

November 2021

FROM THE PASTOR

God Takes Care

By: Pastor Krista

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”
Genesis 8:22



Over the past weeks, this has been a common sight across our prairie countryside. Farmers (and anyone they can bribe or cajole to help!) are hard at work getting the crops in. Time is of the essence, and when the weather is cooperating, it's time to get out there. Being married to a farmer's son, I notice this yearly rhythm more than ever; what used to fade into the background of rolling hills and distant farmhouses as I sped by has been brought to the forefront of my attention. What a faithful service our farmers provide to keep us fed and healthy!

Harvest comes; night gives way to day; the contradictions of our lives play out before us—and in the midst of it all, life goes on. We say goodbye to loved ones, welcome babies into the world, celebrate marriages, successes and birthdays, and grieve losses. And new mornings come, every day.

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FROM THE PASTOR

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Our scripture appears in the Bible at a key moment in the human story; Noah, his family, and scores of living creatures and plants have just emerged from their long sojourn in the Ark after a catastrophic flood. I have seen the devastating effect that either too much or not enough water can have on a season's crop. Imagine a deluge; a flood that covers everything. The Bible isn't the only ancient document to tell stories of a massive, devastating flood. Water, or the lack of it, can change a landscape in a matter of days or even moments.

Yet, God promises constancy, even after the worst disasters. Life goes on. New mornings come. Seedtime and harvest will pass—perhaps not always as we would like; but life will continue. This is our promise. God takes care.

In this harvest time of transition, may you be reminded that God is taking care of you. May the work of your hands and the love of those dear to you give you peace in the small things; the daily, seasonal rhythms of grace. God is taking care.

Pastor Krista

Annual Charge Conference

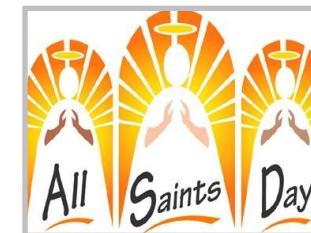
The Annual Charge Conference of Brookings First United Methodist Church will take place on **Sunday, November 7th, at 1:00pm**. It will be chaired by Pastor Rebecca Trefz, the Southeast District Superintendent. We will meet together with the leaders of Arlington, Aurora, White and Sterling Methodist Churches for a plenary session, and then break into our own individual church groups for voting on our own issues.

Rebecca Trefz is preaching at our 10:00am morning worship service. We are inviting the congregation to meet with her for an informal lunch after the service and before the meeting in the Community Life Center. As always, anyone who is a member of our church is welcome to attend the Charge Conference.

Pastor Pete

All Saints Sunday

Please join us November 7th for All Saints Day during the 10:00am worship service. We will honor and remember those who have died in the past year and honor the gift of faith and service they have passed on to our families, friends, community and church.



A Reunion of Friends from the Past

We recently had a visit from a family our church had cared for in 1979. Here is the correspondence:

My name is Amy Lam and I know this email is long overdue. Our family was sponsored by your church sometime in 1979/1980 as one of the millions of Vietnamese refugees that were able to seek asylum here in the United States. Thanks to your church's love, kindness and generosity and the grace of God our family (My father "A Lam" and mother "Xiem Chau") have been able to build roots in California after we left South Dakota where we have been living for the last 40 years.

Mrs Xiem Chau, her brother, and her son, Jimmy, came to visit us. They brought a donation as a way of thanking us for our hospitality. Their visit was followed by this letter from her daughter Amy:



*Hi Pastor Pete,
Thanks for taking the time to talk to us on our visit! My brother Jimmy, Mother and the rest of the Lams and Chau's really appreciated your time with us. The church is beautiful and brought back fond memories for my mom, uncles, and aunties. May God continue to bless the church and congregation during these challenging times just as God has blessed our family through the churches sponsorship back in the 1979!*

Our church has a tradition of hospitality. Our church doors carry the slogan of the United Methodist Church: "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors". I am proud that this value of hospitality is in our history and pray that we continue to offer welcome to all who pass through our doors.

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 Leeoffice@brookingsmethodist.org

Financial Secretary

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

Worship Tech/Media Director and Building Manager

Sam Becker.....media@brookingsmethodist.org

Tech Coordinator

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

Organists: Joan Riessen
MK Huggins

Pianist: 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

 **WATCH ONLINE**

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) All day Virtual Children's Church on Facebook
Wednesday:	5:00pm	Manna Meal
	6:00pm	Manna in the Middle Worship (CLC and online)
	7:00pm	Confirmation, Church Life Groups, Weds School

Check out our website: 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!' 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!

