

First United Methodist Church  
625 Fifth Street  
Brookings, SD 57006

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#### FROM THE PASTOR

### The Challenges of Waiting

As I was leaving Annual Conference in Sioux Falls in June of 2018, Roger Spahr our district superintendent came up to me and shared that at sometime in the near future, there was going to be a change of pastoral leadership in Brookings and that he might be giving me a call. As you can imagine I became a little anxious wondering when that call might come. Karen and I continued with our life but in the back of my mind I was waiting for the other shoe to drop. It would be almost 9 months later that I would receive the call telling me that Wade and Theta were moving and asking if I could come to Brookings the beginning of April in 2019. Little did I know when I arrived that I would begin another 10-month period of waiting as Pastor Pete moved through the challenging immigration process. Times of waiting are often difficult. We can be tempted during those periods to put life on hold and allow the waiting time to work its mischief on our souls. As I have been among you, one of the temptations was to put a number of decisions and actions on hold until Pastor Pete arrived. But the longer I was here, I came to realize that would not be a healthy thing for the church. We are called to be in ministry no matter who the pastor is, and so I have sought to work alongside of the leaders of this congregation and our church staff to continue moving forward. And because we have, good things have happened. Lives have been touched for good. We have been the vehicles of God's grace and care. And I am so grateful for the time and ministry that I have been able to share with you. I am especially grateful for Dean and Kendra Kattelmann and their hospitality and friendship as they have put me up in their home and put up with my coming and goings. Although I am ready for this time of waiting to come to an end for myself, Pete and Jenny, and this congregation, I want you to know how much I cherish my time among you, your friendship, and your support of our church and its ministry. You have blessed Karen and my life, and we hope that we have been a blessing to you. We want you to know that you will continue in our prayers, and we expect to come back from time to time to visit our church family here as you continue your fruitful ministry with Pete and Jenny in this place you call home.

*Howard Grinager, 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**  
Pete Grassow .....petegrassow@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

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 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

In Mark's Gospel is a well-known passage about the feeding of the 4000. With compassion for the people, Jesus sees the need of the crowd to be fed. The disciples' response is typical. The situation is overwhelming, and they see no way they can meet the need of too many people with their limited resources. Jesus asks them to take stock of what they do have at hand. They take inventory and come up with seven measly loaves. Obviously far short of the demand. So few loaves wouldn't even make a small dent in the need of such a huge crowd. Undaunted, Jesus takes charge of what they do have. He thanks God for the provision and breaks the bread into pieces. Then He gives the bits to the disciples to distribute among the people. There ends up being plenty for everyone, so much so that 7 large baskets of leftovers are gathered up.

As we were revising this passage in Mixtec, it dawned on me that there are striking parallels to our current situation. So much demand and not enough time, energy, resources, or stamina to meet the requirements. What to do? There just doesn't seem to be enough to go around.

Jesus calmly offers to take hold of the situation. Yet He involves us in the process. First we need to take stock of what limited inventory we do have, then turn it all over to Him. (We don't see the disciples holding back one of the loaves for their own consumption). Thanksgiving is a key part of the sequence. I find it hard to be thankful when I am hard-pressed on many sides and pulled in many directions. He thanked God, then He broke the bread into pieces. He allowed the disciples to be a part of the distribution process, turning the pieces over to them to hand out.

We aren't excluded from what He is doing, but active participants. It is interesting that not only was there enough to go around, but plenty left over. God is not stingy or grudging or limited. Everyone ate until they were satisfied. The abundance is underscored by the observation of so many baskets of leftovers. One of the Mixtec co-translators remarked that he was surprised that so much was left over. It is easy to underestimate what God can do because of our own incomplete viewpoint. Jesus was moved to take action by His compassion for the people. He didn't allow the seeming lack of resources to get in the way. He offers a compelling model for us to follow today.

