



First United Methodist Church First News October 2024



FIRSTCHURCH

4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

PASTOR'S WORD...

On the day before I graduated seminary, one of our professors stood before our entire graduating class and charged us – challenged us – to lives of integrity and rigor. I remember sitting there, in the chapel with my classmates and my family, spending time in worship together one last time. And Dr. Smith stood up and spoke for just a few minutes, but he spoke words that I keep with me. I keep the entire speech printed in my office but this line is the one that sticks in my brain.

“Live a life of such integrity that if people get a peek behind the scenes they believe you more, not less.”

Jesus spoke similar words in the Gospel of Luke, that even those words whispered in the dark will be heard in the light.

This weekend during worship, I shared that there have been rumors and deep concerns about what happened at the UMC General Conference in May. Some of the rumors I've heard are true, some are a manipulation – only part of the story, and some are false. The hardest thing about rumors though, is we often only hear a part of it.

If you want to know all the details of what was voted on, debated, approved or disapproved at the UMC General Conference, please come by and chat. Now there are a lot of places on the internet to learn more, but I have noticed when I google the UMC General Conference, the second article comes from the GMC which is the denomination that began the disaffiliations in the last few years. It's easy to find commentary but a little difficult to find details.

The full-detailed-easily-searchable-explanation of all that happened won't be available until January, but if you'd like to look through details, here is an article including a document with a short explanation of all 453 pieces of legislation. Click here: [approved](https://www.umcnews.org/en/news/all-that-general-conference-passed). Or follow the link below:

(<https://www.umcnews.org/en/news/all-that-general-conference-passed>)

If you'd like to talk about specifics, or topics, or even just know more details, please give me a call, send me an email or come by the office.

As I shared in worship, we at First Church have an incredible passion for following Christ. As Christians, we gather in worship, we learn together, we pray, we serve and we live in the work of Christ. Our mission here at First Church is this: *to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*. Our purpose is *to CONNECT with God through worship*. We *GROW* with friends spiritually in *grow groups*. We *SERVE* God by *making a difference in our community and world*.

Everything I have seen from First Church over the last few months continues to strengthen my faith in God's goodness. This is a congregation who cares deeply for all people, serving one another in the midst of kids, youth and adult discipleship ministries, connecting and worshipping God together, serving the community through the missions of the month, through the Banquet and Diapers, through the prayers and connections made.

The love of God you all have, and the light of Christ that shines from within this congregation is obvious to me on the surface with how we show the world, and behind the scenes in your actions and your love.


Thank you for your continued work as partners together in Christ,

Pastor Sara McManus

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October 2024

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
** Wednesday Night Schedule 5:15 pm Community Meal—All are Welcome 5:30—6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30—7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00-7:10pm First Kids (K-4th Grade) 6:00-7:10 pm First Squad (5th-6th Grade) 6:00-7:10 pm First Youth (7th-12th Grade) 7:10—7:30 pm Family Worship in Fellowship Hall			9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge **Wednesday Night Activities—See Above**	Home Communion 10 am Women's Bible Study 8 am—3 pm Pillow Cleaning 	Church Office Closed 8 am—Noon Pillow Cleaning 	7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 2-4 pm Get to Know You Bible Event 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship Communion
6—Communion 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 10 am Worship	7 1:15—3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation 5:30 pm Women of Grace—Lounge	8 5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting	9 9 am Morning Glories **Wednesday Night Activities—See Above**	10 10 am Women's Bible Study	11 Office Closed	12 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship <i>Shoebox Christmas Blessing Today</i>
13 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 10 am Worship <i>Shoebox Christmas Blessing Today</i>	14 1:15—3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation	15 11:30 am Lunch a Bunch	16 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge **Wednesday Night Activities—See Above**	17 10 am Women's Bible Study	18 Office Closed	19 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
20 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 10 am Worship	21 1:15—3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation	22	26 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge **Wednesday Night Activities—See Above**	24 10 am Women's Bible Study	25 Office Closed	26 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship 5:00 pm Worship
27 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 10 am Worship	28 1:15—3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation	29	30 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge Trunk or Treat 5:15 pm Community Meal 6:00—7:30 pm Parking Lot Fun	31 10 am Women's Bible Study	Nov. 1 Office Closed	Nov. 2 Autum Festival 9 am—1 pm 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship All Saint's Weekend

