

NOVEMBER  
2021



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF

# THE MESSENGER

Dear First UMC Family of Faith,

Thanks to the vision, generosity, and hard work of hundreds of faithful saints who have gone before us, and many who continue to serve today, we are stewards of a very large, beautiful, and sturdy church building in a great location. It's a privilege for me to take guests on tours of our building. Their smiles grow wider when they see the large painting of Jesus praying on Rib Mountain in the Chapel. They poke their necks into our many classrooms, offices, and interesting spaces, marveling at how many rooms we have. They peek through windows to reorient themselves and admire the beauty of the courtyard. Their eyes grow wider as I explain the Holy Week mosaic in the chancel. Their faces often look misty when they see the diversity of disciples in the stained-glass window and the love of Christ teaching all of us what it means to follow God and serve people.

Being entrusted by God with such space is a sacred responsibility. Since many of you may not know what happens in the building beyond our regular church gatherings, missions, and meetings during the week, here are some examples:

- The Warming Center is coming back November-April. At 7pm the door to the courtyard opens for our homeless guests to get a shower, sleep clothes, clean laundry, dinner, and rest in the large room under the parlor. Breakfast is served before they leave by 8am.
- The First Presbyterian Free Clinic continues to use two classrooms in our lower level to care for patients in physical and financial need on Thursday afternoons.
- An AA group meets on Thursday mornings in Room 101, with at least 20 people in person and Zoom set-up to welcome others online.
- A BSA Scout Troop meets on Thursday evenings in the choir room, under the Sanctuary.
- "The Fix Is In", a low-cost spay/neuter/microchip/vaccination clinic for cats and dogs, uses our kitchen and fellowship hall about twice a month in collaboration with Claire's Critter Closet.
- Marathon Literacy Center is opening a new Multicultural Center in two classrooms upstairs next to our Library in January to help refugees learn English and our culture.
- We recently hosted "Project Connect" with 14 organizations and their booths in the Fellowship Hall to help network and provide information on services available for homeless people.
- On Nov. 10 we're hosting a "World Café" for approx. 40-50 leaders of various Wausau organizations who will be working with refugees. This will likely become a monthly event.

I'm grateful we can serve the community with our building and volunteers in these ways. The Trustees have been busy working to maintain and improve the building. New windows are being installed on the west side. Two troublesome trees are coming down in the courtyard. With special donations, powder-coated aluminum awnings with clear signage can be installed over the entrances to the parking lot. The biggest project will be a new roof on the Sanctuary within a couple of years. Let's continue to be wise stewards and share Christ's love to our community through our lives, our faith, and our building!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Rebecca Voss



715 842-2201

[www.fumcwausau.org](http://www.fumcwausau.org)



The Trustees would like to make the entrances to the church from the parking lot safer, the signage clearer, and the north side of the building more visually welcoming. After reviewing our options, we would like to repair the concrete, widen the slope to the entrance by the Sanctuary and install large powder-coated aluminum awnings that completely cover the accessible entries to the two main entrances from the parking lot. Both awnings would have a fascia with 8" lettering to lead guests to the right door.

This project will cost about \$20,000 in donations to protect better our most-used entrances and welcome people to our church. Please write "awnings" in a check memo with any support you can give or see Bruce Brandenburg or Pastor Rebecca with questions. Thank you!

### Sanctuary Awning



### Main Entrance Awning





# November

We grieve this month at the loss of :  
Robert E. "Rob" Krueger,  
brother of Mary Borchardt,  
who died October 8th.

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



**Live and Share  
God's Love ...**

*with  
peace, joy & hope*

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

## Tacos, Thrivent, and Action Teams

On **Thursday, November 4**, from **5:30-6:30 pm**, all are invited to enjoy tacos as we learn more about a benefit through Thrivent Financial to have their Action Teams enhance our church's many missions and ministries. Every 16+ year old Thrivent Member can easily apply online to help with two projects every year. Nearly all project proposals that focus on education or service is given a \$250 Visa gift card from Thrivent to cover the expenses of the endeavor. Examples include using it to buy supplies for the Personal Needs Closet, Claire's Critter Closet, Community Dinner, Bake Sales, Fundraising Dinners, and gifts for "Giving Trees" and people in need.

