



## THE MESSENGER

First Wausau United Methodist Church

Downtown Wausau Wisconsin

### From the Pastor

By Pastor Rebecca Borke

Dear First Wausau Family of Faith,

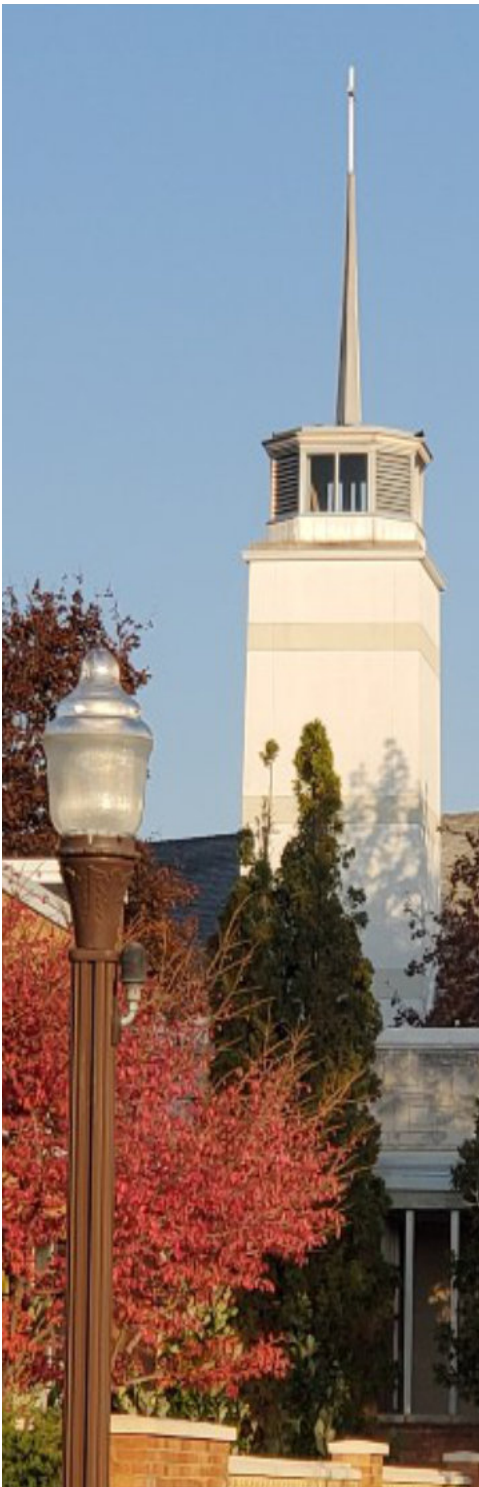
I am so excited that our area is starting to warm up! It seems like all of creation is being resurrected, and hope is blooming again. I happen to be writing this on Earth Day (April 22), and learned that the theme this year is “Our Power, Our Planet”. It helps us focus on how we work cooperatively in every day actions and hasten our transition to clean energy. As Christ-followers, we believe creation care is a primary part of God’s biblical call to us as stewards of this earth.

When I was in college, I became close friends with a woman in her late 80’s named Dorothy. She lived alone in a big old house in Cedar Rapids, and loved hosting my friends and I overnight when we came to visit her. She would always say, “This isn’t my house, it belongs to God. I just take care of it, and welcome you to stay in God’s house.”

I kept in touch with Dorothy over the years, and visited her in her late 90’s after she had fallen in her driveway and laid there for several hours before the neighbor children found her on their way home from school. She assured me that she hadn’t been afraid, but enjoyed watching the blades of grass and the tiny insects crawling around as she laid on the cold concrete with several broken bones. On her ambulance ride, she eagerly told the EMTs about her rediscovered wonder of God’s creation. She reminded all of us that this world isn’t ours, but belongs to God.

I hope no one gets hurt in order to get such a close-up view and renewed appreciation of creation. But I encourage you to get outside and walk in a garden, park, prairie, forest, or waterfront. As people of faith, I believe there is also room to improve on the theme of “Our Power, Our Planet”. Perhaps “God’s Power, God’s Planet” would better remind us that we are divinely gifted and empowered as stewards of creation. We honor God by how we care for creation and use earth’s resources wisely and sustainably.

For All the Earth,  
Pastor Rebecca





# Update from Discipleship Ministries

Our last day of Sunday School for the youth will be May 17<sup>th</sup>.

