



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

THE MESSENGER

First Wausau United Methodist Church
Downtown Wausau Wisconsin

From the Pastor

By Pastor Rebecca Borke

Dear First Wausau Family of Faith,

I hope you have found time for rest and recreation this summer! Both are very Biblical, as God invites us to find rest for our souls and be recreated into the likeness of Christ. I am looking forward to both during the first weekend of August, when I will be away for our annual time at Pine Lake Camp. The pines, the lake, and the presence of God renew my soul.

Many of you have been wondering what is new with the plan to share space with the Hmong American Center (HAC). We have had many meetings and explored different approaches to reach our mutual goals. One shift is that the Community Foundation decided that their director and staff could not serve on the board of other non-profits. Their Executive Director, Tim Parker, has continued to be present at our meetings and supportive through this process, but we may not be able to have the Community Foundation as a formal part of the plan.

We have been assured by HAC that they really want to partner with us, but it appears we have various levels of urgency. We are all awaiting a few estimates from contractors and confirmations of funding sources that will be a significant help in moving this forward. I am not particularly good at waiting, but I suspect God is using this situation to force me (and our church) to rest and wait on God.

This is an opportunity for a Space Repurpose Breakthrough Prayer. I invite all in our congregation to come together in daily prayer and PUSH – Pray Until Something Happens. Since our street number is 903, let us set our alarms for 9:03 am and/or 9:03 pm and pray this (or something in your own words) every day:

Thank you, God, for the sacred moments and places you give us to gather, grow, and serve together. By Your Spirit, renew our ministry and break through whatever is holding back your will. Lord, provide all that is needed to move forward in this space with renewed purpose. Amen!

In Christ we trust and pray,

Pastor Rebecca



WUMF Monthly Stewardship News

“There’s a Song in the Air”
July 2024

In his short book titled Life Together, Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes about how to sing as a community of faith. In his instructions, he lists out some of the “destroyers of unison singing . . . that must be rigorously eliminated.” In his list, he talks about people who try to be heard above everyone else and those who try not to be heard at all. In his thoughts, he then adds a third group. “There are the less dangerous foes of congregational singing, the ‘unmusical,’ who cannot sing, of whom there are far fewer than we are led to believe.”

After many years of attempting to sing, I have learned that I am a part of Bonhoeffer’s third group. Although I’ve tried different types of songs and different pitches, I just can’t seem to get it right. What finally convinced me of the fact that I cannot sing was a comment by one youth early in my ministry. He was a reader for a service one Sunday morning and sat next to me behind the lectern. After the service was over and we were standing in the Narthex, he turned to me and said, “Jason, you should never join the choir.”

In all reality, music is God’s gift to humanity. Even for those of us who are lacking in musical talent or expertise, we are able to listen to and enjoy wonderful music, contributing through our silence.

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, WUMF

Help for the Stewardship Team

Growth Mindset

How many times have you been in a church meeting and heard this response to someone’s idea? “We’ve tried that before. It didn’t work.”

I’m willing to bet the people who say something didn’t work is telling the truth. It may be that they were actually excited about that idea, put a lot of energy into

But, I wonder if they took the time to sit down with their team afterwards to ask questions like:

- What went well?
- What didn’t go well?
- What did we learn?
- What could we change to improve next time?
- What results were we expecting? Did we see them?
- What results did we see that we weren’t expecting? Can we build on that?

The truth is, no one is successful at anything after one try. Think about teaching your children to ride a bike or play a sport. If they would try it once, fall down or strike out or miss the ball, we wouldn’t say to them, “Well, you tried it once. Better put that on the shelf because your just not getting the results you want.” No. Rather, we’d encourage them to keep at it, learning from mistakes and successes. This is what is called A Growth Mindset. It is based on the idea that we can all improve, get better, and learn.

The same is true with the ministry of Stewardship (or any ministry, for that matter). We need to open ourselves up to learning new things, trying them, struggling, and getting better. I would encourage you and your team to have a Growth Mindset. I’m excited about the learning opportunities that are available at this year’s Stewardship Conference, themed Meaningful Ministry, Successful Stewardship. Some of the workshops may be novel. Some may be something you’ve tried before. Either way, I believe that each participant will be challenged and have something they can take back to their church to use to help your church grow.