*Susan Huggins*

Scripture based on Mark 8: 1-9

## #onething

Thank you to all who have contributed to the #onething **January** project - UMCOR Sager Brown Hygiene Kits. Hygiene kits are distributed throughout the country as disasters occur and are always needed in the Sager Brown warehouse. Thank you for your kit supply donations.

In **February**, our #onething will be the **Diaper Project**. We want to continue to support a project started by Corrine Stremmel and brought to us through her mother—our organist, Joan Riessen. Please bring diapers and/or baby wipes to the #onething tubs to help out our littlest Harvest Table guests. **Harvest Table is in most need of the larger size (size 4-6) diapers**, but all sizes and brands welcome.

We want to **Pamper** the babies with **Luv's** and **Huggies**.



## Prayer Request—Puerto Rico Mission Trip

From February 8-15, our congregation is sending a mission team of 6 persons to help with rebuilding homes in Puerto Rico, after hurricane damage in late 2017. Long term recovery will continue there for a couple more years. The team will be stationed at a Methodist Camp in the Jayuya region of Puerto Rico. Team members would ask for your prayers as they travel to work and learn about our American brothers and sisters on this island.

We hope to be able to post information about the team and the work being done on our church Facebook page. Team members are Brenda and Rick Hieb, John and Kim Prohaska, Nancy Bohlen, and Lorna Jost.

## Harvest Table Serving Groups Needed

The Harvest Table has opportunities for a serving group for March 2 and April 6. 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. If you are interested in one of these dates, please contact Vonda by calling 692-4345, or send an email to [communitylife@brookingsmethodist.org](mailto:communitylife@brookingsmethodist.org).

## Pop Tabs Project

The United Methodist Women want to thank you for collecting pop tabs. Since we no longer have an outlet for pop tabs, we will not be collecting them anymore. Again, thank you for being part of this mission.

## Meals on Wheels Thank You

Sharon Anderegg would like to thank the following people who helped deliver meals in January for the 60+ Dining routes:

Les Tlustos, Larry & Barb Hult, Roger Sandness, Keith & Betty Allison, Don & Judi DeZeeuw, Dwight & Bertha Combs, Ron & Linda Thaden, Bob & Lynette Smith, Peg Lund, and Barb Meyer. Your help with this important community service is greatly appreciated!

## BATA Bus Service

If you are in need of a ride to attend church on Sundays, we have BATA bus volunteer drivers available who can pick you up and drop you off back home. Please contact the office at 692-4345 if you would like to be on the pick up list, or would like to volunteer to be a driver.

## Ash Wednesday and Lent

Ash Wednesday falls on February 26 this year and marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Join us in the Community Life Center on Wednesdays as our Manna Cook, Deb Bortnem, serves delicious soup and sandwiches for our Manna meal from 5-6p.m.

Deb has graciously offered to prepare these meals rather than asking each of the committees to provide the soup. While it has been a wonderful tradition for committees to bring soup, it has been a hardship for some to participate, and we are very thankful that we have such a capable cook to take care of our needs.

If committees would still like to be involved, helping with clean up would be very appreciated. We hope you will plan to stay for Lenten themed worship services from 6:00-6:30 p.m. after the meal, and then you can feel free to plug in to one of the many ministry groups offered later in the evening. (See the Manna in the Middle activity schedule on page 2).

## Good News!

We are very close to welcoming Pete and Jenny Grassow into our church family! On January 29, 2020, they will have their visa interviews with the U.S. Consulate in South Africa. Following this their visas will be issued. We expect they will arrive by mid-February or hopefully sooner. A fully furnished rental home has been leased for them.

Thank you to the many who generously gave donations of furnishings and household necessities. SPR will be planning welcome activities and opportunities for you to get to know them as our new pastor and spouse. Please continue to lift up Pete and Jenny and their family in prayer as this time of waiting comes to an end, they say their good-byes, and transition in to this new ministry in Brookings.

