



FOCUS

NEWSLETTER

July 2022

FROM THE PASTOR

Unity



“I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”
(John 17:20)

We are part of the United Methodist Church. This implies that we belong together, united as one. Clearly this is not in step with our prevailing culture, which is one of division, suspicion, and separation.

Our world is torn apart by war and destruction. Our culture is torn apart by the violence of guns and the damaging, hurtful words of social media and of political antagonism. Sadly, there are also moments when we discover division with our “united” Methodist Church.

This does not absolve us from the responsibility of seeking Christian unity. The prayer of Jesus – *“that all of them may be one”* – is so that our divided, and divisive world may see a better way of living life. Bishop Deb Kiesey, preaching at the Dakotas Conference service, put it this way: “Unity! Not uniformity, not conformity, not everyone thinking alike, not everyone agreeing, but unity within this holy spirit because there is only one body, there is only one God,”

(continued next page)



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
BROOKINGS

AT THE
CORNER OF
**CHURCH &
COMMUNITY**

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

(continued from page one)

We do not try to make everyone think the same or express their faith in Jesus in only one way. We celebrate the diversity of gifts within our church and make space for many different ways of serving God. What holds us together is our call to be a loving presence of God within our neighborhood, our city, and our world.

This is the reason that I love being part of Brookings First United Methodist Church. We are a vibrant, diverse community of Jesus-loving people. I celebrate each and every one of you who have brought your own particular flavor to add to our service of Jesus.

May the Grace of Jesus hold us all.

Sincerely,

Pastor Pete

Pastor Teri Johnson

Pastor Teri is an integral part of the Brookings community, both in teaching at SDSU and now as a member of the Brookings school board. She also served as a deeply loved pastor of Brookings FUMC from July 1995 - June 2013. I appreciate the contributions she has made to the life of our congregation, and the leadership she showed as Senior Pastor.

I invited Teri to be our Preacher on Sunday, July 24th. I assured her that she and her family are a special part of our church family. In accepting this invitation, Teri wanted me to let everyone know that her responsibilities at SDSU occupy her time, and she is not looking for a larger role in the life of our church.

Pastor Pete



Loving the LGBTQ+ People in our Church and Community

Every year, during the month of June, the LGBTQ+ community holds events around the world to promote the dignity, equal rights and self-affirmation of gay people. Such awareness of bigoted attitudes and social injustice cannot be restricted to only one month, so we will continue to raise awareness, and encourage inclusiveness.

Despite what some Christian leaders have said, God does not hate gays. People hate gays, and blame God for their prejudice. While it is true that there are some people in the Bible that condemn homosexuality, Jesus never did so. We who follow the way of Jesus are called to follow the example and teaching of Jesus: which is governed by Jesus' love for all humanity, and his advocacy for those who are oppressed.

I will support and encourage those members of our church who find themselves struggling with social prejudice towards LGBTQ+ people, and I want everyone to know that you are safe to speak to this pastor.

Sincerely,

Pastor Pete



Bishops in the Dakotas Conference of the UMC

Bishop Ough retired as our Bishop at the end of June 2021. The United Methodist Church appointed Bishop Laurie Haller as the Interim Bishop for the Dakotas-Minnesota Area, supervising the Dakotas Annual Conference. She also serves as the Resident Bishop of the Iowa Area in the North Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church.

Sadly, Bishop Laurie had an unfortunate accident on black ice and has been away from her office because of a severe concussion. Bishop Deb Kiesey stepped in as her substitute until she has recovered. The United Methodist Council of Bishops has called a jurisdictional conference for November this year to elect and assign a new episcopal leader for our Conference.

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

Trish Matson Buus.....finance@brookingsmethodist.org

Worship Tech/Media Director

and Facility 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: 9:30am-12:30pm

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

Finance Office Hours:

Mon & Fri: 9:00am-5:00pm

Need prayer? Email

prayer@brookingsmethodist.org

and a pastor will pray with

you.

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

www.brookingsmethodist.org

Summer Weekly Worship Schedule



WATCH ONLINE

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.

Family Back 2 School Project

“Family Back 2 School Project” is a community effort to meet the challenge of providing school supplies to children attending school in Brookings County who are struggling with the cost. Applications are currently being accepted for those who need assistance. Registration forms are located at the Department of Social Services, on the Brookings school website under parent resources (www.brookings.k12.sd.us), and a link to the application is on the Brookings Family Back 2 School Project Facebook page. This year’s event will be held on Thursday, August 11th, at the Faith Reformed Church.

In 2021, we were able to supply 524 children with the supplies they needed for the new school year. Each child also received a pair of shoes as well as dental and hygiene products. This project combines the efforts of many individuals, churches, service groups, school counselors, Social Service agencies, the Salvation Army of Brookings County, local businesses, and many other groups who have concern for children.