First Wausau



Savvy Seniors

Savvy Seniors will be meeting on **Monday, August 5th at 11:30am** at El Tequila Salsa in Rib Mountain. This is a social group open to singles & couples over 55. We would love to have you join us! Any questions, call Vicki Nowaczyk at 715-571-3009.

Let Us Pray

Please lift up and pray for...

Jan Schleuter and her family for the passing of her niece, Brenda, after battling cancer for many years.

Grief Counseling

A grief counseling group is available for those in need of spiritual and emotional support during difficult times of grieving. This group takes place on an as needed basis. Contact the church office or Julie Mieke to inquire.

We also offer weekly grief meditations on our church website.

Bishop Jung's Farewell Celebration

Please mark your calendars for Bishop Jung's Farewell Celebration. Following twelve years of dedicated service to the Wisconsin Conference, Bishop Jung will soon begin a new chapter, extending his ministry to another Conference. The dates are:

- **Saturday, July 27, 1-4PM at Stevens Point: St. Paul's UMC**
- **Sunday, July 28, 1-4PM at Sun Prairie UMC**

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: fumcpublic

Phone: 715.842.2201

July Mission



Claire's Critter Closet is an important mission of our church that was created in honor of Claire Hornby and her love for animals! CCC has provided 138 individuals this year with dog and cat food and supplies (litter, food, leashes, treats, etc.) who are going through financial difficulties. It helps keep people and their pets together and fed during hard times.

Throughout the month of July, donate loose change, put cash in the small brown envelopes, memo a check, or donate online to support this mission.

You can also donate items such as dry/wet food, litter, treats, toys, etc. for dogs and cats. Have open/used products that your animal did not like or has outgrown? We take those too!

Have questions or looking to volunteer? Please contact Mike or Liz Fisher, or the church office.

August Mission



Community Meal

First Presbyterian Church, half a block away from us, hosts an evening community meal every Sunday, open and free to anyone. We have been a partner in this meal from the beginning and currently serve it on every 5th Sunday. Our remaining dates this year are September 29th and December 29th.

Throughout the month of August, donate loose change, put cash in the small brown envelopes, memo a check, or donate online.

If interested in volunteering, please contact Jen or Mark Johnson.



www.firstwausau.org
Launches 7/22

Our church has been working to create a new and improved website with a modern look. This more user friendly website is scheduled to launch on Monday, July 22nd.

The new website will make it easier to access online giving, upcoming events, church newsletters, recorded worship, and more! Guests will be able to easily learn about the United Methodist mission and missions important to our church.

A special thank you to Jon Goertz who did a majority of the new website design. Be sure to check it out!

Paper Product Tower Competition



To help with the Personal Needs Closet continued need for paper products, we have decided to put together a little competition for our congregation.

This will take place throughout the month of August. The competition will be between the left and right side pews in the Sanctuary so be sure to choose your side!

The goal will be to construct the highest tower of paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, etc.) for your side by August 25th where the winners will be announced during our outdoor service/picnic. Each side will need some individuals to help in engineering the design of your tower to ensure it can stand tall and not fall over.

We wish each side the best of luck!



United Women in Faith

UWF has been on summer break from their regular monthly meetings, but will resume them on **Wednesday, August 14th at 1:00pm** in the church parlor.

During the summer, volunteers provided premade meals for Open Door. Contact Barb Ritchie for future dates needing to be filled.

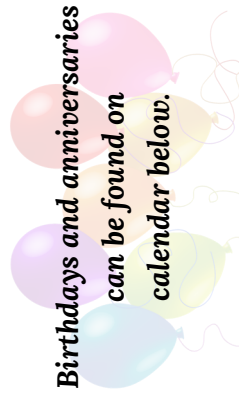
The fall rummage sale will take place during **the first week in October!** Please continue to keep UWF in mind when discarding sellable items. Items can be dropped at the church to be stored until the sale.