## A Farewell

Sunday, January 26, is Pastor Howard Grinager's last Sunday with us as interim pastor. He and his wife Karen are leaving on February 1st for their annual winter vacation to Hawaii. Howard joined us last year in April thinking this would be a four-month appointment. Well, as we all know that did not happen, and we are ever so grateful that he could continue on with us until this time. Both he and Karen have demonstrated graciousness and flexibility during these past 10 months. Howard, with his years of pastoral experience, wisdom, and heartfelt love for the church, has ably led us in worship, pastoral care, participated in committee work, stewardship campaign...the list could go on. The Grinager's will return from Hawaii on March 6. SPR will be planning a thank you reception for them in mid-March.

## Big Game Party—2/2

All are welcome at the Big Game party on Sunday, February 2nd. The doors to the Community Life Center will open at 4:30p.m. for pre-game fun as we gather to watch the football game on our three giant screens. Feel free to bring your favorite snack to share. This is a family-friendly event with plenty of open space for kids of all ages to play. Last year, some people shot some hoops while others tossed around a football. A couple of tables enjoyed card games while others put together a puzzle. The possibilities are endless — perhaps you'd like to help us start a new tradition. Join your church family for food, fun, fellowship, and football!



## Home Visiting Volunteers Needed

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 to Action and become a visitor!

## February Manna Menu

January 29—tater tot hotdish  
 February 5—sloppy joes  
 February 12—chicken alfredo  
 February 19—spaghetti  
 February 26—Ash Wednesday, taco soup; chicken noodle soup

## Christmas Eve Offering

We are so thankful for your generosity during our Christmas Eve Services. This year a total of \$3,211.52 was given for the various mission projects that our offering will be used to support. Because of your gifts, others for whom life is a struggle will receive a gift of hope through the coming year. Thank you again.

## Great Ending of the Year

As we moved close to the end of December, we were concerned about ending the year with all our financial obligations met in a timely fashion. We shared our concerns with you, our church family, and you once again responded in a generous fashion enabling us to not only meet all our obligations on time, but to begin the year with a positive balance of about \$4,900.

Thank you for your generous gifts that enable us to be about the work to which Christ calls us in this place. Howard Grinager

## Camping Registration is Open

Registration is open on the Dakotas website which is [www.dakcamps.org](http://www.dakcamps.org). Be sure to take a look and get a head start on your summer schedule before it gets too full!

The church is offering a 65% scholarship for any camps which a camper (child/youth/adult) would like to attend. To access this scholarship, be sure to put in 'brookingscampers' when asked during the registration process.

Please never let the expense of attending camp be a deterrent—talk to Gretchen as funding beyond the 65% percent is available locally, and other funds are available at the conference level. We want everyone who wants to attend a camp to be able to do just that!

## Church Offering Senior Scholarship

It has been a tradition of this church to offer a scholarship to graduating seniors who are going on to further schooling. An email has been sent out to those seniors. If you are a senior or have a senior in your household and have not received this email, please contact Gretchen at [education@brookingsmethodist.org](mailto:education@brookingsmethodist.org) for the scholarship form. Please turn in your form by March 15 to the office.

## High School Mission Trip

The Dakotas Conference is taking a High School mission trip to Colorado Springs this summer for current grades 8-12. The group will leave from Piedmont, SD on Sunday July 5, and return on Saturday July 11. (We will travel from Brookings to Piedmont on July 4). We will mission to the poor and disadvantaged in Colorado Springs by serving in homeless shelters, food banks, community gardens, thrift stores, and with other agencies that meet the basic needs in the community and larger region. The cost of the trip is \$575. We will begin fundraising in April to help defray the cost of the trip. For more information, contact James Honomichl at 605-690-5348 or [jrhonomichl@gmail.com](mailto:jrhonomichl@gmail.com) or Gretchen Knutson at 692-4345 or [education@brookingsmethodist.org](mailto:education@brookingsmethodist.org). More details will be coming soon.

