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Sioux Falls, SD

February 2022

# Here@ FIRST

united methodist church

## Lord, Surprise Us!

with Pastor Sara Nelson



Pastor Sara Nelson

We have a God who loves surprises! God created life out of chaos and darkness! God parted the Red Sea to deliver his people to safety! Jesus came back to life three days after being crucified! Surprise! Surprise! Surprise!

Pastor Mark Batterson in his book, *Draw the Circle*, talks about how God surprised him. Several years ago, Mark and his staff began praying that God

would surprise them. A few weeks later, Mark and his family went away on vacation to a friend's lake cabin. On vacation, there was a knock on the door. It was a neighbor, Harry. Over the course of their vacation, Mark and Harry got to know one another. Mark sent Harry a copy of his book, *Wild Goose Chase*. Harry liked the book and recommended it to his friend, Tom.

Nearly a year after that vacation, Mark received a call from Tom who was a deacon at the Glen Echo Baptist Church (GEBC) in the heart of Washington, D.C. GEBC had once been a thriving church, but had dwindled to about a dozen members. He was calling to ask Mark if his church would be interested in their two properties, valued at around 2 million dollars. The GEBC didn't want to sell their properties to the church. They wanted to give their properties to the church.

This is what Mark writes about this experience. *"What profoundly impacted me was the fact that GEBC was courageous and generous enough to give its building to another church. We were surprised and humbled beyond*



## Welcome To "Love the 605" In 2022!

**First United Methodist Church**  
*A Sanctuary of Hope, Love, and  
Encouragement in the Heart of Sioux Falls*

words. Then I remembered our prayer: Lord, surprise us." (Mark Batterson, *Draw the Circle*)

As we continue our church-wide focus to "Love the 605", I encourage you to join me in praying for God to surprise us. Surprise us with God's love. Surprise us with opportunities to put God's love into action, especially in the 605.

Asking God through prayer, to do what only God can do. Asking God, to break through and do bold, new things in our individual lives and in our life as a church.

May God have many holy surprises in store for us in 2022! Lord, surprise us!

In Ministry Together,

*Pastor Sara M. Nelson*

Pastor Sara

### Pictorial Directory/Cookbook

Like the old saying goes, all good things must come to an end! **February 27 will be the last day we will take pictures at the church.** If you haven't had your picture taken, we'll be taking pictures in front of the office every Sunday morning until then. If you have a picture you would like to submit, please email to: [firstumc150th@gmail.com](mailto:firstumc150th@gmail.com). We have many pictures, but want to make this as complete as possible.

We're still looking for all those family favorite recipes that can be submitted to the same gmail address. You're not limited on the number of recipes you submit, the more the merrier! We want to pack the cookbook with many of your family favorites.

**Information is correct at publication.**

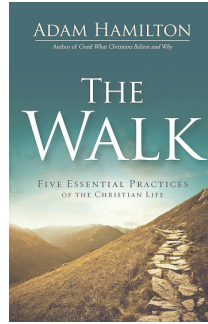
Please visit our website, [sfumc.org](http://sfumc.org), for further details and updates.



# Adult Discipleship by Pastor Jordan

## Welcoming New Members Sunday, February 27

Our winter new member's class has been meeting over the last couple of weeks, and even though we got a little stunted because of sickness, we are back on track! We are walking through Adam Hamilton's book *The Walk* as we grow together in faith. We will welcome our new members into the congregation on **Sunday, 2/27**. Please join us that day!



## 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, and our next gathering is **Thursday, 2/17 @ 7 p.m.** in the **Lewis Friendship Room**. Come join us and bring friends!

## 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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!

## Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

For the month of February, we are talking about contemporary issues in our world and how we think about them through our faith. And we are doing this with love and care even when we disagree with each other. Come join us for an evening of great discussion, story, community, and study. It all happens **Wednesdays @ 5:30 p.m.** in the **Fireplace Room**.

# Congregational Care

## We Need You!

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 Desk Attendants do a wonderful job of being that smiling face as worshipers 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](mailto: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 in 2022!

## United Methodist Women News

Your participation in UMW activities helps support a variety of missions. This year's Christmas Tea was a great success. Profits from ticket sales and additional donations enabled us to give **\$910 to Church on the Street!**

In addition to specific events, UMW raises funds through sales of greeting cards and grocery store gift cards (*available every Sunday in the MPR and during the week in the church office.*) Because of your participation in those sales, UMW recently gave \$260 to KidStop, \$260 to United Childcare, and \$250 to The Banquet. Everyone who purchased cards or gift cards helped make those donations possible.

UMW's next event will be the **Spring Fling, Saturday, 4/30, at 10 a.m.** Plan to join us for food and entertainment as we celebrate the promises of spring. More information announced in the near future.

## S.A.G.E.S.

S.A.G.E.S. meets **Wednesday, 2/9, 11:30 a.m., \$7** in the **Wesley Dining Hall**. Guest speaker is Mayor Paul TenHaken, and the meal is baked chicken breast, baked potatoes, green beans, and dessert. Join us for fellowship, food, and relevant information about what's happening in Sioux Falls. RSVP to the church office at (605) 336-3652.

