



FOCUS

NEWSLETTER

February 2021



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
BROOKINGS
AT THE
CORNER OF
**CHURCH &
COMMUNITY**
625 Fifth Street, Brookings
605-692-4345
www.brookingsmethodist.org

Dear Church Family,

*Love is
in the air*

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ **And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.**

Colossians 3:12-14

Maybe it's because I'm a newlywed; or maybe because I love any excuse to have a little chocolate! Either way, I'm really looking forward to Valentine's Day this year. What about you? Are you looking forward to this yearly excuse to spread a little love? Or, as may be the case for many of us, are you kind of hoping it will just pass you by?

Valentine's Day can be tough; especially if we think of it as just another Hallmark holiday—a clever marketing ploy to get us to spend yet more money, or a holiday reserved for the dewy-eyed, hopelessly besotted teenagers *(continued on page 2)*

among us (or the newlyweds!). Or we may find ourselves spending the holiday without someone we love.

Wherever you find yourself today, I would encourage us all to think a little more broadly about Valentine's Day this year. It seems that so many of our days in the past year have been taken up with unloving talk—on the news, on our social media feeds, maybe even in our own conversations. What if we took this day, and perhaps even more, to inject loving words into our environment; and not just for our sweet-hearts, but for everybody?

Let's be especially loving this February; a little less doom-scrolling, and a little more hope-sharing. Wouldn't that be refreshing? So many are feeling lonely this February. Let's find ways to increase the love quotient among us. And this Valentine's Day, may you be reminded of how much you are loved by God, and by your church family. We love you! Let's share that love in whatever way we can this month!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Krista, Pastor at First United Methodist Church



Weekly Worship Schedule

Sundays:	9:30am	Radio Broadcast (on KBRK 1430AM)
	10:00am	Community Life Center (in-person and online)
	12:00pm	Virtual Coffee with the Pastors on Zoom
	All day	Virtual Children's Church on Facebook
Wednesday:	6:00pm	Virtual Bible Study

Check out our website: www.brookingsmethodist.org

A prayer for Lent 2021

Dear God,

The past year has been a strange and uncomfortable experience. I have watched as a virus has disrupted our lives, making people angry, and fearful and argumentative. People have lost their jobs, got sick, and some people I know have died. And I have experienced uncertainty and fear for my future and the future of my loved ones. And yet....

And yet you have been with me – every step of the way. I am reminded of the words of the Psalmist: *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble* (Psalm 46:1). I know that I have not always been aware of you, and sometimes I have forgotten to reach out to you and have worried on my own. But the truth is that when I look back over the past 12 months I can see the evidence of your presence: I had the strength to get up each morning and make it through the day. I had food on my table, a roof over my head and clothing for my back. I had friends who encouraged me, and family I could love – and who loved me. I was warmed by the sunshine and cooled by the rain. I therefore choose to join with the Psalmist in prayer:



Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.
(Psalm 46:2-7)

I therefore choose to follow your call through Lent to the resurrection of Easter.

Pete, Pastor at First United Methodist Church

Join us for Lenten worship



Learning To Laugh Again *A Lenten Theme*

We have all experienced times of sadness, struggle and pain. This year our Lent Sunday preaching theme will remind us that God can turn our mourning into joy. We will tell stories of how our faith turns cynical laughter into joy (Sarah); that despite suffering we still find joy (Job); worship of God can fill our hearts with joy (King David); that God wants all women to laugh without fear (Proverbs woman); and how Jesus comes to bring us joy (wedding at Cana). A devotional booklet will be available that provides a summary of the Sunday theme and daily readings for Lent.

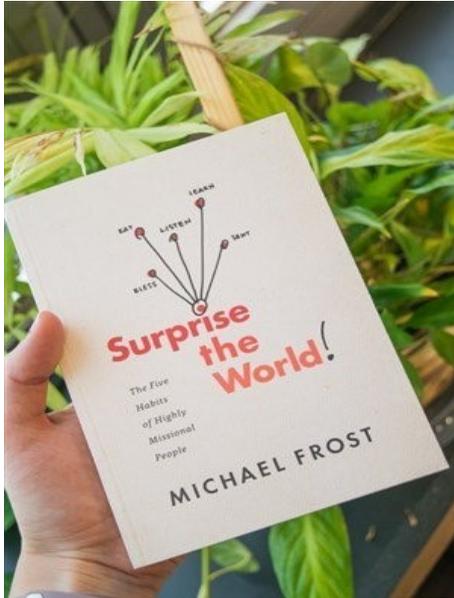
Ash Wednesday: Join us on *in-person or online* for a safe, reflective Ash Wednesday service: February 17th at 6pm.

