



**First United
Methodist Church
First News
December 2023**



FIRSTCHURCH

4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

***You teach me the way of life. In your presence is total celebration.
Beautiful things are always in your right hand. – Psalm 16:11***

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you were completely confused? Has life presented a situation or circumstance to you that is more complex than you are willing or able to handle by yourself? That's how I have felt in multiple situations over the course of my young life, and it doesn't take me long to recall several instances where I have been confused. Instances like filing taxes, figuring out insurance, or understanding the intricacies of systematic theology (which learning about for me felt like listening to someone read a book about the Hebrew language written in Portuguese, what a headache).

Complex situations are especially prominent around the holiday season that require careful thought and planning. Maybe your situations are like mine. How do we coordinate spending Christmas with multiple families who live 1,000 miles apart (my family is in Rapid City and my wife, Meaghan's family is in Dallas, TX)? Or what gifts do we get everyone and how do we ensure we spend equal amounts on each person?

Complexity and confusion will always follow us in every aspect of life because unlike God, we can't know everything. In the times we are in over our head, we need someone to teach us. We need someone to show us how to move forward. When it comes to the story of Jesus' birth, we are doing just that. We are looking to God to learn the simple truths God has to teach us about the complex story of Jesus' birth.

During the Advent season this year, that is the four weeks of preparation leading up to Christmas, we are going to look at the story of Jesus' birth from the opposite end of confusing. We are going to look at the simplicity of how God is at work in the Christmas story. We're going to turn to the simple acts of faithfulness that show us the truth of God and God's people in the story that most of us are already very familiar with. Instead of making things more complicated, we're going to simplify.

While our lives are full of Christmas activity and preparation, we seek to hear God speaking a simple truth into our often complex and busy lives. Our hope is that by simplifying, we will have space to hear, see, and know God where we might not have before.

The scripture above from Psalm 16 is a good reminder for us when it comes to the times of life that feel like a lot or the situations that have no easy answers and might leave us confused. God will show us the way. "You teach me the way of life." God teaches us what we need to live faithfully and points us to the peace, hope, love, and joy found in the birth of baby Jesus among us, the presence of God among us. That is something to truly celebrate!

I look forward to simply preparing and celebrating the birth of Jesus with you at church!

-Pastor Bryce Blank

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Sun	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	2
						7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:30 am 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship Community Concert 3 pm & 7 pm	5:30 pm Women of Grace—Lounge		9:15 am Character of God Word Study <i>**See above for Regular Wednesday Night Activities**</i> 6 pm Rehearsal for the Children's Christmas Program	10 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Blended Band Rehearsal		7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship—No First Kids Tonight
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:30 am 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship—with Children's Christmas Program Included		Jaycee's Shopping Tour	9 am Morning Glories 6 pm Children & Youth Christmas Party <i>**See above for Regular Wednesday Night Activities**</i>	10 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Blended Band Rehearsal		7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30 am 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship			9:15 am Character of God Word Study 11:30 am Lunch a Bunch 5:15 pm Community Meal 6:00 pm Christmas Caroling—All ages are Welcome to participate	10 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Blended Band Rehearsal		No Back Room Boys 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant NO Saturday Worship
24 Christmas Services 10 am Communion Lessons & Carols 4 pm Blended Service 7 pm Traditional Service <i>- All are Candlelight Services</i>	25	26	27	28	29	30
						No Back Room Boys 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
31						
8:30 am NO Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship						

Christmas Break—Church & Office Closed This Week

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—No Study Dec. 31
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—No Meeting in Dec.

6:00 pm Elevator Accessibility Team Meeting

3rd Monday of the Month—No Meeting in Dec.

5:30 pm Scripture Doodle Devotional Expressions

2nd Tuesday of the Month—No Meeting in Dec.

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—Dec. 7th at 6 pm

Please note that anyone is welcome at any time to

December Missions During Advent
Alternative Gift Fair

During Advent (Nov. 26—Dec. 17) we will be holding an Alternative Gift Fair. This is a great way to purchase a gift in Honor or in Memory of someone special. When you make your donation you will receive an ornament that you can place on the tree in the sanctuary. You will also receive a card that you can send to the person you are honoring.