## SOUPER Bowl of Caring

Our High School Youth will take our annual Souper Bowl of Caring offering on Sunday, February 2. The offering will be collected by the HS Youth in soup pots at the end of each worship service. Funds collected for this event will go toward Harvest Table. Collection areas are in the Sanctuary and by the Community Life Center.

## Do You Have a Plant to Donate?

We are needing some new plants for our plant area at the south end of the narthex. Do you have any plants that you would be willing to donate? We are needing some tall plants, filler plants, and maybe some spiller plants. We realize that this may not be the greatest time of year to transport a plant, but if you can find a nice day, we'd appreciate it. And if you want to wait until nicer weather – we'll take them then too! Thanks so much!

## Brookings Church League Bowling

The next co-ed bowling league started on Monday, January 13. The league is open to individuals or 3 person teams—attend as few or as many weeks as you like. This is a great opportunity to meet new people and get to know folks from other churches. Weekly Monday night bowling starting at 6:30p.m. will include three games, with prizes at the end of the season, on March 16. 25% of all proceeds will be given to local charity. Cost will be \$10 per person, per week. Please contact Pastor Joe Ganahl at Abundant Life Church if you have any questions at 695-9444, or by emailing [joe@albrookings.org](mailto:joe@albrookings.org).

## Community Health Nurse Note—Suicide Prevention

If someone indicates they are considering suicide, listen and take their concerns seriously. Don't be afraid to ask questions about their plans. Let them know you care, and that they are not alone. Encourage them to seek help immediately from a knowledgeable professional. Don't leave them alone!

### Five tips from CDC for what you can do if you are concerned about a friend/loved one:

- Ask someone you are worried about if they're thinking about suicide. (While people may be hesitant to ask, research shows this is helpful).
- Keep them safe. Reduce access to lethal means for those at risk.
- Be there with them. Listen to what they need.
- Help them connect with ongoing support.
- Stay connected. Follow up to see how they're doing.

If you need help for yourself or someone else, contact the Suicide Prevention Lifeline by calling [1-800-273-8255](tel:1-800-273-8255) or chat online at [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org).

At Brookings First United Methodist Church, feel free to speak to your pastor, someone on the health committee, or a friend who can assist you with getting help. Joanie Holm

## 2019 Donation Statements

Donation statements for 2019 have been mailed. Please contact JoAnn Lee at the church office if you have any questions about your giving information. Also, if you did not receive a statement and believe you should have, please contact JoAnn at 692-4345.

## Community Health Nurse Note—Celebrate Recovery

Do you or someone you love suffer from addiction or the ramifications of addiction? Gracepoint Wesleyan Church offers a program called Celebrate Recovery. This 12 Step, Christ-centered peer support ministry focuses on finding freedom from “hurts, hang-ups, and habits,” addressing destructive patterns and compulsive behaviors. If you are interested in this program, please contact Serenity Miller—outreach pastor at Gracepoint Wesleyan Church, at 692-6671 or email [smiller@gracpointwesleyan.org](mailto:smiller@gracpointwesleyan.org).

## Lake Poinsett Camp 2020 Wish List

### General Wish List Items:

Camp truck with ability to attach plow — \$\$\$ (new or used)  
 Vehicle for camp use—church visits/store runs/etc.—\$\$\$  
 Bouncer for water front (our bouncer died this summer) - \$2,000  
 Jet ski for use on waterfront (lifeguard use for watercraft rescue and servicing inflatables) - used \$2,000-\$4,000; Hydrobike for waterfront (lifeguard use) - \$1,200  
 New flooring in the Retreat Center Dining Hall—\$\$\$  
 Rolling log for waterfront—\$2,600  
 Pontoon boat—\$\$\$ (new or used); 2 new paved parking lots -\$\$\$  
 Couches for cabins—\$-\$\$\$\$; Lumber for picnic tables—\$\$  
 Paint—\$\$; Paint brushes—\$; Large flower pots—\$\$; Paddle boards (3 needed)—\$\$\$  
 Archery supplies—\$\$\$; New mattresses (12 needed) - \$\$; New bunk beds (6 needed) - \$\$

