



# First United Methodist Church First News May 2025



# FIRSTCHURCH

4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

***May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed!  
On account of his vast mercy, he has given us new birth. You have  
been born anew into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus  
Christ from the dead. -1 Peter 1:3 CEB***

Easter is a weird holiday. It's weird because unlike other holidays that we look forward to and celebrate, Easter is celebrated after the big day has come and passed. It would be weird and certainly not appropriate to celebrate Halloween with candy and costumes after October 31<sup>st</sup>, wouldn't it? What if we dressed in green and pinched people who weren't wearing green after Saint Patrick's Day? People would not appreciate that, would they? But Easter is different. Easter is a celebration that we remain connected to long after the day has passed. In the liturgical calendar, the weekends are marked with the title "the \_\_\_\_ Saturday/Sunday after Easter". That is because we continue to celebrate Easter and are continually tied to this special day. It is in this season after Easter where we are often reminded that we are Easter people.

Easter is a weird holiday, but it should be. Easter is the day that everything has changed and continues to be changed. It's the day that we celebrate that Jesus has risen from the tomb and God has pulled off the impossible. It's a day that directly impacts who we are and who we are called to be. We are called to be Easter people. We are called to be people of hope who live into that hope as we rest on the promises of eternal life with God. We are called to be people who accept the love that God has for us and to share the Good News of what Jesus has done to all we meet. Simply put, we are called to be witnesses.

That is why, from now until Pentecost, we will be going through a worship series called "We Are Witnesses." Each week in worship, we will look at different aspects of what it means to witness to our loving God as Easter people. Our study will look at what being witnesses meant for the earliest church as they found out just how different their lives were. As we journey through the book of Acts, we'll also look at how our lives are changed and transformed because of Jesus too.

So, I invite you to be a little weird with me and continue to celebrate Easter as the weeks pass by. Let's live out our calling to be people of the living hope from the one who saves. Let's be people who reflect the transformation that has happened and continues to happen because of Jesus. We are witnesses.

See you in worship,

Pastor Bryce

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# May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>** Wednesday Night Schedule for May 7</b> 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-6) & First Youth (7-12) 7:10—7:30 pm Family Worship in Fellowship Hall				1 Home Communion  10 am Women's Bible Study	2 Office Closed	3 <b>Communion</b> <i>Family Worship Wkend</i> 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge <b>9 am Just Breathe—Church Lounge—See Page 3</b> 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal <b>5:00 pm Worship</b> <i>Confirmation during worship</i>
4 <b>Communion</b> <i>Family Worship Wkend</i> <b>8:30 am Worship</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge <b>10 am Worship</b>	5 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge  5:30 pm Women of Grace—Supper at the Airport	6 8:30am Staff Mtg	7 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge  <b>4pm-6pm Drive Thru Diaper Giveaway</b>  <i>**See above for Regular Wednesday Night</i>	8 10 am Women's Bible Study	9 Office Closed	10 <b>Lake Poinsett Work Day</b> <b>See Page 3</b> 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>
11 <b>8:30 am Worship</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge <b>10 am Worship</b>	12 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge	13 <b>8 am—3 pm Pillow Cleaning</b> 8:30am Staff Mtg  5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting	14 <b>8 am—Noon Pillow Cleaning</b> 9:00 am Morning Glories Missional Group  <i>End of Year Activities for Children &amp; Youth Ministry</i>	15 10 am Women's Bible Study	16 <i>Office Closed</i>	17 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 Weekend</i>
18 <b>Graduation Recognition Weekend</b> <b>8:30 am Worship</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge <b>10 am Worship</b>	19 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge	20 8:30am Staff Mtg  11:30 am Lunch a Bunch	21 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge  <b>6 pm Chicago Mission Trip Meeting</b>  <i>All Wednesday Night Activities on Break for the Summer</i>	22 10 am Women's Bible Study	23 Office Closed	24 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>
25 <b>9:30 am Worship</b> <i>Summer Worship Hours Begin</i> <i>Only One Worship Service on Sunday's during the Summer</i>	26 <b>Memorial Day Holiday</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	27 8:30am Staff Mtg	28 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge  <i>All Wednesday Night Activities on Break for the Summer</i>	29 10 am Women's Bible Study  4:30 pm Missions Meeting	30 Office Closed	31 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>
Meals on Weeks this Week						

**Weekly at First Church**
**Mondays**

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

**Wednesday Schedule Through May 14**

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-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

**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**
**Seasonal**

30's/40's Group &amp; "Young at Heart Group"

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

Summer Worship Times begin

Sunday, May 25th with only One Worship

Service on Sunday Morning at 9:30 am.

