

First United Methodist Church September 2025



4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

Deepening our Roots

What a summer!

This summer – our church has been busy – we said goodbye to Pastor Bryce and welcomed Pastors Amy and Kim into our midst. We sent youth to Chicago to share God's love and learn about God's people. We gathered to learn about God through our Camp VBS. We sent 36 kids and adults to Church Camp. We baptized 7 adults and children. We prayed with and served the families during three funerals all at the same time as preparing for VBS. We planned, organized and hosted our first Sandy's Closet. We served

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at the Banquet. We gathered at Thursday Night Live, Lake Kempeska and even at Lake Area Tech.

It's been a beautiful summer of God's presence and our continued joy in our life here at First United Methodist Church.

As we head into fall, I'd like to invite you to think about your roots. Over the last 145 years here in Watertown - the roots of our collective faith have dug deep into the ground - steady and fruit bearing. We each bring the roots of our collective faith, the roots of our personal faith and the roots of our entire lives into bearing.

This fall, we will look to strengthen our lives as disciples of Christ – with opportunities for Bible Study, fellowship and individual devotion. We will look to the ways we serve – both within and beyond the church – opening our service to God. We will look toward the future – the ways that First Church will continue to serve here in Watertown and even beyond.

One of the ways I invite you to begin this strengthening of our roots is to join us in our church -wide breakthrough prayer – with an update.

Almighty God, we ask you to break through and do bold new things here at First United Methodist Church. Deepen our roots and empower us to make new disciples of Jesus Christ and change the world. Amen.

Let us pray together – connecting, serving and growing into the ways God is calling us all.

In Ministry Together,

Pastor Sara McManus

Senior Pastor

ALL ARE WELCOME



in-person & online worship services

SATURDAYS

Contemporary 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAYS

Blended 9:30 a.m.



September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1				
August 31 9:30 am Worship Only One Worship Service on Sundays	September 1 Labor Day Holiday Office Closed	8:30am Staff Mtg	3 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study— Lounge 5:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal Begins 6:00 pm Volunteer Training 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Begins	Home Communion 10 am Women's Bible Study	Office Closed	6 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship Communion
9:30 am Worship Communion Only One Worship Service on Sundays	8 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge 5:30 pm Women of Grace— Church Lounge	9 2:30 pm Staff Mtg 5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting	10 10:00 am Morning Glories Missional Group Fall Kickoff 5:15 pm Community Meal 6:00 pm Outdoor Family Movie Night "Unbreakable Boy"	10 am Women's Bible Study	12 Office Closed	13 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship Fall Kickoff
Fall Kickoff 8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 9:30 am Worship Only One Worship Service on Sundays	15 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge	11:30 am Lunch a Bunch at Pizza Ranch	17 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study— Lounge **Regular Wednesday Night Activities** See Below for Schedule	10 am Women's Bible Study 4:00 pm Staff Meeting	19 Office Closed	20 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
21 8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 9:30 am Worship Only One Worship Service on Sundays	22 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge 1 pm BUNCO in the Library	23 8:30am Staff Mtg	9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study— Lounge **Regular Wednesday Night Activities** See Below for Schedule	25 10 am Women's Bible Study	26 Office Closed	27 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 9:30 am Worship Only One Worship Service on Sundays	29 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge	30 8:30am Staff Mtg 4:30 pm Ministry Meeting	October 1 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study— Lounge **Regular Wednesday Night Activities**	5:15—6:00 p 5:30 6:00—7:1 6:3	om Community)—6:30 pm Ad	& Youth Activates nancel Choir



Weekly at First Church

Mondays

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

Wednesday Night Schedule

5:15—6:00 pm Community Meal—All are invited

5:30-6:30 pm Adult Bell Choir

6:00—7:10 pm Children & Youth Activates

6:30-7:30 pm Chancel Choir

7:10—7:30 pm Closing Worship

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—Worship Schedule

8:30 am Adult Sunday School—Lounge 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

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.



The Salvation Army is in need of food. Donations can be left at First Church or taken directly to the Salvation Army office. Thank you!



Volunteer Training

September 3rd at 6:00 pm 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.

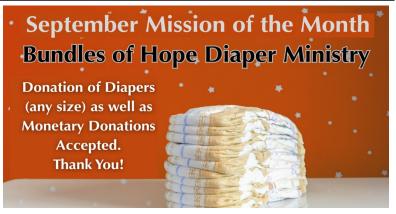
For those of you who are curious about what is involved n working with children or youth we encourage you to attend. No pressure no commitment, just a time to learn about our programing and ask any questions you might have.

