



THE MESSENGER

First Wausau United Methodist Church  
Downtown Wausau Wisconsin

From the Pastor

By Pastor Rebecca Borke

Dear Beloved Family of Faith at First UMC,

Christ is Risen! As we continue to celebrate the joy and promise of the Easter season, we also witness signs of resurrection and renewal unfolding around us. God’s grace is bringing forth tangible hope and new life, not only in our hearts but in our community.

I’m excited to share one powerful example. Beginning May 1, our church will partner with the Wausau/Marathon County (WMC) Shelter to provide safe overnight shelter and nourishing meals for up to 60 of our unhoused neighbors each night. This is a deeply meaningful opportunity—an answer to our prayers to be faithful stewards of our abundant space, and a direct response to our community’s urgent need for shelter. On average, 50–60 individuals in our area sleep outdoors each night. Together, we are offering them dignity, safety, and care.

This arrangement will be temporary as the city seeks a long-term solution, but the shelter will operate in our lower level for at least eight months. We’ve also expressed our willingness to extend the lease if needed.

The shelter will be staffed by three lead team members and 8–10 overnight staff, along with 9–11 volunteers each evening who will help serve dinner and assist with check-in. Guests will enter through the 3rd Street entrance between 6–9 PM, and dinner will be served from 7–8 PM. In the mornings, guests will receive a light breakfast and leave by 8 AM.

Several of our rooms will be transformed to serve the needs of our guests:

- The former yoga room will be used for bed liners, clean scrubs and secure storage of personal items in totes.
- The former game room will house most of the men, and the former puppet room will be the primary space for women.
- Two classrooms will provide private changing areas and overflow sleeping space for men and women.
- One classroom will serve as a resource and healthcare hub, offering occasional support from social workers and the Medical College of Wisconsin.
- Our single shower will be scheduled so that each guest can use it a couple of times per week.

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WUMF Monthly Stewardship News

A Chicken or An Eagle  
May 2025

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ~Romans 12:2

Once upon a time, a man found the egg of an eagle. It had been abandoned for some reason by its mother, but as it was still warm, the man took it and placed it in the nest of one of his backyard chickens, along with the other eggs already being brooded.

After a time, the eaglet hatched. Along with the other chicks from the nest, he began to roam the backyard, doing what the others did. He scratched at the earth for worms and insects. He pecked at the corn the man scattered across the yard. He clucked and cackled as best he could, and as he grew, he would flap his wings and fly a few feet into the air—just like the other chickens.

Years passed, and the eagle grew old.

One day, he saw a magnificent bird high above him in the cloudless sky. It glided gracefully through the powerful wind currents, soaring and swooping, scarcely beating its long, golden wings.

The old eagle watched in awe and asked, “What is that?”

“That is the eagle—the king of birds,” one of his neighbors replied. “He belongs to the sky and the high places. We belong to the earth. We are chickens.”

The old eagle believed it was true. And so, he lived and died as a chicken—because that’s what he thought he was.

Very often in life, our perspective determines our reality. By experiencing the transforming power of God’s love and grace, we begin to see the world, the ministry of the church as a whole, our shared ministry as United Methodists, and even our individual lives in a new and extraordinary way.

Instead of being held back by “what ifs,” fears of failure, or the challenges in front of us, we are able to soar—sustained and lifted by the same grace that has already transformed us.

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin UMF



Jubilate Bell Choir - Led by Jessica Wenzel

Rehearsals - Wednesdays 5:45pm (Bell Room)

Upcoming Musical Worship:

Sunday, May 4th - 10am Service

Chancel Choir - Led by Rob Perkins

Rehearsals - Wednesdays 7:15pm (Sanctuary)

\*last practice before summer break: May 14th\*

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our next meeting is **May 27 at 10:00am** and will be followed by a Potluck Luncheon.

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**

Savvy Seniors will meet on **Monday, May 5th at 11:30am** at Wausau Mine Co. 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.



## Pastoral Message Continued...

This effort is being led by Chief Matt Barnes, Tracy Durante (formerly Rieger), and the Wausau Police Department, with deep care and a trauma-informed, transformational approach. They are committed to providing a low-barrier, inclusive environment—welcoming all, including those who are undocumented or LGBTQ+. They have assured us that the courtyard and entrances will not become daytime gathering areas, maintaining a sense of safety and respect for our church and neighborhood.

I am deeply grateful to the Police Dept. for working so diligently, to our congregation for opening our hearts and doors, and to God, who continues to surprise us with opportunities to embody grace, compassion, and justice. Thank you for being the kind of church that lives the Resurrection.

