



**First United  
Methodist Church  
First News  
August 2022  
Volume 69, Issue 8**



**FIRSTCHURCH**

4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

## August Sermon Series: "Hitchhikers Guide to the Gospel"

Every year when the first of August arrives, I find myself wondering the same thing: "how is it August already?" Summer is clearly here to stay for a while longer, but as we start getting ready to head back to school and into fall, it sure doesn't feel like it.

For me, the best parts of summer are the outdoor adventures. Whether it's a day spent at the lake or pool, getting out to ride my bike in the sunshine, or traveling a bit to do some hiking, camping, or site-seeing, I love summer and all that comes with it. Having been on a few adventures of my own this summer (I got to go camping in Yellowstone National Park!), I've been thinking about the joy of travel, and how God goes with us wherever we go.

At Vacation Bible School (VBS) last week, Pastor Bryce led a large group lesson about exactly that: God is with us, wherever we go. To explain this to the children, he tied a balloon to his wrist, showing that no matter where he went, what he did, or even if he tried to hide: that balloon was right there with him. He couldn't get away! In the same way... there is no place we go, no thing we do, no people we can ever be with... where God is not also right there with us. This makes me wonder: how are we taking God with us in the places we go? I don't just mean by the nature of God *always* being there... but rather, how are we *intentionally inviting* God to go with us – and lead us – in all the places we go?

Whether we are traveling far away to new places or down the block to our favorite park for the third time today, there are opportunities all around us to engage and invite God on our journeys with us. For four weeks (starting the weekend of August 13-14), we're going to talk about exactly that in our new sermon series, "Hitchhikers Guide to the Gospel."

This new series is designed to encourage us to being more open to curiosity, wonder, reflection, and transformation. It will invite us to consider our travels, whether it is on vacation or to the grocery store or even down the hallway to a dining hall, as experiences that invite us to re-imagine the places we go as opportunities to connect with God.

As we prepare for the fall that will bring with it different routines and places to go, I hope you'll join us as we use this in-between time that is August to see God in the people, places, and adventures that await us.

Pastor Jen Tyler

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# August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  5:30 pm Women of Faith—Back Yard Pizza Party at Melissa Todd's Home	2	3  9:00 am Morning Glories	4  Home Communion 10 am Women's Bible Study	5	6  9 am Late Risers—Stones Restaurant <b>5 pm Worship</b> Communion
7 Communion  <b>8:30 am Worship</b> <b>10 am Worship</b>	8	9  5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting	10	11  10 am Women's Bible Study  Look for the First UMC Booth at Thurs. Night Live!	12  <b>8 pm Outdoor Movie Night at the Church</b>	13  9 am Late Risers—Stones Restaurant  <b>5 pm Worship</b>  30's/40's Back Yard Cook Out at Pastor Jen's Home
					<b>Youth Lock In 7 pm—7 am</b>	
14  <b>8:30 am Worship</b> <b>10 am Worship</b>	15  6 pm New to First Church	16  <b>Lunch A Bunch</b> Date Change—Sun. Aug. 21st  Church Clean Up Come & Go 3:30—7:30 pm Pizza at 5:30	17	18  10 am Women's Bible Study	19	20  8:30 am at Gather Exploring a Legacy of Prayer 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant  <b>5 pm Worship</b>
21  <b>Lunch A Bunch—See page 3 for Details</b> <b>8:30 am Worship</b> <b>10 am Worship</b>	22  6 pm New to First Church	23	24	25  School Starts  10 am Women's Bible Study	26	27  9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant  <b>5 pm Worship</b>
28  <b>8:30 am Worship</b> <b>10 am Worship</b>	29  6 pm New to First Church	30	31	<b>First Kids during worship on Sat. &amp; Sun. all Summer</b> <b>Wed. at 6:30 pm—Unity Band Rehearsal</b> <b>Sat. at 3:00 pm—Praise Band Rehearsal</b>		

