



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 and Friends,

As we enter this season of gratitude, I want to express my gratefulness for you. As a congregation, you have shown generosity, unity, and patience in many ways. For two years, you prayerfully waited as the YMCA, then the Hmong American Center (HAC), each seemed eager to share our space over the long term. Due to the imminent need to replace the roof, we gave HAC a deadline of October 1 to decide whether or not they would accept our \$1/year offer. In exchange for that, they would have accepted the financial responsibility of major updates like replacing the roof. They ended up not accepting that offer, and we decided to change our approach. Now, we are managing the financial costs ourselves for capital improvements, such as the roof. We are also making a concerted effort to find missionally compatible long-term renters for unused spaces to offset these extra expenses.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I encourage each of you to reflect on the blessings in your life—family, friends, and the gift of faith – as we also navigate the changes and challenges we face as individuals and as church. Will we continue to build relationships, both new and old? Will we commit to preparing for a healthy and sustainable future? Will we have honest and healing conversations with each other and God? The answers to these questions begin with prayer. Let us keep praying our Breakthrough Prayer, at 9:03 am and/or pm, 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!

With love and blessings,
Pastor Rebecca



WUMF Monthly Stewardship News

I Like Listening
November 2024

The joy of a simple act of generosity changes the way a couple lives. Click on the picture to hear the story.

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Watch Video: <https://vimeo.com/150733608>

Help for the Stewardship Team

Using A.I. Tools in the Church and Hybrid Hospitality

First United Methodist Church in Madison, along with the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation and First Foundation, invite you to a workshop on how to use A.I. Tools in the Church.

When: November 15 & 16 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Where: First United Methodist Church
203 Wisconsin Ave.
Madison, WI 53703

Cost: \$100
[Register by clicking here.](#)

In this day long training, Jason will walk you through what A.I. is, why we should be using it in the church (with theological underpinnings to back it up), and how to use it (and how not to use it), and even where the ethical lines are that we should not be crossing.

During the day, Jason will expose you to the tools, help you know which are best for which scenario, talk about copyright, ethics, and do several real-time demos. We'll also cover 10 distinct ways to use A.I. in ministry.

If you'd like a broad primer on A.I. to see how it could benefit your ministry, this is for you. And don't worry, it's not highly technical. You also won't have to go broke with A.I. because many of the tools are free or inexpensive. Bring your computer and follow along, or just sit back, watch, and observe.

About the Presenter: Jason Moore
Jason has been a long time proponent for the use of technology in the church. For decades he's been leading trainings on the use of media, screens, visuals, and more. And now he's helping the church embrace Artificial Intelligence in ministry.



Please submit any articles or news for the December Messenger to georgia@firstwausau.org by Nov 20th.

Let Us Pray

For those healing from surgeries, injuries and illnesses.

Monica Dvorak and Sheryl Del Conte as they continue to recover from their accident injuries. Both are welcoming visitors. Help with errands and meals are appreciated while they heal.

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.

Zoom with District Superintendent

Monday, November 11 at 6:30pm

NE District Superintendent Park Hunter hosts an open Zoom for folks in the NE District once a month. Join for a short devotion, prayer time, and a chance to hear news and ask questions about events in the district.

Join online... <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5027449756>
Mute/unmute: mic icon usually in lower left corner
Join by phone... 312-626-6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 502 744 9756
Mute/unmute: *6 (star-six)

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!





FRIENDS
Thanksgiving Dinner
55th Annual
Thursday, November 28, 2024

FREE Thanksgiving meal!
TWO options!

- **HOME DELIVERY (Reservation required)**
 - Call and leave message OR text 715-571-8452
 - **NEED:** # of meals, spell first and last name, address (apt#), phone number
 - RESERVATION REQUIRED by Friday, November 22nd
 - ALL MEALS will be delivered between 11am -1:30pm (exact time depends on route)
- **DINE-IN (NO Reservations required)**
 - Please join us for a sit-down meal between 1:30pm-3:00pm at First Presbyterian Church 406 Grant Street, Wausau

If you wish to **volunteer or donate:**
please call 846-5612 OR
email friendsdinnerwausau@gmail.com

New Bible Study

UMC Social Principles

Pastor Rebecca will lead off our new bible study at Wednesday Night Live on October 30th. This bible study will continue on Wednesdays at 5:15pm and will finish at WNL on November 20th.