Holy Week Services:

- Maundy Thursday Service, April 1st, 6pm
- Good Friday Service, April 2nd, 6pm
- Easter services, April 4th:
 - ◇ Sunrise prayer service in the prayer garden: 7am
 - ◇ Resurrection Day worship in the park, 10am (weather permitting)

All services will be available in-person or online at www.brookingsmethodist.org.

Lenten Bible Study Wednesday Evenings



Join our Dakotas Conference clergy and staff as we journey together through Michael Frost's *Surprise the World: The Five Habits of Highly Missional People*! Each week during Lent, beginning on February 17th, you will have the opportunity to watch videos from our Conference staff (including Bishop Haller), follow along with the companion book if you choose (available starting February 7th at no cost) and join in online on Wednesday evenings as Pastor Pete and Krista offer their unique, original insights on each weekly topic throughout the Lenten season. Stay tuned for more information!



Radio Broadcast Sponsorships

We have several weeks available for radio broadcast sponsorship in 2021. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast in memory, honor, or celebration of a loved one or anniversary, please contact the office at 605-692-4345 or email office@brookingsmethodist.org. Each broadcast sponsorship is \$60 and airs at 9:30am on KBRK 1430AM.

Education News:



Camp Registrations are Open!

I hope you are all planning on attending camp this summer. Since you were not able to attend last year, I'm thinking you're more than ready to have those experiences that only camp can provide. Please go to www.dakcamps.org to register. And remember that there are camps for every age and interest!

You can feel confident that the camping office has been very diligent in how they will handle camps this summer due to Covid. If you want to know more about how they will be doing that you here is a link to that page: <https://www.dakotasumc.org/camping/camps-and-events/covid-19-and-camp-faqs>

Due to Covid they are limiting the number of campers for some of the camps. So, if you have a specific camp which you know you want to attend, I suggest signing up for it soon.

Camp Scholarships Increased!

The Education committee is very aware that this past year has been very financially challenging for many families and has voted to increase the camp scholarship to **75%** for this year. They want to make sure that whoever wants to attend camp can do just that. All you need to do to receive this scholarship is to enter [brookingscampers](#) in the registration process.

Camp Sunday is April 18th. Donations are welcome at anytime either online through our website <http://www.brookingsmethodist.org/donate.html> or by dropping it off at the church office.

Church Offering Senior Scholarship

It has been a tradition of this church to offer a scholarship to graduating seniors who are going on to further schooling. An email has been sent out to those seniors. If you are a senior or have a senior in your household and have not received this email, please contact Gretchen at education@brookingsmethodist.org for the scholarship form. Please turn in your form by March 15 to the office.

Financial Peace

Financial Peace University, a 9-week financial course, will be offered on Mondays, from February 22 – April 19. We will meet at 6pm in the Community Life Center to allow for social distancing.

Here is a description of what FPU is and what is included:

Financial Peace University includes nine video lessons featuring Dave Ramsey, Rachel Cruze, and Chris Hogan. Follow along in your workbook as they teach you:

- Lesson 1:** Build a Starter Emergency Fund and Learn How to Budget
- Lesson 2:** Pay Off All Debt
- Lesson 3:** Save a Fully Funded Emergency Fund
- Lesson 4:** Invest for the Future and Build Wealth
- Lesson 5:** Buyer Beware
- Lesson 6:** The Role of Insurance
- Lesson 7:** Retirement Planning
- Lesson 8:** Real Estate and Mortgages
- Lesson 9:** Living and Giving Like No One Else

Contact Gretchen at education@brookingsmethodist.org or 605-692-4345 for questions.

