



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



# THE MESSENGER

First Wausau United Methodist Church

Downtown Wausau Wisconsin

## From the Pastor

By Pastor Rebecca Voss

Dear First Wausau Family of Faith,

Christ is Risen! As we step into springtime, the cool, dark, moist soil is preparing to turn seeds into sprouts that will grow and bear fruit. What has been buried through a long, dark winter will soon bloom. As Easter People, we are reminded to look for the ways that Christ has risen in and through each of us. As we pray with Jesus' resurrection power, the darkness we may have endured will break into a new dawn. The cold hardness we see will soften with the warmth of God's love and grace.

Like an echo of the new life of Jesus' resurrection, April is a month that invites us to see the ways and places that God is doing a new thing and inviting us to grow in new ways. As the "snowbirds" return to the area and the risks of driving and walking in the winter weather ease up, I hope you will join us for worship and other opportunities to deepen your spiritual roots and widen the kind reach of your hands. In addition to several wonderful ongoing groups, I would like to highlight two special nights that I believe can help you grow in your faith, hope, and love.

On Monday, April 15 at 7pm, Rev. Forrest Wells, a retired UM pastor and district superintendent, will be coming to our church to share his stories and pictures of his trip to the Holy Land in March. Forrest has been on over two dozen trips to Israel and Palestine over the years, and bravely went back in the midst of the war between Israel and Hamas that has been tearing a delicate and diverse region to pieces. Watching the news causes us to feel awful, helpless, and often confused. Please come and listen and see Forrest's insights which can inspire our faith and action to bring a lasting peace.

The next evening, Tuesday, April 16 at 7pm, New Beginnings for Refugees will be hosting an inspirational movie called **The Swimmers** at the Grand Theater. This movie is based on the true story of Syrian sisters who have to leave their family to escape their war-torn country and follows their harrowing journey toward safety.

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Savvy Seniors will be meeting on **Monday, April 1st at 11:30am at Pizza Ranch** in Weston. This is a social group open to singles & couples over 55. We would love to have you join us!

Any questions, call Vicki Nowaczyk at 715-571-3009.

## Sunday Luncheon

The Sunday luncheon discussion group meets on **Sundays at 11:30am** in the Fellowship Hall.

Until May 5th, the group will be studying the Lord's Prayer from the Aramaic language, which was the language used in Christ's time on earth. It broadens the concepts that address the world and issues for us as individuals. All study materials will be provided.

Some refreshments provided, but suggest bringing your own brown bag lunch. All are welcome to join. If you have questions, contact Julie Mieke.

## Personal Needs/ Claire's Critter Closet

The Personal Needs and Claire's Critter Closets are a growing and much-needed mission of our church to our community. These missions are also a ministry. Our volunteers listen compassionately to the challenges faced by the people who come and pray with people who ask.

Both closets are open on the 2nd Tuesdays from 1-3pm and 4th Saturdays from 9-11am. Contact Mike or Liz Fischer for information about getting involved.

The PNC and CCC are always in need of paper or plastic bags and plastic milk jugs. You can drop them by the office or place them outside the PNC door.

## Men's Ministry

- Men's Prayer/Bible Study Group - Meets the **2nd Sunday of each month at 11:15am** in the B.K. Smith Room. Contact Dick Ostwald or Dennis Reynolds for details.
- Men's Off-Property Group - Meets once a month at locations/events of the groups choosing. Contact Mark Johnson or Dennis Reynolds for additional information.



**Jubilate Bell Choir** - Led by Jessica Wenzel  
Rehearsals - Wednesdays 5:45pm (Bell Room)

Upcoming Musical Worship:

- Sunday, May 5th - 10am Service

**Chancel Choir** - Led by Lin Strong  
Rehearsals - Wednesdays 7:00pm, as needed

Other Musical Worship

- Sunday, June 9th - Guest Organist Hunter Erickson will lead a hymn sing at 9am service and host an organ concert that evening.



Ash Wednesday combined choir performance including members from FUMC, Grace UCC, First Presbyterian, and Wesley UMC. Led by Cindy Larson of Grace UCC

# Pastoral Message April Mission Offering Continued...

While still navigating the difficult immigration system, they are given the opportunity to demonstrate a gift their father, a swimming coach, helped them develop. 100% of donations will go to help New Beginnings provide for a wide variety of needs for our new neighbors, and you can learn how to make a world of difference for people who have endured more than we can imagine, often with gifts and talents to inspire the world.

Please invite your friends and neighbors to join you for these two events, as well as to Sunday worship. As we gather, we can be guided to some of the many ways that Christ's resurrection power can live in and work through you!

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Rebecca

*Let Us Pray*

Please lift up and pray for...