Organizations that will be supported this Advent Season:

- Heifer International—providing livestock & sustainable agricultural training to struggling communities around the world.
- Feeding South Dakota—providing food to fight hunger in rural communities, metro areas and Native American Reservations.
- Watertown Area Special Olympics—providing year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children (8 years and older) and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.
- Youth Mission Trip to Storm Mountain Center—giving youth in grades 7-12 the opportunity to spend a week at this United Methodist Camp in the Black Hills of SD working in around the camp to help prepare for the season of children through adult camps ahead.

AUTUMN FESTIVAL & BAKE SALE AT FIRST CHURCH
Thank You!


The **Autumn Festival at First Church** on November 4th had an amazing turnout!



Thank You to everyone who worked at the event, donated to the event, or shopped or ate at the event! You all helped to make this Autumn Festival a Huge Success!

The joyful chatter and smell of good food was so welcoming to all who attended.

The event profit was \$3,557.97
Proceeds will be donated as follows:
 \$1,000 = Youth Camp Scholarships
 \$2,557.97 = Carillon Bell System Fund

Thank you again for your support!


Upcoming Event!

Dec. 7—Christmas Party at 6:00 pm. Meet at April Geffre's House. Contact April or the church office for her address. We will be cooking a meal together, talking about life, and discussing our faith.

First Family & Friends



Birthday	Name
1-Dec	Kaden Raml
1-Dec	Malcolm Bergren
2-Dec	Jerry Leadabrand
2-Dec	Michael Williams
2-Dec	Cynthia Blair
2-Dec	Cassie Kasperek
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
5-Dec	Sterling Corvin
6-Dec	Kolyns Wellman
7-Dec	Joe Jellis
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
12-Dec	Michael Barr Jr
13-Dec	Jaylee McNamara
14-Dec	Gretta Dahl
14-Dec	Emily Riley
14-Dec	Connie Sue Bridge

Birthday	Name
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
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	Randy Middleton
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	Thomas Myers



Anniversary	Name
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

We Welcome These New Baptized Members into our Church Family



Avianna Williams



Lennik Bender

Tis the Shoebox Season

Mike & Deb Jehl of Michigan stopped in Watertown Wed. Nov. 15th to pick up 223 Shoeboxes filled with toys, games, dolls, etc. The boxes are on their way to Spirit Lake Ministry Center in Sheyenne, ND. The new directors are very hopeful they will reach their goal this year. The Shoeboxes will be delivered to the reservations of the Dakotas.

Now is the time for us to turn our hearts toward next year's shoeboxes. The stores are full of toys. Don't forget to check Menards, they have a terrific toy section. Items can be dropped off at the church. The collection box is in the hallway by the church offices.

Your continuing support is greatly appreciated. We fill boxes for boys and girls ages infant to 15 yrs old. With your help the ladies of the Morning Glories Group can reach or exceed their goal for next Christmas.

Some ideas: Baby dolls, Barbie dolls, UNO, Go Fish or Crazy 8 card games. Flashlights, billfolds, matchbox cars, small cars, trucks or airplanes. Color books, stuffed animals, balls that fit into a shoebox. Hats, mittens gloves. Legos, playdough, dinosaurs. Nail polish, jewelry, mascara, tea sets. Ask your child or grandchild for ideas.

Thank you from the Morning Glories Women's Fellowship and Missional Group.

WE ARE HIRING!

First Church has immediate openings for Nursery Care. 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/>


 With heartfelt
Sympathy

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

Family and friends of Laura (Ratliff) Fleischhacker who passed away on November 1, 2023. Laura was the daughter of Lyle Ratliff.

Family and friends of Carol Redwing who passed away on November 18, 2023.

Family and friends of Thomas Dorneman who passed away on November 20, 2023. Thomas was the husband of Cheryl and the father of Garrett.

Family and friends of Dorothy Brugman who passed away on November 26, 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—Audrey Rhodes #314 Dick & Bonnie Lien #411—Karen Ostrander #424
Edgewood Independent Living 901 14th Ave NE Watertown, SD 57201	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 Lillian VanDykhurst #363 Alice Johnson #419—Violetta Severson #437
Stoney Brook Assisted Living 500 16th Ave NE Watertown, SD 57201	Margie Gertsen—Betty Mohror
The Village of Harmony Hill 415 4th Ave NE Watertown SD 57201	Wayne Leiner #102 Jeanette Nelson #219 (Legacy Circle)
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)
December 6, 2023

"Christmas Party for Caregivers & Tips for the Holidays"

January 3, 2024

"Alzheimers 101" by Connie Lake, Facilitator

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

Exciting News

Our Children's Christmas Program
Will be held on Sunday,
December 10th during the 10:00 am
worship service!

