

FROM THE PASTOR

Holding it All this New Year



Pastor Krista

Perhaps the holidays for you have been, well, complicated. This year in particular, we may have experienced a constellation of emotions: gratitude that many of us could gather again with loved ones; loss and grief, for those of us who have lost someone dear in the past year; continued frustration that the pandemic still has a hold on us; joy and hope as we celebrated the birth of the Christ-child and learned what that looks like in this “new normal.”

As we head into a new year, I am drawn to a story from the infancy of Jesus; the Christmas miracle has come, a very little time has passed, and the holy family is settling into *their* new normal, as any family with a new addition does.

This painting, from 2014 by A. N. Mironov, depicts a powerful scene in the infancy story of Jesus; Mary and Joseph travel with Jesus to the Jerusalem temple, for him to be circumcised and for Mary to go through the



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necessary purification rituals following the birth. As they arrive, they are met by a righteous elderly man named Simeon, who spontaneously utters a prophetic word of blessing over the infant Jesus; a hope-filled pronouncement of what he would become as our Savior. But he doesn't stop there. In a startling moment, Simeon abruptly turns to Mary, Jesus's mother and pronounces a prophetic word upon her;

“This child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed--and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” (Luke 2:25-35)

Notice how Mary is depicted in the painting; not smiling and cheerful, but reflective and somber, as if processing these mysterious, foreboding words. We can infer that Simeon's words foretell the pain that would pierce Mary's heart at Jesus's death.

I tell this story, ironically, to encourage you. Whatever you may be feeling this January; you are welcome here, with your church family. We have celebrated Christmas because we know that Easter is coming; Jesus' mother would experience that too; sorrow, death and loss were not the end of Jesus' story, and they are not the end of ours. And in all of it, our God is faithful to sustain us and renew us, just like he did Mary. Let us walk the path of this new year together, whatever it holds, in Jesus' name.

Pastor Krista

Joy to the World



Pastor Pete

After the long anticipation of Christmas through November and December, our culture drops any reference to Christmas on December 26. We now plunge into wishes for the new year, and are back to school and work. Our Christian faith sees this differently: we see Christmas as lasting for 12 days. Christmas begins with the birth of a Jewish Jesus and ends with the introduction of a Savior to the Gentile Magi.

Anglican mystic and author Evelyn Underhill (1875-1941) explains it this way: *The Christmas Mystery has two parts: the Nativity and the Epiphany... In the first we commemorate God's humble entrance into human life, the emergence and birth of the Holy, and in the second its manifestation to the world, the revelation of the Supernatural made in that life. The first only happens in order that the second may happen, and the second cannot happen without the first. Christ is a Light to lighten the Gentiles as well as the Glory of His people Israel.* (continued on next page)

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The joy and beauty that accompanied the birth of a baby is then shared with the whole world. The happy experiences of the lights, and the gifts and the food of our homes are then extended beyond our homes to a world in need of hope and peace. And so, I encourage us all to take our Christmas faith into 2022. May our message be “Joy to the world – the Lord is come”.

Jenny and I wish everyone God’s blessing for the year that lies ahead.

Pastor Pete



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. This is an invitation to six conversations about the Jesus we meet in the Bible. Sunday Afternoon 4:30 – 5:30. In the Sanctuary.

January	Chapter	
16	Seven	He is leading the people astray
23	Eight	Sex, Lies and Fatherhood
30	Nine & Ten	You’re not the only sheep in the field
February		
6	Eleven & Twelve	Jesus buddies: Mary, Martha and Lazarus
13	Twelve	Donkeys, Greeks and Unbelief
20	Thirteen	Smelly feet

Church Staff

Pastoral Staff

Pete Grassow.....pastorpete@brookingsmethodist.org
 Krista Ducker.....pastorkrista@brookingsmethodist.org

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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

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 message from the Health Committee

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

Well Wishes

Neva Jean Corlett has moved to Columbia, SC, to be closer to her family. We wish her well as she transitions to a new home. Peace and blessing to Neva! You may send her a greeting card:

Neva Jean Corlett, 44 Knob Hill Rd, Columbia, SC 29210

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.

