fund (Brookings): \$2038; UMCOR Disaster Response (USA): \$1167 + Bishops Thanksgiving Offering; Teen Challenge (Brookings): \$583; Sleep In Heavenly Peace (Brookings): \$583; KIVA microloans (kiva.org): \$871; Covenant Relationships support our UMC Missionaries (Graners, Dominican Republic and Erbeles, Alaska): \$2500 per couple; Susan Huggins Wycliffe support (Mexico): \$500; UMW, UMM, and Confirmation Class outreach \$872 each; Car Care (Brookings) designated \$1200 for the year; #Onething has recently helped the following Community projects: Share the Warmth, Feeding Brookings, Brookings Backpack Program, Diaper Project, Sleep In Heavenly Peace.

Christmas Eve Worship — December 24th

Mark your calendars to spend Christmas Eve with us as we worship the newborn king!

- ◆ 5:30 p.m. Family Friendly Carols & Candlelight service in the Community Life Center
- ◆ 7:30 p.m. Traditional Carols & Candlelight service in the Sanctuary
- ◆ 9:30 p.m. Carols, Communion, & Candlelight service in the Sanctuary

Wassail & Fellowship

The Worship Committee invites you to enjoy Wassail in the narthex/foyer with your church friends and family during the 10:00 hour on the Sundays before and after Christmas, December 23 and 30. Sunday School is not offered on those days, and our worship times will remain as usual. Wassail is a traditional Christmastime drink of hot mulled cider, and the committee is using a recipe from one of our old Methodist cookbooks. We hope you'll join us for this special treat!

Children's Christmas Program

The Sunday School children will present "New Star" at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Life Center on Sunday, Dec. 9th. A live nativity will take place in the prayer garden 30 minutes before and after the program. Christmas treat bags will also be given to all children.

Save the Date

Dec. 9 — Children's Christmas program at 5:00 p.m.

Dec. 16 — Christmas Cantata at 11:00 a.m.

Dec. 23 — No Sunday School; Worship at regular times (9 & 11a.m.)

Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve worship services at 5:30, 7:30, & 9:30 p.m.

Dec. 25 — Merry Christmas (Office Closed)

Dec. 26 — No Wednesday activities

Dec. 30 — No Sunday School; Worship at regular times (9 & 11am)

Jan. 1 — Happy New Year (Office Closed)

Jan. 2 — No Wednesday activities; Methodist Day at Great Bear Ski and Tubing Resort

Jan. 6 — Sunday School resumes

Jan. 9 — Wednesday activities resume

Christmas Cantata

The Chancel Choir is excited to present "The Glory of Christmas" by Lloyd Larson at the 11:00 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 16. The kids in our WAM (Wednesday Afternoon Music) program will also join the choir for a special song. You don't want to miss this special event!

Manger Gifts

This church has a wonderful tradition of bringing gifts to the manger during the season of Advent. Please bring diaper donations of all brands and sizes to the mangers in the sanctuary or the Community Life Center during the month of December. These diapers help supply the Diaper Den at the Harvest Table.

Commission On a Way Forward – Study this January

The Commission On a Way Forward is the effort to keep the United Methodist Church from splitting over the issue of homosexuality, especially in regards to ordination of LGBTQ persons and the ability to perform and bless same-sex marriages. The Commission was drawn together after the 2016 General Conference and is presenting options for a Special General Conference February 23-26, 2019. The decisions made at that special General Conference will then be written into procedures/structures for the 2020 General Conference which will then make their way down to the Conference level.

A number of more conservative UM Churches (both U.S. and international) are organizing and have threatened to leave if the option of LGBTQ ordination and same-sex marriage is made available through the United Methodist Church. Despite growing acceptance (especially of younger generations) in the U.S. of homosexuality as a faithful lifestyle, plans of more progressive churches to continue ordination and marriages as acts of civil disobedience create pressure from the other side.

This January, Pastor Wade will lead a study as a part of continuing conversations, addressing: 1) Homosexuality & the Bible; 2) How does a church tradition “make room” for differing interpretations while finding strength for the greater mission?; 3) What happens if the COWF decides to go a way other than what we would want as a church or as individuals? (Are we willing to be “compatibilists” or not? And what would that mean? What would civil disobedience look like? And what are the possible costs?)



New Worship Series in January

Who doesn't love a good “before” and “after” story? Seeing real stories of transformation gives us all hope and helps us see what's really possible. Just like any house that's a real “fixer upper,” our relationships need restoration. The real kind starts on the inside, in the guts of the house, before the change works its way out to affect curb appeal.

2019 Radio Broadcast Sponsorships

If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast in memory, honor, recognition, or celebration of a loved one or event/anniversary next year, a sign up sheet is available at the welcome center in the Sanctuary. You may also contact Amy at 692-4345 to sign up. Each broadcast is \$60 and airs at 9:30am on KBRK 1430AM. Sponsors are recognized in the weekly bulletins.