Community Meal

Wednesdays at 5:15pm
all ages welcome!



Key Happenings for Children's Ministry

- Dec. 6—Adopt a Grandparent at Jenkins
- Dec. 10—Christmas Program during 10 am Service
- Dec. 20—Caroling and Cocoa at 6 pm.
*Anyone from our church is welcome to join us.
We will be going to Jenkins, 200 Maple Place,
and Townview Apartments.*
- **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**

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!

CELEBRATIONS!

- ◆ As we wrap up our Back to Basic series, we have Loved the kid's questions and ideas that come up during our discussion time, and the kids have loved this series too!
- ◆ We are continuing to grow and we love seeing the joy and excitement not only on the children's faces, but also on the faces of the volunteers.

FUTURE EVENTS

- ◆ Looking at an afternoon/evening to do "Get to Know Your Bible" for the 3rd & 4th graders.
- ◆ Looking at an afternoon/evening for 5th & 6th graders to make Tie Blankets for Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

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.

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

MARK THE CALENDAR!

- 12/10 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM @10AM
- 12/20 CHRISTMAS CAROLING
- 12/27-1/3 NO FIRST YOUTH/ CONFIRMATION
- 1/3 YOUTH LEADER TRAINING
- 1/10 SPRING KICKOFF/ADOPT A GRANDPARENT
- 1/26-27 WINTER CONNECTION
- 2/10&11 YOUTH-LED SERVICES

WWW.REALLYGREATSITE.COM

Our youth at First Church have had a busy month in November!

10 youth and 2 adults attended Dak Youth in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Over the course of a weekend they worshipped with youth across the Dakotas Conference, participated in workshops, listened to speakers, and even watched a Christian Illusionist!

Youth also got the opportunity to help lead worship services over a weekend in November. They focused on the topic of service, sharing of their time, abilities, and gifts to the First Church community. They helped greet, acolyte, take offering, lead the Time of Young Disciples, lead songs, and even give the message! Did I mention they helped plan the whole service too?

We are very thankful for the ongoing ways that youth in our congregation participate in the life of our church as we all learn together how to deepen and live out our faith in both large and small ways.

STORM MOUNTAIN MISSION TRIP

2024

6/17-6/21



SPEND TIME IN SERVICE, GIVING BACK TO DAKOTAS CAMPS.

COST IS \$300. \$75 NONREFUNDABLE DEPOSIT DUE DEC 13TH. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE. FUNDRAISING TO COME SOON. REGISTER ON YOUTH PAGE.



Winter Connection

January 26-27th, 2024

Worship | Service | Fun

An opportunity for youth to gather, worship, and serve others. Each year there is a scripture focus along with a unique and important component of service.

Cost is \$40
Location TBD

My name is Tetiana (short name is Tania). I was born on October 19, 1981 in the village of Mikhaylivka, Skadovsky District, Kherson region. I went to school here. I studied very well. After school, I entered the economic and law institute in the Kherson (on September 1999). Specialty – accounting and audit. I studied at the initiative well. Participated in the national accounting Olympiads.

After graduating from the institute, I rented an apartment and worked in some big companies in Kherson.

My parents divorced when I was 15 years old and my father moved to the Odessa region.

In 2012, I moved to his apartment in the town of Velikodolns'ke and worked in Odessa.

Maksym Krasniak (short name – Maks) was born on June 20 1979 in the town of Svessa of the Sumy Region. There he studied school, studied for an electrician in college, worked as an electrician and worked for 15 years as a driver in forestry. He raised his son on his own, now he is 21 years old.

We met in 2016. In 2017 I moved to live to Svessa with Maks, we got married. I gave birth to the daughter Yevhenila (short name Zheniia) on January 7, 2018.

After maternity leave, I was invited to work in Kherson, to the company in which I worked for a long time before for a good position. In 2021, we moved to Kherson.

In Kherson, we lived all families and make plans for life. However, on February 24, 2022, war began. We were in Kherson until March 10, 2022, we could not move to Svessa, since the Russian troops occupied the square for Kherson near Chernobaevka and there was a battle. We left Kherson (because in Kherson were a lot of Russian soldiers and there was restlessness) and we went to the village of Mikhaylivka Skadovsky District to my mother.

