



FOCUS

NEWSLETTER

June 2023

FROM THE PASTOR

Summer Days

*Over hill, over dale,
Thorough bush, thorough brier,
Over park, over pale,
Thorough flood, thorough fire
I do wander every where,
Swifter than the moon's sphere;*



Over hill, over dale - from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare

The solstice on 21 June marks the official beginning of summer: a season for some great weather, for holiday trips, long evenings at the fire pit, and time to get outdoors. After a brutal winter, we can be tempted to think of summer as a well deserved respite.

As I think about the change in the seasons of weather, I am reminded that we also have a change in the seasons of our faith. We are moving from the season of Pentecost into a new spiritual season. This season after Pentecost is known as "Ordinary Time." During this new season we focus on the life of the Church as it grows in the midst of the world. For this reason the liturgical color for Ordinary Time is green.

As we wander "over hill, over dale" this summer, let us use the summer season to grow in our relationship with God. Use the time to give thanks to God, to write a gratitude journal, to read a book, or to find space for prayer.

May God be with us all this summer.

~Pastor Pete



FIRST UNITED

METHODIST

BROOKINGS

AT THE
CORNER OF

**CHURCH &
COMMUNITY**

625 Fifth Street, Brookings

605-692-4345

www.brookingsmethodist.org

Church Campers

Please pray for these campers as they attend church camp in June.

Camper	Camp	Dates
Jaclyn Moore Shaedan Rasmussen	Arts and Craft Camp <i>Wesley Acres</i>	June 25-30

Church Camp Weekend

I have a couple of spots left for the Church Camping weekend at Oakwood Lake State Park (not to be confused with the Family Camp at Lake Poinsett or Storm Mountain.) We will share a couple of meals together, s'mores, stories and lots of fellowship! If you can't make it for the whole weekend, then come for the day or evening! If you would like to snag one of those spots left, let me know!

Gretchen Knutson, Education Director

VBS – Stellar

We are going to have an out-of-this-world time at Stellar VBS on June 20-22! Be sure to sign your kids up! The ages eligible for VBS are children 3 years old (as of August 31, 2022) – 5th grade (this school year.) Please sign up here:

<https://bit.ly/BrookingsUMCVBS2023>.

There will be a meal each evening beginning at 5:15, which the whole family is invited to attend. If you would like to contribute items for the meals, please follow this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D44A8AB22A5F85-vacation>

Gretchen Knutson, Education Director



Thank You!

A big heart-felt thank you to the Piecemakers Quilting group which provided quilts to the high school seniors on May 21. They are very appreciated by our seniors and are definitely a work of art!

Thank You, Foundation!

A big thank you from the Education committee goes out to our 1st UMC Foundation for funding the materials for our Lenten study this year – “Luke – Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws” by Adam Hamilton. We greatly appreciate the financial support!



Youth Group Summer Activities

The youth group will continue to meet a couple of times this summer. The first activity will be a private pool party on Wednesday, June 21 – from 8 -10 p.m. All high school youth (which includes those that were confirmed this spring) are invited to attend and to bring a friend! The more the merrier!



The second activity will be in July when they will be attending a Canaries Baseball Game in Sioux Falls. This will be on Wednesday, July 12. If your youth would be interested in attending this activity, please let Gretchen know as we need to line up transportation. Again, inviting a friend is encouraged!

Gretchen Knutson, Education Director

Summer Church Camp Registration Is Open!

Registration for summer church camp is still open! Please go to www.dakcamps.org to register. And remember that there are camps for every age and interest!

If you have a favorite camp you would like to attend, be sure to get registered soon. The church is offering a 75% scholarship for camps again this year. All you need to do to receive this scholarship is to enter **brookingscampers** in the registration process. Further scholarships are available locally and at the conference level. Please contact Gretchen (education@brookingsmethodist.org) for further assistance.



Gretchen Knutson, Education Director

Annual Conference

The thirtieth session of the Dakotas Annual Conference will be held June 8-10, 2023, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The gathering will include inspiring worship, business, conversations about who and where we are, and celebrating clergy milestones. All worship services and plenary sessions will be available to the general public via livestream on the Dakotasumc.org website/annual conference. The schedule can be found on the website dakotasumc.org or this link: [Schedule 2023 | Annual Conference | Dakotas Conference \(dakotasumc.org\)](#).



