



# First United Methodist Church

## February 2026



FIRSTCHURCH  
4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

Greetings friends,

As we continue into our 2<sup>nd</sup> month of the year, we begin to look forward to Lent. Lent is the time of year in which we turn our hearts toward Jesus and his journey to the cross. Often Lent is a time of year for renewed spiritual practices.

Some take the time to fast, or to refrain, from something. We can decide to refrain from specific foods, such as meat or sugar, or an entire meal altogether. Some folks fast from purchases or specific activities. Maybe it's fasting from snap judgements or prejudice.

For others, Lent is a time of addition. We add spiritual practices like prayer or devotion. Some might join a Bible Study or a small group. Maybe it's a spiritual practice of watching the news or listening to other's stories.

Regardless of what we do – Lent is an opportunity to focus our hearts on God. To learn from Jesus' life and teachings, to hear God's message for us, to look into our selves and reflect on our sin and to work towards repentance. For many years, my Lenten Spiritual Practice has been to wear a clergy collar, a visible reminder to myself of who I am in Christ. You may see me begin early this year, as Bishop Plambeck has asked us to be more visible in our communities.

The journeys we all take in life and specifically in Lent are important reminders of God's presence alongside us. Even as the stories of Jesus teach us to grow in ways we've never imagined.

Our worship will focus on the ways that God moves – the transitions from place to place, like Jesus headed into the desert – the challenges away from our comfort zones – like Jesus when confronted by strangers - and even as Jesus moves toward the cross.

Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday worship at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup>.

This Lent friends, let us move with Christ!

In Christ,

Pastor Sara McManus

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**February 18, 2026—Ash Wednesday**  
**5:15 pm Community Meal—Fellowship Hall**  
**6:00 pm Worship—Sanctuary**



# February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  <b>8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge</b>  <b>9:30 am Worship Communion</b> <b>Family Worship Weekend</b>	2 10:30 am Staff Mtg <b>1:00 pm Home Communion</b>  1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge  5:30 pm Women of Grace—Church	3	4 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge  <b>**Regular Wednesday Night Activities**</b> <b>Mentor Night</b> <b>Preschool-3rd Grade to Jenkins</b>	5 10 am Women's Bible Study	6 Office Closed	7 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal <b>5:00 pm Worship</b>
8  <b>8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge</b>  <b>9:30 am Worship</b>	9 10:30 am Staff Mtg 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge	10 4:30 pm Missions Mtg 5:30 pm Leadership Team Mtg	11 10:00 am Morning Glories Women's Group  <b>**Regular Wednesday Night Activities</b>	12 10 am Women's Bible Study	13 Office Closed	14 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal <b>5:00 pm Worship</b>
15  <b>8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge</b>  <b>9:30 am Worship</b>	16 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 Cedar View	17 11:30 am Lunch a Bunch at Pizza Ranch	18 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge  <b>Ash Wednesday</b>  <b>5:15 pm Community Meal</b> <b>6:00 pm Worship</b> <b>Family Worship</b>  <b>No Regular Activities at Church this night</b>	19 10 am Women's Bible Study  4:00 pm Staff Meeting	20 Office Closed	21 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal <b>5:00 pm Worship</b>  <b>6-8 pm Curious Creations Dance Evolution Event Fellowship Hall</b>
22  <b>8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge</b>  <b>9:30 am Worship</b>  <b>10:45 am Lenten Study with Pastor Sara</b>	23 10:30 am Staff Mtg 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge	24	25 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge  <b>**Regular Wednesday Night Activities</b>  <b>6:35 pm Lenten Study with Pastor Sara</b>	26 10 am Women's Bible Study	27 Office Closed	28 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal <b>5:00 pm Worship</b>  <b>Confirmation Retreat at Lake Poinsett</b>

## Wednesday Night Schedule

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

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

6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Please Note: On the 1st Wednesday of each month our worship will be a bit longer and will include communion.**

**Weekly at First Church****Mondays**

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

**Wednesday Night Schedule**

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—6:30 pm Opening Worship—Fellowship Hall

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

6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**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—Home Communion****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**

10 am Morning Glories Women's Fellowship/Mission Group

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

**Mission of the Month for February****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

-Visit [www.watertownfirst.church/giving](http://www.watertownfirst.church/giving)—select Mission of the Month—Note Diaper Ministry in the comments

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**2026 Lenten study**

This Lent, I invite you to join me 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 Bethsaida—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 for Sundays or Wednesdays following worship!

