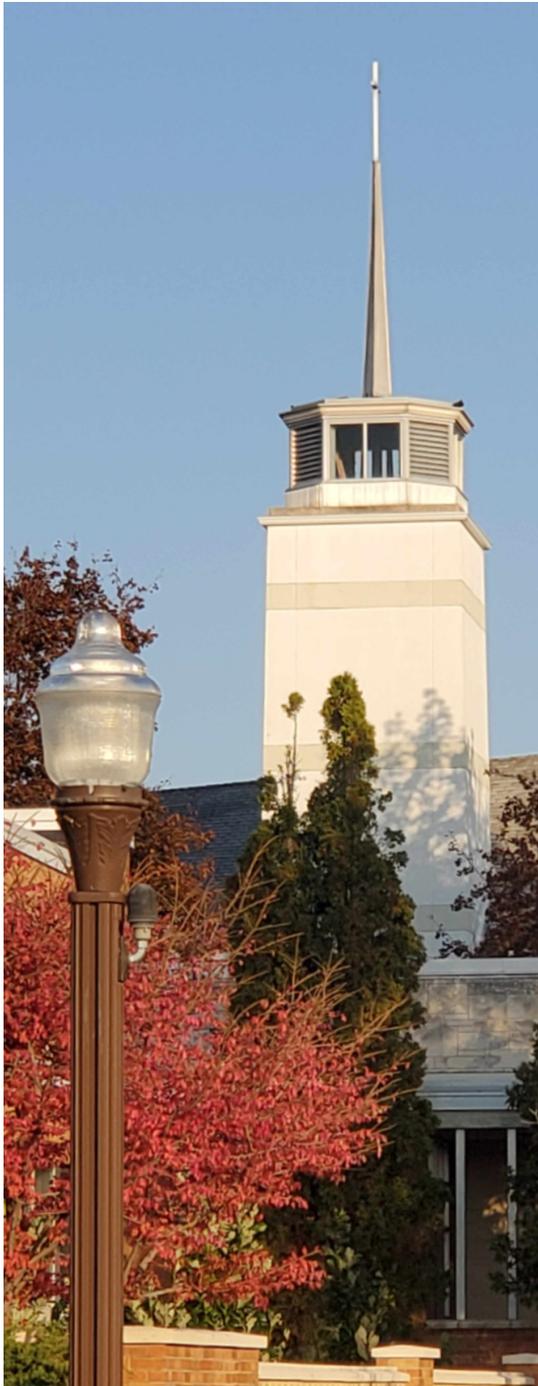




*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



# THE MESSENGER

FIRST WAUSAU UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Downtown Wausau Wisconsin

## From the Pastor

*by Pastor Rebecca Voss*

Dear First Wausau Family of Faith,

Valentine's Day will get most of the attention on February 14, but the church calendar this year adds Ash Wednesday to the popular mid-winter love holiday. This "double date" has not happened since 1945 but will repeat again in 2029. The date of Ash Wednesday is based on the changing date of Easter, which is determined as the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox. Ash Wednesday is 40 days before Easter Sunday, not including the Sundays of Lent. It seems complicated, but it makes astronomers and mathematicians smile.

This year we are hosting the Ecumenical Ash Wednesday service on February 14 at 7pm, which is a wonderful opportunity to build connections with other Christians in our community. There will also be a Spaghetti Dinner for everyone in the Fellowship Hall before the service. The Mission Guatemala team will be cooking, serving, and cleaning, and we hope that freewill donations for the dinner will generously fund their projects in Guatemala this August.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, as well as the beginning of Conference-wide initiative of United Methodists across Wisconsin. With a passion to help us learn to pray and act with bold dreams and hopeful expectancy, Bishop Jung is inviting us each to participate in a 28-day prayer challenge. The book/prayer journal, "Dynamite Prayer" by Revs. Sue Nilson Kibbey (who also led our church through the MCCI process) and Rosario Picardo can guide each of us into a more powerful prayer life. We purchased copies in bulk at a 50% discount (\$7.50 each), so please pick up a copy in early- to mid-February and donate what you can to cover the cost. If you cannot get to church, we are happy to get one to you at your request.

But wait, there is more! Our Sunday mornings during Lent will be both unique and unifying. Rather than a typical sermon, there will be 4-5-minute reflections on three powerful prayers each week that can transform our lives and world. In addition, there will be a pulpit rotation with Rev. Kyabuntu Banze from Mosinee UMC and Rev. Pearl Taberlo from Wesley UMC. They will come here to lead services on March 3 & 10 while I am at their churches. I believe they both will inspire you deeply, and hope they experience the same grace and love you have shown me.

