

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

March Worship

Sunday Worship Times: 8:00am Chapel 10:00am Sanctuary

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

HOLY COMMUNION

Praying for Deliverance - By Pastor Kyabuntu
Psalm 22:25-31

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

Praying for Renewal - By Pastor Pearl

Psalm 107:1-9, 33-43

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

Praying for a Holy Heart

Psalm 51:1-17

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

PALM SUNDAY

Psalm 118:1-2,25-29, Mark 11:1-11

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

EASTER SUNDAY - HOLY COMMUNION

Psalm 118:14-24, Acts 10:34-43

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

Psalm 133, Acts 4:32-35

STAFF

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Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



THE MESSENGER

First Wausau United Methodist Church

Downtown Wausau Wisconsin

From the Pastor

By Pastor Rebecca Voss

Dear Wausau First Family of Faith,

Where have you recently seen God at work? As we journey through Lent and the theme of “Dynamite Prayer,” we can both pray and see powerful ways that the Holy Spirit is working in hearts, minds, and lives in ourselves and our church.

One example of answered prayer is regarding our church building’s new identity beginning on March 1. After years of prayer, discernment, discussion, collaboration, and voting, this date marks the beginning of a new era. We have created a new non-profit in partnership with the Hmong American Center and the Community Foundation, with the Community Foundation acting as the Fiscal Sponsor. Beginning this month, our congregation signed a 99-year renewable lease to this new non-profit to oversee the use, maintenance, and improvements of the building we call home.

It may seem like a simple issue, but we needed a name for this collaborative and innovative non-profit. We wanted it to be meaningful to both the Hmong community and our faith, as well as simple enough to engage the broader region. There did not seem to be many ideas at first, so I asked Yee Leng Xiong, the Executive Director of the Hmong American Center, to see if they had any suggestions.

At our next meeting, he explained that there is a Hmong phrase pronounced *shawl shia*, which means “warm hearts.” He wondered if the building could be called the “Warm Hearts Center.” What he did not know is that “warm hearts” is also very meaningful in our Methodist heritage.

Pastoral Message Continued—Page 3



Savvy Seniors

Savvy Seniors will be meeting on **Monday, March 4th at 11:30am at El Mezcal** in Rib Mountain. This is a social group open to singles & couples over 55. We would love to have you join us!

Any questions, call Vicki Nowaczyk at 715-571-3009.

Men's Ministry

For any male who would like to come together in body, mind, and spirit (and fun!) with other male members of our congregation please consider joining the following men's groups available at FUMC:

- Men's Prayer/Bible Study Group - Meets the **2nd Sunday of each month at 11:15am** in the B.K. Smith Room. Contact Dick Ostwald or Dennis Reynolds for details.
- Men's Off-Property Group - Meets once a month at locations/events of the groups choosing. Contact Mark Johnson or Dennis Reynolds for additional information.

Sunday Luncheon

The Sunday luncheon discussion group will continue to meet on **Sundays at 11:30am**. This group will conclude the discussion on the Dynamite Prayer Books after March 10th.

On Sunday, March 17th discussion on the Lord's Prayer will begin. This program will last six weeks (not including Easter Sunday).

Some refreshments provided, but suggest bringing your own brown bag lunch. All are welcome to join. If you have questions, contact Julie Miehe.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.



Jubilate Bell Choir - Led by Jessica Wenzel
Rehearsals - Wednesdays 5:45pm (Bell Room)

Upcoming Performances:

- Sunday, May 5th - 10am Service

Chancel Choir - Led by Lin Strong
Rehearsals - Wednesdays 7:00pm, as needed

Upcoming Performances:

- Friday, March 29th (Good Friday) - 10am Service (Combined Choir)

Other Music Performances

- Sunday, March 31st (Easter Sunday) - String Orchestra performing during 10am offertory



LENT

Lent is commonly known as a 40-day season of reflection beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter. Observant people often practice fasting in some way, historically from certain foods and more currently from social media.

