



FOCUS

NEWSLETTER

December 2022

FROM THE PASTOR

Great Expectations

“We changed again, and yet again, and it was now too late and too far to go back, and I went on.”



Christmas is a season that invites us to pay attention to the changes in our lives. Covid-19 has changed us, political discussions have changed us, the loss of loved ones has changed us, and getting older has changed us. There have been good times that have shaped us too: birthday celebrations, graduations, sports team successes, and various moments of God’s Grace breaking onto our lives as a joyful surprise.

I am inviting us to anticipate Christmas 2022 as a time to celebrate the changes that these events have made to our lives. Let us see these changes – all the changes both good and bad - as our opportunity for new growth and spiritual depth. Charles Dickens, in the above quote, notes that we cannot go back to what existed in the past, but we can go on! Let us move on, with great expectations of the presence of God with us for this coming Christmas.



FIRST UNITED

METHODIST

BROOKINGS

AT THE
CORNER OF

**CHURCH &
COMMUNITY**

625 Fifth Street, Brookings

605-692-4345

www.brookingsmethodist.org

Jenny and I are grateful for everything that has occurred to us in the past year. And we are eagerly anticipating the arrival of our three daughters and a grandson for Christmas. We have been loved by y'all and are content.

Jenny and I wish you God's blessings this Christmas season.

Pete

Pastor

Congregational Care Ministry

Thank you to our congregation for all the caring that is dispensed by individuals and groups within the church. I recently met with the United Women of Faith who have demonstrated care to many over the years. A huge thank you to all in this group who send cards and visit members who live in long term care centers.

A new ministry in the process of being set up is the Home Meal Ministry. Our hope in this group is to provide meals to congregation members at special times like the birth of a new baby or after an illness. An initial meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 12/4/22 at 11:00 in the conference room. All are welcome!

Joanie Holm, Congregational Care Coordinator

Feeding Brookings – Cranberry Harvest

Thank you to all who donated cans of cranberries to Feeding Brookings. We came close to our goal of 230 cans, and the Mission Committee was able to purchase the remainder with funds from the Turkey Dinner.

Sincerely,
The Mission Committee

December #onething and Christmas Eve Offering

The mission committee has dedicated the December **#onething** AND the **Christmas Eve** offering for the Pastor's Emergency fund in our church. People living here or passing through sometimes need extra help with food, gas, heating, etc, and this fund helps provide for them. This is in conjunction with the other churches in the area. We are so grateful to be able to designate the Christmas Even offering each year to a mission project of our church!

Just a shout out to all who participate in the #onething each month. The needs are great and we/you are able to help! Thank you !

#onething

January #onething will be Souper Bowl of Caring, in partnership with the youth and Gretchen's office.

Relationship Mission to South Africa

Our congregation has such a unique opportunity at this time in our history. Pastor Pete and Jenny are on board for leading a relational/learning mission to South Africa, in the late fall of 2023. Pastor Pete has been looking over an itinerary for the journey and doing some planning. So the question to all of you... Are you interested? Please talk it over and let Pastor Pete, Jenny or the mission committee know your thoughts! Start making plans to join this very special pilgrimage!

Turkey Dinner Recap

After expenses, the Turkey Dinner raised just over \$4000 this year. United Methodist Men, United Women in Faith, and the Methodist Youth, will each receive about \$800, with the remaining \$1600 allocated to various mission projects.

Thank you again for your help and support in this project. We served over 540 meals, with an additional eighty-five guests served at the Harvest Table.

Sincerely,
The Mission Committee

Finance Update

We want to thank everyone who attended the Gratitude Celebration Brunch on Nov 20. We have been reminded these last few weeks of the things we are Grateful for in our church family, ways we can show our Gratitude for what we have received, and how to share our Gratitude for others.



As we approach the end of the calendar year, we are very Grateful for the pledges we've received in 2022. If there are some of you who haven't yet fulfilled your 2022 pledge, please consider doing so, so that we can finish the year with a balanced budget. We have been operating with a deficit this fall, and with commitment from all of us, we're hopeful to finish the year having eliminated the deficit.

If you haven't returned a pledge card for 2023, please prayerfully consider your financial commitment. The 2023 budget will be put together and approved based on the pledges we receive. We want to provide community outreach, church programming and a safe, comfortable environment to worship. All these opportunities need consistent funds to continue and I again encourage all to respond with Gratitude as we pledge to financially support our church.

Beth Niemeyer, Finance Committee Chair

Influenza Season is Upon Us!

