



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

THE MESSENGER

First Wausau United Methodist Church

Downtown Wausau Wisconsin

From the Pastor

By Pastor Rebecca Borke

Dear Wausau First Family of Faith,

Though February is a time of year often decorated with hearts and celebrated with chocolate, it does not feel like there is widespread love as we look around our community and country. The two “taboo” subjects – religion and politics – are easy to blame. We have likely heard many say, and have wondered ourselves, how Christians and churches are culpable in creating this chaos.

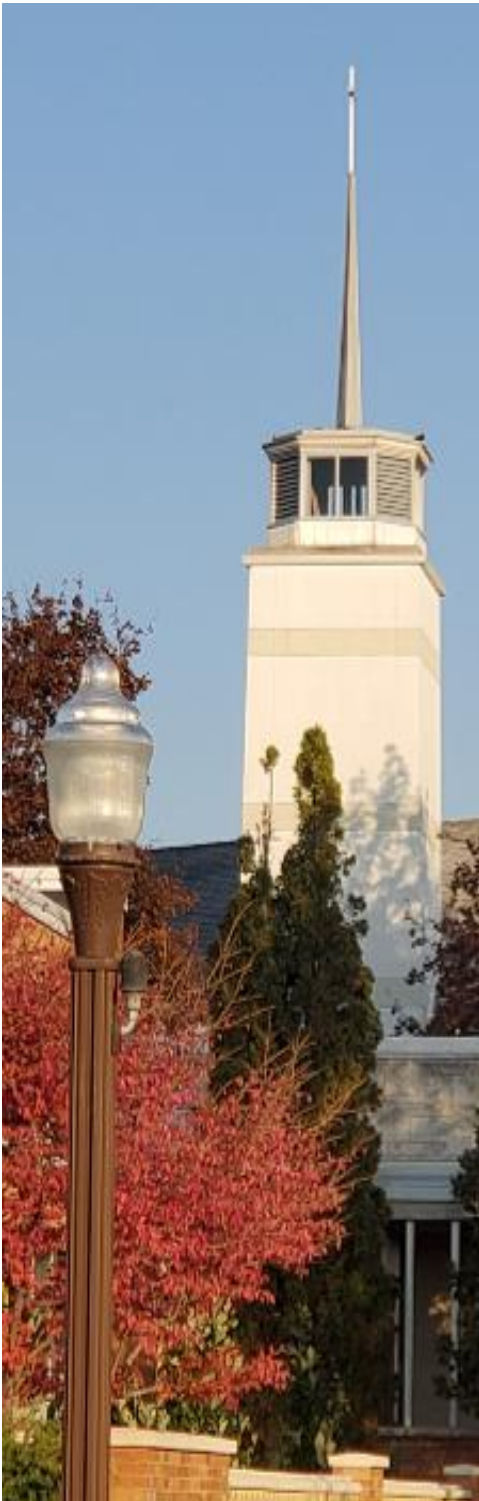
It is often said that religion and politics should not mix. It is true that there should be a separation of church and state and that churches should be non-partisan. Though politics is considered a dirty word, it is intended as the study and practice of ensuring the good of the polis – the community. Politics gets a bad reputation when politicians have selfish ambitions. Good politicians are humble and collaborate to improve the broader community, starting with those who need help most. God calls the Church to do the same.

Many people who claim to be “Bible believers” are now showing disdain for Jesus’ commands to care for the poor, heal the sick, welcome the immigrants, and include the outcast. In contrast, to be a Christian means that we are speaking, acting, and serving with the love of Christ. To be a Bible believer means that we heed Micah 6:8 – “to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.”

As your pastor, I will continue to do my best to lead our church through a political landscape characterized by greed, chaos, and lies. Together, we will be a praying church where the living Word of God works through us to bring justice and peace to the polis, especially the powerless and overlooked.

In Christ’s love,

Pastor Rebecca



WUMF Monthly Stewardship News

February Mission



**Stewardship Ideas for February
February 2025**

Valentine’s Day is just around the corner – a time to celebrate love. We often think of lines like “How do I love thee? Let me count the ways,” or picture roses, cupids, and hearts filling store shelves. But amidst the romance, have we lost sight of love’s deeper meaning?



Romantic love is everywhere, yet even that is often reduced to fleeting infatuation. More significantly, many have forgotten the love that Jesus calls us to live out: “Love your enemies” (Luke 6:27), “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39), and “The one who loves another has fulfilled the law” (Romans 13:8).

This love isn’t about warm, fuzzy feelings. Christian love is about action. It’s choosing to act kindly, even when our feelings fall short. When someone cuts us off in traffic, we can respond with patience rather than anger. When dealing with a difficult coworker, we can show genuine interest in their life rather than just tolerating their presence.

Often, loving actions lead to loving feelings, not the other way around. Romantic love, for instance, grows deeper through small gestures like holding hands. Similarly, in other relationships, choosing to act with love can foster understanding and compassion over time.

