



FOCUS

NEWSLETTER

EASTER 2023

FROM THE PASTOR

Feasts and Festivals

Caesar: Who is it in the press that calls on me?

I hear a tongue shriller than all the music

Cry "Caesar!" Speak, Caesar is turn'd to hear.

Soothsayer: Beware the ides of March.

Caesar: What man is that?

Brutus: A soothsayer bids you beware the ides of March.



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COMMUNITY**

625 Fifth Street, Brookings

605-692-4345

www.brookingsmethodist.org

“Beware the ides of March.” These well-known words from William Shakespeare have given the month of March a somber undertone. Many have used these words which prefaced the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44BC, to cause us fear for the madness of March, But this month is also a month filled with important international dates: we celebrate International Woman’s day March 8th, St Patrick’s day March 17th, and Spring Day on Monday March 20. I have since discovered other interesting days in this month: we have National Dentist's day, and National Pi day, and even National Spinach day!

For us who follow the way of Jesus, March is a time of preparation for Easter, known as Lent. This is an opportunity to reflect on the spiritual values that provide meaning to our lives. In Lent we can let go of values that prevent us from being the people God made us to be, and we can take on new ways of living that brings us closer to our call to be Jesus-people. We

can even draw on the various days of celebration: perhaps on March 8th we can be reminded to encourage and support the women in our lives, and on St Patrick's day we can commit our lives to teaching the way of Jesus like Bishop Patrick of Ireland; and we can draw on the anticipation of new life generated by Spring day as a reminder of our Savior Jesus who gives us all new life at Easter.

God Bless you.

Pastor Pete

Lenten Study: Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws

Join Bishop Lanette Plambeck and the Dakotas Conference Cabinet in this six-week study on the Gospel of Luke, emphasizing Luke's unique insights about Jesus. In *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton explores the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories, we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those considered unimportant, we hear an encouraging and inspiring word for our lives today. This will be covered in the Sunday Sermons and in various small groups in our church. If you want a copy of the book please contact Gretchen Knutson at the church office.



Stellar– Shine Jesus' Light! It is an outer space theme and will be out of this world fun! The dates for VBS are Tuesday-Friday, June 20-22. We will be recruiting soon for leaders. If you know that you would like to help, please contact one of the directors – Penny Eliason, Christi Holbeck or myself Gretchen.

Put those dates on your calendar as you won't want to miss this one!

Bishop Lanette Plambeck

"I want to be where our people are, hear their hopes and dreams for our conference, and see the places they live, love, and worship," said Bishop Lanette Plambeck, who began her assignment as resident bishop for the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area on Jan. 1, 2023.



Formative years: Bishop Plambeck grew up in western Iowa. It was when she began studies at Morningside University in Sioux City, Iowa, that she started attending a nearby United Methodist Church. "My heart was warmed by that theology," she said, and soon after she became United Methodist.

Fun facts: She is a veteran of the U.S. Army and was deployed to Desert Storm/Desert Shield as a military intelligence analyst from 1989 to 1992. She also served as a licensed counsellor in family systems and chemical and substance abuse from 1992 to 1997. She has one adult daughter who is in her second year at Georgetown Law in Washington, D.C.

Gifts and graces: Bishop Plambeck describes herself as "unapologetically Wesleyan," empathetic, compassionate, and loyal, and said she clings to her integrity. "I am compelled to see others who are often overlooked," she said. "I can speak the truth in love and see ways to move through log jams of personal preference toward missional priorities. I can build diverse teams that lead well together."

Vision for Ministry: Bishop Plambeck describes herself as "a visionary who is passionate about Jesus, justice, and quality leadership.... Our deep longing for God and for the vital witness of The United Methodist Church will be fulfilled as by God's grace we stand firm and cling to our deeply rooted spiritual and missional integrity." As to the current discussion on human sexuality, she says that she will work to remove the restrictive language around human sexuality in the Book of Discipline, relying instead on the discernment of local churches and clergy to act with grace and faithfulness in their witness and teaching.

