



THE MESSENGER

First Wausau United Methodist Church
Downtown Wausau Wisconsin



From the Pastor

By Pastor Rebecca Borke

Dear First Wausau Family of Faith,

On March 5 this year, we will begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Our congregation is joining others in an ecumenical service hosted by Grace UCC at 535 S. 3rd Avenue at 7 pm. It will be dark outside as we are marked by dark ashes on our forehead or hand. We gather to recognize and repent of the burned and broken parts of our lives as we enter the 40 days of Lent.

A decent consultant would advise us that this is not an effective way to attract or keep positive and happy people in the church. Why would we have a service followed by a long season that appears to promote guilt, shame, and even self-loathing? Couldn't we focus on celebrating the victory and hope of Easter instead of lamenting the brokenness of our will and world?

Deep down, we admit that we are human. We struggle to have loving relationships with God, people, creation, and ourselves. Rather than putting what little strength we have into pretending all is well, God welcomes our vulnerability and weakness with love and grace. God is closest to those with broken hearts and crushed spirits (Psalm 34:18).

The theme for Lent this year is "Hurt We Carry, Hope We Find." Being human and not feeling hurt in our relationships is hard. Coming to God with our individual and communal pain and regret cleanses our guilt and shame. We admit how we have allowed anything less than the goodness and grace of God to live through us. Within that process, we will be prepared to celebrate victorious hope through our Savior, who defeated sin and death.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Rebecca

WUMF Monthly Stewardship News

Love that Moves Us
March 2025

One of the things I love most about the Good News is its message that God loves us just as we are, right where we are. That is the most fundamental message of grace – that "God loved us while we were yet sinners" (Romans 5:8). God sent His Son into the midst of a world that would ultimately put Him to death. And God continues to reach out to those who are the least, the last, and the lost. Without that message of Good News, it wouldn't be the Gospel.

But there is another part. Yes, God loves us just as we are, but He also loves us too much to let us stay where we are. God's desire for us is to grow in all ways to become more like Jesus.

So, how do we become more like Jesus? By growing as disciples –through devotion, prayer, generosity, following Jesus' teachings, and being open to where God might lead us. Grace is free, but holiness and godliness require discipline – the spiritual work to which we are called as disciples. In fact, the word "disciple" shares its root with "discipline." Those who seek to grow in faith and spiritual maturity respond to the Good News of God's love by committing to prayer, study, worship, and service.

This Lenten season, let's renew our commitment to make room in our lives for God through all the means at our disposal.

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Ash Wednesday: March 5
Easter Sunday: April 20

March Mission Refugee Support

Our congregation supports refugees in their effort to establish a new life in our community. Donate loose change or cash in the small brown envelopes in the pews, memo your check, or give online.

Our church partners with New Beginnings for Refugees, who recently moved into our building, and many of our members donate their time, skills, and household items to help these new families. If you'd like to get involved, contact Pastor Rebecca, or Margaret & Erik Anderson.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our next meeting is **March 25th 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.



Jubilate Bell Choir - Led by Jessica Wenzel

Rehearsals - Wednesdays 6:30pm (Bell Room)

Chancel Choir - Led by Rob Perkins

Rehearsals - Wednesdays 7:15pm (Sanctuary)

Our Bell and Chancel choirs are always accepting new participants. Basic music reading skills are helpful but not required. Contact Pastor Rebecca to inquire.

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)
- Lawrence Muelver (back pain surgery)
- Bob Love (artery surgery on 3-7-25)
- Monica Dvorak (car accident)

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 Miehe to inquire.

We also offer weekly grief meditations on our website.

United Under One Roof

Roof Repair Campaign

Kulp's has started on roof construction at this time. Please be on the lookout for materials and construction vehicles while visiting the church.

Our total roof cost will be roughly \$190,000 (after permit cost was added). A deposit of \$105,000 was made by reallocating some of the Pivet Scholarship Fund. A total of \$64,658.32 has been raised by our congregation, including a \$15,000 grant from the WI Methodist Conference. This leaves a remaining balance of about \$12,000 (plus any additional construction costs).

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

LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES

Sundays at 9:00am in BK Smith Room -

The Sunday morning bible study group will be reading and discussing "Wondrous Encounters" written by Richard Rohr. This Lent scripture study will run from March 9th - April 13th (Palm Sunday). Books cost \$5.00 and can be paid to Jen Johnson or Julie Miehe.

