



**First United
Methodist
Church
August 2025**



4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

Hello Friends!

I am so excited to join you in ministry at First Church. I have already had the opportunity to meet a few of you, but I look forward to meeting more of you and getting to know you as we journey together.

This last month, the sermons have been from the book of Ephesians. There is so much in this letter for each of us as we live our day to day lives. A reminder that we are doing faith together – all of humanity, not just our local congregation or conference or, even, the nation. An instruction to find our inner strength that we get from the Holy Spirit as we face the world. I encourage you to read the book of Ephesians...in one sitting. It will only take around 20 minutes, but reading the entirety of the letter as it was written can help to see a fuller picture of the text and intent. Then continue to pray for unity and strength, for yourself, our congregation and beyond.

Vacation Bible School was an excellent introduction to the discipleship already happening here. Witnessing our children so excited to worship and learn, while playing and eating, of course, was a joy – but the interaction between our children, our youth and adults was the highlight for me. This is what we are all called to – living our faith together. Challenging and supporting one another as we grow and learn more about God and each other.

My prayer for the coming days, weeks and months together is to see opportunities to connect with each other, to grow deeper in our relationship with God and one another, and to humbly serve together. As you pray and watch God move in our midst, I invite you to come to me or any of our pastoral staff to share.

Together in Christ –

Pastor Kim Hastings

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August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 27 9:30 am Worship <i>Only One Worship Service on Sundays</i>	July 28 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge	July 29 8:30am Staff Mtg 6 pm Fishing Night at Lion's Park	July 30 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge Noon—Youth Bible Study at "Break Out" Coffee Shop	July 31 10 am Women's Bible Study 4:30 pm Ministry Missions Mtg	1 Office Closed	2 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Just Breathe—Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship 9-12 Staff Retreat
3 9:30 am Worship <i>Only One Worship Service on Sundays</i>	4 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge 5:30 pm Women of Grace—Church Lounge	5 8:30am Staff Mtg	6 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge 10:00 am—Youth Bible Study at "Break Out" Coffee Shop (Note Time Change)	7 Home Communion 10 am Women's Bible Study	8 Office Closed	9 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship at the Lake—City Park
10 9:30 am Worship <i>Only One Worship Service on Sundays</i>	11 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge	12 8:30am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting	13 10:00 am Morning Glories Missional Group	14 10 am Women's Bible Study	15 Office Closed	16 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
17 9:30 am Worship <i>Only One Worship Service on Sundays</i>	18 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge The Banquet at Grace Lutheran Church—Served by First United Methodist Church	19 11:30 am Lunch a Bunch at Pizza Ranch	20 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge 4:00 pm Staff Meeting	21 10 am Women's Bible Study	22 Office Closed	23 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
24 9:30 am Worship <i>Only One Worship Service on Sundays</i>	25 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge	26 8:30am Staff Mtg	27 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge 6:00 pm Confirmation Orientation for Parents and Youth	28 10 am Women's Bible Study 4:30 pm Missions Mtg	29 Office Closed	30 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
31 9:30 am Worship <i>Only One Worship Service on Sundays</i>	Sept 1 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge	Sept 2 8:30am Staff Mtg	Sept 3 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge	Sept 4 10 am Women's Bible Study	Sept 5 Office Closed	Sept 6 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship

Weekly at First Church
Mondays

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

Wednesday Summer Schedule

Community Meal and other Regular Wednesday

Night Activities on Summer Break until Sept.

Noon—Youth Bible Study at Break Out Coffee Shop

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—Summer Worship Schedule

9:30 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

2nd Wednesday of the Month

Morning Glories Women's Fellowship/Mission Group

10:00 am in the Church Lounge

1st Thursday of the Month—Home Communion
1st Saturday of the Month

9:00 am Just Breathe—Church Lounge

Seasonal

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 9th at 5:30 pm—Worship at the Lake with Baptisms—City Park on Lake Kampeska

August 18 at 5:30 pm—First Church serves The Banquet at Grace Lutheran Church

September 10—Wednesday Fall Kickoff

September 13 & 14—Weekend Fall Kickoff


**August Mission of the Month
Shoe Box Christmas**

It's that time of the year when we start to collect items for the shoeboxes.

We will be collecting shoeboxes (the bigger the shoebox the better) and gifts for the children on the Indian Reservations in ND, SD & MN.

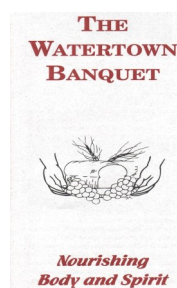
The gift boxes are for infant and toddlers to 17 year olds. All gifts must be able to fit inside a shoebox.

