

FROM THE PASTORS

God's Sheltering Wings

By: Pastor Krista

*He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and
rampart. Psalm 91:4*



I love this scripture, for a couple of reasons; the image of protection and nurture that comes to us in this scripture is a reminder that God is both parent and guard. Like a fierce yet tender mama bear, God watches over us gently, yet with a quiet, undeniable strength.

I also appreciate this verse as one of those in the Bible that portrays God with more motherly qualities—it is not the rooster that shelters the chicks in this way; it is the hen. The Psalmist reminds us in this moving poetry that God is great and strong; and God is nurturing and gentle. We are loved by a God who created each of us uniquely, who in Godself contains the creative energy of all the universes in creation. At the same time, God presents Godself in ways that bring comfort and peace to us even in our limited understanding.

These are challenging days, when so much is changing. We send kids back to school while still in the midst of a global pandemic. At university, young adults navigate a vast campus, make choices in the midst of a cacophony of options that will affect the rest of their year, or even their lives. We still don't quite know what the pandemic will throw at us. And yet, God's word continues to lovingly

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FROM THE PASTOR

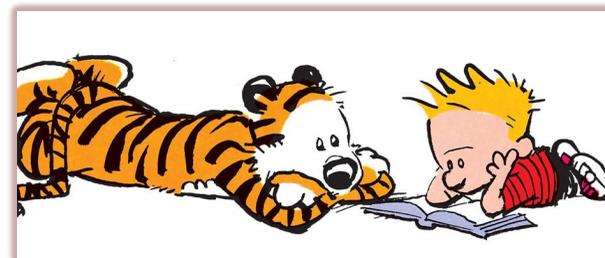
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remind us that we are sheltered; protected; nurtured by a vast love that is beyond our ability to fully comprehend, yet is closer than our heartbeats. So let us take heart; like chicks that may have wandered bravely from the nest, yet always return for rest and shelter, let us take a deep breath; and let us rest under the shelter of God's infinite wings of protection and nurture. All will be well.

Pastor Krista

This is a Fantastic Time to Learn New Things

By: Pastor Pete



The Summer break is over, and I am excited about the new opportunities for learning. It has always been a distinctive feature of our Methodist history that we are people who choose to learn more about what we believe. Proverbs 1:7 says this: *"The*

fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction". Our FUM Church here in Brookings emphasizes this tradition of learning. Gretchen Knutson is our education director and will be happy to assist you in finding an educational opportunity. You are also welcome to visit our church library and take out books to read. Here are some opportunities to grow in your faith:

Sunday School is meeting, and I am so grateful for our teachers who are stepping up to teach our children. (For those who are cautious about their children meeting in person, Pastor Lisa from South Africa will still provide a weekly online video for our children).

Sunday sermon series will continue – with us learning about the Christian Family in September, and about our roots in the teachings of John Wesley in October.

A Bible Study for single people meets Monday and will be learning from Adam Hamilton.

Wednesday afternoon activities include Wednesday school from 1st – 5th Grades, Confirmation class for Grade 7 & 8, and family worship at 6pm.

Adult teaching: Dr Murphy is leading a class on Sunday morning, and I will be leading an October class on Sunday evening. Nancy Bohlen will lead a study on "What Methodist's

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FROM THE PASTOR

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Believe” on Wednesday evening.

Students can connect with Pastor Krista for the First on Campus student ministry and young adult learning opportunities.

Pastor Pete

INFORMATION CORNER

Church Staff

Pastoral Staff

Pete Grassow..... pastorpete@brookingsmethodist.org
Krista Ducker.....pastorkrista@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 Leefinance@brookingsmethodist.org

Worship Tech/Media Director and Building Manager

Sam Beckermedia@brookingsmethodist.org

Tech Coordinator

Paul Schmidttech@brookingsmethodist.org

Organists: Joan Riessen
MK Huggins

Accompanist: Ted DeLange

Connect with us

Church Office Hours:

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

Need prayer? Email prayer@brookingsmethodist.org and a pastor will pray with you.

