

2023



February

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WWAUSAU

THE MESSENGER

Dear First Wausau Family and Friends,

Many of you are probably beginning to wonder what is happening with the ideas and proposals to repurpose our building. There have been several developments and delays, but that should not discourage our discernment and decisions.

Because about 10-15% of Wisconsin UM churches are deciding to disaffiliate and leave our connection with their property, our innovative request for the Conference's blessing to give and repurpose our property is understandably met with confusion and skepticism. Thankfully, we have received excellent advice through our MCCI Building Repurpose Coach, Bishop Ken Carter of the Florida and North Carolina Conferences, and the CEO of the Wesley Community Development Council in North Carolina, Joel Gilland. Learn more at wesleycdc.com for examples of innovative ways other United Methodist properties are being redeveloped in compliance with the Trust Clause and Book of Discipline.

There are two significant changes to our proposal based on advice from the Wesley CDC. The first is that rather than an assortment of percentages and reimbursements for our portion of utilities and other expenses, we would pay a flat rate of about \$2.25/sq. ft./year with up to a 2% increase per year. On 17,000 sq. ft. we plan to exclusively use, we would pay \$38,250/year to cover our portion of building use. This would save us about \$60,000 on our annual budget, which is necessary to slow the rapid bleeding from our endowment.

The major change suggested by the Wesley CDC, and also approved by Tim Parker and leaders at the Community Foundation of North Central WI, is that rather than donate our actual property, we would donate a renewable 99-year, \$1/year lease of our entire property to the CF. Everything else would stay the same, including our free, exclusive use of 17,000 sq. ft. plus the Chapel, Parlor, Kitchen, and Fellowship Hall on Sundays. All the needed improvements, renovations, and repairs would still be paid for by the CF. This removes any potential complications with the Trust Clause, ensures our long-term interests in the building, and also makes it simpler for the CF.

Pending the timely blessing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that we proposed to the Cabinet, the Chancellor, and the District Board of Building and Location on January 6, we will have a Church Conference vote at 11 am on February 12. If any of them are not ready to approve this by the end of January, we will postpone the vote so that all members will receive a copy of the MOU within 10 days of the vote as required by the Book of Discipline.

If you have any questions or thoughts, please contact Ray Nowaczyk, Bill Owen, Dick Rayborn, Barb Maguire, or me. With all of the details and decisions ahead of us, let us join together in praying for discernment and wisdom for everyone as we seek to grow in faithfulness in ministry and mission.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Rebecca

715.842.2201

www.firstmethodistwausau.org

United Women in Faith Cookie Sale Success

A HUGE thank you to all of the bakers and everyone who purchased cookies at our annual United Women in Faith cookie sale. Because of your support over 75 pounds of cookies were sold and the extra cookies were distributed locally. \$900.00 was raised after combining sales and donations.

Thanks too, for supporting our Giving Trees; Open Door, Personal Needs, and Claire's Critter Closet all benefitted from your generous donations. Because of this success, donations have been made to Harbor House and The Midwest Distribution Center.

(Watch for information about our upcoming Lenten Soup Sale in March)



NEW MEMBER WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome several new members to our family of faith. Please get to know Bryan and Tracie Bissonette, Mary Brown, Jon and Juliet Guth, Ferasi Lukendo, YounWoo Seo (and Alex and Adelyn), and Kate Sims.





We grieve this month at the loss of Taylor Sarazen; daughter of David & Lori Mariani, sister of Madison Mariani, and granddaughter of Carol Pachmayer. We also pray for Sean Sarazen, husband of Taylor and the extended Sarazen family.



**Live and Share
God's Love ...**
with
peace, joy & hope



Savvy Seniors is a social group open to singles & couples over the age of 55. Our next lunch will be Monday February 6th at 11:30 at Papillons Pizza, Rothschild. We would love to have you join us. Any questions, call Vicki Nowaczyk at 715-571-3009. Thank you.



February

- | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|----------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Bill Owen | 16 | Erik Anderson | 25 | Danielle Del Conte |
| 2 | Thomas Schmoldt | | Anjali Dvorak | | Sue Marquardt |
| 7 | Gregory Chang | 19 | Anna Schreiber | 27 | Wes Ebert |
| | Sue Huang Chang | 21 | Jaden Love | | Bernice Kohlman* |
| | Warren Fabel* | | Joy Rutter | | |
| | Geraldine Slock | 23 | Pat Higgins | | |
| 12 | Josie Rybarczyk | | | | |

* Signifies a member who for health reasons cannot be at church regularly. We invite you this month to remember these members in your prayers.