A collection box will be at the back of the sanctuary throughout the month of August. Please help us fill it to overflowing.

Monetary donations welcome as well. Note "Shoebox Christmas" on check or donate online: www.watertownfirst.church/giving select Mission of the Month and in the comments note "Shoebox Christmas"

Thanks for supporting our mission project.

Morning Glories Women's Fellowship & Missional Group.

First Church will be serving The Banquet on Monday, August 18th at 5:30 pm


The Banquet is held at Grace Lutheran Church. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact the church office at 605-886-4427 or office@watertownfirst.church.





First UMC Foundation Fact—Did you know the Foundation has been supporting First Church for many years?

1994—\$1100 Water Heater
 1996—\$1627 Scuppers & Downspouts
 1997—\$1400 Construction of Outdoor Sign
 1998—\$900 Carpet for Nursery
 1999—\$1200 Drapes & Carpet for Sunday School Rooms
 2005—\$15000 Seed money for Air Conditioning Project
 2007—\$3494.70 Engineering for Air Conditioning
 2020—\$4665 Heat Tape
 2020—\$3200 NE Front Door

2021—\$8512 NW Front Door
 2022—\$12665 Fellowship Hall NE AC Unit
 2022—\$4925 Nursery AC Unit
 2023—\$7073.79 Heat Tape Work
 2023—\$6630 Snow Guard Work
 2024—\$11275 Fellowship Hall NW AC Unit

Thank you to the Foundation for helping keep our church building maintained!

FUMC General Budget Financials - 2025

		Monthly Actual	YTD Cash Flow
Apr-24	Income	\$ 36,958	\$ (6,157)
	Expense	\$ 39,748	
	Difference	\$ (2,790)	
May-24	Income	\$ 28,903	\$ (13,669)
	Expense	\$ 36,415	
	Difference	\$ (7,512)	
Jun-24	Income	\$ 34,393	\$ (18,182)
	Expense	\$ 38,906	
	Difference	\$ 4,513)	

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

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

Or use the QR Code to give online now!

Thank Your 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!

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FIRSTKIDS

THANK YOU—THANK YOU—THANK YOU

We have had an amazing week of Vacation Bible School!

We had...

33 kids (preschool-6th Grade)

16 youth volunteers (7th-12th Grade)

23 adult volunteers (crew leaders/music leaders/cooks etc)

Thank you to all who helped in any way this past week.

We had a wonderful week!

Thank You to all who donated to **Sandy's Closet**.

The children met their goal and several of the adults were showered with Silly String! Watch for more information on when Sandy's Closet will be open.

SANDY'S CLOSET DONATIONS

1230	June Mission of the Month - Congregation Donations
636	Anonymous Donator
719	July VBS Week - Donations from Children & their Families

2585 Total Number - Items of Clothing Donated

\$ 932.50	June Mission of the Month - Congregation Donations
\$ 744.89	July VBS Week - Donations from Children & their Families

\$ 1,677.39 Total Monetary Donations

Children's Ministry

WEDNESDAYS

◇ Meal and other Wednesday activities on summer break

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS

◇ **No Children's Church in August—we are getting ready for fall programming**

LOOKING AHEAD—

◇ **Sept 10**—Wednesday Night Fall Kickoff

◇ **Sept 13-14**—Weekend Fall Kickoff

Prayerfully consider where God might use You in our Children and Youth programs. If you are interested in helping this fall on Wednesday's or Weekends, please reach out to Lori or Bobbie or Amy.

If you have any question about our Children's Ministry Program, please contact
Lori Jurgens lori@watertownfirst.church or
Bobbie Jenner
bobbie@watertownfirst.church

VBS RECAP

Our first night of VBS was full of energy, joy, and a powerful reminder of how God can use ordinary people to do extraordinary things! We explored the story of Tabitha—a woman known for her gift of kindness, generosity, and service to others.

Night 2 of VBS was all about trusting God with the gifts He gives us! We dove into the Parable of the Talents, where Jesus teaches us that everyone has been given something valuable—and God wants us to use those gifts wisely and faithfully.

Night 3 of VBS was a powerful reminder that no giant is too big when God is on our side! We explored the well-loved story of David and Goliath, where a young shepherd showed his gift of incredible courage and faith to stand up against a mighty warrior.

Our final night of VBS was a beautiful celebration of everything we've learned this week! We focused on the truth that God gives each of us unique gifts and abilities, and they all matter in His Kingdom.