Notable Upcoming Events

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday (April 2) - Sunday Morning Worship (10:00am)

Maundy Thursday (April 6) - Worship Service (7:00pm)

Good Friday (April 7) - Worship Service (7:00pm)

Easter Sunday (April 9th) - Sunday Morning Worship (10:00am)

Last Manna in the Middle Worship Service: April 12th

Last Sunday of Sunday School: April 23rd

Senior Sunday: May 21st

Vacation Bible School: June 20th-22nd

Summer Church Camp Registration Is Open!

Registration for summer church camp is open! Please go to www.dakcamps.org to register. And remember that there are camps for every age and interest!

If you have a favorite camp you would like to attend, be sure to get registered soon. The church is offering a 75% scholarship for camps again this year. All you need to do to receive this scholarship is to enter **brookingscampers** in the registration process. Further scholarships are available locally and at the conference level. Please contact Gretchen (education@brookingsmethodist.org) for further assistance.



Gretchen Knutson, Education Director

Trustee Committee

The church signage committee has completed plans for new interior and exterior signage. These will likely be installed in stages over the next few months. Minor plumbing leaks in the education wing and CLC have been addressed and drinking fountains are being worked on. Many projects including roof repairs, parking lot sealing and Narthex skylight repair and maintenance will be stated when the snow goes away. We continue to have routine maintenance done on critical systems including replacement of worn out lighting fixtures with LED lighting.

Rick Hieb, Trustee Committee Chair

Projects That Need Focused Funding

When the summer (finally) arrives, our church will be undertaking a number of projects that were delayed because of a lack of funding. However, the successful Together Campaign has allowed us to create a Contingency Fund that can be drawn on for the following projects:

- **Sealing the east parking area:** The parking lot on the east of the Community Life Center has been neglected because of a lack of funding. We can now reseal the surface.
- **Replacing the skylights in the Narthex, and sealing the roof:** we have all seen that the roof is leaking, and in need of repair. Again, this is a project that was deferred, but needs to be completed.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Together Campaign. Your generosity made this possible. It is never a good thing to empty a contingency fund, and so we will be challenging the congregation to consider specific donations to replenish this fund.

Tom Fishback, Tom Becker and Matt Miller.

Palm Sunday

April 2, Palm Sunday worship will include a lot of singing!

Just as the crowds welcomed Jesus into the city of Jerusalem, we also will raise our voices in praise and adoration to God. You are invited to choose a hymn that brings you joy and email or call the office with your selection by March 28. The plan is that we will sing one verse of 9 different hymns during the course of the service. The children will lead us in a palm processional.

Hope you can join us on this special day!

United Women of Faith

What a fun day we had! The ladies of the church created Valentine's Day cards to share their love with members of the church on January 25th and the Care Group delivered them to shut-ins and church members in care facilities. The card making was a project that Joella Anderson, Nancy Lyons and Carol Jung and they brought supplies for the cards and creative ideas. The United Women of Faith plans quarterly events throughout the year. We plan to have luncheons and speakers. Please watch for dates and times. An invitation is extended to all the ladies of church.



Sandra Ballou, United Women of Faith

Staff Parish Relations

We are working on existing and pending job vacancies .

We need to thank Deb Bortnem, our manna cook, for her tremendous work of preparing the meals as well as ensuring the quality of a tasty and heathy meal. Deb will be leaving us in late April. Consequently we are in the process of recruiting for a manna cook. This vacancy is a flexible 12 hour a week vacancy that will start work in mid August. Thanks again, Deb!

We also need to express appreciation to Ted DeLange for sharing his many talents as pianist, choir director, praise band leader as well other duties including providing the “Happy Birthday” melody at appropriate occasions. This opening is a part time opening at 15 to 20 hours a week. This recruitment is progressing for this opening as Ted will be moving to Sioux Falls to continue his educational endeavors. Good luck to Ted in his future endeavors.

