



# THE MESSENGER

First Wausau United Methodist Church

Downtown Wausau Wisconsin

## From the Pastor

By Pastor Rebecca Borke

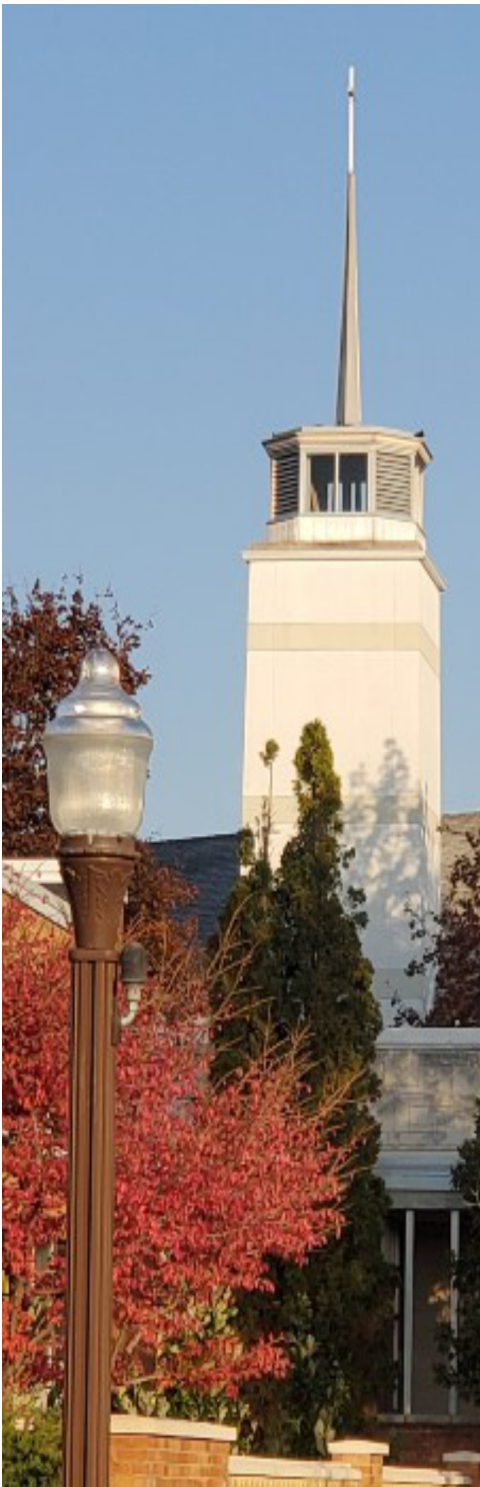
Dear First Wausau Family of Faith,

John Wesley (1703-1791) traveled on horseback and established circuits to share and establish God's grace and gifts throughout Britain. Stephen Tomkins writes that "[Wesley] rode 250,000 miles, gave away 30,000 pounds, and preached more than 40,000 sermons". John ordained and sent Francis Asbury (1745-1816) to establish the Methodist Church in the Colonies. Asbury traveled 270,000 miles on horseback and preached 16,000 sermons across the eastern seaboard of the US during and after the American Revolution. That is a lot of miles in those saddles, and hundreds of other Circuit Riders did the same thing, all to make disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world.

I don't have a horse, but a few years ago I bought a Ram (Promaster). I plan to live in my house during the colder six months of the year, but my big red van is perfect for living in from May to October. It is solar-powered and self-contained, with a full kitchen, a toilet and shower, heat and ventilation, and offers flexibility where I can park it overnight. My sleep has actually improved since I began living out of my van, as has my reading, devotional, and prayer life. It hasn't been necessary for traveling to serve in ministry in other places yet, but I like knowing that option exists.

Perhaps God is also calling you to be in a season of simplifying your life, possessions, or schedule. These are all types of fasting to deepen our relationship with God and remind us what really matters. Will you also "saddle up" and get ready to ride, however and wherever God calls you? I am praying that we all see the opportunities God gives us to love and serve people near and far with the simplicity and transforming power of God's grace.

Blessings,  
Pastor Rebecca





# Immigrant Hope

We are pleased to announce that a ministry called **Immigrant Hope** is moving into our building. Several months ago, our church's Mission Team started a fund called **Immigrant Pathways** to partner with Immigrant Hope and help offset the already low cost for immigrants with greater financial needs. Immigrant Hope has a home office in Stevens Point with the Forest Lakes district of the Evangelical Free Church. They offer low-cost legal immigration services and assistance in finding the best pathways to legal residency for our new neighbors. Laura Humphrey is the Director and Jennifer Wirt is the Assistant, and they are certified to file applications for a variety of residency and citizenship options. They are leasing the former pastor's office and look forward to welcoming and serving immigrants wanting to move ahead on the path to citizenship.



