



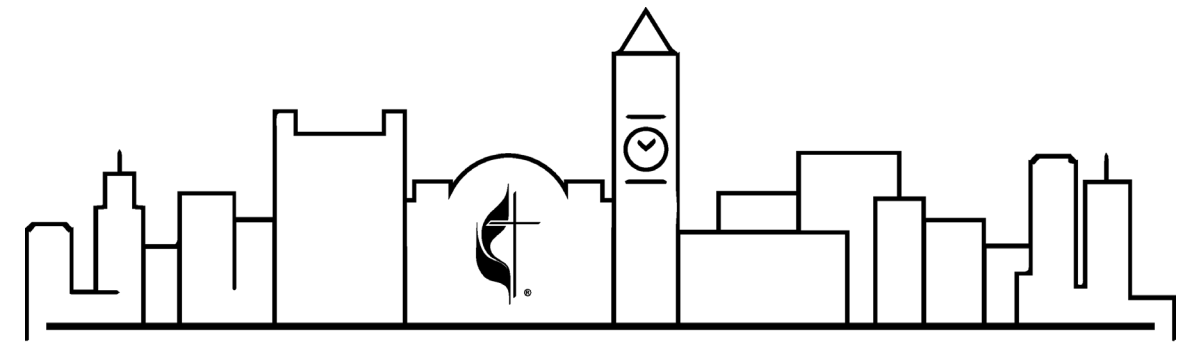
First United Methodist Church
401 S. Spring Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-4398
605-336-3652

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HOPE IN THE 605

SIoux FALLS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Unshakeable Kingdom *with Pastor Sara Nelson*



Pastor Sara Nelson

"For God has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins." (Colossians 1:13)

A family was watching a movie about the life of Jesus together. Their 6-year-old daughter was mesmerized as the movie portrayed Jesus' crucifixion and death. Tears ran down her face

as they took Jesus down from the cross and laid him in the tomb.

Suddenly a big smile broke out on her face. She bounced up and down on the couch and said with great anticipation: "Mom, Mom... now comes the best part."

That's why we celebrate Easter! We celebrate the best part of Jesus' pilgrimage on earth, Jesus' resurrection.

We give thanks for Jesus' victory over sin and death. On Easter morning, we will join our voices with millions of others around the world to sing: "Jesus Christ is risen today!"

Jesus' resurrection is proof that good has triumphed over evil. It's proof that death does not have the final word. It's proof that the worst thing is never the last thing. The resurrection is proof that Good Friday is not the end of the story. We always have hope because we know that Easter is coming.

We hope you will join us on April 9 for Easter Sunday at 6:30 a.m. at Falls Park, 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., or the 11:01 for worship services in-person or ONLINE as we celebrate how Jesus' resurrection changed everything and ushered in God's Unshakeable Kingdom!

Happy Easter,

Pastor Sara M. Nelson

Pastor Sara

UNSHAKEABLE
KINGDOM
Sermon Series April 9-30

Information is correct at publication.

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

Holy Week

Palm Sunday
8:30, 9:45 & 11:01

Lenten Prayer Service
Wednesday - 5:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday - 6 p.m.

Good Friday - 6 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 9

Sunrise Service
6:30 a.m. @ Falls Park
Under the shelter, weather permitting

Traditional Worship - 8:30 a.m.

Unity Worship - 9:45 a.m.

Modern Worship - the 11:01 a.m.
In-Person, Online, and on Facebook Live

Adult Discipleship

Thanks for Loving the 605!

Last month on Service Sunday (March 12) we put together 50 hygiene kits for the Community Outreach!



This greatly helps people who come in, escaping domestic violence, struggling to make ends meet, or have just lost a job. Thank you so much for your generosity and your heart for service! The money and the kits will go a long way!

APRIL Lunch 'n' Learn: Caring for the Earth as Christians

• Sunday, April 23, 12-1:30 p.m., Fireplace Room

Last month's Lunch 'n' Learn was a wonderful time shared together talking about Jesus and the cross!

For April, we will be looking at creation care. How do we care for the earth and what is our responsibility as Christians to seek ecological justice? There is no preparation needed for this gathering. All you need is to be interested in learning and growing in your faith. Lunch will be provided. There will be a signup sheet available online and at the Information Center.