Campus Ministry Update

Our campus ministry meets together on Wednesday evenings, as we work through the Animate: Faith series. We also had a great time personalizing water bottles to give away at the Hobo Day parade, and we got to learn about a home-grown mission that has grown worldwide—Solar Oven Partners, launched from our own church! SDSU students continue to serve in the ministries of our church and bless us with their enthusiasm and servants’ hearts. God is good!



All Treats, No Tricks Halloween Event



On October 31, we are holding a Halloween event for children of the church, friends, and neighbors. Please join us in worship at 10:00 (no Sunday school) and then participate in our Halloween event at 11:00! Children are invited to wear their costume to church so they will be ready to Trick or Treat right after the service. Be sure to invite your friends! It will be held in the playground area or in the narthex if the weather is bad.

Gretchen Knutson, Education Director

(Note: Dr. Murphy’s adult class is still meeting on the 31st.)

Thanksgiving Schedule Changes:

No Confirmation/Wednesday School

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no confirmation nor Wednesday School on Wednesday, November 24.

No Sunday School

The education committee has decided to cancel Sunday school on Thanksgiving weekend, November 28. This will include Dr. Murphy’s adult class.

Children’s Christmas Program

The Children’s Christmas program “Just a Little Christmas” will be presented online this year due to Covid concerns for the children. It will be available for viewing on Sunday, December 19.

Be sure to watch our young disciples portray the uplifting message of Christmas!!



CHURCH CORNER

Harvest Table Update

The Harvest Table meals have been cancelled for November and December 2021. Some of the serving groups are not feeling comfortable getting together to prepare and serve a meal. This made for gaps in the calendar with no serving groups on some weeks. Rather than having hit and miss weeks of serving a meal, we will wait until we have enough serving groups to have a complete calendar of scheduled meals.



Harvest Table can still provide food items, diapers and baby wipes, personal care items, and hygiene items to anyone that contacts the Harvest Table office. We are still taking donations of any of these items or monetary donations. We collaborate with United Way and the other food agencies in Brookings to share our resources and products to fill the needs of those in the Brookings area.

Vonda Kirkham, CLC Director and Harvest Table Director

Advent/Christmas Decorating invitation



Advent is just around the corner, and we'd love to have your help in preparing the church with decorations. We will begin with decorating the sanctuary on Saturday, November 20th starting at 9:00 a.m. If you enjoy decking-the-halls and decorating-the-tree, please contact Kim Prohaska (kprohaska@itctel.com) or the church office 605-692-4345.

Prayer Chain

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



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
	1 10am—Communion at The Neighborhoods 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:15pm—Singles Bible Study 5:30pm—Nominations Committee meeting	2 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers	3 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy M 4pm—Chiming Cl 5pm—Manna mea 5pm—Manna Mea 6pm—Manna Wo 7pm—Confirmati
7 All Saints Sunday 9:00am—Adult Class (Dr Murphy) 9:00am—Sunday School (2yr to adults) 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship 1pm—Annual Charge Conference 4:30pm—Cross Work Emmaus	8 9am—Feeding SD mobile food truck 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 6pm—Worship Committee meeting 7pm—Trustee Committee meeting	9 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers	10 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy M 4pm—Chiming Cl 5pm—Manna mea 5pm—Manna Mea 6pm—Manna Wo 7pm—Confirmati
14 9:00am—Adult Class (Dr Murphy) 9:00am—Sunday School (2yr to adults) 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship— New Member recognition	15 10am—Communion at ULC 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:15pm—Singles Bible Study 5:30pm—Finance Committee meeting	16 1:30pm—CARE Group meeting (church basement) 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers	17 8am—TOPS 10am—Alzheimer 10am—Healthy M 4pm—Chiming Cl 5pm—Manna mea 5pm—Manna Mea 6pm—Manna Wo 7pm—Confirmati
21 9:00am—Adult Class (Dr Murphy) 9:00am—Sunday School (2yr to adults) 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship 4:30pm—Cross Work Emmaus	22 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	23 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers	24 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy M No Wednesday E
28 First Sunday in Advent 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship Thanksgiving Break— No Adult Class (Dr Murphy) No Sunday School (2yr to adults)	29 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	30 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers	

	Thu	Fri	Sat
Movement Class (CLC) Children al, Youth Bells al rship on & Church Life Groups	4	5 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 3pm—Wedding rehearsal	6 Wedding in sanctuary
Movement Class (CLC) Children al, Youth Bells al rship on & Church Life Groups	11 Veteran’s Day—church of- fice closed 5:30pm—Missions Committee meeting	12 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	13
Women’s Support Group (parlor) Movement Class (CLC) Children al, Youth Bells al rship on & Church Life Groups	18 10:00am—Communion at Edgewood Vista 10:30am—Communion at Stoneybrook Suites 6pm—United Methodist Men meeting	19 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	20 9am—Piecemakers 9am—Decorating for Christmas
Movement Class (CLC) Evening Services/Classes	25 Thanksgiving Day church office closed	26 Thanksgiving Break church office closed 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	27

