

FROM THE PASTOR

A Deeper Faithfulness

By: Pastor Krista

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11



Rain; so many in this region desperately need it. We need it so much that I admit I secretly feel a little envious when I hear of a rainstorm elsewhere in the state, as so many farmers in our region are praying for enough rain to get the corn waist high by July 4th. It's looking bleak. Yet these words of scripture remind us that God is faithful; that God has designed creation for our sustaining and growth, just as God's word nourishes our souls.

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FROM THE PASTOR

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The prophet promises that God is faithful, even if it seems as though a drought might just do us in. These words of encouragement came to Israel in a time of deep spiritual drought and uncertainty. Generations before, they had been defeated by Babylon, conquered and carried off in shame to exile, their temple razed to the ground. God used the prophet in this deep destabilizing time to remind God's people—"God has not left you; God has not forgotten you. God's word will sustain you even now." And God was faithful. Israel did return home, rebuild, and continue on as a nation after their time of exile.

There is no doubt that our denomination is in a season of uncertainty; it may feel in some ways like a spiritual drought. If we're honest, we must admit that we don't know what could happen. But that is no reason to succumb to anxiety, fear, or worry. God is at work. God's word will not return empty. We are being called to a deeper faithfulness, trusting that the Holy Spirit does her best work right in the middle of the mess. Let us see this as a day not of desolation, but of *new beginnings*. God is faithful and will complete the work God has begun. Praise be to God!

Pastor Krista



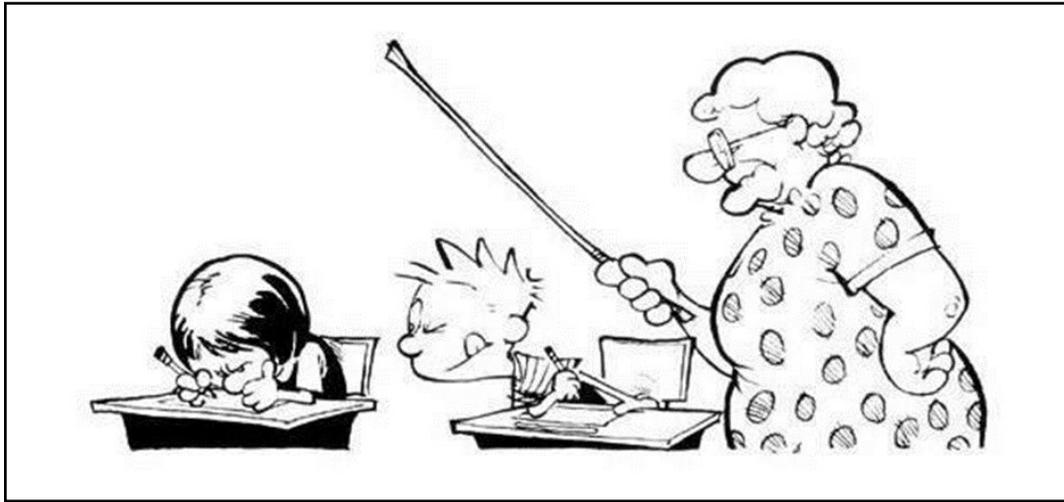
Listen to our Podcast!

You can listen to all our sermons and messages every Wednesday evening and Sunday afternoon on our Podcast, 'Messages from First United Methodist Brookings!' It's perfect for listening on the go this summer! 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 !

Where Are Your Eyes?

By: Pastor Pete



What are the things you look at - as you make decisions about your life and your beliefs? The fact is that we are all influenced by the people around us. Our opinions are formed through watching our family, reading the comments on social media, and daily exposure to the talk shows and advertisements. This can lead to us being blown around by the wind of public opinion. We see this in politicians who change their positions based on the prevailing polls; we see this too in the money and effort used by “influencers”, whose task it is to persuade us to buy their products or see life their way. And we are left at the mercy of whatever is popular opinion at the time.