Wednesdays at 5:15pm in BK Smith Room -

Our Wednesday night bible study will be focusing on a Lenten series by Kate Bowler. This study will go along with the weekly Lenten sermon topics during Sunday morning worship. This study will run from March 12th - April 16th. No book is required for this study but donations towards print materials are appreciated! Contact Julie Miehe if you have any questions regarding these upcoming bible studies.

Sunday School Report

Every Sunday at 9:00 A.M. through the school year Sunday School is available for children in 1st grade through those in their nineties.

Children in 1st-5th grade meet with Collette Brown and Carrie Hockerman who work on Bible stories and craft projects.

Youth in 6th grade through high school are led by Margaret Getzin and Betsy Duginski in studying the youth lectionary series that goes along with our weekly sermon series.

The adult Sunday school has been working on getting through the book by Brian McLaren "We Make the Road by Walking." Each weekly lesson is independent, so you can join at any time. During Lent we will be putting this book aside to study "Wondrous Encounters" by Richard Rohr before returning to complete the "We Make the Road by Walking." It is not too late to join any of these classes and would recommend you give them a try. -Julie Miehe, Director of Discipleship



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 three (3) 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.

March Host Groups:

- Mar. 2 - Thrivent
- Mar. 9 - Latter Day Saints
- Mar. 16 - St. Andrew Lutheran
- Mar. 23 - First Hmong Missionary Alliance Church
- Mar. 30 - First United Methodist Church

Wednesday Night Fellowship

March 19th

The schedule is as follows:

- 5:15pm - Adult Bible Study/Youth Program
- 6:00pm - Dinner
- 6:30pm - Handbells Practice
- 7:15pm - Choir Practice

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, March 3rd at 11:30am** at Pizza Ranch. 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.



Join us for Ash Wednesday worship at Grace United Church of Christ in Wausau.

March 5th at 7:00pm



During Lent 2025 we will follow a series called "The Hardest Part" by Kate Bowler. She will help lead us in our 40-days with time to pause, reflect, and find the courage to stay with the hard part, trusting that the food part is still coming. This series covers the following topics:

- March 9 - Wisdom (Led by Pastor Gurlea)
- March 16 - Terrible & Beautiful
- March 23- Imagination (Led by Pastor Zahn)
- March 30 - Lament
- April 6 - Love
- April 13 - Living
- April 18 - Good Friday (Worship at Wesley UMC)
- April 20 - Easter: Believing



Please submit any articles or news for the April Messenger to georgia@firsttausau.org by Mar. 24th .

MARCH 2025

Birthdays and anniversaries can be found on calendar below.

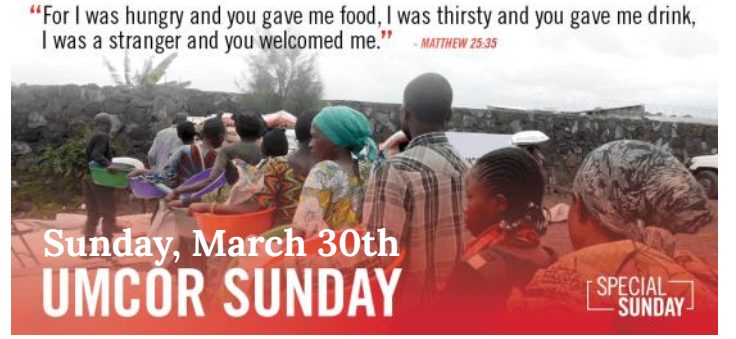


Day	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31					

First Wausau MARCH 2025



The church has been able to achieve numerous maintenance projects around the church thanks to the funds given in memory of the following individuals:



“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” - MATTHEW 25:35

Gifts given on UMCOR Sunday strengthen the church's global humanitarian response by underwriting UMCOR's administrative costs. This allows UMCOR to use 100% of additional funds for programs like U.S. disaster response, international disaster response, and global migration. Donate online at donate.gcfa.org or memo your cash or check payment: UMCOR

Boiler Repairs (\$6,012.89):

- Howard Green
- Wib Johnson
- Thomas Potter
- Dean Bauer
- Elizabeth Bellas
- Erv Huckbody
- Carroll Pieper
- Marvin Schilling
- Duaine Pieper
- Kenneth & Joyce Scheffler
- Margaret Stieglitz
- Loretta Thario
- Elsie Campbell
- Vince Howard
- Doris Huckbody
- Virginia Day
- P. Jones
- Matthew Milne
- Charles Schoenfeld
- Vivian Thompson
- Alberta Cunningham
- Donald Dinsmore
- Philip & Bev Jones
- Loretta Schmidt
- Barbara Hunger
- Patricia Krause
- Sophie Marshall
- Roger Mittenzwei
- Janice Normand
- John Zei
- Bill Seiser

Also thank you to Margaret & Gary Getzin for their recent donation.

