



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,

As the summer heat fades and the crisp air of autumn fills our lungs, we leave behind the lakes and boats and enjoy walking the trails and exploring our surroundings. As a church, we will be exploring "Walking with Jesus" as our theme for October. It is described on [umcdiscipleship.org](http://umcdiscipleship.org):

*Let's take a walk with Jesus this October! As you might suspect, walking with Jesus is not only good for the body but is also good for the mind, as Jesus often asks us to stretch our thinking into new possibilities and new understandings. Our walk with Jesus is also good for our senses, as we are invited to see what we had overlooked before, to hear the cries from those often kept silent, and to feel a connection with those in our community whether they are already a part of our church or not. We're exercising our faith as we walk, faith that allows us to see the Spirit at work in us and around us all the time. So, join us this fall. Walking with Jesus, let's admit, is good exercise all around.*

Sometimes we walk to get to a destination, like when I walk from my office to meet with community leaders downtown. But most of my steps are from walking in the mornings when the focus of my walk is to pray for our church and world. I also walk a lot after work, usually with a friend, as we exchange funny stories, challenges, and encouragement.

Our church is on a walk together as well. We walk in fellowship, explore new possibilities, and pray as we walk in faith toward the vision God shows us. I hope to learn and share more soon about where we are headed in sharing our building. Wherever the path leads, God walks with us.

Pastor Rebecca



# WUMF Monthly Stewardship News

Just Hanging On  
October 2024

Once upon a time, there was a man who saw that it was a beautiful day outside, so he decided to go for a walk. As he walked along through a local park, he looked at the leaves on the trees that were changing colors; he watched the children playing with glee; he looked at the beautiful blue sky that had a few clouds in it. As he was enjoying all of the lovely scenery, he forgot to look where he was walking and he fell off the edge of a cliff. While falling, he began to reach for anything that would stop his plummet towards demise, when his hands happened upon a tree root that was sticking out of the side of the cliff. He held on to that tree root with all of his might and yelled out to the top of the cliff, "Help me! Is anyone out there?" An anonymous voice from above replied, "Yes, I am here. I am the Lord. Do you believe me?" The man in desperation, called out, "Yes Lord, I believe you. Please help me!" The mysterious voice then instructed the man saying, "Okay, if you truly believe that I am the Lord, then let go of the root you're hanging from and I will save you." After a brief pause to think about his options, the man looked upward and yelled, "Is anyone else up there?"

Many times in life, we can feel like the man hanging on for dear life with nothing below us but destruction. Our lives are overflowing with commitments, our families demand our time, and any number of challenges can push us to the edge of our own personal cliffs. During times of heavy demands and personal crisis we may wonder where God comes in as we struggle. These are times that often challenge our faith.

In these times, it may be helpful to remember Jesus' parting words to his disciples, as he addresses our doubts as well. He says, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20). We are promised that throughout our lives, in the hard and happy times, Christ will be with us. This doesn't mean that he will solve all of our problems with the wave of a magic wand.

What it does mean is that God will always be with us, weathering life's storms with us, giving us strength to move forward in difficult times, and opening up opportunities for us when we need them. What is important for us to remember throughout our entire lives is that the Lord wants to be in relationship with us, and is always there waiting for us to turn to God in prayer.



For the families of the following deaths in September:

- Judith Mattiacci - 9/4/24 (FUMC/UWF Member)  
\*Visitation (10am)/Funeral (11am) at FUMC on 10/1
- Lila Rouse - 9/8/24 (FUMC/UWF Member)
- Yvonne Firary's brother

For Monica Dvorak who has been transitioned home and will continue to undergo physical therapy for her recovery. If planning to visit, please do so in the late afternoon/early evening.

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

We also offer weekly grief meditations on our website.

## Online Giving

Online giving is available for regular offerings or other mission funds you wish to support. An account is not required.

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!



