

Issue 8 August 2025



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Brookings United Church of Christ

Pastor's Corner

This summer Lisa and I had the opportunity to attend a conference in Washington DC which was called "Bread For The World Summit". It was the 50th anniversary meeting of this organization and included people from the U.S. as well as countries from around the world. Its mission is to advocate for food programs to eliminate hunger by influencing political leaders who make decisions about the funding of those programs. As such, we not only listened to messages and sermons about the importance of caring for humanity in this way, but those of us from the U.S. had the opportunity to meet with our elected officials.

I wish that we had some more encouraging news to report from our South Dakota delegation, but the truth is, it was rather disappointing. We (along with an Augustana student named Abby Smith) met with congressional representatives of John Thune and Mike Rounds. Those folks were respectful and listened to what we had to say as we advocated for fully funding Medicaid and Food for Peace, as well as a number of other domestic and international programs which provide food to lower income and hungry people. But it was clear they were politely listening to our concerns and vowing to pass them along, knowing that our reps had already made up their minds to cut these programs as part of the "Big Ugly Bill" which was being debated at the time. The meeting that was most frustrating was the in person meeting we had with Dusty Johnson. Not only was he not interested in expanding these programs, he told us how proud he was to have been a chief author of the cuts to Medicaid.

So when the real world impacts of these cuts become more and more evident among the low income of this country, and famines around the world result in elevated levels of suffering and death, just remember who is responsible for it. The primary role of our leaders should be to care for the most vulnerable within our society, rather than caring more about tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires. And those who call themselves Christians should also care about those beyond our borders who are the victims of hunger through no fault of their own, and who have no other support system. It's time we hold our leaders (and ourselves who elect them) accountable for their decisions which run counter to our faith and the ministry of Jesus, whom we claim to follow!

Pastor Mark

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

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Brookings UCC Council Meeting July 8 2025

Members present were Linda Langner, Claudia Benson, Beth L’Amour, Dave Huebner, Gary Englund, Dave Dykhouse, Mona Dykhouse, and Mark Johnsen.

The opening prayer was given by Mark. The treasurer’s report was handed out and Dave Huebner made a motion to accept the report. Linda Langner seconded motion, motion carried.

The daycare financial report was given out. There are more children enrolled, there are over 30 at this time. Mark will be getting in touch with Amber at social services to get suggestions on how we can improve. For example what percentage should the grocery bill be and as it compares to the average rates per child. Dave Huebner made a motion to accept the day care report, seconded by Gary Englund. Motion Passed. The daycare website is Littlestarsacadamy.org. Wren has created the website and we need to pay her something for her work. Mona Dykhouse made a motion to pay her \$300, seconded by Dave Dykhouse, motion carried.

The Summer Arts festival total was \$2176.50 for the 2 days. Expenses were about the same as last year. There was \$300 in expenses, \$275 to register, net profit was \$1600.

New Business- Dave Dykhouse wanted to know if we were going to do a pumpkin sale this fall. We will table this for now.

The cause of the month for August will be serving the Monday night Meal at the Methodist Church on August 11th. We will be using the hamburger that was previously purchased for the Pride event and with that we will be making tacos. The sign up sheet will ask for volunteers to serve and to bring bars.

Next meeting will be Sept. 9th at 5 PM.

Motion made by Linda Langner to adjourn and seconded by Beth L’Amore, motion passed.



Little Stars Academy is growing by leaps and bounds! After meeting with Callie, the director we currently have 17 kids. We have 7 babies and 10 toddlers. In July we will add 4 infants and 7 toddlers. Callie is getting phone calls all the time for people looking for child care. Thank You Callie for all of your hard work!

Hello and welcome! My name is Callie Schlechter, and I’m so excited to introduce myself as the Director here at Little Stars Academy. As a young professional just starting this journey, stepping into this role has been both a dream come true and a huge responsibility that I take to heart every single day.

My background is in business economics, finance, and early childhood development, and I’ve spent the past few years working closely with children, families, and amazing educators who’ve helped shape my passion for creating safe, joyful, and nurturing environments for young learners. While I may be new to this leadership role, I bring a lot of heart, energy, and a deep commitment to growing alongside the children and families in our care.

