



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 all had plenty of rest, relaxation, and recreation this summer! The “back to school” season has begun, and my daughter and I are excited to be in our last year of classes. Next May, Joy will graduate from Wausau West High School, and I will (hopefully) graduate with a Doctorate of Ministry (D.Min.) from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. Before either of us can step on a stage and receive our diploma, we have a lot of learning to do this year.

Though Joy and I (and a few of you!) will soon graduate, learning and growing will not end. Whether we are still in school or matriculated many years ago, our knowledge, wisdom, and faith can always learn and grow more. God’s grace gives us room to be challenged in our thinking, assumptions, and actions. Our September worship theme is “Uncommon Wisdom.” We will be learning from often misunderstood books of the Bible from the “Wisdom Literature” genre. They invite us to look differently at the world and give us a lens to see God at work in unexpected ways. In addition to worship services at 8 am and 10 am on Sundays (starting September 8), see page 6 for some great opportunities to keep learning and growing spiritually at our church.

We hope to see you in worship and one or more of our groups. May we all hunger to know and follow Jesus more so that our faith, hope, and love become deep and wide. Amen!

Pastor Rebecca



WUMF Monthly Stewardship News

The Church’s Need to Receive or the Giver’s Need to Give?
September 2024

When I was first learning about stewardship early in my ministry, I heard someone say, “Good stewardship practices focus on the giver’s need to give, rather than the church’s need for money.” At the time, I didn’t buy it. To my cynical ears, it sounded like a line. Today (many years later), I can say that I was wrong.

We love our churches. We want them to thrive and succeed. They are near and dear to our hearts. So when the churches faces financial challenges, we want to plead with people how important it is to keep the ministries of our beloved church going. We need to pay the bills. Throw in the anxiety that surrounds any financial topic, we may want to push the point.

The truth is the church’s mission isn’t to keep existing. In fact, we love our churches because of the ways God has touched our lives through them —ceremonies and rituals, helping us grow in faith and connection. Likewise, a church’s teaching about faithful stewardship should be centered on helping people learn about the place of money in a Christian’s walk of faith. It’s about discipleship and partnering with God to make a positive difference in the world — whether people do that by being generous with the church or other organizations. (Note: I do believe people who are generous as a part of their faith include the church in their generosity if the church is faithfully living out its mission.)

Tithing benefits the giver as much as it strengthens the mission and ministry of the church — especially in the midst of our materialistic and consumerist society. We are immersed in a culture that feeds the appetite for more and bigger and that fosters that self-worth is found in material wealth and happiness comes by possession. As one person once said, “We buy things we don’t even need with money we don’t even have to impress people we don’t even know!”

At the root, these are spiritual problems, leading to continued discontent, discouragement, and unhappiness. We can never earn enough to be happy.

In fact, studies have shown that people believe all they need is more money to be happy, when in reality, an academic study concluded that money can only boost happiness up to a certain point (at about \$75,000 in annual income).

Practices like embracing gratitude do lead to more contentment. For instance, consider making a list of the things in your life for which you are grateful. It doesn’t have to be long or take much time. Taking time to focus on what you have rather than concentrating on what you don’t can be transformative.

Beyond embracing gratitude, consider the following questions:

- How does living generously help you see the world through God’s eyes?
- How is your own perspective shaped by materialism, acquisition, and the desire to possess? How is it shaped by the wisdom of God? How do you resolve tensions?

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin UMF

Help for the Stewardship Team

Leading by Example

Then the leaders of ancestral houses made their freewill offerings, as did also the leaders of the tribes, the commanders of the thousands and of the hundreds, and the officers over the king’s work. (1 Chronicles 29:6)

One of the most prevalent themes in Scripture is the importance of leading by example. It is important for leaders to practice righteousness and for the congregation to know about it.

Therefore, it is important for the Pastor and Lay Leaders of the church to be proportional givers and to share that information (and yes, I know this goes against the grain of our traditional culture of midwestern humility). We don’t have to share how many dollars we give, but we should share what percentage. Anonymity may do for some congregation members, but not for leaders. Sharing the story of our financial stories, including our mis-steps, can not only be inspiring for others, but will also help them know that they aren’t alone in their successes and struggles.