# 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**

**February Curious Creations Event!!**  
**Everyone Encouraged to Attend—Fun time for all!**  
**Intergenerational Dance Evolution & Snack-A-Thon**  
**Saturday—February 21—following worship 6pm-8pm**

- We will explore dance as it has changed over the last century! We will also *traverse* scripture in search of joy!
- Bring an appetizer to share and your dancing moves - we will have music ready to go, along with popular dances that graced us in various times of history, including: Polka, Jitterbug, Macarena, Cupid Shuffle, Church Clap & Forrest Frank favorites. Do you know the 2 step and willing to teach us? Or maybe the Waltz?
- How about the younger generation. Are there any dance moves you'd like to teach the older generation? We'd sure like to try and learn.
- Young and old are all invited to come and dance or come and cheer on the dancers. It's going to be a night of fun and laughter and good fellowship!

**First UMC Foundation Fact**

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

1999—\$1,325 Lake Poinsett camp beach restoration  
 2006—\$200 Nursery needs (folding table etc)  
 2006—\$445 Custodian Equipment needs  
 2008—\$4,000 First UMC Trustees—Various Projects  
 2020—\$3,993 Light Fixtures for First UMC  
 2022—\$6,655.19 New Paraments and Banners  
 2023—\$2,751.10 Round Tables & White Board for Children's Ministry Area  
 2023—\$402.60 Bibles for Children & Youth

**Thank you to the Foundation! In 2025 the FUMC Foundation helped to fund the reorganizing for Sandy's Closet, new computers for staff and a matching gift to Stable Blessings! Thank you for your ministry.**

**First Church Finances**

FUMC General Budget Financials - 2025			
		Monthly Actual	YTD Cash Flow
Dec-25	Income	\$ 56,429	\$ (34,730)
	Expense	\$ 43,979	
	Difference	\$ 12,449	
4th Qtr	Income	\$ 132,484	\$ (34,730)
	Expense	\$ 122,629	
	Difference	\$ 9,855	

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](http://watertownfirst.church/giving)



Or use the QR Code to give online now!  
 Thank You for your support of First Church!

**NOTE:** To meet our 2026 budget in full each month, we will need a monthly income of \$30,942. The chart above reflects our giving, actual expenditures, and YTD cash flow. Thank you for your generosity and support of First Church!

Year	Income	\$ 444,640	\$ (34,730)
End	Expense	\$ 479,370	
2025	Difference	\$ (34,730)	

*For a more detailed copy of the budget, please contact the church office.*

**LEADERSHIP TEAM MINUTES—TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026—5:30 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Adam Fox, Josh Hartley, April Noem, Sue Luken, Marcia Schneider, Heidi Steffensen, Pastor Sara, Pastor Kim

**ABSENT:** Stephanie Long, Allen Stern, Sue Stern, Lisa Stydel, Doug Wishard

**DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER:** Marcia Schneider shared a devotion with a theme of JOY.

**AGENDA:**

**ACCESSIBILITY TEAM UPDATE:** Town Hall meetings were held following each worship service last weekend. The accessibility team narrowed the choices to 2 options plus a 3<sup>rd</sup> option of "do nothing". These were presented including the changes, pros and cons of each plan and the estimated cost. A handout was given asking people to pray about this. Church members are to complete a survey indicating which plan the church should pursue.

**Grant options:** Information about a grant was given. This grant is for churches of historical significance in their community to improve the accessibility to the building. This grant is for up to \$500,000. Pastor Sara will be follow-up on this.

**BELL TOWER:** There is work that needs to be done in the bell tower. The screening needs to be fixed soon. The walkways need to be reinforced. A sturdy ladder needs to be acquired to gain entrance to the bell tower.

**CLOSET/CLASSROOM REPAIRS AFTER THE WATER DAMAGE:** Damage was done to several areas of the church following the water which infiltrated the building last December. Following is a list of needed repairs: Confirmation classroom – ceiling & plaster; chapel and music room – ceiling tile and cracks; closet in cry room – much damage; pie room – ceiling damage.

**PASTOR UPDATES:**

**Pastor Sara:** Last week she was on vacation. She and Pearl have been working on end of the year paperwork. Pastor Sara & Pastor Kim will be attending the Bishop's Epiphany Gathering in Aberdeen February 8-10. April has been hired as youth leader for middle school and high school youth group. Pastor Amy's responsibility will be confirmation.

**Pastor Kim:** For worship planning, she will be using the same sermon series in Clark as in Watertown. She coordinates home communion and the memory care services. She is working on the devotion page that is included in the weekly bulletin. A ministry team member will be attending the next church Foundation meeting to talk about Stable Blessings.

**LEADERSHIP TEAM GROUP UPDATES:**

**Building & Grounds - Josh:** The water damage is the biggest concern. The duct work on the AC unit on the roof over Cook Hall will be completed in the spring.

