



CONTACT

PHONE

605.886.4427

OFFICE HOURS

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

WEBSITE

www.watertownfirst.church

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

seniorpastor@watertownfirst.church

Associate Pastor - Rev. Kim Hastings

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Associate of Youth Ministries - Rev. Amy Atkins

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Office Manager - Pearl Geffre

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Youth Ministry Coordinator - April Noem

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Children's Minister - Lori Jurgens

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Weekend Children's Leader - Bobbie Jenner

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Media and Graphic Design - Dean Gorseth

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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 February 7, 2026 • 5:00 pm

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME

*OPENING SONGS

Saved My Soul
What An Awesome God

ANNOUNCEMENTS / PRAYER TIME

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Join in singing “*This Little Light of Mine*”.

MESSAGE

Ask, Seek, Knock
Matthew 7:1-12
Rev. Sara McManus

OFFERING

REFLECTION SONG

The More I Seek You

OFFERING PRAYER

CLOSING SONG

Soul On Fire

*BLESSING

Thank You For Worshiping With Us Today!

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

February Mission of the Month “Diaper Ministry”

Donations can be made by the following:

- Make checks out to First UMC and note “Diaper Ministry” in the memo
- Cash donations welcome—note “Diaper Ministry”

- Visit www.watertownfirst.church/giving—select Mission of the Month
Note “Diaper Ministry” in the comments

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

February 18, 2026—Ash Wednesday



5:15 pm Community Meal—Fellowship Hall

6:00 pm Worship—Sanctuary



Surveys Due This Weekend Please (Feb. 7-8)

After our accessibility town hall meeting, we uploaded information to our website. www.watertownfirst.church/accessibility You can also find the flyers at the welcome center. Please fill out the survey and help us set a direction for the future of our congregation and building.

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.



JESUS' JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

Exploring discipleship, kingdom ethics, and
inclusivity through the Gospel of Luke

A 4-WEEK STUDY
Led By: Pastor Sandee Prouty-Cole

Join us this Lenten season as we walk with Jesus toward the cross and discover the transformative power of his teachings. This study will use a communal question and discussion style along with a focus on original context while discerning a personal application for today.

**TUESDAYS AT 1:00 P.M. or 6:30 P.M.
BEGINS March 10**

2026 Lenten Study

This Lent, I invite you to join me (Pastor Sara) and the Dakotas Cabinet for a look at the healing stories of Jesus – “To Be Made Well”. In a time in our world where hurt, fear, and trauma are a part of our daily lives, these stories are meant to draw us back to the Great Physician, the sources of healing, Jesus Christ. Gospel stories that will be highlighted include:

1. Pool of Bethesda—John 5:1-9—*Superintendent Dan Bader*
2. Bleeding Woman / Jarius Daughter—Mark 5:21-43; Matthew 9:18-26; Luke 8:41-56—*Superintendent Kris Mutzenberger*
3. Bent Over Woman—Luke 13:10-17—*Rev. Deann Hardy*
4. Four Friends—Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:18-26; Matthew 9:2-8 —*Superintendent Brandon Vetter*
5. Demoniac—Luke 8:26-39; Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20 —*Rev. Ron Olson*
6. Blind Bartimaeus - Mark 10:46-52; Matt 20:29-34; Luke 18:35-43—*Rev. Chang Yi*

Sign up now for Sundays or Wednesdays. Sundays (starting February 22) or Wednesdays (starting February 25) following worship!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Monday, February 9

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

Tuesday, February 10

4:30 pm Ministry/Missions Meeting

5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting

Wednesday, February 11

10:00 am Morning Glories Women's Group

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

5:15 pm Community Meal—All are Welcome

5:30 pm Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:00—6:20 pm Opening Worship—Fellowship Hall—All are Welcome

6:20—7:30 pm Children & Youth (K-12) Activities

6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 12

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

Friday, February 13—Office Closed

Saturday, February 14

7:00 am Back Room Boys—Church Library

9:00 am Late Risers—Stones Café

3:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal

5:00 pm Contemporary Worship Service

Sunday, February 15

8:15 am Adult Sunday School Class—Church Lounge

9:30 am Blended Worship Service

Monday, February 16

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

Memory Care Worship Services

1:30 pm at Edgewood / 2:30 pm at Cedar View

Tuesday, February 17

11:30 am Lunch A Bunch at Pizza Ranch

Wednesday, February 18—Ash Wednesday

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 our relationships, both familiar and unfamiliar, God asks us to start with a curiosity and an open heart. How might the golden rule help us to see others as God would?

Greeting

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer

L: Be still for a moment. What do you hear? What do you smell? What do you feel under your feet? Beloved, God is here.

P: In the familiar and unfamiliar, God is here with us.

L: Take a moment to look around. Whom do you notice? Who isn't here that you expected to see? Whether this community feels brand new or familiar to you, God is here.

P: In the familiar and unfamiliar, God is here with us.

L: Take a deep breath. We share this air, this space, this worship home together. In our breathing and worshiping in this time and place, God is here.

P: In the familiar and unfamiliar, God is here with us.

L: God is here. May we pay attention and discern how God brings us together in the familiar and the unfamiliar to be and become the Body of Christ.

ALL: May we notice and join in God's work of forming us for community as we worship today. Amen.

* **Act of Praise** *Whatever You Do* On Screens

LISTEN AND PRAY

1st Reading *Psalm 85*

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.

Time for Young Disciples Join in singing "This Little Light of Mine".

Song *Seek Ye First* UMH #405

HEAR AND REFLECT

Gospel *Matthew 7:1-12*

Sermon *Ask, Seek, Knock* Rev. Sara McManus

Reflection Moment *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* UMH #557

Offering

* **Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH #95

* **Offering Prayer**

* **Sending Song** *I Love to Tell the Story (vs 1 & 4)* UMH #156

* **Benediction**

Postlude

Thank You For Worshiping With Us Today!

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

Worship Notes



Ask, Seek, Knock

GROW
Daily Scripture
M: Hebrews 2:10-18
T: Matthew 18:10-14
W: 2 Timothy 1:3-7
T: Romans 3:21-31
F: Luke 7:1-10

Devotional Questions
1. What might God be asking of you?

2. How can you seek more thoroughly?

3. Where do you feel led to knock?

Creative Response
Try *Lectio Divina* with this week's scripture. Use the QR code for instructions.

CONNECT
Matthew 7.7-12
One thing:
When offered an opportunity, do you respond with confidence or wariness?

SERVE
Pray:
Pray for those that serve our community.

Do:
Is there something that you have been feeling nudged to do? This week, pray about it and then do it.

Go:
Join in for a Wednesday night experience - dinner at 5:15pm, worship at 6pm and various groups that follow. See the Holy Spirit at work in our children, youth and volunteers.