S.A.G.E.S.

• Wednesday, April 12, 11:30 a.m., Multi-Purpose Room

The speaker will be a representative from "The Lunch Is Served" program. The catered meal by Tony's will be beef stroganoff, corn, pistachio fluff, and a homemade dessert. Cost is \$10. There will also be devotions and fellowship. Call the church office at (605) 336-3652 to reserve your spot. Come, join us!

Wedded Band

• Wednesday, April 12, 1 p.m., Friendship Room.

Adults @ First Bible Study

• Wednesdays, April 12-May 17, 6 p.m.

The Adult Bible Study will be walking through the Book of James. Within the pages of the book is the important reminder: "faith is dead without good works" (James 2:26 NLT). Yet there is richness galore within this book of the Bible. Come join us for an evening of great discussion, story, community, and study. It all happens Wednesdays @ 6 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. Led by Pastor Jordan.



Loving the 605 with Toy Lending Library

Love the 605 is all about showing the love of our God to our neighbors around us. One of the impactful ministries here in Sioux Falls that we partner with is Toy Lending Library. They have recently moved into the former United Childcare and Preschool space, and are continuing to expand and grow their organization, as they make a wonderful impact for kids and families here in Sioux Falls and throughout South Dakota!

As they move into their new space, they are in need of \$2,100 for a toy washing station. This April, you can help Toy Lending Library move into their space "ready to go" through financially donating to Love the 605 for this specific project. Additionally, you can volunteer on weekdays with the Toy Lending Library. **And you can join Anelis, the director of Toy Lending Library, for an Open House on Sunday, April 30, starting at 9 a.m.**

Service Sunday ~ Sunday, April 2

On April 2, Palm Sunday, we will be having Service Sunday after the 8:30 and 9:45 worship services as well as at the 11:01. For that Sunday, we will be putting together Easter Bags for the kids that we serve at Nightwatch on Monday, April 3. Thanks for your help with this project!

New Member Class in April

Starting Wednesday, April 12, we are going to be offering a new member's class. This will be a six-week course that will help participants discern how through membership at First Church they can make an impact for the kingdom through their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We will be journeying through Adam Hamilton's book *The Walk*. **The course will start on Wednesday, April 12 @ 7:05 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. The final class will be Wednesday, May 17. New Member Welcome Sunday will be Sunday, May 21.** An online option will be available for this class as well if travel to the church is not possible for folks on Wednesday evenings.

If you have interest in the class, please contact Pastor Jordan to sign up. The books are available in the church office. Let Pastor Jordan know if you have questions or are interested.

Congregational Care

Extravagant Hospitality!

We, at First Church strive to be a welcoming community to visitors and guests. We want guests to feel comfortable and know that we are thrilled that they have come to visit us. Just as much, we would like our regular attendees and members to be welcomed in the same way. Our Connect First Team of Greeters, Ushers and Information Center Attendants do a wonderful job of being that smiling face as worshippers walk in the door of our church and our sanctuary. This fun team needs more players! We need you!

Please sign up to be a Greeter, Usher or Information Center Attendant by:

1. Signing up at the Information Center
2. Let Pam Knuth know that you want to help: knuthp@sfumc.org
3. Log into planning center and sign up

Thank you to all our current Connect First Team members! **We hope to welcome many more!**

United Women in Faith Grocery Cards

Did you know that by purchasing the grocery cards for Hy-Vee, Sunshine or Fareway you are supporting Mission Projects?

United Women in Faith use the proceeds from the grocery card sales to support various mission projects such as Kidstop, Church on the Street, The Banquet and other feeding ministries and our Youth Mission Trips.

Grocery cards are on sale Sunday mornings in the Multi-Purpose Room and in the church office during the week. They are available in various denominations and make great gifts. As we approach spring with graduation and wedding season, please consider including the Grocery Cards as a part of your gift giving. It is a way to give two gifts, one to your special person and one to the UWF Mission Projects.

Thank you for your support of this important mission project.

Annual Spring Brunch ~ April 29

Make plans now to attend the Annual Spring Brunch sponsored by United Women in Faith. Enjoy a great brunch, a speaker from the Toy Lending Library, entertainment, and fellowship. **The brunch starts at 10 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. Tickets are \$10 and go on sale April 16.**

We are doing something different this year! Women will be decorating the tables with a theme of their own choosing, so there should be a wide variety of decorations on the tables. The Tour of Tables will give you a chance to enjoy many different types of decorations and maybe pick up some ideas.

