



First United Methodist Church December 2025



4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

Word from our Pastor:

Hello Church!

Somehow we are already prepping for Thanksgiving, with December just around the corner. It has been such a joy the last few months getting to know you and learning about the traditions here at Watertown First UMC. In addition to your welcoming spirit, one of the things I have loved to watch the most is your giving attitude. For a few years now, Advent takes on this air of giving and we get to continue that for another season.

The Advent Alternative Gift Fair is your opportunity to give in a way that spreads Holiday cheer throughout the world and lasts longer than just one day. There are options to give internationally – through Heifer International, statewide – through Feeding South Dakota, locally – through Glacial Lakes Humane Society and internally – to the Carillon Bell System. For each organization, there is more information of what they do and how your gift matters. From teaching people how to feed themselves long term and create economy in their villages, to saving food that would have otherwise gone to waste, protecting animals in the greater Watertown area and the bells that toll signifying a place of sanctuary – your gift is immeasurably larger than just dollars given.

As a token of appreciation, with your gift, you will receive a wooden mitten ornament and a sticker for each organization to remember the ways your gift was a helping hand to others. If you would like to designate the gift in honor or memory of a loved one, you will also receive an ornament to place on a tree in the sanctuary – where we can all see how many hands come together to create big change. There will also be physical products available at the Carillon Bell area – hand crafted items made by our quilting group and others, that can be purchased and the funds will go towards the Carillon Bells as well.

Our theme for Advent and Christmas this year comes from “O Holy Night”, in the third verse we are reminded that by living the example of Christ will lead to chains of oppression being broken around the world. This call to action is about more than finances, but rather a reminder to always love our neighbor. Let us love all this holiday season in gifts, word and action. Happy Thanksgiving, my friends, I’m truly grateful to be serving each of you!

In ministry together,

Pastor Kim Hastings

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Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Wednesday, December 24
4:00 pm Contemporary Worship
7:00 pm Traditional Worship

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov. 30 8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 9:30 am Worship	1 10:30 am Staff Mtg 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge 5:30 pm Women of Grace Movie Night—Church Lounge	2	3 10:30 am Morning Glories Missional Group—Fellowship Hall **Regular Wednesday Night Activities 6:00 pm Book Study—Lounge	4 Home Communion 10 am Women's Bible Study	5	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 Family Worship Weekend
7 8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 9:30 am Worship Communion Family Worship Weekend	8 10:30 am Staff Mtg 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge	9 4-9 pm Jaycee's Shopping Tour—FH	10 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge **Regular Wednesday Night Activities 6:00 pm Book Study—Lounge	11 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
14 8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 9:30 am Worship	15 10:30 am Staff Mtg 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge Memory Care Services 1:30 pm Edgewood 2:30 pm Cedarview	16 11:30 am Lunch a Bunch at Pizza Ranch	17 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge Cocoa & Caroling at Jenkins, Maple Place, Townview etc. All are invited to join the children & youth 6:00 pm Book Study—Lounge	18 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 9 am—Noon PRACTICE: Children's Christmas Program 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
Meals on Wheels—Call Debbie Engels if you'd like to help 605-881-6672						
21 8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 9:30 am Worship Children's Christmas Program during Worship <i>Followed by a Pot Luck Dinner in Fellowship Hall</i>	22 10:30 am Staff Mtg 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 4 pm Contemporary 7 pm Traditional	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	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
28 8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 9:30 am Worship	29 Office Closed Christmas Holiday	30 Office Closed Christmas Holiday	31 Office Closed Christmas Holiday NO Wednesday Night Activities	January 1 New Year's Eve Day Office Closed	Jan 2 Office Closed	Jan 3 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship Communion Family Worship Weekend

Weekly at First Church

Mondays

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

Wednesday Night Schedule

4:15—5:00 pm Children's Bell Choir Rehearsal
 5:15—6:00 pm Community Meal—All are invited
 5:30—6:30 pm Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal
 6:15 pm Book Study in the Lounge
 6:00—7:10 pm Children & Youth Activities
 6:30—7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 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—**Not in Dec.**

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—**See Calendar**

2nd Wednesday of the Month

10 am Morning Glories Women's Fellowship/Mission Group—**See Calendar**

1st Thursday of the Month—Home Communion

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

Thank you to our foundation!!!

