1

2

3

4

5

6-7



First United Methodist Church First News March 2023



4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

Announcements, Events,

First Kids, First Squad, First

Meet & Greet with Bishop

Leadership Team Minutes

Pastor's Word

Calendar

Missions

Youth

Lanette

IN THIS ISSUE

A Note from Pastor Jen,

While it doesn't look how we had hoped or planned because of the weather... the Christian season of Lent officially began last week, on Ash Wednesday (Feb 22). After consulting with other staff and the chair of our Leadership Team, we moved our Ash Wednesday worship to online only. Immediately upon making that decision, our staff quickly got to work recording prayers, music, sermons and more as we reflected with gratitude for all we learned about doing this well during COVID... and with perhaps greater gratitude still that this is something we don't have to do very often anymore.

My reflections on this experience didn't end with thinking about COVID, though, as much as I was struck by the beauty of our new series kicking off in this way. You see: our new sermon series that began on Ash Wednesday and will take us to Easter is titled, "Busy: Reconnecting with an Unhurried God." There's a bit of irony

First Church Finances 7
First Family & Friends 8-9
Worship Hours 10
Meet the Staff

in the fact that even our usual midweek schedules have come to a halt as we start to talk about the importance of slowing down, and ceasing to be so busy... isn't there?

For many of us, the season of Lent has been a time when we think about "giving something up." The idea behind this is that we give up something that is an integral part of our lives, and during this season especially, we use that extra space or longing in our life to connect more with God. Unfortunately, the worldly culture around us has shifted how we think about this, often letting the thing we give up become about discipline or restriction or even (in the worst case scenarios) diet culture. Yet I wonder... what if we thought less about *giving up* – and more about *making room*?

Throughout this season, we are going to be talking about ways to *make room* for God in our lives in new, growing, intentional ways. We are going to focus on slowing down, in order to be more fully present in the spaces we find ourselves. This doesn't mean you have to give up things, activities, or commitments (though it absolutely can if you're overbooked or overwhelmed!). It *does* mean you are invited to connect to our unhurried God... to know that God is with you always, and to know that God is longing for you to find rest – physical, spiritual, and emotional – in him. After all, Jesus does promise us this when he says (in Matthew 11:28), "Come to me all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, I will give you rest."

As we seek rest this season, may it not be rest for the sake of it so we can go back to running full speed on Easter Sunday. Rather, may we find rest that we can *lean into* throughout our lives: starting in this season, and always. Perhaps you will find that rest by spending time with God in quiet spaces throughout your day, by prioritizing worship with community, or by joining one of our Lent study groups as we seek to grow in faith by reading scripture together. Maybe you'll find rest by meditating, by cutting back on some of your commitments that are taking away your energy, or by trying to run a little less in what feels like your busy and chaotic life.

Whatever rest looks like for you in this season of your life: may you find it this season as we let go of being busy... and we find innovative ways to reconnect to our *Unhurried* God.

Pastor Jen



March 2023

| | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---|---|-----|--|
| | | | 1 Home Communion 12:05 pm Lenten Study— Lounge * See Below for List of Wednesday Night Activities | 2 10 am Women's Bible Study | 3 | 7 am Back Room Boys Church Library 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 5:00 pm Worship |
| 5 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship | 6:00 pm Lenten Study—Lounge | 7 | 8 9:00 am Morning Glories— Church Lounge 12:05 pm Lenten Study— Lounge * See Below for List of Wednesday Night Activities | 9 10 am Women's Bible Study | 10 | 7 am Back Room Boys Church Library 9 am Painted Fox— Women's Mini Retreat 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 5:00 pm Worship |
| 12 Daylight Savings Time Begins 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship | 6:00 pm Lenten Study—Lounge | 5:30pm Leadership Team Meeting | 15 12:05 pm Lenten Study— Lounge Spring Break No Children or Youth Activities this night | 16 10 am Women's Bible Study 6 pm Freedom Haven Informative Video and Q&A (Tentative) | 17 | 7 am Back Room Boys Church Library 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 4pm Meet & Greet with Bishop Lanette! 5:00 pm Worship |
| 19 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship | Youth Fund Raiser Pizza Ranch 5pm-8pm 5:30 pm Lunch— A—Bunch at Pizza Ranch—See Page 4 for Details 6:00 pm Lenten Study—Lounge | 21 | 22 12:05 pm Lenten Study— Lounge * See Below for List of Wednesday Night Activities | 23 10 am Women's Bible Study | 24 | 7 am Back Room Boys Church Library 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 5:00 pm Worship |
| 26 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship | 6:00 pm Lenten Study—Lounge | 5:30—8:30 pm Church Clean Up Night Come & Go as you are able | March 1 12:05 pm Lenten Study— Lounge * See Below for List of Wednesday Night Activities | ** Wednesday Night Schedule 5:15 pm Community Meal 5:30 pm Bell Choir 6:00-7:30 pm First Kids (K-4th Grade) 6:00-7:30 pm First Squad (5th—6th Grade) 6:00-7:30 pm First Youth (7th—12th Grade) 6:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:45 pm Unity Band | | |



