



**First United
Methodist Church
First News
January 2023
Volume 70, Issue 1**



FIRSTCHURCH

4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

PASTOR'S WORD

One of my favorite parts of the month of December and the celebrations that accompany it, is the generosity we get to see all around us. From the kettle bells around town that bring forth thousands in donations to help our community members in times of need, to the Angel Trees that help ensure children in our community will receive a gift at Christmas, to the abundant generosity shown in this year's Alternate Gift Fair (raising over \$4,000 for various organizations in need!), generosity is everywhere we look.

Seeing the generosity of others is always fun, but it's an even greater blessing to be a part of all of this giving, isn't it? Whether you give to our church or organizations in need, or to your family, friends, colleagues, and other loved ones: I hope you've experienced the joy of giving and getting to see the joy of others in receiving these gifts!

As much fun as it can be to find the perfect or perfectly surprising gift for someone we care about, I must admit I'm not always as good at accepting gifts. It isn't that I don't appreciate them, of course: I always love knowing someone has thought of me, or taken time to pick out something meaningful or that they think will bless me. Receiving gifts or cards is definitely a blessing! Yet... It's sometimes a bit awkward to graciously receive gifts when I realize I cannot always return the favor, or even when I have to open gifts in front of the giver who excitedly waits to see my reaction/response.

Whatever the reason, accepting gifts graciously can sometimes be a challenge, can't it? Yet gifts are a part of our daily lives, not just a part of the Christmas season that will soon be behind us. That's why, as we begin the new year, we will be focusing on some of the other kinds of gifts we can enjoy long after our Christmas trees have been hauled away... the kinds of gifts that come from God, revealing themselves to us in new ways as time goes on.

Starting January 7-8 in worship, we will be exploring some of the surprising gifts that are extended to humanity — and are ours to receive if we are bold and loving enough to accept them. This new series, titled "Gifts that Keep Giving" will help us to discover the gifts God offers — and help us overcome the challenge of accepting them.

My hope and prayer is that this series will be an entry point into a new year and a new (deeper!) relationship with our God who longs to pour unexpected, outrageous gifts into our lives. May we be so bold as to receive them with open arms, letting the Spirit lead us into a more faithful, gifted, blessed life.

On the journey together,

Pastor Jen

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Pastor's Word</i>	1
<i>Calendar</i>	2
<i>Announcements, Events, Missions</i>	3
<i>First Kids, First Squad</i>	4
<i>Re-Charge Event</i>	4
<i>First Youth</i>	5
<i>Missional Budget</i>	6
<i>First Church Finances</i>	6
<i>Christmas Photos</i>	7
<i>First Family & Friends</i>	8-9
<i>New to First Church Class</i>	9
<i>Worship Hours Meet the Staff</i>	10

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 NO Early Service <i>Family Worship Weekend—No First Kids</i> 10:00 am Worship	2 5:30 pm Women Of Grace—Lounge	3	4 9:00 am Morning Glories—Fellowship Hall 5:30pm—7:00 pm Leadership Recharge Event <i>See Details on Pg 4</i> RECHARGE 	5 Home Communion 11:30 am Thurs. Bible Study Christmas Party	6	7 7 am Back Room Boys Church Library 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 5:00 pm Worship
8 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship	6	10 5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting	11 Spring Kickoff for Children & Youth 5:15 meal 6pm—7:30pm Family Game Night <i>See Details on Pg 4</i> 	12 10 am Women's Bible Study	13 9 am—Noon Sister's in Stitches Sewing/ Knitting/ etc. Group	14 7 am Back Room Boys Church Library 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 5:00 pm Worship
15 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship	16	17 11:30 am Lunch A Bunch Godfather's Pizza 6:00 pm New to First Church Class	18 <i>*See below for Regular Wednesday Night Schedule*</i>	19 10 am Women's Bible Study	20	21 7 am Back Room Boys Church Library 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 5:00 pm Worship
22 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship	23	24 6:00 pm New to First Church Class	25 <i>*See below for Regular Wednesday Night Schedule*</i>	26 10 am Women's Bible Study	27 9 am—Noon Sister's in Stitches Sewing/ Knitting/ etc. Group	28 7 am Back Room Boys Church Library 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 5:00 pm Worship
29 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship	30	31 6:00 pm New to First Church Class	** Wednesday Night Schedule 5:15 pm Community Meal— STARTING JANUARY 11 5:30 pm Bell Choir 6:00-7:30 pm First Kids 6:00-7:30 pm First Squad 6:00-7:30 pm First Youth 6:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:45 pm Unity Band			

Weekly at First Church

Wednesdays

5:15—5:45 pm Community Meal—All are Welcome
 No Bell Choir Rehearsal in January
 6:00—7:30 pm First Kids— First Squad—First Youth
 6:30—7:30 pm Chancel Choir
 7:45 pm Unity Band

