



**First United  
Methodist  
Church  
April 2026**



4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

**Holy Week**

Everyone has a different opinion about which holiday is the best, especially in the church. When we ask children this question, the answer is often Christmas – for some unexplainable reason. When I ask others, I will get answers such as: Halloween – because dressing up is a blast (and yes it is!). Arbor Day- because I have friends who either really love trees or want to be boring on purpose.

Luckily in April – we have lots of holidays. From Arbor Day and Earth Day, April Fools and Easter, we can gather and celebrate!

I, on the other hand, love Easter. Easter is always my favorite holiday. As much as possible, it has been a time together with family, sometimes that family has been friends putting together a meal, one time it was undercooked eggs and French fries, and other times it’s been the entire family affair - with the properly cooked deviled eggs and a tasty ham.

The joy of Easter is important – both the time together with good friends, family and *hopefully* good food – and the celebration of the resurrection. Easter is *our* holiday. The church’s holiday. The world may focus on bunnies and eggs, but Jesus is the main event.

And this week, as we gather to celebrate – we tell the whole story. We will start with the entrance to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday – donkeys, a parade and palm branches. We will tell the story of Jesus teaching that week – calling out corruption in the running of the temple and the focus of religious leaders. We will tell the story of Maundy Thursday, of the meal – Passover (also celebrated in April) – the washing of feet, the prayer in the garden and the betrayal with a kiss. We will tell the story of Good Friday – in all honesty, Jesus’ funeral. As we gather to tell the story of his trial, torture and death.

We will wait – in quiet response – remembering the fear that comes and the waiting that grief can bring.

And then we will celebrate. Saturday Night and Sunday Morning – we will gather and we will sing and shout! We will tell God’s story of life and new life and more. We will celebrate our holiday – the day that changed everything.

So this April – I invite you to join us in celebrating – yes this coming week, but also all month long!

Together in Christ,

Pastor Sara

**Daily Scripture Readings for Holy Week:**

*Monday – John 12.1-11 • Tuesday – John 12.20-36 • Wednesday – John 13.21-32*

*Thursday – John 13.1-17, 31-35 • Friday – John 18.1-19:42 • Saturday - John 19.38-42*

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**Easter Worship Schedule**

**April 2—Maundy Thursday—6 pm Potluck & Worship • April 3—Good Friday—6 pm**

**April 4—Easter Saturday—5 pm •**

**April 5—Sunrise Service in Chapel—7:30 am • April 5—Easter Worship—9:30 am**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Wednesday Night Schedule</b> 4:15—5:10 pm Children’s Bell Choir Rehearsal <b>5:15 pm Community Meal—All are Welcome</b> 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  <b>Please Note: On the 1st Wednesday of each month our worship will be a bit longer and will include communion.</b>			1 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge  <b>**Regular Wednesday Night Activities**</b>	2 10 am Women’s Bible Study  <b>Maundy Thursday 6:00 pm Potluck &amp; Worship</b>	3  <b>Good Friday 6:00 pm Worship</b>	4 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone’s Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal <b>5:00 pm Easter Worship Communion Family Worship Weekend</b>
5 <b>Easter</b> 7:30 am Easter Sunrise Service—Chapel 9:30 am Easter Worship Communion Family Worship Weekend	6 <b>Easter Monday Holiday—Office Closed</b> 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge 5:30 pm Women of Grace—Church Lounge	7 1:00 pm Study—Resurrection & Discipleship 6:30 pm Study—Resurrection & Discipleship	8 10:00 am Morning Glories Women’s Group  <b>**Regular Wednesday Night Activities**</b>	9 10 am Women’s Bible Study	10 Office Closed	11 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone’s Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal <b>5:00 pm Worship Church Camp Weekend</b>
12 8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 9:30 am Worship <b>Church Camp Weekend</b>	13 <b>1:00 pm Home Communion</b> 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge <b>7:00 pm New Member Class</b>	14 1:00 pm Study—Resurrection & Discipleship 4:30 pm Missions Mtg 5:30 pm Leadership Team Mtg 6:30 pm Study—Resurrection & Discipleship	15 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge  <b>**Regular Wednesday Night Activities**</b>	16 10 am Women’s Bible Study 4:00 pm Staff Meeting	17 Office Closed	18 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>
19 8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 9:30 am Worship <b>Covered Event 3:00—5:00 pm Fellowship Hall</b> <i>“Sandy’s Closet, Diaper Giveaway &amp; Stable Blessings”</i>	20 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge Memory Care Services 1:30 pm Edgewood 2:30 pm Cedar View <b>7:00 pm New Member Class</b>	21 11:30 am Lunch a Bunch at Pizza Ranch	22 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge  <b>**Regular Wednesday Night Activities**</b>	23 10 am Women’s Bible Study	24 Office Closed	25 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>
26 8:15 am Adult Bible Study—Lounge 9:30 am Worship	27 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge	28	29 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge  <b>**Regular Wednesday Night Activities**</b>	30 10 am Women’s Bible Study	May 1 Office Closed	<b>May 2</b> 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone’s Restaurant <b>NO Saturday Worship</b>
<b>Sunday May 3</b> <b>9:30 am Confirmation All Church Worship</b>						