This study will cover the four main sections of the UMC Social Principles— Community of All Creation, Economic Community, Social Community and Political Community.

Chancel Choir

Wednesdays at 7:15pm

The Chancel Choir has begun practices on Wednesdays at 7:15pm to prepare for the Lessons & Carols service on December 15th. Pastor Rebecca will be filling in to direct the rehearsals. New members are always welcome!

There will be no rehearsal on November 27th for Thanksgiving. The dress rehearsal will take place Saturday, December 14th at 10:00am

Jubilate Bell Choir

Wednesdays at 6:30pm

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

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Sunday, November 3rd

On All Saints Sunday we acknowledge the gaps left behind by those we have loved and lost in the past year and longer. But it is also a celebration of the promise of eternity and the sense that even those we no longer see in the flesh are still a part of the foundation of our faith. We give God thanks for their witness of their lives. We ask on this day for a glimpse of the promise.

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.



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith meets the second Wednesday at 1:00pm of most months in the church parlor. All women interested in mission work and fellowship are invited to join in! This past month's meeting reviewed the Fall Rummage Sale, which was deemed a success. Thanks to everyone who helped out by donating items, helping to set up and/or clean up, and helping to work at the sale. We also had some success at the Wesley Fall Festival selling our Equal Exchange items and some Barbie dolls. (There is still a great Barbie Doll house and battery-operated car, with accessories, available if you are looking for a special holiday gift!) Discussion was held about the 2025 Reading program. A variety of titles will be purchased and added to our current library selections.

Wednesday Night Live is starting up again, meeting once a month for the remainder of 2024. UWF will host the first meal for this, to be held on Wednesday, October 30, with a Halloween theme. We will also be making chili to be sold at the annual Charge Conference on November 16. This year we will be selling it for \$10 a quart, to be enjoyed at home, due to the time of the meeting. See the order form included with this messenger.

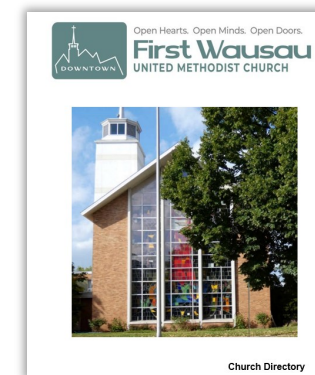
UWF decided to go back to the format we used prior to COVID for the cookie walk this year. People will be able to walk through Fellowship Hall once again and fill their own containers with the cookies they want, which will then be sold by the pound. Pre-orders will be available for anyone who would still like their cookies prepackaged. See the order form included in this messenger.

New officers will be voted upon at the November meeting. If interested in being part of the leadership team for our church's UWF unit, please talk to Barb Ritchie. November's program, led by Sara Koss, will be the World Thank Offering. No December meeting will be held, and the New Year will start with a joint luncheon and program with Wesley's UWF unit.

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 will not have a regular meeting in November or December but will hold a lunch for the group on **December 3rd at 11:00am** at the Filling Station.



We have updated the church directory with your changes.

You can pickup copies in the Narthex, Parlor, or church office.

★ VOLUNTEERS ★

NEEDED

Coffee Hour

1 Counter - 1st Sundays

Nursery

Sign-up in the Parlor

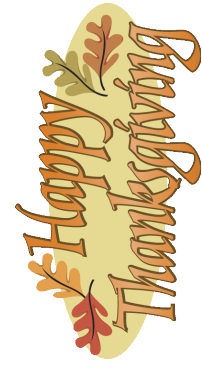
Coffee Hour - Make a couple of pots of coffee (provided) and bring treats, including gluten-free options, to serve about 30-40 people. It is a great way to interact socially with your church family, meet new members, or celebrate birthdays and anniversaries.

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.

Birthdays and anniversaries can be found on calendar below.

