



FOCUS

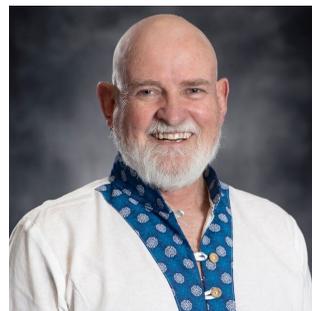
NEWSLETTER

May 2024

FROM THE PASTOR

Pentecost Blessings

We are in the period between Easter and Pentecost. On Pentecost Sunday May 19 we will celebrate the blessing of the Spirit of God in our lives. I am aware that some people seem to think of God's blessings as rewards for good behavior, or because of having the correct beliefs and religious practice. This is simply untrue: God longs to bless us, and this even more so when we find ourselves broken and scattered. I came across these words from Diana Butler Bass, a Christian teacher with United Methodist roots:



“Jesus, wounds visible, reaching wide arms to surrounded and hold the entire room, all those in the space, every beautiful face and body. The loving presence of a bleeding God, not as a sacrifice for sin, but as the healing, accepting Abba – “How I have wanted to gather you together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings!” Safe. With Jesus.”

Let us use the “in-between” period between Easter and Pentecost to pray for the Spirit of God to embrace us with the knowledge and experience of the healing, accepting Abba.

Pastor Pete



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
BROOKINGS

AT THE
CORNER OF
**CHURCH &
COMMUNITY**

625 Fifth Street, Brookings
605-692-4345
www.brookingsmethodist.org

Note from the Pastor

Dear Members and friends of Brookings First United Methodist Church:

As you know, I led a mission team to South Africa. This was a time of great blessing both for the Methodist children's home we worked at and for the team. Since coming back, I have had many people ask me if I have plans to return to my family. The answer is "yes I do". I have three daughters and a grandson in South Africa, and I long to be with them. My visa to work in the USA expires at the end of this year and I will no longer be able to live and work here. Jenny and I will move in 2025 to Cape Town (South Africa) to live with our daughter Jessica and her family.



I am so very, very sad to be leaving Brookings and this amazing church I've had the privilege of leading these past 4 years. I look forward to serving as your pastor until the end of this year as God prepares us for our next chapters. God is on the move in ways none of us could expect or anticipate, and I can't wait to see what is yet to come. Transitions are not always easy, but together, with God's grace, we can continue to share in the important work of the church. It is an incredible privilege to serve as your pastor.

Pete

Pastor Pete

Staff Parish Relations

Dear members and friends of Brookings First United Methodist Church,

You probably are aware of Pastor Pete's departure at the end of 2024. With this knowledge, we have been in conversation with our Conference and have engaged with our Staff Parish Relations committee.

Drawing on the knowledge of the needs of churches throughout our Conference and gifts of our Conference pastors, they have discerned an appointment of a pastor for Brookings First. Beginning January 1, 2025, Rev. Jen Tyler will be appointed as Senior Pastor at Brookings FUMC.



Rev. Tyler currently serves as the Snr Pastor of Watertown First United Methodist Church. Pastor Jen has a Master of Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (Evanston, IL) and MBS from Dakota Wesleyan University (Mitchell, SD), and a BA in Sociology from Simpson College (Indianola, IA). Prior to ordination she served as a United Methodist missionary in South Africa and Washington DC.

We invite you to be in prayer for Pastor Jen. For the next six months she will serve as a regional strategist for the Dakotas Conference – doing strategic planning for our region. During this time Jen will also be married (in August) to Kris Osterloh, a professor at SDSU, and move to Brookings.

May the Grace of God hold us all.

Mark Stratton
Chair
Staff Parish Relations Committee

Rebecca Trefz
District Superintendent
Dakotas Conference

Mother's Day: May is Blanket Month

Honor or Remember your mother or beloved female friend / relative this May through your *#onething* donation* in May! Each \$10 donation will purchase one **Church World Service Blanket** in honor of and in remembrance of someone special to you. Church World Service (CWS) is a partner mission agency of the United Methodist Church.

Have you ever considered all the ways a blanket can be utilized by a refugee or disaster survivor? Along with the uses for comfort, warmth, and to lie on; you can use it to carry your child on your back, carry supplies, make a tent, hang it as a privacy wall. Consider giving a blanket as an Act of Love! Almost 33,000 blankets were distributed last year, mostly in the USA.