We who follow Jesus have another way of living: *Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end (Hebrews 12:2).* We follow Jesus. Let the words and example of Jesus be the filter for our thoughts and actions. So my question to us all: where do we let our eyes linger?

Pastor Pete

The Recovery Team and Covid-19

I write to say thank you to the team that has guided our health as a church over the past year. Joanie Holm, Brenda Hieb, Kim Prohaska, Ryan Hagedorn, Angie Daly met every Thursday evening, under the leadership of Matt Miller, to plan ways that we as a church could navigate the Pandemic. This team has faithfully guided us through these perplexing and challenging times. Because of them, nobody has become ill through attending an event at our church.

We are now at a place where we can return to full use of our buildings. We are asking that people who are not vaccinated should continue to wear masks. We will continue to provide a safe space for those who are not vaccinated (such as children) so some ribbons are still up in the sanctuary. We invite our members to continue to sanitize their hands. We are not yet at a place where we will pass offering plates or friendship pads along the rows on a Sunday. But it is wonderful to be able to sing again - and to see the faces of those around us. Please keep in mind that the USA is privileged to be in this place, and there are many parts of the world without access to vaccines and with hospitals overflowing with ill people.

Thank you.

Pastor Pete

Weekly Worship Schedule

 **WATCH ONLINE**

Sundays:

9:30am	Radio Broadcast (on KBRK 1430AM)
10:00am	Sunday Morning Worship (in-person and online)
12:00pm	Virtual Coffee with the Pastors on Zoom
All day	Virtual Children's Church on Facebook

Wednesday:

6:00pm	Bible Study (in-person and online)
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Check out our website: www.brookingsmethodist.org

From the Trustee Committee

At our last Trustee Committee meeting, we decided to look into refurbishing the Southeast Church Sanctuary doors rather than replacing them as previously planned. The cost of new doors seemed to be prohibitive based on material costs at this time. Replacing the old laminate with a layer of new material was decided to be the best plan. The job was done the last week of June by A and B Refinishing of Brookings and with the able assistance and advice of Leland Nordquist, Doug Beste, Ron Perry, and Rick Hieb. The doors look to be new, and you may notice that we changed the décor on the front of the doors using the same trim as was previously there. We want to extend big “Thank You” to the crew for getting that job done well.

As mentioned in the last FOCUS Newsletter, the committee is considering what might be done to improve the condition of the Sanctuary basement windows. One option would be to replace the windows with new framing and glass. We are now considering another option. That option is to brick in the entire openings. Many of the windows are partly concealed by lowered ceilings in some basement areas, and some windows also have heating system vents taking up part of the openings. Costs of each option will be compared as well as interaction with the historical aspects of these potential changes.

Ron Thaden

Trustee Committee Chair



VBS – Discovery on Adventure Island!

VBS will be July 13-15 in the evenings. We are very excited for VBS this year – to learn about God and to be together!

VBS is for children who have turned 4 by August 31, 2020 – 5th grade (just finished). Sign up here: <http://bit.ly/VBS2021AdventureIsland>.

Thank you to the many volunteers who said yes to teaching, helping, cooking and many other jobs.

We begin the evening with a Covid safe meal at 5:15 and end at 8:05. Feel free to come for opening and closing and see the children of the church in action!

If you would like to contribute to the cost of meal items, you may go to the church’s website. At the top you will see a Give option under the Give option, choose the Donate option. Then choose Donate again and then look for VBS. Thanks so much!



Church Camping Weekend

Join us for a camping weekend at Oakwood Lakes State Park on August 6-8, 2021. We have reserved spots and there are a couple left if you want to camp. It's a great weekend for conversation, fellowship, we share a couple of meals, and anything else we decide to do. Let Gretchen know if you are interested in joining.



Email Gretchen at education@brookingsmethoidst.org.

If you just want to come out for the day or evening, that's ok too!

Summer Church Campers

Please keep the following campers in your prayers as they attend camp in July.