Weekly at First Church

Mondays

6:00 pm Lenten Study—Church Lounge

Wednesdays

12:05 pm Lenten Study—Church Lounge

5:15—5:45 pm Community Meal—All are Welcome 5:30 pm Bell Choir

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

3rd Tuesday of the Month—Note Change for March —Monday, March 20th—5:30 pm at Pizza Ranch

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

1st Wednesday of the Month

Home Communion

2nd Wednesday of the Month

Morning Glories Women's Fellowship/Mission Group 9:00 am in the Church Lounge

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.

FIRST CHURCH MISSION OF THE MONTH

March—Roosevelt Elementary School



PACH Item for March Mac—N—Cheese

Donated items can be dropped off at the church. Thank You!

Lenten Study

- Pastor Jen will be leading a Lenten Study based on Adam Hamilton's book on the Gospel of Luke. The title of the book is, "Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws"
- Studies will be held for 6 weeks on Mondays and Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday.
- Beginning **Monday, February 27th at 6:00 pm** in the church lounge.
- Also beginning **Wednesday**, **March 1st at 12:05 pm** in the church lounge bring your own lunch.
- No book is required but please let Pastor Jen or the church office know if you will need child care on Monday evenings. 605-886-4427 or ofice@watertownfirst.church.



MISSION OF THE MONTH.....

Roosevelt Elementary School will be performing a spring play/musical and we here at First Church would like to

help them with costumes and set design which will also be used in future plays etc.

In addition to the items needed for the play, there are also the basic monthly needs as listed below. Let's shower Roosevelt with some love this month. Monetary donations can be made out to the church but please note "Roosevelt School" in your memo line.

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:

- Markers
- Post-It-Notes
- Classroom Snacks (crackers, goldfish, fruit snacks, granola bars, etc)
- Neon colored paper
- Snack Size Baggies
- Sandwich Sized Bags
- Gallon zip-lock Bags
- Kleenex
- Pencil Top Erasers
- Reasonably Priced Water Bottles
- Juice Boxes
- Book Wish List Dr. Amy West Books "Today I Feel Angry" & "Today I Feel Anxious"





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



First Kids School Relaunch!!

First Kids School is back!!

Starting on the weekend of March 11th and 12th, First Kids School will be offered after the Time for Young Disciples at the 5pm Saturday service and the 10am Sunday service. All children grades kindergarten-4th are welcome to participate.

Please note that the first Sunday of the month we will not have First Kids School and will have a family worship weekend instead where children can stay in worship and participate in communion with their family.

FIRST**KIDS**FIRST**SQUAD**

Key Happenings in March First Kids & First Squad

- ◆ Mar 15— Spring Break– No Activities for Children or Youth
- ◆ April 5— Easter Party!

Easter Party—Wednesday, April 5th

Instead of the Easter Eggstravaganza this year, we will be having an Easter Party on Wednesday, April 5th during our normal programming hours of 6-7:30pm. More details to come but mark your calendars for this fun event!





VBS 2023—Mark Your Calendars!

Dates: Evenings from June 19th—22nd

Theme: Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light



Mark the Calendar!

