

First United **Methodist** Church **First News April 2024**



4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

Pastor's Word:

Moses took the tent and pitched it outside the camp, far away from the camp. He called it the meeting tent. Everyone who wanted advice from the Lord would go out to the meeting tent outside the camp. -Exodus 33:7

Do you ever wish that your life was simpler? I used to watch movies as a kid and think that life was so simple. There was usually a good guy, a bad guy, and a cast of friends, family, or otherwise, that needed to be saved. Life was very clean cut and certain. Someone was either good or bad. The only things that people needed were the basics of food, water, and shelter. I knew of no such concepts as purpose, relationships, community, time, health, or money/value. I had no understanding of scheduling or responsibility.

As I've gotten older, my understanding of how the world works and my place in it has changed. It is not as simple as I once thought it was. People

are not as simple as I thought they were, which is honestly a good thing. However, with the complexity of the world and the fullness of life, sometimes it is hard to slow down and really digest it all. Sometimes it's hard to just get perspective on my life and God's work within it. Maybe you have felt the same. Maybe you've wished that you could just get away and unplug.

Moses, in the scripture above, needed some time away with God. He needed to get away from all the people asking him questions and the business of his work as a leader. He has been leading the Israelite people through the desert, trying his best to show them the way of living that they had been

instructed to live by God. But his task was both tiresome and demanding. So, Moses went away

came simpler. He cut down the distractions, noise, and business, and connected with God. Just like Moses' tent was a place away for him, United Methodist Camps in the Dakotas are a place away for many. Maybe you are in need of a break, a quick (and affordable) escape, or just a chance to live more simply. There are three camps throughout the Dakotas (Storm Mountain in Rapid City, SD, Wesley Acres in Dazey, ND, and Lake Poinsett in Arlington, SD). All are great places for all ages to get away and connect with God.

outside of camp, pitched a tent, and used it as his place away to chat with God. From this place away, he was able to connect with God more deeply, to unplug, and to gain perspective. In this tent, life be-

If you have never been to a camp or if it has been a long time, see this as your encouragement to attend. Go for a weekend, a quick overnight, or a week. There are camps for everyone no matter the interest, age, or experience with camp that you have. No need to even pitch your tent, cabins are already waiting for you. All that is needed is for you to show up and be.

I encourage and invite everyone to camp this summer! Use the Church Promo Code: wtnfirst for half off the early bird price ending on April 30th. My hope is that all can get away and experience a time at camp with God.

See you at camp!

-Pastor Bryce Blank

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April 2024

C	Man	T	VA/I	There		11 2024
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu 4	Fri 5	Sat
	Easter Monday Holiday Office Closed		9:15 am Embracing God Study Group	Home Communion 10 am Women's Bible		Camp Promo Weekend
	Office Closed			Study 6 pm IMPACT—Young		7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge
			See below for Regular Wednesday Night Activities	Adult Group—Escape Room at Breakout		9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant
				6 pm Blended Band Rehearsal		3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship Family Worship Weeken
amp Promo	8	9	10	11	12	13
Veekend State of the state of t	5:30 pm Women	5:30 pm	9 am Morning Glories	10 am Women's Bible Study		7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge
3:30 am 3:30 Adult Sunday	of Grace— Lounge	Leadership Team Meeting	**See below for Regular	6 pm Blended Band		9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant
School O am Worship Family Worship Veekend			Wednesday Night Activities**	Rehearsal		3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
4	15	16 11:30 am	17	18	19	7 am Back Room Boys
:30 am		Lunch A Bunch Perkins	9:15 am Embracing God Study Group	10 am Women's Bible Study		Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers
3:30 Adult Sunday School				-		Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal
0 am Worship			**See below for Regular Wednesday Night Activities**	6 pm Blended Band Rehearsal		5:00 pm Worship
			MOW = Meals On Whe	els els		
1	22	23	24	25	26	27 Confirmation Weekend
3:30 am	6:00 pm Town		9:15 am Embracing God Study Group	10 am Women's Bible Study		7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge
:30 Adult Sunday school	Hall Meeting all are invited and encouraged to		**See below for Regular	4:30 pm Ministry Team Meeting		9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant
10 am Worship	attend		Wednesday Night Activities**	6 pm Blended Band Rehearsal		3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
28 Confirmation Weekend	29	30		** Wednesd		
3:30 am				5:15 pm Comn 5:15—6:15 pm	Bell Choir Reh	earsal
9:30 Adult Sunday				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)		
School				6:00-7:30 pm f	First Youth (7th	



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

10:00 am Blended Worship

Monthly at First Church

1st Monday of the Month (April 8th due to Holiday)

5:30 pm Women of Grace Bible Study—Lounge

2nd Tuesday of the Month

5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting

3rd Tuesday of the Month—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 Embracing God Study Group—Church Lounge

Monthly

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

Seasonal

30's/40's Group and 50's/60's Group—Watch for Details

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



EASTER OFFERING

Our special offering taken at Easter will be designated for Faith Development for all ages and the building maintenance fund.