Facebook.com/FUMCBrookings

www.brookingsmethodist.org



Listen to our Podcast!

You can listen to all our sermons and messages every Wednesday evening and Sunday afternoon on our Podcast, 'Messages from First United Methodist Brookings!' It's perfect for listening on the go! We are on all major Podcasting platforms, so listen wherever you get your favorite podcasts!

For links to episodes and more info about our Podcast, visit anchor.fm/fumcbrookings!

INFORMATION CORNER

Weekly Worship Schedule



Sundays: 9:00am Sunday School (ages 2-adult)
9:30am Radio Broadcast (on KBRK 1430AM)
10:00am Sunday Morning Worship (in-person and online)
12:00pm Virtual Coffee with the Pastors on Zoom
All day Virtual Children's Church on Facebook
Wednesday: 6:00pm Manna in the Middle Worship (CLC and online)



W E D N E S D A Y S

Community Meal 5-6:00 p.m.
Worship 6-6:45 p.m. • Life Groups

feed your soul

Starting September 15th in our Community Life Center!

Table with 2 columns: Time and Activity. Rows include Chiming Children, Youth Bells, Manna Meal, Manna in the Middle Worship, Wed. School (1st-5th graders), Confirmation/MS Youth Group, High School Youth Group, Men's Study, Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Adult Manna Study.

No Wednesday Afternoon Music (WAM)

Due to a shortage of staffing at this time, we will not be holding WAM on Wednesdays after school for kindergartners - 5th grade for the 2021-2022 school year.

Sunday School

Sunday school begins on September 12 from 9:00-9:50am. Our Sunday School classes are offered for ages 2 (age 2 by August 31) through adult.



There is no need to preregister for Sunday school, but if your child has not attended previously, feel free to contact me so that I can get your child on our class list and the teachers can be prepared to welcome your child.

Those in 2-year-olds – kindergarten need to sign in at a check-in station in the narthex as part of our security system to keep children safe. You will receive a nametag for your child and corresponding tag for the parent which you will need in order to pick them up.

Downloading the Church Center app makes check-in even faster!

Wednesday School

Sometimes it just doesn't work for your family to attend church on Sunday's, but you still want your child to have Christian education. Wednesday school just might be the ticket! Wednesday School is a Christian Education program open to 1st-5th graders that meets from 7:00-8:00. The curriculum is not a repeat of Sunday, so if your child should attend both Sunday and Wednesday it will be different for both times. Here is the link to sign your child up for Wednesday School: <http://bit.ly/WednesdaySchool>. The first Wednesday will be September 8th.

Blessing of the Backpacks

On Wednesday, September 15 or Sunday, September 19 you are invited to bring your backpack to church where we will have a special blessing. This includes our SDSU students as well as our elementary, middle school and high school students. Likewise, if you are a teacher and would like to have a backpack blessed, you too are welcome to bring it for the blessing. Be sure to bring your backpack and receive a special tag which will remind you that this church is praying for you all year long!

Confirmation and HS Youth

We are looking forward to meeting together and beginning our Fall programming/ ministry begin on September 15th! Our Confirmation Ministry is for any 7-8 graders each Wednesday at 7:00. The first evening there will be a parent meeting for confirmation parents and students in the CLC after the Manna service.

Our High School group is for any 9-12 graders as we gather each Wednesday in the HS Youth room for a time of checking in, prayer, and creative activities and service projects. Both groups meet from 7:00-8:00.

3rd Grade Bibles

Our 3rd graders will receive their Bibles on September 19 during the service. They will be learning about and using their Bible every Sunday this year. Following are the children who will receive their Bibles:

- Kate Bartels
- Jaela Burgers
- Wyatt deBlonk
- Madix Huyck
- Conner Murphy
- Regan Ness

Adult Study Opportunities:

Sunday Morning

Dr. Murphy's Class

Dr. Murphy will be offering a Sunday morning class entitled *Jesus at the Ballot Box: a history of the rise and power of conservative Christianity in American Politics*.

