

NOVEMBER
2022



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WAUSAU

THE MESSENGER

Dear First UMC Family of Faith,

I have been learning many things about our congregation. As we celebrate our 175th Anniversary this year, here are a few interesting parts of our history that can inspire our faith.

- ◆ First UMC is not only the first Methodist church, but the first church of any type in Wausau (then called Big Bull Falls). It started with outdoor revival services on what was called Jim Moore's Island (now a peninsula near the 6th St. boat launch) led by a Methodist Evangelist named Rev. Brown. There were only five women living in town.
- ◆ We have worshiped God in nine buildings, starting in a red school house and then in the Sons of Temperance Hall. The first dedicated church building and parsonage were built in 1859 on the corner of N. 2nd and Grant Streets, but they both burned in fires in 1868/9. They were both rebuilt by 1872 in the same location, when Big Bull Falls was renamed Wausau. They quickly outgrew that building and built a Gothic-style church in 1884. Twenty years later, they had to construct an even larger Gothic-style church, which served the congregation from 1904-1958 on the corner of 3rd Street and Franklin. After constructing and worshipping in our current Educational Unit from 1959-1966, the Sanctuary was dedicated in 1967 where we have been gathering to worship for the past 55 years.
- ◆ Our congregation has a history of being forward-thinking pioneers and educators. In 1868 there were nine Sunday School teachers with sixty children and twenty adults. In 1906 there were 342 church members but 543 people attending Sunday School. By 1910, those numbers swelled to 450 members and 960 people in Sunday School. When the current Sanctuary was dedicated in 1967, there were 1,050 members and about 100 teachers, officers, and staff for all of the Sunday School students.
- ◆ In 1917 the Alexander family commissioned an Italian artist, Louis Amorosi, to depict Christ praying over Jerusalem on a large canvas mural that filled a large Gothic arch in the 1904 building. Amorosi also painted a large mural in Wausau High School. The church redecorating chairperson and owner of a paint and wallpaper store, William Zimmer, posed as Jesus for the artist on Rib Mountain overlooking the growing town. The large mural was carefully moved to become the focal point of the Chapel in 1959.
- ◆ In 1935 First UMC welcomed their first female pastor and former missionary, Rev. Minnie Cliff. I am honored to follow Pastor Minnie's trailblazing as your eighth female pastor.

The January 31, 1960 dedication booklet for the new building summarized this congregation in a way that I hope we continue to grow:

"Wausau's oldest church, it has served at the heart of the city since 1847. Presenting a warm and vital faith which exalts Jesus Christ as Lord of all life, it welcomes all people into its fellowship, regardless of race or station. Offering an historically free pulpit with a prophetic message, its gospel relates Christ to all aspects of personal and social living. Concerned with the total needs of free men [sic], it encourages a responsible exercise of freedom by individuals according to their own consciences."

Grace and Peace, Pastor Rebecca



**Fall Rummage Sale held by
the United Women in Faith
October 28th & 29th.**



**Proceeds will benefit
Claire's Critter Closet and
UWIF Missions Projects**





We grieve this month at the loss of :

Marilyn Zahn, mother of Mike Zahn, who passed away on September 29th.

Tom Fischer, father of Mike Fischer, who passed away on October 15th.



Live and Share God's Love ...

with Peace, Joy & Hope



Savvy Seniors will meet on Monday, November 7th, at 11:30am at the Great Dane restaurant. This is a social group open to singles and couples over the age of 55 who would like to partake in light conversations and fellowship in addition to good food. We would love to have you join us. Any questions call Vicki Nowaczyk at 715-571-3009.



