

April 19, 2024

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 2nd 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