Throughout the week, our VBS attendees stayed focused and committed to our mission project supporting **Sandy's Closet**. And wow—did they deliver!

By the end of the week, our kids and families collected an **amazing 719 items of clothing**, and a generous anonymous community member added **another 336 items**, bringing our total to an incredible **1,055 clothing items** donated!

But the giving didn't stop there. In addition to the clothing drive, the children and families also **raised nearly \$750** in donations to support Sandy's Closet.

This week, our VBS kids didn't just learn about God's love—they **lived it**. Their compassion, generosity, and commitment were a true reflection of Christ's heart in action.

Thank you to every child, family, and friend who gave, prayed, and helped make a difference. **God is using your gifts to bless others in powerful ways!**

**Registration forms for children & youth can be found on the office door.
Please take one, update your information and return to the church office or give to Lori or Bobbie.**

FIRST YOUTH

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY: Book of Acts: Summer Intern, Cady Weidner has met with other youth throughout the summer to go through the book of Acts. Together they have learned more about the life of the early church, been support for each other, and set goals of how they want to create space for God in their lives.

The last meeting for the summer Bible study is on **AUGUST 6th** at 10am at Breakout Coffee. Please read Chapters 25-28 before we meet. Bring your Bible, notes, and come ready to share insights. All youth going into grades 7-12 are welcome to join.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER INTERN, CADY WEIDNER FOR ALL THE WORK SHE HAS DONE TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES HAPPENING AT FIRST CHURCH.



July 2025

In July our youth continued to journey through the book of ACTS during the summer youth Bible study led by Cady Weidner. A big thank you to the youth who showed up to serve in July. Whether it was walking or riding with others in the 4th of July Parade, helping with KIDS church on the weekend, creating decorations for VBS, or helping lead at CAMP VBS.



AUGUST

8.6.25: Youth Bible Study, Breakout Coffee @ **10AM**
*different time this week

8.27.25: Confirmation Orientation Meeting: Parents & Youth—6PM in Middle School Room

SEPTEMBER

9.10.25: Wednesday Night Kickoff

9.17.25: Wednesday Nights @ First

- Confirmation (MENTOR NIGHT)
- Middle School Grow Groups
- High School Grow Groups

9.24.25: Wednesday Nights @ First

- Connect Night—7th to 12th

COMING IN OCTOBER

OCTOBER 10th-12th
DAKYOUTH—ABERDEEN

OCTOBER 25th
YOUTH LOCK IN 7th—12th Graders

Prayerfully consider where God might use You in our Children and Youth programs. If you are interested in helping this fall on Wednesday's or Weekends, please reach out to Lori or Bobbie or Amy.



2025-26 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Register at watertownfirst.church/church/first-youth/

WHO: 7th –12th graders who have not been confirmed.

WHEN: Wednesday nights starting September 10, 2025

Confirmation is a special time in the life of a young person—a time to explore faith more deeply, ask questions, and to take the step of confirming their faith. This year-long journey will include opportunities for learning, service, connection, and spiritual growth. Our goal is to walk alongside each student as they explore what it means to follow Christ and make a personal commitment to their faith.

Parents and youth are invited to join us for orientation on **Wednesday, August 27 at 6:00 PM** in the Middle School Youth Room. At this meeting, you'll learn more about the confirmation schedule, expectations, and opportunities, and we'll answer any questions you might have.

If you have any questions Please contact Pastor Amy Atkins: youth@watertownfirst.church



Our deepest sympathy is extended to these families:

Family and friends of Roger Duwane Behlings who passed away on July 9, 2025. Roger is Cindy Wishard's uncle.

Peggy Curtis and other family and friends of James Curtis who passed away on July 9, 2025. James is Peggy's husband.

Gloria VanDykhurst and other family and friends of Lillian VanDykhurst who passed away on July 11, 2025. Lillian is Gloria's mother.

Family and friends of Joyce Heaton who passed away on July 22, 2025.

