



What Do United Methodists Believe?

The **FOCUS** Newsletter
Fall Kickoff Edition

Revisiting our Roots

We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. (Ephesians 4:14 NLT)

I have always been curious about people. At school I was given opportunity to study the French Renaissance, to learn the English culture of Shakespeare and Wordsworth, and to discover the stories of the explorers who ventured into the American Mid-West, or the Australian Outback or the South African *platteland*. It is our historical and cultural roots that define who we are today, and how we all choose to live our lives.

This is also true of us as Methodist people. Who we are and what we do should never be a knee-jerk reaction to the culture of the day or the prevailing political opinions. Ours is a faith rooted in the stories of the Bible, guided by teachings of John Wesley, and grounded in the unfolding traditions of the United Methodist Church.

At this time of the year - when we begin thinking about the new semester that has begun, and the new confirmation classes, and Sunday School Classes, and Halloween, Thanksgiving & the Christmas season – it is a good opportunity for us to return to our roots. Let us be reminded of where we came from and what we as a church believe. Here is the plan: In August we will revisit the Doctrines of the United Methodist Church. In September and October, we will listen to the stories of the Old Testament. In November we will look at the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 24 & 25. And in December we will re-read the stories of the birth of Jesus.

It is my hope that we will not be “*tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching*”. May this be a season that will ground us in our faith and practice as Methodist people. May the peace of Christ be in our hearts, minds and practice,

Pastor Pete

Worship in the Park

Come join everyone in Pioneer Park for Worship, **Sunday August 20th**. Bring your lawn chairs and come early at 9:30 for a time of fellowship with coffee/ lemonade and a choice of breakfast rolls, donuts, muffins etc. The Service will begin at 10:00am. Under the new leadership of Bunny Christie and Shawn Stemsrud, our worship team will lead us in music and Pastor Pete will continue his sermon series “What Do Methodists Believe?” The service will be live streamed.

This service is our official kick off to the new school year. All ages of students are asked to bring their backpacks for a “Backpack Blessing” and to receive a small gift from the church. We will also be recognizing the SDSU students who are new and returning for the 2023/24 school year. There will be a gift bag for each of the SDSU students in attendance.

Invite your family, friends and SDSU students to join us for this special Sunday of worship in the park!

Missions

The Missions Committee has just wrapped up the Summer Arts Festival Slush Booth. Thanks to everyone that volunteered to make this a successful event. Special thanks to those of you that signed up to work several shifts at the park and to our set up/tear down crew that shows up year after year!

The annual Turkey Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, September 24th, 2023. Missions will serve Harvest Table again on September 25th.

If you would be willing to serve on the Missions Committee, please contact Teresa Telkamp at 605-864-0808.

Teresa Telkamp, Missions Committee Chair

#onething

August's #onething is the Onil stove. I have gone on multiple medical mission trips to Guatemala where we have a very busy clinic, perform surgeries, provide dental and ophthalmology care. In addition, several members install Onil stoves into homes. Most families in the mountains



still use open fires in their homes to cook their meals. This results in many health hazards including inhalation of smoke and burns, especially in children. The Onil stove is vented and requires $\frac{1}{4}$ the amount of wood they usually use for very efficient cooking. Approximately 120 stoves are installed by 12 volunteers in one week. Each stove costs \$250 of which the family pays what they can which is usually \$25. The family also receives a water purifier system as they have no purified drinking water. The Onil stove and water purifier are rather simple but for the family they are life changing.

Jill Christie, Missions Committee

Prayer Chain

A prayer chain can provide comfort, support, and encouragement to someone in need. We pray to thank Him, rejoice with Him, bring our pain, needs and sorrows to Him. He cares about each one of us and so we join together in prayer. If you have a request please contact Betty Ruth Mennis at 605-693-3070 or 605-690-5338 to activate the prayer chain.