Occasionally we will need substitute helpers for our activities. Prayerfully consider if this might be you.



Wed. September 10
Fall Kickoff at First Church
Join us for an
OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT
from 5:15 pm - 7:30pm

Includes
Community Meal
Movie and Popcorn
Closing Devotion
All are Invited!!



We plan to hold a Diaper Giveaway in October. How can you help? Donate online at www.watertownfirst.church/giving

Donate online at <u>www.watertownfirst.church/giving</u> select Mission of the Month. In the Comments Note "Diapers"

Or you can drop Diapers (any size) into the playpen at the back of the sanctuary.

Thank you to our wonderful church family for all the support you give for Missions here at First Church. We are truly blessed!



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

TUESDAY—AUGUST 12, 2025—5:30 PM

Members Present: Adam Fox, April Geffre, Josh Hartley, Stephanie Long, Sue Luken, Marcia Schneider, Doug Wishard, Pastor Kim Hastings, Pastor Amy Atkins, and Pastor Sara via ZOOM.

ABSENT: Peggy Lindahl, Sue Stern

DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER: Marcia gave the devotion titled "An Unbroken Chain" based on Deuteronomy 32.

AGENDA:

Welcome Pastor Amy Atkins and Pastor Kim Hastings to Leadership Team.

ACCESSIBILITY TEAM UPDATE: The Accessibility Team met with the architects on July 15. Plans will be taken to the congregation to see how the congregation might like to proceed.

VBS UPDATE: The theme this year was **Camp VBS**. The participation was as follows: 33 children, 16 youth volunteers, 23 adult volunteers and lots of fun. The mission this year was to support a new ministry – Sandy's Closet. There were 2585 items of clothing donated. \$1,677.39 was donated by the children and their families and the congregation.

BELL TOWER CLEANING UPDATE: There is no update.

CLOSET / CLASSROOM REORGANIZATION: Classrooms have been used as storage. Closets and classrooms are being cleaned and organized because we need the classroom space.

FALL KICK-OFF: Fall Kick-Off will be Wednesday, September 10 and the weekend of September 13 & 14.

WORSHIP TIMES: Fall worship times were discussed. Saturday worship time will continue to be at 5:00 p.m. Motion by Sue L; 2nd by Stephanie. Motion passed. – There will continue to be one worship service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning.

PASTOR UPDATES:

Pastor Sara: A request was made to Freedom's Haven Board for funds to cover the reauthorization application fees for the Krasniak Family. This is a family from Ukraine that we have helped.

A staff retreat was held on Saturday, August 2 to talk about the church ministries and set goals. Ephesians 6:16-17 guided their work. There was a time of goal setting. The theme for the year will be Deepen Our Roots. That will also be the sermon series this fall.

Pastor Amy has been working on confirmation. The scope and sequence for the year is ready. There will be a meeting with the confirmation parents. She is contacting volunteers. A training for volunteers will be held. Cady worked with her this summer. The Youth Leadership Team will continue.

Pastor Kim is working with the care ministry. She will be forming of team of those interested in being part of the care ministry team. Another area of focus for her is meaningful discipleship.

LEADERSHIP TEAM GROUP UPDATES:

Building & Grounds: The new AC for the fellowship hall needs duct work and it will be ready to use. The air conditioner on the roof for the office area needs to be checked. Beth has been painting.

Finance: Our focus should be on growing the church. We are behind in giving. However, we are not as far behind as we were last year at this this time of the year.

SPR: This group met the first week in August. Continuing ed for pastors was shared. We have a staff that works well together. Coming in September will be a joint meeting with Clark SPR.

Ministry: We will have a table at Thursday night live on August 14. Activities are planned including a fundraiser for the diaper ministry.

Meeting concluded with the updated
Breakthrough Prayer.

Almighty God, we ask you to break through
and do bold new things at First Church.
DEEPEN OUR ROOTS and Empower us to
make new disciples of Jesus Christ, and
change the world. Amen.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be September 9, 2025 at 5:30. Devotions will be by Sue S.

Respectfully submitted
Sue Luken, substitute recording secretary

Be on the lookout for new studies, our current offerings and open to the spirit asking, are you ready to lead?

As we step into fall – ask yourself this: What does discipleship look like for you?