November

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 Lauren Atonio | 10 Matthew Carlson | 23 Pete Johnson |
| 2 Haley Fons | 11 Gerald Gisselman | 24 Paula Hauber |
| 3 Carole Machek
Brian Smith | 12 MaryVirginia
Quarles* | 25 Chris Del Conte
Joel Del Conte
Evie Del Conte
Allen Stamp |
| 4 Norma Volkman | 13 Wendy Perkins | 26 Charles McCrory |
| 5 Michael Del Conte | 15 Jill Daubert | 27 Janet Schlueter* |
| 6 Bonnie Horban
Adelyn Sakharuk
Leroy Schoepke
Joan Stroyny | 20 Timm Fischer
Robert Gebhardt
Lincoln Larson | 28 Dave Decker |
| | 21 Joan Harvey | 29 Katie Perkins
Debra Schoepke |

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



United Women in Faith

Chili Sale

To help us warm up as the weather gets chilly, United Women in Faith (formerly UMW) will have a CHILI sale on Sunday morning, November 13th. Chili will be cold, to take home and reheat. Price will be \$10 per quart. (No need to preorder for chili this year).



Cookie Sale



UWF will be doing a Christmas Cookie Sale again this year. We will again have these available pre-packaged only. Watch for order forms in the Sunday bulletin or online soon. Homemade cookie assortments will be in one pound packages, for \$10 per pound. Cookie pick up will be Friday December 9th, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, or on Sunday morning, December 11th.

Overview of First UMC Building Issues and Proposed Donation

Reality of our Membership and Budget

- 2002: 650 members, average worship attendance of 247, and operating budget of \$524K. Members gave an average of \$64/month to support ministries.
- 2012: 473 members with an average worship attendance of 165 people. Members gave an average of \$74/month to cover a budget of \$420K.
- 2022: 225 members, average worship attendance of 80 (including online), and operating budget of \$347K. To cover the budget, members would need to give an average of \$129/month per person, rather than the \$99/month per person that is the current average.

Reality of our Building and Needed Improvements

- The Sanctuary wing is 55 years old, and the rest of the building is 63 years old.
- Roof and gutters for Sanctuary, Wesley room, drive-thru, offices & conference room, and several entrances need to be replaced very soon. **\$220,000+**
- Twelve bathrooms are original and need to be completely gutted and remodeled with new fixtures to ensure accessibility, lower water waste and repair bills, and show hospitality. No estimate due to uncertain future usage/needs, but likely **\$200,000+**
- Internet wiring needed for upper and lower levels and the BK Smith room/nursery/front offices/bell room area. It would be significantly less expensive to also remove and replace all the current ceilings and light fixtures instead of the high labor costs of drilling, fishing cables, and making it aesthetically pleasing. No estimate, but likely **\$100,000+**
- Necessary organ repairs of **\$66,400** was recently approved by Trustees.
- Sanctuary lighting needs to be replaced due to extensively damaged wiring and sockets. Cost will be **\$100,000-\$150,000**, but energy savings from LED bulbs offsets the cost.
- 19.7 KW Solar installation on the roof estimated at **\$58,000**. Energy savings would pay for itself within an estimated 7-10 years.
- Exterior brick and concrete repairs estimated at **\$100,000+**

This totals about **\$900,000** in needed improvements if we want to retain ownership and manage the space. This would cost \$4,000 in average donations from every member, in addition to an average of \$1,548 needed each year from each member toward the budget.