Let Us Pray

Please lift up and pray for...

The Dvorak family for the sudden death of Alonzo and Monica's recovery after an accident.

Jen Marzu and family for the passing of her grandmother Norma Freeman on 8-11-24.

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.

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.



Savvy Seniors will be meeting on **Monday, September 9th at 11:30am** at 2510 Restaurant. 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.

September Mission



This ministry in the mountains of Guatemala offers medical care, food, child care, and education to the Mayan people. Our church participates in periodic trips to assist in construction projects and to be educated in the Mayan culture. We also donate funds to keep these projects underway.

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

Our church would like to put together another trip to Guatemala in 2025. A few have already expressed an interest. The missions team is currently working on selecting dates for next year. If you would like to attend and have a preference on summer or fall travel, please let the church office know.

The Messenger

Please submit any articles or news for the October Messenger to georgia@firstwausau.org by Sept. 25th.

Connect Online!

Website:
firstwausau.org

Facebook:
facebook.com/WausauFUMC

YouTube:
youtube.com@FirstWausauUMC

WiFi Network:
FUMC Guest
password: fumcpublic

Phone: 715.842.2201



United Women in Faith

Our church's United Women in Faith took several months off through the summer from the monthly meetings, but in August they got back on track and on schedule, meeting the afternoon of the second Wednesday of August in the church's parlor. There were many things to discuss and plan for the coming year, so no regular program was held that day. One of the first items to note was notification from Open Door that another local church has started providing lunches every Thursday for them. This was our day originally, so some discussion was held about how to proceed in the future. The discussion was tabled after hearing that our church may take over as the pick-up spot for the weekly Sunday Community Dinners in 2025. It was felt that there may be a way to support this ministry if this change takes place. Dottie N reported that the recent "holey" sock drive was successful, bringing in over 60 lbs of old, worn socks. Funds from this collection will go toward Northcott House in Milwaukee. Some discussion was held about ways to work with the Terra-Cycle program in the future. An invitation came from the Wesley UWF group to participate in their Fall Fest on October 5. We decided to be part of this day, selling our Fair Trade products and other possible items. Some discussion was held about having another chili lunch/supper before the annual Charge Conference this fall. More information will come as soon as that date is determined. It was also decided to have the annual Cookie Walk in December. Bonnie G will take charge of getting the order sheets printed and distributed with the help of the church office, and coordinate the packaging of the cookie orders.

The annual Fall Pre-owned Sale will return to Fellowship Hall on October 3 and 4, under the direction of Sara Koss. Anyone is welcome to contribute items to this sale right up to that week—the more, the merrier! It is a great opportunity to clean out closets/basements/attics, rid yourselves of holiday and household items you no longer need or use, and help out some very worthy mission causes. Please put those donated items on the stage in Fellowship Hall during office hours.

This year there will also be a snack station set up selling coffee and assorted baked items/treats! Please let Sara Koss, Sharon Gisselman, or Bonnie Goertz know if you are able to help out in any way—we need cashiers, bakers of treats, set-up people during the days prior to the sale, etc...It has become a fun, social event for our church!

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday, Sept. 11, 1:00pm - Monthly Meeting, Church Parlor
- Saturday, Sept. 14 - North Central District Final Annual Gathering, Berlin UMC
- Saturday, Sept. 21 - Northeast District Annual Day of Celebration, Algoma Blvd UMC—Oshkosh
- Saturday, Sept. 22 - UWF Sunday (will be hosting coffee hour after church service)
- Thursday & Friday, Oct 3 & 4 - Fall Pre-Owned Sale
- Wednesday, Oct 9, 1:00pm - Monthly Meeting, Church Parlor
- Saturday, Oct. 12 - WI Conference Annual Gathering, Lake Street UMC—Eau Claire

Registration forms for district and conference events can be found on the piano in the parlor.

★ VOLUNTEERS ★ NEEDED Coffee Hour

1 Counter - 1st Sundays
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.

Birthdays and anniversaries can be found on calendar below.



SEPTEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Janet Wyrnick (B) Terry & Nancy Flath (A) Brian & Beth Rohland (A) 9:00am - Worship with Holy Communion 10:00am - Coffee Hour 11:00am - Worship in Swahili/French (Chapel)	2 OFFRECLOSED - Labor Day Chloe Larson (B)	3 Morgan Stamp (B)	4 Dawn Decker (B)	5 8:00am - AA (Room 101) 1:00pm - Worship Design (Vicki's House)	6 Office Closed Will Wyrnick (B)	7 Ray Nowaczyk (B)
8 Rob Rybarczyk (B) 8:00am - Worship (Chapel) 9:00am - "We Make the Road by Walking" Bible Study (BK Smith) 9:00am - Sunday School (Sanctuary) 10:00am - Worship in Swahili/French (Chapel) 11:00am - Coffee Hour 11:15am - Men's Prayer/Bible Study (BK Smith)	9 Tracie Bissonnette (B) 11:30am - Savvy Seniors (2510 Restaurant)	10 1:00pm - PNC/CCC 5:30pm - Trustees (B.K. Smith)	11 Randy & Janet Wyrnick (A) (Parlor) 1:00pm - UWF Meeting 5:45pm - Missions Team (B.K. Smith) 6:00pm - "Bible Stories for Grownups" Bible Study (Parlor)	12 Barbara Day (B) 8:00am - AA (Room 101)	13 Office Closed	14 8:30am - UWF NC District Final Annual Gathering (Berlin UMC)
15 8:00am - Worship (Chapel) 9:00am - "We Make the Road by Walking" Bible Study (BK Smith) 9:00am - Sunday School (Sanctuary) 10:00am - Worship in Swahili/French (Chapel) 10:15am - Coffee Hour 11:00am - Coffee Hour	16 10:00am - Prayer Team (Parlor)	17 Steve Loftus (B) Dave & Dawn Decker (A) (Parlor) 6:00pm - SPRC (B.K. Smith Room) 7:00pm - Finance Committee (B.K. Smith Room)	18 Ann Harmon (B) 6:00pm - "Bible Stories for Grownups" Bible Study (Parlor)	19 MaDoppa, McMahan (B) Curt Day (B) Jessica Wenzel (B) 8:00am - AA (Room 101)	20 Office Closed	21 Martie Pahrns (B) 8:30am - UWF NE District Annual Day of Celebration (Algonia Blvd UMC - Oshkosh)
22 Catherine Koss (B) 8:00am - Worship (Chapel) 9:00am - "We Make the Road by Walking" Bible Study (BK Smith) 9:00am - Sunday School 10:00am - Worship - UWF Sunday 10:15am - Worship in Swahili/French (Chapel) 11:00am - Coffee Hour	23 Lawrence Mueveler (B) Kate Sims (B) 7:00pm - Ministries Council (B.K. Smith)	24 Cathy Hamblin (B) 1:00pm - Prayer Shawl Group (Parlor)	25 6:00pm - "Bible Stories for Grownups" Bible Study (Parlor)	26 Betsy Larson (B) Russ & Rita Bennett (A) 8:00am - AA (Room 101)	27 Office Closed Dennis Sauer (B)	28 9:00am - PNC/CCC
29 8:00am - Worship (Chapel) 9:00am - "We Make the Road by Walking" Bible Study (BK Smith) 9:00am - Sunday School (Sanctuary) 10:00am - Worship in Swahili/French (Chapel) 11:00am - Coffee Hour 4:00pm - Community Meal (First Presbyterian)	30	1		3	4	5

First Wausau SEPTEMBER 2024

New Book Nook

Our church library will soon be moving to the old "phone booth" in the Narathax. We thank Erik Anderson who designed and built these beautiful bookshelves.



Directory Update

It is that time of year to begin updating our church directory. Copies of our current directory will be put at the sign-in stands in the Chapel and Sanctuary, the narthex table, and in the parlor. Please take a moment to review your information to make any corrections or add new phone numbers and emails. If you are not listed in the directory and would like to be added please fill out your information on the notes page of the directory (found on front or back pages). We do not list birthdays or anniversaries in our directory but keep them in our records for sharing in our bulletins. If you have noticed your birthday or anniversary has not been included in our announcements, please write down your birthday and/or anniversary by your name in the directory.



