



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

Youth Ministry Coordinator - April Noem

april@watertownfirst.church

Children's Minister - Lori Jurgens

lori@watertownfirst.church

Weekend Children's Leader - Bobbie Jenner

bobbie@watertownfirst.church

Media and Graphic Design - Dean Gorseth

media@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

Welcome to
First United
Methodist Church

Saturday October 17, 2026 • 5:00 pm

WELCOME

*OPENING SONGS

Raise a Hallelujah
Friend in Jesus

ANNOUNCEMENTS / PRAYER TIME

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Join in singing “*Thanks God*”.

MESSAGE

1 Thessalonians 5:12-19
A Methodist Gives Thanks
Pastor Sara McManus

OFFERING

REFLECTION SONG

Here’s My Heart

OFFERING PRAYER

CLOSING SONG

I Thank God

*BLESSING

Thank You For Worshiping With Us Today!

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

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Monday, October 19

1:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge
Memory Care Worship Services—Please Join Us
1:30 pm Edgewood
2:30 pm Cedar View

Tuesday, October 20

11:30 am Lunch a Bunch at Pizza Ranch
6:00 pm *Adult Art Night at First Church – Intro to Watercolor Painting*

Wednesday, October 21

9:15 am am Embracing God Bible Study
4:30—5:10 pm Kids Bell Choir Rehearsal
5:15—5:50 pm Community Meal, All Are Welcome
5:30 pm Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:00—6:30 pm Worship – Fellowship Hall
6:30—7:30 pm Small Group Time
6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
6:45 pm “*Building Beloved Community*” - Church Lounge

Thursday, October 22

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

Friday, October 23—Office Closed

Saturday, October 24

7:00 am Back Room Boys—Church Library
9:00 am Men’s Breakfast Group—Stones Café
Noon—Purl Jam in the Church Library
3:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal
5:00 pm Contemporary Worship – Shoe Box Blessing

Sunday, October 25

8:15 am *Adult Bible Study Begins*
9:30 am Blended Worship – Shoe Box Blessing
10:45 am “*Better Ways to Read the Bible*” Study
1:00 – 3:00 pm Covered Event – Fellowship Hall

LEADERSHIP TEAM OPENINGS—Will you be part of the team to lead First Church into what God has planned for us?

Prayerfully consider where God might use you in the life of First Church. Talk to Pastor Sara or any of the current Leadership Team Members for more information or if you are interested in joining the team.

Current Leadership Team : Finance: Stephanie Long, Heidi Steffensen

Staff Parish Relations: Lisa Stydel, Sue Luken

Building & Grounds: Allen Stern, Doug Wishard

Ministry Team: Sue Stern, Marcia Schneider, Adam Fox

Looking Ahead...

- ♦ Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 17 & 18 – Shoe Box Blessing
- ♦ Sunday, October 25th—Covered Event (Clothing, Diaper & Food Giveaway)
- ♦ Wednesday, October 28th—Trunk or Treat
- ♦ Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 31st & Nov. 1st—All Saints Weekend

Our Children & Youth Need You.

We are looking for volunteers to help with our children and youth. You can make a once-a-month commitment, a couple times a month, every week, or be an occasional sub.

If you have any question about our Children's or Youth Ministry Programs, please contact

April Noem april@watertownfirst.church or

Lori Jurgens lori@watertownfirst.church or

Bobbie Jenner bobbie@watertownfirst.church

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
Or use the QR code.



Shoe Box Blessing This Weekend

Thank you to all who contributed to our Shoe Box Mission. 100+ boxes are stuffed, wrapped and ready to be picked up and taken to the Native American Reservations in SD, ND & MN. Thank you all for your support!



Adult Art Night at First Church

Tuesday, Oct. 20th 6:00 pm

Intro to Watercolor Painting. No experience needed. We ask for a \$5 donation for supplies. Shown is just an example of one of the designs you'll choose from to paint. Drawing transfers will be available if needed. Join us for a fun night as we learn and paint together! RSVP to the church office 605-886-4427 or office@watertownfirst.church. Class size limited to 10 adults so please RSVP as soon as possible.



Help us Celebrate Elmer!

