



First United Methodist Church August 2026



4 Second Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

PASTOR'S WORD

Psalm 27.14

*Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!*

I was running late the other day. You know typical parent running late, trying to pick one child up and get the other someplace else AND get work done at the same time.

It's on days like this that I think feel like August. Not that August is really busier than any other time of year but for those parents, kids, teachers, administrators, coaches, and everyone connected to the school system schedule - August feels like a new start and one we are never prepared for.

We've got kids going off to college.

We've got kids starting in new schools.

We have teachers starting again - new classrooms and new students.

We have new retirees going into fall for the first time without students to care for.

Every year August feels like something truly chaotic.

I often wonder what God thinks about our chaotic start to another year - as we plan and get excited about what's new - as we slowly acknowledge that sometime soon the heat will go away - as we know we'll be wishing it back come January. I wonder if God's head is shaking at our frenzy.

Dear Children - God wants to remind us - slow down and breathe.

We are intentional here at the church to let August still be summer. While school and activities begin, we wait until September to fill our church schedule back to full. Not because our discipleship isn't important, but as a reminder that God continues to want balance in our lives. When we overfill and overwhelm, we find ourselves lost to the good around us.

August might feel like a return to chaos for many families, but we know that God's good presence is still here. As the heat slowly ebbs, and the activities ramp up, we are reminded that God is there with us in both the calm and the chaos.

So, don't forget to add God into the schedule, on the calendar and into our hearts.

Will you pray with me?

God, help me to breathe and slow down. To see in my chaos, the calm of your love. Amen.

Pastor Sara McManus

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August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
No Children's Church this month as we prepare for our fall programing.						1 7 am Back Room Boys Church Library 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
2 9:30 am Worship NO Children's Church	3 Home Communion 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation 5:30 pm Women of Grace—We'll meet at Danger Von Dempsey's at the Airport	4	5 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge	6 10 am Women's Bible Study	7 Office Closed	8 7 am Back Room Boys Church Library 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 5:00 pm Worship at the Lake
9 9:30 am Worship at Foundation Plaza	10 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge	11 4:30 pm Missions Meeting 5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting	12 10:00 am Morning Glories Women's Group	13 10 am Women's Bible Study	14 Office Closed	15 7 am Back Room Boys Church Library 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship Youth Mission Trip
16 9:30 am Worship Youth Mission Trip	17 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation Memory Care Worship Services: 1:30 pm Edgewood 2:30 pm Cedar View First Church Serves the Banquet See page 3	18 11:30 am Lunch a Bunch at Pizza Ranch	19 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge	20 10 am Women's Bible Study	21 Office Closed	22 7 am Back Room Boys Church Library 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
23 9:30 am Worship	24 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge	25	26 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge	27 10 am Women's Bible Study	28 Office Closed	29 7 am Back Room Boys Church Library 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant 3:00 pm Band Rehearsal 5:00 pm Worship
30 9:30 am Worship	31 1:15-3:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge	<i>September 1</i>	<i>September 2</i> 9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Lounge	<i>September 3</i> 10 am Women's Bible Study	<i>Sept 4</i> Office Closed	<i>September 5</i> 7 am Back Room Boys Church Library 9 am Late Risers Stone's Restaurant No Saturday Worship this Weekend. Please join us Sunday morning at 9:30 am for Worship.

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

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.***

**Summer Worship Schedule at
First Church**

*There will be No Saturday evening
worship on*

September 5—Labor Day Weekend

Please join us Sunday, September 6th
at 9:30 am for Worship.

August Mission of the Month is The Banquet

First Church will be serving The Banquet on Monday,
August 17th at 5:30 pm at Grace Lutheran Church.

We will need help with food prep and with serving.
If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact
the church office at 605-886-4427 or email us:
office@watertownfirst.church.

Donations for groceries can be made as follows:

- ◇ Make checks out to First UMC and note "The Banquet"
in the memo.
- ◇ Cash donations welcome.
- ◇ Visit www.watertownfirst.church/giving—select Mis-
sion of the Month—Note "The Banquet" in the com-
ments.

Thank you for your support!

