



## CONTACT

### PHONE

605.886.4427

### OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Thurs: 8am-12pm & 1pm-4:30pm

### WEBSITE

[www.watertownfirst.church](http://www.watertownfirst.church)

## 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](mailto:seniorpastor@watertownfirst.church)

#### Associate Pastor - Rev. Kim Hastings

[assocpastor@watertownfirst.church](mailto:assocpastor@watertownfirst.church)

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

[youth@watertownfirst.church](mailto:youth@watertownfirst.church)

#### Office Manager - Pearl Geffre

[office@watertownfirst.church](mailto:office@watertownfirst.church)

#### Youth Ministry Coordinator - April Noem

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

#### Children's Minister - Lori Jurgens

[lori@watertownfirst.church](mailto:lori@watertownfirst.church)

#### Weekend Children's Leader - Bobbie Jenner

[bobbie@watertownfirst.church](mailto:bobbie@watertownfirst.church)

#### Media and Graphic Design - Dean Gorseth

[media@watertownfirst.church](mailto:media@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

Welcome to  
First United  
Methodist Church

Saturday August 15, 2026 • 5:00 pm

**WELCOME**

**\*OPENING SONGS**

*Blessed Be Your Name*  
*10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS / PRAYER TIME**

**TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES**

Join in singing “As For Me and My House”.

**MESSAGE**

Forming a Family, Preparing a People Sermon Series  
*To Be A Blessing*  
Genesis 12:1-9  
Pastor Sara McManus

**OFFERING**

**REFLECTION SONG**

*Way Maker*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**CLOSING SONG**

*Counting My Blessings*

**\*BLESSING**

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

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

**Children’s Church Note:**

We are taking a break in August to get ready for the fall.

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**Monday, August 17**

1:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge  
5:30 pm The Banquet—at Grace Lutheran Church

**Tuesday, August 18**

11:30 am Lunch a Bunch at Pizza Ranch

**Wednesday, August 19**

9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Church Lounge

**Thursday, August 20**

10:00 am Women’s Bible Study—Fellowship Hall

**Friday, August 21—Office Closed**

**Saturday, August 22**

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**

**Sunday, August 23**

**9:30 am Blended Worship**

**Monday, August 24**

1:00 pm BUNCO  
1:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge  
**LATC Kickoff Today—Prayers for Students and Instructors for a safe and productive school year!**

**Tuesday, August 25**

**School Starts today—Prayers for all Students and Teacher for a safe and productive school year!**

**Wednesday, August 26**

9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study—Church Lounge

**Thursday, August 27**

10:00 am Women’s Bible Study—Fellowship Hall

**Friday, August 28—Office Closed**

# 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](mailto: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](http://www.watertownfirst.church/giving)—select Mission of the Month—Note “The Banquet” in the comments.

**Thank you for your support!**

## Join Us for Our Upcoming Event: Charitable Strategies to Maximize Your Impact

Interested in learning more about charitable giving and ways to make a lasting impact? Join us for **Charitable Strategies to Maximize Your Impact**, an educational workshop introducing Thrivent Charitable and exploring strategies for incorporating charitable giving into your overall financial plan.

Topics will include:

- The three simple steps to a charitable fund: **Give, Grow, and Grant**
  - Understanding **Give Now, Give Later, and Give & Receive** charitable gifts
- Practical steps to help you get started with your charitable giving strategy

□ **Tuesday, August 25**  
□ **11:00 a.m.**  
□ **Goss Opera House in Watertown, SD**

**Seating is limited. Reserve a spot for you and a guest today.**

**Register:** <https://bit.ly/GreatPlainsEvents>

**QR:** Scan the QR code and follow the prompts to learn more and register

**Phone:** 612-844-5633 (leave a message)

**Email:** [GreatPlainsTMN@Thrivent.com](mailto:GreatPlainsTMN@Thrivent.com)



Scan to learn more

Come learn how thoughtful charitable planning can help you support the causes and organizations that are meaningful to you.

