

MARCH
2021



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WAUSAU

THE MESSENGER



Dear Wausau First Family of Faith,

I hope you have all been warm, safe, and healthy! Winter has officially brought the deeper snow and more frigid temperatures in the past month. Thanks to wearing a mask, I've escaped my usual winter coughs and colds so far. But the static in my hair, flaky skin, chapped lips, bloody nose, and dry throat remind me that the desert air of winter is all around.

Sometimes our souls get dry too. There is little left in the novelty of online worship. Fellowship is not the same on Facetime. Scripture may not resonate the same way it does in the Sanctuary or a Sunday School room. We are reminded that it was exactly a year ago that our lives, our church, and our whole world changed. Our hopes continue to be put on hold as we wander in the wilderness of faith that seems far from the sounds, music, and actions of a connected Christian community.

This Lent we are discovering how to find water for our souls, even in the middle of a desert. Even Jesus, fully God and fully human, said, "I am thirsty" (John 19:28). Our series "*Thirsting for God*" will have a weekly focus on different action words that we often try to avoid, but which ultimately water and nourish our souls as we explore and apply their meaning.

Thirsting for God – Lent 2021

*As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. – Psalm 42:1-2a*

Feb. 21 – Tempting – How do we face challenges in a way that strengthens our souls?

Feb. 28 – Suffering – Why is there suffering if God is good?

March 7 – Struggling – Where does God's grace meet our human effort?

March 14 – Cleansing – What does God want to clean out of my life?

March 21 – Serving – Who are we called to serve?

March 28 – Blessing – When will God's blessings come?

April 2 (Good Friday) – Dying – Is it over when it is finished?

April 4 (Easter) – Rising – Where has Jesus gone?

Warmly in Christ's Love,

Pastor Rebecca





UMW Soup Sale!



A heart-warming Soup Sale is happening---

March 20 & 21 (Sat./Sun.) 2:00-4:00 pm

Order a quart or two of your favorite homemade soup, lovingly crafted by our United Methodist Women. We sell our soups 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:

Before or by March 18

- 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!*

(Cut on dotted line)

All soup \$8.00/quart

Bean _____	Chili w/beans, no pasta _____
Split Pea _____	Chili w/noodles _____
Lentil _____	Vegetarian/GF Chili _____
Beef _____ Beef w/noodles _____	
Chicken _____ Chicken w/noodles _____	Vegetable/GF _____

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 soups!



March

We grieve this month at the loss of:

Hattie Patricia Dvorak, mother of Alonzo Dvorak, who died on January 27th.

Jerry Evans, a long time member of our congregation, died February 3rd.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Bruce Chopp
Mary Fischer | 15 Rob Perkins | 26 Bonnie Goertz |
| 2 John Machek | 17 Diane Zahn
Karli Johnson | 27 Tim Harvey |
| 4 Lisa Fons | 18 London Larson
Dan Marzu | 28 Sue Serrurier
Javier Quiros |
| 7 Natalia Quiros | 20 Ann Chopp | 29 Jen Marzu |
| 8 Judy Hoover | 21 Dan Maguire | 30 Morgan Borchardt |
| 10 Margaret Anderson
Oliver Hornby | 22 Roger Mittenzwei | 31 Barb Dinsmore
Suzanne Gebhardt |
| 13 Sharon Boushley | 23 Nancy Splitt | |
| 14 Josie Higgins
Kris Rybarczyk | 24 Maggie Schoenfeld | |



Thank you so very Much



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

Many thanks to Ray Nowaczyk for his craftsmanship (and Tom Bogumill and Bruce Chopp for their help) in building this cabinet! There is a 75" TV mounted inside on an electric lift. When we return in person to worship, it will raise up through the top so everyone in the sanctuary and those who watch the service live-streamed can see the words to Scripture, hymns, announcements, and other visuals that enhance our worship.