Camper	Camp	Dates
Ella Tellekson Brynn Flemming Amelia Wendell	Lake Poinsett Middle School Sampler	July 12 - 16
Jaclyn Moore Kilea Moore	Lake Poinsett Sand, Surf and Son	July 18 - 23
Tom, Kay & Sam Becker Jim, Cheryl & Rylee Honomichl	Storm Mountain Family Fun-4-All	July 23 - 25
Charlie Schnabel	Storm Mountain Maintenance jobs at camp	July

Campus Ministry Update:

It has been a great summer for Campus Ministry! We have had fun times together at our taco night in May and pizza night at Good Roots Farm in June. Plans for July include helping with the slush booth and VBS, more pizza and a bonfire, and getting our campus ministry room ready for our life group meetings starting September 8th at 7pm! We are so grateful to those who have donated furniture and time to preparing our campus ministry room, and to the Foundation for supporting us in acquiring promotional materials for Jacks opening weekend and for equipment to enable hybrid life groups online and in person. We are so excited to welcome our new Jackrabbits to campus in August! Please pray for those God leads to join First On Campus this fall!

Pastor Krista



Musicians Needed!

With our upcoming return to Wednesday evening worship in addition to Sunday mornings, we are in need of musicians for our worship team! Practices are Tuesday evenings at 7pm. If you sing or play an instrument, and have a heart for sharing your gifts in worship as part of a team that loves God and is passionate about leading God's people, we'd love to have you! Contact Pastor Krista at pastorkrista@brookingsmethodist.org. And don't forget, we are looking for singers for our choir ministry as well!

Pastor Krista



BATA Bus Service



If you are in need of a ride to attend church on Sundays, we have restarted the BATA bus service. Volunteer drivers are available to pick you up and drop you off back home. Please contact the office **by Noon on Fridays** at 605-692-4345 if you would like to be on the pick up list or if you would like to volunteer to be a driver.

Fruit Slush Booth at the Brookings Summer Arts Festival, July 10-11, 2021

Fruit Slush Booth – Help Wanted

We still need volunteers for the Brookings FUMC Slush Booth at this year's Brookings Summer Arts Festival (July 10 & 11). Sign up to help at the booth on Signup Genius: <http://bit.ly/21SlushBooth>.

This year the money raised will go to UMCOR Disaster Relief, Solar Oven Partners, and assisting with youth mission trips.

If you cannot volunteer, stop in at the booth during the Arts Festival and buy some delicious frozen fruit slush.

Thank you for your help in making our slush booth a success.

Jim Honomichi



Thank you!

The mission committee thanks this congregation for its continuing commitment to the needs of our community and world. You raised over \$1500 for Church World Service blankets in honor or memory of a loved mother, aunt, sister, grandmother, etc!

Next month we will report on the Fathers Day for local Habitat for Humanity offering!

See you at the Slush Booth the weekend of July 10-11! Your help with the booth and purchase of slushes will be greatly appreciated and fund more outreach projects here and there around our globe!

Lorna Jost

Meals on Wheels

I am now seeking volunteers for the first two weeks in August: August 2-6 and August 9-13. Please consider being a part of this FUMC mission. Please contact Perry Johnson at perbar3@mac.com or phone 605 692 1340.

Meals on Wheels is dedicated to providing area 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. Four times a year FUMC volunteers show God's love and take their turn making these food deliveries.

A special THANK YOU to the last round of volunteers who put on their face masks and delivered God's love April 12-16: Perry and Barb Johnson, Larry and Barb Hult, Roger Sandness, Keith and Betty Allison, and Lynette and Bob Smith. April 19-23: Perry Johnson, Lorna Jost, Ron and Linda Thaden, Rick and Brenda Hieb, and Lynette and Bob Smith.