Lay Delegates: Tom Becker, LaRon DeBoer, Rylee Honomichl, Cheryl Honomichl

Lay Equalization Delegates: Charlie Schnabel, Nancy Bohlen

Congregational Care Ministry

Dear Friends of Brookings First Methodist United Church,

Your church friends care about you! We would like to support you through life's ups and downs, such as illnesses, surgeries, new babies, loss in the family, marriage, divorce, or any other life events. We have a Prayer, Visitation, Card and Meal Ministry set up to provide help in a variety of ways. BUT, if we don't know about your family crisis/celebration, we cannot help. The hospitals cannot reveal the names of patients as they did in the past. Please give the church office a call (605-692-4345) or email office@brookingsmethodist.org and let us know what is happening in your life. We want to put our Love in Action.

Joanie Holm, Congregational Care Ministry

Staff Parish Relations

SPR continues to fill Music and Worship Coordinator vacancies with an awareness of budget limits. Recruitment continues for the Manna Cook to begin employment in August. Thank you to Tom Fishback for sharing a budget update with SPR.

If you would happen to know someone who loves to cook big quantities and loves serving people, direct them to complete an application on our website, email the church at office@brookingsmethodist.org or call 605-692-4345!



Larry Hult, Staff Parish Relations Chair

Trustees Report

The ridge cap (roof) of the church has been repaired. Exterior and interior church signage is being installed. Upcoming parking lot repairs, narthex skylight repair, roof drain repair, and belfry window replacement times have not yet been scheduled.

Rick Hieb, Trustees Chair

Ukraine Relief – June #onething #onething

The #onething offering in June will be for Ukraine Relief through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).

Since the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces, UMCOR has acted on behalf of The United Methodist Church to provide aid and assistance. Grants for immediate relief have been given to trusted partners – United Methodist churches in surrounding countries, ecumenical partners and non-governmental organizations – to provide direct aid inside Ukraine as well as help for those who have fled to surrounding countries.

The UMC expanded in Eastern Europe following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989. New United Methodist congregations and student ministries emerged, assisted by missionaries, mission volunteers and teams. There are currently 10 United Methodist Churches in Ukraine, strategically located in larger cities, with a combined membership of approximately 500 people. They and the other ecumenical partners are working tirelessly to help their neighbors by using your donations to facilitate:

Transportation, food, water, clothing, medication, and safe shelters for displaced families, women, children and those with disabilities;

- Protection for conflict-affected people in Ukraine as well as support for refugees in Hungary, Poland, and Romania to prevent human trafficking and create secure shelters.
- Urgently needed medical supplies to hospitals to help doctors and nurses care for the sick and injured;
- Legal assistance, counseling and social support for those who have lost their homes, belongings and livelihoods;
- Winterization and repairs at shelters, as well as construction on longer-term lodging for those displaced by the war;



- Repairs on homes as people return to communities impacted by months of warfare, and;
- Explosive removal and mine education throughout the country to reduce risks to those returning to their homes and communities.

As the conflict continues, UMCOR will be there, faithfully working on your behalf to bring hope and healing to the people of Ukraine. UMCOR's work in Ukraine is funded with gifts to **Advance #982450, International Disaster Response and Recovery**. 100% of donations to UMCOR goes to its intended purpose.

For a very recent update on UMCOR in Ukraine, visit: <https://umcmmission.org/january-2023/umcours-partnership-with-iocc-provides-ukrainians-more-access-to-shelters-psychosocial-programing-and-human-trafficking-prevention/>

It's Tool Time!

Father's Day: June is Habitat for Humanity month!

Honor or Remember your father or beloved male friend/relative with a \$10 donation throughout May. All donations will go to the Local Habitat for Humanity Chapter in Brookings. Through the years we have called this offering Tool Time and continue to honor this tradition.

Many from our congregation have served or are serving with the local Habitat affiliate with their building skills, feeding the workers a nutritious noon time meal, or volunteering to paint. If you are interested in becoming more involved, call the office! In the meantime, donate to their projects through #onething.

Coupons will be at the Welcome Centers throughout May for you to list the name of the person you wish to honor/remember. You can drop off the coupon and your donation in the church office.

For remote giving, you can donate through the #onething online donation link at the Brookings FUMC website (www.brookingsmethodist.org/donate.html). If you donate online, please email the church office (office@brookingsmethodist.org) indicating the names of those you are honoring/remembering. Checks can also be sent to the church office with your list. A list of honorees will be listed in the bulletin on Father's Day (June 18), and in the July FOCUS.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Beds for Children who sleep on the floor.

