



FOCUS

NEWSLETTER

August 2022

FROM THE PASTOR

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



Brookings FUMC is a church that offers a warm welcome to all. This is good news for each of us, because we need never hesitate to walk through the doors of our church (*Open Doors*). At the same time this is difficult because we will find ourselves welcoming others who have a different cultural or political belief (*Open Minds*); or we might be sitting with people who differ economically or emotionally (*Open Hearts*).

The words above are written on the doors of our church. They were introduced in 2001 as a tagline of the United Methodist Church. This was part of an ongoing conversation about welcome and inclusion in the United Methodist Church. We have always wanted to extend the love of Jesus to all people. However, this has been difficult, because our culture struggles to be welcoming: Over the years the church has had to think about the welcome we have given to slaves, to people of color, to women and to the LGBTQ+ community.

The beginnings of Methodism in the United States date back to December 1784, with the establishment of the Methodist Episcopal Church (MEC) in Baltimore, Maryland. The MEC suffered a severe rupture in 1830, as more than 5,000 pastors left the denomination because black members were seen as inferior to white members.

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FIRST UNITED

METHODIST

BROOKINGS

AT THE
CORNER OF

**CHURCH &
COMMUNITY**

625 Fifth Street, Brookings
605-692-4345

www.brookingsmethodist.org

(continued from page one)

The MEC faced another division: the 1844 General Conference saw a clash between the pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions. Many members who were slave-owners felt uncomfortable with sitting alongside of their slaves. And until 1956, only men were ordained in the United Methodist Church. This conversation about welcome has again been tested with the inclusion of LGBTQ+ people.

The United Methodist Book of Discipline notes the following: "The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, color, national origin, status or economic condition shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection."

Belonging to Brookings FUMC means affirming "Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors". Each time you walk through the doors of the Narthex, read these words thank God that you are welcome. And at the same time, recommit yourself to practicing the welcome of Jesus to all others you encounter in our congregation.

Jenny and I have been touched by the warm, generous welcome we have experienced from y'all – and want to assure you that *anyone* is welcome to come and visit with us.

Sincerely,

Pastor Pete

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 !



Job Opening

Financial Secretary: we are looking for a Financial Secretary for our church. Trish Matson-Buus has graciously filled this position for the past 6 months, but the arrangement of two days per week proved difficult. We are looking for someone who can fill this Monday-Friday 9am-1pm (20 hours per week), with some additional hours for the annual audit, or at month's end. Please help us to advertise this, and contact the church office if you are interested.

Our church is welcoming new staff to our church:

Brenda Hieb is appointed as Music Coordinator. Brenda has been doing this as a volunteer since November 2021 and has now been appointed as a paid employee to this position. She will continue to take responsibility for the musical life of our church.

Ted DeLang has taken on responsibility for leading the Worship Team, as well as the task of Choir Director. He reports to Brenda, and they will work as a team to help us all offer ourselves in worship before God.

Joanie Holm has returned to her position as a pastoral caretaker/community nurse. Only this time she is tasked with building teams of volunteers to visit and care for the members of our church.

Please keep them in your prayers.

Pastor Pete

Coming Soon: Congregational Care Ministers (CCMs)

This fall BFUMC will be starting a program called Congregational Care Ministers. The ministry of congregational care is the heart of the church as the CCMs work alongside their pastor to provide Christlike care for the church family.

Stay tuned for more information!

Joanie Holm

Are You Called to Preach?

Do you have a calling to share the Gospel of Jesus as a lay preacher? If you have ever wondered if God is nudging you in this direction, please contact Lynelle at the church office to set up an interview with Pastor Pete. He will be arranging training for lay preachers, with a view to using lay preachers from time to time within the life of our church. You will need to be a full member of the United Methodist Church in good standing with the Brookings First UMC congregation.

Church Staff

Pastoral Staff

Pete Grassow.....pastorpete@brookingsmethodist.org

Education Director

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

Community Life Center Director

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

Office Manager

Lynelle Hagedorn.....office@brookingsmethodist.org

Financial Secretary

.....finance@brookingsmethodist.org

Worship Tech/Media Director and Facility Manager

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

Tech Coordinator

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

Music Coordinator

Brenda Hieb.....music@brookingsmethodist.org

Worship Team Leader

Ted DeLang

Organists:

Joan Riessen
MK Huggins

Connect with us!

