

## Be Part of a Miracle!

Greetings in this wonderful season of Advent and Christmas! Over two thousand years ago, God surprised us by sending his Son down to earth to change the world. In John 1:14, Jesus said, *"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood."* (The Message) In response to God coming down to earth and moving into our neighborhoods, we are doing something very special this year.

This Christmas, we are receiving a Miracle Offering to share God's love with our neighbors. John Wesley, the founding father of the United Methodist Church, said that the most important thing that Christians can do for others is to "offer them Christ".

**Our Christmas Miracle Offering Goal is \$20,000.** The Christmas Miracle Offering at First Church will "offer them Christ" by raising funds to support two critical ministries:

1. Food Giveaways in 2017
2. All-Church Outreach Events in 2017

This year the Food Giveaways have given hope to 1,655 people in the Watertown area by providing healthy, fresh food to individuals and families in need. Next year, we hope to double the impact of the Food Giveaways by holding 4 Food Giveaways in 2017.



This year First Church reached nearly 1,500 people in our community through the Easter Egg-stravaganza and the Community Outdoor Movie. These events have created opportunities for our church to connect with our neighbors in new, exciting ways. In 2017, we hope to "offer Christ" by continuing to create opportunities for the people of Watertown who have no church home to experience the love and welcome of Jesus

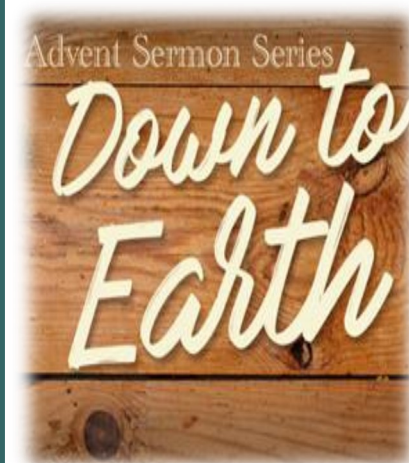
Christ through First Church.

Are you ready to be a part of a miracle? Together, we can make a huge impact on others this Christmas.

In Ministry Together, Pastor Sara

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### November 26-27

- A Down to Earth Love

### December 3-4

- A Down to Earth Humility & Mothers of God

### December 10-11

- A Down to Earth Lifestyle





### December 17-18

- A Down to Earth Obedience

**Please Note:**

**See page 3 for the current Grow Group listing.**

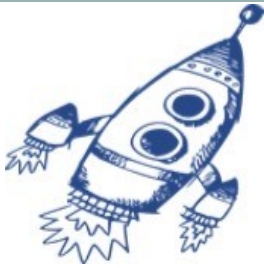
# DECEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Fall Worship Hours</b> <b>Saturday</b> 4:30 pm Coffee Time 5:00 pm Worship & Children's Church <b>Sunday</b> 8:15 am Worship 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Coffee Time 10:30 am Worship & Children's Church				1	2	3 9:30 am Rebekah Circle—Lounge
4  3–4 pm Community Choir Rehearsal	5  6:30 pm UMW General Mtg & Christmas Party Fellowship Hall	6	7  9:00 am Esther Circle—Fellowship Hall  11:30 am Adah Circle— at the Goss Opera House	8 <b>Home Communion</b>  4:30—9:00 pm Jaycee Christmas Shopping Tour Fellowship Hall	9	10  9:30 am Leah Circle Cookie Deliveries  10 am—Noon Community Choir Rehearsal
11   3:00 pm & 7:00 pm Community Christmas Concert	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 No Regular Youth or Children's Activities   "Twas the Light Before Christmas" 6 pm Family Registration & Practice 7 pm Performance and Cast Party	22  8 pm—8 am MS & HS Lock In	23	24   <i>Christmas Eve</i> <b>Christmas Eve Worship Services</b> 2:00 pm 4:00 pm 7:00 pm
25   <i>Christmas Day</i> 10:00 am Worship Only One Worship Service Today	26 <b>Christmas Holiday</b>	27	28	29	30	31  4:30 pm Coffee 5:00 pm Worship & Children's Church
Church and Office Closed This Week						

