



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



THE MESSENGER

First Wausau United Methodist Church

Downtown Wausau Wisconsin

From the Pastor

By Pastor Rebecca Voss

Hello, First Wausau Family of Faith!

Summer is around the corner, and I am hopeful about new life and growth in both physical and spiritual ways. On a personal level, there are a few significant changes. First, two of my girls – Jordyn and Jayden – are ready to fly the nest and will be moving to De Pere after school ends. Jordyn will move into her own apartment and launch her career, and Jayden is reuniting with her birth mother and finishing high school. They are loved, and I hope they will come back to visit often! Joy and Marzia will still be at home, and we will each finish our degrees in 2025. In addition, we are preparing to welcome an exchange student for the year. I am sure many adventures, acts of faith, and deeper relationships will be ahead!

You have all gracefully supported the girls and me as I work on my Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree. After being approved for my project by the Institutional Review Board, writing most of my dissertation, and being approved by the Candidacy Review Team, I am now in the last phase of my studies as a “Doctoral Candidate.” My work focuses on helping churches rebuild trust and recover from spiritual abuse. A DMin degree has four foundations of research and writing – Biblical, Historical, Theological, and Interdisciplinary. These come together to form a project to help heal and strengthen congregations as a “Doctor of the Church.”

One way you can help is to come to worship this summer! I will preach a sermon series from June 16 to July 21 that will become a resource for other churches recovering from religious trauma. The first week – “Recognizing Broken Trust,” explains spiritual abuse and helps people recognize and understand it. Week two is “Reclaiming the Truth,” the Interdisciplinary Foundation of a fascinating field of sociology called *Impression Management*. Week three is the Biblical Foundation, Titus 1:5-9, “Recommitting to Character and Competence.” Weeks four and five discuss the Theological foundation of forgiveness, “Rethinking Forgiveness,” and “Releasing Forgiveness.” The final week is on the Historical Foundation – “Renewing Covenant Prayer.” Your feedback and suggestions for improvement would be immensely helpful!

Continued on Page 3



Savvy Seniors will be meeting on **Monday, May 6th at 11:30am at Hoehn’s Huddle**. 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.



As we transition into the summer season, we would like to acknowledge and thank our Sunday School teachers and volunteers. We appreciate your continued dedication to our youth ministry! Join us for our May 12th service as we recognize our teachers: Karen P, Maggie S, Margaret A, Collette B, Mary B, Lin S, Carrie H, Sheryl D.C, Betsy D, Julie M, Margaret G, and Jen J.



Please lift up and pray for...

The family and friends of former member Nancy Splitt who passed on 04-16-24.

Grief Counseling

A grief counseling group is available for those in need of spiritual and emotional support during difficult times of grieving. This group takes place on an as needed basis. Contact the church office or Julie Miehle to inquire.

Men's Ministry

- 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 - Contact Mark Johnson or Dennis Reynolds for details
 - * **Wednesday, May 29th** - Woodchucks Game
 - * **Sunday, June 23rd** - Courtyard Cookout



Jubilate Bell Choir - Led by Jessica Wenzel

- Sunday, May 5th - 10am Service

Chancel Choir - Led by Lin Strong

Rehearsals - Wednesdays 7:00pm, as needed

Other Musical Worship

- Sunday, June 9th - Guest Organist Hunter Erickson will lead a hymn sing at 9am service and host an organ concert that evening. (See Page 5)

Prayer Shawl Ministry

CELEBRATION OR COMFORT.

This is a reminder that prayer shawls are available to the congregation both in the narthex and parlor of the church.

Please avail yourselves of this ministry for comfort in cases of illness, grief or loss. Also kindly remember to present them for celebrations such as: baptisms, confirmations, graduations, and marriage.

We hope that you, as emissaries, will join us to keep this warm ministry going.

Marian Attoe

Pastoral Message May Mission Offering Continued...

In early August, I will train a group of pastors at Pine Lake Camp, and then they will implement these tools in their churches for seven weeks. With interviews before and after, my hypothesis will be tested to see what is most helpful in rebuilding trust. I will write an additional chapter analyzing the data from this project, edit my dissertation this fall, and sit for (present) my defense next spring. Your ongoing prayers are appreciated, and I continue to give thanks for you in my prayers!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Rebecca

2024 Graduates

Evie Del Conte is graduating from Wausau West High School.

Jordyn Voss is graduating from Wausau Area Virtual Education (WAVE).

If you have a family member who will be graduating this year from high school or college, please contact the church office. We will recognize graduates at the May 19th service.