### Weekly at First Church

#### Wednesday

6:30 pm Unity Band Rehearsal—Sanctuary

#### Thursday

10:00 am Women's Bible Study

#### Friday

Office Closed

#### Saturday

Back Room Boys—Not meeting over summer

8:30 am Exploring a Legacy of Prayer (3rd Saturday of the Month in person at Gather Coffee Shop)

9:00 am Late Risers—Stones Restaurant

3:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal—Sanctuary

**5:00 pm—Contemporary Worship**

#### Sunday

**8:30 am Traditional Worship**

**10:00 am Blended Worship**

### Monthly at First Church

#### 1st Monday of the Month

5:30 pm Women of Grace—Bible Study

#### 2nd Tuesday of the Month

5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting

#### 1st Wednesday of the Month

Morning Glories Women's Fellowship/Mission Group

9:00 am in Fellowship Hall

#### 1st Thursday of the Month

Home Communion

#### Monthly

*(Time & Place to be Announced)*

30's/40's Group and 50's/60's Group

### **Women of Faith**

#### **Back Yard Pizza Party**

**Monday, August 1st • 5:30 pm**

**Melissa Todd's Home**

**Bring Your Own Chair**

### **30's / 40's "Young Adult" Group**

#### **Back Yard Cook Out**

**Saturday, August 13th**

**6:00 pm After Worship**

**Pastor Jen's Home**

**Bring Your Own Chair**

### **Lunch A Bunch –Sunday, Aug. 21st**

*Note: Change of Date for Lunch A Bunch in August!*

#### **NO gathering on Tuesday Aug. 16th.**

Instead we will meet on Sunday, August 21st at 8:00 am in the South parking lot of the church.

We will carpool to Lake Poinsett for their 9:00 am Worship Service and stay for brunch.

Free will offering will be collected for both the church service and the brunch.

Please RSVP to Pat Crooks 605-868-2809 or Jeri Larson 320-226-5063.

### **Christmas Shoe Boxes**

- \* We would love to have your help in filling the Christmas Shoe Boxes. We have 3 months left. Boxes are picked up the 2nd week of Nov.
- \* We fill boxes for all ages from infant to 16 years old.
- \* Some ideas for older children are: journals, pens, cards (reg cards or card games), Yahtzee, Rubic Cubes, fingernail polish, nail files and clippers, jewelry, billfolds, body spray, mascara, picture frames, bath products, puzzles, reading books, flashlights, perfume, hair items...
- \* A sample box is located at the back of the sanctuary next to a collection box.
- \* Thank you for your help in providing some Christmas joy for children on the ND & SD Indian Reservations.

*Morning Glories Women's Fellowship & Missional Group*

### **"Relax, Refresh, Renew" for Adult Women at Storm Mountain Center in the Black Hills**

Experience a time to relax, refresh and renew your mind, body and spirit. In the beauty of creation, you will find both group time to build Christian community and time apart for Sabbath and renewal. Dean: Pastor Kori Lehrkamp

<http://cwngui.campwise.com/Customer/DakCamps/browser-check-reg.html>

A small group of women from First Church plan to attend. If you'd like to join us please contact Pearl at 605-886-4427. You can register online at the link above or pick up a paper registration from the church office.

**Oct 21-23, 2022, Cost \$164.00**

**Scholarships are available if needed.**

# FIRSTKIDS



## First Kids School Continues through the Summer

This summer, First Kids School will continue to be offered during the Saturday 5 pm and Sunday 10 am worship services. We will continue to celebrate wonder as we explore faith themes of Spirit, Praise, and Scripture.



**A huge thank you** to everyone who served at VBS and made it a wonderful time for all the kids to learn that our God is an Awesome God! Special

thanks to Roxie Shultz & Jeanne Paulson for the great job on our decorations this year! It takes many hands to serve at events like VBS and the memories made often last a lifetime for everyone who takes part.

# FIRSTSQUAD

## Key Happenings in July for First Kids & First Squad

- Thursday August 11—Join us at Thursday Night Live uptown for the EC-CASA Bubble Bash to show our support children in our community.
- Friday August 12—Join us on the front lawn of the church for an Outdoor Movie Night.