As we move into winter, 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

Worship and Music Notes:

The theme for worship through Advent and Christmas is Be Expectant. Each Sunday and Wednesday service will focus on preparation for Christmas with eyes, ears and hearts open. Pastor Pete has prepared an Advent Devotional available at the Church Welcome desks that outlines this series of sermons.

The Dec 18 will be a worship celebration of Advent and Christmas music. Lead by our choir, Jubilee Ringers and additional church musician, our hearts we will be lifted in worship of Jesus, Savior of the world. Singers who would like a short term singing commitment are invited to join the choir Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM to prepare for the 18th.

There are several services the week of Christmas week to highlight:

Wednesday, Dec 21 there will be a Special Pre-Christmas service at 6:00 PM in the CLC. This service will include carol singing, a meditation from Pastor Pete and Christmas Communion. This is the perfect time to bring your families to worship especially if you will be traveling through the holiday and not be able to attend elsewhere. It is also a good time to come, open your heart to the word and refresh yourself in the midst of the holiday busyness. All are welcome to join in this time of reflection and joy. There will not be a Manna Meal served on the 18th.

Dec 24 5:30 PM: Christmas Eve Candle lighting service in the CLC.

Dec 24 7:30 PM: Christmas Eve Candle lighting service in the sanctuary.

Dec 25 2:00 PM KELO broadcast of Pre-recorded Christmas Day Worship Service

Dec 25 There will not be an in-person worship service

Jan 1 There will be an in person, 10:00 AM worship service

We, the staff and all those preparing these services hope you will be able to join us at these services. In this season of wondering expectation, may your homes and hearts be filled with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Brenda Hieb, Music 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 Sunday School

There will be no Sunday school December 18, 25 and January 1. This includes adults as well.

Children's Christmas Program

I would like to invite all to the Children's Christmas program on December 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The title is "Twas the Night Before Jesus" with Nicole Anderson and Brenda Buus directing. Children in the 2-year-old - 5th grade classes are involved with presenting the program.

Be sure to take in the telling of the Christmas story as told by our children of the church.



Candy Needed for Treat Bags

It is our tradition to give candy bags to the children after the Christmas program. In order to do that, I am asking for donations of individually wrapped candy. Please bring to the church or education office by Friday, December 9 by noon. Thank you very much!

Live Nativity

The high school youth will be presenting a Live Nativity after the children's Christmas program on December 11 on the south side of the education building. Be sure to take in this portrayal of the first Christmas by our youth!

December 4 Worship Service – Impromptu Christmas Pageant

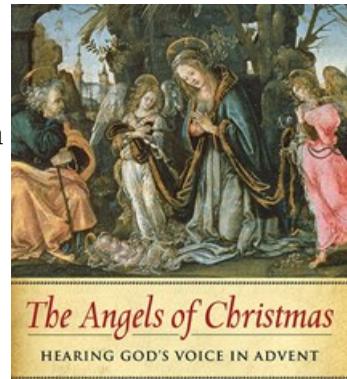
You are invited to have a significant part in the worship service on December 4. The whole congregation – children, youth and adults – will be invited to choose a simple costume and then during the service may come up and be a part of the Nativity scene. (This is not be confused with the children’s Christmas program which will be presented the following Sunday, December 11.)

You are also invited to take part in a cookie exchange which will happen after the service. Bring 1 dozen of your favorite Christmas goodie and your own container. Be sure to take part in the telling of the Christmas story on December 4!

Adult Wednesday Night Advent Class

Join the Wednesday evening adult class as they prepare for Christmas with the study - ‘The Angels of Christmas’ by Susan Robb. They meet at 7:00 in the conference room beginning November 30.

In fact, why don’t you join in the Manna meal at 5:00, worship at 6:00! What a great way to prepare for the Advent season!



Thank You!

The education committee wants to thank you for being so very faithful as you continue to turn in those HyVee receipts. We received \$2000 this year. That money is used for educational purposes such as a stipend for Lisa Grassow who created Children’s Church on our website throughout the pandemic and beyond, a new fire pit for the prayer garden, and flat screen tv carts. It’s great to have that money for special projects! Thanks so much!