Mar 1—Solar Oven Project

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

Mar 8—Minute to Win It Night

Mar 29—Bring Your Pet to Youth Group Night

Mar 31—Youth Lock-in @ First Church

Apr 5- Holy Week Programming

Apr 19- Beacon Center

Apr 26- Bowling Night @Tommy's

Support our Youth Mission Team!

Thank you for all your support of First Youth!

Upcoming Fundraising Event

<u>Pizza Ranch:</u> On **Monday, March 20**th, stop by Pizza Ranch between 5-8pm for your meal. Youth will be bussing tables and helping clean. A percentage of the revenue earned between 5-8pm will be donated to the youth group.

All proceeds will go to supporting participants of the Youth 2023 Mission Trip!

First Youth Lock-in!

When: March 31st-April 1st (7pm-7am)

Where: First United Methodist Church

What: A glow-in-the-dark themed lock-in with churches from around the area! All 7-12th grade youth are invited for games, worship, food, and fellowship.



Thank You for your service, Steve Lindner!

We are sad to announce that Steve Lindner has resigned as Custodian. We wish to Thank him for a job well done for the time he was with us and wish him well on his next life journey.

If you know of anyone interested in the custodial position here at First Church, please contact the church office.





Ask The Pastor...Pastor Jen & Pastor Bryce joined the women's weekly Thursday Bible Study where anyone could ask any biblical question and the Pastor's would do their best to give answers. They did a great job and the ladies would like to Thank them for attending.



A HUGE THANKS to all who supported the youth mission meal event "A Night To Remember" youth fund raiser meal in any way.

The youth did a fantastic job of serving, the cooks prepared an amazing meal, and others who helped did a great job as well.

Even the younger children got involved by making placemats for the event.



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING • FEBRUARY 13, 2023 • 5:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lea Ann Alwin, Ronda Boughton, Barb Brinkman, Sarah Caron, Corrine Dahl, Debbie

Engels, April Geffre, Sue Luken, Lee Rycraft, Doug Wishard, Pastor Jen, Pastor Bryce

Guest: Blair Titze Videographer: Alayna Nelson

Devotions: Barb Brinkman **Welcome Prayer:** Barb Brinkman

AGENDA:

Elevator Issues and Options: The elevator continues to be operational. A committee is being formed to explore options. A representative from the Foundation Board would be beneficial.

Freedom's Haven (Ukrainian Refugee Resettlement): The video has been shown to 2 grow groups with positive responses. How can we as individuals and as a church be involved? This will be explored further with opportunities for the congregation to learn more with an informational meeting. The Multi Cultural Center is one place to contact if interested in making donations.

Bishop Lanette Plambeck will be visiting our church Saturday, March 18. She will give the message at the Saturday service. Area United Methodist churches will be invited and encouraged to attend.

Personnel Policy – Updates: The employee manual has been updated. Motion by April; 2nd Ronda to accept the updated policy as presented. This will be effective beginning with the next pay period.

Worship Services / Times: There has been some questions asked if we should have one or two services on Sunday morning. As we look at this item, questions that need to be considered include: If we were to have one service, what style of worship would it be? What is the preferred time? What style would this service be? Traditional? – Blended? – Contemporary? We are asked to think about these questions. Our first step is to be more intentional about time of fellowship between services.

Summer Party: There will be a Picnic in the Park in June. The tentative date is Sunday, June 11 from 5:00 – 8:00. This will be a time of fun and fellowship.

Pastor Updates:

Pastor Bryce gave the following dates

Wednesday, February 15 – fundraising dinner

VBS will be June 19-22

Youth Mission Trip – July 22-29

The youth led the Saturday worship service last weekend and did an amazing job.

Wednesday night volunteers are doing very good with the children and youth programming.

First Kids time will resume the weekend of March 11 - 12. The first weekend of every month will be Family Worship Time. First Kids is for children in age $4 - 4^{th}$ grade.

The newly forming Young Adults Group is planning and adapting to meet the needs of this age range.

Pastor Jen reported on new members. Last weekend (Feb. 11-12) we had 13 new members. There have been 30 new members since September. There will be another class starting soon.