UMW Reading Program Information

For ladies participating in the reading program: There is a new chart in the library to record the books you have read. I apologize for the delay with the chart. We are checking on the new book list, since we have not yet received the booklet. Please continue to read, and note that titles read from the 2013 list will be credited through the end of 2018.

Sandra Ballou



Confirmation and High School Youth

High School Youth

Thank you United Methodist Women for the gift of \$300.00 to our HS Youth Group. This donation provided the opportunity for our High School Youth to build two beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization that builds and delivers beds to children who do not have a bed. We are proud that our HS Youth, in the midst of the busy season, offer their hands and feet for Christ's service.

6-12 Grade

Attention 6-12th Graders! During November our Youth attended a youth rally called Dak-Youth and it truly was an amazing weekend of learning more about God's love. Come to **Winter Connection on Fri.-Sat., Jan. 25-26**, for another great weekend of UM Youth gathering from our district to worship and serve God. RSVP by Wed. Jan. 9th to Pastor Theta. The cost is \$30.00.

Also, we are offering a special invite to grades 6-12 to attend Youth19/Urban Plunge, July 6-14, in Kansas City, MO. 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 training. The cost is \$800 and we will have fundraisers. **The Youth/Parent meeting is Wed. Jan. 9th in the HS Youth Room from 7:45 to 8:15 pm.** Please contact Pastor Theta for questions.

Details: This is our Summer Mission Trip AND the National UM Youth Gathering which will provide youth and their leaders opportunities to meet youth from across the nation, connect with denominational leaders, and discover the wide variety of ministries of the UMC. For questions contact Pastor Theta.

Faith Community Nurse Note

The Health Ministry Committee is wondering about the need for a cancer support group. If this is something you would be interested in, please let the church office know, or email Joanie at jholm229@gmail.com. (If you have other health related ideas, please pass those along as well!)

Visitation Ministry

In the past year Brookings First United Methodist Church has developed a Visitation Ministry. In this program, trained volunteers from the congregation are meeting with other church members who may be in need of a friendly visitor. Currently 10 members are receiving a regular visit. If you are interested in becoming a visitor, please let the church office know and we will give you a call. This is a great way to demonstrate “love in action.”

Methodist@...Tubing/Skiing Event

Be a part of our Methodist@Great Bear Park, Sioux Falls (ski and/or tube) Wednesday, Jan. 2nd. Looking for a last blast activity before school begins? Join us as our church family and friends meet for an afternoon/evening of skiing and/or tubing. The park is open from 3-9 pm but you may come and go as needed. Cost: skiing \$38, tubing \$8, and supper \$5 (pizza & drink as we eat together at 5 pm). RSVP by Dec. 19th to Pastor Theta.

If you are interested in a Ski Retreat at Storm Mountain on Feb. 16-18, please contact Theta by Wed. Jan. 9th.

Count Your Blessings

Thank you to all those who volunteered and delivered 60 Plus Dining meals during the month of November: Doug & Linda Kay Hai, Larry & Barb Hult, Dwight & Bernice Combs, Ron & Linda Thaden, Mason & Janie Wheeler, Stan & Bernice Bauman, Bruce & Ila Lushbough, Bill & Peggy Cone, Roger Sandness, Bob & Lynette Smith, Bill Miller, Sharon Anderegg, and Peg Lund.

Sharon Anderegg, Meals on Wheels

December Ushers & Greeters

Traditional Service Ushers, Greeters, & Hospitality

Ron & Margaret Perry, Steve & Penny Eliason, Bill Miller, Rick & Lorna Jost, Barb Meyer

“The Well” Greeters

Aaron & Stacy Doyscher, Lynn & Mary Frederick

New Giving Options: Questions and Answers

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

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

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

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

At (link) you will find a document with common questions and answers about these new options.

Disciple Fast Track – New Testament

This fall our church began a new Disciple Study called Disciple Fast Track. The class covered the Old Testament during the fall months. Starting January, you have the opportunity to join the class for the New Testament part of this study. This 12-week study will begin on January 8 with an orientation and distribution of the workbook and will conclude April 2. Steve Eliason and Nancy Bohlen are the leaders for this study which meets on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the conference room. If you want a good, basic, and thorough study of the Bible, this class is for you!

UM Student Sunday Scholarships

On Sunday, November 25th, the Brookings FUMC Foundation presented scholarships from their dedicated funds to three deserving leaders in our church. Teresa Person, Worship & Music Director, was presented a scholarship for the support of seminary students. Brittany Fyler (Wednesday Afternoon Music) and William Reynolds (Jubilee Ringers hand bell choir) who are both SDSU students, were presented with scholarships for their leadership in our weekly ministries.

Financial Peace

Financial Peace University, a 9-week financial course, will be offered on Tuesdays, beginning January 15 – March 12. Come to the first lesson free of charge and decide after that if you want to attend the following 8 classes.

