



OUR MISSION

To make new 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**.

Nursery is available during the 9:30am service.

Activity bags are available at the **FIRSTKIDS** table.

Senior Pastor - Rev. Sara McManus

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Associate Pastor - Rev. Kim Hastings

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CONTACT

PHONE

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OFFICE HOURS

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

WEBSITE

www.watertownfirst.church

Custodian - Beth Schutt

Music & Chancel Choir Director - Blair Titze

Organists - Blair Titze & Lesa Dahl

Contemp. Worship Coordinator - Lea Ann Alwin

Band Leader - Dave Alwin

Wedding Coordinator - Kathy Mielitz

Summer Intern - Cady Weidner

Welcome to
First United
Methodist Church

Saturday • August 23, 2025 • 5:00 pm

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME

*OPENING SONGS

1000 Tongues

Good Grace

PRAYER TIME

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Join in singing “*Praise The Lord Every Day*” as children enter & leave.
No Children’s Church in August as we prepare for Fall Programing

MESSAGE

To Be Known

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Rev. Sara McManus

OFFERING

REFLECTION SONG

Who You Say I Am

OFFERING PRAYER

CLOSING SONG

Saved My Soul

*BLESSING

Thank You For Worshiping With Us Today!

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

This Week at First Church

Monday, August 25

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

Tuesday, August 26

8:30 am Staff Meeting—Church Lounge

5:00 pm Ministry Team Meeting—Church Lounge

Wednesday, August 27

9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Church Lounge

6:00 pm Confirmation Mtg for Students and Parents—MS Youth Room

Thursday, August 28

NO Women’s Bible Study this Week

Friday, August 29—Office Closed

Saturday, August 30

7:00 am Back Room Boys—Church Library

9:00 am Late Risers—Stones Café

2:00 pm Wedding Cassidy Sterling & Tracy Volkenant

3:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal

5:00 pm Contemporary Worship Service

Sunday, August 31

9:30 am Blended Worship Service

Monday, September 1

Labor Day Holiday—Office Closed

Tuesday, September 2

8:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, September 3

9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Church Lounge

6:00 pm Volunteer Training

Thursday, September 4—Home Communion

10:00 am Women’s Bible Study—Fellowship Hall

For more information visit our web page at www.watertownfirst.church or
call the church office at 605-886-4427

GATHER AND PRAISE

Prelude

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

Centering Thought:

In what ways might God know you better than you know yourself?

Greeting

* **Call to Worship**

L: Wherever you go, from the top of the highest mountain or into the deep abysses of the earth, God knows you.

All: Wherever we go, God knows our name.

L: Whatever you do, from the time you wake up until you lay your head down again, God knows you.

All: Whatever we do, God knows our name.

L: However you live, from your inner thoughts to your public acts and everything in between, God knows you.

All: However we live, God knows our name.

L: We gather to worship God, who loves us, knows us, and calls us by name.

All: We gather to worship God, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God who knows our name! We gather and remember our praise. We gather to celebrate all that you are and all that you’ve done for us. Remind us who we are and remind us whose we are, this day and always. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2025.

* **Act of Praise**

The Summons (vs 1-4)

TFWS #2130

LISTEN AND PRAY

1st Reading

Psalms 71:1-6

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.

Baptism

Abel James Hartley

Son of Joshua and Victoria Hartley

Time for Young Disciples

Join in singing “*Praise The Lord Every Day*” as children enter & leave.
No Children’s Church in August as we prepare for Fall Programing

* **Song**

Thy Word

UMH #601

HEAR AND REFLECT

Gospel

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Sermon

To Be Known

Rev. Sara McManus

Reflection Moment

Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here

UMH #647

RESPOND AND GO

Offering

* **Doxology**

Give Thanks

On Screens

* **Offering Prayer**

* **Sending Song**

Sent Forth by God’s Blessing

UMH #664

* **Benediction**

Postlude

Thank You For Worshiping With Us Today!

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR PLEASE...Volunteer Training Meeting

Sept. 3rd at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall—For all Children's and Youth Volunteers.

We will go over the upcoming year's schedule and activities, our safe sanctuary policy and update all background checks. **If you are scheduled to help with children or youth please plan to attend.**

For those of you who are curious about what is involved in working with children or youth we encourage you to attend. No pressure no commitment, just a time to learn about our programing and ask any questions you might have. *Occasionally we will need substitute helpers for our program. Prayerfully consider if this might be you.*



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

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.

Did you know?

Every Wednesday from Sept—May First Church serves a community meal at 5:15 pm. We want to thank Jeanne Paulson for being our main cook and organizer. But like all great chefs, there is also a great back up crew that helps to chop, serve, and clean up.

This meal has been a great asset to all our families who have children/youth that attend on Wednesday night as well as many folks from our congregation and our community that enjoy the wonderful meals that Jeanne and her crew provide.