We are excited to share that with funding from our foundation, the bell tower has been cleaned out and decontaminated. We are able to repair the space and prepare to install a new carillon system. Thank you!



Calling all Women:

Women of Grace is hosting a movie night on Monday, Dec 1st at 5:30 pm in the church lounge. We will be showing the movie "The Star" which tells the Christmas story through the eyes of the donkey that carried Mary to Bethlehem. This event is open to all women so please plan to join us for some fun adult conversation around a great Christmas movie. Feel free to bring snacks to share.



Sunday, December 21 Potluck Dinner Following worship in Fellowship Hall

All are invited to join us for a good old Methodist Potluck Dinner following worship. If you have a standby you always use for potlucks, please call the church office to let us know what you'll bring. Otherwise if your last name starts with this letter, please bring the item listed...Thank you!

A-G—Bring a Salad

H—P—Bring a Main Dish

Q—Z—Bring a Dessert

NOTE: Children's Christmas Program will be during worship on Dec. 21—See page 7 for details.

December Mission of the Month—

Advent Alternative Gift Giving with the following options to support...



International = Heifer Project



National = Feeding SD



Local = Glacial Lakes Humane Society



Internal = Carillon Bell System Fund

- Note: There will be tangible items at the Carillon Bell booth that you may purchase if you wish. All proceeds will go towards the Carillon Bell Fund.
- Wooden mitten ornaments will be available for you when you make a donation along with a sticker to represent each mission you donate to. These are for you to take home and put on your tree.
- Cardstock mitten ornaments are available for you to designate in memory or honor of someone and put on the tree in the sanctuary.
- Thank you for your support of Missions at First Church!

Music & Worship

We believe music is a powerful way to connect with God and uplift the hearts of our church. That's why we invite you to join our **Praise Band!**

Whether you enjoy singing, playing an instrument, or would like to learn—we'd love for you to share your talents with us. Together, we'll create a worship experience that inspires and brings people closer to God.

Contact David at 605-868-4037 or Lea Ann 605-868-1066

Shoebox Christmas 2025 Wapila! (Lakota word for Thanks)

The Morning Glories ladies would like to say Wipila to everyone for your super support of our Shoebox Christmas project.

This year when Mike & Debbie Jehl of Michigan stop in Watertown they will pick up 345 boxes! First UMC filled 125 boxes, Our Savior Lutheran of Waubay filled 75 boxes, and Zion Lutheran Church of Roslyn filled 30 boxes.

We are truly blessed by everyone's help this year. This project has recently grown since our first year when we had a total of 165 boxes. Thanks for all the donations of toys and monetary gifts. We are overwhelmed by your support.

Please continue to remember our Shoebox Christmas mission during this holiday season when the stores are filled with toys. When you shop, please buy an extra gift for the Native American Children.

Our collection box is located in the hallway by the church offices.

Thanks again. Wapila.

Morning Glories Women's Fellowship & Missional Group

First UMC Foundation Fact

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

1997—\$2,300 Underwriting of salary for Director of Volunteers & Program Ministries

1998—\$2,400 Parsonage 2 roof repair

1999—\$1,325 Lake Poinsett Camp Beach Restoration

2000—\$1,500 First UMC for Church Leadership Retreat at Lake Poinsett Camp

2005—\$3,500 Engineering study for possible air conditioning in church sanctuary

2012—\$1,736.55 FUMC new Bibles for 3rd graders and others

2022—\$5,000 Elevator Study

2023—\$13,500 FUMC Accessibility Assessment

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

First Church Finances

FUMC General Budget Financials - 2025			
		Monthly Actual	YTD Cash Flow
3rd Qtr	Income	\$ 89,163	
	Expense	\$ 111,472	\$ (44,585)
	Difference	\$ (22,309)	
Oct-25	Income	\$ 42,542	
	Expense	\$ 37,990	\$ (40,033)
	Difference	\$ 4,552	

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 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.