# Upcoming Events...

- ♦ Monday, August 17th—First Church serves The Banquet at Grace Lutheran Church
- ♦ **Saturday, September 5th—No Saturday Worship Service**
- ♦ Sunday, September 6th, 9:30 am—Worship with Communion
- ♦ Wednesday, September 9th, Volunteer Training for those helping with children or youth this fall.
- ♦ Saturday/Sunday, Sept. 12th-13th—Fall Kickoff Weekend
- ♦ Wednesday, September 16th—Fall Kickoff for Wednesday Night Children & Youth Activities
- ♦ Thurs. & Fri. Oct 1st & 2nd—Pillow Cleaning at First Church
- ♦ Friday-Sunday, Oct. 9th—11th Dak Youth in Aberdeen
- ♦ Sunday, October 25th—Covered Event
- ♦ Wednesday, October 28th—Trunk or Treat
- ♦ Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 31st & Nov. 1st—All Saints Weekend

**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.



**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.



Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Centering Thought:

What stories does your family tell about faith?

Greeting

Call To Worship & Opening Prayer:

Leader: Like Abram and Sarai, God calls us to go into the unknown, trusting that God’s promises are true.

**People: Whether we are certain or full of doubts, God blesses us that we may be a blessing.**

Leader: God sends us into the world to journey by faith, believing that God’s blessings are greater than anything we can imagine.

**People: Whether the path is straight or winding, God blesses us that we may be a blessing.**

Leader: God gathers us today with trusted companions, those who also follow God’s call, even when it does not make sense to the world around us.

**People: Whether we journey with friends or feel all alone, God blesses us that we may be a blessing.**

Leader: As we gather to worship, may we remember that we are God’s people, blessed by God to be a blessing to our world that is hurting and desperately in need of good news.

**People: God, form us today as a family of faith, that your blessings might flow out of us and into our world, drawing all people into your promise of abundant life and flourishing. Amen**

**Act of Praise**     *Lord, You Give the Great Commission (vs 1,2,4,5)* UMH #584

LISTEN AND PRAY

**1st Reading**                      Psalm 33:1-12

Announcements

Prayers of the People

*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.

**Time for Young Disciples**                      Join in singing “*As For Me & My House*”.

**Song**                                      *Spirit of the Living God*                      UMH #393

HEAR AND REFLECT

**Gospel**                                      Genesis 12:1-9

**Sermon**                                      **Forming a Family, Preparing a People Sermon Series**  
                                                         *To Be a Blessing*                      Pastor Sara McManus

**Reflection Moment**                      *Now Praise the Hidden God of Love*                      TFWS #2027

Offering

\* **Doxology**                                      *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (vs 3)*                      UMH #89

\* **Offering Prayer**

\* **Sending Song**                                      *Trust and Obey*                      UMH #467

\* **Benediction**

Postlude

**Thank You For Worshiping With Us Today!**  
\* The congregation is invited to stand if they are able.

**Children’s Church Note:**  
We are taking a break in August to get ready for the fall.

Worship Notes



Forming a Family:  
Be a Blessing

**GROW**

**Daily Scripture**

M: Philippians 4.10-15  
T: Romans 9.6-13  
W: Genesis 30.25-36  
T: Matthew 7.7-11  
F: Psalm 17

**Devotional Questions**

1. What is your call story from God to live out ministry in your life?

2. How has God blessed you that didn't feel like a blessing at the time?

3. Who do you know that needs a blessing right now?

**Creative Response**

Listen to this episode of the Compass Podcast



**CONNECT**

Genesis 12:1-9

**One thing:**

We are called to be a blessing to all creation.

**SERVE**

**Pray:**

Pray for those whose family looks different than they'd imagined.

**Do:**

Call a friend that has been a blessing to you in your life and/or faith.

**Go:**

Kampeska Krushers  
Back to School Roller Skate  
Maas Ice Arena  
August 21 - 7-9pm