



# First United Methodist Church July 2026



4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

## PASTOR'S WORD

Hello Church!

As we wrap up our series on running and setting the pace, I pray that you have been hearing the need for habit formation in our spiritual life. One of the ways to do this is through spiritual disciplines. There are countless resources online to explore the many opportunities of these disciplines, but a few of them are:

Meditation, Prayer (which includes Listening), Fasting, Study, Simplicity, Solitude (and Silence), Submission, Service, Confession, Worship, Guidance (group and individual spiritual direction), Hospitality, and Celebration.  
*(Taken from the UMC of Upper New York)*

In each discipline, the goal is to clear our minds of ourselves and the world around us in order to pay better attention to God, the Holy Spirit at work and where we are being nudged. Our VBS theme continues the idea of running with “Race You to the Manger”, our kiddos will have opportunities to explore their faith and various scriptures through snacks, music, games, story time, crafts and time with one another. I encourage you to volunteer in some capacity with VBS – decorating, planning, helping in kitchen, being a leader, etc. Whatever you are able to do, I also ask you to pray for our leaders as they prepare for this transformational experience.

While this is something for our kiddos, I hope you take the time to try out some disciplines for yourself. See which ones may resonate with you, which may need some tweaking and which are just not for you. Give them some time and space to breathe in your life, feel how they nourish your soul and keep them close as a piece of your training with God. Something to always use – whether life is easy or hard!

Praying for safe travels this summer season, for plenty of memories with loved ones and time spent in nature.

Blessings –

Pastor Kim Hastings

IN THIS ISSUE	
<i>A Word from our Pastor</i>	1
<i>Calendar &amp; Events</i>	2 & 3
<i>Leadership Team Minutes</i>	4
<i>First Youth News</i>	5
<i>First Kids News</i>	6-7
<i>First Church Finances</i>	7
<i>First Family &amp; Friends</i>	8-9
<i>Worship Hours—Meet the Staff</i>	10

**A Huge Thank you to Steve & Julie Stulken (friends of Bill Hoffman) awesome musicians who jumped in on June 27 to help provide music for our Saturday night Worship.**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>All are invited to join the fun in these events this month...</b></li> <li>◆ <b>First UMC's Float in the 4th of July Parade</b> <i>(see page 6 for more info)</i></li> <li>◆ <b>5K Walk/Run on July 18th to kick off VBS</b> <i>(See page 3 for more info)</i></li> <li>◆ <b>Help with VBS or Register a child you know</b> <i>(see page 6 for more info)</i></li> </ul>			1 <b>NO</b> Embracing God Bible Study	2 <b>NO</b> Women's Bible Study  6:00 pm Decorating the Float at Grace Lutheran Church	3 Office Closed	4 <b>Independence Day</b> 7 am Back Room Boys Church Lounge 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant  <b>2 pm Parade—look for the FIRST UMC Float</b>  <b>NO Saturday Evening Worship This Day</b>
5 <b>9:30 am Worship</b> <b>NO Children's Church</b>	6 Home Communion 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge  5:30 pm Women of Grace—Sr. Max's	7 <b>NO</b> Missions Mtg <b>NO</b> Leadership Team Mtg  VBS Decorating 5 pm—7 pm Fellowship Hall	8 <b>NO</b> Morning Glories Women's Group  9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study— Lounge	9 10 am Women's Bible Study  VBS Decorating 5 pm—7 pm Fellowship Hall	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</b>
12 <b>9:30 am Worship</b>	13 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge	14	15 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study— Lounge	16 10 am Women's Bible Study	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>  <b>5K Walk / Run to Kick of VBS</b>
19 <b>9:30 am Worship</b>	20 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge  Memory Care Services 1:30 pm Edgewood 2:30 pm Cedar View	21 11:30 am Lunch a Bunch at Pizza Ranch	22 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study— Lounge	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>
<b>VBS—5 pm Meal / 6—8 pm Activities</b>						
26 <b>9:30 am Worship</b>	27 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation— Church Lounge  5:15 pm All Staff Meeting—Lounge	28	29 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study— Lounge	30 10 am Women's Bible Study	31 Office Closed	<b>August 1</b> 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>No Children's Church in August</b>

## 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

5:30 pm Women of Grace Bible Study

### 3rd Monday of the Month

Memory Care Services at Edgewood & Cedar View

### 2nd Tuesday of the Month—Not in July

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—Not in July

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.***

## July Mission of the Month is VBS

Your donations will help with expenses for meals, snacks, crafts etc. Registration for children is free.