Please contact Gretchen at education@brookingsmethodist.org for more information.

(CLC) = Community Life Center

(Sanc) = Sanctuary

DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 9am—The Well (CLC) 9am—Adult Sunday School (Parlor) 9:45am—Seeker’s Study 10am—Sunday School (2yr-HS) 10am—Dr. Murphy Study 11am—Traditional Worship (Sanc) 11am—Children’s Christmas program speaking parts only practice 4:30pm—CrossWork Emmaus</p>	<p>3 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table (CLC) 5:30pm—Heath Ministry 6:00pm—Open Door Singles Group (HS Youth Room) 7pm—Open Door Retired Grp 7pm—Staff Parish Committee</p>	<p>4 9am—CARE Group (basement) 10am—Staff Meeting (Conf. Rm) 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group (Parlor) 5:30pm—Disciple Fast Track (Conference Rm) 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group 6pm—Jubilee Ringers (basement) 7pm—Movie Night @ Cinema 8</p>	<p>5 # 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC) 6:30pm—Health Ministry 6:45pm—Men’s Study 6:45pm—Cantata Practice</p>	<p>6 2pm—Brookhaven Bible Study</p>	<p>7 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 9am—The Well (CLC) 9am—Adult Sunday School (Parlor) 9:45am—Seeker’s Study 10am—Sunday School (2yr-HS) 10am—Dr. Murphy Study 11am—Traditional Worship (Sanc) 11am—Children’s dress rehearsal 4:30pm—CrossWork Emmaus 5:00pm—SS Christmas Program</p>	<p>10 10am—Healthy Movement 12pm—Brown Bag Town Hall 5:30pm—Harvest Table (CLC) 7pm—Open Door Retired Grp</p>	<p>11 9am—Memorial Committee mtg 10am—Staff Meeting 10am—UMW Board meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group 6pm—Jubilee Ringers’ 7pm—Movie Night @ Cinema</p>	<p>12 # 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC) 6:45pm—Grief Support Group (Library) 6:45pm—Men’s Study 6:45pm—Cantata Practice</p>	<p>13 2pm—Brookhaven Bible Study 5:30pm—Missions Committee meeting</p>	<p>14 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)</p>	<p>15 9am—Piecemakers Quilting Group 9am—Car Care Ministry (Brookings Car Care)</p>
<p>16 9am—The Well (CLC) 9am—Adult Sunday School (Parlor) 9:45am—Seeker’s Study 10am—Sunday School (2yr-HS) 10am—Dr. Murphy Study 11am—Trad. Worship/Cantata 12pm—New Member Class 4:30pm—CrossWork Emmaus</p>	<p>17 FOCUS Deadline 10am—Healthy Movement 5:30pm—Harvest Table (CLC) 6pm—Finance meeting 6pm—Open Door Singles Group (HS Youth Room) 7pm—Open Door Retired Grp</p>	<p>18 9am—CARE Group (basement) 10am—Staff Meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group 6pm—Jubilee Ringers (basement) 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8</p>	<p>19 # 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC) 6:45pm—Men’s Study</p>	<p>20 9:45am—Neighborhood’s Comm. 10:30—Edgewood Vista Comm. 2pm—Stoney Brook Communion 3pm—ULC Communion 6pm—United Methodist Men 6:30pm—Alzheimer’s Support Group (Parlor)</p>	<p>21 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 No 2yr-HS Sunday School 9am—The Well (CLC) 9am—Adult Sunday School (Parlor) 11am—Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 4:30pm—CrossWork Emmaus</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve/Office closing at noon 5:30pm—CLC Christmas Eve Worship Service 7:30—Sanctuary Christmas Eve Worship Service 9:30pm—Sanctuary Christmas Eve Worship Service</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day</p>	<p>26 Office closed/no school 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)</p>	<p>27 Office closed/no school</p>	<p>28 Office closed/no school 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast Fellowship (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 No 2yr-HS Sunday School 9am—The Well (CLC) 9am—Adult Sunday School (Parlor) 11am—Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 4:30pm—CrossWork Emmaus</p>	<p>31 Office closed/no school 10am—Healthy Movement 5:30pm—Harvest Table (CLC)</p>	<p>New Years Day Office closed</p>	<p><u>Wednesday Schedule—#</u> 3pm—WAM! (CLC) 4pm—Chiming Children 4pm—Wednesday Afternoon Childcare (Education Unit) 5pm—Manna Meal (CLC) 5pm—Youth Bells (basement)</p>	<p><u>Wednesday Schedule—#</u> 6pm—Manna in the Middle Worship (CLC) 6:45pm—Confirmation, High School Youth Group, Chancel Choir, Wednesday School, College Age Ministry</p>	<p>As a reminder, on Dec. 1 the plants will be repotted in the Narthex from 9:30-11:00. Please contact Gretchen if you would like to volunteer to help with the repotting!</p>	