



THE MESSENGER

First Wausau United Methodist Church
Downtown Wausau Wisconsin



From the Pastor

By Pastor Rebecca Borke

Dear First Wausau Family of Faith,

When you hear news that a United Methodist pastor is moving, most people probably assume it is to another church and community. However, this month I am downsizing from the home where I raised several daughters and foster kittens on the west side of Wausau. I am moving into the upper apartment in my home on 3rd Street, where I can easily walk to church.

The process of downsizing has been both challenging and cathartic. Every item represents memories, and determining how to process and/or cherish those times while releasing the object can be emotionally and spiritually difficult. It helped that many of my things were able to go to the UWF rummage sale, where they can find a new life and support missions.

Not only have I needed to release many of my possessions, but I've also needed to repair the apartment before I can move in. It hasn't been updated in about 70 years, so I learned how to repair cracks in the plaster walls and repainted every square inch. Looking at the fractured walls and ceilings made me think of the brokenness and division in our country. As I removed all the loose plaster from the cracks, I prayed that God would remove disinformation and discord. When I applied the mesh, I asked the Holy Spirit to bridge the gaps in our relationships and help people come together. While I troweled on the plaster and pressed it into the cracks, I invited Christ to come and fill our lives and world with his presence. As I sanded, smoothed, and added a second coat, I asked God for patience in the process.

Though my plaster repair work is clearly amateur and my muscles are sore, it was good for my soul. As you face the challenges and cracks in your lives, I pray that you will find grace, strength, and insight. May the Holy Spirit work in and through all of us, and bring us together to repair and renew our community and culture with supernatural peace and love.

Gratefully,

Pastor Rebecca

Serving & Giving as Worship

by Pastor Rebecca Borke

When we gather for worship, we typically use the lectionary as a guide for each Sunday throughout the seasons of the church year. However, this month we are going "off script" to address some struggles we see in our lives and world. Some people wonder how they will make ends meet, and others question whether they are making a difference in the world. When those existential crises hit, we need God to guide and give us a fresh perspective.

I recently watched the classic movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*, for the first time in decades. It dates itself in many ways, and it certainly doesn't have a biblically accurate theology of angels. However, it powerfully addresses the twin issues of meaning and money in a very moving way. This movie and many scripture passages inspired a sermon series called "It's a Wonder-Full Life!" I hope you can take two hours to view it sometime soon. Even if you watch it every year at Christmas time, some likely themes and characters will connect in a fresh way.

The last two Sundays of this theme in October will be led by Julie Miehle and Jami Kaiser. I will be learning about the missionary travels of Paul and the biblical foundations in Greece and Rome. I am so thankful to have this opportunity, and ask for your prayers for spiritual growth so I can pass on the insights and inspiration to all of you.



Let Us Pray

- Lois Wenzel passed on 9-4-25
- Cheryl Wenzel passed in August 2025

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

Weekly grief meditations are available on our website.

Wednesday Night Fellowship

Wednesday, October 15th

The schedule will be as follows:

4:30pm - Bible Study

6:00pm - Dinner

6:30pm - Handbells Practice

7:15pm - Choir Practice

Meal and refreshments will be provided by volunteers of the church, however we encourage you to bring and share a dessert, or give monetary donations to help with costs.

ALL SAINTS DAY

Sunday, November 2nd

On the first Sunday of November we remember all in our congregation who have gone on to eternal glory in the past year, as well as loved ones of people in our church who were not members, and those who have passed in earlier years. If you would like your loved one honored in the bulletin, please email or call our office by Monday, October 27 at 715-842-2201 or georgia@firsttausau.org

Pivet Scholarship Team Message

The church received (via the Pivet Scholarship Committee) a note from current recipient Evie DelConte. She wanted to express her appreciation for the financial help the church has given through the Pivet Scholarship. She has been using her time to study art at U.W.-Milwaukee and has even been in a student art show.

Music Ministries

Chancel Choir Wednesdays at 7:15pm

The Chancel Choir, led by Rob Perkins, practices on Wednesdays at 7:15pm in preparation for occasional Sunday performances as well as the Lessons & Carols service on December 14th. New members are always welcome!

Jubilate Bell Choir Wednesdays at 6:30pm

Jessica Wenzel leads our Jubilate Bell Choir that practices on Wednesdays at 6:30pm to prepare for our Lessons & Carols service on December 14th. Please contact Jessica for more information on how to become a part of the bell choir.



Savvy Seniors will be meeting on **Monday, October 6th at 11:30am** at Palms 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

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

The next meeting is **Tuesday, October 28th at 10:00am** in the church parlor.

Discipleship Report

We are blessed to have six to seven youth gathering with Carrie Hockerman and Collette Brown on Sunday mornings at 9:00am to study the lectionary. Any youth from sixth grade through high school are invited to join in this lively time of conversation and discovery.