This study taught by Dr. Murphy centers around a podcast by Dr. Brad Onishi (Skidmore College) with listening and discussion. From the podcast: "Using Orange County, CA as a prism, Dr. Bradley Onishi traces the rise of the Religious Right through homegrown activism, local politics, presidential campaigns, billionaire donors, megachurches, media empires, and autocratic regimes at home and abroad."

By engaging the podcast, our class will explore through discussion questions like: *How did Cold War suburbs in Southern California influence your church's politics? When did Evangelicals become anti-abortion? How did Christian radio stations pioneer Rush Limbaugh, Fox News, and internet "news" sites? And many, many more.*

Explore these and other historical threads together in *Jesus at the Ballot Box*. This class will be held in the church basement from 9:00-9:50am.

Sunday Afternoons

Sunday Noon Zoom Meeting with the Pastors

The pastors set up a zoom meeting at noon on Sunday's when Covid hit to stay in contact with people and to discuss the sermon. This meeting will continue so if you would like to join this group of people please send us your email and you will get a weekly email with the link.

Walk to Emmaus Group

If you have been on a 'Walk to Emmaus', you might be interested in joining the 4th Day Emmaus group, now called Cross Works Emmaus. Their focus is to build community within the

Sunday Afternoons (cont)

church. They meet on the third Sunday of the month from 4:30-5:30pm in the church narthex. For more information you may contact Nancy Bohlen at nbohlen@swiftel.net or call the church office at 605-692-4345.

If you have attended 'Walk to Emmaus,' this fall we are holding retreats in September and October. The theme for these retreats is '**Rekindle Your Spiritual Fire**'. We want the entire 4th Day Community to be energized for the Walks that will be held next.

Our first retreat will be at Lake Poinsett Camp, September 17th - 19th, 2021.
Our second retreat will be at Storm Mountain Camp, October 1st - 3rd, 2021.

Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend one of the retreats. There will be plenty of time for visiting, singing, and praying. Details on dakotaswalk.org

Sunday Evenings

October Conversations with Pastor Pete: *"I believe that Jesus welcomes LGBTQ people"*.

You are invited to a series of Sunday evening discussions to be led by Pastor Pete from 6-7 pm. While some Christians believe that people who are not heterosexual are condemned by God, this is not the only Christian view. Pastor Pete will show how Jesus-followers can include LGBTQ people. You are welcome to bring your questions and an open mind to these evenings. This is not an event for those who have already decided to reject LGBTQ people.

October 3rd "Not everything in the Bible is Christian"

October 10th "The Big Six anti-gay Bible verses"

October 17th "Methodist people have changed their minds in the past - often"

Monday

Singles Group

The Singles Group will meet to do a study by Adam Hamilton entitled *John - the Gospel of Love and Light*. They meet the 1st and 3rd Monday's at 5:15pm in the Sr. high youth room. They will begin meeting on September 20. Any single is welcome to join them!

Tuesday

Movie Night

Tuesday evening is Movie Night at Cinema 8! It's a group for people who like movies of different types but prefer not going solo and who enjoy coffee and conversation afterwards, if possible, at Cottonwood Café. Meet them for the 7:00pm-ish showing in the lobby. You will be notified by email of the movie for that evening. Please contact Marilyn Brown at brownma1@brookings.net if you would like to put on the email list. At present, they are waiting to see what Covid does in our community before gathering to attend movies. Hopefully in the near future they will be attending again!

Wednesday

Adult Manna Study

We will be offering a Wednesday evening adult Manna study from 7:00-8:00pm. We will start out the year by offering a class on what Methodists believe. This will be a nice follow-up to the sermon series on Wednesdays on which the pastors will be preaching. Each denomination has beliefs which guides their daily life. Find out what they for Methodists! Childcare will be available for this study. Please contact Gretchen if you will need nursery care.

