



## 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

assocpastor@watertownfirst.church

### Associate of Youth Ministries - Rev. Amy Atkins

youth@watertownfirst.church

### Office Manager - Pearl Geffre

office@watertownfirst.church

### Children's Minister - Lori Jurgens

lori@watertownfirst.church

### Weekend Children's Leader - Bobbie Jenner

bobbie@watertownfirst.church

### Youth Ministry Coordinator - April Noem

april@watertownfirst.church

## 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

### Media and Graphic Design - Dean Gorseth

media@watertownfirst.church

# Welcome to First United Methodist Church



Learn more and register at:  
[www.dakcamps.org](http://www.dakcamps.org)



Saturday April 11, 2026 • 5:00 pm

**WELCOME**

**\*OPENING SONGS**

*Camp Songs*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS / PRAYER TIME**

**TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES**

Join in singing “*Jesus Is Alive*”

**MESSAGE**

*Into the Wilderness*

Jeremiah 29:11-14

Pastor Sara McManus

**OFFERING**

**REFLECTION SONG**

*How Sweet the Sound*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**CLOSING SONG**

*My Lighthouse*

**\*BLESSING**

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

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



**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!

**VOLUNTEER  
SIGN-UP FORM**  
SCAN QR TO GO TO THE FORM



**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.



**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*

**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!**

- If you'd like to support this mission, 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*



***Thank You For Your Support!***

**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.

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**Monday, April 13**

- 1:00 pm Home Communion
- 1:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge
- 7:00 pm New Members Class—Church Lounge

**Tuesday, April 14**

- 1:00 pm Resurrection & Discipleship Study with Sandee Prouty-Cole
- 4:30 pm Missions Ministry Meeting
- 5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting
- 6:30 pm Resurrection & Discipleship Study with Sandee Prouty-Cole

**Wednesday, April 15**

- 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study
- 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—All are Welcome
- 6:30—7:30 pm Children & Youth (K-12) Activities
- 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, April 16**

- 10:00 am Women's Bible Study—Fellowship Hall
- Sorting & Set Up for the Covered Event

**Friday, April 17—Office Closed**

- Sorting & Set Up for the Covered Event

**Saturday, April 18**

- 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, April 19**

- 8:15 am Adult Sunday School Class—Church Lounge
- 9:30 am Blended Worship Service
- 3:00—5:00 pm Covered Event in Fellowship Hall**  
***Clothing—Diapers—Stable Blessings***

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

Sunday • April 12, 2026 • 9:30 am

## PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

### *Prelude*

#### **Centering Thought:**

How do you find God in the wilderness?

### **Greeting**

#### **Call to Worship & Opening Prayer** (*Adapted from In the Wilderness, 316*)

L: Imagine worship like wilderness—a place we choose to go, to explore, to be changed. In worship, we gather together from places near and far.

**P: God, be with us in the wilderness.**

L: In the wilderness, we wonder what comes next.

**P: God, be with us in the wilderness.**

L: In the wilderness, questions are welcome, as together we learn more about ourselves, each other, and what it means to be people of faith.

**P: God, be with us in the wilderness.**

**Holy One, You nudged us today to show up in worship. We come with hearts that are both heavy with the challenges of life and hearts bursting with gratitude for the places we've seen you at work in our lives. We may be in a time of wilderness wandering. In this time set apart we ask you help us find just what we need to receive today. Help us find community, connection, call, and God's great big love. Help us to discover your Spirit with us. Amen.**

\* **Act of Praise** *He Lives* UMH #310

## LISTEN AND PRAY

**1st Reading** John 20:24-31

## Announcements

## Prayers of the People

Sunday • April 12, 2026 • 9:30 am

### ***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.

### **Bell Choir**

*Kumbaya*

### **Time for Young Disciples**

Join in singing "*Jesus Is Alive*".

### **Song**

*Hymn of Promise*

UMH #707

## HEAR AND REFLECT

### **Gospel**

Jeremiah 29:11-14

### **Sermon**

*Into the Wilderness*

Rev. Sara McManus

### **Reflection Moment**

*Lord I Lift Your Name On High*

On Screens

### **Offering**

\* **Doxology** *Easter People Raise Your Voices (vs 1)* UMH #304

\* **Offering Prayer**

\* **Sending Song** *Pass It On* UMH #572

\* **Benediction**

### **Postlude**

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

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

## Worship Notes



## Camp Sunday Into the Wilderness

### GROW

#### Daily Scripture

M: Psalm 139: 7-14  
T: Job 12:7-10  
W: Exodus 13:17-22  
T: Esther 4:12-17  
F: Acts 2:42-47

#### Devotional Questions

1. What does the 'wilderness' look like in your life currently?
2. How might God be calling you outside of your comfort zone?
3. Where is there community already gathering that is outside of your routine?

#### Creative Response

Take 10 minutes to ask one of our youth or kids about their camp experience.

### CONNECT

Jeremiah 29:11-14

#### One thing:

When we seek God, we find Him; God is everywhere and has plans for all of us to grow.

### SERVE

#### Pray:

Pray for all those who will attend camp this summer.

#### Do:

Prayerfully consider supporting the camping ministry - through scholarships, chaperoning, camp grounds work, or countless other ways.

#### Go:

Covered Top to Bottom  
Kids clothing, food & diaper  
giveaway  
April 19 - FUMC - 3-5pm