



**First United
Methodist Church
First News
November 2023**



FIRSTCHURCH

4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

Accessibility Team Update

This past May, I gathered together a team of 11 leaders from our congregation to begin the process of assessing some of our building's accessibility needs. Admittedly, this conversation has come up a number of times since I first arrived in 2020. With the recent breakdowns of our existing lift (elevator) deeming it unreliable, I wanted us to have a plan for how to move forward before we once again find ourselves without a way for those with limited mobility to access even our sanctuary or fellowship hall.

The makeup of this team is intentional, including representation from our current Leadership Team and Foundation Board, as well as diverse members of our congregation (age, ability, time of membership, expertise to offer, etc.). At our inaugural meeting we talked through the challenges and tasks before us, including a tentative timeline (that has already been adjusted) for moving forward together.

Since May, our team has worked hard looking at the overall accessibility needs in our building (including making a few updates that could be done immediately, such as adding a hand rail to one of the kitchen entrances). We have prayerfully and carefully evaluated what the biggest priorities of our work before us should be. We have also solicited information and feedback from you – our congregation – to be sure the next steps taken are in line with the desires not just of those on our team, but of our entire community.

Information from our survey helped our Accessibility Team prioritize needs to make our building optimally accessible. As a result, an RFP ("Request for Proposals") has been sent out to seven (7) architectural firms, and we are hopeful we will receive proposals from several of them by mid-November. These proposals will not offer details of what our building or construction plans may be as much as they will be purely conceptual submissions. These will offer us big picture ideas and considerations about what we should expect moving forward into future design and building phases. These will include but not be limited to building related codes we need to be mindful of, going over general accessibility needs, and making recommendations around security, costs, and more.

Upon receiving these proposals, our Accessibility Team plans to meet with and interview firms we wish to consider working with moving forward. It is our intention to make a final decision on which firm our Team recommends working with moving forward, and to offer that information at our **Charge Conference (6pm on November 28)**. Please plan to join us for this meeting, at which all members of First Church are welcome to attend and have both voice and vote! As a reminder: this is our Annual Meeting of the church at which we do important tasks such as pass our budget for the upcoming year and celebrate ministry happening in our church. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Kris Mutzenberger, will be present with us in this time, and will also lead us in our vote the Accessibility Team proposes.

To be clear: this will *not* be a vote on what construction will take place, or what changes we may make to enable more accessibility. It is merely an opportunity to vote to move forward (or not) with hiring the recommended architecture firm so they can help us come up with designs that would help us address the accessibility needs of our building. We hope you will join us for this meeting, and join us in prayerfully looking to God's guidance so that we may continue moving forward caring for our beloved building that has enabled ministry over the past 100+ years, in the present, and for generations yet to come.

Pastor Jen

Accessibility Team members: Corrine Dahl, Luke Muller, Steve Gorseth, Sarah Caron, Marty Geffre, Rich Schmidt, Marsha Dahl, Chad Miller, Lisa Stydel, Nancy Titze

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November 2023

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	** 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		1 Home Communion 9:15 am Character of God Word Study <i>**See above for Regular Wednesday Night Activities**</i>	2 10 am Women's Bible Study 6 pm Blended Band Rehearsal	3 	4 Autumn Festival 9 am—1 pm 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship All Saint's Weekend
5 8:30 am 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship All Saint's Weekend	6 5:30 pm Women of Grace—Lounge 6:30 pm Worship—The Ultimate Priority—Library	7 	8 (Early Out) 9 am Morning Glories <i>**See above for Regular Wednesday Night Activities**</i>	9 (No School) 10 am Women's Bible Study 6 pm Blended Band Rehearsal	10 (No School) 6 pm Wedding Rehearsal	11 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 2 pm Wirkus Wedding 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
DAK YOUTH in Aberdeen SD						
12 8:30 am 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship	13 6:00 pm Accessibility Team 6:30 pm Worship—The Ultimate Priority—Library	14 5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting	15 9:15 am Character of God Word Study 11:30 am Lunch a Bunch at Godfather's Pizza <i>**See above for Regular Wednesday Night Activities**</i>	16 10 am Women's Bible Study 6 pm Blended Band Rehearsal	17 	18 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship Youth Led Worship
DAK YOUTH						
19 8:30 am Youth Led Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship Youth Led Worship	20 5:30 pm Scripturedoodle 6:30 pm Worship—The Ultimate Priority—Library	21 	22 (No School) 9:15 am Character of God Word Study No Activities Tonight Thanksgiving Break	23(No School) Thanksgiving Holiday Office Closed	24(No School) Thanksgiving Holiday Office Closed	25 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship Advent Begins
26 8:30 am 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship Advent Begins	27 1:00—3:30 pm Bunco - Library 6:30 pm Worship—The Ultimate Priority—Library	28 6:00 PM Charge Conference	29 9:15 am Character of God Word Study <i>**See above for Regular Wednesday Night Activities**</i>	30 10 am Women's Bible Study 6 pm Blended Band Rehearsal		
Meals on Wheels This Week—Drivers Needed						

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.

