



**First United
Methodist Church
First News
December 2022
Volume 69, Issue 12**



FIRSTCHURCH

4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

Be Expectant!

The season of Advent – that is, the four weeks leading up to Christmas – is a time of preparing and anticipation. In 2022, our preparations look very different than they have at various times throughout the past 2,000 years. For most of us, preparing for Christmas means lots of shopping to get everyone just the right gift as you prepare a feast for your family or friends that will gather. Hopefully, it means carving out time to come to worship on Christmas Eve, too.

In our Christian tradition, this season of preparation is meant to look a little different than it does for the rest of the world. Advent is meant to be a time of reflection as we prepare not just for a celebration, but for the coming of our Savior! It is an opportunity to celebrate all that God has done and is doing... and the countless ways the coming of Christ has freed us to live with hope.

This year during Advent, First Church will be focusing on this tradition of preparing and reflecting. You are invited to join us as we seek to ***“Be Expectant,”*** together exploring the Christmas story with a lens of wonder and exploration, looking for ways God continues to come to us today. This new series will be an invitation to hear the familiar story of Jesus’ birth in ways that invite us to be open to let go of our former (or worldly) expectations, instead letting what God is doing anew today wash over us with joyful anticipation.

This invitation extends beyond worship too, as I wonder: what are some of your usual things you expect or take for granted that could be shifted to glorify God? Perhaps it’s something like moving beyond your comfort zone to invite a friend, neighbor, or co-worker to join you for worship this season (or on Christmas Eve). Maybe you want to see and hear God in a new way by changing up the usual place you sit in the pew (or joining us in person if you are usually online). Perhaps you want to take a leap of faith, spreading Christmas cheer by giving generous gifts like those found in our Alternate Gift Fair (see page 8 for more details). Maybe it’s something else altogether, and you have ideas to share with us about how to move beyond our usual expectations as we seek to honor God in this season especially?

However you prepare for the coming of the Christ Child, I hope you’ll join us at First Church as we seek to do so with renewed expectations and hope, looking to our future with joyful anticipation.

Pastor Jen

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December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
** Wednesday Night Schedule 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 6:30-7:30 pm Bible Study—Lounge—Drop ins Welcome 7:45 pm Unity Band				1 10 am Women's Bible Study 7:00—9:00 pm Community Christmas Concert Rehearsal	2 9:00 am—Noon Quilters in the Lounge	3 Alternative Gift Fair 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 9:00—11:00 am Community Christmas Concert Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
4 Alternative Gift Fair 8:30 am 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship 3:00 pm & 7:00 pm Community Christmas Concert	5 5:30 pm Women of Faith—Lounge	6	7 10:00 am Morning Glories Potluck Christmas Party <i>*See above for Regular Wednesday Night Schedule*</i>	8 10 am Women's Bible Study	9	10 Alternative Gift Fair 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 5:00 pm Worship
11 Alternative Gift Fair 8:30 am 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship	12	13	14  <i>*See above for Regular Wednesday Night Schedule*</i>	15 10 am Women's Bible Study Christmas Party	16 9:00 am—Noon Quilters in the Lounge	17 Alternative Gift Fair 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 8:30 am at Gather Exploring a Legacy of Prayer 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 5:00 pm Worship
18 Alternative Gift Fair 8:30 am 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship	19	20 11:30 am Lunch A Bunch Godfather's Pizza	21 No Wednesday Night Activities for Kids or Youth	22 NO Women's Bible Study	23	24 Christmas Worship Schedule 4 pm Blended (nursery available) 7 pm Traditional (no nursery)
25 Merry Christmas 8:30 am 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship	26 <div>Office Closed This Week for Christmas Break</div>	27	28 No Wednesday Night Activities for Kids or Youth	29 NO Women's Bible Study	30	31 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 5:00 pm Worship

Weekly at First Church

Wednesdays

5:15—5:45 pm Community Meal—All are Welcome
 5:30—6:30 pm Bell Choir
 6:00—7:30 pm First Kids—First Squad—First Youth
 6:30—7:30 pm Chancel Choir
 6:30—7:30 pm Bible Study-Lounge—Drop in's Welcome
 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—**No December Mtg.**

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

1st & 3rd Friday of the Month

Sisters in Stitches Sewing 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 December
Hot Cocoa & Popcorn Packets
 Donated items can be dropped off at the church.
 Thank You!

