



FOCUS

NEWSLETTER

May 2022

FROM THE PASTOR

Trusting the God Who Provides...



“I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” (Phil. 1:6, NRSV)

Dear Brookings First Family,

As many of you know, a few weeks ago I communicated with the church the news that I will be relocating to Sioux Falls at the end of June this year. The discernment process that leads up to decisions like this is long and difficult—it has involved much prayer and conversations with those dear to me. I have been so blessed to serve as your Associate Pastor, even as I make the decision that ultimately is best for my family.

Times of transition are naturally anxiety-producing. The Apostle Paul knew this even as he penned the above words to a new and growing Philippian church. An itinerant preacher himself, Paul was constantly on the move, and that meant that he regularly said good-bye to congregations he had shepherded, then wrote to them from a distance later. And so, it was natural that this pastor would remind the Philippians at the beginning of this pastoral letter of the true source of their hope, confidence and trust—God. It is God who begins the work, God who continues it, and God who brings it to completion.

As we continue to navigate these uncertain times, I am absolutely
(continued on next page)



FIRST UNITED

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AT THE
CORNER OF
**CHURCH &
COMMUNITY**

625 Fifth Street, Brookings
605-692-4345

www.brookingsmethodist.org

FROM THE PASTOR

(continued from page one)

confident that the work God has begun in you and continued among us will continue and find its completion! God always provides, sometimes in ways that surprise us. As I wrap up my time here in my Associate Pastor role, I covet your prayers for me, Jim and Lucas; I will begin a new part-time appointment as Pastor at Ben Clare United Methodist Church, near Valley Springs SD (a few miles southeast of Sioux Falls), on July 1st. Thank you for the many ways you have cared for and supported me and my family during my tenure at Brookings First. I am grateful for the time we have shared on the journey!
Sincerely,

Pastor Krista

A Renewed Hope

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb....(John 20:11).

I am wondering if you know what it feels like to be hopeless: like Mary – you have tried to hold it together: You have faced down bad news; you have refused to let obstacles get in your way; you kept going through Covid / and through financial difficulty / and through family conflict... and through school exams and the challenges of sporting activities. And then something else comes your way, and this is the proverbial straw that breaks the camel's back. Like Mary you end up crying in the garden....or more likely in the bathroom with kids banging on the door.

Here is the truth of our Christian life: God can lead us through our sadness to a place of hope. The same Savior who stood alongside Mary with comfort and strength will stand with us in our tough times, giving us hope for life. This is not a hope that ignores the sadness and the difficulties of life. Rather it is a hope that the Savior who conquered death will strengthen us to conquer the death of hope and lead us to resurrected dreams.

May God bless us all as we enter a new season of the year. Along with the emerging daffodils, the returning birds, and the warmer weather, may we find our souls warmed by the presence of the Spirit of God.

Pastor Pete



From the General Conference of the United Methodist Church

A commission for the UMC General Conference decided to postpone the General Conference again due to travel constraints for delegates in other countries: "The visa issue is a reality that is simply outside our control as we seek to achieve a reasonable threshold of delegate presence and participation," Kim Simpson, chairperson of the commission for the General Conference, said in an official statement. "Ultimately our decision reflects the hope that 2024 will afford greater opportunity for global travel and a higher degree of protection for the health and safety of delegates and attendees."

In the light of this postponement, a group of members who are unhappy with the presence of LGBTQ members and clergy in the UMC have decided to leave the UMC. On May 1 they launched a new church called The Global Methodist Church. This is a more conservative Methodist denomination that invites local congregations to join a new global movement. The Brookings First United Methodist Church does not plan to leave the United Methodist Church. We will adhere to the traditional Methodist position of an open table at Holy Communion. We will continue to be a place where "Open Minds, Open Hearts, and Open Doors" means that all are welcome. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to Pastor Pete.

Thank you!

A special thank you to our choir, the many musicians, volunteers and staff members for making our Easter TV Special even more amazing. If you want to see more check out our FaceBook page.

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



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

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

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 !

A Note from the Health Ministry Committee

Dear friends of Brookings First United Methodist Church,

Our committee wants you to know that you are important to us. If you have health concerns and would like a phone call or visit, please let the front office staff know (692-4345). We cannot visit you in the hospital if we do not know you are there! We can also try and answer questions about navigating the health system.