Men's Group

If you would like a place to talk with other guys about faith, family, daily trials, pressures, etc., this men's group just might fit that bill! They are also a group which likes to 'do' as well as. So periodically they will take part in a service project around the church or wherever needed. For more information contact Gretchen at education@brookingsmethodist.org.

Friday

Men's Breakfast

Wanting to have some time with the guys? There is a group of men which meet every Friday morning at Hy-Vee at 6:30am for breakfast and fellowship. That's it - just fellowship and breakfast and out the door by 7:15! Join them any Friday morning.

***NOTE** - there are some groups which are choosing to wait to begin to meet due to not knowing what the impact of the Covid variant will have upon our community. If you are wondering if your group which has met in the past will begin meeting this fall and don't see them advertised, please call the office at 605-692-4345 or email Gretchen at education@brookingsmethodist.org. Watch the FOCUS and weekly announcements for start up dates of these groups.

Online Friendship Group/Online Groups

If you are someone who isn't quite ready to get back into meeting in person but would like to have more contact with your church family, we will gladly set up an online friendship group if there enough people interested. Let's not lose contact with each other! Please contact Gretchen if you are interested in joining such a group.

Likewise, if your group is not ready to meet in person but would like to be able to have a study, we can help you set up a zoom meeting if that fits your needs. Let Gretchen know if you would like to meet virtually.

Campus Ministry

God has been good to our campus ministry! Classes started Monday, August 22nd, and our church was ready to welcome them! We had worship in the park on Sunday morning, then that evening we welcomed a full house of church members and students for a taco and information night about our campus ministry. I have also spent time in the student union connecting with students, and we had a table at the Student Engagement Expo! Several new students have connected with us and signed up to participate in our student organization. Special thanks to the FUMC Foundation for providing funds for our promotional materials, to our Missions committee for donating slush for our taco and pizza nights, to our student org officers and to all who have donated time, food, funds and furnishings to support this ministry!



Pastor Krista

Becoming a member

We want to start up a new members class! If you are interested in learning more about what it means to be a United Methodist and a member of our church, please contact the church office. We'd love to have you!



From Staff Parish Relations Committee

Sunday, September 12, is Pastor and Staff Appreciation Day. Note cards are available in the narthex if you would like to write a note to any of the staff members.

2022 Calendars Available!

The 2022 calendars, which are being used as a fundraiser for the youth, are available now! Support our youth and at the same time get a calendar with beautiful pictures of nature. They are \$10/each. They are available at the church or education offices.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
			1 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy M 6pm—Weds Bible 6pm—Sunday Sc 7pm—Campus M
5 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship 12pm—Virtual coffee with pastors 2:30pm—Girls Scouts	6 Labor Day—Office closed 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	7 10am—Communion at The Neighborhoods 5pm—New Day Al-Anon	8 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy M 4pm—Chiming C 5pm—Manna me 6pm—Manna Wc 7pm—Confirmat Campus M Small Gro
12 Staff Appreciation Sunday 9:00am—Sunday School (2yr to adults) 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship 12pm—Virtual coffee with pastors	13 9:15am—Feeding SD Mobile Food Truck 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—SPR Meeting 7pm—Trustee Meeting	14 5pm—New Day Al-Anon	15 8am—TOPS 10am—Alzheimer 10am—Healthy M 4pm—Chiming C 5pm—Manna me 6pm—Manna Wc 7pm—Confirmat Campus M Small Gro
19 9:00am—Sunday School (2 yr to adults) 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship (3rd Graders receive Bibles) 12pm—Virtual coffee with pastors 1pm—Girls Scouts 4:30pm—Cross Work Emmaus	20 10am—Communion at ULC 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:15pm—Singles Bible Study 5:30pm—Finance Committee meeting	21 1:30pm—CARE Group meeting 5pm—New Day Al-Anon	22 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy M 4pm—Chiming C 5pm—Manna me 6pm—Manna Wc 7pm—Confirmat Campus M Small Gro
26 9:00am—Sunday School (2yr to adults) 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship 11:30am—Turkey Dinner	27 10am—Healthy Movement Class	28 5pm—New Day Al-Anon	29 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy M 4pm—Chiming C 5pm—Manna me 6pm—Manna Wc 7pm—Confirmat Campus M Small Gro