CHURCH FAMILY

HOSPICE

• Clare Vollan

DEATH

- LaVonne Wittrock
- Doris Gist (wife of Rodney Gist)
- Marvin Gustafson (father of John (Anna) Gustafson)
- Robert Leonhardt (Husband of Jane Leonhardt, father of Ross and Rachel)
- Chuck Iddings (grandfather of Aiden Christensen)
- Mark Wolfe (cousin of Jill (Dan) Johnson)
- Sandy Horstman (sister-in-law of Lori Erickson)

- Lexi (friend of Dawn Hieb & Caitlin Marsh)
- Matthew Mund (grandson of Joann (Derald) Espeland)
- Jim & Arlene Kieffer (parents of Cynthia (Mike) McConniel)
- Ben Lamp
- Kelly & Landin Moran
- Family of Darwin Fodness (nephew of Clare & Carolyn Vollan, nephew of Glen & Caren Straatmeyer)
- Tony and Rose Stoll (Perham, MN, friends of Paul & Nancy Boerboom)

ATTENDANCE

• Feb 5	In Person	260
	Online	356
• Feb 12	In Person	336
	Online	276
• Feb 19	In Person	295
	Online	182
• Feb 26	In Person	271
	Online	346
• Mar 5	In Person	332
	Online	292

PRAYER CONCERNS

- Bill & Renita Schepeler
- Conner Olson (son of Erica & Spenser Olson, grandson of Terry & Sue Coomes, great grandson of Dick & Lois Sayre)
- Mary Uecker
- Sue (sister of Barb Shepardson)



The **May First Church** newsletter articles are due by **4:30PM, Tuesday, April 18.** Please email information to Jill Johnson at johnsonj@sfumc.org

"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



"3C's" Al-Anon Family Groups

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:
SDAIAnonOutreach@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

Drumroll please...

The Noisy Offering and Love the 605 funds are still trickling in but we're expected to pass \$10,000!!!!!!

Thank you for your generosity! We will be able to send many people to camp again this Summer!

CAMP

Get registered @ www.dakotasumc.org/camping. We have people going to the following camps this summer:

Lake Poinsett

- July 5-7, Mini Camp (grades 1-3, 4-6)
- July 16-19, Grandparents & Me (grandparent/s, kid/s 5-12 years old)
- July 30-August 2, Summer's Last Blast (grades 1-5, 6-9)

Storm Mountain

- July 23-28, Heritage Camp
Pastor Jordan leads this one! (grades 3-5)
- Aug. 27-30, Lover of God's Hills (adults 50+)

Ask us for the Church Code and get a discount if you register by April 30!

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is April 16. The Confirmation students will be sharing their presentations on Wednesday, April 12 at 6 p.m. Come support these students as they take their next steps on their faith journey!

2022-2023 Confirmation Class

Andrew Baker, Andrew Fode, Anna Gilbertson, Johnathon Haber, Nathan Jans, Austine Nelson, Gavin Schoeberl

SENIOR SUNDAY

Mark your calendars for Senior Sunday, May 7 as we celebrate the 2023 graduates! They will be available for a meet and greet time before and after the 9:45 service in the Multi-Purpose room.

Women's NIGHT OUT!

April 21, 5-10 p.m. at First Church.
Dinner, devotional, games, and other activities.

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.

Kids Corner

LuAnn Berkhof, Director of Children's Ministry



As I write this, I am starting my third week as Director of Children's Ministry at First Church. What an honor and privilege! All of the staff are so helpful and welcoming. Stacy is incredible! She has such a heart for children's ministry, and I love the opportunity I have to work with her. We are both excited about the potential to share the love of God and His Church with the families of the younger children in our community.

We also know that all the excitement in the world does not assure success. "Apart from You (God) we can do nothing." John 15:5b We ask you pray with us and for us, as we discern God's will for the children and their families who walk through the doors of this church. We ask you to pray about how God could be preparing you to be a part of the children's ministry. Do you have an idea, time or talent you would like to share? If so, what does that look like to you? An hour a week or a few evenings a month would mean so much! I am anxious to hear from you! Please call the church, email me at BerkhofL@sfumc.org or "invite" me to take YOU out for coffee (yes seriously!).



