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FEBRUARY
2024

Issue

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Brookings United Church of Christ

Pastor's Corner

This year Ash Wednesday is on Feb 14th, and as such we will be conducting a short service at 6:30pm in our sanctuary, which will also include the imposition of ashes.

According to the United Church of Christ, "Lent is the six weeks before Easter, and is called the 'Lenten Season.' It is a time to focus on the suffering, death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock.

The word 'lent' means 'lengthen' and stands for that time in spring when the days grow longer. The original period of Lent was 40 hours. It was spent fasting to commemorate the suffering of Christ and the 40 hours He spent in the tomb. In the early 3rd century, Lent was lengthened to 6 days. Then around the year 800 AD it was changed to 40 days. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, 40 days before Easter. Sundays are not included in those 40 days. Those 40 days correspond with Christ's 40 days in the wilderness.

Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, is celebrated in many parts of the world with feasting. The French call it "Mardi Gras". The Germans call it "Fausching". The feasting comes from the custom of using up household fats prior to the 40 days of Lenten fasting, when no fat is used. Shrove Tuesday takes its name from "shriving" or forgiving sins. The word "carnival" in relation to Mardi Gras means "good-bye to meat." Also, the traditional shape of pretzels stems directly from Lent. The crossed arms of the pretzel were intended by German bakers to represent a Christian at prayer, with palms on opposite shoulders, making a crisscross of the forearms.

Although some Christians follow a tradition of giving up something during this season (certain foods, a bad habit, etc.) Lent is not like a New Year's resolution. Lent is about making a special effort to give ourselves to those things that enrich our spiritual lives and draw us closer to God. There are many ways we can open ourselves to such enrichment. What follows are some suggestions which you may prayerfully consider.

Read from the Bible daily and meditate upon the reading.

Set aside time each day for prayer, even a few moments. Allow it to become a good habit, turning to God as naturally as the sunflower turns to the sunrise.

Be present at the services of the church and Lenten journey.

Deny yourself some luxury and give what you would spend to the outreach of your church.

The cost of self-denial should not be saved, but given.

Make a special effort to guard over your tongue this Lent. If you cannot speak well of others say nothing.

So my hope is that you all are able to join us for our Ash Wednesday service and that you are able to make this season of Lent a special one where you continue to grow in your faith, and continue to grow into the likeness of Jesus, our Christ.

Blessings,
Pastor Mark

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.BUCC COUNCIL MEETING

January 24, 2024

Attending – Mark Johnsen, Linda Langner, Jennifer Kemper, Dave Dykhouse, Dave Huebner, Peggy Pallos, Beth L'Amour, Gary Englund, Mary McCaa, Claudia Benson, Christina Weimer.

Opening Prayer – Pastor Mark

Finance Report – Jennifer Kemper, Treasurer. We earned \$3300+ in interest on our Liquid CD in 2023 we have rolled that money into a new Liquid CD which is now 4.5% interest for 2024, a percent higher than last year. We currently have approximately \$10800 that has been used for changes to the church and equipment needed by LTA. The grant has been filed for the items that were covered in that figure and we will receive that money back from LTA as soon as they receive it.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report made by Dave Huebner 2nd by Peggy Pallos motion passed.

Pastor Mark updated the council on the status of LTA since Abbie was unable to attend the meeting. We will be tracking the change to our monthly expenses once LTA is up and running. They are hoping to be open in early February.

The executive board will meet with Abbie to discuss any additional things that BUCC can help her with.

Mary McCaa and Peggy Pallos will be coming off of the council as well as Dawn Jones, moderator. New council members will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Ash Wednesday service will be held on February 14 at 6:30 pm. There will be no chew group on Ash Wednesday.

Our next council meeting will be February 27 at 6:30 pm.

Jennifer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 2nd from Dave Huebner. Meeting adjourned.



