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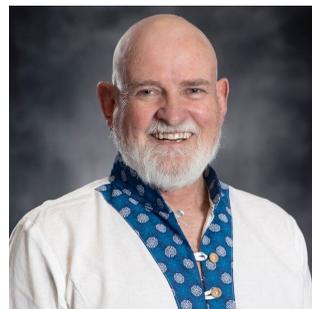
NEWSLETTER

November 2023

FROM THE PASTOR

Gratitude

A couple stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch. After finishing their meal, they resumed their trip – but the wife unknowingly left her glasses on the table. She didn't miss them until they had been driving for about forty minutes. At this point her husband became the classic grumpy old man. He fussed and complained and scolded his wife relentlessly during the entire return drive. To her relief, they finally arrived at the restaurant. As the woman got out of the car, and hurried inside to retrieve her glasses, her husband yelled to her, "While you're in there, you might as well get my hat and the credit card."



The fact is that we can spend our time complaining about everything in life. Or we can choose to see the many, many things that do go right for us. I am inviting us to spend the next few weeks giving thanks for God's many blessings in our lives. I am reminded of a song from my Sunday School days:
*"Count your blessings, name then one by one
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done"*

Pastor Pete



FIRST UNITED

METHODIST

BROOKINGS

AT THE
CORNER OF

**CHURCH &
COMMUNITY**

625 Fifth Street, Brookings

605-692-4345

www.brookingsmethodist.org

Gratitude Brunch Invitation

First United Methodist Church would like to invite you, your family, and friends to our Gratitude Brunch on November 19th! Please join us for this catered breakfast, including scrambled eggs, sausage, hashbrown casserole, and assorted rolls and donuts, as we celebrate the conclusion of our Gratitude Campaign.

For us to best prepare, please RSVP at this link: brookingsmethodist.org/brunch . There will also be opportunities to RVSP during the next few church services.

We look forward to seeing you at Brunch!

The Gratitude Campaign

'Count your many blessings, name them one by one, count your many blessings, see what God has done.'

---Johnson Oatman, Jr. "Count Your Blessing"

This message from the song by Johnson Oatman, Jr. is familiar to us all. However, it is easy for us to lose sight of the many ways we have been blessed. The focus of our annual stewardship campaign for Brookings First United Methodist will be on the countless blessings for which we are grateful.

Our Gratitude Campaign kicked-off the week of October 29th with a message from Pastor Nicole Anderson. She got us started thinking and journaling about being grateful for our lives. The first three weeks of November are focused on the ways we have been blessed in life. Gratitude Sunday - November 19th - will celebrate all the ways we have been blessed and make our financial commitment to support First United Methodist in 2024. Gratitude Sunday will also include brunch following the church service for us to gather as a church family.

More details of our Gratitude Campaign will be sent via mail, shared on-line and communicated at all our services. We hope this will allow everyone to see how we have been blessed and to name our blessings.

Tom Fishback, Finance Committee Chair

Illness Prevention

As we enter the Fall season, it is time to obtain an influenza (flu) vaccine. The flu vaccine is recommended for everyone over 6 months of age and is especially important for those at high risk. High risk is defined as people over 65 years of age, people with asthma, heart disease, stroke, diabetes and during pregnancy.

Influenza vaccines are available through your primary care providers office and at local pharmacies.

Frequent hand washing is highly recommended and handshaking is discouraged.

Joanie Holm, RN

Trustees Committee

The atrium skylight has been repaired and the ceiling drain will hopefully be done soon. We plan to move the library to the Parlor for ease of use. We are beginning work on a comprehensive landscaping plan that will include major work on the playground area. Sam is handling routine maintenance and repairs as they come up.

Rick Hieb, Trustees Committee

Turkey Dinner Update

This year the Turkey Dinner raised \$8,899! This amount does not include the expenses incurred but that is a lot of meals served! The amount raised (after expenses) will be split between United Methodist Men, United Women in Faith, the Methodist Youth, and the Mission Committee.

Thank you to everyone who helped. We could not have done it without all the willing volunteers. And thank you to all who supported the event by purchasing those meals.

Sincerely,

The Mission Committee

Feeding Brookings

Missions is collecting cans of corn to contribute to the Feeding Brookings holiday meal distribution. We have been asked to gather 250 cans of corn. If you are able, please bring your contribution to the totes in the narthex or the community life center. We will deliver the corn to Feeding Brookings on November 16th.