## Kitchen Deep Clean Day

Monday, June 15  
9:00 am

Volunteers needed! We're giving our church kitchen a thorough deep clean before Andy cleans and waxes the floors — and we'd love your help. Cleaning supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring any favorite brushes, magic erasers, scrapers etc. if you want. Let's make it shine!



## Congratulations to Our Graduates!

We are so proud of all five of our high school graduates! Gideon A, Oliver H, and Dante R will all be studying at UW Stevens Point. Pete J will be taking culinary classes at NTC, and Michael M will be studying at Hennepin Technical School. We bless and pray for each of them as they continue to learn and grow in life and faith.

We also congratulate Gideon, Oliver, and Michael for being awarded Pivet Scholarships! Thanks to the generous endowment given by the Pivets, each of them will receive \$2,000 a semester for up to 4 years (8 semesters) toward tuition. In addition, Michael also received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation. We're grateful that the legacy of the Pivets continues in the higher education of members of our congregation.

# Missionary to Rome, Rev. Sarah Mae Gabuyo



Rev Sarah Mae Gabuyo and her husband enjoyed a potluck dinner in Fellowship Hall on May 19, 2026, with about two dozen people who came together to hear her story. Her husband is also a pastor, with the Hungarian Reformed Church. She gave a wonderful program in the chapel, highlighting the church she serves in Rome, located in an old, historic building. It is located near a unique bridge in Rome, and she stressed that she uses that to make her church a bridge for Methodists and others in the area. She is a member of the Wisconsin Conference, and serves as the only Methodist clergy and church in the city of Rome. Her enthusiasm for the work she does and the people she meets was very contagious!



**Hymn Sing ~ Sunday June 7**  
*Bring Your Voices!*



## Let Us Pray

Andrea Anderson passed away on May 3rd. Graveside services at Pine Grove Cemetery are pending.

Jane Dovenbarger passed on May 16th. Visitation is from 11:00 to 11:30 on June 27 followed by service from 11:30 to 12:30 in the Chapel. Luncheon to follow.

## Grief Counseling

Grief counseling 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.



## Blessing of All God's Creatures

*Outdoor Worship Sunday June 28 at 9:00am*

### First Wausau



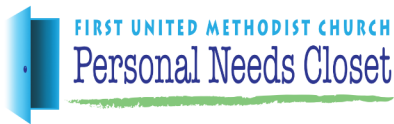
## Savvy Seniors

Savvy Seniors will be meeting on Monday, June 1 at 11:30am at Hoehn's Huddle in Schofield.

In July, Savvy Seniors will be meeting on Monday, July 6 at 11:30am at Blissful Bites & Brunch in Rothschild.

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.

## June Missions



We have served 120 households, representing 419 individuals, so far this year by providing household supplies to help stretch their budgets.

These are available on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 1-3pm and the 4th Saturday of the month, 9-11am (No Saturdays in May and Dec.)

Throughout the month of June, donate loose change, put cash in the small brown envelopes, memo a check, or donate online under fund name: Personal Needs Closet Physical donations of personal needs items (shampoo, soaps, toilet paper, etc) can also be dropped off by the PNC door or church office.

## WUMF Monthly Stewardship News

### The Gift of Connection and Community

*One of the great gifts the Church still offers the world is something increasingly rare: real connection. Church communities bring together people who otherwise might never interact: different generations, political viewpoints, life experiences, backgrounds and perspectives. In many ways, the local church remains one of the few places where people still regularly gather across lines that often divide society elsewhere.*

*That kind of connection matters. It reminds us that we are more than consumers, social media profiles, or people sorted into ideological camps. We are human beings created in the image of God and called to live in community with one another. And perhaps nowhere is the gift of Christian community more visible than during difficult seasons of life.*

*Stewardship is not only about money. It is about how we use the gifts God has entrusted to us - our time, compassion, presence, abilities, encouragement, and resources - to care for one another and build up the Body of Christ. Healthy churches cultivate more than generosity. They cultivate belonging. And in a disconnected world hungry for meaning, that may be one of the most important gifts the Church has to offer.*

- Rev. Jason Mahnke

## July Missions



Claire's Critter Closet has provided 70 households, representing 143 cats and 319 dogs, this year with food and supplies (litter, leashes, treats, etc.) for their furry friends while they are dealing with financial difficulties. It helps keep people and their pets together and fed during hard times.

