



First United Methodist Church  
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# Here@ FIRST

united methodist church



October 2022

## Grateful, Thankful, Blessed with Pastor Sara Nelson

*Sing a new song to the LORD,  
for he has done wonderful deeds.  
His right hand has won a mighty victory;  
his holy arm has shown his saving power!  
Let the rivers clap their hands in glee!  
Let the hills sing out their songs of joy before the LORD,  
for he is coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with justice,  
and the nations with fairness.*

*(Psalm 98:1, 8-9)*

Circumstances do not produce gratitude. How many of us know people who live in very fortunate circumstances, and yet they are unhappy? Even in the best circumstances, they spend their lives grumbling and complaining that the good is not great. At the same time, we all know people who experience challenge after challenge, and they somehow find a way to be grateful despite all that is happening around them. It's mind-boggling.

It's nearly impossible to explain either the presence of gratitude or the absence of it just by looking at someone's circumstances. Gratitude has far more to do with what's happening on the inside than it does with what's happening on the outside.

One of the most powerful examples that we have of this is found through reading the psalms. The Book of Psalms was compiled when the Israelites were living in exile under the thumb of the Babylonians. Life was hard for them.

And yet, even in the midst of such difficult circumstances, the psalmist chose gratitude. The psalmist chose to

celebrate both the things that God had done in the past and the things that God would do in the future.

Giving thanks wasn't just a response. Giving thanks was a choice, an orientation toward life, and a posture developed over time. How do we become more thankful people who live out of a posture of gratitude? I think it starts with practice.



**Pastor Sara Nelson**

Today, I encourage you to practice gratitude. Perhaps, begin by asking these questions:

- *What wonderful things has God done in my life in the past?*  
Pause and give thanks.
- *What challenges am I facing today?*  
Pause and give thanks.
- *What wonderful things will God do in the future?*  
Pause and give thanks.

In mid-October, we will begin a new sermon series called: Grateful, Thankful, and Blessed as we grow in gratitude together. We will have the opportunity to keep a gratitude journal. Like the psalmist, may each of us take time today, tomorrow, and in the coming weeks to pause and give thanks regardless of our circumstances.

In Ministry Together

*Pastor Sara M. Nelson*

Pastor Sara

SERMON SERIES 10/16 - 11/20



THE 11:01

One community joined by hope

SUNDAYS @ 11:01AM  
MODERN WORSHIP

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



[www.sfumc.org/the1101](http://www.sfumc.org/the1101)

**Information is correct at publication.**

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

# Adult Discipleship



## Loving the 605 with Nightwatch

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 throughout the year is Nightwatch. We are one of several organizations here in town that partner together to feed people throughout the city of Sioux Falls. Specifically, we feed children and families on the west end of Sioux Falls at Hayward Elementary on the 1<sup>st</sup> Mondays of every month. Various people from our church come together to cook and serve a meal out of the Nightwatch van from 5:30-6:30 p.m. It is a wonderful ministry and partnership that we are grateful to be one part.

You can support Nightwatch financially through giving specifically to them this month. You can also help by volunteering to serve on one of the Nightwatch teams. Contact the church office for more details about this. If Mondays do not work for you, there may be other opportunities on other nights for you to serve with other Methodist churches or organizations that serve on different nights.

Finally, on October 2 we will be having Second Service Sunday at the 11:01. For that Sunday, we will be putting together cookie bags with cookies made by our congregation. These bags will then be handed out as part of the meal that our Nightwatch team will serve on Monday, October 3. If you have a desire to bake cookies for this mission project, please bring them in that Sunday to the Wesley Dining Hall.

## 20s and 30s Group

This is a group of 20 and 30 somethings that seek to connect with one another through fun outings and get-togethers. Our next 20's and 30's gathering will be **Friday, October 7 @ 6 p.m. at the Country Apple Orchard** near Harrisburg. There will be a cost for some of the activities at the orchard. Contact Pastor Jordan for more details and to get connected.