Leadership Team Meeting

November 11, 2025 5:35 p.m.

Members present: Pastor Sara, Peggy Lindahl, Sue Luken, April Noem Marcia Schneider, Stephanie Long, Adam Fox, Doug Wishard and Sue Stern

Members Absent: Josh Hartley, Pastor Kim, and Pastor Amy.

Devotion & Opening Prayer was given by Pastor Sara:

Accessibility Team update: Will be calling a meeting and making a plan. Two plans have been submitted. One for \$400,000 the other for \$1.2 million. The \$400,000 is using the current lift area and a second lift.

The Bell Tower is cleaned. Screens need to be repaired. The ladders to get into the tower need to be replaced. They are in pretty bad shape. The top level support beams need to be replaced. Will need to contact a contractor to get this done. Carillon bells replacement funds are at approximately \$11,500. We need about \$20,000 to replace the system. Advent additional giving will be pinpointed for this.

Pastor Updates: Pastor Sara reported that giving has been solid. She is focusing on Advent. She reported that Pastor Kim did the funeral on Monday. She has been doing home communion. Pastor Kim lost her grandmother last week.

Building and Grounds: Drain under the dishwasher is leaking. The van has not been repaired yet. Doug will get in contact with the mechanic on this. He will see if he can start it and drive it out there.

Finance: April reported the giving for this period is \$42,542.31 with expenses being \$37,990.12 for a difference of \$4,552.19. October was a good month but still short for the year to date. Pastor credit cards was brought up. Peggy moved to increase the line of credit limit by \$2,000 with a second from Adam. All aye. Motion by Stephanie to transfer Pastor Bryce's \$2000 card to Amy. Second by Marcia. All aye.

Staff Parish Relations Committee: Sue Luken reported that SPRC met on November 4. All required year end paperwork has been submitted to the conference office. October was pastor and staff appreciation month. Many cards and letters were written for the pastors and staff. Sharing Pastor Kim with Clark UMC seems to be going well. Both churches are flexible with her schedule. Our next joint Meeting with Clark SPR will be December 11 via ZOOM. We will be interviewing applicants for leadership. We have two applications. This is Peggy's last LT

meeting. "I want to thank her for her serving on LT and all that she has contributed to LT and the church. I also want to thank her for being my SPR partner."

Pastor Sara reminded the Team that we will need to appoint a Co-Chair for the Leadership Team and also as Peggy is the recording secretary we will need a recording secretary.

Ministry: Marcia reported October: Diaper bundling completed October 7th and 9th by 4th-6th grade girls and some of the Ministry team members. Clothing and Diaper giveaway October 27th. There were 101 signed in and left forms. There were 147 diaper bundles given away. We ran out of diapers size 4-7, with size 5 & 6 the first to go this time. Mission of the month for November is The Bishops Thanksgiving Offering which encourages communities to support their local food pantries. Salvation Army One Roof Program will be our mission. There will be no Community Concert this year. April presented a list of food items to be purchased for around \$100 that would make 10 meals. Each meal bundled into a ziplock bag with a recipe. April will discuss this with youth and congregation to help. Pastor Kim made a motion to present to congregation that Missions will match up to \$2000 of what the congregation can contribute. Motion was 2nd by Sue. Motion passed. On Leadership Team's approval, April will submit a grant request to the Foundation to also match up to \$2000. These meals would all be distributed to the Salvation Army and Beacon Center as well as some kept at church for families who may stop by and ask for food. The name of the Mission will be "Stable Blessings", thanks to our Pastor Kim. Advent – alternative gift giving begins November 29-30 and runs through December 20-21, 4 weeks. Booths this year: Internal Mission – Carillon Bells, Local - Humane Society, National - Feeding SD, International - Heifer Project. Curious Creations on Saturday November 8th went well. Progressive Dinner put on hold due to volunteers and accessibility of the building. No event in December. January's event – Dance Exploration. Women of Faith who meet First Monday of the month are hosting a Women's Christmas Party, snacks will be provided and show the movie "The Star". All will be invited.