Thursday

10:00 am Women's Bible Study

Friday

Office Closed

Saturday

7:00 am Back Room Boys—Church Library
 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

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

10:00 am Blended Worship

Monthly at First Church

1st Monday of the Month

5:30 pm Women of Grace Bible Study—Lounge

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

3rd Thursday of the Month

Lunch a Bunch Fellowship Group
 11:30 am at Godfathers' Pizza

2nd & 4th Friday of the Month

Sisters in Stitches Sewing, Knitting, Etc. Group
 9:00 am—Noon Church Lounge

3rd Saturday of the Month

Exploring a Legacy of Prayer
 8:30 am in person at Gather Coffee Shop

Monthly

(Time & Place to be Announced)

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

Please note that anyone is welcome at any time to drop in to any of the above noted groups.



PACH Item for January
Juice Boxes (100% Juice Please)
 Donated items can be dropped off at the church.
 Thank You!



Roosevelt Outreach Mission

First Church is happy to partner with Roosevelt School to help meet the needs of the children and teachers. Each month we'll post specific needs which will be collected here at First Church and delivered to Roosevelt School. As always, monetary gifts are also welcome.

Here are some current needs:

- Magnetic Tape
- Kid Gloves
- Office Sheet Protectors
- Samsil Dark Blue, 1.5 Inch Binders (4 pack)
- Thin black dry erase markers
- Pipe cleaners (crafts)
- Packing tape (clear)
- Tape dispenser refills
- Dum Dum Suckers
- Snacks- goldfish, pretzels, cheez-its, animal crackers or bulk cereal

Thank you so much for helping to support the kids and educators at Roosevelt Elementary School!



On Monday, Dec. 19th, a few folks from First Church helped wrap Christmas gifts for children at Roosevelt Elementary School who might not otherwise have had a very Merry Christmas. Most gifts were provided by members of New Life Church with a few extra gifts provided by First Church. Thank you to all who have helped in the ongoing ministry of our partnership with Roosevelt School.

Leadership Team Openings

We want to say Thank You to our Leadership Team for their dedication to First Church.

We will have two openings on our Leadership Team at the end of this year as Mike Grann & Chad Miller end their 3 year term.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying for the Leadership Team, please let Pastor Jen know. You can pick up an application at the Welcome Center.

Prayerfully consider how you can make a difference in the life of First Church by becoming a member of the Leadership Team.

FIRSTKIDS

FIRSTSQUAD

Prayerful Transition

We wish Rev. Sandee well in her future endeavors wherever God leads her as we also celebrate the wonderful ministry she has taken part of as Director of Children's Ministry. In this time of transition as we look to hire a new Director, we ask that you extend extra patience and grace as we learn to carry forward with the First Kids and First Squad programming here at First Church.

During this time, we ask everyone to prayerfully consider how you can help serve the children of our church in capacities that challenge you but also lend themselves to your personal gifts and graces. If you are thinking about helping out with our children's programming, there is never a better time than the start of the new year!

Please reach out to Pastor Bryce or Pastor Jen if you are interested in helping out on Wednesday nights or the weekends.

Key Happenings in November for First Kids & First Squad

- ♦ Dec. 31—Family Worship Weekend—No First Kids School or Nursery
- ♦ Jan. 1—Family Worship Weekend—No First Kids School or Nursery
- ♦ Jan. 4—Leadership Recharge for Volunteers —No Wednesday Night Groups
- ♦ Jan 11—Wednesday Spring Kickoff Game Night!



First Kids School Celebrates Wonder!!

We will continue to celebrate wonder as we walk through the Gospel stories of Jesus' birth and learn of the Hope he brings to all!

Leadership Recharge Night for Volunteers

On **Wednesday, January 4th**, all volunteers for the Children's and Youth programs are invited to recharge for the night. We will meet from 5:30pm-7pm for pizza and snacks in Cook Hall along with activities and discussion around the coming semester. The goal is to come together for the upcoming season of ministry so we can kickoff on the right foot the following week.



- Please RSVP to Pastor Bryce so we can plan for food.

Family Game Night! Wed. January 11 For 1st—12th Grade Kids and their Families!

Join us on Wednesday, January 11th, 2023 for the our Spring Kickoff Family Game Night!

Bring your favorite game and a friend!

Meal at 5:15 with games starting at 6:00pm-7:30pm.



FIRST YOUTH

Winter Connection!

Winter Connection is an annual event for middle school and high school youth sponsored by the Dakotas Conference Council on Youth Ministry (CCYM.)

Location: Sioux Falls

Dates: January 27-28, 2023

Cost: \$40.00 per person

Ages: Youth in grades 6-12 and adult chaperones

Winter Connection is an opportunity for youth to gather, share, worship, and serve others. Each year there is a focus on a particular theme and scripture along with a unique and important component of service. Our theme for 2023 is Follow Me (Call to be fisher of people), and our scripture is Matthew 4:19-20.