## Easter Worship Schedule

**April 2—Maundy Thursday—  
6 pm Potluck / Worship in Fellowship Hall**  
**April 3—Good Friday—6 pm**  
**April 4—Easter Saturday—5 pm**  
**April 5—Easter Sunrise Service—7:30 am**  
**April 5—Easter Sunday—9:30 am**

**Become a Member of First Church or Learn  
More about First Church.**

**Join us Monday, April 13 & April 20 at 7:00 pm**

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Pastor Sara (recommended but not required) and then you can let her know if you need childcare, too (*childcare will be available only upon advance request*). You can reach Pastor Sara at [seniorpastor@watertownfirst.church](mailto:seniorpastor@watertownfirst.church) — or call the church office at 605-886-4427. We look forward to having you join us!

*Pastor Sara*

### 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.***

**Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem** study has been well received with the last class on March 31. For those of you who would like to also finish off the book of Luke, Sandee is offering to meet an additional 2 weeks after Easter exploring the themes of Resurrection & Hope and Commissioning of the Disciples from the final chapter of Luke and/or also explore other sections of Luke not already explored.

Join Sandee Prouty-Cole on Tuesday April 7th and 14th at 1:00pm or 6:30pm to learn more about the book of Luke.



**Our next Covered From Top to Bottom Event is quickly approaching! Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 19 from 3-5pm.**

This event is a combination of Sandy's Closet - *free kids clothing*; Stable Blessings - *shelf stable meals in a bag*; and Bundles of Hope - *diapers and wipes*. We have several days and times available to help with set up - which could include anything from sorting or folding clothes, organizing hangers, setting out tables, or prepping bags and boxes. We will also need volunteers during the event to welcome people, help with sign in, run the kids corner, bring treats, shop with people, or carry items to vehicles. Lastly, people to help take everything back down in an organized way to be ready for the next event in the fall.

This couldn't happen without volunteer help, but also we need clothing, diapers, wipes and monetary donations to be a success. If you or anyone you know will be going through kids clothing (we are looking mainly for summer items) - think about donating those clothes, shoes, or new socks/underwear for this event. If you would like to volunteer or have more questions, call the office at 605-886-4427. Thank you for all the support, we can't wait to see what God does this time!

## Leadership Team Minutes

### Leadership Team Minutes - March 10, 2026

**Members Present:** Adam Fox, Sue Luken, Heidi Steffensen, Marcia Schneider, Allen Stern, Sue Stern, Lisa Stydel, Doug Wishard, Josh Hartley, Pastor Sara and Pastor Kim

**Devotion and Prayer:** Sue Stern- Guidance Devotion

#### AGENDA:

##### New Officers:

Vice Chair Person: Lisa Stydel

##### Accessibility Team Update:

Feasibility study needs to be completed.

The grant has been submitted. This grant will provide \$500,000 matching funds. No fundraising can begin until the grant has been awarded. Selection for the next step in the grant process will be announced in June with the final grant being given in October.

##### Pastor Sara Update:

**Generosity Grove:** This is a conference program that pairs the team with a generosity coach. The program is designed to help the church navigate through regular and capital giving. A survey will be taken by some of the team members. Some team members will also be needed to help with Generosity Grove.

\*Pastor Sara's main focus has been spent on completing the comprehensive grant process.