**Join us for an outdoor movie night featuring Disney's Encanto!**  
We will have popcorn and water. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets, refillable water bottles or your own beverage of choice.

**Mark Your Calendars for our Fall Kickoff  
Weekend of Sept. 10 & 11 AND Wednesday Sept. 14**

# FIRSTYOUTH

## Youth Lock-in!

We will have our first lock-in of the year on Friday, August 12th from 7pm to 7am. First Church is hosting a movie night and our lock-in will be in conjunction with that event. We will meet at the church around 7pm to hang out, join the movie night, and then continue with activities until 7am the next morning. My hope is that this event will be a great way to get to know some of you! Friends are welcomed and encouraged.

Registration for the event can be found on the church website.

## Volunteer with First Youth

If you are interested in volunteering with First Youth in any capacity talk to Pastor Bryce or one of the First Church staff. There are a variety of ways to volunteer. You can volunteer on a weekly basis by assisting with our small groups or helping teach Confirmation. You can also help with special events like lock-ins or service opportunities. If you would like to be involved with the youth program but not sure where you would best fit, just reach out and we'll work to make sure there is a place for you!





Dear Friends at First Church,  
Thank you so much for the gift of a robe for my commissioning! I am so grateful for all of your support and encouragements throughout this journey! Blessings!

*Rev. Sandee Prouty-Cole*

## Church Clean Up Tuesday, August 16th 3:30—7:30 pm / Pizza at 5:30

Come for an hour or two as your schedule allows.  
We'll start in the sanctuary wiping down all the pews and wood work and branch out from there to other areas of the church that might need attention. Many hands make light work! Thank You!



## New to First Church

Are you new here and want to learn more about what makes First Church, First Church?

Do you call First Church your home, and you're looking to connect more with others, including ways to get more involved?

Are you interested in what it means to become a member of First Church?

If you've ever wondered any of these things, we have just the thing for you! Join us for our "New to First Church" gatherings with Pastor Jen in August! We will gather on Monday evenings **at 6pm August 15, 22, and 29** to talk more about these questions — or any others you have been looking for a place to ask.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Pastor Jen (recommended but not required) and then you can let her know if you need childcare, too (childcare will be available upon advance request). You can reach her at [seniorpastor@watertownfirst.church](mailto:seniorpastor@watertownfirst.church) — or in the church office at 605-882-4427.

## First Church Finances

### FUMC General Budget Financials

1st Quarter 2022	Income	\$122,788	\$7,012
	Expense	\$115,776	
	Difference	\$7,012	
April 2022	Income	\$47,647	\$17,615
	Expense	\$37,045	
	Difference	\$10,602	
May 2022	Income	\$38,434	\$17,564
	Expense	\$38,485	
	Difference	(\$51)	
Jun-21	Income	\$39,926	(\$1,339)
	Expense	\$58,829	
	Difference	(\$18,903)	

### CHURCH FINANCES:

There are several methods available for giving.

You can mail your tithe and offerings to the church at: *First United Methodist Church, PO Box 1416, Watertown, SD 57201*

or give online at:

[www.watertownfirst.church/giving](http://www.watertownfirst.church/giving)

Or use the QR Code to give online now!

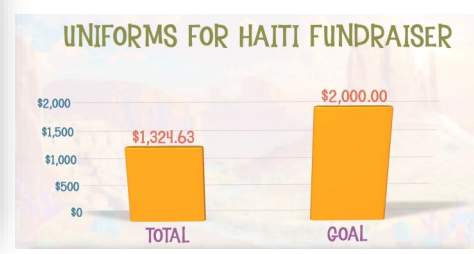
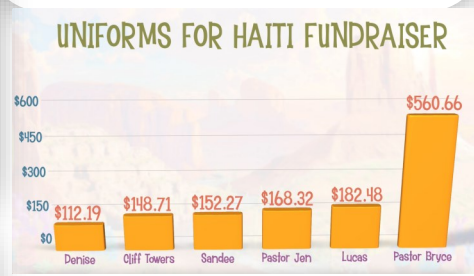
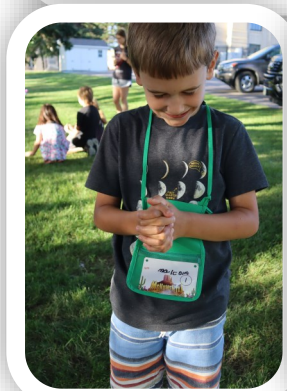
Thank You for your support of First Church!



