



# First United Methodist Church First News December 2024



# FIRSTCHURCH

4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

## PASTOR'S NOTE:

I've recently been learning how to bake - again. During COVID I dove into baking for my family—a pleasant gift of good food. But, many of you know I don't eat gluten, so baking has been a completely different experience without my old habits. One of the most important parts of baking has become the preparation. For a loaf of bread I need all the different ingredients, the tools for measurement, bowls for separate processes and the space to use them all. I've found if I don't prepare ahead of time, I do things in the wrong order and my bread doesn't rise, or tastes terrible!

Advent is our collective time of preparation. We get our space ready – we decorate – changing the looks of our houses, adding greenery and twinkling lights. We bring out the smells of baking and evergreens. We check to make sure we have all the ingredients – checking our schedules to see what's needed and what's open. Do we have our presents all figured out? Have we made our travel plans? We gather our tools – the wrapping paper and candles, the clothes for every occasion. And as we start to mix it all together – we find ourselves needing a few more ingredients. We need the yeast – ready to rise and change all the ingredients into something new.

The story of Jesus coming into our world so long ago and yet again this year is the yeast for our souls. The rest of our preparation, the time spent and the family gathered, the presents exchanged and the music played, it all comes together with the most important ingredient.

As followers of Christ – we know and see the beauty that comes with knowing God's incredible love shown each Christmas. I hope you take a moment this year – to connect with those in your life who need a bit more yeast in their dough! Invite a neighbor to join you at the Community Christmas Concert, bring a friend caroling on December 18<sup>th</sup> with the kids and youth, invite a co-worker you know is alone this year to come and sit with your family on Christmas Eve.

We know the incredible difference Christ makes in our lives – let's share that joy this year.

Pastor Sara

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## This Advent—we invite you to write a few extra Christmas Cards.

Week 1. Good News – Share good news with someone from your past – write a letter to a teacher or mentor.

Week 2. Love Incarnate – Invite someone to experience Christ this year, invite them to join you for Christmas Eve worship.

Week 3. Fully Human – Write a letter to someone who brings you joy – tell them why.

Week 4. Fully Divine – This season can bring grief and depression to the forefront – write a letter to someone offering Christ's peace and a listening ear.

### \*\* 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) - First Squad (5th-6th) - First Youth (7th-12th )  
 7:10—7:30 pm Family Worship in Fellowship Hall

## December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>Advent Begins</b> <b>8:30 am Worship</b> <b>Communion</b> <b>NO</b> Adult Bible Study <b>10 am Worship</b> <b>Communion</b>	2 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge  5:30 pm Women of Grace—Lounge	3 7:00-8:15 pm The Christmas Letters Study Church Lounge	4 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge  <b>7:30 pm Mission Trip            Mtg</b>  6:15 pm Intro to the Christmas Story—Lounge Led by Pastor Sara	5 10 am Women's Bible Study	6 Office Closed	7 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>
<b>8</b> <b>8:30 am Worship</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge <b>10 am Worship</b> <b>Community</b> <b>Christmas Concert</b> <b>3 pm &amp; 7 pm</b>	9 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge	10 4—9 pm Jaycee Shopping Tour  7:00-8:15 pm The Christmas Letters Study Church Lounge	11 9 am Morning Glories  6:15 pm Intro to the Christmas Story—Lounge Led by Pastor Sara	12 10 am Women's Bible Study	13 Office Closed	14 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>
<b>15</b> <b>8:30 am Worship</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge <b>10 am Worship</b>	16 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge	17 11:30 am Lunch a Bunch  7:00-8:15 pm The Christmas Letters Study Church Lounge	18 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge  <b>Christmas Caroling—            All are invited to            participate            6:00—7:30 pm</b>	19 10 am Women's Bible Study	20 Office Closed	21 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>
<b>22</b> <b>8:30 am Worship</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge <b>10 am Worship</b> <b>Children's Christmas            Program During            the 10 am Worship            Service</b>	23 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge	24 <b>Christmas            Eve Worship</b>  <b>4 pm            Blended</b>  <b>7 pm            Traditional</b>	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	26	27 Office Closed	28 <b>NO</b> Back Room Boys 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant  3:00 pm Band Rehearsal <b>5:00 pm Worship</b>
<b>29</b> <b>8:30 am Worship</b> <b>NO</b> Adult Bible Study <b>10 am Worship</b>	30 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge	31	January 1 <b>New Years Day</b> <b>Holiday—Office Closed</b>	January 2 10 am Women's Bible Study	January 3 Office Closed	January 4 <b>NO</b> Back Room Boys 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant  3:00 pm Band Rehearsal <b>5:00 pm Worship</b>