Brenda Hieb will also be stepping down from her many duties as music director . Brenda has provided many services in her tenure. She accepted this position at a time of real need and has continued to serve allowing time to find a replacement. Best wishes to Brenda and safe travels and we wish her and Rick safe travels. This position is also being recruited for as Brenda will be leaving her job in mid August. This position is 15 to 20 hours a week.

Please consider these opportunities and refer interested candidates to the church office. Information and job descriptions will be available in the church office or people can also contact me for additional information.

Larry Hult, Staff Parish Relations Chair

Church Office Hours

Please note that the church office will be closed on the following days:

- Good Friday (May 7th)
- Easter Monday (May 10th)
- Memorial Day (May 29th)

Congregational Care Coordinator

Greetings from the Congregational Care Ministry. Today I want to highlight the Card Ministry. In this ministry, members of our church are encouraged to send notes of encouragement, thanks, condolences, or any other positive note to other members, or friends of the church. I was the recipient of one of those cards last week. Boy did that feel good to hear from someone and feel appreciated!

Everyone is invited to be a part of this ministry. Just grab a postcard or note card and send your positive feelings to someone- Sunday School teacher, Pastor, committee member, someone who gives of their talent through music.....

During Lent, many people give something up as a sacrifice. How about giving of yourself for these 40 days by sending a heartfelt note to someone each day instead. As you "sacrifice" a little time, someone else gains a much appreciated pat on the back. Will you join me in this effort?

In God's love,

Joanie Holm, Congregational Care Coordinator

Mission Trip

I have done some preparatory work on the possibility of a trip to South Africa. This will be difficult to arrange for 2023 but can better be arranged for April 2024. I would plan to go for the last two weeks of April 2024. This trip would visit Cape Town, where we would visit the oldest Methodist Church in Africa, offer some assistance to a Methodist children's home for orphans, ascend Table Mountain, and take a turn through a game reserve. You will need to be in good health as the trip to Africa is long and tiring. You would also need to be emotionally flexible, as South Africa experiences periods without electricity every day, and therefore plans might change during the time there.

Pastor Pete

Worship Committee/Hospitality

We are excited to launch a new updated rotation of volunteers to provide hospitality to all who enter our church for worship. This rotation includes ushers, welcome center host, greeters, and coffee host. This new rotation will begin Sunday Feb 5. The schedule is set up to repeat itself quarterly. That means most folks will serve 4 times a year. A few are on the schedule more than 4 times.

Each quarter there is a designated coordinator to assist with any substitutions and/or trades that may be needed. Hopefully by reviewing the schedule in advance and noting the dates you are on to serve in your personal calendars, you will be able to easily make changes with others as needed.

Packets with the rotation calendar, lists of volunteer contact information and description of duties have been prepared for each household of volunteers. You will either have received your packet at church on Sunday, January 29 or in the mail this week. Our church office will send out a reminder by email every Monday, prior to the Sunday you are scheduled.

We are so grateful to all who have joyfully served in all of these capacities this past year. We have made many calls and appreciate the generosity of time and welcome each of you have shown to our church family and guests.

Brenda Hieb, Music Coordinator

Medary Acres Gift Cards

The youth will be selling Medary Acres gift cards through March and April. Proceeds from the sales will help defray the cost of attending the national United Methodist Youth Conference & Mission Trip in Florida this July. Gift Cards will be for sale before and after services on Wednesday and Sunday. A gift card would make a great gift for Mother's Day or a treat for yourself! Please support our youth as they raise money to attend this great conference!



Harvest Table

The Extending Missional Impact Committee has awarded \$12,600 to 14 congregations to feed those facing hunger or food scarcity in their communities. The Bishop's Thanksgiving Offering and the Dakotas Methodist Foundation provided grant funds.

In the book of Matthew, chapter 25, verse 35, we are reminded to feed God's people, "For I was hungry, and you gave me food." Hunger ministries are examples of how congregations throughout the Dakotas Conference provide for God's people, both bodies and souls.



We are grateful to be one of the Hunger Grant Recipients!

The Harvest Table also received \$1,500 from the January tip jar at the First Lutheran Church Mission Coffeehouse.

