

2021



Dear Wausau First Family of Faith,

After deciding to hit the “pause” button on our re-opening for a week and adding a reservation system to our 10am service, the reality of going back to worship in person is coming in to focus. This has been a very long and hard season apart, but there are gifts that we have been given. If we choose to accept the grace of this challenge, we have the potential to be transformed. That means we have to rethink what it means to “go back”.

The familiar ways of life are reassuring and give us a sense of stability. But there are a few questions and assumptions I’ve been contemplating as the Holy Spirit continues to teach and guide me. Here they are, and I invite you to reflect on them with me:

Is our sense of security coming from our customs or from Christ?

Traditions and habits are important and can give us a smooth and predictable path to walk on. However, there will inevitably be times in life when the road is rough and unpredictable. Grief, loss of a job or health, or any significant changes that are out of our control have affected most of us at various times. Even amazing opportunities that come our way tend to challenge our sense of security. As followers of Jesus, can we say, “I feel outside of my element, but I’m learning to rely on Christ instead of my customs”?

Am I thinking more of “we” and less of “me”?

Our culture of “rugged individualism” has had many weaknesses exposed over the past year. While personal rights are important, a fatal flaw in American culture is that we generally think of “me” far more than “we”. This has literally killed hundreds of thousands of people in our country and prolonged a pandemic (as well as other chronic problems). I suspect we’re going to keep suffering until Christ’s people start thinking and acting as we were made to – as a Body with Christ as the head, working together to bring healing to the world.

Are we ready for whatever comes next?

We may think everything is working well enough as is (or prefer that God changes everyone but us). However, the Holy Spirit’s job is transforming us and everyone around us. We should expect the unexpected, knowing that God is still creating and re-creating. It will go so much better when we fully offer ourselves to God rather than resist God.

Christians sometimes think that faith will prevent changes or challenges. Instead, I hope that as we move forward we’ll ask God to give us – together – the faith we need to find our security in Christ as the Holy Spirit transforms us for all that God wants to do in and through us.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Rebecca

Good Friday Stations of the Cross



Sanctuary Spruce-up Crew



Highway Clean-up Helpers



Welcoming All People

In response to God's unconditional love for all people made known to us in Jesus Christ, we are called to be a welcoming and affirming community. What this means has been debated for a long, long time. Our belief is that God has, does, and will always welcome all people to be fully accepted and loved by God and Christ's church. But what does the Bible say?

There is a well-read book, Making Sense of the Bible, by Adam Hamilton, a United Methodist pastor with a large church in Kansas City, Kansas. He has published over a dozen books on a variety of biblical subjects. He has a Bible-based way of explaining how biblical text and scientific text both can be relevant to understanding what was written then and its meaning for today.

About homosexuality there are texts in Genesis and Leviticus widely quoted as "proof" that homosexuality is wrong or an "abomination". But the examples given are not acts of love, they are acts of controlling power over others for aggressive and selfish gratification, not acts of love. The word *homosexuality* does not exist in classical Greek. The words referring to the sexual acts described were more properly translated as sexual power or rape. For example, the men of Sodom wanted Lot to send out the messengers staying with him to satisfy their brutal sexual desires. The story of Sodom talks about Lot sheltering the male messengers who came to Sodom, refusing to give them over to the men and even offering his daughters in their place. It describes, but not condones, the patriarchal and hierarchical world in which the Bible was written. Does this encounter speak of a loving, consensual relationship? Of course not.

In the New Testament Jesus never addresses homosexual relationships. But we do not think we can take his silence on the issue as approval of only same-gender relationships. Jesus is God's definitive Word by which all other words about God are judged, however He does not speak to this issue at all. Is it possible that the writings of Moses and Paul did not accurately capture God's will concerning same-sex relationships?

In many places in the Bible many practices including sexual acts are referred to as an abomination. The Torah classifies many things as "clean" or "unclean," "normal" or "abnormal" or as an "abomination." Even eating food we enjoy today such as pork or eating fish without scales was seen as unclean or abominable. But we do not see them

in the same way today. In both the Old and New Testaments, power over others, such as slavery, is simply seen a part of the culture. In Exodus it describes when it is OK to beat a slave. New Testament authors command runaway slaves to return to their masters. Our point is that the world today is a whole lot different, and thankfully better in many ways, than the one in which the Bible's authors lived. Many horrible things like slavery have been outlawed over the centuries by Christians who learned and applied the overall truth of the Bible that sets people free. We are all loved and equal in Christ.