If you are a member of Thrivent, please bring a laptop with you so Thrivent's representative, Mandy Wright, can help each person apply for funds for their first Action Team project. If you're interested in getting a policy through Thrivent and being able to use up to \$500 every year to help with mission projects, please contact Mandy Wright at [mandy.wright@thrivent.com](mailto:mandy.wright@thrivent.com) or 1-715-551-1303. Please RSVP by November 3 if you're planning on coming



**Savvy Seniors** will meet on Monday, November 1st, at 11:30am at the Mandarin Chinese Restaurant.





## Being a More Missional Church

Express Day - Thursday, November 18, 6:00-8:30pm  
"Prescription 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). There will be interviews with leaders all day before our all-church evening gathering.

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!



Children's Message



Remember to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday night, November 6th.

### 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

(715) 842-2201

fumc@fumcwausau.org

www.fumcwausau.org

## UMW Chili Sale!

A heart-warming Chili Sale is happening---  
**Pick up 11:00-1:00 November 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> (Fri./Sat.)**

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 10<sup>th</sup>**

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](mailto:margaretg202@gmail.com)

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

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## 2021 United Methodist Women Holiday Cookie Order Form

UMW is having a preorder cookie sale!!!  
Cookies will be preordered and packed ready for you to pick up.

Orders are due by Monday, December 6.  
They may be picked up Friday December 10, 4:00-6:00 -or-  
Saturday December 11, 10:00-noon at the B.K. Smith entrance.



Here is your chance to order an assortment of holiday cookies and support UMW missions

Submit order to Barbara Ritchie, 1-715-205-4622 -or- 16 Fulton St, #413, Wausau 54403  
orders due by December 6, pick up at B.K.Smith entrance 12/10, 4-6:00, 12/11, 10-noon

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone # or email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your order:

\_\_\_\_\_ pound (s) @ \$10.00 per pound = \$\_\_\_\_\_ Nut free? Yes No (please circle)





## Mission Offering

The November Mission offering will help support the work of the Community Christmas Dinner, held at St. Paul's UCC on Christmas Day. Church volunteers have served hot Christmas meals to those who would come to have one. But it's not just for people who are on hard times, but for everyone needing company at Christmas.

And, remember, any coin or bill you put into the mission envelope goes directly to the monthly mission without any extra effort on your part!

*Ray Nowaczyk*

## Random Thoughts by Mike Zahn

### Fall

*To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted. Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*

Fall can seem to be a drab, ugly and depressing time of year. The obvious beauty of July is going away. The intense colors of summer's grasses and leaves, of flowers and fruits, are slowly dying. Once the "fall colors" fade, we are left with a carpet of needles and leaves, and shades of brown and rust.

Yet autumn has its own beauty. Harvest time is amazing in its bounty. There is a refreshing crispness in the air. The colors are muted but every bit as varied as spring and summer. It is time for nature to take a vacation, to go on a long hiatus. Without fall, the other seasons can't happen.

So it is with us. We have bursts of spiritual growth as in spring, and we experience spectacularly beautiful times as in summer, but we also need the reflective rest of autumn and winter. While it may sometimes feel like God has abandoned us, it is important to remember that God never leaves us alone. Behind every down time there is a time of growth and regeneration ahead. God is with us and loves us through it all.



*Thank you so very Much*

## We Did it, FUMC-Wausau!

Many of you recently received a letter from SPRC, asking you to think about and possibly give some money toward Martie's (our bookkeeper, education director, and music director) upcoming trip to Israel. The response was overwhelming!! Thank you, FUMC-Wausau, for reaching out to Martie in such a wonderful way. Because of your generosity, Martie's trip has been fully funded, and there was a substantial amount left over that we passed on to Pastor Rebecca and James toward their trip to Israel as well.

As the liaisons between you and your church staff, we were humbled and grateful for every single donation that came in, often accompanied by a sweet note praising Martie's work and efforts for our church. We are very fortunate to have her working on our behalf, "wearing" so many different hats! It will be fun to see pictures and hear all about this trip from both the Vosses and from Martie when they return in late January.