Perry Johnson

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, you may:

1. Visit <http://www.brookingsmethodist.org/> and click on **RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS**
2. Contact the office at 605-692-4345
3. Email office@brookingsmethodist.org



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
11 8:30am—Arts Festival Worship in Pioneer Park (ecumenical) 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship 12pm—Virtual coffee with pastors	12 9am—Feeding SD mobile food truck 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 7pm—Trustee meeting	13 5pm-8:05pm—VBS 5pm—New Day Al-Anon	14 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy Move 5pm-8:05pm—VBS 6pm—Weds Bible Stu
18 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship 12pm—Virtual coffee with pastors 7pm—Administrative Council meet- ing	19 10am—Communion at ULC 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—Finance Committee meeting 7pm—Worship Committee meeting	20 1:30pm—CARE Group meeting 5pm—New Day Al-Anon	21 8am—TOPS 10am—Alzheimer’s S 10am—Healthy Move 6pm—Weds Bible Stu
25 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship 12pm—Virtual coffee with pastors	26 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	27 5pm—New Day Al-Anon	28 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy Move 6pm—Weds Bible Stu
August 1 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship—VBS Promo Sunday 12pm—Virtual coffee with pastors	2 10am—Communion at The Neighborhoods 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) 5:30pm—SPR meeting	3 5pm—New Day Al-Anon	4 8am—TOPS 10am—Healthy Move 6pm—Weds Bible Stu
8 9:30am—Radio broadcast (KBRK) 10am—Sunday Morning Worship 12pm—Virtual coffee with pastors Church Camping Weekend—Oakwood Lakes State Park			

	Thu	Fri	Sat
	July 8	9 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	10
ment Class (CLC) dy (Sanctuary)	15 10am—Communion at Edgewood Vista 10:30am—Communion at Stoneybrook 5pm-8:05pm—VBS	16 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	17
upport Group ment Class (CLC) dy (Sanctuary)	22 1pm—Tie Quilters	23 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	24
ment Class (CLC) dy (Sanctuary)	29	30 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC)	31 9am—Administrative Council Retreat CLC—Private family event Basement—Private family event
ment Class (CLC) dy (Sanctuary)	5	6 10am—Healthy Movement Class (CLC) Church Camping Weekend—Oakwood Lakes State Park	7 Church Camping Weekend—Oakwood Lakes State Park

MISSION CORNER

East River Foster Parent Network

#onething 

The mission of the ERFPN is to empower and support foster parents so they can in turn provide a safe and caring home environment, giving each child and adolescent the opportunity to thrive.

The goals of the organization are:

- Raise awareness of current issues impacting foster care.
- Increase community awareness of the foster care program and the needs of foster families.
- Provide training and continuing education for foster parents in order to improve recruitment, retention and the effectiveness of foster families.
- Provide additional resources to foster children through scholarships supporting summer camps, school supplies, extracurricular activities, etc.
- Provide additional resources and mentoring to foster parents.

The ERFPN works to provide the following services for children in foster care:

- Activity reimbursements scholarships
- Camp reimbursement scholarships
- Clothing
- Personal hygiene items
- Beds
- Dressers

While continuing to provide these services, the association has identified some important and unmet needs. As the number of children in foster care continues to climb, we believe this trend can be reversed. By identifying barriers to success, we believe we can take a preventative approach to ending the generational cycle of abuse and neglect amount families in our community.

Personal statement from Holly R.

The East River Foster Parent Network has personally helped me as a foster parent with scholarship money so that my 5 year old foster daughter could be in gymnastics. They've also had bike giveaways so foster kids could get new-to-them bikes. The foster closet has helped with providing clothes and welcome bags to children when they first come into care, and was a lifesaver when I took an emergency placement of a newborn and a five year old by providing some equipment that helped with the newborn. ERFPN has been such a great support for my foster kids and me.

More information can be found at <https://www.erfpn.com/>



East River Foster Parent Network

Supporting foster families and children in foster care.

Our mission is to empower and support foster parents, so they can in turn provide a safe and caring home environment, giving each child and adolescent the opportunity to thrive.

