



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 of Faith,

I become excited for the bitter cold and dark days of winter to be over. Warmer days and sightings of robins and bulbs poking through the ground bring me great joy. However, I have learned that spring in the north is very indecisive, especially when many inches of heavy, albeit beautiful, snow fall. It exhausts me physically as I shovel, and it tires me emotionally as I learn to patiently wait for consistently warm and sunny days.

Lent is a church season that has some parallels to the uncertain days of spring. We sense the warmth of God's love rising in our hearts, and the next moment, we may feel troubled and tested. Faith is like that – both challenging and comforting. When the celebration of Christ's resurrection comes on Easter morning, and we are reassured that God holds the victory over evil and even death, there will still be battles and grief we face.

Lent and Easter are more meaningful when we connect as a congregation. In addition to Sunday morning worship services, I encourage you to attend a special Holy Thursday experience on April 17 at 7:00 p.m. We will be seated at round tables and enjoy a "Service for All the Senses." A plate of items to taste and smell will be prepared for each person. Please RSVP to help us plan.

We will be holding a Good Friday service on April 18 at 7 pm with our siblings in faith at Wesley UMC this year, as we alternate churches each year. We do not have a Holy Saturday service, but we are eager to see everyone come to celebrate Resurrection Sunday on April 20 at 8 am or 10 am.

With a Warmed Heart,

Pastor Rebecca

# WUMF Monthly Stewardship News

It's An Experience  
April 2025

I love the way Pastor Rick Calhoun has talks about Easter and the resurrection. He writes:

"The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead was never meant to be proved but experienced. As a matter of fact it cannot be proved, as no one of us was there. We have to take the word of others who were. Those early witnesses were very passionate about their testimonies. Many were to be martyred in defense of their convictions. But ultimately the resurrection is to be experienced not proved. The most convincing evidence of the Resurrection of Christ is the transformation of the people who know Jesus and believe in Him. I decided long ago, the only proof of Easter I will ever need is memory. I remember what my life was like before I met the living Christ and I know what my life is now, as I share it with Him. I would not stand here and tell you I am always the man I should be. But thanks to the living Christ, I am not the man I used to be either. The risen Jesus Christ has made all the difference."

Christ living within us does make all the difference. And so we come this Easter Sunday to celebrate the love and grace we have experienced all because Jesus Christ is alive!

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Save the Date  
Foundation Stewardship Conference at Pine Lake  
August 8 - 9, 2025

Help for the Stewardship Team  
Alternative Ways of Giving

How much do you feel called to return to God to say "thank you" for the blessings you've received? In reviewing your finances and taxes for the year ahead, we invite you to consider the following creative options for meeting your charitable giving goals.

Your Gift	How to Make that Gift	Your Benefits
Appreciated stock, securities, or other assets	Donate stock, securities, or mutual fund shares through the Foundation at no fee.	An income tax deduction and avoidance of capital gains tax. This allows you to make a larger gift than if you made it with cash.
Direct gift of up to \$108,000 from Traditional or Roth IRA	If you're 70-1/2 or older, ask your IRA administrator to make a gift directly to the church or another charity from your Traditional or Roth IRA.	You can make a generous gift that is tax-free and can count for the mandatory minimum withdrawal from your IRA. It is a direct gift to charity, which means you do not pay income tax on the withdrawal. Nor does it affect your Social Security income.
Deferred Gift from an IRA or other Retirement Plan	Name the church or another charity as a beneficiary of the remaining assets after your lifetime.	You'll be able to leave your less heavily taxed assets to family, and others that you love.
Real Estate	Donate property to the church through the Foundation.	Avoid capital gains taxes, receive an immediate charitable deduction, and possibly establish a life income trust.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our next meeting is **April 22nd at 10:00am.**

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.



Savvy Seniors will meet on **Monday, April 7th at 11:30am** at El Mezcal. 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.



# Let Us Pray

For the families of those recently passed:

- Lynn Toivonen – passed on 2/3/25
- Gary Arneson – passed on 2/25/25
- Dale Langbehn – passed on 3/6/25

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.



### 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.

## United Under One Roof

### Roof Repair Campaign

Roof construction is underway so please be cautious of construction vehicles and materials around the church building. After some additional fees were added due to inconsistencies on the concrete above the offices, our total roof cost is now roughly \$210,000. We have a remaining balance of about \$31,100 to raise.

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

## Director of Discipleship Report

### Sunday School

The elementary, junior high and high school youth will continue their current studies through May 18th which is the last day of Sunday School for the children. There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday. The youth will end their year on May 18th.