Church Office Hours:

Mon: 9:30am-12:30pm

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

Need prayer? Email

prayer@brookingsmethodist.org

and pastor will pray with you.

[Facebook.com/FUMCBrookings](https://www.facebook.com/FUMCBrookings)

www.brookingsmethodist.org



WATCH ONLINE

Summer Weekly Worship Schedule

Sundays: 9:30am Radio Broadcast (on KBRK 1430AM)
10:00am Sunday Morning Worship (in-person and online)
All day Virtual Children's Church on Facebook

Check out our website: www.brookingsmethodist.org

Radio Broadcast Sponsorships

Now is the time to sign up for a radio broadcast sponsorship in 2022. 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

1. Contact the office at 605-692-4345
2. Email office@brookingsmethodist.org

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

Music Activities Starting in September

It is wonderful to be planning for musical group activities again this fall! Many opportunities are available and I look forward to welcoming singers, bell ringers and instrumentalists back to regular rehearsals and leadership in worship services. These rehearsals will resume the week of Labor Day.

The Chancel Choir will be directed by Ted DeLange. Ted comes to us from Dell Rapids through the Music Department at SDSU. We are already familiar with his musical talents at the piano and are excited that he is interested in expanding his involvement by directing the choir. The choir will meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM following the Wednesday evening service in the CLC. This choir welcomes high school students, college students and adult friends and members of the church.

As Pastor Krista has moved to Sioux Falls, Ted will also be stepping up to lead the Worship Band. His many years of experience participating in church worship bands has served us well in the past two years. This ensemble welcomes singers as listed above as well as instrumentalists, to inspire our worship and lead congregational singing. The Worship Band rehearses in the CLC Tuesday evenings.

The Jubilee Ringers, children and youth bell choirs will also resume regular rehearsals. The children and youth choirs will meet on Wednesday afternoon/early evening. Lynette Smith is our director for these groups. The Jubilee Ringers, adults, will be directed by Brenda Hieb and will meet Tuesday evening.

All volunteer musicians are welcome! Because you are volunteers, we recognize that you might not be able to attend regularly. Do not let that stop you from joining an ensemble. We need your vocal and instrumental talents to lead us in worship. You will make new friends, enjoy fellowship, find support when times are tough and experience joy in singing the story of Jesus love for us and praise to God.

As always questions are welcome. Please contact Brenda Hieb at 605-692-4345 or music@brookingsmethodist.org to sign up or for more information.

Brenda Hieb, Music Coordinator

Recruiting for Sunday School Teachers and Helpers

It truly does take a village to raise a child – and that includes raising them in the Christian faith. I would like to challenge you to be a part of that village. Please consider teaching or helping in a Sunday school classroom this year.

I will begin calling people in August to find volunteers for our Christian Education program to begin this fall.

Please know that helping with the education program does not mean that you will need to be there every Sunday. Life is busy and it simply isn't possible to be there every week. It is staffed in such a way that teachers can also have a weekend off when needed.

There is also no upper age limit to helping! Having 'seniors' help in the classroom is a blessing – to both the children and the 'senior'. I apologize if you don't get a call and would like to help. Just give Gretchen a call or email (education@brookingsmethodist.org) .

Gretchen Knutson, Education Director

Old Enough to Attend Sunday School?

If you have a 2-year-old (has turned 2 by August 31, 2022), he/she is old enough to attend Sunday school starting this fall! If you have not received a email introducing you to Sunday school, please contact Gretchen at education@brookingsmethodist.org. We would love to have your 2 year old in Sunday school this fall!

Gretchen Knutson, Education Director

Church Camping Weekend

Join us for a camping weekend at Oakwood Lakes State Park on August 5-7. Although the camping sites are full, feel free to join us for the day or evening. The shared meal on Saturday will be at 6:00pm and the Sunday brunch is around 10:00am after the park church service. If you need more information, Email Gretchen at:

education@brookingsmethoidst.org.



If you just want to come out for the day or evening, that's ok too!

Gretchen Knutson, Education Director

Vacation Bible School

VBS Food Truck Party Was a Success!

