



FOCUS

NEWSLETTER

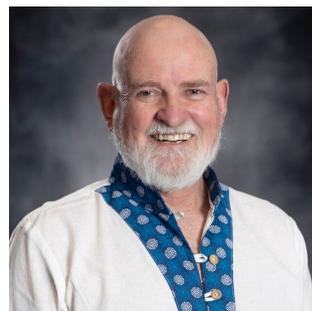
November 2022

FROM THE PASTOR

Thank You!

Give thanks to God - God is good and God's love never quits.

(The Message 1 Chron 16:34)



The past two and a half years have been difficult. This has been a time of Covid, political turmoil, family separation and drought. For our church this has been a time of closing Sunday Services and moving online, losing contact with the many friends we would meet in small groups, a failed air-handling system, and worry about our finances. I am reminded of the words of a hymn in our hymnal:

*What troubles have we seen,
What conflicts have we passed,
Fightings without, and fears within,
Since we assembled last.*

Yet, despite these hardships – both “without and within” - God has been good to us. We have re-gathered as a church, we have repaired what was broken in our buildings, we have recovered our passion to serve God, and mission work such as the Harvest Table, the diaper outreach, and our solar oven ministry are back on track.



FIRST UNITED

METHODIST

BROOKINGS

AT THE
CORNER OF

**CHURCH &
COMMUNITY**

625 Fifth Street, Brookings

605-692-4345

www.brookingsmethodist.org

It is time to give thanks to God.

The weeks leading up to Thanksgiving will be used to offer gratitude to God for carrying us through the tough times. I am inviting us all to offer thanksgiving during our worship services on Wednesday and Sunday in November. In addition to this we will have a Thanksgiving Brunch on Sunday morning November 20. This will be immediately after the morning service and *everyone connected with our church is invited to a free breakfast.*

The hymn I referenced earlier has another verse:

Preserved by power divine

To full salvation here,

Again in Jesus' praise we join,

And in His sight appear.

It is Time to Give Thanks to God.

Pete

Welcome to New Members!

We welcomed new members on Sunday 10/23. Please introduce yourselves to them when you see them! We are happy to have them in our church family! Their names are: Kathy Hill, Jason Cady, Stephanie, Mason, Lillian, and Logan Sichmeller.

Green Thumb Ministry

Thank you to our 'Green Thumb' ministry for cleaning up our church grounds this fall: LaRon DeBoer, Mark Stratton, Larry Hult, Barb Meyer, Doug Beste, Ron Thaden, Christ Buus, Rick Hieb, and Craig Schleuter! 3 trailers, 4 hedge trimmers, 3 weed whackers, 2 leaf blowers, several rakes, and lots of willing volunteers made the cleanup easy. If you are interested in helping with future outdoor projects, contact the church office!



Sam Becker, Facility Manager

Feeding Brookings Thanksgiving Dinners

Each year, Feeding Brookings makes a special Thanksgiving distribution. This year, the distribution is scheduled for November 17th. They have asked Brookings First United Methodist Church to help once again in collecting the necessary items.

We have been asked to collect 230 cans jellied cranberry sauce. There will be tubs set up for collection in the Narthex and CLC. Our final collection day will be Sunday, November 13, so we can package up the cans and get them to Feeding Brookings.

Please consider bringing a can or two (or three, or six) to help this cause.

Thank you,

The Mission Committee



Turkey Dinner Update

This year the Turkey Dinner served over 540 meals. I am not sure, but I think that is a new record. We are still waiting for the actual amount raised as there are some expenses to account for. Funds raised will be split between United Methodist Men, United Women in Faith, the Methodist Youth, and the Mission Committee.

In addition, the Mission Committee and other volunteer served a turkey dinner to approximately eighty-five guests at the Harvest Table the following evening.

Thank you to everyone who helped. We could not have done it without all the willing volunteers. And thank you to all who supported the event by purchasing those 540 meals.



Sincerely,

The Mission Committee

Finance Update

Finance Committee met Monday Oct 17. With the intention to keep the church informed of our financial balance I want to share that we are operating with a deficit currently. We appreciate every contribution made and are Grateful for them. The fall and winter will see challenging utility expenses and will see unpredictable snow removal expenses. Pray for a mild winter.

Fall is the time of year for our annual stewardship campaign. This year we will focus on Gratitude and encourage church members and friends to give with Gratitude. Consider what you have received from the church and your church family. I encourage all to respond with Gratitude as we pledge to financially support our church in the coming year.