When considering the texts in the Bible, think of a large sieve with three sets of holes to sort out biblical information. On top, the largest holes sort out the big chunks of historical context differences, such as the time in which the writers were living. The second, smaller holes sort out the linguistic differences, what words meant then and mean now. The third, smallest holes sort out some cultural differences between then and now and leave us with the final truth: God's command that **we love our neighbors as ourselves**.

We are convinced that *loving, committed and monogamist* couples in both opposite and same-sex relationships fall into the Biblical Truth bowl that lies below the sieve. Who we love is less important than how well we love. Are we loving those who long to experience God's love? Are we loving with servant hearts instead of exerting power and control? Our Welcoming Statement, approved by the Ministries Council, clearly states that we welcome into the full life of our church all who God sends us.

*Gary Getzin, Margaret Getzin, Dick Rayborn,
Wes Ebert, Jen Johnson, Bonnie Goertz*

FUMC Online

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

facebook.com/WausauFUMC

WiFi Network: FUMC Public
(password: *fumcpbublic*)

Phone: 715.842.2201





May Offering

Open Door of Marathon County: The Open Door offers temporary help to current and newly released inmates from the County jail or WI prison system, who are in need of proper seasonal clothing, footwear and toiletries. Once released from jail, The Open Door gives them a safe place to have coffee and talk to volunteers about resources available to them.

Ray Nowaczyk

UMW New Mission Project

Now that the Warming Center is closing for the season, UMW will continue its meal mission at Open Door. We'll make sandwiches once a week for its clients. If you can help or want additional information, please call Barbara Ritchie at 1-715-205-4622. Thank you, FUMC for your support!



Change, Nothing Stays the Same- May 2021

“In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.” ~In the Bulb there is a Flower, Natalie Sleeth, UMH # 707

There is nothing like a crisis to help us to reset priorities. With Covid-19 we have witnessed job layoffs, deaths, social and economic upheavals, and health emergencies. Despite our natural resistance to change, we are learning new ways to live. On account of Covid 19, what personal priorities have you reset?

Toilet paper. Seriously. Will we ever take lowly “TP” for granted again?

Toilet paper is just one of the countless everyday blessings that the pain of COVID-19 has taught us to savor – along with worshiping beside loved ones, going to work, getting paid, shopping, going to the movies, and on and on. (What’s on your list?)

We are not just individuals; we are brothers and sisters in Christ. As a follower of Jesus, what priorities have you rearranged? How will the Holy Spirit guide us to a “new normal” of holy living as both disciples and community that will be different – and better – than what we have known?

May the “new normal” find us better stewards of our lives -- less greedy, less self-focused, less preoccupied with silly things, and more centered in Christ, more loving to our neighbor, more generous, more hopeful, and more tolerant.

Rev. Krystal Goodger, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Our Financial Picture for March 2021			
March Revenue		March Expenses	
Pledged Offering	\$ 20,108.00	Staffing	\$ 17,434.44
Non-Pledged Offering	\$ 2,732.00	Programming	\$ 1,394.29
Other Revenue	\$ 3,033.00	Apportionments	\$ 4,017.00
From Endowment	\$ 1,636.91	Building Operations	\$ 11,152.83
Total Revenue	\$ 27,509.91	Total Expenses	\$ 33,998.56
		Net YTD	\$ (6,488.65)



We grieve this month at the loss of:

Robert Marquardt, father of Dean Marquardt, died March 20th.

Wayne Schmalfus, father of Debbie Martin, died April 1st.

Stephanie Yonke, relative of Roger Mittenzwei, died April 2nd.

Duane LaCrosse, a long-time member of our congregation, died on April 9th.



May

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

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



Savvy Seniors Due to the restrictions for the COVID -19 outbreak, Savvy Seniors will not meet for the month of May. We will resume our fellowship as soon as the restrictions are lifted. Hope to see you soon!