April Mission of the Month is Church Camp Scholarships



Church Camp Weekend is April 6-7

Join us to learn more about church camp experiences from Rev. Paul Lint— Wesley Acres Site Director.

There are camps for all ages! Find your summer church camp at: www.dakotasumc.org/camping Early Bird Deadline is April 30th. Use church code wtnfirst to receive the Early Bird Discount.



What is Impact?

Impact is a young adult group through First Church that seeks to connect with people wanting to deepen their faith after they graduate high school through their early 30s.

We understand that being a young adult is challenging as they try to figure out how to be on their own. It can be especially challenging to continue growing in their faith during this time because most young adults are no longer connected to the faith community that nurtured them through their early years. That's why our young adult ministry is so important at First Church.



Announcements—Missions

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 can 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 Cereal- Fruit Loops, Cinnamon Toast Crunch
- Thin Dry Erase Expo Markers (Black)- Link
- Expo Erase Markers- Link
- Clorox Wipes
- Kleenex
- Coffee Filters
- Color Cardstock- Link
- White Cardstock- Link
- Lego City Go Karts- Link
- Lego City Pancake Shop- Link

First Church Finances	
FUMC General Budget Financials - 2024	_

Tome deficial badget i maneials 2024			
		Monthly Actual	YTD Cash Flow
	Income	\$ 64,378	
24-Jan	Expense	\$ (50,270)	\$ 14,108
	Difference	\$ 14,108	
	Income	\$ 31,666	
24-Feb	Expense	\$ (42,440)	\$ 3,334
	Difference	\$ (10,774)	

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 use the QR Code to give online

Thank Your for your support of First Church!

NOTE: To meet our 2024 budget in full each month, we need a monthly income of \$40,383. The chart on the left reflects our giving, actual expenditures, and YTD cash flow. Thank you for your generosity and support of First Church!

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

Item of the Month: PACH Applesauce Cups.





Cash donations welcome: Make checks out People to First UMC and note PACH in the memo or give at www.watertownfirst.church/giving Select Missions & note PACH. Thank you for your Support!

Join us for our first Town Hall Meeting on April 22 at 6pm!

Our Leadership Team will be hosting these quarterly gatherings as an opportunity to share more about what they've been working on, and to have an opportunity to hear from you, our congregation we have the privilege of leading. Do you want to get to know your Leadership Team better? Have guestions for them? Want to learn more about what kind of work they are doing together? Or maybe you're looking for an opportunity to drink some (decaf) coffee with treats in good company? If any of these describe you, we hope you'll plan to join us!

First UMC Foundation Update

The Foundation of First Church had another active, productive and successful year in 2023. The year started out with an investment balance of \$875,802. During the year donations and memorials of \$4,976 were received, grants of \$41,800 were awarded and net investment earnings were \$92,631. This resulted in a year end investment balance of \$931,609. The grants awarded included \$23,300 for various building and equipment needs/ upgrades, \$13,500 for architectural fees for the accessibility assessment and \$5,000 for assistance in the purchase of a van for a Ukrainian family relocating to Watertown.

It always nice to look back, but we look ahead with anticipation and excitement as to how the Foundation can plug into the service and ministry of First Church. Our governing documents will allow the Foundation to award grants of nearly \$48,600 in 2024! If you have any thoughts or questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the Board members listed below. May God richly bless you all! Thank you!!

Glen Vilhauer. President Rich Schmidt, Vice-President Beth Schutt, Secretary John Redlinger, Treasurer Jamie Veeder Barb Brinkman



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING Tuesday March 12, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Corrine Dahl, Debbie Engels, April Geffre, Sue Luken, Pastor Jen, Pastor Bryce, Peggy Lindahl, Lee Rycraft, Sarah Caron, Marcia Schneider, Adam Fox, and Heide Kuhlman.

Absent: Doug Wishard and Barb Brinkman.

Devotions and Welcome Prayer: Debbie Engels.

Accessibility Team Updates – Sara reported they had a conference call with the Architect. There will be an onsite inspection in the future with the architects.

Van Update: The church van is working great. It is currently at Advantage Graphics getting the decals removed. Chuck and Debbie Engels have agreed to let us store the van on their property. An agreement between them and the church is currently being written up.

Town Hall meeting date: April 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. is the date and time for the meeting.

