



First United Methodist Church June 2026



4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

PASTOR'S WORD

One of the funniest things about being a pastor is watching as people rehash the same arguments over and over. I try to find the humor in this instead of just frustration. A couple of weeks ago, I was meeting with some colleagues who were arguing about the 'summer slump.' This is the phrase used to talk about how during the summer, most churches have lower attendance, lower giving and fewer events.

My colleague believed people come less because they "don't care" about God or church in the summer.

We all know this isn't true.

We, who live in the midst of hard winters and busy lives, need the reset of summer rest.

Again and again in scripture, we find the importance of rest and renewal. Elijah goes into the wilderness to recover after a physically and spiritually traumatic battle with the prophets of Baal.

The Psalmist says "he makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul."

Jesus takes time away to rest – to pray – and to recover.

Our bodies know what both scripture and science tells us. Rest – and rest in nature – is good for our souls.

So take the time to rest with your families, in your garden, at the lake, go camping, or fishing, or just breathe for a bit. Touch grass and let the sun warm your face.

In these moments, we find we worship God just as fully as we do in worship together. This rest and quiet pairs with our connection in community. We worship together AND we rest. We reset and reconnect.

Yes. The church is still here all summer: Bible studies and church camp. We gather in worship each weekend; we have mission events like our diaper giveaway and VBS and youth mission trips. We've even got two options for worshipping outside this year. Our gardeners are working hard and our leadership keeps gathering.

There's no summer slump just because summer looks different – the work of God never stops and when we give ourselves the chance to breathe, rest and rejuvenate in the warmth of our longer days – we find that God is there too.


So whether you are worshipping from a hammock or the front pew, let us all thank God for our days this summer.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Sara

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1:00 pm Home Communion 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge 5:30 pm Women of Grace—Girl's Night Out at Sr. Max's	2 Bundles of Hope Drive Thru Diaper Giveaway 4:00—6:00 pm Church Parking Lot 	3 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge	4 10 am Women's Bible Study	5 Office Closed	6 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship NO Children's Church
		Annual Conference—Bismarck, ND				
7 9:30 am Worship NO Children's Church	8 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge	9 4:30 pm Missions Mtg 5:30 pm Leadership Team Mtg	10 10:00 am Morning Glories Women's Group	11 10 am Women's Bible Study	12 Office Closed	13 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
Annual Conference						
14 9:30 am Worship	15 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge Memory Care Services 1:30 pm Edgewood 2:30 pm Cedar View	16 11:30 am Lunch a Bunch at Pizza Ranch	17 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge	18 10 am Women's Bible Study	19 Office Closed	20 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant No Saturday Worship This Evening—Please Join us tomorrow at 9:30 am for Worship at Foundation Plaza.
21 9:30 am Worship at the Plaza No worship at First Church Location—Join us for Worship at Foundation Plaza	22 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge	23	24 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge	25 10 am Women's Bible Study	26 Office Closed	27 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 1:00 pm <i>Wedding</i> 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
First Church Delivers Meals on Wheels this Week						
28 9:30 am Worship	29 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge	30	July 1 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge	July 2 10 am Women's Bible Study	July 3 Office Closed	July 4 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant No Saturday Worship Service This Night Please join us on Sunday morning at 9:30 am.

Weekly at First Church
Mondays

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

Wednesday Night Schedule

Community Meal, Children & Youth Activities all on Summer Break—We'll resume in September

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
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

4:30 pm Ministry Missions Team Meeting

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.

Drive Thru Diaper Giveaway.



Tuesday, June 2



4 - 6 pm

First United Methodist Church

 4 Second Ave SE - Watertown SD
 www.watertownfirst.church * 605-886-4427

Bundles of Hope diaper ministry

Summer Worship Schedule at First Church

There will be No Saturday evening worship on the following weekends. We invite you to join us for One Service on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.

June 20—Worship at the Plaza on Sunday the 21st

July 4—Holiday Weekend

September 5—Labor Day Weekend

A Huge Thank You to all our weekend (Sat. & Sun.) musicians for the beautiful music you provide all year long. Also a huge Thank You to the many other volunteers that help out with weekend worship services. You All are Very Much Appreciated!

June Mission of the Month is Respite Care Scholarships

The mission of the month for June is Adult Respite Care Scholarships.

We have two amazing organizations in town - Edgewood and Harmony Hill - that offer respite care for adults with extra needs. In our congregation, we have people who lovingly care for others or know people who do this, sometimes they need an extra break to get things done or go on short trips or any number of things.

