



First United Methodist Church March 2026



4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

Hello Church!

Lent is officially in full swing, which means Easter is just around the corner and spring is on its way! For so many reasons, this makes me happy. First, Easter for all it holds as a Christian – the story of death and resurrection; as well as the time with family and friends, but also getting to experience how you all celebrate Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter festivities – as a church and as a community. Secondly, for spring! For the hope and joy of new life, the peace it brings in the midst of heaviness in the world – that new things are coming and always possible. But I’m also excited for all that is ahead for our mission and ministry together.

On March 16, we join together with PACH to pack bags for our local children experiencing food insecurity. All month long, you will have an opportunity to give financially as well as tangibly to this program that serves as the hands and feet of Jesus to so many.

Then on April 21, we will once again have our Covered Top to Bottom event, featuring Sandy’s Closet – clothing for children in our community, Bundles of Hope – diapers, pull ups and wipes for the littles, and Stable Blessings – shelf stable meals that provide much needed sustenance for many in Watertown. This event has seen substantial growth since joining ministries together and making it one place for those who need a bit of hope and light in their lives.

Whether its spring cleaning that leads to purging of items that could benefit one or more of these ministries, a family outing to purchase these essentials, or a gift in honor of someone you love, the gifts given have a ripple effect and truly extend the love of Jesus. He resurrected on Easter, overcoming death – our gifts of finances, items or time – can often be the resurrection someone needs, leading them toward overcoming an overwhelming situation. Knowing someone cares and sees them as a human is often all a person needs to keep going.

All of these ministries have come out of someone having a vision or a passion and then partnering together to bring it to life. If there is something on your heart or a need you see, lets chat! Maybe something already exists in town or possibly a new opportunity arises. I have seen the way this congregation deeply cares for others in Watertown and beyond, it is a beautiful expression of faith that keeps giving and growing. You are doing profound things and making a difference.

Let us keep seeking to serve the least, the lost and the last. Lifting them in prayer and opening our hearts as we love boldly, serve joyfully and lead courageously.

In ministry and mission together –

Pastor Kim Hastings

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Easter Worship Schedule

March 28—Palm Saturday—5 pm • **March 29—Palm Sunday—9:30 am**
April 2—Maundy Thursday—6 pm • **April 3—Good Friday—6 pm**
April 4—Easter Saturday—5 pm • **April 5—Easter Sunday—9:30 am**

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 9:30 am Worship Communion Family Worship Weekend 10:45 am Lenten Study with Pastor Sara	2 1:00 pm Home Communion 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge 5:30 pm Women of Grace—Church Lounge	3	4 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge **Regular Wednesday Night Activities** Mentor Night 6:35 pm Lenten Bible Study	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 5:00 pm Worship
8 8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Lenten Study with Pastor Sara	9 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge	10 1:00 pm Study—Jesus Journey to Jerusalem 4:30 pm Missions Mtg 5:30 pm Leadership Team Mtg 6:30 pm Study—Jesus Journey to Jerusalem	11 10:00 am Morning Glories Women's Group **Regular Wednesday Night Activities 6:35 pm Lenten Bible Study	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 5:00 pm Worship
15 8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Lenten Study with Pastor Sara	16 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge Memory Care Services 1:30 pm Edgewood 2:30 pm Cedar View 6:00 pm All Church PACH Night <i>See page 3 for Details</i> 	17 11:30 am Lunch a Bunch at Pizza Ranch 1:00 pm Study—Jesus Journey to Jerusalem 6:30 pm Study—Jesus Journey to Jerusalem	18 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge SPRING BREAK No Regular Activities at Church this night 6:35 pm Lenten Bible Study	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 5:00 pm Worship
22 8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Lenten Study with Pastor Sara	23 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge	24 1:00 pm Study—Jesus Journey to Jerusalem 6:30 pm Study—Jesus Journey to Jerusalem	25 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge **Regular Wednesday Night Activities 6:35 pm Lenten Bible Study	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 5:00 pm Worship
29 8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Lenten Study with Pastor Sara	30 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge	31 1:00 pm Study—Jesus Journey to Jerusalem 6:30 pm Study—Jesus Journey to Jerusalem	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.

Easter Worship Schedule

March 28—Palm Saturday—5 pm
March 29—Palm Sunday—9:30 am
April 2—Maundy Thursday—6 pm
April 3—Good Friday—6 pm
April 4—Easter Saturday—5 pm
April 5—Easter Sunday—9:30 am

Lenten Community Services—“The Gifts of Lent”
 Wednesdays at 12:05 pm • February 25—March 25
 Worship—Grace Lutheran Church—202 2nd St SE
 Followed by Lunch in their Fellowship Hall
 (Suggested \$5 per person)

February 25—Rev. Hank Roso
 March 4—Pastor Janet Miller
 March 11—Captain Dennis Jolly
 March 18—Rev. Dustin Bartlett
 March 25—Rev. Sara McManas

Free will offering collecting during these worship services will be presented to the Salvation Army for the “One Roof Program”.