Spring Has Sprung

by Kathy Martens, KidStop Executive Director

This month's curriculum is all about Women's History and how to be a good friend! We will also be talking about Easter and some of the different family traditions people have during this time of the year. We hope to be enjoying more outdoor time soon with the warmer spring weather! Thanks for supporting the Kidstop Ministry this past month during our Butter Braids Fundraiser! We are happy to report that we did well again! With your help we will have a busy and fun summer planned for the Kidstop Summer Program.

Pictured is some of our boys reading a book together. So fun!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p></p> <p>2 Palm Sunday Communion Sunday Worship: In-Person & Online 8:30am (Sanctuary) 9:45am w/Kid's Connection (Sanctuary) Study w/Mark & Ginger Phillips: 11am 11:01am (Wesley Dining Hall) Service Sunday 9:15am-12pm</p>	<p>3 Nightwatch at Hayward: 5pm</p>	<p>4 Allen's: 12pm Tuesday Refresh Lenten Study: 12pm (Fireplace Room) Nightwatch Meeting: 5:30pm Worship Design Team Meeting: 5:30pm</p>	<p>5 Women's Lenten Study: 9:30am Dinner: 5pm Feeding SD Food Distribution: 5:30pm Lenten Prayer Service: 5:30pm (Chapel) Kids @ First: 5:45pm Youth @ First: 5:45pm Lenten Study w/Pastor Jordan: 6pm (Fireplace Room) Lenten Study w/Brian and Stacey Jans: 6pm (Library) High School Study: 7pm Chancel Choir: 7pm</p>	<p>6 Les Cloches Rehearsal: 5:30pm 11:01 Band Rehearsal: 6pm Maundy Thursday Worship: 6pm (Sanctuary) Praise Band Rehearsal: 6:30pm Lenten Study w/Larissa Neugebauer and Tyler Kopp: 7:30pm (Offsite)</p>	<p>7 Facebook: FYI Friday 11am Lenten Study w/Nancy Hallenbeck via Zoom: 11am Good Friday Worship: 6pm (Sanctuary)</p>	<p>8 Men of Integrity: 7:30am Habitat for Humanity Team Build: 8:30am </p>
<p></p> <p>9 Easter Sunday Worship: In-Person Sunrise Service: 6:30 (Falls Park) In-Person & Online 8:30am (Sanctuary) 9:45am w/Kid's Connection (Sanctuary) 11:01am (Wesley Dining Hall)</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Higgins: 8am Tuesday Refresh: 12pm (Fireplace Room) Serve the Banquet West: 4:30pm</p>	<p>12 Women's Bible Study: 9:30am Sages: 11:15am Wedded Band: 1pm Dinner: 5pm Kids @ First: 5:45pm Confirmation Presentations Rehearsal: 6pm Bible Study w/Pastor Jordan: 6pm (Fireplace Room) Bible Study w/Brian and Stacey Jans: 6pm (Library) Chancel Choir: 7pm High School Study: 7pm New Member Class: 7pm</p>	<p>13 Steering Committee Meeting: 3:30pm Les Cloches Rehearsal: 5:30pm 11:01 Band Rehearsal: 6pm Praise Band Rehearsal: 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larissa Neugebauer and Tyler Kopp: 7:30pm (Offsite)</p>	<p>14 Facebook: FYI Friday 11am Bible Study w/Nancy Hallenbeck via Zoom: 11am</p>	<p>15 Men of Integrity: 7:30am Nan Circle: 9:30am (Offsite)</p>
<p>16 Confirmation Sunday Worship: In-Person & Online 8:30am (Sanctuary) 9:45am (Sanctuary) 11:01am (Wesley Dining Hall)</p>	<p>17 </p>	<p>18 Serve the Downtown Banquet: 5:30am Allen's: 12pm Tuesday Refresh: 12pm (Fireplace Room) Read @ First: 5:30pm Carefirst Meeting: 5:30pm May Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>19 Women's Bible Study: 9:30am Dinner: 5pm Kids @ First: 5:45pm Youth @ First: 5:45pm Bible Study w/Pastor Jordan: 6pm (Fireplace Room) Bible Study w/Brian and Stacey Jans: 6pm (Library) Chancel Choir: 7pm High School Study: 7pm New Member Class: 7pm</p>	<p>20 Rachel Circle: 9:30am Les Cloches Rehearsal: 5:30pm 11:01 Band Rehearsal: 6pm Praise Band Rehearsal: 6:30pm Triple F: 6:30pm (Fireplace Room) Rebecca Circle: 7pm Bible Study w/Larissa Neugebauer and Tyler Kopp: 7:30pm (Offsite)</p>	<p>21 Facebook: FYI Friday 11am Bible Study w/Nancy Hallenbeck via Zoom: 11am</p>	<p>22 Men of Integrity: 7:30am SD Guild of Organist Petals and Pipes: 10am</p>
<p>23 Sunday Worship: In-Person & Online 8:30am (Sanctuary) 9:45am w/Kid's Connection (Sanctuary) 11:01am (Wesley Dining Hall) Lunch 'n Learn-Caring for the Earth as Christians: 12pm (Fireplace Room)</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Higgins: 8am Tuesday Refresh: 12pm (Fireplace Room) Finance Meeting: 5:30pm SPRC Meeting: 5:30pm Trustee Meeting: 5:30pm Church Council: 7pm</p>	<p>26 Women's Bible Study: 9:30am Dinner: 5pm Kids @ First: 5:45pm Youth @ First: 5:45pm Bible Study w/Pastor Jordan: 6pm (Fireplace Room) Bible Study w/Brian and Stacey Jans: 6pm (Library) Chancel Choir: 7pm High School Study: 7pm New Member Class: 7pm</p>	<p>7 Les Cloches Rehearsal: 5:30pm 11:01 Band Rehearsal: 6pm Praise Band Rehearsal: 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larissa Neugebauer and Tyler Kopp: 7:30pm (Offsite)</p>	<p>28 Facebook: FYI Friday 11am Bible Study w/Nancy Hallenbeck via Zoom: 11am</p>	<p>29 Men of Integrity: 7:30am Spring Brunch: 10am</p>
<p>30 Sunday Worship: In-Person & Online 8:30am (Sanctuary) 9:45am (Sanctuary) 11:01am (Wesley Dining Hall) Toy Lending Library Open House (Fireplace Room)</p>						



