



The Saint Joseph Parkway has brought great joy to my family and I over these past few years we have lived here. We were blessed in 2020 to be able to purchase a home that was built upon the Noyes section of the Parkway and have therefore enjoyed the many miles (over 26) of this historic architectural marvel. I've done a little research into the history of the Parkway, and, like all things, the story is somewhat complicated. Different architects and builders worked together to actually bring the idea to fruition. There are stories of competition and frustration that color its history. I'm sure there were times when the Parkway was viewed more as an

obstacle to growth than as something to be preserved. But despite all these complicating factors, I am drawn time and time again to celebrate God for the beauty of creation that the Parkway represents.

I was on a long walk recently upon a section of the Parkway that I had previously not discovered. I had not intended to walk for as far as I did, and realized that I had a rare experience of being on a journey with an unknown destination! Each twist and turn in the path was accompanied by a new vision of beauty, a new bird's song, a new experience of warming light and cooling shadow. I took a picture to remember the experience. I, like most of you, have many voices adjuring to me to follow the safe, routine paths of life. My children request the same bedtime stories and songs almost every night. My wife and I frequent familiar shops and restaurants in town. We highlight and turn to our favorite memorized passages of Scripture. We find comfort in schedules, in routines, and in the ordinary work of living. There's a kind of beauty, even, as we realize that it is by the grace of God's own order and supervision that those routines can take place and root into us a sense of trust in His provision.

There are times, though, when the Spirit calls us into an adventure, onto unknown paths. It may be toward something as simple as a new recipe with a loved one, or to a new country with unfamiliar language and culture. Jesus Himself notes that the Spirit sovereignly moves in the hearts of God's people. The Spirit is no tame person of the Trinity, like some impersonal Force of Star Wars. The Spirit lives and is our source of life. The Spirit is affiliated with energy and action in Scripture, with light and flame and ministry. The Spirit propels God's people into circumstances they could not hope to control by their own abilities, into prayers they have not business uttering based on their own holiness, into work that can only be accomplished if attempted in communion with God Himself.

When Amanda and I made the decision to come to Saint Joseph, we found comfort in the path before us being straight and clear. The house was for sale. The work was familiar. The pastors were trusted. The church was inviting. Our families were closer. The region was home to us. Our little family of six rejoiced in those straightforward circumstances, even though the pandemic did add some complexity to all these good things. Nevertheless, I experienced a kind of joy and unwinding that I am just now realizing during this chapter of my life, and much of that is due to the Spirit equipping Brookdale Church to care for me and my family well. I am so grateful to you all for loving me, for caring for my wife, and for discipling my children.

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As the Spirit calls me into a new adventure deeper into the heart of Christ for those who are suffering, I want to share two observations with you all. First, I am excited! I am thrilled to have the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone (having been in youth ministry for fifteen years) and into a new space where I will bring what I have learned of caring for youth and families to bear in meaningful ways for those who are suffering. I know God will cause me to grow in new ways, for the sake of His kingdom, and I do long to be more like Him. I don't know what the view will truly be like around the bend of this journey, but I am confident I will be walking with Jesus as it comes to pass.

Second, knowing that the turn in the path is coming causes me to appreciate this portion of the journey just that much more. I want to slow down and share with each of you just how much your support has meant to me and Amanda, how grateful I am for your care for the teenagers of Brookdale during my time here, and how I know God will remain faithful to His promise to continue to transform you into the image of Christ in my absence.

I hope that He will use my labors among you over these past years as elements toward that transformation, and that anything I have done or have failed to do that was dishonoring to Him or to others would be swiftly forgotten. Truthfully, I hope you remember the refrain of a song we sang together, or a joke we shared, or a prayer offered for your comfort. Yet, even if my contributions are quickly absorbed into the undefined corpus of events and memories that have formed the culture of Brookdale, we should remember that much of our work can be compared to a good meal: meaningful and appreciated in the moment, perhaps not worthy of story and song, but nevertheless a grace given so that we might trust in God for our daily provision. Truly, we can all release our anxieties of longing to be remembered, for God Himself knows our names - He calls us His own, and He will keep His own until His new day dawns. "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." Phil 1:6, NLT—Henry

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#### Session Meeting Summary-April 18, 2023

We will celebrate communion on Sunday, May 7, 2023.