**NOTE:** To meet our 2022 budget in full each month, we need a monthly income of \$48,248.83. The chart to the left reflects our giving, actual expenditures, and YTD cash flow. Thank you for your generosity and support of First Church!

*For a more detailed copy of the budget, please contact the church office.*





**We raised enough money to purchase 66 School Uniforms for the kids in Haiti! Thank You to all who contributed! Bryce, Jen & Lucas got to kiss the Dragon and Sandee, Mark & Denise got to kiss the Bunny! We learned the depth of God's love for us and had lots of fun along the way!**



**LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING****July 20, 2022, 5:30 pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lea Ann Alwin, Ronda Boughton, Barb Brinkman, Sarah Caron, Corrine Dahl, April Geffre, Sue Luken, Chad Miller, Lee Rycraft, Doug Wishard, Pastor Jen, Pastor Bryce

ABSENT: Debbie Engels, Mike Grann

GUEST: Adam Fox

Welcome prayer by Pastor Bryce; devotions by Sarah Caron

**AGENDA:**

**WELCOME:** Welcome Pastor Bryce to First Church and to Watertown. Welcome to our newest member of Leadership Team, April Geffre.

**INVESTMENT UPDATE:** Adam Fox gave a mid-year investment update. Investments are for the long term.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** This is planned for July 25-28. The offering for the Mission Outreach is designated to pay for school uniforms for students attending the Rob Marchand Institute on the island of LaGonave, Haiti. This year there is intentional outreach to the congregation to support this project. As in past years, there is a friendly competition among staff and VBS leaders.

**DIRECTORY:** The directory is in the final stages. Many people have helped with this project.

**SUMMER PARTY:** This is planned for Saturday, July 23 following the 5:00 worship service.

**PASTOR UPDATES:** There is a family movie night planned for August 12. This will be followed by a youth lock-in. Plans have begun for Fall Kick-Off.

**LEADERSHIP TEAM GROUP UPDATES:**

**BUILDING & GROUNDS:** Prior to the meeting, Chad provided an updated list for review. A new handicap ramp has been ordered. Glass Products installed a new door. AC units have been replaced and are operations. The elevator is not operational at this time. Repairman has been contacted. Long-term elevator issues was discussed.

**SPR:** The custodian resigned and SPR will be looking to hire. There is a plan to cover these duties in the interim until a new custodian can be hired. Sandee Prouty-Cole was commissioned as a Deacon at Annual Conference in June.

**FINANCE:** The budget is on track. Motion by Ronda; 2<sup>nd</sup> by April – Our church received a conference rebate of \$25,049.86. \$8,603 will be designated for Missions & Outreach. The remainder will be placed in the investment account. Motion passed.

**MINISTRY:** There are many mission projects happening. In June, 2 groups volunteered at Feeding South Dakota. One group was comprised of 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade youth; the other was an adult group. The Food Give Away was held the end of June. Over 500 families received food boxes. Morning Glories group is collecting items for Shoe Box Christmas. We will again support Roosevelt School. A Diaper Give Away will be held again at a future date. If extra volunteers are need, some programs at LATC require volunteer hours. We can reach out to these programs.

Meeting concluded with the *BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER*.

**NEXT MEETING:** August 9 at 5:30 pm.

Sue Luken, recording secretary



### ***Our prayers and deepest sympathy go out to the following families:***

Family and friends of Robert G. Neal who passed away on June 24th, 2022.