ROOSEVELT
 ELEMENTARY



Roosevelt Outreach Mission

First Church is again partnering 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:

- (19) Flashcards of addition and subtraction up to 20
- Good Kleenex & Sanitizing Wipes
- Crackers
- 18-4oz. canning jars
- 6-qts unsweetened apple sauce
- Play dinosaurs (any size)
- (2) UNO card games
- Soft peppermints
- Classroom Snacks: goldfish, granola bars, fruit snacks, etc.
- Magnetic Tape
- Expo Board Markers
- Crayola Markers
- Classroom Snacks: pretzels and cheez-its

Thank you so much for supporting the kids and educators at Roosevelt School!

'Tis the Shoebox Season

Mike & Debbie (a wonderful couple from MI) stopped in Watertown on Sun. Nov. 13th to pick up our shoeboxes. The shoeboxes are on their way to Spirit Lake Ministry center in Sheyenne, ND. Pastor Mike is very hopeful they will reach their goal of 6,000 shoeboxes to deliver to the 6 reservations of the Dakotas.

Now is the time for us to turn our hearts towards next year's shoeboxes. The stores are full of toys to choose from.

When we fill a shoebox we like to have a "WOW" gift put in each box. The "WOW" gift is something special, a larger gift of importance. Some examples are: Baby dolls, a truck that makes noise, a firetruck, a set of construction equipment, My Little Pony, little girl's purses, Monster Trucks, dinosaurs, play dough factory, Micky Mouse figure sets, lego sets.

After we have a "Wow" gift we add smaller toys, a color book, colors & a book to read.

We have space to store all gifts for next year's shoeboxes. A drop off box is located outside the church office.

We appreciate your continued support of our mission.

Morning Glories Women's Fellowship & Missional Group



Join us for worship on Christmas Morning!

We will have ONE worship service at 10:00 am and will celebrate our newborn Savior with cider, treats, and worship with our favorite Christmas hymns.

Come as you are—Christmas PJ's are encouraged.

FIRSTKIDS FIRSTSQUAD



Coming to First Church on Wednesday December 14, an Instant Christmas Pageant, "The Not-So-Silent Night".

If you like to dress-up and act, sing a song, play an instrument, help behind the scenes, welcome guests, and more, join us on the night for our Instant Christmas Pageant.

For more information and to sign-up to let us know how you'd like to be a part of the night, go to the online sign-up form at <https://watertownfirstumc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/465954> or pick up a form in Fellowship Hall at the First Kids Check-in area. Sign-ups are due by December 5.



New to First Kids?

Need to update contact info? Go to:

www.watertownfirst.church/first-kids

and click on the student registration button.

Key Happenings in November for First Kids & First Squad

- December 14—The Not-So-Silent Night Instant Christmas Pageant
- Wednesday December 21 & 28 — Christmas Break—No Wednesday Night Groups
- Saturday December 24—Christmas Eve Services @ 4 & 7 pm
- Sunday December 25—Merry Christmas! 10 am Family Worship Service—No First Kids School or Nursery
- Saturday December 31—Family Worship Weekend—No First Kids School or Nursery

Looking ahead to January

- Sunday January 1—Family Worship Weekend—No First Kids School or Nursery
- January 4—Leadership Recharge for Volunteer staff—No Wednesday Night Groups
- January 11—Wednesday Night Winter Kickoff

First Kids School Celebrates Wonder!!

We will continue to celebrate wonder as we explore the hope we have through the coming of Jesus Christ.



FIRST YOUTH

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.



Fair Trade Fundraiser

As a fundraiser for our Mission Trip in July, we are selling Fair Trade coffee, tea, cocoa mix, and chocolate! This is some of the best quality you will find! Here is a list of Fair Trade products you can purchase in support:

Coffee- \$15 per bag

Organic Breakfast Blend (Whole Bean or Drip Grind), Organic French Roast (Drip Grind), Organic Decaf (Drip Grind)

Chocolate- \$5 per bar

Organic Dark Chocolate Caramel Crunch with Sea Salt, Organic Very Dark Chocolate, Organic Milk Chocolate

Tea- \$6 per 20 pack

Organic Black Tea, Organic Green Tea, Organic Chamomile Tea (caffeine free), Organic Peppermint (caffeine free)

Hot Cocoa Mix- \$10 per bin

Organic Hot Cocoa Mix, Organic Dark Hot Chocolate Mix (dairy free)

Mark the Calendar!

Nov. 30th— The Painted Fox Night
Dec. 7th— Confirmation Mentor Night
Dec. 14th— Christmas Program Night
Dec. 21st—Jan. 4th— No First Youth/ Confirmation
Jan. 4th— Youth Leader Training
Jan. 11th— Game Night!

Register

To ensure the safety of our students, please take a moment to fill out a registration form for each student. The form can be found on the website at:

www.watertownfirst.church/first-youth.