Sr. High Youth Group Restarting

This fall, we suspended Sr. high youth activities to take time to reassess their needs. During that time, we talked with adults who are interested and passionate about youth ministry. We decided to form a youth council which will guide, support and cheer on the youth group. The following youth and adults are on the youth council:

Tom and Kay Becker – youth leaders
Nate Buus – class representative
Camden Eliason – class representative
Penny and Steve Eliason
Tony Gaalswyk – youth leader
Jensi Jensen – class representative
Riley Rasmussen – class representative
Shannon Rasmussen
Kelly Wendell

To kick off youth group year they played Marshmallow Dodgeball on December 15. Oh my! What a night! They had fun!

Here is a schedule of events for the near future:

Jan. 12 – Jenga tournament

Jan. 19 – Bowling

Jan. 26 – meet to discuss details for Winter Connection

Jan. 28-29 – Winter Connection – Sioux Falls Sunnycrest UMC

Feb. 2 – recap Winter Connection/Movie

Feb. 9 – finish Movie

Feb. 16 – Human Hungry Hungry Hippo

We are very excited for the future of our youth group. We are looking forward to offering ways for our youth to meet, grow spiritually, and be an active part of our church!

Gretchen Knutson, Education Director

Wednesday Evening Activities 2022 startup date

Just a reminder that all Wednesday evening activities, worship, and meal begins on Wednesday, January 12th.

Manna meal at 5 pm to 6 pm,

Worship from 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm

Teaching/meeting time at 7:00pm.

Hope you had a great break, and eager to have the groups back together again. Blessings!

Sr. High Youth Group Winter Connection

All 6th-12th graders are invited and encouraged to attend Winter Connection – a regional youth group rally. It is being held on Friday, January 28 – Saturday, January 29.

This is an opportunity for youth to gather, share, worship, and serve others. Each year there is a focus on a particular theme and scripture along with a unique and important component of service. **The theme for 2022 is *Gather Round/Bring it in*, and our scripture is Luke 5:1.**

The cost is \$40 of which the church will pay \$30. So your cost is only \$10 to attend! We would LOVE to take a bunch of kids to this great rally for youth. To sign up, please follow this link then let Gretchen know that you have signed up. We will arrange transportation for youth to Sioux Falls.

Please use brookingscampers to receive the discount.

<https://www.dakotasumc.org/dakoyouth/happenings/winter-connection>

Email Gretchen with questions – education@brookingsmethodist.org.

Financial Peace University to begin in January

Tired of financial stress – too much month at the end of the money? Why not try Financial Peace University! We will be hosting the 9-week course led by Dave Ramsey (via DVD) – facilitated by Jim Ducker and Gretchen Knutson. It will begin on Tuesday, January 18 at 6:30 in the Jr. High Sunday school room.



Attend the first meeting for free and decide if you want to continue to attend the following 8 meetings. This is a life-changing course that you will never be sorry you took. You may sign up by emailing Gretchen at education@brookingsmethodist.org.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
2 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship 4:30pm—Cross Work Emmaus	3 10-11am—Communion at The Neighborhoods 10am-Healthy Movement (CLC) 5:15-6:15—Singles Group 5:30-6:30 SPR Meeting	4 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Worship Team Practice	5 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy Mo
9 9:00am—Adult Class (Dr Murphy) 9:00am—Sunday School (2yr to adults) 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship 5-6pm Youth Council	10 9-10am—Feeding South Dakota Mobile Food Truck (CLC parking lot) 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 7-8pm—Trustee meeting	11 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 5:30pm—Memorial Committee Meeting 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Worship Team Practice	12 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy Mo 4pm—Chiming Chil 5pm—Manna meal, 6pm—Manna Wors 7pm—Confirmation
16 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 4:30pm—Cross Work Emmaus	17 10-11—Communion ULC 10am-Healthy Movement (CLC) 5:15-6:15—Singles Group 5:30-6:30—Finance Committee 6:30pm Financial Peace University	18 1:30-3:30—CARE Group (Church Basement) 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Worship Team Practice	19 8am—TOPS 10am—Alzheimer’s 10am—Healthy Mo 4pm—Chiming Chil 5pm—Manna meal, 6pm—Manna Wors 7pm—Confirmation
23 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	24 10amHealthy Movement (CLC) 6:30pm Financial Peace University	25 5pm—New Day Al-Anon 6pm—Jubilee Ringers 7pm—Worship Team Practice	26 8am—TOPS 10am—Alzheimer’s 10am—Healthy Mo 4pm—Chiming Chil 5pm—Manna meal, 6pm—Manna Wors 7pm—Confirmation
30 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	31 10amHealthy Movement (CLC) 6:30pm Financial Peace University		

