



# FOCUS

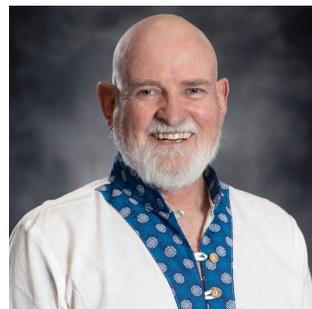
NEWSLETTER

October 2023

## FROM THE PASTOR

### *The Colors of Fall*

Every fall, the trees begin to change colors and turn beautiful shades of reds, oranges, yellows, and browns. This color change makes for beautiful scenery in our streets or on a weekend drive. The color changing leaves can be a remarkable sight to see, and many of us enjoy the masterpiece that God has created. I am inviting us to reflect on this array of colors as a parable of the way God has created our human community.



The fact is that we are not all the same: we come in an infinite variety of skin colors, family cultures and languages. While each of us has a unique way of being, together we become an amazing testimony to the beautiful work of the Creator. Let us never disparage someone because they look or act differently from me. When I celebrate the diversity of humanity, I give testimony to the work God. May God of the infinite variety in our Fall colors, guide our love and appreciation of the diversity found in each other.

Jenny and I thank you all for the greetings you have shared with us during this time of mourning the loss of Jenny's mother. We truly appreciate your love and support.

*Pastor Pete*



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AT THE  
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**CHURCH &  
COMMUNITY**

625 Fifth Street, Brookings  
605-692-4345

[www.brookingsmethodist.org](http://www.brookingsmethodist.org)

## ***Be United Methodist***

There has been much speculation in newsprint and on social media about the United Methodist Church splitting. There have been some churches who have reservations about the theology of welcome as practised by the United Methodist Church. For some the welcome has been too limited, while for others the welcome has been too wide. As a result the Conference of the United Methodist Church has provided a way for people to leave the UMC over the issue of the inclusion of the LGBTQ community. This was by way of an application for the congregation to vote on leaving, a process that was supervised by the Superintendent and subject to clear rules of departure. Our own church here in Brookings discussed this at our Charge Conference at the end of 2022, and no member of the meeting showed any interest in leaving the United Methodist Church Conference.

The Dakotas Conference has now completed the process for those churches that wanted to disaffiliate. A number of clergy have also left the United Methodist Church. Approximately 15% of our Conference membership have left the UMC. The fact is that the great majority, a supermajority of our churches, members and clergy will remain.

It is now time to put the division behind us. I pray for God's blessing to go with those who have left. And I encourage us to take responsibility for our own spiritual lives as we move forward into the future that God dreams about for us. Bishop Ken Carter, former president of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church, urges us to get back to our own spiritual work:

“we are called to connect to our purpose.

It is a church that is clear about our dependence on the grace of God through Jesus Christ (cross).

It is a church that is clear about our connection with each other—we are the body of Jesus Christ (relationships).

It is a church that teaches and lives a love for God, a love for our neighbor, a love for our enemies and a love for ourselves (flame).

# **#BeUMC**

Said differently...

We are not a church of works righteousness, laws or trials.

We are not a church of heroic solo leaders, celebrities or lone rangers.

We are not a church that understands holiness to be exclusion, superiority or separation.”

I love being part of this congregation, and commit myself anew to loving all who walk through our doors. Let us continue to be people who practice “*open hearts, open minds and open doors*” for the sake of Jesus.

*Pastor Pete*

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## ***Halloween Event Family Day***

Brookings FUMC invites all church and community members to our upcoming Family Day on October 29th. Join us in the atrium after the Sunday service where we will have a safe and fun trick-or-treating event for children of all ages. We are still looking for members and groups to host a table with an activity or treats, so those interested can email Sammi at [wedactivities@brookingsmethodist.org](mailto:wedactivities@brookingsmethodist.org). We hope to see you—and your costume—there!