**Finance – April Noem:** Giving is going in the right direction.

**Generosity Grove:** This is a pilot program from the conference designed to help us as a church tell our story.

**SPR – Sue Luken:** Things have been pretty quiet since our November LT meeting. We appreciate Pastor Kim helping with the 7:00 Christmas Eve service. LT interviews – we want to welcome Heidi Steffensen, Allen Stern, & Lisa Stydel to Leadership Team. There was a joint SPR meeting with Clark in December. Strengths we see with the arrangement of sharing Pastor Kim are the open communication and the flexibility of both churches.

**Ministry – Marcia Schneider:** Curious Creation for this quarter will be Saturday, February 21 after worship. This will begin with devotion based on JOY. The activity will be dance. Stable Blessing bags have been distributed to 212 Flats, Salvation Army, Beacon Center, and to some persons who have stopped by the church.

**OTHER:** April shared that because she is now on staff, she will be leaving the Leadership Team. At our February meeting, we will need to select a chairperson, vice-chair, and secretary.

Meeting concluded with the *Breakthrough Prayer*.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be February 10, 2026 at 5:30. Devotions will be by Adam.

**Respectfully submitted:** Sue Luken, substitute recording secretary

# FIRST KIDS

## K-3 Grade

# FIRST SQUAD

## 4-6 Grade

### NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

- \* 5:15-6:00 pm Community Meal
- \* 6:00—6:25 pm Worship except for the First Wednesday then it is 6:00-6:45 pm
- \* 6:30-7:25 pm Groups (PreK—12th)
- \* 7:25 pm Kids Back to Fellowship Hall for pickup

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

This spring in Kids' Church, we're digging into the **Fruit of the Spirit**—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control!

As we study God's Word, kids will explore what each fruit means and how we can practice them at home, at school, and with friends. Through hands-on activities, Bible stories, songs, crafts, and games, we'll learn how the Holy Spirit helps these good things grow in our hearts every day.

We're excited to watch our kids learn, grow, and shine God's love all spring long!

### Children's Ministry

#### WEDNESDAYS

- ◊ **Feb. 4**—Preschool—2nd Grade to Jenkins
- ◊ **Feb. 11**—Preschool—6th Grade Lesson on Love
- ◊ **Feb. 18**—Ash Wednesday Worship—No First Kids
- ◊ **Feb. 25**—Preschool—6th Grade Lesson on Prayer
- ◊ **SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS**
- ◊ **Jan. 31-Feb. 1**—Family Worship Weekend—No Children's Church
- ◊ **Feb. 7 & 8**—Regular Children's Church: Peace
- ◊ **Feb. 14 & 15**—No Children's Church—President's Weekend
- ◊ **Feb. 21 & 22**—Regular Children's Church: Patience
- ◊ **Feb. 28 & March 1**—Family Worship Weekend—No Children's Church

#### UPCOMING EVENTS—

- ◊ **Wed. Feb. 18**—Ash Wednesday—Family Worship Night

### LET'S SEE YOUR CREATIVITY...

Are you up for a challenge? We are looking for someone to design our shirts for VBS this year.

Our theme is "Racing to the Manger". Everyone has the chance to submit a design whether you are age 2 or 99. We will have a contest and let you all vote. Starting in March you can submit your designs and in April we will all vote.

We are joining together this year with Grace Lutheran for VBS, so they also are having a contest for a design. Each church will have a T-shirt design that will be chosen. One will be used for volunteers and one for the kids.

VBS will be July 20-23 with a Program on Thursday night.

### NEW GROUPS FOR FIRST KIDS

- \* Preschool-Kindergarten now meeting in the Nursery on Wednesday Nights: *Group Leaders are Reine Whitaker & Linda Haan*
- \* First and Second grade still meeting in Cook Hall- back half: *Group Leaders are Jessica VanSickle & Sue Stern*
- \* Third to Sixth Grade Girls Meeting in Cook Hall– front half: *Group Leaders are Pearl Geffre & Cindy Wishard*
- \* Fourth to Sixth Grade Boys Meeting in the Room off of Cook Hall: *Group Leaders are Ashley Edwards & Ayden Cleveland*

If you have any question about our Children's Ministry Program, please contact Lori Jurgens [lori@watertownfirst.church](mailto:lori@watertownfirst.church) or Bobbie Jenner [bobbie@watertownfirst.church](mailto: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.**

**SAVE THE DATE****CONFIRMATION CAMP**

Lake Poinsett

FEBRUARY 27th—28th

**Please Note:**

Attendance is required by all confirmands unless otherwise arranged with Pastor Amy.