Monetary donations would be appreciated and can be sent to Family Back 2 School Project, PO Box 224, Brookings, SD 57006 or call 605-695-4679 (Dawn), with any questions.

Prayer Chain

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



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 !



It's time for our New Church Directory!

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

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: _____

Ministerial Association Service at the Brookings Arts Festival

When: July 10 (Brookings Arts Festival)

Where: Pioneer Park

Time: 8am

We will still have a 10am service in our sanctuary.

Thank You Brookings FUMC

Once again the Brookings FUMC has come through big time! The Solar Oven Scholarship fund to the Dominican Republic for Alexis Schmidt has been OVER funded by a few hundred dollars! Since some of the donors to this fund are anonymous, the Mission Committee suggests applying the extra funds to the Matching Grant for Solar Oven project funds and Feeding South Dakota. If any donors to this fund have concerns with this, please direct comments to the church office. Thank you!

Lorna Jost

Stop in the Office and Say Hello!

Church Office Hours:

Mon: 9:30am-12:30pm
Tues-Fri: 8:30am-12:00 pm

Lynelle Hagedorn, Office Manager

Office Volunteers Needed

Current Volunteer needs:

Finance: Sunday Worship Stewards

Office: Attendance entry

Please contact the Church Office if you are willing to volunteer!

Thanks!

Lynelle Hagedorn, Office Manager

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:

Deodorant

Shampoo

Conditioner

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

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.

Summer Church Campers

Please pray for these campers as they attend camp in July:

Gretchen Knutson, Education Director

Paige Samuel Ella Tellekson	<i>Storm Mountain Center</i> Rock that Doesn't Roll	July 10-15
Peggy Eggers	<i>Lake Poinsett</i> Grandparents and Me	July 17-19
Kate Bartels Lucy Tellekson Libby Vlaminck Steph Vlaminck	<i>Lake Poinsett</i> <i>Mini-Camp C</i>	July 20-22
Jessica, Marley, Maddix & Makenna Huyck Chris Buus, Trish Matson- Buus, Nate & Taira	<i>Lake Poinsett</i> Family Camp	July 22-24
Tom, Kay & Sam Becker Zachary Douglas Jim, Cheryl and Rylee Ho- nomichl Zachary Douglas	<i>Storm Mountain</i> Family Fun-4-All	July 22-24
Linda Kay Hai	<i>Camp LTC</i>	July 24- 29
Amy Merchant	<i>Lake Poinsett</i> Crafts. Photography & More	July 31- Aug 3

Vacation Bible School

VBS Food Truck Party Coming Soon! July 12-14!

Be sure to sign your children up for VBS which will be July 12-14 in the evenings. We are ready to have a GOOD time!

VBS is for children who have turned 4 by August 31, 2021 – 5th grade (just finished). Sign up here:

<http://bit.ly/VBS2022FoodTruckParty>



Thank you to the many volunteers who said yes to teaching, helping, cooking and many other jobs.

We will begin the evening at 5:15 with a meal for all! On Thursday evening we will have a food truck – Midwest Fresh, on site from which to order. All in the church are welcome to come and eat with us Thursday evening.

We would appreciate donations of food for the Tuesday and Wednesday VBS meals. Here is a link to sign up to donate food:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D44A8AB22A5F85-2022>

Gretchen Knutson, Education Director

Church Camping Weekend

Join us for a camping weekend at Oakwood Lakes State Park on August 5-7. We have reserved spots and there are a few left if you want to camp. It's a great weekend for conversation, fellowship, we share a couple of meals, and anything else we decide to do. Let Gretchen know if you are interested in joining.

Email Gretchen at:

education@brookingsmethoist.org.



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

Gretchen Knutson, Education Director

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<p>3 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship</p>	<p>4 Fourth of July</p>	<p>5 5pm—New Day Al-Anon</p>	<p>6 8am—TOPS 10am—Health</p>
<p>10 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship</p>	<p>11 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC) 7pm—Trustee Committee</p>	<p>12 5pm—New Day Al-Anon</p>	<p>13 8am—TOPS 10am—Health</p>
<p>17 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship 4:30pm—Cross Work Emmaus</p>	<p>18 10am—Communion at ULC 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC) 5:30pm Finance Committee</p>	<p>19 1:30pm Care Group 5pm—New Day Al-Anon</p>	<p>20 8am—TOPS 10am—Health 10am—Alzheimer's Care Giving S</p>
<p>24 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship</p>	<p>25 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)</p>	<p>26 5pm—New Day Al-Anon</p>	<p>27 8am—TOPS 10am—Health</p>
<p>31 Conference-Young Adult Retreat 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship</p>			

	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)	2
Healthy Movement (CLC)	7	8 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)	9
Healthy Movement (CLC)	14 5:30pm—Missions Committee	15 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)	16 9am-Piecemakers
Healthy Movement (CLC) Senior’s, Dementia and Support Group	21 10am—Communion at Edgewood Vista 10:30am—Communion at Stoneybrook Suites	22 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)	23
Healthy Movement (CLC)	28 1pm—Tie Quilters	29 Conference-Young Adult Retreat 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)	30 Conference-Young Adult Retreat



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 December 19, 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, feel free to contact me.