If you would love to help out in the kitchen on Wednesday nights with some food prep, serving or cleaning up please call the church office 605-886-4427. If you'd like to help with only parts that would be great, we all have our talents and desires.

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.

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 Or use the QR code.



Worship Notes

AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH

Shoebox Christmas



It's that time of the year when we start to collect for the Shoebox Christmas Project. We will be collecting shoeboxes and gifts for the children on the Native American Reservations in ND, SD, & MN.

The gift boxes are for Infants and Toddlers to 17 years old. All gifts must be able to fit inside a shoebox (but we have some pretty good sized boxes).

A collection box will be at the back of the sanctuary for the month of August. Please help us fill it to overflowing. Thanks for supporting our mission project.

Morning Glories Women's Fellowship & Missional Group

Ideas for Shoebox Gifts...No Clothing Please!

Infant & Toddlers:

- Small Fleece Blankets, Stuffed Animals, Bath Toys, Small Dolls, Trucks, Medium Size Balls, Teething Rings, Rubber Ducks, Squeezable Farm Animals

Boys & Girls 3-5 Years Old:

- Dolls, Trucks, My Little Pony, Play Dough Kits, Playdough, Monster Trucks, Match Box Cars, Dinosaurs, Airplanes, Robots, Small Back Packs, Dump Trucks, Hello Kitty Items, Balls, Race Cars, Tea Sets, Finger Paints, Puzzles, Gloves

Boys & Girls 6-8 Years Old:

- Robots, Airplanes, Matchbox Cars, Barbie Dolls, Balls, Trucks, Truck Carrier, Construction Toys, Frisbee, Flashlight, Baby Dolls, Card Games (ie. Go Fish, Crazy 8's), Puzzles, Dry Erase Boards, Dry Erase Markers, Pens, Gloves

Boys & Girls 9-11 Years Old:

- Cards (ie. UNO, Farkel) Yahtzee, Lego Toys, Nail Polish, Jewelry, Mascara, Word Search Books, Hair Items, Small Picture Frame, Gloves

Boys & Girls 12-14 Years Old:

- Body Spray, Billfolds, Jewelry, Lotion, Playing Cards, Nail Polish, Nail Polish Remover Pads, Word Search Books, UNO Cards, Yahtzee, Gloves, Water Bottles, Dominos

These are just some ideas of gifts that can be purchased for the Shoe Boxes. I'm sure you can come up with other fun things as well.

How can you help?

Donate online at www.watertownfirst.church/giving
select Mission of the Month. In the Comments Note "Shoebox Christmas"

Thank you for your generous support of Missions through First Church!

What is Shoebox Christmas?

- 20 years ago Pastor Mike Flowers and his wife, Libby, started working on the Shoebox Christmas Ministry.
- Shoebox Christmas is a ministry that provides Christmas gifts to children in need across the reservation communities in SD, ND, and the Red Lake Reservation in MN along with three homeless shelters and the Enemy Swim Day School.
- On the reservations, 70% of the children would not get Christmas gifts if not for the Shoebox Christmas gift program and the generosity of people that donate to this ministry.
- The typical recipient of a Shoebox Christmas gift lives below the poverty level. These gifts bring joy to children and parents alike.
- In 2015 the ministry grew to a collection of 6,575 gifts thanks to the generosity of people who donated to this program.
- COVID hit the program pretty hard, but in 2022 they collected 4,500 boxes.
- First UMC has a large number of shoeboxes wrapped in Christmas paper ready to fill.
- All gifts must fit inside a shoebox, but we do have some pretty good sized shoeboxes.
- When filling a box we like to include a "WOW" gift in each box. This would be something special, a larger gift of importance. After the "WOW" gift, we add smaller toys, such as color books and colors, a book to read, balls, flashlights, playdough or playing cards.
- Pastor Mike tells a story of a little boy so excited to get a toothbrush saying "Now I don't have to share with my brother!"
- Each fall churches across the Dakotas Conference collect the wrapped shoeboxes and bring them to the designated collection sites.
- First UMC's filled boxes are picked up the 2nd Sunday of November.
- A wonderful couple, Mike & Deb, drive out from MI and pick up a large trailer from Spirit Lake Ministry Center in Sheyenne ND. They then travel around ND & SD to pick up the filled boxes. We meet them at McDonalds by the interstate to transfer our boxes to their trailer.
- Last year, thanks to your donations of toys, blankets & money, we were able to fill 125 boxes with wonderful gifts for the Native American Children.
- This year we would like to reach 150 boxes with your continued help.
- **We collect Medium to Large shoeboxes throughout the year.**
- NOTE from Pastor Mike & Libby
You have shared the love of Jesus Christ and made a difference in the lives of many children and adults. I wish everyone of you could be there to witness the tears of joy when we deliver these small gifts of love.

God Bless You All, Mike & Libby