A "Gathering for the Grieving" will be at 10 am on Saturday, February 4 in the church parlor. It is hosted and facilitated by Julie Miede and Clare Ostwald, who both have personal and professional experience dealing with grief. They invite all people to come, talk, or just listen to one another as you share the experiences of grief and find comfort and strength together.



FUMC Family Game Night

Join us in the parlor on Saturday, February 4, 2023 from 5-9 p.m. for a soup potluck and game night. FUMC families and friends of all ages are welcome to join for fellowship, fun and great food. Bring your favorite game and a dish to share!

FUMC Wired

Website: firstmethodistwausau.org
with links to the weekly sermon
in text and podcast

facebook.com/WausauFUMC

WiFi Network: FUMC Guest
(password: *fumcpublic*)

Phone: 715.842.2201

Confirmation Classes begin on **Sunday, February 5** to be held **weekly at 12:30 pm at Wesley UMC**. Co-taught by Pastor Rebecca (from First UMC) and Pastor Mike (at Wesley UMC), our confirmation students will learn the foundations of making our faith their own. We are excited to also encourage greater connections with our United Methodist neighbors! If you, or a middle or high school-age person you know, is interested in joining, please talk to Pastor Rebecca.



Ash Wednesday

Join us on **Wednesday February 22nd** at 7:00 pm here at First Wausau UMC, along with First Presbyterian Church, Grace United Church of Christ, and St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church.

Helen and Leonard Pivet Scholarship

Are you planning to attend college, technical school, or graduate school this fall? Our church offers a scholarship, renewable for up to four years for members who could use a boost. The application is available in the church office. It is due on Monday March 3.



February Mission-Open Door of Marathon County

The Open Door offers help to current and released inmates and the homeless population. This includes clothing and a safe place to have coffee and receive assistance from volunteers to help them find resources in the community. Donate loose change, put cash in the small brown envelopes in the pews or memo your check.

STAFF

Pastor	Rebecca Voss rebecca@firstmethodistwausau.org
Faith Formation, Music Director	Martie Pahriss martie@firstmethodistwausau.org
Finance Director	Martie Pahriss finance@firstmethodistwausau.org
Secretary	Joan Stroyny joan@firstmethodistwausau.org
Building Engineer	Andy White

903 Third Street, Wausau, WI 54403
Office Hours: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Monday – Thursday
(715) 842-2201
www.fumcwausau.org

Random Thoughts - Picasso on a Quarter Panel*

by Mike Zahn



I crept into his shop, his studio, his jungle, he waved a hairy finger toward the bench;
I rushed to put the paint down dutifully like an awed apprentice for his master.
I watched awhile, perched in the corner—Behold, the artist at his masterpiece!
He grunted and turned back to grinding, pounding mangled flesh to polished steel.

Picasso on a quarter panel.

Clouds of lacquer and sanding dust hung thick, clung to walls and posters, hands and lungs;
The fumes that can make a body sick seemed to fuel his art and lubricate his tongue.

Picasso on a quarter panel.

Shirt untucked, pants sagging at the hips, he told deer hunting stories through the smoke
Of cigarettes attached to beer drinking lips— Then suddenly, the genius awoke. . .

Bright colors splashing off the palette

Blending into dark and light

Upon the smoothed panel,

Sprays of jewels glistening with gloss. . .

Picasso on a quarter panel.

He sees another job done, money in his pocket, time left over for a cigarette.
I see a work of art, Picasso at his canvas, mighty talent, heaven-sent.

There is artistry in everyone,

Nobody is exempt:

The eye of God sees through us all,

No matter how unkempt.

Picasso on a quarter panel.

*A quarter panel is the rear fender of a vehicle.