## FIRST Adults

### Current Grow Groups at First UMC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>"Sunday Bible Study"</b> 9:15—10 am Sept—May Don Fox 886-2122  <b>"Down to Earth" Advent Study</b> 9:15—10 am Nov. 27—Dec 18 Pastor Byron Snyder & Brandon Dunham 886-4427	<b>Exercise Class</b> 9—10 am Year Round	<b>Quilters</b> 9:30—11:30 Year Round  <b>Exercise Class</b> 5:15—6:15 pm Year Round	<b>Exercise Class</b> 9—10 am Year Round  <b>Bell Choir</b> 5:30—6:30 pm Sept—May Renae Mack 886-3732  <b>Chancel Choir</b> 6:30—7:30 pm Sept—May Blair Titze 886-4440	<b>"Down to Earth" Advent Study</b> 10:00—11:30 am Year Round Diane Veen 886-3250 or Marge Alwin 886-3025  <b>Exercise Class</b> 5:15—6:15 pm Year Round	<b>Exercise Class</b> 9—10 am Sept—May	<b>Back Room Boys</b> 7:00 am Year Round Jenkins Living Center— Fireside Room  <b>Late Risers</b> 9:00 am Year Round Maple Street Diner



### Launch

The Launch team is inviting you to attend our next Launch in January! You may ask "what is Launch and is it really for me?" And we are so glad you asked!! The Launch Seminar is a special designed time for your own spiritual growth! We spend time to do some internal reflection of how God has worked and is working in and through you! This seminar is a time that you say YES to God by setting aside this time that you wouldn't normally take to strengthen your relationship with Him. And in this time, we

will evaluate your God given gifts and spiritual strengths so that you can continue growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ! We invite you to join us in January! More details coming in December online and in the January newsletter!

### Weekly in December

#### Sunday

8:15 am Worship  
 9:00 am Sunday School for Children & Youth  
 9:15 am Adult Studies (see above)  
 10:00 am Coffee Time  
 10:30 am Worship & Children's Church

#### Monday

9:00 am Exercise Group—Cook Hall

#### Tuesday

7:00—8:30 am Breakfast—Fellowship Hall  
 9:30 am Quilters—Lounge  
 10:30 am Prayer Team  
 1:00 pm Staff Meeting—Lounge  
 5:15 pm Exercise Group—Cook Hall

#### Wednesday

9:00 am Exercise Group—Cook Hall  
 5:30 pm Bell Choir Practice—Sanctuary  
 5:30—6:15 pm Family Meal—All are Welcome  
 6:15—7:30 pm First Kids Wed. WILD (K-6th Grade)  
 6:15—7:30 pm First Youth (7th—12th Grade)  
 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice—Sanctuary

#### Thursday

10:00 am Adult Bible Study—Fellowship Hall  
 1:30 pm Worship Broadcast—VAST Channel 17  
 5:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal—Sanctuary  
 5:15 pm Exercise Group—Cook Hall

#### Friday

9:00 am Exercise Group—Cook Hall

#### Saturday

7:00 am Back Room Boys—Jenkins Living Center  
 9:00 am Late Risers—Maple Street Diner  
 4:30 pm Coffee Time  
 5:00 pm Worship & Children's Church



### UMW General Christmas Meeting

December 5th at 6:30 pm  
 Fellowship Hall

Short business meeting, entertainment by Rebekah Circle, treats & coffee. Bring a friend!

Circle members, please bring 2 dozen cookies for the Christmas plates for our Homebound.