Our church has committed to donate 25 beds to *Sleep in Heavenly Peace*. This organization consists of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling, and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children in need. Each bed is placed in a home with sheets, a quilt, and a pillow. Their motto is: **NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN.**[®]

Building beds: We will meet as a congregation on **Sunday morning June 25**, and build beds between 9am – 11am. All ages and levels of enthusiasm are welcome. Materials and equipment are provided. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be furnished along with instruction by on site instructors for building the beds. (If you have your own PPE you want to use, feel free to do so). There will not be a morning church service – instead we will be putting our love for Jesus into action by building beds together.

Cost: The beds cost \$200 each for all materials and placement. I am challenging families in our church to give a bed to a child. In total we will need to collect \$5000 for this project. Send in your donations and/or sign up for the build by emailing office@brookingsmethodist.org or call Lynelle Hagedorn at the church office (605-692-4345). There will also be sign up sheets at the Welcome Center in the Narthex.

There are brochures about SHP available at the Welcome Center to further educate yourselves. If you have questions feel free to call Charlie Schnabel (605-695-9806).

Pastor Pete



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**

Susan's Saga

As we revise Romans in Mixtec, its enduring relevance comes to the fore. A dismal picture is painted of humankind. Even those who try to be religious fail dismally when their efforts are compared to God's perfect standards. Merit or doing a lot of good deeds is never enough to garner God's favor. Legalism, or trying to please God by adhering to a strict set of rules, is not sufficient, either. After a couple of chapters of showing how far astray we have gone from God's impeccable ideal, it is apparent that "the entire world is guilty before God."

That stark situation is sobering and brings us up short. What can be done? From a human point of view, our situation is hopeless. Remarkably God provides the solution. "For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for our sins. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood."

The good news of God's provision for our deliverance from sin needs to be shared far and wide. The Mixtec people also need to have access to this revolutionary way out of the predicament we are in.

Thank you for your part in making this message available to a people group in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Susan Huggins

Scripture quotation is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION.

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.

Piecemakers

Piecemakers is a group of women (men can join) that make quilts for graduation celebrations, baptisms, our elders' birthdays and comfort for our congregation.

We welcome anyone that would like to join. We have sewing machines, fabric and patterns. If you don't feel skilled enough to join, come take a look at what we do! We have two different groups. We have skilled members that mentor those with less skill. Give Barb Johnson a call at 605.651.5980 or Judi DeZeeuw at 605.690.5764.

Harvest Table

Harvest Table has these **open dates** this summer and fall for a group to serve a meal to our guests on a Monday evening. This includes choosing a menu, purchasing the food, preparing the food, serving the meal, and cleaning up. A group can be an organization, club, church group, neighborhood group, family group, or any other type of group you choose.

Harvest Table has open dates for a serving group to serve a meal for the guests on:

July 24, 31

August 28

September 18

October 16, 23

November 13, 27

December 18

For more information and to schedule a date to serve, please contact Vonda at brookingsharvesttable@gmail.com.

Thank you, we appreciate your willingness to serve those in our community.

Vonda Kirkham, Harvest Table Director

Annual Conference Miracle Offering

The Bishop of our Dakotas Conference has called for a “Miracle Offering” to be taken during our Annual Conference, which meets the first week of June. This offering will respond to the increasing numbers of deaths by suicide, or deeply depressed attempts at suicide, among youth in North and South Dakota by supporting *Helpline* of South Dakota and *FirstLink* of North Dakota. These organizations provide free and confidential services including listening and support, referrals to resources/help, and crisis intervention.

Brookings First United Methodist Church will participate in this offering **on Sunday, June 4th**. You can also forward your contribution to this “Miracle Offering” to the church office by Monday, June 5th. Your lay delegates will take our offering to Dakotas Annual Conference to donate to the Miracle Offering event.

Nancy Bohlen, Church Council Chair

Summer Music for Worship

I am looking forward to planning music for summer worship. That means that I am hoping folks will give me a call and let me know what music you have prepared that you would like to share in worship. As your summer vacation plans shape up, please consider how you and your family can participate musically in worship. I am thinking of piano or band students that have learned to play hymns in their lessons, a handbell solo or small ensemble, vocal contributions to name a few. I can also help you pick some music if you would like. Hope to hear from you soon!

Brenda Hieb, Music Coordinator

Finance Update

Thank you all for your commitment and continued support of Brookings First United Methodist Church. Together we are making a meaningful impact on our world. Some examples include:

Blankets: In May we honored the females in our lives with financial gifts towards blankets, which were used to bring comfort and shelter.

