



**First United
Methodist Church
First News
October 2023**



OCTOBER 2023 FIRST NEWS

FIRSTCHURCH

4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Word	1
Calendar	2
Announcements, Events, Missions	3-4
First Family & Friends	4-5
First Kids, First Squad, First Youth	6-7
Leadership Team Meeting	8-9
First Church Finances	9
Pillow Cleaning Info	9
Worship Hours Meet the Staff	10

Over the past several weeks, I've been reading and reflecting on the many gifts and nuances of the creation stories in Genesis. I'm not sure what it is that has drawn me into this familiar story, but I keep coming back to it. I keep finding gifts in the wonder, the miracle, even the comfort of the rhythm and order offered to us in the pattern of creation over 7 days as told in Genesis 1.

There are so many things to reflect on here, from the miracle of God creating all that is out of nothing, to the ways things are given names, to the wonder of what that first sunrise or sunset looked like on that first day when God created light and darkness. Most of all, I appreciate that no matter what God did or created on each of the first 6 days described, God saw all that was before them, and called it *good*.

Yet it was on Day 6 that God created humans.

"Then God said, 'Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us...' (Genesis 1:26 CEB)

"God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good. There was evening and there was morning: the sixth day." (Genesis 1:31 CEB)

It was "*supremely*" good, it says. I love this descriptor that is different from other days simply being *good*. On this day, it was *supremely* good, after creating humans in God's likeness.

Then, in this abundance of goodness, we are told God *rested* on Day 7.

It makes me wonder: are we keeping our eyes open for that which is *supremely good* in our midst? Are we creating opportunity to rest into the goodness that is already within and around us? By this, I mean: part of what was so very good about God's creation, was the gift of being together in community. The gift of being set apart to live life together, and to care for one another and all of creation that is around us.

Part of the gift of my time of Renewal Leave over the summer was the ability to seek – and rest into – the gift of creation that is all around us. While sometimes that took the glorious form of hiking a mountain in a national park, most days it looked like spending time in the dirt pulling weeds or mowing the grass. Yet I found joy and wonder in it all because for the first time, these weren't just tasks to be done, but opportunities to *be* in creation. To wonder anew about the miracle of God's creation that is as wide as the entire universe, and as specific as each blade of grass.

Taking time to rest into the wonder of these miracles is indeed *supremely good* – and it makes me wonder: where are you taking time apart to see and wonder about the miracles of God? Where do you see that which is *supremely good* around and within you?

This week (month, year, lifetime...), might you take time to do just that. To pause. To *rest*. To marvel at the wonder of God's creation as you pause to see, to know, and to give thanks for all that is *supremely good*.

On the journey together,
Pastor Jen

October 2023

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 5:30 pm Women of Grace 6:00 pm New Members Class 6:30 pm Worship The Ultimate Priority Study	3	4 9:15 am Character of God—Word Study <i>**See below for Regular Wednesday Night Activities**</i>	5 Pillow Cleaning 8 am—3 pm 10 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Blended Band Rehearsal 6pm "Impact" Young Adults Meet at Nelson Park (see pg 7)	6 Pillow Cleaning 8 am—Noon	7 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
8 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship	9 6:00 pm Accessibility Team 6:30 pm Worship The Ultimate Priority Study	10 5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting	11 9 am Morning Glories <i>**See below for Regular Wednesday Night Activities**</i>	12 10 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Blended Band Rehearsal	13	14 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
15 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship	16 5:30 pm Scripture Doodle 6:30 pm Worship The Ultimate Priority Study	17	18 9:15 am Character of God—Word Study 11:30 am Lunch A Bunch at Godfather's Pizza <i>**See below for Regular Wednesday Night Activities**</i>	19 10 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Blended Band Rehearsal	20	21  8:45 am—4:30 pm "Where Friends Gather" Women's Retreat 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
22 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship	23 6:30 pm Worship The Ultimate Priority Study	24	25 9:15 am Character of God—Word Study Children & Youth Fall Party!  <i>**See below for Regular Wednesday Night Activities**</i>	26 10 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Blended Band Rehearsal	27	28 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
29 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship	30 6:30 pm Worship The Ultimate Priority Study	31	Nov. 1 ** Wednesday Night Schedule 5:15 pm Community Meal—All are Welcome 5:15—6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:15—7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 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) 7:15—7:30 pm Family Worship in the Sanctuary	Nov. 2	Nov. 3	Nov. 4 AUTUMN FESTIVAL & BAKE SALE AT FIRST CHURCH Saturday, November 4, 2024 9:00 am—1:00 pm 