The very last Annual Gathering for the North Central District UWF will be held on September 14 at Berlin UMC at 178 W. Cumberland St., Berlin, WI 54923. Dr. Anne Getzin from Aurora St. Lukes will be speaking on "Healing the Planet, Our Communities Climate Change, Environmental Justice and Health Equality". We will celebrate the officers who served in the district. You will be able to get registrations at our next meeting or ask Barb Ritchie, Margaret Getzin or Julie Mieke for the forms that will be due on **August 29**. We will be doing an ingathering of feminine hygiene products for the local food pantry. We will also celebrate our members who have passed this past year, have our new deaconess Heidi Careaga speak on the vision for growth speech given by Sally Vonner when she was elected to the National Board, and do some Mission to Move or yoga following lunch. Join us for a day filled with activities!

On September 21 the North East District will have their Annual Gathering which will be our new district. Registration forms will be available in August if you choose to spend the day at Oshkosh Algoma Blvd. Church.



JULY 2024

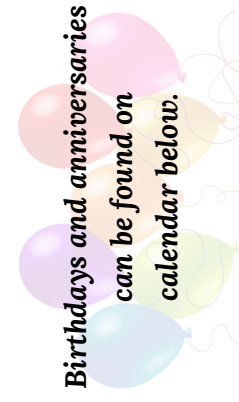


Birthdays and anniversaries can be found on calendar below.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00am Worship 10:00am Coffee Hour 4:00pm Community Meal (First Presbyterian)	1 11:30am Savvy Seniors (Arrow Sports Bar)	2	3	4 Church Office Closed Independence Day 8:00am AA	5 Office Closed	6
7 9:00am Worship with Holy Communion (Sanctuary) 10:00am Coffee Hour	8	9 1:00pm - 3:00pm Personal Needs Closet/ Claire's Critter Closet 5:30pm Trustees	10 5:45pm Missions Team	11 8:00am AA 1:00pm Worship Design, Vicki N's Home	12 Office Closed	13
14 9:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00am Coffee Hour 10:30am Congolese Worship Service (Chapel) 3:00pm - 4:00pm Organ Concert by George Felty	15 Kurt & Kirsten Hornby (A) Karl & Carol Pachmayer (A)	16 7:00pm Finance Committee, BK Smith Room	17	18 8:00am AA	19 Zoe Martin (B) Dwight & Pam Steinke (A) Office Closed	20
21 Richard Rayborn (B) Mark Johnson (B) 9:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00am Coffee Hour 10:30am Congolese Worship Service (Chapel)	22	23	24 Thomas Krueger (B) Bev LaCrosse (B)	25 Gregory & Laura Cowan (A) 8:00am AA	26 Michael Marzu (B) Office Closed	27 9:00am - 11:00am Personal Needs Closet/ Claire's Critter Closet 1:00pm - 4:00pm Bishop Hee-Soo Jung Farewell Celebration (St. Paul's UMC - Stevens Point)
28 9:00am Outdoor Worship - Blessing of All God's Creatures 10:00am Coffee Hour 10:30am Congolese Worship Service (Chapel)	29 Blake Grogan (B)	30	31 Gloria Rybarczyk (B)			