At the same time, the Adult Sunday School Class meets to study Josh Scott's book Context. This study invites us to look closely at familiar passages of scripture, to place them in the setting of the people and times in which they were first spoken, and to listen for how God is speaking through them today.

On Wednesday evenings, we gather for Bible study. We meet at 4:30pm and usually begin around 4:45, once everyone has arrived. Together we are working through Daniel Wolpert's book Looking Inward, Living Outward: The Spiritual Practice of Social Transformation. This study is teaching us about the spiritual life—reminding us that God is present with us in the here and now.

In this journey we are exploring practices of wakefulness, realization, justice, and peace. At times these gifts can feel fleeting, as though they disappear just as quickly as they come. But this is why we call it practice. We meet repeatedly, learning and growing with one another. The beloved community is not something we can build once and be finished with—it is something we live into each day, practicing over and over with the strength God provides.

On another note, I have four individuals who are taking communion out to our shut-ins on a quarterly basis. As the church looks further into our policy on Safe Sanctuaries we have come to the realization that if the members we are serving are in a home that we need a non-related adult to go with the individuals to serve communion, as shut-ins are considered a vulnerable population. If you are looking to assist or are aware of anyone who would like this service, please contact me at the church office.

-Director of Discipleship, Julie Mieke



First Wausau UMC is hosting Lay Servant Ministry (LSM) classes for laity in central and northern Wisconsin on **October 4 and 11, from 8:30am - 3:45pm**. We encourage our congregation to sign up for a class and be spiritually strengthened as we learn, connect, and grow together with other United Methodists.

The BASIC class (taught by Julie Mieke) is foundational.

If you have completed the BASIC class, you can then take any of the advanced classes. On October 4 and 11, we are offering:

PREACHING class (taught by Pastor Rebecca Borke)

ACCOUNTABLE DISCIPLESHIP class (taught by Pastor Tim Gurlea)

Registration is open at <https://wisconsin-reg.brapp.com/LaityTrainingWausau>

More information about Lay Servant Ministries can be found at:

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/lay-servant-ministries-catalog>.

Talk to Julie Mieke or Pastor Rebecca if you have questions.



Thank you to everyone who chose to participate in our photoshoots for this year's directory. If you were not able to make a photoshoot date, please

contact the church office to schedule a time during office hours by October 15th so editing and printing can be completed by the end of October.

If you opted out of the photoshoot but still wish to have your contact information printed in the directory, please be sure to verify your information with the church office by Oct. 15th as well.

Copies will be available to pick up in church starting in November.



- **AV/PowerPoint**—During Sanctuary services Visit the balcony on Sunday mornings for training
 - **Nursery** — Sunday Mornings
 - **Ushers** - Specifically for 2nd and 5th Sundays
 - **Coffee Hour**—Sign up in Parlor
- Please contact Pastor Rebecca to help. Thank you!

October Mission



So far this year, we have assisted 239 households representing 809 individuals by providing household supplies to help stretch their budgets. The PNC is available on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 1-3pm and the 4th Saturday of the month, 9-11am. No Saturday December.

Throughout the month of October, donate loose change, put cash in the small brown envelopes, memo a check, or donate online under fund name: PNC

Soap4Hope Drive



As part of our October mission for the PNC, we will also be running a Soap4Hope Drive. Please bring in soap related items (hand soap, bar soap, shampoo, laundry detergent, etc.) and drop them in the basket located in the Narthex.

Your donations to the PNC helps to ensure we are able to continue offering personal hygiene and household items to those in need within our community each month.