For the month of June, all mission of the month giving will be put into a scholarship fund to assist those who want to utilize these services. We simply would fund the care, but the care would be fully coordinated with one of the two providers. As whole people, we all need time to fill our own cups, this is just another way for us to help one another accomplish that with fewer barriers.

Donations can be made by the following:

- ◇ Make checks out to First UMC and note "Respite Care" in the memo.
- ◇ Cash donations welcome.
- ◇ Visit www.watertownfirst.church/giving—select Mission of the Month—Note "Respite Care" in the comments.

Thank you for your support!

Leadership Team Minutes—May 12, 2026

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

Devotion and Prayer: Sue Stern

AGENDA:**Accessibility Team Update:**

The team will be meeting next week.

Pastor Sara Update:

* The Staff Parish committee has asked for a time audit.

* Offices are being rearranged to improve efficiency of staff time.

* Office hours will be published so church members will be aware of best times to reach out to staff.

*The annual conference will be held on June 5th - 7th in Bismark, ND. There are still spots available for others to attend.

Pastor Kim Update:

*Continues to work ahead to develop liturgy and devotions for weekly insert

*submitting for Commissioning - will take time at Lake Poinsett to begin writing.

Leadership Team Updates:

Open positions: Positions are available for -

*one building and grounds person

*one finance person

Building and Grounds -Allen Stern

*Electrical map of the church is being updated - The map will indicate where each electrical box is located as well as what is for. There are 15 boxes throughout the church.

*Dishwasher - Drainage gasket still needs to be ordered.

*Plate and Cups Carts - These have not been ordered. Looking at what may need to be done to the current workspace in the kitchen to have space for the carts. Estimated cost of the carts is \$4900 before shipping and taxes.

*Sprinkler system is professionally inspected yearly.

Bell Tower:**Lisa Stydel -Update:**

Bells have been ordered with 50% of the cost paid. Bells are able to be installed by church members. Installing the bell system ourselves does not affect the warranty on the system.

Wiring for the system will be done by an electrician. Staff will be trained online as to how to operate the bells.

The Carillon bells should be up and running by late summer.

Finance - Stephanie Long

*extra expenses for 2 unpaid items not included in March budget (municipal utilities and health insurance)

SPR - Sue Luken

*Having conversations with each pastor to complete evaluations - These need to be completed by July 1.

*Staff evaluations are also to be completed. - There is no due date for these.

Ministry - Marcia Schneider -

*Curious Creations - Puzzle competition to be held July 26. There will be a potluck after church with puzzles to follow.

*Curious Creations for August will be canning activities. There will more be more information to follow.

*Drive up diapers and food giveaway will be held on June 2 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. Volunteers still need to be arranged.

*June Mission of the Month is scholarships for adult respite care. Adult respite care is provided by the Villages at Harmony Hill and Edgewood.

*The Family Festival will be held on July 18 at the downtown plaza.

*Outdoor Service will be held on Sunday, June 21 at the downtown plaza. There will be no Saturday services that weekend.

Next meeting: June 9, 2026

Devotions by Marcia

Submitted by,
Heidi Steffensen, recording secretary

FIRSTKIDS K-3 Grade
FIRSTSQUAD 4-6 Grade

Children's Ministry

Reminder:

This summer we will only be having Children's Church on Saturday's during June and July. We will be taking a break in August to get ready for the fall.

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS

Children's Church on Break. We'll restart again on June 13.

- ◇ **June 13**—6,7 Lesson
- ◇ **June 21**—Kids Singing at Downtown Plaza during worship 2 songs of their choosing
- ◇ **June 27**—Sensory Worship

Wednesday, June 17th

Mini Mission Trip for Current 4th-6th Graders to Sioux Falls Feeding South Dakota. Meet in church parking lot. **We'll leave at 7:00 am.**



Some of the First UMC Staff and church members are in "Training" for a 5K Run/Walk on July 18th.

Watch for more information including where we'll start and the route we'll be taking.

Anyone is free to join us or to cheer us on along the route.

This will be a Soft Kickoff to "Race You to the Manger" Vacation Bible School.

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

Lori Jurgens lori@watertownfirst.church or
 Bobbie Jenner 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.

Join us for Vacation Bible School at First United Methodist Church July 2026.

*Monday, July 20 thru Thursday, July 23
 6:00—8:00 pm starting with a meal at 5 pm.*

Open to children in Preschool (age 3) thru children going into 6th grade in the fall.

