



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

# THE MESSENGER

First Wausau United Methodist Church

Downtown Wausau Wisconsin



## From the Pastor

By Pastor Rebecca Borke

God's Grace and Peace to All!

At our church's annual meeting in November, our Bishop announced the focus of 2025 will be a "Year of Grace." United Methodists see God's grace as the foundation of faith and life. We will be exploring the nuances of grace, such as prevenient, convicting, justifying, sanctifying, and glorifying grace. John Wesley also spoke of the importance of responsible grace.

One example is God's grace in response to our prayers and efforts to be better stewards of our space. Three non-profits are coming to share our building between the end of January and the beginning of March. New Beginnings for Refugees will use the rooms in the upstairs N/S hallway to teach English to adults, provide childcare for their young children while they learn, and provide personal needs and household goods to refugees. Their main entrance will be from the courtyard by the Chapel. Mosaic (which emerged from the YWCA) and Wausau Childcare will have administrative offices upstairs along the E/W hallway, and both will use the Worship Entrance from the parking lot. We will continue to have Sunday School upstairs, with children in the largest room with the mural and youth in the large room with a divider (to be shared with Mosaic during office hours). We will likely move the youth game tables into the Theater Room so Wausau Childcare can use the two narrow classrooms overlooking the parking lot for their offices. Our upstairs will be fully and well-used!

We will keep you informed and involved as things progress. Please keep praying for God's grace to fill our space so we can be responsible stewards and faithful witnesses in our mission and ministry. Most importantly, always look and thank God for signs of grace.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Rebecca

## WUMF Monthly Stewardship News

New Year, New Opportunities:  
Practicing Faithful Stewardship in 2025  
January 2025

As we turn the page on the calendar and step into a new year, January offers us a wonderful opportunity to reflect, reset, and recommit ourselves to living as faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. Stewardship is about more than finances—it encompasses every aspect of our lives: our time, talents, treasures, and the care we show for God's creation.

### The Biblical Basis for Stewardship

Scripture reminds us that everything we have belongs to God. Genesis 2:15 shows us that even from the beginning, humanity was called to care for creation: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." Similarly, 1 Peter 4:10 encourages us to use our gifts to serve others: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." This year, let us take these words to heart and seek to be intentional in how we manage the resources, relationships, and responsibilities entrusted to us.

### Personal Goal-Setting for Stewardship

The start of a new year is a natural time to set goals. Consider these questions as you prayerfully plan your year:

- **Time:** How can you dedicate more time to prayer, worship, and service this year? Can you set aside a regular time for volunteering or participating in church activities?
- **Talents:** What gifts and skills has God given you? Are there ways you can use them to bless your church, your community, or those in need?
- **Treasures:** Reflect on your financial stewardship. Is this the year to begin tithing, increase your giving, or support a specific ministry or mission project?

Financial Stewardship and Budgeting January is also an ideal time to review your budget and ensure it aligns with your values. Here are a few tips for financial stewardship:

1. Create a Giving Plan: Start by determining what percentage of your income you can give back to God's work. Even small, consistent contributions can make a big impact over time.
2. Build an Emergency Fund: Responsible stewardship includes planning for unexpected expenses.
3. Reduce Debt: If you're carrying debt, consider making a plan to reduce it this year. Financial freedom allows for more generous giving.

### Help for the Stewardship Team

Stewardship in the New Year

### Renew Focus on Vision and Goals

As the new year begins, remind the congregation of the church's mission and vision for the year ahead and how they can be a part of it. Include a Discipleship Moment in your worship service and/or newsletter.

### Stewardship is about more than Giving

When we talk about stewardship in the church, we often focus solely on giving. Take time to emphasize other areas of stewardship as well. This includes financial stewardship (earning, spending, saving, getting out of debt, etc.) and areas such as environmental stewardship.

### Stewardship is a Key Part of Our Discipleship

Faithful stewardship is a spiritual practice. It's not just a tactical effort but one that should be nurtured through other spiritual disciplines, like prayer.



## The Messenger

Please submit any articles or news for the February Messenger to georgia@firstwausau.org by Jan. 27th .



# Let Us Pray



For Mike Fischer's recovery from his back surgery on Dec. 19th. A meal train has been started to assist the Fischers during this time:  
<https://mealtrain.com/ddew96>

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 Miehe 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.