We are a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. All proceeds go directly to foster families and children in foster care. Our board of directors is made up of foster parents, that volunteer their time.

East River Foster Parent Clothing Closet

We collect new and gently used clothes and distribute them to children in Foster Care. The Clothing Closet has sizes from newborn to adult 3X. Depending on donations, Baby gear is also available. (carriers, blankets, bottles, bibs)

Furniture lending

ERFPN has furniture available, by request, for foster families. Some items are kept on hand, and some are purchased pending need.
(Beds, cribs, pack and plays, swings, dressers)

Resource library

ERFPN has a large assortment of resource material for foster families. For our foster parents, we have books on adoption, fostering, different cultures, how to deal with behaviors, etc. For our children in foster care, we have books on culture, adoption, myths, legends, and etc.

How can you help?

Drives: Clothing, shoes, socks and underwear, pajamas, gift cards

Donations: Financial contributions, donate items for special events (Christmas), sponsor an event (boots for kids, movie night)

East River Foster Parent Network

4515 E 26th St
Suite B
Sioux Falls, SD 57110
eastriverfpn@gmail.com

ERFPN Clothing Closet

605-777-9191
erfpnclothescloset@gmail.com



Tool Time

Thank you so much for honoring fathers and other significant men in our lives by donating towards Habitat for Humanity 'Tool Time.' Brookings Area Habitat for Humanity is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles that seek to put God's love into action by building communities, homes, and hope.

Honoree

In honor of Troy Alfson
In memory of Marlyn Alfson
In memory of Wayne Fogt
In honor of Lyle Allison
In memory of Francis Sechser
In memory of Frank Minkler
In memory of Ray Anderegg
In memory of Glen Anderegg
In memory of Melvern Anderson
In honor of Steve Anderegg
In honor of Barry Anderegg
In honor of David Anderegg
In honor of Marvin Minkler
In honor of Brandon Anderegg
In memory of John Anderson
In memory of Oral Swift
In honor of Brent Anderson
In honor of Mike Raue
In honor of LeRoy Anderson
In memory of Loren Simmons
In memory of Darrel Beste
In honor of Chris Buus
In honor of Duane O'Connell
In memory of Wayne Buus

Giver

Justin & Samantha Alfson
Troy & Karen Alfson
Troy & Karen Alfson
Keith & Betty Allison
Keith & Betty Allison
Sharon Anderegg
LeRoy & Ruth Anderson
LeRoy & Ruth Anderson
LeRoy & Ruth Anderson
LeRoy & Ruth Anderson
Ruth Anderson
Doug & Cheryl Beste
Doug & Cheryl Beste
Trish, Nate & Taira Buus
Chris, Trish, Nate & Taira Buus
Chris, Trish, Nate & Taira Buus

Honoree

In honor of Don DeZeeuw
In memory of Francis Heyduk
In memory of Dick Zwart
In memory Ed Heyduk
In memory of Maurice Johnson
In memory of Don Little
In memory of Robert Jost
In memory of Sheldon Little
In memory of Rick Holm
In memory of Doug Hai
In honor of Rick Jost
In honor of Rick Wahlstrom
In honor of Pete Grassow
In honor of Rick Hieb
In honor of John Prohaska
In memory of Jim Meyer
In honor of Cody Meyer
In honor of Sean Meyer
In memory of Dallas Norton
In memory of Erwin Saxowsky
In memory of Robert Kilmer
In memory of Albert Telkamp
In memory of Henry Sundermann
In honor of Rick Wahlstrom
In honor of Roger Sandness

Giver

Judi DeZeeuw
Avis Heyduk
Avis Heyduk
Avis Heyduk
Patsy Johnson
Rick & Lorna Jost
Lorna Jost
Rick & Lorna Jost
Rick & Lorna Jost
Rick & Lorna Jost
Rick & Lorna Jost
Barb Meyer
Barb Meyer
Barb Meyer
Gary & Avis Norton
Gary & Avis Norton
Joyce Simet
Doug & Teresa Telkamp
Doug & Teresa Telkamp
Ron Wahlstrom
Jim, Helen, Emma & Betsey Williams