NOVEMBER 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Daylight Saving Time ends Brian Smith (B) Carole Machek (B) 8am - Worship with Holy Communion 9am - "We Make the Road by Walking" Bible Study 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship with Holy Communion 11am - Coffee Hour	28 Norma Volkman (B) 11:30am - Savvy Seniors, Palms Restaurant	29 Election Day (General Election) Michael Del Conte (B)	30 LeRoy Schoepke (B) Bonnie Horban (B) Adelyn Sakharuk (B) 9am - Post-election "Purspective" with a Pastor 5:15pm - Bible Study - Social 6:30pm - Bells Practice	31 8am - AA (Room 101) 1pm - Worship Design (Parlor)	1 All Saints' Day First Day of American Indian Office Closed Lauren Antonio (B)	2 All Souls' Day Timm & Mary Fischer (A) Hailey Fons (B)
3 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 and Bible Study	4 Veterans Day Gerald Gisselman (B) 6:30pm - Monthly DS Zoom, Devotion and Q&A	5 Mary Virginia Quarles (B) 1-3pm - PNC/CCC 5:30pm - Trustees (B.K. Smith Rm)	6 Wendy Perkins (B) 1pm - UWF Meeting (Parlor) 5:15pm - Bible Study - Social Principles 5:45pm - Missions Team (B.K. Smith Room) 6pm - Community Meal Steward Meeting 6:30pm - Bells Practice	7 Thomas Lahren (B) 8am - AA (Room 101)	8 Office Closed Jill Daubert (B)	9 2:30pm - Charge Conference (Fellowship Hall) UWF Chili Sale Pickup
10 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 and Bible Study	11 Joel Del Conte (B) Evie Del Conte (B) Allen Stamp (B) Chris Del Conte (B)	12 6pm - SPRC (B.K. Smith Room) 7pm - Finance Committee (B.K. Smith Rm)	13 Robert Gebhardt (B) Timm Fischer (B) Lincoln Larson (B) 5:15pm - WNL - Thanksgiving Feast 6:30pm - Bells Practice 7:15pm - Choir Practice	14 Joan Harvey (B) 8am - AA (Room 101)	15 Office Closed Peter Johnson (B)	16 Office Closed Native American Heritage Day Office Closed Debra Schoepke (B)
17 8am - Worship (Chapel) 9am - "We Make the Road by Walking" Bible Study 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship (Sanctuary) 11am - Coffee Hour UWF Chili Sale Pickup	18 Janet Schlueter (B)	19 6pm - SPRC (B.K. Smith Room) 7pm - Finance Committee (B.K. Smith Rm)	20 Office Closed Thanksgiving Day Dave Decker (B) 8am - AA (Rm 101)	21 Office Closed Thanksgiving Day Dave Decker (B) 8am - AA (Rm 101)	22 Office Closed Thanksgiving Day Dave Decker (B) 8am - AA (Rm 101)	23 Office Closed Thanksgiving Day Dave Decker (B) 8am - AA (Rm 101)
24 Paula Hauber (B) 8am - Worship (Chapel) 9am - "We Make the Road by Walking" Bible Study 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship (Sanctuary) 11am - Coffee Hour	25 Joel Del Conte (B) Evie Del Conte (B) Allen Stamp (B) Chris Del Conte (B)	26 Janet Schlueter (B)	27 Office Closed Thanksgiving Day Dave Decker (B) 8am - AA (Rm 101)	28 Office Closed Thanksgiving Day Dave Decker (B) 8am - AA (Rm 101)	29 Office Closed Thanksgiving Day Dave Decker (B) 8am - AA (Rm 101)	30 Office Closed Thanksgiving Day Dave Decker (B) 8am - AA (Rm 101)

First Wausau

NOVEMBER 2024

November Mission United Under One Roof



Roof Repair Campaign

Donations support the annual Christmas Dinner at St. Paul's UCC on Christmas Day. Volunteers from throughout the Wausau community will be serving a hot dinner with all the fixings. Everyone is welcome and there is no income verification or questions.

Throughout the month of November, donate loose change, put cash in the small brown envelopes, memo a check, or donate online under fund name: *Christmas Dinner*

Most of the church roofing is overdue for replacement so the trustees and finance committees have decided to move forward on the repairs, which will be a significant cost to the church.