## **Weekly at First Church**

### **Mondays**

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.**

## **Intro to the Christmas Story—2 Week Study**

2 week study led by Pastor Sara McManus, studying the Christmas story in the Gospels

Wednesdays, Dec. 4 & Dec. 11 at 6:15 pm in the church lounge

Please call the church office to sign up or just drop in on those Wednesday nights. 605-886-4427

## **Save These Dates & Plan to Join Us!**

### **Wednesday, December 18**

5:15—6:00 pm Community Meal—Fellowship Hall

6:00—7:30 pm Christmas Caroling—All are invited to participate

### **Sunday, December 22**

10:00 am—Children's Christmas Program to be held during the Worship Service

### **Tuesday, December 24**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services

4:00 pm Blended Worship

7:00 pm Traditional Worship

***If you would like to be a reader & light the advent candle during either of the Christmas Worship Services, please talk to Pastor Sara or Pastor Bryce.***



**Sounds of the Season**  
**Sunday, December 8**  
**3 pm and 7 pm**  
**First United Methodist Church**

*Featuring:*

**Four Hands Piano**      **Glacial Lakes Harmonizers**  
**Strings Noel**      **Community Choir**  
**First United Methodist Handbell Choir**

A free will offering and non-perishable food will be collected for the Watertown Salvation Army

With support from the  
**WATERTOWN AREA**  
**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

## **Leadership Team Applications Open**

The Leadership Team here at First Church works to lead our congregation and ministry. The mission of the team is: *"To champion the mission statement of First Church which is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."*

We are looking for dedicated servants of Christ who would like to help guide the work of First United Methodist Church here in Watertown. Each member of the team serves at least 3 years, with the option of a 2nd term. As we shift to a new year soon, we are opening the applications for the upcoming openings on the team.

If you feel called to lead, we invite you to fill out an application. Forms can be found in the office or you can request a digital copy.

## Leadership Team Meeting

**November 12, 2024—5:30 pm**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Barb Brinkman, Corrine Dahl, Debbie Engels, April Geffre, Adam Fox, Stephanie Long, Sue Luken, Marcia Schneider, Lee Rycraft, Pastor Sara, Pastor Bryce

**Absent:** Peggy Lindahl, Sue Stern, Doug Wishard

**DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER:** April Geffre shared a devotion based on Mark 10:42-45. In leadership we are called to follow the example of Jesus – serve with humility and compassion.

### AGENDA:

**ACCESSIBILITY TEAM UPDATE:** No updates.

**FELLOWSHIP HALL AIR CONDITIONER:** No updates

### PASTOR UPDATES:

**Pastor Bryce:** Youth group numbers are increasing. The group is active. Recently, they had a service night at the Beacon Center.

Trunk or Treat went well. It was a successful event. Confirmation is going well. Several youth attended DAK Youth in October. The event was interactive. Ordination interviews went well. He was recommended to move towards ordination.

**Pastor Sara:** She has been busy with pledge letters, 2025 budget, preparing for the charge conference. Pastoral care needs and funerals have also been keeping her busy. She is working on long term planning and administrative schedule.

**WORSHIP TIMES:** It was decided that we will continue with 2 services on Sundays through May. Beginning the weekend after Memorial Day, we will have one service on Sunday morning.

### LEADERSHIP TEAM GROUP UPDATES:

**Building & Grounds:** Fall yardwork has been completed.

Carpet in the nursery is installed.

**Finance:** The budget was approved at the Charge Conference.

Considerations as the budget was developed: If the budget is cut, it will affect the growth of the church. We do not want to cut staff. We have had to dip into reserves to pay expenses to cover the budget shortfall. We need to increase our income. How do we increase income? We need to be more direct with members about the budget shortfall. We discussed putting a link on YouTube for giving. Over the last 2 years, giving is gradually increasing.

We plan to have specific outreach advertising during Advent. Outreach funds will be used for this.

**SPR:** We appreciate our pastors and the ways they reach out to the members.

Because 3 LT members have completed 2 terms, there will be vacancies on Leadership.

There is a need to complete a technology inventory. Safer sanctuaries will be implemented in 2025.

**Ministry:** Diaper giveaway went well. Rachel's Hope is going well. November Mission of the Month is the Bishop's 2024 Thanksgiving Offering - United States Hurricane Response. We will have the Advent Festival again this year. Heifer Project and the summer youth mission trip to Chicago are 2 areas that can be supported at the Advent Festival.

