



# FOCUS

NEWSLETTER

February 2024

## FROM THE PASTOR

### *Be my Valentine*

Valentine's Day can either be exciting – or exhausting. But let us not make it insipid! This is the time of year to celebrate love, and all love is a gift of God. So, this year show love to someone,



appreciate the love given you to by friends and family, and if you are in-love - then shower that person with your affection and kindness. Our world already has too much bitterness and anger. Let us not add to it. Instead, be challenged to be loving.

God love y'all`

*Pastor Pete*



FIRST UNITED

METHODIST

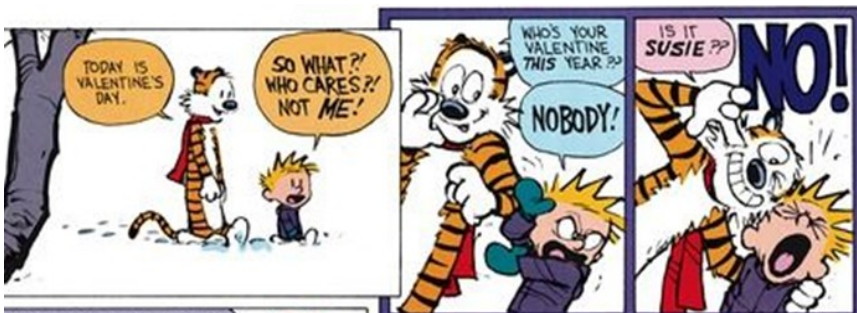
BROOKINGS

AT THE CORNER OF

**CHURCH & COMMUNITY**

625 Fifth Street, Brookings  
605-692-4345

[www.brookingsmethodist.org](http://www.brookingsmethodist.org)

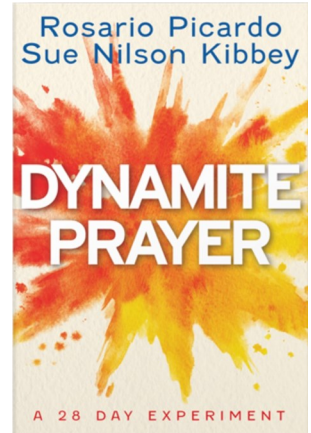


## ***Book for the New Year***

What might happen if we all prayed together daily asking to be shown God's next ideas rather than just our own? Our church will join other Methodists in the Dakotas in a four week invitation to prayer. This Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area initiative begins on January 14 and ends February 10, 2024. We will be using the book *Dynamite Prayer* as a daily prayer guide for the month. Books are available from Gretchen Knutson.

More information can be found on the Dakotas Conference website: *Dynamite Prayer* starts Jan. 14: Here's what to expect - Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church ([dakotasumc.org](http://dakotasumc.org)).

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## ***Lent***

Lent is a Christian season of preparation. It begins on Ash Wednesday and continues to Easter. This year, Lent begins on February 14 (Valentine's Day!) and runs until Holy Week, which begins with Palm Sunday and ends on Easter Sunday, March 31st.

Join us Each Sunday and Wednesday of Lent as we follow the Lenten theme: "Amazing Marys". This is a reflection on the awesome women called Mary in the Bible. There is a study booklet available for this season, which is available from the church.

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## ***Staff Parish Relations***

The SPR Committee will meet the first time on February 5th 2024 and have the joy of meeting with our District Superintendent, Rebecca Trefz.

Members of the committee this year are: Mark Stratton (chair), Carmin Vaux (vice chair), Lisa Solum, Larry Hult, Charlie Schnabel, Nancy Bohlen, April Flemming, Tom Page, and Abby Howard. We look forward to working with Pastor Pete, the staff and congregation to make sure we continue to provide an effective and welcoming work environment for our staff.

*Mark Stratton*, Chair

## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, February 14th, 2024, marks the beginning of Lent. You are invited to a service at 6:00pm in the Community Life Center. In this service we are marked with ash and invited into the spiritual journey towards Easter on March 31st. Watch for details on our social media and in the church bulletin.