### 40 Day Election Prayer Calendar

Pray for all candidates running for office	Pray for all families of candidates running for office	Pray for first time voters	Pray for peace	Pray for journalists and media personalities	Pray for the disengaged
Pray for candidates' staff	Pray for those who advise candidates	Pray for those who are undecided	Pray for poll workers	Pray for those who are sending mail in ballots	Pray for courage
Pray for those you disagree with	Every time you see a yard sign, pray for the candidate	Pray for election officials	Pray for wisdom	Pray for those seeking asylum	Pray for Democrats
Pray for an end to racism	Pray for those who are struggling with medical debt	Pray for polling places	Pray for those unable to vote	Pray for children	Pray for Republicans
Pray for all of creation	Pray for judges & our judicial system	Pray for hope	Pray for those who are hungry	Pray for Independents	Pray for compassion



**Savvy Seniors**  
Savvy Seniors will meet on **Monday, October 7th at 11:30am** at Great Dane. This is a social group open to singles & couples over 55. We would love to have you join us! Any questions, call Vicki at 715-571-3009.

## Charge Conference

**Saturday, November 16th at 2:30pm**

Our Charge Conference will take place in our Fellowship Hall. Attendance of full church members is highly encouraged as voting will occur. Due to the time of day, we will not be serving food for this year's conference. The UWF will be holding their annual chili sale after the conference for you to take home and enjoy for dinner that evening, if you'd like.

## Jubilate Bell Choir

**Starting Wednesday, October 2nd at 6:30pm**

Jessica Wenzel will lead our Jubilate Bell Choir again this year. Practices will be held on Wednesdays at 6:30pm to prepare for our Lessons & Carols service on December 15th. New members are always welcome to join. Please attend the Wednesday practices to take part.

## ALL SAINTS DAY

**Sunday, November 3rd**

On the first Sunday of November we remember all in our congregation who have gone on to eternal glory in the past year, as well as loved ones of people in our church who were not members, and those who have passed in earlier years. If you would like your loved one honored in the bulletin, please email or call our office by Monday, October 28 at 715-842-2201 or [georgia@firstwausau.org](mailto:georgia@firstwausau.org)



## United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith unit from our church is off and running this fall. Numerous topics were discussed and plans for future events were made at the monthly meeting in September. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 9, at 1:00pm in the church parlor. Several members attended the last (now former) district meeting and some also attended the first (new) district meeting in September. The first event planning is currently being done for the now annual Fall Rummage/Pre-owned Sale. It will be held on Thursday, Oct. 3 and Friday, Oct. 4. Bars, cookies, and coffee will also be available this year during the sale hours. If you have items (no clothing, please) you would like to donate, please place them on the stage in Fellowship Hall no later than Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 1. If you are willing to bake, or are willing to help with set-up that week, or help during sale hours please let Sara Koss, Sharon Gisselman, or Bonnie Goertz know. This event has turned into a successful fundraiser for our missions work, and we look forward to another good one!

Our church's UWF were invited by the women of Wesley's UWF group to participate in their Fall Fest on Saturday, Oct. 5. We will be selling our Fair Trade items and other miscellaneous items during their event. It was also announced that Wednesday Night Live will be returning to our church, starting with once-a-month evenings for the remainder of this year. The first one will be Oct. 30, and the UWF group will be serving a spaghetti supper that night. If you are able to help with any part of this meal, please talk to Barb Ritchie. We will be doing a chili sale at the Annual Charge Conference this year, on Nov. 16, rather than a chili meal, due to the timing of the conference. Please plan to purchase a jar or two after the conference meeting to help support UWF's mission work.

This fall will be a busy time for our United Women in Faith, and we are very appreciative for all of the support we receive from the church and beyond!

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

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.

The Prayer Shawl Group also regularly gives shawls to both the Wausau Women's Community and Haven Shelter in Merrill as further outreach.



### ★ VOLUNTEERS ★

#### NEEDED

#### Coffee Hour

#### 1 Counter - 1st Sundays

#### Nursery

#### Sign-up in the Parlor

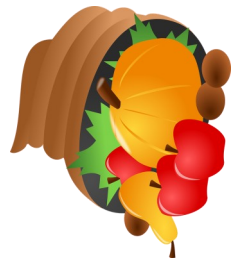
**Coffee Hour** - Make a couple of pots of coffee (provided) and bring treats, including gluten-free options, to serve about 30-40 people. It is a great way to interact socially with your church family, meet new members, or celebrate birthdays and anniversaries.

**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.

**Nursery** - Per our policy, two adults or older youth need to be present to have the nursery open during the 10am service. We currently do not have but are seeking nursery volunteers.