This Valentine’s Day, cherish romantic love but also take every opportunity to practice Christian love – through your actions toward neighbors, enemies, and everyone you encounter. It’s in these moments that we reflect God’s greatest commandment: “Let all that you do be done in love” (1 Corinthians 16:14).

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, WUMF

The Hagar House is a Christ-centered home for single moms in the central Wisconsin area. They offer spiritual, emotional, physical, financial, relational, and life skills to these mothers to provide them the necessities to build a new home. In their latest Impact Snapshot, they reported 669 days of safety/shelter, 30,105 meals provided, \$20,630 in debt paid off by moms, 11 certifications and new jobs, and 2 vehicles gifted to moms. They also announced the construction of additional housing with attached garages (for safety) to be completed this year.

Throughout February, donate loose change, put cash in the small brown envelopes, memo a check, or donate online under fund name: *Hagar House*



In 2024, we had another successful year of outreach through our Personal Needs and Claire’s Critter Closets. The PNC served a total of 312 households representing 837 individuals. The CCC served a total of 210 households representing a total of 489 cats and dogs.

You can support this mission through volunteering or monetary donations. You can also donate physical items such as paper products, laundry soap, shampoo, body wash, and dog/cat food, treats, and toys. We will also take any non-hygiene items that may have been opened already such as laundry detergent or dry animal food. Thank you for your continued support of these valuable community missions!

Let Us Pray 

For the following individuals who are still recovering from recent surgeries and accidents:

- Mike Fischer (back surgery)
- Diann Misoni (stroke)
- Marilyn Muelver (car accident)
- Monica Dvorak (car accident)
- Finn Gallagher (skiing accident)

For all those who have lost their lives, homes, and communities to the California wildfires.

For all refugees experiencing fear and uncertainty of their futures here in the U.S. with the recent halt on all refugees ready to travel here, and those losing their financial help as part of the resettlement program that was put on hold until further notice.



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 Mieke to inquire.

We also offer weekly grief meditations on our website.



Dick and Clare Ostwald welcomed their third great-grandchild, Ava.

Ferasi and Rusia welcomed their daughter, Neema, on January 23. Her name means Grace in Swahili.



Bible Study

The Message of Jesus:

Words That Changed the World

Bible study is every Wednesday starting at 5:15pm. In this study we are reading and discussing *The Message of Jesus* by Adam Hamilton. This study will conclude in time for a new Lent study. Stay tuned for more info.



United Under One Roof

Roof Repair Campaign

The trustees reviewed the roof construction project and removed sections that are not needed at this time including the Fellowship Hall. The construction has also been moved up to start in February/March 2025.

Our new total roof cost will be roughly \$188,000. A deposit of \$105,000 was made by reallocating some of the Pivet Scholarship Fund. Our congregation has raised \$41,551.32 and pledged an additional \$13,878.68. We also received a \$15,000 grant from the Conference thanks to the work of Bonnie and Margaret G.. This leaves a remaining balance of about \$12,500 (pending any additional construction costs). We will no longer need a loan for this expense thanks to the Pivet family and all other generous donors.

Please continue to donate for this important building expense. Memo your check or cash envelope, or donate online (*facilities project fund*).



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 Pivet Scholarship.

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



**United
Women
in Faith**

During our January meeting, we enjoyed a wonderful soup luncheon with our sister unit at Wesley UMC. The next monthly meeting will take place **Wednesday, February 12 at 1:00pm** (topic: Equal Exchange) in the church parlor.

Our Spring rummage sale is coming up on April 3-4. Anyone is welcome to contribute items to the sale up to that week. It is a great opportunity to clean out closets / basements / attics and 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.

Wednesday Night Fellowship

February 19th

The schedule is as follows:

5:15pm – Adult Bible Study/Youth Program

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.



Savvy Seniors will meet on **Monday, February 3rd 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! Questions? Call Vicki 715-571-3009.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Well, winter is upon us full force with some familiar beloved faces in Ohio.

Our next meeting is **February 28 at 10:00am**. We have a nice new selection of Homespun yarn available to use now. Hope to see you there!

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.



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

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.

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.

February Host Groups:

- Feb. 2 - First Universalist Unitarian
- Feb. 9 - Bethany Lutheran
- Feb. 16 - First English Lutheran
- Feb. 23 - Grace United Church of Christ

Birthdays and anniversaries can
be found on calendar below.

