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MAY
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Brookings United Church of Christ

Issue
5

Pastor's Corner

As I was considering what to write in this month's newsletter, I feel called to address the current situation which has been occurring on college campuses across the country. I am at a loss to understand what is going on in the minds of these college presidents. Recently I heard an interview with one college student who was arrested for peacefully protesting the war (or more accurately, genocide) which is happening as we speak, in the Gaza strip of Israel. This student mentioned that the student association of this particular school began asking for a meeting with its president last November. They wanted to have a face to face discussion regarding the university's alumni endowment fund, as they were seeking to have it divested from corporations based in Israel.

This actually seems like a totally reasonable request. As of Fiscal Year 2023, universities across this country were sitting upon 839 billion dollars, which may be invested in any direction. In fact, it would be simple for these schools to just pick a mutual fund that doesn't include companies which are based, or have large operations in Israel. If a university felt that was too controversial, they could simply stop investing in stocks altogether and put their money into government bonds or certificates of deposit. But then of course, they would not make as many almighty dollars!

The point is, many of these universities could have prevented the situations they have found themselves in, if they would have simply met with their student association leaders. But rather, they arrogantly refused. Instead, they have taken us back to the 1960's and responded by calling upon police, and even the national guard to violently beat and arrest their own students. In some locations students have gone too far, such as taking over a building, but most of these protests have been peaceful. And students have an absolute right to exercise their first amendment right to free speech and freedom of assembly (especially upon the property of land grant universities which they and every other tax payer in their state owns!)

So why is it that young people so often are the ones who have to rise up and become the conscience of our nation, to tell people who are older (and supposed to be wiser) the difference between right and wrong. What our nation did in the Vietnam war was wrong, and it was college students who were telling us it was wrong at the time. Decades later, we now know they were right in their assessment. Today, college students are telling us what the nation of Israel is doing in Gaza is wrong. How long will it now take us all to realize they are once again right?

Jesus said "Blessed are the Peacemakers." Our children and grandchildren across this country are using the mantle of protest, in an effort to bring peace to our world. Maybe it's time that we finally start listening to them, and in turn, the one we call the "Prince of Peace."

Blessings,
Pastor Mark

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

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BUCC council meeting 4-23-24

Members present: Jennifer Kemper, Pastor Mark, Claudia Benson, Gary Englund, Linda Langner, Kayleen Spieker, Kristina Wiemers, Dave and Mona Dykhouse

Pastor Mark called the meeting to order with prayer.

Jennifer gave the treasurers report. We have received \$4300.00 in loan repayment back from the Day-care and hope to be reimbursed for the fire alarm system in early May. The large deficit in spending was due to items such as furnace repair, toner cartridges, Greif Share materials and small tool expenses. With only two months of daycare operation it is still a little too early to determine how that has affected the utilities. Motion was made to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Kayleen.

The new church website is up and online. Pastor Mark reviewed what has been designed to get everyone's opinion and suggested changes or additions. It will continue to be a work in progress but is substantially complete. The website design was done by Kayleen's friend Ren and she will get back to the council on the labor cost for the many hours she invested in this project for the church.

The Brookings Summer Arts Festival has accepted our application as food vender for selling apple fritters in the park. A subcommittee of Pastor Mark, Kayleen, Kristina, and Dave Huebner has been formed for determining the best way to proceed with an acceptable product. The Art Festival is scheduled for the weekend of July 13-14. Please try to save the date as it will take many hours to pull this effort off and hopefully it will be a much needed and successful fundraiser.

We are planning to be at the Farmers Market again this year. Tentative dates are 5/25, 6/8, 6/22, 7/27, 8/3, 8/24, 9/8, and 9/21. This will be an opportunity to practice and prepare for the Art Festival as well as being an important and much needed fund raiser.

Learning Tree Academy update- After meeting with Abbey in and executive meeting on 4-22-24 it was presented to the council that things are slowly improving for her business. The council will meet with her again in two months for further updates. For the next two months she will start to pay the church \$200.00 a month during this difficult time. A new refrigerator was delivered on 4-23-24. An application for a grant for the required playground fencing as well for security cameras is ongoing.