UNITED METHODIST MEN CORNER

UNITED METHODIST MEN GOLF TOURNAMENT FRIDAY, AUGUST 13 BRANDON GOLF COURSE FUNDRAISER FOR UMCOR



- 2 Person Chapman with partners based upon handicap
- 9 Holes – Tee times starting at 3:30 P.M.
- If players register together, tee times will be set in close proximity
- Entry Fee is \$50
- Includes 9 holes gold, cart & meal
- Open to everyone, invite a friend

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS AUGUST 4.

\$25 DOWNPAYMENT DUE WITH REGISTRATION

MINIMUM (12) / MAXIMUM (60) PLAYERS.

DOWNPAYMENT WILL BE REFUNDED IF MINIMUM IS NOT REACHED AND
TOURNAMENT IS CANCELLED.

MULLIGANS (MAXIMUM 3 / PERSON) WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

Send registration & downpayment to:

HARTFORD UM CHURCH

PO BOX 159

HARTFORD, SD 57033

Registration may be emailed to: DMAGJOHNSON@GOLDENWEST.NET

Venmo available

UNITED METHODIST
MEN

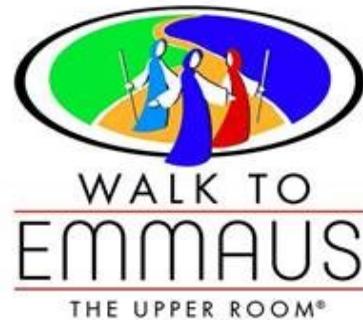


Have you attended the Walk to Emmaus? If you have, then we have an event for you. This fall we are holding retreats in September and October. The theme for these retreats is 'Rekindle Your Spiritual Fire'. We want the entire 4th Day Community to be energized for the Walks that will be held next year.

Our first retreat will be at Lake Poinsett Camp, September 17th - 19th, 2021.

Our second retreat will be at Storm Mountain Camp, October 1st - 3rd, 2021.

Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend one of the retreats. There will be plenty of time for visiting, singing, and praying. More details to come! Please be in Prayer for the Dakota's Emmaus Community!



Upcoming Walk Dates For 2022:

Men's Walk #63 - April 21st-24th, 2022 - Lay Director: Andy Ryks
 Women's Walk #64 - April 28th - May 1st, 2022 - Lay Director: Carmen Nikont

Men's Walk #65 - September 22nd - 25th, 2022 - Lay Director: Clint Woods
 Women's Walk #66 - September 29th - October 2nd, 2022 - Lay Director: Kristen Britt

Finance News

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. --Winston Churchill

Our challenge as followers of Jesus is to let go of the temptation to “keep all our money” in case we shall not live. Our invitation is to find ways of giving away our money, so that others can live. To date this year, we have given enough to keep supplying the needs of people who seek diapers, food and household products. And we have kept enough to maintain our presence as a church so that we can continue to serve our community.

Thank you for your generosity.

Income:	\$322,604
Expenditure:	<u>\$305,301</u>
Year-to-date as of June 30, 2021:	\$ 17,303

Please contact JoAnn Lee at the church office (605-692-4345) if you have any questions.

