

THE MESSENGER

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Mission:

*Living as a community where
God is forming deeply committed
followers of Christ.*

JANUARY WORSHIP

Sunday Worship Times: 8:00 am Chapel 10:00 am Sanctuary

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

And There Was Morning

Psalms 72:1-6, 10-14; Genesis 1:1-5; Mark 1:4-11

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

Your Servant is Listening

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-19; 1 Samuel 3:1-10, John 1:43-51

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

A Second Time

Psalms 62:5-12, Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Mark 1:14-20

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Among Your Own People

Psalms 111, Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Mark 1:21-28

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

With Wings Like Eagles

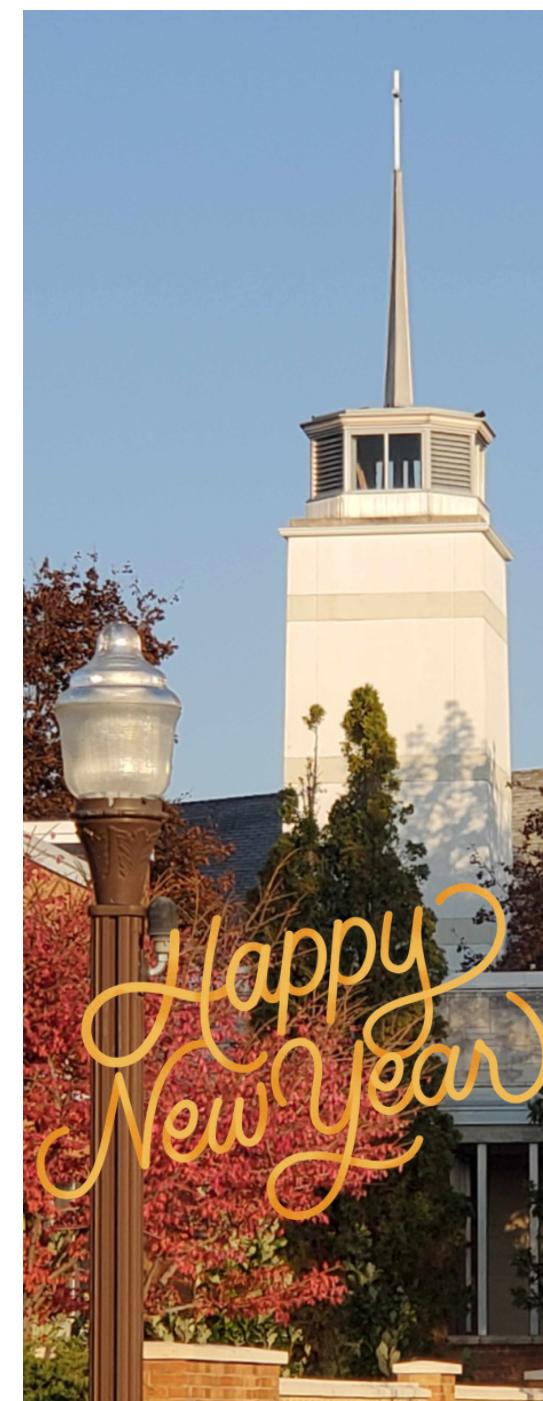
Psalms 147:1-11, 20c, Isaiah 40:21-31, Mark 1:29-39

First Wausau

JANUARY 2024



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



THE MESSENGER

FIRST WAUSAU UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Downtown Wausau Wisconsin

From the Pastor

by Pastor Rebecca Voss

Dear Wausau First Family of Faith,

Ever since the unanimous vote to move forward with the arrangement with the Community Foundation (CF) and the Hmong American Center (HAC), leaders from our church, the CF, and HAC have been regularly meeting to plan many details in this transition. Many thanks to Ray Nowaczyk, Dick Rayborn, and Bill Owen for their dedication, wisdom, and leadership! These three will also be coming alongside the Trustees Committee for the next year as we navigate the new paths and opportunities this arrangement will bring.

You may start to notice some of the church-related art will be moved out of the Parlor and Fellowship Hall. The Aesthetics team will be deciding where they can be moved to in our exclusive spaces. Some artwork may be stored safely until they can be moved into soon-to-be remodeled areas. There are some pieces that may not work with our new or existing spaces, and those will be available for a donation for anyone interested.

We encountered a potential challenge that turned into a better solution. We were told that the board of the Community Foundation is now hesitant to become property managers, and since the Hmong American Center is big enough to be the only other organization to share space with us, they thought we should give the lease directly to HAC. The leaders from our church and I were uncomfortable with this, since it is considerably different from what we voted for. Ray Nowaczyk is credited for proposing a winning solution to this challenge: we will work with HAC and the CF to create a new non-profit organization to become the new "Agent" that our church will lease our building to as outlined. The new non-profit Board will function as the Advisory Board as outlined in the lease we voted on, with two representatives from our church, two from the CF, two from HAC, and an at-large community member. The CF will still oversee raising and managing the funds and set-up of this new non-profit, but the new non-profit will be responsible for the operations of the building. Ray, Dick, Bill, and I all feel that this maintains the spirit of our vote, and we hope that the rest of the congregation and Conference does as well.

