

2021



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WAUSAU

THE MESSENGER



Dear First UMC Family of Faith,

In a Peanuts cartoon, Linus says, “There are three things I have learned never to discuss with people: religion, politics, and The Great Pumpkin.” As we begin “Pumpkin Season”, we’re going to bravely learn and discuss how some of our leanings in faith and politics are likely more influenced by our culture than by Christ. Sorry, Linus, but as a pastor I think it’s important to discuss and examine our beliefs. Either our current faith and actions will be strengthened, or we’ll begin to see things from a new perspective and have our faith renewed. It may not be easy, but it’s an ultimate win-win.

There are four types of common beliefs in our culture that we’ll be learning about. Fundamentalism shows up on both the conservative and liberal sides of the religious and political spectrum and causes problems in the souls of individuals, churches, and countries. Nationalism (no to be confused with patriotism) holds an assumption that our country and culture is better than others. Dispensationalism is a doomsday interpretation of the Bible developed in the 19th century with a focus on “the rapture”, which will supposedly rescue us from responsibility in and to this world. Antinomianism literally means “against the law” and results in thinking our actions aren’t important, and that what or who we believe is all that matters.

As you read this brief summary, it’s likely you thought of other people you know who hold to some of the ideologies I just described. That often deflects from how God’s grace is convicting each of us. Our challenge is to welcome the Holy Spirit to search our own souls for aspects of these beliefs that are sabotaging the kind of active faith God wants us to have. I pray that our October Sermon Series will help provide a way for us to understand and respond with renewed truth, joy, peace, and love.

With Christ’s Love,
Pastor Rebecca

The Word without the Spirit is fundamentalism.

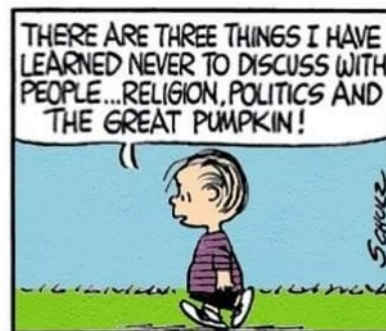
The Spirit without the Word is fanaticism.

The Church without the Kingdom is institutionalism.

The Kingdom without the Church is idealism.

And any of this without Jesus is mere formalism.

By JD Walt, Seedbed Devotional on August 30, 2021



715.842.2201

fumcwausau.org



2nd Grade Bible Presentation to Asher Adams



Sorting clothes donated for the refugees





Memorial Service for Priscilla Cedar will be held at First Universalist Unitarian Church, Thursday, October 14th at 11 am. Luncheon immediately after the service at the Oak Island Shelter, Wausau.

Congratulations to Morgan Borchardt on the birth of her son, Jackson Alexander Borchardt, born September 15th.



*Live and Share
God's Love...
with
peace, joy & hope*



Savvy Seniors will meet at 11:30am on Monday, October 4th, at the Great Dane, Wausau



October

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 Ellie Schreiber | 12 Laura Cowan
Cheryl Wenzel | 25 Andrea Anderson*
Pam Steinke |
| 3 Margaret Getzin | 15 Jeremy Zuleger | 29 Gus Anderson
Gary Boushley |
| 4 Madison Mariani | 16 Kirsten Hornby
Tammy Lahren | 30 Gregory Cowan
Michael Koss
Diane Misoni |
| 7 Gary Getzin | 18 Bob Wylie | 31 Cheryl Beltz |
| 8 Lisa Day
Roger Gundelfinger | 19 Gary Kurth* | |
| 9 Jake Rybarczyk | | |

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



Project Connect Resource Fair

On September 16th the First United Methodist Church hosted Project Connect, a community resource event with a focus on individuals and families who are experiencing housing issues. The event took place from 8:30AM to 11:30AM.