Congregation Care Ministry

Happy Fall from the Congregational Care Ministry! We are a group of people who try to remind you that you are important and loved by our church. The ministry groups that we try to address are as follows:

- Card ministry (sending notes of thanks, condolences or congratulations)
- Home Meal ministry (providing temporary meals to those in need)
- Green Thumb ministry (helping with gardening at the church)
- Helping Hands ministry (helping with small home projects)
- Transportation ministry (providing help with rides)
- Visitation ministry (providing visits to those in need)

In addition, there are some caring ministries that are independent of our group, such as the Prayer ministry, Meals on Wheels, Care group, Funeral ministry, Quilt ministry and Harvest Table.

Wow- there are a lot of caring people within our church! If you would like to become involved in participating in care to the congregation, we would love to have you on board. If you are in need of care, please contact me. I'll try my best to connect you with one of the volunteers. We cannot help if we don't know of your needs!

Joanie Holm, Congregational Care Ministry

United Women of Faith

In keeping with our pledge to connect and nurture, the Elkton United Parish invited us to a salad supper on August 2nd. Several ladies from here attended. Sandra Ballou has taken over the treasurer duties from Linda Hai. We are still searching for a vice president and secretary. Anyone interested?



We have recently made contributions to Sleep in Heavenly Peace, the Youth trip, and The White Buffalo Calf Society (in connection with our luncheon speaker).

Watch for information in the coming weeks for the invitation to our next luncheon and program. The United Women of Faith is open to all women who want to inspire, influence and impact each other and our community.

Judi DeZeeuw, United Women of Faith President

Mission Trip

Mission Trip Canceled.

I am sorry to disappoint everyone who asked about this. After researching the options and the cost of a mission trip to South Africa, we have sadly concluded that it is simply not possible for me to lead such a trip.

Pastor Pete

Meet Katie Knutson – Manna Cook

The Staff Parish Relations committee would like to introduce Katie Knutson as our new Manna cook. Katie loves to cook and is looking forward to using her skills on Wednesday evenings! Katie is a Michigan native and met her husband Kent while in Alaska. Katie is mom to Rylan, Davis, and Emmalyn. She is the daughter-in-law of Bill and Gretchen Knutson. She also works part time at the Neighborhoods as Materials Distributer. She is presently a single mom while Kent is deployed to help watch the border in California.



We look forward to having Katie cook and stop in on a Wednesday and say hi!

Staff Parish Relations

The SPR Report: Choir director Shawn Stemsrud, music coordinator Bunny Christie and manna cook Katie Knutson were hired and have begun, or will soon, in their positions. Choir pianist/accompanist is being worked on and the worship coordinator is on hold pending budget clarification/outcome.

SPR committee worked diligently and accomplished these processes in a professional manner and I thank them for their work and commitment. We have some work yet to do.

Larry Hult, Staff Parish Relations Chair



SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE SERIES

As adapted by: Rev. Dr. Pete Grassow

October 8th – November 12th

5:00pm – 6:00pm in the church parlor

8 OCTOBER

Two Sides of the Coin:

Genesis 1: 26-31; Matthew 22: 15-22

15 OCTOBER

The Methodist Position on Money:

The Vow of Simplicity. Acts 5: 1-11.

22 OCTOBER

Sex in the City:

Genesis 2:18-25 Matthew 19: 1-8

29 OCTOBER

The Vow of Faithfulness:

Leviticus 20: 7-10 Deuteronomy 17: 2-13; John 8:1-11.

5 NOVEMBER

Facing Destructive Power:

Ephesians 6: 10-18; John 2: 13-17.

12 NOVEMBER

The Vow of Service:

Exodus 18: 1-3 & 13-24; John 13:12-17.

Susan's Saga

An important theme throughout the book of Romans is how we can be made right with God. The opening chapters explain that it certainly isn't by our own efforts or wishful thinking that a right relationship with God can be restored. As pointed out in Chapter 3, "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."

