



FOCUS

NEWSLETTER

February 2022

FROM THE PASTOR

Driven or Driving

I have vivid boyhood memories of my mother's parents coming to visit our family. My grandfather always drove the car. Always. He was of a generation that believed that the man drove the vehicle. Grandma compensated for this by sitting in the backseat of the car where she could keep an eye on the way he drove – and if she had an opinion about the way he drove, she would tap him on the shoulder and control his driving. Oh the irony of my grandfather having the steering wheel but my grandmother being in charge of the vehicle.



Pastor Pete

I see this to be a metaphor for life: while we might think that we have control of the direction of our lives, the real question asks who is in the back seat controlling the way we drive our lives. The fact is that not one of us has complete control of our lives: we respond to family, to work colleagues, and to social pressure. These pressures can become overwhelming if we do not invite God to have the prime position in the back seat of our lives, giving us direction in all that we do.

Our next teaching series, entitled “Drawn In”, explores the way God draws us into a Divine act of the ongoing creation of our lives. We become co-creators with God in making our world a place of love, and joy and peace. Let us not be driven by the random pressures of life, but rather allow God to be driving the direction of our lives.

(continued on next page)



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
BROOKINGS

AT THE
CORNER OF
**CHURCH &
COMMUNITY**

625 Fifth Street, Brookings
605-692-4345
www.brookingsmethodist.org

FROM THE PASTOR

On a pastoral note: please keep our church staff in your prayers: Pastor Krista has been recovering from the flu; Vonda Kirkham is recovering from knee replacement surgery; both Gretchen Knutson and myself had close contact with Covid positive people – but after quarantine have tested negative. Sam Becker and Lynelle Hagedorn are the cheerful presence in our office, and Deb Cowan helpfully volunteers for the responsibility of the weekly bulletins and the monthly Focus.

Pastor Pete

Thank you JoAnn and Welcome Lynelle!

We were grateful for the gift of technology on January 20th that allowed us to celebrate the joy of new opportunities for JoAnn Lee, our Office Manager (who is moving to a new and exciting position in our community) and for Lynelle Hagedorn, who is stepping in to fill that space. We are grateful for God's provision and grace in answering prayer! Blessings to you both as you start something new!



Conversations with Pastor Pete

The Jesus you never knew

There are many different versions of Jesus in our culture. Some see Jesus as a universally beloved wise man; others see him as a kindly figure from Sunday School stories; and there are even some who believe that Jesus embodies everything that is great about American culture. This is an invitation to listen to the Apostle John tell us about Jesus. There are three sessions remaining in February. Sunday Afternoons: 4:30 – 5:30. In the Sanctuary.

February	Chapter	
6	Eleven & Twelve	Jesus buddies: Mary, Martha and Lazarus
13	Twelve	Donkeys, Greeks and Unbelief
20	Thirteen	Smelly feet

Silly little nothings...

“The best training is to learn to accept everything as it comes as from Him whom our soul loves. The tests are always unexpected things, not great things that can be written up, but the common little rubs of life, silly little nothings, things you are ashamed of minding one scrap.” Amy Carmichael, *A Very Present Help* (quoted in the *Lectio 365 prayer app*)

Silly little nothings: the long-ish line at the grocery store; the automated robotic voice on the other end of the customer service line; the third trip to the bathroom/request for water/fight with the little sister at bedtime. These are the things that try our patience. AND, they are the very fertile ground of our maturing, if we allow them to be.

Amy Carmichael, a missionary from Northern Ireland in the mid to late 19th century, travelled to far-flung lands like Japan, Sri Lanka and India, where she worked to free young women from sex trafficking and spearheaded the development of a sanctuary for over a thousand vulnerable children. You would think someone with such an adventurous and risky calling wouldn’t even blink an eye at the more mundane frustrations of daily life. But on the contrary, Carmichael tells us that it is not the big “yeses” but the very small ones, made over and over in the course of ordinary day after ordinary day, that help us grow to maturity.



Pastor Krista



We learn over time to say yes: yes to a gracious attitude in the long line; yes to patience in the midst of frustration; yes to the extra water (and hug); the opportunity for peacemaking amidst argument; the opportunity to love. These little yeses add up to much in our growing up into Christ.

In the midst of all the “silly little nothings” of our lives, may we grow in grace, by God’s grace. “If you refuse to be hurried and pressed,” Carmichael also wrote; “if you stay your soul on God, nothing can keep you from the clearness of spirit which is life and peace. In that stillness you will know what His will is.” *Candles in the Dark: Letters of Hope and Encouragement* (quoted in the *Lectio 365 prayer app*)

Pastor Krista

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

www.brookingsmethodist.org

Weekly Worship Schedule



WATCH ONLINE

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 !