June 9 & 10, 2021 Low-cost Spay/Neuter Clinic at Wausau First United Methodist Church **You must register your pet(s) at thefixisin.org**

All prices include free rabies vaccination, nail trim and ear cleaning, as requested. Take home pain medications are included free for dogs.

- Female Dog (2-45 pounds) \$200
 - Male Dog (2-45 pounds) \$150
 - Companion Cat (male or female) \$55
- Outdoor/Feral/Barn/Community Cat: \$40 (w/ear tip)





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>2 Seniors Away from Families</p> <p>Visit fumcwausau.org 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion, Fellowship Hall 8:45 AM Adult Bible Study 9:40 AM Courtyard Hymn Sing & Holy Communion (Above 50 degrees) 10:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary</p>	<p>3 The Open Door Mission</p>	<p>4 Teachers</p>	<p>5 Local Businesses</p> <p>6:00 PM "Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit" Study 6:00 PM Confirmation Class, BK Smith Rm 7:30 PM Youth Group Zoom</p>
<p>9 All Moms</p> <p>Visit fumcwausau.org 8:00 AM Worship, Fellowship Hall 8:45 AM Adult Bible Study 9:40 AM Courtyard Hymn Sing (Above 50 degrees) 10:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary</p> 	<p>10 Homeless Ministry</p> <p>"The Fix Is In" Clinic</p>	<p>11 Confirmation Students</p> <p>"The Fix Is In" Clinic 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet 5:30 PM Trustees, BK Smith Rm 6:15 PM Missions Team, Parlor</p>	<p>12 City Leaders</p> <p>6:00 PM "Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit" Study 6:00 PM Confirmation Class, BK Smith Rm 7:30 PM Youth Group Zoom</p>
<p>16 Those Suffering with Cancer</p> <p>Visit fumcwausau.org 8:00 AM Worship, Fellowship Hall 8:45 AM Adult Bible Study 9:40 AM Courtyard Hymn Sing (Above 50 degrees) 10:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary Graduate & Pivet Scholarship Recognition</p>	<p>17 Essential Workers</p>	<p>18 Students Graduating</p> <p>6:00 PM SPRC, BK Smith Room 7:00 PM Finance Committee, Room 101</p>	<p>19 Police & Fire Departments</p> <p>6:00 PM "Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit" Study 7:00 PM Youth Group Zoom</p>
<p>23 Seniors Living Alone</p> <p>Visit fumcwausau.org 8:00 AM Worship, Fellowship Hall 8:45 AM Adult Bible Study 9:40 AM Courtyard Hymn Sing (Above 50 degrees) 10:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary</p>	<p>24 The Unemployed</p> <p>7:00 PM Ministries Council, Parlor</p>	<p>25 Bus Drivers</p> <p>5:30 PM Worship Design, Parlor</p>	<p>26 Leaders of our Country</p> <p>6:00 PM "Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit" Study 7:00 PM Youth Group Zoom</p>
<p>30 Those Suffering with Chronic Pain</p> <p>Visit fumcwausau.org 8:00 AM Worship, Fellowship Hall 8:45 AM Adult Bible Study 9:40 AM Courtyard Hymn Sing 10:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary</p>	<p>31 Office Closed All Veterans</p> 		

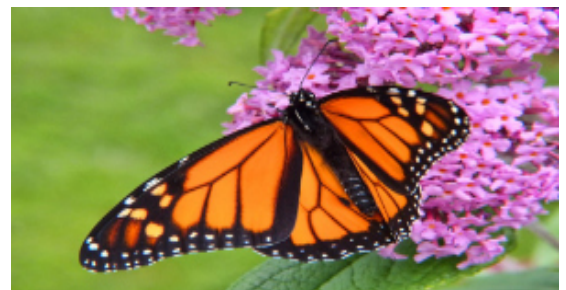
Stay Healthy & Safe:
Wear a Mask
Practice Social Distancing/Respect Others
Wash Your Hands
Use Hand Sanitizer