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

Vonda Kirkham, Community Life Center Director

2022 Fruit Slush Booth-Brookings Summer Arts Festival

The Brookings Summer Arts Festival is rapidly approaching, and we still need many volunteers for the Brookings FUMC Slush Booth on July 9 & 10. Sign up to help at the booth on Signup Genius: <http://bit.ly/22SlushBooth> .

We also need strawberry pickers. The Signup Genius link for that is: <http://bit.ly/22Strawberry> . This year the money raised will go to Ukraine Relief, UMCOR Disaster Relief, and Local & Global Hunger Relief. If you cannot volunteer, stop in at the booth during the Arts Festival and buy some delicious frozen fruit slush.



You can also signup on Sundays at the Welcome Center or call the church office at 605-692-4345.

Thank you for your help in making our slush booth a success.

James Honomichl

Missions Committee Thank you!

The Mission Committee wishes to thank all the faithful givers to mission causes of this Church. We are blessed with a caring community which wishes to make a difference in the lives of those in need, through gifts, service, and prayer. The following gifts in 2022 have come in and are up to date as of May 23.

#onething and fundraisers

January = Midwest Mission Distribution Center, Chatham, IL = \$225

February = Souper Bowl of Caring (youth designated) both a #onething and general offering = \$2772.56

March = UMCOR Sunday also a #onething and general offering = \$1670.00

April = UMCOR Refugee offering for Ukraine refugees = \$382

May = Mothers' Day, Church World Service Blankets = \$740

June = Fathers' Day, Tool Time for local Habitat for Humanity = tba

Other donations

Solar Ovens = \$120.00

Pledges to Mission = \$195.00

Susan Huggins support = \$300.00

NOMADS = \$50.00

Matching Grant – as of May 23

We are pleased to announce the total matching grant amount stands at **\$6301.63**. We will take donations for this fund until the end of June. We can get a match up to \$10,000!

Half this amount raised will go to **Solar Ovens**, the other half to **Feeding South Dakota**.

The match will go to **Give Ye Them To Eat** in Mexico – where our new covenant missionary, Nan McCurdy is in ministry. Thank you.

James Honomichl

#Onething for JULY

For July #onething the Missions Committee will be collecting school supplies for the backpack program. Supplies requested include: backpacks, Kleenex. Deodorant, headphones (over the ear), earbuds, pencil bags, dry erase markers (chisel tip), children's pointed scissors (Fiskars preferred), scissors for age 12 and up. Monetary donations will be accepted as well. Thank you for supporting the youth of our community! Thank you!

Teresa Telkamp

Trustee Committee

The basement kitchen renovation project has been completed and we are now able to utilize the kitchen and all the downstairs. The cabinets have been filled and the new refrigerator/freezer, the new commercial under the counter dishwasher, and the range and microwave are ready for use. The Trustee Committee thanks everyone for the patience and understanding you have shown during this construction project.

The lighting upgrades have been completed on the exterior of the Community Life Center. In the coming weeks the lights in the Narthex will be upgraded.

The Mark Winquist Prayer Garden recently had a water fountain donated and installed by Dan Merchant with installation assistance from Jim Ducker, Rick Hieb, and Doug Beste. Thank you for this great addition to the garden, Dan!

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

Doug Beste, Trustee Committee Chair





Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will not have its June meeting until after the FOCUS deadline. Updates will be included in the August FOCUS.

Beth Niemeyer, Chair, Finance Committee

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.'

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.

Sharon Anderegg

In memory of Glen Anderegg
In memory of Ray Anderegg
In memory of Frank Minkler
In memory of Melvern Anderson
In honor of Steve Anderegg
In honor of Barry Anderegg
In honor of David Anderegg
In honor of Brandon Anderegg
In honor of Malcom Minkler

Kay Becker

In memory of Dean Becker
In memory of EJ Huggins
In honor of Tom Becker

Nate and Taira Buus

In memory of Wayne Buus
In honor of Chris Buus
In honor of Duane O'Connell
In honor of Pete Grassow

Sylvia Conger

In memory of Noel Conger

Khristine Haensel

In memory of Karl Andersen

Avis Heyduk

In memory of Frances Heyduk
In memory of Richard Heyduk

Brenda Hieb

In memory of Isaac Klassen
In memory of Bill Hieb
In honor of Rick Hieb
In honor of Brian VandeGriend
In honor of Dave Kmetz
In honor of Isaiah Waddell
In honor of Pete Grassow
In honor of Jim Ducker