Forms for honorees can be found at the Welcome Centers. If you give online, please email Lynelle in the church office (office@brookingsmethodist.org) indicating the name(s) of those you are honoring / remembering. If you wish, put an H by the honorees name and an R by those you are remembering. (i.e., Jane Doe - R, Janet Dow - H). Checks can also be sent to the church with your list of honorees which will be posted at the end of May.

***To give through *#onething* online:** go to BROOKINGS FUMC website for online giving: <http://www.brookingsmethodist.org/donate.html>.



Susan's Saga

The world is in a mess, with discouraging news on many fronts. We are beset with personal problems, too.

As it turns out, the Bible addresses these issues at all levels. The root problem is sin, which is rebellion against God. "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."

Looking around at our situation, individual and collective, solutions can seem evasive and out of reach.

And from a human point of view, that is a correct assessment. Actually, no amount of thinking or strategizing or analyzing or human effort is going to come up with a suitable answer to the common human condition of sin.

Sin is completely caused by our failures to live up to God's holy standard. But God, in great mercy, has made the solution possible. The Bible addresses that, also. "When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners." "...God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

The result is transformative with eternal consequences. "And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation."

"So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

The purpose of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, is to give us proper perspective. "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

That is why the ministry of Bible translation is so important, so that God's enduring Word be made available to people groups around the world.

Susan Huggins

Scripture quotations are from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, Romans 3:23; 5:6, 5:8, 5:9; 5:21 and Romans 15:4 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.

United Women in Faith

An Invitation:

Who: To all women of our church

What: United Women in Faith Annual Spring Luncheon

When: May 16th 12 noon

Why: Fellowship Gathering

Speaker: Lynn Darnall will tell us how Mission Accomplished and Hearts “BLOOMED” in South Africa!!



We would love to see you on May 16th!!

Peg Lund

Thank You Teachers/Sponsors!

The Education Committee would like to thank the following teachers for their faithfulness in leading Sunday school classes, confirmation and adult studies this year. 2/3 year olds – Steph Vlaminck, Andrea Glover, PreK/Kind – April Flemming, Danielle Bohn, Abby Hawks, Kami Bartels, 1st/2nd grade – Maria Schlueter, Brenda Buus, Karen Alfson, Cassandra Peterson, 3rd grade – Ope Niemeyer, Steve Eliason, 4th/5th grade – Addie Borah, Penny Eliason, Leah Hope, Middle School – Jim Honomichl, Maureen Logue. Wednesday’s – Wednesday 6th grade – Nicole Anderson, Laura Gerjets, Confirmation – Tonya Gaalswyk, Mike Jensen, Paul Schmidt, Lisa Miller, senior high youth – Tom and Kay Becker, Kelly Wendell, Adult classes – Steve Eliason, Nancy Bohlen, Dr. James Murphy, Karla Grayson. Barb Meyer. Thanks so much for your dedication and faithfulness!

Gretchen Knutson, Education Director

VBS SCUBA

Come join VBS – SCUBA where children will dive into friendship with God! At Scuba VBS kids

explore what it means to have a friendship with a real, loving, trustworthy God – a friendship that lasts forever! We will have a full 3 days of faith discoveries, memorable music, and epic adventures!



VBS Signup

VBS will be May 28-30 and is for children who have turned 4 by May 28 – 5th grade. To sign up for VBS please follow this link – and share it with your friends! <https://bit.ly/VBSSCUBA2024>

Meal for Everyone in the Family

There is a meal for the family provided each evening beginning at 5:00. Please follow this link to help provide food for the meals.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49A8AF2CA5FE3-48046422-vbs>

Join us for a great experience!

Summer Church Camp - Register soon!

It is time to register for camp! Be sure to do that soon as some are filling up. The website to register is www.dakcamps.org. And remember that there are camps for every age and interest!

The early bird deadline is April 30 – and that's coming soon! However, you can sign up for camp all summer long. So if the deadline slips by, don't despair, you can still sign up!

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.