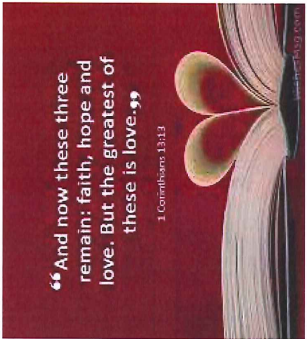
Sasha's Generosity

Scott tells a story about when his church group visited Russia and he met a ten-year-old Russian orphan named Sasha who, for some reason, latched on to him. Sasha took Scott by the arm and led him through the orphanage, showing off his room and the place he ate meals. All the while Sasha's eyes were filled with joy and laughter. In spite of the fact that Scott spoke little Russian, and Sasha spoke no English, they connected. As the church group prepared to depart, Sasha sat beside Scott, pulled a silver ring from his finger, and held it out for Scott to take. His eyes filled with tears and Scott spoke the only Russian word I knew — “Nyet, nyet.” (No, no.) This child, who had nothing in the world to call his own except this ring, desperately wanted to give this ring to him. When asked why Sasha wanted to give his only possession away, Sasha responded through an interpreter, “Because I am so thankful Scott came.” For Sasha, abundant joy, extreme poverty, and a heart filled with gratitude overflowed in a wealth of generosity.

For many of us who have so much, we want more. We are not thankful for what we have and always look for the “something more.” And truth be told, it's never enough. What would happen if, by God's grace, our desire to gain more and have more could be transformed by gratitude into a heartfelt desire to give more? What would happen if in a spirit of gratitude, we spent as much time figuring out ways to give as we spend figuring out how to earn, have, and keep? Can you recall a time when you were truly thankful despite negative circumstances? Can you recall a time when someone who could least afford it gave you a generous gift? What was it like? How did you respond?


Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation





February

Prayer Priorities
Sundays: The Suffering & Seniors
Monday: Missions & Outreach
Tuesday: Teachers & Students
Wednesday: Wausau & Wisconsin
Thursday: The Thirsty & Hungry
Friday: Friends & Family
Saturday: Servant-Leaders & Staff

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 8:00am Worship, Chapel with Holy Communion 9:00am Sunday School Classes, All Ages 10:00am Worship, Sanctuary with Holy Communion 12:30pm Confirmation Class, Wesley UMC	6 11:30am Savvy Seniors, Papillons, Rothschild	7	8 5:45pm Missions Team, Parlor 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal	9 8:00am AA, Room 101 5:00pm Weeping Willows 4-H, Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Boy Scouts, Choir Room	10 Office Closed	11 Office Closed
12 Church Conference Vote 8:00am Worship, Chapel 9:00am Sunday School Classes, All Ages 10:00am Worship, Sanctuary 12:30pm Confirmation Class, Wesley UMC	13	14 1:00pm - 3:00pm Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet 	15 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal	16 8:00am AA, Room 101 7:00pm Boy Scouts, Choir Room	17 Office Closed	18 Office Closed
19 8:00am Worship, Chapel 9:00am Sunday School Classes, All Ages 10:00am Worship, Sanctuary 12:30pm Confirmation Class, Wesley UMC	20	21 6:00pm SPRC, B.K. Smith 7:00pm Finance Committee, BK Smith Room	22 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service at UMC First Wausau, along with First Presbyterian, Grace UCC, and St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church	23 8:00am AA, Room 101 7:00pm Boy Scouts, Choir Room	24 Office Closed	25 9:00am - 11:00am Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet
26 8:00am Worship, Chapel 9:00am Sunday School Classes, All Ages 10:00am Worship, Sanctuary 12:30pm Confirmation Class, Wesley UMC	27 7:00pm Ministries Council B.K. Smith	28 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Group, Parlor 5:30pm Trustees, B.K. Smith 5:30pm Worship Design, B.K. Smith Room				

The Messenger
First United Methodist Church of Wausau
903 Third Street
Wausau, WI 54403

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Purpose:

Live and Share God's Love

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

Sunday Worship Times: 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Sunday, February 5 - "You Are"

Psalm 112; Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday, February 12 - "But I Say"

Psalm 119:1-8; Deuteronomy 30:15-20;
Matthew 5:21-37

Sunday, February 19 - "Super Sunday"

Psalm 99; Exodus 24:12-28; Matthew 17:1-9

Wednesday, February 22 Ash Wednesday

7:00 pm - Psalm 51; Isaiah 58

Here at UMC First Wausau along with First Presbyterian Church, Grace United Church of Christ, and St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church.

Sunday, February 26 - "If You Fall Down"

Psalm 32; Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7;
Matthew 4:1-11