LEADERSHIP TEAM MINUTES**Tuesday, November 8 • 5:30 pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lea Ann Alwin, Ronda Boughton, Barb Brinkman, Sarah Caron, Debbie Engels, April Geffre, Mike Grann, Sue Luken, Chad Miller, Lee Rycraft, Pastor Jen, Pastor Bryce

ABSENT: Corrine Dahl, Doug Wishard

Devotions: Lea Ann Alwin

Welcome Prayer: Pastor Jen

AGENDA:

ELEVATOR ISSUES: The elevator is currently working. More long term options are being looked into.

DENOMINATIONAL UPDATE: There is a special Annual Conference on November 19. The agenda will include one business item: consideration of resolutions ratifying the disaffiliation of local churches from The United Methodist Church. Our church can send 7 lay delegates to this. Those attending include: Mike & Kathie Grann, Barb Brinkman, Sue Luken, Ronda Boughton, Pearl Geffre, and Debbie Engels.

Pastor Jen explained the disaffiliation process. She is available to visit with any member who would like more information.

NEW POTENTIAL LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS (2023 – 2025):

Mike and Chad have completed their terms on the Leadership Team, so there are 2 openings. We are asked to be in prayer about this. A discussion was held if family of full-time staff should be on Leadership team. It is felt that the best practice should be that someone who is related and living in the same household should not be on this team.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING: The Christmas offering will be designated for Mission & Outreach projects.

PASTOR UPDATES:

Pastor Bryce: He has applied for a Breakthrough Ministry Grant from the Dakotas Conference. The focus of the grant is a young adults ministry.

He and a group of middle and high school youth will be attending DAKYOUTH November 11-13. They are also planning to attend national youth conference next summer.

Pastor Jen: The theme for Advent will be *Living Expectantly*.

LEADERSHIP TEAM GROUP UPDATES:

Building & Grounds: Fall clean-up is completed. Snow removal contract is signed. The handicap ramp on NE side of the church is in.

Finance: 2023 Proposed budget was reviewed. Motion by April; 2nd by Mike to approve this proposed budget as amended. Motion carried. Finance committee and Foundation board are meeting to discuss how the Foundation can be more involved.

SPR: Things are going well. We have a new custodian.

Ministry: We will have the Advent Festival this year. This is an opportunity for alternate gifts. We will be supporting the following groups:

- International focus: Heifer International
- National: Youth mission trip
- Local: Sleep in Heavenly Peace and Humane Society.

We will have the Angel Tree again this year. We have signed up to be "Bell Ringers" for Salvation Army on December 1 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Trav's Outfitter.

Executive Session: Motion by Sarah; 2nd by Barb to go into executive session 7pm. Motion carried, and Pastor Bryce stepped out. Declared out of executive session at 7:40.

Meeting concluded with the *Breakthrough Prayer*.

There will be no meeting in December.

Next meeting: January 10, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Luken, recording secretary

Leadership Team Openings

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

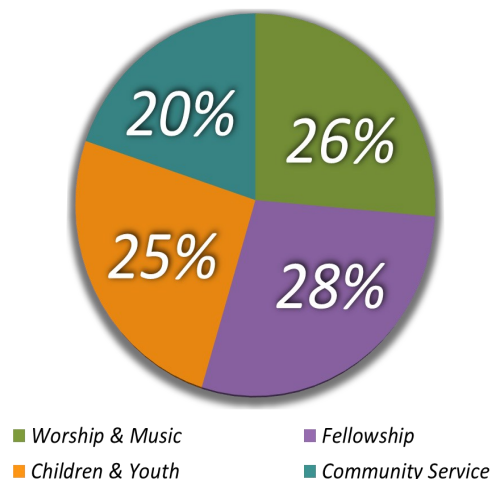
We will have two openings on our Leadership Team at the end of this year as Mike Grann & Chad Miller end their 3 year term.

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.

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.



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

Just a friendly reminder to turn in your 2023 Pledge Cards.

To submit your 2023 Pledge electronically click here: [2023 Pledge](#)

OR **Scan the QR Code to the Right** OR **Request a Paper Copy from the Church Office**

First Church also offers Electronic Giving as a way to automate your regular giving.

Go to watertownfirst.church/giving to set up an automatic donation plan or call the church office to help walk you through the process. Thank you for your support of First Church.



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	\$1,879
	Expense	\$125,265	
	Difference	(\$13,299)	
Oct. 2022	Income	\$46,505	\$5,795
	Expense	\$42,589	
	Difference	\$3,916	

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.



The poinsettias that decorate our sanctuary this Christmas Season are given in memory of the following loved ones.

