



First United Methodist Church
401 S. Spring Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-4398
605-336-3652

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Website: www.sfumc.org

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Stations of the Cross



During Holy Week (Sunday, April 10 - Friday, April 15), we will have Stations of the Cross set up in the Sanctuary during regular office hours, Wednesday night "Fill Up" time, and for one hour before/after Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.

Please come and walk the road that Jesus walked in the final hours of his life.

For more information, please contact Pastor Jordan or Pastor Andrea.



The **May Here @ First** newsletter articles are due by **4:30PM, Tues., 4/19**. The Feb. newsletter will be mailed on **Wed., 4/27**. Please email information to Jill Johnson at johnsonj@sfumc.org

Join Us for Easter Services!

Maundy Thursday 6 p.m.

Good Friday 6 p.m.

Easter Sunday

6:30 a.m.

(at Falls Park)

8:30 & 9:45 a.m.

Information is correct at publication.

Please visit our website, sfumc.org, for further details and updates.

Here@FIRST

united methodist church



April 2022

Something New in 2022! *with Pastor Sara Nelson*



Pastor Sara Nelson

"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun!" (Isaiah 43:19a)

At First Church, we are blessed to have different worship opportunities on Sundays with our traditional service at 8:30 a.m. and our unity service at 9:45 a.m.

Last fall, leaders from our church discerned that we needed to add a third worship service on Sunday mornings to connect with younger generations. In the Sioux Falls area, there are approximately 84,000 people under the age of 45 who have no real connection with Jesus and a faith community.



One community joined by hope.

I am happy to share that we have been working diligently for months to bring this dream to life!

On Sunday, April 24 at 11:01 a.m., we will be launching a third worship service in the Wesley Dining Hall. The worship service is called: **"The 11:01"**.

The 11:01 will feature modern worship music, interactive elements like prayer stations and a PRAYGROUND for children, community time, scripture and sermon, and celebrating Holy Communion on a weekly basis. It will take place in the Wesley Dining Hall where there will be plenty of coffee and a casual atmosphere.

While the style of worship will differ from the 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. services, the scripture and sermon will be the same between all three services. After all, we are one church united by our vision of "being a sanctuary of Christian hope, love, and encouragement in the heart of Sioux Falls."

We are excited to offer another worship opportunity for people to connect with God and connect with each other as we grow in faith together.

As the final preparations are being made, we ask that you pray for "The 11:01" and we invite you to join us for worship!

In Ministry Together,

Pastor Sara M. Nelson

Pastor Sara

Adult Discipleship by Pastor Jordan



Mission of the Month Name Change

We have renamed "Mission of the Month" to "Love the 605." We have renamed this ministry to fit within our vision to be a sanctuary of Christian hope, love, and encouragement in the heart of Sioux Falls. While Sioux Falls is not the entirety of the 605-area code, we are loving God through loving God's people in Sioux Falls and the 605. For the love of God, we **Love the 605**.



Loving the 605 with Toy Lending Library

Love the 605 is all about showing the love of our God to our neighbors around us. And what better way to do that than helping an organization right under our own roof! Toy Lending Library is creating opportunities for young children to enhance their learning development through play. They are making a great impact here in Sioux Falls and beyond!

How YOU can help Toy Lending Library this month:

1. Support this organization through **monetary donations**, make your checks out to First Church with Toy Lending Library in the memo line.
2. Check out the Toy Lending Library that is here at First Church in the lower level of our building. Executive Director Anelis Coscioni will be having an **Open House, Sunday, April 3, 9-11:30 a.m.** in the Toy Lending Library. Please come check out this wonderful organization!
3. **Volunteer your time** to serve at the Toy Lending Library during Holy Week on Maundy Thursday, **Thursday, April 14, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.** Please contact Pastor Jordan or the church office to sign up to volunteer that day.

Finally, continue to hold Toy Lending Library in your prayers. Thanks so much for loving the 605!

20s and 30s Group

- Are you in your 20s or 30s?
- Do you like food, hanging out, conversation, and games?

This young adults' group gets together monthly. The date and time fluctuate so please contact Pastor Jordan to see when the group is meeting next.

Higgins Bible Study

We are continuing in our study on the Old Testament through The Great Courses Plus. And there is always room to jump into the discussion and fellowship. Higgins meets the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays @ 8 a.m.** in the **Fireplace Room**. There are usually donuts and coffee as well as great discussion about who our God is as revealed to us in the Old Testament. Join us!

Adult Bible Study

Through the season of Lent the Wednesday night Adult Bible Study has been studying "The Walk" by Adam Hamilton as many within our church have. Starting **Wednesday, April 20 @ 5:30 p.m.** in the **Fireplace Room**, we will begin walking through the book of Micah. Please join us as we dive deep into this wonderful book of the Bible. All are welcome!