6 week Lenten Study offered by the Dakotas Cabinet and led by Pastor Sara McManus
“To Be Made Well”

First United Methodist Church Lounge
 Sundays at 10:45 am—Starting February 22
 Wednesdays at 6:35 pm—Starting February 25

4 week Lenten Study led by Pastor Sandee Prouty-Cole
“Jesus’ Journey to Jerusalem”

First United Methodist Church Lounge
 Tuesdays at 1:00 pm or 6:30 pm—Begins March 10th

ALL CHURCH PACKING NIGHT!

- **Join us on Monday, March 16th at 6:00 pm**
- Come to the PACH Warehouse (on the South side of the Watertown Mall behind Dunhams). Start at the SE corner of the mall, go west along the south side of the building—The PACH warehouse is located inside the double doors with the PACH logo on it.
- Packing begins at 6:00 pm sharp.
- Anyone age **12 or older** is welcome to participate. The PACH organization asks that we do not bring children younger than 12 to the packing event.
- They would like a group of 16-20 volunteers for this event
- Please call the church office to let us know if you’d like to participate. 605-886-4427.

Mission of the Month for March = PACH

- Donations can be made by the following:
 - ◊ Make checks out to First UMC and note PACH in the memo
 - ◊ Cash donations welcome.
 - ◊ Visit www.watertownfirst.church/giving—select Mission of the Month—Note PACH in the comments
- **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



Camp Weekend at First UMC is April 11. Camp brochures available at the back of the sanctuary. Registration is open! Sign up today for camp. Open to all ages. Scholarships available if needed—contact the church office!

Summer camp registration is OPEN! Go to www.dakcamps.org

Get ready for a summer filled with exciting events, creative outdoor activities, meaningful worship with Bible study, and the chance to make new friends and create memories that will last a lifetime! Come experience Christ, Creation, and Community this summer!

**Lake Poinsett Camp
Arlington, SD**

**Wesley Acres Camp
Dazey, ND**

**Storm Mountain Camp
Black Hills, SD**

See you at camp!



Curious Creations Dance Evolution Event

On Saturday, February 21st after worship, 16 people attended this event. It was so much fun learning new steps and dancing the night away! *Pictured above is Caleb Clark teaching us the "Cotton Eye Joe" line dance.*

First UMC Foundation Fact

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

- 1995—\$500 Fellowship of Christian athletes startup
- 2006—\$1000 Startup fund for Spring Creek Church (Rapid City—Joel Higgins)
- 2013—\$800 Seminary expense for Nicole Anderson
- 2016—\$1000 Evangelical Lutheran Church Missionary—Thad Titze

Thank you to the Foundation!

First Church Finances

FUMC General Budget Financials - 2026			
		Monthly Actual	YTD Cash Flow
Year End 2025	Income	\$ 444,640	\$ (34,730)
	Expense	\$ 479,370	
	Difference	\$ (34,730)	
25-Jan	Income	\$ 30,943	\$ (6,253)
	Expense	\$ 37,196	
	Difference	\$ (6,253)	

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 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!

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

Leadership Team Minutes
February 10, 2026
5:30 pm

Members Present: Stephanie Long, Adam Fox, April Noem, Sue Luken, Heidi Steffensen, Marcia Schneider, Allen Stern, Sue Stern, Lisa Stydel, Doug Wishard, Pastor Sara and Pastor Kim

Absent: Josh Harley

Devotion and Prayer: Adam Fox - Lenten Devotion

AGENDA:**New Officers:**

Chair Person: Stephanie Long

Secretary: Heidi Steffensen

No Vice Chair Person selected at this time

Accessibility Team Update:

Surveys were collected and counted. The responses were as follow:

56 Total Responses

Do Nothing - 6 responses

Plan A - 7 responses

Plan B - 43 responses

Pastor Sara described the process as we move forward. She will continue to work on the application process for the building grant given to historical churches.

The role of the fundraising team was discussed as members will start to be identified. Sara will also inquire about the cost to include access to the balcony and confirmation room and possible storage room in the space under the sanctuary. More storage space is needed for the growing ministries of Stable Blessings, Diaper Giveaway and Sandy's Closet.

Stable Blessings:

April provided an update on the program as it continues to grow. Harmony Hill has requested 20 bags to share each week.

Proposal from Sandee Cole:

Sandy presented a proposal to offer spiritual direction, pastoral care and counseling, and spiritual formation ministries. Different options for compensation were provided.

Pastor Sara Update:

Sara and Kim had just returned from the Bishop's Epiphany Gathering held in Aberdeen. There was much information about the history of

the United Methodist.

