

First United Methodist Church  
625 Fifth Street  
Brookings, SD 57006

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FROM THE PASTOR

### Taking Time to Celebrate

Last weekend, my brothers and I and our spouses made a quick trip to Wisconsin. My sister, Christine, lives there and she was turning 70, and her family had planned a surprise birthday party for her. As we drove, I wondered to myself how much of a surprise her party would really be. She has young grandchildren who struggle to keep secrets and a husband who later shared he too had a hard time not telling her. But no one said a thing and tears flowed as she entered the eating establishment where the party was held, as around 100 people sang "Happy Birthday." She was so shocked that several days later she did not even remember we had sung to her.

Celebrations. They are great fun, and sometimes I think in the church we fail to celebrate often enough the ministry that we are about every day that touches and changes lives. We fail to celebrate the worship services through which God often speaks to persons at the critical times in their lives. We fail to celebrate the learning experiences children, youth, and adults have that help them see the world in new ways. We fail to celebrate often enough the caring ministries of the church through which people experience Jesus walking by their side during times of struggle. We fail to celebrate the numerous ways in which our church family members share of their resources of time, money, and self. We just take it all for granted.

In the relatively short time that I have been blessed to be here, I have so come to appreciate this church and the good people who are a part of it, and the ministry that takes place because of your willingness to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this place. And I want you to know that I celebrate what is happening here, and I hope from time to time you too will stop and celebrate what God is doing in and through Brookings First United Methodist Church.

*Howard Grinager, Interim Pastor*



## 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*

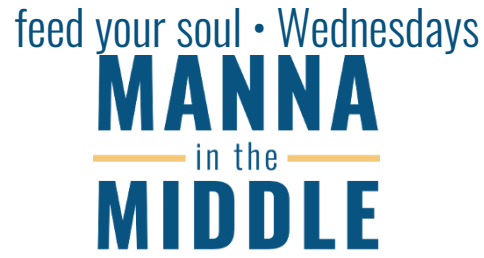
*Missed the Sunday sermon? Find recent messages on our website:  
www.brookingsmethodist.org/worship*

### Wednesdays

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

## 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 Managers**  
Amy Merchant/Deb Cowan ... 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



## 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

## 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

## Susan's Saga

Reformation Sunday is often celebrated the last Sunday of October. The purpose of Reformation Sunday is to commemorate the kick-off of the Reformation, when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenburg, sparking a much-needed reform movement.

In much of the Western world we are still benefiting from many of those reforms, not only in the church but also in society, including a strong emphasis on education for all—not just the priesthood and the wealthy, and placing a high value on reading in the mother tongue, not just Latin. Underpinning these huge changes is access to the Bible in the mother tongue. Understanding what God's Word is saying has a transforming impact on values, morals, and the guiding principles of life.

However, many people groups around the world still don't have access to God's Word in their heart language. In some cases, the Bible is available in a colonial language which may not be well-understood. For people from many languages, the Bible remains a closed book, for they simply don't have access to the life-changing content contained within.

In the case of the West, it seems that there is a steady drift away from the biblical values that were once held in high esteem. The press, social media, and even education curricula exert pressure against the basic truths taught in the Word. Once again, human pride rears its ugly head, asserting that we know better than God.

The Reformation isn't so much an antiquated movement from the past, but an ongoing battle to which each new generation is called to participate, amidst the ever-present struggle against evil and sin, and the antagonizing influences that seep in to our thinking. The church continues to need to be reformed in accordance with the Word of God. We all should be in the process of being transformed by the Word.

*Susan Huggins*

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.



Thank you to all who have contributed to the #onething **October** project - Feeding Brookings, which collects boxes of stuffing mix for Thanksgiving dinner boxes to families in need. **Our commitment is 175.** As this is written, we are doing well and hope to be able to provide for all boxes.

**In November** we will continue to collect fruit snacks to be shared with the **Brookings Backpack Project.** We have a goal and commitment of **1800 individual fruit snack packs.** The Brookings Backpack Project currently provides bags of food for the weekend to approximately 450 children in Brookings schools, Sioux Valley schools, and Head Start on a weekly basis. With your assistance we can help make sure no child in our area goes to bed hungry.

Please continue to pick up fruit snacks when you are grocery shopping. We still need to collect about 1000 additional fruit snack packs by the end of November.

## Susan Huggins Coming to Brookings on Sunday, Nov. 10 Dreaming God's Dreams

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. Susan and coworker Inga McKendey (also a Bible translator) are coming to Brookings in November. They will be speaking at both FUMC services on Sunday, November 10, and to the Middle School and High School on another Sunday. Susan and Inga will be sharing how the ministry of Bible translation fits into the larger vision of the church family to reach out and carry the message of God's love beyond the walls of the immediate church in Brookings. Pray for both of them as they continue their ministry as a Bible translator, and for safe travels.