One community joined by hope

**SUNDAYS @ 11:01AM
MODERN WORSHIP
COMING APRIL 24**

First United Methodist Church
401 S. Spring Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

www.sfumc.org/the1101

Congregational Care by Pastor Ron

Invitation from Pastor Ron

Greetings, friends and members of First Church!

As the Visitation Pastor, I want to make sure that we are doing all we can to meet your Congregational Care needs. So, I invite you to let us know any of the following things:

- Do you have a planned medical procedure or other concern that you would like us to **begin praying about?**
- We try to make sure we are visiting/calling/sending cards—and of course, praying for those in the hospital or who are having health crises. Sometimes we miss hearing about these needs. **We invite you to please let us know, so that we can care for you!**
- Do you have older friends or parents, or do you know of those with restrictions of some kind, who would **like visits?** As the pandemic has been easing up, it has been much easier to visit in person. I try to visit anyone who would like a visit, especially those who are unable to come to church. We don't want anyone to fall through the cracks.
- Do you love people and would **like to join our ministry of visitation care?**
- Are you one who joins worship virtually and are **wanting disposable Holy Communion elements and are unable to pick them up** because of mobility issues? I am willing to deliver them to your door.
- Are you in **need of groceries or other essential items to be delivered?** In most cases, either we can help you or direct you to someone who can.

If you said "yes" to any of the above questions, **please contact the church or me (Pastor Ron) personally.** Thanks so much!

Here is the contact information for Pastor Ron:

- Mail to the church: 401 S. Spring Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57104
- Email: ronolson58@gmail.com
- Call my (Pastor Ron's) cell: (701) 440-1102 or The church and leave word for me: (605) 336-3652

Spring Grief Group Planned

The first grief group over the winter months was well received. We found that it was comforting and helpful to be able to share our grief experience with others in the safety of a confidential group of those who have gone through similar experiences. We are not built to walk through our grief alone!

Now, we will begin our second grief group experience!

Have you lost a loved one and now you are grieving that loss? The book we'll be using for this 8-week journey is **Beyond the Broken Heart: A Journey through Grief**, by Julie Yarbrough. There is a quality video component each week as well!

This 8-week group meets Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Friendship Room on April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18, 25, and June 1.

Please let the office know of your interest. Books will soon be available there and at no charge. Blessings!

CHURCH FAMILY

BIRTH

- Nola Arends-Montes (daughter of Emma & Mario Montes)

- Robert Wiedeman (husband of Mary Ann Wiedeman, father of Laurie (Ben) Lamp)

PRAYER CONCERNS

HOSPICE

- Betty Hieb
- Mary Newcomb
- Ray Bucklin (father of Val (David) Mickelson)

- Cal Willemssen (husband of Lynn Willemssen)
- Reece Ullerich (great nephew of Sonny & Becky Otto)
- Donna Moehnke
- Wayne, Izzy & Layla (family of Barb Shepardson)

DEATHS

- Thelma Moberly (mother of Linda (Mark), Mark, John (Kelly) & Brian (Patti))
- Michael Ferrell (husband of Sue Ferrell)
- Brett Nicholson (brother of Mary (Steve) Johnson)
- Wayne McNeil (father of Elizabeth Blosser)

ATTENDANCE

- Feb 13: In Person - 270
Online - 344
- Feb 20: In Person - 280
Online - 414
- Feb 27: In Person - 374
Online - 448
- Mar 6: In Person - 248
Online - 486



Easter Spring Flowers and/or Foundation Gifts

Gifts for: Spring Flowers \$15 Foundation Gifts \$ _____ | Person(s) to be: Honored or Memorialized (check one)

Mail or drop off payment to church office or pay online. Deadline to be listed in bulletin is April 3.

Name: _____ Given by: _____

Support the Humanitarian Response in Ukraine

How is the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) responding?

UMCOR's work in Ukraine is being funded with gifts to Advance #982450, International Disaster Response and Recovery. Grants for immediate relief have been given to United Methodist partners in Ukraine as well as neighboring nations — Poland, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia — to support those who remain in Ukraine as well as those who have fled the violence. In addition, grants are being awarded to partners like ACT Alliance, a global faith-based coalition working in 120 countries around the world. These grants are providing humanitarian assistance in the form of food, water, clothing, shelter and other necessary supplies.

We are in continuous dialogue with UMC entities and other partners throughout Europe to identify additional ways UMCOR might assist. The situation in Eastern Europe is evolving and Global Ministries and UMCOR will continue to respond in the months and years ahead.

