

FROM THE PASTOR

Easter: God's Limitless Love on Display

*And all along I believed I would find you
Time has brought your heart to me
I have loved you for a thousand years
I'll love you for a thousand more¹*

The Good News is that there is no moment when God has not loved us. In the words of Scripture “*Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be his*” (Ephesians 1:4). This is a love that “*will never abandon us*” (Hebrews 13:5). God has loved us since the beginning of time, and will continue to love us until time ends.

The love of God cannot be earned, and neither can it be bought. Whether or not we go to church, tithe, witness, pray enough, and never sin, God's affection is always the same. We can't do anything to deserve it, and we can't do anything to keep God from loving us.

Let us therefore pass on this unearned love as freely as God has given it. We dare not limit the limitless love of God by refusing to love the people around us. Remember that God's love embraces black and white people, old and young people, Democrat and Republican people, gay and straight people – and everyone in between!

This Easter we are again reminded that God's love for humanity is freely poured out in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Everyone – *every.one* - is welcome to be a part of our Easter celebration of the love of God.

*Deus amor est,
Pastor Pete*

¹From “A Thousand Years”, a song recorded by American singer and songwriter Christina Perri, and written by Perri and David Hodges, for The **Twilight** Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 1.

FROM THE PASTOR

A New Spirit; A Soft Heart

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 36:26

These words uttered through the prophet Ezekiel came to God's people in a time when they were searching for hope. Set in the Babylonian exile, the oracle of the prophet promises a renewed life, a new spirit, a soft heart where once was only cold, lifeless stone.

What that would look like exactly, no one knew; but God gave some hints: God promised to bring God's exiled people back home; to call forth grain in abundance; to bring barren, desolate land to fruitfulness again. It is a promise of life, and life abundant--not just around God's people but *within them*.

It is God's way to bring new life out of death. We watch it happen every year here in the Dakotas. Every year I know it's going to happen, and yet I am surprised every time. As I write this, the earth is waking up to the longer days and warmer sunlight. Ground that was hard as permafrost just weeks ago is suddenly soggy with water, running along the streets and puddling on the sidewalks. It even smells different. The world is softening; and so am I!

Aren't you? Isn't it delightful to watch this resurrection happen every year? And this year in particular, I sense a deeper awakening. Even as we continue to be safe and protect ourselves and our loved ones through the pandemic (we're not out of the woods yet), it feels like not long from now this trial will be behind us. Hearts hardened by isolation, bitter rancor in the political sphere, and the exhaustion of our collective trauma are beginning, slowly, to soften from stone to flesh. Friends, make no mistake; this is God's doing. We have been held all this time, and now God is slowly softening our hearts again. May we be receptive to this newness, this life, this good and gracious resurrection. May we turn our thawed, softened hearts to God again.

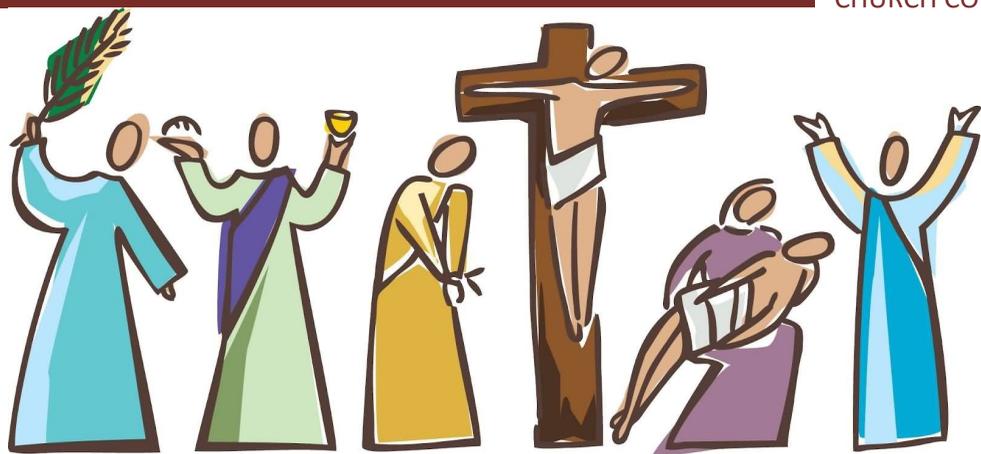
And for the many, many people who will navigate this post-pandemic season without a loved one, may you be sustained and encouraged by the God who is always “making all things new” (Revelation 21:5). You are not alone. We are with you. And we are all in this together.