*Sammi Carney*, Wednesday Activity Coordinator

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## ***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

## 3rd Grade Bibles

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders received their Bibles on Sunday, September 17 or Wednesday, September 20 during the worship service. They will be learning about and using their Bible every Sunday this year. Following are the children who received their Bibles: Emma Bohn, Autumn Borah, Kennedy Hanson, Davis Knutson, Lucy Tellekson, and Leif Weiland

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## Youth Group Selling Calendars

Be sure to pick up a 2024 wall calendar for \$10 at the Welcome Centers in the church. The money raised will go toward the youth for mission trips and other youth events. You may also purchase them during the week at the education.



*Gretchen Knutson*, Education Director

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## Slush Booth Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped create a successful Arts Festival Slush Booth weekend! Volunteers contributed over 500 hours picking strawberries, making slush, setting up and taking down the booth, and working at the booth during the festival. We could not have done it without all of you! And thank you to those that stopped by the booth and supported us by buying a cup (or more) of slush. The sales brought in over \$9,130.00, with an additional \$1,000.00 in donations, leaving just over \$6,858.18 after expenses. These funds will support mission projects at home and abroad.

We would also like to thank Sanderson Gardens for providing the strawberries and Hy-Vee in Brookings for their willingness to freeze our slush. Thank you again for your help and support!

*Missions Committee*

## **Confirmation Youth Received Bibles**

Confirmation has recently begun, and we want to lift up the following 7<sup>th</sup> graders who received Confirmation bibles on September 20 as they begin their 2 years of Confirmation.

Haley Graybill, Parker Graybill, Hunter Greve, Walker Hoffelt, Levi Liljegren, Dreyton Logue, Kyson Peterson, Kendra Pikul.

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## **Money, Sex and Power – Sunday Night Live**

Pastor Pete will be leading a Sunday night study entitled *Money, Sex and Power* by Richard Foster (book available from Gretchen or first night of class).

Quoting from the author “To live rightly with reference to money and sex and power is to live sacramentally. To misuse and abuse these is to desecrate the holy things of God.

Classes begin October 8 – November 12 from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

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## **DakYouth Rally**

DakYouth is November 10-12 for grades 6-12 in Aberdeen, SD. Youth gather from all around the conference to learn about leadership, discipleship, and service. There are engaging speakers, workshops, inspiring worship, and fun entertainment for all to enjoy. Music will be provided by VOTA.



We encourage all middle school through high school students to attend. Since this is a camping opportunity, the camp scholarship of 75% is offered to everyone attending. With the camp scholarship, the cost to attend is just \$16.25!

Please let the education office know if you are interested in attending as we need to register as a group. Adult leaders are needed to volunteer to attend to act as chaperones.

Contact Gretchen for registration information at 605-692-4345.

You can visit the DakYouth website for more information at [www.dakotasumc.org/dak youth/happenings/dak youth](http://www.dakotasumc.org/dak youth/happenings/dak youth)

## ***Charge Conference***

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

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

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## ***Finance Report—Giving Thanks***

It is time to give thanks to God. God has blessed through the past year with enough finances that we can keep serving our Brookings Community with loving generosity. God has blessed us with church staff who care, and with church members who have a heart for worship and service. It is time to give thanks.

We will kick off our thanksgiving season on October 30<sup>th</sup> in the Community Life Center. This will introduce our focus for the following three weeks leading to Thanksgiving. We will conclude this with a Thanksgiving Breakfast on Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup>.

It is time to give thanks to God.

*Tom Fishback*, Finance Committee

*Pastor Pete*

# #onething

Monetary donations collected through **#onething** in October will go for **Project Joy** whose mission is to providing children and families living in Brookings County, who are in need, an opportunity to receive holiday gifts through the generous donations of individuals, business, and organizations.

With your continued support **Project Joy** will be able to stock another incredible holiday store for children and families in need. Once again, we are asking individuals, businesses, and organizations to be creative in their method of raising funds and collecting toys for local children.

In 2022, **Project Joy** served over 830 children in Brookings County. Parents now have the opportunity to "shop" for their children at a holiday "store", stocked with toys and gift cards generously donated by local businesses, churches, schools, individuals and community organizations. The **Project Joy** Store is Saturday, December 9, 2023.