With gratitude and hope,  
Pastor Rebecca

## 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 \$17,994 to raise.

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

## The Messenger

Our next newsletter will be a combination of June and the first two weeks of July (7/1-7/15). Please submit any articles or news for this Messenger to [georgia@firstwausau.org](mailto:georgia@firstwausau.org) by May 19th.

## Let Us Pray

For the families of those recently passed:

- Bob Love – passed on 4/3/25

A grief counseling group is available for those in need of support during difficult times of grieving. Contact the church office or Julie Miehe to inquire.

Weekly grief meditations are available on our website.

## Discipleship Report

As we are near the end of the school year, we have several graduates to celebrate. Joy Rutter is graduating from high school; Georgia Reynolds is graduating from college, and Pastor Rebecca is graduating from her doctoral program. We will celebrate with cake and ice cream at the Wednesday Night Fellowship to be held on May 21st. Congratulations on the jobs well done. May your degrees give opportunities for new and challenging endeavors in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our last Sunday for Sunday School will be May 18th. We will celebrate the wonderful staff who have led our adults and youth during this past year. Margaret Getzin and Betsy Duginski have led the youth from 6th grade through high school age. Carrie Hockerman and Collette Brown have led the youth from 1st through 6th grade. Jennifer Johnson has led the adult class. We celebrate the children and all the teachers during children's time on that Sunday.



The adult Sunday school class is determining whether or not they will meet on Sunday mornings or possibly lead a study on Wednesday evening through the summer. Watch the bulletins for further information.

Current Bible Study which started on April 23rd is a book and video series by Adam Hamilton "Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White." There will be 5 sessions ending the evening of Wednesday Night Fellowship in May. We meet in the BK Smith room on Wednesday evenings at 5:15 PM.

- Julie Miehe, Director of Discipleship

## Congrats

**Joy Rutter** is graduating from Wausau West High School.



**Georgia Reynolds** is graduating from UWSP with a Bachelor's in Accounting.

**Pastor Rebecca Borke** is graduating from United Theological Seminary with a Doctorate of Ministry.

If you have a family member who will be graduating this year from high school or college, please contact the church office. We will recognize graduates at the May 21st Summer Cookout event.



## Highway Cleanup Project

On **Sunday, May 18 at 12:00pm**, the group will meet in the church parking lot to carpool to the intersection of W/WW north of Wausau, past Brokaw Corners. Allow up to two hours to complete.

Bags, vests, gloves, and bottled water will be supplied. Please wear long sleeve shirts, pants, caps, and sunscreen.

Call Maggie Schoenfeld (715) 842-9809 if planning to attend.



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 two (2) Sundays (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.

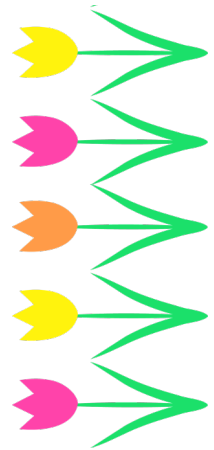
### March Host Groups:

- May 4 - St. John's Lutheran, Town of Maine
- May 11 - Scouts Troop 419
- May 18 - St. Andrew Lutheran
- May 25 - First Wausau



**Sunday, May 25 — Sunday, Aug. 31**  
**9:00 am**

Summer worship will be combined to one service on Sundays at 9:00am with coffee hour following the service in the Parlor.



# MAY 2025

Birthdays and anniversaries can be found on calendar below.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8am AA (Room 101) 1pm Citizens Climate Lobby Event, BK Smith Rm 7pm Scouts <b>SHELTER OPENS</b>	Office Closed <b>Lori Mariani (B)</b>	2 <b>Lori Mariani (B)</b>
4 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	5 <b>Tom Bogumill (B)</b> 11:30am Savvy Seniors (Wausau Mining Co.)	6 6pm Mission Team	7 5:15pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir Practice	8 <b>Brian Rohland (B)</b> 8am AA (Room 101) 7pm Scouts	9 Office Closed <b>Dennis Reynolds (B)</b>	10 <b>Lois Wenzel (B)</b>
11 <b>Mother's Day</b> <b>Kurt Hornby (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	12 <b>Michael &amp; Nancy Turner (A)</b> 6:30pm Monthly DS Zoom, Devotional and Q&A	13 1-3pm PNC/CCC 5:30pm Trustees 6:30pm Worship Design	14 <b>Joan Toivonen (B)</b> 1pm UWF Tea Party/Meeting 5:15pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir Practice	15 8am AA (Room 101) 7pm Scouts	16 Office Closed	17 <b>Michael Cain (B)</b> 8am-4pm Mobile Consulate Event, Fellowship Hall
18 8am Worship (Chapel) 8am-3pm Mobile Consulate Event, Fellowship Hall 10am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship (Chapel) 11am Coffee Hour 12pm Roadside Cleanup (meet at church) 4pm Community Meal	19 10:00am Prayer Team	20 <b>Margaret &amp; Gary Getzin (A)</b> 7pm Finance Committee	21 5:15pm Bible Study 6pm Summer Kickoff Cookout (Courtyard)	22 <b>Molly Hoffman (B)</b> <b>Joyce Luedke (B)</b> 8am AA (Room 101) 7pm Scouts	23 Office Closed <b>Bonnie McNabb (B)</b>	24
25 <b>SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS BEGIN</b> 9am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship (Chapel) 10am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal	26 <b>Memorial Day</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>Liz Fischer (B)</b>	27 <b>James Duginski (B)</b> 10am Prayer Shawl Mtg/Potluck Luncheon (Parlor)	28	29 <b>Carol Pachmayer (B)</b> 8am AA (Room 101) 7pm Scouts	30 Office Closed	31 <b>Mark Milne (B)</b>