May Mission Offering



The missions team has added The Hagar House as one of our monthly missions this year. The Hagar House is a Christ-centered home for single moms in the central Wisconsin area. They offer spiritual, emotional, physical, financial, relational, and life skills to these mothers to provide them the necessities to build a new home.

Throughout the month of May, donate loose change, put cash in the small brown envelopes, memo a check, or donate online under fund name: *Hagar House*

Pivot Scholarship



The Pivot Scholarship is given annually to a member of the church who is studying at a higher education level beyond high school. Each year, applicants fill out a form that is evaluated with guidelines set by the Pivots when they gifted the money to the church for this purpose.

The 2024 recipient is Evie Del Conte. Evie is graduating high school this month and will continue her education at UW-Milwaukee for Art Education. Congratulations Evie!

MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:00am Worship 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Groups 9:30am Women Ensemble Rehearsal 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:30am Lord's Prayer Discussion	29 7:00pm Ministries Council	30	1 5:45pm Handbell Practice	2 National Day of Prayer 8:00am AA 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 General Conference Ends Office Closed	4 8:30am UWF Spring Retreat (Pine Lake UM Camp) 11:00am Handbell Practice
5 8:00am Worship with Holy Communion 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Groups 10:00am Worship with Holy Communion 11:00am Coffee Hour	6 11:30am Savvy Seniors, Hoehn's Huddle	7 1:00pm Worship Design	8 1:00pm United Women in Faith Meeting 5:45pm Missions Team	9 8:00am AA 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 Office Closed	11
12 Mother's Day 8:00am Worship, Chapel 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Groups 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:15am Men's Prayer/Bible Study	13	14 1:00pm - 3:00pm Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet 5:30pm Trustees	15 6:30pm Lord's Prayer Discussion	16 8:00am AA 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 Office Closed	18
19 Pentecost 8:00am Worship, Chapel 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Groups 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Hour	20	21 6:00pm SPRC 7:00pm Finance Committee, BK Smith Room	22 Men's Group (Woodchucks Game)	23 8:00am AA 6:00pm Annual Laily Session, Zoom 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24 Office Closed	25
26 Trinity Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00am Coffee Hour	27 Church Office Closed Memorial Day	28 6:00pm - 8:00pm Rev. Tsuker Yang Retirement Celebration (St. Paul's UMC - Stevens Point)	29	30 8:00am AA 7:00pm Boy Scouts	31 Office Closed	1



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Gianina Chang | 10 Lois Wenzel | 22 Molly Hoffmann |
| 2 Lori Mariani | 11 Kurt Hornby | Joyce Luedke |
| 3 Jane Smith | 14 Joan Toivonen | 23 Bonnie McNabb |
| 5 Tom Bogumill | 17 Michael Cain | 27 James Duginski |
| 8 Brian Rohland | Robyn De Vos | 28 Scott Trull |
| 9 Dennis Reynolds | 19 Linkin Cain | 29 Carol Pachmayer |
| | | 31 Mark Milne |

Hymn Sing & Organ Concert



Hunter Erickson, age 17, is currently a Senior attending Interlochen Arts Academy, in Interlochen Michigan. Hunter is a member of the North Central Wisconsin (Wausau) American Guild of Organists Chapter. Hunter attended the Long Beach Pipe Organ Encounter, Long Beach, California, where he also participated in the student recital at Covenant Presbyterian Church Long Beach, California, in the summer of 2022. He has performed multiple recitals including ones at St. Mary Catholic Church in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and Gesu Church Milwaukee. Hunter is currently the organist at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Hunter has been playing organ for 7 years. If interested, Hunter has a YouTube channel, which you can find under his name, "Hunter Erickson."

Join us on June 9th for a Hymn Sing at the 9:00am service followed by an organ concert that evening at 6:00pm.



Sunday, May 26 —
Sunday, Sept. 1
9:00 am

Summer worship will be combined to one service on Sundays at 9:00am with coffee hour following the service in the Parlor.

Services will also be available online live on Sundays and recorded for later viewing.

Highway Cleanup

Thank you to the volunteers from FUMC and Troop #419 who helped make our 2024 Highway Cleanup another success!



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 (see app icon below). 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.

If creating an account, PLEASE USE THE EMAIL YOU PROVIDED IN THE CHURCH DIRECTORY, if one was provided. Allow 24-48 hours after account creation for office staff to confirm your account.

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

*Check box at checkout to help cover online processing fees. Thank you!