**Cookie Deliveries to our homebound friends will be 9:30 am on Saturday, December 10th.**

### JOIN A CIRCLE

**ADAH CIRCLE** The next meeting will be Wed. December 7th, at the Goss. Meet at 11:30 am for a Christmas lunch.

**ESTHER CIRCLE** The next meeting will be Wed. December 7th at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall for a Christmas brunch.

**LEAH CIRCLE** will host the UMW General Christmas meeting on Monday, December 5th at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Saturday, December 10, 9:30 am Cookie Deliveries.

**REBEKAH CIRCLE** The next meeting will be Sat. December 3rd in the church lounge. Hostess & program by Heather Oaks & Jessica Ekern.



**FIRST Youth**  
For our Youth—(ages 7th through 12th Grade)



## YOUTH GROUP

**Growing in our faith! Playing with friends!**

**Serving our church and community!**

**JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY'S**

**5:30pm-6:15pm Family Meal—All Welcome**

**6:15pm-7:30pm Youth Group**

Middle School (grades 7-8) & High School (grades 9-12)

### 7—PLAY NIGHT

We are going to be having fun @ Universal Lazer Tag! Please bring a friend and \$5 dollars.

### 14—GROW NIGHT

Middle School is going to focus on 'Did Jesus Know He Was God?'  
High School is going to be focusing on 'When Bad Things Happen'

### 21—SERVE NIGHT

Youth will be helping with the Christmas Programming.



## Sunday Night High School Study

In the month of December we will be reading through Matthew's Gospel.

Join us Sunday nights @ Ellie's starting at 5:30 pm. We will also be experimenting with prayer through meditation and doodling!



**2ND LONGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR  
PARTY!**

December 22nd 2016

9 pm to 8 am

Middle School, High School and friends!

Meet in Fellowship Hall.

There will be a talent show, hot chocolate station, movies, games and much much more!



Join Tim and Ellie this month to discover more about Questions. Questions Jesus had and questions we may have about our faith and spirituality. We will start at 9:10 am and end around 10 am.

We'll bring the coffee and you can bring the friend!

**follow us!**



First.UMC.YouthGroup



#wtnyouth



@wtnyouth

**CONNECT • GROW • SERVE**





## FIRST Kids

For our Children—(ages infant through 6th Grade)



### First Kids Christmas Break Dates to Note:

- Wednesday W.I.L.D. will be on Christmas Break - Wednesday December 21<sup>st</sup> & Wednesday December 28<sup>th</sup>
- No Children's Church or Sunday School on December 25<sup>th</sup> - wear your Christmas Jammies to Church!
- Sunday School Christmas Break - Sunday January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Regular Worship & Children's Church on December 31<sup>st</sup> & January 1<sup>st</sup>
- Wednesday January 4<sup>th</sup> - Winter Kickoff

Children's Ministry Coordinator

Sandee Cole—[sandee@watertownfirstumc.com](mailto:sandee@watertownfirstumc.com)

### Regular Wednesday Night Schedule

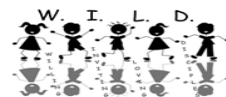
#### For Wednesday Night

#### W.I.L.D.

(Willing—Inviting—Loving—Disciples)

5:30—6:15 pm Family Meal

6:15—7:30 pm First Kids (1st—6th Grade)



### First Kids Children's Church

(4 years old - 6<sup>th</sup> grade)

5:00 pm Saturday & 10:00

am Sunday



### First Kids Sunday School

(4 years old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade)

9:00 am Sunday Mornings



**Wednesday**  
**December 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**from 6:00 - 8:00 pm**

Twas the Light Before Christmas

Families of First kids are invited to join us Wednesday December 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 - 8:00 pm for a fun instant Christmas Play!

As you arrive, your entire family will join the cast of one of four scenes for the play to practice for about an hour. We will then all come together to present the play and enjoy a Cast Party afterwards! It'll be a great night of spending time together having fun as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World!

