



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 wrote, *"The gospel of Christ knows no religion but social; no holiness but social holiness."* What did Wesley mean by "social religion" and "social holiness"? He certainly believed in a personal relationship with God. But he did not believe Christianity was something we practiced alone. Faith is personal, but it is never private. The grace we receive from God is meant to shape the way we live with one another and the way we care for the world around us.

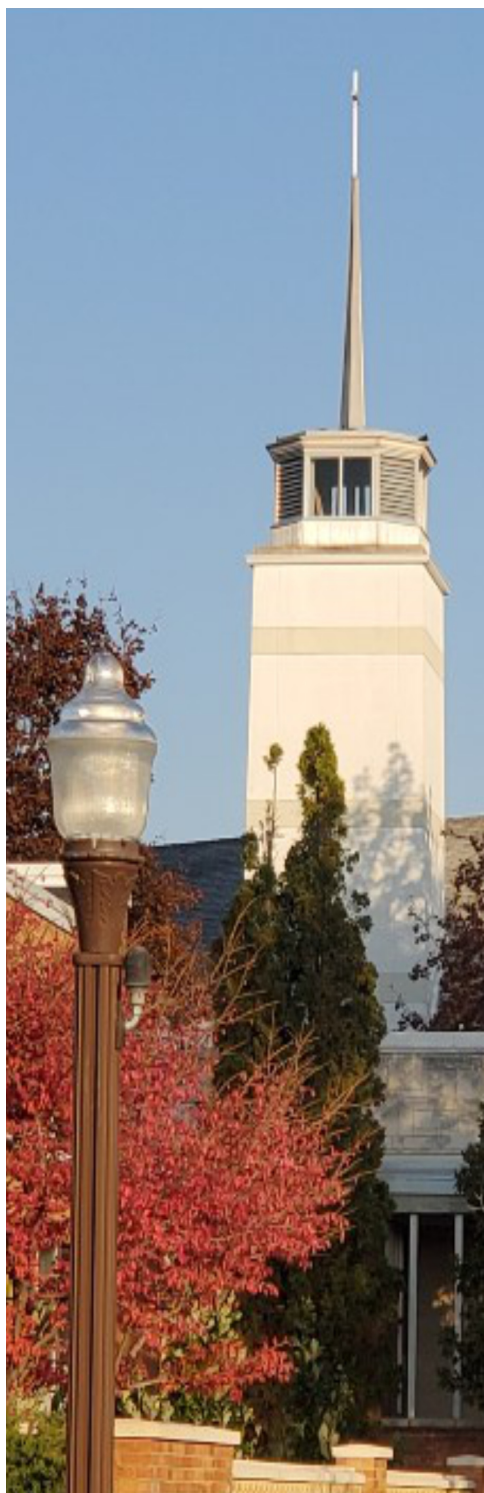
In today's language, Wesley might say that we cannot separate loving God from loving our neighbors. Holiness is not simply about being a good person, attending worship, or following religious rules. Holiness is becoming more like Christ in the way we live together. That is why our faith calls us to serve. We feed people. We welcome strangers. We care for those who are vulnerable. We work for justice and reconciliation. We show up when our community needs us. And our faith should shape how we participate in our democracy, too.

Voting is not a religious test, and faithful Christians can reach different conclusions about candidates and policies. But our faith should influence the policies and candidates we support. Do they demonstrate love for our neighbors, especially the poor, the voiceless, the sick, and the immigrant? Do they practice good stewardship of God's creation and the resources entrusted to us? Do they protect human dignity, seek justice, practice compassion, and consider the needs of those with the least power?

We are including a simple overview of the United Methodist Social Principles in this Messenger. You may discover that our Wesleyan theology and understanding of Scripture lead us toward different priorities and commitments than some other voices that identify as Christian. That can feel confusing, frustrating, and even overwhelming. But perhaps that is precisely why we need to return to Wesley's reminder that there is "no holiness but social holiness."

As followers of Jesus, may we prayerfully examine our own convictions, listen carefully to one another, and seek candidates and policies that most closely reflect the love, justice, mercy, and grace of God. Our faith should not simply shape what happens inside our church. It should shape the way we live, serve, and participate in the world God loves.