AUGUST 2024



Birthdays and anniversaries can be found on calendar below.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Don Kissing Mission Guatemala Trip 9:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00am Coffee Hour 10:30am Congolese Worship Service (Chapel)	5 Mission Guatemala Trip Office Closed 11:30am Savvy Seniors, El Tequila Salsa	6 Mission Guatemala Trip	7 Judith Mattiacci (B) Mission Guatemala Trip	8 Logan Rohland (B) Mission Guatemala Trip 8:00am AA	9 Robert Frame (B) Mission Guatemala Trip Office Closed	10 Mission Guatemala Trip
11 9:00am Worship with Holy Communion (Sanctuary) 10:00am Coffee Hour 10:30am Congolese Worship Service (Chapel) 11:15am Men's Prayer/Bible Study	12 Terrence Flath (B)	13 1:00pm - 3:00pm Personal Needs Closet/ Claire's Critter Closet 5:30pm Trustees 6:30pm SPRC	14 Julie Mische (B) 1:00pm United Women in Faith Meeting 5:45pm Missions Team	15 8:00am AA	16 Office Closed	17 Wil Bloy (B) Nancy Flath (B)
18 9:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00am Coffee Hour 10:30am Congolese Worship Service (Chapel)	19 Sifa Misuu (B)	20 Mark & Jen Johnson (A) 7:00pm Finance Committee, BK Smith Room	21	22 Pamela Zietlow (B) 8:00am AA	23 Office Closed	24 Alonzo & Monica Dvorak (A) 9:00am - 11:00am Personal Needs Closet/ Claire's Critter Closet
25 Eileen Denfeld (B) Lynn Reichelt (B) 9:00am Outdoor Worship (Courtyard) 10:00am Coffee & Games in Courtyard 10:30am Congolese Worship Service (Chapel) 11:00am End of Summer Picnic	26	27 David Mariani (B) Sheryl Del Conte (B) Liesl Seiser (B)	28 Clare Ostwald (B)	29 8:00am AA	30 Mackenzie Marquardt (B) Office Closed	31



Please help us in commissioning our members and friends during our service on July 28 as they get ready to head out on their Mission work in Guatemala, August 3-10. Attendees include: Michael Marzu (youth), Pete Johnson (youth), Oliver Hornby (youth), Joy Rutter (youth), Addison Kaiser (youth), Margaret Getzin, Wes Ebert and Kirsten Hornby.

This group will be working with local contractors on a construction project serving the local communities. They will also get the opportunity to learn about the local Mayan culture and the vital services provided by Mission Guatemala. We know this group will represent our church well and are eager to hear of their experiences and insights when they return! Join us for service on August 18 to welcome them back and hear some of their stories.

Congolese Mustard Seed Worship Service Grant Approved!

FUMC has started offering worship services for the many Congolese refugees who have relocated to the Wausau area, with more expected to join them. These services will be held on Sundays at 10:30am in our Chapel during the summer, and 11:30am during the school year.

Jean-Claude Tambwe, previously a Bishop in Zimbabwe, and his family, who are recent refugees, have generously offered to lead these services. Worship is provided in both Swahili and French languages.

All are welcome to join and experience worship with our Congolese neighbors.



Jean-Claude and his family leading worship in our church chapel.

We have been graciously awarded a Mustard Seed Migration Grant of \$2,000 to continue our church's support of the refugees in the Wausau area.

The Mustard Seed Migration Grant program is designed to encourage United Methodist churches to engage in ministry to migrants in their midst. UMCOR awards these grants to up to 100 United Methodist churches in the U.S. to engage in new, one-time community-based service projects and ministries focused on migrants and refugees.

In our application we asked for and were awarded funds for the following:

- Rental Assistance—\$1,200
- Water Bills—\$300
- Electric/Gas Bills—\$500

This will allow us to assist local refugee families when they are struggling to pay their basic home bills as they transition.

Other Grants...

Mike and Liz Fischer applied for an Impact100 grant of up to \$10,000 for the Personal Needs Closet. We were informed this grant has been postponed for some changes but our application was accepted for consideration. We will stay hopeful and keep you updated!

Outdoor Services Prayer Shawl Ministry

The staff has decided to put together two outdoor worship dates for this summer in our courtyard:

Sunday, July 28th at 9:00am-

Blessing of All God's Creatures

We hope to make this service a community event so please spread the word to your friends and family. This service is also open to all critter's to be part of our blessing of all God's creatures.

Sunday, August 25th at 9:00am-

Courtyard Worship followed by church picnic

This will be a regular outdoor service. Following the service from 10am-11am we will offer coffee and games until the start of our church picnic at 11am.

These services will not be live-streamed or recorded.

For both events, please bring a lawn chair and dress accordingly. In the case of rain, services will be moved inside.

Prayer shawls are available to the congregation both in the narthex and parlor of the church.

Please avail yourselves of this ministry for comfort in cases of illness, grief or loss. Also kindly remember to present them for celebrations such as: baptisms, confirmations, graduations, and marriage.



Our small but mighty Prayer Shawl Group at Farewell Luncheon for Mary Ann at 2510.