Pastor Pete
Matt Miller, Finance Committee Chair

Month-ending financials for June 30, 2021:

Income:	\$38,142
Expenses:	<u>\$46,113</u>
Net balance:	(\$7,971)

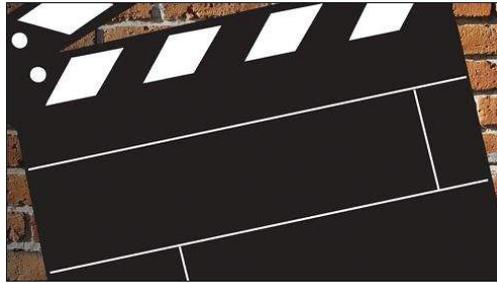
Library News

The Church Library Care Committee is busy and making progress. As we update the resources of the library, we are making available to the congregation books that need a new home. We have considered historical, number of copies and the use of the books. The available books will be placed on the library's table and will be clearly labeled as books that can be removed. Starting August 2nd, we will look for other options for the leftover books such as community book sales and gifting to other churches and individuals. We are asking that no books be checked out at this time and all books that are currently checked out be returned. We foresee that the “new” church library will be open in August. More news to follow. Thank you for your patience in this process.

Linda Kay Hai

Join our Media Ministry!

We are 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 media@brookingsmethodist.org or call the church office (605-692-4345) if you or someone you know is 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

Quarterly giving statements will be mailed in July. Please review your donations and contact me with any questions.

The church is always looking for volunteers. If you have “time” that you would like to give to the church, please contact me! We will find a way to utilize your skills for the ministry of our church!

JoAnn Lee, Office Manager/Financial Secretary

Church Office hours: **M-F 8:30 am—Noon**; Phone: **605-692-4345**

Susan's Saga

Even though people are getting vaccinated, and people are starting to venture out again after a long season of isolation, there are still deep scars from the past year. There continue to be many upsetting, disturbing undercurrents, lurking in the dark recesses of our minds. These disturbing contemplations seem totally counter to hope. In this bleak landscape, past and present, what is hope?

Maybe we, individually and collectively, have been putting our hope in all the wrong things.

Conventional notions of hope don't have much to do with the Biblical concept of hope. We can say "I sure hope we get more rain," or "I hope the mechanic can fix my car." But that kind of hope is wishful thinking from a human standpoint. I have no control over the weather, or viruses, or mechanics, or current events.

I tend to put my hope in the tangible, that which I can see. But from a Biblical perspective, that is exactly wrong.

It is much harder to hope for what one cannot see. Yet that is precisely what we are called to do: to put our hope in God for that which transcends this palpable biological life that we now experience, to look beyond the grave to that which we cannot yet perceive from our limited human perspective.

Biblical hope is based squarely on who God is, not on us, or circumstances, or somebody's ingenuity, or humanity at large. Paul sums up what hope is. "For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."

Biblical hope is rooted in God's absolute goodness. But in spite of God's intrinsic goodness, humankind has turned away from God. In our pride, we think we know better than God, our Creator. Individually and collectively, we don't give God the credit, nor do we give thanks to God.

Seen in the light of God's overarching goodness and truth, the human situation is dismal and hopeless. No amount of human effort can earn sufficient merit to be made right by God's perfect standard.

Christ's atoning death is the basis for being made right with God. Trusting in God's gracious provision is the basis for Biblical hope.

Biblical hope is transcending hope, because it emanates from God, reaching far beyond our limited means, faulty comprehension, or short lifetimes. *(continued on next page)*

SUSAN'S CORNER

This perspective is sorely needed in our troubled times, as the writer of Hebrews asserts, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure..."

True hope shines out from the darkness, because it is based on the person of God. This transcending hope is what is necessary in today's hurting, confused world.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Susan Huggins

Scripture quotes are taken from Romans 8:24, 25, Hebrews 6:19, and Romans 15:13, The Holy Bible, New International Version.

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

Church Staff

Pastoral Staff

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

Education Director

Gretchen Knutson.....education@brookingsmethodist.org

Community Life Center Director

Vonda Kirkham.....communitylife@brookingsmethodist.org

Office Manager

JoAnn Lee.....office@brookingsmethodist.org

Financial Secretary

JoAnn Lee.....finance@brookingsmethodist.org

Worship Tech/Media Director

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

Tech Coordinator

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

Organists: MK Huggins

Joan Riessen

Accompanist: Ted DeLange

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

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Brookings, SD**