	Thu	Fri	Sat
Movement Class (CLC) Study (sanctuary) School Orientation Ministry Life Group	2 7:25am—SDSU Student Union prayer group 5:00pm—FUMC Foundation meeting 6pm—Cub Scouts (CLC & Basement)	3 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	4
Movement Class (CLC) Children Meal, Youth Bells Worship Mission & Weds School Ministry Life Group Group meetings	9 7:25am—SDSU Student Union prayer group 5:30pm—Mission Committee meeting 6:30pm—Cub Scouts (CLC)	10 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	11
Women's Support Group Movement Class (CLC) Children Meal, Youth Bells Worship Mission & Weds School Ministry Life Group Group meetings	16 7:25am—SDSU Student Union prayer group 10:00am—Communion at Edgewood Vista 10:30am—Communion at Stonybrook Suites 6pm—Cub Scouts (Basement) 6pm—United Methodist Men	17 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 7pm—Private group event	18 9am—Piecemakers Quilting Group
Movement Class (CLC) Children Meal, Youth Bells Worship Mission & Weds School Ministry Life Group Group meetings	23 7:25am—SDSU Student Union prayer group 1pm—Tie Quilters	24 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	25
Movement Class (CLC) Children Meal, Youth Bells Worship Mission & Weds School Ministry Life Group Group meetings	30 7:25am—SDSU Student Union prayer group 10am—The Savvy Caregiver Class	Oct 1 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	

MISSION CORNER



**COME AND JOIN US FOR THE TURKEY DINNER
ON SEPTMBER 26, 2021 @ FUMC
Community Life Center**

Tickets are on sale now. Contact the church office at 605-692-4345 for information. Volunteers are needed to: purchase a turkey, make salad or pie, setup and meal preparations, serve the meal, and clean-up. Use the Signup Genius link to volunteer today! <https://bit.ly/turkeydinner2021>

#onething 

The #onething special for September is the United Methodist Nomads. Nomads are volunteers who own RV's and work on Methodist facilities such as churches, personages, children's homes, camps, and homeless shelters. Nomads' work leaves you with a sense of purpose and is very fulfilling. The tasks are extremely varied including electrical, painting, hanging Sheetrock, power washing, sewing and many more.

One branch of Nomads' work is in low income homes. Working in a house without running water or holes in the floor or three generations in the only bedroom is very educational.

Another branch of Nomad work is disaster rebuilding. It is especially rewarding helping a family get back in their home.

Gary Norton
Missions Committee Member

Nomads On A Mission Active In Divine Service



Nomads is a mission outreach of United Methodist specific to individuals and couples With RVs wishing to be involved in Christian service

Rebuilding lives, homes and facilities with God's love and our hands.

www.nomadsumc.org - 1-866-466-6237- director@nomadsumc.org

Membership in the United Methodist is not required

Nomads On A Mission Active In Divine Service

Nomads is an organization of volunteers who own an RV. Nomads work on Methodist facilities and through Methodist agencies. Examples are churches, camps, homeless shelters and children's homes. Nomads also do disaster rebuilding. Here is an example of a Nomad project.

In 2018 Avis and I went to a Nomad project in Taft, TX. The church in Taft sent us to work on Rick's house. When you enter Rick's house, the kitchen is on your left. There is a microwave and refrigerator. There was no stove, sink or cabinets. In front of you is the dining area with a small table and a couple of stools.

