



THE MESSENGER

First Wausau United Methodist Church

Downtown Wausau Wisconsin

From the Pastor

By Pastor Rebecca Borke

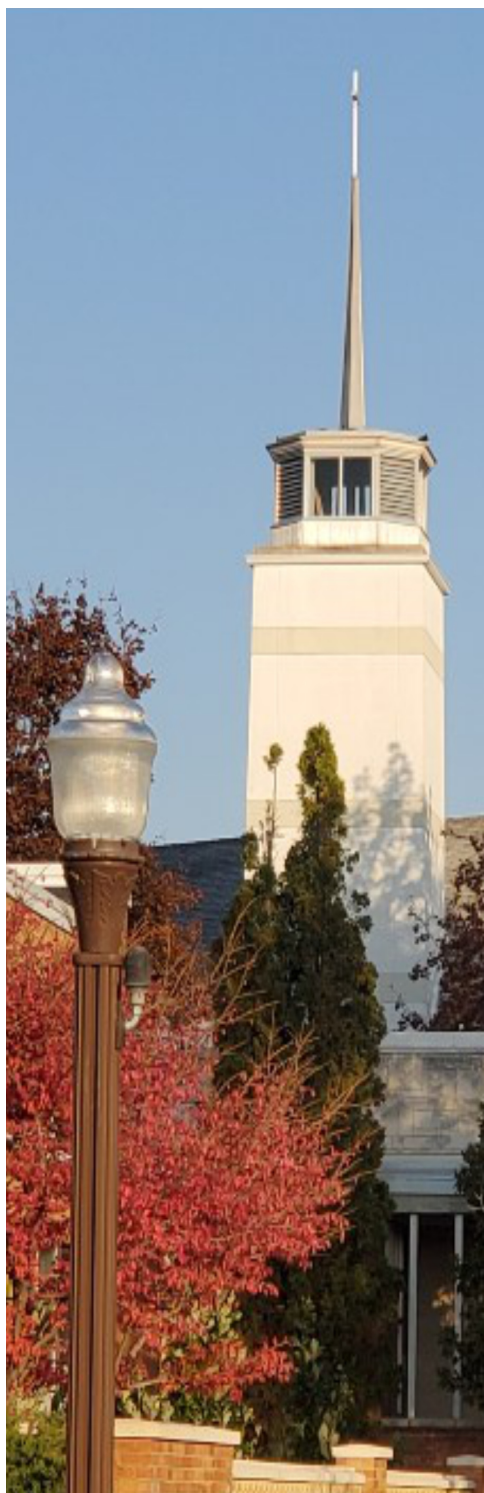
Dear First Wausau Family of Faith,

I am grateful for the sensors and backup cameras that help keep us safer on the road. As we head into fall, I find myself wishing my car had deer-detection technology, too. Those tools remind me of blind spots in our faith. Many of our blind spots come from cultural assumptions we do not always realize we carry. For example, ancient biblical languages and cultures often treated numbers and dates more metaphorically than we tend to do. Names of people and places carried deep, layered meanings, and history and nuance shaped faithful priorities and decisions. The ancestors of our faith noticed things we often miss because our own cultural lens can limit what we see.

Getting to know people from around the world, whether through travel, conversation, reading, or shared community life, can be an invaluable way to upgrade our faith blind-spot sensors. At the end of September, I'll be spending time with my daughter in Valencia, Spain, and we will also visit Marseille, France together. We have both learned how important it is to expand our vision and understanding by stepping outside our cultural bubble for a while. Whether or not international travel is possible for you, a very helpful book on this subject is [Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible](#), by E. Randolph Richards and Brandon J. O'Brien. As we travel this road of faith together, may God's grace help us see what we might otherwise have missed, and may that clearer vision lead us to live with deeper love.

Gratefully,

Pastor Rebecca





Worship Time Survey Results

We received 53 completed responses to our Worship Time Survey, giving us a helpful picture of the congregation's needs and preferences for worship scheduling. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Overall, 10:00 a.m. emerged as the most desired worship time. Among the 13 respondents who regularly attend the 8:00 a.m. service, however, the preferences were particularly interesting. Their first choice was 9:00 a.m., followed closely by 8:00 a.m., with 8:30 a.m. as their third choice.