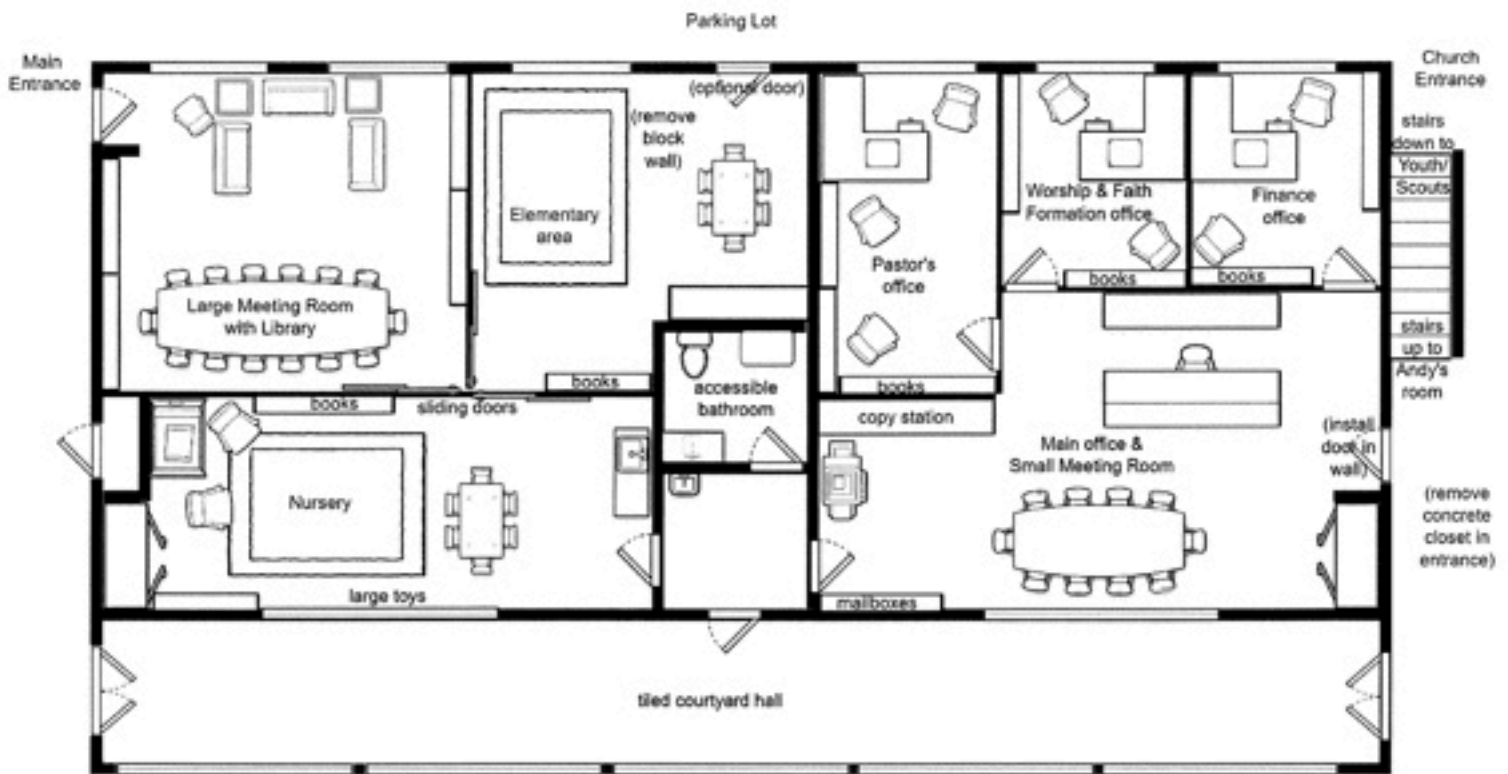
Proposal to Donate our Building to the Community Foundation*

**subject to dialogue between our congregation, the Community Foundation, and their key potential tenants such as YMCA Childcare*

Proposed Financial Responsibilities:

- If we donate our building to the Community Foundation (CF), they will offer us a free, renewable 100-year lease on the space we would exclusively use.
- Of the building improvements listed above, the CF would pay for all exterior and most interior expenses. Exceptions would be for organ repairs and likely sanctuary lighting.
- The CF would be responsible for all interior and exterior maintenance. First UMC would pay a percentage of the utility bills based on space and usage and for cleaning our exclusive space.
- The CF would also pay to remodel the nursery into a new office area for our staff, and the BK Smith room into a new nursery, elementary room, and multi-purpose meeting room.

Possible Floor Plan to Remodel BK Smith & Nursery Areas



Proposed First UMC-only Space Use:

- In addition to the remodeled and repurposed BKS/Nursery area, the current PNC, CCC, area would be our space to continue those missions.
- The "Worship Entrance" would be our primary door. The concrete closet in that entrance would be removed to open the space, and a door would be added to access the new office area. The "Main Entrance" would be used primarily for other non-profits to access the building from the parking lot.
- The Bell room would continue in that function, with choir music file cabinets added.
- The Choir room would be converted into a Youth/Scout/Game room.

