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BROOKINGS UCC



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MARCH
2024



Brookings United Church of Christ

God is still speaking.

Issue

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Brookings United Church of Christ

Pastor's Corner

Since we are beginning the month of March it has caused me to think about the etymology of this word. It is derived from "Mars" who was the ancient god of war. And in the ancient Roman calendar it used to be the first month of the year (before January and February were added) because it represented the beginning of the "war season", which then ended in October. It has always struck me as odd (and frankly stupid) that war would be considered a season that would come and go like the clockwork that determines spring, summer, fall, and winter. Of course with modern day warfare equipment, there is no longer a season of war. It now goes on and on throughout the year with varying levels of intensity (and suffering) based on the weather.

So over the last few days I have been thinking a lot about what I learned in Seminary regarding what is called "Just War Theory." The first simplistic explanation of note from a Christian, that war could sometimes be necessary (and even good) came from St. Augustine in the 4th century. But a slightly more refined (and defined) explanation with 3 main themes came from St. Thomas Aquinas in the 13th century. Since that time, his theory has evolved into what are now commonly considered the 9 central tenants of what constitutes a just war. The first 4 that deal with the right to go to war are:

- 1. Competent Authority** – meaning only duly constituted public authorities may wage war. "A just war must be initiated by a political authority within a political system that allows distinctions of justice.
- 2. Just Cause** – meaning the reason for going to war needs to be just and cannot, therefore, be solely for recapturing things taken or punishing people who have done wrong; innocent life must be in imminent danger and intervention must be to protect life.
- 3. Probability of Success** – meaning there must be good grounds for concluding that aims of the just war are achievable. This principle emphasizes that mass violence must not be undertaken if it is unlikely to secure the just cause.
- 4. Last Resort** – meaning all non-violent options must first be exhausted before the use of force can be justified. Diplomatic options, sanctions, and other non-military methods must be attempted or validly ruled out before the engagement of hostilities.

The last 5 that deal with the right conduct within war are:

- 5. Distinction** – meaning the acts of war should be directed toward enemy combatants, and those combatants who surrender, are prisoners, or are injured, must not be attacked.
- 6. Proportionality** – meaning combatants must make sure that the harm caused to civilians or civilian property is not excessive in relation to the concrete military advantage anticipated.
- 7. Military Necessity** – meaning an attack or action must be intended to help in the defeat of the enemy, and it must be an attack on a legitimate military target with a military objective.
- 8. Fair Treatment of Prisoners of War** – meaning Enemy combatants who surrendered or who are captured no longer pose a threat. It is therefore wrong to torture them or otherwise mistreat them.
- 9. No Evil Means** – meaning combatants may not use weapons or other methods of warfare that are considered evil, such as mass rape, forcing enemy combatants to fight against their own side or using weapons whose effects cannot be controlled (e.g., nuclear/biological weapons).

Based on these criteria, I have concluded that Ukraine's response to the attack on their country could be considered a just war on their part, but Israel's response to the attack on their country is not a just war. Let us all pray for an end to both of them very soon.

Pastor Mark

"Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

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Brookings UCC Council Meeting, - February 27, 2024

Members present were Dave Dykhouse, Mona Dykhouse, Dave Huebner, Jennifer Kemper, Mark Johnsen, Linda Langner, Gary Englund, Beth L'Amour, Claudia Benson and Kayleen Spieker.

Opening prayer was given by Mark Johnsen.

Finance report given by Jennifer Kemper. There is presently \$12000 in the endowment fund. Motion made by Dave Huebner to approve the report, seconded by Linda Langner.

Mona Dykhouse informed the members of the executive meeting that was held February 1. Items that were discussed included the startup of the daycare and related financial concerns. The money the church loaned the daycare for the installation of the fire alarm system should be repaid with grant money within the next 4-6 weeks. The council also decided to suspend the first two months rent to help with startup.

The council also approved sharing an expense for advertising the daycare on the electronic billboard on 6th street by the Chamber of Commerce building for a one month period starting in March for a cost of \$500.00. The church will pay for half that amount as it gives exposure for the church as well as the daycare.

There was discussion about creating a sign for the daycare at the NE corner of the church property. Jennifer will contact the City Engineer concerning possible restrictions in the city ordinance. Dave Huebner has volunteered with creating a sign if it allowed by the city.

Kayleen Spieker suggested creating a flyer for advertising the daycare which could be distributed to various business locations by members of the church.

The church is in need of a new website as the old one is expired and unavailable, Kayleen Spieker will look into details with creating a new, improved and up to date site.

Art Festival: After a discussion it was decided the church should try to apply to be a food vendor at the Art Festival. The deadline for application is March 1. Dave Huebner suggested making apple fritters for the Art Festival as well as the Farmers Market. Jennifer made a motion that we proceed with this plan, seconded by Dave Huebner. Motion passed

Farmers Market: After discussion it was decided to proceed with the Farmers Market again this year. Dave Huebner made a motion to proceed with the plan, seconded by Jennifer. Motion Passed.

Stand for Ukraine: possible startup will be discussed at the next council meeting.

Pastor Mark handed out the Clergy Comp form and went over the details for new members of the council.

There was a discussion on possibly changing the frequency of the church council meeting. Jennifer made a motion to have it every other month, seconded by Linda Langner. Motion passed. Next council meeting will be April 23 at 6PM.

Jennifer Kemper made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Linda Langner. Motion passed.



We Are Growing!

Our growth has been slow and steady, ages 0-3
To overcome challenges associated with smaller
ratios for children ages 0-3 we are
implementing some new programs and we need
your help!