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn
27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Healthy Movement 12:00 PM SOUL 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Al-Anon 6:45 PM Worship Team Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM TOPS 10:00 AM Healthy 4:00 PM Signage 5:00 PM Manna ir 6:00 PM Manna ir 7:00 PM Adult Ad 7:00 PM Choir Re 7:00 PM Sr. High 7:00 PM First on t 7:00 PM Wednesd 7:00 PM Confirma
4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Adult Class - Families of Faith and Dysfunction: Genesis 9:00 AM Sunday School - 2 yr old - 8th Grade 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM Family Event - Impromptu Christmas Pageant and cookie ex- 1:00 PM Children's Christmas pro- 1:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 50722 5:00 PM Church Council 7:00 PM Youth Council Meeting 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Healthy Movement 10:00 AM Communion at The Neighborhoods 5:15 PM Monday Night Bible Study Group - Old Testament Stories from the Backside 5:30 PM SPR Meeting 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Al-Anon 6:45 PM Worship Team Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Healthy 5:00 PM Manna ir 6:00 PM Manna ir ship 7:00 PM Adult Ad Angels of Christr 7:00 PM Choir Re 7:00 PM Sr. High 7:00 PM First on t 7:00 PM Wednesd 7:00 PM Confirma
11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Adult Class - Families of Faith and Dysfunction: Genesis 9:00 AM Sunday School - 2 yr old - 8th Grade 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship 1:00 PM Children's Christmas program practice - dress rehearsal 6:00 PM Children's Christmas Program 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Healthy Movement 6:30 PM Trustees Meeting 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Al-Anon 6:45 PM Worship Team Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM TOPS 10:00 AM Healthy 5:00 PM Manna ir 6:00 PM Manna ir ship 7:00 PM Adult Ad 7:00 PM Choir Re 7:00 PM Sr. High 7:00 PM First on t 7:00 PM Wednesd 7:00 PM Confirma
18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship 4:30 PM Cross Work Emmaus 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM ULC Communion 10:00 AM Healthy Movement 5:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Open Door Retirees Bible Study - Simon Peter 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:30 PM CARE Group-Norton Home 5:30 PM Al-Anon 6:45 PM Worship Team Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM TOPS 10:00 AM Healthy 5:00 PM Manna ir 6:00 PM Manna ir ship 7:00 PM Choir Re 7:00 PM Sr. High 7:00 PM First on t 7:00 PM Wednesd 7:00 PM Confirma
25 <p>Christmas Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00 PM Christmas Day Service- KELOLAND TV and Online 	26 <p>Christmas Holiday (Observed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Healthy Movement 12:00 PM SOUL 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Al-Anon 6:45 PM Worship Team Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM TOPS 10:00 AM Healthy

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 r Movement Cm't the Middle Meal the Middle Wor- vent Study - The hearsal Youth Group Campus lay School tion 7th/8th	1	2 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM Healthy Movement	3
7 r Movement the Middle Meal the Middle Wor- vent Study - The hearsal Youth Group - Campus lay School tion 7th/8th	8 12:00 PM WOF - Remembrance service 5:30 PM Missions Committee	9 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM Healthy Movement	10
14 r Movement the Middle Meal the Middle Wor- vent Study - The hearsal Youth Group Campus lay School tion 7th/8th	15 10:00 AM Edgewood Vista Communion 10:00 AM Alzheimer's, Dementia and Care Giving Support Group 10:30 AM Stoneybrook Suites Communion 6:00 PM UMM (United Methodist Men)	16 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM Healthy Movement	17 9:00 AM Piecemakers
21 r Movement the Middle Meal the Middle Wor- hearsal Youth Group Campus lay School tion 7th/8th	22 1:00 PM Tie Quilters	23 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM Healthy Movement	24 Christmas Eve 5:30 PM Family Christmas Eve Worship 7:30 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
28 r Movement	29 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM Healthy Movement	30 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM Healthy Movement	31 New Year's Eve

Financial Peace

Financial Peace University is the nine-lesson course that teaches you the step-by-step plan to win with money and gives you all the tools you need to work it.

Financial Peace University will be offered at our church beginning Tuesday, January 17 at 6:00. For more information, please talk to Gretchen.



Souper Bowl of Caring!

Coming February 12, 2023 -- Watch for more details in January from the Senior High Youth!



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



Susan's Saga

One concept has to do with giving being a chain. Those who are giving donate to Paul, who is an intermediary for taking the gifts to the recipients. Those receiving, in turn, give thanksgiving to God. And there is a reverberation effect as the praise and thanksgiving are reflected back to the original donors, giving them reason to glorify God. It is not only cyclical, as believers give and receive and give again, but also there is a crescendo of thanksgiving to God by all parties: givers, receivers, and intermediaries.

