

DECEMBER  
2021



Dear First UMC Family of Faith,

Every morning on my drive to church, I first drop off our daughters at their schools. Between our home and West High School, Joy connects her phone to the sound system and has been playing Christmas music since November 1. This morning she selected a familiar song by Gene Autry and Oakley Halderman:

*Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus right down Santa Claus Lane*

However, there were some extra stanzas that I never heard before...

*Peace on earth will come to all if we just follow the light*

*So let's give thanks to the Lord above, 'cause Santa Claus comes tonight*

*He is a miracle come to all if we just follow the light*

*So let's give thanks to the Lord above, 'cause Santa Claus comes tonight*

Though I'm certainly happy about Santa Claus coming with gifts under the tree, our real longing and need is for peace on earth and a miracle for all. The snappy little song reminds us those things "come to all if we just follow the light". As the Gospel of John puts it, "In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (v. 4-5)

As individuals and as a church, let's follow the Light of the World, the gift of God's self, who left the glory of heaven clothed in vulnerable humanity. Christ comes! As we seek and follow the light of Christ, we'll find ourselves working to bring God's peace and justice, and the miracles of hope and love as we serve the hurting.

*So let's give thanks to the Lord above.* Not only because it's Santa Claus season, but most importantly because God is with us – Emmanuel. The light of the Star, the radiance of God's glory, and the glory shining with singing choirs of angels all lead us to Christ. And what happens when we follow Christ? A multitude of the heavenly host tell us: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." (Matthew 2:14)

Many thanks for all the gifts and times you've so generously shared with and through our church in 2021. As we continue to work for peace and bring miracles to more people, we would appreciate any Christmas-time gifts to help us expand our ministry and reflect Christ's light to more people. Let's keep following the Light and giving thanks to God above!

Gratefully,

Pastor Rebecca



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF

THE MESSENGER



715.842.2201

fumcwausau.org



We grieve this month at the loss of our long time members:

Roger Mittenzwei, who died on November 7th.

Linda Leighton, who died November 17th.

Sophie Marschall, who died on November 19th.



# December

- |    |                  |    |                   |    |                   |
|----|------------------|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1  | Joe Schreiber    | 14 | Sharon Gisselman  | 23 | Ann Johnson       |
| 6  | Sandy McCrory    |    | Stan Schacht      | 24 | Vicki Nowaczyk    |
| 7  | Lynne Sydow      |    | Lois Susor*       | 28 | Dennis Carey      |
|    | Betsy Duginski   | 16 | Robert Bauer*     | 29 | Anita Gerber      |
| 9  | Yvonne Firary    | 18 | Dean Marquardt    |    | Meredith Majernik |
|    | Carrie Hockerman | 19 | Dave Carlson      | 30 | Sue Majernik      |
| 11 | Cyrus Adams      |    | C.Merrill McMahan | 31 | Nancy Bogumill    |
|    | Arthur Chang     |    | Andy White        |    | Sara Koss         |
| 13 | Charlie Strong   | 20 | Beth Burke        |    |                   |
|    |                  |    | Caleb Kroeplin    |    |                   |

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



## Looking for Christmas presents AND away to support FUMC?

Consider giving gift cards. You can purchase them through the FUMC SCRIP program and a percentage of the purchase price is paid back to the church. The card(s) cost you face value, the gift recipient can use them to buy whatever they really want from almost any major retail store, restaurant, or online seller, ...And FUMC benefits. Everyone wins!

We have now set up an electronic account with the SCRIP provider, so delivery time is much quicker. You'll get your cards in the next week! We would like to place an order after church Sunday, December 12th, you will be able to pick up your cards on Sunday, December 19th, just in time for Christmas! Please consider supporting FUMC in this painless way.

Remember: the more cards you buy, the more we earn!

*Thanks you, Mark Johnson*

## UMW Holiday Cookie Orders

Don't forget to order your prepacked Christmas cookies by Dec. 6th. The order form insert and payments may be dropped off at the church office or contact Barbara Ritchie (1-715-205-4622). The cookies may be picked up the evening of Dec. 10. Proceeds from the sale will help missions, local and world-wide, benefitting women, youth and children. UMW is looking for cookie bakers and if you are willing to share your baking skills, contact Barbara Ritchie for additional information.



Savvy Seniors will meet on Monday December 6th, at 11:30 at the Jalapenos Mexican Restaurant, downtown Wausau.



## Random Thoughts by Mike Zahn MCCI "A Gift Card"

*"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline."*  
2 Timothy 1:6-7

Have you ever received something like a left-handed bacon stretcher as a gift for Christmas? The thought is nice, but what am I going to do with it? I'm right-handed! Sometimes the perfect gift is a gift card, one that you can use anywhere for anything you need.