Family and friends of Dorothy Bull who passed away on July 3, 2022

Family and friends of "Rudie" RuEmma L. Grovenburg who passed away on July 3, 2022.

Bethany & Lucas Severson & Family and Bryan Bleeker on the death of Shirley Bleeker who passed away on July 9, 2022. Shirley was Bethany's Grandmother & Bryan's mother.

Family and friends of Grace Hedin who passed away on July 12, 2022.

Family and friends of David Linngren who passed away on July 15, 2022.

Ed & Sue Togel and other family and friends of Evelyn Blumer who passed away on July 16, 2022. Evelyn was Sue's mother.

Sandee Prouty-Cole, Doris Armstrong, & Aletha Prouty on the death of Herman Symens on July 16, 2022. Herman was uncle to Sandee & brother to Doris & Aletha.

### **OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN ASSISTED LIVING OR NURSING HOMES**

Avantara Watertown 415 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave. NE Watertown, SD 57201	Mary Snyder—Ethel DeWald—Maxine Nordseth—Mildred Smith
Edgewood Assisted Living 901 14th Ave NE Watertown, SD 57201	Mildred Drake #424 Warren Berger #310
Edgewood Independent Living 901 14th Ave NE Watertown, SD 57201	Dorothy Iverson #202 Audrey Rhodes #210—Lorraine Amy #213
HSC Spruce 1 PO Box 7600 Yankton, SD 57078	Ordean Stern
Jenkins Living Center 215 S. Maple Watertown, SD 57201	Adelia Thorn #225—Carol Redwing #256—Violet VanSickle #259 Ken Ragels #274—Lillian VanDykhurst #363—Dorothy Brugman #376 Alice Johnson #419—Violetta Severson #437
Stoney Brook Assisted Living 500 16th Ave NE Watertown, SD 57201	LaVonne Nelson #50 Margie Gertsen #33

### **Watertown Memory Care Support Group (formerly the Alzheimer's Support Group)**

#### **August 3 2022**

Topic—"Rethinking Our Ways During Challenging Times"

Speaker—Stephanie Popowski-Dahl, RN, CDP, CADDCT Jenkins Living Center Inc./ Jenkins Rehab

#### **September 7, 2022**

Topic—"Caregiver Tips & Tricks"

Speaker—Lisa Ronke, Caregiver, Director of Community Relations, Harmony Hill

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Watertown Memory Care Support Group continues to meet at the Watertown Event Center for their meetings. Please enter through the Event Center doors. Thank you! We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm. For more information contact Connie Lake at

[cl.memory.group@gmail.com](mailto:cl.memory.group@gmail.com)



# FIRST

# Family & Friends



Birthday	Name
1-Aug	Colleen Enstad
1-Aug	Jenni Lake
1-Aug	Dale McElhany
1-Aug	Doug Wishard
1-Aug	Brittney Page
2-Aug	Meghan Leadabrand
2-Aug	Desmond Vilhauer
3-Aug	Sophie Cole
4-Aug	Roxanna Shultz
4-Aug	Brenna Dahl
4-Aug	Amy Arnold
5-Aug	Thomas Halajian
5-Aug	Blair Titze
5-Aug	Jeffrey Willett
5-Aug	Heide Kuhlman
6-Aug	Aspen Billings
7-Aug	Amelia Schmeling
9-Aug	Ella Buechler
9-Aug	Mildred Drake
9-Aug	Deb Harmel
9-Aug	Harmony Dawley
10-Aug	Macee Benthin
11-Aug	Avery Oaks
11-Aug	Alexis Oaks
11-Aug	Cindy Traufler
11-Aug	Nick Koehn
11-Aug	Scout Valsvig
13-Aug	Denver Jenner
13-Aug	Jovi Luoma
14-Aug	Adam Fox
14-Aug	Kent Hegstrom
15-Aug	Aaliyah Koehn
16-Aug	Monica Redlinger
16-Aug	Jayden Chandler
16-Aug	Emma Bredvik
16-Aug	Kari Shultz
17-Aug	Marlene Jackson
17-Aug	Kayden TwoCrow
17-Aug	Jeanne Lane
17-Aug	Marilyn Arnold
17-Aug	Addison Fiebelkorn