"Where Friends Gather" Women's Retreat at First Church. Sat. Oct. 21st, 8:15 am—4:30 pm


Grab your girlfriends and join us for some fun, food, and good times as we gather at our Fall Women's Retreat. Cost is only \$20 for a light breakfast, lunch, & retreat supplies.

RSVP to the church office by Oct. 10th. office@watertownfirst.church or 605-886-4427.

We are So Excited to bring back our retreat and gather with friends for a fun filled day!

Weekly at First Church
Wednesday

5:15 pm Community Meal—Everyone Welcome

5:15—6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:15—7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

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)

7:15—7:30 pm Family Worship in the Sanctuary

Thursday Bible Study

10:00 am Women's Bible Study

6:00 pm Blended Band Rehearsal

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 pm Adult Bible Study—Starts September 10

10:00 am Blended Worship

Monthly at First Church
1st Monday of the Month

5:30 pm Women of Grace Bible Study—Lounge

2nd Monday of the Month

6:00 pm Elevator Accessibility Team Meeting

3rd Monday of the Month

5:30 pm Scripture Doodle Devotional Expressions

2nd Tuesday of the Month

5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting

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

3rd Wednesday of the Month

11:30 am Lunch-A-Bunch at Godfather's Pizza

1st, 3rd, & 4th Wednesday of the Month

9:15 am Character of God Word Study

Monthly

(Time & Place to be Announced)

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

"Impact" Young Adult Group led by Pastor Bryce Blank & April Geffre

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

Mark Your Calendars
**AUTUMN FESTIVAL &
BAKE SALE AT FIRST CHURCH
Saturday, November 4, 2024**

9:00 am—1:00 pm

Fresh Homemade Rolls • Coffee • Deserts
Methodist Hamburger Soup • Pulled Pork Sandwiches


• BAKE SALE (Fellowship Hall)

Calling all bakers—If you'd like to donate baked goods, please drop them off Thurs. Nov. 2 or Fri. Nov. 3. Thanks.

• GRANDMA'S ATTIC (Cook Hall)

Donated items for Grandma's Attic may be dropped off:

Sat. Oct 28th 4-5 pm, Sun. Oct 29th 9—10 am

Wed. Nov. 1st 5-7 pm, Thurs. Nov. 2nd 11:30 am—3 pm

Please **NO** Furniture, Clothing, Shoes, Bedding, Curtains.

NO DVDs, CDs, VCRs, Electronics, Broken Items.

• FIRST CREATIONS (Fellowship Hall)

Do you have a homemade item that you specialize in?

We'd love to have you share your talents by inviting you to DONATE up to 5 items of your homemade craft. You set the price but please know that all the proceeds will go towards our mission of a new Electronic Carillon Bell System for the church.

• ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR SALE (Fellowship Hall)

Greeting Cards, Rada Cutlery, Baby Quilts

PLEASE NOTE: Proceeds will go towards updating the Electronic Carillon Bell System for our church as well as supporting our Youth Camping Program.

•What, you may be asking, is a Carillon Bell System?

- ♦ A Carillon consists of a series of at least 23 tuned bells that can be programmed to play a broad range of music.
- ♦ Carillons can be heard throughout North America in cities, at churches, on school campuses, in public parks and many other places where people gather.
- ♦ When First Church was built in 1914 there was a huge bell in the bell tower that was rung to signify the start of worship and other events.
- ♦ At that time in history some folks may not have had another device to help them tell time, so this bell system was a welcome sound in the community.
- ♦ Many years ago our church installed an electric bell system which could be programmed to play music at certain times of the day which was enjoyed by many in our church as well as in the community.
- ♦ With time our system has become obsolete. A new Electronic Carillon System is now available to replace the system we currently have that is no longer operational.