Harvest Table would like to thank everyone that makes monetary donations to Harvest Table. It is much appreciated, and it helps us purchase items that we need, sometimes at discount prices. Harvest Table has become an official 501c3 non-profit organization. This means the Harvest Table finances are not included in the FUMC finances, we have our own separate banking account. When you are making monetary donations, please write a separate check directly to Harvest Table so it doesn't go through the FUMC accounts. It will help the FUMC finance office and Harvest Table keep the accounts separate. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Vonda Kirkham, Harvest Table Director

Foundation: Living the Gospel

The UMC is founded on a Wesleyan theology of grace, anchored in Scripture and based in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the continuing movement of the Holy Spirit.

We embrace the fundamentals of the Wesleyan tradition and dedicate ourselves to the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We embrace a Church anchored in Scripture and a theology of grace.

We embrace a Church that aspires to be a more just and inclusive force in the world.

We embrace the connected power of 12 million souls united, working towards good in the world.



We embrace a Church that has uplifted our own lives and the lives of our friends, family, and those we cherish.

We embrace a Church built in loving relationships rather than uniformity in thought and action.

We embrace a Church where everyone does not have to agree and where everyone is welcome.

Nancy Bohlen, Church Council Chair

Help Us Recycle!

“Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” - John 6:12b

Recycling helps us be good stewards of our planet. You may have noticed the blue recycling bins by garbage cans throughout the church- help us help the environment by putting your paper (including bulletins!), plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and other recyclables in the bins!



Sam Becker, Facility Manager

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

Brenda Hieb.....musiccoordinator@brookingsmethodist.org

Worship Team Leader/Choir Director

Ted De Lange.....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:

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.

Spring 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

Administrative Church Council

At our January Church Council retreat we took time to pause, rediscover and reconnect with what our global, change-making body of believers called The United Methodist Church (The UMC) is all about. Making Disciples; Belonging and Inclusion; Influence, Connection, Impact; and Experience of God are the key themes of #BeUMC, a grassroots campaign which honors the core values that connect the people of The UMC. Church Council members shared our stories of how we came to be at Brookings First United Methodist, many of which included either being raised here or being raised United Methodist elsewhere and feeling it only natural to join in Brookings, but the overwhelming similarity was the feeling of welcoming, belonging and inclusion that has made people want to stay.

At Charge Conference, which is the basic governing body of Brookings UMC, we were asked three questions: Who in your community is God calling you to walk beside? Where have you seen God at work in your life/church/community in the past year? and, How do you need to run and tell people Jesus is alive?

Your church council, committees and ministry areas are exploring ways we can walk beside the elderly, Harvest Table, homeless, low income, teachers, youth in crisis, high school youth, college students, Teen Challenge, Feeding South Dakota/Brookings, Sleep in Heavenly Peace and neighbors looking for a church home.

We celebrate God at work through the Harvest Table, Meals on Wheels, increased attendance, lots of children in church and activities for children, volunteers for Sunday School and Youth Group, in person church, Sunday School teachers, Youth Group, Pastor Pete, church, Sunday School and church participation.

We will tell people that Jesus is alive through conviction, excitement, encouragement, visiting infirmed, elderly, shut-ins, caring ministries, working to help others and staffing positions focused on high school and college youth.

At our February meeting we approved our 2023 budget. God has been exceedingly generous to all of us. We are blessed so that we can become a blessing. This is the way of God. God blesses us so that we may become a blessing to others.

Nancy Bohlen, Church Council Chair

No Sunday School on Easter

There will be no Sunday school on Easter, April 9th for children youth or adults.