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR EASTER

Easter lilies will decorate our Sanctuary for the online service on Easter, April 4th. If you would like to donate flowers, the cost is \$20 each.

Please fill out the form below with your check and mail or bring to the church office. We must have orders no later than March 22nd

Please **PRINT** all the information below.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Total Donation: \$ _____



Make checks payable to: First United Methodist Church
Memo line: Easter flowers



Good Friday, April 2, 4-6 pm Stations of the Cross

We welcome people to come inside the Sanctuary/Choir door anytime between 4-6 pm to experience the Stations of the Cross at your own pace. Images, scripture, and prayers to contemplate will be spread out starting in the Wesley Room and circle around through the Sanctuary. Pastor Rebecca will be available to quietly pray with you near the altar if you would like. The small sacrifice of

wearing masks and maintaining a 6-foot distance are required to keep everyone safe and able to focus on Christ's ultimate sacrificial love.



Resurrection Sunday, April 4, 10 am Drive-in Service & Online Service

In addition to an online service on our Youtube channel and website, we are also celebrating Christ's resurrection with a Drive-In Service. Our string ensemble will play live special music from the BK Smith room, we'll sing victorious songs of Easter, and we'll share communion with a special Holy Week and Easter liturgy written, played, and sung

by Pastor Rebecca to the tune of Billy Joel's Piano Man. Come and tune to 98.3 FM to raise a *Hallelujah* together!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
	1 Essential Workers	2 Students with Special Needs	3 Local 6:00 PM 6:00 PM tion Tea 7:00 PM
7 Those Suffering with Cancer No Worship Services on Site. Visit fumcwausau.org 9:00 AM Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Voss	8 Guatemala Mission	9 Bus Drivers 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet 5:30 PM Trustees, Zoom 6:15 PM Missions Team, Zoom	10 City C 6:00 PM 7:00 PM
14 Daylight Savings Time Begins Seniors Living Alone No Worship Services on Site. Visit fumcwausau.o 9:00 AM Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Voss	15 Homeless Ministry	16 School Board Members 6:00 PM SPRC, Zoom 7:00 PM Finance Committee, Zoom	17 St. Emerg 6:00 PM 6:00 PM tion Tea 7:00 PM
21 Seniors Living Away from Family No Worship Services on Site. Visit fumcwausau.org 9:00 AM Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Voss 2:00 - 4:00 PM UMW Soup Sale	22 Community Meals 7:00 PM Ministries Council - Zoom	23 Para-educators 5:30 PM Worship Design, Zoom	24 WI Pri 6:00 PM 7:00 PM
28 PALM SUNDAY People with Depression No Worship Services on Site. Visit fumcwausau.org 9:00 AM Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Voss	29 Ramp-Up Marathon County	30 Online Students	31 WI De 6:00 PM 7:00 PM



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
<p>Police Departments</p> <p>Lenten Bible Study-Zoom 6:45 PM MCCI Implementa- m Youth Group Zoom</p>	<p>4 Access to Healthy Food</p> <p>4:00 PM Record Sunday's Worship 7:00 PM Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>5 Family Quality Time</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>6 Ministries Council</p>
<p>ouncil & Mayor</p> <p>Lenten Bible Study-Zoom Youth Group Zoom</p>	<p>11 Access to Clean Water</p> <p>8:00 AM Messenger Articles Due 4:00 PM Record Sunday's Worship 7:00 PM Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>12 Healthy Marriages</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>13 Pastor Rebecca & Family</p>
<p>Patrick's Day gency Medical Teams</p> <p>Lenten Bible Study-Zoom - 6:45 PM MCCI Implementa- m Youth Group Zoom</p>	<p>18 The Neighbor's Place</p> <p>4:00 PM Record Sunday's Worship 7:00 PM Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>19 Caring Communication</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>20 Andy White</p>  <p>2:00 - 4:00 PM UMW Soup Sale</p>
<p>son System</p> <p>Lenten Bible Study-Zoom Youth Group Zoom</p>	<p>25 Farmers</p> <p>4:00 PM Record Sunday's Worship 7:00 PM Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>26 Faith-based Friendships</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>27 Aesthetics Team</p> <p>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet</p>
<p>pt of Justice</p> <p>Lenten Bible Study-Zoom Youth Group Zoom</p>			