Saturday Worship at 5 pm remains the same throughout the summer.

Sunday Bible Study and Wednesday Youth
Activates will be on break June, July & August and resume in September with our Fall Kickoff.

Watch for PopUp Events over the summer!

**We Welcome these new members through Confirmation on Saturday, May 3rd!**

Avery Joy Anderson

Justyn Lee Jones

Beau Michael Anderson

Sarapheen Hinata Stavick

Leighton Ann Dolney

Elyse Annmarie Wegner

Tieson Edward Jenner

Camden Alexander Weidner

**Retirement Recognition for Renae Mack—May 4th**

We want to Thank Renae for her 40+ years of dedication in directing our Bell Choir. Members of the bell choir say *"Renae has been very dedicated, always pulling the best out of us, working very hard to take many different levels of player bell knowledge and make it work. Prays for us on the Sundays we play. Reads to us the words of the hymns we play to help bring feeling to what we are playing. We have fun at Bell choir, while working hard!"*

**Thank you Renae and God Bless You!**
**Camp Work Day**

Saturday, May 10th

10 AM

Lake Poinsett Camp


**Mission Opportunity at Lake Poinsett**
**Saturday, May 10th**
**10 am—2 pm (lunch provided)**
*Meet in Church Parking Lot at 9:15 am*

Some of the tasks we will be doing are:

Trimming trees, splitting wood, repair work on decks, cleaning the main lodge kitchen, turning water back on, combing the beach with the tractor, cleaning up the grounds.

**Please call the church office by May 7th to sign up. 605-886-4427**
**Pillow Cleaning at First UMC**

Tuesday, May 13th from 8:00 am—3:00 pm

Wednesday, May 14th from 8:00 am—Noon

**Graduation Recognition—May 17-18**

If you are graduating, or if you have a graduate in your family at any level, please let us know.

We want to celebrate with you and them.

Please reach out to Pastor Bryce at:

[assocpastor@watertownfirst.church](mailto:assocpastor@watertownfirst.church)
**Prayer Walk Update.**

As of April 30th our congregation has walked 4091.75 miles! Way to go First Church!

## Leadership Team Minutes

### Leadership Team Meeting

**April 8, 2025 5:35 p.m.**

Members present: Pastor Sara, Pastor Bryce, Peggy Lindahl, Doug Wishard, April Geffre, Marcia Schneider, Sue Stern, Adam Fox, Stephanie Long, Josh Hartley.

Members Absent: Sue Luken and Corrine Dahl

Devotion & Opening Prayer was provided by Sue Luken and given by Pastor Bryce in lieu of her absence.

April opened the meeting at 5:35pm.

**Accessibility Team Update:** Pastor Sara received schematics from the Engineers changing some other options of the elevator.

**The Bell Tower Cleaning:** Roofers Restoration quote will be taken to the Foundation.

**SPR:** Dean Gorseth has been hired for the Media and Graphic Designer position. He will begin working on Thursday. A breakthrough on our music on Saturdays: The current musicians will be taking over the planning and arrangement of all the music. Marilyn Spurrell has volunteered to play the piano. Renae Mack will be retiring from director of the Bell Choir. We will be looking for someone for that position. Nursery Coordinator and Weekend Children's Program Leader: we have received one application for this Coordinator position. Corrine Dahl as resigned her position on the Leadership Team. We are looking for someone to take that position on the Building and Grounds.

**Security System:** Adam Fox Reported on the Security System. He has received an updated quote that will be given to the Foundation for approval of funds. They are looking at the funds for a new computer for Bryce and Dean.

