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JANUARY
2024



Brookings United Church of Christ

God is still speaking.

Brookings United Church of Christ

Issue

1

PASTOR'S CORNER

A Resolution Worth Keeping

As we enter another new year, I suspect many of you have been considering what to give up in 2024. You desire to remove something from your life that is either physically, spiritually, or emotionally unhealthy. Others of you might also be seeking to add something to your life; something that will somehow make you a better person in one of these same ways. But what if you could experience a subtraction and an addition in your life simultaneously!

Most of you know the history of this church and the way in which it came into being. It was a process that was undoubtedly guided by the Holy Spirit, and also somewhat of a miracle! But like every miracle, the real world continues on afterward. And a part of this reality is that every church needs continued funding to exist. Building a church structure is only the beginning of the work and support that is required.

That being said, I suspect there are some folks who dearly love the Brookings UCC, but for whatever reason are not supporting it financially. This is a reality in many other churches as well. But another reality is that a relatively small number of givers are providing a vast majority of the financial support. It is also a reality that large donors will eventually move away or pass away. For churches to remain financially stable, they must grow and expand their base of support.

So I am praying that you will all prayerfully consider your gifts to our beloved church in 2024. If you would like to make a contribution to our newly formed endowment fund, you may still backdate a check to Dec. 31st and include it on your 2023 taxes. In addition, I pray that you would either begin, or continue your support through weekly or monthly gifts throughout this coming year.

If you resolve to sacrificially support our church this year, you will be giving up some money, and maybe even some unhealthy emotions; but you will be gaining something infinitely greater. You will gain a sense of purpose; a sense of community; and a sense of mission. To me, this is the most awesome kind of resolution. A resolution truly worth keeping!

Blessings to you all in 2024!
Pastor Mark

*“Whoever
you are,
wherever
you are on
life’s journey,
you are welcome here”*

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BUCC Council Meeting, December 13, 2023

Members present were Peggy Warner Pallos, Dawn Jones, Mary McCaa, Gary Englund, Dave Dykhouse, Mona Dykhouse, Dave Heubner, Jennifer Kemper, Mark Johnsen, Linda Langner, Christina Wiemer, and guest Abby Ryan.

Opening prayer given by Mark.

Abby Ryan updated status of daycare about progress and timeline. The wiring for the fire alarm system will happen Dec. 18-22. Some of the playground equipment has been set up on the property. The needs at this time are event planning, creating advertising, and setting up tours. The open house event is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 8-12, and Feb.5 to have the doors open. Currently they are waiting to hire staff as they will have to submit background checks on employees. They will need storage for the playground equipment and a fence for the playground. A separate phone line needs to be installed. Abby is working on a logo and a website. The advertising will include the newspaper, facebook and the chamber of commerce. Artwork would be word decals for the education wing. The grand opening will possibly be Feb. 5, 2024. Possible events such as a movie night, an activity night, a potluck, that would be for families to do once a month. The bathroom needs to have a changing table installed. The older kids will be in the sanctuary for the after school program. A second language and music are 2 possibilities to be offered as well.

Agenda

Finance report given by Jennifer Kemper. Jennifer brought up the OCWM that stands for Our Churches Wider Mission fund, and that we usually give \$2000 yearly to this. This money supports the wide mission to support staff at the SD conference and it goes to the national conference. Jennifer made a motion to continue this year to give \$2000 to the OCWM, The church will also give \$500 to the ministerial association now and after the first of the year. Motion made by Christina Wiemer to give \$2000 to OCWM and \$500 to ministerial association. Seconded by Mona Dykhouse. Motion passed.

The housing exclusion allowance for pastor Mark was submitted. Motion was made by Peggy Warner Pallos to accept the housing allowance, seconded by Dave Heubner. Motion passed. The update on the daycare remodeling was given by Dave Dykhouse. The wall in the office has been removed and painting has begun. Peggy will mention in the announcements about construction progress.

Gary Englund gave an update on the grief share program. The new workbooks are available now and if we purchase it before Jan. 31 we will save some money. The cost would be \$455. Peggy would like to have the new workbooks for grief share. Jennifer Kemper made a motion to spend \$455 for the materials, seconded by Dave Heubner. Motion passed.

Information about the endowment was given by Gary Englund. Jim Wilson knows a person who will make a plaque with the names of the contributors on it.

Music supply will be given by Rachael and Lauren and they were introduced in church. Jennifer Kemper made a motion to pay \$80 a week to the musicians, seconded by Mary McCaa. Motion passed.