## First Wausau

MAY 2025



United Women in Faith

### HAPPY SPRING!

Our church's United Women in Faith unit has had another busy spring with our semi-annual rummage sale in Fellowship Hall. Under the direction of Sara Koss, we were able to collect \$1,373.10 during this year's spring sale. These funds make it possible to support a number of mission projects UWF works with. As you do your spring and summer cleaning, keep UWF in mind, as another rummage sale is being planned for **the first week in October!**

### SPRING TEA PARTY

UWF will have its annual tea party on Wednesday, May 14, at 1:00pm in the church parlor. All women of the church are welcome to come and enjoy this time of fellowship.

### SUMMER READING

If anyone is interested in having a Reading List Book discussion over the summer months let Margarat Getzin know and we will plan for it at our next Unit meeting in May.

**PLEASE NOTE—The NE District UWF Spring Retreat scheduled for May 3rd has been CANCELLED.**

### 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: fumcpbublic

Phone: 715.842.2201

## May Mission



Open Door is a Wausau community-based collection of volunteers dedicated to providing service, support and immediate help for released offenders from a county jail or Wisconsin prison system. Donate loose change or cash in the small brown envelopes in the pews, memo your check, or give online (*fund: Open Door*).

## AV Volunteers Needed

Additional volunteers are URGENTLY needed to help with our AV system during 10:00am services (9:00am during the summer).

Tasks include running the YouTube Live stream, PowerPoint, and camera. If you have basic skills in these areas we need your help! Please contact the church office for details. Feel free to stop by the balcony during a Sunday service to check it out, or contact the church office to sign up to help.

Thank you!

## 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/](http://www.onrealm.org/)  
[FirstUnitedMeth91919/give/nw](https://FirstUnitedMeth91919/give/nw)

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







**First Wausau**  
DOWNTOWN  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**ALL ARE INVITED!**

**SUMMER KICKOFF BBQ**

**AND 2025 GRADUATE CELEBRATION**

Join us for great food and company at our final Wednesday Night Fellowship event before we break for the summer season.  
Meal and refreshments will be provided.  
Help us in congratulating our 2025 high school and college graduates!

**MAY 21, 2025**

BIBLE STUDY - 5:15 PM  
COOKOUT - 6:00 PM  
(Church Courtyard)

*Event will be moved to the Parlor in case of rain.  
Please bring your own lawn chairs or blankets.*

**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

**MAY WORSHIP**

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

*\*9:00am worship begins Sunday, May 25th\**

**SUNDAY, MAY 4**  
**HOLY COMMUNION**

**Circle of Abundance**  
Psalm 30; Rev. 5:11-14; John 21:1-9

**SUNDAY, MAY 18**  
**A New World**  
Psalm 148; Rev. 21:1-16; John 13:31-35

**SUNDAY, MAY 11**  
**Springs of Living Water**  
Psalm 23; Rev. 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

**SUNDAY, MAY 25**  
**The Tree of Life**  
Psalm 67; Rev. 22:1-5; John 14:23-29  
*\*9:00am worship begins\**

**STAFF**

Pastor	Rebecca Borke	<a href="mailto:rebecca@firsttausau.org">rebecca@firsttausau.org</a>
Director of Comm./Finance	Georgia Reynolds	<a href="mailto:georgia@firsttausau.org">georgia@firsttausau.org</a>
Director of Discipleship	Julie Mieke	<a href="mailto:julie@firsttausau.org">julie@firsttausau.org</a>
Building Engineer	Andy White	

903 N. Third Street, Wausau, WI 54403  
Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Monday-Thursday  
(715) 842-2201  
[www.firsttausau.org](http://www.firsttausau.org)