



## 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

605.886.4427

### OFFICE HOURS

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

### WEBSITE

www.watertownfirst.church

**Custodian - Beth Schutt**

**Music & Chancel Choir Director - Blair Titze**

**Bell Choir Director - Marilyn Spurrell**

**Organists - Blair Titze & Lesa Dahl**

**Contemp. Worship Coordinator - Lea Ann Alwin**

**Band Leader - Dave Alwin**

**Wedding Coordinator - Kathy Mielitz**

Welcome to  
First United  
Methodist Church

Saturday December 13, 2025 • 5:00 pm

## PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

### WELCOME

#### \*OPENING SONGS

*Blessed Be Your Name*  
*Holy Forever (Christmas)*

#### ADVENT CANDLE

*Emmanuel*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS / PRAYER TIME

#### TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Join in singing “*Away in a Manger*”.

#### MESSAGE

*Sweet Hymns of Joy*  
*Luke 1:39-55*  
Rev. Sara McManus

#### OFFERING

#### REFLECTION SONG

*Light of the World*

#### OFFERING PRAYER

#### CLOSING SONG

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

#### \*BLESSING

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

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

### Mark your calendars:

- ♦ Mon. Dec. 15—Memory Care Services
  - ◇ 1:30 pm at Edgewood / 2:30 pm at Cedarview
- ♦ Wed. Dec. 17—Cocoa & Caroling
  - ◇ 5:30 pm Community Meal
  - ◇ 6:00—7:00 pm Christmas Caroling (Please Join Us)
  - ◇ 7:00—7:30 pm Back to the Church for Cocoa & Snacks
- ♦ Sat. Dec. 20—9 am—Noon Christmas Program Practice
- ♦ Sun. Dec. 21—9:30 am Children’s Christmas Program during Worship
  - ◇ 10:45 am Potluck Dinner after worship

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

**4:00 pm Contemporary Worship—7:00 pm Traditional Worship**



**Sunday, December 21**

**Children’s Christmas Program during worship**  
**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*

**If you didn’t sign up or forgot to bring a dish, please join us, we’re sure there will be plenty of food to go around.**

### It’s a Birthday Party!!

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!

**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](http://www.watertownfirst.church/giving) Or use the QR code.





# ALL ARE WELCOME

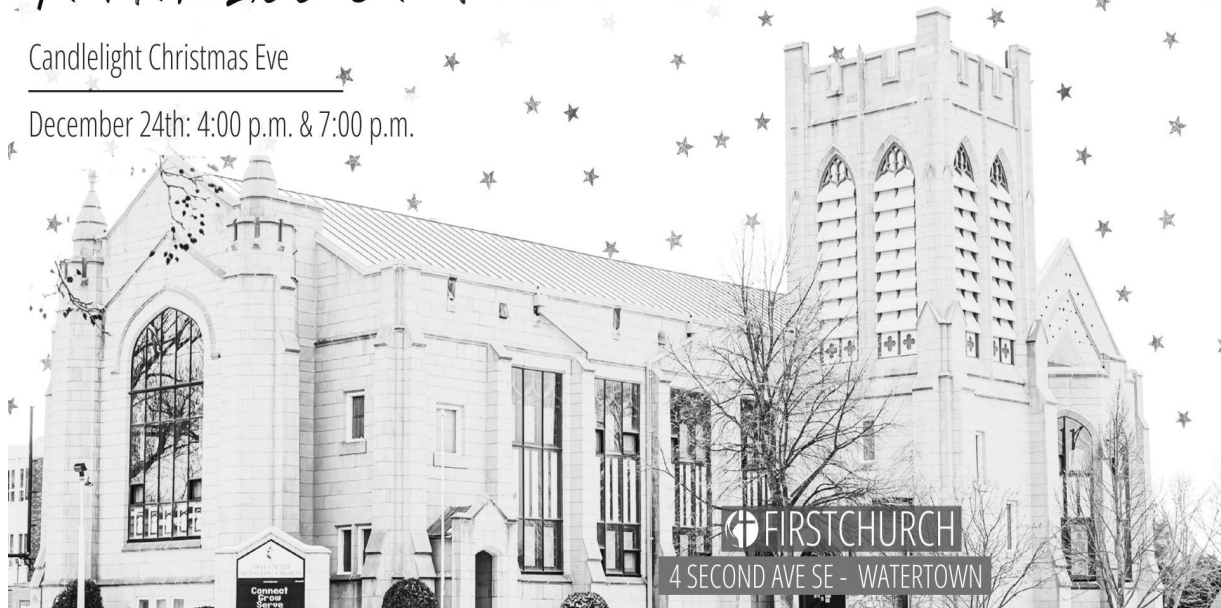
December is often one of the loneliest times of year for our friends and neighbors. If you know of someone who is struggling with grief, with loneliness, don't forget to invite them with you. Whether you welcome them to worship on the weekend, or to Christmas Eve - we want our community to know that this is a place of welcome for them. So don't forget to invite your friends.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

