

## First United Methodist Church First News January 2024



4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." -Matthew 18:19 CEB

Methodism in the Americas grew like wildfire in the early 1700s across the settlements and colonies. It was a movement that occurred out in the fields, across the plains, and with gatherings on a hill or under a tree. Spreading the gospel didn't happen in a church building but rather wherever people were at. People didn't come to church, instead the church went to them. This method of sharing the gospel was particularly effective in reaching people who hadn't heard about Jesus or who had previously not been a part of the church.

Recently, another movement has been gaining traction. It's called Fresh Expressions. Leader of the movement, Rev. Michael Beck, says that "Once again, the Holy Spirit is up to something out in the fields with the

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"nones" (people who claim no religious affiliation or practice) and "dones" (people who once practiced a religion but no longer do) of our post-everything society." The idea behind Fresh Expressions, is to get on board with what God is already doing in the world, outside of the church. If people aren't coming to church, Fresh Expressions is a way to bring church to the people. Remember, a church is people, not a building.

Fresh Expressions are literally what they sound like. They are a fresh or new expression of what it means to be a church. They are a fresh expression of church. Bible study and burritos, praise at a dog park, and dinner church are all examples of Fresh Expressions. So how do we jump on board this Fresh Expressions movement? There are three easy steps.

First, identify the places we already do life (home, work, the grocery store, restaurants, gas stations, dog parks, gyms, grain elevators, etc.).

Second, identify a Person of Peace (a person who is a bridge between First Church and the place of life. Example: A restaurant owner who allows a group to meet for Bible Study at their restaurant).

Third, cultivate a Fresh Expression. If you have an idea of a new Fresh Expression, and you've identified a possible Person of Peace, contact our First Church staff to see how we can help you grow that idea into a church reality.

Our hope here at First Church is that we could use Fresh Expressions as a way to join in what God is already doing in the world. Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. To do that we need to go out and make disciples.

If you feel the Holy Spirit tugging at your heart or nudging an idea in your mind, this is your sign to follow that feeling. Starting a fresh expression of church isn't something that everyone is called to do, but if it is something you feel called to do or learn more about, please contact our church staff as we begin to put a team together to join the Fresh Expression movement.

I can't wait to see what Fresh Expressions you come up with!

-Pastor Bryce



## January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	9:15 am Character of God Word Study No Youth 6:00—7:30 pm Volunteer Training	Home Communion  10 am Women's Bible Study  6 pm Blended Band Rehearsal	5	7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
7 8:30 am 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship	5:30 pm Women of Grace—Lounge	9	9 am Morning Glories  Wednesday Night Programing Resumes See Schedule Below	10 am Women's Bible Study  6 pm Blended Band Rehearsal  6:00 pm New Member Class	12	13 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 2:30-4:30 pm Get to know your Bible for 3rd & 4th Graders 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
8:30 am 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship	15 Office Closed 5:30 pm Scripturedoodle	11:30 am Lunch A Bunch—Perkins  5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting	9:15 am Character of God Word Study  **See below for Regular Wednesday Night Activities**	10 am Women's Bible Study 6 pm Blended Band Rehearsal 6:00 pm New Member Class	19	7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
8:30 am 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship	22	23	9:15 am Character of God Word Study  **See below for Regular Wednesday Night Activities**	25 10 am Women's Bible Study 6 pm Blended Band Rehearsal 6:00 pm New Member Class	26 Winter Co	7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
28 8:30 am 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship	29	30	31  9:15 am Character of God Word Study  **See below for Regular Wednesday Night Activities**	5:15 pm Comr 5:15—6:15 pm 6:15—7:15 pm 6:00-7:30 pm 6:00-7:30 pm 6:00-7:30 pm	dnesday Night Schedule Community Meal—All are Welcome The Spray Bell Choir Rehearsal The Spray Chancel Choir Rehearsal The Spray Choir Rehearsal The Spray Choir Choir Rehearsal The Spray Choir Choir Rehearsal The Spray Choir Choir Choir Rehearsal The Spray Choir Cho	



#### **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—Jan. 8th this 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—3rd Tues. in January 5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting

3rd Tuesday of the Month—New Location

11:30 am Lunch-A-Bunch at Perkins

2nd Wednesday of the Month

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

1st Thursday of the Month

**Home Communion** 

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

9:15 am Character of God Word Study

(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—See dates on Page 7...

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



Item of the month:

100% Juice / Juice Boxes

Thank you for your donations.

#### Why is there still a Christmas Tree up in the Sanctuary?

Because January's Mission of the Month is Jenkins Living Center. We will add some Wish Tags to the tree for you to take, shop for the items and return the items under the tree. Let's support all our friends at Jenkins from the workers to the residents this month.