Saturday, August 9th—Worship at Lake Kampeska



A beautiful day for worship with 48 in attendance



Message given by our summer intern, Cady Weidner



Lake Baptisms for Kilie Raml & Bobbie Jenner

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

2000—\$8,301 Equipment for multi-midia ministries

2006—\$300 Digital Camera for Church use

2008—\$1,000 Organ Repair

2017—\$3,432 Sound Equipment

2020—\$4,835 Televisions (86") for Sanctuary

2021—\$3,195 Organ Survey and Repair

2021—\$4,082 Tech Upgrade

2021—\$1,250 Electronic Drum Set for Praise Band

2022—\$718.99 Livestream Camera Accessories

2023—\$588.93 Assisted Listening Devices

2023—Video upgrade for Nursery, Choir Loft and Fellowship Hall

2024—Guitar Amplifier Grant

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

FUMC General Budget Financials - 2025				
		Mor	nthly Actual	YTD Cash Flow
Jun-24	Income	\$	34,393	
	Expense	\$	38,906	\$ (18,182)
	Difference	\$	(4,513)	
2nd Quar- ter	Income	\$	100,254	
	Expense	\$	115,069	\$ (18,182)
	Difference	\$	(14,815)	
Jul-24	Income	\$	25,356	
	Expense	\$	41,328	\$ (34,154)
	Difference	\$	(15,972)	

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!



FIRSTKIDS

31 Children's Church Is Back!

We're excited to welcome kids in Kindergarten through 4th grade back to Children's Church during both Saturday and Sunday services this fall!

⚠ Fall Kickoff Weekend: September 13th & 14th

We'll launch the new season with a special **Heroes of Faith Rally**! Kids will begin an exciting journey learning about **Bible heroes**—real people who showed courage, faith, and trust in God.

⚠ **Family Worship Weekend**

We will **continue to take the first weekend of each month off** to worship together as families. There will be **no Children's Church** during these weekends.

Youth Volunteers Needed

We're inviting **2 youth (5th–7th grade)** each service to help assist in Children's Church. **Sign-up is located at the Welcome Center** in the back of the Sanctuary.

Fall Kickoff & Wednesday Night Ministries



2 Outdoor Movie Night − September 10th

Kick off the season with us on **Wednesday**, **September 10th**!

Bring your **pillows**, **blankets**, **or lawn chairs** and enjoy an outdoor showing of "The Unbreakable Boy". A great night for families to relax and connect.

Wednesday Night First Kids

Our First Kids Wednesday night program is full of hands-on learning and life lessons:

- •Younger kids will learn through fun, engaging themes like Legos and Spiderman.
- •Older kids will explore how to get along with others—even on hard days, growing in emotional wisdom and faith.

Jenkins Outreach

We'll continue our **monthly visits to Jenkins**, spending time with residents through **conversation and activities**—a great opportunity for kids and families to serve together.

Additional Info

Register for First Kids

Please visit the following link to ensure your child is registered for all fall programs:

https://watertownfirstumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3113360

Do you have a child interested in playing chimes or bells? We're forming a Children's Youth Bell Choir this fall!

If interested, please contact **Lori Jurgens** at 📧 lori@watertownfirst.church

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

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.



FIRSTYOUTH



Wednesday Nights at First Fall Kickoff

Join us for a OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT from 5:15 pm - 7:30pm

Includes
Community Meal
Movie and Popcorn
Closing Devotion

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.



September 17th COVENANT: Connect, Grow, Serve

Join us for our first night of youth activities. Together we will build a group covenant about how we will help create a place where all can CONNECT, GROW, and SERVE through games and small group time.

September 24th CONNECT NIGHT—7th to 12th

Connect nights will be a combination of activities focused on building relationships, new skills, and a chance to engage with others.

October 10th-12th
DAKYOUTH—ABERDEEN

OCTOBER 25th-26th
YOUTH LOCK IN 7th—12th Graders



October 10-12, 2025 in Aberdeen, SD 7th—12th Grade

Cost: \$70 includes event shirt, (\$85 after 9/25/25 but no shirt.)

Scholarships are available.

Please talk or email Pastor Amy to request financial support.

"Living for God"

Job 23:11

DAKYOUTH is an annual youth event for both middle school and high school youth in the Dakotas Conference. Youth gather from all around the conference to learn about leadership, discipleship, and service. There are engaging speakers, workshops, inspiring worship, and fun entertainment for all to enjoy.

To register to attend DAKYOUTH please send to following information to **youth@watertownfirst.church**. A sign up sheet will also be available at the church during worship and Wednesday activities.