We hope that the proceeds from the Fall Festival will help us obtain a new Carillon Bell System so we can once again enjoy the music to signify events in our church and also provide scholarships so that anyone who wishes to go to church camp is able.

MISSIONS

October Mission of the Month

Diapers

We have requests for diapers on a weekly basis. We plan to host a Diaper Giveaway in the near future. Please help us stock up by dropping off any size diapers in the playpen at the back of the sanctuary. Monetary donations are also welcome. Thank you for your support!

Shoebox Christmas

Wopila! (Lakota word for Thanks) Pilamaya! (Thank You)

Moring Glories Ladies would like to say *Wopila* to everyone for your awesome support of our Shoebox Christmas Project.

Thanks for all the donations of toys and monetary gifts. We are overwhelmed by your support. We will be filling our shoeboxes on Oct. 11. They will be blessed the following weekend during worship.

Every year we are blessed by greater support from everyone. *Pilamaya!*

PS: Because of your generosity, we won't need any more empty shoeboxes at this time. Thanks again!

Morning Glories Women's Fellowship & Missional Group

Our Partnership with Roosevelt School continues this school year. Below is a list of supplies they could use.



There is a drop box at the back of the Sanctuary. Monetary donations are always welcome as well. Thanks for your support!

- Silver Sharpies - Kleenex
- Juice boxes, Fruit Snacks
- Crackers: Ritz, Cheez-it, Goldfish, Graham Crackers
- Bulk Cereal (Fruit Loops, Lucky Charms, etc.)

- Large popsicle sticks for crafting
- Small sticky notes (1.5in x 2in)
- Sink sized dish drying rack & drying pad
- Fidget Ball
- Fly Guy Books
- (4) Water Color Paint
- Paint Brush Set

The teachers at Roosevelt have expressed their grateful thanks to our generous congregation for your support of this much needed ministry.

First Family & Friends



Birthday	Happy Birthday To:
2-Oct	Ann Edleman
2-Oct	Mark Sanden
2-Oct	Tyson Clark
4-Oct	Cate Riley
5-Oct	Olivia Palm
5-Oct	Ava Clark
6-Oct	Terry Jorgenson
6-Oct	Virginia Robinson
6-Oct	Mason Anderson
6-Oct	Cipriana Kieso
9-Oct	Ted Tesch
10-Oct	Linda Haan
10-Oct	Rowan Erickson
11-Oct	Luka Lessin
11-Oct	Traci Gilbertson
12-Oct	Susan Geyerman
12-Oct	Jayden Hartford
12-Oct	Travis Arnold
12-Oct	Danicka Seidell
12-Oct	Dylan Jorgenson
13-Oct	Desirae Fonder
14-Oct	Martin Geffre
16-Oct	Gracelynn Ries
16-Oct	Jace Dols
17-Oct	Julie Walford
17-Oct	Troy LaFramboise
18-Oct	Marilyn Rahn
18-Oct	Marilyn Siegfried
18-Oct	Kinsley Engels
19-Oct	Lisa Stydel
19-Oct	Kerri Johnson
20-Oct	Kennedy McElhany
20-Oct	Marcy McElhany
20-Oct	Josslyn Veflin
22-Oct	Skip Meisenheimer
22-Oct	Gloria Brugman
22-Oct	Hadley Jorgenson
23-Oct	Meghan Heggelund

Birthday	Happy Birthday To:
24-Oct	Fred Wilkens
24-Oct	Torrence Tipton
24-Oct	Tom Berry
26-Oct	Renae Mack
26-Oct	Arlin Schumacher
27-Oct	Barbara Brinkman
27-Oct	Jean Fox
27-Oct	Dixie Schnoor
28-Oct	Elmer Brinkman
28-Oct	Taylor Rymerson
28-Oct	Nathan Ford
28-Oct	Claire Jungers
29-Oct	Angie Wegner
29-Oct	Chloe Gruenwald
29-Oct	Wyatt Fonder
30-Oct	Melissa Raml
31-Oct	Doris Armstrong
31-Oct	Brad Willett
31-Oct	Braxton Koehn