## Wedded Band

Wedded Band will meet **after Sages on Wednesday, 2/9, 1 p.m.** in the **Lewis Friendship Room**. Bring a favorite picture you'd like to share with the group!

## CHURCH FAMILY

### PRAYER CONCERNS

- Rosemary Pitchford
- Heath Langloss (*son of Wanda Williamson*)
- Danielle Kieffer (*sister of Cynthia (Mike) McConniel*)
- Jim & Arlene (*parents of Cynthia (Mike) McConniel*)
- Jadon (*son of Cynthia (Mike) McConniel*)
- Alex (*daughter of Cynthia (Mike) McConniel*)

### HOSPICE

- Betty Hieb
- Mary Newcomb

### DEATH

- Heather Langloss (*daughter in law of Wanda Williamson*)
- Don Jones Sr. (*father of Don Jones*)
- Joe Hatton (*brother in law of Stephanie (Mike) Skuodas, uncle of Jack and Emerson*)
- Jerry Nelson (*husband of Marilyn Nelson*)

### WEDDING

- Alex & McKenna (Mathiesen) Fiegen

### ATTENDANCE

- Dec 12: Total-682, YTD-633
- Dec 19: Total-868, YTD-638
- Dec 24: Total-986, YTD-644
- Dec 26: Total-381, YTD-639
- Jan 02: Total-565, YTD-565

### BAPTISM

- Briar Rose Jorgensen (*daughter of Jacob & Holly Jorgensen*)

**FEBRUARY**

Mission of the Month is now **Love the 605**

## "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 Habitat for Humanity

One of the best things about many of our Love the 605 opportunities is that you can simply show up and do good. There is no pretense. You can simply be who you are and let God be God through you. And the way we will "Love the 605" in February is through partnering with **Habitat for Humanity**. There are a couple of different ways you can do this.

1 First, you can support this organization through monetary donations, making your checks out to First Church with Habitat in the memo line.

2 Second, we also have a team, led by Doug Cleveringa, that builds with Habitat for Humanity on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month – in February that is the 12<sup>th</sup>!** They are currently working in a new twinhome subdivision on North Americus Circle. People 14 years and older may volunteer. Youth volunteers (14-17), however, must have the consent of their parent/guardian and are limited as to what they may do. There are certain dates throughout the year that are more youth-volunteer friendly, and we can coordinate with Habitat to figure that out if you are interested. Regardless, there is plenty of room for more hands to help give people a home of their own. Contact Doug at [dougandamy@alliancecom.net](mailto:dougandamy@alliancecom.net) or the church office at **(605) 336-3652** to get connected with this wonderful mission in our community Bring a friend with you and make new ones as you build. Thanks so much for loving the 605!



## "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](mailto:SDAAnonOutreach@gmail.com)

[www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org) / [www.sdal-anon-alateen.org](http://www.sdal-anon-alateen.org)  
Sioux Falls Hotline / meeting information: 605-679-5497  
Rapid City Hotline / meeting information: 605-390-6432



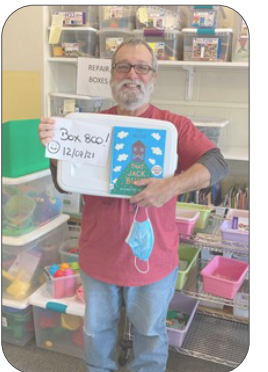


by Anelis Coscioni, Toy Lending Library Director

### New Location in Parkston!

We are very excited to share that in January 2022 we start having our toy boxes available for check out from the **Parkston Public Library**. This is one more step towards having the toy boxes available to all children in the State to play and learn.

More great news is that we reached another milestone: **box 800 was created!** In the picture, with a big smile, is Greg Woods, our amazing Operations Director and toy box creator. We are very thankful for Greg's creations!



Would you like to be part of this amazing project? Contact us! There are many ways to participate.

# KIDSTOP

by Kathy Martens, KidStop Executive Director

### Welcome, Tangene!

KidStop has been blessed with another wonderful staff member, Tangene, and the kids have enjoyed getting to know her. With another staff we are now prepared to help even more kids and their families. The teachers have been hard at work increasing the kids knowledge about how they can make a big difference in the world by having a big strong heart, treating others fairly and by being kind to one another like Martin Luther King Jr.

We also continue to take precautions to do what we can to stop the spread of COVID by encouraging the children to wash their hands well and often, cover their coughs and sneezes, wear masks whenever possible, and stay home when sick. Also sanitizing, sanitizing, sanitizing!



Pictured right is Tangene with some of our kids.



by LuAnn Berkhof, Executive Director

### Love Like Jesus ♥

LuAnn – “Johnny, what could you do for your mom, to let her know you love her?”

Johnny – “Oh I know just what she wants! When she was cleaning my bed, she found the Gummy Bears I put there for Santa. She really wanted to keep them but, I hid them under my bed so she forgot them! I’ll give her those ‘cuz she really wanted them!”



