



THE MESSENGER

First Wausau United Methodist Church

Downtown Wausau Wisconsin

From the Pastor

By Pastor Rebecca Borke

Dear First Wausau Family of Faith,

As we commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence this year, the song "God Bless America" has been playing in the background of my thoughts. I'm all for asking God for blessings. I certainly pray that God will, as Irving Berlin's song says, *"Stand beside her, and guide her through the night with a light from above."*

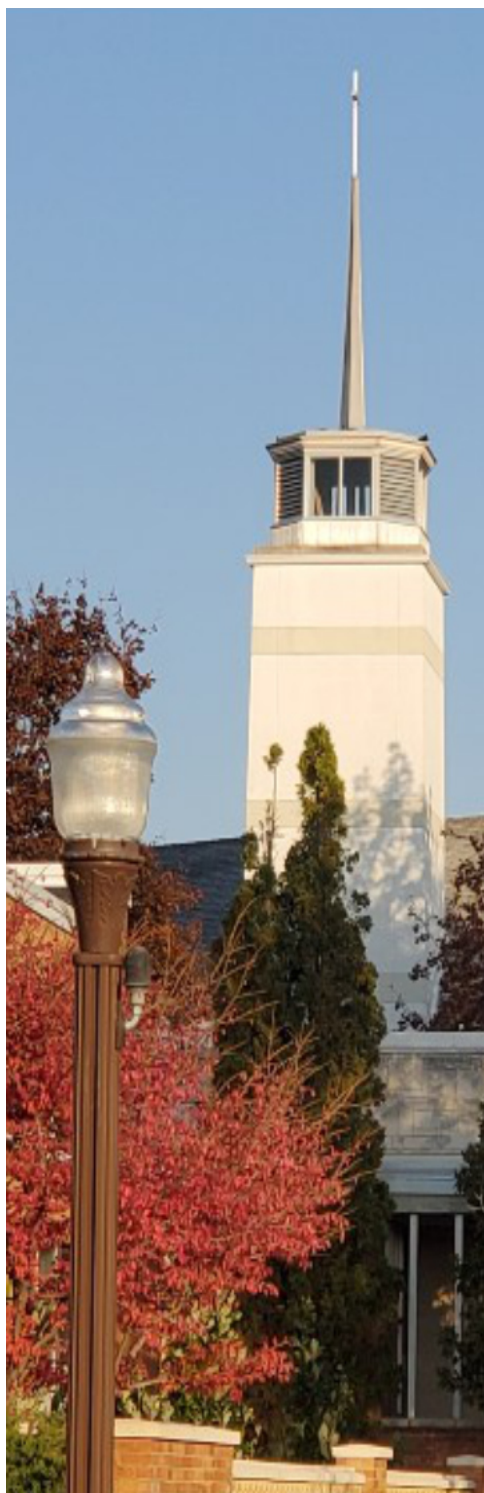
I think God wants to do more than that. Who and what God blesses is found in the Beatitudes. As a culture, we have been conditioned to think and live individually and independently from the very beginning. But Jesus was not teaching individuals, but a crowd of people from a variety of perspectives. Read the following Message version of several Beatitudes from Matthew 5, and think of how "you're blessed" is more meaningful in the plural as we ask God to bless America.

"You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule. You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you. You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought....You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for. You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world. You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family."

As faithful people in our country, it feels like we're at the end of our rope, and we've lost much of what is most dear. We've been humbled and are rediscovering that our values are worth standing and speaking up for. We are becoming more caring people, who recognize the dignity of others near and far. We certainly see vain wars and infighting, but we are learning to respond with greater cooperation and service to others. We sometimes even remember that "America" is bigger than a single country - it includes all the people of North, South, and Central America.

May we be a blessing to God and one another across this hemisphere and world, and may God bless America. Grace and Peace,

Pastor Rebecca



Welcome, Lana Mohs!



The Staff-Parish Relations Committee of our church is very happy to announce the hiring of Lana Mohs as our Operations Director (handling finance operations and communications). She brings a lot of experience in these areas to our office

staff. The following is information she shared, written (with minor editing) for the Messenger in her own words:

"My connection to the Methodist Church began long before I joined First United Methodist Church of Wausau. My parents were active members of the Mosinee Methodist Church, where my mother served as a lay minister and faithfully volunteered with the church's food pantry. Watching their commitment to serving others left a lasting impression on me.

When COVID changed so much of my life, my parents moved to Wausau and became part of the FUMC family. After they both passed away, I found myself drawn to this same church that had welcomed and cared for them. I knew this was where I was meant to be.