We hope you will take advantage of the Healthy Movement class, offered each M,W,F in the CLC. Physical activity is so important in staying healthy!

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.

Celebrating our Graduates

During the May 1 worship service, we will celebrate our high school seniors as they get ready to go on to the next adventure in life. We will honor them with a special recognition during the service and have pictures along with a display of quilts made especially for them by our Piecemakers quilting group. Please join in celebrating the 2022 class of seniors: **Allison Clark, Wyatt Drew, Ethan Gaalswyk, Kennedi Gerjets, Christopher Gross Jr., Sam Hardin, Emily Harms, Andrea James, Jensi Jensen, Konnor McClain, Delaney O'Connell, Kayla Shoup, Tristina Ting, Grace VandeKop.**

Gretchen Knutson, Education Director

Church Camping Weekend

The church camping weekend is planned for August 5-7 at Oakwood Lakes State Park. There will be at least 10 spots reserved in campground 1, so if you would like to be a part of this weekend, let me know, or you may reserve your own spot. We will share a couple of meals together, play some games, make s'mores and generally have a good time and relax!

If you don't like to camp or can't commit to the weekend, come out for the day or evening. There's a fire each evening with lots of fellowship and good stories are told! Gretchen Knutson, education@brookingsmethodist.org

Gretchen Knutson, Education Director

Thank You Teachers/Sponsors!

The Education Committee would like to thank the following teachers for their faithfulness in leading Sunday school classes and confirmation this year as we were able to meet in person! The children and youth were blessed by the love and dedication of these people. 2's/3's – Laura Gerjets and Jessica Huyck, Pre-K/Kindergarten – Danielle Bohn and Andrea Glover, 1st/2nd – Brenda Buus and April Flemming, Middle School – Cheryl and Jim Honomichl, 7th grade confirmation – Sharon James and Paul Schmidt, 8th grade confirmation – Nicole Anderson, Kelly Wendell, Christa Bortnem, Sherri Christianson, Penny Eliason and Laura Gerjets.

Gretchen Knutson, Education Director

New Membership

If you have interest in becoming a member of the church or know of someone who is interested, please contact the office at 692-4345, or at office@brookingsmethodist.org.



Vacation Bible School

Join us for Food Truck Party!
July 12-14!

Ages for VBS: 4 year olds (as of August 31, 2021) – 5th grade (this school year) are invited to sign up for VBS here: <http://bit.ly/VBS2022FoodTruckParty>.

Preschool groups will consist of children aged 4 year - kindergarten. The elementary children (1st-5th) will be in limited mixed aged groups of approximately 5 children. A meal will be provided on Tuesday and Wednesday for everyone. Thursday evening, we will have food trucks available for the meal. We will be calling for leaders for VBS soon!

Gretchen Knutson, Education Director



Thank you VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are superstars! In honor of Volunteer Appreciation Month, we highlighted some of the many ways our volunteers make the work of ministry happen at Brookings First UMC. Let your light shine, Brookings First! We are so thankful for you!



Bud and Peggy Eggers taking pictures of our confirmands.

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>
<p>1 7:30am—Boy Scout Troop 1, Pancake Feed and Silent auction 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship 2pm—Grief Share</p>	<p>2 10am—Communion at the Neighborhoods 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30—SPR Meeting 7:30—Worship Committee</p>	<p>3 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers</p>	<p>4 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy</p>
<p>8 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship-CLC 2pm—Grief Share</p>	<p>9 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC) 7pm—Trustee meeting</p>	<p>10 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers</p>	<p>11 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy</p>
<p>15 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship-CLC 2pm—Grief Share 4:30pm—Cross Work Emmaus</p>	<p>16 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC) 10am—Communion at ULC 5:15pm—Singles Group 5:30pm—Finance Committee</p>	<p>17 1:30—Care Group 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers</p>	<p>18 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy 10am—Alzheimer Care Giving Su</p>
<p>22 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship 2pm—Grief Share</p>	<p>23 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)</p>	<p>24 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers</p>	<p>25 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy</p>
<p>29 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship</p>	<p>30 10am—Healthy Movement (CLC)</p>	<p>31 5pm—New Day Al-Anon</p>	