Lent plans – The theme for Lent this year is Busy – Reconnect with our unhurried God.

She will be offering mid-week Lent study 2 times. One will be offered on Monday nights at 6:00 beginning February 27. The other will be Wednesdays at noon beginning March 1. This will be a 6 week study of the book of Luke.

Continued on next page....



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING • FEBRUARY 13, 2023 • 5:30 PM

Continued from previous page...

LEADERSHIP TEAM GROUP UPDATES:

Ministry: Mission of the Month is going well. January PACH was highlighted. February focus is the youth mission trip. Donations continue to come for Roosevelt School. The Public Opinion had a good article about Haiti Alive. It would be nice to have a follow-up that includes our church involvement and that one of the houses in the Women's Village was named by our church because of our ongoing involvement. We will be hosting The Banquet on February 27.

Building & Grounds: There have been some electrical issues with heat tape. There is a need for signage indicating which door is handicap accessible.

Finance: January giving was good.

SPR: There is a need for some renovations to Pearl's work area. There have been some inquiries about the Children's Ministry Coordinator position.

Other: The Highlanders from Dakota Wesleyan University will be at our church the weekend of April 15 – 16. There will be a need for host families. More information will be coming.

March 11 – There will be a time of Women's Fellowship at the Painted Fox.

Meeting concluded with the Breakthrough Prayer.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 14, 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 have two openings on our Leadership Team.

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.

| First | Chur | ch l | Fina | nces |
|-------|------|------|------|------|
| | | | | |

| FUMC General Budget Financials - 2023 | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|-----|--------------|---------------|
| | | Mor | nthly Actual | YTD Cash Flow |
| V | Income | \$ | 521,015 | |
| Year End 2022 | Expense | \$ | 493,168 | \$27,847 |
| | Difference | \$ | 27,847 | |
| | Income | \$ | 64,429 | |
| Jan. 2023 | Expense | \$ | 36,234 | \$28,195 |
| | Difference | \$ | 28,195 | |

NOTE: To meet our 2023 budget in full each month, we need a monthly income of \$41,600.00. The chart above reflects our giving, actual expenditures, and YTD cash flow. Thank you for your generosity and support of First Church!

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 Your for your support of First Church!



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





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

Family and friends of Judith E. "Judy" Stotts who passed away on February 7, 2023.

Dixie & Don Jellis and other family and friends of Muriel A. Jorgenson who passed away on February 11, 2023. Muriel was mother to Dixie.

Arlin Schumacher and other family and friends of Julie (Judy) Schumacher who passed away on February 18, 2023. Judy was Arlin's wife and also sister to Roxie Shultz.

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 | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Avantara Lake Norden 803 Park St Lake Norden SD 57248 | Mildred Drake | | |
| Edgewood Assisted Living 901 14th Ave NE Watertown, SD 57201 | 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 VanDykhorst #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)

March 1, 2023

Topic—"Oral Care Tips for Caregivers of People With Dementia" By Rhonda Bradberry, Regional Educator for Delta Dental

April 5, 2023

. Topic—"Legal Issues"

By Nancy Oviatt, Attorney with Green Roby Oviatt LLP

<u>PLEASE NOTE:</u> 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 <u>cl.memory.group@gmail.com</u>