After considering these responses along with the practical needs of Sunday School and choir/music preparation, we recommend continuing our current school-year schedule:

- 8:00 a.m. – Worship in Chapel
- 9:00 a.m. – Sunday School classes (elementary, youth, and adult)
- 9:30 a.m. – Choir warm-up
- 10:00 a.m. – Worship in Sanctuary
- After the 10:00 a.m. service – Coffee Hour

The survey results help confirm that our current school-year schedule works well for most of our congregation while also providing opportunities for Christian education, music ministry, fellowship, and worship.

Because Sunday School and choir do not meet during the summer, the combined 9:00 a.m. summer worship service continues to work well for our congregation.

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. We are grateful for your thoughtful responses and, most of all, grateful for the opportunity to worship together!

Discipleship Update

Now that the school year is starting so are our Sunday School classes. The youth will be studying the Bible verses that go with the Sunday morning worship with Collette Brown and Carrie Hockerman leading. Carrie said treats will always be available. The Adult class will continue their study. You do not need to read the lesson ahead of time and are welcome to come as you are able. Jen Johnson is leading the study. Books can be made available if you need one. On Wednesday September 9th the evening Bible study will go back to meeting at 5PM so those who are in bells, choir or are teaching can get to the class. We will be studying Building Beloved Community. Books are now available for this class. There is no cost for these as the Wisconsin Annual Conference made these available. We may attempt to make this class available by Zoom or by speaker phone at a minimum if that will assist in attendance. Next spring I am hoping we might attempt Adam Hamilton's newly released study. Looking forward to making disciples for the transformation of the world through study, fellowship, and curiosity. Julie Mieke

Grief

by Julie Mieke

Grief catches us unaware. Death comes at unexpected and sometimes at expected times. When we lose someone, a pet, job, health, or normalcy in our life we grieve. Grief does not get easier and the pain may lessen but never goes away. The wounds of grief do not heal the way you want them to; they heal the way they need to. It takes time for wounds to fade into scars. It takes time for the process of healing to take place. Give yourself time. Give yourself that grace. Be gentle with your wounds. Be gentle with your heart. You deserve to heal. Yes, it takes time and most importantly, the process of active mourning for healing to unfold. We must be patient and give ourselves time. We must give ourselves the grace of Reaching out for and accepting the support of others. We deserve to heal. It is a declaration of hope. We deserve to heal. We deserve to live and love fully again. We deserve to experience meaning for the rest of our days. You can find on our website a weekly grief meditation to assist in the mourning and grieving process.

Trustees' Report: Investing in Good Power



The Trustees have researched both good and necessary investments to improve our building, congregation, and all of creation. With the blessing of the Ministry Council, we are excited to announce these upcoming projects.

- 1 Expandable Solar System. Cost: \$42K (w/\$37K in rebates)
- 2 Replace old ballast lights and some fixtures with LEDs in currently used areas of the church. Cost: \$17K
- 3 Parking Lot Repairs and Resurfacing. Cost: \$24K
- 4 City Assessment for new Fulton Street sidewalk and parking lot entrances. Cost: \$17K)

The Trustees received and closely compared quotes from at least two companies for each of these projects. We have chosen Northwind Solar for the solar system, K&M Electric for the updated LED lighting, and American Asphalt for the parking lot.

The City Assessment is a necessary bill to pay, and we can see and appreciate how much Fulton Street has improved. The parking lot has outlived its life expectancy from major work 10 years ago. There are now hazards to both tires and pedestrians that will get more expensive the longer we wait to fix them.

We are most excited to invest in a 26-kWh solar system. This is the maximum size for commercial "net metering", where our solar production and usage are averaged each month, per Wisconsin electric policy. This investment will have a 7-year payback, and 30% annual savings on electricity. With a 25-year life expectancy, this is the equivalent of a 15.4% Internal Rate of Return. It is a wise financial investment for our church, and using renewable energy is faithful stewardship of God's creation. In addition, investing in energy-efficient lighting will reduce financial and environmental costs associated with electricity and bulb replacement. We invite you to invest with faith and joy!