Diagonally across the room to the right is a hallway. In the hallway on your left is a door to the bedroom. The door to the bedroom was held closed by a screwdriver pushed into the jam. In the hallway was a hole where someone's foot has busted through the floor. Farther down the hall were rooms that were unfinished with bare studs. On your right was the bathroom. It had a toilet which was not securely anchored to the floor and a wiggling toilet seat held in place by a rope. There was a laundry type sink and a shower and only the walls near the sink and shower were covered with sheeting. The rest of the room had bare studs. The windows in the house were covered by blankets tacked to the wall.

Emotionally Rick was in worse shape than the house. He stood in front of us and sobbed. Apparently he was much younger than his sibs and realized that he was the result of an unplanned pregnancy. He kept repeating that no one ever wanted him. His wife and kids had left him. He kept saying how much he missed his kids. He had to give up his job as a deputy sheriff because of back problems and was unemployed. He told us to go help someone else, but after a long conversation we convinced him to let us help him. When we went to work, Rick closed himself in the bedroom. As time passed he started to come and visit with us. He started spending our breaks with us and his mood improved dramatically. After two weeks he came to church and stood up and thanked us repeatedly. Avis had made curtains for the house. He seemed to be more excited by real curtains than anything else we had done.

When Nomads work on low income homes it is called community outreach. Nomads encourage churches to host Nomad groups for community outreach projects. But, most churches cannot afford to buy the materials for three weeks of home improvement. The Nomads organization raises money for a materials fund to defray costs. I would encourage everyone to consider becoming a Nomad. The satisfaction and sense of purpose this work gives is great. I have heard hundreds of members express their appreciation for what Nomads has meant to them. For more information you can go to the website nomadsumc.org.

Gary Norton, Missions Committee Member

Harvest Table

Because of the increasing number of COVID cases, Harvest Table will not be serving meals in September 2021. Some of the serving groups are not comfortable getting together and we want to keep the guests and all of the volunteers safe. We will reevaluate to see if we can begin meals again in October. We will still provide assistance of food, diapers, or personal care items to anyone when they contact Harvest Table. We also continue to accept donations. Most requested items are diapers, baby wipes, and personal care items such as laundry detergent, dish detergent, toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels, and feminine products. Thank you for your support of Harvest Table.

Vonda Kirkham

605-692-4345

brookingsharvesttable@gmail.com (new address)



Covid-19

We have lived with this Virus amongst us for the past 18 months. It has caused sadness, communal disruption, financial hardship, and political bitterness. At the same time, I have been really inspired by the way the members and friends of our church have responded with good-will and compassion. Because of this we have ensured that no one has become sick as a result of our church activities.

Let there be no misunderstanding of our church's position: we believe that God has assisted medical researchers to develop a vaccine – and we are encouraging our members to get vaccinated. Praise God for doctors, medical science and healthcare professionals.

It is difficult to predict how the rest of this year will unfold. This depends on the impact the school and the university have on the spread of the Covid-19 virus in our city. For now, we are asking that we as a church assist in mitigating the spread of the virus: give space to those families who have unvaccinated children, respect the need for people to wear masks indoors, and be willing to be flexible with church activities. The Covid-recovery team meets weekly to assess our health and safety measures, and we welcome any ideas you might have to improve what we do.

Pastor Pete

Finance News

The Finance Committee would like to offer thanks to all members and friends who have continued to support the First United Methodist Church throughout the year. As of the end of July, financial gifts have been received that allowed us to maintain a positive balance.

As we near the end of the summer, it is time for us to begin thinking about 2022. It is at this time of year that the finance committee conducts a pledge drive for the next year. This year our theme for the pledge drive will be "Faithful Together". As we create a budget for 2022 we ask that you think of all those things we have done together as First United Methodist Church of Brookings. There has been much accomplished by past and current members, but these things are because we have prayed together, worked together, and faithfully given together.

And so we ask you to consider that we can continue to do: Faithfully Together. We are at a difficult time in our church's history but we have remained faithful, and together we can move forward to new times, new goals, and new stories of what we can accomplish.