Education News Continued:

Bible Study on Revelation

Famous Last Words by Dr Rev Pete Grassow

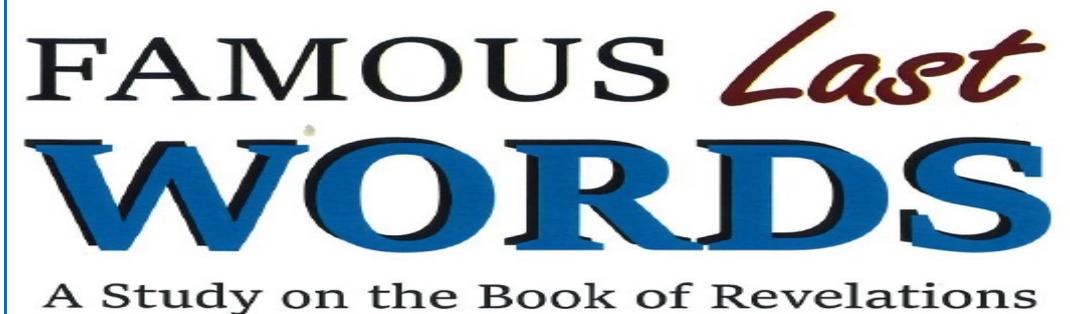
The Book of Revelation is considered by many to be one of the most controversial and difficult books of the Bible. There are many different interpretations of the meanings of the various names and stories in the book. That is why, in the 4th century, Gregory of Nazianus, and other bishops argued against including this book in the New Testament, mainly because of the difficulties of interpreting it and the danger for abuse. In the end it was included in the Bible, although it remains the only book of the New Testament that is not read within the Eastern Orthodox Church.

You will spend 6 weeks studying this book, from Tuesday, February 23–March 31 at 6:30pm via zoom. This teaching series is entitled “Famous Last Words”, which refers to the many familiar words that are found in this book. Useful reading on this topic includes *Reversed Thunder* by Eugene Petersen, and *Revelation for Everyone* by N T Wright. Each participant will receive a book written by Dr Grassow.

The Outline is as follows:

- Famous Last Words: *Revelation Chapter One*
- Last Word on the Church *Revelation 2 & 3*
- Last Word on Evil *Revelation 6 & 7*
- Last Word on Politics and Religion *Revelation 13*
- Last Word on Judgement: *Revelation 17 & 18*
- The Final Word: It is Finished! *Revelation 21*

If you are interested in joining this study, please let Gretchen know at education@brookingsmethodist.org.



FAMOUS *Last*
WORDS
A Study on the Book of Revelations

Thank You!

The trustees recently had the floors in the Education building refinished (thanks Trustees -they look great!). In order to do this, there was a LOT of furniture which needed to be moved out and then back in. I would like to thank the people who volunteered to do this (on very short notice too!) Thanks to Doug Beste, Ron Thaden, Tom Thaden, Tom Page, Charlie Schnabel, Mason Doyscher, Dawson Doyscher, Bill, Kent, and Chase Knutson. I appreciate your willingness to do necessary but not very glamorous work!

Campus Ministry News:

Dear Friends,

This logo is a perfect illustration of our campus ministry—in progress (thanks to Sam Becker for his excellent design work)!



I am delighted to report that our expectations have been exceeded! While COVID-19 has presented its challenges in the past year, we have still, by God's grace and the passion of our committed core of students, been able to plant seeds for future ministry. A committed core of students, our academic advisor Matt Miller, and I have met together, formulated an updated constitution, and applied for status as a recognized student organization at SDSU! We will be going through the approval process in the coming weeks and we would be grateful for your prayers.

With SDSU approval, we will be well-positioned to make the most of post-COVID campus life in the fall, and we are already dreaming about what that might look like. Thanks to those who have prayed for us, supported the ministry, encouraged our students, and participated in our planning sessions. We are grateful and hopeful!

In Christ,

Pastor Krista

Mission Committee News:

Brookings FUMC Mission Happenings: January – March (2021)

We continue to acknowledge the faithfulness of this congregation in supporting the missions of our church! Throughout this past year and during the pandemic, giving via online donations continued to increase! We are so thankful for your support! As you can read below, YOU have been very busy and very helpful to those needing assistance!