	Thu	Fri	Sat
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ovement Class (CLC)	6	7 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	8
ovement Class (CLC) dren Youth Bells hip n & Church Life Groups	13 5:30pm—Missions Committee	14 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	15 9am—Piecemakers
Support Group (parlor) ovement Class (CLC) dren Youth Bells hip n & Church Life Groups	20 10am—Communion at Edge-wood Vista 10:30am—Communion at Stoneybrook Suites 6pm—United Methodist Men	21 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	22
Support Group (parlor) ovement Class (CLC) dren Youth Bells hip n & Church Life Groups	27 1-4pm—Tie Quilters	28 Winter Connection-6-12th 6:30am—Men’s Breakfast 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	29 Winter Connection-6-12th

MISSION CORNER



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

Do you love to read? The library still has some free books available to keep you busy during the cold months. January will be the last opportunities to go through the books removed from the Church Library shelves. Please take this opportunity to go through the carts and tables. The first of February we will be sharing the left over books with the community.

Linda Kay

Midwest Mission Distribution Center



The January OneThing mission giving is Midwest Mission Distribution Center, MMDC. This Methodist organization sent \$10,829,609 worth of aid in 2020. That includes 294 domestic and 25 international shipments. The items sent

vary from a fire truck to Guatemala, to an ambulance to Belize, to 672 hygiene kits and 504 cleaning kits sent to Oregon to help people recover from forest fires.

Examples of MMDC assistance in South Dakota are 2021 shipments to area reservations. MMDC sent two shipments to the Cheyenne River reservation, two shipments to the Standing Rock reservation, one shipment to the Pine Ridge reservation, and one shipment to the Yankton reservation. All reservations received hygiene kits, school kits and cloth masks. Some household items like furniture were also delivered.

Gary and Avis Norton would be glad to answer any questions you have about MMDC.

Gary and Avis Norton

Mission Matching Grant-Up to \$10,000!

Our Congregation has a unique opportunity to increase its mission focus this year. For every dollar given to this Matching Grant, a dollar will be given for an Advance Special somewhere in the world!

The challenge starts now and goes until June 30, 2022. There is now a donation button on the church webpage for this matching grant or drop a check off in the office or offering plate designated as such. Let's build this fund and be generous givers to help the least of these in South Dakota (feedingsouthdakota.org), and in the Dominican Republic and on the Navaho Reservation (solarovenpartners.org) with these target missions. Then we will spread the love further with the match! Thank you!

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

What a great semester it has been! This month, we wrapped up our Fall study; Animate: Faith, shared in the festive fun at the SDSU Student Union by decorating our first annual First On Campus Christmas tree, and spread some Christmas cheer by writing Christmas cards for our assisted living residents at our Christmas Party!



Please pray that our university students have a great holiday break with friends and loved ones, before we gather again to start our Spring Life Group study on the Psalms!

We would like to say a special thank you Jim and Reyna Martin for their generous donation of \$3000 for Campus Ministry!

