



First United Methodist Church  
625 Fifth Street  
Brookings, SD 57006

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# FOCUS

NEWSLETTER

June 2019

## FROM THE PASTOR

### Time for Prayer

What are you doing at 6:25 tonight? I would like to invite you to a time of prayer. Several years ago, some congregation members participated in a Break Through Prayer event. After their session they came back to our church family and invited us to join them in praying for our church at 6:25 in the morning or evening, or both. Since that time several groups have written prayers, shared them with us, and invited us to continue praying for our church and the ministry we believe God has called us to be about.

I would like to renew that invitation. We are presently in what I want to call the 'in between' times. Wade and Theta have gone and we are waiting the arrival of Pete and Jenny. And waiting is never easy. That is why I invite you to join me in prayer. Spending time in prayer reminds us that in the midst of all that is happening in our lives that God is present. Spending time in prayer reminds us that in the midst of all the uncertainty of life, there is one thing that is certain, God's love for us. But prayer does more than that. Prayer changes us. It opens our eyes to see those places where God is at work. Prayer opens our eyes that we might see the opportunities God places before us where God can use us to change and bless the world. Prayer gives us the courage to go places we would never go and do things that before felt impossible because we sense God's presence. Prayer enables us to be the church.

So, I invite you to set an alarm on your phone to remind yourself to pray at 6:25. If you do not have a new prayer card, pick one up at church and join our church family in prayer.

**Howard Grinager, Interim Pastor**



FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST  
BROOKINGS  
AT THE  
CORNER OF  
**CHURCH &  
COMMUNITY**  
625 Fifth Street, Brookings  
605-692-4345  
[www.brookingsmethodist.org](http://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](http://www.brookingsmethodist.org/worship)

## Summer Worship Hours

At the last Church Council meeting, members voted to keep our worship hours at their current times throughout the summer months for consistency, and also to allow time between services to get to know our new pastor.

## CHURCH STAFF

- Pastoral Staff**  
Howard Grinager ..... grinagerh@gmail.com
- Education Director**  
Gretchen Knutson ..... education@brookingsmethodist.org
- Worship & Music Director**  
Teresa Person ..... music@brookingsmethodist.org
- Community Life Center Director**  
Vonda Kirkham ..... communitylife@brookingsmethodist.org
- Office Manager**  
Amy Merchant ..... office@brookingsmethodist.org
- Financial Secretary**  
JoAnn Lee ..... finance@brookingsmethodist.org
- Faith Community Nurse**  
Joanie Holm ..... jholm229@gmail.com
- Tech Coordinator**  
Paul Schmidt ..... tech@brookingsmethodist.org

## {PR&Y@625}

### Join us daily in prayer at 6:25 (a.m., p.m. or both)

Holy God, you know times of change bring an uncertainty to our lives. In this time of transition within our congregation, we ask for your gift of peace for ourselves and our church family. We pray also for our new pastor, Pete, and his wife, Jenny, as they transition not only from one church to another but also from one nation to another. Help us all to sense your presence in the midst of all that is happening. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

## Susan's Saga

The Festival of Pentecost comes 50 days after the Passover, which we celebrate as Easter. Pentecost marks the beginning of the Church, when the believers sprang into action, proclaiming the Gospel. That first Pentecost following the Resurrection came after about 7 weeks, which was a time for those who had witnessed Jesus' life, death, and resurrection to do some profound contemplation and re-calibration. Jesus' ministry had not turned out in the way which they had expected. They were still trying to wrap their heads around the events of that last Passover. It had certainly not been in their remotest expectations that their beloved Messiah would suffer and die, even though Jesus had repeatedly warned them. They just couldn't get it. And then He came back to life! That was even more incomprehensible. It was a development so amazing that it was hard to grasp. They had some serious thinking and retooling to do in light of that roller coaster series of events. It would seem that God in gracious mercy realized that these first believers needed a cushion of time for reflection. When life is turned upside down and expectations are crushed, a time for readjustment to the new reality is needed. They met together to process this new reality, and Jesus periodically appeared to them, though He wasn't constantly with them as before. They were embarking on a new and different phase.