The worship services will begin at 9 am on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Adult classes may choose to take a break for the summer. Adult Bible study will continue on Wednesday evenings at 5 pm in the BK Smith room.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the high school graduations of the following:

Peter J., Gideon A., Oliver H., Michael M., Dante R.



**Opening: Monday, May 4, 5-8pm**  
First United Methodist Church in Wausau  
Enter through Main Entrance from Fulton St. Parking Lot  
Appetizers served at 5, Program at 6:30  
Family friendly, free and open to the public  
Donations accepted to Middle East Childrens Alliance  
The Exhibit will also be open to the public at:  
First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau, 504 Grant St.  
May 11-13, 11am-4pm

Witness the truths of the past, the heartbreak of the present, and the possibilities for a future without oppression in Palestine through archival photos, visuals, and stories of fragmentation, displacement, return, and future visioning.

# Celebrating New Members



On Sunday, April 12, our congregation gathered for a joyful and meaningful celebration as we witnessed a baptism, confirmation, and welcomed new members into our church family.

Following the service, we gathered for a celebratory coffee hour where we had the pleasure of welcoming our newest members:

Asher A., Natalia Q., Javi Q., Dave and Debbie Green, Lucas Davis

We are so grateful for each of these individuals and families who have chosen to make this congregation their church home. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and extend a warm welcome to them as you see them in the weeks ahead.

*We rejoice together as our church family continues to grow!*





## Celebrating the Reynolds Family

The sense of excitement and anticipation was high on March 22, as our church celebrated with Georgia (our church's finance and communications director) and Dennis Reynolds. Their first child was due soon, so an all-church baby shower/brunch was held to help them prepare for their son's expected arrival in mid-April. Many church members and friends of the church donated generously, which enabled the purchase of many, many items on their registry list. Some of those gifts included a diaper pail, diapers (both disposable and cloth), a crib mobile, bottle warmer and other bottle accessories, a diaper bag/backpack, bath thermometer, a few outfits, a humidifier/diffuser, 3-in-1 bounce and rock seat, changing table pad, etc...Other church members/friends contributed gifts purchased on their own as well. A delicious brunch with egg dishes, coffeecake, fruit, veggies, and a cake were enjoyed by many who attended this celebration. Everyone is looking forward to welcoming the Reynolds baby boy in the very near future!

**NOTE:** Dennis R Reynolds III was born April 20, 2026. Congratulations to Georgia and Dennis!

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



Joseph Michael Horban, was born on October 29, 1953, and was born to eternal life on April 27, 2026.

His life will be fondly remembered on Tuesday, May 5, at Helke Funeral Home on Spruce St. Visitation is 9-11am, Funeral service at 11am. His wife of 37 years, Bonnie Horban, appreciates your prayers and support.



The Johnson Family, as they grieve Jen's mother, Joyce M. Mortt, February 14, 1932 - March 19, 2026.

Grief counseling 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.

## Chancel Choir

Wednesdays at 7:15pm

The Chancel Choir, led by Rob Perkins, practices on Wednesdays at 7:15pm in preparation for Sunday worship. New members are always welcome!

## Jubilate Bells

Wednesdays at 6:30pm

Jessica Wenzel leads our Jubilate Bell Choir practice on Wednesdays at 6:30pm in preparation for musical worship on May 3.





United Women in Faith

## United Women of Faith Spring Rummage Sale

The semi-annual rummage sale, sponsored by the United Women in Faith, was held on April 9-10 in Fellowship Hall this spring. Members of the church and friends from the community donated numerous items that helped make this event a great success. The women of UWF send out a huge 'thank you' to everyone that donated items to help us out. A dedicated group of women (with Andy's help at times!) worked hard for several days prior to the sale to make a display of these items and price them. This event has developed a very loyal following with many shoppers, and a long line of people was waiting on Thursday morning for the doors to open. The sale was deemed a success once again when the goal was surpassed financially, enabling the UWF to continue supporting numerous mission projects locally in this community, within Wisconsin, the USA, and around the world.

Plans are already underway for the fall sale, scheduled for early October of 2026. There will be a few new guidelines established for donations, as some items left over from the sales are no longer accepted at the thrift shops here in Wausau, making it harder for the UWF group to dispose of them properly. Please watch for those guidelines as the next sale draws near. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please speak with Sara Koss or Bonnie Goertz for more information about the sales.

## Welcome our Missionary to Rome, Rev. Sarah Mae Gabuyo

Tuesday, May 19:  
Potluck at 6 pm, Program follows.