Anniversary	Bride & Groom
3-Oct	Don & Delores LeVake
3-Oct	Norman & Sue Luken
4-Oct	Tom & Cheryl Dorneman
4-Oct	Dick & Bonnie Lien
6-Oct	Harlan & Marilyn Siegfried
6-Oct	Frank & Jacque Johnson
8-Oct	Mark & Laura Bayles
14-Oct	Duane & Sarah Caron
14-Oct	Jaimie & Megan Swanson
14-Oct	Darrell & Genny DeLong
16-Oct	Adam & Ashley Fox
22-Oct	Harlan & Diane Veen
26-Oct	Allen & Jessica Ekern
28-Oct	Donald & Jean Fox
28-Oct	Josh & Danielle Mikkelsen
29-Oct	Todd & Cynthia Blair

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

Arlet Magstadt and other family and friends of Daniel Magstadt who passed away on August 31, 2023.

Erika & Ryan Zink and family. Erika's Grandmother, Lois Simmons, passed away on September 10, 2023.

Friends and family of Kenny Ragels who passed away on September 17, 2023.

Thank you to Pastor Bryce and the youth for showing up in the rain to help with setup for the Memory Walk on September 9th. We are truly blessed to have such an amazing church family! *Thanks again. Connie Lake*

OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN ASSISTED LIVING OR NURSING HOMES

Avantara Watertown 415 4 th Ave. NE Watertown, SD 57201	Mildred Smith & Karyl Wishard
Edgewood Assisted Living 901 14th Ave NE Watertown, SD 57201	Warren Berger #419—Clair "Bud" Drayer #408 Dick & Bonnie Lien #411—Karen Ostrander #424
Edgewood Independent Living 901 14th Ave NE Watertown, SD 57201	Lorraine Amy #213 Dorothy Iverson #202 Audrey Rhodes #210
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 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)

October 4, 2023

Topic—"Let's Talk"
Sharing and Discussion by Support Group

November 1, 2023

Topic—"Library Resources for Caregivers"
By Maria Gruener, Library Director

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.

FIRSTKIDS & FIRSTSQUAD

Key Happenings for Children's Ministry

- October 4—Adopt a Grandparent at Jenkins
- October 25—Fall Party
- Wednesday Night Schedule
 - ◊ 5:15 pm Community Meal—Everyone Welcome
 - ◊ 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)
 - ◊ 7:15—7:30 pm Family Worship in the Sanctuary

Fall Party—Wednesday, October 25

- Costume Contest
- Pumpkin Painting
- Candy Corn Gospels
- Pumpkin Games with Faith Lessons



For the Pumpkin Painting, we are looking for pumpkins that are about 6" to 8" in diameter. Pumpkins can be dropped off in the wicker basket at the back of the sanctuary. Thank You!

Community Meal

Wednesdays at 5:15pm
all ages welcome!



It's that time of the year Update your Fall Registration!!

Take a few minutes and check your family's registration to make sure all information is up to date and ready for kick off in September

Click Here to Update or Register [REGISTER/UPDATE](#)

Exciting News

We are excited to have started our Back-to-Basics series in our new locations of Cook Hall and the former Middle School Room.

We also can't wait to finish in the sanctuary together each Wednesday night with worship from 7:15-7:30 pm.

Parents are invited and encouraged to join us for worship.

Starting October 4th, we will be visiting Jenkins on the 1st Wednesday of every month for our **Adopt a Grandparent** Program.

Children's Ministry Wish List

Dry Erase Markers
Composition Notebooks
Crayons
Fine Tip Markers
Bold Tip Markers
Colored Pencils
Construction Paper
Glue Sticks
Notebooks
Puzzles
Fidget Toys

Quick and Easy Games for ages 4 and up (examples) Phase 10, Skip Bo, Old Maid, Playing Cards, Dice, Spoons, Sorry, Connect Four, Trouble, Guess Who, Jenga, Memory, Go Fish, Candyland, Operation, Dice, SkyJo)

Clear Storage Totes- all sizes

THANK YOU!