### Bible Studies

The current adult study by Richard Rohr will end on Easter and the class will complete the study by Brian McLaren *We Make the Road by Walking* through May 18th. On Memorial Day weekend our church services will begin at 9 AM.

During Lent, a Bible study group is meeting on Wednesday evenings at 5:15 PM in the BK Smith room to discuss the study that accompanies the services by Kate Bowler that are being used by our circuit leaders currently. This study will end the Wednesday prior to Maundy Thursday service to be held in the parlor. There is no book for this study, but copies of the personal small group study materials are available. We will be using the online resources by Kate Bowler during our sessions.

After Easter the Bible study group will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings at 5:15 PM for another study by Adam Hamilton entitled *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White* -- thoughts on religion, morality and politics. I have ordered the study materials and books for this. They will cost \$5 because they are used books but are in great condition. I look forward to seeing you and participating in another great class.

I am looking for feedback on whether you would like to continue to have a Bible study through the summer months and when the best time would be for you. Please email me or let me know in church.

Julie Mieke, Director of Discipleship



## The Messenger

Please submit any articles or news for the May Messenger to [georgia@firstwausau.org](mailto:georgia@firstwausau.org) by April 23rd .

## Wednesday Night Fellowship

April 9th

The schedule is as follows:

5:15pm – Adult Bible Study/Youth Program

6:00pm – Dinner

6:30pm – Handbells Practice

7:15pm – Choir Practice

Main meal is provided by the Mint Cafe. We encourage you to bring and share a dessert, or give monetary donations to help with costs.



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 (May 25, June 22 & August 17) 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:

- Apr. 6 - First English Lutheran
- Apr. 13 - First Presbyterian
- Apr. 20 - Mount Sinai
- Apr. 27 - St. Stephen's Lutheran



### EARTH DAY

APRIL 22

Our roadside cleanup will take place a little late this year on May 18th. Stay tuned for additional details.

The local chapter of the Citizen's Climate Lobby and our NAOMI friends invite you to celebrate the 55th Earth Day in Wausau at Westview Terrace Park at 10 AM on April 26th to plant about twenty fruit trees for all to enjoy in a city park.



## HOLY WEEK

### Sunday, April 13

8am & 10am - Palm Sunday Worship

### Thursday, April 17

7pm—Holy Thursday Service, Parlor

### Friday, April 18

7pm—Good Friday Worship

**Held and Hosted by Wesley UMC**

### Sunday, April 20

8am & 10am—Easter Sunday Worship



Thursday, April 17th

7:00pm

Join us for “A Service for All the Senses” for our Holy Thursday worship this year. This service will take place in our parlor in a roundtable style and is designed to be a deeply engaging and multi-sensory experience.

We invite you to journey with Jesus through his last night with this friends, exploring the themes of strength, submission, love, forgiveness, and gratitude by engaging all our senses—seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, and smelling—to connect with the familiar story of Jesus' final hours.

**RSVPs are strongly encouraged by Mon. April 14th.** Please contact the church office via phone or email to do so.

Birthdays and anniversaries can be found on calendar below.

# APRIL 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 <b>Diane Vernon (B)</b> <b>Russell Bennett (B)</b> 8am Worship w/Holy Communion (Chapel) 9am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am Worship w/Holy Communion (Sanctuary) 11am Coffee Hour Potluck 4pm Community Meal	7 11:30am Savvy Seniors (El Mezcal)	8 <b>Jordan Fons (B)</b> 1-3pm PNC/CCC 5:30pm Trustees	9 <b>Karen Petersen (B)</b> 1:00 pm UWF Meeting WNE: 5:15pm Bible Study 6:00pm Dinner 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:15pm Choir Practice	10 8:00am AA (Room 101) 7:00pm Scouts	11 Office Closed	12 <b>Dottie Nietert (B)</b> 9:00am—Social Action Day—For Love and Grace: Resisting Oppres-sion and Hate (BK Smith Room)
13 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 8am Worship (Chapel) 9am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship (Chapel) 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal	14 <b>Morgan Rohland (B)</b> 10:00am Prayer Team 6:30pm Monthly DS Zoom, Devotional and Q&A	15 7pm Finance Committee	16 <b>Marc &amp; Sheila Carlson (A)</b> 5:15pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:15pm Choir Practice	17 Holy Thursday <b>Eldon Horton (B)</b> 8:00am AA (Room 101) 7:00pm Holy Thurs-day "A Service for All the Senses" (Parlor)	18 Good Friday <b>Jon Goertz (B)</b> 7:00pm—Good Friday Service (Held at Wesley UMC)	19 <b>Barb Maquire (B)</b>
20 <b>Easter Sunday</b> 8am Worship (Chapel) 10am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship (Chapel) 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal	21 21	22 <b>Ken Attoe (B)</b> 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group (Parlor)	23 5:15pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:15pm Choir Practice	24 <b>Emery Kuehn (B)</b> 8:00am AA (Room 101) 7:00pm Scouts	25 Office Closed <b>Nancy Turner (B)</b>	26 <b>Lin Strong (B)</b> <b>Ray &amp; Vicki Nowaczyk (A)</b> 9-11am PNC/CCC
27 <b>Jocelyn Earnhart (B)</b> 8am Worship (Chapel) 9am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship (Chapel) 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal	28 <b>Mary Brown (B)</b>	29 <b>Mark &amp; Jamelle Milne (A)</b>	30 <b>Kiernan Grogan (B)</b> <b>Sharon Rayborn (B)</b> 5:15pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:15pm Choir Practice			