She is currently looking into continuing education opportunities that she feels would be most beneficial for the areas of need within the church. Sara provided more in depth work being done on the grant and the grant process itself. Lent begins next week (February 18) with Ash Wednesday Services. There will be Bible Studies available to help church members connect.

Pastor Kim Update:

Pastor Kim is working on the Lenten Series. She too is working to identify continuing education opportunities that will work for both churches. Curious Creations will be held following service on Saturday, 21st. Different forms of dances will be presented.

Leadership Team Group Updates:

Building and Grounds - Allen Stern - Repairs for the water damage has begun. Not as much damage was done to the plaster as previously thought. Work is currently being done to the dishwasher in the kitchen and also the van. More repair to the walkway is needed to stabilize the boards. A staple gun will be used to fasten screens in place.

Finance - April Noem - Financial reports were looked over. It was pointed out that April, Kim and Amy all receive payment from the Associate Pastor Fund

SPR - Sue Luken - The upcoming joint SPR meeting will be held in Clark on March 5th.

Ministry - Marcia Schneider - April Mission of the Month will be Summer Camp. All Church packing night for PACH will be held on March 16. Diaper Giveaway and Sandy's Closet will be held April 21st. Camp Weekend will be held on the weekend of April 11 & 12.

Other: This was April's final meeting as a board member as she is taking on the position of middle and high school ministries leader. She was thanked for her time given as a board member.

Next month's meeting will be held on March 10, 2026 at 5:30.

Devotions will be done by Sue Stern.

Submitted by,
Heidi Steffensen, recording secretary

FIRSTKIDS **K-3 Grade**

FIRSTSQUAD **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!

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.

If you have any question about our Children's Ministry Program, please contact

Lori Jurgens lori@watertownfirst.church or
 Bobbie Jenner bobbie@watertownfirst.church

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*

Children's Ministry

◇ WEDNESDAYS

- ◇ **March 4**—Preschool—3rd Grade to Jenkins
- ◇ **March 11**—4th—6th Grade to Jenkins
- ◇ **March 18**—Spring Break—No First Kids
- ◇ **March 25**—Practice for Easter Program

◇ SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS

- ◇ **February 28 & March 1**—Family Worship Weekend —No Children's Church this weekend
- ◇ **March 7 & 8**—Regular Children's Church
- ◇ **March 14 & 15**—Regular Children's Church
- ◇ **March 21 & 22**—Spring Break—No Children's Church
- ◇ **March 28 & 29**—Regular Children's Church

UPCOMING EVENTS—

Easter Program:

We will be singing 2 songs Easter weekend. We'll start singing one of the songs at the Good Friday service and we will sing it in its entirety at the Easter Saturday / Sunday Service.

If your children can participate please contact Lori and Bobbie. Lori will send out an email with songs March 1st to everyone as this is open to Preschool through High school.

LET'S SEE YOUR CREATIVITY...

It's contest time! Time for you to submit your design for our VBS t-shirts. Anyone can submit their design, child or adult.

Our theme is "Racing to the Manger". 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 Monday, July 20 through Thursday, July 23 with a Program on Thursday night.

Youth Ministry



◇ WEDNESDAYS

- ◇ **March 4**—Mentor Night
- ◇ **March 11**—Regular Youth Activities
- ◇ **March 18**—Spring Break—No Activities
- ◇ **March 25**—Practice for Easter Program

UPCOMING EVENTS—

Easter Program:

The Children & Youth will be singing 2 songs Easter weekend. We'll start singing one of the songs at the Good Friday service and we will sing it in it's entirety at the Easter Saturday / Sunday Service.

If you can participate please contact Lori and Bobbie. Lori will send out an email with songs March 1st to everyone as this is open to Preschool through High school.



Leighton Dolney, Cortlyn Paulson, Josh Hartley, Camden Weidner, April Noem, Justyn Jones

In the month of February, the Youth put together over 100 Stable Blessings bags and spent one evening discussing how bible stories have different characters who all play an important part and then discussed who all the characters in our lives are and what role each of them play.

On January 30-31, 4 youth and 3 adults traveled to Sioux Falls for Winter Connection.

The youth played games, sang worship songs and discussed bible verses together.

On Saturday, the youth baked brownies, cookies and other treats to hand out to businesses in the community that may get overlooked at times. Our group delivered treats to a record shop, a flower shop, a barber shop and a hair salon.

Our fun activity was ice skating!



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 April, Bobbie or Amy.

FIRST FAMILY AND FRIENDS



Our deepest sympathy is extended to:

Family and friends of Kent Hegstrom who passed away on February 21, 2026.

Marsha and John Dahl and other family and friends of John Reisdorff, Jr. who passed away on February 18, 2026. John is Marsha's brother.

Judy & Jerry Miller and other family and friends of Darwin TeBeest of Montevideo who passed away on February 10, 2026. Darwin is Judy's brother-in-law.