VBS was July 12-14 with 50 children; 35 helpers; 1 food truck; 12 hours of screaming participants; 255 meals; lots of water on the hot days—both drunk and splashed; songs, games and exuberant joy; best of all; children who discovered that Jesus loves them! Thank you to everyone for your support.

Gretchen Knutson,

Education Director



Trustee Committee

An electrician is making repairs and upgrades to our church facilities. Last month lighting upgrades were completed on exterior lights of the Community Life Center. The Narthex ceiling lights were repaired and upgraded to LED lighting. The pole lamp lights near the south Narthex entrance were also upgraded to LED lights. The electrician also repaired two fixtures in the basement gym. The electrician is waiting on materials to replace the lighting fixtures in two Education wing classrooms used by GAP.

A future project of the Trustee's is to repaint the stair railings in the Community Life Center. Our Ad Hoc church signage committee continues to meet as we address the church signage project.

Please visit with any of the Trustees for more information on any of these activities.

Doug Beste, Trustee Committee Chair

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>
	<p>1 10am—Communion at The Neighborhoods 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC) 5:30pm SPR Committee</p>	<p>2 5pm—New Day Al-Anon</p>	<p>3 8am—TOPS 10am—Health 7pm—Youth</p>
<p>7 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship</p>	<p>8 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC) 7pm—Trustee Committee</p>	<p>9 5pm—New Day Al-Anon</p>	<p>10 8am—TOPS 10am—Health 10am—Alzhe</p>
<p>14 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship</p>	<p>15 10am—Communion at ULC 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC) 5:30pm—Finance Committee</p>	<p>16 1:30pm Care Group 5pm—New Day Al-Anon</p>	<p>17 8am—TOPS 10am—Health</p>
<p>21 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship in the Park 4:30pm—Cross Work Emmaus</p>	<p>22 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)</p>	<p>23 5pm—New Day Al-Anon</p>	<p>24 8am—TOPS 10am—Health</p>
<p>28 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship</p>	<p>29 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)</p>	<p>30 5pm—New Day Al-Anon</p>	<p>31 8am—TOPS 10am—Health</p>

	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
ny Movement (CLC) Council	4	5 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)	6
ny Movement (CLC) imer’s, Dementia	11 5:30pm—Missions Committee	12 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)	13
ny Movement (CLC)	18 10am—Alzheimer’s, Dementia and Care Giving Support Group 10am—Communion at Edgewood Vista	19 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)	20 9am-Piecemakers
ny Movement (CLC)	25 1pm—Tie Quilters	26 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)	27
ny Movement (CLC)			



Harvest Table

Good News! Harvest Table is planning to start serving meals again in the Community Life Center on September 12, 2022, and every Monday evening (except major holidays) at 5:30pm. If you are a part of an organization, club, church group, neighborhood, friends, family, or any other group, please contact Vonda to schedule a date for you to serve. The first opportunity is October 31, 2022, January 2, 23, and 30 of 2023, and many other dates in 2023. Your group would be responsible for planning a menu, purchasing the food, preparing the food, serving

the meal, and cleanup. If you would like additional information, please contact Vonda Kirkham. To schedule a date for you to serve.

Thank you for your willingness to serve those in our community.

Vonda Kirkham, Community Life Center Director

#Onething for August

For August #onething the Missions Committee will be collecting donations for UMCOR disaster relief. Among other things, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is the disaster response arm of our global connection. During these unsettled times UMCOR acts as our hands and feet for Christ in areas of floods, droughts, fires, etc. During August the #onething offering will go to aid this agency in whatever part of the world the money is most needed. Please give to #onething offering this August.

Thank you!

Teresa Telkamp

Upcoming Turkey Dinner



The 2021 Turkey Dinner is planned for Sunday, September 25. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you!

Teresa Telkamp

Care Group and Kindness Committee

The Care Group and Kindness Committee are collecting the following items for the Harvest Table, The Food Pantry and Feeding Brookings in August:

Toothbrushes
Tooth paste

Won't you help us out? Drop off your donations in the containers that are in the CLC entry and the Church Narthex. Thank you so much!

Barb Meyer

Tool Time! Habitat for Humanity Father's Day

Thank you so much for honoring fathers and other significant men in our lives by donating towards Habitat for Humanity 'Tool Time.' The following were not included in the July Focus. Brookings Area Habitat for Humanity is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles that seek to put God's love into action by building communities, homes, and hope.