Music Ministries

Join in Helping to Make Music in our Church!

Either or both of the following music groups in our church would love to have you participate!

Chancel Choir: Sings at the 10:00 service most Sundays September-May; Rehearses on most Wednesday evenings at 7:15 pm in the sanctuary; Starts Wednesday, September 9.

Jubilate Bells: Plays 2-4 times a year at 10:00 service, September-May; Rehearses on most Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm; Starts Wednesday, September 30 at 6:30 pm in the Bell Room.



A Joyful Personal Announcement from Pastor Rebecca

Dear friends at First Wausau, I am delighted to introduce you to my fiancé. Kory Klimoski asked me to marry him at Old Faithful in Yellowstone National Park, and I said yes. Since we first met in December 2022, our relationship has grown into a gift of trust, kindness, laughter, and grace. In Kory's love, I have found a steady reminder of God's faithfulness and the healing power of patience and fidelity.

Kory grew up in Green Bay and served for many years in the United States Air Force, including 22 years stationed in Germany and deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, and other continents. He now lives on the family farm his great-grandparents established in 1890 between Phlox and Mattoon, where he rebuilt an efficient and solar-powered farmhouse. He works remotely for the Veterans Administration, keeping its computer systems secure and reliable.

Faith and service are woven through Kory's life. At St. Joseph Catholic Parish in Phlox, he serves on the Parish Council and regularly as an usher and lector. He also serves as Adjutant of the Phlox American Legion, coordinates Honor Guard ceremonies, volunteers with Sierra Delta to support veterans and rescue dogs, and serves his township as an elected supervisor. In these commitments, I see a person shaped by duty, compassion, and love of neighbor.

Kory is definitely his dog's service human. He also tends large gardens, preserves food, cares for hundreds of houseplants, and delights in the heavens through his lifelong love of astronomy. His generosity, curiosity, and gentleness are a blessing in my life. He reminds me to eat well, snuggle with pets, rest, listen, reflect, and receive love with gratitude.

After we are married, likely in September 2027, I hope to continue serving as your pastor at First Wausau. I plan to divide my time between Wausau and the farm, about 40 minutes away. Together, we look forward to caring for the land, serving our communities, and building a shared life rooted in faith, gratitude, and love. Thank you for the prayers, encouragement, and kindness you have already shown me. I am grateful to share this joyful season with you.

Wednesday Night Fellowship

Wednesday Night Fellowship returned to our church in recent years after a hiatus, and once again, we will have a group preparing and serving a delicious meal through these next months for all who wish to attend. This monthly evening is held on the third Wednesday of the month. Our first one after the summer break will be held on Wednesday, September 16, at 6:00 pm. It will be a cookout with hamburgers and brats or hot dogs, as well as a couple of salads, chips, and desserts. There is a suggested cost for each meal, but we accept all donations. Please consider making this dinner of fellowship and good food part of your monthly routine! If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Goertz at 715-716-0051.

September Missions

A ministry in the mountains of Guatemala that offers medical care, food, child care, and education to the Mayan people. Our church participates in periodic trips to assist in construction projects and to be educated in the Mayan culture.





United Women in Faith

Welcome back to the regular activities of the church's United Women in Faith group! Our monthly meetings are generally held at 1:00 pm on the second Wednesday of the month, in the church parlor. Women of all ages are welcome in this group, which focuses on missions work in numerous ways around our communities, our state, our country, and our world.

We have several events coming up soon. The first is our monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 9, at 1:00 pm in the church parlor. The second event is the Northeast District Annual Celebration for UWF units, hosted by our church on Saturday, September 19, from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. The third event will be held in early October, on Friday, October 2 and Saturday, October 3. This is our semi-annual pre-owned/rummage sale, held in Fellowship Hall. Donations are always very welcome and may be placed on the stage area of Fellowship Hall. Just a reminder that we are not accepting donations of clothing, electronics, or suitcases. Our history shows these things do not generally sell at our sales and they are becoming increasingly difficult to dispose of after the sale.