Patsy Johnson

In memory of Maurice Johnson

Lorna Jost

In memory of Bob Jost
In memory of Don Little
In memory of Sheldon Little
In honor of Rick Jost
In honor of Pete Grassow
In honor of Richard Wahlstrom
In honor of Don Little, Jr
In honor of Barry Little
In honor of Mike Heninger
In honor of Dustin Woodford

Tool Time! Habitat for Humanity, Father's Day

Betty Ruth Mennis

In memory of Reiner Pulscher

Barb Meyer

In memory of Jim Meyer
In memory of Henry Meyer
In memory of Russ Carley

Gary and Avis Norton

In memory of Dallas Norton
In memory of Erwin Saxowsky

Joyce Kilmer Simet

In memory of Robert Kilmer
In memory of Mack McLain

Bob and Lynette Smith

In memory of Don Haas
In memory of Merle Smith
In honor of Carey Davies

Teresa Telkamp

In memory of Albert Telkamp
In memory of Henry Sundermann

Linda Thaden

In honor of Ron Thaden

Ron and Linda Thaden

In memory of Theodore Thaden
In memory of Bud Lucas
In memory of Paul Moore
In honor of Scott Thaden

Helen Williams

In honor of Roger Sandness



Mother's Day Church World Service Blankets

Thank you so much for honoring mothers and other significant women in our lives by purchasing Church World Service Blankets. These blankets provide warmth and shelter, comfort and privacy, and healing wherever God's people may need care. They are a wonderful gift and you can provide a little bit of hope at the same time.

The following are donors that were not included in the June Focus.

LeRoy Anderson

In honor of Ruth Anderson

LeRoy and Ruth Anderson

In memory of Laura Anderson

In memory of Aletha Swift

In memory of Hanna Sharp

In honor of Jean Pal

In honor of Rhonda Raue

Sharon Anderegg

In honor of Nellie Minkler

In honor of Leona Anderegg

In honor of Susan Stubbe

In honor of Marylyn Anderson

In honor of Marlys Johnson

In honor of Tammy Anderegg

In honor of Kayla Waldner

In honor of Megan Phillips

In honor of Paige Anderegg

In honor of Kathy Anderegg

Tom and Kay Becker

In honor of MK Huggins

In memory of Doris Becker

Don and Judy DeZeeuw

In memory of Gertrude DeZeeuw

In memory of Adell McKeown

Bud and Peggy Eggers

In memory of Pauline Eggers

In memory of Gene Christie

Kathy Hill

In memory of Verna Ivers

In memory of Elaine Ivers

In memory of Ruth Hill

MK Huggins

In memory of Mildred Shields

In memory of Dua Huggins

In honor of Kay Becker

Patsy Johnson

In memory of Anna Marie Johnson

Gary and Avis Norton

In memory of Pam Scarborough

In memory of Erna Saxowsky

In memory of Ruby Norton

In memory of Marj Todd

Ron Thaden

In honor of Linda Thaden

Ron and Linda Thaden

In memory of Grace Thaden

In memory of Janis Lucas

In memory of Kim Deyette

In honor of Kristen Thaden



Susan's Saga

The United Nations General Assembly has declared the decade beginning now, 2022 to 2032, as the **INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES**. This proclamation is to draw global attention to the critical status of many minority languages around the world and to mobilize stakeholders and resources for their preservation, revitalization, and promotion. SIL (the field organization of Wycliffe Bible Translators) is pleased to join with this initiative, as that is integral to what we are all about: affirming the value of all people, regardless of the language that they speak. This movement offers a unique opportunity to collaborate and stimulate global dialogue, while revitalizing and promoting indigenous languages around the world.

Bible translation is essential to promoting the intrinsic value of each person. Making God's Word available in the heart language demonstrates the importance of the identity of each people group.

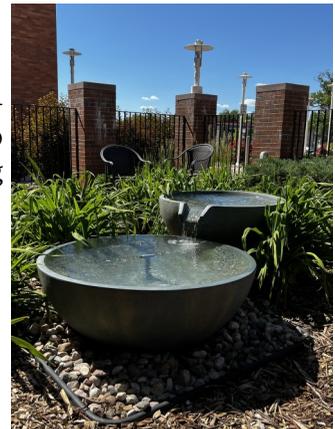
Due to the participation in this ongoing language project in Mexico, this congregation has a part in this global initiative. This declaration offers a challenge: let us seek further ways to affirm speakers of all languages, near and far.

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.

New Fountain

A special thank you to Dan Merchant for the donation of the water fountain for the Mark Winquist Prayer Garden. Dan had help with installation assistance from Jim Ducker, Rick Hieb, and Doug Beste. Thank you for this great addition to the garden, Dan!



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
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Brookings, SD**