Monetary donations can also be made and we'll do the shopping for you. Just note that your donation is for "Jenkins". Thank you for your support of all of our missions here at First Church!





The Ladies of the Thursday Bible Study wish you all a Very Happy 2024! They celebrated Christmas with a fantastic pot luck dinner.

As our Partnership with Roosevelt School continues this school year, please find below a list of supplies requested at this time. There is a drop box at the back of the Sanctuary. Monetary donations are also welcome and

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**(** FIRSTCHURCH

can be made at watertownfirst.church/giving Select Other Income & indicate Roosevelt School. Thanks for your support!

- Graham Crackers
- Goldfish Crackers
- Cheez-It Crackers
- Pretzels
- Fruit Snacks
- Bulk Bags of Cereal
- Boys Athletic Pants- Sizes XS, S, M
- Girls Leggings- Sizes Youth XS and Large
- 1" width masking tape
- Adhesive magnet tape- AmazonLink
- Small Cups (bathroom size)
- Mini Paper Shredder- AmazonLink
- Thin Dry Erase Markers (Black or Blue)- AmazonLink
- Water Bottles- AmazonLink



## First Family & Friends



Birthday	Happy Birthday To	
2-Jan	Zachary Frambs	
2-Jan	Heidi Hartford	
2-Jan	Joanne Singrey-Johnson	
3-Jan	Jerry Miller	
3-Jan	Bradley Hanson	
4-Jan	Marissa Willett	
6-Jan	Eden Severson	
6-Jan	Averie Ann Halajian	
7-Jan	Nancy Titze	
7-Jan	Kensley Bingen	
8-Jan	Brandy Fenenga	
8-Jan	Tom LaFramboise	
8-Jan	Reese Vanderlinden	
8-Jan	Kaleb Boughton	
9-Jan	Clara Wight	
9-Jan	Hannah Severson	
9-Jan	Doug Waldner	
9-Jan	Joshua Barr	
10-Jan	Connie Lake	
10-Jan	Nicole Gilbertson	
11-Jan	Wayne Becking	
11-Jan	Kara Heagel	
12-Jan	Avarie Soupir	
13-Jan	Brenda Jongbloed	
13-Jan	Matthew Leadabrand	
14-Jan	Harper Koistinen	
15-Jan	Jeremiah Leadabrand	
15-Jan	Katie Leadabrand	
15-Jan	Beth Luckhurst	
15-Jan	Jackson Kahre	
15-Jan	Warren Berger	
17-Jan	Avery Anderson	
17-Jan	Beau Anderson	
17-Jan	Jamie DeBoer	
19-Jan	Brady Fonder	
20-Jan	Catherine Leadabrand	
20-Jan	Sandee Prouty-Cole	
21-Jan	Lillian Fox	
21-Jan	Zachary Foust	
21-Jan	Grace Jurgens	

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Birthday	Happy Birthday To
22-Jan	Roberta LaFramboise
23-Jan	Sarah Caron
23-Jan	Katherine Mielitz
23-Jan	William (Bill) Hoffman
23-Jan	Wayne Wegner
23-Jan	Jonathan LaFramboise Boettcher
24-Jan	Tieson Jenner
24-Jan	Dorothy Peterson
25-Jan	Jacque Johnson
25-Jan	Kris Edwards
26-Jan	Donald Riley
27-Jan	Weston Mayer
27-Jan	Buddy LaFramboise
27-Jan	Ernest Wight
28-Jan	Ronald Aker
28-Jan	Andreas (Larry) Schnoor
28-Jan	Dorothy Schurrer
28-Jan	Lydia Buckley
28-Jan	Carla Willett
29-Jan	Briana McElhany
29-Jan	Anna Gilbertson
30-Jan	Clark Hanson
31-Jan	Cadence Weidner
31-Jan	Harley Stavick
31-Jan	Daxxyn Larson



Anniversary	Bride & Groom
2-Jan	Chad & Kim Miller
18-Jan	Randy & Sandy Middleton
25-Jan	Fred & Carolyn Wilkens
27-Jan	Chad & Brooke Hanson

We welcome our newest member to the First United Methodist Church Family



Oliver Alwin Son of Ryan Alwin & Miranda Eide Baptized December 30, 2023

#### **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: <a href="https://watertownfirst.church/about/team/now-hiring/">https://watertownfirst.church/about/team/now-hiring/</a>





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

Geri Telkamp and other family and friends of Marlin Telkamp who passed away on December 7, 2023.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN ASSISTED LIVING OR NURSING HOMES			
Avantara Watertown 415 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave. NE Watertown, SD 57201	Mildred Smith—Dick Lien		
Edgewood Assisted Living 901 14th Ave NE Watertown, SD 57201	Warren Berger #419—Audrey Rhodes #314 Bonnie Lien #411—Karen Ostrander #424 Marvin Mundhenke #422—Karyl Wishard		
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 VanDykhorst #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 2533 Prairie Park Trail SE 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)

#### January 3, 2024

"Alzheimers 101" by Connie Lake, Facilitator

#### **February 7, 2024**

"Progression of Dementia" by (Video) Teepa Snow, MS, OTS/L

<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 cl.memory.group@gmail.com.