Talk to Pastor Bryce if you are interested in attending this event!

Mark the Calendar!

Dec. 28th—Jan. 4th— No First Youth/ No Confirmation

Jan. 4th— Youth Leader Training

Jan. 11th— Spring Kickoff Game Night!

Jan 27-28— Winter Connection

Feb. 1st— Bowling Night

Feb. 12th— Youth Led Worship

Feb. 15th— Share the Love Night

Feb. 22nd— No Youth (Ash Wednesday)

March 3rd—4th— Confirmation Retreat @ Lake Poinsett

Youth 2023 Trip!

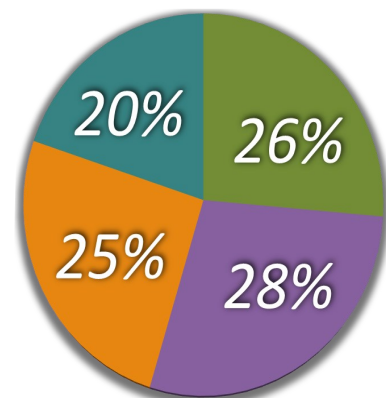
Every four years, youth from throughout The United Methodist Church have gathered for four days of discipleship, fun, and fellowship at the YOUTH event. YOUTH 2023 will be in Daytona Beach, Florida from **July 25-28, 2023**. Worship and learning will be held at the Daytona Ocean Center and lodging at the Hilton Ocean Front Resort. And yes, you will literally be oceanfront with an amazing beach to enjoy! We will also have mission work in the days leading up to the event!

Register at the First Youth page on the church website. Or talk to Pastor Bryce **by January 25th, 2023**.



A **Missional Budget**, also known as a Narrative Budget, is a different way of presenting the budget in a way that shows how we are spending and investing funds for ministry. This graph shows how our 2023 budget is allocated across categories defined by our values (Worship and Music, Fellowship, Children and Youth, and Community Service).

At our Church Charge Conference (on November 29) a more detailed copy of this budget was made available. You can pick up a copy of our full missional budget at the Welcome Center in the back of the sanctuary or by stopping by the church office. A detailed line-item budget is also available upon request.



■ Worship & Music ■ Fellowship
■ Children & Youth ■ Community Service

First Church Value Statements:

Worship: Gathering as a community to connect with God through hearing the Word, prayer, music, sharing the sacraments, and offering our time, gifts, talents, and resources.

Music: A wide variety of songs, instruments, and voices that invoke uplifting, emotional, and spiritual response.

Fellowship: Nurturing all generations on our discipleship journey toward becoming cared for, loved and loving members of our faith community.

Children and Youth: We care about faith formation and education of young people so they can become disciples and leaders through Jesus Christ.

Community Service: Meeting the spiritual and physical needs of people outside the walls of our church through hands-on activities, goods, and prayers.

First Church Finances

FUMC General Budget Financials			
		Monthly Actual	YTD Cash Flow
1st Qtr	Income	\$122,788	\$7,012
	Expense	\$115,776	
	Difference	\$7,012	
2nd Qtr	Income	\$126,007	\$15,178
	Expense	\$117,841	
	Difference	\$8,166	
3rd Qtr	Income	\$111,966	\$1,878
	Expense	\$125,265	
	Difference	(\$13,299)	
Oct	Income	\$46,505	\$5,794
	Expense	\$42,589	
	Difference	\$3,916	
Nov	Income	\$57,035	\$16,936
	Expense	\$45,893	
	Difference	\$11,142	

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:

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 above 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.

Christmas Eve at First Church



Geffre Family Lighting the Advent Candle



Pastor Bryce Blank



Hannah, Eden & Lucas Severson singing "Away In a Manger"



Santa stopped by to pray with the children during the "Time for Young Disciples"



April Geffre & Lucas Severson singing "The Manger"



Candlelight during singing of "Silent Night"



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

Melanie and Mark Sanden and family. Melanie's father, Robert A. Campbell, passed away on November 32, 2022.

Joanne Singrey-Johnson and other family members. Joanne's mother, Jeanette I. Singrey passed away on December 15, 2022.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN ASSISTED LIVING OR NURSING HOMES

Avantara Watertown 415 4 th Ave. NE Watertown, SD 57201	Mary Snyder—Ethel DeWald—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 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	Margie Gertsen #33—Jeanette Nelson #62
Wilmot Care Center 501 4th St Wilmot SD 57279	LaVonne Nelson

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

January 4, 2023

Topic—"Keep Sharp"

Speakers—Bill and Cathy Zubke

February 1, 2023

Topic—"Speech-Language Therapy and Memory Care"

By Kristen Titze Blackwell, MS CCC-SLP PLNCS

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)