May God bless you in this Lenten season and as we anticipate Resurrection Day. Let God soften your heart and renew your spirit today, in Jesus' name.

Pastor Krista



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
BROOKINGS
AT THE
CORNER OF
**CHURCH &
COMMUNITY**
625 Fifth Street, Brookings
605-692-4345
www.brookingsmethodist.org



Holy Week

Holy Week Services:

All services will be available in-person or online at www.brookingsmethodist.org.

Palm Sunday Service, March 24th, 10am--Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday Service, April 1st, 6pm--Sanctuary

Good Friday Service, April 2nd, 6pm--Community Life Center

Easter services, April 4th:

- Sunrise prayer service in the prayer garden, 7am
- Resurrection Day worship in the park, 10am (Pioneer Park bandshell*, weather permitting)

Radio broadcasts:

Good Friday, April 2nd, 1430 KBRK, 6pm

Easter Sunday, April 4th, 1430 KBRK, 9:30am

**In the event of inclement weather, Easter worship will take place in the Community Life Center, with overflow in the Sanctuary if necessary and the opportunity to listen in our cars via shortwave radio. Watch our website and Facebook page for updates.*

Confirmation

Please pray for the following sponsors and students as they prayerfully move toward **Confirmation Sunday on April 11, 2021:**

Tonya Gaalswyk, Larissa Groenewold – sponsors

Alex Storhaug

Andrew Hahn

Ava Gaalswyk

Riley Ness

Tacey Freeman

Kes Jung

Diane Culver – sponsor

Braeden Moore

Ernest Ting

Riley Rasmussen

Ayden Contreras



Vacation Bible School

The directors for VBS, April Flemming and Maria Schlueter, have decided to hold an in-person VBS this year in later July. It will be a 3 day event. We have chosen *Discovery on Adventure Island – quest for God's Great Light*. Please keep that date of later July in mind if you would be willing to help. We will announce the dates soon!

Hy-Vee Receipt program

I want to say thank you to all those who continue to faithfully turn in those Hy-Vee receipts! Covid has not cancelled that program and we continue to gratefully accept those receipts. During a 'normal' year we turn in 2-3 batches of \$150,000 worth of receipts and because of your faithfulness, we turned in 2 batches during Covid – so we've kept up with that average! Thanks to Peg Page for tabulating those receipts!

Camping Registration is Open

Registration is open on the Dakotas website which is www.dakcamps.org. Be sure to take a look and get signed up before your summer schedule gets too full!

The church is offering a 75% 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.



The early bird deadline which offers a cost savings is Friday, April 30.

Please never let the expense of attending camp be a deterrent—talk to Gretchen as funding beyond the 75% 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!

Camp Sunday is April 18th. Donations are welcome at anytime either online through our website <http://www.brookingsmethodist.org/donate.html> or by dropping it off at the church office.

Faith Community Nurse

Excerpt from ChurchHealth Reader;

As humans we have a natural desire to feel that we have done something good and right. Here are a few examples of praise and encouragement that can be shared freely with adults and children.

- You've got this. I believe in you.
- I appreciate your hard work!
- You have so much love to share!
- Be proud of who you are.
- You make me smile.
- What a great friend you are!
- Thank you for caring.



Joanie Holm

Mission News

#onething 

#onething for March = UMCOR Sunday offering

UMCOR Sunday is March 14. Formerly One Great Hour of Sharing, this special offering helps pay administrative costs of UMCOR so every dollar YOU give can offer a person hope. **Brookings First UMC will take this offering throughout the month of March via #onething, or write a check to Brookings FUMC, put UMCOR Sunday in the memo line!**

*(Online giving for #onething: visit <http://www.brookingsmethodist.org/> and click on **GIVE**. If you haven't set up an account, please follow the instructions to do so!)*

When disaster strikes around the globe—Haiti's 2010 earthquake or Typhoon Haiyan in 2013—Iowa Derecho winds in Aug 2020 – Texas Snowstorm in 2021! So many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act.