Teresa Telkamp, Missions Committee

Staff Parish Relations

SPR will be working on budgeting as we plan for next year's activities. October was occupied with a staff appreciation event and a birthday observed for our special "Pastor Pete." Thanks to everyone participating in these activities.

Larry Hult, Staff Parish Relations Chair

United Women of Faith

On December 7th The United Women of Faith will be hosting a noon luncheon with a memorial service to remember those special women we have lost during this last year. We will also serve the Harvest Table on December 18th. We are helping move the church library. Our local mission recently was providing funds for "Loads of Faith" laundry coupons. Our CARE group visited Edgewood Vista last week with a sing along for residents and shared coffee and snacks with them.

Judi DeZeeuw, United Women of Faith, President

Harvest Table

Please consider donating to Harvest Table so we can continue to tackle food insecurity in our own community. Contact Vonda Kirkham, Harvest Table director, to schedule your serving group to provide a meal for the Harvest Table guests at

brookingsharvesttable@gmail.com or by calling 605-692-4345.

Congregational Care Ministry

Addressing Mental Health

As people age, they may experience certain life changes that impact their mental health, such as coping with a serious illness or losing a loved one. Although many people will adjust to these life changes, some may experience feelings of grief, social isolation, or loneliness. When these feelings persist, they can lead to mental illnesses, such as depression and anxiety.

What are symptoms of mental disorders in older adults?

- Noticeable changes in mood, energy level, or appetite
- Feeling flat or having trouble feeling positive emotions
- Difficulty sleeping or sleeping too much
- Difficulty concentrating, feeling restless, or on edge
- Increased worry or feeling stressed
- Anger, irritability, or aggressiveness
- Ongoing headaches, digestive issues, or pain
- Misuse of alcohol or drugs
- Sadness or hopelessness

Thoughts of death or suicide or suicide attempts

If you, or someone you know exhibits these symptoms, contact your local primary care provider.

The suicide hotline can be reached by phone at 988.

Your church family cares and are here to help. Call the church office and they can put you in contact with me or the pastor. (605-692-4345).

Joanie Holm, RN, Congregational Care Coordinator

(National Institute of Mental Health)

It's not only how you live, it's how you pray.—God

Charge Conference

This gives notice of Brookings FUMC Charge Conference to be held in the evening on Thursday November 9th.

The United Methodist Church charge conference is the basic governing body of a local church. It is made up of all members of the church council. Members of the congregation are welcome to attend. The charge conference is an annual meeting where officers are elected for the coming year.

The charge conference has several responsibilities, including:

- Reviewing and evaluating the church's mission and ministry
- Setting salaries for the pastor and staff
- Electing members of the church council
- Adopting objectives and goals recommended by the church council
- Receiving reports

Finance Report

The Finance Committee started preparing for the second annual Gratitude Sunday Brunch to be held on November 19th after the 10:00 Church service. Our goal is to bring awareness and encourage congregants to fill out a pledge card to support the Church's important work in 2024. The added benefit is the opportunity to connect and spend time with other church members socially.

The Finance Committee uses the pledge cards to create the 2024 budget, which covers the fixed costs of running the Church as well as supports the many activities that bring life to our Church. Receiving these pledge cards is an extremely important step for us.

Soon, pledge cards will be available at the Church, online, and mailed to you. Additionally, if you would like to attend the Gratitude Sunday Brunch, we ask that fill out an RSVP card, which will be available shortly too.

Feel free to call the Church with any questions.

Thank you,

Tom

Tom Fishback, Finance Committee Chair

#onething

World Hunger and Poverty - Advance # 982920 A special project of the missions of the United Methodist Church.

THE PRIMARY GOALS OF ADVANCE #982920

Provide funding, accompaniment and technical support to organizations empowering families to sustainably improve their food and nutrition security.

Develop resources and educational materials to educate and raise awareness within the faith based community about the issues faced by people who are poor and food insecure and call people to action to mobilize for ending the systemic injustices of hunger and poverty in the world.