Even though we are the ones who are the offenders, God amazingly provides the solution. "Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty of our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood."

In a confused and self-absorbed world, this message continues to be of vital importance in order to be restored to right relationship with Almighty God, our Creator.

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.

Trustees Committee

The parking lot has been resurfaced. The Atrium skylights are scheduled for repair August 28th. Roof drain repairs and belfry window installation dates have not been set as of yet. The playground area has been heavily used and is in need of significant work. We are beginning to look at options in that regard. There may be Federal Grant money available for upgrading campus security, however the application process may take up to 2 years.

Rick Hieb, Trustee Committee Chair

Music Ministries

Hello from BFUMC Music Ministries! I am excited to announce that Shawn Stemsrud will be joining us as the new Choir Director starting this fall. Choir rehearsal is held most Wednesday nights starting at 7:00pm. The choir helps lead worship in song roughly 2 times per month and provides special music during liturgical seasons. Are you wanting to try something new, shake things up a bit, go out on limb, be extra spicy?! Then give choir a try! Middle school-aged and singers of any level on up are encouraged to come to rehearsal and check it out. The choir calendar will be discussed during rehearsal once it begins on September 6th in the Sanctuary.



Shawn Stemsrud

Don't forget we have opportunities for more music in the following ways:

- Sunday School Music for children in PreK – 5th grade at 8:40am in room 207 of the Education Center
- Chiming Children (3rd-5th?)– Wednesdays at 4:00-4:45pm, Music Room in church basement, contact Lynette Smith, cell# 605-695-2505
- Youth Bells (grades 6th –12th) Wednesdays at 5:00-5:30pm, Music Room in church basement, contact Lynette Smith, cell# 605-695-2505
- Jubilee Ringers (Adults) – Tuesdays at 6:00 –7:00pm, Music Room in church basement, contact Brenda Hieb, cell# 605-691-3935

As I am new to this role, but not to the church, I may be unaware of some of your hidden music talents. Please don't be shy and reach out to me so I can find out how God might lead you to share those gifts in worship!

Questions can be directed to music@brookingsmethodist.org

Bunny Christie, Music Coordinator

First United Methodist Church Foundation

Your First United Methodist Church Foundation is preparing once again to financially support a variety of initiatives in the life of the church. Each year, members of the Foundation board designate a certain percentage of the Foundation's investments to be disbursed to worthy projects throughout the year. For 2023-24, over \$16,000 will be available for special projects as proposed by church committees. The Foundation's mission is to fund special activities that are outside of regular church operations. These nine ministries include:

- Camping Scholarships
- Capital Improvements
- Christian Education
- Ministerial Scholarships
- Missions/Outreach
- Music Enhancement
- SDSU Campus Ministry
- Student Scholarships
- Worship Enhancement



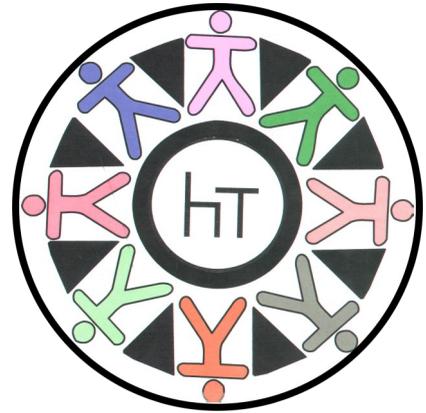
Church members can become involved with this process in a couple different ways. First, if you see a special need within the church, contact one of the church committees to see if your idea might be appropriate for funding through the Foundation. Secondly, church members can contribute to the Foundation through gifts or bequests – potentially impacting the life of the church for years to come.

The Foundation would like to express its sincere thanks to the contributors who have added to our investment base over the past year. Gifts were received from the Wahlstrom Family and in memory of Ruth Anderson and Al Bohlen, as well as from other donors. Thank you!

