



**First United  
Methodist  
Church  
First News  
May 2024**



**FIRSTCHURCH**

4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

**God is on the Move**

The past month has brought with it a number of announcements and changes, all of which were unexpected and we perhaps were unprepared for. When I first found out I was being called to go to a new place, I had *all* of the emotions come over me: I was angry and sad, scared and curious, nervous and hopeful. It wasn't what I had planned on or hoped for this year or in this season when so much is already changing in my life (I was already planning to move as I prepare for the other big change in my life: getting married in August).

I wonder: have you ever heard that old adage, "if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans"? That's a bit how this has begun to feel as I have processed this forthcoming change alongside many of you. Fortunately, we know that God is bigger, bolder, and far wiser than any plans you or I might ever make. In fact, Deuteronomy 31:8 assures us God is always a few steps ahead: *"The Lord says, 'Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you, He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you.'"*

Even if the coming months aren't going to look how I imagined or planned them to be, I sure do feel like God has gone ahead of me! Ahead of *us*, actually, as I couldn't be more excited about ministry opportunities that await First Church with your fearless team in Pastor Bryce and your new Senior Pastor, Pastor Sara McManus (yes, another Pastor Sara: hopefully that's easy to remember, at least?), among other incredible staff and leaders who will continue on in this blessed place.

So what will our futures hold? I'm not quite sure, other than some transition and opportunities to grow and meet new people. Yet there is one thing I am sure of, and that is of the promise given to us in Isaiah 43:19:

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

Friends, in the midst of mixed emotions about change that we know can be so *very hard* – I give thanks that God goes ahead of us. God is doing new things here and now in our lives – some of which we see, know, and perceive... and others that we will know in due time. In all things, new and old, here and beyond... God is with us.

For that: and for the gift of the months ahead we have to surround one another in the beautiful community we are, I give thanks to God.

Pastor Jen

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# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>** Wednesday Night Schedule Thru May 15</b> 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 9:15 am Embracing God Study Group  <i>**See below for Regular Wednesday Night Activities**</i>	2 Home Communion 10 am Women's Bible Study  6 pm IMPACT—Young Adult Group—Escape Room at Breakout 6 pm Blended Band Rehearsal	3	4 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal <b>5:00 pm Worship</b> <i>Family Worship Weekend</i>
5 <b>8:30 am</b> 9:30 Adult Sunday School <b>10 am Worship</b> <i>Family Worship Weekend</i>	6 5:30 pm Women of Grace—Lounge	7	8 9 am Morning Glories  <i>**See below for Regular Wednesday Night Activities**</i>	9 10 am Women's Bible Study  6 pm Blended Band Rehearsal	10	11 <b>8:30 am—11:30 am Benefit for Sandy Middleton—FH</b> <i>Sponsored by Lincoln &amp; Jefferson Elementary Schools</i> 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal <b>5:00 pm Worship</b> <i>Graduation Recognition</i> 6 pm IMPACT—at Geffre's
12 <i>Graduation Recognition Weekend</i> <b>8:30 am</b> 9:30 Adult Sunday School <b>10 am Worship</b>	13	14 5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting	15 9:15 am Embracing God Study Group  <b>Fun Night at the Zoo for Children &amp; Youth</b> <b>5:15 pm Meal</b> <b>6:00 pm Activities</b> <i>See page 3</i>  <i>Summer Break Begins Next Week</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 <b>5:00 pm Worship</b>
19 <b>8:30 am</b> 9:30 Adult Sunday School <b>10 am Worship</b>	20	21 11:30 am Lunch A Bunch Perkins	22 9:15 am Embracing God Study Group  <i>Wednesday Night Activities on Break for the Summer</i>	23 10 am Women's Bible Study  6 pm Blended Band Rehearsal	24	25 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal <b>5:00 pm Worship</b>  <i>Weekend First Kids on Break for the Summer</i>
26 <b>8:30 am</b> <i>NO Adult Sunday School—on break for Summer</i> <b>10 am Worship</b>  <i>Weekend First Kids on Break for the Summer</i>	27 Memorial Day Holiday Office Closed	28	29 9:15 am Embracing God Study Group  <i>Wednesday Night Activities on Break for the Summer</i>	30 4:30 pm Ministry Team Meeting	31 5:30 pm Walk a Mile in Her Shoes Event	June 1 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal <b>5:00 pm Worship</b>

