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Here@ FIRST

united methodist church

Love the 605

with Pastor Jordan Louks

There is a concept that I was introduced to a few years ago. It is called "star words." It is a tradition/spiritual practice that in some churches usually takes place on Epiphany Sunday where everyone receives a gift of a "star word." As the magi followed the star to Bethlehem to meet Jesus, so we follow this star word throughout the year to grow closer to God. We ponder and pray, as we put the star word in a location where we will see it every day. For 2021 my star word was "difference." Upon receiving this word last January, I honestly had no idea what that would look like. I most certainly had no inclination that by the end of the year I would be living in Sioux Falls and serving here as your associate pastor. Ultimately, I came to see that "difference" was God's way of calling me to something new and to join with others who are making a difference here.

Although I will receive a new personal star word this year, I began to think about our 2022 theme as a church, which will be "Love the 605." Love is a very common principle to strive to live out as Christians. Moreover, it is part of our vision as a congregation to be a sanctuary of Christian hope, love, and encouragement. How does this look different in a new year though? Many things are changing in our community and in our world. Sioux Falls continues to grow exponentially. The world continues to battle a pandemic. Big weather events happen with more frequency. And our nation is bitterly divided politically. Not to mention the everyday tensions of family, school, and work life. Many are still tending to their physical, emotional, and spiritual wounds.

Yet through it all the love of our God remains the same. The love that was born in Jesus. The love that calls for justice for the poor. The love that forgives and heals broken hearts.



January 2022



Welcome To "Love the 605" In 2022!

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

Information is correct at publication.

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

The love that welcomes all into the kingdom of God. Love is not just a feeling. It is a gift from our God to go out and do kingdom work with God. Kingdom work reaches out with love to the thousands who are making Sioux Falls home. Kingdom work cares for those who have lost loved ones, offering places where they can come to know God's love even in difficult times. Kingdom work reaches out to our neighbors when natural disaster strikes, and economic hardship weighs heavy. Kingdom work provides opportunities to overcome our differences in a way that models the nonviolent peace of our Christ. Kingdom work transforms hearts and lives. And God continues to call us to this work.



Pastor Jordan Louks

Love the 605 is all about sharing this gift of love we have received from God with a world that longs for good news, community, and a place to belong. So let love be our guidepost this year. With this gift of love in mind, we are also going to be renaming our "Mission of the Month" to "Love the 605." Everything this year is about loving God and loving neighbor. For it is for the love of God that we reach out, we serve, we disciple, we worship, we listen, and we give. We do this so that all may know that God loves them and know there is always room at the table for them.

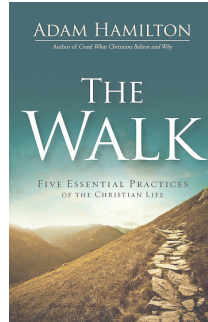
In Christ's love,

Pastor Jordan Louks

Adult Discipleship by Pastor Jordan

New Members Course!

This January and February 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 walking through Adam Hamilton's book *The Walk*, which is a book that is all about cultivating lifelong spiritual practices that help us grow in faith. The course will start on **Sunday, January 16 @ 11 a.m. in the Fireplace Room** and the final class will be Sunday, February 20. **New Member Welcome Sunday will be Sunday, February 27.**



If you have interest in the class, please contact the church office. The books are available free of charge.

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

Are you looking to get into a Bible study in the new year? Do you not have much time to prepare? We are continuing our Wednesday night adult Bible study in the new year, starting it off with a four-week course on the topic: **"What Do I Believe About God?"** It is all about practical theology for living our everyday lives. In February, we will then turn to another round of the "The Bible and Contemporary Issues." Join us for an evening of great discussion, community, and study. It all happens **Wednesdays @ 5:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room.**