I truly believe that childcare is more than just a service — it’s a relationship. I want every parent who walks through our doors to feel seen, heard, and supported, and every child to feel loved, encouraged, and free to be themselves. I look forward to building meaningful connections with each of you and working together to make your child’s early years full of wonder, growth, and happy memories.

Thank you for trusting us — and me — with your child. I can’t wait to get to know your family!

August Cause of the Month

This month’s cause is a feeding ministry called the Harvest Table. It takes place every Monday at the community center on the corner of 6th St. and 7th Ave. The date BUCC will be serving is August 11th. Some folks will be gathering at 2pm to prepare the meal, and the rest of the volunteers will arrive at 4:30pm in preparation to serve the meal. This program serves around 100 people per week who are in need of this type of food assistance. So we are looking forward to not only serving the food we prepare, but engaging our guests in the type of conversation and hospitality that shows and conveys the love of Christ!

*Sometimes
The most powerful
Impact you can have
In the world
Is simply choosing
To be kind*

August 2025

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

August Birthdays & Anniversaries



August Birthdays

7 Becky Ebel-Holden
13 Linda Langner
18 Laura Gloege
22 Jaxson Edmonds
25 Lisa Johnsen
30 Donovan Gloege

Anniversaries

1 Doug and Mary Ward



This summer, the South Dakota Art Museum is hosting an exhibit featuring the photography of Dan Kane, an internationally respected artist who grew up in South Dakota (born in Brookings, raised in Pierre). Dan left the state decades ago, like so many other gay people, when he was young and made a home in Berlin, Germany. His work, honest, deeply human, and at times challenging, explores identity and belonging through representations of the male nude body and South Dakota landscapes.

Now, for the first time, Dan's art is coming home! He has expressed that having this show in his home state matters more to him than being accepted into the Guggenheim. It is a homecoming and a validation I am sure he never thought he would see in his lifetime. That tells you everything about what is at stake, not just for him, but for the South Dakota LGBTQ+ community and anyone who believes in artistic freedom, healing, free speech, and visibility.

The exhibit, *One Hundred Thousand Images Later: Dan Kane, a Retrospective* opened this past weekend at South Dakota Art Museum and will be on display through September 28. This is more than just an art show—it is a homecoming for a South Dakota native whose work challenges and enlightens. Dan and the curator Hunter O'Hanian will be in Brookings on September 20 for a public reception and talk.

Here is a link to the exhibition:

<https://www.sdstate.edu/south-dakota-art-museum/exhibit/over-hundred-thousand-images-later-dan-kane-retrospective>

We can make a powerful statement by turning out in force, attending the exhibit, bringing friends, and participating in associated events. By filling the gallery, we not only celebrate Dan's artistry but also affirm our community's commitment to inclusivity and free expression. (If someone in your network is especially moved by the exhibition and wants to learn how they might support it through a gift, I'd be happy to connect them with the Museum staff. While most sponsorship opportunities have been finalized, there are still ways to contribute.)

Let us show Dan, and the world, that South Dakota is capable of growth, heart, and real community! Let us prove that when it counts, supporters will show up. I'm happy to chat further or arrange a conversation and exhibit tour with the Museum director, Donna, if you'd like.

SD Art Museum hours are M-F 10 am – 5 pm, Sat 10 am – 4 pm, Sun noon – 4 pm

Michael Johnson President, South Dakota Art Museum Advisory Board

"Action is the Precursor to Hope"

James 2:26 says "Faith without action is dead". And I say "Hope without action is dead".

If you want to find your hope again, please Join Us!!

It starts with Sunday Morning messages that help us to make sense of the world and our role in bringing God's Kingdom. The books we study on Sunday Mornings, before worship, open our minds. Monday morning Coffee and Conversation activates deep discussions, while we discuss current events, through the lens of Faith. The weekly Rally for Peace motivates us to stay engaged. Our Wednesday night potlucks nourish our bodies and our souls. All of these weekly meetings help us find hope. This hope motivates us to go into the community and serve at the Harvest Table and several other worthy charities, like Sleep in Heavenly Peace and Feeding Brookings.

If you want to put your Faith into Action Join Us!! I believe when you do, You will find HOPE TOO!

I love the people of Brookings United Church of Christ! Thank you for helping me stay hopeful!

