



FOCUS

NEWSLETTER

March 2022

FROM THE PASTOR

Bright Sadness



Pastor Krista

Around the world, Christians faithfully observe a season of prayer, fasting and reflection called “Lent;” a reminder of the forty days of fasting Jesus spent in the wilderness before he began his public ministry. Lent as we observe it today is a six week period in which we prepare our hearts for the journey of Holy Week: from the pageantry of Palm Sunday, to the intimate communion of Maundy Thursday, the passion of Good Friday, the quiet mourning of Holy Saturday, and finally, the exultant joy of Easter Sunday.

The Eastern Orthodox church calls this the season of “bright sadness” (*charmolyptê*); what a beautiful way to refer to this season—a surprising contradiction that is so often the paradox of human experience; grief mixed with joy. As we enter this season, let us carry these contradictions with us: the sadness of our recognition of our mortality; the solemnity of our recognition of sin within and among us—and yet, the great hope that ultimately, Easter is coming, and with it, forgiveness and eternal communion with God in resurrection glory.

(continued on next page)



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COMMUNITY**

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

FROM THE PASTOR

This will be the third Lenten season we will observe in the shadow of a global pandemic. I'm sure for many of us it seems like this three-year period has felt like a long Lenten observance; a world-wide pause from what we once knew. As we begin to reckon with the reality of our "new normal", may we find peace in the "bright sadness." May we pause, pray and meditate on the God who speaks new life in quiet whispers to the soul. Let me leave you with the words of Nelson Cowan, pastor of Christ UMC in Neptune Beach, FL:

In an age where certitude is lauded, Lent invites us into a season of unknowing: fasting, praying, confessing, and pardoning—journeying alongside Jesus... May the God who, in Christ Jesus, took on flesh and walked these unsteady forty days, go with you, guide you, and sustain you. Amen.

Pastor Krista



This Lenten season, we are offering a new worship opportunity to help prepare our hearts for the journey toward the cross, the grave and the empty tomb: weekly worship with communion.

Join us Sunday mornings at 8:15am beginning on March 6th in our sanctuary for a reflective worship service, which will include communion each week during the Lenten season. This will be followed by coffee and fellowship during the Sunday school hour in our narthex, before our 10am service in the Community Life Center.

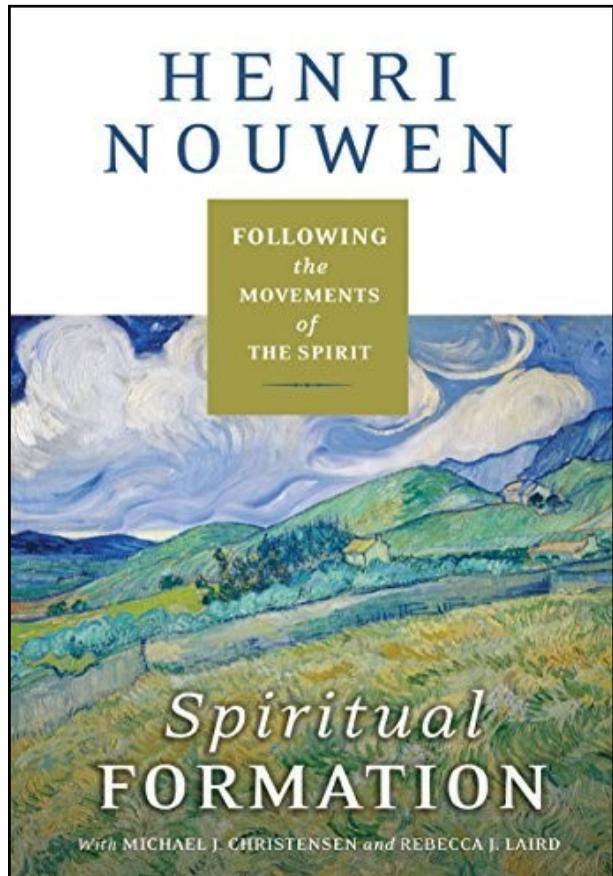
And we will also re-start our Lenten soup suppers on Wednesdays beginning Ash Wednesday, March 2nd. Join us as we begin our Lenten journey this month.

2022 Lenten Study: Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Spirit

Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022, marks the beginning of Lent. You are invited to a service at 6pm in the Community Life Center. In this service we are marked with ash, and invited into the spiritual journey towards Easter on April 17. There will be soup and a sandwich available from 5pm for those who would like to come before the service.