United Women in Faith

Our church's United Women in Faith group has had a very busy spring so far, with more to come! It started with the April meeting, which was a "book share". Many of the women shared a book that was special to them, discussed a pertinent social issue, etc...Those who attended left with many good titles for future reading. The other big event UWF held in April was our semi-annual rummage sale in Fellowship Hall. Under the direction of Sara Koss and Sharon Gisselman, donated items were set up and priced during the week of April 15, with the sale being held on April 18-19. Our church custodian, Andy White, also set up some tables to sell his many collectibles and antique items. With the help of other UWF members, the many tasks needed for a successful sale, such as pricing, cleaning, displaying, greeting potential customers and guiding them to the sale, cashiering, etc...were completed/carried out well. The many sales made will make it possible to support a number of mission projects UWF works with. As you do your spring and summer cleaning, keep UWF in mind, as another rummage sale is being planned for **the first week in October!**

Clean Socks = Cash for Northcott Neighborhood House!
This is a call to clean out your sock drawer of those old, unused, no longer wanted/needed socks and have them applied to a mission project. UWF are collecting old socks that will be recycled, and the proceeds will be given to Northcott Neighborhood House. This Methodist mission has been serving Milwaukee since 1961, offering a food pantry, after school programs, and apprenticeship job training. We have supported Northcott since its beginning and this is an easy way to continue that support. Collection boxes will be in the parlor and narthex. Tell your friends and family, and together we will save some landfill space. Questions? Talk to Dottie Nietert.

SPRING TEA TRADITION IS RETURNING!
UWF will have its "annual" tea on Wednesday afternoon, May 8, at 1:00pm in the church parlor. All women of the church are welcome to come and enjoy this time of fellowship. Questions? Contact Laura Cowan.

Wishing all the Best to Mary Ann Dykes!

Farewells are never easy, and we will soon be saying a bittersweet "farewell" to Mary Ann Dykes, a longtime member of FUMC-Wausau. She announced recently that she will be moving to Ohio to be near family, at the beginning of June. Mary Ann has been a source of strength and comfort for so many throughout her years in Wausau. Her nursing career brought her into contact with a number of people in the church and the community. She was our church's first parish nurse for many years, coordinating blood pressure checks, promoting wellness activities/opportunities, and helping people with medical questions and needs to navigate the health care system. She worked diligently through the years to make sure our kitchen was organized and as sanitary as possible. She has reached out to shut-ins, people going through health challenges, and has been an advocate for reaching out to members who have needed comfort in any way. Mary Ann has been a very active member of United Women in Faith, formerly United Methodist Women. Her support and participation in their mission work and programming will be greatly missed!

The Coffee Hour on Sunday, May 19, will be our opportunity to wish Mary Ann the best and let her know how much she has meant to our church and faith community. This would be a great opportunity to share a card or note with her as she prepares to head to Ohio. If you have any questions, contact Bonnie Goertz or Barb Ritchie.



Our next newsletter will be a combination of June and the first two weeks of July (7/1-7/15). If you have any articles to submit, please have those into the office by May 20th.

Personal Needs/ Claire's Critter Closet

The Personal Needs and Claire's Critter Closets are a growing and much-needed mission of our church to our community. We have provided basic necessities to 204 individuals so far this year. Last's year's monthly average attendance was 43.9 and this year's is currently at 50.25.

For the month of May, both closets are open on the 2nd Tuesday from 1-3pm only. There will be no Saturday service held.

A huge thank you to...

Rib Mountain Dollar Tree who collected 16 boxes of donations between the PNC and CCC during the month of April.

Larry the Coonhound and his owner Tegan who raised a total of \$2,312 for the CCC for Larry's annual Gotcha Day fundraiser.



★ VOLUNTEERS ★

NEEDED

Greeters

Coffee Hour

Sign-up in the Parlor

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

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

May Worship

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

**SUNDAY, MAY 5
HOLY COMMUNION**
We Love One Another

Psalm 98; Acts 10:44-48; John 15:9-17

SUNDAY, MAY 12 - MOTHER'S DAY
We Share Christ

Psalm 1; Acts 1:15-17; John 17:6-19

SUNDAY, MAY 19 - PENTECOST
These Bones Will Live

Psalm 104:24-33; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Acts 2:1-21

SUNDAY, MAY 26 - TRINITY SUNDAY
All-Consuming Presence

Psalm 29; John 3:1-17
Summer Worship Hours Begin

SUNDAY, JUNE 2
HOLY COMMUNION
Lord of the Sabbath

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12;
Mark 2:23-28

STAFF

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