Next meeting January 20, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m. Devotion will be given by April.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Lindahl, Recording Secretary

The Watertown Sandwich Ministry

- A non-denominational ministry available for all of Watertown citizens housed out of the Lutheran Church of our Redeemer. An all-volunteer program running entirely by donations and grants.

- Presently about 280 sack lunches are made and delivered 3 times each week. Sack lunches include a meat & cheese sandwich, 2 homemade cookies, a banana, & an extra item such as a cereal bar, pudding, cereal, mac-n-cheese, etc. On Monday's a bible verse is included in the bags to keep spreading the love of Jesus.

- Recipients of the program are the elderly, persons with a physical or mental disability, those who may be financially disadvantaged, and young children. The only requirement to receive this service is that they reside in an apartment or mobile home.

- Ways to help (program runs on MWF)

- ◇ 7:30—8:00 am Set Up Bags
- ◇ 8:00—9:00 am Fill Bags
- ◇ 9:00—10:00 am Full & Substitute Drivers
- ◇ Bake Cookies
 - ◆ Use your own recipe
 - ◆ Use our prepackaged kits (with dry ingredients only) that can be picked up at LCOOR
 - ◆ Use frozen cookie dough "pucks" that can be picked up at LCOOR
- ◇ Put address labels on bags (3 hours every 2 weeks)
- ◇ Donate cookie ingredients (flour, sugar, oatmeal, brown sugar, chocolate or butterscotch chips)
- ◇ Thrivent grant cards
- ◇ Monetary donations
- ◇ Prayers that this program will continue to help Watertown citizens in need.

If you have any questions, please contact Nyla Bergan @ 605-520-0035 or LCOOR @605-886-2696.

Below is a breakdown of expenses for the year. Please consider sponsoring one of the line items to help further our mission.

First Church Connection = Gloria VanDykhorst

Date	Produce	Bread	Meat	Cheese	Feeding SD	Bags	Cookie Ingredients	Cost
Oct	\$ 417.40	\$ 505.99	\$ 50.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,102.53		\$ 132.02	\$ 2,507.94
Nov	\$ 514.80	\$ 465.39	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,495.74		\$ 59.40	\$ 3,135.33
Dec	\$ 514.80	\$ 451.84		\$ 300.00	\$ 330.11	\$ 715.52		\$ 2,312.27
Jan	\$ 512.69	\$ 394.37	\$ 250.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,368.33		\$ 278.43	\$ 3,103.82
Feb	\$ 464.00	\$ 171.05	\$ 300.00		\$ 528.52	\$ 71.77		\$ 1,535.34
March	\$ 510.40	\$ 299.56		\$ 300.00	\$ 544.11	\$ 371.08	\$ 612.71	\$ 2,637.86
April	\$ 510.40	\$ 238.56		\$ 285.00	\$ 230.00			\$ 1,263.96
May	\$ 324.80	\$ 288.76		\$ 325.00	\$ 55.89	\$ 37.59	\$ 152.20	\$ 1,184.24
June	\$ 674.00	\$ 354.02	\$ 240.00		\$ 1,681.39	\$ 338.04	\$ 717.62	\$ 4,005.07
July	\$ 719.00	\$ 196.80			\$ 993.41			\$ 1,909.21
Aug	\$ 766.00	\$ 281.12	\$ 296.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 661.32	\$ 28.17	\$ 312.00	\$ 3,094.61
Sept	\$ 748.00	\$ 373.68	\$ 250.00		\$ 1,409.68	\$ 452.45	\$ 121.11	\$ 3,354.92
Total	\$ 6,676.29	\$ 4,021.14	\$ 1,686.00	\$ 2,860.00	\$ 10,401.03	\$ 2,014.62	\$ 2,385.49	\$ 30,044.57