Michelle Erlandson-Mohling





| | | n | | |
|----------|------------------|----------|---------------------|--|
| Birthday | Name | Birthday | Name | |
| 1-Mar | Dana Stern | 21-Mar | Lincoln Schutt | |
| 2-Mar | Kristi Davis | 21-Mar | Ed Togel | |
| 2-Mar | Stephanie Muller | 21-Mar | Wendy Meek | |
| 3-Mar | A J Shultz | 21-Mar | Colette Krueger | |
| 4-Mar | Shane Wirkus | 21-Mar | Paul Klose | |
| 4-Mar | Dacey Veflin | 23-Mar | Judy Miller | |
| 5-Mar | Jordan Chandler | 24-Mar | Tawny Engels | |
| 7-Mar | Kaelee Ward | 24-Mar | Alan Luckhurst | |
| 7-Mar | Noah Hiedeman | 25-Mar | Michelle Erlandson- | |
| 7-Mar | Angie Anderson | 26-Mar | Madison Enstad | |
| 8-Mar | Harper Mortenson | 26-Mar | Alex Cady | |
| 8-Mar | Margie Gertsen | 26-Mar | Marty Harmel | |
| 9-Mar | Ruth Feeney | 26-Mar | Haevyn Jones | |
| 9-Mar | Peggy Lindahl | 27-Mar | Dan Oslund | |
| 10-Mar | Ethan Riley | 28-Mar | Clark McElhany | |
| 10-Mar | Mason Heggelund | 29-Mar | Zander Wight | |
| 10-Mar | Darrell Johnson | 29-Mar | Aidan Wegner | |
| 10-Mar | Angela Boughton | 29-Mar | James Halvorson | |
| 10-Mar | Oliver Marek | 30-Mar | Cortlyn Paulson | |
| 11-Mar | John Dahl | 30-Mar | Marcus Heggelund | |
| 12-Mar | Karen Miller | 30-Mar | Matthew Hoffman | |
| 13-Mar | Josh Delgado | 31-Mar | Howard Meyer | |
| 13-Mar | Shelby Blair | 31-Mar | Austin McBride | |
| 13-Mar | Sadie Arnold | | | |
| 14-Mar | Davee Buechler | | | |
| 14-Mar | Raven Smith | | | |
| 15-Mar | Journi Jurgens | | | |
| 16-Mar | Macey Ward | | | |
| 16-Mar | Luke Muller | | <u>In March C</u> | |
| 16-Mar | Lacy Maskovich | | Monday, | |
| 16-Mar | Tracy Stavick | | There is a | |
| 17-Mar | Meranda Reis | | i ilei e is d | |
| 17-Mar | Reagan Smith | | | |
| 18-Mar | Laurie Conley | | Morning | |
| 18-Mar | Jennifer Benthin | | , | |
| 19-Mar | Finnegan Murphy | | Next med | |
| | | 1 | 14CVC IIIC | |

19-Mar Lea Ann Alwin

19-Mar Roberta Stillson



| Anniversary | Bride & Groom | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 3-Mar | Bobbi & Matthew Hoffman | |
| 6-Mar | Heide & Karl Kuhlman | |
| 8-Mar Carol Pollard & Wayne Leiner | | |
| 21-Mar | Susan & Stephen Bachmann | |
| 24-Mar Melissa & Kenny Raml | | |
| 27-Mar | Beth & Chuck Decker | |
| 29-Mar | Cheri & Bruce Erlandson | |
| 31-Mar | Diane & Dale Kludt | |



Community Meal All Are Welcome March 1—Pancakes, Eggs, Bacon, etc

NOTE CHANGES

In March Only—Lunch a Bunch will meet on Monday, March 20 at the Pizza Ranch at 5:30. There is a room reserved for us on south side.

Morning Glories will now meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 8th, at 9:00 in the church lounge.





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

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

March 2023 FIRST NEWS

MEET THE STAFF

Senior Pastor

Rev. Jen Tyler

Associate Pastor

Rev. Bryce Blank

Director of Worship & Ministry

Lucas Severson

Office Manager

Pearl Geffre

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

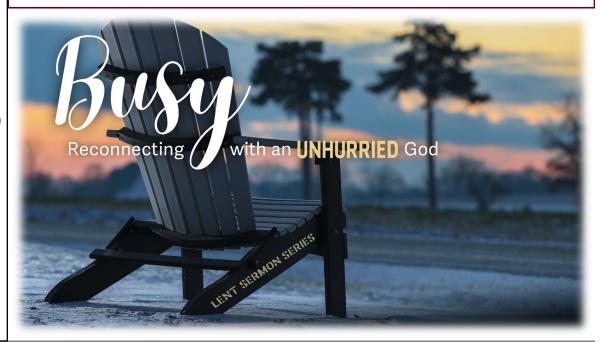
Director

Blair Titze

Wedding Coordinator

Kathy Mielitz

We invite you to worship with us in person or online
Saturdays at 5:00 pm—Contemporary Worship Service
Sunday at 8:30 am—Traditional Worship Service





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