Gratefully and Prayerfully,  
Pastor Rebecca

# NEW HANDBELL DIRECTOR

The Jubilate Bell Choir is very happy to announce that a director has been found to lead them in preparation for a spring presentation. Jessica Wenzel has agreed to direct the group as they prepare several pieces for a spring Sunday (date to be determined). She is a very familiar person to the bell group, as she has been a regular musician in the church's string ensembles for a number of years. If anyone is interested in playing bells with the group, rehearsals will be held most **Wednesday evenings at 5:45 pm in the bell room.** No experience is required, and we can also accommodate people who can't read music. Please contact one of the current members of the bell choir for more information.



## Mission Guatemala Trip

Eight members of our congregation will be joining Onalaska UMC on a trip to Mission Guatemala in San Andres Semetabaj on August 3-10, 2024.

- o Michael Marzu (youth)
- o Pete Johnson (youth)
- o Oliver Hornby (youth)
- o Joy Rutter (youth)
- o Addy Kaiser (youth)
- o Margaret Getzin
- o Wes Ebert
- o Kirsten Hornby

We have been supporting this ministry through our missions offerings and have taken two trips there in previous years. This is an opportunity to renew our relationship with this health and education ministry to this Mayan community in rural Guatemala.

While we are there we will be working with local contractors on a construction project serving the community. We will also be learning about the local Mayan culture and the vital services provided by Mission Guatemala.

Please mark your calendars for the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser we will be having to help raise funds for the Mission Guatemala Trip taking place on **February 14th at 5:30 pm** before Ash Wednesday service.



## Savvy Seniors

Savvy Seniors will be meeting on **Monday, February 5th, at 11:30 at Papillon's Pizza** in Rothschild. 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. Thank you.

### 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

Phone: 715.842.2201

## 2023 Giving Statements

All 2023 giving statements were emailed or mailed by January 31, 2024. If you did not receive your statement, please contact the church's finance office.



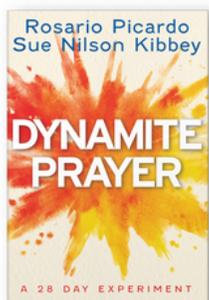


United  
Women  
in Faith

January was the start of a new year for United Women in Faith at FUMC-Wausau. The first thing that happened this year was a change in when we meet—the group will now meet monthly, usually at church, on the **second Wednesday of the month at 1:00**. Women of all ages are welcome at the monthly meetings, and they are also welcome to participate/contribute/attend, etc...the many events and mission opportunities that are held throughout the year. For example, some women will gather on January 31 and make valentines to be distributed before the holiday in February. Some members of our group will host an area meeting of UWF members from other churches the first weekend in February. Many of the women in our group are once again preparing sack lunches once a week for Open Door in Wausau, as well as helping 2-3 times a month, to sort clothing donated for the men and women who look to Open Door for that kind of support.

UWF is also planning a spring rummage sale. It will be held at the 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 when you get a chance, and for right now, put them on the stage in Fellowship Hall. That drop-off point may need to change by the end of February, but we will continue to take donations right up to the week of the sale in April. Thank you for helping to make this now annual spring sale a big success for raising funds for local missions and beyond! If you have any questions, please see Sara Koss, Sharon Gisselman, or Bonnie Goertz.

## Lent Program Prayer Book



Be sure to pick up a copy of the book/prayer journal, “Dynamite Prayer” by Revs. Sue Nilson Kibbey and Rosario Picardo as part of our Lent Program. We purchased copies in bulk at a discount of \$7.50/ea, so please donate what you can to cover the cost. If you cannot get to church, we are happy to get one to you at your request.

## Online Giving/Attendance

Our church recently started offering an online giving option through our QR code or link. This is done through the software used by our church staff, which also offers other online services our church would like to begin utilizing.

Online giving can be done without creating an account, however we would encourage you to create one as it allows you to track your personal account and access mobile check-ins to Sunday services.

You can create an account through the QR Code or link provided below. PLEASE USE EMAIL PROVIDED IN THE CHURCH DIRECTORY, if one was provided. Allow 24-48 hours after account creation for office staff to confirm your account.

On your mobile device, you will need to download the Realm Connect app (see icon below) on your Android or iPhone in order to access mobile check-in. If you have questions or need assistance, please speak with office staff or volunteers.

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



*Let Us Pray* 

Please lift up and pray for Stan & Alice Schacht as they grieve the death of Alice’s sister, Janet, on 1/26/24. Also pray for our church as we continue to work through our building transitions.