Tools: This month we will gather funds to honor the males in our lives with financial gifts towards tools used in Habitat for Humanity.

Beds: We are raising money to build beds with Sleep in Heavenly Peace. We {I do mean all of us} will have an opportunity to literally build 25 beds in our parking lot. No Child we can reach Sleeps on the Floor.

Who makes this happen? The Congregation and Friends of Brookings First United Methodist Church. Please maintain your regular giving so that we can sustain our ministries, support our staff and maintain our facilities.

Thank you for your patience and encouragement as I settle into a new position. I am working in partnership with Steen Bookkeeping Service to ensure that our church finances are well managed. Please contact me at any time if you have questions about your pledge, statement or any of the projects we support.

Linda Kay Hai, Financial Coordinator

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 Haifinance@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

Brenda Hieb.....musiccoordinator@brookingsmethodist.org

Choir Director

Shawn Stemrud.....music@brookingsmethodist.org

Campus Ministry Coordinator

Becca Hermann.....campus@brookingsmethodist.org

Congregation Caring Coordinator

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

Organists:

Joan Riessen
MK Huggins

Manna Cook:

Connect with us!

Church Office Hours:

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

Need prayer? Email
prayer@brookingsmethodist.org
and Pastor Pete will pray with
you!



/FUMCBrookings



@brookingsfumc



First United
Methodist Brookings



brookingsmethodist.org

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

There are many dates available in June and for the remainder of the year.



Now is the time to sign up for a radio broadcast sponsorship in 2023. 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 and click on **RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS**
- Contact the office at 605-692-4345
- Email office@brookingsmethodist.org

Summer Weekly Worship Schedule

Sundays:	9:30am	Radio Broadcast (on KBRK 1430AM)
	10:00am	Sunday Morning Worship (in-person and online)

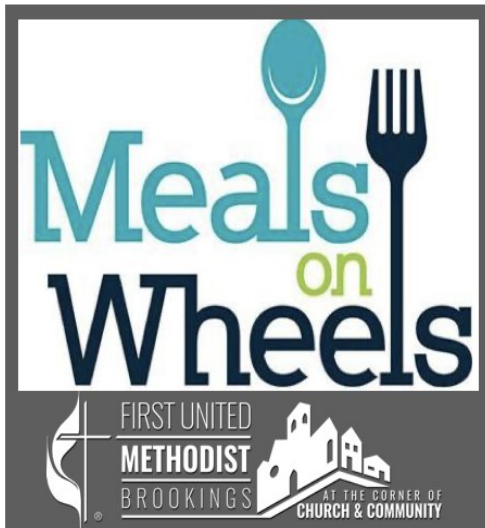
Watch Online Anytime!

YouTube Live



Facebook Live





The Brookings **Meals on Wheels** provides seniors in the community with the support that enables them to remain living in their own homes. This support is typically a nutritious meal, a smile, and a quick safety check. This demonstration of “God’s Love” was completed by Gena Hult & Linda Kay Hai, Gary & Avis Norton, Perry & Barbara Johnson, Keith & Betty Allison, Bob & Lynette Smith, Julie Scubelek, Sam & Kay Becker, Wayne & Coleen Reiser, and Lorna Jost. A special thanks to Gary & Avis who volunteered both weeks. The next delivery schedule will be for the weeks of July 17- 28. Looking ahead to the last scheduled deliveries of this year, it will be

October 23 - November 2nd. If you’re interested in helping with Meals on Wheels deliveries in the future, it would be greatly appreciated if you would contact Perry Johnson “today”. Perry Johnson FUMC Meals on Wheel Coordinator (voice/text 218-341-9706). perbar3@mac.com

Fruit Slush Booth at the 2023 Brookings Summer Arts Festival- July 8-9

The church will have a booth at the Arts Festival, July 8-9. Your help with the slush booth is needed and signups for various work options will be available soon. Proceeds support ongoing mission projects of the church and will be a great way to get involved and reconnected with your church family!

We need your help with picking strawberries, making the slush, installing and working at the booth. We will have sign-up sheets starting on Sunday, June 4, until July 2, 2023. You can sign up at the Welcome Center before & after the service, or on Sign-Up Genius (www.brookingsmethodist.org/slushbooth). COME JOIN US!





*Thank you to our many volunteers
that help make our church work!*



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 65
Brookings, SD**