**Summer Worship Hours:** Saturday worship will stay on Saturday night at 5:00. Sunday morning worship will combine at 9:30 a.m. This will begin on Memorial Day Weekend Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Pastor Updates:** Pastor Sara reported that Ordination for Pastor Bryce will be on Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup>. This will be live streamed from the Mitchell First United Methodist Church. The time will be 10:00 a.m. This will be the service for the weekend. There has been talk about doing services at possibly the lake or park. Holy Week: Maundy Thursday Dinner Church Service downstairs. Good Friday service at 6:00 p.m. Saturday night and Easter Sunday regular services.

Pastor Bryce reported there will be 8 confirmands this year. Confirmation will be on May 3 at 5:00 p.m. service. May 17 and 18 there will be a recognition of all Graduates. There will be a pancake feed and bake sale after the 8:30 p.m. service on April 13, 2025 for the youth trip to Chicago. Cady Weidner has been invited to work as an intern for the church staff again this year. Thursday they will be having a virtual Bishop's Retreat as part of Pastor Bryce's requirements for becoming ordained

**Building and Ground:** Plaster fell off the ceiling during baptism on Sunday morning. Mike Stydel will take care of the grounds again this year.

**Finance:** Total giving for March was \$38,571.33 with estimated expenses \$38,378.16 with a difference of \$193.07. Year to date difference \$67.47. Peggy asked about the remaining funds that were raised for the Ukrainian family to be taken and placed in one of the Mission of the Month coffers. Pastor Sara commented that she would rather see the money go to the Ukrainian family/families for legal fees or whatever they may need. Peggy will discuss with Mike Marotz as he is one of the sponsors and have him contact Pastor Bryce.

**SPR:** Report given earlier by Pastor Sara

**Ministry:** Marcia reported on Watertown Cares to help the homeless in Watertown. Beth Lalim is the director. This is a nonprofit organization. They are requesting help from us to get the word out and raise awareness that a homeless may be just down on their luck and trying to make ends meet; provide financial in-kind gifts to help support the organization; Offer Watertown Cares as one of the Mission of the Month projects; Enlighten the kids going to Chicago this summer about homeless prior to their trip. Mission of the Month for April will be Diaper Giveaway and the Beacon Center. The next diaper giveaway will be May 7<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m. This will be a drive thru. The Spring Carnival will be April 26<sup>th</sup> from 10 to noon. This will be held in the City Auditorium. Their next meeting will be April 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. in the Library

Closed with the Breakthrough Prayer.

Next meeting May 13 at 5:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. Devotion will be given by April.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Lindahl, Recording Secretary



## FOUNDATION UPDATES

It's been awhile since an update from our Foundation has been provided. There have been a number of recent changes to the Board of Directors and the ongoing market volatility provide an opportune time for a recap of what has been happening.

Rich Schmidt left our Board back in October as he was term limited according to our By-laws. We thank Rich for his many years of service to the Foundation. Barb Brinkman was serving as the representative from the Leadership Team. She recently got off the Leadership Team which meant she needed to also leave the Foundation Board. We thank her for her years of service. John Redlinger, who had been serving as our Treasurer, very recently moved with his wife, Monica, to be closer to family in Fargo. We bid him farewell and thank him for his service. Losing this experience and dedication left a hole in our administrative leadership. We are so grateful for the following members who have now stepped up to fill these slots:

Luke Muller is stepping in for Rich Schmidt  
Adam Fox is joining us from the Leadership Team  
Susan Geyerman, after serving in the past, will be replacing John Redlinger

We now have a full complement of Board members moving forward. I will continue to serve as President with Jamie Veeder and Beth Schutt rounding out the Board as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

With all the recent ups and downs of the stock market, a few pieces of information about the Foundation's financial information is appropriate. Last year the Foundation paid out just under \$22,000 in grants which included \$11,275

for repair of the air conditioning in the fellowship hall and \$4,200 for the upcoming youth mission trip. The Foundation has just over \$78,000 which could be paid out in 2025 for needs deemed appropriate by the Leadership team, our pastoral team and Foundation Board working together to make this determination. The Foundation had a good investment year in 2024 and first quarter of 2025. The asset balance has grown to approximately \$1,020,000 as of March 31, 2025. The Foundation has weathered the recent market downturn in April pretty well with the account balance only down 2%-3% from the March high. Our managers at Wells Fargo Advisors are doing a good job monitoring our investments.

