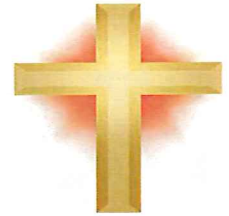


2022



March



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WAUSAU

THE MESSENGER

Dear First UMC Family of Faith,

On March 2 we commemorate Ash Wednesday as the beginning of a 40-day season of Lent. For those counting, these 40 days do not include Sundays. As a weekly celebration of Christ's Resurrection, Sundays are devoted to be days to gather, feast, and rest. However, the other 40 days before Easter are a time for prayer, fasting, discernment, and devotion. They follow the example of the 40 days after Jesus' baptism that he spent fasting, praying, and defeating temptation in the wilderness before he began his public ministry.

Last year for Lent we offered a Zoom Bible Study written by Bishop Jung. There were only about 6 people who participated, but it led to many discussions about how God's Word calls us to radical hospitality and inclusion, especially toward those who are marginalized. We began seeing the needs and hearing the cries of minorities, asylum seekers, and refugees. We started researching and reaching out to put our faith into practice. The Holy Spirit has worked many miracles, and our prayers have been answered in many ways since last Lent.

Our church is now sponsoring an asylum-seeking family who walked from Nicaragua to the Texas border after their home and business was seized by a corrupt government. Because of the kindness of our members, this family (and their friends) now attend our services. We have begun translating sermons into Spanish and baptized and welcomed their new baby (and whole family) on February 13. Please continue to pray as they seek self-sufficiency and stability despite many challenges in our country's convoluted immigration policies.

Last year's Lenten prayers were also answered through the establishment of a new regional refugee resettlement office in Wausau called ECDC as well as a new community non-profit support agency called New Beginnings for Refugees. By the time Lent of 2022 begins, the new Multicultural Community Center will have welcomed and resettled about 20 new refugee households. We anticipate being able to welcome at least 100 refugees every year for decades to come.

I am so humbled by the power and grace of God, who has brought together Christians in our congregation and others, to bear so much fruit from those small but powerful Zoom Bible study and prayer sessions we had last Lent. I also hope it makes us all hungry to commit to learning, talking, and praying more about how God is calling us to continue putting God's Word into practice. The Holy Spirit kindled so much through only a half-dozen members of our church who were in that Lenten study group last year. We're offering it again this year at 9:00 am on Sundays so that more people – and more mission – can grow together in Christ!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Rebecca

715.842.2201

fumcwausau.org

First UMC of Wausau also offers Online Worship!

Did you know that most new church visitors have first visited us online? Offering online worship is the new "front door" to reach out to and welcome new guests and members. It also offers existing members the benefits of staying connected even if you're out of town or under the weather.



Our Sunday service is live-streamed at 10 am on our YouTube channel at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/c/FirstUMCofWausau>.

By mid-afternoon on Sundays, the video is fully uploaded to watch anytime. Please be sure to click the red "Subscribe" button. It also helps us share God's grace and truth with more people when you click the "Like" button and write a comment every time you watch a worship video. Unfortunately, we don't know who is joining us online unless you comment on YouTube or keep us updated via phone or email. Please let us know how we can spiritually support you even when you're only able to be virtually present. Thank you for connecting and supporting Christ's mission together!

Cultural Orientation and English Language Learning for Refugees

On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays several rooms upstairs are being used to welcome dozens of new Afghan refugees. Classes are from 10-11:30 and 12:30-2 for adults, and their pre-school children enjoy playing nearby. New Beginnings for Refugees is overseeing these educational programs, with Mary Testin as the Coordinator. There are over 40 fully-vetted and trained volunteer teachers for English Language Learners (ELL). They also could use some volunteers (with background checks) to help with caring for and inspiring the preschoolers. Please contact Mary at 715-581-8111 if you're interested in helping.



Helen and Leonard Pivet 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.



Daylight Savings time begins Sunday, March 13th. Set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

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



March

We lift up Elaine Peterson as she prepares for eternal glory while in hospice.

We pray for Dick Ostwald to receive effective treatments with minimal side effects to fight aggressive cancer.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Bruce Chopp
Mary Fischer | 14 Josie Higgins
Kris Rybarczyk | 24 Maggie Schoenfeld |
| 2 John Machek | 15 Rob Perkins | 26 Bonnie Goertz |
| 4 Lisa Fons | 17 Diane Zahn
Karli Johnson | 27 Tim Harvey |
| 8 Judy Hoover | 18 London Larson
Dan Marzu | 28 Sue Serrurier |
| 9 Jordyn Voss | 20 Ann Chopp | 29 Jen Marzu |
| 10 Margaret Anderson
Oliver Hornby | 21 Dan Maguire | 30 Morgan Borchardt |
| 13 Sharon Boushley | | 31 Barb Dinsmore
Suzanne Gebhardt |



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



LENTEN ORGAN MEDITATIONS

at St. Paul's
United Church of Christ

426 Washington Street
Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

Fridays from 12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

March 11 – George Felty

March 18 – Susan Schaefer and Jason Zell

March 25 – Irene Beethe & Kartika Putri

April 1 – Daniel Larson

April 8 - Patrick Burkhardt and Jim Holt



Savvy Seniors is a social group for couples and singles 55 and over who enjoy fellowship and food. We meet on the first Monday of each month at a different restaurant at 11:30 am and usually conclude by 1:00 pm. This is a nice opportunity to meet new people, connect with old friends, discuss a variety of subjects, and enjoy good food. Please consider joining us March 7 at 11:30 at El Mezcal in Rib Mountain. All restaurants chosen are handicapped accessible for those with challenges. Any questions please call me at 715-571-3009.