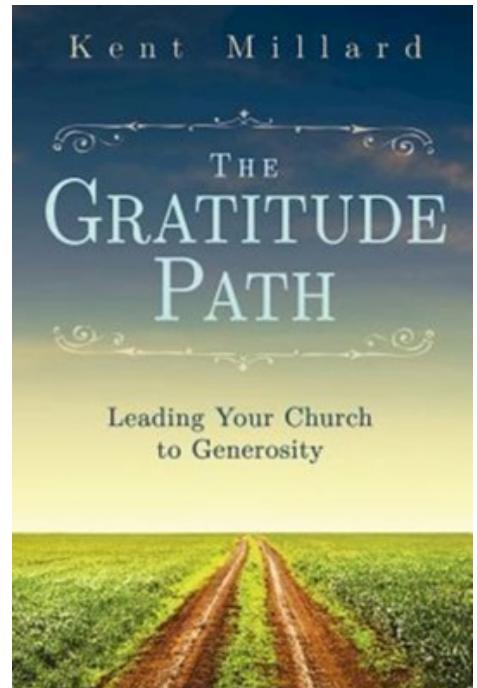
Beth Niemeyer, Finance Committee Chair

The Gratitude Campaign

*'Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
count your many blessings, see what God has done.'*
---Johnson Oatman, Jr. "Count Your Blessing"

This message from the song by Johnson Oatman, Jr. is familiar to us all, however, it is easy for us to lose sight of the many ways we have been blessed. The focus of our annual stewardship campaign for Brookings First United Methodist will be on the countless blessings for which we are grateful.

Over the coming weeks, the Finance Committee and Pastor Pete will work to help us grow in our gratitude for all things in our life. Our Gratitude Campaign will kick-off the week of October 30th with a message from Pastor Clay Lundberg. Pastor Clay will get us started thinking and journaling about our gratitude. Then during the next 3 weeks, Pastor Pete will lead us to Gratitude Sunday - November 20th. (cont'd)



(cont'd) On Gratitude Sunday, we will celebrate all the ways we have been blessed and make our financial commitment to support First United Methodist in 2023. Gratitude Sunday will also include a brunch following the church service for us to gather as a church family.

More details our Gratitude Campaign will be sent via mail, shared on-line and communicated at all our services. We hope this will allow everyone to see how we have been blessed and to name our blessings.

Tom Becker, Gratitude Campaign Chair

Gratitude Brunch Invitation

First United Methodist Church would like to invite you, your family, and friends to our Gratitude Brunch on November 20th! Please join us for this catered breakfast, including scrambled eggs, sausage, hashbrown casserole, and assorted rolls and donuts, as we celebrate the conclusion of our Gratitude Campaign.

For us to best prepare, please RSVP at this link: brookingsmethodist.org/brunch . There will also be opportunities to RVSP during the next few church services.

We look forward to seeing you at Brunch!

Influenza Season is Upon Us!

As we move into fall, and enclosed gatherings, please remember that influenza is present in our community. Influenza vaccines are available and encouraged for everyone over 6 months of age. Hand sanitizer can be found at both the North and South doors of the Narthex and in the Community Life Center. Although we are so happy to be back together as a congregation, please consider staying home if you have cold or flu symptoms.

FYI- influenza and Covid vaccines can be obtained at the same time!

Joanie Holm, Congregational Care Coordinator



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 Coordinator

Michele McCullough.....finance@brookingsmethodist.org

Worship Tech/Media Director and Facility Manager

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

Tech Coordinator

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

Wednesday Activities Coordinator

Sammi Carney.....wedactivities@brookingsmethodist.org

Music Coordinator

Brenda Hieb.....musiccoordinator@brookingsmethodist.org

Worship Team Leader/Choir Director

Ted De Lange.....music@brookingsmethodist.org

Campus Ministry Director

Krista Ducker.....campus@brookingsmethodist.org

Congregational Care Coordinator

Joanie Holm.....jholm229@gmail.com

Organists:

Joan Riessen
MK Huggins

Manna Cook:

Deb Bortnem

Connect with us!

Church Office Hours:

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

Need prayer? Email
prayer@brookingsmethodist.org
and Pastor Pete will pray with
you!



/FUMCBrookings



@brookingsfumc



First United
Methodist Brookings



brookingsmethodist.org

Give Online to Brookings First United Methodist Church!

Without your gifts, none of our community ministries would be possible. We have easy ways to give online or scan the QR code for more information:

- 1) VANCO MOBILE APP:** Download the Vanco Mobile app from the App Store or Google Play. Once installed, search “Brookings”, select FUMC, and follow directions.
- 2) TEXT:** Send a text message to [605-250-0807](tel:605-250-0807) with the dollar amount of the gift and follow directions.