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## End of 2023 Mission Giving

In December, The Mission Committee met for a meal and to disperse any remaining mission funds off to do their good deeds! End of year dispersants from that meeting were:

- \$2500 each for our covenant missionaries - Nan McCurdy at Give Ye Them To Eat in Mexico and Christopher Sylvah, Solar Oven Partners director
- \$500 for Susan Huggins, Wycliffe in Mexico
- \$1000 for Brookings Ministerial Association Emergency Fund
- \$1000 for Harvest Table
- \$750 for Tree of Life Ministry in Mission, SD
- \$500 for Children's Home Society

These monies were from various fundraising events throughout the year such as the Turkey Dinner and Arts Festival. We do not have the total donations for December #onething (UMCOR International Emergency) or Christmas Eve (Pastor's Emergency Fund) but will let you know next month! Thank you for your dedication and participation in the Missions of the UMC!

## Amazing Marys



Did you know that there are seven Marys mentioned in the Bible? Come to our services during Lent and we will introduce them to you. You will discover women of courage and commitment. They were preachers, mothers, disciples, hard workers for the Gospel of Jesus – and who faithfully served the Lord. There is a booklet available from the office, and there will be notes available each Sunday and Wednesday.

## Values for Brookings FUMC

I have just completed four years as pastor of Brookings FUMC. This has been a happy adventure, filled with challenges and opportunities spiritual growth. As I reflect on my time spent with our members, I have discerned the following as values that are believed and practiced by our members:

**Welcome:** All are welcome in our church. “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors” is to be found on the entrance of our buildings. This welcome also insists that each person who is welcomed should in turn be willing to show the same welcome to other people.

**Service:** We are a community called to serve our community. For this reason, we have a Community Life Center and employ a Director to drive outreach. We serve Harvest Table, and we give away diapers, and we participate in Souperbowl of Caring, the Feeding Brookings Thanksgiving meal, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and Solar Ovens.

**Teaching:** This church places a high value on teaching: we employ an Education Director, we run classes and courses, and the pastor is expected to read and teach. This church intentionally promotes thoughtful, reflective Christian teaching.

**Diversity:** We are a church that embraces a variety of people, ranging in ages from young children to the elderly in wheelchairs, from the academically educated to those who have learned from the hard knocks of life, and people of all political and social opinions. This is expressed in a variety of expressions of worship, in a range of opportunities to offer service, and in our willingness to try anything that will promote the love of Jesus.

I believe that we hold these four values as important in our church. They are not unique to us – but they are obvious and can be celebrated. If you have comment, or if you think that I have left something out, please come back to me. I am hoping that

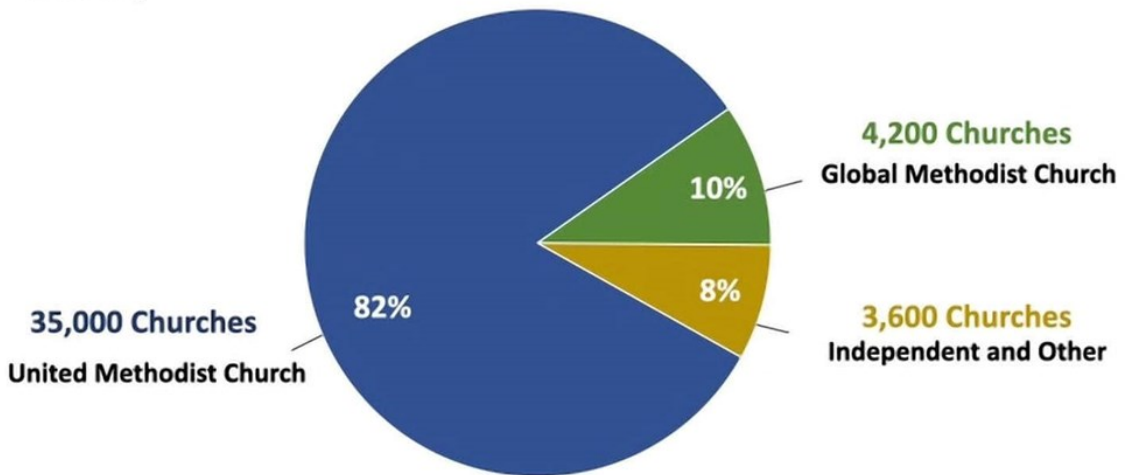
this can become something we intentionally share with new members, and our Confirmation Class, and can be owned by each of us.