These actions were taken during the Missions zoom meeting on Jan 14:

1. 2020 pledged donations current balance is \$360; that will go to the *Human Relations Sunday* offering, one of the UMC special offerings during the year. Any other pledged donations in January will also go here.
2. The Christmas Eve Offering of \$425 will go to the *Harvest Table*.
3. A Christmas Joy fund brought in \$375, \$200 to help in Brookings, \$175 for *Harvest Table*
4. \$400 from the Foundation went directly to Harvest Table for *diapers*.
5. The Missionary Covenant Relationships were once again covered by the church budget. It has been a number of years since this happened! We covenant with these two couples that are members of our Dakotas Conference; the Graners in the Dominican Republic and the Erbeles who are Mission Interpreters in the Western Jurisdiction. We also supported Susan Huggins, WyCliffe, a church member stationed in Oaxaca, Mexico. Funds came from the Jan Adams Estate.
6. We 'reloaned' \$225 that had come into our KIVA account, a micro-lending program with good standing. The members borrow needed capital for their small businesses and repay over a set time so that it can be reloaned to help others! (KIVA.org)
7. Brookings FUMC continued to support Meals on Wheels, taking two weeks in January. Thank you to all the drivers! More are needed for the next round!
8. During our February meeting, we will discuss the Brookings Arts Festival and whether or not to participate in it. Anyone interested in helping, please contact James Honomichl, jrhonomichl@yahoo.com. We also need another soul or two on our committee, again please contact James.

Past #onething donations (through online giving*):



1. October, \$830 was designated for *Lake Poinsett Camp*
2. November and December, \$3925 came in for our local *Pastors Emergency Fund*
3. We currently have \$1365 from Oct – Dec online donations to disburse next month.

New #onething priorities (online* or via check or offering plate):

1. February online donations will support **Teen Challenge** (tcdakotas.org) – a Brookings rehabilitation program and a very helpful group of guys at our Harvest Table meals.
2. March online donations will go to **UMCOR Sunday** (umcgiving.org). The United Methodist Committee on Relief is our denomination's premier method of responding to disasters. Our own Conference has received much support from this fund, especially for flooding over the last decade (Fargo, Minot, Pierre, Canton, etc)

***To give through the #onething online donation link:** go to BROOKINGS FUMC website for online giving: <http://www.brookingsmethodist.org/donate.html> . If you haven't, please sign up and make your donation through the **#onething option**.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is dedicated to providing seniors with the necessary nutritional support to protect them against food insecurity, and to help them continue to live independent and fulfilling lives. FUMC has been assisting this local program for over 20 years. A special thank you to the last round of volunteers who have put on their face masks and demonstrated God's love this last January:

Jan 4-8: Judi/Don DeZeeuw, Keith/Betty Allison, Gretchen Knutson, Perry Johnson, and Lynette/Bob Smith.

Jan 11-15: Perry Johnson, Pete and Jenny Grassow, Roger Sandness, Lynette and Bob Smith, and Judy and Don DeZeeuw.

The next round of Meals on wheels will be April 12-16 and April 19-23.



Harvest Table filling community needs

Harvest Table continues to assist the community with a no contact pick up of requests from individuals and families. About 30 children receive diapers and baby wipes each week. Food items and personal care items are given to about 10 families each week. Besides diapers, the most requested items are laundry detergent, dish detergent, toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels, shampoo, deodorant, and toothpaste. These items cannot be purchased with food stamps.



The Feeding South Dakota mobile food truck comes to the CLC parking lot once a month. It is a drive-thru distribution. There is usually a variety of canned food items, meat, milk, eggs, or cheese, and produce when available. About 100 vehicles have been coming to receive food during the last couple of months. Feeding Brookings at the Ascension Lutheran Church also has a drive-thru food distribution each Thursday. Harvest Table contributes items to that distribution and provides coupons for guests to receive laundry detergent, toilet paper, or milk through our local Lewis Drug store. Harvest Table pays for the coupons that are redeemed at Lewis Drug.

Harvest Table also participates with a United Way zoom meeting every other week for a COVID-19 food program taskforce. This has been helpful to collaborate with agencies to meet the needs in the community.