**Weekly at First Church**

**Wednesdays—Through May 15 (See Calendar)**

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—Through May 19  
**10:00 am Blended Worship**

**Monthly at First Church**

**1st Monday of the Month**

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**

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.**

**Graduate Recognition Weekend**

During worship services on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> we would like to recognize any students graduating from either high school or an institute of higher education.



During the service, we will offer anyone who would like to be recognized, to receive a blessing upon achieving this milestone! Feel free to reach out to Pastor Bryce with any questions.

[assocpastor@watertownfirst.church](mailto:assocpastor@watertownfirst.church)

**Fun Night-Bramble Park Zoo!**

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, our Wednesday night programming and meal will be at Bramble Park Zoo. We will NOT have activities at the church on Wed. May 15<sup>th</sup>.

- Our community meal will be from 5:15pm- 6:00pm, open to all ages.
- Children's and youth programming will be at 6:00pm-7:15pm.
- We will end the night with worship from 7:15pm-7:30pm.

**Families are welcome to attend with their children. If you have a zoo pass we encourage you to bring that for admittance to the zoo. Meet at the picnic shelter near the petting barn.**

**Church Van Dedication**

On Sunday morning, April 21<sup>st</sup>, we gathered in the church parking lot to offer a blessing and dedication over the 15 passenger van that was gifted to First UMC by Evergreen UMC in Wahpeton, ND.



The van will be a blessing in the life and ministries here at First UMC Watertown.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**



CAMPFIRE AND GAMES **MAY 11**  
 6:00 PM

COME TO PEARL AND MARTY GEFFRE'S HOUSE TO CAP OFF THE YEAR!

PRAIRE LAKES WELLNESS CENTER HANG **JUN 13**  
 6:00 PM

BRING A FRIEND, A WATER BOTTLE, AND YOUR ATHLETIC SHOES FOR SOME GAMES!

**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.



# May Mission of the Month is the Bishops Miracle Offering

## 2024 Miracle Offering

**31:8 Project**

**Bridges Therapeutic Foster Care**

**Bravery Backpacks**

**Clergy Sustentation Fund**

**Recovery Ministry**

This year's Miracle Offering will be divided equally among the listed recipients. Click [HERE](#) to be directed to the Dakotas Conference Website where you can learn more about each of these recipients.

Here at First Church we will be collecting Monetary donations as well as supplies for the Bravery Backpacks in the month of May. Bravery Backpack items will be taken to Annual Conference in June.

A collection box is located at the back of the sanctuary for Bravery Backpack Items.

Click [HERE](#) to make a monetary donation. Select Mission of the month and indicate "Miracle Offering". Or indicate "Miracle Offering" on your check donation.

*Thank you for your support of Missions at First Church!*

**Abbott House's Bridges Therapeutic Foster Care:** In 2013-2014 supporters of Abbot House came together to build Bridges Therapeutic Foster Homes in Mitchell, SD, so young girls could grow up with a family and a home. Today, there are 10 therapeutic foster homes serving, boys and girls, in Mitchell, Rapid City and Sioux Falls. Donations will support continuing efforts for Bridges Therapeutic Foster Care.

**Recovery Ministry:** Through recovery ministries, people are building their relationship with Christ, and shaping a path to healthy living with those around them. Funds will be granted to United Methodist churches in the Dakotas Conference engaged in recovery ministry.