We surprised Martie with this gift during the 10:00 service on Sunday, October 10. The Vosses also received their check at that time. It was so wonderful to be able to be part of this, to fill a spot on Martie's "bucket list" and to have such a visible recognition for her of how much we appreciate and care about what she does for our church. We wish them a safe and special journey to the Holy Land in January.

*Bonnie Goertz, SPRC chair*

## Dear First UMC Family and Friends,

We are so appreciative of your generous outpouring of support to fully fund our trips to the Holy Land this coming January. Thank you for blessing us in such a meaningful way. We know our experience there will help us grow in our faith, understanding, and compassion. We look forward to this time of renewal and are eager to share it with our church and our community when we return.

*Gratefully,  
Martie Pahrns and Rebecca Voss*

Our Financial Picture for September 2021			
September Revenue		September Expenses	
Pledged Offering	\$ 12,132.00	Staffing	\$ 16,887.75
Non-Pledged Offering	\$ 3,284.00	Programming	\$ 1,017.41
Other Revenue	\$ 6,650.46	Apportionments	\$ 4,017.00
From Endowment	\$ <u>1,636.91</u>	Building Operations	\$ <u>3,261.76</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 23,703.37</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 25,183.92</b>
		<b>Net MTD</b>	<b>\$ (1,480.55)</b>

## Connecting Money and Your Church

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Whether this is the exact language of your church's mission statement or you have made yours more specific to your context, it is vital for churches and their leaders to link all of their ministries to living out that mission. When a mission links the needs of a community, the passion and call of the congregation, and is communicated clearly and regularly, the more likely it is that a ministry will thrive and be transformative.

Likewise, the more we connect giving to the mission and ministry of the church, the more likely generous people within our congregation are to give abundantly. Here are some ideas to link giving to the mission and ministry of the church.

- During the offering time, have someone give a 2 – 3 minute talk about a ministry of your church through which lives are being changed and thank people for the gifts that make that ministry possible.
- When your church sends out a giving statement, include a note sharing the story of how someone was impacted by your church's ministry and thank people for making that ministry possible.
- Encourage your pastor to review the monthly giving records of the congregation. Look for changes. This may reflect a life change, where pastoral care is needed. It may also be an opportunity to say thank you for an unexpected gift.

If you have questions or want to learn more, contact:

Jason Mahnke, Director of Programming & Campaigns, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at 608-837-9582 or [jmahnke@wumf.org](mailto:jmahnke@wumf.org).

## The Open Door

Throughout the years our congregation has supported the local mission, The Open Door. Our Personal Needs Closet has supplied toiletries, and the UMW is delivering weekly lunches. The Open Door is a resource for those recently released from jail. If you want to know more about this ministry, join us on November 14, following the coffee hour after the 10:00 service. The UMW has arranged for a representative from The Open Door to give a presentation. This is sponsored by UMW (United Methodist Women). Everyone from our congregation and guests are welcome!

Due to upcoming holidays,  
December and January  
**newsletter deadlines**  
are on the **10th of the month**  
**preceding.**

## FUMC Online

**Website:** [fumcwausau.org](http://fumcwausau.org)  
with links to the weekly sermon  
in text and podcast

[facebook.com/WausauFUMC](https://www.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

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## **Stewardship Series: Seek First**

*"Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*  
Matthew 6:33

What we put first in our life matters. There is a lot of competition for our limited time and finances. We face unexpected and unwanted challenges that test our commitment to God. In this month's sermon series, we'll explore what it means as individuals and as a church to put God first at First UMC. Join us in person and online so we can touch more lives, connect greater numbers of folks to Christ, and help the Kingdom of God expand.

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

### **Oct 31: The Competition**

Psalm 135:13-18

Key Scripture: 2 Kings 17:29-41

### **Nov. 7: The Challenge-All Saints Sunday**

Psalm 133

Key Scripture: Acts 4:32-37

### **Nov. 14: The Commitment**

**Confirmation & New Members Sunday**

Psalm 65

Key Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

### **Nov 21: The Call**

MCCI Prescription Day

Church Conference following 10 am  
worship service

### **Nov 28: First Sunday of Advent**

Psalm 25:1-10

Key Scripture: Luke 21:25-36