Nursery Coordinator

Sandra Weidner—

[nursery@watertownfirstumc.com](mailto:nursery@watertownfirstumc.com)



### Nursery for Ages 3 & Under

5-6 pm Saturdays

8:15—11:30 am Sundays

### Play Group in the Nursery

10 am - 2nd & 4th Thurs. of each Month

Infant—Preschool and their parents.

**Wear Your Christmas Jammies to Church - Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup>!**



### Thank You!

A huge thank you to all those who came to help on our Kids Work Day and Kids Move Day! The spaces look great and the kids and adult leaders really appreciate having the extra room to grow! Thanks for making a difference for the children of First Church!



## FIRST Events

**The Bishop is Coming!  
The Bishop is Coming!  
Mark Your Calendar!**

**Bishop Ough will be our Guest Preacher on Sunday, December 4th.**  
Mark your calendar and plan to join us!



**A very Big Thank You** to all our volunteers that helped make the Free Sale and Food Giveaway a Huge Success. Over 500 individuals were able to "shop" for winter clothing and 250 families were able to "shop" for groceries at the Food Giveaway. Thank you again for showing our community the Love of Jesus and Blessing our community with warm clothing and much needed food. Blessings to all,  
*Free Sale Team and Food Giveaway Team*

### **PACH ITEMS -Thanks for your Donations!**

**December Corn**—Microwave Popcorn

**January Juice Box**—100 % Fruit Juice

**February Fruit Cups**

**March Macaroni & Cheese**

**April Applesauce**

Donations can be dropped off at the back of the sanctuary.



### **"Sounds of the Season" Christmas Concert**



**Sunday, December 11th**

**at First United Methodist Church**

**Performances at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm**

Music will be presented by Glacial Lakes Harmonizers, First United Methodist Handbell Choir, T-Bones Rare, Dolce Diva, and the Watertown Community Choir.



## FIRST at a Glance

### Charge Conference Minutes from November 6, 2016

Randy Cross, District Superintendent, opened with a prayer.

Pastor Sara reported on things we can celebrate, which are examples that God is breaking through!

- In 2016 we have an average of 339 people worshipping on the weekends! (The average was 286 people in 2011 and 218 people in 2010.)
- FUMC has grown by 121 people!
- There have been 21 baptisms!
- We have welcomed 44 new members!
- There are an average of 63 children and 34 youth attending weekly Wednesday programming!
- Since September 2016 we have seen 122 different kids and 62 different youth!
- We have fed and clothed over 1000 people through Tuesday Morning Breakfast, the Free Sale and Food Giveaway!

Tim Riley and Ed Togel provided an update on our MCCI prescriptions.

- Leadership & Staff: Leadership Team was formed and began meeting in July 2016. Staff positions have been re-aligned as of October 2016. Identifying and filling needs of future staff was complete in January 2016.
- Launch Seminar & Catalog was completed in 2016. The Leadership Development component will be starting in 2017.
- Communication: The website, bulletin, newsletter and email were revised and completed in October 2016. The Guest Welcome process was completed in October 2016. The Sound System upgrades are in progress and are projected to be completed by Easter. There have been two series of triad events held. The community connection assessment was also completed.
- Facility Focus: This will be worked on in 2017.
- Signature Ministry: A focus on single parent families was identified. Planning is in process to shape the ministry for implementation in 2017.

Ed Togel provided an update on the Stewardship Campaign.

- To date, 131 estimated giving cards have been received for a total income of \$329,944.
- There are 115 estimated giving cards that have not been returned, for an estimated \$137,226 additional income.
- We anticipate receiving \$8700 in loose plate offerings, and \$85,300 in sponsorships.
- Total income is projected to be \$561,170.

Ryan Wilson, on behalf of the Leadership Team, made a motion to increase Pastor Sara's compensation for the upcoming year. The salary is currently at \$61,346 and was approved to move to \$66,127 for the upcoming year.


Pastor Sara shared three goals for 2017.