*Lorna Jost*

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## **Montrose Solar Oven Partners**

Dear Pastor and Congregation,

I am writing to you to let you know that the Montrose Solar Oven Partners workshop is up and running in Montrose, SD. After a long time of inactivity, we are now back to making the foam parts for the ovens. Contact us through our Administrative Assistant, Kay Sherriff at 605-201-6294 to set up a date and time you would like to come and work with us (usually evenings or Saturdays).

*Phil Lint*, Montrose Solar Oven Partners

## September is Hunger Action Month

**No one person should go hungry.**

Access to nutritious food is a fundamental right that lays the foundation for human well-being and potential. Yet, **72,900 people** and **1 in 9 children** in South Dakota face hunger daily. Joining the nationwide movement to end hunger helps ensure everyone, regardless of race, background or ZIP code, has access to the food and resources needed to thrive.

**If we all come together, we can end hunger.**

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](mailto:brookingsharvesttable@gmail.com) or by calling 605-692-4345.

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## Music Notes

Hello from BFUMC Music Ministries! We have had a successful start to our regularly scheduled activities that includes bell choir for youth and adults, Chiming Children, Manna in the Middle worship, worship team and chancel choir. Please let us know if you'd like to participate: [music@brookingsmethodist.org](mailto:music@brookingsmethodist.org). We would be glad to help you find the right fit!

*Bunny Christie*, Music Coordinator

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## Staff Parish Relations

After a busy summer to complete the hiring processes and celebrate that we are now fully staffed - SPR has been working on staff appreciation activities and will begin budget preparations.

*Larry Hult*, Staff-Parish Relations

## Susan's Saga

“Everything is connected to language. It is my desire and hope that as a global community . . . this generation will be known as the one that intervened for languages so that the world’s linguistic tapestry and cultural diversity was preserved.”

Dr. Michel Kenmogne, SIL Executive Director

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The United Nations declared 2022-2032 the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, presenting an opportunity to promote and support non-dominant languages by providing language development resources that enable communities to flourish using the languages they value most.

SIL is committed to building a positive context for people to use these languages to further cultivate attitudes and initiatives promoting peace, harmony and reconciliation. We will continue supporting language communities in their goals to expand possibilities, gain equal access to critical resources, engage with the Bible and flourish together.

Today, SIL partners with more than 1,300 communities across the globe to provide cutting-edge research, digital tools, educational resources and other language-related support to stand alongside indigenous communities in their efforts to preserve, revitalize and protect the languages they value most.

I am a part of this world-wide initiative to promote these fragile languages, many of which are endangered. Since 1986 I have been involved in a language development program for a Mixtec language, which includes linguistic research, producing literacy materials, training indigenous writers, and Bible translation.

Thank you for your partnership in this project.

*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.*

## ***Meals on Wheels***

Last July, the FUMC Volunteers took their turn at delivering meals as a part of the Meals on Wheels program. Brookings Meals on Wheels provides seniors in the community with the support that enables them to remain living in their own homes. This support is typically a nutritious meal, a short friendly visit, and a quick safety check. The deliveries were completed by Gena Hult & Linda Kay Hai, Gary & Avis Norton, Perry & Barb Johnson, Larry and Barb Hult, Pastor Pete and Jenny Grassow, LaRon and Lori DeBoer, Carol Montgomery and Avis Norton, Gary Norton and Kathy Hill, Keith and Betty Allison, and Wayne & Colene Reiser. A special thanks to Gary & Avis Norton who volunteered both weeks. For these volunteers, this is their demonstration of “God’s Love”. This is the third session of an FUMC 8 week commitment to Meals on Wheels for this year. The next scheduled deliveries will be October 23 - November 3rd. If you are interested in helping with Meals on Wheels deliveries in Oct./Nov. please contact me at [perbar3@mac.com](mailto:perbar3@mac.com).



*Perry Johnson*, FUMC Meals on Wheel Coordinator

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## ***Congregational Care Ministry***

Your church friends care about you! We would like to support you through life’s ups and downs, such as illnesses, surgeries, new babies, loss in the family, marriage, divorce, or any other life events. We have a Prayer, Visitation, Card and Meal Ministry set up to provide help in a variety of ways. BUT, if we don’t know about your family crisis/celebration, we cannot help. The hospitals cannot reveal the names of patients as they did in the past. Please give the church office a call (605-692-4345) or email [office@brookingsmethodist.org](mailto:office@brookingsmethodist.org) and let us know what is happening in your life. We want to put our Love in Action.