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:

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 as well as the Youth Camping Program.

• 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.

November Mission of the Month
One Roof Program at the Salvation Army

One Roof is a program to serve the emergency needs of the poor and needy in the Watertown area. Many of the churches in the Watertown area receive requests from persons needing help with such things as food, clothing, rent, utilities, transportation, lodging, and other emergencies. Processing these requests requires considerable time and resources from the churches. Discerning the actual need also takes considerable time.

One Roof Program provides a single agency where people can be sent for these needs to be met.

Churches can direct those coming to them requesting help to the **One Roof Program** at the Salvation Army. This program was developed between Watertown Ministerial Association and Salvation Army.

Monetary donations for the November Mission of the month will be directed to the One Roof Program.


Upcoming Events!

Nov. 2– Stonybrook Assisted Living Meetup @ 7pm in the coffee area

Dec. 7– Christmas Party at 6pm. Place TBD

Send in your Questions!

This fall we have been focusing on getting “Back to Basics” in our faith. We started with a series that talked about foundational pieces of our faith (prayer, scripture, worship, etc.) before moving on to the basics of our faith as lived out in our membership vows through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We will move from there into more of the basic, foundational parts of who we are as we reflect on the season of Advent leading up to Christmas by having a “Simple Christmas” this year (more on that to come).

As we lean into this year’s theme of connecting the basics of our faith with our every day lives, I cannot help but to wonder: what are some of the basic (or not so basic) parts of your faith you feel you’ve missed out on, or wonder about?

Over the past year, Pastor Bryce and I have gotten to have some fun with our Thursday morning Bible Study when they have invited us down as they “stump the Pastors” (okay, they don’t call it that, but sometimes it feels that way as they get to ask anything they want and we do our best to answer). It makes me wonder what other kinds of questions they – or you all – might have... and why it takes moments like these for us to make space for talking about them.

I wonder: Are there questions *you* have always wondered about, but have never had the courage or opportunity to ask? I hope so, because I want to use those questions – questions you have that surely others have as well – as the foundation for an upcoming sermon series. What might *you* want to hear your pastors talk more about? Help you dive deeper into? Whether it is a question about life (or death), faith (or doubt), church or a specific scripture passage or anything else you can connect your faith to: this is your chance to ask us anything!

My hope is that there will be far more questions than we will have time to get to, so I can’t promise that we will get to *all* of them. For those we don’t get to in this initial series, I do hope to use them in future worship planning – it’s even possible some of your questions will give birth to series we may use in the future.

If you have a question you would like to submit, there are several ways to do so. You may send me an email (seniorpastor@watertownfirst.church), or write it on a connect card during worship in coming weeks. You’ll have a few weeks to think about your questions, but they all need to be submitted by **Sunday, November 19.**

Creating space for honest questions is an important way to ensure we are growing in our discipleship, wherever on that journey you are. I look forward to diving into some of these tough questions together in the coming year.

On the journey together,
Pastor Jen

Fantastic— Wonderful— Powerful

Our congregation filled 123 **Christmas Shoeboxes** this year for the Native American children on the reservations in ND, SD & MN.

That is almost double the number we filled last year! Your generosity is overwhelming. Wapila! (Lakota word for Thanks) Pilamaya! (Thank You).

We have storage space at the church and are able to gather gifts year round. So please drop items off whenever you like. The collection box is in the hallway by the church office. Now is a good time to buy for next Christmas while the stores are full and Christmas music is in the air. We only need empty shoeboxes size 10 and up from men’s shoes. Thanks again! Wapila!



MISSIONS

Mrs. Johnson
Thank you!
Mrs. Popham
Mrs. Burt
Mrs. Burskott
Mrs. Larke
Mrs. Ward
Mrs. Wientz
Mrs. Schroeder
Mr. Popham
Loyal Popham

First United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your kindness you have shown us the last few months. Thanks to the wonderful donations we have recieved, we have started our school year on such a positive note! We appreciate your desire to continue to support the staff and the students at Roosevelt!