# FIRSTKIDS & FIRSTSQUAD

<u>Do You Love Children?</u> 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.

## 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

- Wed. Jan. 3—Volunteer Training—No First Kids
- Wed. Jan. 10—Adopt a Grandparent at Jenkins
- Sat. Jan. 13—3rd/4th Grade Get to Know your Bible
- Wed. Jan. 17—Kick of new Series "Bible Chef"

#### 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

#### **FUTURE EVENTS**

- Saturday, January 13th from 2:30 to 4:30 pm—"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.



#### Thank You!

Thank you to
everyone who
helped with and to
all the kids who
participated in the
Christmas Program.
We had a great time
and we can't wait
to see what we come
up with for next
year's program.

**It's a New Year!** Please take a few minutes and check your family's registration to make sure all information is up to date. Go to *https://watertownfirst.church/church/first-kids/* and click the Yellow "Student Registration" box. Or Click *Here* to Update or Register.

If you have any question about our Children's Ministry Program, please contact Lori Jurgens <a href="mailto:lori@watertownfirst.church">lori@watertownfirst.church</a> or Sandy Middleton <a href="mailto:sandy@watertownfirst.church">sandy@watertownfirst.church</a>



#### Our youth at First Church...

There were many fun activities that the youth participated in during the month of December.



Confirmands met with their confirmation mentors to discuss the themes of advent and the meaning of the Christmas story.

Youth from our Youth Council helped plan and write the Children's Christmas program. Several members of the youth group volunteered to help facilitate the Taylor Swift themed program that occurred during the 10am service on December 10th.

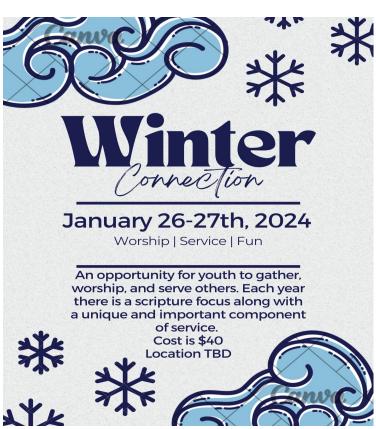
Youth also had a Christmas party where they played Christmas themed games.

December wrapped up by joining the children's group and members of our congregation for caroling at Jenkins assisted living, Maple Place, and Townview apartments.

The youth are looking ahead to a spring semester filled opportunities to connect and deepen their faith with events like the Winter Connection retreat, the Confirmation retreat, and various volunteer opportunities around the community. They will also be fundraising for their mission trip with events like A Night to Remember dinner event and a pancake feed.

We are very thankful for the ongoing ways that youth in our congregation participate in the life of our church as we look to the new year ahead with a sense of hope for a better future.









Our December Event was a night of cooking and games hosted by April Geffre. We hope you can join us for future events and bring a friend! Contact Pastor Bryce for more info: assocpastor@watertownfirst.church





#### CHARGE CONFERENCE MINUTES November 28, 2023

The Church Charge Conference was led by NE District Superintendent Rev.Kris Mutzenberger. Approximately 55 members were present including the following:

Staff: Pastor Jen Tyler, Lucas Severson, Sandy Middleton, Lori Jurgens, Pearl Geffre Leadership Team: Barb Brinkman, Sarah Caron, Corrine Dahl, Debbie Engels, April Geffre, Sue Luken and incoming member Marcia Schneider

Rev. Mutzenberger opened the meeting with a devotion based on Philippians 4:4-20 with the theme being change or transformation of heart, mind, and action. We looked at our church through the lens of 5 P's Praise, Posture, Prayer, and Peace through Perspective.

PRAISE: In what areas of our church are we praising God?

in-person church attendance is increasing—music ministries—volunteers—church staff—working with children and youth including more participation children's ministry outreach to Jenkins—Autumn festival (formerly bazaar) is happening again mission projects—Alternate Giving Fair—local church foundation—outreach to Roosevelt—new young adult ministry

Certified Lay Ministers were recognized and a vote taken to affirm their ministry and continue their certification. (Joanne Singrey-Johnson and Aric Leadabrand)

Retired clergy that were present were recognized. (Elmer Brinkman and DeVern Schwenn) A Deacon was recognized. (Melissa Gall)

A brochure was handed out with 2023 Conference Announcements. Many items are described in the handout. Fresh Expressions and Conference Discipleship were highlighted.