The Foundation is now in its 4<sup>th</sup> decade of operation after the wise decision by a core group of leaders back in 1994 to put this vehicle in place. Since that time nearly \$354,000 in grants have been paid out for various needs over the years. We pray that with wise stewardship of current dollars, the Foundation can continue to fund many additional needs in the years ahead. We would encourage anyone that may be thinking of leaving a legacy to First Church to keep the Foundation in mind. If you may be interested in doing so, don't hesitate to contact one of the pastors, a member of the Leadership Team or a member of the Foundation Board listed above.

Thank you!!

Yours in Christ,

Glen Vilhauer, Foundation President

FUMC General Budget Financials - 2025			
		Monthly Actual	YTD Cash Flow
25-Jan	Income	\$ 45,036	\$ 1,848
	Expense	\$ (43,188)	
	Difference	\$ 1,848	
25-Feb	Income	\$ 39,132	\$ (133)
	Expense	\$ (41,112)	
	Difference	\$ (1,980)	
24-Mar	Income	\$ 38,571	\$ (3,367)
	Expense	\$ (41,806)	
	Difference	\$ (3,235)	
1st Quarter	Income	\$ 122,739	\$ (3,367)
	Expense	\$ 126,106	
	Difference	\$ (3,367)	

### First Church Finances

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 2025 budget in full each month, we will need a monthly income of \$33,417. 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.**

## MAY MISSIONS OF THE MONTH

### Salvation Army "One Roof Program" and Bishop's Miracle Offering "Midwest Mission"

For the month of May we will be sponsoring 2 much needed missions.

**The Salvation Army One Roof Program** is local to Watertown SD.

**The Bishops Miracle Offering** helps people world wide through UMCOR.

Monetary donations are accepted for either of these missions. Also, below you will find tangible items that you can donate if you wish by placing them in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.

Thank you for your generous support of missions at First Church!

Donate online at [www.watertownfirst.church/giving](http://www.watertownfirst.church/giving)

select Mission of the Month

In the Comments Note either "One Roof Program" or "Miracle Offering"

#### SALVATION ARMY "ONE ROOF PROGRAM"

The Salvation Army's One Roof program in Watertown, SD, provides emergency assistance for rent and utilities, along with other critical needs. This program helps individuals and families in the area who are facing housing instability and other crises, offering assistance with rent, utility payments, and other emergency needs.

#### BISHOPS MIRACLE OFFERING "MIDWEST MISSION"

**Our Mission:** Bringing the hearts and hands of God's people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief.

**What We Do:** We are a logistical conduit for Christ's ministry. We receive a request from trusted nonprofits, then prepare items we have and ask our supporters for items we need. Volunteers process, revitalize, and assemble the donated items. Then, donations are shipped to our trusted partners to distribute to those in need.



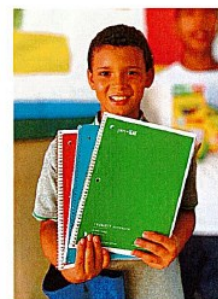
#### PERSONAL DIGNITY KIT SHOPPING LIST

- ☐ 1 hand towel - no kitchen towels
  - ☐ 1 washcloth - no dishcloths
  - ☐ 1 Adult toothbrush (no multipacks)
  - ☐ 1 bar soap - 3-4 oz.
  - ☐ 1 shampoo - 12-19 oz. (secure lid with packing tape)
  - ☐ 1 deodorant - 2-3 oz. (stick, roll-on, or pump)
  - ☐ 1 lotion - 8-10 oz. (secure lid with packing tape)
  - ☐ 1 One-gallon resealable plastic bag
- \*Place all items in resealable plastic bag including \$2 donation for toothpaste and carrying bag.