FEBRUARY 2025

happy
Valentine's
day

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>2 Thomas Schmoldt (B) 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</p>	<p>3 Kubwa Misuu (B) 11:30am Savvy Seniors (2510 Restaurant)</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 5:15pm Bible Study - "The Message of Jesus"</p>	<p>6 8am AA (Room 101)</p>	<p>7 Warren Fabel (B) Gregory Chang (B) Sue Huang Chang (B) Geraldine Slock (B)</p>	<p>1 Bill Owen (B) 9a-3p Bishop Con- vocation for Laity (Black River Falls)</p>
<p>9 8am Worship (Chapel) 9am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship (Chapel) 11am Coffee Hour (Parlor) 4pm Community Meal</p>	<p>10 Autumn Seiser (B) 6:30pm Monthly DS Zoom, Devotion and Q&A</p>	<p>11 1-3pm PNC/CCC 5:30pm Trustees (BK Smith Room)</p>	<p>12 Josie Rybarczyk (B) 1pm UWF Meeting (Parlor) 5:15pm Bible Study - "The Message of Jesus" 5:45pm Missions Team (BK Smith Room)</p>	<p>13 8am AA (Room 101)</p>	<p>14 Valentine's Day</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 Erik Anderson (B) Anjali Dvorak (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</p>	<p>17 Presidents' Day 10am Prayer Team</p>	<p>18 6pm SPRC 7pm Finance Commit- tee (BK Smith Room)</p>	<p>19 Anna Schreiber (B) WNF- 5:15pm Bible Study - "The Message of Jesus" 6pm Dinner</p>	<p>20 8am AA (Room 101)</p>	<p>21 Jaden Love (B)</p>	<p>22 9-11am PNC/CCC</p>
<p>23 8am Worship (Chapel) 9am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship (Chapel) 11am Coffee Hour (Parlor) 4pm Community Meal</p>	<p>24 Danielle Del Conte (B) 10am Prayer Shawl Group (Parlor)</p>	<p>25 Sue Marquardt (B)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Bernice Kohlman (B) Wes Ebert (B) 8am AA (Room 101)</p>	<p>28</p>	



LENTEN ORGAN MEDITATIONS

**St. John the Baptist Episcopal
330 McClellan St
Wausau, Wisconsin 54403**

**Fridays from
12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

Come for a time of meditation and music during the lunch hour

March 14—Jim Holt, Patrick Burkhart, Isaac Tritz

March 21-George Felty

March 28—Lee Reikki

April 4—Bryan Higgins-Moe

April 11—Irene Beethe

Sponsored by the Wisconsin River Chapter
American Guild of Organists

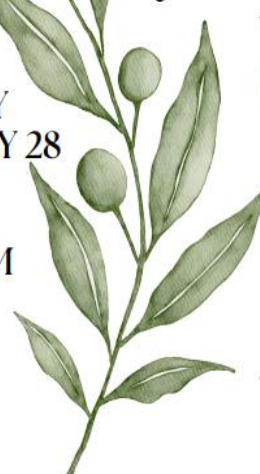
MT SINAI CONGREGATION

is excited to invite our friends and neighbors to tour the synagogue and join an evening of prayer and welcoming the Sabbath

Community Shabbat

**FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 28
2025**

7:00 PM



Following the service please stay for refreshments and an opportunity for questions and discussion with our rabbi and leadership

910 W Randolph Street

For More Information:
office@mtsinaiwisconsin.org / 715-675-2560

Please let Pastor Rebecca or the church office know if you'd like to attend by February 13 so we can report the number of expected guests from our church.

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

*Check box at checkout to help cover



The Messenger

Please submit any articles or news for the March Messenger to georgia@firstwausau.org by Feb. 24th .

Connect Online!

Website:
firstwausau.org

Facebook:
facebook.com/WausauFUMC

YouTube:
youtube.com/@FirstWausauUMC

WiFi Network:
FUMC Guest
password: fumcpublic

Phone: 715.842.2201

ORGAN CRAWL

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ♪ SEEING AND HEARING ORGANS IN THE WAUSAU AREA?
- ♪ PLAYING SOME OF THE VARIOUS ORGANS IN THE WAUSAU AREA?
- ♪ LEARNING ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ORGANS
- ♪ GETTING TO MEET OTHER MUSICIANS FROM THE COMMUNITY?

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE
THREE ORGANS IN THE WAUSAU AREA**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025

9:00 A.M. – ST. MARY’S ORATORY, 408 SEYMOUR – (WICKS ORGAN)

10:00 A.M. – ST. PETER’S LUTHERAN, 2822 N. 6TH STREET (JAECKEL ORGAN)

11:00 A.M. – ST. PAUL’S UCC, 426 WASHINGTON STREET (SCHLICHER ORGAN)



Free event

*No keyboard experience required
but bring keyboard music if you wish*

At the conclusion of the event, a light lunch will be served.

Sponsored by the Wisconsin River Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.
If you have any questions, please contact Irene Beethe - irene.beethe@gmail.com OR Patrick Burkhart - paburkha@yahoo

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

FEBRUARY WORSHIP

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 **HOLY COMMUNION**

In Your Hometown

Psalm 71:1-6; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Luke 4:21-30

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Rejoice in that Day

Psalm 1; Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 6:17-26

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Left Everything and Followed

Psalm 138; Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Do to Others

Psalm 37:1-11; Genesis 45:3-11,15; Luke 6:27-38

STAFF

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Andy White

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