Marlene Jackson and other family and friends of Vicki Rounds who passed away on January 31, 2026. Vicki is Marlene's niece.

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;

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

March 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
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
United Living Center—Room 405 405 1st Ave—Brookings SD 57006	Mike Steffen

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

March 4, 2026

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

April 1, 2026

"Adult Day Services / My Care Line Respite Care & Telemedicine at the Village" by Krista Beauchamp & Dalton Wagner

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.



Birthday	Happy Birthday To...	Birthday	Happy Birthday To...
1-Mar	Dana Stern	17-Mar	Meranda Reis
1-Mar	Olivia Solum	17-Mar	Reagan Smith
2-Mar	Kristi Davis	18-Mar	Laurie Conley
2-Mar	Stephanie Muller	18-Mar	Brooklyn Buelow
3-Mar	A J Shultz	19-Mar	Lea Ann Alwin
4-Mar	Shane Wirkus	19-Mar	Finnegan Murphy
4-Mar	Dacey Veflin	20-Mar	Flynn Tammi
4-Mar	Messiah Maskovich	21-Mar	Ed Togel
5-Mar	Jordan Chandler	21-Mar	Wendy Meek
7-Mar	Angie Anderson	21-Mar	Colette Krueger
7-Mar	Kaelee Ward	21-Mar	Paul Klose
7-Mar	Noah Hiedeman	21-Mar	Gracee Ries
8-Mar	Margie Gertsen	21-Mar	Lincoln Schutt
8-Mar	Harper Mortenson	23-Mar	Judy Miller
9-Mar	Ruth Feeney	24-Mar	Alan Luckhurst
9-Mar	Peggy Lindahl	24-Mar	Tawny Engels
10-Mar	Mason Heggelund	25-Mar	Michelle Mohling
10-Mar	Angela Boughton	26-Mar	Alex Cady
11-Mar	John Dahl	26-Mar	Madison Enstad
12-Mar	Karen Miller	26-Mar	Marty Harmel
12-Mar	Nicole Ford	26-Mar	Haevyn Jones
12-Mar	Teddy McManus	26-Mar	Adaline Haggenmiller
13-Mar	Josh Delgado	27-Mar	Dan Oslund
13-Mar	Shelby Blair	27-Mar	Abel Hartley
13-Mar	Sadie Arnold	28-Mar	Clark McElhany
13-Mar	Hannah Bergsbaken	29-Mar	Zander Wight
14-Mar	Davee Buechler	29-Mar	James Halvorson
14-Mar	Raven Smith	29-Mar	Aidan Wegner
14-Mar	Miles Clarke	30-Mar	Marcus Heggelund
15-Mar	Journi Jade Jurgens	30-Mar	Cortlyn Paulson
15-Mar	Everleigh Freeman	30-Mar	Matthew Hoffman
16-Mar	Luke Muller	30-Mar	Kevin Berner
16-Mar	Macey Ward	31-Mar	Howard Meyer
16-Mar	Lacy Maskovich	31-Mar	Austin McBride
16-Mar	Tracy Stavick		

Anniversary	Happy Anniversary To...
3-Mar	Matthew & Bobbi Hoffman
21-Mar	Stephen & Susan Bachmann
24-Mar	Kenny & Melissa Raml
27-Mar	Chuck & Beth Decker
29-Mar	Bruce & Cheri Erlandson
31-Mar	Dale & Diane Kludt



United Methodists have been involved with the Solar Oven project for over 20 years, Solar oven packages have constantly improved and expanded over the years, while empowering families through solar cooking and water pasteurization.

The Monday Coffee, Conversation & Craft group from Watertown 1st United Methodist learned that about 2,000 pot holders were needed for upcoming shipments of ovens to the Dominican Republic, the Navajo Nations, and Sierra Leone, West Africa. The group got busy and created 130 pot holders to be sent along with the other components of the solar oven packages.

Group members pictured with their pot holders are: Pat Crooks, Roxie Shultz, Marlene Nogelmeier, Joanne Singrey-Johnson, and Barb Brinkman. *Not pictured are:* Marilyn Petersen, Pam Weger, Pam Keefe, and Audrey Lindgren.

For more information on Solar Oven Partners, go to:

<https://registration.dakotasumc.org/mission-justice/conference-missions/solar-oven-partners>

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

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

March 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
Lesla 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 pm—Contemporary
Sundays, 9:30 am—Blended

Easter Worship Schedule
March 28—Palm Saturday—5 pm
March 29—Palm Sunday—9:30 am
April 2—Maundy Thursday—6 pm
April 3—Good Friday—6 pm
April 4—Easter Saturday—5 pm
April 5—Easter Sunday—9:30 am

**GOD
 ON THE
 MOVE**

Lent Sermon Series



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



office@watertownfirst.church • www.watertownfirst.church