~ Roosevelt Elementary Staff



Our Partnership with
Roosevelt School has
blessed many as seen
by the note above.

Below is a current list of supplies needed. There is a drop box at the back of the Sanctuary.

Monetary donations are always welcome as well. Thanks for your support!

- Graham Crackers
- Goldfish Crackers
- Cheez-It Crackers
- Fruit Snacks
- Bulk Cereal (Fruit Loops, Lucky Charms, etc.)
- 5-6 Large or Jumbo Glue Sticks
- Plastic Spoons
- Individual Pringles - [Link](#)
- Rice Krispy Bars - [Link](#)
- Applesauce Pouches - [Link](#)
- Cheez-its - [Link](#)
- Goldfish - [Link](#)
- Pudding Cups - [Link](#)
- Individual Chips (Takis) - [Link](#)



Birthday	Happy Birthday To...
1-Nov	Garrett Dorneman
1-Nov	Dylan Wirkus
1-Nov	Debbie Engels
1-Nov	Emrie Schaunaman
2-Nov	Bonnie Wolff
2-Nov	Janet Workman
3-Nov	Violet Ford
3-Nov	Denise Mayer
4-Nov	Jacksyn Wirkus
4-Nov	Andrew Hanson
4-Nov	Katelyn Hanson
4-Nov	April Geffre
6-Nov	Clayton Muller
6-Nov	Margaret Houfek
6-Nov	Sara Jorgenson
7-Nov	Dylon Luckhurst
7-Nov	Bobbi Hoffman
7-Nov	Trenten Vanderlinden
8-Nov	Samuel Meek
8-Nov	Korbin Wangen
8-Nov	Mackenzie Enstad
8-Nov	Richard Schmidt
8-Nov	Ian (William) McCann
9-Nov	Beth Buckley
9-Nov	Eric Kuhlman
10-Nov	Hayden Thomas
10-Nov	Julie LeVake
10-Nov	Wayne Leiner
11-Nov	Kolbe Mohling
12-Nov	Will Fiebelkorn
12-Nov	Theodore Hartford
12-Nov	Harlan Veen
12-Nov	Dylan Kasperek
13-Nov	Kathy Johnson
13-Nov	Sue Tugel
13-Nov	Dawn Wangen
14-Nov	Quinn Boadwine
15-Nov	Harper Rae Alwin
15-Nov	Corrine Dahl
15-Nov	Kelly Dale
15-Nov	Alexa Buckley

Birthdays	Happy Birthday To...
15-Nov	Wacey Ward
15-Nov	Amanda Schaeffer
16-Nov	Douglas Heaton
16-Nov	Roger Jones
16-Nov	Lyle Ratliff
16-Nov	Connor Hanson
17-Nov	Paige Fiebelkorn
17-Nov	Anthony Norton
17-Nov	Sawyer Barrie
18-Nov	Marilyn Spurrell
19-Nov	Breckin Buechler
19-Nov	Brandon Johnson
21-Nov	Wesley Nelson
21-Nov	Brad Gilbertson
24-Nov	Cheryl Dorneman
24-Nov	Cheri Erlandson
24-Nov	Alex Urevig
24-Nov	Todd Blair
24-Nov	Brent A. Ford
25-Nov	Allana Johnson
25-Nov	Phoebe Stavick
26-Nov	Shirley Boone
26-Nov	Cindy Hartwig
26-Nov	Paul McElhany
26-Nov	Genny DeLong
27-Nov	Candace Jurgens
27-Nov	Owen Rishoi-Andreassen
28-Nov	Ryan Alwin
28-Nov	Curt Lindahl
29-Nov	Brett Schutt
30-Nov	Jamis Jurgens
30-Nov	Kegan Kasperek



Anniversary	Bride & Groom
11-Nov	Donald & Doris Riley
15-Nov	Mike & Kathie Grann
20-Nov	Dale & Donna McElhany
21-Nov	Steven & Ruth Feeney
23-Nov	Travis & Amy Arnold
25-Nov	Michael & Julie Williams
25-Nov	Brian & Noelle Heuer


 With heartfelt
Sympathy

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

Family and friends of Dorothy Iverson who passed away on October 9, 2023.

Family and friends of Clair "Bud" Drayer who passed away on October 10, 2023.

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 Dick & Bonnie Lien #411—Karen Ostrander #424
Edgewood Independent Living 901 14th Ave NE Watertown, SD 57201	Lorraine Amy #213 Audrey Rhodes #314
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
Roetell Senior Housing 108 S Smith Clark SD 57225	Marilyn Vogt #4

Watertown Memory Care Support Group (formerly the Alzheimer's Support Group)
November 1, 2023

Topic—"Library Resources for Caregivers"

By Maria Gruener, Library Director

December 6, 2023

"Christmas Party for Caregivers & Tips for the Holidays"

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.