"From The Pastor" continued on page 6

Lessons & Carols



January Birthdays

Happy New Year

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Jennifer Johnson | 7 Gail Cain | 16 Gideon Adams |
| Marie Kichochi | Scott Denfeld | 20 Alan Hauber |
| Riziki Mwamba | 8 LaRae Horton | Lila Rouse |
| Alice Schacht | Michael Sydow | 21 Mary Ann Dykes |
| Marie Zawadi | Presley Wyrick | Arlene Gundlefinger |
| 2 Amelia Higgins | 11 Emalee Melville | 26 Don Misoni |
| Sandra Salzman | 12 Alonzo Dvorak | Sandi Schmoltdt |
| 3 Susan Rye | Michael Turner | |
| 6 Abonde Msenwa | 13 Debra Martin | |

JANUARY 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|--|---------------------|---|
| 31 New Year's Eve Day No 8:00 Chapel Service, Sunday School or Coffee Hour 10:00am Combined Worship Service, Sanctuary | 1 New Year's Day Office Closed | 2 | 3 | 4 8:00am AA, Room 101 1:00pm Worship Design, Parlor 7:00pm Boy Scouts, Choir Room | 5 Office Closed | 6 |
| 7 8:00am Worship, Chapel with Holy Communion 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Group 10:00am Worship, Sanctuary with Holy Communion 11:00am Coffee Hour | 8 11:30am Savvy Seniors, Mandarin Chinese Restaurant | 9 1:00pm -3:00pm Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet | 10 | 11 8:00am AA, Room 101 7:00pm Boy Scouts, Choir Room | 12 Office Closed | 13 |
| 14 8:00am Worship, Chapel 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Group 11:00am Coffee Hour | 15 | 16 6:00pm SPRC, B.K. Smith 7:00pm Finance Committee, BK Smith Room | 17 1:00pm United Women in Faith Meeting, Parlor | 18 8:00am AA, Room 101 7:00pm Boy Scouts, Choir Room | 19 Office Closed | 20 |
| 21 8:00am Worship, Chapel 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Group 11:00am Coffee Hour | 22 | 23 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Group, Parlor 5:30pm Trustees, B.K. Smith | 24 | 25 8:00am AA, Room 101 7:00pm Boy Scouts, Choir Room | 26 Office Closed | 27 9:00am -11:00am Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet |
| 28 8:00am Worship, Chapel 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Group 11:00am Coffee Hour | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 8:00am AA, Room 101 1:00pm Worship Design, Parlor 7:00pm Boy Scouts, Choir Room | 2 Office Closed | 3 |

“From The Pastor” continued from page 1

The Executive Director of the Hmong American Center, Yee Leng Xiong, and I are working on writing and submitting the paperwork to start this new non-profit, but the process will take a couple of months. Tim Parker is confident we could have the new non-profit established and the lease signed and enacted by March 1 at the latest. This also gives us more time to clear out more spaces and get on the build-out schedule. Please talk to Ray, Dick, or Bill if you have questions.

Let’s commit to praying, thinking, and acting in new and God-led directions this new year. I am so grateful to pastor such a creative and community-minded congregation!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Rebecca



STAFF

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|--|
| Pastor | Rebecca Voss | rebecca@firstmethodistwausau.org |
| Director of Finance | Georgia Reynolds | georgia@firstmethodistwausau.org |
| Director of Communications | Georgia Reynolds | georgia@firstmethodistwausau.org |
| Director of Discipleship | Julie Miehe | julie@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
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Savvy Seniors

Savvy Seniors will be meeting on Monday, January 8th, at 11:30 at **Mandarin** in Wausau. This is a social group open to singles & couples over 55. We would love to have you join us! Any questions, call Vicki Nowaczek at 715-571-3009. Thank you.



FUMC Wired

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

facebook.com/WausauFUMC
youtube.com/FirstWausauUMC

WiFi Network: FUMC Guest
password: [fumcpbuc](#)

Phone: 715.842.2201

! Important Note from the Finance Director

Georgia Reynolds, our church's finance director, will be sending out the 2023 financial statements, needed for tax purposes, to all people who made contributions through pledges, memorials, special missions, etc..., the middle of January, 2024. You will receive this statement either by email (if the church has your email address) or through the regular mail. If you do not receive your statement by the end of January, please contact the church's finance office.



Trip to Mission Guatemala

We have been invited to join Onalaska UMC on a trip to Mission Guatemala in San Andres Semetabaj.

We have been supporting this ministry through our missions offerings and have taken two trips there in previous years. This is an opportunity to renew our relationship with this health and education ministry to this Mayan community in rural Guatemala.