The city planning commission approved the church's variance application for a sign on the property for the daycare service. Dave Huebner and Dave D will be in charge of getting this completed as soon as possible.

There was a short discussion on possibly starting a children's Sunday school during the gathering service. Pastor Mark will talk to Abbey to see if anyone of her staff might be interested in helping out with this for a half hour during the service. Discussion will continue on the need and what this might entail as far as educational curriculum or just be a babysitting service.

Next council meeting will be June 4th at 6pm.

May Cause of the Month

The cause of the month for May will be the issue of food insecurity. As such, we have volunteered to help with the Feeding Brookings organization. We have committed to six volunteers from 2pm-4pm to pack food boxes, and another four volunteers from 3pm-5:15pm to distribute the boxes and clean up. The date is May 16th, and the location is Ascension Lutheran Church.

The Feeding Brookings Program is a local arm of the statewide Feeding South Dakota Organization. They receive donations of food from national corporations as well as food manufacturers across South Dakota and then transport them to local communities to be distributed.

This is an easy and rewarding way to serve the less fortunate within our community, so we encourage you to participate! Please sign up on the volunteer sheet next to the offering plate over the next couple of Sundays, or let Pastor Mark know of your desire to participate.

We already have several members who go every week to help feeding Brookings and they are very grateful to have the opportunity to help their community.

CAN YOU SAY YOU TRY TO THE BEST OF YOUR
ABILITY TO LIVE BY THIS EVERYDAY

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
No matter their mental health challenge.
No matter their immigration status.
No matter their sexual orientation.
No matter their economic status.
No matter their gender identity.
No matter their disability.
No matter their religion.
No matter their race.
Love your neighbor. No exceptions.



May 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 Something to Chew On 6:30	2	3	4
5 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	6	7 Coffee and Conversation 10:30-11:30	8 Something to Chew On 6:30	9	10	11
12 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	13	14 Coffee and Conversation 10:30-11:30	15 Something to Chew On 6:30	16 Feeding Brookings 2-4 3-5:15	17	18
19 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	20	21 Coffee and Conversation 10:30-11:30	22 Something to Chew On 6:30	23	24	25
26 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	27	28 Coffee and Conversation 10:30-11:30	29 Something to Chew On 6:30	30	31	



May Birthdays

- 1 Andrew Spangler
- 3 Mary Ward
- 5 Justin Wiemer
- 7 Kim Dokken
- 8 Darlene Dokken
- 17 Eloise Jensen
- 18 Nancy Marshall
- 18 Christina Wiemer
- 20 Trevor Gloege
- 24 Linda Albert

ANNIVERSARY

- 12 Wayne & Darlene Ward
- 17 Jim & Ruby Wilson



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

It's time to share

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.



Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Phil. 4:6-7

Wars and conflicts continue to escalate around the world. Injustices and inequalities manifest as racism, discrimination, gender-based violence, economic disparities, and other issues. As a communal response to uplift these sorrows and support our neighbors near and far, General Minister and President, the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson calls the church to a season of prayer. Prayer undergirds our witness, ministry, and advocacy as we work for peace and a just world for all.

This is an open invitation to anyone who feels called to offer a prayer to end violence in any manifestation, and to bring about peace. Share your prayers using the [People's Prayers for Peace form](#) on the UCC.org website. New prayers will be published on this page daily. Publishing is at the discretion of the National Ministries of the United Church of Christ and prayers may be edited for content and length.

WHEN I SAY

*When I say, "I am a Christian" I'm not shouting, "I've been saved!"
I'm whispering, "I get lost sometimes, that's why I chose this way."*

*When I say, "I am a Christian" I don't speak with human pride
I'm confessing that I stumble - needing God to be my guide.*

*When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not trying to be strong
I'm professing that I'm weak and pray for strength to carry on.*

*When I say, "I am a Christian" I'm not bragging of success
I'm admitting that I've failed and cannot ever pay the debt.*

*When I say, "I am a Christian" I don't think I know it all
I submit to my confusion asking humbly to be taught.*

*When I say, "I am a Christian" I'm not claiming to be perfect
My flaws are far too visible but God believes I'm worth it.*

*When I say, "I am a Christian" I still feel the sting of pain
I have my share of heartache which is why I seek God's name.*

People's Prayers
for Peace