Approximately 842 million people are estimated to be suffering from food insecurity or chronic hunger, regularly not getting enough nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life. Chronic hunger kills more people every year than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined; in fact, poor nutrition contributes to 45% of deaths in children under five – 3.1 million children each year – and iron deficiencies cause 315,000 women to die from hemorrhaging during childbirth every year. Additionally, a lack of nutritious food can stunt growth, hinder fetal and mental development and negatively affect people’s productivity and sense of hope and overall well-being which traps people in poverty. 80% of food insecure people live in rural areas and the vast majority are either smallholder farmers (less than 5 acres) or are landless farm workers. Small farmers are struggling to provide for their families in the face of land degradation, lack of access to water and seeds, land grabbing, gender inequity, and climate change.

Lorna Jost

First United Methodist Church Foundation

Your First United Methodist Church Foundation is preparing its annual financial support for 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 activities such as camp scholarships, campus ministries, education, and many other special projects as proposed by church committees. The Foundation's mission is to fund special activities that are outside of regular church operations.

Church members can contribute to the Foundation through gifts or bequests – potentially impacting the life of the church for years to come. 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

Music Notes

Nothing makes me more grinchy than to see stores putting up Christmas decorations well before the Fall really begins! With that being said, it is already time to talk about CHRISTMAS MUSIC!!! Please let me know if you have any interest in putting a group together to go caroling around the area. I will be glad to help set you up with music to take caroling!

Do you have some special musical talent you are hiding away?! Don't be shy! Let's see where you can fit into a service or participate with a number of our musical groups. Speaking of special talents, the Worship Team is looking for a drummer. Is that you? Drummers must have some previous experience before helping. Contact me at music@brookingsmethodist.org

Bunny Christie, Music Coordinator

“Where words fail, music speaks.”
Hans Christianson Anderson

Susan's Saga

In Genesis 12, God promised Abraham that through him all the families on the earth would be blessed. Abraham responded in faith to the promises that God made him.

But how could the families on earth be blessed when Abraham had no son? God made a covenant with Abraham when he was 99 years old. This trajectory of faith is the background for the following passage in Romans—with application to us.

"Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping..... Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. And because of Abraham's faith, God counted him as righteous. And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn't just for Abraham's benefit. It was recorded for our benefit, too, assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God."

Abraham provides us with an example, a model of faith focused on God's promise. God is the initiator, but we need to respond in faith to God's promises, just as Abraham did.

This timeless message of divine promise and human response of faith is relevant today. God's plan to bless all families on the earth through Abraham is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. This Good News needs to be made known around the world, to people groups still awaiting to hear this message. Bible translation is a key means for sharing this marvelous promise to people in their heart language so that they, too, can respond in faith.

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.

Children's Christmas Program

The Children's Christmas program will be presented on Sunday, December 10 at 5:00 in the sanctuary. All are welcome and encouraged to attend while our youngest disciples tell the Christmas story.

Children in the 2 year old – 5th grades will present the program with the middle school youth help ushering and the high school youth presenting the Live Nativity on the south side of the church after the program.

The children are currently learning the music during their music time on Sunday's from 8:40-9:00 and at Wednesday School. Be sure to start out the Advent season by witnessing our children bring us the Nativity story.

Candy Donations Needed

We will be giving out treat bags to the children after the Christmas program. Donations of individually wrapped candy is requested. Please drop off in the church or education office. Leftover Halloween candy is also welcome (just no ghosts or ghouls please).



Christmas Shoppe

Christmas Shoppe – An Advent experience for kids is being offered on December 3 from 3-5 p.m. Christmas Shoppe is an event where children aged 3-year-old – 4th grade will create Christmas symbols. There will be four symbol departments that tell the part of the Christmas story that goes with their symbol.

Children will want to visit all of the departments to get the full experience and obtain all the symbols. This event is open to all in the community – so invite your friends!

No Sunday School on Thanksgiving Weekend

The Education committee has voted to suspend Sunday school on Thanksgiving weekend, November 26 to allow families to celebrate the holiday together. Happy Thanksgiving!

Get Your Calendar!

Be sure to get your 2024 calendar from the youth! The youth are selling beautiful 2024 calendars as a fundraiser for youth events for \$10. They are at the welcome centers in both the CLC and narthex on Sunday's and Wednesday's and at the education office during the week. Thank you for supporting the youth!



Check Out Our Podcasts!

Don't forget- Pastor Pete's Sunday sermons are available as a Podcast! You can listen to 'Messages from First United Methodist Brookings' on all major Podcasting platforms (Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, Google Podcasts) or online at brookingsmethodist.org/podcasts. Also, watch for a new podcast from us launching in the coming months!

