

2022



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WAUSAU

# THE MESSENGER



April 2022

Dear First UMC Family of Faith,

Though I pray you're all doing well, I imagine we're all feeling unsettled. Is it safe to take off our masks, gather closer, and eat together again? What about the new surges abroad that are likely heading our way? How long will it take for the waves of this pandemic to subside? How about the war in Ukraine and the shock waves it creates around the world as we watch in

horror and fear it will get worse because of a narcissistic leader and autocratic regime. We can't forget the climate change crisis that is causing floods, freezes, winds, droughts, and fires with greater intensity and threatening our homes, food supply, and livelihoods. Even if we're not dealing with the direct impact of a pandemic, war, and environmental damage, many of us have relatively minor but still troubling issues. Perhaps you're deciding if and how to do big projects around your home, or whether to repair or replace vehicles when prices are so high, and our economic future seems risky. Add these universal problems to the personal challenges we all have, and we're certainly swimming in a sea of uncertainty.

By now you're thinking, 'Gee, thanks for reminding me how it feels to despair'. Don't worry, we won't end here. We lay out all the junk on the table, face it honestly and fully, and then ask God to help us find a holy peace that surpasses our problems. Right now, my garage is a relevant image for this metaphor. It's never been beautifully organized, but every winter, and especially this one, it gets junked up by salty slush, strewn tools, material odds and ends, and half-completed projects that pile up on every surface waiting for a warm day in the spring when I can sort and complete what my cold fingers couldn't do for the past 5 months. I'm praying that my soul can be settled even when I have to face the chaos in my garage and in this world. I'm looking forward to a warm and free day soon to organize my tools and projects as I ponder what small part God is asking me to do to bring peace and healing to this broken world.

Because hope springs eternal, we can face the ugly realities of muddy floors and dirty politics. Because Jesus lives, our souls are settled with a blessed assurance even with chaos in our finances and misinformation in the news. Because God still speaks, we can listen and obey to bring peace to all of creation. This isn't a job that we can do individually, but collectively we'll make a difference as we get up, get out, and get moving together in Christ. With Christ as our Rescuer and Teacher, we'll feel our souls settled with God's peace and growing with the fruit of the Spirit.

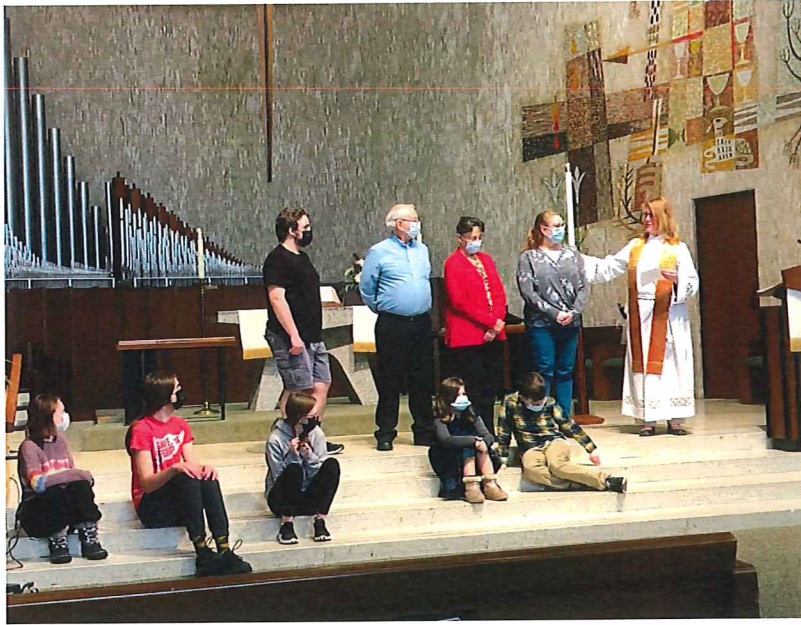
Grace and Peace,

Pastor Rebecca

715.842.2201

[www.fumcwausau.org](http://www.fumcwausau.org)