OCTOBER 2025



Birthdays and anniversaries can be found on calendar below.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Ellie Schreiber (B) 4:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:15pm Choir Practice	8am AA 7pm Scouts	Margaret Getzin (B) Will & Melissa Wyrick (A)	Madison Mariani(B) 8:30am - 3:30pm - Lay Servant Ministry Training (Wausau First)
World Communion Day 8am Worship w/Communion (Chapel) 9am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am Worship w/Communion (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship (Chapel) 11am Coffee Hour Potluck 4pm Community Meal	11:30am Savvy Seniors (Palm Restaurant)	Gary Getzin (B) 5:00pm - SPRC 6:00pm - Missions Team	Roger Gundelfinger (B) Lisa Day (B) 1pm UWF Meeting 4:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:15pm Choir Practice	Jake Rybarczyk (B) David & Lori Mariani (A) 8am AA 7pm Scouts	Rob & Kris Rybarczyk (A)	8:30am - 3:30pm - Lay Servant Ministry Training (Wausau First) 5:30pm - Vocal Recital - YounWoo Seo and Sydney Fritzel (Sanctuary)
Laura Cowan (B) 8am Worship (Chapel) 9am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am Worship w/Child Baptism (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship (Chapel) 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal		1-3pm PNC/CCC 5:30pm Trustees 6:30pm Worship Design Team	Bryan Bissonnette (B) WNE: 4:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Dinner 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:15pm Choir Practice	Tammy Lahren (B) Kirsten Hornby (B) 8am AA 7pm Scouts	Bob & Karen Petersen (A)	
Gary Kurth (B) Lee & Susan Rye (A) Dan & Barb Maguire (A) Dennis & Georgia Reynolds (A) 8am Worship (Chapel) 9am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship (Chapel) 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal	10am Prayer Team (Parlor)	7pm Finance Committee	4:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:15pm Choir Practice	8am AA 4pm UWF Book Club 6pm Community Meal Appreciation Dinner 7pm Scouts	Office Closed 24	Pam Steinke (B) Andrea Anderson (B) 9-11am PNC/CCC
8am Worship (Chapel) 9am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship (Chapel) 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal		10am Prayer Shawl Group (Parlor)	Jerry Morris (B) 4:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:15pm Choir Practice	Michael Koss (B) Diann Misoni (B) Gregory Cowan (B) 8am AA 7pm Scouts	Office Closed 31 Michael & Sara Koss (A)	

First Wausau OCTOBER 2025



United Women in Faith met in September with a program led by Julie Miehe where she recapped the 2025 Mission U program, "Hope". As part of the program, we created 'God Cans' which encourages us to write down those prayers that are out of our hands and give them over to God because we know He can.

Meetings are in the church parlor at 1:00 pm, unless otherwise noted.

- Oct. 8** - All about Open Door in Marathon County (presentation by Open Door Director Anne Drow)
- Nov. 12** - World Thank Offering program with Georgia Reynolds
- Dec. 10** - Bring your memories of Advent and Christmas traditions to share.

OTHER EVENTS:

- Saturday, Oct. 11** - Conference UWF Fall Gathering, Wisconsin Rapids UMC.



The Assembly, themed "Dream it! Believe it! Do it!" will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 15-17, 2026. Registration for the event will open on Sept. 1, 2025. Visit <http://uwfaith.org/assembly>

Registration forms for events can be found in the parlor.

For our November Messenger, please submit any news or announcements to georgia@firstwausau.org by October 27th.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Join us in the Parlor on **Thursday, October 23rd at 4:00pm** to share with each other what books you have read recently and find a new one to dive into! We hope to increase the number of individuals to participate in the UWF reading program. Purchased books by our unit are available for checkout in the Parlor, or find the full list here: <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm>

Charge Conference

Saturday, December 20th at 11:00am

Our Charge Conference will take place in the Chapel. Attendance of full church members is highly encouraged as voting will occur. Due to the late timing this year, UWF will not be holding their annual chili sale during charge conference but will hold soup sales in November.



Proceeds Will Benefit:

United Women in Faith
Mission 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, October 2, 2025
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday, October 3, 2025
9:00 am - 12:30 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

Online Giving

Online giving is available for regular offerings or other missions you wish to support. Account is not required.

www.onrealm.org/
FirstUnitedMeth 91919/give/now



The WMC Shelter is located in our church basement through 2025. Open seven days a week 6pm-8am, the shelter can house up to 60 people and a small meal is provided each evening. This shelter provides

separation for women and men. For more info:

wmcshelter@wausauwi.gov
(715) 261-7824

[WMC Shelter Facebook Page](#)

2026 Pledges

Pledge forms for 2026 will be mailed early this month. Please submit at your earliest convenience but no later than December 1st to assist in completing our 2026 budget. Forms will also be available in the church office. If you are using our online giving to make your pledge, please remember that you will need to resubmit each year as it will not automatically carry over from the current year.

To inquire about your giving, please contact our finance director, Georgia Reynolds.

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

OCTOBER WORSHIP

Sunday Worship Times: 8:00AM Chapel | 10:00AM Sanctuary

"It's a Wonder-Full Life" Series

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5
HOLY COMMUNION**

Looking Back
Psalm 24:1-6; Matthew 22:15-22

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Looking Out
Psalm 112:1-6; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Looking In
Psalm 37:1-11; Matthew 6:19-24

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Looking with Gratitude
Psalm 100:1-5; Acts 4:32-35

STAFF

Pastor	Rebecca Borke	rebecca@firstwausau.org
Director of Comm./Finance	Georgia Reynolds	georgia@firstwausau.org
Director of Discipleship	Julie Mieke	julie@firstwausau.org
Building Engineer	Andy White	

903 N. Third Street, Wausau, WI 54403
Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Monday-Thursday
(715) 842-2201
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