Pillow Cleaning at First Church

Thursday, October 3rd from 8:00 am–3:00 pm

Friday, October 4th from 8:00 am–Noon

Weekly at First Church

Mondays **NEW**

1:15–3:15pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge

Wednesdays

5:15 pm Community Meal—Everyone Welcome

5:30–6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:30–7:30 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)

7:10–7:30 pm Family Worship in Fellowship Hall

Thursday Bible Study

10:00 am Women's Bible Study

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 am Adult Bible Study—Church Lounge

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 **Pizza Ranch**

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

9:15 am Embracing God Study Group—Church Lounge

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

3rd Thursday of the Month

6:00–8:00 pm Jesus Jams—Church Sanctuary

Monthly

"IMPACT" Young Adult Group led by Alayna Nelson

Seasonal—Watch for Details

30's/40's Group

"Young at Heart Group" (formerly the 50's/60's Group)

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

"Get To Know Your Bible" Event for 3rd & 4th Graders

Parents are invited to attend if they would like to.

**Saturday October 5th
from 2:00-4:00 in Cook Hall**

We will then do a fun activity during the Children's Message that day with their Bibles.

Has your child received a Bible from the First United Methodist Church? If not, please let us know and we'll have one ready for them on Oct. 5th & 6th at whichever service the family attends.

RSVP to: lori@watertownfirst.church OR 605-886-4427

TRUNK OR TREAT



Join us for Food, Fun,
Games, Costumes, and
lots of Candy

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 30th

COMMUNITY MEAL
5:15 pm - 6:00 pm
TRUNK OR TREAT & GAMES
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Location:
WATERTOWN FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH PARKING
LOT

Address: 4 2nd AVE SE

Bundles of Hope

diaper ministry

DIAPER GIVEAWAY!

Wednesday October 30th // 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

In the FIRSTCHURCH Parking Lot



WATERTOWN FIRST UNITED METHODIST
FIRSTCHURCH
4 Second Ave SE

Jesus Jams—Monthly Jam Session

Want a fun and friendly environment to come play music and hangout? Jesus Jams might just be what you're looking for. During our time together we will play worship music. This is a group for anyone who wants to share their musical talent! Anyone is welcome. Contact Alayna Nelson for more information

worship@watertownfirst.church

Watch for info on the next gathering or contact Alayna.

All Saints Celebration

On the weekend of November 2-3, First United Methodist church will be remembering those from our congregation, who have passed away over the last year at all three of our worship services (Saturday at 5pm, Sunday at 8:30am and 10am).

We will be lighting candles to honor the memory of these folks, followed by Holy Communion with an opportunity for individuals to light additional candles in memory of loved ones.

We pray that this will be a meaningful service for our entire church family and we hope that you will join us.

AUTUMN FESTIVAL & BAKE SALE AT FIRST CHURCH

Saturday, November 2, 2024

9:00 am—1:00 pm

Fresh Rolls • Baked Potato Bar • Desserts

• **BAKE SALE (Fellowship Hall)**

Calling all bakers—If you'd like to donate baked goods, please drop them off on Thursday, October 31st or Friday, November 1st between 8 am—4 pm. Or call the church office to arrange a time. 605-886-4427.

• **GRANDMA'S ATTIC (Cook Hall)**

Donated items for Grandma's Attic may be dropped off on the follow days:

Saturday, October 26th 4-5 pm

Wednesday, October 30th 5-7 pm

Friday, November 1st 1—3 pm

- Please **NO** Furniture, Clothing, Shoes, Bedding, Curtains, **NO** DVDs, CDs, VCRs, or Electronics, No Broken Items.

- **YES TO:** Jewelry, Jigsaw Puzzles, Arts & Craft Supplies, Holiday & Home Decorations, & Limited Kitchen Items. Thank You.