Throughout the month of July, donate loose change, put cash in the small brown envelopes, memo a check, or donate online under fund name: Claire's Critter Closet



United Women in Faith

Officially, our church's United Women in Faith group is on summer break, but there are still many things going on. A number of UWF women in our group help support Open Door by helping provide breakfasts, and occasionally lunch, for the people who use Open Door services for support and help getting back into the community. There is a box marked for this in the church's kitchen for donations, which are always welcome. A small group of women have been meeting monthly on the fourth Thursdays since the start of 2026, reading and discussing some of the books on the UWF reading list. June's book is See No Stranger by Valerie Kaur, on how to live and lead for beloved community. Copies are available from Julie Mieke. The women of UWF also want to remind you about the fall rummage sale, scheduled for early October. There will be some guidelines in the next Messenger as to what will be accepted for fall. This is due to the disposal difficulties encountered recently for items not sold.

Our UWF will resume its monthly meetings on Wednesday, August 12, at 1:00 pm in the parlor. Women of all ages are welcome!

# Discipleship Update

We are holding Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 4pm discussing The Upper Room Disciplines. Feel free to join us on any occasion. We are hoping we are meeting early enough so that if you would like to attend the 400 Block Concerts you can still get there. You do not need to read the lessons ahead of time but may find it helpful to have done so. I still have two books that you may use. I am also looking for a book to study this fall. We can continue with the Disciplines but am hoping we might spread our wings by studying something more. Once we are back into the school year, we will be meeting at 5pm. Have a great summer. Julie Mieke



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.



## Connect Online!



# 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](http://FirstUnitedMeth91919/give/now)



# Birthdays

## JUNE

- Elizabeth Harmon .....June 1
- Beth Rohland .....June 2
- Tony Borchardt .....June 3
- Shukurani Mfaume ..... June 3
- Andrew Koss ..... June 4
- Marian Attoe ..... June 6
- Dale Zietlow .....June 7
- Rita Bennett ..... June 8
- Joshua Dvorak ..... June 8
- Sue Kissinger ..... June 11
- Andy Flath ..... June 12
- Doris Fountain ..... June 17
- Matthew Adams .....June 21
- Mike Zahn .....June 26
- Tracy Hoefs ..... June 26
- Laura Grogan ..... June 29
- Peggy Stamp ..... June 29
- Finnley Schreiber .....June 29



## JULY

- Marilyn Muelver ..... July 2
- Avery Wyrick ..... July 3
- Jamelle Milne .....July 3
- Walter Winchell .....July 3
- Dan Daubert .....July 7
- Jacqueline Chang .....July 7
- Gwyneth Chang .....July 7
- Hannah Marquardt .....July 7
- Collette Brown .....July 7
- Monica Dvorak .....July 9
- Courtney Rohland .....July 10
- Bob Petersen ..... July 10
- Marc Carlson .....July 13
- Zoe Martin .....July 19
- Dick Rayborn ..... July 21
- Mark Johnson.....July 21
- Samuel Cowan .....July 23
- Thomas Krueger ..... July 24
- Bev LaCrosse .....July 24
- Mick Marzu .....July 25
- Blake Grogan .....July 29
- Gloria Rybarczyk .....July 31

# Anniversaries

## JUNE

- Eldon & LaRae
- Horton .....June 6
- Ken & Marian
- Attoe ..... June 10
- Stan & Alice
- Schacht .....June 15
- Tim & Joan
- Harvey .....June 16
- Bill & Cindy
- Owen .....June 21
- Bruce & Ann
- Chopp .....June 23
- Don & Sue
- Kissinger .....June 23
- Mike & Liz
- Fischer .....June 24
- Erik & Margaret
- Anderson ..... June 27
- Brian & Jane
- Smith ..... June 27
- Timothy & Debra
- Martin .....June 28
- Alan & Paula
- Hauber .....June 30

## JULY

- Karl & Carol
- Pachmayer .....July 15
- Kurt & Kirsten
- Hornby .....July 15
- Gregory & Laura
- Cowan ..... July 25
- Mike & Diane
- Zahn .....July 30



## The Messenger

Please submit any news or announcements for the June/July Messenger to [jongoertzdesign@gmail.com](mailto:jongoertzdesign@gmail.com) by Thursday, July 6 .