*Pete*

Pastor Pete

## Denominational Affiliations

### Globally



More than 7,500 U.S.-based churches have disaffiliated from the UMC between 2019-2023. This is because of disagreements about theology and church policy dealing with the presence of LGBTQ members. In other words, 35,000 churches like us have stayed to welcome all!

## **Finance**

The Finance Committee had their first meeting on January 15. We have a great group of folks and look forward to the coming year. I would like to thank Tom Fishback for his leadership in 2023, as well as all the members, past and present.

If you haven't yet turned in your 2024 pledge card, it's not too late! We appreciate your continued support. Every contribution, big or small, pledged or not, can be used by God to do powerful things!



*Sheryl Pappas*, Finance

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## **February #onething**

A reminder that the **Souper Bowl of Caring** is a Youth led offering in February, The funds will go to the Harvest Table and they will also be collecting peanut butter! Please note that when writing a check—**Please make it out to the Harvest Table.** Thank you!

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## **Hy-Vee Receipts**

We would like to express our gratitude to this congregation for their consistent efforts in submitting those Hy-Vee receipts throughout the previous year. Additionally, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to Peg Page for diligently organizing the receipts, considering the increased time and effort required due to Hy-Vee's revised receipt submission process.



## ***FUMC Meals on Wheels Volunteers complete January 2024 deliveries***

Each year FUMC starts out the first two weeks of the calendar year delivering Meals on Wheels. Odds are it is the most challenging two weeks of deliveries for the year. The following braved the cold and snow to demonstrate “Gods love”: (week 1): Pete & Jenny Grassow, Larry & Barb Hult, and Wayne & Coleen Reiser. (Week 2): Perry & Barb Johnson, Dennis & Karen Carmichael, and Linda Kay Hai & Gena Hult. A special thanks to Gary & Avis Norton and the ADVANCE program who delivered both weeks. A welcome to Dennis & Karen Carmichael who has newly joined this mission enclave. The next scheduled deliveries will be April 8-19. If you are interested in helping with Meals on Wheels, please contact me at [perbar3@mac.com](mailto:perbar3@mac.com).



*Perry Johnson*, FUMC Meals on Wheel Coordinator

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## ***Souper Bowl of Caring!***

Coming February 11, 2023 --

Once again the Senior High Youth are going to Tackle Hunger during the Souper Bowl of Caring. You can help by donating a jar of crunchy or creamy peanut butter along with a monetary donation. Everything collected will go to the Harvest Table right here in our church to help feed hungry people in Brookings.



Collections will be taken on Sunday February 4th , Wednesday February 7th and Sunday, February 11th . If everyone contributed one food item and \$1, it would go a long way to Tackling Hunger in our community! Thank you for your help.



## ***Camping Registrations Open Now!***

Camping registrations for 2024 are now open! If you know that you have a specific camp you want to attend you can register now and reserve your spot. Go to [www.dakcamps.org](http://www.dakcamps.org) to register.

The education committee will once again be offering a 75% scholarship for any age camper. To receive [this scholarship](#), enter 'brookingscampers' during the registration process.

## ***Children's Chairs for Sale***

We have come across a few petite chairs while decluttering our storage spaces, and we are currently selling them. These chairs are specifically designed for small children. If you are interested in buying them, you can find them on the first floor of the Education Center at the northern end. We suggest a donation of \$20 for each chair.

One of the chairs has a floor to seat height of 10 inches, while the other chair measures 11 ½ inches from the floor to the seat.

All the proceeds from this sale will be directed towards camp scholarships.

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## ***Open Hearts Brunch***

Valentine's Day is a day we remember our loved ones. For some Valentine's Day is a day we remember our loved ones we have lost. The Open Hearts Brunch on Sunday, February 11 at 11:00 in the church basement is a great opportunity for people to come together and find support. All are welcome to attend and share in the special event.





## Family Day – Bowling



Welcome to our upcoming Family Day activity on Sunday, February 25 in the afternoon (time to be determined). We are excited to invite you to join us at The Lanes for a fun-filled time of bowling, fellowship, and enjoyment with your church family. Family Day is an opportunity for us to come together, bond, and create lasting memories. The church will pay for the bowling fee – you are responsible for your shoes. So, mark your calendars and get ready for a fantastic day of family fun!