Hosted at First Wausau UMC –  
All are welcome!

Rev. Sarah Mae Gabuyo is a U.M. missionary and serves as pastor of the English-speaking congregation in Rome. Last October, Pastor Rebecca had the opportunity to visit her home and church in Rome. Sarah and her husband, Rev. János Csomós, an ordained clergy of the Hungarian Reformed Church, are now coming to First Wausau UMC.

Sarah is a fourth-generation Methodist from the Philippines. When Sarah was ten, she explained, "My family migrated to Italy, bringing with us our religion and church traditions. In Italy, I witnessed the implications of reversed migration and the other challenges facing churches of migrant workers. I understood the importance of having a pastor who speaks a language you can understand and who values your cultural heritage."

Sarah has earned a B.A. in psychology, advanced degrees in both flute and vocal performance, and a Master of Divinity degree at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. She is an ordained elder in the Wisconsin Annual Conference and served as the lead pastor at Clarno Zion and Staver St. Peter's United Methodist churches.

~ PLEASE NOTE ~  
There will be no  
Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal in May.

lay,



**Opening: Monday, May 4, 5–8pm**

First United Methodist Church in Wausau

Enter through Main Entrance from Fulton St. Parking Lot

Appetizers served at 5, Program at 6:30

Family friendly, free and open to the public

Donations accepted to Middle East Children's Alliance

The Exhibit will also be open to the public at:

First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau, 504 Grant St.

May 11–13, 11am–4pm

Witness the truths of the past, the heartbreak of the present, and the possibilities for a future without oppression in Palestine through archival photos, visuals, and stories of fragmentation, displacement, return, and future visioning.



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

**2026 Open Dates:**

May 24th, July 5th & November 22

If you are interested in hosting one of these dates, contact the church office.



**Savvy Seniors**

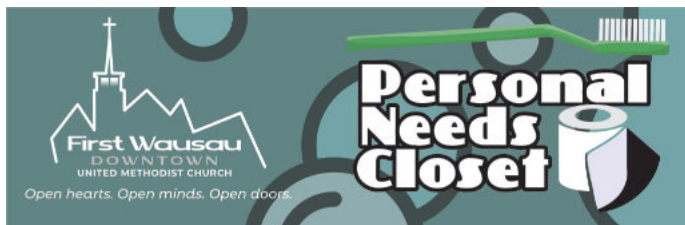
Savvy Seniors will be meeting on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am at Wausau Mine Company. This is a social group open to singles & couples over 55. We would love to have you join us! Questions? Call Vicki 715-571-3009.



## Roadside Cleanup Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help with our annual roadside cleanup on May 3rd for our church's designated highway section at the intersection of W/WW north of Wausau, past Brokaw Corners. The group will meet in the church parking lot at 11:30am to carpool. 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 S. (715) 842-9809 if planning to attend.



## Volunteer Opportunity!

The Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet need 2 volunteers for the 4th Saturday of each month from 9am to 11am. 1 volunteer is needed to escort our clients from the waiting room to the PNC/CCC. A second volunteer is needed as a sub to help fill in when the regular volunteers are out of town or ill. If you are interested or would like more information, please see Mike or Liz Fischer at church or call at 715-571-0489. As of April 14, the PNC is serving 120 families representing 419 household members. The CCC is serving 70 families who are caring for 319 dogs and 143 cats.

### The Messenger

Please submit any news or announcements for the June/July Messenger to [jongoertzdesign@gmail.com](mailto:jongoertzdesign@gmail.com) by Thursday, May 21. .

## May Birthdays & Anniversaries

Gianina Chang (B).....	May 1
Lori Mariani (B) .....	May 2
Jane Smith (B) .....	May 3
Tom Bogumill (B).....	May 5
Brian Rohland (B).....	May 8
Dennis Reynolds (B).....	May 9
Kailer Barth (B).....	May 10
Kurt Hornby (B).....	May 11
Michael & Nancy Turner (A) .....	May 12
Michael Cain (B) .....	May 17
Gary & Margaret Getzin (A).....	May 20
Molly Hoffmann (B) .....	May 22
Joyce Luedke (B).....	May 22
Bonnie McNabb (B).....	May 23
Sheila Carlson (B).....	May 26
Liz Fischer (B) .....	May 26
James Duginski (B) .....	May 27
Augustine & Savitri Moses (A).....	May 27
Carol Pachmayer (B) .....	May 29
Mark Milne (B).....	May 31