The Transitional Pastor Search team is scheduling a time to bring in a candidate in for an interview.

Discussed the care and procedure for people experiencing significant illness and death. This will be revisited at the next meeting.

Discussed the success of the Wednesday Lenten meals and viewing of the Chosen. There is consideration of continuing with this in some fashion.

Session along with the Finance Committee continue to monitor the financial situation of the church as expenses are currently exceeding giving. It was noted that the last quarter of the year traditionally sees much stronger giving, so there are no serious concerns regarding the budget at this time.

Reviewed the minutes of Deacons and Trustees. It was noted that Ryan Swank has resigned as Trustee.

Session is continuing to work on organizing meetings with small groups to discuss the information presented at the Leadership Retreat in February led by PIR Ministries.

Elder Ann Weston and Elder Barry Birr were elected to be Brookdale's representative at the next General Assembly in June.

Next Scheduled Meeting May 16, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

## Brookdale Vision

### Pillar #4 Mission

Elizabeth Dean

This is the fourth in a series, reviewing the four pillars of Brookdale's Vision. The Vision statement is: "Brookdale church is called to bring the beauty of the gospel to the Brokenness of Life." We believe that Brookdale's called to proclaim, embody, and live out this gospel message in its prayer, its worship, its approach to spiritual formation, and its mission, our four pillars.

What is the picture of mission? We see Brookdale as a place where people are sharing the gospel, embracing Their vocations, seeking the shalom of the city, and going to the nations.

#### Sharing the gospel how?

1. As a result of spiritual transformation by the beauty of the gospel, Brookdale becomes more and more a place where people are expressing radical and sacrificial love that expresses the heart of the gospel.
2. They are teaching about the gospel with people in their circle of nearness.
3. The goal? That others come to know Jesus, are baptized, and begin a life of discipleship.

#### Embracing their vocations. How?

1. People see their work as more than just a way to make a living but as a personal calling from God.
2. People understand that their work is vital in God's Kingdom.
3. People endeavor to use their work to bring renewal to St. Joseph.

#### Seeking the shalom of the city. How?

1. Partner with others to pursue & promote common good.
2. Enter into the most broken places of St. Joseph.
3. Bring Christ like love, cross, shaped humility, and kingdom-driven purpose.
4. Touch these places with compassion, mercy & the healing power of the gospel.

#### Going to the nations. How?

1. People are burdened to pray for the nations of the world to come to know Christ.
2. People express their passion about missions by giving generosity to support missionaries & organizations. (Missions currently are approximately 14% of our budget).
3. People are moved to go out to the nations themselves.

A picture of Brookdale's commitment to city, national, and the international missions can be found displayed in the foyer.



Providing quality child care to our youngest disciples (and future disciples) is of utmost importance to us at Brookdale Church. If you love babies and young children, we ask you to consider volunteering occasionally on Sundays mornings. To learn more, contact Sue Bolander or Paige Funk — they will answer all your questions!



Brookdale’s Monthly BOOK CLUB will meet on Friday, May 12th at Doris Wyckoff’s House. Linda Wise will host.

Book Club is reading House by the Cerulean Sea by TJ Klune.

We would love to have you join us on May 12th for fellowship, food and discussion!



The Men’s Ministry Team held their Annual Spring Cookout. On April 22nd.



## Annual Basket Auction



**Basket Auction**  
For youth mission trips

Baskets will be on display in Fellowship Hall until May 14th.

Bid OFTEN and bid GENEROUSLY!

- Outbid your friends with some friendly competition.
- All proceeds will support youth mission trips!!!

Brookdale Church’s Annual Basket Auction will be held through May 14th. Proceeds will support youth mission trips. This year the youth are going to Rapid City, SD.

## Women’s Ministry Spring Brunch

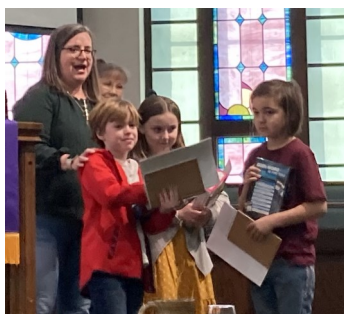
Women’s Spring Brunch will be held Saturday, May 13th 10am-noon. Come and share a nugget of wisdom passed on by a mother figure in your life. Please bring a favorite brunch pot-luck dish (and recipe) to share. This is a great outreach opportunity to invite women and girls you know. Call or email the church office to RSVP or sign up at the Welcome Center. Let us know if childcare is needed.