If you have any interest in supporting the Brookings First United Methodist Church Foundation with your gifts, please contact any of the board of director members: Pastor Pete Grassow, Russ Daly, Christi Holbeck, Laura Gerjets, Rich Howard, Van Fishback, or Tom Fishback.

Harvest Table

We would like to thank everyone that has donated to the Harvest Table program. The need in the community has been rapidly increasing. Harvest Table has more people asking for assistance with food items, personal care items, and diapers. We have also seen an increase in the price of everything we need to purchase resulting in more expenses than we have been receiving income from our funds. Please keep Harvest Table in your prayers as we continue to try to meet the needs of the community.



If you are interested in being a serving group for Harvest Table please contact Vonda at 605-692-4345 or brookingsharvesttable@gmail.com and I will schedule your group on our calendar.

FUMC Emergency Fund

As the cost of most everything has been increasing, the FUMC emergency fund has had many requests for assistance. These requests cover help with rent, utilities, car repairs, gas, medical needs, and other personal needs. Other agencies in Brookings that offer assistance such as Salvation Army and ICAP (Interlakes Community Action Partnership) are seeing a decrease in funding and an increase in those seeking assistance. Please be aware that these are difficult times for many people.

Vonda Kirkham, Harvest Table Director

Chiming Children and Youth Bells

Chiming Children

Chiming Children is a handchime choir for 3rd through 5th graders! They meet on Wednesdays from 4:00—4:45pm in the church basement starting September 6th.



Youth Bells

Youth Bells is a handbell choir for youth in 6th through 12th grades. They meet on Wednesdays from 5:00—5:45pm in the church basement music room. They start rehearsing on Wednesday, September 6th.

You can call or email Lynette Smith with questions at 605-695-2505 or lsmith2505@hotmail.com.

Lynette Smith, Youth Bells and Chiming Children Director

#BeUMC

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

Linda Kay Haifinance@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

Bunny Christie.....music@brookingsmethodist.org

Campus Ministry Coordinator

Becca Hermann.....campus@brookingsmethodist.org

Congregation Caring Coordinator

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

Organists:

Joan Riessen
MK Huggins

Manna Cook: Katie Knutson

Choir Director: Shawn Stemsrud

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

There are many dates available in June and for the remainder of the year.



Now is the time to sign up for a radio broadcast sponsorship in 2023. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast at \$60 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

Fall Weekly Worship Schedule

Sundays:	9:00am	Sunday School (Pre-K to Adult)	
	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 Service	
	7:00pm	Confirmation, Bible Studies, First on Campus, Wednesday School	

Watch Online at Any Time!

YouTube Live



Facebook Live



What's In a Name?

As you may have noticed, we have recently installed new interior signage to help make our buildings more 'visitor friendly.' We brought in outside professional signage consultants in the project. As a part of this process, and at the recommendation of the consultants, our staff and Trustees are starting to change what we call some of our spaces to better identify and describe them to those who aren't 'in the know.'

1. Narthex = Atrium. An 'Atrium' is a widely-used term whereas 'Narthex' is a church-specific term that (based on our research) many people do not know.
2. Education Unit/Building = Education Center. You might've noticed 'Education Center' on our Atrium doors and wall signs.
3. CLC = Community Life Center. This has always been true, but we want to start saying the full 'Community Life Center' name, or abbreviating it as 'Comm. Life Ctr' instead of 'CLC'.

It'll take time and patience for us all to get used to these new names. Thanks in advance for helping us make our church more visitor-friendly!

Sam Becker, Facility Manager

Recruiting for Sunday School Teachers and Helpers

We have begun recruiting for Sunday school teachers and helpers. If you haven't gotten a call and would like to know more about what it means to volunteer, please give Gretchen a call. And volunteering doesn't mean being there every Sunday. It is staffed in such a way as to give time off when needed.

There is also no upper age limit to helping! Having 'seniors' help in the classroom is a blessing – to both the children and the 'senior'!