Children's Christmas Program and Potluck Dinner

Practice: Sat. Dec. 20th, 10 am - Noon

**Program Sunday, December 21
During the 9:30 am Worship Service
Followed by a Potluck Dinner**



**Wednesday, December 17
5:15-6:00 pm Community Meal
6:00-7:30 pm Cocoa & Caroling**



**Wednesday, December 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
4 pm Contemporary
7 pm Traditional**

**Christmas Break
Dec. 24, 2025 - Jan. 4, 2026**



**No Wednesday Night Activities during
Christmas break
No Children's Church on January 3-4
Merry Christmas**

Curious Creations: Pie Crust & Patience,

was held at First UMC in November with an intergenerational group of 12. We laughed, we learned from each other and of course, made and ate some pie and then had a short study on Patience. It was a fun time!

Looking forward to our January Curious Creation Event—Dance Evolution. Stay tuned for details.



"Stable Blessings" is an idea formulated by one of our members. The idea is to create shelf stable meals in a bag. These will be distributed to the Beacon Center, the Salvation Army, 212 Flats and some will remain here at First Church so we can serve those who call for food assistance. The cost of each meal bag is \$10 and will include all items including a recipe.

Due to the overwhelming response by our Church family we have met the monetary goal of \$2000 which has been matched by our Ministry & Missions Committee.

Some adults & youth did some shopping & the youth then did some assembling of bags. We have more shopping to do but are excited about this mission. We have already begun to distribute these bags.

If you know of someone in need of a Meal in a Bag, please contact the church office. 605-886-4427.



FIRSTKIDS K-3 Grade

FIRSTSQUAD 4-6 Grade

FALL 2025 CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

- * No Children's Church December 6th and 7th-Family Worship Weekend
- * December 13th and 14th-We will wrap up our Bible Hero Study with Jesus as our Hero!
- * December 20th: Celebration of Christmas during Children's Church, we will be decorating cookies.
- * December 21st: Children's Christmas Program
- * January 7th: Welcome Back First Kids and Youth
- * January 10th and 11th: We will kick off our new unit: Fruits of the Spirit



Children's Christmas Program and Potluck Dinner

Practice: Sat. Dec. 20th, 10 am - Noon

**Program Sunday, December 21
During the 9:30 am Worship Service
Followed by a Potluck Dinner**

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

Children's Ministry

◇ **WEDNESDAYS**

- ◇ Dec 3-First Kids—To Jenkins, First Squad Craft
- ◇ Dec 10-First Squad—To Jenkins, First Kids Craft
- ◇ Dec 17-Cocoa, Christmas Goodies & Caroling

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS

- ◇ Dec. 6-7—Family Worship Weekend—No Children's Church
- ◇ Dec. 13-14—Regular Children's Church
- ◇ Dec. 20-21—Regular Children's Church
- ◇ Dec. 27-28—Christmas Break
- ◇ Jan. 3-4—Family Worship Weekend—No Children's Church

UPCOMING EVENTS—

- ◇ Sat. Dec. 20—Christmas Program Practice 9 am—Noon
- ◇ Sun. Dec. 21—Children's Christmas Program followed by an all church Potluck Dinner
- ◇ Dec. 24—Jan 4—No Children's Activities—Christmas Break

To all of you who volunteer with First Kids and Youth,
We could not do this without you. We are so grateful and thankful for all of you. You bring joy, love, hope, and peace not only to the children and youth but also to our lives as well. We consider you not only friends, but family as well. I know that since I have been the Children's Minister here at First Church it has been a true joy to get to know each of you and we continue to grow together in learning about each other, sharing our fun times and hard times, leaning on each other, making each other laugh, and growing together in Christ. You may not feel like you are touching the children and youth's lives, but you are. I see it in their smiles, the hugs they want to give to you, and when they ask where you are when you are not here. It is wonderful how when we get stumped for an idea on what we want to do for a craft or project, you all are not afraid to offer us an idea or just say hey let's do this - that's what families and friends do. I hope you know how much you are all loved and appreciated. Again, without you we could not do what we do. To those that have stepped up to help on Wednesday Nights in the kitchen, thank you! If you haven't come on a Wednesday Night come and join us - we have a lot of fun. On the week-ends - Thank you to the Praise Band for lifting us up and including the kids at the end of worship- they can't wait to get upstairs and join you all. I know I am missing others so - Thank you to everyone who helps out - You are all important and loved!!