Cause of the Month

As February is Black History Month, our cause of the month will be to promote Black History! As part of this endeavor we are encouraging all of members and constituents to participate in the Martin Luther King Jr. "Marade" that is scheduled for February 19th (which is also President's Day). This event was originally scheduled for MLK Day in January, but due to the inclement weather did not happen. The word "Marade" is a combination of the words "march" and "parade" which are elements of the celebration.

In terms of the details, the event is scheduled from 11am-3pm in the Volstorff Balroom. Last year the event included a variety of speakers along with a light lunch, followed by a walk around the campus with signs commemorating the day. We hope that many of you are able to attend and support this celebration, while learning more about Black History up to and including this day and time.



**WE ARE EXCITED TO HAVE THE
LEARNING TREE ACADEMY AT
BUCC! WE ARE BEHIND YOU ALL
THE WAY!**

We are so very blessed to have Beth L'Amour as part of our BUCC family! Thanks for all you do Beth!



February 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
4 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	5	6 Coffee and Conversa- tion 10:30-11:30	7 Something to Chew On 6	8	9	10
11 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	12	13 Coffee and Conversa- tion 10:30-11:30	14 ASH WEDNES DAY 6:30 PM	15	16	17
18 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	19 MARADE SDSU 11—3	20 Coffee and Conversa- tion 10:30-11:30	21 Something to Chew On 6	22	23	24
25 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	26	27 Coffee and Conversa- tion 10:30-11:30	28 Something to Chew On 6	29		

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Many hands made light work building beds for sleep in heavenly peace! Very grateful for all of the good work they do!



Pastor Mark had a very good helper at his station! Way to go Phoenix we can always count on you to help out! So very thankful that our BUCC family always turns out to help wherever help is needed!

Dave Dykhouse and Gary England doing their part! Dave's glad to be doing something other than painting! Thanks for all you guys do!



FEBRUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

- FEBRUARY Birthdays**
6 Wayne Ward
13 Kyleigh Cramer
18 Stuart Apland
25 Kristi Prunty
25 Terri Akkerman
- ANNIVERSARY**

Christina Wiemer is always there to help!



8 Points of Progressive Christianity

1. Proclaim Jesus Christ as our Gate to the realm of God;
2. Recognize the faithfulness of other names for the gateway to God’s realm;
3. Understand our sharing of bread and wine in Jesus’ name to be a representation of God’s feast for all people’s
4. Invite all sorts of conditions of people to join in our worship and in our common life as full partners including, but not limited to:
 - * Believers and agnostics
 - * Conventional Christians & questioning skeptics
 - * Homosexuals & heterosexuals
 - * Females and males
 - * The despairing and the hopeful
5. Think that the way we treat one another & other people is more important than the way we express our beliefs;
6. Find more grace in the search for meaning than in absolute certainty, in the questions than in the answers;
7. See ourselves as a spiritual community in which we discover the resources required for our work in the world:
8. Recognize that our faith entails costly discipleship, renunciation of privilege, & conscientious resistance to evil as has always been

BUCC INCOME & EXPENSE—January 2024

	<u>TOTAL</u>
Income	
49500 · Tithes/Offerings	4,695.00
Total Income	<u>4,695.00</u>
Gross Profit	4,695.00
Expense	
60400 · Bank Service Charges-Stop Pymt	20.00
60800 · Pastor’s Expense Reimbursement	59.51
61490 · Special Projects Expense	7.43
61700 · Computer and Internet Expenses	108.61
62700 · Evangelism and Special Events	23.06
63300 · Insurance Expense	598.28
63900 · Snow Removal	159.30
64900 · Office Supplies	22.18
66000 · Payroll Expenses	4,554.10
66100 · Housing Allowance	1,458.33
66500 · Postage and Delivery	66.00
66700 · Professional Fees	367.00
66750 · Musician Expense	161.21
68100 · Telephone Expense	16.65
68600 · Utilities	331.94
69710 · Sunday School Expense	<u>120.40</u>
Total Expense	<u>8,074.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-3,379.00</u>

Mona Dykhouse takes a break from being the council secretary to help build some beds!