We Welcome These New Baptized Members into our Church Family



Jackson Bingen



Kensley Bingen



Lainee Wirkus

GOD IS GOOD...

- Over the past 13 months, First United Methodist Church has welcomed 59 new members into our Church Family.
- We have celebrated 13 Baptisms.
- We've relaunched our Women's Retreat and Autumn Festival bringing folks together for fun and fellowship.
- We can't wait to see what else God has in store for First UMC! **God is Good Indeed!**

We Welcome These New Members into our Church Family



Ron Molengraaf, Rev. Dr. Devern & Joan Schwenn, Meaghan Wharton, Lori A. Moshier VanVlerah, Shawn Pugsley, Amanda Schaeffer, not pictured Kelsey Jellis.

WE ARE HIRING!

First Church has immediate openings for Nursery Care as well as a Part Time Custodian.

If you, or someone you know, is interested, please contact Pastor Jen.

Or pick up a job description or an application which can be found at the welcome center.

You may also visit our website to fill out an application.

Go to: <https://watertownfirst.church/about/team/now-hiring/>

FIRSTKIDS & FIRSTSQUAD

Exciting News

We have begun work on our Children's Christmas Program which will be held on Sunday, December 10th at the 10:00 am worship service!

Community Meal

Wednesdays at 5:15pm
all ages welcome!



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!

Key Happenings for Children's Ministry

- November 1—Adopt a Grandparent at Jenkins
- November 22—No First Kids—Thanksgiving Break
- 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

Do You Love Children?

We are in need of a few extra folks to help out with our Children's Ministry programs on Wednesday nights as well as weekends. If you'd like to volunteer or just want more information, please contact Lori or Sandy.

CELEBRATIONS!

- ♦ Children's Ministry is seeing an average of 30 kids on Wednesday nights and we are loving our ending time with Worshiping all together in the Sanctuary. We are also seeing around 10-15 kids during the weekends. Our hearts are full seeing all these children each week!
- ♦ Our "Back to Basics" series has been going great!
- ♦ Adopt a Grandparent at Jenkins was a huge success. We are looking forward to seeing all of our new friends again on November 1st.

Adopt a Grandparent at Jenkins



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

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!

STORM MOUNTAIN CENTER MISSION TRIP 2024

Next summer youth will have the opportunity to spend a week in service at Storm Mountain Retreat Center, a Dakotas United Methodist Camp in Rapid City, SD.

We will leave on Monday, June 17th and return on Friday, June 21st.

All youth 7-12 grade are welcome to attend! The cost will be \$300 per person which will cover all meal costs, travel, and lodging. We will be fundraising to raise money for the trip.

Our work will be done at and around the camp as a way to help them prepare for the season of camps ahead.

Register at the First Youth page on the church website or talk to Pastor Bryce. More details to follow so be on the lookout!

Youth-Led Worship

At the weekend services of November 18th and 19th, youth will be leading worship. Yes, that's all three services!

Mark your calendars!

Mark the Calendar!

Nov. 1— Adopt a Grandparent Night

Nov. 10-12— DAKYOUTH

Nov. 18/19— Youth-led Worship

Nov. 22— No First Youth

Dec. 10—Christmas Program @ 10am



Tower Building
Challenge...



Meals On Wheels Needs Your Help



- ♦ **The next week for First Church to deliver is Nov. 27—Dec. 1 and drivers are needed!**
- ♦ **If you have questions or want to sign up, please contact Debbie Engels at 605.881.6672**

Do you have a few hours a year to volunteer? MOW may be just the program that fits your schedule!

How does "Meals On Wheels" work?

- ♦ First Church is responsible for meal deliveries 5 weeks out of the year (about every other month).
- ♦ The food preparation and starting point for MOW is at the Sixties Plus Dining Room located at the Senior Center at 26 1st Ave SW.
- ♦ Drivers are asked to arrive between 10:30am - 10:45am to pick up the food totes.
- ♦ A clip board provided for each route includes the name, phone number and address for each recipient along with clear instructions for where the food should be dropped off at each location. For example, several people leave coolers on their doorstep for food to be placed inside.
- ♦ There are 10 routes daily and each route has 6 - 10 delivery locations.
- ♦ Each route takes about 30 - 45 minutes or less depending on the assigned route. Assuming 45 minutes and a start time of 10:45am, a route could be completed by 11:30am. That totals less than 20 hours per year for 5 weeks of deliveries!
- ♦ Food totes are returned to the Sixties Plus Dining Room at the end of deliveries each day
- ♦ One driver per route is needed; however, some married couples or friends team up in one vehicle.
- ♦ If a driver has a conflict arise due to personal appointments, obligations, etc., a substitute driver is scheduled to fill in. Some drivers are snowbirds and drive during the months they are in Watertown; substitute drivers are scheduled for the remaining months.
- ♦ **We do not drive in inclement weather during the winter months.**