A second thought from this passage is that seed is often a metaphor for God's Word. In the Gospels, Jesus frequently refers to God's Word as being like seed that is sown, with the potential for growth and harvest. Bible translation is directly involved in making that precious seed available to people groups who do not yet have access to God's Word in their heart language.

So these verses are meaningful on several fronts, and it provides an apt opportunity to express gratitude to those who are part of this ongoing chain of providing the seed of Scripture to this group of Mixtec people.

“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

II Corinthians 9: 10-11

May you be blessed as you provide the blessing of God's Word to others.

Susan Hugghins

Scripture quotation is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. *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.*

From the Trustee Committee

We are waiting on the arrival of a roofing company to make repairs to the Sanctuary roof where some shingles blew off during the derecho this spring. We have also arranged for a plumber to repair a mixer valve at the Community Life Center. When the repairs are completed, we should have consistently hot water available in the Community Life Center kitchen.

Our ad hoc church signage committee is awaiting the installation of the new digital sign on the north side of the Community Life Center. Footings are to be poured soon. We are hoping installation of the sign will take place later this winter. The signage committee is also currently reviewing plans that have been developed for the interior signage needs for our facilities.

As we look to next year, we will be addressing repairs that will 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

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



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.



Griefshare

Our church will be offering a class to address Grief, called Griefshare. The class will be led by Abbey and Lance Howard and will be held weekly, from January 10th to the end of March 2023. We are tentatively planning on holding the class on Tuesday evenings from 6:00pm – 8:00pm.



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.

Advent Series 2022:

(Devotional booklets available in Narthex and Online)

Expect a Miracle	Sunday, Nov 27	Luke 21:25-28	Luke 21:25-28
Expect Mercy	December 4	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79
Expect Good News	December 11	Isaiah 12:2-6	Luke 3:7-18
Expect A Savior	December 18	Micah 5:2-5	Luke 1:46-55
Expect A Child	Christmas	Luke 2:1-7	Luke 2:1-7
Expect God	January 1	Isaiah 63:7-9	Isaiah 63:7-9

Poinsettias

We would love to add the beauty of poinsettias to the church decorations during this Advent/Christmas season. The Worship Committee is inviting anyone “who loves the adventure of finding the perfect plant” to drop off a **red** or **white** poinsettia at church. (Rest assured that you are not responsible for watering or caring for plants through the season. We have volunteers to take care of them.)

Your poinsettia may be given in memory or in honor of a loved one. Please call, stop by the church office, or email: office@brookingsmethodist.org to have your loved one’s name acknowledged in the December 19th worship bulletin.



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve:

5:30pm: Family Service and Candlelight in the Community Life Center

7:30pm: Christmas Eve with Candlelight in the Sanctuary

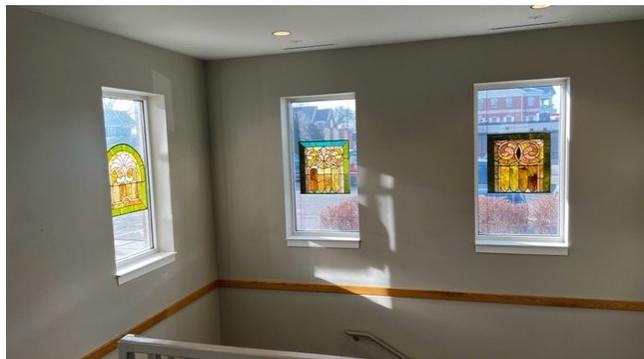
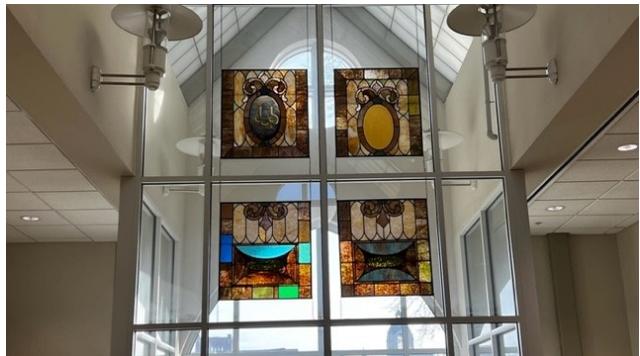
Christmas Day:

2:00pm: Christmas Celebration on Keloland TV & Online

Both Christmas Eve services will be live streamed on our website and Facebook page.

Stained Glass Windows

Thank you to our Memorials Committee and our Trustees for facilitating the installation of stained glass windows in the Narthex and Community Life Center! The windows were removed from our church buildings as part of expansion projects throughout the years and have been restored and reframed.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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