Solar Ovens Montrose SD

First United Methodists in Action! This group of people traveled down to Montrose to help with making insulation parts for solar ovens!



Barb Crosser, Avis Norton, Barb Meyer, Peg Lund, Gary Norton, Ron Perry

Dakotas Annual Conference 2023

Brookings FUMC sent Nancy Bohlen, LaRon DeBoer, Charlie Schnabel, Tom Becker, Rylee Honomichl, and Cheryl Honomichl to attend Annual Conference. The thirtieth session of the Dakotas Annual Conference was held June 8-10, 2023, at the Convention Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. More than 450 United Methodists from North and South Dakota experienced inspiring worship, meaningful learning, and conducted business. Bishop Lanette Plambeck, resident bishop for the Dakotas-Minnesota Area of The United Methodist Church, presided at the three-day session. Drawing on Luke 24:13-35, the theme of this year's gathering was "Encounter. Transform. Respond. The Emmaus Experience." This post-resurrection story where everything has changed and the implications still seem a bit cloudy mirrors the time and space we are living in as a church. We, like the two disciples, are on the road, asking deep questions, and trying to make sense of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus today. And we, too, are finding that we encounter Christ in transforming ways when we do.

Bishop Lanette Plambeck, in her inaugural Episcopal Address, reminds us that this story for the two disciples on the road is our story too. During this challenging time in The United Methodist Church, she invited Dakotas United Methodists to move forward and declare that there is enough love for all of us, and she reminded each person: You are loved. You are a child of God and a person of worth. There are no exceptions.

The guest speaker was Rev. Dr. Michael Beck. He is co-pastor of two Florida churches and a network of "fresh expressions" led by laity that gather in various community venues and public spaces around shared interests and hobbies. He talked about fresh expressions as a new movement of Christian communities where people with no connection to the church are finding life and encountering Christ. Dinner church whereby people gather to share a meal is an easy starting point for a fresh expression, Beck said. Some of the other fresh expressions he's involved with take place in a tattoo parlor, at a restaurant, in a virtual reality space, at dog park, and even at Tesla charging stations.

2023 Miracle Offering was collected for The Road to Hope. "We need to reach into our pockets, not only for financial gifts, but also to let people know that every local church is a pocket of hope," said Bishop Lanette. So far \$42,000 has been collected for the 2023 Miracle Offering. In response to the increasing numbers of deaths by suicide, ideation of suicide, and attempts among youth in North and South Dakota, and the mental health crisis in our nation, the offering recipients are Helpline of South Dakota and FirstLink of North Dakota.

During the voting sessions, members ratified 24 church disaffiliation agreements, approved four legislative items, referred one item, and approved the 2024 budget and spending plan, the nominations report, and the consent calendar.

We also heard from Bishop McAlilly, the bishop of the Nashville Episcopal Area serving the Tennessee and Western Kentucky Conferences of The United Methodist Church. He challenged us to think about what it means to abide. For Bishop McAlilly, the answer can be found in trust and service. “The gospel gives us a clear picture about what’s coming and how we need to behave,” he said. “It matters that what we say matches what we do,” he said. After he had laid his robe aside, Jesus washed the disciple's' feet, indicating to the disciples that right behavior must involve tangible care for our neighbors. “In the act of washing feet, Jesus has shown the disciples what it means to be a follower,” he said. “Service is a fundamental principle. He’s teaching us how to serve others.”

I came away with affirmation that the Dakotas Conference is alive and active. We are working through the challenges of some churches disaffiliating and finding the way forward. Finding the way to serve with a Christ-centered service. Churches are adapting to meet the needs of the community. Youth and young adults are finding ways to serve. This is an exciting time and opportunity for the church.

If you have any questions about Annual Conference, please reach out to one of the attendees.

Nancy Bohlen,

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.



Manna

There will be no Manna meal, worship service or activities on Wednesday, November 22nd.

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

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

Congregation Caring Coordinator

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

Organists:

Joan Riessen
MK Huggkins

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
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The church office will be closed
Friday Nov 10th in observance
of Veteran's Day, Nov 11th.

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

Or on SignUp Genius: <https://bit.ly/3ZObUkh>

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	Cost-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



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