Birthday	Name	Birthday	Name
2-Jan	Heidi Hartford	23-Jan	Jonathan LaFramboise Boettcher
2-Jan	Aidyn Melville	24-Jan	Tieson Jenner
3-Jan	Jerry Miller	24-Jan	Dorothy Peterson
3-Jan	Bradley Hanson	25-Jan	Austin Dahl
4-Jan	Marissa Willett	25-Jan	Jacque Johnson
6-Jan	Eden Severson	25-Jan	Kris Edwards
6-Jan	Averie Ann Halajian	26-Jan	Donald Riley
7-Jan	Nancy Titze	26-Jan	Aidan Pederson
8-Jan	Brandy Fenenga	27-Jan	Weston Mayer
8-Jan	Tom LaFramboise	27-Jan	Buddy LaFramboise
8-Jan	Reese Vanderlinden	27-Jan	Ernest Wight
8-Jan	Kaleb Boughton	28-Jan	Ronald Aker
9-Jan	Clara Wight	28-Jan	Andreas (Larry) Schnoor
9-Jan	Hannah Severson	28-Jan	Dorothy Schurrer
9-Jan	Doug Waldner	28-Jan	Lydia Buckley
10-Jan	Connie Lake	28-Jan	Carla Willett
10-Jan	Nicole Gilbertson	29-Jan	Briana McElhany
11-Jan	Wayne Becking	29-Jan	Anna Gilbertson
11-Jan	Kara Heagel	30-Jan	Clark Hanson
12-Jan	Avarie Soupir	31-Jan	Cadence Weidner
13-Jan	Brenda Jongbloed	31-Jan	Harley Stavick
13-Jan	Matthew Leadabrand		
14-Jan	Harper Koistinen		
15-Jan	Jeremiah Leadabrand		
15-Jan	Katie Leadabrand		
15-Jan	Beth Luckhurst		
15-Jan	Jackson Kahre		
15-Jan	Warren Berger		
17-Jan	Avery Anderson		
17-Jan	Beau Anderson		
19-Jan	Brady Fonder		
20-Jan	Catherine Leadabrand		
20-Jan	Sandee Prouty-Cole		
21-Jan	Lillian Fox		
21-Jan	Zachary Foust		
21-Jan	Grace Jurgens		
22-Jan	Roberta LaFramboise		
23-Jan	Sarah Caron		
23-Jan	Katherine Mielitz		
23-Jan	William Hoffman		
23-Jan	Wayne Wegner		

Anniversary	Bride & Groom
2-Jan	Chad & Kim Miller
18-Jan	Randy & Sandra Middleton
18-Jan	Travis & Laura Homan
25-Jan	Fred & Carolyn Wilkens
27-Jan	Chad & Brooke Hanson

Calling All Bakers...

- * Do you like to bake? Cookies? Bars? Cakes?
- * We'd love to have more fresh baked goods for our Coffee Fellowship time on weekends.
- * We'd also love to treat our kiddos to some fresh baked goodies for dessert after our Wednesday night meals.
- * If you'd like to provide baked goodies, please call the church office and let us know which worship service you'd like to bake for OR if you'd like to bake for Wednesday night.
- * Thanks in advance for sharing your gift of baking.

Become a Member of First Church or Learn More about 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'd love for you to join us for our **"New to First Church"** class.

We will gather on Tuesday evenings **at 6pm on January 17, 24, and 31** 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 Pastor Jen at seniorpastor@watertownfirst.church — or call the church office at 605-882-4427. We look forward to having you join us!

Pastor Jen & Pastor Bryce



First United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 1416
Watertown, SD 57201

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Watertown, SD 57201
Permit No. 529

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

January 2023 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

Director of Worship & Ministry

Lucas Severson

Office Manager

Pearl Geffre

Custodian

Steve Lindner

On-Call Pastor

Rev. Elmer Brinkman

Nursery Coordinators

Heidi Steffensen

Jeanne Paulson

Organists

Blair Titze

Lesa Dahl

Bell Choir Director

Renae Mack

Music & Chancel Choir Director

Blair Titze

Wedding Coordinator

Kathy Mielitz

Saturday, Dec. 31

Family Worship Weekend—No First Kids

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, Jan. 1st—Only One Service

Family Worship Weekend—No First Kids

10:00 am Worship

Regular Worship Hours Resume on January 7th & 8th

Saturday, January 7

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, January 8

8:30 am Worship

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

10:00 am Worship

Church Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/watertownfirstumc>
Church YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4PljXmmIPY_YvihNPBKZA



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • 4 2ND AVE SE • PO BOX 1416 • WATERTOWN, SD 57201 • 605-886-4427

office@watertownfirst.church • www.watertownfirst.church

<https://www.facebook.com/watertownfirstumc> • Follow us at: @WatertownFUMC • Tag us with: #WatertownFirst