Music

Music Ministry Summer of 2024

As the daylight becomes longer and the temperature outside warms, Music Ministry at Brookings First United Methodist church slows down! Many of our vocal and bell groups break for the summer with all the busy schedules. However, Music Ministry continues in the form of musical offerings and seasonal planning. Music Ministry is looking for the following:

- Any individual that would like to accompany vocalists and musicians – especially accompany children
- Any individual or groups that would like to offer musical talents during worship. While April 24, 2024 is our last Wednesday service for the school year, Sunday worship never takes a break!
- Any individual who may fancy themselves knowledgeable in grant writing and application. Music Ministry at BFUMC is looking to replace outdated sound equipment in both facilities, purchase worship resources such as phone apps and music website memberships, and continuing education funds for BFUMC Music Ministry leaders. All of these tools and resources have costs associated with them that are not always anticipated in a church budget! But, applying for grants and receiving funding can help offset unexpected costs.

If you are interested in any of the above activities, please reach out to Bunny Christie, BFUMC Music Coordinator at music@brookingsmethodist.org.

Mark your calendar!

7/14/24 – Worship and Music led by BFUMC Worship Team at the Brookings Summer Arts Festival

Bunny Christie, Music Coordinator



Confirmation

On Sunday, April 1 we welcomed our class of 8th grade confirmation into our church membership as they made a personal commitment to the Christian faith. 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. The following were confirmed:

*Gabrielle Bevers *Josie Entwistle * Lucy Gaalswyk
* Alison Glover * Kordell Greve * Kilea Moore
*Westin Pitts *Kendallyn Schmit



Celebrating our Graduates

During the May 5 worship service, we will celebrate our high school seniors as they get ready to go on to the next adventure in life. We will honor them with a special recognition during the service and have pictures along with a display of quilts made especially for them by our Piecemakers quilting group.

Please join in celebrating the 2024 class of seniors: ***Nathaniel Buus, Cade Christianson, Austin Clark, Dawson Doyscher, Julie Ann Freeman, Dawson Gross. Lauren Jones, Corbin Jung, Samson Storhaug, Dylan VandeKop, Chloe Wade.***





(For local Habitat for Humanity support)

Honor or Remember your father or special male friend / relative through your *#onething* donation* in **May!** Each \$10 donation will purchase help the local Habitat for Humanity build homes in the Brookings area in honor of and in remembrance of someone special to you. Habitat for Humanity is in partnership with the United Methodist Church.

Habitat volunteers build new homes, rehabilitate old ones and do odd jobs like painting and yard work for homeowners. They purchase tools for their tool shed for work to be done. Volunteers can also work in the Brookings Restore. Brookings FUMC has long been a supporter of and has had many volunteers involved in the Habitat for Humanity work in our area. We sponsored a home a couple of years ago in honor of Lloyd Darnall and Dave McCaa. Check out their website for the latest news (<https://brookingshabitat.org/>)

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(office@brookingsmethodist.org) indicating the name (s) of those you are honoring / remembering. If you wish, put an H by the honorees name and an R by those you are remembering. (i.e., John Doe - R, Jason Dow - H). Checks can also be sent to the church with your list of honorees which will be posted on Fathers Day !

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Lorna Jost, Missions

Mother's Day Potluck



On May 12th there will be a Mother's Day Potluck in the church basement following the service. Everyone is Welcome! We will be using 'real' dishes and the dishwasher! For questions call the office, 605-692-4345 or Avis and Gary Norton 605-280-6975.

Harvest Table

Harvest Table has an opportunity for a serving group to serve a meal to about 100 guests on a Monday evening this summer. There are several dates available in June, July, and August. A group can be from an organization, a business, a family, a group of friends, a neighborhood, or anyone that would like to volunteer to serve those in our community. The serving group plans the menu, purchases the food, prepares the meal, and does the cleanup. Please contact Vonda at brookingsharvesttable@gmail.com or call 605-692-4345 for any questions and to add your group to the Harvest Table calendar. We cannot provide the meal each week without a serving group, so please consider this opportunity. Thank you.



Vonda Kirkham, Harvest Table Director

SOUL (Seniors Of Unlimited Love)

Plan to attend the SOUL potluck in the church basement Monday, April 29th at noon. Everyone is Welcome!



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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

Thank you 1st UMC Foundation!

On behalf of the Education Committee, I extend our heartfelt gratitude for the generous contribution of \$2,6020.00 towards camp scholarships. Your support plays a pivotal role in enabling us to offer a 75% scholarship to campers, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder their participation in church camp.

Your commitment to fostering personal Christian growth is truly commendable. With your assistance, we can continue to provide opportunities for young individuals to explore, learn, and forge meaningful Christian connections in a nurturing environment.