Pastor Krista



Trustee Committee

The Trustee Committee has been able to organize and implement several major facility improvements during 2021. These improvements include: Replacing the air conditioning/circulating system for the Sanctuary, renovating and improving the southeast Sanctuary entrance doors, steps and surrounding area, replacing the church basement windows, and planning for the renovation of the church basement kitchen and adjacent areas. Maintenance of the entire infrastructure including: roofing, heating and cooling systems, etc. took some effort as well.



I, as chairman of the Trustees for 2021, am extremely grateful to all of the committee members for their willingness to volunteer their time and talents for the problems to be solved and jobs to be done. Teamwork makes the tasks much less of an effort for all. The committee has two new members joining the ranks. They are Kay Becker and Lynelle Hagadorn. Doug Beste will assume the role as Chairman. We welcome any comments and suggestions on how we may better manage the church facilities.

Ron Thaden

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. The next round of deliveries will be January 3rd - 18th, 2022. If you would like to learn how you can be involved please contact Perry Johnson.

Perry Johnson



Finance News

Christmas 2021 has been observed and a new year has begun, and we want to report some important information about the finances of Brookings First United Methodist Church.

2021 has been as challenging as 2020, but again the members and friends of the church have been amazing in their financial support. 100% of pledges that were made for the year 2021 have been received. When the church is trying to meet a budget, having the expected pledges given in full is something we will celebrate. Thank you to all that have pledged and thank you to all that have given without making pledges. Together these dollars have been vital to the work of this church.

95% of all pledges made to the Together Campaign have been received. Thank you again, for a truly amazing example of support for our church. Already these gifts have gone to meet certain needs. The debt on the CLC has been paid off, a new boiler system is in place, and various repair and improvements to the building have been made. A contingency fund has been established and electronic systems which allow for streaming of services have been purchased and use. Funds for new hymn books are waiting for the announcement of the new hymnals.

We will begin the year 2022 with a positive balance in the church account. This is because church committees have worked hard to stay within their budget. Thank you to all the committees for your work in this area.

However, we must inform you that next year will be another year where committees will need to carefully monitor their budgets. During the stewardship campaign this fall, we had fewer pledges amounting to approximately \$45,000 less in support for the church. The budget accepted by the Administrative Council for the year 2022 is not a balanced budget. An additional concern about the budget is that part of the revenue planned for the year 2022 will come from one-time money sources. This means that in the year 2023 the budget may be in a more difficult situation because these sources of revenue will not be available again. While we believe that the church will meet this challenge as it has done in the past, most recently last year, the finance committee will monitor the budget carefully to close the difference between pledges and expenses and will work closely with committees to close this deficit.

There are many wonderful mission activities that already are conducted by our church. The children's activities groups GAP and Head Start are based in our church, and we ask those groups for minimal rental fees. Numerous other groups utilize the church for free, and we support the Boy Scouting Troops in Brookings. And I have not even mentioned

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Harvest Table and all the amazing things that are done through the work of the Missions Committee and their dedication to various missions here in Brookings and around the world. Brookings First United Methodist Church is a locally, nationally, and internationally active church because of the financial support made by members and friends. Thank you to everyone for your continued support of all this work and so much more not even mentioned.

Matt Miller

Susan's Saga

As we move forward into a New Year, it can be an opportunity to re-evaluate and re-assess our life direction. As we do that, it is essential to consider what are God's plans, purposes, and perspective.

In order to be in tune with what God's overarching priorities, we need to look beyond our personal agenda, which is based on our own limited viewpoint and experiences. Tradition, culture, commercialism, the media, and materialism loudly dictate that decisions should be determined by comfort, convenience, ease, happiness, and what we 'deserve,' all ploys for us to put ourselves first.

There is quite a different narrative in the Bible. Jesus is counter-culture, putting others first. And in so doing, His life is characterized by deep, eternal joy rather than shallow, short-lived happiness.

We are called to follow His example: "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. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart." This injunction is definitely a tall order, but we need to lift our eyes above our current situation, circumstances and worries to look to the way that Jesus has already forged. May God grant us the grace and courage to look upward to the model that has already been set.

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.

First United Methodist Church
625 Fifth Street
Brookings, SD 57006

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