Week 3:

3/3 Praying for Deliverance - Pastor Kyabuntu
Psalm 22:25-31

Week 4:

3/10 Praying for Renewal - Pastor Pearl
Psalm 107:1-9, 33-43

Week 5:

3/17 Praying for the Holy Heart
Psalm 51:1-17



HOLY WEEK

Sunday, March 24

8am & 10am - Palm Sunday Worship

Thursday, March 28

7pm—Maundy Thursday Worship, Chapel

Friday, March 29

7pm—Good Friday Worship, Sanctuary

Sunday, March 31

8am & 10am—Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion



Easter lilies will decorate our Sanctuary for Easter service on March 31st. If you would like to donate towards flowers, the cost is \$19 for a small plant and \$31 for a large plant.

Please fill out the form provided in the messenger or bulletins and let us know if you would like a lily donated in honor or memory of a loved one. Donations can be mailed or dropped by the church office.

Orders must be in by **Monday, March 25th**.

FUMC Wired

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

facebook.com/WausauFUMC
youtube.com/@FirstWausauUMC

WiFi Network: FUMC Guest
password: fumcpublic

Phone: 715.842.2201



United Women in Faith

Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome several new members to our family of faith:

- Dennis & Georgia Reynolds
- Mike & Liz Fischer
- Lana Mohs



United Women of Faith (UWF) will have its monthly meeting, **Wed. March 13, at 1:00pm**, in the parlor. Our sisters from Wesley United Methodist Church will be our guests. The program is "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial"

During Lent, we traditionally have an offering, "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" which gives us the opportunity to learn more about a UWF mission initiative and support it directly. This year our offering will join others to raise awareness of those impacted by the climate crisis. It will support UWF programs for climate justice. All women of the church are invited to join us.

UWF is also planning a spring rummage sale at church on April 18-19. We are looking for donations to this sale, so check around your house, your basement, your attic, etc...for those treasures you no longer need or use. Bring them to the church up to the week of the sale in April. Thank you for helping to make this now annual spring sale a big success for raising funds for local missions and beyond!

If you have any questions, please see Barbara Ritchie or Bonnie Goertz.



Let Us Pray

Please lift up and pray for the Moss Family as they grieve the death of FUMC member, Beth Moss, who passed on 02-01-24.

Also pray for missions and pastoral leadership within our community.



Pastoral Message Continued...

In 1738, John Wesley was feeling discouraged after a long series of setbacks, including a failed missionary journey to Savannah, his sweetheart married someone else, and he was kicked out of preaching in Anglican churches because of his "enthusiasm". His faith was shaken, but he went to a Moravian Bible Study and prayer group meeting on Aldersgate Street in London. As they read Martin Luther's preface to the book of Romans, John suddenly felt his "heart strangely warmed." He wrote about it in his journal, "I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

As Methodists, we continue to trust in Christ to give us warm hearts. God is at work among us, even in the strange way of connecting us to Christ and one other with warm hearts. It is a beautiful experience and name for the building moving forward. Let us pray that everyone coming into the Warm Hearts Center will have their heart warmed.

Warmly,
Pastor Rebecca



Scholarship Opportunity

Are you thinking of going back to school or just graduating and looking for scholarship funds? If you are part of the FUMC family you are eligible to apply for the Pivot Scholarship.

Applications are available in the church office or online. Application deadline is March 8th, 2023.

March Mission Offering Refugee Support

Our congregation supports refugees in their effort to establish a new life in our community. Donate loose change or cash in the small brown envelopes in the pews, memo your check, or give online.

Our church partners with New Beginnings for Refugees and many of our members donate their time, skills, and household items to get the new families settled into their new beginnings. If you'd like to get involved, contact Pastor Rebecca Voss, or Margaret and Erik Anderson.