Proposed Shared Spaces:

- The Parlor, Kitchen, Fellowship Hall, Chapel, and halls/bathrooms near those areas would be spaces shared by non-profits and our congregation. They would be reserved equitably and rented economically through the CF. We would rent the Chapel, Parlor, and Kitchen on Sunday mornings, and the Kitchen and/or Fellowship Hall for special events.
- Because the Chapel would have multiple uses, it is likely that the pews would be replaced with chairs, and the communion railing would possibly be removed. The 1917 mural of Jesus praying on the mountain would remain, with other non-profits that wish to use the room having the option of temporarily covering it if they desire.

Congregational feedback will help us work out optimal logistics with the Community Foundation and Wisconsin Annual Conference. We hope to vote on the final proposal early next year, open to all fully confirmed members of First UMC of Wausau.

Friends Thanksgiving Dinner

53rd Annual



When

Thursday, November 24, 2022

Where

First Presbyterian Church

406 Grant Street, Wausau

What

FREE THANKSGIVING MEAL! TWO OPTIONS!

- **HOME DELIVERED (Reservation required)**

To reserve home delivery please call 715-216-9360

Reservation REQUIRED by Friday, November 18th

Please do not call church directly

ALL MEALS delivered between 11am - 2pm on THANKSGIVING DAY,
November 24th. (exact time depends on route)

- **DINE-IN (No Reservation required)**

Please join us for a sit-down meal between 2-3:30PM at First
Presbyterian Church (address above)

If you wish to volunteer or donate please call 715-846-5612 OR email:

Friendsdinnerwausau@gmail.com



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 All Saints Sunday Daylight Savings Time Ends 8:00am Worship, Chapel with Holy Communion 9:00am New Member Class 9:00am Sunday School Classes, All Ages 10:00am Worship, Sanctuary with Holy Communion	7 11:30am Savvy Seniors, Great Dane Restaurant	8 11:30a, Clergy Association Mtg 1:00pm - 3:00pm Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet 5:30pm Trustees, B.K. Smith 6:30pm Church Conference/ Ministries Mtg, Parlor	9 5:45pm Handbell Rehearsal 5:45pm Missions Team, Parlor 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal	10 8:00am AA, Room 101 1:00pm - 5:00pm Wausau Free Clinic - By Appointment 7:00pm Boy Scouts, Choir Room	11 Office Closed	12 5:00pm New Beginnings Thanksgiving Feast, Fellowship Hall
13 United Women in Faith Chili Sale 8:00am Worship, Chapel 9:00am New Member Class 9:00am Sunday School Classes, All Ages 10:00am Worship, Sanctuary	14	15 6:00pm SPRC, B.K. Smith 7:00pm Finance Committee, BK Smith Room	16 1:00pm United Women in Faith Meeting, Parlor 5:45pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal	17 Newsletter Articles Due 8:00am AA, Room 101 1:00pm - 5:00pm Wausau Free Clinic - By Appointment 7:00pm Boy Scouts, Choir Room	18 Office Closed	19
20 8:00am Worship, Chapel 9:00am Sunday School Classes, All Ages 10:00am Worship, Sanctuary	21	22 5:30pm Worship Design, B.K. Smith Room	23	24 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed 8:00am AA, Room 101	25 Office Closed	26
27 8:00am Worship, Chapel 9:00am Sunday School Classes, All Ages 10:00am Worship, Sanctuary	28	29 1:00pm - 2:30pm Prayer Shawl Group, Parlor	30 5:45pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal			

Random Thoughts Life is Fragile

by Mike Zahn

*A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"
Say, "People are like grass, and all their glory is a flower
That fades and withers in the wind."*

*The grass withers and the flowers fall,
But the Word of our God stands forever.*

*The grass dries up, and the flowers fade away when the breath of God blows,
Surely the people are no more than grass, but the Word of God lives on.*

*The grass withers and the flowers fall,
But the word of our God stands forever.*

Isaiah 40:6-8

My mom passed peacefully away recently. She was 94 and lived a good long life. I just officiated a service for a woman who died at age 66- my age, way too soon. There was a recent funeral for an 8 year old boy who died tragically when his family's vehicle was hit by a drunk driver. In every case, there is the grief of those loved ones left behind. We grieve because we love; the more we love the more we grieve. It doesn't matter the age. What matters is the love. Whether death is expected or unexpected, it is a shock.