At the Charge Conference, we had the opportunity to celebrate the life and ministry of our church. Members were asked where God has been at work in our church and community. Pastor Sara shared the responses. These are listed in the Charge Conference minutes.

**Executive Session:** Motion by Sue L; 2<sup>nd</sup> by April to enter executive session at 6:35.

Lee declared executive session to be over at 6:40.

This is the last meeting for Barb, Debbie, and Lee. We want to thank them for their faithful service on the Leadership Team.

**Meeting concluded** with the *Breakthrough Prayer*.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be January 14, 2025 at 5:30. Devotions will be by Sue L. There will be no meeting in December.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Luken, substitute recording secretary

## First Church Finances

3rd Qtr	Income	\$ 108,129	\$ (54,699)
	Expense	\$ 125,255	
	Difference	\$ (17,126)	
Oct-24	Income	\$ 29,129	\$ (65,097)
	Expense	\$ 39,527	
	Difference	\$ (10,398)	

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!

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



# FIRSTKIDS & FIRSTSQUAD

## Important Announcements!!

**Weather**—If school is cancelled or let out early, the Wednesday Night Church activities will be cancelled. It is always up to your discretion with weather when we are still having Wednesday Night classes during Winter Months to bring your child out or stay home.

**Sickness**—If your child has a temp or has stayed home from school please also keep your child home from Wednesday Night.

**Lice**—It is that time of year again where the notes have started coming home from school. Our policy is 48 hours after the 1<sup>st</sup> treatment and as long as there are no more live lice or eggs present.

**Thank You**—We just want to keep all our kiddos safe and as healthy as possible.

## 3rd-6th Graders...

Please bring your Bibles each week to earn a special prize at the end of each month and a fun prize at the end of the year. There may also be something special other times.

## Children's Ministry—Looking Ahead

- **December 4th**  
⇒ Bingo at Jenkins for K-6th
- **December 11th**  
⇒ Christmas Program Practice & Fun Night
- **December 18th—**  
⇒ Christmas Caroling—Anyone is welcome to join us. We'll do some caroling then return to the church for Christmas goodies & hot cocoa.
- **December 22nd—**  
⇒ Christmas Program during the 10 am Worship Service

We continue to need volunteers for the weekends and in the nursery. Please reach out if you are interested in helping out with Children's Ministry.  
Thank you!

## 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 & join.

## 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](mailto:lori@watertownfirst.church)

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

## Upcoming Events!

December 4—Confirmation Mentor Night  
 December 4—Chicago Mission Trip Meeting  
 December 18—Christmas Caroling  
 December 25-January 1—No Youth (Christmas)  
 January 8—Winter Kickoff  
 January 15—Confirmation Mentor Night  
 January 25/26— Winter Connection  
 February 5—Confirmation Mentor Night  
 February 12—A Night to Remember Event  
 February 21/22—Confirmation Camp

## First Youth Snapshot:

During the month of November, our youth volunteered with the Beacon Center, had a Family Feud game night, and continued to learn about lessons centered around God's purpose for their lives. Our confirmands continued to meet with their mentors and had the opportunity to learn about who God is, the Wesley's, and the Methodist Movement. When we close out each Wednesday night with worship, we continue to feel God's presence in that space as we praise our God who is with us in the tough times and the good times.

## Winter Connection!

**When:** Friday, Jan. 25th and Saturday, Jan. 26th

**Where:** Fargo, North Dakota

**What:** Winter Connection is an opportunity for youth to gather, share, worship, and serve others!

**Cost:** \$40 per person

**Register:** Each youth must register themselves on the Dakotas Conference website under Winter Connection.

## Summer Mission Trip Chicago, Illinois



This summer, our youth will have the opportunity to attend a mission trip to Chicago, Illinois. We are working with Praying Pelican Missions, an organization that helps make connections and experiences for groups striving to have a meaningful mission trip experience. We are still in the planning process but while in Chicago we will likely have the opportunity to work with homeless shelters, food pantries, para church organizations, nonprofits, and other groups unique to Chicago. Our trip will be June 21-26th and will cost \$600 per person. The trip is open to those who will have graduated 7-12th grade next summer. We intend to fundraise the cost of the trip. Registration for the trip is due by December 21, 2024. Please talk to Pastor Bryce if you are interested in attending as a youth or chaperone. Be on the lookout for more details!