Donations can be made by the following:

- ◇ Make checks out to First UMC and note "VBS" in the memo.
- ◇ Cash donations welcome.
- ◇ Visit [www.watertownfirst.church/giving](http://www.watertownfirst.church/giving)—select Mission of the Month—Note "VBS" in the comments.

**Thank you for your support!**

## 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.*

### **July 4—Holiday Weekend**

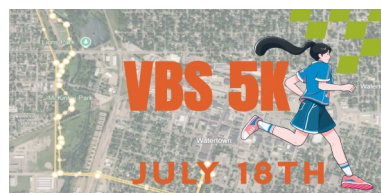
### **September 5—Labor Day Weekend**

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!

## First Church Float for Parade!



- ◇ First Church will be partnering with Grace Lutheran Church to create a float based on our VBS theme "Race you to the Manger" for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.
- ◇ We would like to welcome children, youth and any congregation members to join in the fun.
- ◇ We will be decorating the float at Grace Lutheran Church on Thursday July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm.
- ◇ On July 4th, we will then be gathering at 1:30 pm in the Grace Lutheran Church Parking lot to line up for the parade.
- ◇ Contact Bobbie Jenner, with any questions.



We invite you to help us kick off our 2026 VBS! Run, Walk, Bike, Skate, or just cheer us on as we "Race to the Manger"!

### **Saturday, July 18th—VBS 5K** **Start from & Return to First Church**

### **7:00 am Registration / 8:00 am Race Begins**

- \* All ages are welcome to participate with feet or wheels BUT **NO Motorized items are allowed.**
- \* Race route will be mapped out for those who wish to cheer on the participants.
- \* Water stations will be available along the way.
- \* If you'd like to volunteer to host at one of the water stations, please contact the church office.

This will be a fun and exciting day for all. Hope to see you there as we "Race You to the Manger" for VBS.

**Leadership Team Minute, June 9, 2026**

**Team Members Present:** Doug Wishard, Sue Luken, Heidi Steffensen, Marcia Schneider, Allen Stern, Sue Stern, Lisa Stydel, Summer Intern - Cortlyn Paulson, Pastor Sara and Pastor Kim

**Devotion and Prayer:** Marcia Schneider

**AGENDA:****Accessibility Team Update:**

Waiting on grant notification

**Pastor Sara Update:**

\*Attended Annual Conference in Bismark, ND.

\*Church received a \$3500 grant for youth ministry. It will be used to help support neurodiversity needs & sensory devices for the church.

\*Celebration of Life & Ministry was held. We celebrated the Ordination of Rev. Teresa Whetsel who was called to ministry here at First UMC.

**Pastor Kim Update:**

\*Attending Ozark Rural Ministries Training at the end of June

\*Reported that 10,000 diapers were given away at the Diaper Giveaway on June 2

**Leadership Team Updates:****Finance Report -**

\*May giving was in the positive with more people giving that month.

\*New monthly electrical bill will go from \$1600/month to \$1866/month beginning in June, 2026

\* Cortlyn Paulson is the new summer intern. She will work 20 hours per week. Her wages will be paid ½ by the conference and ½ by the young adult account.

**Building and Grounds -Allen Stern**

\*Carillon bells will be delivered on pallets. The church is responsible for unloading. Communication with the company is ongoing as to when they will be delivered. No electrician had been hired yet to help with installation. When they are installed, the bells will be

mounted on lifts inside the tower and not outside.

\*Dishwasher - The leak has been fixed.

\*Plate and Cups Carts - This will not be acted upon until July

\*Heat Tapes - The heat tape needs to be replaced and electrical breakers checked. A suggestion was made to place a ladder on the outside of the building so the heat tapes can physically be checked to make sure they are working.