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

**UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**
PLEASE EXCUSE OUR MESS

I hope this message finds you well. As we enter November, the adults working with the youth at Watertown First United Methodist Church met to discuss some feedback from youth and volunteers working with us on Wednesday Nights this fall. The transition from full time staff to part time staff and volunteer support for our youth has of course been met with a few bumps along the way. We are working to address these needs as they come up so we can continue to provide a place where our youth can grow, connect and serve as they grow closer to each other and God.

This year we have had anywhere between 25-35, 7th-12th graders attend activities on Wednesday nights. It is amazing to have all of these youth with us on Wednesday. However, the larger number of students have led us to decide that is in time to move towards separate Middle School and High School youth groups so that we can allow for a smaller group environment to encourage growth and discussion.

On November 5th the youth began to meet as two separate groups: Middle School Youth and High School Youth. The middle school youth group separates into two smaller groups so that confirmation can continue to meet as scheduled.

A big thanks to April Noem and Bobbie Jenner who are leading the high school and middle school groups while I teach confirmation. I also want to thank all of the adults who have volunteered on Wednesday Nights and at youth events so that we can find new ways to walk with our youth as they live out their faith.

As we continue to discern what is next, please excuse the bumps along the way. Our hope is that we are able to equip our youth to help create a place where God may work through them.

In Christ
Pastor Amy

Winter Connection

Sioux Falls First UMC

January 30-31, 2026
\$40 per participant

Youth in grades 8-12 and youth leaders are invited to a weekend of worship, fun, mission, and learning with churches from across the region!



For more information and registration scan the QR code or go to:
<https://www.dakotasumc.org/dakyouth/happenings/winter-connection>



December 3
Confirmation

Jesus: God with Us

MS Youth

Advent(ure): Waiting is Hard

HS Youth

Tis the Season: Create Christmas Cards for Caroling

December 10
Confirmation

MENTOR NIGHT

Advent and Christmas

MS Youth

Advent(ure) awaits you

HS Youth

History of Christmas

December 17
Confirmation

Cocoa & Caroling (Jenkins)

MS Youth & HS Youth

Cocoa & Caroling (Alt. Locations)

December 24 & 31
WINTER BREAK
NO WEDNESDAY
NIGHT ACTIVITIES

SAVE THE DATE

WINTER CONNECTION
JANUARY 30th—31st
8th-12th Grade

CONFIRMATION CAMP
Lake Poinsett
FEBRUARY 27th—28th

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

FIRST FAMILY AND FRIENDS

THANK YOU

A special thank you and reminder to all caregivers. Thank you for the ways you live out your faith by loving your family and caring for them.
This Advent Season – don't forget to take time for yourself!

MEMORY CARE SERVICES: Once a month we gather with residents at two of our memory care units in town for a time of worship. There is singing, the sharing of scripture, prayer and Holy Communion.

Memory Care Services will be held on the third Monday of each month;

Dec. 15 - 1:30 pm at Edgewood Memory Care - 420 9th St SE

Dec. 15 - 2:30 pm at Cedar View - 225 14th Ave NE

We invite and encourage everyone to join us for these worship services.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN ASSISTED LIVING OR NURSING HOMES

Edgewood Cedar View Assisted Living 225 14th Ave NE—Watertown, SD 57201	Dorothy Irwin Kent Hegstrom
Edgewood Assisted Living 901 14th Ave NE—Watertown, SD 57201	Audrey Rhodes #412—Wes Larson #413 Bonnie Lien #105—Karen Ostrander #424
Edgewood Memory Care 901 14th Ave NE—Watertown, SD 57201	Tom Baxter
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
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)

December 3, 2025

"Caregiver Christmas" by Dar Fuchs and Friends

January 7, 2026

"Safe Hands, Calm Hands" (Teepa Snow) by Christina Ruml, State Ombudsman for State of SD.

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.