Please don't be fooled by the word "committee." Since 1940, when UMCOR's forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we've continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world. The response of UMCOR isn't something "they" do, it's something "we" do.

When You Give You Equip Christ's Body to Serve in His Name. That's because your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days.

Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion, or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need. Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today: (continued)

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded
- And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond

UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through UMCOR Sunday. In fact, it's your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes. Not "they." But "We".

When we meet the needs of those who suffer we actually minister to Jesus, who said: "I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me." (Mt. 25:35-36, CEB). As we respond, we recognize Jesus in those who are reeling in the wake of disaster.

***To give through the #onething online donation link:** go to BROOKINGS FUMC website for online giving: <http://www.brookingsmethodist.org/donate.html> . If you haven't, please sign up and make your donation through the **#onething option**.

Radio Broadcast Sponsorships



We have several weeks available for radio broadcast sponsorship in 2021. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast in memory, honor, or celebration of a loved one or anniversary, you may:

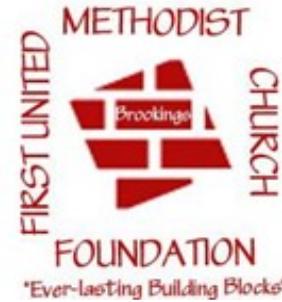
- 1.visit <http://www.brookingsmethodist.org/> and click on **RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS**
- 2.contact the office at 605-692-4345
- 3.email office@brookingsmethodist.org

Each broadcast sponsorship is \$60 and airs at 9:30am on KBRK 1430AM.

March 2021			
	15	16	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Healthy Movement 4pm Girl Scouts (7th grade) 5:30pm Girl Scout troop 50636 5:30pm Finance Committee meeting 2 more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Staff meeting 1:30pm Care Group 5pm AI-Anon 5:30pm VBS director meeting 6:30pm Sunday school Room Cm't 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Healthy Movement 6pm Confirmation 6:45pm Confirmation 7pm Bells
21	22	23	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Blended Worship 1pm Girl Scout - Amber 2pm Girl Scouts - Wendy 4:30pm Cross Work Emmaus 5:15pm Girl Scout - 3rd grade - Lynet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Healthy Movement 7pm Boy Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Singles Bible Study Group 1pm Staff meeting 5pm AI-Anon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Healthy Movement 6:45pm Confirmation 7pm Bells
28	29	30	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Blended Worship 5:30pm Administrative Council meet 	Full Day G.A.P - Kindergarten screening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Healthy Movement 5:30pm Girl Scout troop 50636 7pm Boy Scouts 	Full Day G.A.P - Kindergarten screening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Staff meeting 5pm AI-Anon 7pm Worship Team Practice 	Full Day G.A.P - Kindergarten screening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Healthy Movement 6:45pm Confirmation 7pm Bells
4	5	6	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7am Easter Sunrise Service 10am Easter Worship Service 4:30pm Cross Work Emmaus 5:15pm Girl Scout - 3rd grade - Lynet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Healthy Movement 4pm Girl Scouts (7th grade) 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm SPR Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Staff meeting 5pm AI-Anon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Healthy Movement 7pm Bells
11	12	13	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Blended Worship (Confirmation) 7pm SPR Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Healthy Movement 5:30pm Girl Scout troop 50636 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm Trustee Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Singles Bible Study Group 1pm Staff meeting 5pm AI-Anon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Healthy Movement 7pm Bells
18	19	20	
Camp Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Blended Worship 1pm Girl Scout - Amber 2pm Girl Scouts - Wendy 2 more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Healthy Movement 4pm Girl Scouts (7th grade) 5:30pm Finance Committee meeting 7pm Boy Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Staff meeting 5pm AI-Anon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Healthy Movement 7pm Bells
25	26	27	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Blended Worship 5:30pm Administrative Council meet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Healthy Movement 5:30pm Girl Scout troop 50636 7pm Boy Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Singles Bible Study Group 1pm Staff meeting 5pm AI-Anon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Healthy Movement 7pm Bells