\*The van will be kept in a storage garage when not being used.

**SPR - Sue Luken**

\*Pastor Sara and Pastor Kim's check-in conference conversations have been completed. They both received official reappointment to their current churches.

\*Staff evaluations will continue to be worked on.

**Ministry - Marcia Schneider -**

\*No report this month - An update will be provided in August.

\*Outdoor Service will be held on Sunday, June 21 at the downtown plaza. There will be no Saturday service.

\*Diaper Giveaway will be analyzed to compare needs and costs before the next giveaway is scheduled.

**Next meeting:** August 11, 2026**Devotions** by Cortlyn

Submitted by,

Heidi Steffensen, recording secretary

Update:

The Carillon Bell System has arrived!

## 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, April Noem, Erin Murphy & Lori Jurgens 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!

## Confirmation Class Registration Coming Soon!

Families of 7th and 8th grade students, be on the lookout for registration information for our upcoming Confirmation Class!

This year, we are excited to introduce a new format for Confirmation. Rather than meeting weekly, participants will gather **once each month** for a **three-hour session on a Saturday or Sunday**. These extended gatherings will provide time for deeper learning, relationship-building, and spiritual growth.

Each monthly session will include:

- **Worship experiences** with the congregation and a time to reflect together.
- **Time with congregational mentors** who will encourage and support students throughout their faith journey

**Interactive lessons and discussions** focused on topics such as discipleship, prayer, Scripture, United Methodist beliefs, service, and living a life connected to God in community with others

One of the benefits of this new format is that Confirmation participants will also be able to take part in our **weekly Wednesday night youth group activities**, creating even more opportunities for fellowship, faith formation, and fun with their peers.

If your student is in 7th or 8th grade and has not yet been confirmed, we encourage you to consider this exciting opportunity. Watch for registration details, class dates, and additional information in the coming weeks.

We look forward to walking alongside our youth as they grow in their faith and discover what it means to be active disciples of Jesus Christ. Stay tuned for registration information!

**FIRST KIDS K-3 Grade**  
**FIRST SQUAD 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**

- ◇ **July 5:** Family Worship
- ◇ **July 11:** Sensory Emersion Children Church: As we learn about perseverance and always giving thanks
- ◇ **July 18th:** Sensory Emersion Children Church: Can you Feel God?
- ◇ **July 25th:** Sensory Emersion Children Church: God sees us and lifts us up!



**Mini Mission Trip to Sioux Falls.**

Back Row: Bobbie Jenner, Jill Ford, Lori Jurgens, Cortlyn Paulson, Jamie Angerhofer  
 Front Row: Raven Smith, Amy Atkins, Ilah Stern, Ashlynn Varilek, Reagan Smith, Violet Ford, Rylen Rosendahl, Kegan Kasperek, Ladonna Weidenbach

**It is never too early to think about helping out this fall with our Kid's/Youth Ministry Program's.**

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.**

**First Church Float for Parade!**

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**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"!

**Don't forget to sign up for VBS - whether you want to help in the kitchen, with games, help decorate, help with a group of kids, crafts, music, or even moral support.**

VBS is a week of fun, laughter, learning about Jesus and growing in our faith together.

Please reach out with any questions.

VBS is fun for all ages!

**VBS Decorating Party: 5:00—7:00 pm**

Tuesday, July 7 and Thursday July 9  
 Week of July 13<sup>th</sup> times & days to be determined

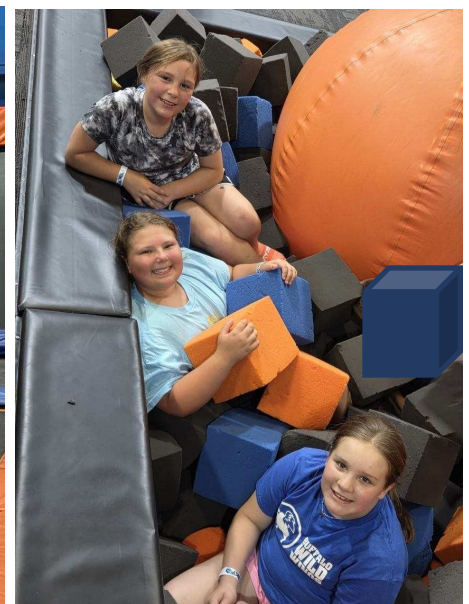
**Join us for our First VBS 5K on July 18th - you can walk or run. We will have refreshments and treats afterwards. See page 3 for details.**

### Photos from the First Kids Mini Mission Trip to Sioux Falls

The group worked hard all morning at Feeding South Dakota then broke for lunch.