In October we will hold our pledge drive for 2022. Pastors Pete and Krista will provide words from John Wesley during the first 3 weeks of the month. October 17th will be Pledge Sunday where we ask you to consider how you can financially support the continued work of Brookings First United Methodist Church. Faithfully worshiping, working and giving together will allow the story of Jesus to continue to be told to the Brookings community and beyond.

Matt Miller, Finance Committee Chair

Year-to-date financials as of July 31, 2021:	
Income:	\$385,535
Expenses:	<u>\$354,735</u>
Net balance:	\$ 30,800

Trustee Committee Report

The Trustee Committee has several ongoing activities that they are working on including: replacement of Sanctuary basement windows, southeast Sanctuary entrance step improvements, Sanctuary basement kitchen planning, air conditioner repairs, and church bell tower window installation. All of these are in various stages of completion based on material availability, cost projections, and funding. Please visit with any of the Trustees for more information on any of these activities.

Ron Thaden, Trustee Committee Chair

Chancel Choir

The numbers of positive cases of Covid-19 in Brookings County are on the rise and we are now in the category of substantial spread. While the actual number of cases might seem low, the potential for each case to spread the virus rises exponentially. Singing is one of the ways the virus spreads most quickly because of how the vocal sound is projected from the mouth. With that in mind, I propose that we proceed with caution as we return to full choir.

At this time, I want to meet **Sept 15 at 7 PM** in the sanctuary with everyone who is interested in choral singing. We will have a discussion regarding your level of comfort with singing in a choir, masking options, as well as some viable options for us to return to choral singing that look different than what we did previous to Covid. Our congregation misses the choir and I know many of you enjoy singing. Let's do our best to think outside the box and come up with a safe plan to work back to a full choir.

Please contact me with your thoughts if you are unable to join us on Sept 7. bfkhieb@gmail.com or 605-691-9395

Previously we had planned for a return to choir potluck this coming Saturday Sept 28. That has been postponed for the time being.

Brenda Hieb, choir director

Jubilee Ringers

Our adult bell choir, Jubilee Ringers, will return to regular rehearsals Tuesday Sept 7 at 7 PM. This is a time change from what was previously posted. New and returning ringers are welcome! It is necessary to be fully vaccinated as we will stand beside each other.

Please contact me to let me know if you plan to ring handbells this coming year. I am excited to start ringing again! bfkhieb@gmail.com or 605-691-9395

Chiming Children

The children's bell choir for grades 3, 4 and 5 start practicing on Sept 15th at 4pm. Please contact Lynette Smith at lsmith2505@hotmail.com if you have a child that is interested in this music!

Youth Bells

The middle school and high school youth bell choir begins practice on Sept 15th at 5pm. Please contact Lynette Smith at lsmith2505@hotmail.com to let me know if you plan to ring handbells this year.

Piecemakers Quilting Group

The Piecemakers Quilting Group makes quilts for baptisms, graduation, illnesses, and grief for those within our church family. We use donations to support our projects. We had been meeting once a month on a Saturday and a group of quilters also met on Wednesdays but since the pandemic started, we have been haphazardly meeting if at all. The church called upon us to make face masks.

We planned to start meeting again this Fall, but we'll wait and see what happens with the virus. If you would like to become part of our group or donate to help fund our quilts, please let the office know. When we start meeting again, it will be in the announcements and on the church calendar.

Barb Johnson

United Methodist Women

Knitted Together for God's Good Work!

The Southeast District UMW Annual Celebration is on Sept 10-11 at the UMC in Redfield, SD. Contact Diane Culver by Sept 3 for more information and carpooling.



Diane Culver

United Methodist Men

UMM will meet on September 16, October 21, and November 18. We meet on the third Thursday of the month starting at 6:00pm for business meeting, 6:30pm is dinner, and 7:00pm will be a program.