This Lent we join the Dakotas Conference of the UMC in learning from the spiritual wisdom of Henri Nouwen. He understands the spiritual life as a journey of faith and transformation that is deepened by accountability, community, and relationships. *Spiritual Formation* reveals Nouwen's sage advice on how to live out the five classical stages of spiritual development. This Lent explore Nouwen's unparalleled wisdom on how to move from the mind to the heart and live there in the center—the place where God dwells.

- Week 1**, *From Opaqueness to Transparency*
- Week 2**, *From Sorrow to Joy*
- Week 3**, *From Resentment to Gratitude*
- Week 4**, *From Fear to Love*
- Week 5**, *From Exclusion to Inclusion*
- Week 6**, *From Denying to Befriending Death*



Church Staff

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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 !

Griefshare

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.

Camping Registration is Open

Registration is open on the camping website which is www.dakcamps.org. Be sure to take a look and get signed up before your summer schedule gets too full! I see that some of you are signing up already and that's great!

The church is offering a 75% scholarship for any camps which a camper (child/youth/adult) would like to attend. To access this scholarship, be sure to put in 'brookingscampers' when asked during the registration process.

The early bird deadline which offers a cost savings is Friday, April 30. You may certainly sign up after that however.

Please never let the expense of attending camp be a deterrent—talk to Gretchen as funding beyond the 75% percent is available locally, and other funds are available at the conference level. We want everyone who wants to attend a camp to be able to do just that!

Camp Sunday is March 20th. Donations are welcome at any time either online through our website <http://www.brookingsmethodist.org/donate.html> or by dropping it off at the church office.

Gretchen Knutson, Education Director

Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you so much for contributing to the Souper Bowl of Caring campaign which the Sr. high youth promoted in February. You were very generous with your donations of food and money. A special thanks to the donor who contributed \$1000 to their effort. It's so nice to be supported by the congregation!



At this point, over \$1000 has been raised and many many food items have been donated.

WHAT IS UMCOR SUNDAY? (Mar 27, 2022)



As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to respond with extravagant grace. Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) we are able to make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This offering undergirds UMCOR's "cost of doing business," allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go towards that project and not administrative cost.



UMCOR equips local churches, annual conferences and nonprofit organizations to be in mission with their communities and to respond to those left most vulnerable during challenging times. Working with local organizations, churches in the community and United Methodist volunteers, UMCOR helps communities rebuild, in the years following a disaster.

UMCOR responds to U.S. and international disasters, addresses diseases and poverty, assists refugees and immigrants, provides clean water and works to reduce hunger. UMCOR would be unable to do this work without your support. From training Conference Disaster Coordinators and Early Response Teams to keeping the office lights on, the UMCOR Sunday special offering equips the organization to respond quickly to disasters.

#onething



Your sustaining gifts on UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for UMCOR to share God's love with communities everywhere. The Mission Committee has also designated the #onething for March to go to this very important offering.

Lorna Jost

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
		1 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 6:30pm—Financial Peace University 7pm—Worship Team Practice	2 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy Mo 4pm—Chiming Chi 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 2pm—Grief Share	7 10am—Communion at the Neighborhoods 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:15-6:15—Singles Group 5:30—SPR Meeting	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 Chi 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 2pm—Grief Share 7pm—Youth Council	14 9:15am—Feeding South Dakota Mobile Food Truck (CLC parking lot) 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC) 7-8pm—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	16 8am—TOPS 10am—Alzheimer's (parlor) 10am—Healthy Mo 4pm—Chiming Chi 5pm—Manna meal 6pm—Manna Wors
20 9:00am—Adult Class (Dr Murphy) 9:00am—Sunday School (2yr to adults) 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship 2pm—Grief Share 4:30—Cross Work Emmaus	21 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC) 10am—Communion at ULC 5:15pm—Singles Group 5:30pm—Finance Committee 7:30pm—Worship Committee	22 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Worship Team Practice	23 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy Mo 4pm—Chiming Chi 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 2pm—Grief Share	28 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)	29 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Worship Team Practice	30 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy Mo 4pm—Chiming Chi 5pm—Manna meal 6pm—Manna Wors 7pm—Confirmation

	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Movement Class (CLC) Children Youth Bells Hip n & Church Life Groups	3	4 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	5
Movement Class (CLC) Children Youth Bells Hip n & Church Life Groups	10 5:30pm—Missions Committee	11 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	12
Support Group Movement Class (CLC) Children Youth Bells Hip	17 10am—Communion at Edge- wood Vista 10:30am—Communion at Stoneybrook Suites	18 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	19 9am—Piecemakers
Movement Class (CLC) Children Youth Bells Hip n & Church Life Groups	24 1pm—Tie Quilters	25 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	26 2pm—Lion’s Club Spaghetti Supper
Movement Class (CLC) Children Youth Bells Hip n & Church Life Groups	31		



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.