17 Healthy Movement Confirmation Pictures for 8th grade Confirmation class - for 7th grade practice	18 ● 6pm Cub Scouts ● 6pm UMM-United Methodist Men ● 7pm Worship Team Practice	19 Painting Upstairs Classrooms ● 10am Healthy Movement	20 ● 9am Piecemakers
24 Healthy Movement Confirmation class IN CLC practice	25 ● 5pm FUMC Foundation meeting ● 7pm Worship Team Practice	26 ● 10am Healthy Movement	27 ● 9am Confirmation Retreat
31 P - Kindergarten screening Healthy Movement Confirmation class-East practice	Apr 1 Painting Upstairs classrooms ● 6pm Maunday Thursday Service	2 ● 10am Healthy Movement ● 6pm Good Friday Service	3
7 Healthy Movement practice	8 ● 5:30pm Missions Committee ● 6pm Cub Scouts	9 ● 10am Healthy Movement	10 ● 10am Confirmation rehearsal
14 Healthy Movement practice	15 ● 5:30pm Head Start parent meeting ● 6pm Cub Scouts ● 6pm UMM-United Methodist Men	16 ● 10am Healthy Movement	17 ● 9am Piecemakers
21 Healthy Movement practice	22	23 ● 10am Healthy Movement	24
28 Healthy Movement practice	29	30 ● 10am Healthy Movement	May 1

FOUNDATION CORNER



The First United Methodist Church Foundation is proud to share an update of our recent projects. **We are so fortunate of our donors to be able to give back to the church!** The recent payouts made were:

- \$415.00 for some new office furniture
- \$1,195.50 for cleaning supplies for the COVID deep-clean of the church
- \$1,459.94 for the virtual confirmation curriculum
- \$6,768.00 for the cost of the bat removal
- \$876.05 for the hand sanitizer stands/stations

The nine ministries the Foundation supports are: *Camping Scholarships, Capital Improvements, Christian Education, Ministerial Scholarships, Missions/Outreach, Music Enhancement, SDSU Campus Ministry, Student Scholarships, and Worship Enhancement.* Along with these ministries, we use our undesignated fund to assist in other ways throughout our church. In addition to these funds, we also have a very generous donation from the Dickerson family that we are taking grant applications for.

Please go to <https://forms.gle/bjsDpHfoezdsijSm8> to submit your project idea! Currently these funds are supporting the work of a new entrance door on the southeast corner of the building and the new HVAC system.

If you have any interest in supporting the Brookings First United Methodist Church Foundation with your gifts, please contact any of the board of director members: Pastor Pete Grassow, Laura Gerjets, Van Fishback, Margaret Denton, Rich Howard, or Russ Daly.

Did you know that you can generate donations for the FUMC Foundation while shopping, at no extra cost?



Simply start your shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/46-0433154 to confirm "First United Methodist Church Foundation of Brookings" as your charity of choice, and AmazonSmile will donate a portion of your eligible purchase price to our organization.

When you can't shop local, support the FUMC Foundation on Amazon!

Trustees News

Progress is being made with the installation of the air conditioner/ventilation system replacement. The new air handlers are in place, but ductwork needs to be completed. The compressors located on the roof of the Narthex will be replaced in the next few weeks. A crane will be brought in to exchange the old compressors with the new ones. At least air circulation within the Sanctuary will be possible soon.

We have experienced a setback with replacing the southeast Sanctuary doors as the company that was originally planned for the replacements is closing down. So a new source for the door replacement is being pursued at this time.

The Bell Tower windows installation is still planned to be completed sometime in the near future.

Planning for the potential upgrading/remodeling of the church basement/kitchen area has reached step one with the circulation of survey forms to all of the various groups and organizations that have used those areas recently. Results of the survey will be used to determine the extent of what may be planned to be done in the future.

Last week serious ceiling leaks developed in the Narthex. At first it looked like the roof drain system might have developed a break due to the previous extremely cold temperatures. Further diagnosis indicates that there must be a break or breaks in the rubber layer of the roof cover. The Pro-Tec roofing crew was at the church to repair the Narthex roof. They patched 6 holes so hopefully we have the leaks fixed. We need to wait and see if more leaks develop after the air conditioner condensers are replaced.