Confirmation Service: Sunday April 16

The Confirmation service emphasizes God's Grace at work in our lives, the response of individuals to this Grace, and the celebration of this by a gathering of the people of God. Confirmation is part of an ongoing, lifelong process of growing in grace. The larger picture is Christian formation, being transformed - over time and through the work of God's Spirit - into the image of Christ. Please support them with your prayers and warm welcome into our church family. The following people will be confirmed:

Taira Buus	Tyon Doop
Marley Huyck	Kaylee Schmit

Souper Bowl of Caring

The results are in ... Creamy wins! A huge thank you to all who supported the Sr. High Youth by donating peanut butter for the Souper Bowl of Caring. Because of you, 135 jars of creamy and 47 jars of crunch were given to the Harvest Table for a total of 182 jars of peanut butter. In addition, \$613.62 was donated, which also goes to the Harvest Table. You have helped Tackle Hunger in Brookings!



For Your Information...

Our church is led by members of our congregation. For your reference, here are the leaders and members of our church committees. (If we have made any errors, please contact the church office)

Church Council

Chair: Nancy Bohlen

Vice Chair: Tom Becker

Secretary: Drew Schnabel

Lead Pastor: Pete Grassow

Education Director: Gretchen Knutson

Community Life Center Director: Vonda Kirkham

Lay Leader: LaRon DeBoer

Office Manager: Lynelle Hagedorn

Financial Coordinator: Linda Kay Hai

Church Treasurer: Jean Scherschligt

Assistant Church Treasurer: Kay Becker

Delegates to Annual Conference: Nancy Bohlen, Brenda Hieb, Charlie Schnabel, Rylee Honomichl, Cheryl Honomichl, LaRon DeBoer