Did you know that our UMW offers Equal Exchange ground coffee, regular and decaf, for sale? Your purchases of Equal Exchange coffees gives the small coffee growers a fair price for their beans and helps UMCOR missions to boot! Coffee, teas and chocolate bars (think Easter baskets!) are available in the little cupboard in the church parlor. Stop by during office hours and pick up a 12 oz. bag of coffee or a few bars! Little brown envelopes are in the cabinet. Enjoy!

March Missions Donations

Our loose change offerings have supported our mission projects over past years. But with not meeting for the past year those donations have declined.

We continue to provide assistance to those in need but the available funds are diminished. I would like to encourage everyone who is able to, send a check or drop a donation in the secure mail slot at the Third Street entrance.

For March the donation will be used to support Mission Guatemala. They provide personal needs, clothing and education to community members.

Ray Nowaczyk

STAFF

Pastor	Rebecca Voss
	rebecca@fumcwausau.org
Faith Formation, Music Director	Martie Pahrís
	martie@fumcwausau.org
Bookkeeper	Martie Pahrís
	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
 (715) 842-2201
fumc@fumcwausau.org
www.fumcwausau.org

Random Thoughts by Mike Zahn March 2021 WHEN A DOG COMES INTO YOUR LIFE

But the Angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”
Luke 2:10-12

We were there with our five grandsons when our daughter and son-in-law brought home a special Valentine’s Day present yesterday—a puppy! What a time of great joy!! One of them commented that having a new dog will really change their lives. I’m sure that will be absolutely true, and it will make a joyous, loving household even better. No doubt there will be challenges, but the joys will far outweigh them.

What if we were to change the word “dog” to “God”? If bringing a new dog into our lives promises such joy, how much greater will our joy be when we invite the God of the universe, in the form of Jesus, into our lives? We may seem fine without Jesus, but how much better would it be if we were to bring Him home to live in *our souls*? I have found this to be absolutely true. With all of life’s challenges, the joy of knowing Jesus as my best friend helps me overcome those challenges, and changes my life for the better.

Speaking of dogs (and cats). . . Claire’s Critter Closet is off to a good start—in the first three times since it has been open, we have had over two dozen visits, which have provided food, litter, toys and beds for at least 50 pets! If you would like to help, or provide donations for Claire’s Critter Closet, please contact the church office. Thanks to everyone who has already contributed to launching this new ministry!

**Sunday March
 14th, set your
 clocks ahead one
 hour.**





A Beginner's Bible Reading Plan – Month 7

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.

God deals with his sinful nation—Part 2: The southern kingdom, Judah (continued)