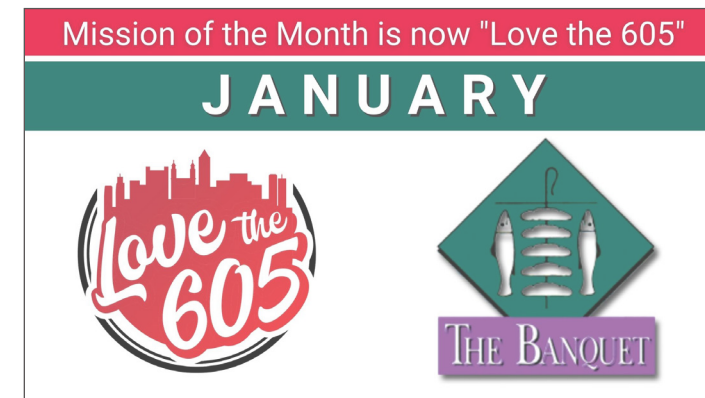
20s and 30s Group

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, January 20 @ 7 p.m. in the Lewis Friendship Room.** Come join us and bring friends!

"Mission of the Month" Name Change



We are renaming "Mission of the Month" to **"Love the 605."** We will continue to support wonderful missions in our community. We are simply renaming this ministry to fit with 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 have made and will continue to make an impact on many South Dakotans throughout the years. We are loving God through loving God's people in Sioux Falls and in the 605. For the love of God, we Love the 605.



Love the 605 ~ The Banquet

The way we will "Love the 605" in January is through supporting The Banquet. There are a couple of different ways you can support The Banquet. First, you can support the Banquet through monetary donations. Second, we also serve The Banquet twice a month as a church on the 3rd Tuesday in the morning at the Downtown Banquet, and on the 4th Tuesdays in the evening at The Banquet West. Gary Healy is the coordinator for the Downtown Banquet and Marilyn Clem is the coordinator for the Banquet West. A new year is a wonderful time to begin serving our neighbors, so I invite you to give toward The Banquet or sign up to serve this month or in the following months. Contact Gary, Marilyn, or the church office to sign up to serve or for more details. Thanks so much for your support of this mission!

Office is Closed:
Monday, 1/17
in honor of
Martin Luther King Jr.
Day

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Congregational Care

Thank You First Church



The Care First Team enjoyed spreading Christmas Cheer while delivering Poinsettias to our Senior Residents in December.



Jim Smalley



Grace MacArthur



Shirley Miller



Don Ditmanson

Care First Meeting

Our next Care First meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 11 at 5:30 p.m.** We would love to welcome more members to our team as we assist in caring for our congregation, visitors and guests!

We welcome anyone to join our meeting to see what we do and how we care for our congregation.

You are not obligated to join the team, we would simply like to introduce you to what we do and you can decide from there. All are welcome!



The **Feb. Here @ First** newsletter articles are due by **4:30PM, Jan., 1/18.** The Feb. newsletter will be mailed on **Wed., 1/26.** Please email information to Jill Johnson at johnsonj@sfumc.org

CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER CONCERNS

- Jim & Arlene (*father & mother of Cynthia (Mike) McConniel*)
- Doris (*sister of Sally Tilstra*)
- Rikkie Elliott (*sister in law of Deanna (Robert) Agar*)

DEATH

- Terry Reisner (*husband of Amanda, father of Eli, Garrett & Deacon, son-in-law of Dick & Diana Wells*)
- Mary Jane Lamberson (*aunt of Pastor Sara (Mat) Nelson*)

BAPTISM

- Briar Rose Jorgensen (*daughter of Jacob & Holly Jorgensen*)
- Nora Nicole Klimes (*daughter of Aaron & Britney Klimes*)

- Anita Brenneman (*mother of Rich (Anita) Brenneman*)
- Janet Everetts (*mother of Dan (Carol) Everetts*)
- Sandra (*sister of Carolyn Post*)

ATTENDANCE

- Nov 14: Total-594, YTD-638
- Nov 21: Total-533, YTD-636
- Nov 28: Total-506, YTD-633
- Dec 5: Total-589, YTD-632

HOSPICE

- Betty Hieb (*Sunnycrest*)
- Mary Newcomb (*Lake Loraine*)

Our sympathies to Dan and Carol Everetts on the death of their two therapy dogs, Dickens and Derby.