I need to live more like I was dying, as the Tim McGraw song goes. I need to realize that life is indeed fragile, and each day is a gift. I have no doubt that when I die I am going to heaven, whatever that looks like. But how will I live in these fragile days until then?



November: Claire's Critter Closet

We assist families in need by providing pet supplies for their critters large and small. Claire's Critter closet is open twice a month at scheduled times to pick up needed pet supplies. Donate loose change, put cash in the small brown envelopes in the pews or write Claire's Critter Closet on the memo line of your check.

Adult Sunday School Advent Study

The Adult Sunday School class will be studying Adam Hamilton's book *Prepare the Way for the Lord* for Advent starting Sunday, November 27th through Sunday, December 18th on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am in the B.K. Smith room. This study looks at the message of John the Baptist as we prepare for the coming of Christ this Advent. Come join us on Sunday mornings as we look in depth at what it means to prepare to receive Christ.

ADULT
Sunday School

Inviting Advent Wreath Readers

We welcome families to lead the beginning of Advent worship services with readings and lighting candles. Please contact the church office at 715.842.2201 to sign up for a Sunday.



Our Financial Picture for September 2022			
September Revenue		September Expenses	
Pledged Offering	\$ 16,561.50	Staffing	\$ 18,753.57
Non-Pledged Offering	\$ 2,720.00	Programming	\$ 1,276.32
Other Revenue	\$ 1,941.00	Apportionments	\$ 3,986.00
		Building Operations	\$ 8,572.03
From Endowment	\$ 11,672.72	Total Expenses	\$ 32,587.92
Total Revenue	\$ 32,895.22	Net MTD	\$ 307.30

Accomplish the Impossible

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

God is looking for people through whom He can do the impossible – what a pity that we plan only the things we can do by ourselves.” - A.W. Tozer

I recently ran across a story that highlights the power of partnership. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, when the Methodist church was holding its denominational convention, one leader stood up and shared his vision both for the church and society at large. He told the ministers and evangelists how he believed someday men would fly from place to place instead of merely traveling on horseback. But it was a concept too outlandish for many members of his audience to handle.

One minister, Bishop Wright, stood up and angrily protested, “Heresy!” he shouted. “Flight is reserved for the angels!” He went on to elaborate that if God had intended for man to fly, God would have given him wings. Clearly the bishop was unable to envision what the speaker was predicting.

When Bishop Wright finished his brief protest, he gathered up his two sons, Orville and Wilbur, and left the auditorium.

That’s right. His sons were Orville and Wilbur Wright. And several years later, on December 17, 1903, those two sons did what their father called impossible. They made four flights that day. The first lasted only 12 seconds, but the fourth lasted 59 seconds and took them 852 feet.

Soon the Wright brothers had built the first practical airplane, the Flyer III, and by 1908, the brothers had demonstrated an improved model in France that flew 60 miles in less than two hours.

The brothers partnered together to accomplish the impossible – and in the process, they changed the world.

Due to the upcoming holidays, the newsletter deadlines are as follows:
November 17th (for December)
December 15th (for January)
 Articles submitted after these dates will not be accepted.
 Thank you.

FUMC Online

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

facebook.com/WausauFUMC

WiFi Network: FUMC Guest
 (password: *fumcpublic*)

Phone: 715.842.2201

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 NOVEMBER

Sunday Worship Times:

8:00 a.m. Worship in the Chapel 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

November 2022 Sermon Series: *Face to Face with Jesus*

Covid has taught us that we had previously taken the ability to be face-to-face with our loved ones for granted. This month our sermon series will focus on how to be face-to-face with Jesus through the experiences of those who were transformed when they met him. Join us in finding humor, humility, and joy as we encounter God's overwhelming grace in Jesus' face.

Sunday, Oct 30 - Man Out on a Limb

Psalm 32; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

Sunday, Nov 20 - Scoffers on a Hill

Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

Sunday, Nov 6 - Band of Puzzlers

Psalm 145:14-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17;
Luke 20:27-38

Sunday, Nov 27 - 1st Sunday of Advent

Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Isaiah 2:1-5

Sunday, Nov 13 - Open-Mouthed Tourists

Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19