

Issue 6/7 June/July 2025



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Brookings United Church of Christ

Pastor's Corner

A few weeks from now we will experience the longest day of the year. As the days lengthen, the sun warms our skin and the world bursts forth in vibrant color, summer arrives, ushering in a season often associated with rest, recreation, and abundance. From a faith perspective however, summer can be much more than just a break from routine; it can be a profound spiritual journey, a time for deeper reflection, renewal, and joyous appreciation for the divine.

Across many faith traditions, light and warmth are powerful symbols of God's presence, love, and life-giving power. The very essence of summer, with its radiant sunshine, can serve as a tangible reminder of the divine light that illuminates our lives. Just as the sun nourishes the earth and brings forth new growth, so too does God's grace sustain and transform us. This can be a time to intentionally seek out moments of quiet contemplation, basking in the spiritual warmth of God's presence, much like we soak in the sun's rays.

Summer's bounty also offers a powerful testament to creation's wonder and God's generous provision. From lush gardens and ripening fields to the vibrant diversity of flora and fauna, the natural world in summer is a vivid display of divine artistry. For believers, this season can be an invitation to deepen our appreciation for creation, recognizing it as a gift and a reflection of the Creator's boundless imagination and love. Spending time outdoors, whether hiking a trail, tending a garden, or simply observing the beauty around us, can become an act of worship, fostering a deeper connection to the divine.

In a world that often rushes us from one task to the next, summer offers a divine pause. It's a chance to look up, to look around, and to look within. By embracing summer from a faith perspective, we can transform a season of leisure into a sacred journey – a time for profound reflection, invigorating renewal, and joyous appreciation for the endless blessings of the divine. So, as the summer unfolds, let us not only enjoy its gifts but also seek out the spiritual lessons it offers, allowing this sacred season to draw us closer to the heart of faith.

Blessings,
Pastor Mark

***“Whoever
you are,
wherever
you are on
life’s jour-
ney, you
are wel-
come here*”**

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June 2025

SunMonTueWedThuFriSat

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

When U.S. District Judge James Boasberg ruled in April that Trump administration officials could face criminal contempt charges for deporting migrants in defiance of a court order, the blowback was immediate.

The president’s supporters unleashed a wave of threats and menacing posts. And they didn’t just target the judge. Some attacked Boasberg’s brother. Others blasted his daughter. Some demanded the family’s arrest – or execution.

U.S. District Judge John McConnell’s family endured similar threats after he ruled that President Donald Trump overstepped his authority in freezing grants for education and other services. Far-right provocateur Laura Loomer tweeted a photo of the judge’s daughter, who had worked at the U.S. Education Department as a policy advisor, and accused McConnell of protecting her paycheck. Billionaire Elon Musk amplified the post to his 219 million X followers. Neither mentioned the daughter had left her job before Trump’s inauguration.

Loomer continued her attacks with nine more posts in the ensuing days – and more than 600 calls and emails flooded McConnell’s Rhode Island courthouse, including death threats and menacing messages taunting his family, according to a court clerk and another person familiar with the communications.

Boasberg and McConnell are among at least 11 federal judges whose families have faced threats of violence or harassment after they ruled against the new Trump administration, a Reuters investigation found. The broadsides are part of an intimidation campaign directed at federal judges who have stood in the way of Trump’s moves to dramatically expand presidential authority and slash the federal bureaucracy. As Trump and his allies call for judges to be impeached or attack them as “radical left” political foes, the families of judges are being singled out for harassment.

Since Trump returned to power in January, at least 60 judges or appeals courts have slowed or blocked some of his administration’s initiatives. Reuters spoke with a dozen federal judges who raised concerns about the security of their own families or of the relatives of colleagues handling Trump-related cases. They included jurists appointed by both Republican and Democratic presidents. Most requested anonymity, citing the potential for further inflaming security fears or raising questions about their impartiality. Additional information was gleaned from legal records and interviews with half a dozen officials involved in court security.

Threats against judges and their families “are ultimately threats to constitutional government. It’s as simple as that,” U.S. Circuit Judge Richard Sullivan, who chairs a security committee for the federal judiciary’s policymaking arm, said in an interview.

The judiciary has emerged as a powerful constraint on a range of Trump’s initiatives, from dismantling government agencies to deporting migrants and targeting law firms. As Trump’s White House threatens to defy some court orders, legal scholars warn the country may already be in a constitutional crisis.

The White House has said judges are the ones overreaching, not the president, but that threats against the judiciary are “unacceptable.”

Reuters identified more than 600 posts on social media and right-leaning message boards since February targeting family members of judges who ruled against the Trump administration. The commentators attacked everything from their physical appearance to their patriotism. Amplified on X and other platforms by some of Trump’s most prominent allies, including Musk, those posts have been viewed more than 200 million times. At least 70 posts explicitly called for judges’ family members to face violence, retaliation or arrest.

Other threats or menacing messages were made directly in calls and emails to the courts or the homes of judges and their relatives, according to court records and interviews with U.S. officials involved in judicial security.

Some of the intimidation comes in a novel form: Pizzas are being sent anonymously to the homes of judges and their relatives, which authorities view as a we-know-where-you-live warning.

