FIRSTCHURCH

Watertown First United Methodist Church | connect. grow. serve

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.

CONTACT

PHONE
605.886.4427

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

WEBSITE
www.watertownfirst.church

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

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 November 28, 2026 • 5:00 pm

WELCOME

***OPENING SONGS**
Counting My Blessings
Firm Foundation (He Won't)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING
The Candles Seek His Light (vs 1)

ANNOUNCEMENTS / PRAYER TIME

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES
Join in singing "*Away In a Manger".*

MESSAGE
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Restore Us, O God
Pastor Kim Hastings

OFFERING

REFLECTION SONG
Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

OFFERING PRAYER

CLOSING SONG
Hope Was Born That Night

***BLESSING**

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Monday, November 30
1:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge

Tuesday, December 1
5:30 pm Adult Art Night at First Church

Wednesday, December 2
9:15 am Embracing God Bible Study – Church Lounge
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
6:30—7:30 pm Small Group Time for Children & Youth
6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
6:45 pm "Building Beloved Community" - Church Lounge

Thursday, December 3
10:00 am Women's Bible Study – Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 4—Office Closed

Saturday, December 5 – Advent Season
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 – Communion

Sunday, December 6 – Advent Season
8:15 am Adult Bible Study
9:30 am Blended Worship - Communion

Monday, December 7 – Home Communion
1:15 pm Coffee, Cookies & Conversation—Church Lounge
5:30 pm Women of Grace – Church Lounge

For more information visit our web page at www.watertownfirst.church
or call the church office at 605-886-4427

Leadership Team Opening: Leading First Church into the Future
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: (and how many people we are seeking)
Finance: Stephanie Long, Heidi Steffensen (1 person)
Staff Parish Relations: Lisa Stydel (2 people)
Building & Grounds: Allen Stern (2 people)
Ministry Team: Sue Stern, Adam Fox (1 person)

Bishop's Thanksgiving Offering

SPIRIT LAKE Ministry
FOOD SUSTANABILITY PROJECT

Bishop Lanette Plambeck writes:
"This Thanksgiving I invite you and your congregation to give generously to the Thanksgiving Offering in support of Spirit Lake Ministry Center food sustainability. Your gift helps nourish families, welcome mission teams, grow gardens, preserve food, support ministry partnerships and strengthen a hopeful future."

Monetary donations are welcome. Note "Thanksgiving Offering" on check.
Or donate online at www.watertownfirst.church/giving
select Mission of the Month and in the comments note
Thanksgiving Offering". **Thank you for your Support**

Adult Art Night at First Church - Tuesday, December 1st at 5:30 pm.
We will be making Christmas ornaments. $5 donation is asked to help with cost of supplies. Please **RSVP** so we can have enough supplies on hand.
office@watertownfirst.church or call 605-886-4427.
Thank you. *Beth & Pearl (See display at back of sanctuary).*

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.



A Restorative Advent Experience
Wednesdays @ 1:30 pm Dec. 9, 16, 23

Give yourself an Advent Gift: an hour of restoration through meditation on psalms and yoga, woven into expectant waiting for the coming hope, joy, peace, and love of the Christ child.
Free-will offering of hygiene or food shelf items accepted.

Leaders: Marilyn Pedersen & Rev. Sandee Prouty-Cole
Held in the Chapel at Grace Lutheran Church



Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 20
During the 9:30 am Worship Service

Practice: Sat. Dec. 19th, 10 am - Noon
So Saturday Worship on Dec. 19

Wednesday, December 16
5:15-6:00 pm Community Meal
6:00-7:30 pm Cocoa & Caroling

Thursday, December 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
4 pm Contemporary
7 pm Traditional

Christmas Break
Dec. 23, 2026 - Jan. 3, 2027
No Wednesday Night Activities during Christmas break
No Children's Church on January 2-3
Merry Christmas

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.

Sunday, November 29, 2026 • 9:30 am

Prelude / Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Centering Thought:

What if Advent begins not with counting down the days until Christmas, but with being honest about what we're still waiting for?

* **Greeting**

* **Call To Worship & Opening Prayer:**

Leader: For generations, Advent has been a space for longing

All: Longing for hope to reign, for peace to rule and for restoration to transform.

Leader: So we gather, holding joy and heartbreak, love in the face of apathy, looking at a world that is hurt and divided.

All: Restore us, O God, let your love be felt around the world.

Leader: Come to wait and watch, to worship until Earth and Heaven both reflect the Kingdom of God.

All: God of longing, you pour out grace and kindness to all on earth, raise our heads and open our eyes to see your marvelous deeds around us. We come in expectation, for the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, Amen.

* **Act of Praise** *God Almighty, We Are Waiting* On Screens

Advent Candle

Leader: The prophet Isaiah declares, *"From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him".* Today, we continue to wait and call out in hope for God's restoration to meet us here, believing that God knows our struggles and works even now for the fulfillment of our salvation.

All: When God feels far away, and our lament feels too heavy to bear, we remember God's steadfast love. May this love empower us to wait and watch in hope for the day when God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

Leader: We light this candle of hope as a sign of God's promises, that we might persevere in hope, a hope grounded not in wishes and whims but in the trustworthy and persistent love of God already at work among us to save and restore all creation.

Sunday, November 29, 2026 • 9:30 am

Advent Song *The Candles Seek His Light (vs 1)* On Screens

LISTEN AND PRAY

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 "*Away In a Manger".*

HEAR AND REFLECT

Gospel Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Sermon *Restore Us, O God* Pastor Kim Hastings

Reflection Moment *Wounded World that Cries for Healing* TFWS #2177

Offering

* **Doxology** *Emmanuel* On Screens

Offering Prayer

* **Sending Song** *Shine, Jesus, Shine* TFWS #2173

* **Benediction**

Postlude

Thank You For Worshiping With Us Today!

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

Worship Notes

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

Restoration Song: Restore Us, O God

GROW

Daily Scripture

M: Galatians 3:23-29
T: Galatians 4:1-7
W: 2 Samuel 7:1-17
T: 2 Samuel 7:18-22
F: 2 Samuel 7:23-29

Devotional Questions

1. What does it look like to have hope even when life feels messy?

2. How has God shaped your understanding of restoration?

3. Who do you know that seems to understand hope better than others?

Creative Response

Check out this episode of the Bible Project on Hope.

CONNECT

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

One thing:

We don't have to pretend everything is okay to have hope. Naming what needs restoration is an act of faith.

SERVE

Pray:

Pray for patience in the midst of waiting.

Do:

Have a conversation with the person from devotion question 3 - see what you may learn from them.

Go:

Hot Chocolate Bar
Watertown Library
December 1 - 5-6pm