How can I support those still in Ukraine and those fleeing the violence?

At this time, all gifts to UMCOR's International Disaster Response and Recovery Advance will be used to assist those who remain in Ukraine and those who have fled the violence to neighboring nations. Gifts can be made in the following ways:

- Online at www.umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450
- By toll-free telephone call: 1-888-252-6174
- By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with "Advance #982450-Ukraine" written on the memo line and mailed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068
- By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with "Advance #982450-Ukraine" written on the memo line and given to any United Methodist church

What prayer can I lift up for the people of Ukraine?

This intercessory prayer was written for World Day of Prayer by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, on February 25, 2022:

God of the past, the present and the future,

Our thoughts and prayers are with our sisters and brothers in Ukraine and the surrounding countries in their fear and distress.

We pray too for all other regions of the world where there is conflict, unrest or oppression.

We pray that reconciliation will overcome hatred, peace will conquer war, hope will replace despair and that your plans for the region will be fulfilled,

God, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.



United Women in Faith

United Methodist Women has been refreshed with a new name **United Women in Faith**, a new logo, and new and improved programs serving on behalf of women, children, and youth. "We believe love in action can change the world." Check out the new website, including information on podcasts and the Response Magazine, at <https://uwfaith.org>, and watch for more information on ways you can serve with United Women in Faith here at First Church.

Spring is coming, we can gather again, and Women in Faith is celebrating with a **Spring Fling Brunch!** Please join us on **Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room.** Our main speaker will be Joleen Thompson from the **Family Visitation Center**, which provides a safe place for supervised visits and exchanges for children caught in the middle of complicated family situations. Bill and Glenda Kluckman and friends will provide entertainment. Your \$10 entrance includes brunch, speakers, entertainment, and door prizes. We will be taking a free will offering for the Family Visitation Center and are also **asking for donations from their current needs list: facial tissue, toilet paper, watercolor paint sets, small and medium paint brushes, and applesauce pouches. Donations will be collected at the brunch.**

For more information on the organization, visit their website at www.fvcenter.org. All are welcome! Please call the office, or stop by the United Women in Faith sales table Sunday mornings, to get your names on a list and **reserve your seats by Sunday, April 24.**

Also, we would love to see more women in our church get involved in the **Reading Program.** Stop by the library to get program information and look over the books and videos available. Choose the materials that interest you most in the various categories, fill out your log, and return it by August 15. If you listen to three Faith Talk podcasts, it also counts as a book.



S.A.G.E.S.

S.A.G.E.S. meets **Wednesday, April 13 at 11:30 a.m.** in the Wesley Dining Hall. The meal is \$7 and catered by Tony's. The menu will be beef stroganoff, corn, fruit and dessert. We will hear from Erin Brown director for the new South Dakota Veterans Cemetery. Plus a bio in a nut shell and devotions! Call the church office to RSVP.

Wedded Band

Wedded Band will meet **Wednesday, April 13 at 1 p.m.** in the Lewis Friendship Room. Guest speaker will be Mark Harriman presenting a program on Stations of the Cross.

Our caring thoughts are with the family of our dear long-time beloved member, Thelma Moberly, whose life we celebrated March 14.

Men's Ministry

How are you doing with your list of things to do to grow closer to God and to serve other children of God?

If a men's group is on your list, these existing groups welcome you at any time — Higgins Bible Study, AMen's, and Men of Integrity. They have some of the most interesting and meaningful programs currently being used.

Mentoring with other men and boys continues to be needed all across our 605 community, and hopefully that is also on your list of things to do. Please contact the church office for more information.



"The Bag Ladies"

AA Women's Only Group Meeting

Bring your "brown bag" lunch.

Wednesdays, 12-1 p.m., Fireplace Room

First United Methodist Church



Al-Anon Family Groups

"3C's"

Al-Anon Family Group Meeting

Thursdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Fireplace Room

First United Methodist Church

To request Zoom link send email to:

SDAAnonOutreach@gmail.com

www.al-anon.org / www.sdal-anon-alateen.org

Sioux Falls Hotline / meeting information: 605-679-5497

Rapid City Hotline / meeting information: 605-390-6432

Next Generation News

First Church is a busy place on Wednesday evenings! Wednesday "FILL UP" nights have continued to grow with many taking part in the meal, children and youth ministry, adult studies and parent happy hour!

On March 1 the youth helped with serving and clean up at **Flapjack Follies**. Along with that was a 1st (and hopefully annual) dessert auction! A huge thanks to April Lovrien for using her auctioneering skills! It was a fun way to support the youth missions and take home a delicious treat while raising \$1,845 for youth missions! Thank you for the continued support of the youth!



