



# THE MESSENGER

First Wausau United Methodist Church  
Downtown Wausau Wisconsin



## From the Pastor

By Pastor Rebecca Borke

Dear First Wausau Family of Faith,

By this time of year, I imagine most of us have moved our sweaters, corduroys, fleeces, and flannels to the front and center of our closets. Shorts and tank tops won't be comfortable again for at least another 200 days in Wisconsin. Different clothes are better for different seasons.

I've been wearing different clothes more often as well. Until recently, I could count on one hand the number of times I'd worn a clergy shirt and collar. My main deterrent was that I wanted people to know I was a faith leader by my words and actions, not my clothes. But I realized it was time to let people who may not know me immediately recognize that I am called and ready to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. Yes, that hard plastic white tab collar is uncomfortable and hot in the summer. The clergy collar was designed to be a reminder that our faith is not meant to become more comfortable, but to become more like Christ.

Some of my clergy colleagues have cooler ways of letting people know they are pastors. One has dark gray shirts like mechanics wear, with a patch on the front that says Pastor. Another friend serves in Green Bay and wears a Packers jersey with PASTOR printed on the upper back. I don't have their ability to make cool clergy clothing, but here are a few things you might find interesting. On Sunday mornings, I often wear a white robe (called an alb) and a stole. The stole, a long, narrow band worn around the neck and down the front of the robe, represents a yoke, since we are yoked to Christ and carry the weight of ministry together. It also reminds us of a towel and how we are to be servants willing to dry tears and wash feet. The stole also resembles a sheep over our shoulders. Like the Good Shepherd, pastors (based on the Latin word for shepherd) are called to spiritually carry those in the flock who are too hurt or vulnerable to walk in faith on their own.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## November 2025 Stewardship Newsletter

### Thanksgiving as a Spiritual Discipline

Gratitude is often treated as an emotion - something we feel when life is good and blessings are obvious. But Scripture calls us to something deeper. "Give thanks in all circumstances," Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:18. That's not a suggestion to ignore pain or pretend that everything is fine. It's an invitation to practice thanksgiving as a spiritual discipline - a way of seeing and living that reorients our hearts toward God, even when circumstances are difficult.

Practicing thanksgiving means intentionally naming God's gifts, even the small ones. It means pausing long enough to recognize that every breath, every meal, every relationship, every new morning is evidence of grace. When we make gratitude a habit rather than a reaction, it transforms our perspective. We begin to notice abundance where we once saw scarcity. We start to trust God's provision more deeply. And that trust becomes the fertile soil where generosity grows.

As you enter this season of thanksgiving, I encourage you to make space for a daily practice of gratitude - perhaps writing down three things each day for which you're thankful or saying a prayer of thanks before bed. Over time, you may find that thanksgiving doesn't just change your mood; it changes your heart.

WUMF by Jason Mahnke, Director of Programming & Campaigns



For our December Messenger, please submit any news or announcements to [georgia@firsttausau.org](mailto:georgia@firsttausau.org) by November 19th.

## Pastor Message Cont.

Last summer, I was talking with friends at the 400 Block when a young couple I had never met walked up and asked if I would pray for them and their dog. I was happy to pray but surprised and confused as to how they knew to ask me. Then I realized I had worn my clergy shirt that day for the first time in many years, so they recognized me as someone who would help and pray. I ask you to pray with me that when people see me or any clergy wearing our unusual wardrobe, they see the love and grace of Christ.

Together in ministry to the world,

Pastor Rebecca



For the remembrance of all the saints of our congregation who came before us and showed us how to live in faith. Join us as we honor them during service on Sunday, November 2nd.

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

Weekly grief meditations are available on our website.

## Wednesday Night Fellowship

Wednesday, November 19th

The schedule will be as follows:

- 4:30pm - Bible Study
- 6:00pm - UWF Chili Dinner & Soup Sale  
\*Proceeds go towards UWF Missions\*
- 6:30pm - Handbells Practice
- 7:15pm - Choir Practice

Meal and refreshments will be provided by UWF, however we encourage you to bring and share a dessert.

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, November 3rd at 11:30am** at Sconni's.

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, November 17th at 11:00am** in the church parlor.

**Discipleship Report**

As the church approaches the seasons of Thanksgiving and Advent, I'd like to invite everyone to consider new ways of being in relationship with members who are unable to attend worship in person.

According to our Safer Sanctuary Policy, when visiting members in their homes, we must have two unrelated adults present. This will be a change for those who have been providing communion on a quarterly basis and will also apply if we begin regular visits to our shut-ins as representatives of the church.

I invite you to consider joining those who currently serve communion. Our present team includes Dick Rayborn, Bonnie Goertz, and Jen and Pete Johnson.

I am also reaching out to ask if there are individuals who would like to receive communion at home but are not currently on our list. This could include those who are temporarily confined to their homes or residents of nursing facilities who would appreciate receiving communion. Please feel free to contact me if you know of someone, or if you would like to be included yourself.

Over time, I've called members who are not able to attend church regularly. These conversations are always meaningful, but identifying who is missing can be a challenge. Your help in staying connected makes a real difference in the life of our church family.

May God bless you as we enter these exciting and hope-filled seasons in the church.