The next council meeting will be Jan. 24 at 3 PM.

A Motion was made to adjourn meeting by Jennifer Kemper, seconded by Peggy Warner Pallos. Motion passed.

Cause of the Month

The January cause of the month will be furniture ministry. To address this need we will once again be serving alongside an organization called "Sleep in Heavenly Peace." Last year many of you participated in the sanding and staining and screwing together pieces of wood which became twin size beds for local children in need, and we are looking for many of you to turn out once again. The date we are scheduled to volunteer is Monday Jan. 29th at 6pm. The project should be less than two hours, so you should all arrive back home at a decent time. Please sign up on a clipboard in the sanctuary or leave a message on the office phone indicating your commitment to attend, as we will be informing them of the number of our volunteers. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

NEW BUCC OFFICE HOURS

HOURS WILL NOW BE

9:30—11:30 TUESDAY—THURSDAY

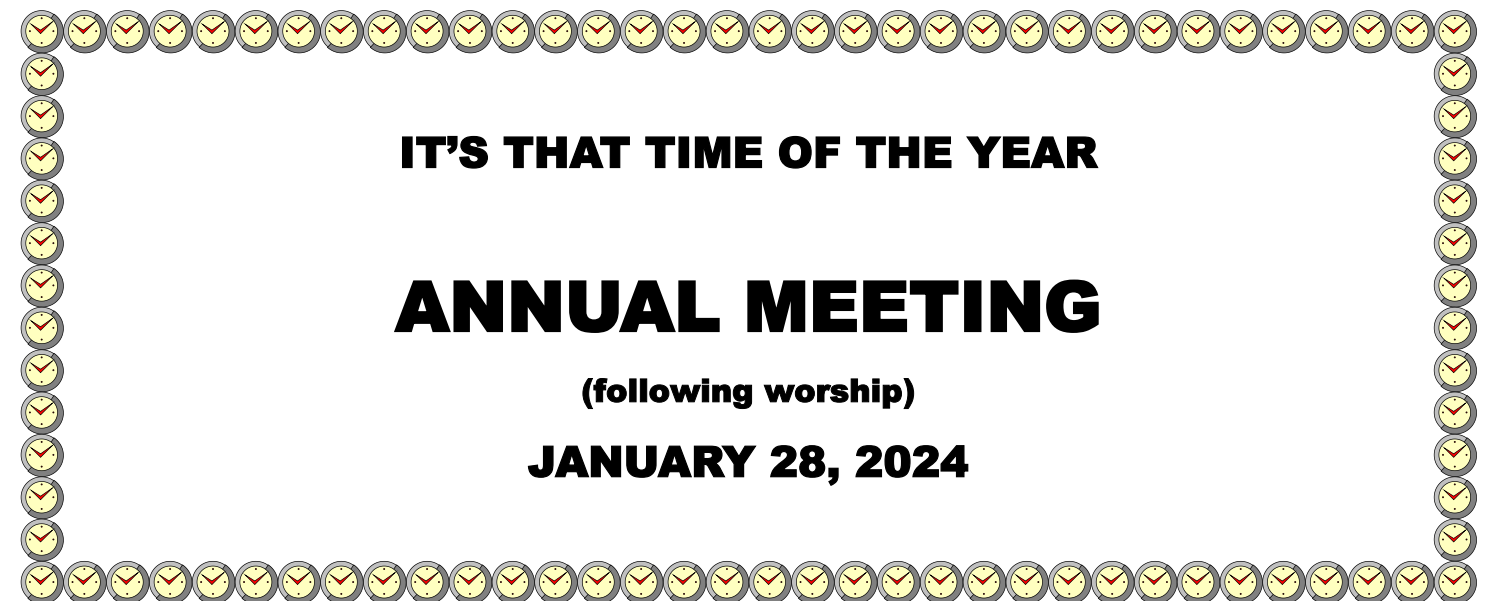
If you need something outside those hours please call the church and leave a message

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR

ANNUAL MEETING

(following worship)

JANUARY 28, 2024



January 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|--|--|--|------------------------------|----|----|----|
| | | Coffee and Conversation 10:30-11:30 | Something to Chew On 6 | | | |
| 7 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am | 8 | 9 Coffee and Conversation 10:30-11:30 | 10 Something to Chew On 6 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am | 15 | 16 Coffee and Conversation 10:30-11:30 | 17 Something to Chew On 6 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am | 22 | 23 Coffee and Conversation 10:30-11:30 | 24 Something to Chew On 6 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am ANNUAL MTG | 29 Assemble beds for SiHP 6 PM | 30 Coffee and Conversation 10:30-11:30 | 31 Something to Chew On 6 | | | |