If you enjoy fellowship as well as helping others in need, please consider joining our church's UWF. If you have any questions, contact Margaret Getzin, our unit president.



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

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.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH-WAUSAU

Fall



United Women in Faith

RUMMAGE SALE

Where: 903 Third Street Wausau, WI Fellowship Hall inside the church*
* Use the north door from the parking lot on Fulton St. to enter the church building.

When:
Friday, October 2, 2026
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday, October 3, 2026
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Proceeds Will Benefit:
UWF Missions Projects

What will you find at the sale?

Holiday Decorations
Home Decor
Kitchen Items
Books
Toys
Jewelry
Etc...

Questions?

Sara Koss 715-297-4890
slgkoss@aol.com
Bonnie Goertz 715-716-0051
bgoertz@charter.net

903 THIRD STREET- WAUSAU

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. 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.



Savvy Seniors will be meeting on Monday, September 14 at 11:30am at Mandarin in Wausau.

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.



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."

The Messenger

Please submit any news or announcements for the October Messenger to jongoertzdesign@gmail.com by September 23.

Birthdays

Janet Wyrick	Sept 1
Makayla Love	Sept 6
Ray Nowaczyk.....	Sept 7
Rob Rybarczyk	Sept 8
Tracie Bissonnette	Sept 9
Barbara Day.....	Sept 12
Julia Ebert	Sept 14
Steve Loftus.....	Sept 17
Curt Day	Sept 19
Jessica Wentzel	Sept 19
Martie Pahris	Sept 21
Mary Borchardt.....	Sept 21
Catherine Koss	Sept 22
Lawrence Muelver.....	Sept 23
Kate Sims	Sept 23
Rev. Cathy Hamblin.....	Sept 24

Anniversaries

Rev. Cathy Hamblin.....	Sept 1
Brian & Beth Rohland	Sept 7
Randy & Janet Wyrick	Sept 11
Russell & Rita Bennett.....	Sept 26

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](https://www.firstunitedmeth.org/give/now)



SEPTEMBER 2026

SUN 30	MON 31	TUE Sep 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5
9am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal- FUMC		6pm Missions Team (B.K. Smith Rm)	4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)		Office Closed	
9am Worship w/Holy Communion 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal - First Univ	Office Closed	1pm PNC/CCC 5:30pm Trustees (B.K. Smith Rm)	1pm UWFaith Monthly Meeting (P. 4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm) 5pm Bible Study (BK Smith Room) 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	10	Office Closed	12
8am Worship (Chapel) 9am Sunday School 10am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal-LDS	6:30pm Monthly DS Zoom, Devoti 11:30am Savvy Seniors at Mandarin	6pm SPRC (Mission Room) 7pm Finance Committee (B.K. Smi	4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm) 5pm Bible Study (BK Smith Room) 6:00pm WNF Dinner, Fellowship Hi 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	17	Office Closed	19 8am UWFaith Annual Day of Celet
8am Worship (Chapel) 9am Sunday School 10am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal-SAL	21	10am Prayer Shawl Group (Parlor)	4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm) 5pm Bible Study (BK Smith Room) 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	24 4pm UWF Book Club (Book 4)	Office Closed	26 9am PNC/CCC
8am Worship (Chapel) 9am Sunday School 10am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal-GUCC	7pm Ministries Council	29	4pm Bible Study (BK Smith Rm) 5pm Bible Study (BK Smith Room) 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	Oct 1	Office Closed	3

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.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

September 6 - Summer Worship at 9 am

September 13 (and beyond) - School-year Worship at 8 am and 10 am.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Lessons in Leadership: Conflict

(Ps. 148, Exodus 12:1-14, Matthew 18:15-20)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Striving Side by Side

(Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Lessons in Leadership: Grace

(Ps. 114, Exodus 14:19-31, Matthew 18:21-35)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

In Full Accord

(Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32)

STAFF

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Operations Director
Director of Discipleship
Building Engineer

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