#### STUDENT KIT SHOPPING LIST

- ☐ 3 Notebooks - 1 Subject spiral 8" x 10 1/2"
- ☐ 1 Ruler - 12" long with metric
- ☐ 6 Pencils - unsharpened
- ☐ 1 Pencil Sharpener
- ☐ 1 Pencil Eraser - 2" or larger
- ☐ 1 Box of 12 Colored Pencils
- ☐ 1 Box of 24 Crayons
- ☐ 1 Pair of Student Scissors
- ☐ 1 Handmade One-Handled Bag



(pattern at [midwestmission.org/patterns](http://midwestmission.org/patterns))

#### TORNADO KIT SHOPPING LIST

- ☐ 2 pairs working gloves
- ☐ 24 1-gallon resealable plastic bags
- ☐ 2 permanent markers
- ☐ 1 roll duct tape (color preferred)
- ☐ 2 dust masks (no surgical)
- ☐ 24 heavy duty trash bags - 34-45 gallon size
- ☐ 24 clear/white trash bags - 20-33 gallon size
- ☐ 12-gallon resealable plastic bag
- ☐ \$20 dollar donation for 2 totes

If you wish to donate individual items to complete a kit that would be wonderful. But please know that any items donated will be greatly appreciated.

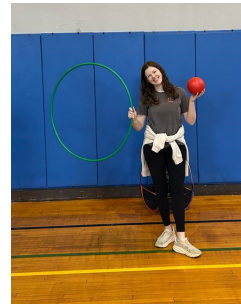
All items will be taken to Annual Conference in Mitchell in June where they will be collected and sent on to regions where the need is the greatest.

Thank you for your donations!



**Welcome**  
to the  
**SPRING CARNIVAL**  
hosted by First United Methodist Church

**Thank You to all who Volunteered to help with or participated in any way with our Spring Carnival. It was a huge success and everyone had a great time. About 75 children attended this event!**





## Staffing Updates

Over the last few months, we've had a lot of staff transition here at First Church. We are excited to announce the following positions that have been filled.

Dean Gorseth has taken the position of Media and Graphic Design. Dean is creating our designs for Sermon Series, our social media accounts, and our website. We welcome Dean to the team!

Lea Ann Alwin has taken the position of Contemporary Worship Coordinator. Lea Ann first began organizing the band and music for our Saturday worship team when Alayna stepped down in March. After a few weeks of enjoying the work and doing great, Lea Ann accepted the position.

Bobbie Jenner has taken the position of the Weekend Children's program leader. Bobbie has been volunteering with both our children and youth ministries for a while now and we are excited to welcome her to our staff team.

The joy of church work and volunteering to connect with our community is the ability to shift and change, grow and thrive. We are excited to see how our newest staff will continue to support the ministry of First Church as we all work together to make disciples of Jesus Christ and Change the world!

## FIRSTKIDS

### What have we been up to?

We are excited to welcome Bobbie Jenner as our Children's Ministry Weekend Leader.

We are also excited that Cady Weidner is joining us again as our summer intern and will be helping with our Children's Ministry as well.

**Camp VBS is July 21-24.** Let Lori know if you are interested in helping out in any way - this year we are going to be doing a Craft instead of Science experiments! We also will be telling our Bible Story through our Snack Station.

We are working on getting a Children's Choir and Bell Choir started in the fall - if you are interested in this please let Lori know.

**Thanks to everyone who helped with our Carnival. It was a huge hit and we look forward to doing it again next year!**

### Children's Ministry—Looking Ahead

#### WEDNESDAYS

- ♦ **May 7**—Jenkins K-6th Grade First Kids
- ♦ **May 14**—Ice Cream Social and fun at Nelson Park

#### SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS

- ♦ **May 3-4**—Family Worship Weekend—No Children's Church
- ♦ **May 10-11**—Regular Children's Church
- ♦ **May 17-18**—Regular Children's Church
- ♦ **May 24-25**—Memorial Holiday Weekend—No Children's Church
- ♦ **May 31-June 1**—Family Worship Weekend—No Children's Church