	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	5	6 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	7
Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	12 5:30pm—Missions Committee	13 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	14
Healthy Movement Class (CLC) Men’s, Dementia and Support Group	19 10am—Communion at Edgewood Vista 10:30am—Communion at Stoneybrook Suites 6pm—United Methodist Men CLC	20 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	21 9am-Piecemakers
Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	26 1pm—Tie Quilters (2/3 year old classroom)	27 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	28



Harvest Table

Although Harvest Table has not started serving meals yet, the community has been very generous with donations. One of the SDSU student organizations that usually serve a meal did a food drive instead. They collected canned food items, diapers, and personal care items. A student at Camelot Intermediate School did a diaper drive to earn the letter “C” for Character. She collected 2, 311 diapers and 44 packages of baby wipes. The Brookings Optimist Club gave us a monetary donation in the dollar amount of what they had budgeted to serve a meal.

We are so thankful for all of the donations we receive. We appreciate everyone’s willingness to help us serve others in our community.

Vonda Kirkham, Community Life Center Director

Share the Warmth Spring Donation Drive

During May 1-15, the Brookings Salvation Army is having a spring donation drive. You may donate new or gently used (Clean) winter coats, snow pants, boots, hats/caps, gloves and scarves.



DOING THE MOST GOOD



They are partnering with the Brookings Regional Humane Society; they are collecting these items: Bleach, Scoopable cat litter, cat/dog toys.

Donations can be dropped off in the totes in the church Narthex and the CLC, or the Best Choice truck located at the First Bank and Trust on 6th Street.

Thank you!

Barb Meyer

#Onething for May– Mother’s Day Blankets for CWS

On Mother’s Day, our church has traditionally contributed to CWS to purchase blankets for distribution around the world.



Have you ever considered all the ways a blanket can be utilized by a refugee? Along with the uses for comfort, warmth, and to lie on; you can use it to carry your child on your back, carry supplies, make a tent, or hang it as a privacy wall. Consider giving a blanket as an Act of Love.

Each \$10 donation will purchase one Church World Service Blanket in honor or in remembrance of someone special to you.

Coupons will be at the Welcome Centers for you to list the name of the person you wish to honor/remember. You can drop off the coupon and your donation in the church office. For remote giving, you can donate through the #onething online donation link at the Brookings FUMC website (www.brookingsmethodist.org/donate.html). If you donate online, please email the church office (office@brookingsmethodist.org) indicating the names of those you are honoring/remembering. If you wish, put an H by the honoree’s name and an R by those you are remembering. (i.e., Jane Doe - R, Janet Dow - H). Checks can also be sent to the church office with your list. A list of honorees will be sent out with the June FOCUS.

Honor or remember your mother or beloved female friend/relative through your #onething donation in May and “Blanket the World with Love.”

Lorna Jost

Finance Committee

Finance Committee met Monday April 18. Church operating budget shows that February 2022 ended approximately \$12,000 ahead and it looks like March will show about that much ahead again. The Finance committee is pleased to see this, and we are cautiously optimistic that the trend will continue.

We want to highlight the benefits that we, as a committee, see to using the yearly pledge cards that are sent to church members and friends. The pledges help us plan for the known expenses and for what is available for programming. The monthly utility bills and the staff salaries as well as the educational curriculum, worship enhancements and mission opportunities.

The pledge cards allow us to plan a budget and see what may be available for unforeseen expenses. We appreciate every contribution made and are thankful for them. The pledge cards help us with planning and preparing.

Beth Niemeyer, Finance Committee Chair

May Care Group Collection

During May, the Care Group will be collecting items for the Harvest Table at FUMC. Donations of Laundry and dish soap can be dropped off in the totes located in the Narthex and CLC.

Barb Meyer



Trustee Committee

The Trustee Committee has planned and arranged for the summer maintenance of the outdoor grounds of our facilities. We also have made plans for repairing the air conditioning unit in our church basement and improvements in the boiler room.

The basement kitchen renovation project continues toward completion. We hope to have the installation of the new counter tops, cabinet doors, and drawer fronts completed by early May. This will allow for the finishing of the plumbing and electrical work as well as our finish painting by sometime in May. We thank everyone for your understanding of the inconveniences due to this project.