In 2025, I began serving this church by helping with property management, and I now have the privilege of serving as the Operations Director (formerly known as Finance and Communications Director). It has been a blessing to use my professional experience to support the ministries of the church while continuing the legacy of service that my parents modeled for me.

Outside of church, I am the Broker/Owner of Greater Realty, where I enjoy helping families throughout Central Wisconsin. My husband, Glenn, and I live in Ogema. We love spending time with our ever-growing families. I am grateful to be part of this church family and look forward to serving alongside

all of you as we continue God's work in our community."

Lana will be in the office two days a week, and she will work remotely the other two days of the work week. If you get a chance, stop in and say "Hi", to help her put more faces to names.

Welcome to the staff of FUMC-Wausau, Lana!



PNC/CCC Needs Your Help!!

If you are looking to volunteer and serve, here are a couple of great opportunities. First, **The Personal Needs Closet (PNC)** needs 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 to help register our clients by updating an excel spreadsheet.

Second, **Claire's Critter Closet (CCC)** is in need of a volunteer to help stock shelves with pet food and other items once or twice a month under the direction of Sheila Carlson, our CCC Coordinator.

If you are interested or would like more information about any of these rewarding opportunities, please see Mike Fischer at church or call at 715- 432-7703.

As of June 27, the **PNC** is serving 164 families representing 553 household members. The **CCC** is serving 102 families who are caring for 162 dogs and 330 cats."

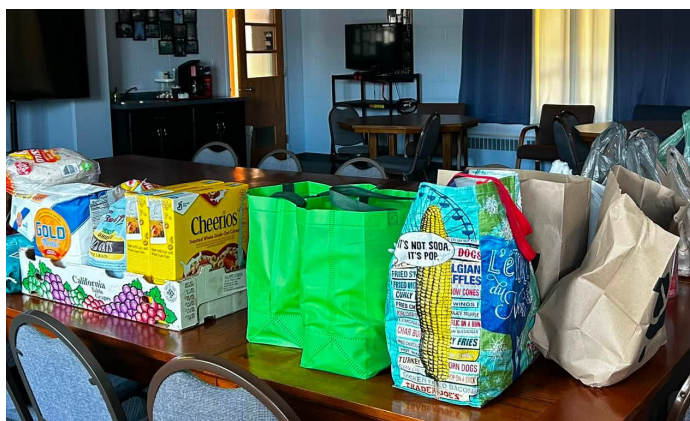


Worship Service in the Courtyard

Sunday, August 23rd, 9am

Let's all gather for an al fresco worship service as we praise God for the goodness and beauty of creation. Afterwards, we will enjoy a Pie and Ice Cream Social in the Parlor. Please bring a pie to pass or a quart of ice cream to share if you are able.

Pie & Ice Cream Social



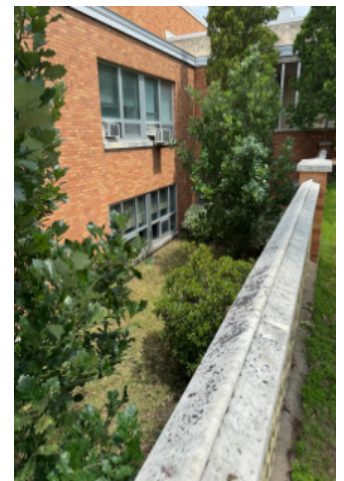
Thank you to everyone that has been donating to help the people affected by the raids and abductions happening now in Madison and Milwaukee!!



Discipleship Update

I want to invite any adults or youth to participate in our Bible study classes beginning in September. We will begin the first Wednesday evening in September at 5 pm in the BK Smith Room. We are planning to study the book "Building Beloved Community—The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny." The book was written by The United Methodist Council of Bishops and has a forward by our own Bishop Dan Schwerin. The time is now for United Methodist communities to embody our calling as disciples who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly enough to welcome the stranger, serve joyfully enough to carry collective burdens, and lead courageously enough to build beloved community one relationship, one congregation, one solidarity network at a time. May we be found worthy of this calling.

Julie Mieke Director of Discipleship



A Big Thank You!

A big shout out to Erik and Margaret Anderson for cleaning up "The Pit". Looks Great!