#### LOOKING AHEAD—

- ♦ **Sat. May 10**—Mini Mission for 5th & 6th Graders—Clean Up at Lake Poinsett Church Camp (See page 3)
- ♦ **Wed. May 14**—Last scheduled Wednesday night till Fall kickoff in September. Summer break begins. Watch for special events that may pop up for First Kids.
- ♦ **Mon. July 21 thru Thurs. July 24**—VBS at First Church

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

**I would like to say thank you to everyone that has taken the time to help volunteer with First Kids whether it be just a few times or for the whole year. You all play an important role in the lives of the kids here at First Church and mine. You all help inspire, guide, and strengthen the faith of not only the kids but me as well. Thank You! Lori Jurgens**



# FIRST YOUTH

## Upcoming Events!

May 3— Confirmation Worship  
 May 7— Beacon Center (Youth Group)  
 May 14— Final Wednesday Night (Nelson Park)  
 Youth Group will resume again in Sept.  
 May 17/18— Graduate Recognition in Worship  
 May 21— Mission Trip Meeting  
 May 23— Lock-in  
 June 4— Bible Study  
 June 11— Bible Study  
 June 18— Bible Study  
 June 21-26— Chicago Mission Trip  
 June 25— Bible Study

## First Youth Snapshot:

In April, our youth learned about the Fruits of the Spirit.

They also participated in a story walk centered around the children's book, "Twas the Morning of Easter" by Glenys Nellist and illustrated by Elena Selivanova. This book shares what the Easter morning may have been like from a fresh new perspective. Students visited different stations and interacted with each page of the book by answering questions and doing activities to help deepen understanding.

Confirmation students reviewed material for the year, wrote and recorded their own creeds, and planned for the confirmation service happening on May 3rd!

## 2025 Chicago Mission Trip

**Thank you** to all who supported our youth in their fundraising efforts! We are excited to say that **we have met our goal!**



We are 8 weeks away from our trip! While in Chicago, we will be working closely with Jesus People, a Christian Intentional Community that serves the poor. Check them out online to learn more about what our work might look like at <https://www.jesuspeoplechicago.org/>

## Please keep our mission team in your prayers:

Avery Anderson	Tieson Jenner	Dominic VanSickle
Bryce Blank	Justyn Jones	Cady Weidner
Caleb Clark	Lori Jurgens	Camden Weidner
Leighton Dolney	Cortlyn Paulson	Madison Weidner
Ava Fiebelkorn	Chantell Schieber	Cindy Wishard
Denver Jenner	Sarapheen Stavick	

## Youth Summer Bible Study:

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 Breakout Coffee on the dates below. Please read the scripture passages BEFORE the date they are next to.

June 4— Introduction	July 16-- Acts 14-16
June 11-- Acts 1-3	July 23-- Acts 17-19
June 18-- Acts 4-5	July 30-- Acts 20-22
June 25-- Acts 6-7	August 6-- Acts 23-25
July 2-- Acts 8-10	August 13-- Acts 26-28
July 9-- Acts 11-13	

## GUITAR LESSONS

If you are interested in learning guitar over the summer, please reach out to Pastor Bryce!

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



## Our prayers and deepest sympathy go out to:

Family and friends of Sandy Weidner-Middleton who passed away on April 18, 2025.  
Sandy was the loving wife of Randy Middleton.

### 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
Edgewood Memory Care 901 14th Ave NE—Watertown, SD 57201	Tom Baxter
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
Roetell Senior Housing 108 S Smith—Clark SD 57225	Marilyn Vogt #4

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

#### **May 7, 2025**

*"Hearing and Dementia" by Dr. Todd Decker, Audiologist at Professional Hearing Services.*