## Thank You from the Teddy Bear Den

Back in May, our Love the 605 was The Teddy Bear Den. In total, we donated \$1,147 toward their organization. Additionally, we put together 20 Mom & Baby Bags that were then given out for free to some of the young mothers.

Director Sandy Lown sent us a card a few months back, and we want to share what she had to say with all of you:

*"Your parish is incredible! What an impact you have made at the Teddy Bear Den, and we love it! First your wonderful bags and now a monetary donation which will be used to purchase more needed umbrella strollers. Transportation has been difficult for our families. We are working hard to make things easier. As we celebrate 26 years of service, we couldn't do it without all of you."*

Your generosity and your heart for service is making a difference here in the heart of Sioux Falls. Thank you so much for continuing to Love the 605!



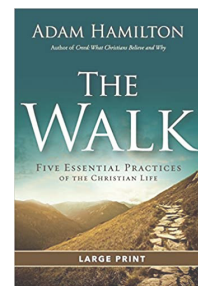
## Higgins Bible Study

We are continuing in our journey through the Old Testament. Higgins meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays @ 8 a.m. in the Fireplace Room. There are donuts and coffee as well as great discussion about who our God is as revealed to us in the Old Testament. Join us!



## New Member Class

This Sep/Oct we're offering a six-week new member's class. This 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'll be walking through Adam Hamilton's book **The Walk**, which is all about cultivating lifelong spiritual practices that help us grow in faith. The course runs 9/21-10/26 @ 7:15 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. New Member Sunday will be Sunday, October 30.



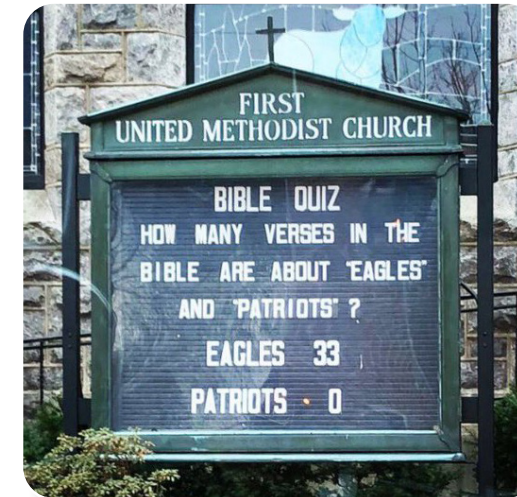
If you have interest in the class, please contact the church office to sign up. The books are available in the church office, free of charge. Let Pastor Jordan know if you have any questions.

# Congregational Care

## All Saints Sunday 10/16

In our Christian tradition we remember those members who have died in the last year on All Saints Sunday.

On Sunday, October 16 we will be remembering loved ones during our worship services.



## Grief & Gratitude

Pastor Ron Olson will lead a grief group this fall during which we will use the recently published book **Two Hands: Grief and Gratitude in the Christian Life**, by Lynne Baab, to explore the relationship between grief and gratitude. If you desire a "safe place" to explore the grief from your own loss and your gratitude for what lies in and proceeds from that loss, we invite you to come to this weekly group!

- Wednesday evenings, 7-8 p.m., from 10/5-11/16.
- Lewis Friendship Room
- Sign up at the Information Center or contact Pam Knuth: knuthp@sfumc.org



## CHURCH FAMILY

### BAPTISM

- Clara Rae Borchardt (daughter of David and Michaela Borchardt; granddaughter of Jeff & Renae Malone)
- Calvin Jay Gordon (son of Jack & Alexandra Gordon, Grandson of Rick & Paula Gordon)

### JOYS & CONCERNS

- Renita Schepeler (wife of Bill Schepeler)
- Alexis K
- Janice Lyso
- Nicole (requested by Traci (Brad) Gilbertson)