- Outreach & Signature Ministries because 70% of people in Watertown that do not have a church home.
- Facility Focus
- Growing Discipleship, including implementing a discipleship pathway and First Church Leadership Academy.

Pastor Randy prayed for FUMC and our 2017 goals.

Pastor Randy answered questions from the membership and confirmation students.

Pastor Sara provided the closing prayer.

October	Average Worship	Average Number of	Individual	Individual	Individual
	5:00 PM = 90	People Served at	Children	Youth	Adults
	8:15 AM = 60	Tuesday Breakfast	Seen	Seen	Seen
	10:30 AM = 208	56	112	56	97

## FIRST Family & Friends

### OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN ASSISTED LIVING OR NURSING HOMES

Estelline Nursing Home P. O. Box 130—Estelline, SD 57234	Patty Magee
Jenkins Living Center 215 S. Maple Watertown, SD 57201	Ken Ragels #274—LaVonne Engstrom #284 Carol Redwing #315—Donna Arbogast #328 Nita Johnson #328—Ed Johnson #338—Violet Heiden #339 Beula Zwieng #340—Ernie Edwards #205 Dorothy Paulsen #343—Dorothy Kellogg #346 Juno Guthmiller #353—John Van Dykhorst #359 Marion Oviatt #411—Arline Penner #428
Golden Living Center 415 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave. NE Watertown, SD 57201	Vivian Kline #9—Anke Leadabrand #1 Bill Rippe
Stoney Brook Suites 500 16 <sup>th</sup> Ave. NE Watertown, SD 57201	LaVonne Nelson #50,
Edgewood Senior Living 901 14 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE Watertown, SD 57201	Dorothy Bull #327
Benet Place 100 28 <sup>th</sup> Ave SE Watertown, SD 57201	Lorene Chambers #310 Mary Peterson #203
Cedar View 225 14 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE Watertown, SD 57201	Virginia Mills #108

### ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE, DEMENTIA & AGING SUPPORT GROUP

**Dec. 7, 2016**—Topic: "Happy Holiday Party Pointers"

Group Discussion

**Jan. 4, 2017**—Topic: "Home Connections, What's Available?"

Speaker: Julie Sampson, Director of Home Health Services, PLHCC

Meetings are at 7:00 p.m. at Jenkins Living Center in the Fireside room. For more information contact Connie Lake, 886-1493.



### **Christmas Open House in the Living Waters Retreat Center at Lake Poinsett Camp**

**Saturday, December 3, 2016, 2:00—5:00 pm \*\*FREE\*\***

Join us for an afternoon of Christmas activities including: gingerbread house making, cookie decorating, delicious appetizers, candy cane hunt, ornament making and more!

**Free Weekend lodging December 2-4, 2016!**

Join us Saturday afternoon or come for the weekend.

RSVP not required for the Saturday event, but helpful.

Lake Poinsett Camp & Living Waters Retreat Center • 40 South Lake Drive • Arlington, SD 57212  
605-983-5547, [lpc@dakcamps.org](mailto:lpc@dakcamps.org) • [www.dakcamps.org](http://www.dakcamps.org)



First United Methodist Church will be delivering Meals on Wheels the week of December 27-30. If you would like to help, please call Sue Lentz at 868-1878. Thank you! (No Deliveries on Dec. 26th)

### **Tuesday Breakfast Menu for December**

Come enjoy good fellowship and good food.