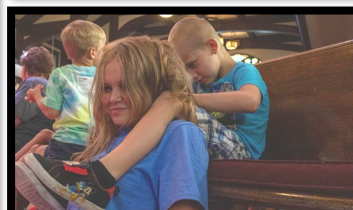
**Seen, Included, Loved: An innovation in
Youth Ministry Grant** *(By Barb Goldammer, Dakotas
& Minnesota Methodist Foundations)*

First United Methodist Church in Watertown is using
an Innovation in Youth Ministry Grant to reshape how
children and families experience worship, learning,
and community together. Weekend Children's Leader
Bobbie Jenner is leading a new sensory friendly
ministry that responds to the growing number of
neurodivergent children and youth who find traditional
church environments overwhelming.

"While church is intended to be a welcoming place for
all, many families with neurodivergent children face
significant challenges participating in church services
and events," Bobbie shared.

With support from the Dakotas and Minnesota Meth-
odist Foundations' Innovation in Youth Ministry Grant,
Watertown First is developing sensory friendly
supports and accommodations across its ministries,
including Vacation Bible School, Wednesday night
programming, youth group, children's church, and
weekly worship. Quiet, low stimulation spaces are
being identified and created within the sanctuary
and other areas of the church so that children can
participate at their own comfort level. The team is
also introducing sensory tools—such as wobble seats
and tactile resources—and modeling their use so
families see that these tools are welcomed and "for
everybody," not just for a few.

Read the full article here [Seen Included Loved](#)



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, Bobbie Jenner, 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!

FIRSTKIDS K-3 Grade

FIRSTSQUAD 4-6 Grade

Children's Ministry

Reminder:

We are taking the month of August to regroup and get ready for the fall. There will be no Children's Church on the weekends but we will have an activity for the kids to do during worship for them to hand in afterwards to collect a treat or prize.

This Fall—Weekends:

Our weekends will be connecting Children's Church with the Sermon Series. Look for the Weekly Devotion to have a fun family activity to do together.

This Fall—Wednesdays:

If you are new to First Church or have a child that would like to attend Wednesday Night Activities, please grab a form from the back of the Sanctuary or Office Door and fill it out so we have updated and correct information.

Return the form to the church office or hand it to Lori or Bobbie.

July ended with a bang with VBS. It was a great week.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with VBS this past week.

We saw **63** children ages PK—5th grade

We had **16** youth volunteers

We had **32** adult volunteers.

The program and all the activities were fantastic, the music was awesome and the food and snacks were delicious!

Thanks to all who donated, participated, or helped out in any way!

Children are the future of our church. And they are such a joy to hang out with!

If you would like to Volunteer in any way whether it is on the weekends or on Wednesday's please reach out.

You can make a once-a-month commitment, a couple times a month, or every week please reach out and let us know.

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

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

Each year at VBS we incorporate a Local Mission and have a monetary goal to reach by the end of VBS. This year our goal was to raise enough money to purchase a Miracle Inclusive Swing Seat to be installed in one of our Watertown Parks.

We always challenge the kids and promise them something special if we reach our goal. This year we promised a Root beer float / Dance party at the end of VBS if we raise the \$2000 towards the purchase of this swing. Offering was taken each night of VBS.

Update: During VBS and with the congregation's help our church has raised \$2,798.04 towards the purchase of a Wheel Chair Accessible Swing. Keep watching as we progress on this project. We'll post pictures when the swing is placed in one of our parks here in Watertown.

If you would like to contribute to this mission, donations can be made by the following:

Make checks out to First UMC and note "Swing - VBS" in the memo.

- Cash donations welcome.

- Visit www.watertownfirst.church/giving—select VBS Donations—Note "Swing - VBS" in the comments

Thank you so much for all of your Support!!

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.

Please join us for our Outdoor Worship Services!



Worship at the Lake: 5:00 pm

Saturday, August 8th

City Park

**Bring your lawn chair,
your water bottle
and joy for the Lord!**

**We'll meet by the water for
worship, music, and fellowship!**

Invite a friend or neighbor.



Worship at the Plaza: 9:30 am

Sunday, August 9th

Join us for

Praise at the Plaza

Bring your lawn chair and coffee!

**See you at the Foundation Plaza
for worship and praise!**

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	
Jun-26	Income	\$ 33,869	\$ (15,179)
	Expense	\$ 43,850	
	Difference	\$ (9,981)	
2nd Qtr	Income	\$ 107,448	\$ (15,179)
	Expense	\$ 121,656	
	Difference	\$ (14,208)	

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 giving of \$37,579. 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 CHURCH FAMILY IN ASSISTED LIVING OR NURSING HOMES

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;

August 17 - 1:30 pm at Edgewood Memory Care - 420 9th St SE

August 17 - 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)

August 5, 2026

"Dementia: Signs, Types & Severities" by Dr. Sara Erickson, PHD Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Bridgeway Counseling.