Kitchen Garbage Disposal & Other Plumbing

- Jerry Evans

Thank You Donors!

We would like to thank the following individuals who recently gave to help cover the costs of some surprise expenses the church received:

New Kitchen Freezer: Paid in full from Dick & Sharon Rayborn, Jon & Bonnie Goertz, Ray & Vicki Nowaczyk, and Paula Hauber.

Audio Box for Online Worship: Jon & Bonnie Goertz (\$319 remaining balance)

Desktop for Online Worship: Paid in full from Tom & Nancy Bogumill and Dennis & Georgia Reynolds

We also thank everyone who has and continues to give toward our roof construction project. Thank you to all generous donors!

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 online processing fees. Thank you!



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

Did you know that tea is grown on plantations and many of them are in India? The women of United Women in Faith learned about Equal Exchange's tea and coffee programs and how they support women-owned cooperatives and bring economic security to the workers' families. Margaret Getzin presented a program on Equal Exchange at our meeting on February 12th and shared samples of the many teas that are available for purchase in the Equal Exchange cabinet in the parlor.

Our next meeting is **March 12th at 1:00 pm** in the parlor. Sara Koss will present the program about the spirit of giving as outlined in the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial. Call Margaret if you need to arrangement for a ride (715) 297-8531.

Clean Socks =

Cash for Northcott Neighborhood House!

UWF continue to collect old, but clean, socks to be recycled for cash. Proceeds then support Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee, Socks can be given to Julie Miehe, or any UWF member. Collection boxes can also be found in the parlor and narthex.

Upcoming events:

April 3 & 4 - Spring Rummage Sale

April 12 - Social Action Day via Zoom

May 3 - District Spring Retreat at Camp Lake Lucerne



The annual Day of Giving is the single largest fundraising activity for the **Legacy Fund**. For more info or to donate visit: uwfaith.org/dayofgiving

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH-WAUSAU



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 the Fellowship Hall during office hours. Thank you!

Proceeds Will Benefit:
UWF Missions Projects

Where:
903 Third Street
Wausau, WI
In Fellowship Hall inside the church
Use the north door from the parking lot on Fulton St. to enter the church building.

When:
Thursday, April 3, 2025
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday, April 4, 2025
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

What will you find at the sale?
Holiday Decorations Toys Home Decor
Jewelry Kitchen Items Books
And More!

Questions?
Sarah Koss 715-297-4890
slgkoss@aol.com
Bonnie Goertz 715-716-0051
bgoertz@charter.net

THE MESSENGER

First United Methodist Church of Wausau
903 Third Street
Wausau, WI 54403

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Mission:

Living as a community where
God is forming deeply committed
followers of Christ

MARCH WORSHIP

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 2
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY
HOLY COMMUNION

Astounded at the Greatness
Psalm 99; Exodus 34:29-35; Luke 9:28-36

SUNDAY, MARCH 9
Wisdom - By Pastor Tim Gurlea
Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

SUNDAY, MARCH 16
Terrible & Beautiful
Psalm 92:1-2, 9-16; Luke 4:1-13

SUNDAY, MARCH 23
Imagination - By Pastor Mike Zahn
Psalm 63:1-8; Isaiah 55:1-9

SUNDAY, MARCH 30
Lament
Psalm 27; Luke 13:31-35

STAFF

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

Decorating the Church for Easter

Easter lilies will decorate our Sanctuary for the Easter service, April 20th. If you would like to donate towards flowers, the cost is \$20 for a small plant and \$36 for a large plant.

Please fill out the form below with your check, and mail or bring to the church office.

We must have orders in no later than **Monday, April 14th**.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory/Honor of: *(circle one)*

Total Donation: \$ _____ Small (\$20) or Large (\$36)

Make checks payable to: First United Methodist Church
Memo line: *Easter flowers*