Grace and peace,

Julie Mieke



**FRIENDS  
Thanksgiving Dinner**

56th Annual  
Thursday, November 27, 2025

**FREE Thanksgiving meal!**  
**TWO options!**

**HOME DELIVERY (Reservation required)**

- Call and leave message OR text 715-571-8452
- **NEED:** # of meals, spell first and last name, address (apt#), phone number
- **RESERVATION REQUIRED by Friday, November 21st**
- MEALS will be delivered between 11am -1:00pm (exact time depends on route)
- **Delivery ONLY available to Wausau, Weston, Schofield and Rothschild areas**

**DINE-IN (NO Reservations required)**

- Please join us for a sit-down meal between 1:30pm-3:00pm at First Presbyterian Church 406 Grant Street, Wausau



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

- Nov. 2 - First UU
- Nov. 9 - Good Shepherd Lutheran
- Nov. 16 - 50/50 Homemakers
- Nov. 23 - Bethany Lutheran
- Nov. 30 - First Wausau

**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.

**November Mission**

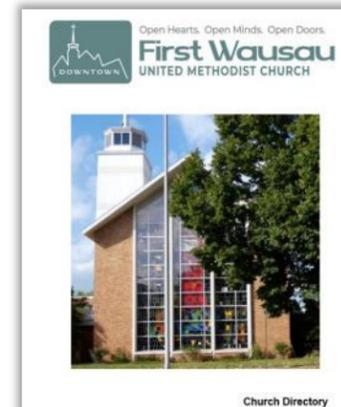
**St. Paul's  
Christmas Dinner**

Donations support the annual Christmas Dinner at St. Paul's UCC on Christmas Day. Volunteers from throughout the Wausau community will be serving a hot dinner with all the fixings. Everyone is welcome and there is no income verification or questions.

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



- **AV/PowerPoint**—During Sanctuary services Visit the balcony on Sunday mornings for training
- **Ushers** - Specifically for 2nd and 5th Sundays, Contact the church office to help.
- **Nursery** — Per our policy, two adults or older youth need to be present to have the nursery open during the 10am service. We currently do not have but are seeking nursery volunteers. Contact Pastor Rebecca to help.
- **Coffee Hour**—Make a couple of pots of coffee (provided) and bring treats, including gluten-free options, to serve about 30-40 people. It is a great way to interact socially with your church family, meet new members, or celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. Signup in the Parlor.



The new church photo directories are now available.

You can pickup copies in the Narthex, Parlor, or church office.

Please do not remove copies provided in the pews.



**United Women in Faith**

At our October meeting, we were visited by Anne Drow, the Executive Director of Open Door, to provide us with updates on the program and their needs. We also presented her with a Special Mission Recognition pin for her remarkable work within our community. Our group will begin making sack lunches again. Stay tuned for more details.



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.

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

- **Nov. 12** - World Thank Offering program with Georgia Reynolds
- **Nov. 19** - Chili Dinner & Soup Sale, 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall
- **Dec. 10** - Bring your memories of Advent and Christmas traditions to share.

**WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB**

Join us in the Parlor on **Thursday, December 4 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?productID=13204&catid=2175>

**2026 Pledges**

Pledge forms for 2026 were mailed in October. 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 WMC Shelter is located in our church basement and have extended their stay here until March 31, 2026. 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](#)

**Online Giving**

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

[www.onrealm.org/FirstUnitedMeth91919/give/now](http://www.onrealm.org/FirstUnitedMeth91919/give/now)



**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: fumcpublic

**Phone: 715.842.2201**

**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

**Our Vision:**

To be led by God to change lives and transform the world.

**NOVEMBER WORSHIP**

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

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2**  
**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**

**Stand Firm and Hold Fast**  
Psalm 119:137-144; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

**Rejoice Forever in Creation**  
Psalm 118:14-20; Isaiah 65:17-25

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9**

**The Latter Splendor**  
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; Haggai 2:1-9

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

**Woe to the Shepherds**  
Psalm 80:1-19; Jeremiah 23:1-6

**STAFF**

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

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

Birthdays and anniversaries can  
be found on calendar below.

# NOVEMBER 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Lauren Atonio (B)
All Saints Day/Daylight Savings Haley Reynolds (B) Timm & Mary Fischer (A) 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	3 Brian Smith (B) Carole Machek (B) 11:30am Savvy Seniors (Sconni's)	4 Norma Volkman (B) 6:00pm - Missions Team	5 Michael Del Conte (B) 4:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:15pm Choir Practice	6 Leroy Schoepke (B) Bonnie Horban (B) Adelyn Sakharuk (B) 8am AA 7pm Scouts	7 Office Closed	8
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	10 Gerald Gisselman (B) 1-3pm PNC/CCC 5:30pm Trustees 6:30pm Worship Design Team	11 Gerald Gisselman (B) 1-3pm PNC/CCC 5:30pm Trustees 6:30pm Worship Design Team	12 Mary Quarles (B) 1pm UWF Meeting 4:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:15pm Choir Practice	13 Wendy Perkins (B) 8am AA 7pm Scouts	14 Office Closed Thomas Lahren (B)	15 Jill Daubert (B) 9am-12:30pm Conference Mission Motivation, BK Smith Room
8am Worship (Chapel) 9am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship (Chapel) 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal	17 9:45am Prayer Team (Parlor) 11am Prayer Shawl Group (Parlor) 7pm Ministries Council (BK Smith Rm)	18 6pm SPRC 7pm Finance Committee	19 WNF: 4:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm UWF Chili Dinner & Soup Sale 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:15pm Choir Practice	20 Robert Gebhardt (B) Timm Fischer (B) Lincoln Larson (B) 8am AA 7pm Scouts	21 Office Closed Joan Harvey (B) Aleksey Sakharuk & YounWoo Seo (A)	22 9-11am PNC/CCC
23- Peter Johnson (B) 8am Worship (Chapel) 9am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship (Chapel) 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal	24 Paula Hauber (B)	25 Evie Del Conte (B) Joel Del Conte (B) Allen Stamp (B) Chris Del Conte (B)	26 Thanksgiving 27 OFFICE CLOSED Janet Schlueter (B) 8am AA	28 Dave Decker (B)	29 Debra Schoepke (B) Katie Perkins (B)	