**Clergy Sustentation Fund:** A special fund has been set up to assist clergy with direct financial support when a desperate need does arise. The Clergy Sustentation Fund is a means to tangibly care for our clergy and families in a time of need. Your gifts become signs of hope and grace in difficult times.

In addition to giving financially to the Miracle Offering, congregations are invited to collect supplies and backpacks for the **Bravery Backpacks** program through the 31:8 Project. There will be an opportunity to put the backpacks together at Annual Conference in Bismarck.

**31:8 Project:** 31:8 Project's mission is to equip and challenge society to proactively address issues regarding human trafficking. Based in Bismarck, North Dakota, 31:8 offers informative seminars, conducts research, and creates curriculum applicable to all levels of education and forms of human trafficking. Donations support activities like the Bakken Human Trafficking Summit, mentorships for survivors of human trafficking, and the Demand Reduction Program—an education partnership designed to reduce recidivism.

## 31:8 BRAVERY BACKPACKS PROJECT

31:8 Project is assisting law enforcement officers and emergency service providers to collect donations to help children in vulnerable situations who are in need of additional resources.

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### ITEMS NEEDED PER BACKPACK

- Backpack
- "When You Are Brave" book by Pat Zietlow Miller
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Pajamas (boys & girls) Ages 2-12
- Underwear (boys & girls) Ages 2-12
- Children's book
- Coloring book
- Crayons / Markers
- Blanket
- Stuffed Animal
- Slippers (boys & girls) Ages 2-12
- Socks (boys & girls) Ages 2-12
- Comb / Brush
- Stickers



### ITEMS NEEDED PER BACKPACK

- Backpack
- Toothbrush / Toothpaste
- Underwear / Boxers (boys & girls) Ages 13-17
- Socks (boys & girls) Ages 13-17
- Blanket
- Comb / Brush
- Hair Ties
- Reusable water bottle
- Deodorant (no aerosol)
- Tampons / Menstrual Kits (girls)
- Body Wipes
- Washcloth / Hand Towel
- Snacks
- Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Lotion (travel size)
- Journal / Sketchbook w/ Pens / Colored Pencils / Markers
- Gift Card(s) for fast food places

13-17  
YEARS  
OLD

**April 22, 2024 6:00 p.m.****Leadership Team Town Hall Meeting**

The Leadership Team held their first Town Hall Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday April 22, 2024. Lee Rycraft, Leadership Team Chair introduced the Team Members. Staff-Parish Relations Committee members are Debbie Engels and Sarah Caron; Buildings and Grounds Committee Members are Corrine Dahl, Peggy Lindahl, Doug Wishard; Finance Committee Members are April Geffre, Heide Kuhlman, Lee Rycraft; Ministry Committee Members are Barb Brinkman, Adam Fox, Sue Luken and Marcia Schneider.

Updates were given from each committee. Peggy Lindahl reported for Buildings & Grounds. Currently they are working on a bulging wall in Cook Hall. This wall is in the southeast corner of the room. The wall was patched and covered partially by sheet rock. It is speculated that the concrete wall is decaying at about ground level. We have a quote to get this fixed which entails removing the sheet of sheetrock and cleaning the concrete out and putting in reinforcements into the wall then patch with mortar/concrete. Another project they are researching is the kitchen sink drain. She stressed that the concerns are being looked into and hopefully will find a solution to the problem.

April Geffre gave a report for the Finance Committee. She named that our actual expenditures leave us behind by \$445.55 so far this year, so we need to continue to work on increasing our general giving. Part of the reason we are behind in our budget is because our expenses are up for several reasons, including growing ministry (and a full staff when we didn't have that a year ago) cost more, and we've had a few expenses that only come up every few years (such as a technology upgrade for our wi-fi system). It is worth noting that our giving is up over 15% compared to 2 years ago at this time, which we celebrate!

April also reported that our payroll and accounting has been changed from Ledgers to VRS, and this transition is going smoothly.