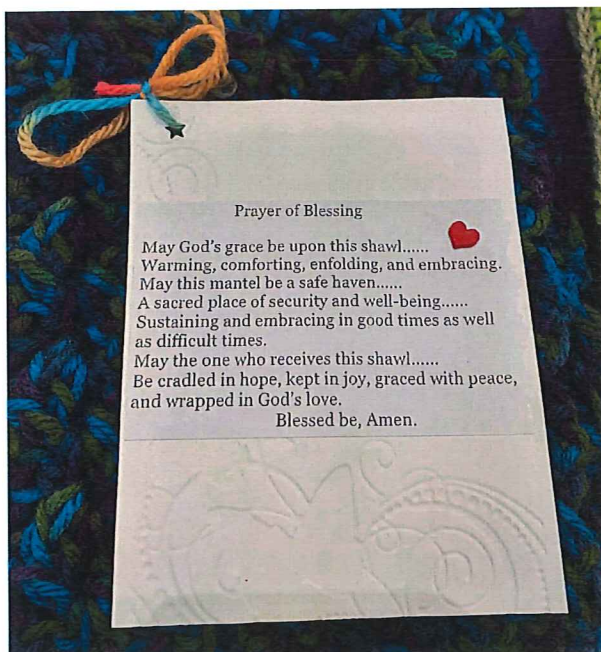


**Congratulations to Betsy Duginski  
on receiving the Boy Scout  
God and Service Award.**



### Prayer Shawl Ministry

All are welcome to join this group that meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 1:00-2:30 pm in front of the fireplace in the Parlor, to share our gift of handiwork and blessing to others (both church and non-church members). Recipients are experiencing challenges in their lives and can benefit from God's care and prayer in this tangible way.







<b>Palm Sunday, April 10</b>	8:00 am 10:00 am	Chapel Sanctuary
<b>Maundy Thursday, April 14</b>	4:00 pm	Chapel
<b>Good Friday, April 15</b> with Wesley UMC	7:00 pm	Sanctuary
<b>Easter Sunday, April 17</b>	8:00 am 10:00am	Chapel Sanctuary

**Welcome to Revelation United Methodist Church!**

There are exciting developments happening with our United Methodist neighbors in the Wausau area. In addition to First UMC and Wesley UMC, there has been a small congregation in Rothschild called Highland UMC, started several decades ago with the help of our church. Highland has been small but mighty, with faithful leaders and many certified lay servants. They saw an opportunity to invest in starting a new church by giving their building and assets to help a younger generation of United Methodist leaders launch a new congregation. Hmong United Methodists, who have been worshipping at Wesley UMC for decades, as well as at First UMC for several years, felt led to start a new church in a location of their own to reach the wider Hmong community. With deep bonds and appreciation at Wesley UMC, they had a sending service on November 7, 2021, to bless the beginning of a new Hmong congregation. Since then, there have been an average of 45 people attending Bible Studies, prayer, and praising God on Sunday mornings at the Rothschild church. In addition to discerning their new name, Revelation UMC, they are working on developing a clear vision, mission, leadership structure, and discipleship plan. They sense a call to reveal Christ (a “revelation” of God) to the broader Hmong community in our area. Bishop Jung and the District Superintendents are working on confirming and preparing a Hmong Church Planter to pastor the congregation, likely as a 1/2 time appointment. Please keep our brothers and sisters at Revelation UMC in your prayers as they begin this new ministry and mission in the Wausau area.

**H2N Hmong & Hispanic Network**



**Presents: GET HOPPIN’**

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 3rd, First United Methodist Church,  
903 N 3rd Street

The Easter Bunny is coming to FUMC! Bring your kids for a photo with the Easter Bunny.