[www.onrealm.org/FirstUnitedMeth91919/give/now](http://www.onrealm.org/FirstUnitedMeth91919/give/now)



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

### 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

## New Bible Study

The Message of Jesus:  
Words That Changed the World

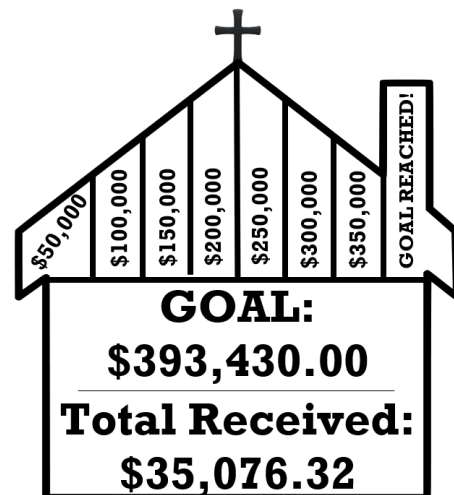
A new study will begin on Wednesday, January 8th at 5:15pm. In this study we will be reading and discussing The Message of Jesus by Adam Hamilton. Books can be picked up from Julie or at Bible Study (cost: \$15) This will be a 6-7 week study that will be completed in time for Lent.

## United Under One Roof Roof Repair Campaign

Roof construction will begin in Spring 2025. So far our congregation has raised a total of \$35,076.32 towards this expense.

After review of our end of year finances, the trustees and finance committees are re-evaluating the roof project to possibly remove sections that do not need repairs at this time to help with costs. Once a new quote has been received, we will update you with the new goal amount. This expense will still be a significant cost to the church. Please continue to donate any spare funds to this project.

You can make special donations for this expense by memoing your check or cash envelope, or donating online (*facilities project fund*).



## United Women in Faith

Thanks to our talented cookie bakers, candy makers and Cookie Walk shoppers. We were able to raise \$1,100 from the Cookie Walk that will go towards UWF missions. We are serving women, children, and youth around the world, thanks to your support.

The next monthly meeting will take place **Wednesday, January 8th at 12:00pm** in the church parlor. It is a soup luncheon. All women are invited to bring a friend. UWF from Wesley will be our guests.

### 2025 New Chapter Officers:

President: Margaret Getzin

Vice-President: Julie Miehe

Secretary: Sara Koss

Treasurer: Bonnie Goertz

Program Resources: Georgia Reynolds

### 2025 New NE District Officers:

(from our chapter)

Program Resources: Julie Miehe

Spiritual Growth: Margaret Getzin

Treasurer: Georgia Reynolds

## 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, and loss, or for celebrations such as: baptisms, confirmations, graduations, and marriage.

The next group meeting is **Tuesday, January 28th at 1:00pm** in the church parlor.

The prayer shawl group is always in need of more yarn for their beautiful creations. Please give any donations to Julie Miehe at the church office.



## Savvy Seniors

Savvy Seniors will meet on **Monday, January 6th at 11:30am** at The Mandarin Restaurant in Wausau. This is a social group open to singles & couples over 55. We would love to have you join us! Questions? Call Vicki 715-571-3009.

## Wednesday Night Fellowship January 15th

The schedule is as follows:

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

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

**6:00pm – Dinner**

*bells/choir when applicable*

Meal and refreshments is provided by a group at the church. We encourage you to bring and share a dessert, or give monetary donations to help with costs.



## Scholarship Opportunity

Are you thinking of going back to school or just graduating and looking for scholarship funds? If you are part of the FUMC family you are eligible to apply for the Pivot Scholarship.

Applications open January 1, 2025 and are available at the church office. Deadline is March 1, 2025.