**Connect Online!**

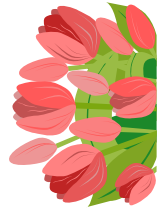
**Website:**  
[firstwausau.org](http://firstwausau.org)  
**Facebook:**  
[facebook.com/WausauFUMC](https://facebook.com/WausauFUMC)  
**YouTube:**  
[youtube.com/@FirstWausauUMC](https://youtube.com/@FirstWausauUMC)  
**WIFI Network:**  
 FUMC Guest  
 password: fumcpublic

## Online Giving

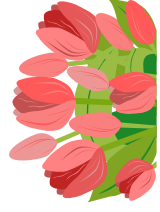
Online giving is available for regular offerings or other missions you wish to support. An account is not required.

[www.onrealm.org/](http://www.onrealm.org/)  
[FirstUnitedMeth 91919/give/now](https://FirstUnitedMeth91919/give/now)





# MAY 2026



firsturncofhausau@gmail.com

May 2026 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8am - Worship (Chapel) 9am - Sunday School/Adult 10am - Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am - African Worship @ 11am - Coffee Hour	27 11:30am - Savvy Seniors 5pm - Palestine Exhibit and	28 10am - Prayer Shawl Group	29 5pm - Bible Study 6:30pm - Handbell Practice 7:15pm - Choir rehearsal	30 7pm - Scouts, Old Choir Room	1 Office Closed	2
3 8am - Worship w/Holy 9am - Sunday School/Adult 10am - Worship with Holy 11am - Coffee Hour 11:30am - Annual Roadside	4 11:30am - Savvy Seniors 5pm - Palestine Exhibit and	5 9am - Palestine Exhibit and 6pm - Missions Team (B.K.)	6 9am - Palestine Exhibit and 5pm - Bible Study 7:15pm - Choir rehearsal	7 9am - Palestine Exhibit and 7pm - Scouts, Old Choir Room	8 Office Closed	9
10 Women's Ministry Sunday 8am - Worship (Chapel) 9am - Sunday School/Adult 10:30am - African Worship @ 11am - Coffee Hour 4pm - Community Meal	11 6:30pm - Monthly DS Zoom,	12 1pm - PNC/CCC 5:30pm - Trustees (B.K. Smith 7pm - Finance Committee (B.	13 1pm - UWFAith Monthly 5pm - Bible Study 7:15pm - Choir rehearsal	14 7pm - Scouts, Old Choir Room	15 Office Closed	16
17 United Methodist Student Day 8am - Worship (Chapel) 9am - Sunday School/Adult 10am - Worship Service 10:30am - African Worship @ 11am - Coffee Hour	18 10am - Prayer Team (Parlor) 7pm - Ministries Council	19 6pm - Potluck & Missionary	20 5pm - Bible Study	21 7pm - Scouts, Old Choir Room	22 Office Closed	23
24 Heritage Sunday 9am - Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am - African Worship @ 11am - Coffee Hour 4pm - Community Meal	25 Office Closed	26	27	28 4pm - UWV Book Club (Book	29 Office Closed	30
31 Peace with Justice Sunday 9am - Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am - African Worship @ 11am - Coffee Hour 4pm - Community Meal	1 11:30am - Savvy Seniors	2 6pm - Missions Team (B.K.)	3	4 Annual Conference	5 Office Closed	6

## 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, MAY, 3

### ***You Know the Way***

Ps. 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

## SUNDAY, MAY 10 *Mother's Day*

### ***The Story Abides***

Ps. 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21

## SUNDAY, MAY 17 *Ascension Sunday*

### ***Living the Sequel***

Ps. 47, Eph. 1:15-23, Luke 24:44-53

## SUNDAY, MAY 24 *Pentecost*

### ***Spirit Unbound***

Ps. 104:24-34, Numbers 11:24-30, John 20:19-23

## SUNDAY, MAY 31

### ***Spirit in Partnership***

Ps. 8, Gen. 1:1-2:4a, Matt. 28:16-20

## STAFF

Pastor

Director of Comm./Finance

Director of Discipleship

Building Engineer

Rebecca Borke

Georgia Reynolds

Julie Mieke

Andy White

[rebecca@firstwausau.org](mailto:rebecca@firstwausau.org)

[geaogia@firstwausau.org](mailto:geaogia@firstwausau.org)

[julie@firstwausau.org](mailto:julie@firstwausau.org)

903 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)