An Ad Hoc committee of the Trustee's, chaired by Russ Daly, continues to meet as we work to develop a plan for the installation of new interior and exterior signage for our church facilities. This will be to fulfill one of the priorities established in our FUMC Together campaign.

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

Doug Beste, Trustee Committee Chair

FYI: Brookings Marathon

The annual Brookings Marathon will be held on Saturday, May 14th. Athletes will be running through the FUMC neighborhood from 7am to 1pm for the marathon, half marathon and marathon relay events.

Because we are on the marathon route, we are invited to watch the race and cheer on the runners as they pass by on Saturday morning. In the interest of safety, please notify the race committee if there are any FUMC events scheduled that could create concentrated bursts of traffic, they will ensure that adequate volunteers are available on the race course to direct the flow of runners and traffic.

Brookings Marathon Race Committee

Race Contact:

Matt Bien, 605-690-5183, run@brookingsmarathon.com

Campus Ministry Update

We are almost to the finish line of another academic year! It has been such a blessing to share the ministry of First On Campus with our amazing students. By the end of this year we will have bid farewell to four of our number; Maddi Kimbrough, Alexis Schmidt (who is still sticking around as a member of Brookings First!), Jocelyn Tanner and Parker Bailey. Join me in keeping them in your prayers and wishing them well in their new endeavors!

A particular highlight for us this Spring was when we sponsored ice cream sundaes for our Sr. High youth on game night, April 6th! It was a joy to serve them and welcome our new Sr. High youth group members who were confirmed on April 24th.

We are grateful for another year of ministry with First On Campus! Please pray for and encourage the students in your life!

Pastor Krista



Susan's Saga

Bible translation in the digital age has a different look. In addition to books and hard copies of the Bible, computers allow a variety of commentaries, exegetical helps, and versions of the Bible in Spanish and English to be visible on the screen. A big advantage is that the program can be set so that the verses are synchronized, enabling all of these resources to move along together as we advance through a passage. The interlinear Greek text is on one of the columns on the screen, allowing insight into the original language.

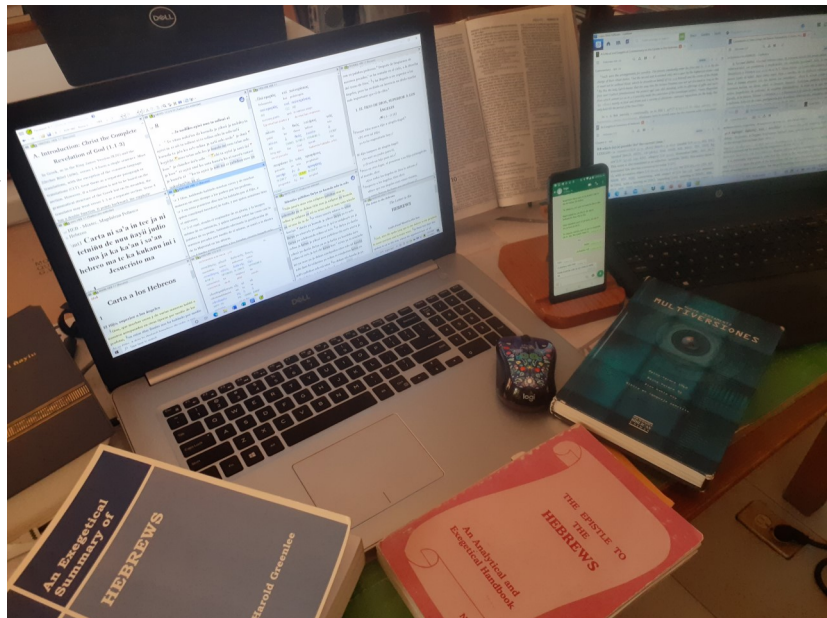
The Mixtec translation is also on the display. The person who is the scribe revises the translation, then sends the adjustments. The rest can receive the latest development on their own device at their respective locations and see how the current revision reads. The team talks about suggestions via WhatsApp on the cell phone.

We are thankful that the translation can continue virtually, even though the members of the team are in different locations.

Thank you for your part in this process of making God's Word available to this group of people in their heart language.

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.



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

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