Thank you to the congregation for the donations Harvest Table has received. The items are appreciated and are distributed to guests when they are requested. The monetary donations are used to purchase diapers and baby wipes, food, and the personal care items. Please contact Vonda at communitylife@brookingsmethodist.org or 605-692-4345 if you or someone you know is in need of some assistance.

With Appreciation

Jenny and I arrived in South Dakota a year ago. Looking back we see nothing but the goodness and grace of God surrounding us. We want to thank you, the members of this church, for your hospitality and kindness. It is both a privilege and an honor to be able to serve God alongside of you. We look forward to the next year with joyful anticipation. If any of you should bump into us in town please say “howzit” to us – you are more likely to recognize us than we might you!



May God be with us all.

Pete & Jenny Grassow.

A Wellness Note

Hello Congregation, from sunny New Orleans. As we begin our new year, consider your physical health. The following list is from an online article called ChoosePT.

Get up and get active for at least 150 minutes a week. **Make physical activity a priority to:**

1. Improve your memory and brain function (all age groups).
2. Protect against many chronic diseases.
3. Aid in weight management.
4. Lower blood pressure and improve heart health.
5. Improve your quality of sleep.
6. Reduce feelings of anxiety and depression.
7. Combat cancer-related fatigue.
8. Improve joint pain and stiffness.
9. Maintain muscle strength and balance.
10. Increase life span.



You can do this!

Joanie Holm, Faith Community Nurse

Finance Committee News:

The Finance Committee would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the mission of Brookings First United Methodist Church. Because of this (and the work of the 2020 Finance Committee), the December balance of Operational funds was to the positive \$34,000.

Here is a summary of the 2021 Budget which was accepted during the Charge Conference in November, 2020. This budget shows a deficit of \$44,000. It will be important for the Finance Committee to work with all committees in the church to ensure that the final balance in December of 2021 can be similar to that of 2020. This will require that spending be monitored carefully, and the committee understands that responsibility.

Over the years, there have been gifts to the church which were labelled for use in specific ways. We will be communicating this to committees so that they can utilize these funds in a manner related to the intention of the gift. Additionally, we will be working with the Brookings First United Methodist Foundation to provide support for needed projects at the church.

Finally, you may have heard that the church received money as part of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). These funds have been used to support the salary structure for our church leaders, but we must remember that this is one-time money, and we cannot become reliant on that money to finance our salary commitments.

As we begin 2021, our financial status is very good because of faithful giving to the church through the pledges and offerings. Additionally, the support given by church members and friends to the Together Campaign has eliminated debt. This has also realized the beginning of a fund which will allow the church to operate without the need to take out a loan in the event of a major cost. Thank you again to all of those that have given and continue to give as they complete their pledge to the Together Campaign.

May God bless all of you for your continued support.

Matt Miller, Finance Committee Chair

Pete Grassow, Pastor

BROOKINGS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2021 BUDGET Proposed (Summary report)

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u> <u>(Budget Totals only)</u>	
Pledged Contributions (as of 1-15-2021)	\$550,830	Apportionments (@ 16%)	\$106,598
Non-pledge Contributions	\$103,906	SPR	\$399,941
Loose Offering	\$3,000	Trustee	\$155,000
CM Pastoral Support	\$10,000	Education	\$13,100
Radio Broadcast Sponsors	\$2,400	Worship	\$14,490
Facility Use	\$1,000	Finance	\$8,880
GAP & Head Start	\$7,500	Office	\$11,100
Other Funds: (Restricted/ FUMC Foundation)***	\$-	Witness	\$4,000
		Missions	\$5,000
		Church Council	\$1,200
		Manna Meal	\$2,000
		Youth & Young Adult	\$1,500
		Health Ministries	\$-
Projected Income:	\$678,636	Projected Expenses:	\$722,809
Net Deficit:	\$(44,173)		

Generosity
changes everything

Trustees News:

There seems to be always something for which the Trustee committee needs to become involved in. We have finished some of the pending items that were due to be finished including:

1. Education Building tile floor refinishing
2. Plumbing repairs
3. Roof repairs for the Community Life Center (CLC) building
4. Agreements/Contracts for:
 - Parking lot and sidewalk snow removal
 - Use of buildings by HEADSTART and GAP
 - Maintenance Contract for Community Life Center