And then, Pentecost! They were filled with the Holy Spirit in a new and vibrant way, extolling the "wonderful things God has done." It is highly significant that when they started to speak out, it was in a wide variety of languages - not just Latin, Greek, Aramaic, or Hebrew - which would have been what was expected. They proclaimed the marvels of God in the languages of the people gathered from among the nations there in Jerusalem. This flamboyant bouquet of languages represented at the first Pentecost is a forerunner of the spread of the Gospel to people groups around the world. God intends for people to hear the Good News in their respective languages. Bible translation is an ongoing part of that process.

*Susan Huggins*

Scripture quote taken from Holy Bible, New Living Translation, Acts 2:11.

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

Thank you to all who have contributed to the #onething May project - Mother's Day Blankets for Church World Service! There were many donations made in recognition of grandmothers, mothers, and women in our lives. **In June, our #onething will be Habitat for Humanity.** We can honor our fathers, grandfathers, brothers, uncles, and other special men with a "Tool Time" donation on Father's Day, June 16. Brookings Area Habitat for Humanity is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles that seek to put God's love into action by building communities, homes, and hope. Habitat welcomes volunteers and supporters from all backgrounds and also serves people in need of decent housing regardless of race or religion. We will focus the entire month on Habitat for Humanity. If you don't make your donation in time for Father's Day, you can still contribute by marking your check and dropping off your donation at the church office or by placing it in an offering plate during church service.

## Sweet Roll Sundays

Calling all bakers and sweet roll eaters! Methodist women are invited to bake their favorite sweet rolls and/or scones for Sweet Roll Sundays. All money raised will go to local missions. Come to buy and eat for missions on June 30!

Ongoing dates are to be determined and will be noted in future FOCUS newsletters and bulletins.

## Thank You

Sharon Anderegg would like to thank those who delivered Meals on Wheels in May: Doug & Linda Hai, Larry & Barb Hult, Dwight & Bertha Combs, Bill & Peggy Cone, Bob & Lynette Smith, Lois Sorenson, Stan & Bernice Bauman, Bruce & Ila Lushbough, Les Tlustos, Roger Sandness, Peg Lund, Bill & Nancy Wadsworth, and Lynn & Mary Frederick. We are grateful for your service!

## Everyone is Invited to Raise Money for Missions

It is time to clean out closets, and everyone is invited to participate in helping out missions! The Methodist Women are planning a **rummage sale on August 16** from 9a.m.-4:00p.m. at the CLC. Suggested items to bring include: clean clothing in good condition, shoes and boots, kitchen items, nick knacks, towels, bedding, blankets, pictures (home décor), picture frames, jewelry, books, perfume, and small appliances. All items need to fit in a 13 gallon plastic bag—when buyers come, they will purchase a bag for \$5 (this way nothing has to be marked separately).

Please bring your items on August 15 to the CLC—ladies will be there to set up and get ready for the sale. To make shopping more relaxing, there will be coffee and cookies offered for \$1 on sale day. All money raised will be used for local mission projects. Your items and support are greatly appreciated!

## Peace With Justice Sunday—June 16 A Churchwide Special Sunday of the UMC

When you give on Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift makes possible our critical kingdom work in the world. Because you give: Methodist spearhead a peace ministry uniting Arizona border communities; United Methodists in Liberia are being equipped to implement the denomination's Social Principles to address social-justice issue; Pennsylvania students are educating their community about sex-trafficking at home and abroad.

Thank you for your gift! "Live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you."  
2 Corinthians 13:11

## Faith Community Nurse Note — Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication, and behavioral challenges. Many people with ASD also have different ways of learning, paying attention, or reacting to things. Signs of ASD begin during early childhood and typically last throughout a person's life. The cause of autism is unknown. If you have questions about your child's development, talk with your Primary Care Provider. (CDC.org)

## Will We Be Getting an Associate Pastor?

The answer for now is that no associate pastor will be appointed to our church for the time being. SPR has decided and recommends that we give Pastor Pete a chance to get here, learn to know our staff as well as the congregation, and have some time to figure out what is needed to assist him and complement his pastoral strengths. One of our MCCI prescriptions was staff realignment. This time of prayerful transition will allow us to focus on that, and help determine what our pastoral leadership and staff positions should be.