### ATTENDANCE

- Aug 21: In Person...236 Online.....256
- Aug 28: In Person...229 Online.....286
- Sept 4: In Person...253 Online.....326
- Sept 11: In Person...317 Online.....262

### HOSPICE

- Mary Newcomb
- Dennis Reents (husband of Lucille Reents)

### DEATHS

- Don Ditmanson
- Ray Bucklin (father of Val (David) Mickelson)
- Ron Kimball (husband of Sondra Kimball)
- Harlan Meyer



The **November Here @ First** newsletter articles are due by **4:30PM, Tues, 10/15**. The November newsletter will be mailed on **Wed, 10/26**. Please email information to Jill Johnson at [johnsonj@sfumc.org](mailto: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: [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

## “Read @ First” Book Club

Read @ First is a new monthly book club where we will build faith and community together. Open to all adults.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Led by Jane Healy**

- **Oct 18 – *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate**
- **Nov. 15 – *Becoming* by Michelle Obama**

**Before We Were Yours:** Based on one of America’s most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country—Lisa Wingate’s riveting, wrenching, and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong.



Email Jane Healy at [jheitman22@hotmail.com](mailto:jheitman22@hotmail.com) or call the church office if you have questions or want to sign up. The group is limited to 12 to enhance discussion, so sign up now!

## The United Methodist Church: What’s Going On & Why It Matters

Please join us in the **Wesley Dining Hall on Monday, October 17 at 6:30 p.m.** to discuss important topics concerning the future of the United Methodist Church. District Superintendent Rebecca Trefz, Jennifer Larsen, and our pastors will offer current information.

Many of you are aware that there has been an on-going discussion and strife within the United Methodist Church concerning certain restrictions against ordaining LGBTQ pastors and prohibiting gay marriages. Many churches and people holding more traditionalist views are leaving the UMC, altering the landscape of the discussions.

Unfortunately, many instances of false information have been spread about the UMC’s future. Come and hear accurate and updated information concerning these issues and about plans for the continuing United Methodist Church. In addition, we will provide information about the appointment of a new bishop in November.

All persons are welcome to this important discussion.



## "Everybody Always" Book / Video Studies

For the **first two weeks of October**, we will be continuing our “Everybody, Always” book/video studies. Even if you have not been a part of the study yet, go ahead and jump into one of the studies for these last two weeks. It has been a great study so far!

- Tue Noon w/Pastor Deborah Stowers (*Fireplace Room*)
- Wed 5:45 p.m. w/Pastor Jordan Louks (*Fireplace Room*)
- Wed 6:30 p.m. w/Brian & Stacey Jans (*Library*)
- Thu 7:15 p.m. w/Heather Coombs (*The Source*)
- Fri Noon w/Nancy Hallenbeck (*Zoom*)

## Wednesday Night Line-Up

- 5 p.m. Family Meal (*Multi-Purpose Room*)



- 5:45 p.m. Kids @ First (*Room 301 & 304*)
- Youth @ First (*Room 108*)
- Book Study w/Pastor Jordan (*Fireplace Room*)
- Parent Happy Hour (*North Foyer*)
- 6:30 p.m. Book Study w/Brian and Stacey (*Library*)
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir (*Choir Room*)
- High School Study (*Youth Room Upstairs*)
- 7:05 p.m. Confirmation (*Room 107*)

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

S.A.G.E.S. meets **Wed., Oct. 12 at 11:30 a.m.** in the **Multi-Purpose Room**. There will be a meal of baked chicken, baby red potatoes, green beans, and dessert, catered by Tony’s. The speaker will be a representative from Project Car. There will also be devotions, and a time for fellowship. Come, join us! Call the church office at (605) 336-3652 to reserve your spot.