Old Enough to Attend Sunday School?

If you have a 2-year-old (has turned 2 by August 31st, 2023), he/she is old enough to attend Sunday school starting this fall! If you have not received an email introducing you to Sunday school, please contact Gretchen at education@brookingsmethodist.org. We would love to have your 2-year-old in Sunday school this fall!

Sunday School Begins!

Sunday school will begin on Sunday, September 10 at 9:00am for 2-year-olds – 8th grade. Adult Sunday school will also begin on September 10th at 9:00am. Look elsewhere in this FOCUS for details.

There is no need to pre-register for Sunday school, but if your child has not attended Sunday school previously, feel free to contact me so that I can get your child on our class list and the teachers can be prepared to welcome your child.

We have a three-part security system for our children and youth while they attend Sunday school:

1. Each child/youth who attends needs to check in at our check-in station where they will receive a nametag and the parent receives a coordinating tag. These may be checked when picking up your child from Sunday school.
2. The doors to the Education Center are locked during Sunday school. They are then unlocked after dismissal.
3. Children and youth need to be picked up by parents in the Education Center. No child may enter the Atrium without a parent. A visual check is made to make sure families are together.

Weekly Study Opportunities

Sunday Mornings

Dr. James Murphy will lead a study by Beth Moore entitled “Now that Faith Has Come.” Paul’s Letter to the Galatians stands apart. One of the earliest documents in the New Testament, in this letter Paul lashes out at the congregants, he belittles Peter and James, he defends his gospel message, he spins a strange interpretive allegory from a passage in Genesis, and he places the utmost importance on faith. Join us this fall as we learn about (and from) Paul, his rocky relationship with the Galatian Christians, and ways this letter has shaped the faith.

This class will meet from 9:00-9:50am in the church basement dining room.

Sunday Evenings

Pastor Pete will be leading a bible study called *Sunday Night Live*, based on the book *Money, Sex & Power* by Richard Foster. The class will meet in the church parlor from 5:00-6:00pm for 6 weeks starting October 8th.

Monday

Monday Night Bible Study Group

The Monday night Bible study group will begin their year with the study “Reckless Love – Jesus’ Call to Love Our Neighbor”. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays from 5:15-6:30pm in the church basement parlor. Books will be available at their first meeting on September 18th.

Open Door Retired Group

The Open Door Retired Group will be starting a new study on September 11th. They meet weekly in the parlor which is in the church basement from 7:00-8:00pm. If you would like to join this group, please call Barb Meyer at 605-850-3650.

SOUL – (Seniors of Unlimited Love)

SOUL is a group of retired people who meet once a month on the last Monday of the month for a noon potluck. They enjoy each other's fellowship and food! They have no agenda other than to catch up with each other and enjoy a time of fellowship.

They met during the summer also, and the next time they meet will be Monday, August 24th. Plates and tableware are provided. If you are interested in joining, just show up any last Monday!

Wednesday

Adult Manna Study

We will be offering a Wednesday evening adult Manna study from 7:00-8:00pm. The theme of the study will be coordinated with the Wednesday sermon. This group will meet from 7:00-8:00 in the conference room of the Education Center. Books will be available the first evening, which will be September 6th.

Friday

Men's Breakfast

Every Friday morning, a group of men meet at Hy-Vee at 6:30am for breakfast and fellowship. That's it – fellowship and breakfast! If you'd like to join them some Friday, feel free. They are out the door by 7:15am.

3rd Grade Bibles

Our 3rd graders will be receiving their Bibles on September 17th during the service. They will be learning about their Bible using it weekly.

Following are the children who will receive their Bibles:

Emma Bohn, Autumn Borah, Kennedy Hanson, Davis Knutson, Lucy Tellekson, Leif Weiland

Confirmation and High School Youth

Confirmation

Confirmation for 7th and 8th graders begins on Wednesday, September 6th with the first evening being an informational meeting for parents and students at 7:00pm in the Community Life Center. On September 12th, the confirmation students will begin meeting weekly on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00pm.