"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



Loving the 605 at the Banquet

First United Methodist Church has a wonderful and giving tradition of serving The Banquet. Recently, a generous donation was given to the Church Foundation by an anonymous member of our church. This donation will help the continuation of funding the meals that we serve at The Banquet. If you would like to donate to the Foundation Banquet Fund, please make your check out to: First United Methodist Church Foundation and put Banquet Fund in the memo line.

Here is an update about The Banquet from Gary Healy, Leader for the Downtown Banquet Crew:

First Church's connection to the Banquet dates back to the Banquet's 1985 beginning in downtown Sioux Falls. We currently fund, cook, and serve the downtown breakfast the third Tuesday of each month and a Banquet West supper every fourth Tuesday of each month. From February through July 2021, due to the pandemic, the Downtown Banquet asked us to serve twice monthly because they needed volunteers. Our crew rose to the occasion! The Banquet often expresses appreciation for First Church's commitment.

The Downtown Banquet wants 6-8 cooks at 5:30 a.m. to prepare the meal and 18-20 servers at 6:30 a.m. First Church's crew has served with fewer than that because our cooking crew stays to serve and we are experienced. We have been serving with about 14 volunteers, on the edge of insufficient. Our Banquet email list has 96 people. About 24 of those are very active in cooking/serving. We need an increased volunteer pool to ensure our commitment to the Banquet. I am sure that our Westside crew feels the

same need. The Banquet is begging for volunteers, and I dread the day I have to tell them that First Church is unable to find enough cooks/servers.



Presently we serve breakfast to about 200 adults and 10 children monthly. That number varies with the time of the month and the weather. A Banquet breakfast sponsorship costs about \$500. A supper costs about \$700, so we contribute about \$1,200 monthly to support the Banquet. For breakfast, the nutritious, varied menus include an entree, sides, fruit, juice, toast, and beverages. Guests enjoy their meal and time shared with friends. Many guests say "thank you" or "God bless you for being here." One first-time guest said, "This is the best meal I have had in a month." One woman asked Sonja Gourley, "Why do you do this?" Ray, a regular guest, has the answer, "Some need to be fed and some need to feed." The Banquet's benefit goes beyond a good meal. Money not spent on food can pay for rent, utilities, child care, and other necessities.

Hunger and poverty are alive and well in Sioux Falls, and I am proud of our church striving to be a sanctuary of Christian hope, love, and encouragement in the heart of Sioux Falls.

Ongoing "Love the 605" Serving Opportunities

Food Distributions with Feeding South Dakota

On the 1st Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m., we hold a Food Giveaway in partnership with Feeding South Dakota in our church parking lot. They bring enough food boxes to serve approximately 300 families in our neighborhood. With the help of dedicated volunteers, First Church is making a difference in the downtown area of Sioux Falls!

Build with Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a global, nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles that seeks to put God's love into action by building homes and hope. The Habitat for Humanity Team from First Church serves on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Church on the Street Worship Partners

Church on the Street is a faith community serving the un-housed and people struggling with poverty in Sioux Falls. First Church also partners with their Laundry with

Love Ministry by providing quarters for the laundromat, a listening ear and a hot meal when needed.

Serve Supper with Nightwatch

The Nightwatch team serves supper on the 1st Monday of each month at Hayward Elementary School to approximately 100 children and families.

United Childcare and Preschool Volunteers

United Childcare and Preschool offers affordable care to children ages 2-6 years old. Volunteers must pass a background check.

Kidstop Mentors

Kidstop offers free after-school and summer care to low-income children in our neighborhood.

▶ To sign up for any of these serving opportunities call the church office.