When it became restless in the village of Mikhaylivka too, in November 2022 we left through Crimea, Russia, Belarus and Poland to the Czech Republic and lived there until July 2023

I applied for U4U and we arrived to the USA on the 17th of July.

If you need additional information, please ask, I will answer any questions.



Thank you, First Church, for your support of this family in helping with their airline fares, and the first months rent. God is Good!

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)	
3rd Qtr	Income	\$ 100,790	\$ (53,382)
	Expense	\$ 131,090	
	Difference	\$ (30,300)	
Oct-23	Income	\$ 32,356	\$ (62,454)
	Expense	\$ 41,428	
	Difference	\$ (9,072)	

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.

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

Tuesday, November 14, 5:30 pm

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

Absent: Barb Brinkman, Doug Wishard

Devotions: Pastor Bryce ~ Matthew 13:1-2 Story-telling is a powerful way to share our faith and faith journey.

Welcome Prayer: Pastor Bryce

AGENDA:

Carpet issue in the nursery: The seams are raveling. The carpet will be replaced at no cost to the church.

Accessibility Team Update: We have received 2 proposals from architects. The next step is to interview representatives from these firms. The results will be presented for a vote to move forward at Charge Conference on November 28.

Bat / Pigeon Issues: We are still looking for contractor to properly resolve the issue.

New LT Members: Heide Kuhlman and Marcia Schneider will be joining Leadership Team in January. There is still one opening.

Annual Conference 2024: This will be held in Bismarck, ND June 6-8. Our church can send 4 lay delegates.

Christmas Offering: Christmas Offering will be designated for Mission & Outreach Projects.

Community Lent Services: The host church for these noon services rotates between the downtown churches. Our church has been asked to host these in 2024.

PASTOR UPDATES:

Pastor Bryce: Last weekend Pastor Bryce took a group of 10 to DakYouth in Aberdeen. The Youth Council meets to plan local activities. The youth will lead worship at all 3 services the weekend of November 18 – 19. He is beginning to put out feelers for a church van.

The last IMPACT activity, the young adult group, was to interact with residents at Stoneybrook. December activity is a cooking night.

Pastor Jen: This is a busy season. Our tech services are now all Microsoft based. Conference work has involved mentoring 2 newer pastors. In May, she will be participating in a pastoral pilgrimage which is a continuing education activity.

LEADERSHIP TEAM GROUP UPDATES:

Building & Grounds: Limited Mobility signs will soon be installed. The exhaust fan in the handicap accessible restroom near the fellowship hall needs replacing. It is recommended to get a commercial grade fan.

Roof - Heat tape has been installed. The company that was going to install snow cleats is not able to do this. Another company needs to be found so these can be installed before winter.

Finance: 2024 budget was reviewed. Motion by Peggy; 2nd April to approve the budget as proposed. Motion passed. Current budget: This is the first year with a significant shortfall.

SPR: Beth Schutt has been hired as the custodian. SPR will be meeting individually with each staff member.

Ministry: Roosevelt School: The congregation continues donate items to support Roosevelt. One of the biggest needs is snacks for the students.

Bundles of Hope Diaper Giveaway has been scheduled for November 29.

Alternate Giving Fair: The following groups will be supported – Heifer International, Feeding South Dakota, Watertown Area Special Olympics, Youth Trip to Storm Mountain. At the November Morning Glories meeting Meaghan Wharton spoke about the Beacon Center. Many donations were given to Beacon Center including diapers, sleepers, food, toiletries, etc.

Executive Session:

Motion by Corrine; 2nd April to go into Executive Session. Motion passed. Executive session began at 7:10.

Lee declared us out of executive session at 7:22.

Meeting concluded with the *Breakthrough Prayer*.

Next meeting: There will be no December meeting. The next meeting will be January 9, 2024

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

Respectfully submitted
Sue Luken, recording secretary

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

December 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

Custodian

Beth Schutt

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

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule
Sunday, December 24

10:00 am Lessons & Carols with Communion

4:00 pm Blended Worship Service

7:00 pm Traditional Worship Service

Note: All services are Candlelight Services



**A SIMPLE
CHRISTMAS**

Advent Worship Series



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>