Sunday, August 25th at 11:00am

Our potluck-style church picnic will take place in the church courtyard/parlor and is open to all.

Volunteers are needed for setup, cleanup, and grilling. In traditional potluck-style, please bring a side dish, dessert, or beverages to share. A signup is provided in the parlor for each of these duties.

In case of rain, the picnic will be moved to the church's fellowship hall. We hope to see you there!

Farewell to Joyce Luedke

It is with a heavy heart that we say another farewell to long time FUMC/UWF member Joyce Luedke. Joyce will be moving to Minnesota to be closer with family. Joyce was a Social Action Mission Coordinator. She sent many messages to UWF members about our missions and social justice issues, to make us aware of the mission work of UWF and why we are so important. But, there was always a short devotion, song or poem to make our day better. She and Mary Ann were both Social Action Coordinators, making us aware of issues and encouraging us to help people, by taking action. Our unit will miss them. We wish them the best in their new homes.

Thank You Letter from Pivot Scholarship Recipient Evie Del Conte

Thank you for awarding me the Helen and Leonard Pivot Scholarship. This is an amazing gift that will help me as I major in art education and gain skills that will help me become a successful art teacher someday.

I'm excited for this upcoming school year and all of the new things coming in the future. I hope to use your gifts to grow as a person and pass it forward to the next generation of learners and artists.

My sincerest thanks, Evie Del Conte

Pivot Scholarship applications will open up again on January 1, 2025. Applicants are limited to church members and their families who are recent high school graduates headed to continuing education, or adults looking to go back to school to further their education.

Online Giving

Online giving is available for regular offerings or other mission funds you wish to support. An account is not required. You can access through the link or QR code below.

If creating an account, PLEASE USE THE EMAIL YOU PROVIDED IN THE CHURCH DIRECTORY, if one was provided. Allow 24-48 hours after account creation for office staff to confirm your account.

https://onrealm.org/FirstUnitedMeth91919/give/now



*Check box at checkout to help cover online processing fees. Thank you!



May 26 - Sept. 1

9:00 am

Summer worship is combined to one service on Sundays at 9:00am with coffee hour following the service in the Parlor.

Services will also be available online live on Sundays and recorded for later viewing on our YouTube or website. We will return to 8am and 10am services starting September 8.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Greeters

Coffee Hour

1 Counter - 1st Sundays

Sign-up in the Parlor

Greeters - Arrive 20-30 mins before service start time to greet and direct members and visitors to worship. Once service begins you can join the rest of the congregation for worship.

Coffee Hour - Make a couple of pots of coffee (provided) and bring treats, including gluten-free options, to serve about 30-40 people. It is a great way to interact socially with your church family, meet new members, or celebrate birthdays and anniversaries.

Counter - We are one counter short for the 1st Sundays of each month. The church requires two counters (must be a member) to count the Sunday offerings right after service in the church office. This is important for the church to stay in compliance with financial policies and ensure accuracy of donated funds.



The Messenger

Please submit any articles or news for the September Messenger to georgia@firsttausau.org by August 26th.

THE MESSENGER

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTSED

Our Mission:

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

July/August Worship

Sunday Worship Times: 9:00am Sanctuary

SUNDAY, JULY 21

Renewing Covenant Prayer Psalm 48; Chronicles 15:1-15

SUNDAY, JULY 28

OUTDOOR WORSHIP All God's Creatures Psalm 84:1-4; Ephesians 3:14-21; Revelation 5:5-14

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

The Weight of the Word Psalm 51:1-12; 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Ephesians 4:1-16

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

HOLY COMMUNION Prayers of the People Ps 130, 1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43; Eph. 6:10-20

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

Benediction Psalm 111; 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Ephesians 5:15-20

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

OUTDOOR WORSHIP Sent Out to Live Psalm 84:5-9; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; Luke 10:1-9

STAFF

Table with 3 columns: Role, Name, Email. Roles include Pastor, Director of Comm./Finance, Director of Discipleship, Building Engineer, and Staff members Rebecca Borke, Georgia Reynolds, Julie Miede, and Andy White.

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