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**BROOKINGS UCC**



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**JUNE/JULY**  
**2024**



Brookings United Church of Christ

God is still speaking.

Issue  
6/7

# Brookings United Church of Christ

## Pastor's Corner – "The Meaning of Fellowship"

Just a few weeks ago we celebrated the Christian holiday of Pentecost. That is the day (50 days after Easter) which is recognized as the "birthday" of the church. The story is told in the second chapter of the book of Acts, but a quick summary is that after the apostle Peter preaches to a crowd in Jerusalem, about three thousand people respond to his message by making a decision to follow Jesus and are then baptized. What follows in verses 42-47 is a description of the behavior of that first community of believers. Specifically in verse 42 the Greek word "Koinonia" is translated as "Fellowship." Various forms of this word occur 20 times in the New Testament, but I believe it is given its fullest expression here.

The secular meaning of fellowship is "shared participation within a community" but Koinonia means something more. It means "holding something in common." Of course, the main thing those first believers held in common was their faith. But they also held their time, and even their material possessions in common. Yet even beyond that, the ideas of Koinonia represented a connection between people that brought them together in a bond that was even stronger than biological connections. It represented a family that truly knew each other and cared about each other as much, or even more than themselves. They grew together in faith through the teaching of the apostles, and prayer, and the breaking of bread. But they got to know each other intimately through conversations that led to an understanding of who they really were as individuals, and the unique life journey that each of them were on.

So I wonder if we can begin to more authentically replicate this idea of Koinonia within our community, beginning with our own church family. It seems to me that one of the ways in which we may do this is through the various study groups we have organized within our church, but also during the time we term as "fellowship" after worship. I know there are times when people need to leave right away after worship because of some other specific appointment (such as my wife Lisa who works at noon every week) but that's not the case for most folks. I suspect many folks who leave the church building directly after worship view our fellowship time as simply a time to drink coffee and eat donuts, or even view it as a waste of time. But nothing could be further from the truth! Our Koinonia after worship is a time that we can certainly talk about the weather, etc. but it is also the time where we get to know one another and grow to love one another at a deeper level. This is not only important for those of us who "think" we know each other well, but also especially important to get to know newer members of our community as well.

So I encourage you all (in fact I implore you) to invest your time in all the opportunities for Koinonia within our church, and especially the time after our worship service. By sharing of yourself and allowing others to share their stories, you will be demonstrating the love and care that reflects the true community of the early church, and the example that Jesus taught us.

Blessings,  
Pastor Mark

**"Whoever  
you are,  
wherever  
you are on  
life's jour-  
ney, you  
are wel-  
come here"**

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### A Note From Our Moderator

I would like to encourage everyone if possible to take advantage of one or more of the educational/ social gathering opportunities offered by this church. We have both Coffee and Conversation on Tuesday morning as well as Chew on Wednesday evening that offer an opportunity to share a meal or cup of coffee along with discussions on a wide variety of topics associated with living a Christian life in these challenging times.

Sunday school is also an excellent opportunity to gather as a community, (whether you are young or old), to dig a little deeper into spirituality faith and practice, exploring concepts and concerns that can be valuable in traveling through life no matter where you are on your personal journey of faith.

Lastly this church celebrates Communion once a month and I would like to encourage everyone whenever possible to participate in what Bishop John Shelby Spong liked to call the "Second Communion" better known as the coffee hour which is held every Sunday after the service in the Education Wing. It is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow church members both old and new. Such gatherings can be helpful in strengthening our sense of community in the sharing of our stories, perspectives, joys and concerns.

Dave Dykhouse, Moderator

### June Cause of the Month

The cause of the month for June is Pride month. As such, we will be participating in a Pride in the Park festival happening in Pioneer Park from 11am-4pm on June 22nd. The first hour will be a time of gathering and interacting with vendors and food booths. The program will begin around noon and extend into the afternoon. Our church will be hosting a table where we will be giving away free buttons and helping attendees with the assembly of free bracelets. If some of you would like to stop by our table and greet folks as the face of the church, that would be great. We look forward to seeing you there!



# 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

### 10 FUN FACTS

- 1.You can't see your ears without a mirror
- 2.You can't count your hair
3. You can't breath through your nose with your tongue out
- 4.You just tried #3
- 6.When you did #3 you realized it is possible, only you look like a dog
- 7.You are smiling right now, because you were fooled
8. You skipped #5
- 9.You just checked to see but there is no #5
- 10.It is up to you to smile and have a good day because being happy is a decision!

# June 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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

JUNE  
Birthdays &  
Anniversaries



July  
Birthdays &  
Anniversaries

June Birthdays  
 1 Nicholas Ward  
 6 Collista Cramer  
 12 Marilyn Jones  
 13 Jacob Safford  
 19 Melissa Apland  
 29 Norita Henneman

ANNIVERSARY

11 Chris & Kristen Edmonds  
 14 Phyl Naffziger & Dawn Jones  
 25 Mason & Janie Wheeler  
 30 Chad & Laura Gloege

July Birthdays

1 Felicity Edmonds  
 3 Leonard Henneman  
 9 John Cramer  
 15 Gary Akkerman  
 18 Brian Dokken  
 27 Adele Buum  
 28 Loye Holmes

ANNIVERSARY

10 Leonard & Norita Henneman

**A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

You are invited to a Birthday Celebration for Marilyn Jones 90th Birthday. Dawn Jones and Phyl Naffziger will be hosting an open house celebration On Sunday, June 16, from 2-4 pm at the American Legion Hall in Erwin SD.

**Come out and help Marilyn celebrate!!!**

# July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Coffee and Conversation 10:30-11:30	<b>3</b> Something to Chew On 6:30	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Coffee and Conversation 10:30-11:30	<b>10</b> Something to Chew On 6:30	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Arts Festival</b>
<b>14</b> <b>Worship in the Park at 8:30 am</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Coffee and Conversation 10:30-11:30	<b>17</b> Something to Chew On 6:30	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Coffee and Conversation 10:30-11:30	<b>24</b> Something to Chew On 6:30	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Farmer's Market 8:30-12
<b>28</b> Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	<b>29</b> <b>HARVEST TABLE MEAL</b>	<b>30</b> Coffee and Conversation 10:30-11:30	<b>31</b> Something to Chew On 6:30			

## July Cause of the Month

Our cause of the month for July will be food insecurity. As such, we will be serving a meal at the Harvest Table on Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. The Harvest Table is held within the community life center of First United Methodist, and is an ecumenical feeding ministry to all those in need within our community. We will have a signup sheet for volunteers available during worship the Sundays of July, but the details are as follows. We need around 12 folks to prepare and serve the meal. We gather to prepare at 4pm and then serve the meal at 5:30pm, with cleanup to follow. Fellowship while taking turns eating with the guests is also an important part of this ministry. More details will be available as we get closer, but in the meantime please save the date!

### ARTS FESTIVAL WORSHIP

"July 14th worship at BUCC is cancelled due to the Arts in the Park event at which we will be staffing a fundraising booth. We are encouraging everyone to attend the ecumenical worship service being conducted by the Brookings Ministerial Association at 8:30am at the bandshell in Pioneer Park. See you there!"