United
Women
in Faith

The United Women in Faith group has taken the summer off as far as meeting each month, but they remain active. Several members have met monthly to discuss books from the recommended reading list. Donations still are given to Open Door, mainly for breakfast items. If you are interested in helping with this local mission, there are boxes for donations located in our kitchen. **On August 1**, the Northeast District UWF is meeting at our church. Our unit is also hosting the District Annual Celebration on **September 19**. The theme of this celebration is "Faith and Climate Action", loving God and loving neighbor in the midst of climate change. Heather Phelps will be the speaker. She is a Student Resource Specialist at the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, where she develops and lends hands-on kits to education to teach environmental topics. She also works to connect faith and climate action, leading the Eco-Justice Team at St. Paul's United Methodist Church and speaking at churches around the state about the Christian response to climate change. There will also be a silent auction, reading program book exchange, and a collection will be taken for the Personal Needs Closet at our church. Registration is due by September 5, 2026.

A planning session for our local UWF group, to help set up the coming year, is **scheduled for August 12**, at 1:00 pm.



The United Women in Faith will be hosting our semi-annual rummage sale this fall on Friday, October 2 and Saturday, Oct 3. *****Please note that these are different days of the week than what we previously have been doing!** Donations are always welcome and may be placed on the stage in Fellowship Hall during office hours (9-1, M-Th). There are some items that we have recently found difficult to "re-home" if they didn't sell, so they will not be accepted. These include electronic devices (record players, old radios, etc...) as we then have to pay for them to be recycled by Good News. Other items we are no longer accepting include toys, stuffed animals, suitcases, clothing, bikes, etc...Some of these are no longer accepted at places like Goodwill or St Vinny's, and we have found that the people who have become regular customers at our sales do not buy items like this. Puzzles have become very popular, so if you are looking to thin out your collection, we'd love to have them! If you have any questions, please reach out to Sara Koss or Bonnie Goertz for more information. United Women in Faith are very grateful for all the support we have received for our spring and fall sales. We have repeatedly surpassed our fundraising goals for the sales, and all proceeds go to missions both locally and beyond.

First Wausau



Savvy Seniors

Savvy Seniors will be meeting on Monday, August 3 at 11:30am at El Tequila Salsa in Rin Mountain.

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.



Volunteers packed Sunday Community Dinners after worship on Sunday, July 5. Thanks to a Thrivent Community card, 120 meals were provided for Sunday evening and Open Door the next day.

August Missions



This drive-thru meal takes place every Sunday from 4-5pm on the east side of the building. Our church's host group led by Jen and Mark Johnson hosts the meal for every 5th Sunday of any month. All other meals are filled by various churches and organizations in the community. Throughout the month of August, donate loose change, put cash in the small brown envelopes, memo a check, or donate online.

We still have one Sunday (Nov. 22) open for 2026. Please contact the church if interested.

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/
FirstUnitedMeth 91919/give/now



The Messenger

Please submit any news or announcements for the September Messenger to jongoertzdesign@gmail.com by August, 18.

Birthdays

JULY

Marilyn Muelver July 2
Avery Wyrick July 3
Janelle 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

AUGUST

Gwen Carey August 2
Dwight Steinke August 2
Cooper Stamp August 2
Augustine Moses August 2
Dick Ostwald August 3
Don Kissinger August 4
Ben Fischer August 4
Emily Jauch August 5
Saviri Moses August 5
Cassidy Zuleger August 6
Pastor Rebecca Borke August 6
David Edmondson August 7
Sara Roquemore August 8
Logan Rohland August 8
Karl Pachmayer August 9
Terrence Flath August 12
Julie Mieke August 14
Wil Bloy August 17
Nancy Flath August 17
Emily Fandrey August 17
Sifa Misuu August 19
Gary Werhane August 20
Dan Zei August 20
Lucas Barth August 21
Pamela Zietlow August 22
Jacob Jauch August 22
Eileen Denfeld August 25
Lynn Reichelt August 25
David Lee August 26
David Mariani August 27
Sheryl Del Conte August 27
Meagan Fandrey August 27
Liesl Seiser August 27
Miranda Zahn August 28
Clare Ostwald August 28
MacKenzie Marquardt August 30
Dan Fuhrman August 30
McKenna Zuleger August 31
Anne Schmale August 31

Anniversaries

JULY

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

AUGUST

Rebecca Morris August 2
Dave Carlson August 4
Beth & John
Burke August 6
Bonnie & Jon
Goertz August 8
Danielle & Zach
Hassberg August 9
Debra & LeRoy
Schoepke August 11
Dick & Sharon
Rayborn August 13
Matt Seiser August 13
Gail & Michael
Cain August 15
Dan & Jen
Marzu August 16
Dennis & Gwen
Carey August 17
Larry & Marilyn
Muelver August 19
Eileen & Scott
Denfeld August 20
Jen & Mark
Johnson August 20
Monica Dvorak August 24



Thrivent Choice Program Enhancements: A New Opportunity to Support First United Methodist Church

If you are a Thrivent member, there are exciting changes coming to the Thrivent Choice® program that make it even easier to support First United Methodist Church of Wausau.