Youth: TBD

Administrative Committee Chairpersons

Trustees: Rick Hieb

Finance: Tom Fishback

Staff/Parish Relations: Larry Hult

Program Committee Chairpersons

Campus Ministry: Matt Miller

United Women in Faith: Judi DeZeeuw

Education Ministry: Karen Alfson

United Methodist Men: Steve Eliason

Librarian: Linda Kay Hai

Missions: Teresa Telkamp

Worship: Dan Merchant

Historian: Tom Thaden

United Methodist Youth: TBD

Brookings First United Methodist Foundation Incorporation

President: Russ Daly

Vice President: TBD

Secretary/Treasurer: Laura Gerjets

Members: Rich Howard, Van Fishback, Pastor Pete Grassow

Trustees Committee

Chair: Rick Hieb

Staff Representative: Sam Becker

Class of 2023

Perry Johnson

Rick Hieb

Chris Buus

Class of 2024

Lori DeBoer

Kay Becker

Craig Schlueter

Bud Eggers

Class of 2025

Lance Howard

Carmen Niemeyer

Christopher Gross

Committee on Finance & Stewardship

Chair: Tom Fishback

Class of 2023

Dean Kattelmann

Matt Miller

Tom Fishback

Class of 2024

Roger Solum

Cheryl Pappas

Zach Anderson

Class of 2025

Lisa Waddell

Sonja Anderson

Memorials

Chair: Brenda Buus

Class of 2023

Bob Kurtz

Kim Carson

Class of 2024

Brenda Buus

Amy Merchant

Class of 2025

Adam Vaux

Tom Page

Staff/Parish Relations Committee

Chair: Larry Hult

Class of 2023

Steph Bultje

Becca Herman

Laura Gerjets

Class of 2023

Lisa Solum

Camrin Vaux

Larry Hult

Class of 2025

Charlie Schnabel

Cheryl Honomichl

Mark Stratton

Campus Ministry

Chair: Matt Miller

Student Representative: Becca Herman

Education Ministry

Chair: Karen Alfson

Staff Representative: Gretchen Knutson

Education Director: Gretchen Knutson

Preschool Coordinator: Cathy Narveson

Elementary Coordinator: Cheryl Beste

Supply Coordinator: Karen Carmichael

Class of 2023

Kelly Wendell

Steve Eliason

Sara Bingen

Class of 2024

Ross Peterson

Karen Alfson

Class of 2025

Ope Niemeyer

Christi Holbeck

Missions Ministry

Chair: Teresa Telkamp

Class of 2023

MK Huggins

Gary Norton

James Honomichl

Class of 2024

Teresa Telkamp

Doug Telkamp

James Honomichl

Class of 2025

Teresa Telkamp

Doug Telkamp

Jill Christie

Worship

Interim Chair: Dan Merchant

Class of 2023

Rylee Honomichl

Eric Tellekson

Class of 2024

Diane Culver

Peggy Eggers

Class of 2025

Harriet Svec

Maria Schlueter

Maureen Logue

Health Ministry

Chair: Joanie Holm

Members: Tim Scherschligt, Brenda Buus, Brenda Hieb, Linda Thaden, Ron Thaden

History Committee

Chair: Tom Thaden

Members: Barb Meyer

Family Fun Day

Brookings FUMC invites you to join us for our upcoming Family Day on March 26th in the church basement. After the service, we are hosting a family-friendly, group painting session led by Lisa Solum. Lisa will guide participants through the painting so no prior experience is required! Please send any questions to Sammi at wedactivities@brookingsmethodist.org.

Sammi Carney, Wednesday Activities Coordinator

Walk to Emmaus

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servanthood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all."

The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. The course is wrapped in prayer and meditation, special times of worship and daily celebration of Holy Communion.

Emmaus Community members include Steve Eliason, Charlie Schnabel, Dan & Amy Merchant, Linda Kay Hai, Barb Meyer, Nancy Bohlen and Pastor Pete Grassow. Contact us for more information.

Men's Walk #65 / April 20th - 23rd, 2023

Women's Walk #66 / April 27th - 30th, 2023

Both are to be held at Lake Poinsett Camp!



Nancy Bohlen

Time for Slush ... Buckets?

The Slush Booth is a few months away and we need about 30-40 additional ice cream buckets for making slush. Do you have clean, one-gallon ice cream buckets with lids you could donate? If so, please bring them to the church. There will be a tote in the basement under the south stairs (by the elevator).

James Honomichl, Master of Slush

August Church Camping Opportunity

For several years, our church has held a camping weekend the first weekend in August at Oakwood Lakes State Park. This year the dates will be August 4-6. It is a weekend of relaxation, a couple of meals together and lots of good stories! If you are interested in knowing more about the weekend, please talk to Gretchen. If you know you would like to participate, let Gretchen know so a spot can be reserved for you.

Worship Committee/Hospitality

We are excited to launch a new updated rotation of volunteers to provide hospitality to all who enter our church for worship. This rotation includes ushers, welcome center host, greeters, and coffee host. This new rotation will begin Sunday Feb 5. The schedule is set up to repeat itself quarterly. That means most folks will serve 4 times a year. A few are on the schedule more than 4 times.

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We are so grateful to all who have joyfully served in all of these capacities this past year. We have made many calls and appreciate the generosity of time and welcome each of you have shown to our church family and guests.

Susan's Saga

In the dark days of winter, when the sun gets up late and goes to bed really early, the darkness can be depressing. Even in the short days, brooding clouds and snowstorms can blot out what little daylight remains. We long for light.

Light is a pervading theme throughout the Bible. God's proclamation: "Let there be light" opens the symphony of creation. God is light and the source of light. In I John 1: 5 we read that ".....God is light; in him there is no darkness at all."

But sin brought darkness to humankind. Darkness is the opposite of light, representing all that which is evil, devious, perverse, and contrary to God. Darkness is depressing and makes us sad. Spiritual darkness is a result of disobeying God and not trusting or acknowledging Him. We are deceived and think that we know better than God, that we can do things our way. Darkness brings fear, hopelessness, and despair that pervade the human soul.

What is the solution? God provides a solution! Jesus is the Light of the World!

John 8:12 states, "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"

In the first chapter of John, we hear that "the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it." "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world." (John 1: 4b, 5, 9)

John 3: 19 - 21 offers the sad commentary, "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world," "but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. But those who do what is right come to the light, so others can see that they are doing what God wants."

God provides for restoration of light to our souls, but we must confess that we have offended God and avail ourselves of the light that Jesus offers, as expounded in John 1:11, 12 "He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God."

Most Scripture quotations are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION.