• **FIRST CREATIONS (Fellowship Hall)**

Do you have a homemade item that you specialize in? We'd love to have you share your talents by inviting you to DONATE up to 5 items of your homemade craft. You set the price but please know that all the proceeds will go towards our mission of a new Electronic Carillon Bell System for the church.

• **ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR SALE**

Greeting Cards, Rada Cutlery, Baby Quilts, Other Quilted Items, etc.

• **What, you may be asking, is a Carillon Bell System?**

- ◇ *A Carillon consists of a series of at least 23 tuned bells that can be programmed to play a broad range of music.*
- ◇ *Carillons can be heard throughout North America in cities, at churches, on school campuses, in public parks and many other places where people gather.*
- ◇ *When First Church was built in 1914 there was a huge bell in the bell tower that was rung to signify the start of worship and other events.*
- ◇ *At that time in history some folks may not have had another device to help them tell time, so this bell system was a welcome sound in the community.*
- ◇ *Many years ago our church installed an electric bell system which could be programmed to play music at certain times of the day which was enjoyed by many in our church as well as in the community.*
- ◇ *With time our system has become obsolete. A new Electronic Carillon System is now available to replace the system we currently have that is no longer operational.*

We hope that the proceeds from the Fall Festival will help us obtain a new Carillon Bell System so we can once again enjoy the music to signify events in our church.

PLEASE NOTE: 100% of the proceeds from the Fall Festival will go towards updating the Electronic Carillon Bell System for our church.
Thank You!

Staff Halloween Costume Penny Wars! Thanks for Participating! **1st Place—Ghostbusters**

The First Church staff will all dress as characters from the Ghostbusters movie for Halloween!
We raised \$60.02 for our Children & Youth Missions!

This year we kicked off our programming year with a party out in the church parking lot!

We had yummy food, worship, and tons of games for everyone to participate in. During the event, one thing was very clear, it was GREAT to be back together! The devotional during our outdoor worship focused on Hebrews 10:24-25 which says, *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."* This scripture is a reminder that we are called to build each other up and encourage one another to act with love and good deeds toward others. It is a scripture that highlights the power and the joy of gathering together as the body of Christ. When we gather together, Christ is present. With a Christian community, we know that we are not alone and that we are much stronger together than any one of us is by ourselves. Let us celebrate the body of Christ being together as we look to what awesome things God has in store for us here at First Church!



FIRSTKIDS & FIRSTSQUAD

It has been so wonderful to be able to gather together with all of the kids and their families again on Wednesday nights and on the weekends. One of the highlights for me on Kickoff Night was all the hugs I received and just the feeling of God's presence felt throughout the night.

Wednesday Night Schedule

- 5:15-5:50 Community Meal
- 5:50-5:55 Round Up and Get Ready to Head to Classrooms
- 6:00-7:05 Cook Hall K-4 Grade
Room off Cook Hall 5-6 Grade
- 7:10-7:30 Worship in Fellowship Hall- Families are welcome to come and join.

FirstKids K-4th Grade

Here is some Good News!

You are invited down to FirstKids School (after the Children's Message during the 5pm and 10am worship services) where we will be starting at the beginning of the Bible with the story of creation and move our way through the Bible with some fun activities or experiments! Hope you will join us to learn about God's Love!

We continue to need volunteers for the weekends and in the nursery. Please reach out if you are interested in helping out.

Children's Ministry—Looking Ahead

- **October 2nd—**
⇒ Scavenger Hunt
- **October 5th—6th**
⇒ Bible Weekend—3rd Graders will be presented with Bibles during the worship service
- **October 30th—**
⇒ Trunk or Treat
- **November 6th—**
⇒ Jenkins Night for K-3rd Grade
- **November 20th—**
⇒ Jenkins Night for 4th-6th Grade
- **December 22nd—**
⇒ Christmas Program during the 10 am Worship Service
- ♦ We are kicking off Kids' Travel Guide to the Armor of God!
- ♦ Please make sure you and your children's information is correct and updated in planning center as we are wanting to do a fun activity coming up in October.

Service Project Helpers Needed...

I am reaching out because we have a need for parents to help with a service project at Jenkins on the 1st Wednesday of each month. We are looking for parents to help take the kids and hang out with them while they are over at Jenkins.