Just call the front office @ (605) 336-3652 to request a copy and we can either email, mail, or you can stop by in person to receive yours.

Did you know that you could get a copy of Pastor Sara's Sunday sermons?

Capital Campaign Update



We believe that God is working powerfully through our congregation and we are all very blessed to call First United Methodist Church our church home. It is such a beautiful building with so much history and continues to provide many opportunities and resources for our church family and our community.

With having such a large and historic building, it does come with its challenges to keep updated to ensure that it continues in its mission for generations to come. As many of you may have heard, First United Methodist Church is in the very early stages of a Capital Campaign. The needed updates are part of the Missional Priorities that many of you were a part of in 2021 and hopefully you read the communication that was recently distributed. Specifically:

- **MISSIONAL PRIORITY 3 – Improve Technology and Digital Outreach**
- **MISSIONAL PRIORITY 4 – Church Building Renovations are the driving factors for this potential capital campaign.**

The main areas that need improvement based on comments received over the course of the last several years include improvement to the overall sound, lighting, elevation changes as well as some areas that are simply worn out. The additional resounding comment has been to make sure that we do not alter the historical integrity of the church.

A Steering Committee was formed in September of 2022 to begin the exploration of a Capital Campaign along with a couple of sub-committees. One of these sub-committees (Design and Construction Committee) met multiple times to go through the church in detail. While there are potentially many areas through the building, the specific potential areas of work include:

Building Exterior

You have all probably noticed some water damage to walls and ceilings throughout the church and especially near the choir loft in the sanctuary. The root of this is the exterior of the building needs to have some significant repairs to the brickwork or tuckpointing. This most likely has to be completed before we can make the repairs and updates on the inside of the church.