New Year's Resolutions for Adults with A Humorous Touch

- Embrace the chaos: aspire to make my bed at least once a month.
- Practice the fine art of remembering where I left my keys at least twice a week.
- Attempt to become fluent in emoji to communicate complex emotions more effectively.
- Promise to conquer the pile of unread books by turning them into stylish furniture.
- Aim to become a morning person by hitting snooze only five times instead of ten.
- Try yoga – or at least learn how to touch my toes without toppling over.
- Vow to attend at least one event I RSVP'd to on Facebook (even if it's in my dreams).
- Experiment with new recipes, with a goal to cook something that actually looks like the recipe picture.
- Aim to become a Zoom pro by mastering the mute/unmute button without embarrassing incidents.
- Commit to finding a plant I can't kill in less than a week – a botanical challenge!
- Promise to resist the urge to start a new TV series until I finish at least one I've already started.

MODERATOR'S MOMENT

I conclude my role as Moderator of the Brookings United Church of Christ Council Moderator this month. It has been a humbling experience the past two years. I want to acknowledge with gratitude the support I have received during this time from council members Dave Huebner, Mary McCaa, Cole Sartell, Adele Buum, Mona Dykhouse, Gary Englund, Dave Dykhouse and Peggy Warner-Pallos. I extend special thanks to Jennifer Kemper for her dedication to the dual and demanding roles of being our church treasurer and office administrator. A special shout-out to Linda Langner who was always available to provide me with a sounding board and wise counsel. Pastor Mark never ceases to inspire my faith by his insightful and challenging sermons. His energy for servanthood to our congregation and wider community is second only to Lisa's! We are so fortunate to have both of them as members of our BUCC parish. To my spouse, Phyl Naffziger, thank you for the "course corrections" you offer that are invaluable to keep me on an azimuth of true north. My mother, Marilyn Jones, has always been and remains a steadfast example of what we aspire to as those who believe in God's love and are followers of Jesus. May the Holy Spirit continue to inspire the worship and work of our BUCC council members and the wider church family who support them. Your Sister in Christ, Rev Dawn E. Jones

JANUARY
Birthdays &
Anniversaries

- JANUARY Birthdays**
- 1 Jackson Holden
 - 3 Elecsia Dokken
 - 12 Christie Delfanian
 - 13 Helen Andersen
 - 20 Jim Cochrane
 - 23 Katie Marshall
- ANNIVERSARY**
- 24 Tom and Doreen Campbell



BUCC INCOME & EXPENSE—DECEMBER 2023

| | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|--|------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | |
| Income | |
| 41300 · Endowment Fund | 6,000.00 |
| 49300 · Farmer's Market Sales | 69.00 |
| 49460 · Christmas Fund Donations | 580.00 |
| 49470 · Special Projects | 500.00 |
| 49500 · Tithes/Offerings | <u>7,055.00</u> |
| Total Income | <u>14,204.00</u> |
| Gross Profit | 14,204.00 |
| Expense | |
| 61410 · OCWM | 2,000.00 |
| 61420 · Christmas Fund | 580.00 |
| 61470 · Thanksgiving Dinner Expense | 118.12 |
| 61490 · Special Projects Expense | 3,519.36 |
| 61500 · Staff Holiday Expenses | 750.00 |
| 61700 · Computer and Internet Expenses | 86.02 |
| 63800 · Landscaping Expenses | 382.32 |
| 66000 · Payroll Expenses | 4,554.10 |
| 66100 · Housing Allowance | 1,458.33 |
| 66500 · Postage and Delivery | 66.00 |
| 66750 · Musician Expense | 280.00 |
| 67200 · Repairs and Maintenance | 2,981.05 |
| 68100 · Telephone Expense | 7.00 |
| 68600 · Utilities | 289.25 |
| 69470 · Special Projects - Mission | <u>500.00</u> |
| Total Expense | <u>17,571.55</u> |
| Net Ordinary Income | <u>-3,367.55</u> |



FINANCIAL NOTES

Our financial statement shows a deficit this month as a result of changes being made to our building in preparation for The Learning Academy coming to our church. All of these items will be reimbursed as part of a grant.

We will be discussing and providing information about those changes as well as the Learning Academy coming to the church at our Annual Meeting.

Please make plans to attend the Annual Meeting taking place January 28, 2024!