

Issue 6/7 June/July 2026

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**JUNE/JULY
2026**



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Brookings United Church of Christ

Hello church family,

I am writing this article to follow up on the email I sent earlier this week in regard to my future departure as your pastor, as June 28th will be my last Sunday at BUCC. And I want to also reiterate how much Lisa and I will miss you all. I can't believe we've spent the last five years together, because the time has flown, as it often does when you are a part of a loving and caring community.

As many of you know, I grew up as a child and spent most of my adult life within the United Methodist Church. In fact, I was ordained within that denomination in 2015, and my last appointment to Rapid Valley United Methodist Church ended in 2021. That spring we interviewed with the leadership of BUCC as we were seeking to be closer to our family here East River (our son and grandkids in Sioux Falls, along with my parents in Redfield). But since that time, our son in Spearfish has given us a new grandchild who is now two years old, and another is currently on the way!

So I have been serving BUCC these last five years in what is called a "dual standing" where the UCC denomination recognized my ordination within the UM church. But I have still been designated as a UM clergy within this period of time and have had to check in with my District Superintendent on a yearly basis. So when I got a call very recently asking me to accept an appointment to the UM church in Sturgis (which is only 15 minutes from Spearfish) Lisa and I decided to accept the appointment. (cont pg 2))

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

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PASTOR'S REPORT (cont)

Our time here in Brookings serving the BUCC has been very rewarding, and we will carry memories of you all that we will cherish for a lifetime. We still have a few weeks in ministry together, but beyond this time we wish you all the very best in the future. May you continue to be used by God to reach out to those whom society has deemed the least, the last, and the lost. May you continue to be a voice for the voiceless, as well as an advocate for the marginalized and oppressed. May you continue to welcome the seekers while affording them the space to ask questions and to grow in their faith. And may all your endeavors bless the Lord who has called you to build God's kingdom in this place, for such a time as this.

Blessings always,
Pastor Mark

Just For A Laugh – A PARROT'S ATTITUDE

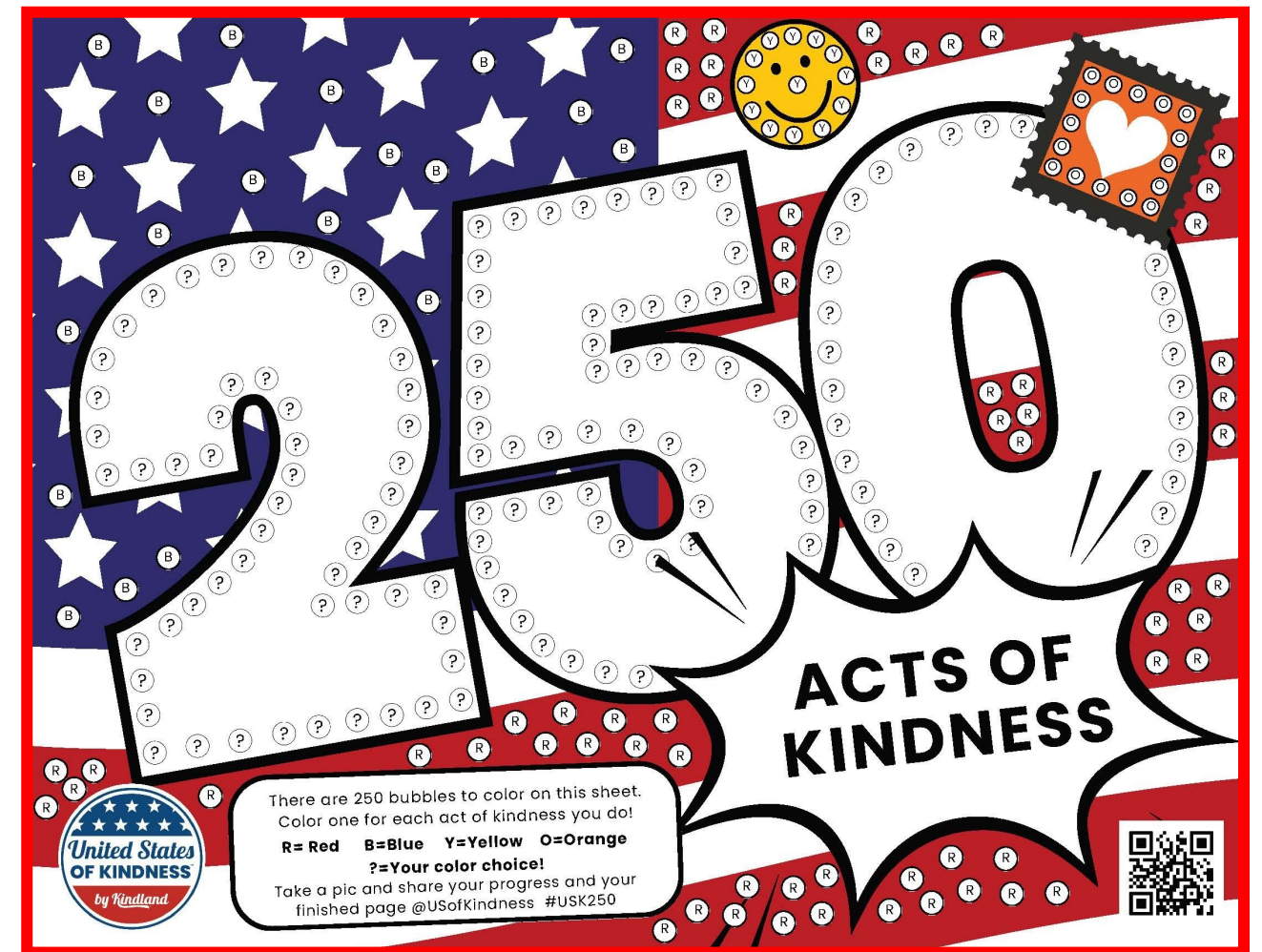
A young man named John received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity. John tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else he could think of to "clean up" the bird's vocabulary.