While the kids are at Jenkins, the staff there help facilitate games/activities. Our adults are there to help monitor and assist as needed with our kids as they get to know the residents and play games with them.

Our group is at Jenkins from 6:15pm to 7:20pm. Please let me know if you would be interested in helping volunteer with our Jenkins service nights.

Lori Jurgens lori@watertownfirst.church

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

Upcoming Events!

October 2– Confirmation Mentor Night
 October 9– Beacon Center Serve Night
 October 16– Confirmation Beacon Center Serve Night
 October 11-13– DakYouth
 October 30– Trunk-or-Treat
 November 6– Confirmation Mentor Night

Register

To ensure the safety of our students as we start, please take a moment to fill out a registration form for each student. This must be done again each year. The form can be found on the website.

www.watertownfirst.church/first-youth.

Confirmation Mentor Nights

Thank you to those who have agreed to be confirmation mentors!

Below are the Confirmation mentor nights for the year. Mentors and confirmands meet at 6:30pm in the upstairs confirmation room (west side of the building off the sanctuary):

October 2nd	November 6th
December 4th	February 5th
March 5th	April 2nd
April 30th	

DAK YOUTH EVENT

On October 11-13th, our youth will be going to Aberdeen, SD to participate in this awesome event hosted by the Conference Council on Youth Ministry (CCYM). Our own, Maliya Mikkelsen has helped plan and take part in leading the event. This year's theme is "Crossroads" which will focus on Joshua 24:15. We are excited to hear from speaker, Matt Rawle and to worship with the band, Winona Avenue. The Skit Guys will also be providing entertainment at the event.

Youth wishing to participate should talk with Pastor Bryce.

Trunk or Treat: Join us for Trunk or Treat on Wednesday, October 30th in the church parking lot! We will have fun games to play, music, and trunks with candy! If you are interested in hosting a trunk, please have your trunk decorated and ready by 6:00pm! We'll go until 7:30pm.

Volunteer with First Youth We need awesome volunteers in order to make our youth group possible. If you have ever thought about helping with the youth program, or would like to learn more about it, please talk to Pastor Bryce.

Ways to be involved: - *Small Group Leader* - *Service Night Volunteer* - *Lock-in Chaperone* - *Snack coordinator* - *Wednesday Night Worship Leader (singing or music)*

First Youth Snapshot: In September, we kicked off the programming year with a fun party out in the church parking lot. We've made a few changes this year, including moving our worship downstairs to the fellowship hall that goes from 7:10pm-7:30pm. This has allowed us to be more flexible with the space. Feel free to join us!

Our first few meetings included discussions about expectations, values, and our group covenant. We also talked about how to help prevent bullying and how to handle situations of bullying that we see.

Leadership Team Meeting September 10, 2024 5:30 p.m.

Members present: Pastor Bryce, Barb Brinkman, Sue Luken, April Geffre, Peggy Lindahl, Debbie Engels, Pastor Sara, Stephanie Long, Sue Stern, Corrine Dahl, Lee Rycraft and Adam Fox.

Members Absent: Doug Wishard and Marcia Schneider

Devotion & Opening Prayer was given by Barb from John Maxwell.

Lee opened the meeting at 5:30.

Accessibility Team Update: Pastor Sara reported they have a meeting scheduled for September 19.

Wall in Cook Hall: Peggy reported that Chris Marotz has completed the repairs on the wall. He also repaired the wall in the hallway by the kitchen. He also sealed the gap between the building and the sidewalk on the southeast corner on the outside of the building.

Dishwasher/Sink repair status: Pastor Sara reported the sink repair has been completed.

Building Usage Status: Whereas the vote ended in a tie, the Leadership Team discussed what the next step will be. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that at the October meeting, The Leadership Team will have a vote with the majority making the decision to decide the future of the policy. Adam Fox moved to have the ballots outside the meeting room door in October and have a box/envelope to place the ballots in inside the meeting room. Sue Stern second the motion.

Pastor Updates: Pastor Bryce reported Fall Kick Off is September 11 in the Church Parking Lot with a meal, games & worship; Confirmation startup with 6-8 confirmands this year. He has submitted his ordination paperwork. The Impact Group has moved on from the college life. Needs rebuilding. We had a great number of students at the Lake Area Kick Off.