\*She is also working on bringing more public awareness to our church and everything it has to offer.

\*Lenten studies have begun and are going well. Plans for Holy Week are being worked on.

\*Pastor Sara has been selected to the Archives and History Committee for the conference.

##### Pastor Kim Update:

Pastor Kim has been working on sermon series, the music, and liturgy. She continues to develop the weekly devotional sheet.

\*She has become part of the Conference Board of Nominations.

\*Pastor Kim prepares the monthly Senior Care/Memory Services. Kim remarked what a positive impact these services have on all those involved.

\*Pastor Kim is working on COVERED event which includes the diaper giveaway, Stable Blessings, and Sandy's Closet.

### Leadership Team Group Updates:

#### Building and Grounds - Josh Hartley

**Bell Tower:** Will be the first repair to be focused on. The repairs will begin next week.

**Closet & Classroom repair:** Bad areas will be cut out and re-sheet rocked.

**Hot Water Heater Valve & Thermostat:** Heaters were purchased in 2010. The valve is leaking. Plan to replace both heaters at the same time.

**Completed Repairs:** The dishwasher leak was fixed. (2/2026) Van repairs completed. Pastor Kim will drive the van back and forth to Clark once a month to keep in good driving condition. A checklist for van maintenance will be developed.

**Finance - Stephanie Long -** Financial reports were looked over. It was noted that financial giving was up from January.

**SPR - Sue Luken -** The quarterly meeting was held in Clark on March 5.

**Ministry - Marcia Schneider -** April Mission of the Month will be camp scholarships. Cover Event with diaper giveaway, stable blessings, and Sandy's Closet will be held April 21st. A lead person is needed for Sandy's Closet. Camp Weekend will be held on the weekend of April 11 & 12.

Bible school will be held July 20 - 23. July 18 will be the One Watertown Family Event held at Foundation Park.

The church will plan activities for the event.

The team would like to develop an outreach with a local school. Funds are available to partner with a local school but no plans have been made.

**Old Business:** Youth on Leadership Team: This will be addressed in the fall

Church inventory: This has been started

New Business: TV in kitchen - This is a request for use during funerals.

Next month's meeting will be held on April 14, 2026 at 5:30. Devotions will be done by Sue Luken.

Submitted by,

Heidi Steffensen, recording secretary

# FIRSTKIDS K-3 Grade

# FIRSTSQUAD 4-6 Grade

## 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

## 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". Let's see who can come up with the most creative design.

**Submit your ideas in the box at the back of the sanctuary or drop off at the church office.**

VBS will be Monday, July 20 through Thursday, July 23 with a Program on Thursday night.

## Children's Ministry

### WEDNESDAYS

- ◇ **April 1**—Family Worship Night plus we will have kids sing Easter Halleluiah and Resurrection Song and act out parts for Easter weekend
- ◇ **April 8**—Jenkins Night for 4th-6th Grade / Serve Night for Preschool—3rd Grade—SURPRISE
- ◇ **April 15**—Serve Night
  - Preschool—3rd Grade: Snack Bags, Coloring Sheets
  - 4th—6th Grade: Sorting Clothes for Sandy's Closet
- ◇ **April 22**—Game Night / Scavenger Hunt
- ◇ **April 29**—Sharing God's Love with Others

### SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS

- ◇ **April 4 & 5**—Easter—Family Worship Weekend —No Children's Church this weekend
- ◇ **April 11 & 12**—Regular Children's Church—Camp Weekend —Fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness
- ◇ **April 18 & 19**—Regular Children's Church —Fruit of the Spirit: Self Control
- ◇ **April 25 & 26**—Regular Children's Church —Fruit of the Spirit: Honesty and Forgiveness

### UPCOMING EVENTS—

**Easter Program:** The kids/youth will be singing with the Praise Band. They will also have the opportunity to act out the music and the Resurrection Story. Children will be part of the Good Friday Service along with service on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. For additional information contact Lori Jurgens.

## Family Serve Opportunity

Looking for a way to serve as a family or with your child? Our "Covered: From Top to Bottom Event" is scheduled for April 19th. This event will combine three smaller missions (Sandy's Closet, Diaper Giveaway and Stable Blessing Bags) to provide a much needed service to the Watertown and surrounding area. If you and your child would like to help at this event, please contact Lori Jurgens or Bobbie Jenner.