**Women's Spring Brunch**  
Saturday May 13th 10am-Noon

- Please bring a favorite brunch pot luck dish (and recipe) to share.
- Come and share a nugget of wisdom passed on by a mother figure in your life.
- This is a great outreach opportunity to invite women and girls you know.

CALL OR EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO RSVP  
OR SIGN UP AT THE WELCOME CENTER  
LET US KNOW IF CHILDCARE IS NEEDED



On April 2nd Sue Bollander presented our 3rd grade students (Kenneth, Kai and Parker) each with their very own Bible from Brookdale Church.

## May Birthdays

- 5 - Ed Bartelt
- 6 - Howard Miller
- 7 - Doug Paden
- 12 - Travis Brinton, Nancy Wyble
- 17 - Bailey Colgan
- 21 - Joey Austin
- 22 - Aaron Burgess-West
- 25 - Evan Haley, Cyprian Kritikos
- 26 - Cami Nightingale, Julie Schmitt
- 28 - Tasha Morrow
- 30 - Cathy Jo Costa

## Easter Sunday at Brookdale

It was a joy to once again celebrate the resurrection of Jesus together Easter Sunday. These beautiful photos cannot capture the joy of the day and the ongoing celebration of Eastertide here at Brookdale. On Easter, many in the congregation brought flowers to decorate the once harsh and barren wood of the cross, as if to mock the schemes of Satan who so desires us to live in fear of death. The flowers, as well as the sermon brought by Brandon Furlong and Barry Birr, were a refutation of his schemes, and the tapestry crafted by Donna Smith serves as a reminder to the whole community of Jesus' victory over sin and death throughout this Easter season.



2023

Brookdale

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>2</b> 6:30 Men's Ministry 5:15 personnel 5:30 Dance Fit 6:30 Deacons	<b>3</b> 6:30 Men's Prayer Break-fast 10:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Dance Fit 6:00 Bible Study at Julie's	<b>4</b> 9:30 Bible Study Fellowship	<b>5</b> 6:30 Men's Bible Study	<b>6</b> 10:00 Dance Fit
<b>7</b> Communion 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:30 Youth Group	<b>8</b> 10:00 Women's Bible study 2:00 Women's Bible Study 5:15 Finance	<b>9</b> 6:30 Men's Ministry 5:30 Dance Fit 6:00 Trustees	<b>10</b> 6:30 Men's Prayer Break-fast 10:00 Women's Bible study 11:00 Daytimers 5:30 Dance Fit 6:00 Bible Study at Julie's	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:30 Mens Bible Study 2:00 Book Club at Doris Wyckoff's	<b>13</b> 10:00 Women's Spring Brunch 10:00 Dance Fit
<b>14</b> Basket Auction Closes 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:30 Youth Group	<b>15</b> 10:00 Women's Bible study	<b>16</b> 5:30 Dance Fit 6:30 Session	<b>17</b> 6:30 Men's PrayerBreak-fast 10:00 Women's Bible study 5:30 Dance Fit 6:00 Bible Study at Julie's 7:00 Prayer	<b>18</b> Haven House Food Kitchen	<b>19</b> 6:30 Mens Bible Study	<b>20</b> 10:00 Dance Fit
<b>21</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:30 Youth Group	<b>22</b> 10:00 Women's Bible study 2:00 Women's study	<b>23</b> 5:30 Dance Fit	<b>24</b> 6:30 Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:00 Women's Bible study 11:00 Daytimers 5:30 Dance Fit	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30 Men's Bible study	<b>27</b> 10:00 Dance Fit
<b>28</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:30 Youth Group	<b>29</b> Memorial Day - Office Closed	<b>30</b> 5:30 Dance Fit	<b>31</b> 6:30 Men's Prayer Break-fast 5:30 Dance Fit			



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*Brookdale Church is called to  
bring the beauty of the Gospel  
to the brokenness of life.*



Thank you ...



Brookdale Church gives appreciation to Vernon Clibon for handcrafting a beautiful wood slab table outside our Sanctuary under our World Missions Wall.



Also... Brookdale Church and Staff gives a big thank you to Rick Thornton for updating our Staff Workroom with a nice new kitchenette.