Birthdate	Happy Birthday To:
1-Dec	Kaden Raml
2-Dec	Jerry Leadabrand
2-Dec	Michael Nogelmeier
2-Dec	Michael Williams
2-Dec	Cynthia Blair
2-Dec	Cassie Kasperek
3-Dec	Stanley Jongbloed
4-Dec	Diane Kludt
4-Dec	Jeanne Sherman
4-Dec	Lester Urban
4-Dec	Cassandra Fonder
4-Dec	Violet Solum
5-Dec	Austin Hanson
5-Dec	Sterling Corvin
6-Dec	Kolyns Wellman
7-Dec	Joe Jellis
8-Dec	Chad Voelsch
8-Dec	Teresa Remmers
9-Dec	Marsha Dahl
10-Dec	Mark Arnold
10-Dec	Julie Stevenson
10-Dec	Rochelle Hunter
10-Dec	Ginger Myers
11-Dec	Peggy Curtis
11-Dec	Noelle Heuer
11-Dec	Lauren Olerud
12-Dec	Anthony Cady
12-Dec	Michael Barr Jr
14-Dec	Connie Sue Bridge
14-Dec	Gretta Dahl
15-Dec	Jamie Veeder
15-Dec	Karen Pruitt
15-Dec	Jennifer Heggelund
15-Dec	Lynn Solberg
15-Dec	Ashley Edwards
15-Dec	Destiny Seidell
15-Dec	Caleb Clark
16-Dec	Beth Decker
16-Dec	Chad VanDerLinden
17-Dec	Annie Aason
17-Dec	Chloe Billings
17-Dec	Alexander Fonder

Birthdate	Happy Birthday To:
18-Dec	Joyce Swenson
18-Dec	Elaine Mack
18-Dec	Dean Fenenga
18-Dec	Holly Solberg
18-Dec	Tim Jorgenson
18-Dec	Delaney Krueger
18-Dec	Sarah Leadabrand
18-Dec	Greyson Rycraft
19-Dec	Virginia Skinner
19-Dec	Cassandra Jurgens
20-Dec	Brooke Hanson
20-Dec	Madison Williams
20-Dec	Wyatt Smunk
21-Dec	Cindy Wishard
22-Dec	Malakai Maskovich
23-Dec	Pearl Geffre
24-Dec	Carolyn Wilkens
25-Dec	Randy Middleton
25-Dec	Ashley Fox
25-Dec	Kylie Fonder
26-Dec	Keri Smith
27-Dec	Kinley Rymerson
29-Dec	Justin Raml
29-Dec	Jenni Wirkus
29-Dec	Josiah Maskovich
30-Dec	Thomas Myers



Anniversary	Happy Anniversary To:
16-Dec	Thomas & Sandra Halajian
21-Dec	Lester & Marcia Urban
27-Dec	Steven & Marlys Ching
28-Dec	Doug & Cindy Wishard



Our deepest sympathy is extended to:

All the family and friends of
Michele A. Palm who passed away
on November 4, 2025.

Michele is the daughter of Dale & Donna
McElhany and the mother of Olivia Palm
and Thomas McElhany.

You're invited:

The family of Virginia Skinner would like
to invite you all to an

Open House Celebration for Virginia's 100th Birthday!

Sunday, December 21st from 2-4 pm

311 7th Ave SW

Hope to see you there!



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!



The Salvation Army Angel Tree will be at
the back of the First UMC Sanctuary
from **Wed. Nov. 19—Wed. Dec. 10.**

Grab a tag, shop for the items, and return the
gifts to the church by Dec. 14th. Do Not Wrap
Them. The gifts will go the Salvation Army for
them to distribute as needed. Thank you in ad-

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

December 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

Regular Worship Times

Saturdays, 5:00 pm—Contemporary

Sundays, 9:30 am—Blended

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Wednesday, December 24

4 pm Contemporary

7 pm Traditional

Advent Sermon Series



O Holy Night



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • 4 2ND AVE SE • PO BOX 1416 • WATERTOWN, SD 57201 •
605-886-4427