Radio Broadcast Sponsorships

Now is the time to sign up for a radio broadcast sponsorship in 2023. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast in memory, honor, or celebration of a loved one or anniversary, you may:



- Visit brookingsmethodist.org and click on **RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS**
- Contact the office at 605-692-4345
- Email office@brookingsmethodist.org

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

Fall Weekly Worship Schedule

Sundays:	9:00am	Sunday School (all ages)
	9:30am	Radio Broadcast (on KBRK 1430AM)
	10:00am	Sunday Morning Worship (in-person and online)
Wednesdays:	5:00pm	Free Manna in the Middle Meal
	6:00pm	Manna in the Middle Worship (in-person and online)
	7:00pm	Wednesday School
		7th/8th Grade Confirmation
		First On Campus Life Group
		Adult Manna in the Middle Study
		High School Youth Group

Join Our Media Ministry!

Help make our online presence possible! We are looking for volunteers to help with our live stream! Our tech team has fun while serving God in this unique way. Computer and music experience is helpful but not required! If you or someone you know are interested in helping our online ministry (and want free high-speed WiFi), contact Sam at media@brookingsmethodist.org.



Sam Becker, Worship Tech/Media Director

No Confirmation/Wednesday School

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no confirmation nor Wednesday School on Wednesday, November 23.

No Sunday School

The education committee has decided to cancel Sunday school on Thanksgiving weekend, November 27. This will include Dr. Murphy's adult class.

Children's Christmas Program

We are very excited to announce that the Children's Christmas program will be in-person this year! We will present the program on **December 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary**. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Children in the 2-year-old – 5th grade classes will present the program with the middle school youth ushering and the high school youth group presenting a Live Nativity on the south side of the church.



The name of the program which the directors Nicole Anderson and Brenda Buus chose is "*Twas the Night Before Jesus.*" Children (2-year-olds – 5th grade) are learning the songs to be presented in the program at Sunday school and Wednesday School. Please join us for a wonderful Christmas message brought to us by our youngest disciples!

Candy Needed for Treat Bags

We will also bring back the treat bags for children to receive after the Christmas program. To do this, I need donations of individually wrapped Christmas candy. I also take any leftover Halloween candy. Please bring candy or your financial donation to either the education office or church office by Sunday, December 4. Thank you!

Get Your Calendar!

Be sure to get your 2023 calendar from the youth! The youth are selling beautiful 2023 calendars as a fundraiser for mission trips and other youth events for \$10. They are at the welcome centers in both the CLC and narthex.



WALL CALENDAR

Congregational Care Thoughts

Happy Fall. Thanks to everyone who has signed up for the Congregational Care Ministries. Several of the groups have been contacted and are offering new care activities, as well as existing activities. The mission of the Congregational Care Ministries fits well with Pastors Pete's lessons on kindness. Let's continue to extend kindness to all, inside and outside of our church.

Joanie Holm, Congregational Care Coordinator

United Methodist Men

United Methodist Men will be meeting on Thursday, November 17 and invite members of the church to help set up Christmas trees in the Community Life Center at 7:00 pm. Join us for pizza at 6:30 pm. This is in preparation for our Advent season.



Steve Eliason, UMM President

**Don't forget to
FALL BACK**



**Sunday
November 6th!**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
30 9am - Adult Class - 9am - Sunday School - 2 10am - Sunday Morning 5pm - Conversations with	31 10am - Healthy 12pm - SOUL @ church	1 5:30pm - Al-Anon @ 6:45pm - Worship Team	2 8am - TOPS @ Church 10am - Healthy 7pm - Adult Manna Study 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7pm - Confirmation
6 9am - Adult Class - 9am - Sunday School - 2 10am - Sunday Morning	7 10am - Communion at 10am - Healthy 5:15pm - Monday Night 5:30pm - SPR Meeting 7pm - Open Door Retirees 7pm - Trustees Meeting 7pm - Worship 7:30pm - Worship	8 5:30pm - Al-Anon @ 6:45pm - Worship Team	9 8am - TOPS @ Church 10am - Healthy 7pm - Adult Manna Study 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7pm - Confirmation 7pm - First on Campus @ 7pm - Men's Group @ 7pm - Sr. High Youth
13 Dak Youth @ Aberdeen 9am - Adult Class - 9am - Sunday School - 2 10am - Sunday Morning 6pm - Education meeting	14 10am - Healthy	15 1:30pm - CARE Group 5:30pm - Al-Anon @ 6:45pm - Worship Team	16 8am - TOPS @ Church 10am - Healthy 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7pm - Confirmation 7pm - First on Campus @
20 9am - Adult Class - 9am - Sunday School - 2 10am - Sunday Morning 4:30pm - Cross Work	21 10am - Healthy 10am - ULC Communion 5:15pm - Monday Night 5:30pm - Finance	22 5:30pm - Al-Anon @ 6:45pm - Worship Team	23 8am - TOPS @ Church 10am - Healthy 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7pm - Confirmation 7pm - First on Campus @ 7pm - Men's Group @
27 9am - Adult Class - 10am - Sunday Morning	28 10am - Healthy 12pm - SOUL @ church	29 5:30pm - Al-Anon @ 6:45pm - Worship Team	30 8am - TOPS @ Church 10am - Healthy 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7pm - Confirmation 7pm - First on Campus @ 7pm - Men's Group @