LuAnn – “Suzie, what could you give to your dad for Valentine’s Day?”

Susie – “Mmmm? Well, all I got is the NERDS I got from Halloween. I don’t like them so my dad probably can have those.”

Children are not the only ones who get a little mixed up when it comes to showing love to others. We have the perfect example of love in Jesus. We know love includes sacrifice and yet sometimes we choose to only give our leftovers.

This Valentine’s month, my prayer is to model and share love with our children at United Childcare and Preschool, the way Jesus shared love...sacrificially!

“Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. Walk in love. Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, as a sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 5: 1-2)



The **March Here @ First** newsletter articles are due by **4:30PM, 2/15**. The Feb. newsletter will be mailed on **Wed., 2/23**. Please email information to Jill Johnson at [johnsonj@sfumc.org](mailto:johnsonj@sfumc.org)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6 Comunion Sunday Worship: In-Person &amp; Online 8:30am (Sanctuary) 9:45am (Sanctuary w/ In-person kids' connection) Next Generation Bell Choir: 9am Kids Storytime: 9am (Library) New Members Class: 11am</p>	<p>7 Foundation Meeting: 4pm Nightwatch Hayward: 5pm</p>	<p>1 Midweek Refresh: 12pm</p> <p>8 Higgins: 8am Amen's: 12pm Midweek Refresh: 12pm Carefirst Meeting (Zoom): 5:30pm</p>	<p>2 Women's Bible Study: 9:30am Dinner: 5pm Feeding SD Food Distribution: 5:30pm Adults @ First: 5:30pm Youth @ First: 5:45pm Kids @ First: 5:45pm Worship: 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7pm</p> <p>9 Women's Bible Study: 9:30am Sages: 11:15am Wedded Band: 1pm Dinner: 5pm Adults @ First: 5:30pm Youth @ First: 5:45pm Kids @ First: 5:45pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7pm Beyond the Broken Heart Grief Class: 7pm Confirmation Class: 7:05pm</p>	<p>3 Les Cloches Rehearsal: 5:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal: 6:30pm</p> <p>10 Les Cloches Rehearsal: 9:30am Sarah Circle: 10am Sings Cloches Rehearsal: 5:30pm UNW Board Meeting: 6pm Praise Band Rehearsal: 6:30pm Rebecca Circle: 6:30pm Nancy Circle: 7pm 20's &amp; 30's Group: 7pm</p>	<p>4 Facebook: FVJ Friday 11am</p>	<p>5 Men of Integrity: 7:30am</p>
<p>13 Sunday Worship: In-Person &amp; Online 8:30am (Sanctuary) 9:45am (Sanctuary w/ In-person kids' connection) Next Generation Bell Choir: 9am Kids Storytime: 9am (Library) New Members Class: 11am</p>	<p>14 </p>	<p>15 Newsletter Deadline Serve the Downtown Banquet: 5:30am Midweek Refresh: 12pm</p>	<p>16 Women's Bible Study: 9:30am Dinner: 5pm Adults @ First: 5:30pm Youth @ First: 5:45pm Kids @ First: 5:45pm Worship: 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7pm</p>	<p>17 Rachel Circle: 9:30am Sarah Circle: 10am Sings Cloches Rehearsal: 5:30pm UNW Board Meeting: 6pm Praise Band Rehearsal: 6:30pm Rebecca Circle: 6:30pm Nancy Circle: 7pm 20's &amp; 30's Group: 7pm</p>	<p>18 Facebook: FVJ Friday 11am</p>	<p>19 Men of Integrity: 7:30am</p>
<p>20 Sunday Worship: In-Person &amp; Online 8:30am (Sanctuary) 9:45am (Sanctuary w/ In-person kids' connection) Next Generation Bell Choir: 9am Kids Storytime: 9am (Library) New Members Class: 11am</p>	<p>21 Office Closed President's Day</p>	<p>22 Higgins: 8am Amen's: 12pm Midweek Refresh: 12pm Serve Banquet West: 4:30pm Finance Meeting: 5:30pm SPRC Meeting: 5:30pm Trustees Meeting: 5:30pm Carefirst Meeting: 5:30pm Church Council: 7pm</p>	<p>23 Women's Bible Study: 9:30am Dinner: 5pm Adults @ First: 5:30pm Youth @ First: 5:45pm Kids @ First: 5:45pm Worship: 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7pm Beyond the Broken Heart Grief Class: 7pm Confirmation Class: 7:05pm</p>	<p>24 Les Cloches Rehearsal: 5:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal: 6:30pm</p>	<p>25 Facebook: FVJ Friday 11am</p>	<p>26 Men of Integrity: 7:30am</p>
<p>27 New Member Sunday Sunday Worship: In-Person &amp; Online 8:30am (Sanctuary) 9:45am (Sanctuary w/ In-person kids' connection) Next Generation Bell Choir: 9am Kids Storytime: 9am (Library)</p>	<p>28</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?