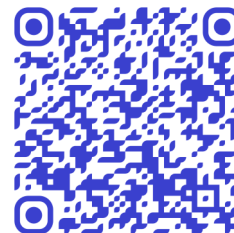
**Registration Now Open.
 Use the QR Code below.**

We will be doing VBS with Grace Lutheran this year and it will be held here at First UMC.

It's a great time of activities such as games, music, story time and snack time all while learning about the birth of our Lord, Jesus.

If you would like to help with VBS, please contact Lori or Bobbie.

Come celebrate Christmas in July as we "Race You to the Manger"!



YOUTH LED BIBLE STUDY

Cady Weidner along with many other youth grades 7th– 12th from our church and other walks of life have been meeting every Saturday at various coffee shops around Watertown for their Faith In Action, student led, bible study.



Scan the QR code to request to be added to the "Faith in Action" group.



Youth Mission Trip Fund Raiser

Quilts, Potholders, Soothing Eye Pillows, Etc.

100% of Proceeds will go to the Youth Mission Trip Fund!

See display at back of Sanctuary!



Thank you for your support!

Youth Mission Trip

Pastor Sara McManus and April Noem will be taking a group of 7th-12th graders to Sioux Falls on August 13-16. They will be staying at Southern Hills UMC and will be doing some volunteer work at Feeding SD, the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House, at the Banquet and more.

As a way to help defer the cost of the trip, our church's Monday quilting group "Coffee Cookies & Conversation" have donated various items which are on display and for sale at the back of the sanctuary. All proceeds will go towards the youth mission trip.

A huge thank you to this group for their support of our youth and missions!

WHAT OUR YOUTH HAVE BEEN UP TO...

- * Four of our Jr/Sr High Youth along with some adult volunteers helped to move one of our congregation members to a new home.
- * We celebrated and recognized 5 graduating Seniors. Cady Weidner (attending Mount Marty in Watertown), Jason Kasperek (attending Lake Area Tech), Wyatt Smunk (entering the workforce), Kilie Raml (attending Lake Area Tech) and Kaden Raml (attending Lake Area Tech).
- * We had a fun "end of the school year" bash at Nelson Park on May 13. Some youth will be gathering over the summer for the "Faith in Action" Bible study.

We welcome these confirmation students into the First United Methodist Church Family!

Back Row: Pastor Sara McManus & Pastor Amy Atkins

Middle Row: Brooklyn Buelow, Sawyer Barrie, Allana Johnson, Jayda VanSickle, Sophia Julius, Kaelee Ward

Front Row: Tyson Clark, Izrial Jenner, Quinn Boadwine, Annie Olerud, Quinn Steiner





Samuel Summer Internship!

We are excited to announce that our summer intern for 2026 will be Cortlyn Paulson. Cortlyn just finished her sophomore year at Watertown High School and is a strong leader in our church. Throughout this summer, Cortlyn will learn about what it means to be a pastor, work at the church and understand what it looks like to follow her call. Like our previous interns, you'll find Cortlyn around the church, in the office and helping out in worship.

The Samuel Project is a 10-week summer program for high school students who already feel God's call of ministry. The Samuel project is focused on providing opportunities for high school age youth who desire to experience what a calling into ministry might feel and look like, prior to beginning higher education.

Office Volunteers Needed—We are looking for a few folks who would be willing to answer the phones and the door on occasion when our regular staff are on vacation etc. These are only 1/2 day shifts and only Mondays—Thursdays as our office is closed on Fridays. There may be a few tasks that can be done while volunteering or if you prefer to bring your book or tablet that is fine too. We just need someone available in case the phone or doorbell rings.

If this is something you would be interested in, please contact the church office 605-886-4427 or email office@watertownfirst.church. Thank You!

First Church Finances

FUMC General Budget Financials - 2026			
		Monthly Actual	YTD Cash Flow
1st Qtr	Income	\$ 122,739	\$ (3,367)
	Expense	\$ 126,106	
	Difference	\$ (3,367)	
Apr-25	Income	\$ 35,864	\$ (6,266)
	Expense	\$ 41,159	
	Difference	\$ (5,294)	

NOTE: To meet our 2026 budget in full each month, we will need a monthly giving 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!

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!



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

FIRST FAMILY AND FRIENDS



Our deepest sympathy is extended to:

Donna Bruns and other family and friends of Rickey Crudden from Florence, SD who passed away on May 8, 2026. Rickey is Donna’s brother.

Mark & Laura Bayles and other friends and family of Steve Bayles who passed away on April 22, 2026. Steve is Mark’s brother.