First Church Finances

1st Qtr	Income	\$ 136,797	\$ 10,675
	Expense	\$ 126,122	
	Difference	\$ 10,675	
2nd Qtr	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)	
Sep-23	Income	\$ 31,555	\$ (53,382)
	Expense	\$ 39,392	
	Difference	\$ (7,837)	

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!

Just a friendly reminder to turn in your 2024 Pledge Cards.

To submit your 2024 Pledge electronically click here: [2024 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.



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!



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

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

Absent: Doug Wishard

Devotions: Pastor Bryce ~ Philippians 3:12-14

Welcome Prayer: Pastor Bryce

AGENDA:

Carpet issue in the nursery: The seams are raveling and have not been fixed. Attempts are being made to contact the workers to repair this.

Accessibility Team Update: A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been written and was reviewed by the Leadership Team. Motion by Peggy; 2nd Corrine to authorize the Accessibility Team to move forward with the RFP. The next step is to send the RFP to architectural firms. Motion passed.

Bat / Pigeon Issues: The quote from the Bat Mitigation company to work in the bell tower to install screening, and vents and seal cracks to prevent bats and pigeons from entering the bell tower is \$6172.35. It is felt the next step should be to make contacts to see who has worked in the bell tower in the past and what work was completed. Other companies will be contacted to bid this job.

New LT Members: The 3 year term for Doug, Lea Ann, Ronda, and Sue concludes this year. Doug & Sue are agreeing to continue for a 2nd term. Lea Ann & Ronda will be stepping down. Thank you Lea Ann & Ronda for your participation on LT. We will have 3 new members starting in January. Sue is requesting to step down as recording secretary. Peggy volunteered to do this beginning in January.

PASTOR UPDATES:

Pastor Bryce: The Wednesday night format is going well. One change is that all children and youth come together at 7:15 for a concluding worship. Some parents are coming to join this.

The youth mission trip next summer will be to work at Storm Mountain Camp to help get things ready for summer camping season. This will be June 17 – 21.

The youth will lead worship 2 weekends with the first being November 18 – 19.

Young Adult Group – Good connections are starting. The group is growing and evolving.

He and Meaghan would like to thank everyone for the wedding reception.

Pastor Jen will be in Mitchell October 11 -13 for Board of Ordained Ministry meetings. This is a conference committee she is on.

Last Sunday (October 8) 8 new members joined the church.

Long term planning and working on the budget is one of the next things she will be doing.

LEADERSHIP TEAM GROUP UPDATES:

Building & Grounds: Engelstad Electric should be installing the heat tape on the roof in the next week or two.

The team is looking into reason for water in the basement. There are dehumidifiers in the basement.

They are in contact with Roofers about the carpet in the nursery and installing snow cleats on the roof.

Limited Mobility Signs: A sample was looked at and modified. These are to be installed on the east side of the building. A visual mock up will be sent to LT electronically.

Finance: At the end of September giving is \$53,000 behind the budget. Spending is also below budget in many areas.

SPR: We are in need of one more person in the nursery and a custodian. Randy M. continues to substitute as PT custodian.

Ministry: A printed summary of ministry activities was handed out. We continue to donate to Roosevelt School and some volunteer activities are being done. The Mission of the Month for October is Bundles of Hope (diaper giveaway). November mission will be One Roof Program. More info on that will be in the newsletter and bulletin.

Shoebbox Christmas was the July Mission of the Month. Because of the generosity of the congregation, 132 gifts were packed for Shoebbox Christmas. These will be distributed to children in need in the Dakotas and Minnesota.

Executive Session:

Motion by Sarah; 2nd Peggy to go into Executive Session. Motion passed. Executive session began at 7:00.

Lee declared us out of executive session at 7:24.

Motion by Lee; 2nd Peggy. The compensation for full time staff will be a 3% salary increase for the 2024 calendar year. Motion passed.

Meeting concluded with the *Breakthrough Prayer*.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

Charge Conference: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted

Sue Luken, recording secretary

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

November 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



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