# JUNE 2026

SUN 31	MON 1	TUE 2	WED 3	THU 4	FRI 5	SAT 6
<p><b>Peace with Justice Sunday</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Worship (Sanctuary)</li> <li>10:30am African Worship</li> <li>11am Coffee Hour</li> <li>4pm Community Meal</li> </ul>	<p>11:30am Savvy Seniors</p>	<p>6pm Missions Team (B.K. Smith Room)</p>	<p>4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)</p>	<p>Annual Conference</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	
<p><b>Annual Conference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Worship - Hymn Sing (Sanctuary)</li> <li>11am Coffee Hour</li> <li>4pm Community Meal</li> </ul>	<p>6:30pm Monthly DS Zoom, Devotion at</p>	<p>1pm PNC/CCC 5:30pm Trustees (B.K. Smith Room)</p>	<p>4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>9am Worship w/Holy Communion (Sanctuary)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am African Worship</li> <li>11am Coffee Hour</li> <li>4pm Community Meal</li> </ul>	<p>9am Kitchen cleaning day</p>	<p>6pm SPRC (Mission Room) 7pm Finance Committee (B.K. Smith Rm)</p>	<p>4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>20</p>
<p><b>Men's Ministry Sunday</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Worship (Sanctuary)</li> <li>10:30am African Worship</li> <li>11am Coffee Hour</li> <li>4pm Community Meal</li> </ul>		<p>23</p>	<p>4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am PNC/CCC</li> <li>11am Jane Dovenbarger's visitation, fu</li> </ul>
<p><b>John Wesley's Birthday</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Blessing of the Animals Outdoor<sup>1</sup></li> <li>10:30am African Worship</li> <li>11am Coffee Hour</li> <li>4pm Community Meal</li> </ul>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>Jul 1 4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>4</p>

# JULY 2026

SUN 28	MON 29	TUE 30	WED Jul 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John Wesley's Birthday</li> <li>9am Blessing of the Animals Outdoor<sup>1</sup></li> <li>10:30am African Worship</li> <li>11am Coffee Hour</li> <li>4pm Community Meal</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)</li> </ul>		Office Closed	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5</li> <li>9am Worship w/Holy Communion (Sanctuary)</li> <li>11am Coffee Hour</li> <li>4pm Community Meal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6</li> <li>11:30am Savvy Seniors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7</li> <li>6pm Missions Team (B.K. Smith Room)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8</li> <li>4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)</li> </ul>	9	10	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12</li> <li>9am Worship (Sanctuary)</li> <li>10:30am African Worship</li> <li>11am Coffee Hour</li> <li>4pm Community Meal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13</li> <li>6:30pm Monthly DS Zoom, Devotion at 7pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14</li> <li>1pm PNC/CCC</li> <li>5:30pm Trustees (B.K. Smith Room)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15</li> <li>4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)</li> </ul>	16	17	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19</li> <li>9am Worship (Sanctuary)</li> <li>10:30am African Worship</li> <li>11am Coffee Hour</li> <li>4pm Community Meal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21</li> <li>6pm SPRC (Mission Room)</li> <li>7pm Finance Committee (B.K. Smith Rm)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22</li> <li>4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)</li> </ul>	23	24	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>26</li> <li>9am Worship (Sanctuary)</li> <li>10:30am African Worship</li> <li>11am Coffee Hour</li> <li>4pm Community Meal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>27</li> <li>7pm Ministries Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>28</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29</li> <li>4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)</li> </ul>	30	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aug 1</li> <li>9am NE UWF Board - BK Smith</li> </ul>

## 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.

# JUNE/JULY WORSHIP

Sunday Summer Worship Time: 9:00am in the Sanctuary

## SUNDAY, JUNE 7

### *Hymn Sing*

Ps. 33:1-4, Ps. 47:1-7, Ps. 96:1-13, Ps. 98:1-9, Ps. 150:1-6

## SUNDAY, JUNE 14

### *A Miracle Called Laughter*

Ps. 116:12-19 Romans 5:1-8 Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7

## SUNDAY, JUNE 21

### *Hearing the Voice*

Psalms 17:1-7, 15 Romans 6:1b-11 Genesis 21:8-21

## SUNDAY, JUNE 28

### *Blessing of All God's Creatures*

Psalm 8:1-9, Isaiah 11:1-9

## SUNDAY, JULY 5

### *Delight in the Law*

Ps. 72, Rom. 7:15-25a, Matt. 11:16-19, 25-30

## SUNDAY, JULY 12

### *Set the Mind*

Ps. 25, Rom. 8:1-11, Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23

## STAFF

Pastor  
Director of Discipleship  
Building Engineer

Rebecca Borke  
Julie Mieke  
Andy White

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