Facing more than 200 lawsuits challenging the legality of his initiatives, Trump and his allies have blasted judges as “crooked,” “conflicted” and “rogue,” among other derisive terms. “We cannot allow a handful of communist radical left judges to obstruct the enforcement of our laws and assume the duties that belong solely to the president of the United States,” Trump told a rally on Tuesday.

In March, Trump [called for a judge to be impeached](#), drawing a rebuke from Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts. Judges and legal experts say such attacks jeopardize the judicial independence that underpins America’s democratic constitutional order and could inspire violence.

“The attacks are not random. They seem designed to intimidate those of us who serve in this critical capacity,” U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson said on Thursday at a conference of judges in Puerto Rico. “The threats and harassment are attacks on our democracy.”

An interesting interview with Warren Buffet:

Warren Buffett, "I could end the deficit in 5 minutes," he told CNBC. "You just pass a law that says that any-time there is a deficit of more than 3% of GDP, all sitting members of Congress are ineligible for re-election. The 26th amendment (granting the right to vote for 18 year-olds) took only 3 months & 8 days to be ratified! Why? Simple! The people demanded it. That was in 1971...before computers, e-mail, cell phones, etc. Of the 27 amendments to the Constitution, seven (7) took 1 year or less to become the law of the land...all because of public pressure.

1. No Tenure / No Pension. A Congressman collects a salary while in office and receives no pay when they are out of office.
2. Congress (past, present & future) participates in Social Security. All funds in the Congressional retirement fund move to the Social Security system immediately. All future funds flow into the Social Security system, and Congress participates with the American people. It may not be used for any other purpose.
3. Congress can purchase their own retirement plan, just as all Americans do.
4. Congress will no longer vote themselves a pay raise. Congressional pay will rise by the lower of CPI or 3%.
5. Congress loses their current health care system and participates in the same health care system as the American people.
6. Congress must equally abide by all laws they impose on the American people.
7. All contracts with past and present Congressmen are void effective
The American people did not make this contract with Congressmen. Congressmen made all these contracts for themselves. Serving in Congress is an honor, not a career. The Founding Fathers envisioned citizen legis-lators, so ours should serve their term's), then go home and back to work.
THIS IS HOW YOU FIX CONGRESS!
- Do you think if we had done this many years ago, we would be in the shape we are in?

There are some who think something like this article have no place in church, but if we do not continue to speak out and work to stop violence and injustice, how can we continue to call ourselves Christians? Being a staff member of our gov-ernment does not give you the right to do things that are above the law!

There is a group, Brookings Area Indivisible, that currently meets at BUCC the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, and groups like this forming all over the U.S., forming to speak out against the injustice and wrong doing of those who were elected to work for us! However, it would seem that most are only working for themselves and not for the American people! Rather than following our public servants blindly do we take the time to search out what they are doing. Or do we take them at there word.

I don't know about you, but there is only ONE that I take at his word, never place a period where God has placed a com-ma, God is still speaking!

As federal judges rule against the Trump administration in dozens of politically charged cases, the families of at least 11 of the jurists have been targeted with threats and harassment.

July 2025

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

JUNE Birthdays & Anniversaries



JULY Birthdays & Anniversaries



June Birthdays

1 Nicholas Ward
6 Collista Cramer
12 Marilyn Jones
13 Jake Safford
19 Melissa Aplan
29 Norita Henneman

Anniversaries

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 Loe Holmes

Anniversaries

10 Leonard & Norita Henneman

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!



Brookings UCC Council Meeting May 13th, 2025

Members present were Jennifer Kemper, Linda Langner, Gary Englund, Mark Johnson, Dave Dykhous and Mona Dykhous.

The opening prayer was given By Mark Johnson.

The daycare at this time has a positive balance. Items on the budget for the past 3 months include adjustment for the toilet in the women's bathroom and paying for the website to "Go Daddy". We now have a 2 year subscription for the internet from "Go Daddy" for the daycare. The motion made to approve the treasurer's report was made by Mona Dykhous, seconded by Linda Langner, motion carried.

The church is scheduled to have a table at the "Pride" event on June 21st from 11:00 to 3:00. Mark suggested that we provide walking tacos for this. A sign-up sheet will be forthcoming for volunteer.

The BSAF has approved us to be selling apple fritters and iced coffee. Eric Gutormson has volunteered to get cloth aprons with the church logo on it for all volunteers.

The job of fellowship coffee will now be assigned to someone from a pool of 8 people. The cheese and sausage and donut holes will be paid for by use of a donation basket.

Dave Dykhous asked if we got a grant for video surveillance equipment that we had applied for. No word on this yet.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 8th at 5PM.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting was made by Mona Dykhous and seconded by Jennifer Kemper. Motion passed.

June and July Causes of the Month

The June cause of the month will be the Pride event happening at Pioneer Park on June 21st from 11am-3pm. At this event, we will again have a table to distribute free bracelet and anklet making materials. In addition, we will also be selling walking tacos for those in attendance. Then in July our cause of the month will be a church fundraiser at the Brookings Arts Festival, where we will be preparing and serving apple fritter bites as well as iced coffee and bottled water. The festival will run from 10am-7pm on Saturday July 12th, and 10am-5pm on Sunday July 13th. For both of these events we will need volunteers to sign up and help lead the charge. If you are in worship a few weeks before the events, a signup sheet will be available. If you are interested in serving but not able to sign up at the church, please contact Pastor Mark directly for more details.