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 Music Ministry
Local Businesses "Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit" Study-Zoom Confirmation Class, BK Youth Group Zoom	6 Blessing in a Backpack 7:00 PM Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall	7 Families In Need of Support Office Closed	8 Aesthetics Team	
City Leaders "Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit" Study-Zoom Confirmation Class, BK Youth Group Zoom	13 Asylum Seekers 7:00 PM Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall	14 Friendships Old & New Office Closed 8:00 AM Messenger Articles Due	15 Martie Pahr's	
Police & Fire Departments "Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit" Study-Zoom Youth Group Zoom	20 Meals on Wheels 7:00 PM Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall	21 Family Quality Time Office Closed	22 PNC Volunteers 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet	
Leaders of our Country "Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit" Study-Zoom Youth Group Zoom	27 The Neighbor's Place 7:00 PM Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall	28 Families Traveling Office Closed	29 Investment Team	





A Beginner's Bible Reading Plan – Month 9

Name: _____ Month: _____

Daily (5 or 6 days a week):

1. **Pray**—Ask God to help you understand and believe what you are about to read.
2. **Read and mark**—Read one passage from the list below. Then put a mark in the box beside the reading.
3. **Think**—For example: What new thing did I learn? What puzzles me? How does this passage fit into the big story of the Bible? What does it teach about God and his plans? Is there a reason to praise God? A promise to claim? An example to follow? A sin to avoid? A command to obey? An idea for loving God or my neighbor? A prayer to pray?
4. **Pray**—Talk to God about what you read.
5. **Share**—Tell a friend (or your parents) one thing that you learned. Or ask them one question about what you read.

Extra (once a month if needed):

Read 5 passages in a row, all at once! Remember to put a mark beside all five readings.

The Life of Jesus – According to Matthew, Mark and Luke

(God sends a new King with a new covenant to raise up a new nation—a righteous Church made up of people from all over the whole world!)

- Luke 1:26-38, 46-55.....The birth of Jesus is foretold to Mary; Mary's Magnificat
- Matthew 1:1, 17-25.....The birth of Jesus is foretold to Joseph
- Luke 2:1-20.....Jesus is born and the shepherds visit
- Matthew 2:1-16.....The visit of the magi and the flight into Egypt
- Luke 2:40-52.....Jesus visits the temple at age twelve
- Mark 1:1-11.....The ministry of John the Baptist and Jesus' baptism
- Matthew 4:1-11.....The temptation of Jesus and the calling of the first disciples
- Matthew 5:1-20.....The Sermon on the Mount (1)
- Matthew 5:38-48.....The Sermon on the Mount (2)
- Matthew 6:5-15.....The Sermon on the Mount (3)
- Matthew 6:19-34.....The Sermon on the Mount (4)
- Matthew 7:7-14, 24-29.....The Sermon on the Mount (5)
- Mark 2:1-12.....Jesus heals a paralyzed man
- Matthew 9:27-38.....Jesus performs miracles and preaches the gospel of the kingdom
- Matthew 13:1-11, 18-23, 44-50....Parables of the kingdom
- Matthew 16:13-23.....Peter confesses that Jesus is the Christ but then rebukes him
- Luke 9:23-36.....Teaching about taking up the cross and the Transfiguration
- Matthew 18:1-14.....Jesus teaches about little ones in the kingdom
- Luke 10:25-37.....The Parable of the Good Samaritan (loving my neighbor)
- Luke 15:11-32.....The Parable of the Lost Son (rejoicing over repentant sinners)
- Matthew 19:16-26.....The rich young man (giving away all for the kingdom)
- Luke 19:1-9, 41-44.....Zacchaeus enters the kingdom and Jesus weeps over Jerusalem
- Matthew 21:1-17.....Jesus enters Jerusalem and cleanses the temple
- Matthew 21:33-46.....The Parable of the Tenants
- Matthew 25:31-46.....The judgment of the sheep and the goats

This plan has 25 readings per month, with about 15 verses per reading. Month 9 has 369 verses—an average of 14.76 verses per reading.

Random Thoughts by Mike Zahn Faith, Family, Friends... and Foreigners

“If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Matthew 5:46-48

You’ve seen the sign—“Faith, Family, Friends.” It’s a very nice sentiment, but I’d like to add something to it—“Foreigners.” It’s relatively easy to love those who are like us. It’s not so simple to love those who are not: those who don’t look like us, speak like us, live like us.