Pastor Sara is the Registrar for the Board of Ordained Ministry which is taking quite a lot of time. Her term for this is 12 years which she has 8 years completed. If it gets to become a problem this position will be handed to someone else. She has been working on the structure of the church. Bryce will be preaching the next two weeks so this will help give her more time to work on the structure and the organizational.

Leadership Team Group Updates

Building and Ground: Corrine reported that she has not had a lot going on. She had contacted Active Heating for a second bid for the AC unit for Fellowship Hall. They will be at the church on Wednesday. The first bid for the replacement was \$14,765. The Foundation is requesting at least two bids on projects for the church.

Finance: April reported that she and Pastor Sara will be meeting in the next week to simplify the report. The income for the period is \$34,531.23 with expenses being \$43,104.14 with a shortage of \$8,572.91. Currently we are \$30,313.49 below our budget. Need to focus on increasing giving.

SPR: Debbie reported Pastor Sara and Pastor Bryce went to "Boundaries Training" in Pierre August 24-26 which was on

taking care of themselves. When Pastor Sara preaches on Saturday evenings she will be taking off Monday mornings. In addition to the weekly staff meeting, they will be holding an ALL staff meeting on the second Thursday afternoon of each month so as to include the Children's Ministry Coordinators who work offsite at other jobs.

Ministry: Barb reported the Banquet was a success. September Mission of the Month is Rachel's Hope. There is a box in the back of the sanctuary for donations. There are other churches involved in this also. She asked if we can revisit the services. With the possibilities of going back to one service on Sunday. The choirs would probably appreciate not having to come in early to rehearse. Possibly have a discussion in November on this.

Closed with the Breakthrough Prayer at 7:12 p.m.

Next meeting October 8 at 5:30 p.m.

Devotion will be given by April.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Lindahl, Recording Secretary

Grow Groups at First Church

Community is important! As United Methodists, we believe that community is a core part of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. Community challenges us, supports us, and helps us to grow in our faith and practice. Regularly coming together with others is a crucial part of developing the rhythms of a healthy spiritual life. Are you connected to a small group at First Church? Do you have a place to share about what is going on with life? Do you have a place where you can ask and discuss questions of faith? Do you have a place of support to go to when things are tough? If not, consider joining or starting a Grow Group!

First Church currently offers several Grow Groups. EVERYONE is encouraged to be a part of a Grow Group, either by joining an existing group or starting your own.

What is a Grow Group? Grow Groups are any group that gathers regularly to grow as people of faith. They can be groups that gather over a shared hobby, interest, life demographic, or date/time of convenience.

Current Grow Groups

Adult Sunday School - Meets on Sundays at 9:30am in the First Church lounge. This group study dives into many different areas of life, but always centers on Jesus and scripture. Contact Don Fox to join! foxdcpa@dailypost.com

Community, Cookies, and Coffee - Meets from 1:15-3:15 pm on Mondays in the First Church lounge. Bring your own craft or coloring pages, or just come for the conversation. Contact Roxie Schultz for more information or just drop in. roxieshultz18@gmail.com

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Thursday Morning Women - Meets on Thursdays at 10:00am in the First Church Fellowship Hall. This group discusses life's tough stuff while learning what it means to be a Christ follower. Contact Heidi Kuhlman to join! Gotfaith19699@gmail.com

Late Risers Men's Group - Meets on Saturdays at 9:00am in the back room of The Grainary at Stone's Truckstop. This men's group solves most of the world's problems and then discusses a reading from the Upper Room daily devotional. Contact Ernie Wight to join! erniewight@gmail.com

Back Room Boys - Meets on Saturdays at 7:00am in the First Church Library. This is a gathering of early rising men who meet to solve the world's problems over a time of fellowship and discussion of lectionary Bible readings. Contact Don Fox to join! foxdcpa@dailypost.com

Women of Grace - Meets the 1st Monday of every month at 5:30pm in the First Church lounge. This group discusses what it means to live as a woman of grace. Contact Lea Ann Alwin to join! dlalwin916@gmail.com