Beginning in 2026, Thrivent has enhanced the program to help eligible members direct charitable support more quickly and conveniently. Members can now direct their available Choice Dollars earlier in the year, and the deadline to direct them has been extended through December 31.

In addition, eligible members can expect their Choice Dollars to become available sooner, and Thrivent has introduced a more intuitive calendar year for directing funds. These changes are designed to make giving simpler while helping organizations like ours continue serving our community.

If you are a Thrivent member, please take a few moments to log into your Thrivent account and

verify that your organization's information is up to date. You can also confirm your email address and banking information to ensure you receive important program updates.

Every Choice Dollar directed to First United Methodist Church helps support our ministries, outreach programs, worship, and mission work. Since 2010, Thrivent Choice has distributed hundreds of millions of dollars to churches and nonprofit organizations, making a meaningful impact in communities across the country.

Thank you to everyone who has designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars to First United Methodist Church. Your generosity continues to make a difference in the life of our congregation and our community.

If you have questions about directing your Choice Dollars, please contact the church office. We would be happy to assist you.

JULY 2026

12 • 9am Worship (Sanctuary) • 10:30am African Worship • 11am Coffee Hour • 4pm Community Meal	13 • 6:30pm Monthly DS Zoom, Devotion al	14 • 1pm PNC/CCC • 5:30pm Trustees (B.K. Smith Room)	15 • 4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)	16	17 Office Closed	18
19 • 9am Worship (Sanctuary) • 10:30am African Worship • 11am Coffee Hour • 4pm Community Meal	20	21 • 6pm SPRC (Mission Room) • 7pm Finance Committee (B.K. Smith R	22 • 4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)	23	24 Office Closed	25 • 9am PNC/CCC
26 • 9am Worship (Sanctuary) • 10:30am African Worship • 11am Coffee Hour • 4pm Community Meal	27 • 7pm Ministries Council	28	29 • 4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)	30	31 Office Closed	Aug 1 • 9am NE UWF Board - BK Smith

AUGUST 2026

Today < > August 2026 Month						
SUN 26 9am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal	MON 27 7pm Ministries Council	TUE 28	WED 29 4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)	THU 30	FRI 31 Office Closed 9am NE UWF Board - BK Smith	SAT Aug 1
2 9am Worship w/Holy Communion (San 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal	3 11:30am Savvy Seniors	4 6pm Missions Team (B.K. Smith Room)	5 4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)	6	7 Office Closed	8
9 9am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal	10 6:30pm Monthly DS Zoom, Devotion at	11 1pm PNC/CCC 5:30pm Trustees (B.K. Smith Room)	12 1pm UWFaith Monthly Meeting (Parlor 4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)	13	14 Office Closed	15
16 9am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal	17	18 6pm SPRC (Mission Room) 7pm Finance Committee (B.K. Smith R	19 4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm) 5:15pm WNF Dinner, Fellowship Hall	20	21 Office Closed 9am PNC/CCC	22
23 9am Outdoor Worship (Courtyard) 10am Pie and Ice Cream Social (Parlor 10:30am African Worship 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal	24	25	26 4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)	27 4pm UWF Book Club (Book 4)	28 Office Closed	29
30 9am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal	31	Sep 1 6pm Missions Team (B.K. Smith Room)	2 4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)	3	4 Office Closed	5

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.

JULY/AUGUST WORSHIP

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

SUNDAY, JULY 19

Wait with Eager Longing

Ps. 139:1-2, 23-24, Rom. 8:12-25, Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43

SUNDAY, JULY 26

More than Conquerors

Ps. 105:1-11, 45b, Rom. 8:26-30, Matt. 13:31-33, 44-52

SUNDAY, August 2

Behold the Face

Psalm 17:1-7, 15, Genesis 32:22-32

SUNDAY, August 9

Sing Praises

Psalm 105:1-11, Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

SUNDAY, August 16

Unity of Praise

Psalm 133, Genesis 45:1-15

SUNDAY, August 23

****Outdoor Worship****

Power

Ps. 124, Exodus 1:8-2:10, Matthew 16:13-20

SUNDAY, August 30

Acceptance

Ps. 105:1-6, 23-26, Exodus 3:1-15, Matthew 16:21-28

STAFF

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