- 2 Kings 19:15-20, 32-37.....Hezekiah prays and Isaiah prophesies of Assyria's defeat
- Isaiah 1:1-4, 10-13, 18-20.....“Sinful nation” and “Come now, let us reason together”
- Isaiah 6:1-13.....Isaiah sees the LORD on his throne and is sent as a prophet
- Isaiah 11:1-10; 40:1-11.....“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse” and “Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might”
- Isaiah 40:18-31“To whom then will you liken God?”
- Isaiah 44:9-20.....“All who fashion idols are nothing”
- Isaiah 53:1-12.....“He was wounded for our transgressions”
- Isaiah 61:1-11; 65:17-25.....“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me” and “Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth”
- Micah 6:1-8; 7:18-20.....“What does the LORD require?” and “Who is a God like you?”
- 2 Kings 21:1-6; 22:1-13.....Manasseh does much evil and Josiah hears the Book of the Law
- 2 Kings 23:1-3, 21-27.....Josiah leads Judah to renew their covenant with the LORD
- Psalm 119:89-105.....“Oh how I love your law!”
- Nahum 1:1-9, 15.....“The LORD is a jealous and avenging God”
- Habakkuk 1:1-11; 2:4; 3:16-19.....“The righteous shall live by his faith”
- Zephaniah 1:1-6, 12-18.....“The great day of the LORD is near”
- Obadiah 1:1-4, 10-18.....“The day of the LORD is near upon all the nations”
- Jeremiah 1:1-10; 11:1-14.....The LORD calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and “The house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant”
- Jeremiah 18:1-12“Go down to the potter's house”
- Jeremiah 23:1-8.....“I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign”
- Jeremiah 25:1-12.....“These nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years”
- Jeremiah 31:27-37.....“I will make a new covenant with... Israel and... Judah”
- Joel 2:21-32.....“I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh”
- 2 Kings 25:1-12, 22-26.....Judah is taken into exile
- Psalm 89:1-4, 38-52.....“Where is your steadfast love of old, which... you swore to David?”
- Lamentations 3:22-40.....“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases”

This plan has 25 readings per month, with about 15 verses per reading. Month 7 has 357 verses—an average of 14.3 verses per reading.

FUMC Wired

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: *fumcpublic*)

Phone: 715.842.2201

Our Financial Picture for January 2021			
January Revenue		January Expenses	
Pledged Offering	\$ 19,323.00	Staffing	\$ 18,008.52
Non-Pledged Offering	\$ 2,799.00	Programming	\$ 990.33
Other Revenue	\$ 2,813.00	Apportionments	\$ 4,017.00
From Endowment	<u>\$ 1,636.91</u>	Building Operations	<u>\$ 5,530.32</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 26,571.91	Total Expenses	\$ 28,546.17
		Net YTD	\$ (1,974.26)

Is it time for change? March 2021

“‘Even now,’ declares the LORD, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.’ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing — grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God.” ~Joel 2:12-14

With February comes the cold dark days of Lent. Are you ready? Are you ready to seriously look inside yourself? Are you ready to be honest about what is godly and what is not? Are you ready to change?

Change is a great theme word for Lent (and all of 2020). Many things changed health, wealth, and politics. It changed without us trying and definitely without us wanting it to change. But in Lent, things change because we make them change. It is our time to change our habits, minds, action, and internal/external words to become more like Christ.

Do you need to change your change? Think about how much you give to the church. Should/can you give more? Maybe your answer is “I don’t know.” Think about this: How much do you spend each month going out to eat. How much money do you spend on coffee? How much money do you spend on fun item, hobbies, and events? Now compare those numbers to the amount you give to God each month.

Do you need to make a change?

Rev. Krystal Goodger, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



The Messenger

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Purpose:

Live and Share God's Love

WORSHIP IN MARCH

THIRSTING FOR GOD

Sunday, March 7 *Third Sunday of Lent*

Psalm 107:1-9, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21

#98 (UMH) To God Be the Glory

#385 (UMH) Let Us Plead for Faith Alone

#519 (UMH) Lift Every Voice and Sing

Sunday, March 14 *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

Psalm 19:7-14, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22

#36 (Baptist Hymnal) Praise the Lord!

#504 (UMH) The Old Rugged Cross

#365 (UMH) Grace Greater than Our Sin

Sunday, March 21 *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Psalm 51:1-3, 10-15, Jeremiah 31:31-34, John 12:20-33

#417 (UMH) O For a Heart to Praise My God

#576 (UMH) Rise Up, Ye Saints of God

#382 (Baptist Hymnal) God, the Father of Your People

Sunday, March 28 *Sixth Sunday of Lent*

Psalm 118:19-29, Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 11:1-11

#280 (UMH) All Glory, Laud, and Honor

#277 (UMH) Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

#278 (UMH) Hosanna, Loud Hosanna