The family and friends of FUMC member Virginia "Ginny" Grothe who passed on 03-10-24.

The Johnson family for the passing of Mark's mother, Joyce Johnson, on 03-20-24.



## Grief Counseling

A grief counseling group is now available for anyone in need of spiritual and emotional support during difficult times of grieving.

This group takes place on an as needed basis. Contact the church office or Julie Miehle to inquire.



Our congregation continues to provide ongoing support for the mission in Guatemala with personal needs, clothing, and education. After a couple year lull, eight individuals from FUMC will join Onalaska UMC on a Mission Guatemala trip from August 3-10, 2024.

While there, they will be working with local contractors on a construction project serving the community. They will learn about the local Mayan culture and the vital services provided by Mission Guatemala.

Throughout the month of April, donate loose change, put cash in the small brown envelopes, memo a check "Mission Guatemala", or donate online under fund name: Guatemala.

Stay tuned throughout the next few months for additional fundraisers being hosted by the Mission Guatemala group.

**Important Dates:**

Sat., April 7th at 1:00pm - Group meeting at church

Individual Flight Balance: \$653.00

- Due March 21st: \$163.25
- Due April 18th: \$163.25
- Due May 16th: \$163.25
- Due June 13th: \$163.25

Individual In Country Balance: \$675.00

- Due April 4th: \$168.75
  - Due May 2nd: \$168.75
  - Due May 30th: \$168.75
  - Due June 20th: \$168.75
- (in-country balance is the cost of meals, lodging and transportation)

Contact the church office or Margaret Getzin if you have questions.

# APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Easter Sunday 8:00am Worship w/Communion 10:00am Worship w/Communion 11:00am Coffee Hour	1 11:30am Savvy Seniors, Pizza Ranch	2	3 5:45pm Handbell Practice	4 8:00am AA 7:00pm Boy Scouts	5 Office Closed	6
7 8:00am Worship 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Groups 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:30am - 12:30pm Lord's Prayer Discussion 1:00pm Mission Guatemala Meeting	8	9 1:00pm - 3:00pm Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet	10 1:00pm United Women in Faith Meeting 5:45pm Handbell Practice	11 8:00am AA 7:00pm Boy Scouts	12 Office Closed	13 9:00am - 12:00pm Social Action Day, Zoom
14 8:00am Worship, Chapel 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Groups 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:15am Men's Prayer/Bible Study 4:00pm - 5:00pm Community Meal (1st Pres. Church)	15 7:00pm Middle East Peace Dialogue Presentation w/ Rev. Forrest Wells	16 5:30pm Trustees 7:00pm The Swimmers movie (Grand Theater)	17 5:45pm Handbell Practice 7:00pm Finance Committee	18 8:00am AA 9:00am - 4:00pm UWF Rummage Sale 7:00pm Boy Scouts	19 Office Closed 9:00am - 1:00pm UWF Rummage Sale	20
21 8:00am Worship, Chapel 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Groups 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:30am - 12:30pm Lord's Prayer Discussion 1:00pm Roadside Cleanup	22 Earth Day	23 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Group	24 5:45pm Handbell Practice	25 8:00am AA 7:00pm Boy Scouts	26 Office Closed	27 9:00am - 11:00am Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet
28 8:00am Worship 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Groups 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:30am - 12:30pm Lord's Prayer Discussion	29 7:00pm Ministries Council	30	1 5:45pm Handbell Practice	2 National Day of Prayer 8:00am AA 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 Office Closed	4 8:30am UWF Spring Retreat (Pine Lake UMC Camp)



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



3 Franklin Higgins

4 Barb Ritchie

Catherine Harmon

5 Jane Dovenbarger

6 Diane Vernon

Russell Bennett

9 Karen Petersen

11 Darlene Kell

Dane Larson

Thomas Kufahl

12 Dottie Nietert

14 Morgan Rohland

17 Eldon Horton

18 Jon Goertz

Jayden Voss

19 Barb Maguire

22 Dale Langbehn

Ken Attoe

23 Lily Atonio

25 Nancy Turner

26 Arlene Trull

Lin Strong

30 Kieran Grogan

Sharon Rayborn



## THE GRAND THEATER TUESDAY, APRIL 16 | 7:00 PM

Free to the public.

Donations accepted for New Beginnings.



Presented by:



## Wausau-Area Middle East Peace Dialogue Group

All are invited to attend a presentation and discussion on **Monday, April 15, 7pm** at **First United Methodist Church** with **Rev. Forrest Wells**, who recently returned from a fact finding mission in war-torn Palestine and Israel.

## Summer Worship

Sunday, May 26 —

Sunday, Sept. 1

9:00 am

Summer worship will be combined to one service on Sundays at 9:00am with coffee hour after the service in the Parlor.

