

2022



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WAUSAU

THE MESSENGER



May 2022

Dear First UMC Family of Faith,

I grew up on an old farmstead in the middle of a 160-acre square of land. It had a ¼ mile gravel driveway to get from the road to the house. Our faithful dog named Tramp, a stray who wandered up the driveway and adopted our family, would bark loudly to let us know of all visitors and deliveries. My younger brothers and I had mandatory nap times until we were in school full-time, but those naps were cut short when an unexpected visitor came and roused the dog who would wake us up with her barking and disrupt the routine. My mom got rather irritated at the sales people and proselytizers who disturbed our naps and her productivity, so she painted a big wooden sign that got nailed to an old tree at the beginning of the driveway that said, “No Solicitors or Jehovah’s Witnesses”. It worked remarkably well, and I wish we could put a sign like that on the other end of our cell phone lines.

Most of us feel squeamish about the idea of being witnesses in our faith. We associate witnessing with being in a sect or cult, or with a slick salesman selling us a snake oil version of faith that will eventually disappoint and possibly harm us. Some do it naively, and some have more selfish and sinful motives under a cheap veneer of faith. But as my mom would also say, we can’t throw the baby out with the bathwater. Perhaps we’re called to put up boundaries and sound warnings against false witnesses while we also learn and grow in what it really means to be witnesses with authenticity and integrity in our faith.

Between Easter and Pentecost we’ll focus on a sermon series called “We Are Witnesses”. We’ll learn more about the people in the early church, who felt both great fear and eagerness in sharing the difference Jesus had made in their lives. Like them, we’re all called to be ready to use our words if presented with an opportunity to share the hope we have. But first and foremost, we’re called to make sure our actions and attitudes speak of God’s love and grace with integrity.

I’m hoping at least 12 of you are willing to share a 5-minute story in worship this summer about a time that Jesus became real in your life. Both sharing and hearing these faith stories will connect us closer to each other and to God. If you think God might be nudging you, please contact me so we can arrange some time to meet and talk through your ideas, questions, and/or concerns. We’ve all received such a great gift of grace, and becoming a faithful witness is a way to thank God, see it multiplied, and share it with others.

Gratefully,

Pastor Rebecca

Highway Cleanup Project May 5th at 6PM

Meet at W/WW intersection north of Wausau, past Brokaw Corners. Allow up to two hours.

Bags, vests, gloves and bottled water will be supplied.

Please wear long sleeved shirts, pants, caps & insect repellent.

Call Stan Schacht at 715-842-7957 if you plan to attend, need a ride or have any questions.

More hands make less work!!



Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course (In-person)

Dates: Friday, May 20, 2022 6pm - 9pm
Saturday, May 21, 2022 9am - 4pm

Place: Mauston United Methodist Church
420 Suszycki Dr , Mauston, WI 53948

Cost: \$15.00 to cover book and food. The book can be ordered from the leader, or can be found at The Upper Room website.

Leader: Mike Zahn

Deadline to register: Friday, May 6, 2022

Pre-register to Nancy Schmig, LSM co-director at schmigkn@gmail.com with name, church affiliation, email and phone number. If you have any questions about the class or to order a print copy of the book, please contact Mike Zahn at 715-470-1957 or mmzahn57@hotmail.com



Our Financial Picture for March 2022

| March Revenue | | March Expenses | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Pledged Offering | \$ 14,065.16 | Staffing | \$ 18,566.46 |
| Non-Pledged Offering | \$ 2,840.00 | Programming | \$ 1,065.56 |
| Other Revenue | \$ 2,227.00 | Apportionments | \$ 3,986.00 |
| From Endowment | \$ 1,672.72 | Building Operations | \$ 13,183.31 |
| Total Revenue | \$ 20,804.88 | Total Expenses | \$ 36,801.33 |
| | | Net MTD | \$ (15,996.45) |

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 | |

Office Hours: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday – Thursday
(715) 842-2201

www.firstmethodistwausau.org facebook.com/WausauFUMC



We grieve this month at the loss of Elaine Peterson, a member of UMC who passed away on April 6th at the age of 101.

We celebrate the marriage of Andrew Koss and Anneka Wiersma that took place on April 2nd in Annapolis, Maryland. Andrew is the son of Mike & Sara Koss and grandson of Jerry & Sharon Gisselman.



Savvy Seniors will meet on Monday May 2nd at 11:30 at The Wausau Mine Company.



- | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|----|----------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Gianina Chang | 10 | Lois Wenzel* | 23 | Bonnie McNabb |
| 2 | Lori Mariani | 11 | Kurt Hornby | 27 | James Duginski |
| 3 | Jane Smith | 14 | Joan Toivonen* | 28 | Scott Trull |
| 5 | Tom Bogumill | 17 | Michael Cain | 29 | Carol Pachmayer |
| 8 | Brian Rohland | | Robyn De Vos | 31 | Mark Milne |
| | | 22 | Molly Hoffmann | | |
| | | | Joyce Luedke | | |

May

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



The Messenger

Our next newsletter will be a combination of June (6/1-6/30) and the first two weeks of July (7/1-7/16). If you have any articles to submit, please have those into the office by May 16th.

May Missions Focus: Open Door

The Open Door offers temporary help to current and newly release 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 write Open Door on the memo line of your check.



2021-2022 Graduates

If you have a family member who will be graduating this year from high school or college, please contact the church office. We will be honoring them in our service Sunday May 22nd.