## First Wausau APRIL 2025



### LAY SERVANT MINISTRY TRAINING

April 26 & May 3

Wesley UMC in Wausau

Have you heard about Lay Servant Ministry (LSM)?

This is a United Methodist program that provides training to help laity deepen their faith and equip them to be more effective in leading, caring for others, and communicating. Each class requires a minimum of ten (10) hours of instruction and consists of laity from different churches across the region. Both the content and the connections are meaningful as faith and friendships grow. It all begins with the Basic class, and then advanced (specialty) classes can be taken.

We are excited to offer three LSM classes in Wausau on April 26 and May 3, 8:30 am-3:45 pm at Wesley UMC. Pastor Tim Gurlea will teach the Basic class, Pastor Mike Zahn will teach the Spiritual Gifts class, and Pastor Rebecca will lead the Pastoral Care class. Wesley UMC provides lunch for everyone. The classes are free, except for the cost of a small book for each course that should be read in advance. Attendance is required on both days.

Please register at this link. You should sign up to take the Basic class unless you have already taken it. <https://www.wisconsinumc.org/lsm-training>

Please contact Pastor Rebecca if you have any questions.

## April Mission



UMCOR is a humanitarian organization that assists the most vulnerable people affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their race, religion or status. UMCOR's work is carried out by providing relief and assistance in response to natural and human-made disasters. Donate loose change or cash in the small brown envelopes in the pews, memo your check, or give online (fund: UMCOR).

## Online Giving

Online giving is available for regular offerings or other missions you wish to support. 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: fumcpubic

Phone: 715.842.2201





United Women in Faith



A group of friends celebrated long-time member Bernice Kohlman on her 94th birthday at Back When Cafe.

Our next meeting is April 9th at 1:00 pm in the parlor (program topic: Springtime Surprises). Call Margaret if you need arrangement for a ride (715) 297-8531.

Our Spring rummage sale takes place April 3-4. Donated items for the sale can be dropped off in Fellowship Hall up to the week of the sale. Thank you everyone who has contributed thus far! All funds will go towards UWF missions.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 12 - Social Action Day via Zoom

[wisconsin-reg.brtaapp.com/UWinfaithsocialactionday2025](https://wisconsin-reg.brtaapp.com/UWinfaithsocialactionday2025)

May 3 - District Spring Retreat at Camp Lake Lucerne

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH-WAUSAU



United Women in Faith



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

APRIL WORSHIP

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 6 HOLY COMMUNION

Loving Psalm 126; John 12: 1-8

SUNDAY, APRIL 13 - PALM SUNDAY

Living Psalm 31:9-16; Luke 19:28-40

THURS, APRIL 17- HOLY THURSDAY

"A Service for All the Senses" - 7:00pm Matt. 21:18-27; 26:20-30, 36-46; John 13:3-17

FRIDAY, APRIL 18 - GOOD FRIDAY

Hosted by Wesley UMC - 7:00pm Joint Service Wesley UMC will also be providing a 12pm service

SUNDAY, APRIL 20 - EASTER SUNDAY

Believing Psalm 118:14-24; John 20:11-18

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Embodied Believing Psalm 150; Rev. 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

STAFF

Table with 3 columns: Role, Name, Email. Rows include Pastor (Rebecca Borke), Director of Comm./Finance (Georgia Reynolds), Director of Discipleship (Julie Mieke), 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