Karen & Steve Gorseth and other family and friends of Barbara Cannon of Mesa AZ who passed away on May 6, 2026. Barbara is Karen’s aunt.

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;
June 15 - 1:30 pm at Edgewood Memory Care - 420 9th St SE
June 15 - 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	Bonnie Lien #411 • Karen Ostrander #424 Arlene Berger #311 • Margaret Newl #208 Eleanor Prouty #315 • Lou Ann Kosier #109 Jackie Baxter #403 • Carol Pollard #202 LuAnn Edwards #206 • Wes Larson #413
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)

July 1, 2026
“Navigating the Road Ahead: Senior Driving & Caregiver Support ” by Matt Hegg & Alexis Buysse, Community Engagement, Watertown Police Department.

August 5, 2026
“Dementia: Signs, Types & Severities” by Dr. Sara Erickson, PHD Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Bridgeway Counseling.

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.*



Birthdate	Happy Birthday To...
1-Jun	Lennox Mayer
1-Jun	Silas Murphy
1-Jun	Wade Fiebelkorn
1-Jun	Nicklos Hoffman
1-Jun	Aaron Steiner
1-Jun	Gloria VanDykorst
1-Jun	Shirley Roe
2-Jun	Julie Schutt
3-Jun	Audrey Rhodes
3-Jun	Kayla Miller
4-Jun	Camden Weidner
4-Jun	Kaleb DeBoer
5-Jun	Dalton Krueger
6-Jun	Kamiela Rymerson
6-Jun	Jennifer Landon
7-Jun	Harrison Wegner
7-Jun	Dale Spurrell
8-Jun	Carson Hansmann
10-Jun	Julie VanSickle
10-Jun	Jennifer Bender
10-Jun	Conner Mack
11-Jun	Doug Jenner
12-Jun	Caleb Frambs
14-Jun	Donna McElhany
14-Jun	David Traufler
15-Jun	Megan Wight
17-Jun	Duane Caron
17-Jun	Jill Ford
18-Jun	Carol Kannegieter
18-Jun	Sheila Raml
18-Jun	Melissa Todd
19-Jun	Aaron Dale
19-Jun	Erin Murphy
20-Jun	Marcia Urban

Birthdate	Happy Birthday To...
21-Jun	Isaiah Asche
21-Jun	Ivy Sangster
21-Jun	Kathie Grann
21-Jun	Coop Birrittier
22-Jun	Chantell Schieber
22-Jun	Geraldine Telkamp
23-Jun	Olivia Stanley
23-Jun	Angie Stanley
24-Jun	Henry Gall
24-Jun	Marlys Fie
24-Jun	Gennie LaFramboise
24-Jun	Noah Weidenbach
25-Jun	Ezekiel Urdahl
25-Jun	Leighton Dolney
25-Jun	Kaden Zink
25-Jun	Desi Reis
25-Jun	Rebecca Lundy
26-Jun	Tyler Frensko
26-Jun	Mandy Ward
27-Jun	James Swenson
27-Jun	Jennifer VanDerLinden
27-Jun	Sara McManus
28-Jun	Kenzleigh Boughton
29-Jun	Sharon Klose
29-Jun	Hunter Maifield
29-Jun	Traver Hansmann
29-Jun	Adalie (Addie) Fordham

Anniversary	Name
4-Jun	Shane & Jenni Wirkus
6-Jun	Brad & Traci Gilbertson
8-Jun	Ted & Janet Tesch
10-Jun	Jeff & Colleen Enstad
10-Jun	John & Monica Redlinger
13-Jun	Robert & Roxie Shultz
13-Jun	Austin & Ashley Fordham
14-Jun	Ed & Sue Togel
14-Jun	Tom & Jeanne Berry
14-Jun	Nick & Ashley Dalton
15-Jun	Jerry & Judy Miller
16-Jun	Kevin & Dawn Berner
16-Jun	Chuck & Debbie Engels
22-Jun	David & Cindy Traufler
24-Jun	Brad & Marissa Willett
27-Jun	Marilyn Arnold
27-Jun	Mark & Marilyn Arnold
30-Jun	Joe & Kelsey Jellis

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

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

June 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 pm—Contemporary
Sundays, 9:30 am—Blended

Current Sermon Series



SET THE PACE

TRAINING YOUR FAITH:
 BUILDING THE HABITS THAT SUSTAIN.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • 4 2ND AVE SE • PO BOX 1416 • WATERTOWN, SD 57201 •
 605-886-4427
office@watertownfirst.church • www.watertownfirst.church