## Wedded Band

Wedded Band will meet **Wed., Oct. 12 at 1 p.m.** in the **Friendship Room** following the S.A.G.E.S. meeting. We look forward to hearing Pastor Ron Olson’s presentation on his ministry. “We can’t help everyone, but everyone can help someone.” ~ Ronald Reagan

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Communion Sunday Worship: In-Person & Online 8:30am (Sanctuary) Storytime: 9am (Library) 9:45am w/Kid's Connection (Sanctuary) 11:01am (Wesley Dining Hall)	3 Nightwatch at Hayward: 5pm	4 Amen's: 12pm Midweek Refresh: 12pm (Fireplace Room)	5 Feeding SD Food Distribution: 5:30pm Women's Bible Study: 9:30am Dinner: 5pm Kids @ First: 5:45pm Youth @ First: 5:45pm Book Study @ First: 5:45pm & 6:30pm Girl's Group: 7pm High School Study: 7pm Confirmation: 7:05pm Chancel Choir: 7pm New Members Class: 7:15pm (Fireplace Room)	6 Les Cloches Rehearsal: 5:30pm 11:01 Band Rehearsal: 6:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal: 6:30pm Book Study w/Heather Coombs: 7:15pm (offsite)	7 Facebook: FYI Friday 11am Book Study w/Nancy Hallenbeck via Zoom: 12pm 20's & 30's Group: 6pm (offsite)	8 Men of Integrity: 7:30am Habitat for Humanity Team Build: 8:30am
9 Sunday Worship: In-Person & Online 8:30am (Sanctuary) Storytime: 9am (Library) 9:45am w/Kid's Connection (Sanctuary) 11:01am (Wesley Dining Hall)	10 Higgins: 8am Midweek Refresh: 12pm (Fireplace Room)	11 Higgins: 8am Midweek Refresh: 12pm (Fireplace Room)	12 Women's Bible Study: 9:30am Sages: 11:15am Wedded Band: 1pm Dinner: 5pm Kids @ First: 5:45pm Youth @ First: 5:45pm Book Study @ First: 5:45pm & 6:30pm Girl's Group: 7pm Chancel Choir: 7pm High School Study: 7pm Confirmation: 7:05pm New Members Class: 7:15pm (Fireplace Room)	13 Rachel Circle: 9:30am Les Cloches Rehearsal: 5:30pm 11:01 Band Rehearsal: 6:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal: 6:30pm Rebecca Circle: 7pm Book Study w/Heather Coombs: 7:15pm (offsite)	14 Facebook: FYI Friday 11am Book Study w/Nancy Hallenbeck via Zoom: 12pm	15 Men of Integrity: 7:30am Nan Circle: 9:30am (Library)
16 All Saint's Sunday Worship: In-Person & Online 8:30am (Sanctuary) Storytime: 9am (Library) 9:45am w/Kid's Connection (Sanctuary) 11:01am (Wesley Dining Hall)	17 Issues Forum: 6:30pm (Wesley)	18 Serve the Downtown Banquet: 5:30am Amen's: 12pm Midweek Refresh: 12pm (Fireplace Room) CareFirst Meeting: 5:30pm Read @ First: 5:30pm October Newsletter Deadline	19 Women's Bible Study: 9:30am Dinner: 5pm Kids @ First: 5:45pm Youth @ First: 5:45pm Book Study @ First: 5:45pm Girl's Group: 7pm High School Study: 7pm Confirmation: 7:05pm Chancel Choir: 7pm New Members Class: 7:15pm (Fireplace Room)	20 Les Cloches Rehearsal: 5:30pm 11:01 Band Rehearsal: 6:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal: 6:30pm	21 Facebook: FYI Friday 11am	22 Men of Integrity: 7:30am
23 Sunday Worship: In-Person & Online 8:30am (Sanctuary) Storytime: 9am (Library) 9:45am w/Kid's Connection (Sanctuary) 11:01am (Wesley Dining Hall)	24 Higgins: 8am Midweek Refresh: 12pm (Fireplace Room) Serve Banquet West: 4:30pm Finance Meeting: 5:30pm SPRC Meeting: 5:30pm Trustee Meeting: 5:30pm Church Council Meeting: 7pm	25 Higgins: 8am Midweek Refresh: 12pm (Fireplace Room) Serve Banquet West: 4:30pm Finance Meeting: 5:30pm SPRC Meeting: 5:30pm Trustee Meeting: 5:30pm Church Council Meeting: 7pm	26 Women's Bible Study: 9:30am Dinner: 5pm Trunk or Treat: 5:30pm Book Study @ First: 5:45pm Girl's Group: 7pm Chancel Choir: 7pm High School Study: 7pm Confirmation: 7:05pm New Members Class: 7:15pm (Fireplace Room)	27 Les Cloches Rehearsal: 5:30pm 11:01 Band Rehearsal: 6:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal: 6:30pm	28 Facebook: FYI Friday 11am	29 Men of Integrity: 7:30am
30 New Member Sunday Worship: In-Person & Online 8:30am (Sanctuary) Storytime: 9am (Library) 9:45am w/Kid's Connection (Sanctuary) 11:01am (Wesley Dining Hall)	31 3 <sup>rd</sup> Moppy Hall Open					