Random Thoughts: Labor Shortage by Mike Zahn

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.' Matthew 9:35-37

It's no secret that there are labor shortages everywhere around Central Wisconsin these days. That includes pastors. There are more pastors retiring out of active ministry than are coming into it. While there many things I can't do, maybe pastoring is something I *can* do. A lot of people have suggested to me that may be true, so I am listening to God's persistent call and accepting a part-time appointment to Christ UMC in Merrill and Wildwood Chapel UMC in Gleason beginning in May, pending the necessary approvals. I will be speaking at our church one more time on May 1st while Pastor Rebecca is on her trip to the Holy Land.

I have been attending this church since 2001. It will be hard to leave. I look back and see how much I have grown spiritually in 20 years. That is a tribute to the opportunities I have been given here. It has been my experience that the less I have been a spectator in churches, and the more I have become involved, the more I have grown. I believe that is true for all of us, so jump in where you can! God bless you all.

May "Life is Good"

You may disagree, but "Life is Good" is a registered and trademarked expression by the "Life is Good" people for whom, life is good. The "Life is Good" logo is a stick figure named Jake who wears a black beret, beatnik sunglasses, and flashes a giant grin. Jake is often posed in any number of activities that bring simple pleasures to life — hiking, surfing, flying a kite, walking the dog.

"Life is Good" started inauspiciously as brothers Bert and John Jacobs hawked homemade novelty T-shirts in the Boston streets and door-to-door through the college dorms. They were literally living in their van down by the river. They found their key to success when they printed 48 shirts of Jake over the saying, "Life is Good" for a 1994 street fair in Cambridge. The shirts sold out by noon. People were crazy for the simple and sunny philosophy. So much so, that the sincere and optimistic slogan has grown into an \$80 million-a-year merchandise line sold by 5,000 distributors in 14 countries.

One key to the success of "Life is Good" merchandise lies in the interpretation of those who own the products. Someone wearing the kayaking Jake shirt announces both his hobby and the simple pleasure that makes his life good. But cancer sufferers and survivors have also flocked to the merchandise line due to its simple, clear worldview. "Life is Good" is the hopeful battle cry of the cancer afflicted and the celebration song of cancer survivors.

There's an implicit sense of truthfulness to the slogan which preserves its widespread appeal. The Jacobses are quick to note the humility of the assertion — life isn't perfect or great, but it's good. They know there's plenty of bad in the world but find it better to focus on what's good. John claims that the slogan is an affirmation of the here and now. "Don't determine that you're going to be happy when you get the new car or the big promotion or when you meet that special person. You can decide that you're going to be happy today."

In the church, we have a similar saying, but I don't think that it's trademarked. "God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good." This is more than an observation, however. Among other things, it's a promise that our good God is with us and is active in our lives when we are struggling and in the valleys of life and when our hearts are full of the many blessings we have received and we are filled with joy.

Yes, life may be good, but if it is, it's because "God is good . . . all the time."

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Wednesday Ecumenical Prayer Vigils for Ukraine

It is heart-wrenching to see the suffering in and around Ukraine. As people of faith, we come together to pray for those being afflicted, those who are serving, and even those who are brutal or blinded by propaganda. During Lent we prayed at noon on Wednesdays, but we're adjusting our schedule from noon to 5 pm on only the 3rd Wednesday of the month to hopefully welcome more people to join in prayer together. Here are upcoming dates and places, with services at 5 pm lasting for about 30 minutes each. Please join together in prayer as a way to unite as Christians in support of peace, freedom, safety, and healing.

May 18, 5pm - Grace United Church of Christ

June 15, 5pm - First Unitarian Universalist Church

July 20, 5pm - First United Methodist Church



Help Donate and Assemble Kits for the Midwest Mission District Center

Home Care Kit (\$20 Value)

- 2 Liquid Household Cleaners - 16-40 oz
- No spray bottles
- 2 Dish Soaps - 16-34 oz
- 2 Liquid Laundry Detergents - 32-64 oz
- 1 Scrub Brush - with or without handle
- 1 - 5-gal Round Bucket with resealable lid

All items must be NEW & placed in the bucket.



Personal Dignity Kit (\$15 Value)

- 1 Bath Hand Towel - No kitchen towels
- 1 Bath Washcloth - No dishcloths
- 1 Adult Toothbrush - No multipacks
- 1 Bar Soap - 3-4 oz
- 1 Shampoo - 15-18 oz
- 1 Deodorant - 2 -3 oz - stick, roll on, or pump
- 1 1-gal Resealable Plastic Bag

All items must be NEW & placed in a 1-gal resealable plastic bag.
\$2 donation for razor and toothpaste (Do not include in bag)



Bring all kits to church before June 9th so we can take them to the gathering at Annual Conference.
Thank you.

The Messenger

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Purpose:

Live and Share God's Love

Worship in MAY

Sunday Worship Times

8:00 a.m. Worship in Chapel

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Sunday, May 1 "Who Are You, Lord?"

Psalm 30:4-12, Acts 9:1-9, 10-22

Sunday, May 8 "Get Up!"

Mother's Day

Psalm 23, Revelation 7:9-17, Acts 9:36-43

Sunday, May 15 "What God Calls Clean"

Psalm 148, Acts 11:1-10, 11-18

Sunday, May 22 "Opened the Heart"

Graduation Sunday

Psalm 67, Revelation 21:10, 22:1-5, Acts 16:9-15

Sunday, May 29 "Disturbing the City"

Psalm 97, Acts 16:16-24, 25-34