Day	Event	Time	Location
Sunday	2 Communion Sunday Worship: In-Person & Online 8:30am (Sanctuary) 9:45am (Sanctuary w/ In-person kids' connection) Next Generation Bell Choir: 9am Kids Storyline: 9am (Library)	3	
Monday	9 Sunday Worship: In-Person & Online 8:30am (Sanctuary) 9:45am (Sanctuary w/ In-person kids' connection) Next Generation Bell Choir: 9am Kids Storyline: 9am (Library)	10	
Tuesday	16 Sunday Worship: In-Person & Online 8:30am (Sanctuary) 9:45am (Sanctuary w/ In-person kids' connection) Next Generation Bell Choir: 9am Kids Storyline: 9am (Library)	17	Church Office Closed
Wednesday	23 Sunday Worship: In-Person & Online 8:30am (Sanctuary) 9:45am (Sanctuary w/ In-person kids' connection) Next Generation Bell Choir: 9am Kids Storyline: 9am (Library)	24	Nightwatch Hayward: 5pm
Thursday	30 Sunday Worship: In-Person & Online 8:30am (Sanctuary) 9:45am (Sanctuary w/ In-person kids' connection) Next Generation Bell Choir: 9am Kids Storyline: 9am (Library)	31	Foundation Meeting: 4pm
Friday	1	Men of Integrity: 7:30am	
Saturday	8	Men of Integrity: 7:30am	

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.

January

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

Next Generation News

December was a BIG month for Next Generation!

We kicked off the month with a service project night for the kids and youth. Kids made some cute ornaments; the youth on Wednesdays wrote out cards and the High School youth delivered some cards and did some caroling. This was a wonderful project to all take part in.

Wednesday "fill-up" nights have been great! We have been learning even more about why celebrate Christmas- we celebrate because "God can do anything, God has a plan, and God sent a savior." We will resume Wednesday "fill-up" nights on January 5. Join us!



Another big thing that happened was the Game Show Extravaganza Christmas program. Fun was had by all! A huge shout out to Marcia who stumped us on the organ with some

Christmas songs for "Name That

Tune." We had a great game of Christmas Jeopardy with willing contestants who showed off their knowledge of all things Christmas and finished with a fantastic battle of "Christmas Family Feud." Some of the contestants showed their competitive side. Thanks to all that made this program, and the refreshments afterward happen! You are all very much appreciated!!!

In Other News

We have a weekly email that goes out with a video lesson, questions to discuss together, and upcoming events in Next Generation. If you want to get on the email list, let Pastor Andrea know. FYI - check your junk/spam folder for the email if you seem to be missing it.

Important Dates to Remember

- January 5 Wednesday evening programming resumes.
- January 12 and 26 Confirmation class meets

Be watching the email for Middle and High School Youth events!

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 LuAnn Berkhof, Executive Director

Christmas Program for S.A.G.E.S.

The United Childcare and Preschool children were honored to perform their Christmas program for S.A.G.E.S. again this year.

We told our little ones that we were going to sing for some grandpa's and grandma's. This set off many questions!

Why don't their "kids" sing to them?

Will my grandpa and grandma be there?

Do they LIVE here??



We are also honored, humbled and grateful for the MANY ways you have supported us this past year!

- In December the middle school youth took up a "Noisy Offering" to purchase toys for our new 2-year-old classroom.
- The generous donations received from the United Methodist Women are so appreciated!
- The men and women from this church who commit to being on our Preschool Board.
- The church staff who eagerly assist us in too many ways to mention.
- The prayer warriors who commit to praying for us. Your prayers are being answered!
- Those of you who have supported our Angel Tree and the other donations you have made on behalf of our families throughout this year.



"Enter the coming year with renewed hope in the power of God to do through you, what you cannot do alone"

~ Jonathon Edwards



by Anelis Coscioni, Toy Lending Library Director

Thank You!

Every time we have someone new coming to the Toy Lending Library office or asking about where we are, we make sure to express to them our gratitude to First United Methodist Church for the support to the project. We share with them about how amazingly kind the church is to the project and to all the people that volunteer here, to the ones that come to drop off donations and to the ones that stop by to check out toys.



The Toy Lending Library of SD Board and volunteers are VERY THANKFUL for First United Methodist Church! We all appreciate your kindness, your generosity and all the good you do, to our project and to our community.



by Kathy Martens, KidStop Executive Director

Thank You!!!

On behalf of all the staff and Families at KidStop I would like to give first church a big hug and "THANK YOU" for all the love you have shown in the past month.

All 71 KidStop children received a gift from the Angel Tree and were able to shop at the Christmas store for gifts for their family! We truly have seen God at work in all the smiles we have seen on our children's faces this holiday season!

Thanks for your kindness and support of the KidStop ministry and making Christmas a special time in the lives of each of the children and their families.