Barb Brinkman reported for the Ministry Committee. She reported there are a large number of

projects that are being worked on. This month's Mission is Camp Scholarship. She thanked the congregation for their generous donations for these different missions that we support.

Sarah Caron reported for the Accessibility Team. The Architect has been hired and will be here this week to do a final walk through of our building as they continue working on options moving forward. The next step is figuring out the budget and what direction the architect recommends we go. Once we know that, we can begin fundraising.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee report was given by Debbie Engels. She highlighted that we will be getting a new pastor on July 1, 2024. Pastor Sara met with the Leadership Team on 4/15/24. Everyone was excited to welcome her. There are also openings on the Leadership Team as Sarah Caron will be leaving Watertown; she has accepted a position with the city of Spearfish. There are staff openings for the nursery.

Question and Answer for Congregation: Questions were asked about worship services and times. It was explained that the reason for the 3 services is so everyone got to go to the type of service they prefer whether it be Contemporary, Traditional or Blended. After discussion it was decided to send out a survey for the day, type of service and time people would like to attend.

Follow up questions were asked about possible kitchen rearrangement with the old double sink being decommissioned. Peggy spoke to the ways the Buildings and Grounds Team have been working to think creatively about options, reminding everyone that this is still a work in progress and they are hoping to find a solution that works for everyone.

With no further questions Lee led us in the closing prayer: First Church Breakthrough Prayer. The meeting concluded at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Peggy Lindahl, Recording Secretary

## Worship Survey

At First Church's first Town Hall meeting on April 22, questions about service times and options were asked. We are looking for more congregational input so we are best caring for the needs of our community. Thank you for your input!

*\* Indicates required question.*

What worship service do you currently attend?\*

- Contemporary (Saturday 5pm)
- Traditional (Sunday 8:30am)
- Blended (Sunday 10am)
- Online (Any)
- None (Not currently attending)

What style of worship do you prefer?\*

- Contemporary
- Traditional
- Blended

What time would you prefer to attend worship?\*

- Saturday evening (5 pm)
- Sunday morning at 8:30am
- Sunday morning at 10am
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Would you attend a blended worship service on Sundays at 9:30am if we moved to one service on Sundays for the summer?\*

- Yes
- No
- I will continue attending on Saturdays
- I will continue attending online

Do you have other feedback about worship that you would like our Leadership Team to hear?

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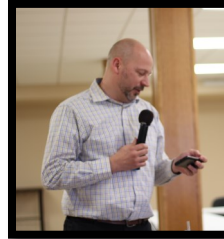


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The above survey can be mailed or dropped off at the church office. To submit your answers online—please click on this link—[SURVEY](#). Thank You for your input.



Lee Rycraft—  
Leadership Chair

Photos from the Town Hall Meeting. See the minutes on page 5 for details.



Debbie Engels—  
SPR



Barb Brinkman—Ministry Report



April Geffre—Finance Report



Peggy Lindahl—B&G Report



Sarah Caron—Assessability Update

### First Church Finances

24-Jan	Income	\$ 64,378	\$ 14,108
	Expense	\$ (50,270)	
	Difference	\$ 14,108	
24-Feb	Income	\$ 31,666	\$ 3,334
	Expense	\$ (42,440)	
	Difference	\$ (10,774)	
24-Mar	Income	\$ 42,266	\$ (446)
	Expense	\$ (46,046)	
	Difference	\$ (3,780)	
1st Qtr	Income	\$ 138,310	\$ (446)
	Expense	\$ 138,756	
	Difference	\$ (446)	

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

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](http://watertownfirst.church/giving)

Or use the QR Code to give online now!

Thank You 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 above reflects our giving, actual expenditures, and YTD cash flow. Thank you for your generosity and support of First Church!