We deeply appreciate your ongoing partnership and dedication to the betterment of our campers. Your contribution will undoubtedly make a significant impact on the lives of those who benefit from these scholarships.

Senior High Youth Summer Plans

Although the senior high youth group will not be meeting every Wednesday night during the summer, they do have a couple of fun activities planned for summer.

In June they are going to a Canaries baseball game and in July they will have an after-hours pool party at the Brookings Aquatic Center. Details will be emailed out to families as the time gets nearer. Friends are always welcome to attend!

Camp With Us!

If you enjoy camping – come join us for a camping weekend with fellow ‘church friends’ on August 2-4 at Oakwood State Park. I will be making reservations soon for 10 spots and a couple of families have already told me to mark them down for a spot. So, if you are interested let me know. It is a weekend of fun, conversation, sharing of a couple of meals and getting to know one another. If you can’t camp, feel free to join us for Saturday evening or Sunday brunch for a potluck meal.



Celebrating Creativity and Community: Recap of Family Painting Day



April 14, marked a memorable event at our church - Family Painting Day, an occasion filled with creativity, camaraderie, and shared inspiration. Led by the talented Lisa Solum, our community came together to explore the art of painting, each participant crafting their own depiction of a cross adorned with flowers at its base. With joy and excitement, individuals of all ages

gathered to unleash their inner artists.

What made this experience truly special was witnessing the diverse interpretations of the same theme. Each painting was a reflection of its creator, unique in style and perspective.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Lisa Solum for her guidance and leadership. We are grateful for her generosity in sharing her talents and for helping to make Family Painting Day a memorable experience.

May we find inspiration in each other's creations and continue to explore the beauty of art as a reflection of our shared journey of faith.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

17 March 2024

Grace, Peace and Warm greetings to you from Marsh Memorial Homes, a Methodist children's home in Cape Town, South Africa. As the Principal of Marsh Memorial Homes, it is with great joy and gratitude that I write to extend our heartfelt appreciation for the recent visit and service of your mission team.

We had the privilege of hosting a dedicated team from your church, who generously spent a week volunteering at our home. Their efforts were instrumental in enhancing our facilities and supporting our mission to provide residential care for 60 abused, abandoned, and neglected children. Among their many contributions, they worked tirelessly to dismantle, move, and recondition a shed for the storage of sports and other equipment used in our recreational and developmental programs. Additionally, they undertook the task of painting a large two-story house that will soon become a home for ten of our children, as well as assisting with essential stock counting in our store.

The commitment, hard work, and cheerful willingness demonstrated by the team truly exemplified the spirit of Christ-like service. Their presence has left a lasting impact on both our staff and children, inspiring us all to continue our mission with renewed dedication and compassion.

As we continue our work at Marsh Memorial Homes, we will keep the First United Methodist Church of Brookings in our prayers with thankful hearts. We humbly request your prayers as well, as we endeavour to nurture and transform the lives of the children entrusted to our care.

Once again, we extend our deepest gratitude to your church for your partnership and support in our mission. May God bless you abundantly for your kindness and generosity.

With warm regards and sincere blessings,

Kevin Needham, Principal

[Marsh Memorial Homes—Nurturing children and transforming lives](#)



**First United Methodist Church cares about you!
Please reach out if you are in crisis!**



Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States. The number of people with a substance use disorder continues to increase. The 988 Lifeline is a direct connection to immediate and free support and resources for anyone in crisis.

Whatever time: Day. Night. Weekend. Whatever the reason: Mental health distress. Substance use crisis. Thoughts of suicide. The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is here for you. Text 988 | Call 988 | Chat 988lifeline.org

Joanie Holm, Congregation Caring Coordinator

Trustees

On behalf of the trustees I would like to thank all the trustees members, United Methodist Men, and United Women in Faith that came and helped clean the CLC kitchen last month.

Without them it would have taken all day to do everything we did.

Craig Schlueter, Trustees Chair



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

Choir Director, Organist, Worship Team Accompanist

Shawn Stemsrud.....music@brookingsmethodist.org

Campus Ministry Coordinator

Congregation Caring Coordinator

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

Organists:

Joan Riessen
MK Huggins

Manna Cook: Katie Knutson

Choir Accompanist: Thomas Tvedt

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

Church Office Hours

Please note that the church
office will be closed on the
following day in May:

- Memorial Day (May 27th)

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 2024. 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
-

Summer Weekly Worship Schedule

Sundays:	9:30am	Radio Broadcast (on KBRK 1430AM)
	10:00am	Sunday Morning Worship (in-person and online)

Watch Online at Any Time!