Wall/Foundation in Cook Hall – Peggy reported she had met with Shawn Nelson from Blackburn. He informed her there was nothing they could do to fix the wall as it really is not a foundation issue. There is a classroom below the room in Cook Hall so they could not anchor to the floor. He hit the wall with his hand and it sounded like sand sifting between the sheetrock and the concrete wall. Where the wall is buckling is above ground so he initially thought it had been hit by a vehicle. There is no evidence of that happening on the outside of the building. He recommended hiring someone to take the sheet rock off the wall and see what is going on behind it. Speculation is the concreted may be deteriorating behind the sheetrock and causing it to crack and buckle. The floors are all level so the foundation in the ower level is not sinking. She had reached out to Doug and Corrine to see if they had someone that would be willing to tackle this project and get us an estimate.

Pastor Updates:

Pastor Bryce: The Youth fundraising has been going great. The crosses that were made by Marty Geffre and donated to the youth group have been a positive project. The Youth went on a Confirmation Retreat at Lake Poinsett the weekend of 3/2/24. Confirmation is tentatively set for April 27, 2024 at the 5:00 p.m. worship service. There will be a

reception afterwards for the confirmation class. There is also a youth that would also like to be recognized at the 8:30 a.m. worship on April 28, 2024.

Pastor Jen: will be taking off for vacation after the meeting. The Wednesday Community Lent services are going well. She reminded everyone that the beginning of Holy Week is only 2 weeks away.

Leadership Team Group Updates:

Building and Grounds – Corrine Dahl reported that Pearl had contacted her about another hand rail in the sanctuary restroom. She contacted Rich and he is getting this taken care of. It was discussed to check the other restrooms to make sure the handicapped stalls have the railings in them. The garbage disposal in the kitchen has not been replaced. There was a part they had ordered and it was the wrong one.

Finance – April Geffre (Pastor Jen) reported that we are still maintaining being in the black at the current time. Giving trends were discussed in relation to the year and what to expect. There has been a new fund set up in the finances for the van to keep track of income and expenses of it.

SRP – Debbie Engels reported that there is still a need for someone in the nursery. Also there will be a couple of weekend there will be a need for someone to come in and help out as a couple of the workers have asked for time off. There has been an applicant for the summer internship of ministry this summer. This person will be announced at a later date.

The packing for PACH was done efficiently. These bags will be distributed accordingly.

Next Meeting will be April 9, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting concluded at 6:20p.m. with the Breakthrough Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Peggy Lindahl, Recording Secretary



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!

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.



Bible Chef is our curriculum on Wednesday Nights. Each week kids will look at something that makes for a great dish - sweet, salty, hot, fresh - or something that can ruin a dish - cold, sour, spoiled, burnt - both

in the kitchen and in life. They will cook up their own tasty snacks - no oven required as they learn about all the good things that God has cooking for those who love and follow him.

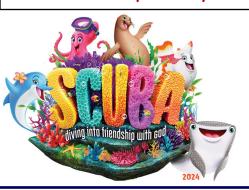
Thank you to all of the volunteers who help on the Weekends and on Wednesday nights.

We could not do this without you!

To the kids and their families, thanks for coming and having fun with us and learning alongside us about Jesus!

Key Happenings for Children's Ministry

- Wednesday—April 3
 - ⇒ Adopt a Grandparent at Jenkins—Get to know you dice games
- Wednesday—May 1
 - ⇒ Adopt a Grandparent at Jenkins
- Wednesday-May 15
 - ⇒ End of Year Party at the Zoo!
- Monday—June 17
 - ⇒ 5th & 6th Grade Mission Trip to Feeding SD in Sioux Falls
- Monday—July 15 thru Thursday—July 18
 - ⇒ Scuba VBS (volunteers needed—please contact Sandy or Lori—Thanks—you are appreciated!)
- 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

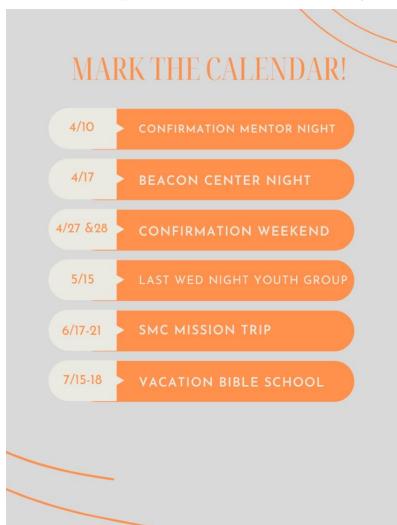


We will be starting to do some clean up and prep work for VBS so watch for those dates to have fun making some decorations and creating fun rooms with the SCUBA theme.

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



FIRSTYOUTH







What is Going On in First Youth

Wednesday Nights: During our time together on Wednesday nights in March, the youth got to pack meals for the PACH program at the PACH warehouse. They also got to learn about trust, and participate in stations of the cross during Holy Week to see the journey of Jesus final days with a new perspective.