September 2, 2026

"Continuum of Care" by Aaron Shives, MD, Prairie Lakes Brown Clinic

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.



Our prayers
and deepest
sympathy to
these families.

Marlys Fie and other family and friends of Marianne Thronson-Hiljus who passed away on July 24, 2026. Marianne is sister to Marlys.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Birthday	Happy Birthday To...	Birthday	Happy Birthday To...
1-Aug	Colleen Enstad	17-Aug	Jeanne Lane
1-Aug	Jenni Lake	17-Aug	Marilyn Arnold
1-Aug	Dale McElhany	17-Aug	Addison Fiebelkorn
1-Aug	Doug Wishard	18-Aug	Evan Alwin
1-Aug	Brittney Page	18-Aug	Brentley Willett
3-Aug	Sophie Cole	19-Aug	Jeri Larson
4-Aug	Amy Arnold	19-Aug	Lori Jurgens
4-Aug	Roxie Shultz	19-Aug	Ava Kannas
5-Aug	Thomas Halajian	19-Aug	Saylor Faith Krueger
5-Aug	Blair Titze	20-Aug	Shannon Bruns
5-Aug	Jeffrey Willett	21-Aug	Lauren Wight
6-Aug	Kason Poppen	22-Aug	Dominic VanSickle
6-Aug	Aspen Billings	23-Aug	Susan Bachmann
7-Aug	Amelia Schmeling	23-Aug	Jody Ford
8-Aug	Brian Haan	23-Aug	Ashley Fordham
9-Aug	Ella Buechler	24-Aug	Sarapheen Stavick
9-Aug	Deb Harmel	25-Aug	Brian Davey
9-Aug	Lynsy Fonder	25-Aug	Becky Hanson
11-Aug	Cindy Traufler	26-Aug	Harlan Siegfried
11-Aug	Nick Koehn	26-Aug	Melanie Sanden
11-Aug	Scout Valsvig	26-Aug	Phin Smith
12-Aug	David Waples	27-Aug	Derek Wangen
13-Aug	Denver Jenner	27-Aug	Lilly Jensen
13-Aug	Camryn Fitzgerald	27-Aug	Jeanie Endres
13-Aug	Bohannon Ruesink	28-Aug	Kaitlin Wangen
14-Aug	Adam Fox	28-Aug	Audrey Lindgren
14-Aug	Kyle McManus	28-Aug	Natalie Robinson
15-Aug	Aaliyah Kay Koehn	29-Aug	Micah Ortmeier
15-Aug	Radley Maifield	29-Aug	Jaykob Wirkus
16-Aug	Monica Redlinger	30-Aug	Mike Grovenburg
16-Aug	Emma Bredvik	30-Aug	Everly Wellman
16-Aug	Kari Shultz	30-Aug	Mollie Raasch
17-Aug	Marlene Jackson	30-Aug	Alice Bruns
17-Aug	Kayden TwoCrow	31-Aug	Dane Dalton

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

Anniversary	Name
1-Aug	Blair & Nancy Titze
2-Aug	Wendell & Alice Bruns
7-Aug	Wayne & Angie Wegner
8-Aug	Daniel & Shirley Boone
8-Aug	Brian & Susan Davey
9-Aug	Mike & Sandi Pederson
10-Aug	Rich & Teresa Remmers
10-Aug	Kevin & Staci Smunk
10-Aug	James & Joyce Swenson
10-Aug	Tim & Heidi Steffensen
13-Aug	Loel & Phyllis Diggs
14-Aug	Luke & Stephanie Muller
15-Aug	Bill & Marta Hoffman
15-Aug	Tyler & Megan Converse
16-Aug	Tom & Roberta LaFramboise
17-Aug	Taylor & Emily Rymerson
17-Aug	Peter & Audrey Rohde
18-Aug	Gene & Deanna Ward
26-Aug	Curt & Peggy Lindahl
27-Aug	Aaron & Kacee Hoffman
28-Aug	Jake & Cassie Kasperek
28-Aug	DeVern & Joan Schwenn

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

August 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

Current Sermon Series



AMERICA'S HOLY GROUND

Sacred Reflections of
our National Parks

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

605-886-4427

office@watertownfirst.church • www.watertownfirst.church