*A THRILL OF HOPE*

Candlelight Christmas Eve

December 24th: 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.



## THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

### **Monday, December 15**

10:30 am Staff Meeting

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

*Memory Care Services—All are invited*

1:30 pm Edgewood

2:30 pm Cedar View

### **Tuesday, December 16**

11:30 am Lunch a Bunch at Pizza Ranch

4—9 pm Jaycee's Shopping Tour—Fellowship Hall

### **Wednesday, December 17**

9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Church Lounge

4:15—5:10 pm Children's Bell Choir Rehearsal

**5:15 pm Community Meal—All are Welcome**

5:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:00—7:30 pm Caroling and Cocoa—please join the kids

6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, December 18**

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

4:00 pm Staff Meeting

### **Friday, December 19—Office Closed**

### **Saturday, December 20**

7:00 am Back Room Boys—Church Library

9:00 am Late Risers—Stones Café

10 am—Noon Christmas Program Practice

3:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal

**5:00 pm Contemporary Worship Service**

### **Sunday, December 21**

**8:15 am Adult Sunday School Class—Church Lounge**

**9:30 am Christmas Program During Worship**

**10:45 am Potluck Dinner in Fellowship Hall**

2-4 pm Virginia Skinner's 100th Birthday Party / 311 7th Ave SW

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

GATHER AND PRAISE

Prelude

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

Centering Thought:

How does music help you understand joy?

Greeting

\* Call to Worship / Advent Candle Lighting

L: Today we gather in song and prayer.

P: Today we gather to worship.

L: Today we seek joy in our hearts.

P: Today we open our hearts.

L: We light the third advent candle.

P: We kindle it with joy.

L: We raise our voices in chorus together, using all we have to praise God's name.

All: God of love, when our lives look different than we expected, you find us where we are to fill us with joy that seems unreachable without you. Amen.

Advent Song Emmanuel UMH #204

LISTEN AND PRAY

1st Reading Psalm 98

\* Act of Praise God Rest You Merry Gentlemen (vs 1,3,5) On Screens

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 Miles Anthony Clarke  
Son of Gracie Erickson & Ethan Clarke

Time for Young Disciples  
Join in singing "Away in a Manger".

Chancel Choir Anthem Where Shepherd Lately Knelt Craig Courtney  
Emma Mack, Violinist

HEAR AND REFLECT

Gospel Luke 1:39-55

Sermon Sweet Hymns of Joy Rev. Sara McManus

Reflection Moment Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus (vs 1,3,4) UMH #197

Offering  
\* Doxology What Child is This On Screens

\* Offering Prayer

\* Sending Song Joy to the World UMH #246

\* Benediction

Postlude

Thank You For Worshiping With Us Today!  
\* The congregation is invited to stand if they are able.

## Sweet Hymns of Joy

### Worship Notes

### GROW

#### Daily Scripture

M: Colossians 1: 15-20

T: Genesis 25: 19-28

W: Acts 6: 1-7

T: Psalm 113

F: John 21: 19b-24

#### Devotional Questions

1. When Methodism was first growing, hymns were their form of learning theology, which hymn has shaped your faith the most?

2. Where is God working in the what is rather than what could have been?

3. Who do you know that is blessed, but struggles to see it themselves?

#### Creative Response

Look up the history of the hymn that has shaped your faith. Then share it with another person.

### CONNECT

Luke 1: 39-55

#### One thing:

Too often we measure joy by our expectations, instead we are called to see joy in what is.

### SERVE

#### Pray:

Pray for the things we expected, that never became reality.

#### Do:

Sing a song of praise to God each day this week

#### Go:

Cocoa & Caroling with First Kids - Dec 17 @ 6pm, meet in Fellowship Hall