If you have any question about our Children's Ministry Program, please contact Lori Jurgens lori@watertownfirst.church or Sandy Middleton sandy@watertownfirst.church

Impact

Event for our young adult group, newly named "Impact". We will meet at Nelson Park on October 5th at 6:00 pm for food and games. Impact is open to all young adults who are interested in exploring life and faith together in community.

FIRST YOUTH

Wednesday Night Activities

Wednesday night activities are in full swing with a meal at 5:15pm followed by youth group from 6:00-7:30pm. Youth meet for activities and lessons until 7:15pm. Confirmation breaks off until 7:15pm as well. From 7:15-7:30pm we will worship in the sanctuary. Come one and come all!

Dak Youth

DAKYOUTH is an annual youth event like no other and is for both middle school and high school youth in the Dakotas Conference.

Youth gather from all around the conference to learn about leadership, discipleship, and service. There are engaging speakers, workshops, inspiring worship, and fun entertainment for all to enjoy.

Registration for Dak Youth is open for all 7-12 graders! Dak Youth is an event in Aberdeen, SD from **Nov 10-12th**. Students from around the Dakotas Conference gather to learn about leadership, discipleship, and service. Youth will participate in some awesome worship, listen to speakers, attend workshops, and have a whole lot of fun!

If you are interested in attending Dak Youth please register by following the link on the First Church website youth page. The cost is \$65 and there are scholarships through the church to pay for those you need them. The **early bird deadline to register is October 19th**. Feel free to reach out to Pastor Bryce with any questions!



Register

To ensure the safety of our students as we start the new school year, please take a moment to fill out a registration form for each student.

The form can be found on the church website at:

www.watertownfirst.church/first-youth.

Mark the Calendar!

Oct. 11th— Beacon Center Serve Night

Oct. 25th— Fall Party

Nov. 1st— Adopt a Grandparent

Nov. 10-12th— DAKYOUTH

LEADERSHIP TEAM MINUTES • SEPTEMBER 12 • 5:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lea Ann Alwin, Ronda Boughton, Barb Brinkman, Sarah Caron, Corrine Dahl, Debbie Engels, April Geffre, Peggy Lindahl, Sue Luken, Lee Rycraft, Doug Wishard, Pastor Jen

Absent: Pastor Bryce

Guest: Adam Fox

Devotions: Sue Luken ~ Walking in the Light ~ 1 John 1:7

Welcome Prayer: Pastor Jen

AGENDA:

Investment account update: Adam Fox presented an update on the church investments. YTD the investments have seen a 7.5% growth.

Carpet issue in the nursery: The seams are raveling. The workers will be here soon to repair this.

Christmas Eve Services: We will begin celebrating Advent the weekend after Thanksgiving.

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. We will have one service at 10:00 on Sunday morning, celebrating Christmas Eve with Holy Communion. There will be no Saturday service on December 23. There will be no 8:30 service Sunday morning. Christmas Eve services will also be at 4:00 and 7:00.

Accessibility Team Updates: The team met on Monday, September 11. They looked at the survey results.

Handicap parking spots were discussed. Currently there are spots alongside the green space. On weekends this doesn't seem to be adequate to meet the needs of our congregation. After discussion, there was a motion by Corrine; 2nd Peggy to put signage along the east side of the building designating that as "Limited Mobility Parking." Motion Passed.

Church Insurance: We now have our property insurance through Church Mutual Insurance.

Fall KickOff – Sunday, September 17: Fall Kickoff will be at Foundation Plaza on Kemp Ave. A signup sheet has been passed around during worship services. More help is needed.

Pigeon Issues: The Mitigation Company recommended installing secure screening and vents. Peggy will contact the company and follow-up on this.

Oasis Partnerships: Our church agreed to be an Oasis Church. Britton UMC has no pastor. We will share resources with them. One way is that they will share the message from our Saturday service at their Sunday worship service during Advent.