Lunch-A-Bunch - Meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 11:30am at Pizza Ranch. This is a group for people 70+ who come together to enjoy lunch, fellowship, and life together. Contact the church office for more information. office@watertownfirst.church or 605-886-4427

Embracing God Bible Study - Meets on the 1st, 3rd & 4th Wednesday of every month for coffee and fellowship at 9:00am with Bible study beginning at 9:15am in the First Church lounge. This group focuses on learning and growing in faith through reading and discussion. Contact Sue Luken for more information. suel7456@gmail.com

Morning Glories - Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 9:00am in the First Church lounge. This is a mission focused group that focuses on fellowship, learning, and mission. Contact Jeri Larson to join! jjlarson@wat.midco.net

Young at Heart - Meets seasonally and is for people in their 50s and 60s. Contact the church office for more information. office@watertownfirst.church or 605-886-4427.

30s and 40s - Meets monthly and is for people in their 30s and 40s. Contact April Geffre to join! aprilrenae2021@gmail.com

Jesus Jams - This is a group for anyone who wants to share their musical talent! Anyone is welcome to come jam with us. Contact Alayna Nelson for more information! worship@watertownfirst.church

Upcoming Grow Group -

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality—Pastor Sara will be hosting an 8-week small group where participants will learn how to slow down your life and develop in your relationship with Jesus. Time, dates, and location to come. Contact Pastor Sara to join! seniorpastor@watertownfirst.church

Consider Starting a New Group

How to start: Start by grabbing 3 or 4 others to meet on a weekly, biweekly, or monthly basis. Gather over lunch or dinner. Grab coffee in the morning. Meet whenever, wherever, and however it works best for you. There is no right or wrong way to gather as long as it works!

What to talk about: Start by checking in with each other. Create a time to share what is going on with your life, both good and bad. Let this be a time to reflect on life and where you are at. That could be it. But if you have time, maybe consider discussing a passage of scripture, reading over a devotional together, or going through a book you've all been wanting to read. The point is to talk about your life and faith.

Save the date—Charge Conference

Sunday, November 10, 2:30 pm

This is an all church meeting to discuss the business and finances of the church. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

First Church Finances

2nd Quarter	Income	\$ 94,271	\$ (37,574)
	Expense	\$ 131,398	
	Difference	\$ (37,128)	
Jul-24	Income	\$ 37,480	\$ (41,952)
	Expense	\$ 41,859	
	Difference	\$ (4,379)	
Aug-24	Income	\$ 34,531	\$ (33,379)
	Expense	\$ 43,104	
	Difference	\$ (8,573)	

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

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!

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!





Our prayers and deepest sympathy go out to:

Susan Harms and other family and friends of Jean Nogelmeier who passed away on September 10, 2024. Jean was Susan's mother.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN ASSISTED LIVING OR NURSING HOMES

Edgewood Assisted Living 901 14th Ave NE—Watertown, SD 57201	Audrey Rhodes #416—Wes Larson #411 Bonnie Lien #411—Karen Ostrander #424 Marvin Mundhenke #422—Karyl Wishard #415
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 #211 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)

October 2, 2024

"Memory Testing: You Pass!" by Dr. Lee Hendricks, PSY.D., Firefly Counseling

November 6, 2024

"Dementia Updates" by Aaron Shives, MD, Prairie Lakes Brown Clinic

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.



Birthday	Happy Birthday To...
1-Oct	Julian Sotomayor
2-Oct	Tyson Clark
2-Oct	Mark Sanden
2-Oct	Ann Edleman
4-Oct	Cate Riley
5-Oct	Ava Clark
5-Oct	Olivia Palm
6-Oct	Mason Anderson
6-Oct	Virginia Robinson
6-Oct	Terry Jorgenson
9-Oct	Ted Tesch
10-Oct	Rowan Erickson
10-Oct	Linda Haan
11-Oct	Luka Lessin
11-Oct	Traci Gilbertson
12-Oct	Dylan Jorgenson
12-Oct	Danicka Seidell
12-Oct	Jayden Hartford
12-Oct	Travis Arnold
12-Oct	Susan Geyerman
13-Oct	Jax Schiernbeck
14-Oct	Martin Geffre
16-Oct	Jace Dols
16-Oct	Gracie Ries
17-Oct	Troy LaFramboise
17-Oct	Julie Walford
18-Oct	Marilyn Rahn
18-Oct	Kinsley Engels
18-Oct	Marilyn Siegfried