MCCI (Missional Church Consultation Initiative, or My Church Can Improve) is like the gift card to our congregation from our Conference. It provides resources to do what we as a congregation decide are our greatest needs. MCCI is not giving us a left-handed bacon stretcher that will sit in the back of our utensil drawer until we can rummage sale it away. Instead, it is helping us focus on what God is already leading us to do in our community. It will help us execute in the best way possible **whatever plans we make**. It will help us fan into flame the gift of God!

MCCI has written "prescriptions" for our church, but the "prescriptions" have really come from us. There are "town hall" meetings scheduled this month and we will meet as a congregation to vote on the recommendations on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Please try to attend one of the town meetings, and plan to be there for the church conference on the 19<sup>th</sup>. We'd really like to hear from you, and your presence will make a difference- we want to use our gift card wisely! Please feel free to call, text, or email me with any questions. Mike Zahn 715-470-1957, mmzahn57@hotmail.com.

We hope everyone can come to one of the three Town Hall meetings we're having in the next few weeks to discuss your hopes and/or hesitations regarding these prescriptions. Here are the Town Hall dates:

Wed., Dec. 1, 6pm - BK Smith Room

Sun., Dec. 5, 9am - Parlor

Mon., Dec. 13, 1pm - Parlor

## 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

## STAFF

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Monday – Thursday

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Pastor Rebecca Voss with the 2021  
Confirmands Logan Rohland, Jayden  
Voss, Peter Johnson, Gideon Adams,  
Michael Marzu, Oliver Hornby



## **Confirmation Statements of Faith**

I believe in God the Father. I believe in Jesus and the Holy Spirit. I believe that the Son will keep shining with hope and that the grass will grow again after a winter and finally I believe that good will overcome evil.

***Gideon Adams***

I believe in God who can be described as a Trinity: the Father, the creator of all, the Lord, our shepherd and protector, the Spirit, the movement and breath of all,

I believe in the relationship of the mentor and student, the mentor providing material for the student to learn, the student doing their best to learn, and pass the knowledge that was learned,

I believe in the maintenance and protection of relationships of my neighbors, family, and friends, for the protection of relationships allows healthy relationships to flourish and new ones to form,

I believe in the way of life, where things grow and blossom, where things burn and die, and where there are almost always equal reactions and consequences,

I believe in the afterlife, where there is a place for us when we die.

***Oliver Hornby***

I believe God, the creator of heaven and earth, is the creator of every being on earth. I believe that Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins. I believe he will deliver all from evil. I believe that God is love. I believe God loves everyone no matter their past. I believe that God shows his love by helping those in need. I believe his kingdom is forever eternal.

***Peter Johnson***

I believe in God and the Holy Spirit. I believe in Jesus Christ, a teacher and counselor to me. Going to camp at Pine Lake really helped ignite my faith in God. The nature and small group really helped me learn more about God. I feel called to use my gift of music to serve the church and to serve others.

***Michael Marzu***

The Trinity consists of Christ, the Creator, and the Holy Spirit. Christ, or Jesus, is a messenger sent by God to help us follow the word of God. The Creator is God, the one who gave us the gift of life. And lastly, the Holy Spirit, is God's voice in our mind. It is what God is doing today, guiding those who can hear him. God wants us to spread love throughout the world, by doing random acts of kindness for others, such as giving things and services, without expecting anything in return. If we do this, we can truly be happy.

***Logan Rohland***

I believe that God created this world and has made each of us with love. I believe in following Jesus by reading the Bible and living the way that he teaches. I believe that God came to earth as Jesus, who gave us the Holy Spirit to help us lead a good life. God gave us the Church to help us grow in our faith and help others understand God.

***Jayden Voss***



Tim White, Leigh Ann White,  
Jan Clowes, Collette Brown,  
James & Pastor Rebecca Voss



### Meet our New Members

**Collette Brown:** My day job is a teacher who works with kids needing extra help in reading. I love to travel, hike and read. I am excited to continue to grow in my faith at First UMC in part by volunteering with literacy and other efforts to assist the new refugees in our community.

**Mary Brown:** I am happy to be joining a church that is following Jesus by working to take care of the poor and others who need help in our community. I am a huge Milwaukee Brewers fan! I enjoy reading and flower gardening.

**Jan Clowes:** I moved to Wausau, from Beloit, WI in December 2019, after retiring from Beloit Health Systems. I was born and raised in Beloit and attended First Baptist Church in Beloit all my life. I moved to Wausau to be near my daughter and her family which includes a 5 year old granddaughter. I also have a son and daughter-in-law and two more granddaughters, ages 4 & 8, in Sun Prairie, WI. I am enjoying retirement and getting involved in the mission of this church. In my spare time I love music, reading, sewing, biking, being outdoors and kayaking the lakes of northern Wisconsin.