Missions Committee

## United Methodist Student Day—December 1

December 1st, 2019 is United Methodist Student Day, a day when we celebrate the generosity and commitment of The United Methodist Church toward empowering people to pursue education. On average, 2,300 students are able to receive scholarships because of the special offering that will be taken up on December 1.

The emphasis on education has long been a part of our history as United Methodists. John Wesley, a lifelong learner himself, recognized that education is key in moving people out of poverty and into a place where they are able to meet their own needs, and also give to help meet the needs of others. The first scholarship aid offering began in 1873 and 146 years later, we are continuing this important tradition.

When we give on United Methodist Student Day, we are paying it forward. Our gifts are multiplied in the work done by those who receive scholarships as they take what they have learned to positively influence our society. They make an impact when they take the skills and knowledge they have gained in their education and use them as they continue to walk in faith. They make an impact as they give, serve, and live as God's people who are the light of the world.

Missions Committee



## Together Campaign Update

We want to again express our gratitude for your faithful support of the Together Campaign. To date we have received almost half of the expected pledged income. As I write this, we are very close to having our new boilers turned on and heat in the building. The Trustees are reviewing bids for some of the other projects. We also continue to pay down our building debt. Thank you again for your faithful support of these important projects.

Howard Grinager



## Charge Conference

Roger Spahr, our District Superintendent, is offering a charge conference experience this year that takes us back to our Methodist roots. In the early days of Methodism, charge conferences were not meant to be just business meetings, but instead were to be gatherings to equip churches for ministry. Instead of holding individual conferences at each church, everyone in our district is invited to the Dakotas UMC South East District Equip Church Conference held on Sunday, November 17, from 2:30-5:00p.m. at Sioux Falls FUMC.

This group charge conference session has several workshops to choose from that are meant to “inspire, instruct, and infill you with the Holy Spirit.” Brochures are available in the office if you'd like to check out the workshops. The whole church is invited to attend, and the hosts would like the church to RSVP by November 4th with an approximate number from our church. Please contact the office if you are interested in attending this event.

## Surviving the Holidays

The holiday season will soon be here. This might be the first holiday after your loved one's death, or maybe it's the second, third, or beyond. Due to the nature of Thanksgiving and Christmas, with its focus on family, yearly traditions, expectations, social events, and “cheer,” the emotions can overwhelm you.

You are invited to join the Health Ministry Team on Sunday, November 17, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the church parlor for a one-time event, *Surviving the Holidays*. We will view a video with faith based, focused help, which includes stories from people who honestly share their experiences of grief and surviving the holidays.

Please call Brenda Hieb at 692-2697 if you would like more information.



## Meet Deb Cowan

Deb has joined our church staff as job share office manager. She comes to us from Onalaska, WI. Deb has most recently worked as office administrator in the Onalaska United Methodist Church. She brings with her many skills and knowledge of the United Methodist Church. In addition to this, Deb also has a background in Nursing and is certified in Stephen Ministries.

Deb is a native of Aberdeen, SD, attended SDSU, and even has a well used copy of one of our church cook-books! Sadly Deb's husband died unexpectedly in March of 2019. She has moved to Brookings to be closer to her family. Deb has a son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter in Volga, a daughter and son-in-law in Mankato, MN, and a sister in Brookings. Deb will be working Monday through Thursday mornings from 8:30 - 12:00. Stop in, introduce yourself, and join SPR in welcoming Deb to our church family.



## All Saints Sunday

Join us for special worship services as we celebrate the saints in our lives. During both Sunday worship services on Nov. 3, we will honor members who passed away in the last year.

*A Prayer Meditation for All Saints Day* by Safiyah Fosua

We give you thanks, O God, for all the saints who ever worshiped you,  
Whether in brush arbors or cathedrals,  
Weathered wooden churches or crumbling cement meeting houses,  
Where your name was lifted and adored.

We give you thanks, O God, for hands lifted in praise:  
Manicured hands and hands stained with grease or soil,  
Strong hands and those gnarled with age,  
Holy hands, used as wave offerings across the land.

We thank you, God, for hardworking saints;  
Whether hard-hatted or steel-booted,  
Head ragged or aproned,

Blue-collared or three-piece-suited,  
They left their mark on the earth for you, for us, for our children to come.