Birthday	Happy Birthday To...
19-Oct	Kerri Johnson
19-Oct	Lisa Stydel
20-Oct	Kennedy McElhany
20-Oct	Marcy McElhany
20-Oct	Josslyn Veflin
22-Oct	Hadley Jorgenson
22-Oct	Skip Meisenheimer
22-Oct	Gloria Brugman
23-Oct	Meghan Heggelund
24-Oct	Torrence Tipton
24-Oct	Fred Wilkens
24-Oct	Tom Berry
26-Oct	Renae Mack
26-Oct	Arlin Schumacher
27-Oct	Jean Fox
27-Oct	Barbara Brinkman
27-Oct	Darlene Schnoor
28-Oct	Claire Jungers
28-Oct	Taylor Rymerson
28-Oct	Nathan Ford
28-Oct	Elmer Brinkman
29-Oct	Chloe Gruenwald
29-Oct	Angie Wegner
30-Oct	Melissa Raml
31-Oct	Braxton Koehn
31-Oct	Brad Willett
31-Oct	Doris Armstrong



Anniversary	Happy Anniversary To:
3-Oct	Norman & Sue Luken
3-Oct	Don & Delores LeVake
6-Oct	Harlan & Marilyn Siegfried
6-Oct	Frank & Jacque Johnson
8-Oct	Mark & Laura Bayles
14-Oct	Darrell & Genny DeLong
14-Oct	Jamie & Megan Swanson
14-Oct	Duane & Sarah Caron
16-Oct	Virgil & Marianne DeLong
16-Oct	Adam & Ashley Fox
22-Oct	Harlan & Diane Veen
25-Oct	Josh & Danielle Mikkelson
26-Oct	Allen & Jessica Ekern
28-Oct	Donald & Jean Fox
29-Oct	Todd & Cynthia Blair

October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

Please take a moment to write a note to Pastor Sara and Pastor Bryce; or feel free to acknowledge any of our staff. Greeting cards can be mailed to First Church at PO Box 1416 or a basket will be at the back of the sanctuary.

Don't have a greeting card? No problem! There will be index cards by the basket that will work just as well!

October Sermon Series: Facing our Fears

Are you afraid of the dark? With the coming of October, and spooky season, we are going to spend a few weeks talking about fear. No, not the fears of Nightmare on Elm Street and Freddy Krueger, but the fears that often change our lives.

We all respond to fear differently, and yet fear often controls our actions more than we want to admit. Scripture doesn't tell us that fear is bad, but reminds us that moving forward in the midst of our fear is an important part of life and faith.

We will explore our fears of the unknown, of failure and of being alone. We will look at the actions of the early Israelites and the disciples and how they worked through their own fear.

Join us in person or on-line as we work through "Facing Our Fears" in October.



Marilyn Rahn's
90th
Birthday

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12
 1PM TO 3PM
 SOUTHERN HILLS UMC MULTIPURPOSE ROOM
 3400 E. 49TH ST, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57103

A light lunch will be provided.

Please, no gifts, but cards are encouraged.
 If unable to attend, cards may be sent to Marilyn at
 7400 S. Louise Ave, Apt 229, Sioux Falls, SD 57108



RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

October 2024 FIRST NEWS

MEET THE STAFF

Senior Pastor

Rev. Sara McManus

Associate Pastor

Rev. Bryce Blank

Office Manager

Pearl Geffre

On-Call Pastor

Rev. Elmer Brinkman

Children's Ministry**Coordinators**

Sandy Middleton

Lori Jurgens

**Director of Worship &
Discipleship**

Alayna Nelson

Nursery Care

Meaghan Wharton

Organists

Blair Titze

Lesa Dahl

Bell Choir Director

Renae Mack

Music & Chancel**Choir Director**

Blair Titze

Custodian

Beth Schutt

Wedding Coordinator

Kathy Mielitz

Worship Hours

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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