Event includes:

- Free kids activities & prizes
- Free blood pressure check
- Free N95 masks
- Help with applying for free COVID 19 test kits
- H2N, AHA and Free Clinic information booths

STAFF

Pastor	Rebecca Voss rebecca@firstmethodistwausau.org
Faith Formation, Music Director	Martie Pahrís martie@firstmethodistwausau.org
Finance Director	Martie Pahrís finance@firstmethodistwausau.org
Secretary	Joan Stroyny joan@firstmethodistwausau.org
Building Engineer	Andy White

903 Third Street, Wausau, WI 54403  
Office Hours: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Monday – Thursday  
(715) 842-2201  
www.fumcwausau.org

**The Messenger**  
First United Methodist Church of Wausau  
903 Third Street  
Wausau, WI 54403

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## **Church Purpose:**

**Live & Share God's Love**

*with peace, joy & hope*

# WORSHIP IN APRIL

**Sunday Worship Times:** 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

### **Sunday, April 3 "Filled with the Fragrance"**

Psalm 126  
Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8

### **Sunday, April 10 Palm Sunday**

**"The Lord Needs It"**  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 19:28-40

### **April 14, Holy Thursday**

**"Do You Know What I Have Done"**  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### **April 15, Good Friday "Are You the King?"**

Psalm 22  
John 18 & 19

### **Sunday, April 17 Resurrection Sunday** **"God Raised Him"**

Psalm 118:14-24, Luke 24:1-12, Acts 10:34-43

### **Sunday, April 24 "We Are Witnesses"**

Psalm 150, Revelation 1:4-8, Acts 5:27-32





We grieve this month at the loss of:

Joan Keener, a former member of our church, who died on February 26th.

Timm Fischer's mother, Arlene who died on February 26th.



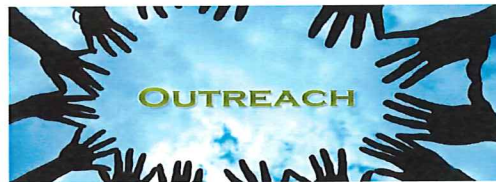
# APRIL

- |                     |                   |                  |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 2 Loretta Schmidt*  | 11 Darlene Kell   | 23 Lily Atonio   |
| 3 Franklin Higgins  | Tom Kufahl        | 25 Nancy Turner  |
| 4 Catherine Harmon  | Dane Larson       | 26 Lin Storg     |
| Barb Ritchie        | 12 Dottie Nietert | Arlene Trull     |
| 5 Jane Dovenbarger* | 14 Morgan Rohland | 29 Adam Decker   |
| 6 Russell Bennett   | 17 Eldon Horton   | 30 Kieran Grogan |
| Diane Vernon*       | 18 Jon Goertz     | Sharon Rayborn   |
| 8 Jordan Fons       | Jayden Voss       |                  |
| 9 Karen Petersen    | 19 Barb Maguire   |                  |
| 10 John Chang       | 22 Ken Attoe      |                  |
|                     | Dale Langbehn*    |                  |

\* Signifies a member who for health reasons cannot be at church regularly. We invite you this month to remember these members in your prayers.

**Live and Share  
God's Love ...**

*with  
peace, joy & hope*



## Project Connect Event

On the morning of Wednesday, April 27 our church will host Project Connect, a program designed to bring the homeless and near homeless together with the service providers who can help them with food, shelter, job opportunities and access to healthcare.

Twelve service providers including The United Way, Bridge Community Clinic, The Presbyterian Free Clinic, Job Service and The Neighbor's Place will provide information filled tables and knowledgeable people to help those attending find available services of which they may not have been aware.

In addition to the opportunity for the guests to find needed help, the service providers have the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas on how they can best serve the folks in need of secure shelter and a brighter future.

About 50 breakfasts consisting of French Toast, Sausage, Juice, and Coffee will be served by an excellent cooking, serving, and cleaning crew of very talented members of our congregation.

Hosting Project Connect provides another great way for FUMC Wausau to serve our community and to *Live and Share God's Love*.

*Dick Rayborn*



Savvy Seniors will meet on Monday April 4th at 11:30 at The Pizza Ranch, Weston



## April Missions-Red Cliff

This Mission serves the residents of the reservation and deepens the relationship with the native community there. We are not planning on sending a team there this June. Our donations will provide supplies for the early childhood program and clothing for children. Donate loose change, put cash in the small brown envelopes in the pews or memo your check.