The book of Ruth is a small story tucked away in the Bible between the likes of impressive superheroes like Moses and David. Ruth is a seemingly insignificant person who is most known for what she says to her mother-in-law Naomi—“Where you go, I will go.”

Ruth was not Jewish, but was a Moabite woman. She was a stranger in a strange land when she came to Israel with Naomi. Had she not caught the attention of Boaz, this foreigner may have lived and died in obscurity, as so many have in this world. Except her story is captured for all eternity in the Bible. Why? Well, Ruth and Boaz got married and had a son. His name was Obed. And who was Obed? Obed happened to be the father of Jesse, the father of David. And the ancestor of Jesus. God can create the awesome from the small, the familiar from the foreigner.

May we as individuals and as a church always be prayerfully on the lookout to be kind to foreigners, strangers, the marginalized, the hurting, and by so doing show hospitality to angels without realizing it!



RECONNECTING WITH COMPASSION

As COVID infection rates decrease and vaccination rates increase, we are starting to breathe and relax more easily. There are still cautions and concerns we all have, both scientifically and emotionally, so it's important that we reconnect with compassion. Whether at church on Sundays or in our community at any time, here are some practical things to consider.

1. One of the most compassionate things you can do is to get vaccinated. It may not prevent all infections, symptoms, or transmissions, but it drastically reduces them.
2. There is a small percentage of adults who are advised by their doctors not to be vaccinated due to severe allergies or other life-threatening health complications. As a church, we warmly welcome everyone, regardless of vaccination status. We don't want our actions or words to make anyone feel excluded, and we ask everyone to speak and act with warmth.
3. We are adjusting our reservation system for the 10am service to allow up to 80 people (20% of our capacity). Seating will be first-come, first-seated with assistance from our ushers. Please call the office or go online to register in case we need contact tracing.
4. Because we know that not everyone can be vaccinated but the vast majority of us can be, we will continue to follow CDC guidelines to protect against the spread of COVID.
5. We understand if you may not be ready to worship in-person. We will continue to have worship available online. If you don't have internet, please call the office and we'll mail a bulletin and sermon each week.

Please continue to pray, act, and reconnect with compassion for all!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Rebecca Voss and Jennifer Marzu, Chair of Church Council and COVID safety

Celebrate our Graduates on Sunday, May 16 at 10 AM

Our church is proud of our high school graduates!

We'll be honoring all who graduated in both 2020 and 2021 now that we can worship together again.

Completing degrees in the past two school years has been especially challenging, and we celebrate your success!

We are aware of these members receiving their degrees, but if you have graduating grandchildren or know of any graduates we've accidentally missed, please call the church office.

2020 College: Joshua Dvorak, UW Madison

2021 High School Graduates:

Gianina Chang-Wausau East

Jaden Love-Wausau West

Courtney Rohland*-Marathon City

2021 College: Danielle Del Conte, Marquette University

***Courtney Rohland is awarded the Pivet Scholarship.
She will be attending UW Stevens Point in Wausau.**



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The Messenger
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Purpose:

Live and Share God's Love

WORSHIP IN MAY

Sunday Worship Times

8:00 a.m. Worship in Fellowship Hall 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

As we continue our "Good News" series, we'll explore a variety of ways that God turns often difficult experiences into something truly good. In May, we'll see how pruning, sacrifice, goodbyes, and fire each can be used to help us grow into the people God made us to be.

Sunday, May 2 *Fourth Sunday of Easter*
8 a.m. Worship with Communion in Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Communion in Courtyard (weather permitting)
Good Pruning-Ps. 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

Sunday, May 9 *Fifth Sunday of Easter*
Mother's Day
Good Sacrifice-Ps. 98, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

Sunday, May 16 *Ascension Sunday*
Graduate Recognition
Good Bye -Ps. 93, Eph. 1:15-23, Luke 24:44-53

Sunday, May 23 *Pentecost Sunday*
Good Fire-Ps. 104:24-35, Acts 2:1-13, 14-21

Sunday, May 30 *Trinity Sunday*
Obadiah

If you are unable to attend worship in person or online and would like a printed copy of any sermons, please contact the church office and we can mail them to you.