Online Giving

Online giving is available for regular offerings or other funds you wish to support. An account is not required. You can access through the link or QR code below.

We strongly suggest creating an account accessible on desktop or mobile Connect app. It allows you to track your personal data, giving, attendance, and pledges.

The Realm Connect app also allows you to access mobile check-in for church services.

Attendance is reported to the UMC every year so it is important for us to know who is attending church services.



<https://onrealm.org/FirstUnitedMeth91919/give/now>

MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 8:00am Worship (Chapel) 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Groups 10:00am New Member/Baptisms 10:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:30am –12:30pm Sunday Luncheon/Dynamite Prayer Book Discussion (Fellowship Hall)	26 7:00pm Ministries Council (B. K. Smith Room)	27 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Group (Parlor)	28 5:45pm Handbell Practice (Bell Room)	29 8:00am AA (Room 101) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Choir Room)	1 Office Closed World Day of Prayer	2
3 8:00am Worship with Holy Communion (Chapel) 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Groups 10:00am Worship with Holy Communion (Sanctuary) 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:30am –12:30pm Sunday Luncheon/Dynamite Prayer Book Discussion (Fellowship Hall)	4 11:30am Savvy Seniors (El Mezcal)	5	6 5:45pm Handbell Practice (Bell Room)	7 8:00am AA (Room 101) 1:00pm Worship Design (Parlor) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Choir Room)	8 Office Closed	9
10 Daylight-Saving Time Begins 8:00am Worship, Chapel (Chapel) 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Groups 10:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:15am Men's Prayer/Bible Study Group (B. K. Smith Room) 11:30am –12:30pm Sunday Luncheon/Dynamite Prayer Book Discussion (Fellowship Hall)	11	12 1:00pm –3:00pm Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet 5:30pm Trustees (B. K. Smith Room)	13 1:00pm United Women in Faith Meeting (Parlor) 5:45pm Handbell Practice (Bell Room) 5:45pm Missions Team (B. K. Smith Room)	14 8:00am AA (Room 101) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Choir Room)	15 Office Closed	16
17 8:00am Worship, Chapel (Chapel) 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Groups 10:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:30am –12:30pm Sunday Luncheon/Lord's Prayer Discussion	18	19 First Day of Spring 6:00pm SPRC (B. K. Smith Room)	20 5:45pm Handbell Practice (Bell Room) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	21 8:00am AA (Room 101) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Choir Room)	22 Office Closed	23 9:00am –11:00am Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet
24 Palm Sunday PALM SUNDAY 8:00am Worship (Chapel) 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Groups 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:30am –12:30pm Sunday Luncheon/Lord's Prayer Discussion	25	26 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Group (Parlor) 6:00pm Finance Committee, BK Smith Room (Room 101)	27 5:45pm Handbell Practice (Bell Room) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	28 Maundy Thursday 8:00am AA (Room 101) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Choir Room) 7:00pm Worship Service (Chapel)	29 Good Friday Office Closed 7:00pm Worship Service (Sanctuary)	30
31 Easter Sunday EASTER SUNDAY 8:00am Worship with Holy Communion, Chapel (Chapel) 10:00am Worship with Holy Communion (Sanctuary) 11:00am Coffee Hour	1 11:30am Savvy Seniors	2	3	4 8:00am AA (Room 101) 1:00pm Worship Design (Parlor) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Choir Room)	5 Office Closed	6

MARCH

BIRTHDAYS

1 Bruce C.	8 Judy H.	14 Kris R.	18 London L.	24 Maggie S.	28 Sue S.
Mary F.	9 Jordyn V.	Josie H.	Dan Marzu	26 Bonnie G.	29 Jen M.
2 John M.	10 Margaret A.	17 Karli J.	20 Ann C.	27 Tim H.	30 Morgan B.
4 Lisa F.	Oliver H.		21 Dan Maguire	Mauwa M.	31 Barb D.

Suzanne G.