

## OUR MISSION

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

## OUR VALUES

**CONNECT. GROW. SERVE.**

We **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.

An accessible restroom with changing table is located at the back of the sanctuary.

Hearing assistance devices are available at the **WELCOME CENTER**.

Activities are available for children 3 years old and younger in our nursery during worship.

Activity bags are available for children at the **FIRSTKIDS** check-in table.

**Rev. Sara McManus**

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

**Rev. Bryce Blank**

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

**Pearl Geffre**

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

**Children's Ministry Coordinators**

**Lori Jurgens**

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

## CONTACT

### PHONE

605.886.4427

### OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Thurs: 8am-12pm & 1pm-4:30pm



**WELCOME**  
to  
**FIRSTCHURCH**

4 Second Avenue SE | P.O. Box 1416 | Watertown SD, 57201

[www.watertownfirst.church](http://www.watertownfirst.church)

605.886.4427



Saturday • May 31, 2025 • 5:00 pm

## PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

### WELCOME

### \*OPENING SONGS

*Open Up The Heavens • Good Grace*

### PRAYER TIME

### TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Join in singing “It’s A Happy Day” as children enter & leave.  
Family Worship Weekend—Children are invited to worship with their families.

### MESSAGE

*Seize the Awkward • Acts 16:25-34*  
Pastor Sara McManus

### HOLY COMMUNION

*All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion.  
Offering plates will be available at the front of the church for your gifts.  
If you cannot come up for communion, please let an usher know and we will share it with you in the pew*

### REFLECTION SONG

*Tremble*

### CLOSING SONG

*Glorious Day*

### \*BLESSING

**Thank You For Worshiping With Us Today!**

*\*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able.*

**PLEASE NOTE—June 7-8—ONE Worship Service This Weekend**

**No Saturday Worship / 10:00 am Worship on Sunday (Note Time)**

This service will be live streamed from Mitchell First as the closing Worship Service of Annual Conference. During this worship service, Pastor Bryce will be Ordained and we wish to have as many of you be a part of this exciting event as possible.

## **This Week at First Church**

### **Monday, June 2**

1:15—3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies, & Conversation—Church Lounge  
5:30 pm Women of Grace—Church Lounge

### **Wednesday, June 4**

***Annual Conference June 4—June 8 in Mitchell, SD***

9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study  
Noon—Youth Bible Study at Breakout Coffee House

***No Meal—All Wed night activities on Summer Break***

### **Thursday, June 5**

10:00 am Women’s Bible Study

### **Friday, June 6—Office Closed**

### **Saturday, June 7**

7:00 am Back Room Boys—Church Library  
9:00 am Late Risers—Stones Café  
9:00 am Just Breathe—Church Lounge

***NO Worship Service Tonight***

### **Sunday, June 8**

***10:00 am—Special Worship Service from Annual Conference***

### **Monday, June 9**

1:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—All are Welcome

### **Tues. June 10**

5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting

**New Here or Just Visiting?** We’d love to connect with you and pray for you. Please fill out a Connect Card and place it in the offering plate. Also stop at the Welcome Center for a free gift from First Church.

For more information visit our web page at [www.watertownfirst.church](http://www.watertownfirst.church) or call the church office at 605-886-4427

**Prayer Walk Update.** As of May 30th our congregation has prayer walked 5508.25 miles! Way to go First Church!

## Worship Notes

**PLEASE NOTE—June 7-8—ONE** Worship Service This Weekend  
**No Saturday Worship / 10:00 am Worship on Sunday (Note Time)**

This service will be live streamed from Mitchell First as the closing Worship Service of Annual Conference. During this worship service, Pastor Bryce will be Ordained and we wish to have as many of you be a part of this exciting event as possible.

***June's Mission of the Month are VBS & Sandy's Closet—see insert.***

**Registrations for VBS will be taken from June 1 thru July 12. Whether you plan to attend as a participant or a volunteer, please click on this link [“VBS”](#) to register.**

- ♦ Any child in Preschool thru 5th grade are invited to participate. Older children who wish to attend can do so as a helper (volunteer). Invite a friend, bring a neighbor! But please register soon.
- ♦ Our theme this year is Camp and we look forward to all the fun this year's VBS has to offer.
- ♦ Check out the insert for information on our VBS Mission “Sandy's Closet”.



just  
BREATHE

Join us Sat June 7 at 9AM in the church lounge for a relaxing time to share conversation with friends over a cup of coffee and take time to “Just Breathe” and relax.