Attendees of Project Connect had the opportunity to speak with 15 local non-profit organizations that provide assistance with housing, health, employment, legal issues, and more within our community. In addition, the Wausau Free Clinic provided free COVID-19 and flu shots. Two attendees received COVID-19 shots and seven attendees received flu shots.

Nearly 50 free breakfasts were provided by the excellent cooking, serving & cleaning crew of Mary Ann Dykes, Barb Ritchie, Karen Petersen, Bonnie & Jon Goertz, Bill Owen and Dick Rayborn.

Approximately 24 community members attended the event. Seven attendees completed a survey addressing personal challenges in obtaining and maintaining housing and what difficulties they experienced in accessing services in the greater Wausau area. Positive feedback on the event was received from both the attendees and the non-profit organizations.

Hosting Project Connect provided another great way for FUMC Wausau to serve our Community and to *Live and Share God's Love.*

Pam Anderson

UMW Chili Sale!



A heart-warming Chili Sale is happening---

November 19th & 20th (Fri./Sat.)

Pick up Sat 11:00-1:00

Order a quart or two of your favorite homemade chilies, lovingly crafted by our United Methodist Women. We sell our chili so we can support United Methodist missions like Harbor House Crisis Shelter in Superior, Wisconsin. Harbor House provides hospitable shelter, transitional living and services for homeless women and families.

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT AND ENJOY THIS YEAR:

By or before November 10th

Mail or drop off this form with your payment to: UMW, First UM Church,
903 Third Street, Wausau, WI 54403

Call Margaret Getzin with your order at 715-842-9254, pay at pick-up.

Unable to get out and would like a free, *safe* delivery? *Please ask!*

All chili \$8.00/quart

Chili w/beans, no pasta _____	Chili w/noodles _____
White Chili w/chicken _____	Vegetarian/GF Chili _____
Low Sodium Chili _____	

Name: _____

Contact phone # or email: _____

Payment enclosed: _____ Will pay _____ at pick up.
(Checks payable to UMW)



Still have questions? Call 715-842-9254 or email
Margaret Getzin: margaretg202@gmail.com

*Thank you for supporting UMW and our missions!
Enjoy the chili!*

Helping God's Kingdom Come About October 2021



(The Kingdom of God) "is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." Mark 4:31-32

My two children have received an allowance for doing chores from the time they understood the concept of money. We paid them allowances, not because they needed the money, but because we wanted them to begin to understand that money is something to earn, not to just ask their parents for. We also wanted to begin to teach them how to manage money.

The lesson was very simple. When they were little, every Friday, I'd grab 10 dimes and sit down with them. We'd first take a dime, grab an offering envelope, put their name on it, and slide the dime in. The second dime would be dropped in their piggy bank, which we'd take to the local bank every few months. The other eight would go into their pocket or purse for them to bring with to the store when we went.

I was once asked what difference those dimes given to the church really made. To which I responded, "To the church finances, I can't imagine anything. To my kids – more than I can explain. Every Sunday they put their envelopes in the offering plate with huge smiles on their faces. As they got older, when they made more money, they'd continue the same practice – along with reflecting on how they wanted to make a difference with their generosity. Would they give it all to the church? Would they give some to a mission or another non-profit that was making a difference?"

Watching them grow in generosity constantly reminds me that we all have a place in bringing about God's kingdom, whether what we have to offer is large or small. It's about the need of the giver to give, rather than the church to receive. Even a seemingly small act of generosity can grow into something beyond what we could ever ask or imagine.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Our Financial Picture for August 2021			
August Revenue		August Expenses	
Pledged Offering	\$ 13,128.00	Staffing	\$ 17,813.44
Non-Pledged Offering	\$ 4,303.00	Programming	\$ 2,023.65
Other Revenue	\$ 736.27	Apportionments	\$ 4,017.00
From Endowment	\$ 1,636.91	Building Operations	\$ 1,112.01
Total Revenue	\$ 19,804.18	Total Expenses	\$ 24,966.10
		Net MTD	\$ (5,161.92)

