

Issue 9 September 2025



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**SEPTEMBER**  
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Issue

9

# Brookings United Church of Christ

## Pastor's Corner

The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." These words ring especially true when life feels heavy—whether it be our own struggles, or the challenges we face together as a nation.

We all know what it is to walk through various forms of hardship; illness, grief, financial strain, broken relationships, or simply the weariness of daily life, which can leave us feeling discouraged. And beyond our personal lives, we look at the world around us and see division, injustice, violence, and uncertainty. These are difficult times not only for us as individuals, but for the life of our country.

Yet the good news is this: God has given us to one another as a source of strength and hope. When we speak a kind word, when we pray for one another, when we offer a listening ear, or simply the gift of presence, we are living out the very heart of the Gospel. Encouragement is not just about cheering someone up—it is about reminding each other of God's promises, and helping one another hold on to faith when it feels hard to believe.

As a church community, we are called to be a witness of encouragement to each other. In times of division, we can advocate for justice. In times of despair, we can offer hope. In times of fear, we can be a people of courage. And in times of loss, we can be a family of comfort.

Let us not grow weary in doing good, but continue to lift one another up. Together through Christ, we can endure the hard times, and even shine brighter in them.

With hope in Christ,  
Pastor Mark

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

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*Sometimes, The most powerful impact  
You can have in the world is simply  
Choosing to be kind. What was your  
choice today?*

## MORE BIBLE TRIVIA

Trivia Question: Who built an ark?

Answer: Noah

Trivia Question: Name Noah's 3 sons

Answer: Shem, Ham and Japhet

Trivia Question: Who was Abraham's wife?

Answer: Sarah

Trivia Question: Who was Abraham's nephew?

Answer: Lot

Trivia Question: What happened to Lot's wife?

Answer: She turned into a pillar of salt.

Trivia Question: Who was Isaac's father?

Answer: Abraham

Trivia Question: Name Isaac's and Rebekah's two sons?

Answer: Jacob and Esau

Trivia Question: What did God change Jacob's name to?

Answer: Israel

Trivia Question: What is the first book of the bible?

Answer: Genesis

[Trivia Question:](#) On what day did God make the plants and trees?

Answer: On the third day

Trivia Question: Who wrote the book of Genesis?

Answer: Moses

Trivia Question: In how many days did God create the world?

Answer: Six days

Trivia Question: Who was the first man created?

Answer: Adam

Trivia Question: Where did Adam and Eve live when they were created?

Answer: The Garden of Eden

Trivia Question: What is the last book of the bible?

Answer: The book of revelation

Trivia Question: Who tricked Eve into eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

Answer: The serpent

## Useless Facts Worth Sharing

Movie trailers got their name because they were originally shown after the movie.

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

The real name of Monopoly mascot Uncle Pennybags is Milburn Pennybags.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

Pogonophobia is the fear of beards.

Oreo has made enough cookies to span five back and forth trips to the moon.

Edgar Allan Poe married his thirteen year old cousin.

Salt used to be currency.

Your fingernails grow faster on your dominant hand.

In 10 minutes, a hurricane releases more energy than all the world's nuclear weapons combined.

Sloths can hold their breath for longer than dolphins.

A giraffe can go longer without water than a camel can.

On average, 100 people choke to death on ballpoint pens every year.

The average adult spends more time on the toilet than they do exercising.

Honey is the only food that does not spoil.

Toy Story helped sell the Etch-a-Sketch.

Four out of five children recognize the McDonald's logo at three years old.

Barbie and Ken broke up in 2004. (They got back together in 2011.)

One single teaspoon of honey represents the life work of 12 bees.

It's impossible to tickle yourself.

Queen Elizabeth II is a trained mechanic.

It's impossible to lick your own elbow.

Cap'n Crunch's full name is Captain Horatio Magelian Crunch.

Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.

The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year. Engineers failed to account for the weight of all the books that it would eventually hold.

Dolphins give each other names.

Frank Sinatra was offered the starring role in Die Hard when he was in his 70's.

One man set a world record by putting on 2609 T-shirts at once.



September Cause of the Month

This month’s cause will be Feeding Brookings, which is an organization associated with Feeding South Dakota. Food is brought from a warehouse in Sioux Falls to Brookings for distribution to our local community. This ministry takes place each Thursday at Ascension Lutheran Church, but volunteers come from many different churches and community groups within Brookings. So we are signed up to help on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>. We will need some volunteers from 2-4pm to pack boxes, and others from 3-5pm to distribute boxes and clean up. A signup sheet will be in the sanctuary over the next 3 Sundays. If you would like to help with this important ministry, please signup in person or contact Pastor Mark.

# September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day	2	3 Something to Chew On 6:30	4 Brook-ings Indi-visible Mtg 6:30	5	6
7 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	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 Bkgs Ind Mtg 6:30	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 Feeding Brookings	26	27
28 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	29 Coffee and Conversa-tion 10-11	30				





## September Birthdays & Anniversaries



### September Birthdays

3 Ruby Wilson  
10 Dave Dykhous  
13 Sheila Aplan  
15 Josie Dokken  
18 Tom Campbell  
25 Talon Morris

### Anniversaries

5 Gary & Terri Akkerman  
21 Dave & Mona Dykhous



Little Stars Academy continues to grow. We currently have 27 students with an additional 20 on a waiting list.. We have been told that the need for infant care is the greatest! We will continue to grow until we run out of space.

My name is **Selestia Lindstrom**, and I'm so excited to be introducing myself as the **Co-Director** here at Little Stars Academy! I have a degree in Elementary Education (K-6) and have spent the last five years working in childcare. During that time, I've come to truly love the early childhood years—they're such a special time full of growth, wonder, and learning. One of the most meaningful parts of this new role is that I also get to be here as a mom. Being able to work in the same place where my own child is growing, learning, and making friends is such a gift. It gives me an even deeper appreciation for the trust you place in us every day.

I'm passionate about creating a warm, welcoming space where children feel safe, families feel supported, and staff feel valued. I look forward to getting to know each of you and being part of your child's journey here at Little Stars Academy

Thank you for welcoming me—I look forward to getting to know all of you and being a part of your child's journey!

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