Dec. 6—Breakfast Pizza  
Dec. 13—Ham & Eggs  
Dec. 20—Pancakes & Sausage  
Dec. 27—Bacon & Eggs





# FIRST Family & Friends

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
1-Dec	Kaden Raml	10-Dec	David Anderson	18-Dec	Nathaniel Buckley
1-Dec	Lisa VanSickle	10-Dec	Chad Vilhauer	18-Dec	Sarah Leadabrand
2-Dec	Deanna Ericsson	10-Dec	Ginger Myers	18-Dec	Sara Nelson
2-Dec	Michael Williams	10-Dec	Rochelle Hunter	18-Dec	Dean Fenenga
2-Dec	Hasanatu Sheriff	11-Dec	John Dawley	18-Dec	Holly Solberg
2-Dec	Jerry Leadabrand	11-Dec	Peggy Curtis	18-Dec	Joyce Swenson
2-Dec	Michael Nogelmeier	12-Dec	Anthony Cady	19-Dec	Cassandra Jurgens
3-Dec	Grace Hedin	12-Dec	Katie Buechler	19-Dec	Virginia Skinner
3-Dec	Mykel Hoffman	14-Dec	Gretta Dahl	20-Dec	Wyatt Smunk
3-Dec	Terry Hoffman	14-Dec	Emily Riley	20-Dec	Brooke Hanson
3-Dec	Stanley Jongbloed	15-Dec	Ashyr Meek	21-Dec	Cindy Wishard
3-Dec	Dustin Woertink	15-Dec	Greyson Rycraft	22-Dec	Malakai Maskovich
3-Dec	Carol Redwing	15-Dec	Danielle Bellon	23-Dec	Pearl Geffre
4-Dec	Cassie Fonder	15-Dec	Jennifer Heggelund	24-Dec	Carolyn Wilkens
4-Dec	Lester Urban	15-Dec	Lynn Solberg	25-Dec	Ashley Fox
5-Dec	Lyndon Allen	15-Dec	Jamie Veeder	25-Dec	Randall Middleton
5-Dec	Austin Hanson	15-Dec	Arline Penner	26-Dec	Tom Dorneman
5-Dec	Doug Mielitz	16-Dec	Beth Decker	29-Dec	Justin Raml
6-Dec	Jeneba Sheriff	17-Dec	Annie Aason	29-Dec	Jenni Wirkus
6-Dec	Alice L Johnson	17-Dec	Alex Fonder	30-Dec	Anna Hoffman
8-Dec	Chad Voelsch	17-Dec	Jeffrey Bellon	30-Dec	Thomas Myers
8-Dec	Teresa Remmers	17-Dec	Brandon Dunham	31-Dec	Savannah Isaacson
9-Dec	Marsha Dahl	17-Dec	Chloe Billings	31-Dec	Gary Mack



**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

**John 3:16**



### Marriage date Couple's Name

3-Dec	Derek & Kaitlin Wangen
10-Dec	Mark & Gay Redlinger
16-Dec	Jerry & Sandra Halajian
16-Dec	Howard & Carol Meyer
18-Dec	Chad & Ellie Vilhauer
21-Dec	Lester & Marcia Urban
24-Dec	Arv & Roxanne Hardie
28-Dec	Dan & Jen Fonder
28-Dec	Darrell & Nita Johnson
28-Dec	Doug & Cindy Wishard

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. Box 1416  
Watertown, SD 57201



If you wish to be removed from our mailing list or would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail, please contact us.  
**605-886-4427      office@watertownfirstumc.com      www.watertownfirstumc.com**

### Meet the Staff of First UMC

#### Pastors

Pastor Sara Nelson  
Pastor Elmer Brinkman

#### Director of Worship & Ministry

Brandon Dunham

#### Director of Youth Ministries

Ellie Vilhauer

#### Children's Ministry Coordinator

Sandee Cole

#### Welcome & Serving Coordinator

Sue Togel

#### Nursery Coordinator

Sandra Weidner

#### Church Custodian

Jerry Williams

#### Office Manager

Pearl Geffre



#### **Saturday, December 24th**

**2:00 pm**

**4:00 pm**

**7:00 pm**

#### **Sunday, December 25th**

**10:00 am ONE Service**



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • 4 2ND AVE SE • PO BOX 1416 • WATERTOWN, SD 57201 • 605-886-4427  
office@watertownfirstumc.com • www.watertownfirstumc.com

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