#### **June 4, 2025**

*"Let's Talk" by Support Group Discussion*

**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-May	Olivia Solum
1-May	Malia Block
1-May	Owen McBride
1-May	LeAnn Smith
1-May	Sarah Bruns
2-May	Frank Johnson
2-May	Memphis Weidner
3-May	Peggy Engels
3-May	Ellie Zink
3-May	Jodi DeVaal
4-May	Piper Krueger
4-May	Ella Gruenwald
4-May	Havana Mikkelsen
4-May	Karen Ostrander
4-May	Nyah Julius
5-May	Denise Meyer
6-May	Lennik Bender
6-May	Chad Hanson
7-May	Greyson Alan Koehn
7-May	Larry Engels
8-May	Kayleb Luckhurst
8-May	Emily Rymerson
8-May	Stephanie Long
8-May	Gabe Colestock
8-May	Quinn Mohling
8-May	Joshua Ries
8-May	Maverick Ries
9-May	Adelaide Smith
9-May	Roger LaFramboise
9-May	Arlys Schutt
9-May	Jim Mayer
10-May	Rebecca Dolney
10-May	Jean Grovenburg
10-May	Raeanna Zink
10-May	Alex Kahre
11-May	Jerry Grotewold

Birthday	Happy Birthday To:
12-May	Aaron Hoffman
12-May	Jaxon Kloos
13-May	Brian Robinson
13-May	Jeffrey Grovenburg
13-May	Tim Steffensen
13-May	Lydia Gall
14-May	Hannah Arnold
14-May	Jacquelyn Baxter
14-May	Barb Hanson
14-May	Dawsyn Wirkus
14-May	Lainee Wirkus
15-May	Aiden Fenenga
15-May	Mike Grann
16-May	Sue Stern
16-May	Amy Julius
16-May	Josh Mikkelsen
16-May	Tessa Robinson
16-May	Wesley Larson
17-May	Kaelyn Melville
18-May	Travis Engels
18-May	Abigail Ekern
19-May	Maverick Wight
19-May	Mark Fultz
19-May	Finn Thompson
20-May	Ladonna Weidenbach
21-May	Dianne Drake
21-May	James Mercie
22-May	Robert Shultz
22-May	Derek Hanson
23-May	Branch Valsvig
24-May	Dawn Voelsch
24-May	Jordin Jurgens
25-May	Gavin Jurgens
25-May	Kenny Mayer
25-May	Karn "Kit" Jacobson

Birthday	Happy Birthday To:
27-May	Darin Wellman
27-May	Chad Miller
27-May	Raina Schaeffer
28-May	Laura Bayles
28-May	Lisa Cady
28-May	Linda Oslund
28-May	Heidi Steffensen
28-May	Kailen Hartman
28-May	Isaac Solum
29-May	Danielle Mikkelsen
29-May	Kordae Hartman
29-May	Jayci McNamara
30-May	Eric Stevenson
30-May	Bryce Blank
31-May	Mya Rae Myers
31-May	Kevin Smunk
31-May	Brian Heuer
31-May	Jerry Fleischhacker



Anniversary	Happy Anniversary To:
5-May	Jeffrey & Suzette Hiedeman
9-May	Steve & Karen Gorseth
12-May	John & Marsha Dahl
12-May	Jack & Renee Luckhurst
12-May	Millard & Shirley Roe
14-May	Adam & Kara Heagel
14-May	Daniel & Rebecca Mortenson
18-May	James & Peggy Curtis
20-May	Marty & Pearl Geffre
21-May	Mike & Julie Kotlan
22-May	Brad & Gina Endstad
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

**RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED**

## May 2025 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 Minister**  
Lori Jurgens  
**Weekend Children's Leader**  
Bobbie Jenner  
**Media and Graphic Design**  
Dean Gorseth  
**Organists**  
Blair Titze  
Lesa Dahl  
**Bell Choir Director**  
Rena Mack  
**Music & Chancel Choir Director**  
Blair Titze  
**Contemporary Worship Coordinator**  
Lea Ann Alwin  
**Custodian**  
Beth Schutt  
**Wedding Coordinator**  
Kathy Mielitz

**Worship Times Thru May 18th**  
Saturdays at 5:00 pm—Contemporary  
Sunday at 8:30 am—Traditional  
Sunday at 10:00 am—Blended

**Worship Times Starting May 25th**  
Saturdays at 5:00 pm—Contemporary  
Sunday at 9:30 am—Blended



Sermon Series



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • 4 2ND AVE SE • PO BOX 1416 • WATERTOWN, SD 57201 • 605-886-4427  
[office@watertownfirst.church](mailto:office@watertownfirst.church) • [www.watertownfirst.church](http://www.watertownfirst.church)  
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