## Fruit Slush Booth at the 2019 Brookings Summer Arts Festival July 13-14



YES...this is the time of the year to share our Fruit Slush with everyone. We need your help with picking strawberries, making the slush, and working at the booth. **We will have sign-up sheets starting on Sunday, June 2, until July 7, 2019.** You can SIGN-UP at the CLC Welcome Center during the 9:00 am service, the Welcome Center in the Narthex at the 11:00 am service, or on Sign-Up Genius. **COME JOIN US !!!**

## Hymnal Update

The new UMC hymnal that was originally scheduled for release in 2020 has been delayed. A progress report will be shared at the 2020 General Conference, but the final report will not be submitted until the 2024 General Conference convenes. This means we will have to patiently wait until at least 2025 for the first printing of our new hymnal.

## TOGETHER Campaign Update

Celebration Sunday for our TOGETHER CAMPAIGN took place on March 24th. Brookings First United Methodist Church came together and exceeded our \$1,000,000 goal for the campaign. We are grateful that new gifts and pledges continue to be received. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the campaign through your prayers, your time, and your gifts. It is not too late to make your gift/pledge to this effort. We have already begun to put your gifts to work. Because of the gifts we have received to date we have:

- Paid down our debt by \$101,000 last month (this will save the church over \$500 each month in interest payments).
- Tuckpointing work is already complete!
- Our Trustees are finalizing an agreement to schedule work on a new boiler and heat control system for the Sanctuary and education building. This work will be completed this summer.

We will keep you updated on future projects as they are developed. Thanks again for your support of our church's ministry. TOGETHER we have begun this journey and TOGETHER we will see lives changes in Jesus' name.

## Thank You!

The Education Committee would like to say thank you to all the people who helped in the education program of the church this past year. It takes a village to pass on the Christian faith and to give opportunities for all to grow in their faith! You have touched the hearts of many – babies, children, youth, and adults. Your dedication is very much appreciated!

## Prayer Chain

Do you feel called to pray for others? The church is in need of a few more friends to be part of our prayer chain. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please contact Sharon Anderegg at 692-4925.

## Summer Nursery Help

We will continue to offer nursery care during the 11:00 service this summer. If you would be willing to provide that childcare, there is a sign up sheet on the nursing door, or you may email Gretchen at [education@brookingsmethodist.org](mailto:education@brookingsmethodist.org).

## SOUL Welcomes all Seniors

SOUL (Seniors Offering Unlimited Love) meets the last Monday of every month at noon in the Community Life Center. This is a time for senior members of our congregation to share a meal, socialize, and to share our joys and concerns. There is no program or agenda. Bring your own table service and something to share at the buffet. Simple main dishes, salads, or desserts from our favorite stores seem popular. The main focus of SOUL is getting to know each other. All are welcome—please bring a friend!

## ROAR!—Life is Wild—God is Good—VBS 2019

Our VBS is coming up soon and boy are we ready and *roaring to go!* VBS is June 11-14. We begin the evening at 5:15pm with a kid friendly family meal for all—things end at 8:05pm.

**Ages:** 3 years old (by August 31, 2018) – 5<sup>th</sup> grade (present grade)

**To Register:** <http://bit.ly/roarregistration>

Supply still needed for VBS: **empty toilet paper rolls** – bring to church or education office.

### Mission Project this year for VBS:

We are asking that you bring any of the school supplies listed below:

3 notebooks - 1 subject spiral 8" x 10 ½"

6 unsharpened pencils - no advertising

1 ruler 12" long – with metric

1 pencil eraser - 2" or larger

1 pencil sharpener

1 box of 12 colored pencils

1 box of 24 crayons



## Summer Mission Trip

You are invited to **Youth19/Urban Plunge** on July 6-14, in Kansas City, Missouri. 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. This year's High School Summer Mission Trip group will be **selling Medary Acres gift cards** in the next few weeks. We will be selling them on Sundays before and after each worship service. We appreciate your support as this year's mission is both a mission trip and the National UM Youth Convention that happens only every four years. If you have questions, please contact James Honomichl at [jhonomichl@dakotalink.net](mailto:jhonomichl@dakotalink.net).