Thank you, God, for the tremendous sacrifices made by those who have gone before us.  
Bless the memories of your saints, God.

May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith, dedication, worship, and love.

— from UMC Discipleship Ministries

## Faith Community Nurse Note—Vaping

Vaping is a term for using an electronic or E cigarette. There have recently been illness and death associated with vaping that is currently under study by the Center for Disease Control -CDC. Patients in this CDC investigation of vaping related illness have reported symptoms such as:

- o cough, shortness of breath, or chest pain
- o nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- o fatigue, fever, or abdominal pain

Some patients have reported that their symptoms developed over a few days, while others have reported that their symptoms developed over several weeks. A lung infection does not appear to be causing the symptoms. Anyone who uses an e-cigarette or vaping product should not buy these products off the street, and should not modify or add any substances to these products that are not intended by the manufacturer. See a healthcare provider right away if you have symptoms like those reported in this outbreak. Joanie Holm

## Children's Christmas Program

We would like to invite the congregation to attend the Children's Christmas program on Sunday, December 8, at 5:00p.m. in the Community Life Center. The title of the program this year is "The Amazing Story of Christmas," with Marcey Hagedorn and Emily Hahn directing. It will involve children in the 2/3-year-old class – 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The middle school students will have the opportunity to usher. Please join us for a time of children leading us in telling the Christmas story.

## Confirmation and HS Youth

Due to no school because of Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no confirmation or youth group on November 27.

What: **DakYouth 2019** Conference Wide Youth Rally

Who: Youth grades 6-12

When: November 8-10, 2019

Where: Aberdeen, South Dakota

Details: You'll see people from camp possibly, learn about leadership, discipleship, and service. There are engaging speakers, workshops, inspiring worship, and fun entertainment for all to enjoy.

Register: Contact Gretchen at [education@brookingsmethodist.org](mailto:education@brookingsmethodist.org), or call 692-4345.

## We Need You!!!

Our current photo directory, printed three years ago, is already out of date. Our interim pastor, Howard Grinager, and our new pastor, Pete Grassow, have expressed a desire to get to know the congregation by name. As a welcome gift for each of them, SPR will be putting together a digital photo directory just for their use only. **Here is how you can help:**

- 1) Take a selfie or have someone take a candid picture of you and your family with a smart phone.
- 2) Email the photo to the pastor's computer - [PastorHoward@brookingsmethodist.org](mailto:PastorHoward@brookingsmethodist.org). **Be sure to include the names of all the people in the picture, including last names.**
- 3) You may submit a printed picture to the church office or Narthex Welcome Center on Sunday mornings. Be sure this is labeled legibly with all first and last names.
- 4) You may request someone take a picture with their smart phone of you and your family on a Sunday at the Narthex Welcome Center. Be sure they have all of the names to be included. Have them email the photo and names to the above address.

## 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.

## New Family Group to Meet

The New Family Group will meet on Nov. 3 at 4:00pm for cocoa and cookies in the Community Life Center. This will be a time for the kids to play and get to know each other and a time for the parents to visit and maybe decide on the next activity. Don't miss the fun and come and meet some other families in the church!

## Youth Selling Calendars

Be sure to pick up a beautiful wall calendar with inspirational Bible verses for \$10. The youth are selling them as a fundraiser for youth mission trips. If you would like to purchase a calendar, please see Gretchen in the Education Office, or call 692-4345.



## Home Visiting Volunteers Needed—Put Your Love in Action

The Health Ministry Team is looking for a dedicated group of people to consider visiting with homebound church members. We will provide training and support for this very important mission. Please speak with or email Joanie Holm at [jholm229@gmail.com](mailto:jholm229@gmail.com), or let someone on the staff know of your interest. Our current visitors report that the visits are a win-win, with benefits for both the person visited and the person who makes the visit. Put your Love in Action and become a visitor!

## Church Decorating & Poinsettia Order

Do you like to decorate for Christmas? If so, the Worship Committee could use your help as they decorate the church sanctuary and narthex on Saturday, November 23rd, from 1-4p.m. The more, the merrier!

If you would like to order a poinsettia to display in the Sanctuary or the CLC, please place your order in the church office by Tuesday, November 26th. We will place a group order through Flowers on Main, and they will provide 6" red poinsettias for \$15 each (includes tax and delivery). You may also indicate if your poinsettia is in honor or in memory of a loved one, and these names will be published in the bulletin.

## Thanksgiving Schedule Note

There will be NO Wednesday afternoon kids' activities or Manna in the Middle meal, worship, or ministry groups on Wednesday, November 27th, the day before Thanksgiving.

Please note that the office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and on Friday, November 29.