**James Voss:** I am married to Pastor Rebecca Voss and together we have seven children. My background is in sales and marketing (mostly real estate), but I became a Street Outreach Specialist with Northcentral CAP services because I want to help less fortunate people. I am a bit introverted about my walk with Jesus but am intentional about becoming more Christ-like. I look forward to serving on the Trustees committee and getting to know more people at church and in Wausau.

**Leigh Ann White:** My husband Tim and I moved here a year ago from the Chicago area. As empty nesters, we picked Wausau to live for the hiking, biking, and kayaking so accessible from our front door. We've been married for 27 years and 2 amazing children, Brennan 24 and Jack 21. I have worked in the optical field for 30 years. I look forward to getting to know all of you as we learn, grow and encourage each other in our walks as Christ follows.

**Tim White:** Married to lovely Leigh Ann for 27 years with two cool sons, Brennan, 24 and Jack, 21 who both live up in Marquette, MI. I'm more excited about following Jesus than ever! From Central Wisconsin and back to live, work and give as best I can.

December Mission offering will be for Red Cliff. This mission serves the residents of the reservation and deepens the relationship with the native community there. The donations will provide supplies for the early childhood programs and clothing for the children.

*Ray Nowaczyk*



Claire's Critter Closet

Warming Center

Personal Needs Closet

### Wausau's 2021 Giving Trees

Merry Christmas, FUMC-Wausau members and friends! It is the giving season in our church and in our community, and it is the hope of the United Methodist Women's circles that you will help fill the empty spaces under our 3 giving trees in the church parlor. Once again we are looking to support Claire's Critter Closet, the Personal Needs Closet, and the Warming Shelter, housed for another year in our church. All three of these endeavors fill a need in our community and support our commitment to "serving the hurting". The trees will be up through the weekend of New Year's, so please help us surround the trees with our donations.

Claire's Critter Closet helps families with pet needs—cat litter, cat food (dry and wet) cat beds, cat toys, dog beds, dog food (dry and wet), dog toys, etc... The Personal Needs Closet helps with items such as home cleaning products, laundry detergent, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, body wash and soap, toilet paper, paper towels, feminine products, diapers, toothpaste, etc... The Warming Shelter has their needs listed on their website, which include backpacks, men's and women's warm socks, men's and women's thermal underwear (tops and bottoms), men's and women's new underwear, breakfast items like oatmeal packets, breakfast bars, etc..., hand and foot warmers, cleaning supplies, laundry soap and dryer sheets, warm gloves for men and women, etc... These lists are not complete, but hopefully give you some good ideas to get you started on ways you can help this holiday season. Monetary donations are always welcome also! Thank you for responding to those in need this Christmas and throughout the year!

*Bonnie Goertz, SPRC Chair*

October 2021 Finances			
October Revenue		October Expenses	
Pledged Offering	\$ 10,378.00	Staffing	\$ 19,234.58
Non-Pledged Offering	\$ 3,890.00	Programming	\$ 791.21
Other Revenue	\$ 419.00	Apportionments	\$ 4,017.00
From Endowment	<u>\$ 13,946.91</u>	Building Operations	<u>\$ 8,556.23</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 28,633.91</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 32,599.02</b>
		<b>Net MTD</b>	<b>\$ (3,965.11)</b>

## 2021 United Methodist Women Holiday Cookie Order Form



United  
Methodist  
Women

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)

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### Poinsettias

We will be using poinsettias to decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to donate toward one or more flowers, the cost is \$12 (small) & \$25 (large) per plant – but any amount is welcome. About 20 of the poinsettias will be given to homebound members of our congregation on December 12th.

Please fill out the form below and put it in the offering plate, mail it, or bring it to the Church Office, along with your check. We will need to have your orders by no later than December 6th. On December 12<sup>th</sup> we will list the names of those remembered or honored in our worship bulletin.

*Please print*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory / In Honor of *(circle one)*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to *First United Methodist Church*

Memo line: *Poinsettias*



**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 DECEMBER

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**Sunday, December 5**

Zeph. 3:14-20, Luke 1:68-79

**Sunday, December 12 (No 8 am Worship)**

Lessons & Carols 10 am

**Sunday, December 19**

Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:39-45

**Friday December 24 Christmas Eve**

2 pm, 4 pm, 8 pm Services

Isaiah 60:1-5a, 9:6-7, Luke 2:1-20, John 1:1-5

**Sunday, December 26**

Psalm 148, Luke 2:41-52

**Sunday, January 2 Epiphany**

Psalm 72:10-14, Matthew 2:1-12

**Sunday Worship Times: 8:00 a.m. Chapel**

**10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary**

**Join us this month for our  
Advent & Christmas Services**