GIVEN BY:	IN MEMORY OF:
David & Lea Ann Alwin	Marge Alwin, Arthur & Audrey Padfield
Donna Cook	Charles, Jan & Pat Cook
Cornelius Family	Gerald R. Cornelius
John & Marsha Dahl	Roland & Betty Dahl, John & Virginia Reisdorff
Jason, Dylan & Kegan Kasperek	Grandpa Harvey Schneider
Audrey Lindgren	Parents Clayton & Dolores Lindgren
Doug & Kathy Mielitz	Marjorie Phillips
Marlene Nogelmeier	Harold & Beverlee Nogelmeier
Millard & Shirley Roe	Friend, Benny Larson
Audrey Rohde	Mary Fox, Loretta Weber, Rose Swanz
Blair Titze	Ross & Marion Oviatt, Leo & Bette Titze
Melissa & Dave Todd	Linda Todd
Glen & Darla Vilhauer & Family	Chelsea Ann Vilhauer

Advent Alternative Gift Fair

Don't know what to get someone for Christmas? Don't need anything new that will end up lying around the house anyway? Considering Alternative Gift Giving.

Alternative Gift Giving is a great way to support local, national, and international missions during the holiday season. Gifts can be purchased in memory or in honor of loved ones at our Alternative Gift Fair.

Sat & Sun, Nov. 26-27, thru Dec. 17-18, we will have booths at the back of the sanctuary for your shopping pleasure. We will support the following missions:

Local: SHP & Humane Society

Sleep in Heavenly Peace—No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in our Town (Tax Deductible Donation)

\$200.00 Lumber & supplies to build a single bed
 \$400.00 Lumber & supplies to build a set of bunk beds
 Any monetary donations are also appreciated and will go towards supplies to build beds or purchase bedding.

Glacial Lakes Humane Society—Cost to prepare a Dog or Cat for Adoption (Tax Deductible Donation)

\$17.00—\$30.00 Vaccines
 \$18.00 Microchip
 \$4.00—\$7.00 Dewormer
 \$13.00 Flea Prevention
 \$20.00—\$80.00 Spay/Neuter
 \$20.00 Feline Leukemia & Feline Aids Test

National: Youth 2023 Mission Trip to Florida.

Equal Exchange Fair Trade Products: Youth Fund Raiser

\$10.00 Organic Coffee, Drip Grind or Whole Bean
 \$5.00 Organic Chocolate Bars
 \$6.00 Organic Tea, Black, Green, Chamomile or Peppermint
 \$10.00 Hot Cocoa Mix

Jewelry by Samantha Bruns: Youth Fund Raiser

\$10.00 Necklaces, Earrings, Key Chains
 \$1.00 Picks just for Fun

International: Heifer International. Providing animals and training to the poorest families around the world, creating hope and offering economic stability. A family is provided a source of food and income, and then they pass on the gift and training to another family in need.

Heifer International Living Gifts: (Tax Deductible Donation)

\$50.00 Share of a heifer
 \$25.00 Share of a water buffalo
 \$20.00 Share of an alpaca
 \$10.00 Share of a sheep
 \$10.00 Share of a goat
 \$10.00 Share of a pig
 \$30.00 Honeybees
 \$20.00 Flock of chicks, ducks, or geese

Make your selection and pay by Cash, Check, or Credit Card. Thank you for supporting missions during this Advent Season.



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

Sandee Prouty-Cole, Doris Armstrong, & Aletha Prouty on the death of Judith Symens on October 28, 2022. Judith was Aunt to Sandee & Sister-In-Law to Doris & Aletha.

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—Robert Shultz #427
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)

December 7, 2022

Preparing for the Holidays—Support Group Sharing & Hand Outs
+PLUS+ Holiday treats & surprises!

January 4, 2023

Topic—"Keep Sharp"
Speakers—Bill and Cathy Zubke

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



Birthday	Name
1-Dec	Kaden Raml
2-Dec	Jerry Leadabrand
2-Dec	Michael Williams
2-Dec	Cynthia Blair
2-Dec	Cassie Kasperek
3-Dec	Mykel Hoffman
3-Dec	Stanley Jongbloed
4-Dec	Cassandra Fonder
4-Dec	Violet Solum
4-Dec	Lester Urban
4-Dec	Jeanne Sherman
4-Dec	Diane Kludt
5-Dec	Austin Hanson
5-Dec	Doug Mielitz
5-Dec	Lyndon Allen
6-Dec	Kolyns Wellman
6-Dec	MaryJane Marsh
8-Dec	Chad Voelsch
8-Dec	Teresa Remmers
9-Dec	Marsha Dahl
10-Dec	Ginger Myers
10-Dec	David Anderson
10-Dec	Rochelle Hunter
10-Dec	Julie Stevenson
10-Dec	Mark Arnold
11-Dec	Peggy Curtis
11-Dec	Noelle Heuer
11-Dec	Lauren Olerud
12-Dec	Anthony Cady
14-Dec	Gretta Dahl
14-Dec	Emily Riley
14-Dec	Connie Sue Bridge
15-Dec	Ashyr Meek
15-Dec	Caleb Clark
15-Dec	Jennifer Heggelund
15-Dec	Destiny Seidell
15-Dec	Lynn Solberg
15-Dec	Jamie Veeder
15-Dec	Ashley Edwards