Starting September 8th, we will return to our school year worship schedule:

- 8:00am—Worship, Chapel
- 9:00am—Sunday School
- 10:00am—Worship, Sanctuary
- *Cross-Cultural Worship until 10:15am*
- 10:15am—Worship in Swahili/French, Chapel
- 11:00am—Coffee Hour, Parlor

All groups will also begin again starting the week of Sept. 8th. Continue participating or feel free to join any of the following groups held by our church members:

- **Sundays, 9:00am** - "We Make the Road by Walking" bible study (BK Smith)
- **Every 2nd Sunday, 11:15am** - Men's Prayer/Service Committee and Bible Study (BK Smith)
- **Every 4th Tuesday, 1:00pm** - Prayer Shawl Group
- **Every 2nd Wednesday 1:00pm** - UWF Meeting (Parlor)
- **Wednesdays, 6:00pm** - "Bible Stories for Grownups" bible study (Parlor)
- **Dates TBD** - Men's Off-Property Group

Contact Julie Mieke at the church office for additional information.

Message from Director of Discipleship

Sunday School Starts on September 8th

We have Sunday School classes for first grade students through adults on Sunday morning starting at 9AM and finishing before second service. The adult class will be finishing the book by Brian McLaren "We Make the Road by Walking." All others will begin programming similar to a year ago. We are hoping to find a time outside of Sunday morning to do a study on *The Chosen* TV series about the life of Jesus with discussion questions for all ages. Please share what might work for you. We also have a new adult Bible study that I would like to begin on Wednesday the 11th in the early evening called "Bible Stories for Grownups". If you are interested, please let me know asap. Watch the bulletin for further updates.

Julie Mieke Director of Discipleship

Outdoor Worship Wrap-Up

We enjoyed two successful outdoor services this summer. Although a little warm, the sun was shining for us on both occasions. Our church picnic also made a comeback with a wonderful turnout! Moving forward we will have an early summer picnic and also bring back the end of summer ice cream and pie social.



UMC Social Principles

If you are interested in learning more about the United Methodist principles, or wish to refresh yourself, you can access the full adopted principles at:

<https://www.umcjustice.org/documents/124>

Community Meals News

First Presbyterian Church has regrettably decided they will no longer be able to sustain the Community Meals mission after this year. They approached our church to gauge our interest in taking over due to our space and location. At this time, it has been decided our church will begin holding the Community Meal drive thru starting in January 2025.

There are many more details to workout before the end of the year, however we are excited to be able to continue this important community mission at our church. First Presbyterian still plans to host some Sundays as we do now. Our church will still host every 5th Sunday.

Through this planning phase, we are asking our congregation for help with a few details. First, 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. We are also looking for volunteers to be stewards for the hosting groups. This means unlocking/locking up the church for them on their scheduled Sundays and providing any assistance during their hosting time. If interested, please contact the co-organizers Georgia Reynolds or Jen Johnson.

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!



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

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

Sunday Worship Times (Starting Sept. 8): 8:00am Chapel & 10:00am Sanctuary

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 HOLY COMMUNION

The Time of Singing Has Come
Psalm 72:1-8; James 1:17-27; Song of Sol. 2:8-13

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 Choosing How We Shall Live

Ps 124; James 2:1-10, 14-17; Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 Holding onto Wisdom

Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Proverbs 1:20-33

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 UWF SUNDAY

In Praise of Women Who Lead
Psalm 1, James 3:13-4:3; Proverbs 31:10-31

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 For Such a Time

Ps 84:10-12; James 5:13-20; Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22

STAFF

Pastor	Rebecca Borke	rebecca@firstwausau.org
Director of Comm./Finance	Georgia Reynolds	georgia@firstwausau.org
Director of Discipleship	Julie Mieke	julie@firstwausau.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.firstmethodistwausau.org