

2022



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WWAUSAU

THE MESSENGER

Dear First UMC Family of Faith,

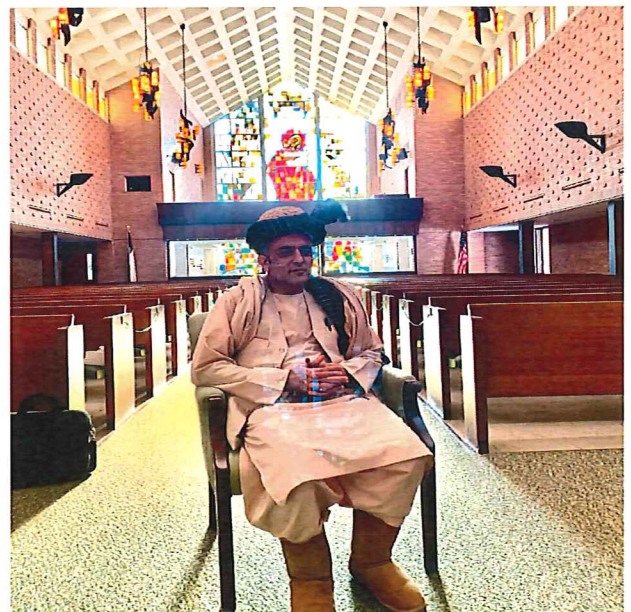
On December 29 we welcomed the first family chosen to come to Wausau from Afghanistan. A dedicated team from our church is collaborating with a team from First Presbyterian as the “First Co-sponsorship Team”, in tribute to our shared names and the honor of helping Wausau’s first Afghan family re-settle here. They have six children between 3-16 years old, and they are all delightful, eager to learn, and have bright futures ahead. The mother, Bibi, is an amazing cook and seamstress. She is starting a small business making aprons and other sewing crafts.

The father, Matie, was a tribal leader in the Helmand Province. The name of their town translates from Pashto to English as “Little America”. As an English-speaking businessman and leader, he was the first in his region to approach the US Marine Corps and offer his help. Using his entrepreneurial skills, he led his town to understand and trust the US troops as they worked with the community to build an infrastructure of roads, schools, clinics, and businesses.

A week after their arrival, Matie met with a reporter from Up North News at our church. At first, he declined the possibility of being interviewed in the sanctuary, expressing great respect for it as a holy place. I explained to him that what makes a place holy is wherever God’s grace, peace, justice, love, and truth are lived out. Because he was there to share his story of seeking and living those things, he was welcome to be in our sanctuary. He gratefully chose to be interviewed in the sanctuary as he held his prayer beads and shared his quest for freedom and peace for all people.

After the article and pictures of him were published, it quickly created controversy for people back in Afghanistan. He is well-known there, and some were jealous or upset that he had left them to come to the US and wondered why as a Muslim he would be inside a church. A gathering of Muslim clerics from around Afghanistan was convened to decide whether or not Matie was honoring their faith by being in our church. After studying and discussing their Scriptures, they determined that yes, he was acting consistent with their faith, and that nothing in the Koran said Muslims couldn’t be in a church. The *fatwa* (Islamic ruling) declared that when Muslims and Christians are working to bring peace, we are like two hands on a body. They decided it is indeed good to be, pray, and talk together in each other’s holy spaces. I think we can all say “Amen” to that.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Rebecca



715.842.2201

fumcwausau.org

Dear Pivot Scholarship Committee,

I hope this letter finds you all doing well and in good health. I'm writing to you again to express my gratitude for your continued support of my education via the Pivot Scholarship. I also wanted to provide another update on how my studies went this year. This past fall, I completed the first semester of my junior year at the University of Minnesota. During this last semester, I had my first semester of student-teaching part time while also taking classes. For student teaching I was placed in a Kindergarten classroom at a school just outside of downtown Minneapolis. Given I only had experience working with 2nd through 5th grade before this semester, I was apprehensive about being placed with Kindergarten. Despite this original anxiety, I found that the whole experience challenged me to grow as a person and educator. Over the semester, I learned a lot about teaching, lesson planning for short attention spans, and how to find common ground with, surprisingly brilliant, 5 year old's.

I also saw a lot of the difficult, unspoken side of education. Our school had many students who showed up hungry, tired, or were battling a host of other obstacles at home. Directly correlated to this, we had outbursts, long periods of unexplained absences, and behavioral issues that made teaching difficult. Despite these difficult moments, our classroom overcame a lot and made a ton of progress. Seeing these students come to associate school as a safe space, reaffirmed why I am passionate about my major. It also reminded me that there is so much more to teaching than test scores or mandates, but more importantly, ensuring students feel heard, taken care of, and valued.