YouTube Live

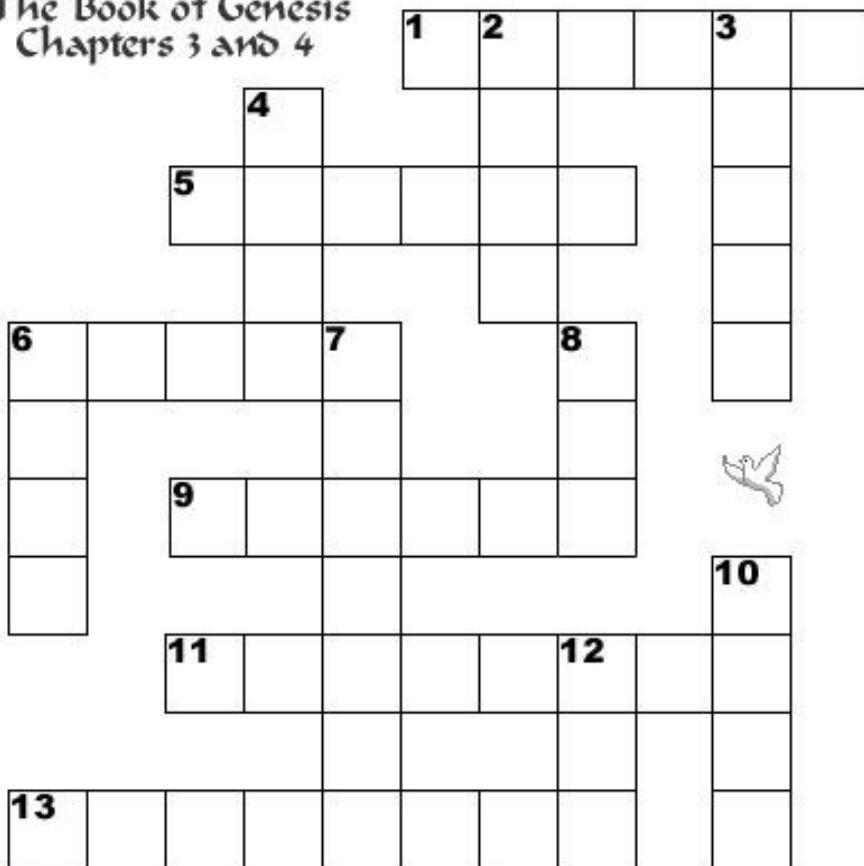


Facebook Live



Crossword No.2

The Book of Genesis
 Chapters 3 and 4



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more puzzles at <http://biblewordgames.com>

Down

- (2) Adam's second son
- (3) Cain's first son (Gen.4:17)
- (4) Adam's first son
- (6) Adam's third son
- (7) What creature tempted Eve
- (8) Cain lived in this land
- (10) First man
- (12) First woman

Across

- (1) Cain's occupation (Gen.4:2)
- (5) The ____ of Eden
- (6) Adam and Eve's first clothes(Gen.3:21)
- (9) Because of sin the ground was _____ (Gen.3:17)
- (11) Abel's occupation (Gen.4:2)
- (13) Cain became a _____ and a vagabond (Gen.4:12)

Why did Adam and Eve do math every day? They were told to be fruitful and multiply.

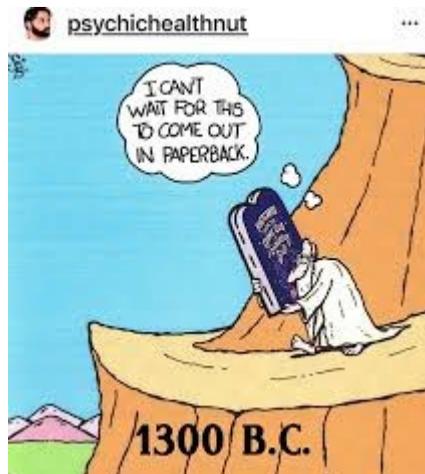
What did Adam say when he was asked his favorite holiday?

"It's Christmas, Eve."

What did pirates call Noah's boat? "The *arrrrrrk*."

How are toddlers and those who attempted to build a tower to Heaven similar? They all babble.

What did Daniel tell his real estate agent? "I'd prefer a house with no den."



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

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