

JANUARY
2022



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WAUSAU

THE MESSENGER

Dear First UMC Family of Faith,

On Sunday, December 19 we had an historic church-wide vote on the direction of our church. Through the Missional Church Consultative Initiative (MCCI), we were given six “prescriptions” to renew our church and mission. With 93.6% of full members voting “yes” (substantially above the requisite 75%), we are prayerfully and faithfully moving into a new season as a church.

Even though I fully support pursuing the prescriptions, I also understand the 6.4% of people who couldn’t vote “Yes”. I feel the fatigue. I know the disappointment of past programs and long-range planning sessions. I understand the tight pressure on our time and finances. If you need to rest and make sure our church isn’t on a wild goose chase, I get it.

For everyone, both the enthused and the uncertain, it bears repeating: everything must be rooted in prayer, grace, and truth. I am the chief of sinners when it comes to running with a good idea and intentions, only to realize that I didn’t really take it all to God in prayer. It’s reassuring to know that these prescriptions are all born out of several years of praying, holy conversations, self-reflection, and a realistic awareness of the needs of our church and community. That said, we must continue to find our strength and path through the power of prayer.

We’ll be getting free coaching in a variety of ways to help renew our church. The first three prescriptions focus on preparing ourselves. The first is ***Preparing Our Welcome***, by making both our building friendlier and more understandable to guests. The second is ***Preparing Our Administrative Infrastructure***, by providing an executive leadership coach for me and a finance management coach for Martie in her bookkeeping role. The third is ***Preparing Ourselves in Faith Formation*** which will bring our church together to learn through cohesive sermon series and Bible studies/small groups for all ages focusing on relevant topics twice a year.

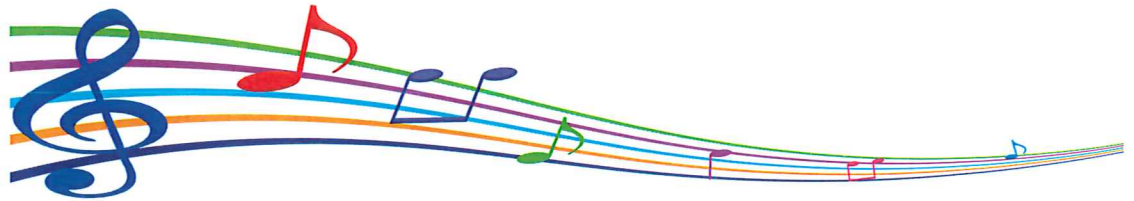
The other three prescriptions focus on reaching and serving the community. The first is ***Dreaming Forward: Building Usage***, which will help ensure we’re strong stewards of the space in our building and we continue to have a big missional impact for the good of our community. The second is ***Telling Our Story to the Community*** which helps us get the word out online, in the media, and in our internal communications about how we’re serving the community and invite others to join us. The final prescription is something tentatively called ***Wausau Worldchangers***, an initiative of raising up a new generation of young leaders who want to change our community for good and God’s glory. Let us all commit to serving and loving God and our community in 2022 and beyond!

Happy New Year!

Pastor Rebecca

715.842.2201

www.fumcwausau.org



Lessons & Carols Service



Children & Youth Christmas Mural presented to church





Trip to the Holy Land Postponed

Due to the Omicron variant and Israel extending a new policy requiring quarantining for all incoming travelers, our trip to the Holyland has been postponed. We're now scheduled to be gone from April 28-May 11, which actually works better with the weather and allows us to spend some extra time in Jordan as well.

Both Martie and I are very grateful for the generosity of our church to send us on this journey that will enrich our faith and renew our spirits. Thank you for your prayers and support!

In the Journey of Faith,
Pastor Rebecca (and Martie)



January Missions

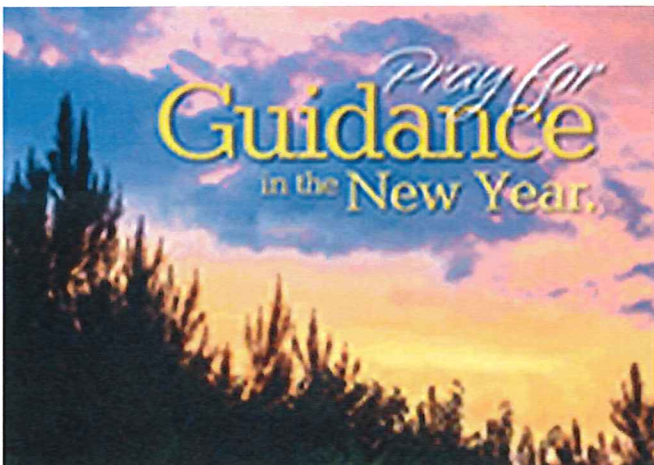
One of the ministries of our church and one of the ways that we minister in partnership with others, is by serving a free meal open to all in the Wausau community on the 5th Sunday of the month at the First Presbyterian Church.

Ray Nowaczyk

Community Dinner

This meaningful ministry will be January 30th, at 4:00pm. With Covid-19 we are offering boxed meals and handing them out in the parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church. If you want to get involved, we will be needing baked goods to add to the meal. Please contact me at 715-470-2527 and I will arrange a time to pick up any baked goods. Please also keep our dinner guests in your prayers.