Wednesday Night Worship: During worship this month, we learned about wisdom and discernment and heard a devotional from Cady Weidner.

Confirmation: Confirmands met with mentors this month to put pen to paper and write out what they believe on topics of theology and faith. Our confirmands also got to spend a weekend at Lake Poinsett Camp where they met with confirmation students cross the conference for a time of learning, worship, and fun activities. One of their activities was making stoles that they will wear when they are confirmed during the weekend of April 27th and 28th.

Fundraising: Thank you to all who have given and participated in our mission trip fundraising!

Qdoba night: \$286.90

A Night to Remember Event: \$1284.34

Wood Crosses: \$736!





Our prayers and deepest sympathy go out to:

Frank Johnson & other family members & friends on the death of Frank's brother, Randy P. Johnson on March 14, 2024.

Audrey Rohde and family on the death of her aunt Sharon Weber.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN ASSISTED LIVING OR NURSING HOMES		
Avantara Watertown 415 4 th Ave. NE Watertown, SD 57201	Dick Lien	
Edgewood Cedar View 225 14th Ave NE Watertown, SD 57201	Warren Berger	
Edgewood Assisted Living 901 14th Ave NE Watertown, SD 57201	Audrey Rhodes #314 Bonnie Lien #411—Karen Ostrander #424 Marvin Mundhenke #422—Karyl Wishard #415	
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	
Aspen Grove Assisted Living 2065 Moose Dr Sturgis, SD 57785	Shirley & Millard Roe	

Watertown Memory Care Support Group (formerly the Alzheimer's Support Group)

April 3, 2024

"Anticipatory Grief" by Sara Foust CSW, Director Codington County Community Services

May 1, 2024

"How to Advocate" by Carrie Kwasniewski, PN, BSN, Clinical Services Dr, Edgewood

<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.

Birthday Happy Birthday To:

Arlet Magstadt
Dixie Currey

Elyse Wegner

Justin Remmers

Pat Workman

Jessica Ekern Laini Greenfield

Roberta Jenner

Emily Halvorson

Ruthie Dahl

Mya Smunk

Donald Fox

Valgene Alwin

George Eberle

Tamara Eberle

Delores LeVake

Marcia Schneider

Kristin Loeschke

Alexander Hanson

Gina Enstad



Birthday Happy Birthday To:



20-Apr

20-Apr

20-Apr

22-Apr 22-Apr

23-Apr

23-Apr 24-Apr

25-Apr

25-Apr 25-Apr

26-Apr

26-Apr

26-Apr

27-Apr

28-Apr

28-Apr

28-Apr

29-Apr

30-Apr

Birthday	Happy Birthday To:
1-Apr	Glen Vilhauer
1-Apr	Lynda Fiebelkorn
1-Apr	Owen Muller
4-Apr	Ashley Stanley
4-Apr	Mark Bayles
6-Apr	Charlie Shultz
6-Apr	Kari Anderson
6-Apr	Liam Reis
6-Apr	Marli Severson
7-Apr	Cael Heuer
7-Apr	Dylan Smunk
7-Apr	John Redlinger
7-Apr	Kirsten Titze Blackwell
8-Apr	Alyssa Raml
9-Apr	Colton Luckhurst
9-Apr	Kamden Wellman
9-Apr	Marilyn Vogt
10-Apr	Michael Wight
10-Apr	Rich Remmers
10-Apr	Sandra Halajian
11-Apr	Judy Kubat
11-Apr	Loel Diggs
13-Apr	Brooks Urevig
13-Apr	Jeanne Paulson
14-Apr	Carol Meyer
14-Apr	Laura Greenfield
14-Apr	Samantha Russman
15-Apr	Chad Fortin
15-Apr	Sophia Juluis
15-Apr	Thad Titze
16-Apr	Ashton Foust
16-Apr	June Dale
18-Apr	Kenny Raml
19-Apr	Jeanne Berry
40.4	h 5 .



Anniversary	Bride & Groom
1-Apr	Wayne & Tammy Becking
8-Apr	Wayne & Lynda Fiebelkorn
8-Apr	Dan & Margaret Houfek
15-Apr	Clark & Barb Hanson
16-Apr	Jamis & Crystal Jurgens
17-Apr	Ernie & Natalie Wight
21-Apr	Scott & Kristi Davis
26-Apr	Stanley & Brenda Jongbloed
27-Apr	Mahlon & Ronda Boughton

On the First Wednesday of each month the K-6th graders from FirstChurch visit Jenkins Living Center where they spend time visiting, playing games and getting to know the residents there.

So glad we have the opportunity to connect with our friends at Jenkins. Both the children and the residents love the time they spend together.

Below is a picture of First Kids and their friends at Jenkins.







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

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

April 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 Sunday at 8:30 am—Traditional Worship Sunday at 10:00 am—Blended Worship





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