Ron Thaden



Finance News

The Finance Committee of the church meets monthly to review our financial position. We have had a very positive beginning to 2021 and are grateful for your support. Because of your support, we have been able to continue to feed hungry people, provide diapers for stressed families, and keep our programs for children going. We also have been able to fund repairs to the buildings and pay our church staff.

Year-to-date financials as of February 28, 2021:

Income:	\$135,746.04
Expenses:	<u>\$ 98,293.52</u>
Net balance:	\$ 37,452.52

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact JoAnn Lee at the church office (605-692-4345).

May God bless all of you for your continued support.

Matt Miller, Finance Committee Chair

Pete Grassow, Pastor

Happy Birthday!

Dale Wagner turns 98 on March 15th. Greetings may be sent to Dale at 405 1st Ave, Brookings, SD 57006.

Join our new Media Ministry!

As the church is resuming live in-person services, we are looking for volunteers that are interested in being trained to operate our new live streaming equipment. Some computer and/or video experience is helpful, but we can train from any experience level!

Contact me at media@brookingsmethodist.org or call the church office (692-4345) if you or someone you know is interested in helping with this new technical ministry!

Sam Becker, Worship Tech/Media Director



Church Staff

Pastoral Staff

Pete Grassow.....pastorpete@brookingsmethodist.org
 Krista Duckerpastorkrista@brookingsmethodist.org

Education Director

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

Community Life Center Director

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

Office Manager

JoAnn Lee.....office@brookingsmethodist.org

Financial Secretary

JoAnn Lee.....finance@brookingsmethodist.org

Worship Tech/Media Director

Sam Beckermedia@brookingsmethodist.org

Tech Coordinator

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



Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain is active. Please contact Sharon Anderegg at 605-692-4925 with any requests.

 **WATCH ONLINE**

Weekly Worship Schedule

Sundays:	9:30am	Radio Broadcast (on KBRK 1430AM)
	10:00am	Community Life Center (in-person and online)
	12:00pm	Virtual Coffee with the Pastors on Zoom
	All day	Virtual Children’s Church on Facebook
Wednesday:	6:00pm	Virtual Bible Study

Notes from the Office

FUMC is looking for a few volunteers to count the cash offering on a weekly basis. Please contact me for more details if you are interested.

JoAnn Lee, Office Manager/Financial Secretary

Church Office hours:

M-F 8:30 am—Noon
605-692-4345

Susan's Saga

The Mixtec translation team is currently revising the book of Romans. A big theme is justification. Now that's one of those weighty theological terms that isn't commonly used in daily speech. The word in English derives from Latin. So just what does it mean in ordinary, everyday language?

We have struggled for a number of years to find a phrase that expresses this concept in Mixtec. It had us stumped for a long time, as we tried to explain it to the Mixtecs and come up with an expression for it. One day we re-visited the term, and it finally came out. Suppose one person's cows get into someone else's cornfield. That is a huge offense in Mixtec society, as corn is extremely valuable, because it's the staff of life. If someone's animals get into another person's cornfield, then the first party has to recompense the offended party.

Now suppose a third party steps in and pays the damages incurred by the cows. There is a Mixtec word for that. Literally it is something like "to cut the cost." But the larger concept is that an intervening person takes on the responsibility of paying the damages.

As we consider the death and resurrection of Jesus during this Lenten season, it is fitting to keep in mind that we are the ones who have run up a huge debt of offenses against the righteous, holy standard of God. Who can intervene to pay the damages? The situation is hopeless by human means. Christ steps in as the third party and pays the damages on our behalf. That is justification.

It doesn't deny that we have offended God, because we have. Romans 3:23 asserts, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Justification does not pretend that there is no offense, nor does it belittle the consequences. Neither does it reduce the faults and errors we have committed as trivial or inconsequential. Big offenses require a huge compensation. And that is exactly what Christ provides, by sheer grace.

May we embrace the incredible sacrifice of Christ that justifies us before Holy God.

Susan Huggins

Scripture quote from Romans 3:23, New American Standard Bible.

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.

An Easter Lily



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