In Christ,
Pastor Rebecca



When Followership Flourishes: Pastor Survey

Dear Church Family,
Our congregation is participating in a research study about congregational life and health, and adults aged 18 or older are invited to share their perspective. The study is part of a PhD dissertation in Organizational Leadership and looks at how people participate in the life of their church and how that may be connected to a congregation's overall health.

The survey takes about 25–30 minutes and is best completed in one sitting.

Take the survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C060-Lay>

Or using the QR code:



The survey will remain open for about three weeks. Participation is completely voluntary, and you may stop at any time. The survey will not ask for your name or email address. Responses will be handled confidentially, and church leaders will not be told who did or did not participate. Dissertation findings will be reported as group results rather than identifying individual participants.

Because our congregation has its own survey link, responses are not completely anonymous to the researcher at the congregation level, but the researcher cannot connect an individual response with your name.

Thank you for considering participating. Hearing from a broad range of people will help provide a fuller picture of congregational life and health.

Pastor Rebecca Borke

First Wausau UMC

October Missions



The Personal Needs Closet. Since 2010, our church has sponsored a Personal Needs Closet – something like a food pantry, but offering instead the household and hygiene supplies that are not available through most food pantries or with food stamps. We have helped hundreds of families stretch their budget since we opened. The PNC is supported entirely by donations, and run entirely by volunteers. Open the 2nd Tuesdays, 1–3pm, and 4th Saturdays, 9–11am, every month.



Annual Charge Conference

It is that time of year again, when Methodist churches around the world put together a Charge Conference that celebrates their church's good happenings, presents the leadership roster in our church for the next year, presents the financial components for our pastor in the next year, and covers some other pieces that need to be done annually. **This year, FUMC-Wausau's Charge Conference is scheduled for Sunday, October 25, at 12:30 pm.** (The Packers aren't scheduled to play that day until 3:25!) It will be presided over by Pastor Ferdinand Serra of Antigo UMC. Everyone is welcome to attend this gathering as we look forward to 2027 and continue to build on our church's foundation and leadership components.

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. In October we will be meeting on the second Wednesday of the month rather than the third one. This fall celebration will be held on **Wednesday, October 14 at 6:00 pm**. The menu this month will be perfect for a crisp fall evening—soups, bread, tossed salad, fruit, 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.

Music Ministries

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

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

Facilities Project Fund Update



First Wausau Facilities Project Fund



SOCIAL PRINCIPLES

Community of All Creation

Our responsibility to care for the earth itself, recognizing that all creation belongs to God and that how we treat it reflects our respect for what God has made.

for example:
"We call for the institution of environmentally just principles, policies and practices."

Economic Community

Issues around work, money, and resources, including concerns like poverty, fair wages, and how we use what we've been given as stewards.

for example:
"we pledge ourselves to the establishment of just, equitable, and sustainable economies that work for all."

Social Community

the everyday relationships and communities we're part of and how we treat one another with dignity within them.

for example:
"We affirm that human beings are made for God and for one another,"

Political Community

The responsibilities of governments and citizens to protect human rights, freedoms, and the well-being of all people, especially those who are most vulnerable.

for example:
"We declare that all individuals, no matter their circumstances or social standing, are entitled to basic human rights and freedoms."



United
Women
in Faith

Our United Women in Faith group is having an active fall. 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, October 7, at 1:00 pm in the church parlor.** The second event is on Friday, October 2 and Saturday, October 3. This is our semi-annual pre-owned/rummage sale, held in Fellowship Hall. If you missed this one, there will be another one held in early spring and your donations are always welcome! 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. The third event, which will be attended by several women from our unit, is the UWM Wisconsin Conference Annual Fall Gathering. This event will be held on **Saturday, October 10, from 9-4.** The host church will be Wisconsin Rapids UMC, and the featured speaker will be Tony Kearney, Sr, the executive director of Northcott House in Milwaukee.

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

United Women in Faith

Fall 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

Savvy Seniors will be meeting on Monday, October 5th at 11:30am at The Palms in Schofield.

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 October 19.