# OCTOBER 2024

Birthdays and anniversaries can be found on calendar below.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 8am - Worship with Holy Communion (Chapel) 9am - "We Make the Road by Walking" Bible Study 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship with Holy Communion (Sanctuary) 11am - Coffee Hour	30 Gary Getzin (B) 11:30am - Savvy Seniors (Great Dane)	1 Ellie Schreiber (B) 10am - Judith Mattiacci Visitation 11am - Judith Mattiacci Funeral	2 5:30pm - "Bible Stories for Growups" Bible Study (Parlor) 6:30pm - Bells Practice	3 Margaret Getzin (B) Will & Melissa Wyrick (A) 8am - AA (Room 101) 9am - UJWF Fall Rummage Sale (9-1)	4 Office Closed Madison Mariani (B) 9am - UJWF Fall Rummage Sale (9-1)	5 Cheryl Wenzel (B) Laura Cowan (B) 8am - UJWF WI Conference Annual Gathering (Lake Street UMC - Eau Claire)
6 8am - Worship with Holy Communion (Chapel) 9am - "We Make the Road by Walking" Bible Study 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship with Holy Communion (Sanctuary) 11am - Coffee Hour	7 Gary Getzin (B) 11:30am - Savvy Seniors (Great Dane)	8 Roger Gundelfinger (B) Lisa Day (B) 1pm - PNC/CCC 5:30pm - Trustees (B.K. Smith Rm)	9 Jake Rybarczyk (B) David & Lori Mariani (A) 1pm - UJWF Meeting (Parlor) 5:45pm - Missions Team (B.K. Smith Rm) 5:30pm - "Bible Stories for Growups" Bible Study (Parlor) 6:30pm - Bells Practice	10 Rob & Kris Rybarczyk (A) 8am - AA (Room 101) 1pm - Worship Design (Parlor)	11 Office Closed	12 Cheryl Wenzel (B) Laura Cowan (B) 8am - UJWF WI Conference Annual Gathering (Lake Street UMC - Eau Claire)
13 8am - Worship (Chapel) 9am - "We Make the Road by Walking" Bible Study 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship (Sanctuary) 11am - Coffee Hour 11:15am - Men's Prayer/Service Committee & Bible Study (B.K. Smith)	14 Columbus Day	15 Bryan Bissonnette (B) 6pm - SPRC (B.K. Smith Room) 7pm - Finance Committee (B.K. Smith Rm)	16 Tammy Lahren (B) Kirsten Hornby (B) 5:30pm - "Bible Stories for Growups" Bible Study (Parlor) 6:30pm - Bells Practice	17 Robert & Karen Petersen (A) 8am - AA (Room 101)	18 Office Closed Bob Wylie 101th Birthday! (B) 12pm - UJWF Community Partners Tour (Open to All Church Members)	19 Gary Kurth (B) Lee & Susan Rye (A) Dan & Barb Maquire (A) Dennis & Georgia Reynolds (A)
20 8am - Worship (Chapel) 9am - "We Make the Road by Walking" Bible Study 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship (Sanctuary) 11am - Coffee Hour	21 Prayer Shawl Group (Parlor)	22 1pm - Prayer Shawl Group (Parlor)	23 6:30pm - Bells Practice	24 8am - AA (Room 101)	25 Office Closed Pam Steinke (B) Andrea Anderson (B)	26 9am - PNC/CCC
27 8am - Worship (Chapel) 9am - "We Make the Road by Walking" Bible Study 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship (Sanctuary) 11am - Coffee Hour	28 Jerry Morris (B)	29 Michael Koss (B) Diann Misoni (B) Gregory Cowan (B) 5:15pm - Wednesday Night Live (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm - Bells Practice	30 Michael Koss (B) Diann Misoni (B) Gregory Cowan (B) 5:15pm - Wednesday Night Live (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm - Bells Practice	31 Michael & Sara Koss (A) 8am - AA (Room 101)	1 Office Closed	2 Office Closed

## Soap4Hope Drive



As part of our October mission for the PNC, we will also be running a Soap4Hope Drive. Please bring in soap related items (hand soap, bar soap, shampoo, laundry detergent, etc.) and drop them in the basket located by the Sanctuary Altar.

Your donations to the PNC helps to ensure we are able to continue offering personal hygiene and household items to those in need within our community each month.

Our paper product drive/competition in August was a huge success. Congratulations to the right side of our Sanctuary who won the tower competition! A huge thank you to all those that participated and to Kurt H. for creating a wonderful trophy for our winners.