**CHURCH FINANCES:** Thank you for your financial gifts to First Church. Your support is appreciated and helps in so many ways. You can give online: [www.watertownfirst.church/giving](http://www.watertownfirst.church/giving)  
Or use the QR code.



GATHER AND PRAISE

*Prelude*

*Centering Thought:*

*What does the transformation of the world look like to you?*

**Greeting**

\* **Call to Worship**

L: Welcome to this place:

**P: where children and seasoned citizens sit side by side,**

L: where heaven and earth embrace in peace,

**P: where God has been, is, and always will be.**

L: Welcome to this place, as we gather with all of God's children:

**P: where we find God's love,**

L: where we hear the tender voice of Jesus,

**P: where the Spirit teaches us new songs.**

L: Welcome to this place, where all is made ready by our God:

**P: where we bring our hunger, and find food;**

L: where we bring our brokenness, and find healing;

**P: where we bring our very selves, and find acceptance.**

L: Let us pray:

**All: O God, who opens our prison doors and releases us from our faults, keep us near to you in the hours of each day that by the power of the prayer Jesus prays for us and the light of your Word we might drink of your living water, know true joy and serve you to the end of time. Amen.**

\* **Act of Praise**

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

UMH 140

LISTEN AND PRAY

**1st Reading**

*Acts 1:1-11*

**Announcements**

\* **Prayers of the People**

\* **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**Time for Young Disciples**

Join in singing "*It's A Happy Day*" as children enter & leave.

Family Worship Weekend. Children are invited to worship with their families.

HEAR AND REFLECT

**Gospel**

*Acts 16:25-34*

**Sermon**

*Seize the Awkward*

Pastor Sara McManus

**Reflection Moment**

*God Will Take Care of You*

UMH 130

RESPOND AND GO

**HOLY COMMUNION:** *All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion.*

*Offering plates will be available at the front of the church for your gifts. If you cannot come up for communion, please let an usher know and we will share it with you in the pew.*

\* **Sending Song**

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

UMH 133

\* **Benediction**

**Postlude**

**Thank You For Worshiping With Us Today!**

\* The congregation is invited to stand if they are able.

**PLEASE NOTE—June 7-8—ONE** Worship Service This Weekend

**No Saturday Worship / 10:00 am Worship on Sunday (Note Time)**

This service will be live streamed from Mitchell First as the closing Worship Service of Annual Conference. During this worship service, Pastor Bryce will be Ordained and we wish to have as many of you be a part of this exciting event as possible.

## JUNE MISSIONS OF THE MONTH

### Vacation Bible School (VBS) & Sandy's Closet.

- ♦ Each year during VBS we have a special Mission that the children can participate in. This year our VBS Mission will be "Sandy's Closet".
- ♦ Some of you will remember Sandy Weidner-Middleton who worked in our nursery and helped run our Children's Ministry program. Sandy passed away on April 18, 2025. Years ago Sandy helped to organize and run a "Free Store" here at First Church. One of Sandy's dying wishes was to once again hold a "Free Store". Since Sandy loved children and they all loved her, we chatted with some of the children at First Church and they all wanted to help honor Sandy by creating "Sandy's Closet" in which we would collect new or gently used children's clothing, coats, hats, mittens, boots, etc. of any size.
- ♦ The collection would be thru the month of June and especially during VBS. We would then pick a time in August before school started and invite families to do some school clothes shopping for free in "Sandy's Closet"

### How can you help?

**Help Support our VBS Program—  
Supplies, Evening Meal, & Snacks**



### Help Support "Sandy's Closet"

There will be an area at the back of the sanctuary for donations of New or Gently Used Children's Clothing. Help us fill "Sandy's Closet" and help out the children going back to school this fall. Monetary donations accepted as well and we'll do the shopping for you.

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

select Mission of the Month

*In the Comments Note either "VBS Program" or "Sandy's Closet"*

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