Thu		Fri		Sat	
	3	6:30am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Healthy	4		5
5:30pm - Missions	10	Dak Youth @ Aberdeen 6:30am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Healthy	11		12
10am - Alzheimer's, 10am - Edgewood Vista 10:30am - Stoneybrook 6pm - UMM (United)	17	6:30am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Healthy	18	9am - Piecemakers @	19
1pm - Tie Quilters @	24	6:30am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Healthy	25		26
	1	6:30am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Healthy	2		3

November #onething

The mission committee has dedicated the November #onething for Native American Ministries in the Dakotas Conference. This includes Tree of Life in Mission, SD and Spirit Lake Ministry Center in Sheyenne, ND. These two programs administer to the needs of Native Americans in those areas by being an empathizing presence in the midst of many needs. They host work teams, maintain community food pantries and clothing pantries and much more! We play a part in this by giving to the November #onething!

#onething

The Tree of Life Ministries had its inception many years ago in the Brookings First UMC old library room. At that time Bishop Lewis, Pastors Penny and Emil Eberhart, Dakotas UMVIM leadership and others met to work on the concept of a Tree of Life of compassion, encompassing the Native American lands in the Dakotas, starting with the roots in Mission, SD and moving up the trunk to Spirit Lake in ND. Though the whole vision did not become reality, the Tree of Life in Mission and the Spirit Lake Mission in ND are vibrant and vital organizations helping the Native populations of those communities and surrounding areas. It all started with a ministry of presence from a UMC Pastor and has grown.

Another Native outreach ministry in our conference includes the Flandreau Indian Chaplaincy.

Our support is needed to keep these programs serving as our hands and feet!



Tree of Life Ministry



Matching Grant Thank You(s)!

Marjorie Evans-de-Carpio (Solar Oven Partners)

Wow! The generosity of our United Methodist connection never ceases to amaze! With being able to do distributions of ovens again this year, we are sending another sea container of ovens and so this comes at a good time. Thank you and the committee and the congregation so very much. I hope you all feel as blessed in giving as our oven recipients are by receiving the ovens.

Sincerely,

Marj Evans-de-Carpio / Director, Solar Oven Partners / 605-692-3391 / solarovenpartners.org

Nan McCurdy (Give Ye Them to Eat, Mexico)

Dear Brookings First UMC,

We are so excited about this donation - we had no idea. And of course we need the money. This is such a blessing for so many projects that benefit impoverished rural people. If anyone wants to see the list of projects please go to gytte.org. We will look for this donation over the next two months in the ADVANCE. And please let us know what you need from us. Thank you again! And please share with others, thanks.

In Christ,

Nan, Miguel, Clara (administrator) / Nan McCurdy / United Methodist Church / +52 222 861 7240



Quilt Group Invitation

The Piecemakers Quilt group would like to invite others to join in making quilts that the church uses for baptisms, graduations, grief, and comfort. They meet most third Saturdays of the month for choosing fabric and patterns from our shelves, cutting fabric and sewing quilt tops. The church even provides a few sewing machines! This is a great fellowship time as well as learning from each other. Join them some third Saturday from 9-4 (come and go as you can) on November 19th.



There is also another group of quilters that meet the fourth Thursday at 1 pm to tie quilt tops to be gifted to the elders of the church for their birthday. Both of these groups meet in the church basement fellowship hall and the newly remodeled Piecemakers room next to the kitchen.

For questions you can call Barb Johnson 605-651-5980 or Judi DeZeeuw 605-690-5764 .

All Barbs/Barbaras are invited!

An informal tea will be held for women whose names are Barb/Barbara. We all have something in common...our name and our belief. You are welcome to attend if your name is Barbara. You can bring anyone else with the same name as well.