**Be in Prayer...**

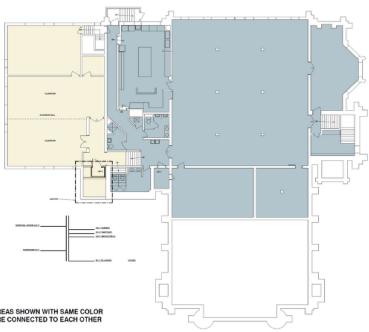
On January 30-31, six youth and three adults will travel to Bismarck, ND for Winter Connection. A weekend of worship, fun, mission and learning with youth groups from across the region. Please pray for safe travels and wonderful experiences!

Those going to Winter Connection from our church are: Josh Hartley, Lori Jurgen, April Noem

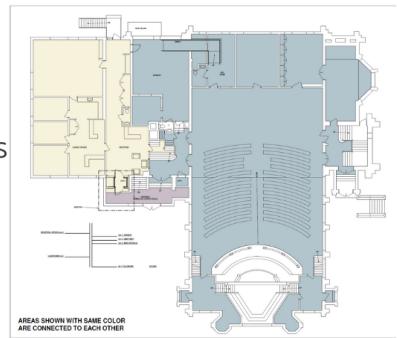
Tieson Jenner, Justyn Jones, Jason Kasperek, Cortlyn Paulson, Cady Weidner, & Camden Weidner.

**Changes**

1. Addition of 2nd lift at Northeast Entrance - with access to Cook Hall and Offices.
2. Ramp into Nursery
3. Internal Changes with offices and reception for better security.

**Cons**

1. The use of lifts still makes people nervous
2. Multi-step process to get from floor to floor.
3. Does not reach every space in building. (6/13)



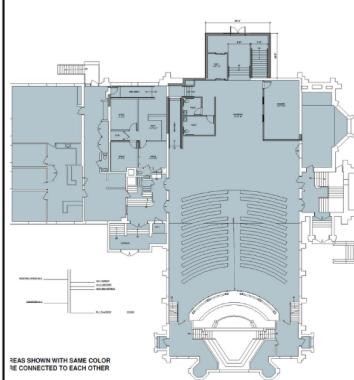
**YHR Estimate: \$ 450,000.00**

**ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS**

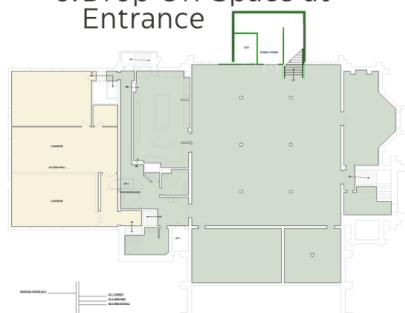
Please Respond by Feb. 8th

**Survey****Changes**

1. Addition on south side - includes elevator and steps to sanctuary and fellowship hall.
2. Open up wall to create new gathering space
3. Add accessible toilets in Sanctuary.
4. Add ramps through current nursery space and rearrange internally.
5. Add lift into Cook Hall from Fellowship Hall.

**Pros**

1. Welcoming space
2. True elevator makes space for caskets
3. True elevator is more comfortable for people
4. Adds bathroom to sanctuary level
5. Shows priorities of sanctuary and fellowship hall as primary spaces of building.
6. Drop Off Space at Entrance

**Cons**

1. Significantly more expensive
2. Shifts primary entrance to building
3. Does not reach every space in building. (6/13)

**YHR Estimate: \$ 1,200,000.00**

## FIRST FAMILY AND FRIENDS



### **Our deepest sympathy is extended to:**

Family and friends of Gloria Brugman who passed away on December 30, 2025.

Don LeVake and other family and friends of Delores "Dee" LeVake who passed away on January 2, 2026. Dee is Don's wife.

Julie Kotlan and other family and friends of Mike Kotlan who passed away on January 18, 2026. Mike is Julie's husband.

Karen Yexley and other family and friends of Victor John Yexley who passed away on January 24, 2026. Vixtor is Karen's husband.

**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;

Feb. 16 - 1:30 pm at Edgewood Memory Care - 420 9th St SE

Feb. 16 - 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 Memory Care 420 9th St SE—Watertown, SD 57201	Dorothy Irwin • Paul McElhany Kent Hegstrom
Edgewood Senior Living 901 14th Ave NE—Watertown, SD 57201	Audrey Rhodes #412 • Wes Larson #413 Bonnie Lien #105 • Karen Ostrander #424 Arlene Berger #311 • Margaret Newl #208 Eleanor Prouty #315 • Lou Ann Kosier #109
Edgewood Cedar View 225 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 Pauli #49
Avantara Watertown 415 4th Ave NE—Watertown, SD 57201	Marilyn Vogt #504
Brookings SD	Mike Steffen

### **Watertown Memory Care Support Group (formerly the Alzheimer's Support Group)**

**February 4, 2026**

"Language, Swallowing, and Dementia" by Kirsten Blackwell, Speech-Language Pathologist with PLHCS

**March 4, 2026**

"Holding God's Hands" by Pastor Sara McManus, First United Methodist Church.