MISSION CORNER



Feeding Brookings

Feeding Brookings is once again asking for contributions for the Thanksgiving meal distribution. The Missions Committee is asking church members to donate funds for this distribution. Monetary donations can be made electronically through the Vanco Mobile app or our website at <https://www.brookingsmethodist.org/give>. Personal checks are always welcome. The Mission Committee will purchase the items that First United Methodist Church has been asked to provide. Thank you for joining Feeding Brookings in this important holiday tradition.

Teresa Telkamp, Mission Committee

Turkey Dinner Update

Thank you to everyone who helped create a successful Drive-Through Turkey Dinner! With your help, we served over 470 meals, and brought in just over \$3200 after expenses. Proceeds will be split between Methodist Men, Methodist Women, Confirmation Youth, and Mission Committee projects. A special Thank You to Lynette Smith for coordinating the event, and Keith and Irene Goehring for managing the kitchen crew. Whether you provided a turkey, cranberry salad, pie, brownies, or volunteered your time to help prepare or serve, we could not have done it without your help. And thank you to everyone that turned out for this event and purchased a turkey dinner to go. Your support is greatly appreciated.



James Honomichl, Mission Committee Chair

FUMC Community Outreach

Meals on Wheels is dedicated to providing area seniors with the necessary nutritional support to help them continue to live independent and fulfilling lives, and FUMC has been involved with Meals on Wheels in Brookings for over 20 years. My calculations show that over 500 meals will have been delivered by FUMC volunteers *this* calendar year. What a demonstration of God’s love by FUMC!



We need just one more Meals on Wheels volunteer for Nov 1-5th. Or you can volunteer for the next round January 3 -14. Please contact Perry Johnson at perbar3@mac.com or phone 605-692-1340 to be assigned a delivery route for either of these dates. *Perry Johnson*

Mission Matching Grant

Gary Norton reminded our Mission Committee in his devotion that we are to give to the 'Least of These' (Matthew 25). Our congregation has a unique opportunity to increase its mission giving to those who need our help most both in our area and world. From now until June 30, 2022, an anonymous donor will match funds raised up to \$10,000. The Mission Committee decided that **Feeding South Dakota** and **Solar Oven Partners** will be the impetus for this match. At the end of this mission drive, the matching funds will go towards an International United Methodist Advance mission (to be determined by the committee).

Solar Oven Partners originated in this congregation in 2000. The current focus is oven distribution in the Dominican Republic, Sierra Leone, and the Navaho Nation in Arizona. These ovens use free solar energy and are very eco-friendly – no pollution! Water pasteurization is a key component of the project. The cost of an oven to a recipient is minimal compared to the component parts built into it. Donations and volunteers from across the Dakotas Conference make this happen. Solar Ovens is Advance Special #418812 of the United Methodist Church. Advance Special status assures that the project has oversight and uses your donations wisely. To learn more visit: <https://solarovenpartners.org/>



Feeding South Dakota, located in Sioux Falls, disperses food to the least of these in South Dakota. Programs include a Food Bank, Food Pantry, Mobile Food Pantry, Child Hunger and Commodity Distribution. Mobile food distribution sites include Volga and our church parking lot. The Brookings Food Pantry and the UMC Harvest Table are partners with Feeding South Dakota. To learn more visit: <http://www.feedingsouthdakota.org>.

We hope you will join us in reaching out to our neighbors by giving to the Mission Matching Grant, and thereby we will extend our hand in love to others in the world! Write your check to the church for the Matching Mission Grant or give online and let the church financial secretary know what it goes to. Monthly gifts would be welcome! An update will be coming out in each future Focus! Thank you for joining us in Mission!

From the Trustee Committee

The Administrative Council has recently approved two of our ongoing projects – Renovation of the Church basement kitchen, and replacement of the church basement windows by enclosing the space with bricking.

In the last couple of weeks we have been making further plans for the kitchen renovation. Bartels Construction is slated to give us an estimate of the cost of the remodel. But with several expected unknowns in any remodeling project, the exact cost will be uncertain prior to completion. Most of the cabinetry will be kept, but some will be moved around to better accommodate the space. We are considering either painting or replacing the cabinet doors to upgrade the overall appearance of the area. Older appliances will be removed and replaced with newer ones. New counter tops and floor coverings are also in the plan.