Hope to see you Monday, November 7th, 10:30am—12noon. For more information, call Barb Johnson 605-651-5980



From the Trustee Committee

Our committee, working together with Sam Becker our building manager, continue to address ongoing maintenance and repairs to our HVAC and plumbing systems as needed. We are also having a roofing company make repairs to the Sanctuary roof where some shingles blew off earlier this summer.

Our ad hoc church signage committee has ordered the new digital sign to be installed on the north side of the Community Life Center. The delivery and installation date are still to be determined. The signage committee is continuing to meet to plan for interior signage needs for our facilities.

A fall cleanup day for our exterior landscaping was held on Saturday, October 22nd. Thank you to Joanie Holm and our Green Thumb Ministry members who worked with us on this project!

Future repair projects that need to be addressed as funds are available include resealing of the parking lot, replacing exterior roof panels on the south Narthex skylight, and replacing the fire alarm panel in the Community Life Center. Please visit with any of the Trustees for more information on any of these activities.

Doug Beste, Trustee Committee Chair

Harvest Table Update

Harvest Table has begun serving meals again! It is fun to get back together with guests and volunteers from the community. Anyone is welcome to join us for a delicious meal on Monday evenings from 5:30pm-6:30pm. As the prices of foods has increased, the Harvest Table pantry has seen more persons requesting food items. To keep the pantry stocked, we will always accept non-perishable food that is not expired. Some of the more requested items are canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, soup, canned meats, pasta and pasta sauce, peanut butter and jelly, and meals in a can such as SpaghettiOs and stew. Donations can be brought to Vonda's office in the Community Life Center. Thank you for your support of Harvest Table.

Vonda Kirkham, Harvest Table director



Susan's Saga

The Word of God is like seed, which is full of promise for an abundant crop. An apt parable explains the mystery of how it is at work:

"Jesus also said, "The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he's asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come."

There is a certain wonder at how a seed can germinate and produce a whole plant. The farmer prepares the ground and sows, but the seeds grow and develop on their own through a mysterious process that we don't fully comprehend. Bible translation is like that. There is a series of actions involved in translating God's Word so that it is available to a group of people, but how God uses it for the furtherance of the Kingdom may not be obvious to us. Like a growing crop, the results are not immediate, but in due time they will become apparent. God's Word doesn't operate on a human time table, and though it may seem hidden, like seeds in the ground, it is at work in its own inimitable way, changing people's lives from the inside out.

Thank you for your part in sowing the seed of God's Word for a people group in Mexico.

Susan Hugghins

Scripture quotation is taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, Mark 4: 26 - 29.

Susan Hugghins 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.

Welcome to our Finance Coordinator!

We celebrate as Michele Moen-McCullough has accepted the PT Finance Coordinator position! At this point she is training with JoAnn and will transition to office hours in the near future. Stay Tuned! We are very grateful to JoAnn Lee and Jean Scherschlict for their time to cover our financial needs during this transition. When you see them—Thank Them!



Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain is active. Please contact Sharon Anderegg at 605-692-4925 with any requests. You can also email prayer@brookingsmethodist.org and Pastor Pete will pray with you.



Join Us Online at Anytime!

YouTube Live



Facebook Live



Building Safety Update– Locking Doors to Education Building

In a continued effort to keep safe all those who take part in the education opportunities at the church, the education committee has decided to lock the doors to the education unit on Sunday mornings and on Wednesday evening from 7-8pm. . This will begin on Sunday, November 6 and Wednesday, November 9. Access to the education unit will be possible after locking (for those invariable times when you run a tad late!) Thanks for you understanding and support.

Sam Becker, Facility Manager

Gretchen Knutson, Education Coordinator

Church Fire Drill

Thank you to everyone who participated in the fire drills we conducted in October. We evacuated the sanctuary in 2 minutes 4.22 seconds and the Education Building in 2 minutes 7.17 seconds. Thank you to Adam Vaux and the Brookings Fire Department for helping with our drill and bringing a fire truck to the church! We will take the lessons we learned and work to improve our church's safety plans. We will also be holding a drill in the Community Life Center this spring.



Sam Becker, Facility Manager

Hearing Assist System Available!

One of the goals of the Together Campaign was to add a hearing assistance system to the Community Life Center and upgrade the old FM model from the Sanctuary. We now have a Williams Sound digital system running in both venues!

Our new system can be used with handheld receivers (provided by the church), with T-Coil systems, or if you have hearing aids that pair with your smartphone, streaming straight to your hearing aids via Wi-Fi. Just download the 'WaveCAST' app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store to get started.

Get more information and instructions about our new hearing assistance system on our website at brookingsmethodist.org/hearingassist.

Sam Becker, Worship Tech/Media Director

Paul Schmidt, Tech Coordinator



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 65
Brookings, SD**