### Inviting Others to be a Part

“Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened.”  
Matthew 7:7

In his book *Creating Generous Congregations*, David Heetland tells a story about an 8-year-old girl who often gave more than a tithe from her nickel and dime allowance. She once gave her grandmother 38 cents in small coins “for missions.” Her grandmother then asked her, “Do you want this to go for homeless people, hospitals in Africa, or buying fish to stock ponds to feed the hungry?”

Her granddaughter replied, “Just a minute,” and returned shortly with 29 cents more, making a total of 67 cents to be divided three ways. She found each mission so important that her initial gift was instantly almost doubled so she could support all three.

Too often, we worry that when we ask someone to support a ministry with either their time or their money, the request will be taken as pushy (at best) or offensive (at worst). And there are certainly people who would take it that way.

On the other hand, I believe that not inviting people to support a ministry I’m excited about excludes them from being a part of something that may be transformational for them, and the people touched by the ministry.

Finally, there are many people who are just waiting to be asked to be a part of something bigger than them. They may not be the first to raise their hands when a general invitation goes out but would love to be personally invited to be a part of what God is doing through the church.

*Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation*

Our Financial Picture for February 2022			
February Revenue		February Expenses	
Pledged Offering	\$ 13,785.16	Staffing	\$ 18,431.83
Non-Pledged Offering	\$ 18,991.36	Programming	\$ 534.19
Other Revenue	\$ 2,511.00	Apportionments	\$ 3,986.00
From Endowment	\$ 1,672.72	Building Operations	\$ 6,129.41
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 36,960.24</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 29,081.43</b>
		<b>Net MTD</b>	<b>\$ 7,878.81</b>

## FUMC Wired

**Website:** [fumcwausau.org](http://fumcwausau.org)  
with links to the weekly sermon  
in text and podcast

**facebook.com/WausauFUMC**

**WiFi Network: FUMC Guest**  
(password: *fumcpublic*)

**Phone: 715.842.2201**





## Family Camp

Come join us this summer for family camp on July 15-17 at Pine Lake Wildwood Campground. The cost is \$70 per camper vehicle and \$35 per tent. A deposit of \$35 for camper vehicles and \$20 for tents is due by June 5.

Everyone is welcome! Make plans now to be a part of this fun-filled weekend.

## Random Thoughts

by Mike Zahn

### **Anticipation**

*He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come Lord Jesus.  
Revelation 22:20*

Spring is a time of anticipation. The warmth of the sun, plants emerging from the ground, birds singing.

Here are some other things I am anticipating:

I am anticipating the day when we make it easier for people of color to vote than to be harassed, beaten, thrown in jail, or discriminated against in a thousand silent ways.

I am anticipating the day when all the world's energy goes into good and none goes into evil.

I am anticipating the day when war becomes as obsolete as Russian tanks and dictators.

I am anticipating the day when education is seen as a treasure, not as a burden on taxpayers' treasures.

I am anticipating the day when those with power and wealth in this world finally see that creating fairer systems would make this world better for everyone, including themselves.

I am anticipating the day when our churches are full again, not because of how friendly or good we are, but because of how awesome God is.

I am anticipating the day when God's love finally triumphs and Jesus returns.

## Eagle Scout Project

For my Eagle project I will be running a drive for donations towards the Personal Needs Closet on April 30th, from 9am-noon.

For the drive we will be accepting supplies such as unused shampoo, soap, toilet paper, detergent, and other hygiene-based products. This closet has been a way for me to give back to my community over the course of several years, and I wish to get the word out to expand what we have to offer. I ask for help from the First United Methodist Church of Wausau to show their support through sharing our Facebook page online, encouraging others to donate excess supplies, and donating your own materials if you are able.



*James Duginski*



Contact  
Dan Marzu  
if interested  
715 316-2103

**SUNDAY, JULY 31**  
**1:05 FIRST PITCH**  
**12:05 GATES OPEN**

**JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FAMILY,  
FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, FRIENDS  
AND WOODCHUCKS BASEBALL!**

**\$13 PACKAGE INCLUDES**

- RESERVED BOX SEATS**
- ALL BEEF HOT DOG**
- SMALL FOUNTAIN SODAR  
OR WATER**

**USE CODE 'FF2022' AT CHECKOUT**

**PRESENTED BY**