Steve Eliason

Library News

The Church Library Care Committee is welcoming everyone to visit the Library. The Library is located on the northwest corner of the sanctuary building. You may visit it at any time. All the books on the tables in the Library are available for you to take. They are a mixture of historical, fictional, non-fictional, devotional, biblical study guides, musical (some hymnals and children's song books from earlier years), second copies and general reading. Please come and see what's here. During October we will have books on display in the narthex.

We are putting the books that will remain in the Library in alphabetical order by authors. We have reached the M's and will be done by October 1st. Thank you for your patience.

Linda Kay Hai, Library Committee

Alzheimer's Support Group

Are you the main caregiver for someone with Alzheimer's or Dementia of any kind? Are you feeling frightened, frustrated, alone? I would like to invite you to join me in a class designed especially for you. "The Savvy Caregiver" class will help you understand why the brain is not working correctly and strategizes you can use to manage daily life with the person, find and use help with caregiving tasks and take care of yourself. This class will be held weekly on Thursday mornings for seven weeks, starting September 30th. If you would like more information, there are flyers available at the Welcome Center.

Speaking of Alzheimer's and Dementia, did you know our church parlor is the home for a caregivers' support group? This group is sponsored by the American Alzheimer's Association. We meet every third Wednesday morning of each month from 10-11 in the parlor. For more information regarding this you can contact me at 605-695-1371. *Lisa Miller*

New Day Al-Anon

If a friend or family member has a problem with alcohol, you are welcome to attend the meeting. Al-anon meets every Tuesday at 5:30 until 6:30 pm. We use the North door and follow the posted signs. Just in case we move the meeting place. We don't meet if the Brookings schools cancel school. Please contact Sandy Ballou at 605 692-1774 with any questions.

Sandy Ballou

Healthy Movements

This activity is an exercise program taking place in the CLC each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10:00 AM. Participation has been strong since early spring with anywhere from 9 to 15 individuals involved each day. The series of exercises directed toward improving balance and muscle strength is directed by one or more SDSU students who are members of the Exercise Science Club at SDSU. Besides exercising for about 30 minutes, participants have a chance to ask questions and express ideas about the movements or just visit with one another. Anyone is welcome to participate if you have a spare 30 minutes. It is not a strenuous activity, but it could sure make you feel better after the routine!

August Meals on Wheels Completed

A special *thank you* to the last round of volunteers who demonstrated God's love this last month: August 2-6th: Ron and Linda Thaden, Edgewood Healthcare Center, Roger Sandness, Keith and Betty Allison, and Dwight and Bertha Combs. August 9-13th: Jack and Deb Longer, Pete and Jenny Grassow, Edgewood Healthcare Center, and Lynette and Bob Smith. The next round of Meals on Wheels will be October 25-29th and November 1-5th. *Perry Johnson*



Susan's Saga

Included in the practical admonitions of how to live as a Christ follower in the 5th chapter of Ephesians is the injunction of "trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord." This directive indicates being intentional in an ongoing process of determining what pleases the Lord.

Each attitude, thought, word, and action should be submitted to the crucible of what is acceptable to the Lord. The Lord's standard is the measure, not pop culture, conventional wisdom, current trends, or popular opinion.

To live out this verse means being willing to listen attentively to the Lord, tuning out the static and noise from the media, and engaging with what the Lord deems to be acceptable. God's Word is ever relevant to reveal what is pleasing to the Lord.

A corollary is found a little further on: "So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." It could also mean don't be imprudent or, put positively, be sensible in understanding what the will of the Lord is. The idea is to take seriously what the Lord has in mind.

The two verses taken together are excellent guidance in a confused, disoriented world, drifting ever farther away from Godly principles.

May we take these twin directives seriously as we follow the Lord in our journey through life, intentionally interacting with Scripture.

Susan Huggins

Scripture quote is taken from the New American Standard Bible, Ephesians 5:10 and 17.

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.

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