Finally, John was fed up and he yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. John shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even ruder. John, in desperation, threw up his hand, grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer. For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed. Then suddenly there was total quiet. Not a peep was heard for over a minute. Fearing that he'd hurt the parrot, John quickly opened the door to the freezer.

The parrot calmly stepped out onto John's outstretched arms and said "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behavior."

John was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behavior, the bird continued, "May I ask what the chicken and the turkey did?"

Written by Pastor Tim and found on www.cybersalt.org/clean-jokes



June and July Cause of the month

The cause of the month for June and July will be joining together with the national "United States of Kindness 250" organization to display individual acts of kindness to those within our community. This is a much needed endeavor at this moment in our nation's 250 year history. The idea behind this nationwide event is to challenge people to conduct 250 acts of kindness in a certain period of time. So we'd like to challenge you all to carry out these acts within this two month period. If you think about it, that's only about 4 acts per day. These acts may take the form of helping someone in need, or texting an encouraging note to a friend. They may also be as simple as smiling at someone you walk past, or opening a door for someone. And to help you through this journey, we're attaching a list of possible kindness ideas that you may follow, along with a tracking sheet for you to see how far you get in this challenge. If you are interested in learning more, their website is: usofkindness.org. Best of luck to you all as you build a kinder community and nation, one act at a time!

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Something to Chew On 6:30	2	3	4 
5 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am am	6 Coffee and Conversa- tion 10-11	7	8 Something to Chew On 6:30	9	10	11
12 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am am	13 Coffee and Conversa- tion 10-11	14	15 Something to Chew On 6:30	16	17	18
19 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am am	20 Coffee and Conversa- tion 10-11	21	22 Something to Chew On 6:30	23	24	25
26 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am am	27 Coffee and Conversa- tion 10-11	28	29 Something to Chew On 6:30	30	31	

June 2026

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

June/July Birthdays & Anniversaries



June Birthdays

1 Nicholas Ward
6 Collista Cramer
12 Marilyn Jones
13 Jacob Safford
18 Joseph Williams
19 Melissa Aplan
24 Kelsey Matheson
29 Norita Henneman

June Anniversaries

14 Phyl Naffziger & Dawn Jones
30 Chad & Laura Gloege

July Birthdays

1 Felicity Edmonds
3 Leonard Henneman
9 John Cramer
15 Gary Akkerman
18 Brian Dokken
27 Adele Buom
27 Bobbie Chambers Wilson

July Anniversaries

10 Leonard & Norita Henneman



Brookings UCC Meeting, May 13, 2026

Members present were Linda Langner, Jennifer Kemper, Beth L'Amour, Gary Englund, Dave Dykhous, Mona Dykhous, Mark Johnsen, Dawn Jones, and Dawn Lamp. Pastor gave the opening prayer.

Jennifer gave the treasurer's report and we are in the black. The Little Stars Academy is giving us \$2000 a month now. Their enrollment is 43 children with 12 toddlers, and 20 infants and 10 older children. They have a waiting list also. They have 17 staff members. Callie is hoping to give a raise to the staff.

The quarterly bill from insurance is due and that is \$1342.00 The new member expense was \$25. Gary Englund made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Beth seconded it. Motion carried.

The update on the facility upkeep work was given. The sound system has a buzz and Mark will revisit a repair shop in Sioux Falls about that.

The upgraded security camera system we will be getting is from Foss Security for just under \$4000 which is the amount of grant money we will receive for that system. To keep the cost under the grant money allocated for the system Jim Wilson will be installing the new wiring for the additional cameras. Jim will also be including the wiring. There will be a total of 9 cameras that we pay for up front and Pierre will reimburse us after we pay for it. This will take 2-4 weeks.

Dawn and Phil are paying for a company to clean all church and daycare windows. This will be done on June 6th at 9AM.

Dawn Jones will be doing pastoral support while Mark is on sabbatical. Larry Ort is the emergency back-up.

There will be a signup sheet to cover the cleaning duties normally covered by Lisa during Pastor Mark's sabbatical time.

We will be selling donuts at the farmers market again this year. Participation dates will depend on the who is available. The food safe certification is a new requirement for selling food at the farmers market. Mark is going to e-mail about when food safe days will be testing.

Next meeting will be July 2nd 2026.

Motion made by Jennifer to adjourn meeting, seconded by Beth, motion carried.