**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](mailto:cl.memory.group@gmail.com).



Birthday	Happy Birthday To:
1-Feb	David Todd
1-Feb	Kendalyn Swanson
3-Feb	Gabe Jurgens
4-Feb	Jayda VanSickle
4-Feb	Robert Bruns
5-Feb	Dylan Meek
5-Feb	Kamdyn Williams
6-Feb	Pyper Edwards
7-Feb	Betty Mohror
7-Feb	Tammy Becking
9-Feb	Don LeVake
10-Feb	Ava Fiebelkorn
10-Feb	Parker Meek
11-Feb	Tom Baxter
11-Feb	Andrew Meek
11-Feb	Sabrina Blair
12-Feb	Karen Mee
12-Feb	Raylie Raasch
12-Feb	Korbyn Boughton
12-Feb	Jasmine Odegard
12-Feb	Maliya Mikkelson
13-Feb	Madisyn Meek
13-Feb	Crystal Jurgens
13-Feb	Knox Reed Halvorson
14-Feb	Greg Smith
14-Feb	Staci Smunk
14-Feb	Jim Carter
14-Feb	Allen Ekern
14-Feb	Ron Molengraaf

Birthday	Happy Birthday To:
15-Feb	Daniel Luken
15-Feb	Annie Olerud
15-Feb	Lisa Meier
15-Feb	Kelsey Jellis
16-Feb	Justin Chandler
16-Feb	Jerry Willett
16-Feb	Adelaide Green
16-Feb	Justyn Jones
17-Feb	Sue Luken
17-Feb	Rev. Dr. DeVern Schwenn
18-Feb	Becky Fiebelkorn
18-Feb	Paul Foust
19-Feb	Susan Davey
19-Feb	Jaci Stofferahn-Ruesink
20-Feb	Donna Cook
21-Feb	Darla Vilhauer
21-Feb	Ava Rycraft
21-Feb	Dayton Ford
22-Feb	Kacee Hoffman
22-Feb	Jaxon Solberg
22-Feb	Nora Solberg
22-Feb	Kora Julius
23-Feb	Wayne Fiebelkorn
23-Feb	Lois Kruse
24-Feb	Patricia Bucaro
25-Feb	Julia Schaaf
25-Feb	Shawn Pugsley
26-Feb	David Alwin
26-Feb	Katherine Wegner
26-Feb	Robby Poore
27-Feb	Michael Linngren
27-Feb	Jordan Remmers
27-Feb	Christine Peterson
27-Feb	Knox Reis
28-Feb	Marc Leadabrand

## Accessibility Town Hall Questions & Answers.

**Q—Will the additions shown in A & B match the Building?**

**A—Yes.** The stone used will match the color and architecture of the building.

**Q—Are there grants available?**

**A—Yes.** The Leadership Team is already starting the work of finding grants.

**Q—Are these finalized plans?**

**A—No.** These plans are to help us see a path forward. The team will finalize the plan after the congregation gives direction.

**Q—Why can't we do it all?**

**A—Our building is too complicated to solve all our accessibility problems in one attempt.**



Date	Happy Anniversary To:
1-Feb	A J & Kari Shultz
2-Feb	George & Tami Eberle
7-Feb	Elmer & Barb Brinkman
14-Feb	Pat & Janet Workman
19-Feb	James & Emily Halvorson
27-Feb	Larry & Dixie Schnoor

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

**RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-Profit Organization  
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 Watertown, SD 57201  
 Permit No. 529

## *February 2026* **FIRST NEWS**

### **MEET THE STAFF**

#### *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Sara McManus

#### *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Kim Hastings

#### *Associate of Youth Ministries*

Rev. Amy Atkins

#### *On-Call Pastor*

Rev. Elmer Brinkman

#### *Children's Minister*

Lori Jurgens

#### *Weekend Children's Leader*

Bobbie Jenner

#### *Youth Ministry Coordinator*

April Noem

#### *Office Manager*

Pearl Geffre

#### *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**

### Ash Wednesday

**February 18  
 6:00 pm Worship**

**GOD  
 ON THE  
 MOVE**



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