## Summer Church Camp

Although the early bird deadline has come and gone, you may sign up for camp all summer long. So if you haven't done that yet, be sure to check out the camps at [www.dakcamps.org](http://www.dakcamps.org). The 65% scholarship is also available all summer. The code to receive the scholarship is brookingscamper

## Annual Conference 2019

Held in Bismarck, ND, the 26th session of the Dakotas Annual Conference will take place June 6-8 with the theme "Dare to Reach: Love Boldly." Rev. Dr. Mark R. Teasdale, E. Stanley Jones Associate Professor of Evangelism at Garrett-Evangelical Seminary, will speak at the two primary teaching sessions. Check out [dakotasumc.org](http://dakotasumc.org) for opportunities to join a live stream or to watch recorded sessions of the conference.



Along with Pastor Howard, our church is sending seven delegates: Linda Kay Hai, Brenda Hieb, Cheryl Honomichl, Rylee Honomichl, Barb and Perry Johnson, and Teresa Person.

## Summer Church Campers

Please keep the following in your prayers as they attend church camp in the coming month:

Kilea Moore	Charlie Schnabel	Bob Kurtz
Kate Bartels	Shaedan Rasmussen	Shannon Rasmussen
Libby Vlaminc	Remmi Vlaminc	Stephanie Vlaminc
Emily Hagedorn	Aidan Austreim	Cooper League
Braeden Moore	Riley Rasmussen	Jaclyn Moore
Lynette Moore	Lexie Samuel	Josclynn Schomp
Paige Samuel	Dailynn Schomp	Ella Tellekson

## Church Camping Weekend, August 2-4

The camping spots for the camping weekend at Oakwood Lakes State Park have been reserved! If you like to camp and would like the opportunity to get to know some church families a little better, let Gretchen know you would like a spot. It's a great weekend with lots of time for conversation, rest, play, and whatever else we come up with. We share a couple of meals and attend the Sunday morning service at the park. Anyone who would like to join us for the day or evening is welcome to come out. Let Gretchen know if you would like a spot at [education@brookingsmethodist.org](mailto:education@brookingsmethodist.org), or you may call the church office at 692-4345.

## When Will Pastor Pete and Jenny Grassow Arrive at FUMC?

At this time the date is in limbo. Our hope is that they will be able to start in July or as soon as possible. All of the paper work for a work visa has been completed and submitted. The time it takes to get approval for immigration requests is variable. The good news is that we have a very nice rental home secured for them to move into when they arrive. It is common when people move from one continent to another that all they bring along is clothing and personal items. We are grateful for the good start we have in acquiring gently used basic furniture and household items due to the generosity of you, our church family. At this time several additional items come to mind: a desk, desk lamps, bookcase, bedroom lamps, floor lamp, vacuum cleaner, and lawn chairs are still needed. We also welcome gifts of cash to put towards the purchase of a queen mattress and box spring set, linens, etc. You may call or text Brenda at 691-9395 or email [bfkhib@gmail.com](mailto:bfkhib@gmail.com) if you are able to donate any of the above, or have other items to offer. Please be watching for additional information regarding ways you can participate in welcoming Pete and Jenny to Brookings.

## Puerto Rico Update—February 8-15, 2020

We are excited that seven servants have signed on for the Puerto Rico mission next February to help alleviate housing problems caused by the devastating hurricane of 2017! It is a construction and listening team. We are partnering with UMCOR, our United Methodist relief agency, which will cover the material and supply costs of reconstruction. Each team member pays for their own expenses while on this journey of compassion and love. You can still join the mission if interested by calling or texting Lorna Jost at 605-695-0782. The MCPR (Methodist Church of Puerto Rico) & Rehace, Inc., (the social holiness arm of the Methodist Church) has provided the following updates to the repair/rebuild efforts that are on-going due to Hurricane Maria's devastation to Puerto Rico. The Early Response and UVMIM teams started assisting with disaster response in Feb. 2018. At the end of December, we had 108 teams and a total of 1,151 volunteers serve! Currently, there are 35,000 houses still with blue tarps. The MCPR/Rehace 2019, construction completion goal is to close 36 projects per month. During the first three months of 2019 (January - March), 108 houses have been repaired by UVMIM teams (62 teams, 712 volunteers) and others. The year-end goal is to repair 432 houses by Dec. 21, 2019.