*Joanie Holm*, Congregational Care Ministry

## ***Community Life Center Happenings***

This week has been a busy week at the Community Life Center. We served about 100 guests at the Harvest Table meal on Monday evening. Tuesday evening welcomed about 80 PEO members for a regional meeting. Wednesday was the Healthy Movements exercise class for about 15 attendees that meets three times a week and the Manna in the Middle meal and worship service for about 80 worshipers. On Thursday the United Women of Faith held their yearly luncheon for the women in the FUMC congregation. Then the mission committee used the Community Life Center kitchen to prepare the dressing for the upcoming turkey dinner open to the community. To finish out the evening, the United Methodist Men held their monthly meeting. On Friday the Community Life Center was used by Head Start for about 70 teachers for an area meeting. And to finish the week on Saturday there was an anniversary celebration! All of these activities involve coordination between church staff and the groups using the Community Life Center, the janitorial staff to set up and take down tables and chairs and clean the floors and the bathrooms. It is a community used building.

Other events that the Community Life Center is used for are girl scout and boy scout meetings sleep overs and events, worship band practice, Kiwanis pancake and Lion's spaghetti events, birthday parties, graduation parties, wedding receptions, baby showers, SDSU swing dance parties, Head Start classes for 60 children, and the Harvest Table pantry that is open during the week for about 15 persons each day needing assistance. Even the Community Life Center parking lot is used for the monthly food distribution from the Feeding South Dakota mobile food truck.

Thank you to those with the vision of building the Community Life Center to accommodate all of these events both from First United Methodist Church and the Brookings community.

*Vonda Kirkham*, Community Life Center Director

## 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 Hai .....finance@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

Shawn Stemrud.....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

## Connect with us!

### Church Office Hours:

Mon-Fri: 8:30am-12:00 pm

Need prayer? Email  
[prayer@brookingsmethodist.org](mailto:prayer@brookingsmethodist.org)  
and Pastor Pete will pray with  
you!



/FUMCBrookings



@brookingsfumc



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Methodist Brookings



[brookingsmethodist.org](http://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 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](http://brookingsmethodist.org) and click on **RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS**
- Contact the office at 605-692-4345
- Email [office@brookingsmethodist.org](mailto:office@brookingsmethodist.org)

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

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## Fall Weekly Worship Schedule

<b>Sundays:</b>	9:00am	Sunday School (Pre-K to Adult)
	9:30am	Radio Broadcast (on KBRK 1430AM)
	10:00am	Sunday Morning Worship (in-person and online)
<b>Wednesdays:</b>	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**





DOING THE  
MOST GOOD

# SHARE *the* WARMTH

Share the Warmth is a one-day event to provide free winter outdoor items to people in Brookings County.

This extraordinary effort is made possible thanks to local donations and volunteers.

**Wednesday, October 11, 2023**  
**Old Sanctuary—928 4th St, Brookings**

## **Register**

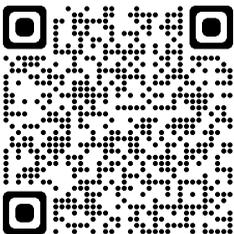
*We want to keep you warm this winter!*

- Registration is required and is open until October 6, 2023
- Scan the QR code or visit our website to get started.

## **Volunteer**

*We need your help!*

- Multiple opportunities to help including event set up, day of support, and clean up crew!
- Businesses and organizations are encouraged to hold a donation drive. Contact 605-692-8863 for more info.



**To Register or Volunteer, scan the QR Code or visit:**  
**[www.stwbrookings.org](http://www.stwbrookings.org)**

## ***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.



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## ***New Music Class for Children***

Does your child like to sing? We are offering a music time for children in the PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade class on Sunday mornings from 8:40-9:00. It is held in an upstairs room of the Education Center! They do a variety of songs from popular Christian songs on the radio to VBS songs and the good ole 'stand-by's. Come join in on a fun music time!

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## ***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](http://brookingsmethodist.org/podcasts) . Also, watch for a new podcast from us launching in the coming months!



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## ***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

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

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