**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](mailto:lori@watertownfirst.church) or  
 Bobbie Jenner [bobbie@watertownfirst.church](mailto: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*

## Youth Ministry



### ◇ April—May Schedule

- April 1:** Holy Week - A Resurrection Story
- April 8:** What's Next? - What do I believe?
- April 15:** Mentor Night - Claiming our Place in the Story: The Story of Watertown FUMC
- April 22:** Membership Vows with Pastor Sara
- May 3:** Confirmation Service @ 9:30am  
(Reception to follow)

### 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 or Bobbie. This is open to Preschool through High school students.

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.

## Confirmation Camp Recap February 26 & 27

At the end of February, a group of our confirmation students joined others from southeast South Dakota at Lake Poinsett for Confirmation Camp. This event was a great opportunity to blend spiritual exploration with the joy and energy of youth fellowship.

Camp included worship, music, devotion, and study, all spent together in community. Small-group sessions helped students dive deeper into core confirmation topics: grace, communion, baptism, Wesleyan theology, and serving in the larger context of the church community.

Leaders guided discussions that encouraged participants to ask big questions and explore their own beliefs. One of the biggest blessings of Confirmation Camp is the way it brings our young people together.

We owe a heartfelt thank-you to the dedicated leaders, volunteers, and camp staff who supported our youth throughout the week. Their commitment, patience, and energy created a safe, uplifting environment where everyone could grow, learn, and thrive.

***We look forward to celebrating their continued growth in the months ahead! We are excited for the chance to celebrate with them during the confirmation service on Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 9:30 am.***

## Mark your calendars for our 2026 Confirmation Celebration.

Sunday, May 3rd during our  
9:30 am Worship Service.

There will be NO Saturday worship on May 2nd as we plan to worship all together and celebrate our Confirmands on Sunday May 3rd.

*More Confirmation Camp pictures on next page...*



**2026 Confirmation Class:** Kaelee Ward, Izrial Jenner, Sophia Julius, Allana Johnson, Jayda VanSickle, Quinn Boadwine, Tyson Clark, Quinn Steiner  
Not pictured: Sawyer Barrie, Brooklyn Buelow & Annie Olerud.  
Adult chaperones: Lori Jurgens, Bobbie Jenner & Amy Atkins.

2026 Confirmation Camp at Lake Poinsett



**First UMC Foundation Fact**

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

- 1997: \$2,500 Habitat for Humanity
- 2000: \$500 Make a Wish Foundation
- 2013: \$300 T-Shirts for VBS
- 2014: \$1,300 T-Shirts for VBS
- 2016: \$9,409.50 Includes Nicole Anderson Seminary, VBS, Youth Ministries, Thrive Campaign
- 2000: \$3000 VBS Expenses
- 2000: \$10,000 Thrive Capital Campaign

***Thank you to the Foundation!***

**Youth Mission Trip 2026**

Open to students currently in grades 7th—12th.

**August 13-16, 2026**

Destination: Sioux Falls for work and play

For more information or to sign up, please contact

April: [april@watertownfirst.church](mailto:april@watertownfirst.church)

Or

Pastor Sara: [seniorpastor@watertownfirst.church](mailto:seniorpastor@watertownfirst.church)

**First Church Finances**

**FUMC General Budget Financials - 2026**

		Monthly Actual	YTD Cash Flow
January 2026	Income	\$ 30,943	\$ (6,253)
	Expense	\$ 37,196	
	Difference	\$ (6,253)	
February 2026	Income	\$ 38,679	\$ (3,078)
	Expense	\$ 35,503	
	Difference	\$ 3,175	

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!

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

**FIRST FAMILY AND FRIENDS**



**Our deepest sympathy is extended to:**

Lea Ann and David Alwin and other family and friends of Robert Padfield of Morris, MN who passed away on March 20, 2026. Robert is Lea Ann's brother.