From the Library

Thank you to everyone who has been part of updating the Church Library. We are now ready for you to start checking out books. There will be directions available for you to use. We will continue to work in the library to create a space for books, for people who love books, for a meeting space and for a place open to the Spirit of God. Please come and see our Church Library.

Linda Kay



As We Begin a New Year

January Meals on Wheels completed:

The Brookings **Meals on Wheels** program serves nutritious meals to area home bound Seniors and is a demonstration of “God’s Love” by FUMC. Special thanks to the volunteers who delivered Meals on Wheels during a very cold and snowy January. This round of deliveries was completed by Sam and Kay Becker, Pastor Pete and Jenny Grassow, Linda Kay Hai, Lorna Jost, Dwight and Bertha Combs, Barb and

Larry Hult, Perry Johnson, Pastor Krista Ducker, Keith and Betty Allison, and Lynette and Bob Smith. The next round of deliveries will be April 11th - 22nd. If interested in helping contact Perry Johnson at perbar3@mac.com.

Perry Johnson

Lenten Offering

Our Lenten Offering this year will go towards our Matching Mission Grant. Every dollar given to the grant for Feeding South Dakota and Solar Oven Partners will be matched (up to \$10,000) to go to the projects of our new covenant United

Methodist Missionary (Nan McCurdy). Her projects at Give Ye Them To Eat in Mexico are community needs based including agriculture and health (www.gytte.org).



Individual mission boxes are available in the church office and at the Welcome tables. You can pick one or several up for your family. They conveniently take coins, dollar bills and checks! Please give generously to all of these very worthy United Methodist projects! Lent starts on Wed March 2 and goes to April 14. Please return to the office after these 40 days of Lent have passed. Thank you!

Lorna Jost

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>.

Campus Ministry Update

Mid-term is here! It's hard to believe the semester is flying by. Our campus ministry has continued to meet, laugh and study together, and serve our church and community. In February, we made Valentines for our church family in assisted living facilities (thanks to Barb Meyer for the delicious Valentine cookies)! We also contributed two \$25 gift cards to the Souper Bowl of Caring from our campus ministry funds—a way to give back! Both ideas came from our students themselves. I am delighted to serve with such generous, kind students, who inspire me every day. We continue to dream about future opportunities for mission, service and fellowship in the second half of term!



Pastor Krista



Trustee Committee

The Trustee Committee working together with our building manager, Sam Becker, has continued to maintain our facilities and grounds. We have had repairs made to our elevator and HVAC systems. We are also exploring an upgrade to our HVAC control system software in the Community Life Center as the software company will not continue to support us without an upgrade.

The basement kitchen renovation project continues with the completion of the installation of the epoxy flooring and fire-resistant ceiling tiles. The work will continue into the spring months. We thank everyone for your understanding of the inconveniences the project necessitates.

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

*Doug Beste,
Trustee Committee
Chair*



Kitchen Cabinets being installed!

Happy Fish

Thank you to the Merchant Family for sprucing up our fish tank! Come check it out in the Narthex.



First Aid for Mental Health: See the World Through the Eyes of Others

Every day we are each given multiple opportunities to improve the lives of those around us; to really listen, be present and be a presence of blessing. In the challenging times we face, understanding how to respond with empathy and care to others is a great gift--for people in all walks of life. We invite all to take advantage of this opportunity to learn "First Aid for Mental Health", provided by the Dakotas Conference in March--training is open to all. Click the link to register: <https://www.dakotasumc.org/.../first-aid-for-mental...>

First Aid for Mental Health

See the world through the eyes of others

Live Virtual Events—March 10 and 24



Susan's Saga

The recipients of this translation of the New Testament into Mixtec live in the mountainous region of Oaxaca, a state in the southern part of Mexico. Part of the language area has beautiful pine forests.

Thank you for your part in bringing God's Word to this people group.

Susan Hughhins

Susan Hughhins 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.



Susan in her truck—she wanted us to see the area where she is working.

**First United Methodist Church
625 Fifth Street
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