Grief Class

Our church will be offering a class to address Grief, called Griefshare. The class will be led by Abbey and Lance Howard and Joanie Holm and will be held weekly, from March 6 to the end of May, 2022. We are tentatively planning on holding the class on Sunday afternoons.

If you are in grief, it may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel.

This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never faced before. We hope you will consider joining this group and sharing the class information with others in the community who are in grief. The class is open to all who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

Call the church office (692-4345) to register.

Joanie Holm

Prayer Chain

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



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.

Youth Group News, Souper Bowl of Caring—#onething



tacklehunger.org

Our youth group is meeting again after a time of reorganization and things are happenin'! They started out with marshmallow dodgeball and recently had a Jenga tournament and went bowling.

Our youth will be participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring, an organization which battles hunger. For over 30 years, the Souper Bowl of Caring has been driving grassroots efforts using the energy of the Big Game to illustrate the collective impact of tackling hunger locally.

We are combining efforts with the Missions committee and making February #onething the Souper Bowl of Caring. We are asking for nonperishable food items which can be dropped off anytime in bins at the church and will be collecting monetary donations on Wednesday's and Sunday's beginning February 9. You may also donate by going to the church's website www.brookingsmethodist.org Click on Give, then donate and choose February #onething: Souper Bowl of Caring. ALL of your donations will remain local. The food will be donated to the Harvest Table pantry and the money will be given locally also. Thanks so much for your support!

Gretchen Knutson, Education Director

Church is Offering Senior Scholarship

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

Camp Registrations are Open!



I hope you are all planning on attending camp this summer. I'm thinking you're more than ready to have those experiences that only camp can provide. Please go to www.dakcamps.org to register. And remember that there are camps for every age and interest!

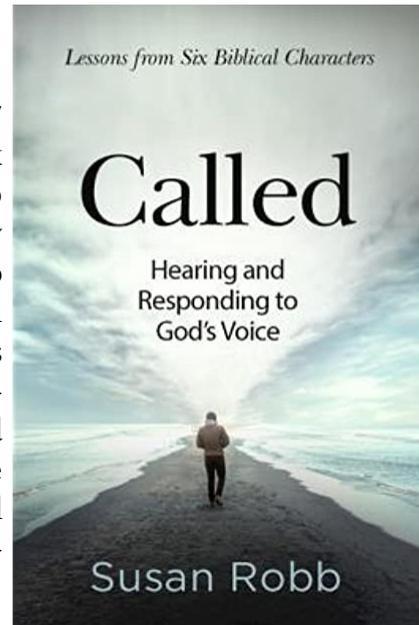
The conference camping office is watching the Covid epidemic and will make a decision soon about the capacity limit of each camp. Hopefully by summer they won't need to limit campers!

If you have a favorite camp you would like to attend, be sure to get registered soon. Camp Scholarships staying at 75%! The Education committee is very aware that Covid continues to be stressful for many families on

many levels. Therefore, we are going to offer a **75% scholarship** to campers again this year. We want to make sure that all who want to attend camp are able to do that. All you need to do to receive this scholarship is to enter brookingscampers in the registration process. Further scholarships are available locally and at the conference level. Please contact Gretchen (education@brookingsmethodist.org) for further assistance.

Wednesday Manna Study- "Called"

We will be doing a study on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. The title of the study is 'Called', lessons from Six Biblical Characters. In 'Called' author Susan Robb shows us how God interrupts the lives of ordinary men and women, calling and empowering them to lives of service they never would have imagined on their own. The 'Called' DVD contains six sessions about Abraham, Samuel, Esther, Jonah, Mary Magdalene, and the Beloved Disciple. You may wish to read Genesis 12, 16, 17, and 18. This class will meet in the conference room in the education building and will be led by Avis Norton. Although this began on January 26, feel free to join them!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
		1 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 5pm—FUMC Foundation 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 6:30pm—Financial Peace University 7pm—Worship Team Practice	2 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy Mo 4pm—Chiming Chil 5pm—Manna meal, 6pm—Manna Wors 7pm—Confirmation
6 9:00am—Adult Class (Dr Murphy) 9:00am—Sunday School (2yr to adults) 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship 4:30—Study on John w/Pastor Pete 7pm—Youth Council	7 10am—Communion at the Neighborhoods 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:15pm—Singles Group 5:30ppm—SPR Meeting 6:30pm—Worship Committee	8 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 6:30pm—Financial Peace University 7pm—Worship Team Practice	9 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy Mo 4pm—Chiming Chil 5pm—Manna meal, 6pm—Manna Wors 7pm—Confirmation
13 9:00am—Adult Class (Dr Murphy) 9:00am—Sunday School (2yr to adults) 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship 4:30—Study on John w/Pastor Pete	14 9:15am—Feeding SD Mobile Food Truck 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC) 7pm—Trustee Meeting	15 1:30-3:30—CARE Group (Church Basement) 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 6:30pm—Financial Peace University 7pm—Worship Team Practice	16 8am—TOPS 10am—Alzheimer’s 10am—Healthy Mo 4pm—Chiming Chil 5pm—Manna meal, 6pm—Manna Wors 7pm—Confirmation
20 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 4:30—Study on John w/Pastor Pete	21 10am—Communion at ULC 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC) 5:15pm—Singles Group 5:30pm—Finance Committee meeting	22 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 6:30pm—Financial Peace University 7pm—Worship Team Practice	23 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy Mo 4pm—Chiming Chil 5pm—Manna meal, 6pm—Manna Wors 7pm—Confirmation
27 9:00am—Adult Class (Dr Murphy) 9:00am—Sunday School (2yr to adults) 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship	28 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)		