Birthday	Name
18-Aug	Evan Alwin
18-Aug	Brentley Willett
19-Aug	Jeri Larson
19-Aug	Lori Jurgens
20-Aug	Dorothy Brugman
20-Aug	Shannon Bruns
21-Aug	Lauren Wight
22-Aug	Dominic VanSickle
23-Aug	Susan Bachmann
23-Aug	Emma Eckman
24-Aug	Ethel DeWald
24-Aug	Sarapheen Stavick
25-Aug	Brian Davey
25-Aug	Becky Hanson
26-Aug	Harlan Siegfried
26-Aug	Melanie Sanden
27-Aug	Jeanie Endres
27-Aug	Derek Wangen
27-Aug	Bethany Severson
27-Aug	Jay Stevenson
28-Aug	Kaitlin Wangen
28-Aug	Audrey Lindgren
29-Aug	Jaykob Wirkus
30-Aug	Everly Wellman
30-Aug	Mollie Raasch

Anniversary	Bride & Groom
1-Aug	Blair & Nancy Titze
7-Aug	Wayne & Angie Wegner
8-Aug	Dan & Shirley Boone
8-Aug	Brian & Susan Davey
8-Aug	Lucas & Bethany Severson
10-Aug	Rich & Teresa Remmers
10-Aug	Kevin & Staci Smunk
10-Aug	James & Joyce Swenson
10-Aug	Tim & Heidi Steffensen
13-Aug	Loel & Phyllis Diggs
14-Aug	Luke & Stephanie Muller
15-Aug	Bill & Marta Hoffman
16-Aug	Tom & Roberta LaFramboise
17-Aug	Tom & Jackie Baxter
17-Aug	Michael & Jamie Veeder
17-Aug	Taylor & Emily Rymerson
17-Aug	Peter & Audrey Rohde
18-Aug	Gene & Deanna Ward
20-Aug	Andrew & Wendy Meek
27-Aug	Aaron & Kacee Hoffman
28-Aug	Jake & Cassie Kasparek
30-Aug	Tim & Emily Riley

## Are you in need of a shower or wedding gift?

RADA Cutlery is a great gift and can be purchased right here at the church. You can check out the selection of knives, peelers, etc. in the showcase in the hallway by the office.

There is also a nice selection of greeting cards for all occasions which can be bought individually or in box sets.

Proceeds go into a Women's Ministry Account which helps to provide minor furnishings for the kitchen. Recently 17 new silver coffee carafes were purchased to use for funerals etc.

**RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED**

# July 2022

## FIRST NEWS

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list or would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail, please contact us.  
 605-886-4427      office@watertownfirst.church      www.watertownfirst.church

### MEET THE STAFF

#### Senior Pastor

Rev. Jen Tyler

#### Associate Pastor

Rev. Bryce Blank

#### On-Call Pastor

Rev. Elmer Brinkman

#### Director of Worship & Ministry

Lucas Severson

#### Director of Children's Ministry

Rev. Sandee Prouty Cole

#### Nursery Coordinators

Heidi Steffensen

Jeanne Paulson

#### Office Manager

Pearl Geffre

#### Organists

Blair Titze & Lesa Dahl

#### Bell Choir Director

Renae Mack

#### Chancel Choir Director

Blair Titze

#### Wedding Coordinator

Kathy Mielitz

**In Person & Online Worship Saturday 5:00 pm Sunday 8:30 am & 10:00 am**



August 13th & 14th <sup>thru</sup>  
 September 3rd & 4th

Church Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/watertownfirstumc>  
 Church YouTube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4PljXmmIPY\\_YvihINPBKZA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4PljXmmIPY_YvihINPBKZA)



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