## Harvest Table Serving Group Needed

The Harvest Table is in need of a serving group on June 10. The group would be responsible for planning a menu, purchasing foods (there could be some assistance available), preparing and serving the meal, and helping with cleanup. Please contact Vonda at 692-4345. Other available serving group dates include July 1, 22, 29, & August 5. **Also, Harvest Table has a new web site:** <https://sites.google.com/view/brookingsharvesttable>.

(CLC) = Community Life Center

(Sanc) = Sanctuary

# JUNE 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 10am—Adult Study (basement) 11am—Traditional Worship 4:30pm—CrossWork Emmaus (library)	<b>3</b> 10am—Healthy Movement 5:30pm—Harvest Table (CLC) 5:30pm—Health Ministry Team (library) 5:30pm—Missions Committee 6pm—Open Door Singles Grp 7pm—Open Door Retired Grp 7pm—Staff Parish (Conf. Rm)	<b>4</b> 9am—CARE Group (basement) 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon (parlor) 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8	<b>5</b> 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 1pm—Quilting Group	<b>6</b> Annual Conference	<b>7</b> Annual Conference 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	<b>8</b> Annual Conference
<b>9—UMW Sunday</b> 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 10am—Adult Study (basement) 11am—Traditional Worship	<b>10</b> 10am—Healthy Movement 5:30pm—Harvest Table (CLC) 7pm—Open Door Retired Grp	<b>11</b> 9am—Memorial Committee 9:30am—UMW Board Meeting 10am—Staff Meeting 5pm—Vacation Bible School 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon (parlor) 7pm—Trustees Meeting 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8	<b>12</b> 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 1pm—Quilting Group 5pm—Vacation Bible School	<b>13</b> 5pm—Vacation Bible School 5:30pm—Missions Committee	<b>14</b> 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5pm—Vacation Bible School	<b>15</b> 9am— Piecemakers Quilting Group (basement) 9am—Sleep in Heavenly Peace Project (until noon—Lowe’s Parking Lot) 1pm—Sleep in Heavenly Peace Project (until 4pm—Lowe’s Parking Lot)
<b>16—Father’s Day</b> 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 10am—Adult Study (basement) 11am—Traditional Worship 4:30pm—CrossWork Emmaus (library)	<b>17</b> 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table (CLC) 6pm—Finance Committee 6pm—Open Door Singles Grp (HS youth Room) 7pm—Open Door Retired Grp	<b>18</b> 9am—CARE Group (basement) 10am—Staff Meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group Meeting (parlor) 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8	<b>19</b> 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 1pm—Quilting Group	<b>20</b> 9:45am—Neighborhoods Communion 10:30am—Edgewood Vista Communion 2pm—StoneyBrook Comm. 3pm—ULC Communion 6pm—UMM (CLC)	<b>21</b> 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 10am—Adult Study (basement) 11am—Traditional Worship 6:30pm—Education Meeting	<b>24</b> <b>FOCUS Deadline</b> 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 12pm—SOUL Potluck (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table (CLC) 7pm—Open Door Retired Grp	<b>25</b> 10am—Staff Meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon (parlor) 6pm—Finance Committee (library) 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8	<b>26</b> 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 1pm—Quilting Group	<b>27</b> 9:30am—Hannah Circle (basement) 2pm—Naomi Circle (library)	<b>28</b> 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast Fellowship (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	<b>29</b> 9am— Piecemakers Quilting Group (basement)
<b>30</b> <b>Sweet Roll Sunday</b> 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 10am—Adult Study (basement) 11am—Traditional Worship	<b>July 1</b> 10am—Healthy Movement 5:30pm—Harvest Table (CLC) 5:30pm—Health Ministry Team (library) 6pm—Open Door Singles Grp 7pm—Staff Parish (Conf. Rm)	<b>July 2</b> 9am—CARE Group (basement) 10am—Staff Meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group (parlor) 7pm—Movie Night@Cinema 8	<b>July 3</b> 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 1pm—Quilting Group	<b>July 4—Independence Day</b> Office Closed		