## New Pastor Introduction

Friends in Christ,

I am excited to introduce myself to you. I am Pastor Sara McManus and coming this July, I will be appointed as the new Senior Pastor at Watertown First United Methodist Church. I know that in the midst of saying goodbye and congratulations to Pastor Jen on her new appointment and upcoming marriage, you are wondering a lot about me.

I grew up in Yankton, SD and felt a call to ministry through my local United Methodist Church and the Dakotas Church Camps, especially Lake Poinsett Camp. This calling led me to Simpson College, in Indianola, IA. At Simpson, my thirst for ministry expanded through working with great communities of faith, First Baptist Church of Indianola, Las Americas: La Comunidad de Fe UMC, and Shalom Zone and Gatchel UMC. These experiences opened my eyes to the boundless opportunities to do God's work in the world. Following graduation, I attended seminary at Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville TN and continued to grow in the communities of Inglewood UMC and West End UMC through internships and incredible mentors. In 2012, I was appointed as an associate Pastor at First UMC, in Sioux Falls, SD and moved to my current church, Flame of Faith United Methodist Church in West Fargo, ND in 2015.

In 2009, I married my husband Kyle and brought him along on this adventure of ministry. Kyle is a CPA with BradyMartz & Associates. He will be working remotely following our move to Watertown. Our two children, Teddy and Eleanor are an active addition to our lives. Teddy is 10 and in fourth grade. He loves to read and play soccer. Eleanor is 7 and in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. She loves art, dance and soccer. We also have two dogs, Haleigh, our beagle and Dolly, who defies labels.

It is an incredible honor to continue to follow God's call in my life and in the life of my family. My calling as a Christ-follower and as a Pastor includes a deep passion for connecting people to God's love. The love of God that inspires us to know our own worth as children of God and the love of God that challenges us to change the world in God's name. I feel called to being that bridge between others and God and working together as a community to live out Christ's challenge to us all, to love God, to love our neighbors and to love ourselves.

I am so excited to see the ways our ministries will blend to continue the long-tradition of First United Methodist Church and the ways that we will help each other to grow. I thank you for your prayers as we make this transition in our lives and I will continue to pray for you.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Sara McManus



# FIRSTKIDS & FIRSTSQUAD

Our year is winding down and it's hard to believe that another year has passed. We have had a year of fun and are already looking for different activities and lessons to do next year with the kids. Our favorite activity for the year has definitely been going to Jenkins.

## Key Happenings for Children's Ministry

- **Wednesday—May 2**  
⇒ Last night at Jenkins till next fall
- **Wednesday—May 8**  
⇒ Scavenger Hunt/Prayer Walk
- **Wednesday—May 15**  
⇒ End of year party at the Zoo
- **Saturday & Sunday—May 18—19**  
⇒ Last weekend of Children's Church until Sept.
- **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.

Please contact Sandy or Lori if you are interested in helping with decorating for VBS or volunteering to help with VBS in July.

Below are pictures from our Easter Party held on March 27 for kids in K-12 Grade



Top Left - Garden of Gethsemane - prayer station

Top Right - Empty Tomb - painted rocks

Bottom Left - Crucifixion, Death and Burial- Nail Crosses and Pounding of nails into wood

Bottom Right - Palm Sunday- donkey craft



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



# FIRST YOUTH

## EVENTS COMING UP

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND CHECK OUT WHAT IS GOING ON!