	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Movement Class (CLC) Children Youth Bells Friendship Groups & Church Life Groups	3	4 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	5
Movement Class (CLC) Children Youth Bells Friendship Groups & Church Life Groups	10 5:30pm—Missions Committee	11 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	12
Support Group (parlor) Movement Class (CLC) Children Youth Bells Friendship Groups & Church Life Groups	17 10am—Communion at Edge- wood Vista 10:30am—Communion at Stoneybrook Suites 1:30pm—Congregation Ladies meeting 6pm—United Methodist Men	18 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	19 9am—Piecemakers
Movement Class (CLC) Children Youth Bells Friendship Groups & Church Life Groups	24 1-4pm—Tie Quilters	25 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	26

GYTTE

What on earth is GYTTE?...

Why, it is the Advance Special program of our new United Methodist Covenant Missionary, Nan McCurdy in Mexico! This advance will be the recipient of our ongoing Matching Mission Grant campaign!



Located in rural south-central Mexico, this social outreach program uses community-based health care principles to aid local folks 'help themselves'. They have established a number of health care and self-care basic classes along with agricultural programs designed to help lift local citizens from the depths of poverty. Some of the programs we will help sponsor with our matching grant include: blood pressure kits, glucose examiners, fuel efficient mud stoves, 4 month old milk goats, gardening and composting workshops and building dry compost toilets. To find out the many facets to this mission please visit (www.GYTTE.org).

When our congregation gives to the Matching Grant, 1/2 will go to support Solar Ovens, 1/2 will support Feeding South Dakota, and the Match will go to GYTTE!

Please give generously as a grant that maximizes our love for others doesn't come along every year! You can leave a check on the office for Mission Matching Grant or there is an online giving button for the Mission Matching Grant. Thank you for your participation! grant include: blood pressure kits, glucose examiners, fuel efficient mud stoves, 4 month old milk goats, gardening and composting workshops and building dry compost toilets. To find out the many facets to this mission please visit (www.GYTTE.org).

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Lorna Jost

Feeding South Dakota

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>.



Solar Oven Partners

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/>

Thank You from Project Joy and #onething

This congregation has generously given to missions over the Advent season. Project Joy, December #onething offering received \$250.00 and the Christmas Eve offering of \$2601.38 goes into the Pastors Emergency fund.

For the February #onething, the Mission Committee is partnering with the youth for the Souper Bowl of Caring. Your generous donations will help fight food insecurity. Please consider giving to this worthy cause.

Lorna Jost

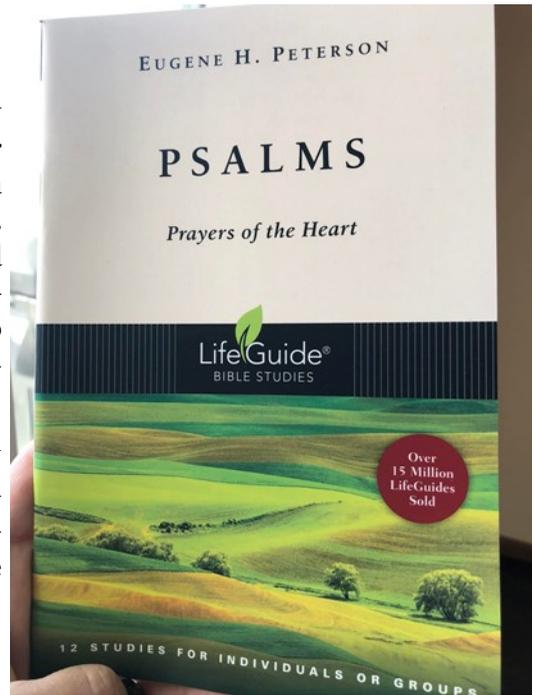
#onething 

Campus Ministry Update

The spring semester is off and running! January 12th began the second semester at SDSU, and our campus ministry has started up again with a Wednesday evening Bible study on the Psalms. Our Jackrabbits continue to serve in worship and have taken up leadership positions on two committees at the church. And they continue to grow together as we meet and learn from scripture.