The group size is a maximum of 20 participants and it looks like Onalaska will be sending 10 people, leaving about 10 slots for our congregation. The dates in Guatemala would be August 3-10 (8 days and 7 nights) plus travel time. The program cost is \$675, which covers all expenses while in Guatemala. Travel expenses will be \$540-\$800, depending on what arrangements can be made. A valid passport is required and a COVID-19 vaccine is strongly recommended by Mission Guatemala staff.

While we are there we will be working with local contractors on a construction project serving the community. We will also be learning about the local Mayan culture and the vital services provided by Mission Guatemala. There will also be opportunities to visit the nearby tourist town of Panajachel and enjoy the spectacular scenery!

This trip is open to anyone over 16 and youth are especially invited. We will be having fundraising opportunities to help cover the costs. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Margaret Getzin (715-297-8531 or margaretg202@gmail.com) or Wes Ebert (715-409-6077 or wesleyebert@gmail.com). We're still in the early planning stages, so bear with us as we figure out the details!

January Mission Offering

5th Sunday Community Meal

We take the lead in preparing and serving a Community Dinner at First Presbyterian Church. The meal is available to whomever is hungry. To help with the meal sign up on the labeled clipboard. You can donate loose change or cash in the labeled small brown envelopes available in the pews or memo a check.

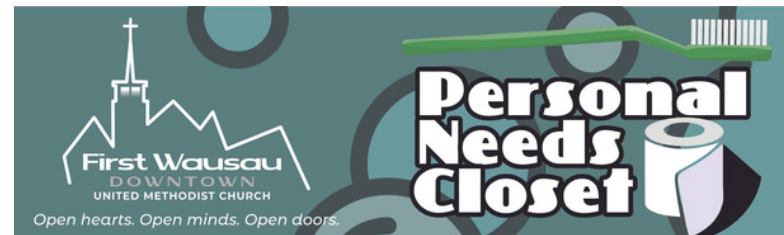


FUMC family,

I would like to sincerely thank you for all your good wishes, monetary gift, and the coffee hour celebration. I have truly loved my job and have been blessed to work at FUMC for the past 5 1/2 years. I have enjoyed meeting everyone, helping whenever I could and will cherish the friendships that were developed. Please feel free to keep in touch with me by phone (715-675-6693) or email (poetjs@hotmail.com).

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Many Blessings to all,
Joan Stroyny



Ministering to Many through the Personal Needs and Claire's Critter Closets

The Personal Needs and Claire's Critter Closets are a growing and much-needed mission of our church to our community. We are very thankful to all of those who have volunteered in 2023, including Mike and Liz Fischer who lead the PNC. Other faithful volunteers include the Duginski's, Marquardt's, Gail Cain, Jan Clowes, Bonnie Goertz, Karen Peterson, Georgia Reynolds, Andy White, and many others. We are also grateful to Linda Sagsetter and her family, who have been hard-working coordinator and volunteers for CCC, but she (and they) are stepping down due to health issues. Please consider whether God is calling you to help with CCC and let Pastor Rebecca know if you have any questions.

Both closets are open on the 2nd Tuesdays from 1-3pm and 4th Saturdays from 9-11am. Each household can come up to six times a year, but most families only come 3-4 times/year. This year, there have been an average of 44 households being helped each day. 71% of households are assisted through both the PNC and CCC. We have helped about 300 different households with about 800 individuals this year with much needed and appreciated support.

These missions are also a ministry. Our volunteers listen compassionately to the challenges faced by the people who come and pray with people who ask. We also give Bible devotional books to those who ask to bring them words of hope. Please consider getting involved by volunteering, donating funds, and praying for these meaningful ministries. You may contact Mike or Liz Fischer or Pastor Rebecca for more information.



United Women in Faith

Happy New Year from UWF (formerly known as United Methodist Women)! The past year (2023) has been a busy and productive one for UWF. Two pre-owned/rummage sales brought opportunities for people to clean out closets and basements and pass on items to be repurposed and enjoyed by others. FYI—the next pre-owned sale will be sometime in early spring of 2024, so start looking for "treasures" to donate! A small holiday sale during December gave people a chance to pick up a white elephant gift, a treasure for the Christmas tree, a plate for fudge/candies to be passed on to a friend, a holiday puzzle, etc... The cookie sale (formerly known as the cookie walk) gave church members and friends a chance to munch on a variety of delicious cookies and candies—Yum! Coffee, candy bars, and now assorted bags of nuts are always available from the cupboard in the parlor. There are so many ways to help the women of our church group support missions both locally and around the world!

The United Women in Faith group meets monthly, on the third Wednesday of most months. These meetings are opportunities for fellowship, education, and mission work for the women of our church. All are welcome to attend! if you are interested or have any questions, please see Barb Ritchie or any other UWF member.



Save Your Jugs...



United Women in Faith needs clean, gallon jugs with screw caps. We use them for our PNC mission. Place any clean jugs you have in the hallway of the PNC. Thank you.