The southeast Sanctuary entrance has had additional improvements in that the old paint on the steps was removed and only the vertical parts of the steps repainted. Also a complete repainting of the handrails leading up to the entrance was done as well as the entrance handrails leading up to the east entrance doors. A special thanks to Doug Beste, Rick Hieb, and Ron Perry for a job well done.

We recently discovered an additional roof leak in the Narthex area. The roofing repair company couldn't find the source of the leak and suspect it may be under one of the compressor units that was installed last April. A solution to that problem is still being worked on.

In the next few weeks, the landscaping needs to be cleaned up for the winter. The Wednesday night men's bible study group has volunteered to do that job. And it won't be long before we need to make arrangements for snow removal!

Ron Thaden,
Trustee Committee Chair



Finance News

Thank y'all for being part of the mission of our church to our community. Your financial support ensures that we can keep blessing people in need – either in providing much needed supplies, or in giving pastoral and spiritual support. However, our work is not done. If you have not pledged, we ask that you consider making a pledge so that we continue to be the difference in the life of our community.

This year-to-date (as of 9-30-21) we have received \$476,300 in donations, and spent \$474,110. This is also the time of year when we plan ahead for 2022. We did send out pledge cards to the whole congregation. Last year we received 157 pledge cards back, and to-date we have received 81 cards. We know that many of you still plan to respond. In order to finalize the stewardship campaign, the Finance Committee is planning to make phone calls to identify any final pledges that may be made.

Thank you to those who have replied, as this helps us put a budget together for next year. Attached is a QR Code below for your convenience if you have not yet managed to respond.

Our annual audit have been completed by Kinner & Company Ltd. If you have any questions regarding this audit, please contact Jean Scherschligt, our church treasurer.

The Together Campaign closes at the end of 2021. To date, we have received \$1,003,723 and still have \$87,276 in outstanding pledges. Thank you to everyone who made this exceptional project a success. A special thanks to Tom Becker, Lynn Darnall, and Keith Goehring for chairing the Campaign Continuation Committee.

Thank you and God bless us all.

Pastor Pete
Matt Miller, Finance Committee Chair



Covid Continues to Challenge Us

“I wish that COVID-19 was over”. These are words said by all of us at some point. Of course life has is much easier since the vaccination has become available. But we still are faced with some virus challenges:

- We cannot yet begin our traditional choir ministry, because many are (rightfully) hesitant about singing in large groups. For this reason we have smaller choral groups leading worship each week.
- We have not been able to re-open Harvest Table as many of the volunteer groups used in the program have cancelled their participation due to Covid-19 concerns.
- We have had to cancel some Sunday School classes when children in the class have become ill with Covid-19.

I am asking your prayers for colleagues who have been ill with Covid-19: Krista Ducker was off for two weeks and is now recovered; Teresa Person was very ill with headaches, and has taken some vacation to gather her strength. For this reason, even if you have been vaccinated we encourage you to wash your hands, wear a mask in crowds, and be aware of social distance, especially when children are present.

Pastor Pete

Surviving the Holidays Grief Support Class

Surviving the Holidays Grief Support Class, led by **Joanie Holm** and **Brenda Hieb**, will meet on Sunday, November 14, from 2:30-4:30pm in the church parlor (south end of the basement). Please feel free to bring others in your family who may benefit from this discussion. This class is especially for people who are grieving a loved one's death. You will learn:

- How to deal with the many emotions you'll face during the holidays
- What to do about traditions and other coming changes
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- How to discover hope for your future

Please contact Brenda Hieb at (bfkhieb@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Savvy Care Giver Stress Buster Workshop

ATTENTION in home caregivers of someone with dementia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's or any other chronic illness. We have a day for YOU on Saturday, November 13th. This is a stress buster workshop presented by Active Generations in Sioux Falls. The day begins at 9am and ends at 2:30pm. FREE RESPITE SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE ON SITE. To reserve your spot call the Helpline Center at 211. Flyers available in the Welcome Center. *Lisa Miller*

Susan's Saga

"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

This verse in Hebrews alludes to the power of God's Word, using the figure of a sharp sword which is able to slice through all pretensions and subterfuges. This piercing activity can hurt as it exposes hidden motives and convicts people of that which is out of alignment with God's standards.

However, Scripture in a foreign language or in something other than one's heart language is like a knife with a dull edge. The Word's ability to transform lives is blunted, as people only get a dim or partial comprehension of God's heart.

That is why Bible translation is so essential, so that people can have access to God's Word in the language that they understand best. This verse keeps me going in the ongoing task of translating the Word of God for a people group who do not yet have access to it in their mother tongue.

Thank you for your part in this translation project for one such group.

Susan Huggins

Scripture quote is taken from the New American Standard Bible, Hebrews 4:12.

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.

First United Methodist Church
625 Fifth Street
Brookings, SD 57006

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