Sr. High Youth Group

The senior high youth group (9th-12th) met this past summer with a pool party and attended a Canaries baseball game. They will begin meeting weekly on September 6th from 7:00-8:00pm. The youth council has met and planned some fun activities as well as opportunities for spiritual growth and service.



If you have questions about either of these groups, please contact Gretchen.

Wednesday School and 6th Grade Class

Wednesday School

Does your family make Wednesday your time for worship? Or would you like to have your child experience a mid-week Christian education class? If so, we have just the thing – Wednesday school for kids in 1st-5th grade. Sammi Carney will again be leading Wednesday school using a variety of activities and lessons. If you would like to know more about Wednesday school, please talk to Gretchen. If you would like to sign your child up for Wednesday School, please follow this link: <https://bit.ly/WEdSchool>. But please know that your child can attend even if you haven't signed them up!

6th Grade Class

This year we are adding a class to Wednesday evenings – a 6th grade class. If you have a 6th grader, we would welcome them to our new class! Again, if you would like to know more about this new class, contact Gretchen.

Thank you 1st UMC Foundation and Congregation!

This past July 22nd-29th, five youth and one adult attended the National Youth Conference (Youth 2023) in Daytona Beach, Florida. They raised funds by selling Medary Acres gift cards.

However, they were greatly blessed by the congregation and our own foundation. Our 1st UMC Foundation generously gave them \$1000 toward their trip and several congregation members generously gave monetary gifts. Everyone was extremely generous!

Through fund raising and these generous donors, the trip was completely paid for (minus the \$150 registration fee)! It is so very heartwarming to see the congregation support our youth! Thank you very much!

Andrew Hahn, Riley Ness, Dreyton Logue, Gabby Bevers, and Taira Buus attended and Rylee Honomichl went as a chaperone.

Blessing of the Backpacks

On Sunday, August 20th, at our worship service in the park, you are invited to bring your backpack or whatever you carry your books in, and we will have a special blessing for them. This includes our SDSU students, as well as our elementary, middle school, high school and SDSU students. Likewise, if you are a teacher and would like to have a backpack blessed, you too are welcome to bring it for the blessing. You will receive a special tag which will remind you that this church prays for you all year long.

New Day Al-Anon

If a friend or family member has a problem with alcohol, you are welcome to attend the meeting. Al-Anon meets every Tuesday from 5:30-6:30pm. We use the north door and follow the posted signs just in case we move the meeting place. We don't meet if the Brookings schools cancel school. Please contact Sandy Ballou at 605-692-1774 with any questions.

Sandy Ballou

VBS 2023 – Stellar – Shine Jesus' Light

We had a great time at VBS this year! It was an out-of-this-world experience! The children learned that God is always with them – in all situations. New Friendships and memories were made, and biblical truths were in abundance.

I want to thank the very capable directors – Penny Eliason and Christi Holbeck and the 40 volunteers who so willingly gave their time and love to our kids. And thank you to all those that helped supply food items for our meal each evening. You are a special congregation who values our kids, and it shows!



Join our Media Ministry and Tech Team!

Help make our online presence possible and enhance our in-person worship experience by joining our Tech Team! Our team has a lot of fun with this unique ministry, and we are looking for more members! You don't have to have any knowledge of audio/video equipment to join, just a positive attitude, a willingness to serve, and a good sense of humor!



We run tech for services but there are also paying opportunities to run special events, weddings, and funerals. If you or someone you know is technically inclined or is just looking for a new way to serve the church, contact Sam at media@brookingsmethodist.org or stop by the sound booth in the church balcony or the A/V “Boat” in the Community Life Center!

Paul Schmidt, Tech Coordinator

Sam Becker, Worship Tech/Media Director

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

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