Thank you, Jen Johnson



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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

Our Mission:

Living as a community where
God is forming deeply committed
followers of Christ.

WORSHIP IN JANUARY

Sunday Worship Times: 8:00 a.m. Chapel

10:00 a.m. Sanctuary

Sunday, January 2

Psalm 72:10-14, Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 9

Psalm 29, Isaiah 43:1-7, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday, January 16

Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11

Sunday, January 23

Psalm 19:7-14, 1 Corinthians 12:12-26,
Luke 4:14-21

Sunday, January 30

Psalm 71:1-6, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13,
Luke 4:21-30



Rev. Don Dinsmore, former Pastor & long time member of the church, died December 17th.



Our Journey:
*To live and share
God's love
in service, joy &
hope.*



Savvy Seniors will meet on Monday January 3rd at 11:30 at Papillons Pizza, Rothschild.



January

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Alice Schacht
Jennifer Johnson | 8 Michael Sydow
LaRae Horton | 20 Alan Hauber
Lila Rouse |
| 2 Sandra Salzman
Amelia Higgins | 11 James Voss | 21 Mary Ann Dykes
Arlene Gundelfinger* |
| 3 Susan Rye | 12 Michael Turner
Alonzo Dvorak | 26 Don Misoni
Sandi Schmoltd |
| 7 Gail Cain
Scott Denfeld | 13 Debra Martin | |
| | 16 Gideon Adams | |

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



United
Methodist
Women

Thank you friends and supporters of United Methodist Women!

With your purchases of chili, Equal Exchange chocolate, coffee and teas, and Christmas cookies, the United Methodist Women continue putting faith, hope and love into action here in Marathon County and around the world! Your generous donations and food purchases support our local unit so we can be in mission.

The Chili Sale, Cookie Walk and Equal Exchange items made over \$950 for missions this fall. While we monitor and adjust to COVID 19, we are grateful for the many hands who prepared 20 quarts of chili and baked and packaged cookies for 59 orders. I monitor the Equal Exchange items, so if your favorite item is out of stock, please let the church office know and I will make sure a new order goes out.

*Christmas peace to all.
Margaret Getzin*

FUMC Wired

Website: fumcwausau.org
with links to the weekly sermon
in text and podcast

[facebook.com/WausauFUMC](https://www.facebook.com/WausauFUMC)

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

Phone: 715.842.2201

Our Financial Picture for November 2021			
November Revenue		November Expenses	
Pledged Offering	\$ 11,160.00	Staffing	\$ 16,794.69
Non-Pledged Offering	\$ 11,698.00	Programming	\$ 734.08
Other Revenue	\$ 2,412.00	Apportionments	\$ 4,017.00
From Endowment	\$ <u>1,636.91</u>	Building Operations	\$ <u>2,589.88</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 26,906.91	Total Expenses	\$ 24,135.65
		Net MTD	\$ 2,771.26

Random Thoughts by Mike Zahn Trusting God

Note: I wrote this about 20 years ago and found it recently as I was going through papers.
"But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord." Jeremiah 17:7

That morning the sermon was on the subject of trusting God. Little did I realize how valuable that would prove to be later in the day!

Cross-country skiing alone late that afternoon I was startled to find a dead-end where I thought the trail would continue back to my starting point. The sun was beginning to set as I realized I could never get back before dark if I just backtracked on my original course. Panic began to set in until I remembered the words of that sermon. God was not going to desert me—He would make sure I found my way back if I were willing to trust Him.

I felt my panic subside as a sense of determination took its place. Assessing the situation, I made a few quick decisions and boldly went forward into uncharted territory. I kept telling myself to trust God as He led me along a road past the county landfill until that also ended. Now as daylight faded I had to trust once again. Venturing into virgin snow with inexplicable confidence, I hoped and believed that God was leading me in the direction of my car. Before long my newly blazed trail through the woods connected me to the original trail right near where I had started!

It was almost completely dark when I got back to the car, thankful that I had gone to church that morning to hear a message I could put into practice so promptly.

Personal Life Update from Pastor Rebecca

When the MCCI Prescriptions were first revealed at the end of November, I immediately started thinking about how to apply each of them. The third one, focusing on having church-wide sermon series and corresponding Bible studies/small groups, got me thinking about which aspects of faith would be most meaningful for our congregation to explore. The topic of Forgiveness soon rose to the top of my list. As a pastor, I've seen a lot of confusion and pain surrounding the *what* and *how* of forgiveness. People often assume forgiveness includes trust and reconciliation, and I knew that would be something I'd need to teach about in-depth. Little did I know what I would have to go through in order to be more personally qualified to understand forgiveness.

In early December I made some very painful discoveries about my marriage. We have been going to counseling, both together and individually, to try to heal. It has become clear that trust cannot be restored, and our marriage is not able to be reconciled. However, I have hope that I can personally find healing and wish the same for him. We are both committed to the well-being of our children and choose to treat each other respectfully. I'm not sharing more than necessary for the sake of our children and so James can rebuild his life in a healthy way. It may take me a while to fully forgive and find healing, but it's all part of my responsibility as a Christian and a pastor. God will redeem this difficult personal experience and possibly prepare me to lead our congregation through a deeper understanding of forgiveness. Thank you for respecting our privacy, and most of all, for your prayers as we all heal.