Other items of note that have been or are in the process of completion include:

1. Installation of Bell Tower windows (when equipment becomes available for installation).
2. Removal of old equipment and installation of new air conditioning/ventilation system (equipment was due to arrive in Sioux Falls last week, but date of installation is pending).
3. Replacement of Southeast exterior Sanctuary entrance doors (waiting for doors to be delivered, probably in 4 – 6 weeks).
4. Kitchen appliance replacement in basement kitchen (main building). Due to other concerns with potential improvements and/or changes to the Basement Kitchen, the Trustees are seeking assistance in future planning for that space.
5. Damaged ceiling tile replacement in CLC (HEADSTART classroom, storage and office and in the Harvest Table office areas).
6. Investigation into the improvement of warm air circulation in the GAP kitchen (Education Building). We have some preparation work to get ready for the air conditioning/ventilation equipment installation including moving several choir music filing cabinets and shelves and removal of partial dividing walls to accommodate air handler removal and installation.

Looking ahead:

- Because of the need for frequent plumbing repairs particularly in the Education Building, we are proposing a thorough inspection of all the plumbing for potential replacement of problem fixtures, pipes, etc. to avoid future frequent repair situations.
- The tile floors in the restrooms on the second floor of the Education Building are in a somewhat deteriorated condition (grout is unable to be cleaned, tiles are loose in spots) so that a possible replacement is being considered.
- The committee has assembled a job description for a Building Manager position as a part-time employee to help manage all aspects of care and maintenance of our church facilities. When the church gets back into full use, this position will be especially needed. The Pastor/Parish committee is coordinating the effort going forward.
- We have 2 Trustee Committee vacancies and would like to have a full membership of nine members in order to function well. Contact the Nominations Committee if you are interested. We are meeting on the second Monday of the month at 7:00PM presently via ZOOM.



Building Manager needed

FUMC will be hiring a Building Manager to oversee the maintenance and care of our church buildings. This position is part-time at approximately 20 hours per week. Please contact Pastor Pete at 605-651-8660 or Cheryl Honomichl (SPR Chair) at cjhonomichl@yahoo.com if you are interested or know someone that is interested.

Looking for Live Streaming Volunteers

As the church is resuming live in-person services, I am looking for volunteers that are interested in being trained in running our new live streaming equipment. Some computer and/or video experience is helpful, but we can train from any experience level!

Contact me at sam@605pro.com or call the church office (605-692-4345) if you are interested in helping with this new technical ministry!

Sam Becker, Worship Tech/Media Director



Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain is active. Please contact Sharon Anderegg at 605-692-4925 with any requests.

Notes from the Office

Annual giving statements were mailed on January 22, 2021. If you did not receive a statement and believe that you should have, please contact the church office at 605-692-4345.

The Charge Conference Report, November 12, 2020, is available. Please stop by the church office to pick up a copy.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, February 15, 2021, in observance of President's Day.

JoAnn Lee, Office Manager/Financial Secretary

Church Office hours:

M-F 8:30 am—Noon

Susan's Saga

In spite of the pandemic, progress on the translation of God's Word into the Mixtec language is continuing. Because the translation team can no longer safely meet face to face, we have had to rely more heavily on technology. We are using WhatsApp on our cell phones to be in communication. Three of us have computers, and two of the team have tablets, where we can see the updated translation in Mixtec. We use the internet so that we can each read what changes are being made, although we are in five different locations. Then we discuss the wording on our cell phones. Even though the internet and/or cell phone coverage frequently cuts out for one or more parties, we are still able to continue the translation project. We certainly would not have dreamed a year ago that this would be the way we would be working.

By God's grace, we were able to revise about 30% of the New Testament in Mixtec this past year. The revision process continues, as we hone and refine the revision to be both accurate to the original Greek text, and clear in Mixtec—an ongoing challenge, as the languages are so different.

Our commitment continues to be to see God's Word made available to this people group in their heart language.

Susan Hugghins

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.

First United Methodist Church
625 Fifth Street
Brookings, SD 57006

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