Pastor Elmer Brinkman will be celebrating his 80th birthday on Wednesday, October 28th. His daughters would like us to help him celebrate by wishing him a Happy Birthday or showering him with cards. His mailing address is: 26 1st Ave SW Apt 3511 – Watertown SD 57201.



Wednesday, October 28th.

6:00-7:00 pm.

Church Parking Lot

Please let the church office know if you'd like to have a "Trunk" in this event.

Prelude Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Centering Thought:

Where do prayer and thanksgiving currently intersect in your life?

Greeting

Call To Worship & Opening Prayer:

Leader: We are given love by God

All: We respond with gratitude

Leader: We see where things have gone well

All: And we give thanks

Leader: We also see where we wished for something different

All: And we still give thanks

Leader: Whatever happens in life, we remember that our foundation is in

God

All: God of love, you provide a scaffold for our lives, a design of love that weaves us together. No matter what our days may bring, help us to always turn to you in thanksgiving, finding the goodness of grace and love in your very nature. We come this morning to praise and worship you in the multitude of things we are holding, seeing anew the reasons to be grateful once again. Amen.

Act of Praise

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

UMH #89

LISTEN AND PRAY

1st Reading

Psalms 107

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 “Thanks God”.

Bell Choir Anthem

Give Thanks

by Henry Smith
Arr. By Kevin McChesney

HEAR AND REFLECT

Gospel

1 Thessalonians 5:12-19

Sermon

A Methodist Gives Thanks Pastor Sara McManus

Reflection Moment

What a Friend We Have in Jesus UMH #526

Offering

* Doxology

Give Thanks

On Screens

* Offering Prayer

* Sending Song

I’m Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing On Screens

* Benediction

Postlude

Thank You For Worshiping With Us Today!

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



COVERED
FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

First United Methodist Church

DIAPER & CLOTHING
GIVEAWAY EVENT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH
1:00 - 3:00 P.M.

4 SECOND AVE SE * WATERTOWN, SD

CLOTHES : KIDS 0-18
DIAPERS: NEWBORN TO PULLUPS
SHELF STABLE MEALS IN A BAG

ALL ARE WELCOME

WWW.WATERTOWNFIRST.CHURCH * 605-886-4427

FIRSTCHURCH
Watertown First United Methodist Church | connect. grow. serve

Covered Event

We are currently collecting
Children's Winter Clothing
(Most Needed sizes:
Boys size Newborn to 5T).

We are also
collecting Diapers for this
giveaway.
A collection bin is located at
the back of the sanctuary.

Monetary donations are
welcome as well.

Note "Covered Event" on
check. Or donate online at
[www.watertownfirst.church/
giving](http://www.watertownfirst.church/giving)

select Mission of the Month
and in the comments note
"Covered Event". Thank you
for your Support.

**On October 25th we invite anyone in need of Children's Clothing, Diapers,
or a Shelf Stable Meal in a Bag to stop by First Church. Please help us
spread the word.**

**Please Note: For the Upcoming "Covered Event" - We are looking for
volunteers...** Prior to the event sorting & folding will need to be done. The
day of the event will involve many volunteers to help the event run smoothly.
If you would like to help with this event, please contact the church office.
office@watertownfirst.church or 605-886-4427. Thank you! *Cindy Wishard
& Pearl Geffre—Event Coordinators*



5 Marks of a Methodist Gives Thanks

GROW

Daily Scripture

M: Genesis 4:1-16
T: John 7:53-8:11
W: Micah 7:18-20
T: Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28
F: Psalm 121

Devotional Questions

1. How have you been
courageous in your faith?
2. Where might God be
calling you to lead in your life
right now?
3. Is there someone in our
community that might need a
pep talk in order to be
courageous, could you give
them that talk?

Creative Response

Watch a movie with an
underdog character, how do
you identify with them? How
does their courage show up?

CONNECT

1 Thessalonians 5: 12-19

One thing:

Where do prayer and
thanksgiving currently
intersect in your life?

SERVE

Pray:

Pray for those who lead in
any capacity - that they
would be guided by God
and not the world.

Do:

Think of a time you needed
to be courageous; use that
experience to write a note to
your future self as a pep talk
to be strong when you may
not feel that way.

Go:

Homecoming Week
Take part in any or all of the
festivities this week.