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**NOVEMBER**  
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Issue  
11

# Brookings United Church of Christ

## Pastor's Corner

Dear Church Family,

I wanted to share with you (for those who weren't there) the opening speech I gave to the crowd of approx. 550 at the Brookings "No Kings" rally a couple weeks ago. So here it is!

*Hello, my name is Mark Johnsen and I am the pastor of the United Church of Christ here in Brookings. I was invited to say a few words this afternoon as a person of the clergy, and yet I recognize that many in this group may be people of a different faith, or may not subscribe to any faith at all. So I am definitely not here to proselytize. But I am here to speak out against the toxic Christian nationalism that has not only taken over our country, but has poisoned and perverted the name and nature of Christ. There are many various views regarding the historicity and essence of this man named Jesus. All we have are the biblical accounts and a few extra-biblical references. But what we read of in the gospel accounts is of a man who taught about loving others as ourselves; about welcoming the stranger; about embracing those who are marginalized and oppressed. In fact, these teachings are at the core of most of our world religions. Yet often, the people who most fervently claim their religious convictions, display the least of these tenants.*

*In my church right now, I have been preaching a sermon series I've entitled "Dangerous Jesus" in which I'm exploring the various scriptural accounts where the priests and religious leaders of his day were plotting and actively trying to kill him. So the messages he proclaimed resulted in a physical danger to Jesus, but they also posed a danger to the religious and empirical powers who were intent on dominating the people in an effort to maintain their status. They were threatened by the signs that Jesus was displaying, especially during the final week of his life when he cursed a fruitless fig tree as a sign of how the prevailing religion of his day displayed the veneer of beautiful leaves, but was worthless, because it bore no fruit.*

*Such is the plight of our nation today. We are being governed by leaders who want to portray big ugly bills as beautiful; leaders who care more about power than people; leaders who display the veneer of faith, but bear no fruit. Yet, in the midst of all this darkness there are signs of light and life. Our representatives who are in the minority, are withholding their votes to fund our government as a sign that healthcare for all Americans is more important than tax cuts for billionaires. And all of you here today are also performing signs, as you hold literal signs in the air to demonstrate against the ways in which our neighbors are being abused; how a faith has be prostituted, and how our freedoms and our very democracy is at risk.*

*So I thank you all for being here; for fighting injustice, and for being a sign that we will not submit; we will not surrender; in fact, we will overcome!*

Pastor Mark Johnsen

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

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# JOIN US FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER

November 27 | 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Brookings United Church of Christ  
828 8th St. S., Brookings

## JOIN US FOR A THANKSGIVING FEAST & FELLOWSHIP!

Let's gather together to share a delicious meal, give thanks for our blessings, and enjoy great company.

ALL ARE  
WELCOME

No reservation  
needed

There is no charge  
for the meal.

For more info, call 605-697-2882



I just got this info from Heidi at United Way that I wanted to share with you all asap. If you would like to help with the current SNAP crisis, the attached brochure includes details about places to purchase/drop off donated items. Thanks for your consideration in this time of need for so many.

Blessings, Pastor Mark

**BASIC NEEDS  
TASK FORCE**

Updated 11/3/25

## Brookings County Food Resources

Visit [Helplinecenter.org](https://helplinecenter.org) or call 211 for a listing of all local and statewide resources.

### Feeding Brookings

**605-692-6565 | 2030 3<sup>rd</sup> St**  
Ascension Lutheran (drive thru)

**Food Box:** Every Thursday 3pm - 5pm drive thru distribution. Some food items income guidelines, but not all. All are welcome; food eligibility of certain foods will be determined at time of distribution.

### Harvest Table

**605-692-4345 | 625 5<sup>th</sup> St.**  
Community Life Center

**Free Meal:** Every Monday 5:30pm (except major holidays) available until food runs out.

**Food & Non-Food Essentials:** Monday - Thursday 8:30am - 4:30am & Friday 8:30am - 12pm; nonperishable foods, hygiene items, baby diapers and wipes. No income or eligibility requirements.

### Brookings County Emergency Food Pantry

**605-692-5007 | 908 Hope Drive**

**Food Pantry:** Weekly Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1pm - 4:30pm. Households can access once every 4 months (3 times a year). No income guideline requirements. Valid ID and 1 piece of mail verifying address are required.

### Brookings Salvation Army

**605-219-8970 | 619 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.**

**Grocery Voucher & Personal Care Essentials:**  
Monday - Thursday 1pm - 5pm or call for an appointment; temporary grocery vouchers available (while supplies last) & no income or eligibility requirements for those in need; hygiene & laundry kits, personal care items.

### Senior Specific Food Programs

**60's Plus Dinning - ICAP: 605-692-1407 | 320 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.** (Activity Center)

Congregate meals Monday - Friday 1:30am - 12:30pm for individuals 60+ years of age; no health or income requirements to participate. If needed, hot home delivered meals can be arranged or frozen meals are made available Monday - Friday for pick up or delivery. Call for availability.

**Senior Box - Brookings Area United Way: 605-692-4979 | 908 Hope Drive**

Monthly 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday from 1pm - 3pm at Brookings Area United Way site. Applications are still being accepted; For those 60+ years & at or below 130% of federal poverty line eligible. Call or stop in to verify eligibility Monday - Thursday 8am - 4pm & Friday 8am - 12pm. Valid ID is required at time of application submission.

### Youth & Student Food Programs

**Brookings Backpack Project: 605-696-9331 | 908 Hope Drive**

Weekly food bags distributed in partnership with Brookings School District, Sioux Valley, Elkton School & Head Start. No income or eligibility requirements. Contact school counselor, teacher, or call site to sign up for program. If in need of food during holidays when school is out of session, please call site directly for assistance.

**Jack's Cupboard: 605-696-9331 | 1351 8<sup>th</sup> St.** (SE side of Ben Riefel Hall)

Open Tuesday and Wednesday 3pm - 6pm for South Dakota State University enrolled students when needed.

If you'd like to donate food or personal care items, the Basic Needs Task Force has a drop-off site at the Brookings Area United Way, located at 908 Hope Drive. Donations can be brought in Monday through Thursday, 8am - 4pm and Friday 8am -12pm, or call 605-692-4979 to schedule a drop-off time.





# November 2025

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



# November Birthdays & Anniversaries



- November Birthdays**
- 8 Kali Ward
  - 9 Dawn Jones
  - 9 Torie Dokken
  - 12 Doreen Campbell
  - 28 Doug Ward
- Anniversaries**



We had a great turnout for our Trunk or Treat Event on Halloween! About 180 kids came by to help us celebrate and pickup candy. Thanks to everyone who decorated their trunk and handed out candy!!!

## Cause of the Month

The cause of the month for this November will once again be our Community Thanksgiving Meal. We have a core team who will coordinate the details of our meal, but over the next few weeks we will be asking for your help to prepare/contribute certain elements of the meal. Our church has a tradition of offering this meal free of charge to anyone in the community who is either food insecure, or simply just desiring to gather with family or other folks, rather than eating at home alone. The meal will be served on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>) from 11am-1pm, although we will need volunteers earlier that morning for preparation. A signup sheet will be available in the sanctuary beginning Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in helping but unable to sign up on the church clipboard, please contact Pastor Mark.