Ruth Anderson

In honor of LeRoy Anderson

Ruth and LeRoy Anderson

In honor of Brent Anderson
In honor of Mike Raue
In honor Rick Jacobson
In memory of Ole Sharp

Doug and Cheryl Beste

In memory of Loren Simmons
In memory of Darrel Beste

Marj Bohlen

In memory of Kermit Liebing
In memory of Al Bohlen
In honor of Steve Bohlen
In honor of Gregg TeBeest
In honor of Dave Sutera

Carol Montgomery

In memory of Merritt Montgomery
In memory of Joseph Rauenhorst
In memory of William (Bill) Angle
In memory of Bernie Rauenhorst

Beth and Ope Niemeyer

In memory of Bill Mc Cracken
In memory of our grandfathers
In honor of Gerrit Niemeyer



2022 Fruit Slush Booth-Brookings Summer Arts Festival

Thank you to everyone who helped create a successful Arts Festival Slush Booth weekend! Volunteers contributed over 500 hours picking strawberries, making slush, setting up and taking down the booth, and working at the booth during the festival. We could not have done it without all of you! And thank you to those that stopped by the booth and supported us by buying a cup (or more) of slush. We sold an estimated 1400 cups of slush this year. In addition, we SOLD OUT of slush by about 1 o'clock on Sunday. We finished the day selling Sprite with strawberries.



The sales brought in over \$7400, with an additional \$187 in donations, leaving just over \$6000 after expenses. These funds will support mission projects at home and abroad. We decided to use biodegradable cups, spoons, and straws this year. These items were generously provided by an anonymous donor. There were several comments from customers that appreciated our effort to help the environment.

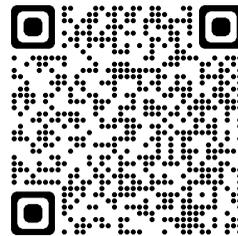


We would also like to thank Sanderson Gardens for providing the strawberries and Hy-Vee in Brookings for their willingness to freeze our slush. Thank you again for your help and support!

Mission Committee



New Church Directory!



**It's time for our
new directory!**

*Technology has
changed the way
we can view
directories!*



Our Church Family Album will
not be complete without you!
Please sign up today!

Photography Appointment

Date: _____ Day: _____ Time: _____

We are starting work on a new Church Directory and it won't be complete without you! Photography days are August 10th through 12th from 2:00-8:30pm and August 13th from 10:00am-4:00pm. Sign up for a time online at brookingsmethodist.org/directory, contact the church office, or look for the sign up sheets at the Welcome Center.

We are also looking for volunteers to contact families, help with sign-ups, and greet families on photography days. If you can help in any of these areas, contact the church office! Watch for the QR Code-coming soon!

Thank you!

Lynelle Hagedorn, Office Manager

Prayer Chain

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



Save the Dates:

Sunday School begins Sept 11

Brookings School District begin on August 23.

Susan's Saga



This month features faithful Mixtec co-translator, Mirsa, who has been a mainstay of the translation team for her variety of Mixtec. For over 30 years, she has been my mentor, travel companion, teacher, guide, and intermediary. It was from her that we started learning the rudiments of her Mixtec language. It was a real struggle for us to grasp her language, but when she found out we were doing it in order to be able to translate the Bible into Mixtec, she became our most loyal teammate and intercessor. We have had many adventures together, visiting over 17 villages throughout the language area. She has taught me many cultural tips about her people group, and what to do and not to do. She is an extremely wise, courageous, intelligent, resilient woman, far ahead of her time. I depend on her mature counsel. She is my heroine. In spite of an array of health challenges, she does not let it get her down, as she is determined to see this translation project through to completion. She sacrificially makes trips even when it costs her physically. She continues to be an integral part of this language project.

Mirsa is appreciative of your part in this endeavor. Thank you!

Susan Huggins

Susan Huggins is a daughter of this church serving in full-time ministry as a Bible translator among the Mixtec people of Oaxaca, Mexico. Susan's sending agency, Wycliffe Bible Translators, is a non-denominational organization; she raises her own funds to support this ministry.

**First United Methodist Church
625 Fifth Street
Brookings, SD 57006**

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