## OCTOBER MISSION



This year, we have assisted 271 households representing 825 individuals by providing household supplies to help stretch their budgets. The PNC is available on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 1-3pm and the 4th Saturday of the month, 9-11am. No Saturdays in Nov. or Dec.

Throughout the month of October, donate loose change, put cash in the small brown envelopes, memo a check, or donate online under fund name: PNC



I would like to invite you to attend the next sessions of Faith Alive! Faith Alive is an active and engaging study about: exploring the relationship of the Bible and faith, integrating faith into the workplace and daily living, exploring God's call to justice and inclusivity and answering our unique call to Ministry and Leadership.

It consists of four sessions, two weekends each year, over the course of two years. All sessions are held at Rader Lodge at Pine Lake Camp in Westfield, WI. The first session begins **Friday, November 8 through Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**. The deadline for registration is October 15<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$325 per session.

As the Dean of Faith Alive! I have brochures available for you to look at and can answer any questions you may have. It was a life-changing event for my life. I made the type of friends who I can call when I am questioning if my faith is real. It has led me to use some of the gifts of holy spirit in ways I never anticipated---working on staff here at the church. It encouraged me to actively practice the disciplines of the faith and opened my eyes to many new perspectives.

- Julie Mieke, Director of Discipleship

# Wednesday Night Live Has Returned!!!

After many requests since they were stopped, we are excited to announce WNL is back! This time around, we will hold this event one Wednesday per month. For the remainder of this year the dates are **Oct. 30th, Nov. 20th, and Dec. 18th.**

The schedule will be as follows:

**5:15pm – Adult Bible Study/Youth Program**

(led by Pastor Rebecca) (led by Dennis Reynolds)

**6:00pm – Dinner**

**6:30pm – Bells Practice**

**7:15pm – Choir Practice**

(bells & choir when applicable)

Meal and refreshments will be provided by small groups in the church, however we encourage you to bring and share a dessert, or give monetary donations to help with costs. Our United Women in Faith group has graciously volunteered to cook for Oct. 30th.

Additional volunteers are needed for cooking and cleanup for future dates. Please contact Georgia at the church office or signup in the parlor. To sustain this long-term, it would be ideal to create a group that cooks and cleans regularly for this monthly event.

Our first event will be Halloween themed since it is on Halloween Eve. Costumes or Halloween accessories are acceptable with discretion that this is a church function. We hope to see you there!



First Wausau  
United Methodist Church  
**SUNDAY  
COMMUNITY  
DINNER**

Starting in 2025, the Sunday Community Meals at First Presbyterian Church will be moved to our church. Host groups have been notified of the changes and have agreed to continue hosting at our location. The FUMC Community Meals group will still host the meals on every 5th Sunday.

We will be holding a meet and greet in our Parlor on Wednesday, Oct. 16th at 6:00pm. This will give everyone a chance to put faces to names/organizations and tour our facility. This invite extends to any members of our church who currently help with the Community Meals or are interested in volunteering as a Host Group Steward.

We are still trying to fill a few Sundays on the 2025 schedule. If you know of any organizations looking to do some volunteer work and team building, please have them contact our church office. We are also looking for volunteers to be stewards for the hosting groups. If interested, please contact the co-organizers Georgia Reynolds or Jen Johnson for additional information.

Thank you to Jon Goertz for creating our new Community Meal logo!



## Bucket Collection

We are looking for donations of empty gallon sized ice cream buckets, or similar style buckets. These will be used as cleaning product containers and other storage. They can be dropped by the church office during business hours or on Sundays. Thank you!



## The Messenger

Please submit any articles or news for the November Messenger to [georgia@firstwausau.org](mailto:georgia@firstwausau.org) by Oct 25th.

### 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

## OCTOBER WORSHIP

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

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 HOLY COMMUNION

**Such As These**

Psalm 25; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

**Not To Be Served**

Psalm 104:1-9,24,35b; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

**Needles and Camels**

Psalm 22:1-11; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

**Let Me See**

Psalm 34:1-3; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

### Connect Online!

Website:

[firstwausau.org](http://firstwausau.org)

Facebook:

[facebook.com/WausauFUMC](https://facebook.com/WausauFUMC)

YouTube:

[youtube.com/@FirstWausauUMC](https://youtube.com/@FirstWausauUMC)

WiFi Network:

FUMC Guest  
password: fumcpublic

Phone: 715.842.2201

#### STAFF

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