<p><b>MAY</b> 10/11</p> <p><b>GRADUAT RECOGNITION WEEKEND</b> All graduates of any level can come and be recognized with a blessing during the weekend services.</p>	<p><b>JUNE</b> 17-21</p> <p><b>SMC MISSION TRIP</b> Youth Mission trip to Storm Mountain Center</p>
<p><b>MAY</b> 8</p> <p><b>SMC MISSION TEAM MEETING</b> The youth mission team to Storm Mountain Center will meet following youth group.</p>	<p><b>JUNE</b> 26</p> <p><b>NOON BIBLE STUDY- LUKE</b> Come to Gather Coffee and learn about the Gospel of Luke.</p>
<p><b>MAY</b> 15</p> <p><b>LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH</b> Come to the Bramble Park Zoo for our last youth group of the school year.</p>	<p><b>JULY</b> 3</p> <p><b>NOON BIBLE STUDY- LUKE</b> Come to Gather Coffee and learn about the Gospel of Luke.</p>
<p><b>JUNE</b> 12</p> <p><b>NOON BIBLE STUDY- LUKE</b> Come to Gather Coffee and learn about the Gospel of Luke.</p>	<p><b>JULY</b> 10</p> <p><b>NOON BIBLE STUDY- LUKE</b> Come to Gather Coffee and learn about the Gospel of Luke.</p>

Youth grades 7-12 are welcome!



Youth going into grades 7-12 are invited to join us on Wednesdays at noon for a Bible study on the Gospel of Luke. We will meet at Gather Coffee on the dates below. Please read the scripture passages BEFORE the date they are next to.

- June 12-- Luke 1-3
- June 26-- Luke 3-6
- July 03-- Luke 7-9
- July 10-- Luke 10-13
- July 17-- Luke 13-17
- July 24-- Luke 17-21
- July 31-- Luke 21-24

### What is Going On in First Youth

**Wednesday Nights:** During our time together on Wednesday nights in April, youth learned about relationships in all aspects of life. They experienced stations of the cross and how Jesus restores our relationship with God. A marriage panel also spoke to them about what relationships look like through the lens of marriage. They finished the series of relationship discussions with a conversation around living into Christian discipleship.

**Beacon Center Serve Night:** Youth had the opportunity to give of themselves and their time to the Beacon Center where they got shoes ready for the Walk A Mile in Her Shoes Event, organized clothes for those visiting the shelter, and cleaned out the emergency storm shelter beneath the building.

**Wednesday Night Worship:** During worship this month, we learned about staying connected to each other and unplugged from our devices. We also heard a devotion about the impact of our words from Nora Solberg.

**Lock-in:** The youth had a lock-in at the church at 7pm on April 19th– 7am on April 20th. They played games, strengthened their relationships with each other, and learned about Jesus through worship and discussion.

**Confirmation:** Our confirmands culminated their journey during services the weekend of April 27/28th. Congrats to our confirmation students! We are very proud of them and the work they put in for this process.



**Our prayers and deepest sympathy go out to:**

Jim Carter and other family and friends of Romelle Carter who passed away on April 1, 2024. Romelle was Jim’s loving wife.

Family and friends of David E. Anderson Sr. who passed away on April 7, 2024.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN ASSISTED LIVING OR NURSING HOMES	
Avantara Watertown 415 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave. NE Watertown, SD 57201	Dick Lien—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 VanDykhurst #363 Alice Johnson #419
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—Apt 309