After lunch they spent time burning off more energy at Sky Zone.

Thanks to the adults that chaperoned this event!



### First Church Finances

#### FUMC General Budget Financials - 2026

		Monthly Actual	YTD Cash Flow
Apr-26	Income	\$ 35,864	\$ (6,266)
	Expense	\$ 41,159	
	Difference	\$ (5,294)	
May-26	Income	\$ 37,715	\$ (5,198)
	Expense	\$ 36,647	
	Difference	\$ 1,067	

**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](http://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

<b>OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN ASSISTED LIVING OR NURSING HOMES</b>	
Edgewood Memory Care 420 9th St SE—Watertown, SD 57201	Dorothy Irwin • Paul McElhany
Cedar View Memory Care	Virginia Skinner
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
Avantara Lake Norden 803 Park St—Lake Norden SD 57248	Darrell DeLong

**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;

July 20 - 1:30 pm at Edgewood Memory Care - 420 9th St SE

July 20 - 2:30 pm at Cedar View - 225 14th Ave NE

**We invite and encourage everyone to join us for these worship services.**

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



**Our deepest sympathy is extended to:**

Scott Davis, Harvey & Bev Schnackenberg and other family and friends of Kristi Davis who passed away on May 28, 2026. Kristi is Scott's wife and Harvey & Bev's daughter.

Family and friends of Shirley Roe who passed away on June 25, 2026. Shirley and Millard were members of First UMC in Watertown but currently live in Spearfish, SD.



Birthday	Happy Birthday To...
1-Jul	Izrial Jenner
2-Jul	Natalie Wight
2-Jul	Daniel Boone
2-Jul	Kelli Grismer
2-Jul	Taylor Wellman
2-Jul	Jeffrey Hiedeman
3-Jul	Carol Waba
3-Jul	Julie Williams
3-Jul	Matthew Robinson
4-Jul	Ronda Boughton
6-Jul	Holton Schutt
7-Jul	Stella Fox
8-Jul	Diane Veen
9-Jul	Virgil DeLong
10-Jul	Jynae Schmeling
10-Jul	Mason Hartley
11-Jul	Tucker Bayles
11-Jul	Sandi Pederson
11-Jul	Nichole Smith
11-Jul	Jacinda Biberdorf
12-Jul	Chance Bonen
13-Jul	Miles Fordham
15-Jul	Aaron Thompson
15-Jul	Ashley Waples-Dalton
15-Jul	Eleanor McManus
16-Jul	Jay Remmers
16-Jul	Megan Swanson
17-Jul	LuAnn Edwards
17-Jul	Doris Riley
17-Jul	Dawn Berner
19-Jul	Beverly Hemp
19-Jul	Kylie Moyer

Birthday	Happy Birthday To...
20-Jul	Hazel Dale
20-Jul	Evan Ekern
20-Jul	Thomas Dolney
21-Jul	Beth Schutt
22-Jul	Laney Wight
23-Jul	Carter Willett
23-Jul	Gregory Anderson
23-Jul	Bonnie Lien
23-Jul	Nick Dalton
24-Jul	Shiloh Valsvig
24-Jul	Jessica VanSickle
24-Jul	Donna Bruns
24-Jul	Eliana (Ellie) Fordham
25-Jul	Dan Houfek
25-Jul	Cassidy Biberdorf
25-Jul	Tasha Mayer
25-Jul	Lori Moshier VanVlerah
26-Jul	Carol Pollard
26-Jul	Amelia Thompson
27-Jul	Kolt Ruesink
29-Jul	Patricia Crooks
29-Jul	Trinity Constant
30-Jul	Zachary Weidner
30-Jul	Missy Gilbert
30-Jul	Isaac Schaeffer
30-Jul	LaDawn Robinson
31-Jul	Oliver Alwin
31-Jul	Melanie Schmidt
31-Jul	Sabrina Valsvig
31-Jul	Alistair Corvin