**MEMORY CARE SERVICES:** Once a month we gather with residents at two of our memory care units in Watertown 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;  
April 20 - 1:30 pm at Edgewood Memory Care - 420 9th St SE  
April 20 - 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 Jackie Baxter • Carol Pollard • LuAnn Edwards
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 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)**

**April 1, 2026**  
*"Adult Day Services / My Care Line Respite Care & Telemedicine at the Village"* by Krista Beauchamp & Dalton Wagner

**May 6, 2026**  
*"Keeping Precious Memories" (Creating Memory Books)* by Dar Fuchs & Friends

**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-Apr	Lynda Fiebelkorn
1-Apr	Owen Muller
1-Apr	Glen Vilhauer
1-Apr	Rylen Rosendahl
4-Apr	Mark Bayles
4-Apr	Ashley Stanley
6-Apr	Kari Anderson
6-Apr	Liam Reis
6-Apr	Charlie Shultz
7-Apr	Dylan Smunk
7-Apr	Kirsten Titze Blackwell
7-Apr	Cael Heuer
8-Apr	Alyssa Raml
9-Apr	Colton Luckhurst
9-Apr	Marilyn Vogt
9-Apr	Kamden Wellman
10-Apr	Sandra Halajian
10-Apr	Rich Remmers
10-Apr	Michael Wight
11-Apr	Loel Diggs
11-Apr	Judy Kubat
13-Apr	Jeanne Paulson
14-Apr	Carol Meyer
14-Apr	Laura Greenfield
14-Apr	Samantha Russman
15-Apr	Thad Titze
15-Apr	Sophia Juluis
16-Apr	June Dale
18-Apr	Kenny Raml
19-Apr	Jeanne Berry
20-Apr	Dixie Currey
20-Apr	Arlet Magstadt
20-Apr	Elyse Wegner
22-Apr	Gina Enstad
22-Apr	Justin Remmers
23-Apr	Pat Workman
23-Apr	Alexander Hanson
24-Apr	Kristin Loeschke

Birthday	Happy Birthday To...
25-Apr	Bobbie Jenner
25-Apr	Jessica Ekern
25-Apr	Laini Greenfield
25-Apr	Joshua Murphy
26-Apr	Ruthie Dahl
26-Apr	Emily Halvorson
26-Apr	Marcia Schneider
26-Apr	Kendra Robinson
27-Apr	Tamara Eberle
28-Apr	Valgene Alwin
28-Apr	Mya Smunk
29-Apr	Donald Fox
30-Apr	George Eberle



Anniversary	Happy Anniversary To...
1-Apr	Wayne & Tammy Becking
8-Apr	Dan & Margaret Houfek
15-Apr	Clark & Barb Hanson
16-Apr	Jamis & Crystal Jurgens
17-Apr	Ernie & Natalie Wight
21-Apr	Scott & Kristi Davis
26-Apr	Stanley & Brenda Jongbloed

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all who helped with the Lenten Lunch this past week. Your help and support is recognized and appreciated very much!

**Mark your calendars for our 2026 Confirmation Celebration.**

Sunday, May 3rd during our 9:30 am Worship Service. There will be NO Saturday worship on May 2nd as we plan to worship all together and celebrate our Confirmands on Sunday May 3rd.

**April Mission of the Month: Church Camp Scholarships**

**Camp Weekend at First UMC is April 11th & 12th.**

Camp brochures available at the back of the sanctuary. 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](http://www.dakcamps.org)**

**Church Promo Code: wtnfirst** Use this code for half off the camp early bird price. **Early Bird price ends April 30th!**

- Donations can be made by the following:
  - ◊ Make checks out to First UMC and note Camp Scholarship in the memo.
  - ◊ Cash donations welcome.
  - ◊ Visit [www.watertownfirst.church/giving](http://www.watertownfirst.church/giving)—select Mission of the Month—Note Camp Scholarship in the comments.

**Lake Poinsett • Wesley Acres • Storm Mountain**  
*Arlington, SD • Dazey, ND • Black Hills, SD*



Dakotas United Methodist Camps  
Dakotas Conference  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

**RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED**

# April 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

**Easter Worship Schedule**

**April 2—Maundy Thursday • 6 pm Potluck/Worship (Fellowship Hall)**  
**April 3—Good Friday—6 pm • April 4—Easter Saturday—5 pm**  
**April 5—Sunrise Service—7:30 (Chapel) • April 5—Easter Sunday—9:30 am**



**BREAKING FREE**  
**GOD MOVES OUT OF THE TOMB**

**Regular Worship Times**  
 Saturdays, 5 pm—Contemporary  
 Sundays, 9:30 am—Blended

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