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.

# October



# Next Generation News

## Fall Is In Full Swing!

Things have started off strong this fall! Youth group, High School Bible Study, Kids @ First on Wednesdays, and Kids Connection have been bustling with energy, enthusiasm, and excitement. We have an excellent group of students in Confirmation this year too. Lots of wonderful connections are being made and spiritual growth is happening! There are so many fantastic stories to God at work to share.



Any questions, please contact Pastor Andrea — [johnsona@sfumc.org](mailto:johnsona@sfumc.org)

# KIDSTOP

by *Kathy Martens, KidStop Executive Director*

## Fall is Going Great at KidStop!

Classrooms are full and our teachers are busy!! The Pavillion is once again onsite and doing Action Arts and Sciences. The kids also started scouting and have a program where they can earn badges.

Wednesday night activities are going well too! It was a great turn out for the first Wednesday night with 48 Kids and 6 family members in attendance!! It's so wonderful to have the opportunity to share the message with these families. As always is so wonderful to have the support from our First Church family!



by *Anelis Coscioni, Toy Lending Library Director*

## Bright News!

It has been a while since we had the time to stop and share the news. And we have wonderful news to share! Since January we have had our toy boxes circulating through six new locations: Parkston, Watertown, the Bookmobile, Madison, Vermillion and now at the First United Methodist Church Library!

Last year we had an average of 298 toy boxes checked out or renewed per month.

Now the number of toy boxes checked out or renewed in 2022 so far is:

- January to May 400+ per month
- June 510
- July 613!

We are very grateful for all our volunteers, our donors and all the caregivers that are giving the gift of play!

Thank you, Everyone, for your support of the Toy Lending Library of SD!



## Parents and grandparents of young children, the Leopard Library now has toy boxes to check out!

The boxes come from the **Toy Lending Library**, a non-profit that is housed in the church's lower level.

Toy boxes contain safe, age-appropriate toys and books for babies through age 5. Each box is labeled with target age, theme, toy and book contents. Checking out a toy box is a great way to bring new play and learning experiences to kids at no cost to you.

See what's available today!



# TRUNK OR TREAT

Wednesday, October 26, 5:30-7p.m.

**TRUNKS AND CANDY NEEDED!**

Sign up your trunk and drop off candy in church office by Sunday, Oct. 23.

Fun starts at 5:30 p.m. with food (hot dog, chips, water), games, activities, and, of course, Trunk or Treat candy!!!



## Annual Turkey Dinner

*It's Almost Turkey Time!*

**Sunday, November 6**

**10:45AM - 1:45PM**

**\$15 / Free for 4 and under**

**TICKETS ON SALE SOON!**

Plan to buy tickets to help support our Youth Missions. We will have in-person seating in the Multi-Purpose Room and to-go orders in the Library.