Birthday	Name
16-Dec	Beth Decker
16-Dec	Chad VanDerLinden
17-Dec	Alexander Fonder
17-Dec	Annie Aason
17-Dec	Chloe Billings
18-Dec	Sarah Leadabrand
18-Dec	Greyson Rycraft
18-Dec	Dean Fenenga
18-Dec	Holly Solberg
18-Dec	Joyce Swenson
18-Dec	Tim Jorgenson
18-Dec	Elaine Mack
19-Dec	Virginia Skinner
19-Dec	Cassandra Jurgens
20-Dec	Wyatt Smunk
20-Dec	Brooke Hanson
20-Dec	Madison Williams
21-Dec	Cindy Wishard
22-Dec	Malakai Maskovich
23-Dec	Pearl Geffre
24-Dec	Carolyn Wilkens
25-Dec	Ashley Fox
25-Dec	Randall Middleton
26-Dec	Tom Dorneman
26-Dec	Keri Smith
27-Dec	Kinley Rymerson
27-Dec	Taryn Schaunaman
29-Dec	Justin Raml
29-Dec	Jenni Wirkus
29-Dec	Josiah Pumpkinseed
30-Dec	Anna Hoffman
30-Dec	Thomas Myers

Anniversary	Bride & Groom
3-Dec	Derek & Kaitlin Wangen
16-Dec	Thomas & Sandra Halajian
16-Dec	Howard & Carol Meyer
21-Dec	Lester & Marcia Urban
27-Dec	Steven & Marlys Ching
28-Dec	Doug & Cindy Wishard

Community Christmas Concert Sunday, December 4

- * The “**Sounds of the Season**” community Christmas concert is returning!!
- * Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 4, 2022, at First United Methodist Church.
- * Concert times are 3 pm and 7 pm.
- * Free tickets are available at County Fair and Hy-Vee.

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.

Christmas Eve Worship Services—December 24
4 pm Blended (Nursery Care Available)
7 pm Traditional (No Nursery Care)

Sunday, December 25th only One Service
10 am Hymn Sing

November 17, 2022

Dear First Church Friends,

Ever since I first started working at First Church back in August 2010, I have grown fond of reading this scripture that Paul writes to the believers in Thessalonica from 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

"We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly. As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ."

This scripture resonates so much with me about how I feel about the community of people at Watertown First United Methodist Church. There is so much that I am thankful for about serving here these past years at First Church and being a small part of the legacy of faith and loving Christian hospitality that resides in this community of believers. Which is why I am also sad to share with you that I have decided to resign my position as Director of Children's Ministry, **effective December 20**.

I especially give thanks to God as you prayed for me, walked with me, and continually supported me through my cancer journey the past year and a half. However, I am finding that I still do not have enough energy post-treatment to work fully at my pre-treatment capacity and need to give my body, as well as my mind and spirit, more extended time for rest and renewal. It is my hope that this time of rest and renewal will also allow for more time to spend with family as well as other personal business and interests.

In the time that remains, I will be working closely with Pastor Jen and Pastor Bryce to transition my work on Children's Ministry for coverage in the future. Thank you again for the blessing it has been to serve at First Church and be a part of making a difference in the lives of the children for the transformation of the world.

Grace and peace to all,

Rev. Sandee Prouty-Cole

Rev. Sandee Prouty-Cole

SAVE THE DATE: Dec. 17—18

Please join us in worship on
December 17 & 18 as we Celebrate
Rev. Sandee Prouty-Cole
for her years of service at FirstChurch.

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

December 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
Director of Children's Ministry
 Rev. Sandee Prouty-Cole
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

Christmas Eve Worship Services—December 24
4 pm Blended (Nursery Care Available)
7 pm Traditional (No Nursery Care)



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

**NOTE:
 Dec. 25
 10 am
 One Service**

Church Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/watertownfirstumc>
 Church YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4PljXmmIPY_YvhiNPBKZA



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