Birthdays

Margaret Getzin	Oct 03
Madison Mariani.....	Oct 04
Gary Getzin	Oct 07
Lisa Day	Oct 08
Roger Gundelfinger	Oct 08
Jake Rybarczyk	Oct 09
Laura Cowan	Oct 12
Bryan Bissonnette	Oct 15
Kirsten Hornby.....	Oct 16
Tammy Lahren	Oct 16
Bob Wylie	Oct 18
Pam Steinke.....	Oct 25
Gregory Cowan	Oct 30
Michael Koss	Oct 30
Diann Misoni.....	Oct 30

Anniversaries

Rob & Kris Rybarczyk	Oct 10
Mathew & Wendi	Oct 16
Karen & Bob Petersen	Oct 17
Dan & Barb Maguire.....	Oct 19
David & Lori Mariana.....	Oct 19
Dennis & Georgia Reynolds.....	Oct 19
Lee & Susan Rye	Oct 19
Michael & Sara Koss.....	Oct 31

Connect Online!

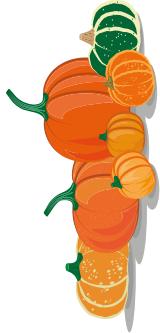


Online Giving

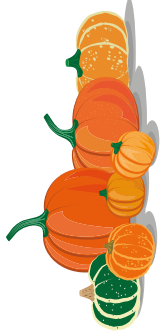
Online giving is available for regular offerings or other missions you wish to support. An account is not required.

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





October 2026



firstturncofwausau@gmail.com

Oct 2026 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 8am - Worship (Chapel) 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am - African Worship @ 11am - Coffee Hour 4pm - Community Meal-GUC	28 7pm - Ministries Council	29	30 5pm - Bible Study (BK Smith) 7:15pm - Choir rehearsal	1 7pm - Scout Troup 419 -Old 8am - AA	2 Office Closed 9am - Rummage Sale	3 9am - Rummage Sale
4 World Communion Sunday 8am - Worship (Chapel) 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship with Holy 11am - Coffee Hour 4pm - Community Meal- UU	5 11:30am - Savvy Seniors	6	7 5pm - Bible Study (BK Smith) 7:15pm - Choir rehearsal	8 7pm - Scout Troup 419 -Old 8am - AA	9 Office Closed	10
11 8am - Worship (Chapel) 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am - African Worship @ 11am - Coffee Hour 1pm - Community Meal 4pm - Community Meal- REV	12 6:30pm - Monthly DS Zoom,	13 1pm - PNC/CCC 5:30pm - Trustees (B.K. Smith)	14 1pm - UWFaith Monthly 5pm - Bible Study (BK Smith) 7:15pm - Choir rehearsal	15 7pm - Scout Troup 419 -Old 8am - AA	16 Office Closed	17 8:30am - Lay Servant Ministry
18 Early Sunday 8am - Worship (Chapel) 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am - African Worship @ 11am - Coffee Hour 4pm - Community Meal-FEL	19	20 6pm - SPRC (Mission Room) 7pm - Finance Committee (B.	21 5pm - Bible Study (BK Smith) 6pm - WNF Dinner, Fellowship 7:15pm - Choir rehearsal	22 3pm - Conference Trustees - 4pm - UWFB Book Club (Book 7pm - Scout Troup 419 -Old 8am - AA	23 Office Closed	24 8:30am - Lay Servant Ministry 9am - PNC/CCC
25 8am - Worship (Chapel) 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am - African Worship @ 11am - Coffee Hour 12:30pm - Charge Conferenc 4pm - Community Meal-SSL	26	27 10am - Prayer Shawl Group	28 5pm - Bible Study (BK Smith) 7:15pm - Choir rehearsal	29 7pm - Scout Troup 419 -Old 8am - AA	30 Office Closed	31

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.

OCTOBER WORSHIP

Worship at 8:00 am in the Chapel and 10:00 am in the Sanctuary.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

The Heavenly Call

(Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Chosen

(Ps. 99 (UMH 819-820), 1 Thess. 1:1-10, Ruth 1:6-18)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Rejoice in the Lord

(Philippians 4:1-0, Matthew 22:1-14)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Tested

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

STAFF

Pastor
Operations Director
Director of Discipleship
Building Engineer

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Lana Mohs
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