FUMC Online

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: *fumcpubic*)

Phone: 715.842.2201



Random Thoughts by Mike Zahn

Reaching Out

¹² Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

I believe that our church is reaching out now, more than any other time since I've been attending here! Our Missions Committee and our pastor are busy coordinating many plans. Our Personal Needs Closet serves 20-30 families a month. The new Claire's Critter Closet helps about as many families with pet needs. On Thursday, September 16 our church hosted "Project Connect," designed to help connect homeless and other disadvantaged people to available help and included a breakfast for anyone needing a meal. We are actively preparing to welcome refugees into our community, and our building is a drop-off point for items for Afghan refugees. We serve a Community Meal at First Presbyterian several times a year. We have provided space for the homeless warming center. Members of our church help operate the Ramp-Up program. I'm sure I'm missing many things we do as a congregation. Plus, so many of our members help others in "under the radar" ways, individually.

As the scripture says, "invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind. . ." That's what God calls us to do. We are all poor and broken in some way, and the need for spiritual healing and wholeness is what draws us to Jesus and to church. If it has drawn us, why not others? Keep on reaching out! By reaching out, we break down that deep down fear of people who are different than us. By reaching out, we model that fearlessness through our actions. And that lack of fear allows love to come in.



For October the donation will be used to support Mission Guatemala. They provide personal needs, clothing and education to community members. Donate loose change, cash in the small brown envelopes in the pews or memo your check.

The next community dinner that our church is hosting at the First Presbyterian Church is October 31st. This is a meaningful ministry where we are able to offer meals to the community. With Covid-19 we will continue to offer boxed meals and hand them out in the parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church. Our dinner in August served 80 people. If you want to get involved, we will be needing baked goods to add to the meal. Please contact Jen Johnson at 715-470-2527 and she will arrange a time to pick up any baked goods. Please also keep our dinner guests in your prayers. Thank you!

Jennifer Johnson



October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
			
3 8:00 AM Worship, Chapel with Holy Communion 9:00 AM Sunday School Classes, All Ages 10:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary with Holy Communion	4 11:30 AM Savvy Seniors, Great Dane Restaurant	5 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	6 6:00 P BK S 6:00 P 7:00 P
10 8:00 AM Worship, Chapel 9:00 AM Sunday School Classes, All Ages 10:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary	11	12 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet 4:30 PM Missions Team, Parlor 5:30 PM Trustees, B.K. Smith	13 9:30 A Parlor 6:00 P BK S 6:00 P 7:00 P
17 8:00 AM Worship, Chapel 9:00 AM Sunday School Classes, All Ages 10:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary	18	19 6:00 PM SPRC, B.K. Smith 7:00 PM Finance Committee, Parlor	20 6:00 P BK S 6:00 P 7:00 P
24 8:00 AM Worship, Chapel 9:00 AM Sunday School Classes, All Ages 10:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary 6:00 PM UMW Justa Circle, Zoom	25 6:00 PM SPRC Only, Zoom 6:30 PM Charge Conference, Zoom (open to all members) 7:15 PM Ministries Council - Zoom, Following Church Conference	26 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group, Parlor 5:30 PM Worship Design, Parlor	27 6:00 P 7:00 P
31 8:00 AM Worship, Chapel 9:00 AM Sunday School Classes, All Ages 10:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary 4:00 PM Community Dinner, First Presbyterian Church			