John 3: 19c - 21 is taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation.

In turn, Christians are to reflect Jesus' light in a dark, sinful world. I John 2: 10 explains that "Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble." This passage indicates the importance of living in harmony with one another and how our relationships with each other should reflect God's light in our daily lives.

God's Word is Light in the darkness. Psalm 119:105 proclaims, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." God's Word provides illumination for our minds, our thoughts, our hearts, and our souls.

That is why Bible translation is so essential: to provide the light of God's Word to people groups in their heart language. Bible translation is truly providing light in the darkness.

Susan Huggins

Scripture quotation is taken from 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 support this ministry.



Youth 2023 Conference & Mission Trip

Youth grades 6-12 are invited to attend the YOUTH 2023 Conference & Mission Trip this summer in Daytona Beach. This event is a National Gathering for thousands of UMC Youth held every 4 years. The event focuses on worship, Bible study, service opportunities, and discipleship.

Quick Facts:

July 22-29, 2023

Daytona Beach, Florida

Cost: \$1800

Includes travel (flight), lodging, mission work, fun day, all meals
2+ days of mission work

Due to the expense, we are planning to do some fundraising to help offset the cost. For more information contact James or Cheryl Honomichl (605-690-5348), cjhonomichl@gmail.com.

United Women in Faith

The Madison unit of United Women in Faith has invited the women of Brookings First United Women in Faith to join them in FOCUS Day 2023.

We will be meeting in Madison United Methodist Church on April 15th. The gathering will begin at 8:30. We will meet in the church parking lot of our church at 7:30am and carpool to Madison. We will meet with other women from our area. The morning will be full of worship, reports (given in a fun way) and sharing of our projects. Most of all we will have a time of fellowship with women full of the love of our communities. Our meeting will end with lunch, so we will be back in Brookings by early afternoon.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Kay Hai 605-690-3152 or ldhai@itctel.com

Church Library

The Church Library is gathering names of women who would be interested in a Book Club. If you are someone who loves books and sharing your thoughts with others, this is the group for you.

Please let me know three things:

1. Your name and email address.
2. The books you are interested in.
3. The time you are able to meet and how often.

I will organize this information and let you know our options.

My information is 605-690-3152 and ldhai@itctel.com.

Thank you.

Linda Kay Hai

Finance Committee Report

Last year our income was \$660,000 and expenses were \$654,000, however we actually had a projected expenditure of \$732,000. We were able to manage the budget and decrease expenses while also funding some projects (basement kitchen remodel, upgrading screens in the Community Life Center) through special donations.

In 2023 we have an expense budget of \$740,000 and current projected income of \$576,000. We have several upcoming projects for responsible maintenance which include the glazing of the narthex roof windows and sealing the parking lot. For those who have not yet submitted 2023 pledge cards, please consider turning in your card. For those who can stretch further, please consider doing so to help us meet our projected 2023 budget.

Tom Fishback,
Finance Committee Chair



From the Memorials Committee

Stained glass windows have been removed from the church during various building projects. They have been in storage and are on display again thanks to memorial money. Eleven windows were restored and rewrapped so that they could be hung in windows at the church and Community Life Center. The sunlight shines through these windows again in the Narthex and at the top of the stairs in the CLC.

Brenda Buus, Missions Committee Chair

A Note of Thanks

Our Music Ministry has a new set of hand chimes! Through the generosity of the FUMC Foundation and memorial gifts in Ken Ivers name, we were able to purchase this 3 octave set for use with our chime and handbell choirs. The chimes we have been using for the last 18 years have seen better days and are beyond any possible refurbishment. Thank you, Foundation, and those who gave gifts in memory of Ken for making this possible.

We have some new art that will be displayed at the South Welcome center in the Narthex. This also was made possible through the foundation with a gift to the worship committee. Once again we thank you foundation for thinking of worship enhancement and making this purchase possible.



In the life of the church...



Family Bowling Day



Piecemakers
Quilters

Blessing of
Healthcare
Workers



/FUMCBrookings

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

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