Sanctuary

- 1) Reconfigure the platform and altar area to provide more overall space that can be seen from all areas of the sanctuary.
- 2) Updating the audio and acoustical throughout the sanctuary, including removing the many black speakers.
- 3) Updating the video service.
- 4) Replace the existing rail in the balcony and update for safety.
- 5) Improvements in the overall HVAC including humidification for the organ.
- 6) Provide protective covers for stained glass that will also help with regulating temperature.
- 7) Repairs to pews.
- 8) Updates to overall lighting.

Stairwells and Hallways

- 1) Replace and update lighting.
- 2) Remove and replace old wall tile and flooring in stairwells.
- 3) Update with new paint.

Choir Room

- 1) Replace the current HVAC system to provide better temp control.
- 2) Replace and update lighting.
- 3) Paint areas as needed.

This is certainly not an all-encompassing list of work that needs to be completed or will be completed -but is a high level overview. Also, our ability to complete all of this work will depend on the estimated costs of construction and success in the capital campaign.

As mentioned previously, we are in the early stages of a possible capital campaign. We have hired a company called Maximizing Excellence to help us with a feasibility study on this project, who also helped us with our last capital campaign back in 2017.

Some of you have asked about using the large gifts that our congregation received over the last few years for the construction costs. We have secured a commitment from the Foundation and Church Council to enable us to use \$640,000 of funds the church has in savings. But, we will need to raise significantly more to complete the work we are contemplating.

While we do not have any firm costs on the possible projects or the timing of when some of these projects will begin, we will have a couple members of our Steering Committee and Design and Construction Committee available to answer any questions and receive feedback in the MPR between services on Sunday, April 2, 2023.

Missional Priorities Update



It is such an exciting time to be in worship, mission and ministry together at First Church.

We have entered our second full year of working on our Missional Priorities and we wanted to give you an update on our progress!

The Missional Priorities are intended to help guide us as we go about the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ and to focus our efforts on areas that the people of our church felt were the most important as we serve our community, our neighborhood and our congregation. We thank you all for your commitment to the ministry of the Church!

Phase 1 (2022 -2023)

MISSIONAL PRIORITY 1 — *Launch a new worship service connecting with persons under the age of 50.*

STATUS UPDATE ► We successfully launched the 11:01 service in April 2022, and have continued to reach and engage new people through the service!

MISSIONAL PRIORITY 2 — *Develop children and youth ministries by growing participation by 5-10% each year.*

STATUS UPDATE ► As of March 6, 2023, we have hired LuAnn Berkhof to serve as a new full-time Director of Children's Ministry at First Church!

MISSIONAL PRIORITY 3 — *Improve Technology and Digital Outreach: Acquire and implement new technologies to enhance the connections with our current congregation and potential new members.*

STATUS UPDATE ► The capital campaign that is currently being explored will address video and audio improvements. We will begin considering social media connections in more detail later in 2023.

MISSIONAL PRIORITY 4 — *Church Building Renovations: Renovate the Sanctuary and certain other areas of the church to allow us to continue our ministry.*

STATUS UPDATE ► We have formed a capital campaign team and have spent several months evaluating the potential work to be done and the feasibility of a capital campaign at this time. The feasibility process is well underway, and in June we anticipate making a decision about whether to move forward with the campaign.

Phase 2 (2024-2025)

THE PHASE 2 MISSIONAL PRIORITIES INCLUDE

- Welcoming and connecting 150 New Members into the life of the church by 2027.
- Increasing Congregational Volunteerism by 5-10% each year.
- Developing a Leadership Pathway to build up new and existing leaders within the congregation.

STATUS UPDATE ► Certain Phase 2 work is already underway, especially as concerns the New Members and Volunteerism Priorities, but these will receive additional focus in 2024–2025.

Phase 3 (2026-2027)

THE PHASE 3 MISSIONAL PRIORITIES INCLUDE

- Creating more opportunities for congregational involvement in Worship and Music.
- Increasing participation in Adult Small Group ministry by 5-10% each year.
- Cultivate a Mission-With Mindset for each of our mission projects.

STATUS UPDATE ► Work in the Small Group Priority has already begun.

We are excited about the great success we are experiencing with our Missional Priorities and look forward to continuing to work to achieve these goals. We are so blessed to have a congregation that is filled with God's Holy Spirit and engages in finding new ways to be a sanctuary of Christian hope, love and encouragement in the heart of Sioux Falls!