**Flapjack Follies
Dessert Auction!**

Confirmation

The **Confirmation** students will each be presenting a 3-5 minute reflection on a passage of their choice from the book of Luke as part of Wednesday "Fill-Up" worship at 6:30 p.m. on April 13 and 20. Mark your calendar to come to worship on those 2 Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. to hear and support them as they take next steps in their faith journey.

We have had a great year meeting, learning and growing in faith! Be in prayer for these Confirmation students as they prepare and present on April 13 and 20 and then celebrate with them on **Confirmation Sunday, April 24** at the 9:45 a.m. worship service.

Presenting April 13

- Chivalry Straatmeyer
- Lydia Maldonado
- Anastasia Kieffer
- Alainna Wescott
- Kinsey Lovrien
- McKinley Kramer
- Layla Grann

Presenting April 20

- Mason Dean
- Elizabeth Jans
- Emerson Skuodas
- Kaleb Martens
- Deacon Reisner
- Joshua Maldonado
- Eli Schuldt



by **Andrea Kooi, Assistant Director**

Easter is Coming!

What is your favorite thing about Easter?

4 year old: "The Easter Bunny comes!"

5 year old: "We color eggs and we find them!"

What does Easter mean?

4 year old: "It means I get to wear a pretty dress and find Easter eggs and it's VERY, VERY EXCITING!"

Easter certainly is something to get excited about, no matter our age. This month, we will be teaching our children that Easter is not only about the eggs and the Easter bunny, but that Jesus is ALIVE and He loves us SO much!

We have begun making plans for our summer program. Do you have a hobby you'd like to share or teach our kids about? Would you like to work for us this summer? If so, please contact LuAnn at 605-332-5940. We look forward to a fun-filled summer!

Pictured below are the children in our Jazzy Jellyfish room performing a puppet show in the library. Our teachers use the puppets to teach and encourage social skills like patience, manners, and sharing.



Questions? If you are looking for more information or want to know how you can be a part of helping with any of these ministries, contact Pastor Andrea at pastorandrea@sfumc.org.



by **Anelis Coscioni, Toy Lending Library Director**

Bright News!

In the first three months of 2022 the Toy Lending Library of SD (TLL) already expanded to two new locations: Parkston Public Library and Watertown Regional Library! The organization is very happy to start reaching children even farther away.

With the new locations, more toy boxes are in the process of being checked out and returned. More toy boxes need to be cleaned/sanitized.

We have several volunteer opportunities at the TLL. We have wonderful volunteers already sharing their time and gifts with us, like the South Sioux Falls Kiwanis club. Once a month the club members volunteer to help clean toys.

Would you like to join our great team of volunteers?

If yes, contact Anelis Coscioni
Director@ToyLendingLibrarySD.org
ToyLendingLibrarySD.org
 (605) 215-0575



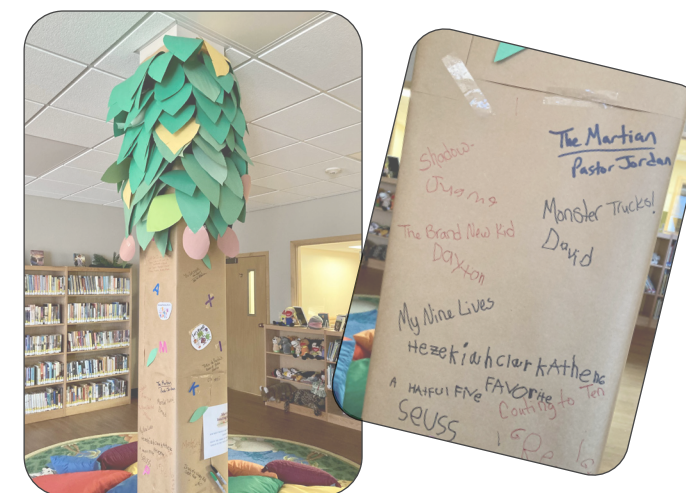
by **Kathy Martens, KidStop Executive Director**

Hello Spring!!

The kids and staff at KidStop are so happy to see some warmer weather. We've gotten outside to play some soccer and color with chalk.

Once again our spring Butter Braid Fundraiser was a success! A BIG thank you to everyone who purchased Butter Braids, we will be using the money for our summer field trip fund!

With the month of March just completed we enjoyed many hours of fun reading in the church Library! The kids really enjoy all the fun things to do. They even got to write down the books they read on the reading tree (see photo below).



Spring Book Drive April 11 - 25

We are collecting gently used books for children. These books will be distributed among the students enrolled in our **summer reading program** partnered with **Reading Bridge**.