Scholarship Fund
Community Sponsorship
Corporate Sponsorship
Donations (Amazon Wishlist)
Volunteers

Church Library

As many of you already know, we have instituted a church library which is located on shelves of the wall just outside the kitchen area. The library is made up of books donated by various members, but primarily it is comprised of Pastor Mark's personal collection. This library is available for all to "check out" books as they desire. All we would ask is that you sign your name and date and the book you checked out on a clipboard that will be hanging on the wall next to the book shelves. This way we will be able to keep track of what has been taken. If you have already taken a book (or books) from the library, we would simply ask you to now record it on the clipboard so we are aware of what you currently have. We hope you will all take a moment to browse through the various topics and themes represented in our library, and check out any books that peak your interest!

March 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	4	5 Coffee and Conversa- tion 10:30-11:30	6 Lenten Lunch 11:30 -12:10 Something to Chew On 6	7	8	9 SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD
10 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	11	12 Coffee and Conversa- tion 10:30-11:30	13 Lenten Lunch 11:30 -12:10 Something to Chew On 6	14	15	16
17 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	18	19 Coffee and Conversa- tion 10:30-11:30	20 Lenten Lunch 11:30 -12:10 Something to Chew On 6	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	25	26 Coffee and Conversa- tion 10:30-11:30	27 Something to Chew On 6	28	29	30
31 Happy Easter Adult Study 9am Worship 10am						

Brookings UCC executive meeting

February 1, 2024

Members present Jennifer Kemper, Linda Langner, Dave Dykhouse, Mona Dykhouse, with Abby Ryan of Learning Tree Academy.

This was an informational meeting with Abby on the items she is presently working on with starting the day-care.

Abby is keeping her current in home daycare near Hillcrest in addition to starting LTA.

The amount of money needed to break even at LTA is \$234 a week per child.

Abby will be paying the program coordinator first.

Abby has been in contact with the BEDC or Brookings Economic Development Corporation and this is an on-going process.

There are 3 other child care programs in Brookings at this time that the BEDC is working with.

LTA cannot offer different rates for different family incomes because of State regulations.

LTA does have flexibility in how much they can charge depending on the ages of children and how many staff are required.

Abby has contacted SDSU, Daktronics, and 3M as possible sponsorship. A sponsorship could offer possibility of paying 10% of daycare cost, or choosing what kind of sponsorship such as contributing to the operating funds.

Jennifer presented to the council that the first two months would be a gift to the daycare as the intake of cash will be low until enrollment numbers increase over the next months.

All were in agreement of giving Abby two months grace as the business gets started.

There will be a follow up meeting in two months to discuss how things are progressing.

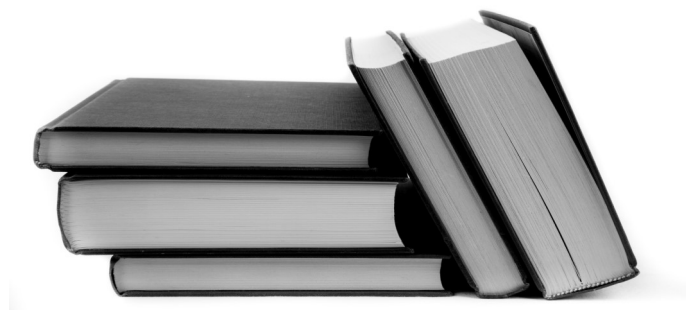


MARCH
Birthdays &
Anniversaries



March Birthdays
2 Dave Huebner
3 Mary McCaa
10 Jacob Holden
13 Deb Alderks
18 Charlie Marshall
18 Emerson Cramer
23 Mason Wheeler
29 Jim Satterlee

ANNIVERSARY
17 Mark & Lisa Johnsen



Cause of the Month

Since March is Women’s History Month it would be great for our church to do something for the cause of women. Sadly, women are the vast majority of those who are abused in this country, and there is a long history of abuse upon women. Therefore, we have contacted the Brookings Domestic Abuse Shelter and received from them a list of needed shelter supplies. They include:

- Dish and dishwasher soap.
- Quart and gallon sized ziplock bags
- Laundry detergent
- Paper Products (tissues, paper towels, toilet paper, napkins)
- Baby wipes
- Dryer sheets
- Batteries (all sizes)
- Tall Kitchen bags
- LED light bulbs
- Hand soap
- Rubber gloves
- Toothpaste

So let’s spend the month of March collecting some of these items to assist the shelter and its residents. We will collect them over the next four Sundays (through March 31st) and then deliver them to the shelter. Items may be placed in the collection bin upon entering the sanctuary.

Thanks in advance for your help!

BUCC INCOME & EXPENSE—February 2024

	<u>TOTAL</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
49500 · Tithes/Offerings	6,138.00
49710 · Sunday School	<u>15.00</u>
Total Income	<u>6,153.00</u>
Gross Profit	6,153.00
Expense	
61700 · Computer and Internet Expenses	75.62
62500 · Dues and Subscriptions	10.00
63300 · Insurance Expense	593.28
63900 · Snow Removal	318.60
66000 · Payroll Expenses	4,554.10
66100 · Housing Allowance	1,458.33
66750 · Musician Expense	280.00
67200 · Repairs and Maintenance	1,444.73
68100 · Telephone Expense	152.89
68600 · Utilities	353.63
69505 · Learning Tree Academy Exp	352.50
69750 · Sanctuary and Worship Expense	<u>40.23</u>
Total Expense	<u>9,633.91</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-3,480.91</u>

FINANCIAL NOTES—There are several items to note on this months financial report. We have an expense item for LTA that will be reimbursed. We also had a repair on one of the furnaces.

Because our facility is now over 20 years old we have already started discussions on the furnaces in our church.