Just like how a school can be a safe-space and beacon of hope, I thank you for continuing to provide the same to those in need in Wausau. The programs that FUMC aids or leads have an immense positive impact on our community. In addition to thanking you again for your support of my education, I thank you for your diligence in caring for the community of Wausau.

Best Regards,
Michael Del Conte



Helen and Leonard Pivot Scholarship

Are you planning to attend college, technical school, or graduate school this fall? Our church offers a scholarship, renewable for up to four years for members who could use a boost. The application is available in the church office. It is due on Monday March 7th.

STAFF

Pastor	Rebecca Voss rebecca@firstmethodistwausau.org
Faith Formation, Music Director	Martie Pahriss martie@firstmethodistwausau.org
Finance Director	Martie Pahriss 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 and Share God's Love

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

This month we are continuing an Epiphany series called "Love Never Ends". An epiphany is an "aha!" experience where things that used to be dark or confusing are brought into the light and made clear. As we focus on the Lectionary readings from 1 Corinthians, may the meaning and experience of God's love shine brightly in our lives and world.

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

Sunday, February 6 "Hold Firmly"

Psalm 138, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Sunday, February 13 "The First Fruits"

Psalm 1, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Sunday, February 20 "Raised in Glory"

Psalm 37:1-11, 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Sunday, February 27 "Seeing the Glory"
Transfiguration Sunday

Psalm 99, Luke 9:28-36 (37-42)

Wednesday, March 2 Ash Wednesday at
First Presbyterian Church



We grieve this month at the loss of our long time members:

Bill Seiser, passed away on January 8th.

Lois Drengler, passed away on January 23rd.



February

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|--------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Bill Owen | 12 | Josie Rybarczyk | 25 | Danielle Del Conte
Sue Marquardt |
| 2 | Thomas Schmoltd | 16 | Erik Anderson
Anjali Dvorak | 27 | Wes Ebert
Bernice Kohlman |
| 7 | Gregory Chang
Sue Huang Chang
Warren Fabel
Geraldine Slock | 19 | Anna Schreiber | | |
| 8 | Jason Majernik | 21 | Jaden Love
Joy Rutter | | |
| 10 | Sarah Cowan | 23 | Pat Higgins | | |

** 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*



*****Attention UMW Members*****

Watch for more information about "Call to Prayer & Self-Denial", coming in the March newsletter.

*****Soup is Coming*****

The UMW soup sale will be happening in April this year (Palm Sunday weekend). This will again be a "pre-order" sale. Watch for the order form in our March newsletter.



Savvy Seniors will meet on Monday February 7th at 11:30 at The Palm's Restaurant, Schofield.



February Mission-Open Door of Marathon County

The Open Door offers temporary help to current and newly released inmates and homeless population. This includes clothing and a safe place to have coffee and talk to volunteers about resources available to them. Donate loose change, put cash in the small brown envelopes in the pews or memo your check.

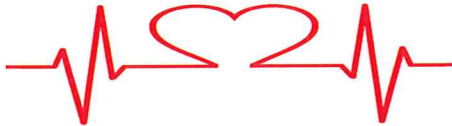


A Ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Wausau

Did you know that First United Methodist has a Free Clinic in our lower level? We're grateful to partner with First Presbyterian Church, Jeff Todd, and many wonderful medical professionals who volunteer their skills and time to provide excellent care to those most in need. They would greatly appreciate donations of any of these items. Thank you!

4 x 4 gauze
 Alcohol wipes
 Hand sanitizer
 Surgical masks
 Isopropyl alcohol
 OTC meds
 Crutches
 Canes
 Ace bandage wrap
 Assistive walking devices
 Bladder incontinence supplies
 Menstrual supplies

Slings
 OTC Lidocaine patches
 Diabetic test strips for Abbott Freedom Free
 Style lite
 Digital thermometers for home use
 BP monitors, especially for at home use
 Exam gloves in all sizes
 Children's OTC cold medicine or children's Tylenol
 English to Spanish dictionary or medical card with terminology
 Manuka honey ointment for leg sores
 Multivitamins for children, adults and seniors



Our Financial Picture for December 2021			
December Revenue		December Expenses	
Pledged Offering	\$ 10,272.00	Staffing	\$ 19,093.79
Non-Pledged Offering	\$ 18,309.00	Programming	\$ 830.26
Other Revenue	\$ 11,032.46	Apportionments	\$ 4,017.00
From Endowment	\$ 1,636.91	Building Operations	\$ 5,148.72
Total Revenue	\$ 41,250.37	Total Expenses	\$ 29,089.77
		Net MTD	\$ 12,160.60

FUMC Wired

Website: 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