### Miscellaneous Items:

Batteries	Card stock	Copy paper	Mailing labels	Coffee
Glue	Duct Tape	Bubbles	Fabric Softener	Bleach
				Laundry Detergent

**Volunteers**—We definitely will need help this spring with a variety of projects:

1) Moving items to our new shop 2) Sand bagging 3) Building an archery and more

### Coming Soon Projects—thanks to the Jim Larson Estate Gift

Maintenance Building—Spring 2020

Playground—Fall 2020

If you are interested in donating to camp, please contact Christy at 605-983-5547 or email [lpc@dakacamps.org](mailto:lpc@dakacamps.org). You can also visit [www.dakotasumc.org/camping/donate](http://www.dakotasumc.org/camping/donate).

(CLC) = Community Life Center

(Sanc) = Sanctuary

# FEBRUARY 2020

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		1
2 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am/10am—Adult Classes (parlor) 10am—Sunday School 11am—Traditional Worship 4:30pm—CrossWork Emmaus Harvest Table Food Prep (CLC)	3 10am—Healthy Movement 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by CrossWork Emmaus 5:30pm—Health Ministry Team (library) 6pm—Financial Peace Univ. 7pm—Retired Group (parlor)	4 9am—CARE Group (basement) 10m—Singles Grp (Conf. Rm) 1pm—Staff meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Staff Parish Relations 7pm—Movie Night @Cinema 8	5—# 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	6	7 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	8
9 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am/10am—Adult Classes (parlor) 10am—Sunday School 11am—Traditional Worship 12pm—Education meeting (library)	10 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by Sigma Alpha Ome- ga (CLC) 6pm—Financial Peace Univ. (Sr. High Youth Rm)	11 9:30am—UMW Board meeting (basement) 1pm—Staff meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group (parlor) 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Movie Night @Cinema 8	12—# 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	13 5:30pm—Missions Committee (Conference Room)	14 <b>Valentine’s Day</b> 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	15 9am—Piecemakers Quilting Group (basement)
16 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am/10am—Adult Classes (parlor) 10am—Sunday School 11am—Traditional Worship 4:30pm—CrossWork Emmaus (library)	17— <b>President’s Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 10am—Healthy Movement 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by Brookings Opti- mists (CLC) 6pm—Financial Peace Univ. (Sr. High Youth Rm) 7pm—Retired Group (parlor)	18 9am—CARE Group (basement) 10m—Singles Group (Conf. Room) 1pm—Staff meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group (parlor) 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Movie Night @Cinema 8	19—# 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 10am—Dementia/Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support Group (parlor)	20— <b>FOCUS Deadline</b> 9:45am—The Neighborhoods Communion 10:30am—Edgewood Vista Communion 2pm—StoneyBrook Comm. 3pm—ULC Communion 6pm—United Methodist Men (CLC)	21 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	22
23 9am—The Well Worship (CLC) 9am/10am—Adult Classes (parlor) 10am—Sunday School 11am—Traditional Worship 1:45pm—The Neighborhoods Sunday Afternoon Service 2:30pm—ULC Sunday After- noon Service	24 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 12pm—SOUL Potluck (CLC) 1:15pm—Aging & Spirituality Group (basement) 5:30pm—Harvest Table served by SDSU Trio SSS 6pm—Financial Peace Univ. (Sr. High Youth Rm)	25 1pm—Staff meeting 5:30pm—New Day Al-Anon Group (parlor) 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Movie Night @Cinema 8	26—# 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	27 9:30am—Hannah Circle (basement) 2pm—Naomi Circle (library)	28 6:30am—Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Hy-Vee) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	29