#### POSTURE OF TRANSFORMATION:

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. What are we known for in our community? Bundles of Hope diaper ministry—everyone is welcome—hosting the annual Christmas Community Concert—Ukranian Refugee assistance—outreach support to Roosevelt—connections to Beacon Center availability of grow groups for all ages—support PACH program—outreach ministry to Jenkins

#### **NOMINATIONS REPORT:**

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS Lee Rycraft, April Geffre, \*Heide Kuhlman, Debbie Engels, Sarah Caron, Barb Brinkman, Sue Luken, \*Marcia Schneider, Corrine Dahl, Doug Wishard, Peggy Lindahl \* Denotes new members starting January

There is one position open for the Leadership Team beginning January 2024

Vote to accept the Leadership Team passed.

#### **FUMC** Foundation:

The Foundation president gave a report highlighting a change that was made to the Foundation. The guideline is that 5% of the beginning of the year balance can be distributed during the calendar year. Many years 5% is not requested. Going forward, the unused amount can be carried over to be distributed in the following year.

A handout was given as to grants that were

Beth Schutt and John Redlinger will be starting their 2<sup>nd</sup> 3 year term.

Vote to ratify these as members of the board passed.

#### **PRAYER**

We have an active prayer team. Miracle health prayers have been answered.

#### PEACE through PERSPECTIVE

Budget:

Salaries of full time staff were increased 3%. Clergy Compensation:

Sr. Pastor

\$80.811.00 Salarv Housing Allowance \$20,700.00 \*Housing Exclusion \$25,000.00

This salary compensation passed.

#### **Associate Pastor**

\$48,039.00 Salary Housing Allowance \$15,000.00 \*Housing Exclusion \$20,000.00

This salary compensation passed.

\*Housing exclusion is listed as an IRS regulation.

The budget for 2024 was presented. It is a budget focused on growth.

The budget was passed as presented.



#### **CHARGE CONFERENCE MINUTES**

#### Continued....

A copy of our 2024 Missional Budget describing how our budget is utilized focused on our 5 Values was also distributed.

#### **Accessibility Team Update**

The elevator in the church is not reliable. The Accessibility Team has been meeting since May. During this time, the congregation was surveyed. The church has 13 levels. Not all of these need to be made accessible. The congregation was surveyed with one of the main questions being which areas are most important to be accessible. The top 3 were sanctuary, fellowship hall, and office area.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was sent to architectural firms.

Architects were interviewed.

In a project of this size, generally these are the steps that are followed.

- 1. Concept phase which includes hiring an architect.
- 2. Capital campaign
- 3. Design phase
- 4. Bid letting

The following motion was made by Sarah Caron: I make a motion that Watertown First United Methodist Church enter a contract with YHR Partners of Moorhead, MN in the amount of \$18,500 for completion of "Accessibility, Assessment, Conceptual Plan and Preliminary Budgeting" as described in the proposal dated November 9, 2023 after funding for these services has been secured.

Second by April Geffre Discussion followed. Motion Passed.

This meeting ended with prayer led by Rev. Kris Mutzenberger.

Sue Luken Recording Secretary

Thank you to the First United Methodist Foundation for providing funding for the "Accessibility, Assessment, Conceptual Plan and Preliminary Budgeting". Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

#### **New Member 3 week class**

Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm January 11, 18, 25

Anyone interested in learning more about First Church is welcome, including long-time members who want to connect to newer folks and learn a few things along the way.

If child care is needed please contact Pastor Jen at seniorpastor@watertownfirst.church

#### First Church Finances

1st Quarter	Income	\$ 136,797	
	Expense	\$ 126,122	\$ 10,675
	Difference	\$ 10,675	
2nd Quarter	Income	\$ 99,244	
	Expense	\$ 133,001	\$ (23,082)
	Difference	\$ (33,757)	
3rd Quarter	Income	\$ 100,790	
	Expense	\$ 131,090	\$ (53,382)
	Difference	\$ (30,300)	
Oct-23	Income	\$ 32,356	
	Expense	\$ 41,428	\$ (62,454)
	Difference	\$ (9,072)	
Nov-23	Income	\$ 54,164	
	Expense	\$ 59,510	\$ (67,801)
	Difference	\$ (5,346)	

**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!

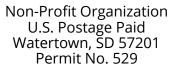
There are several methods available for giving. You can mail your tithe and offerings to the church at:

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!







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

#### RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

## January 2024 **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 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





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