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 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
Avantara Milbank 1103 S 2nd Street—Milbank SD 57252	Marilyn Vogt #504

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

August 6, 2025

"Lets Talk—Group Sharing Time" by The Support Group

September 3 2025

"The Do's & Don'ts of Communicating with Someone with Memory Loss" by Andrea Vosberg, SLP/LSVT Certified at Jenkins Living Center

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-Aug	Colleen Enstad
1-Aug	Jenni Lake
1-Aug	Dale McElhany
1-Aug	Doug Wishard
1-Aug	Brittny Page
3-Aug	Sophie Cole
4-Aug	Roxanna Shultz
4-Aug	Brenna Dahl
4-Aug	Amy Arnold
5-Aug	Jeffrey Willett
5-Aug	Thomas Halajian
5-Aug	Blair Titze
6-Aug	Aspen Billings
7-Aug	Sophie Krueger
7-Aug	Amelia Schmeling
8-Aug	Brian Haan
9-Aug	Ella Buechler
9-Aug	Mike LeVake
9-Aug	Deb Harmel
9-Aug	Lynsy Fonder
11-Aug	Scout Elaina Valsvig
11-Aug	Cindy Traufler
11-Aug	Nick Koehn
11-Aug	David Ortmeier
12-Aug	David Waples
13-Aug	Denver Jenner
13-Aug	Bohannon Ruesink
14-Aug	Adam Fox
14-Aug	Kent Hegstrom
14-Aug	Kyle McManus
15-Aug	Aaliyah Kay Koehn
16-Aug	Jayden Chandler
16-Aug	Kari Shultz
16-Aug	Monica Redlinger
16-Aug	Emma Bredvik

Birthday	Happy Birthday to:
17-Aug	Addison Fiebelkorn
17-Aug	Marlene Jackson
17-Aug	Jeanne Lane
17-Aug	Marilyn Arnold
17-Aug	Kayden TwoCrow
18-Aug	Brentley Willett
18-Aug	Evan Alwin
19-Aug	Saylor Faith Krueger
19-Aug	Jeri Larson
19-Aug	Lori Jurgens
20-Aug	Shannon Bruns
21-Aug	Lauren Wight
22-Aug	Dominic VanSickle
23-Aug	Susan Bachmann
23-Aug	Jody Ford
23-Aug	Ashley Fordham
24-Aug	Sarapheen Stavick
25-Aug	Brian Davey
25-Aug	Becky Hanson
26-Aug	Harlan Siegfried
26-Aug	Melanie Sanden
26-Aug	Phin Smith
27-Aug	Jay Stevenson
27-Aug	Jeanie Endres
27-Aug	Derek Wangen
27-Aug	Ellen Cramer
28-Aug	Kaitlin Wangen
28-Aug	Audrey Lindgren
28-Aug	Natalie Robinson
29-Aug	Jaykob Wirkus
29-Aug	Micah Ortmeier
30-Aug	Everly Wellman
30-Aug	Mike Grovenburg
30-Aug	Mollie Raasch
30-Aug	Alice Bruns
31-Aug	Jeremy Overby
31-Aug	Dane Dalton

Date	Happy Anniversary to:
1-Aug	Blair & Nancy Titze
2-Aug	Wendell & Alice Bruns
7-Aug	Wayne & Angie Wegner
8-Aug	Daniel & Shirley Boone
8-Aug	Brian & Susan Davey
9-Aug	Mike & Sandi Pederson
10-Aug	Rich & Teresa Remmers
10-Aug	Kevin & Staci Smunk
10-Aug	James & Joyce Swenson
10-Aug	Tim & Heidi Steffensen
13-Aug	Loel & Phyllis Diggs
14-Aug	Luke & Stephanie Muller
15-Aug	Bill & Marta Hoffman
16-Aug	Tom & Roberta LaFramboise
17-Aug	Tom & Jackie Baxter
17-Aug	Taylor & Emily Rymerson
17-Aug	Peter & Audrey Rohde
18-Aug	Gene & Deanna Ward
20-Aug	Andrew & Wendy Meek
26-Aug	Curt & Peggy Lindahl
27-Aug	Aaron & Kacee Hoffman
28-Aug	Jake & Cassie Kasperek
28-Aug	Rev. Dr. DeVern & Joan Schwenn

Join a Care Team

Are you interested in:

- * Helping serve Home Communion
- * Leading Worship at our Memory Care Centers
- * Writing notes
- * Helping with funerals

If you are interested in any of the above or if you just want to learn more, please contact the church office. We'd love to have you as part of one of the First Church Care Teams.

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

August 2025 FIRST NEWS

MEET THE STAFF

Senior Pastor

Rev. Sara McManus

Associate Pastor

Rev. Kim Hastings

Associate of Youth Ministries

Rev. Amy Atkins

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

Renae Mack

Music & Chancel Choir

Director

Blair Titze

Contemporary Worship

Coordinator

Lea Ann Alwin

Band Leader

Dave Alwin

Custodian

Beth Schutt

Wedding Coordinator

Kathy Mielitz

Summer Worship Times

Saturdays at 5:00 pm—Contemporary
Sunday at 9:30 am—Blended



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