Vicki Nowaczyk



Random Opportunities

by Mike Zahn

Ways you can SERVE

Ushers- 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:00 service (this would be a great opportunity for families!)

Greeters- Any Sunday you would like (also a great opportunity for families!)

Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet- This is a vital ministry of your church and we could really use additional volunteers for regular or back-up duty. We serve 30-40 households a month! 2nd Tuesday and 4th Saturday of each month.



Faith Alive! The goal of this Conference course: To help all participants explore their faith – To offer an opportunity for learning and growth – To bring in knowledgeable faculty members who can share their wisdom with those wishing to deepen their faith. This is a GREAT OPPORTUNITY for YOU to grow your faith! This course, CALLED TO MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP, is open, via ZOOM, to all laity and clergy. April 8 - 9, 2022 (Fri. 7:00-8:30 pm – Sat. 9:00 a.m.- 8:30 p.m. w/ meal breaks).

Faculty: Bishop Hee Soo Jung. Your involvement in the mission of the church has never been more necessary than in this time of the COVID pandemic. Bishop Jung will lead you toward spiritual maturity and endurance for all times. Cost: \$40. To register (deadline March 25) or ask questions, contact Gail Burgess at hb53104@aol.com, or catch Julie Miehe at church! More information @[Calendar - Wisconsin Conference of the UMC](#) (wisconsinumc.org).

“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise person who built their house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against the house; yet it did not fall because it had its foundation on the rock.” Matthew 7:24-25



March Missions: Refugee Support

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

Ray Nowaczyk

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 Public
(password: *fumcpublic*)

Phone: 715.842.2201

Blessed to be a Blessing

In their book, The Generosity Challenge, Kristine Miller and Scott McKenzie share the results of a 2017 Bar-na Group study on prayer called, Silent and Solo: How Americans Pray. The study found that 79% of American adults have prayed in the last three months. What was the content of those prayers?

- Gratitude and thanksgiving – 62%
- The needs of family and community – 61%
- Personal guidance in crisis – 49%
- My health and wellness – 47%
- Confession and forgiveness – 43%
- Things I suddenly feel compelled to pray about – 43%
- Safety in my daily tasks or travel – 41%
- A sense of peace – 37%
- Blessings for meals – 37%
- Specific requests for others – 34%
- Several others at lesser percentages

First, let me note that I love that gratitude and thanksgiving top the list of prayer subjects. Part of spiritual, emotional, and mental wellness can be found in gratitude practices. Miller and McKenzie do point out that something important is missing from this list, however. There is no mention of listening to God, no mention of asking “God, what do you want me to do, how do you want me to live?”

These questions, for us as individuals and for our churches, are key part of our stewardship practices. Our faith teaches us that God gives us good things for a purpose that is greater than satisfying our own needs and desires. We are blessed to be a blessing. It is important for our prayers of gratitude to be followed by an openness to the movement of God’s Spirit.

May God grant you the courage to ask, “Lord, what can I do in gratitude for all you have already done for me?”

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Our Financial Picture for January 2022			
January Revenue		January Expenses	
Pledged Offering	\$ 22,936.66	Staffing	\$ 18,240.86
Non-Pledged Offering	\$ 8,363.00	Programming	\$ 743.22
Other Revenue	\$ 3,739.48	Apportionments	\$ 3,986.00
From Endowment	\$ 1,672.72	Building Operations	\$ 7,735.26
Total Revenue	\$ 36,711.86	Total Expenses	\$ 30,705.34
		Net MTD	\$ 6,006.52





UMW Soup Sale Orders

We will have a variety of homemade soups, for pick up, the weekend of Palm Sunday.
Please pre-order your soup, by choosing from one of the varieties below. Return order forms to Laura Cowan by: email (gscowan@charter.net; subject "Soup Sale"), or drop the form off at the Church Office, or call Laura at 715-675-2183

ORDER DEADLINE: April 1st, 2022

Meat Soups

- Chicken Noodle
- Beef and Vegetables
- Sausage and Vegetables
- Split Pea with Ham
- Potato with Ham
- Chicken with Vegetables (gluten free)

Vegetable Soups

- Minestrone
- Split Pea (no ham)
- Potato (no ham)
- Southwestern Black Bean (gluten free)

Sold chilled, by the quart, for \$8.00 each

Pick up at Church: Saturday April 9th, 9 am to noon, or Sunday April 10th, 9 am to 11:30 am

Name: _____

Contact phone # or email: _____

Payment enclosed: _____ Will pay _____ at pick up.

(Checks payable to UMW)

Decorating the Church for Easter

Easter lilies will decorate our Sanctuary for the service on Easter, April 17th.
If you would like to donate flowers, the cost is \$12 for a small plant & \$25 for a large plant.
Please fill out the form below with your check and mail or bring to the church office.
We must have orders in no later than Monday, April 4th.



Please PRINT all the information below:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory/Honor of: (circle one) _____

Total Donation: \$ _____ Small (\$12) or Large (\$25)

Make checks payable to: First United Methodist Church
Memo line: Easter flowers