F	ULL NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	GRADE	PHONE NUMBER	T-SHIRT SIZE	
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After your student is registered you will receive an email with required forms for attendance to complete.

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 Don Hoefert who passed away on August 4, 2025. Don is the husband of Colleen Hoefert.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN ASSIST	TED LIVING OR NURSING HOMES
Edgewood Assisted Living 901 14th Ave NE—Watertown, SD 57201	Audrey Rhodes #416—Wes Larson #413 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)

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

October 1, 2025

"Finding the Best Option for Facility Living" by Jill Opdahl, Social Worker at Prairie Lakes Healthcare System.

<u>PLEASE NOTE:</u> 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:		
2-Sep	Graclynn Hill		
3-Sep	Renee Luckhurst		
3-Sep	Danny Baxter		
3-Sep	Jordon Weidner		
3-Sep	Nathan Odegard		
4-Sep	Jack Luckhurst		
6-Sep	Shane Hardie		
6-Sep	Jeff Enstad		
7-Sep	Chet Togel		
8-Sep	Alli Urevig		
8-Sep	Erika Zink		
9-Sep	Wyatt Vin Krueger		
10-Sep	Suzette Hiedeman		
11-Sep	Brynn Rycraft		
12-Sep	Cash John Myers		
12-Sep	Marlene Nogelmeier		
12-Sep	Jaina Johnson		
13-Sep	Jason Hartford		
13-Sep	Deanna Ward		
14-Sep	Sean Fenenga		
15-Sep	Cullen Moyer		
15-Sep	Wendell Bruns		
16-Sep	Ilah Stern		
17-Sep	Kegan Henrickson		
18-Sep	Cooper Arnold		
18-Sep	Steven Feeney		
18-Sep	Janice Sharp		
18-Sep	Ryan Zink		
18-Sep	Tony Norton		
18-Sep	Kalie Hiedeman		
19-Sep	Paizlee Meek		
19-Sep	Ryan Kremer		
19-Sep	Audrey Rohde		
20-Sep	Ordean Stern		
20-Sep	Alayna Nelson		

Birthday	Happy Birthday To:
22-Sep	Libby Olerud
22-Sep	Daniel Melius
22-Sep	Sally Sorensen
23-Sep	Dallis Wangen
23-Sep	Norman Luken
24-Sep	Billie Jo Meyer
24-Sep	Jason Kasparek
24-Sep	Joan Schwenn
24-Sep	Samantha Bruns
24-Sep	Briley Koistinen
25-Sep	Madison Weidner
25-Sep	Phyllis Diggs
25-Sep	Steve Stydel
25-Sep	Mike Kotlan
26-Sep	Bruce Erlandson
26-Sep	Thomas Wight
26-Sep	Kim Hastings
27-Sep	David Buechler
27-Sep	Chuck Engels
28-Sep	Amanda Schaaf
28-Sep	Darwin Lentz
28-Sep	Millard Roe
29-Sep	Brad Enstad
29-Sep	Janet Tesch
29-Sep	Amy Atkins
30-Sep	Nash Buechler
30-Sep	Heath Hanson
30-Sep	Mahlon Boughton
30-Sep	Jenna Jorgenson
30-Sep	Marta Hoffman
30-Sep	Julie Kotlan

30-Sep Stacy Smith



Anniversary	Happy Anniversary To:
4-Sep	Jordon & Brittany Weidner

7-Sep Nathan & Jasmine Odegard10-Sep Dalton & Delaney Krueger10-Sep Joshua & Erin Murphy

11-Sep Greg McDonald & Beth Mantey12-Sep Wade & Becky Fiebelkorn

16-Sep David & Lea AnnAlwin16-Sep Jason & Heidi Hartford

17-Sep Robert & Elaine Mack18-Sep Michael & Megan Wight

19-Sep David & Davee Buechler20-Sep Anthony & Lisa Cady

23-Sep Kenny & Tasha Mayer

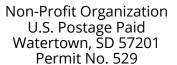
24-Sep Desi & Meranda Reis25-Sep Brandon & Kerri Johnson

27-Sep Darin & Taylor Wellman

28-Sep Wacey & Mandy Ward

Be on the lookout for new studies, our current offerings and open to the spirit asking, are you ready to lead?

As we step into fall – ask yourself this: What does discipleship look like for you?





First United Methodist Church P.O. Box 1416 Watertown, SD 57201

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

September 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

Marilyn Spurrell

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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