Please pray for all the students and staff at SDSU as they continue to navigate the ongoing challenge of the pandemic. Thank you for your prayer support and for being a loving church home to our SDSU students!

Pastor Krista



Harvest Table



Because of the continuing COVID pandemic, the Harvest Table advisory board has voted to cancel serving the in-person meals until further notice. We are still able to assist with needs of those in the community from the donations we receive. We are accepting monetary donations, non-perishable food items, personal care items (shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, lotion, feminine products, etc) and household items (laundry detergent, dish detergent, facial tissue, toilet paper, paper towels, etc) and baby diapers and wipes. Thank you for your continued support of Harvest Table.

Trustee Committee

The Trustee Committee has recently been involved with several projects.

The basement kitchen renovation project is in progress and will continue for the next several months. Removal of cabinets and appliances as well as some demolition work has been completed.



Removing the old kitchen flooring.

We are in the process of upgrading the fire detection/alarm system including installing fire detection devices in the church offices and rooms above the offices.

We are also working with a HVAC contractor to complete repairs/improvements in both the church boiler room and the CLC.

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

Doug Beste, Trustee Committee Chair

As We Begin a New Year

Brookings **Meals on Wheels** serves nutritious meals to area home bound Seniors. It enables them to remain living in their own homes, where they want to be. The program uses volunteers to deliver a nutritious meal, a caring voice, and a quick safety check. That was done over 600 times last year by FUMC volunteers. According to Julie Scubelek (60s Plus Dining coordinator), FUMC is presently the most actively involved church in the Brookings program. If you would like to learn how you can be involved please contact Perry Johnson.

Perry Johnson



Finance News

The year 2022 has arrived. The finance committee would like to share some budget information with you all.

As Matt stated in the January FOCUS, 2021 was a challenging year, but again the members and friends of the church have been amazing in their financial support. At year end for 2021, 103% of our anticipated pledges for 2021 have been received. That is a fantastic way to end the year, with an unexpected but very welcome bonus. Our 2021 budget ended the year with \$16,600 in additional pledge contributions. This helped us see a net gain in our operating fund of \$10,690 as of 12-31-21.

Thank you to all that have pledged and thank you to all that have given without making pledges.

Last fall the Administrative Council accepted an unbalanced budget for the 2022 calendar year. That was done with faith that we as a church will be able to meet the challenge such a budget has presented. The budget presented to the Administrative Council shows an operating budget with expenses at \$744,300 and operating income of \$672,100. This budget has a deficit of \$72,200.

Please contact the church office for a detailed line-item budget report if you are interested: 605-692-4345.

Our church committees have been tasked with carefully evaluating their expenditures. The finance committee will continue to monitor the pledges as they are received and work with the committees to shrink the deficit.

If you are one who has not turned in a pledge for 2022 yet, I hope you will consider doing so. Again, thank you to all who have committed to a pledge and thank you to those that give regularly without pledging. If you would consider additional contributions, be assured that your additional contributions will be used efficiently to help reduce the deficit in our 2022 budget.

Beth Niemeyer, Finance Committee Chair

Susan's Saga

The eleventh chapter of Hebrews has been called the Hall of Fame of faith. Faith is defined as "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." The author then recounts various people from the Old Testament who exercised faith. The recurring theme running throughout the chapter is "by faith....."

But the chapter ends with various cases of those for whom things did not go well, having been tortured or stoned or killed by the sword or imprisoned, having been afflicted or mocked or ill-treated or reduced to being fugitives.

All of them serve as notable examples to us in how they demonstrated their faith, yet because they lived before the Incarnation, they did not witness the full manifestation of faith, as revealed in Christ Jesus.

In Chapter 12 we see the culmination of faith, as shown in the life of Jesus. We are commended to live our lives while "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

In Him is found both the fulfillment of the faith of those who went before and the foundation of faith for those who come after. He is the pivotal point on which both the Old and the New Testaments are based.

This key verse reveals the plan of God which is what gives meaning and purpose to our lives.

May God grant us the courage and grace to follow Jesus' supreme example.

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.

(Scripture quote is taken from the New American Standard Bible, Hebrews 11: 1 and 12: 2.)

**First United Methodist Church
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