**Watertown Memory Care Support Group (formerly the Alzheimer’s Support Group)**

**May 1, 2024**

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

**June 5, 2024**

“Medications in a Person with Alzheimers” by Ann Endres, RPN

**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](mailto:cl.memory.group@gmail.com).



Birthday	Happy Birthday To:	Birthday	Happy Birthday To:
1-May	John Egge	14-May	Barb Hanson
1-May	LeAnn Smith	14-May	Dawsyn Wirkus
1-May	Malia Block	14-May	Hannah Arnold
1-May	Olivia Solum	14-May	Jacquelyn Baxter
1-May	Owen McBride	14-May	Lainee Anne Wirkus
1-May	Sarah Bruns	15-May	Aiden Fenenga
2-May	Frank Johnson	15-May	Mike Grann
2-May	Memphis Weidner	16-May	Amy Julius
3-May	Ellie Zink	16-May	Josh Mikkelson
3-May	Jen Tyler	16-May	Sue Stern
3-May	Jodi DeVaal	16-May	Tessa Robinson
3-May	Peggy Engels	17-May	Kaelyn Melville
4-May	Ella Gruenwald	18-May	Abigail Ekern
4-May	Havana Mikkelson	18-May	Travis Engels
4-May	Karen Ostrander	19-May	Finn Thompson
4-May	Nyah Julius	19-May	Mark Fultz
4-May	Piper Krueger	19-May	Maverick Wight
6-May	Chad Hanson	20-May	Ladonna Weidenbach
6-May	Lennik Bender	21-May	Dianne Drake
7-May	Greyson Alan Koehn	21-May	James Mercie
7-May	Larry Engels	22-May	Derek Hanson
8-May	Emily Rymerson	22-May	Robert Shultz
8-May	Joshua Ries	23-May	Branch Valsvig
8-May	Kayleb Luckhurst	24-May	Dawn Voelsch
8-May	Maverick Ries	24-May	Jordin Jurgens
8-May	Quinn Mohling	25-May	Gavin Jurgens
8-May	Stephanie Long	25-May	Karn "Kit" Jacobson
9-May	Adelaide Smith	25-May	Kenny Mayer
9-May	Arlys Schutt	27-May	Chad Miller
9-May	Jim Mayer	27-May	Darin Wellman
9-May	Roger LaFramboise	27-May	Raina Schaeffer
10-May	Alex Kahre	28-May	Heidi Steffensen
10-May	Jean Grovenburg	28-May	Kailen Hartman
10-May	Raeanna Zink	28-May	Laura Bayles
10-May	Rebecca Dolney	28-May	Linda Oslund
11-May	Jerry Grotewold	28-May	Lisa Cady
11-May	Sandy Middleton	29-May	Danielle Mikkelson
12-May	Aaron Hoffman	29-May	Kordae Hartman
12-May	Jaxon Kloos	30-May	Bryce Blank
12-May	Macy Steinert	30-May	Eric Stevenson
13-May	Brian Robinson	31-May	Brian Heuer
13-May	Jeffrey Grovenburg	31-May	Jerry Fleischhacker
13-May	Lydia Gall	31-May	Kevin Smunk
13-May	Tim Steffensen	31-May	Mya Rae Myers

Anniversary	The Happy Couple
5-May	Jeff & Sue Hiedeman
7-May	John & Nyla Egge
9-May	Steve & Karen Gorseth
12-May	John & Marsha Dahl
12-May	Jack & Renee Luckhurst
12-May	Millard & Shirley Roe
14-May	Daniel & Rebecca Mortenson
18-May	James & Peggy Curtis
20-May	Marty & Pearl Geffre
21-May	Mike & Julie Kotlan
22-May	Brad & Gina Enstad
23-May	Terry & Nancy Hoffman
27-May	Doug & Roberta Jenner
27-May	Paul & Sharon Klose
28-May	Terry & Sherry Jorgenson
30-May	Arthur & Stephanie Long

**Saturday, May 11, 8:30 am—11:30 am  
Benefit for Sandy Middleton  
First Church Fellowship Hall**

**Sponsored by Lincoln Elementary & Jefferson Elementary Schools**

- Breakfast (Pancakes, Sausage, Muffins)
- Bake Sale & Silent Auction

All proceeds will go to Sandy to help defray costs incurred from her battle with cancer. *If you'd like to donate items for the Bake Sale or the Silent Auction, please bring those items to First Church on Thurs. May 9th or Friday, May 10th between 8 am and 4pm.*

Sandy is an employee of Lincoln Elementary and her husband, Randy is an employee of Jefferson Elementary. Sandy is also one of our Children's Ministry Coordinators here at First Church. Please keep Sandy and her family in your prayers and help spread the word about this benefit.

Thank You

First United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 1416  
Watertown, SD 57201**RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED**

# May 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**

Rena 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



LIVING IN A  
POST-RESURRECTION  
WORLD



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