*Gretchen Knutson*, Education Coordinator

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## Mission Trip to South Africa



I have the privilege of leading a mission trip to South Africa. We are a group of 15 members of our church, who will work at Marsh Memorial Homes, a Methodist children’s home. We will also visit the oldest Methodist Church in Africa, ascend Table Mountain, and touch the tip of Africa. We leave on Wednesday March 6 and return on Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is able to offer financial assistance

with sponsoring my wife Jenny for this trip, or if you wish to give a donation to the Methodist Children’s home, I would really appreciate it. You can send a donation marked “Pastor’s SA team expenses” to the church office, or speak with Linda ay Hai, our church treasurer.

*Pete*

Pastor Pete

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## Church Staff

### Pastoral Staff

Pete Grassow.....pastorpete@brookingsmethodist.org

### Education Director

Gretchen Knutson..... education@brookingsmethodist.org

### Community Life Center Director

Vonda Kirkham.....communitylife@brookingsmethodist.org

### Office Manager

Lynelle Hagedorn.....office@brookingsmethodist.org

### Financial Coordinator

Linda Kay Hai .....finance@brookingsmethodist.org

### Worship Tech/Media Director and Facility Manager

Sam Becker.....media@brookingsmethodist.org

### Tech Coordinator

Paul Schmidt.....tech@brookingsmethodist.org

### Wednesday Activities Coordinator

Sammi Carney.....wedactivities@brookingsmethodist.org

### Music Coordinator

Bunny Christie.....music@brookingsmethodist.org

### Choir Director, Organist, Worship Team Accompanist

Shawn Stemsrud.....music@brookingsmethodist.org

### Campus Ministry Coordinator

### Congregation Caring Coordinator

Joanie Holm.....jholm229@gmail.com

### Organists:

Joan Riessen  
MK Huggins

**Manna Cook:** Katie Knutson

**Choir Accompanist:** Thomas Tvedt

## Connect with us!

### Church Office Hours:

Mon-Fri: 8:30am-12:00 pm

Need prayer? Email  
[prayer@brookingsmethodist.org](mailto:prayer@brookingsmethodist.org)  
and Pastor Pete will pray with  
you!



/FUMCBrookings



@brookingsfumc



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[brookingsmethodist.org](http://brookingsmethodist.org)

## Church Office Closed

Please note that the church  
office will be closed on  
Monday, February 19th in  
observance of President's  
Day.

## Give Online to Brookings First United Methodist Church!

Without your gifts, none of our community ministries would be possible. We have easy ways to give online or scan the QR code for more information:

- 1) VANCO MOBILE APP:** Download the Vanco Mobile app from the App Store or Google Play. Once installed, search "Brookings", select FUMC, and follow directions.
- 2) TEXT:** Send a text message to [605-250-0807](tel:605-250-0807) with the dollar amount of the gift and follow directions.



# Radio Broadcast Sponsorships

Now is the time to sign up for a radio broadcast sponsorship in 2024. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast at \$60 in memory, honor, or celebration of a loved one or anniversary, you may:



- Visit [brookingsmethodist.org](http://brookingsmethodist.org) and click on **RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS**
- Contact the office at 605-692-4345
- Email [office@brookingsmethodist.org](mailto:office@brookingsmethodist.org)

Or on SignUp Genius: <https://bit.ly/3ZObUkh>

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## Winter Weekly Worship Schedule

<b>Sundays:</b>	9:00am	Sunday School (Pre-K to Adult)	
	9:30am	Radio Broadcast (on KBRK 1430AM)	
	10:00am	Sunday Morning Worship (in-person and online)	
<b>Wednesdays:</b>	5:00pm	Cost-Free Manna in the Middle Meal	
	6:00pm	Manna in the Middle Worship Service	
	7:00pm	Confirmation, Bible Studies, First on Campus, Wednesday School, Manna Study	

### Watch Online at Any Time!

**YouTube Live**



**Facebook Live**



**First United Methodist Church  
625 Fifth Street  
Brookings, SD 57006**

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