Services will also be available online live on Sundays or recorded for later viewing.

## Highway Cleanup Project

On **Sunday, April 21 at 1:00pm**, the group will meet in the church parking lot to carpool to the intersection of W/WW north of Wausau, past Brokaw Corners. Allow up to two hours to complete.

Bags, vests, gloves, and bottled water will be supplied. Please wear long sleeve shirts, pants, caps, and sunscreen.

Call Maggie Schoenfeld (715)842-9809 if planning to attend.



## Community Meal

We periodically take the lead in preparing and serving a Community Meal at First Presbyterian Church. The meal is available to whomever is hungry. We typically host any 5th Sunday of a month, however with it falling on Easter we will instead host on **Sunday, April 14 from 4-5pm**.

To help with the meal contact Jen Johnson or donate to the Community Meals mission.



FUMC hosting of Community Meal on 12/31/23.



## United Women in Faith

United Women of Faith (UWF) will have its monthly meeting, **Wed. April 10, at 1:00pm**, in the parlor.

On **Saturday, April 13**, UWF will hold a “watch party” in the chapel from 9am-12pm for Social Action Day—”Ending Mass Incarceration In Wisconsin”. Attendance is open with a \$10.00 fee. Please contact Barbara Ritchie or Margaret Getzin by April 8th if planning to attend.

UWF will host the spring rummage sale at church on **April 18-19**. We are looking for donations to this sale, so check around your house, your basement, your attic, etc...for those treasures you no longer need or use. Bring them to the church up to the week of the sale. Thank you for helping to make this now annual spring sale a big success for raising funds for local missions and beyond!

The annual UWF Spring Retreat will take place on **Saturday, May 4th** at the Pine Lake UM Camp. This one day program, “Feed, Care, Lift--Repeat”, will include worship, activities, and conversations focusing on feeding our bodies, caring for our souls, and lifting our spirits. Registration deadline is April 18, 2024. Please contact Barbara Ritchie or Margaret Getzin for questions or registration information.



Your purchase helps our UWF mission projects, UMCOR, and supports farmer-owned coffee cooperatives in Central America and Mexico, as well as small tea farms in India, Sri Lanka and South Africa. Products include chocolates, coffee, tea, and olive oil.

Visit the wooden cabinet in the Parlor to view pricing and purchase items. Small brown envelopes are provided for payment and can be dropped in the office drop box.

# Online Giving Lenten Worship

Online giving is available for regular offerings or other funds you wish to support. An account is not required. You can access through the link or QR code below.

We strongly suggest creating an account accessible on desktop or mobile Connect app (see app icon below). It allows you to track your personal data, giving, attendance, and pledges.

The Realm Connect app also allows you to access mobile check-in for church services. Attendance is reported to the UMC every year so it is important for us to know who is attending church services.

If creating an account, PLEASE USE THE EMAIL YOU PROVIDED IN THE CHURCH DIRECTORY, if one was provided. Allow 24-48 hours after account creation for office staff to confirm your account.

<https://onrealm.org/FirstUnitedMeth91919/give/now>



Our Church had the honor of welcoming Pastor Kyabuntu Banze from Mosinee UMC and Pastor Pearl Taberlo from Wesley UMC to lead us in Sunday worship during Lent this year. In turn, Pastor Rebecca had the privilege of leading worship within their churches as well.

Together, we learned about the power of prayer and completed the 28-day Dynamite Prayer guide.



## THE MESSENGER

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

### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTSED

#### Our Mission:

Living as a community where  
God is forming deeply committed  
followers of Christ

## April Worship

Sunday Worship Times: 8:00am Chapel 10:00am Sanctuary

### SUNDAY, APRIL 7

*We Walk in the Light*

Psalm 133; Isaiah 1:14-17 (MSG); 1 John 1:1-10, 2:15-17

### SUNDAY, APRIL 14

*We Purify in Hope*

Psalm 4; Acts 3:12-19; 1 John 3:1-7

### SUNDAY, APRIL 21

*We Abide in Christ*

Psalm 23; Acts 4:5-12; 1 John 3:16-24

### SUNDAY, APRIL 28

*We Bear Fruit*

Psalm 22:25-31; Acts 8:26-40, John 15:1-8

### SUNDAY, MAY 5

**HOLY COMMUNION**

*We Love One Another*

Psalm 98; Acts 10:44-48; John 15:9-17

### FUMC Wired

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

[facebook.com/WausauFUMC](https://facebook.com/WausauFUMC)  
[youtube.com/@FirstWausauUMC](https://youtube.com/@FirstWausauUMC)

WiFi Network: FUMC Guest  
password: fumcpublic

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#### STAFF

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