Anniversary	Happy Anniversary To...
1-Jul	Roger & Gennie LaFramboise
1-Jul	Kolt & Jaci Ruesink
2-Jul	Kaleb & Jamie DeBoer
7-Jul	Brent & Jody Ford
7-Jul	Dan & Linda Oslund
9-Jul	Chad & Dawn Voelsch
11-Jul	Thomas & Ginger Myers
12-Jul	Justin & Sheila Raml
15-Jul	Jake & Tracy Stavick
16-Jul	Alan & Beth Luckhurst
17-Jul	Brian & Linda Haan
20-Jul	Aaron & Kelly Dale
20-Jul	Kollin & Michelle Mohling
21-Jul	Glen & Darla Vilhauer
22-Jul	Skyler & Jen Bender
23-Jul	Marty & Deb Harmel
25-Jul	Jim & Denise Mayer
27-Jul	Tim & Sara Jorgenson
27-Jul	Nathan & Jill Ford
31-Jul	Steve & Lisa Stydel
31-Jul	Ryan & Erika Zink

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 P.O. Box 1416  
 Watertown, SD 57201

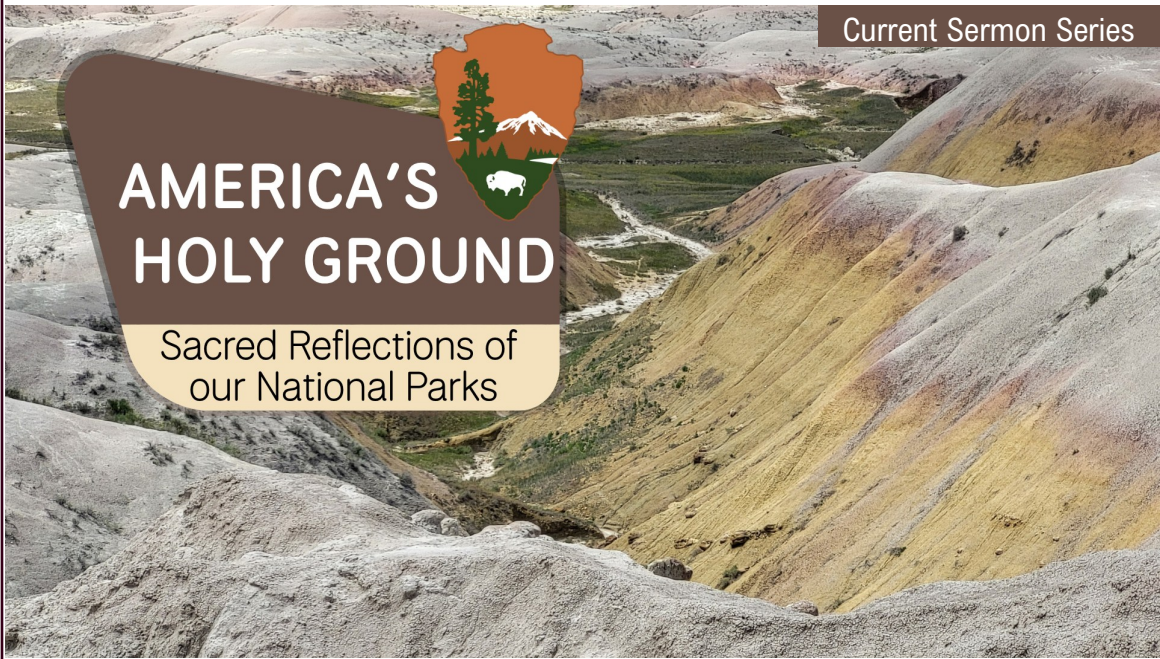
**RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED**

# July 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**



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