**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](http://www.watertownfirst.church/first-youth).



**Youth Serving  
at the Beacon  
Center!**

## 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)



**AS PROMISED—  
HERE ARE  
PICTURES OF  
OUR TRUNK OR  
TREAT EVENT  
HELD  
OCT. 30, 2024**



**THANKS TO ALL WHO  
PARTICIPATED AND  
ATTENDED.  
  
WE ESTIMATE CLOSE  
TO 200 CHILDREN  
RECEIVED TREATS.**





## Charge Conference—Sunday, November 10, 2024—2:30 pm

The Church Charge Conference was led by NE District Superintendent Rev. Kris Mutzenberger.

Approximately 35 members were present including the following:

Staff: Pastor Sara McManus, Pastor Bryce Blank, Lori Jurgens, & Pearl Geffre

Leadership Team: Barb Brinkman, April Geffre, Stephanie Long, Sue Luken, Marcia Schneider, and Sue Stern

Rev. Mutzenberger opened the meeting with a devotion with a focus scripture of Isaiah 43:1. *But now, says the LORD—the one who created you, Jacob, the one who formed you, Israel: Don't fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.*

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF OUR CHURCH:** *Where has God been at work in our church and community? How are we being called in mission in our community and beyond?*

\* moving on past COVID; starting to have more events at church \* children's and youth ministry and the leaders and volunteers \* growth of diaper ministry \* variety of grow groups \* confirmation, new members, baptisms \* confirmation mentors \* Mission of Month is well supported \* choirs \* joy is returning \* active prayer team \* fellowship \* lay leadership \* strategic discipleship pathway \* multigenerational church \* youth participating in Samuel Intern program \* home communion 1 time a month \* weekend worship services \* people are the resource of the church

**MISSION – Making disciples for Jesus for the transformation of the world**

**RESOURCES TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION**

### HUMAN

#### Laity of the Church

- Leadership Team: Those listed in the Charge Conference 2024 report were affirmed by those in attendance.
- Membership report is included in the Charge Conference 2024 report.
  - ◊ New members – 2 by Profession of Faith; 2 transfer from other denominations; 12 confirmands.
  - ◊ 1 transferred to other UMC; 1 transferred to other denomination
  - ◊ 13 members removed by death
  - ◊ 6 baptisms
  - ◊ Membership total: 2023 = 748 2024 = 752

### PASTORS

Clergy Compensation:

Sr. Pastor Sara McManus

Salary	\$72,100.00
Housing Allowance	\$20,700.00
* Housing Exclusion	\$50,000.00
Accountable Reimbursement	\$5,000.00

This salary compensation passed.

Associate Pastor Bryce Blank

Salary	\$50,250.00
Housing Allowance	\$15,000.00
* Housing Exclusion	\$20,000.00
Accountable Reimbursement	\$4,000.00

This salary compensation passed.

\* Housing exclusion is listed as an IRS regulation.

^^ Each clergy's pension and health benefits information is available in the office.

**Charge Conference—Continued on next page**



**Charge Conference—Continued from previous page****FINANCIAL**

The budget for 2024 was presented and discussed. Because the projected income is less than the projected expenses, there were questions and discussion.

The budget was passed as presented. 2025 apportionment will be 13% of the offering designated for general expenses.

To ensure these resources for mission are being cared for and stewarded well, the following questions were asked:

Have you completed an audit within the last 2 years? No

Adequate checks and balances for counting/check writing, etc? Yes

Is your income enough to meet expenses or are you utilizing reserves to meet regular budget needs? Finance – No

Is the insurance up to date on your church? Yes – premiums have increased

Safe Sanctuary Policy? Yes, ours is updated to Safer Sanctuaries

Have you performed background checks on all your volunteers? Yes

Is your incorporation with the Secy of State up to date? Yes

**FUMC FOUNDATION:**

A written financial report was given including the accounts and balances, activity summary, portfolio market value, granting guideline.

Luke Muller is a new member on the Foundation Board of Directors. The complete board is listed in the report.

Vote to ratify these as members of the board passed. Barb Brinkman is the representative from the Leadership Team. Since her term on Leadership Team will be ending in December, she will no longer be the Leadership Team representative.

**CONNECTION**

Rev. Nicole Anderson has requested that Watertown First United Methodist Church hold her charge conference during her extension ministry at Lake Poinsett Camp.

She gave an update on the camping ministries at LPC including plans for 2025.

**Persons Called for Vocational or Specialized Ministry**

Joanne Singrey-Johnson is a certified Lay Speaker.

Kara Togel Heagel continues as a certified candidate for ministry. We celebrate that she has applied for commissioning this year.

We are fortunate to have three retired UMC elders and one deacon in our congregation. They are listed in the Charge Conference 2024 report.