Fresh Expression Training September 30 in Sioux Falls: Fresh Expressions is a new concept from the conference. Church does not have to happen in the church building; it can go to where the people are. Pastor Bryce and Lucas and others from our church will be attending this. Lucas is on the conference team for Fresh Expressions.

Leadership Team Terms: The three year terms for Lea Ann, Ronda, Doug, & Sue are expiring in December. They have the option to renew for another 3 years. They will let Pastor Jen know their decision soon.

PASTOR UPDATES:

Pastor Bryce is absent tonight because he is attending a Project Innovate Conference in Indiana.

The young adults group now has a name – Impact. They will meet the 1st Thursday of the month at 6:00. The programming will center around our church themes of *Connect – Grow – Serve*.

Pastor Jen: A new member class will be starting next week. We need a new custodian; she has received an application. We need one more person for the nursery. Because Pastor Pete, pastor at Brookings UMC, had to go back to South Africa for a funeral, she has been helping in Brookings.

We received the following through Foundation grants: a new TV in the nursery and the choir loft. New batteries and equipment that convert our current assisted listening devices into being compatible with telecoil equipped hearing aids. Because the round wooden tables in the fellowship hall were in tough shape, we have 15 new round tables. We also have new Bibles for various ages.

LEADERSHIP TEAM MINUTES • SEPTEMBER 12 • 5:30 PM—*Continued*

LEADERSHIP TEAM GROUP UPDATES:

Building & Grounds: Engelstad Electric will be installing the heat tape soon. Basement clean-up has been completed. There is a drainage issue in the basement. B&G will look into this.

Finance: They will begin meeting to work on the budget for next year. Giving is trending up, but expenses are also up because our church is growing. YTD – we are \$45,000 behind.

Staff Parish Relations: Our custodian resigned. This is a 10 – 15 hour per week job. One application has been received.

Motion by Corrine; 2nd April to amend the vacation policy for the pastors. Each pastor will have up to 6 weekends off per year (amended from the minimum of 4 named in the Conference policy). The total number of days off will remain at 28 days. Motion passed.

Sunday, September 24 from 1-3 is an Open House wedding reception for Pastor Bryce and Meaghan.

Ministry: There are many Grow Groups starting. The Harvest Table is going well. The all church bazaar will be brought back. It has been renamed as the Autumn Festival. This will be held on Saturday, November 4. The funds raised will be used to repair the carillons in the bell tower.

We will begin planning for the Advent Festival.

We continue our outreach partnership with Roosevelt School. Roosevelt School is the September Mission of the Month. Treats were taken for the staff as they prepared for the school year. There are a variety of ways to continue involvement throughout the school year.

Charge Conference: *Save the date* – this will be November 28 at 6 pm.

Meeting concluded with the *Breakthrough Prayer*.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

First Church Finances			
1st Quarter	Income	\$ 136,797	\$ 10,675
	Expense	\$ 126,122	
	Difference	\$ 10,675	
2nd Quarter	Income	\$ 99,244	\$ (23,082)
	Expense	\$ 133,001	
	Difference	\$ (33,757)	
Jul-23	Income	\$ 37,867	\$ (28,662)
	Expense	\$ 43,446	
	Difference	\$ (5,580)	
Aug-23	Income	\$ 31,368	\$ (45,545)
	Expense	\$ 48,252	
	Difference	\$ (16,883)	

NOTE: To meet our 2023 budget in full each month, we need a monthly income of \$41,600.00. The chart on the left 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.***

PILLOW CLEANING AT FIRST CHURCH

Thurs. Oct. 5th from 8:00 am—3:00 pm

Fri. Oct. 6th from 8:00 am—Noon

RETURNED SERVICE REQUEST-

October 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

Children's Ministry Coordinators

Sandy Middleton

Lori Jurgens

Nursery Coordinator

Heidi Steffensen

Nursery Care Providers

Meaghan Wharton

Donna Bruns

Laini Greenfield

Organists

Blair Titze

Lesa Dahl

Bell Choir Director

Renae Mack

Music & Chancel

Choir Director

Blair Titze

Interim Custodian

Randy Middleton

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

Sunday at 10:00 am—Blended 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>