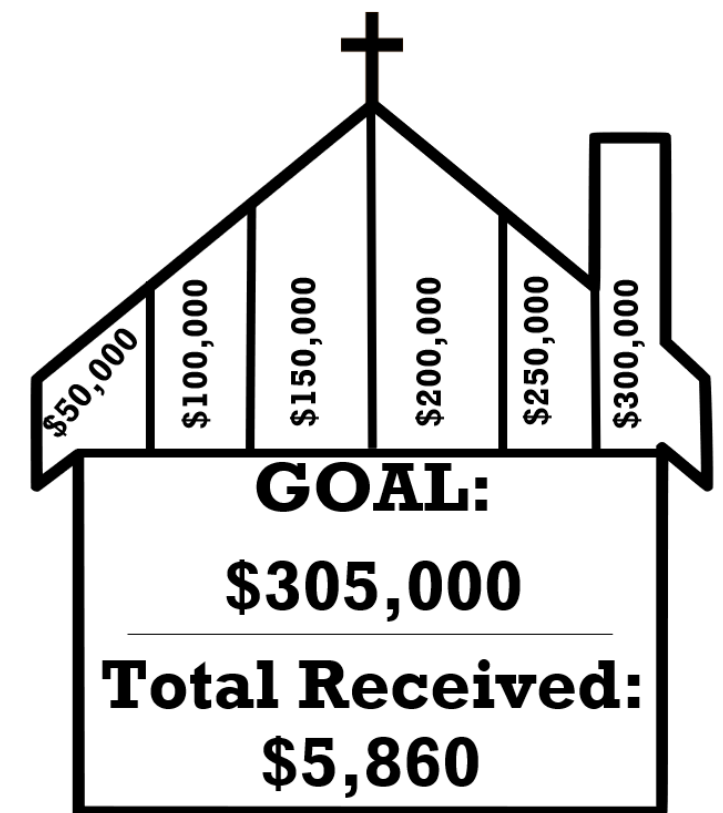
The roof repairs, to start in Spring 2025, will cost at least \$305,000. A 10-year loan will cost more than \$405,000 including interest, with monthly payments of about \$3,400. The down payment of \$105,000 is required by November 1st. We are asking for your help to meet this financial obligation for the church. The more money we can provide upfront the less interest we will incur. Assistance will be needed to meet our monthly payment once the loan is taken.

You can make special donations for this expense by memoing your check or cash envelope, or donating online (*facilities project fund*). Pledges can also be made for this campaign on the 2025 pledge cards or online.

Soap4Hope Drive



Thank you to everyone that took part in the Soap for Hope drive! Your donations are a huge help in ensuring we make it through another successful year of our Personal Needs Closet.



Wednesday Night Live!

Thank you to all those who attended the WNL Kick Off night. The next date will be **November 20th**.

The schedule is 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**

Meal and refreshments will be provided by a group in the church, however we encourage you to bring and share a dessert, or give monetary donations to help with costs.

We are seeking volunteers to form a group to cook and clean for this once a month event. Please contact Georgia at the church office or sign up in the parlor.



First Wausau United Methodist Church
SUNDAY COMMUNITY DINNER

The Community Meal Meet and Greet was a great success. Hosting groups got to ask questions and bring up any concerns on the location transition. Everyone is excited about continuing the meals at our church. We received very good feedback!

Stewards are needed to assist in giving groups access to the church and being a point of contact during their hosting dates. For those already interested in becoming a steward, or if you are wanting to learn more, please attend the Steward Meeting on **November 13th at 6:00pm**.

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.

Buckets & Bags

Empty gallon sized ice cream buckets, or similar style buckets are needed for cleaning product containers and other storage. Please place in the church kitchen during business hours or on Sundays.

The Personal Needs Closet and Claire's Critter Closet are always in need of paper bags with handles and plastic grocery bags. Please place outside the PNC/CCC doors.



**Need to celebrate or cry?
Come to a Post-election
"Purr-spective" with six kittens and
Pastor Rebecca who are ready to listen,
comfort, and encourage on Wed, Nov. 6
9am-1pm at First Wausau UMC**



Connect Online!
Website:
firstwausau.org
Facebook:
facebook.com/WausauFUMC
YouTube:
youtube.com/@FirstWausauUMC
WiFi Network:
FUMC Guest
password: fumcpublic
Phone: 715.842.2201

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

NOVEMBER WORSHIP

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3
ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY
HOLY COMMUNION

The Home of God
Psalm 24; Revelations 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10
Out of Their Abundance

Psalm 42:1-6; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17
Do Not Be Alarmed

Psalm 113; Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24
To Testify to the Truth

Ps 132:1-5, 13-18; Rev. 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

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	

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