Charge Conference concluded with prayer.

Sue Luken

Recording Secretary



## Our prayers and deepest sympathy go out to:

Sue & Ordean Stern and other family and friends of Lorraine Fero who passed away on November 14, 2024. Lorraine was Sue's mother.

Family and friends of Geneva Turbes who passed away on November 19, 2024.

Darwin Lentz and other family and friends of Velma M. Lentz who passed away on November 23, 2024. Velma was Darwin'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 #105—Karen Ostrander #424 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 #33—Betty Mohror #34 Jean Bevers #26—Janice Pavli #49 Dorothy Irwin #59
The Village of Harmony Hill 2533 Prairie Park Trail SE—Watertown SD 57201	Wayne Leiner #211
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)

**December 4, 2024**

*"Caregiver Christmas Party" by Planning the Holidays and Christmas Party*

**January 8, 2025 (Note Date Change)**

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



Birthday	Happy Birthday To:
1-Dec	Kaden Raml
1-Dec	Malcolm Bergren
2-Dec	Jerry Leadabrand
2-Dec	Michael Williams
2-Dec	Cynthia Blair
2-Dec	Cassie Kasperek
3-Dec	Mykel Hoffman
3-Dec	Stanley Jongbloed
3-Dec	Jamysson Small
4-Dec	Cassandra Fonder
4-Dec	Violet Solum
4-Dec	Lester Urban
4-Dec	Jeanne Sherman
4-Dec	Diane Kludt
4-Dec	Alan Moen
5-Dec	Austin Hanson
5-Dec	Doug Mielitz
5-Dec	Lyndon Allen
5-Dec	Sterling Corvin
6-Dec	Kolyns Wellman
7-Dec	Joe Jellis
7-Dec	Tyson Schlapkohl
8-Dec	Chad Voelsch
8-Dec	Teresa Remmers
9-Dec	Marsha Dahl
10-Dec	Ginger Myers
10-Dec	Rochelle Hunter
10-Dec	Julie Stevenson
10-Dec	Mark Arnold
11-Dec	Peggy Curtis
11-Dec	Noelle Heuer
11-Dec	Lauren Olerud
11-Dec	Jayden Engels
12-Dec	Anthony Cady
12-Dec	Michael Barr Jr
13-Dec	Jaylee McNamara
14-Dec	Gretta Dahl
14-Dec	Emily Riley
14-Dec	Connie Sue Bridge
15-Dec	Ashyr Meek
15-Dec	Jennifer Heggelund
15-Dec	Destiny Seidell

Birthday	Happy Birthday To:
15-Dec	Lynn Solberg
15-Dec	Jamie Veeder
15-Dec	Caleb Clark
15-Dec	Ashley Edwards
16-Dec	Beth Decker
16-Dec	Chad VanDerLinden
17-Dec	Alexander Fonder
17-Dec	Annie Aason
17-Dec	Chloe Billings
17-Dec	Abbi Jenner
18-Dec	Sarah Leadabrand
18-Dec	Greyson Rycraft
18-Dec	Dean Fenenga
18-Dec	Holly Solberg
18-Dec	Joyce Swenson
18-Dec	Tim Jorgenson
18-Dec	Delaney Krueger
18-Dec	Elaine Mack
19-Dec	Virginia Skinner
19-Dec	Cassandra Jurgens
20-Dec	Wyatt Smunk
20-Dec	Brooke Hanson
20-Dec	Madison Williams
21-Dec	Cindy Wishard
22-Dec	Malakai Maskovich
23-Dec	Pearl Geffre
24-Dec	Carolyn Wilkens
24-Dec	Brandon Harms
25-Dec	Ashley Fox
25-Dec	Randy Middleton
25-Dec	Kylie Fonder
26-Dec	Keri Smith
27-Dec	Kinley Rymerson
27-Dec	Taryn Schaunaman
29-Dec	Justin Raml
29-Dec	Jenni Wirkus
29-Dec	Logan Wittle
29-Dec	Logan Whittle
29-Dec	Josiah Maskovich
30-Dec	Anna Hoffman
30-Dec	Thomas Myers

Anniversary	Happy Anniversary To:
3-Dec	Derek & Kaitlin Wangen
16-Dec	Thomas & Sandra Halajian
16-Dec	Howard & Carol Meyer
21-Dec	Lester & Marcia Urban
27-Dec	Steven & Marlys Ching
28-Dec	Doug & Cindy Wishard



**RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED**

## December 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**  
Rena 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

### Christmas Eve

December 24  
4 pm—Blended  
7 pm Traditional



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