Prayer Priorities

Sundays: *The Suffering & Seniors*

Mondays: *Missions & Outreach*

Tuesdays: *Teachers & Students*

Wednesdays: *Wausau & Wisconsin*

Thursdays: *The Thirsty & Hungry*

Fridays: *Friends & Family*

Saturdays: *Servant-Leaders & Staff*

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Office Closed	2
	6 6:00 PM Confirmation Class, BK Smith Rm 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	7 8:00 AM AA, Room 101 7:00 PM Boy Scouts, Basement	8 Office Closed	9
l r th	13 9:30 AM Mary/Faith Circle, Parlor 6:00 PM Confirmation Class, BK Smith Rm 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	14 8:00 AM AA, Room 101 8:00 AM Messenger Articles Due 3:00 PM Love/Hope Circle, Parlor 7:00 PM Boy Scouts, Basement	15 Office Closed UMW Conference Gathering - Baraboo	16 UMW Conference Gathering - Baraboo
e,	20 6:00 PM Confirmation Class, BK Smith Rm 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	21 8:00 AM AA, Room 101 7:00 PM Boy Scouts, Basement	22 Office Closed	23 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet
p,	27 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	28 8:00 AM AA, Room 101 7:00 PM Boy Scouts, Basement	29 Office Closed	30
				6



Being a More Missional Church

Express Day - Thursday, November 18, 6:00-8:30pm
"Prescription Sunday" - Sunday, November 21, 10am

About 3 years ago our congregation was selected to be part of MCCI - the Missional Church consultative Initiative. An easier way to think of it is "My Church Can Improve". Our denomination looked at which churches show the greatest potential for increased mission and growth. We were selected and invited to go through a lengthy process to help us see and plan for a strong and healthy future.

We now need the whole congregation to come together on **Thursday, Nov. 18 from 6-8:30** to share your honest thoughts, ideas, and vision for our church with consultants who will be visiting us. The youth will have a special time with a consultant from 6-7pm before joining the whole group. Because we anticipate that the Warming Center will be operating in the west side of the building, we will meet in the Sanctuary (with youth in the upstairs MS/HS Sunday School room).

After listening carefully to everyone, the consultants will spend the next few days creating a "prescription" to help us strategize and strengthen our mission. On **Sunday, November 21** they will reveal the details and priorities of this plan in worship. This "Prescription Sunday" will have an all-church Charge Conference vote after the 10 am service to accept or decline the missional prescription. If we vote to adopt this plan, they will find specialists from around the country to help us take strategic action on the priorities in our Prescription.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Rebecca or a member of the MCCI Implementation team: Bonnie Goertz, Mike Zahn, Margaret Getzin, Dick Rayborn, Dan & Jen Marzu. We look forward to seeing everyone on Nov. 18 and 21!



STAFF

Pastor	Rebecca Voss rebecca@fumcwausau.org
Faith Formation, Music Director	Martie Pahriss martie@fumcwausau.org
Finance Director	Martie Pahriss finance@fumcwausau.org
Secretary	Joan Stroyny joan@fumcwausau.org
Building Engineer	Andy White

903 Third Street, Wausau, WI 54403
Office Hours: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Monday – Thursday
Please call before visits at (715) 842-2201
fumc@fumcwausau.org
www.fumcwausau.org

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 OCTOBER

Sermon Series:

We've all seen tensions rise and probably felt our tempers flare. What is behind how we believe and feel? How has American culture distorted the nature of God and faith? A short book written by United Methodist historian, Dr. Paul Chilcote, *Active Faith: Resisting 4 Dangerous Ideologies with the Wesleyan Way* (c. 2019, Abingdon Press) is going to be a primary resource for our October sermon series. Join us as we expose some hidden assumptions and embrace an active faith characterized by humility, hospitality, healing, and holiness.

Sunday Worship Times

8:00 a.m. Morning Chapel

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary



Oct. 3 – The Practice of Humility:
Resisting Fundamentalism with Truth
Psalm 139:13-18, 23-24; Philippians 2:1-11

Oct. 10 – The Practice of Hospitality:
Resisting Nationalism with Joy
Psalm 100; Matthew 25:34-46

Oct. 17 – The Practice of Healing:
Resisting Dispensationalism with Peace
Psalm 41; 2 Corinthians 5:15-20

Oct. 24 – The Practice of Holiness:
Resisting Antinomianism with Love
Psalm 32; Luke 15:11-24

Oct. 31 – Reformation Sunday