# JANUARY 2024

Birthdays and anniversaries can be found on calendar below.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 8am - Worship w/Holy Communion (Chapel) 9am - Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am - Worship w/ Holy Communion (Sanctuary) 11am - Coffee Hour (Parlor) 4pm - Community Meal	6 <b>Epiphany</b> 11:30am - Savvy Seniors, The Mandarin Restaurant	7 <b>Gail Cain (B)</b> <b>Scott Denfeld (B)</b>	8 <b>Michael Sydow (B)</b> <b>LaRae Horton (B)</b> 1pm - UWF Meeting (Parlor) 5:15pm - Bible Study: The Message of Jesus 5:45pm - Missions Team (BK)	9 8am - AA (RM 101) 6pm - Community Meal Steward Mtg (Parlor)	10 <b>Office Closed</b>	11 <b>Office Closed</b>
12 8am - Worship (Chapel) 9am - Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am - Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am - African Worship (Chapel) 11am - Coffee Hour (Parlor) 4pm - Community Meal	13 <b>Debra Martin (B)</b>	14 1pm - PNC/CCC 5:30pm - Trustees (BK Smith Rm) 7pm - Finance Committee (BK Smith Rm)	15 5:15pm - Wednesday Night Fellowship	16 <b>Gideon Adams (B)</b> 8am - AA (RM 101)	17 <b>Office Closed</b>	18
19 8am - Worship (Chapel) 9am - Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am - Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am - African Worship (Chapel) 11am - Coffee Hour (Parlor) 4pm - Community Meal	20 <b>MLK Jr. Day</b> <b>Alan Hauber (B)</b> 7pm - Ministries Council (BK Smith Rm)	21 <b>Mary Ann Dykes (B)</b> 6pm - SPRC (BK Smith Rm)	22 5:15pm - Bible Study: The Message of Jesus	23 8am - AA (RM 101)	24 <b>Office Closed</b>	25 9am - PNC/CCC
26 <b>Don Misoni (B)</b> <b>Sandi Schmoltdt (B)</b> 8am - Worship (Chapel) 9am - Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am - Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am - African Worship (Chapel) 11am - Coffee Hour (Parlor) 4pm - Community Meal	27	28 1pm - Prayer Shawl Group (Parlor)	29 5:15pm - Bible Study: The Message of Jesus	30 <b>Asher Adams (B)</b> <b>Mike Fischer (B)</b> 8am - AA (RM 101)	31 <b>Office Closed</b>	

# First Wausau JANUARY 2025



We rely on volunteers for many aspects of our church functions. If you are seeking to get more involved in our church, consider volunteering in the following areas:

Ushers, Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet, Community Meals, After Hours Fellowship, Nursery, Sunday School, etc.

Please contact Pastor Rebecca for information.



## Mustard Seed Grant

In August, we were 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.

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

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

**Our deadline to spend the funds is February 21, 2025.**

Please contact the church office if you know of a refugee family in our community that may be in need of financial assistance this winter season. Thank you!



## 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 PNC and CCC are always in need of paper bags with handles and plastic grocery bags. Please place outside the PNC/CCC doors.

## January Mission



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

For a number of years we have supported the Sunday Community Meals at First Presbyterian Church as a host group. Starting in 2025, the meals will be moving to our church. This drive-thru meal takes place every Sunday from 4-5pm and will be held on the east side of the building by the carport doors. Our church's host group led by Jen and Mark Johnson will still continue to host the meal for every 5th Sunday of any month.

Your donations will not only help with costs of the meals served by our host group a few times a year, but also with providing supplies to all host groups such as kitchen gloves and cleaning supplies.

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

Thank you to all those who volunteered to be a steward for the Community Meals! This program would not be possible without the help of stewards. If you are interested in being a steward please contact Georgia Reynolds or Jen Johnson. We will host a kickoff meeting with the stewards on **January 9th at 6:00pm.**

We are still working 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.

### January Host Groups:

- Jan. 5th - Reynolds Family & Friends
- Jan. 12th - Good Shepard Lutheran
- Jan. 19th - St. John's Lutheran, Town of Maine
- Jan. 23th - First Presbyterian Church

January Steward: Bonnie Goertz



# LESSONS & CAROLS



## 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

## JANUARY WORSHIP

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

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 5 HOLY COMMUNION

*They All Gather Together*

Psalm 72:10-14; Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

*I Will Be With You*

Psalm 29; Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

*What Concern Is That?*

Psalm 36:5-10; Isaiah 62:1-5; John 2:1-11

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

*As Was His Custom*

Ps 19:7-10; Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Luke 4:14-21

### STAFF

Pastor

Rebecca Borke

[rebecca@firstwausau.org](mailto:rebecca@firstwausau.org)

Director of Comm./Finance

Georgia Reynolds

[georgia@firstwausau.org](mailto:georgia@firstwausau.org)

Director of Discipleship

Julie Mieke

[julie@firstwausau.org](mailto: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](http://www.firstmethodistwausau.org)