## Christmas Eve Schedule

Our Candlelight Christmas Eve worship services on December 24th will be held at 5:30p.m. in the CLC, and 7:30 and 9:30p.m. in the Sanctuary. Look for more details in our December Focus newsletter.

## Christmas Cantata

The Chancel Choir will present "The Promise of Light" by Joel Raney on Sunday, December 22nd, at the 11a.m. traditional worship service. This beautiful Christmas Cantata also features handbells and four hands on the piano. Be sure to make this part of your Christmas experience this year!

## Candy for Treat Bags Needed

We are in need of individually wrapped candy for treat bags which will be given to all children at the Children's Christmas program on Sunday, December 8. If you choose, you may also make a financial donation. Please bring bags to the church or education office by Thursday, December 5. Thank you very much!

(CLC) = Community Life Center

(Sanc) = Sanctuary

# NOVEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<u>Wednesday Schedule—#</u> 3pm—WAM! (CLC) 4pm—Afternoon Childcare 4pm—Chiming Children 5pm—Youth Bells 5pm—Manna Meal (CLC) 6pm—Manna Worship	<u>Wednesday Schedule—#</u> 6:45pm—Chancel Choir, Men’s Study, Wednesday School, Confirmation/MS Youth Group, HS Youth Grp		<b>1</b> 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 1pm—World Community Day (basement)	<b>2</b>
<b>3—All Saints Sunday</b> 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 10am—Adult Classes 10am—Sunday School 11am—Traditional Worship 12:30pm—Finance Committee 4:00pm—New Family Group 4:30pm—CrossWork Emmaus	<b>4</b> 10am—Healthy Movement 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by Banner Associates 5:30pm—Health Ministry Team (library) 6pm—Open Door Singles Grp 7pm—Retired Group (parlor)	<b>5</b> 9am—CARE Group (basement) 10am—Staff meeting 5:15pm—Nominations Comm. 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Staff Parish Relations 7pm—Movie Night @Cinema 8	<b>6—#</b> *NO Wednesday School or Confirmation/MS Youth Grp  10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 6:45pm—Journeying Through Grief Group (library)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>DakYouth 2019 - Aberdeen</b> 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	<b>9</b> <b>DakYouth 2019 - Aberdeen</b>
<b>10</b> <b>DakYouth 2019 - Aberdeen</b> 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 10am—Adult Classes (parlor and basement) 10am—Sunday School 11am—Traditional Worship	<b>11</b> <b>Veterans Day/Office Closed</b> 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by Sanford Clinic (CLC)	<b>12</b> 9am—Memorial Committee 9:30am—UMW Board Mtg 10am—Staff meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Trustees Mtg (library) 7pm—Movie Night @Cinema 8	<b>13—#</b> 10am—Healthy Movement	<b>14</b> 5:30pm—Missions Committee	<b>15</b> 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	<b>16</b> 9am—Piecemakers Quilting Group (basement)
<b>17</b> 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 10am—Adult Classes 10am—Sunday School 11am—Traditional Worship 2pm—Surviving the Holidays Support Group (parlor) 2:30pm—Charge Conference 4:30pm—CrossWork Emmaus	<b>18</b> 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table by Preston Christian Church (CLC) 6:30pm—Open Door Singles Group (conference room) 7pm—Retired Group (parlor)	<b>19</b> 9am—CARE Group (basement) 10am—Staff meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group (parlor) 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Movie Night @Cinema 8	<b>20—#</b> 10am—Dementia/Alzheimers Caregivers Support Group (parlor) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	<b>21</b> <b>FOCUS Deadline @11am</b> 9:45am—The Neighborhoods Communion 10:30am—Edgewood Vista Communion 2pm—Stoney Brook Comm. 3pm—ULC Communion 6pm—United Methodist Men	<b>22</b> 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast Fel- lowship (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	<b>23</b> 1pm—Christmas Decorating (Sanctuary and narthex)
<b>24</b> 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 10am—Adult Classes (parlor and basement) 10am—Sunday School 11am—Traditional Worship	<b>25</b> 10am—Healthy Movement 12pm—SOUL Potluck (CLC) 1:15pm—Aging & Spirituality Group (basement) 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by SDSU Prexy Coun- cil (CLC)	<b>26</b> 10am—Staff Meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group (parlor) 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Movie Night @Cinema 8	<b>27</b> <b>NO MANNA MEAL, SERVICE, OR WEDNESDAY NIGHT GROUPS</b> 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	<b>28</b> <b>Thanksgiving/Office Closed</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast Fel- lowship (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	<b>30</b>