Our Prayer Teams continue to meet and pray for all those who are grieving, recovering, healing, protecting, and serving. If you have any prayers you would like lifted up to the prayer groups or the congregation, please contact our office or fill out a Prayer Card located in the church pews.



# FEBRUARY 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:00am Worship (Chapel) 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Groups 10:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Coffee Hour	29	30	31 1:00pm United Women in Faith - Valentine Cards (Parlor) 5:45pm Handbell Practice (Bell Room)	1 8:00am AA (Room 101) 1:00pm Worship Design (Parlor) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Choir Room)	2 Office Closed	3 9:00am -2:00pm United Women in Faith Meeting (B. K. Smith Room)
4 8:00am Worship with Holy Communion (Chapel) 9:00am Membership/Baptism Class (Parlor) 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Groups 10:00am Worship with Holy Communion (Sanctuary) 11:00am Coffee Hour 2:00pm Men's Group (Day's Bowl-A-Dome)	5 11:30am Savvy Seniors (Papillon's Pizza)	6	7 5:45pm Handbell Practice (Bell Room) 7:00pm Choir Practice (Sanctuary)	8 8:00am AA (Room 101) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Choir Room)	9 Office Closed 6:30pm Bishop's Convocation of Laity Leadership, West Bend	10 8:30am -4:00pm Bishop's Convocation of Laity Leadership, West Bend 7:00pm Square Dancers (Game Room)
11 <b>Transfiguration Sunday</b> 8:00am Worship, Chapel (Chapel) 9:00am Membership/Baptism Class (Parlor) 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Groups 10:00am Worship - Scouts Sunday (Sanctuary) 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:15am Men's Prayer/Bible Study Group (B. K. Smith Room)	12 6:00pm Pre-Show Raffle/Q&A (The Grand Theater) 7:00pm The Swimmers Movie (The Grand Theater)	13 1:00pm -3:00pm Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet/UHC rep here 5:30pm Trustees (B. K. Smith Room)	14 <b>Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day</b> 1:00pm United Women in Faith Meeting (Parlor) 5:30pm Spaghetti Dinner Guatemala Fundraiser (Fellowship Hall) 6:15pm Choir Practice (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)	15 8:00am AA (Room 101) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Choir Room)	16 Office Closed	17
18 8:00am Worship, Chapel (Chapel) 9:00am Membership/Baptism Class (Parlor) 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Groups 10:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Coffee Hour	19 <b>Presidents' Day</b> 6:00pm Finance Committee (B. K. Smith Room)	20 6:00pm SPRC (B. K. Smith Room)	21 5:45pm Handbell Practice (Bell Room)	22 8:00am AA (Room 101) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Choir Room)	23 Office Closed	24 9:00am -11:00am Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet 7:00pm -9:00pm Square Dancers (Game Room)
25 8:00am Worship (Chapel) 9:00am Sunday School/FOCUS Groups 10:00am New Member/Baptisms 10:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Coffee Hour	26 7:00pm Ministries Council (B. K. Smith Room)	27 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Group (Parlor)	28 5:45pm Handbell Practice (Bell Room)	29 8:00am AA (Room 101) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Choir Room)	1 Office Closed <b>World Day of Prayer</b>	2

## February Birthdays

- |                   |                    |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Bill Owen       | 10 Autumn Seiser   | 21 Jaden Love      |
| 2 Thomas Schmoltd | 12 Josie Rybarczyk | 23 Pat Higgins     |
| 3 Kubwa Misuu     | 16 Erik Anderson   | 25 Sue Marquardt   |
| 7 Warren Fabel    | Anjali Dvorak      | Danielle Del Conte |
| Gregory Chang     | 19 Anna Schreiber  | 27 Bernice Kohlman |
| Sue Huang Chang   |                    | Wes Ebert          |
| Geraldine Slock   |                    |                    |

# February Mission Offering



The Open Door offers help to current and released inmates and the homeless population. This includes clothing and a safe place to have coffee and receive assistance from volunteers and resources available in the community. You can donate by putting loose change or cash into one of the small brown envelopes in the pews, memo a check, or give online.

## NEW MEMBERS/BAPTISM

If you are interested in learning more about what we believe and why, and becoming a baptized member of our congregation, we will be having classes at 9:00 am on Sunday, February 4, 11, & 18 in the Parlor.

Please let Pastor Rebecca know if you are interested or have any questions.

During the 10:00 am service on Sunday, February 25 we will be welcoming all new members and celebrating baptism.

## New Men's Groups

Two new men's groups have formed within FUMC!

The first group will meet once a month for any male who would like to come together in body and spirit (and fun!) with other male members of our congregation. This group will be held off property at locations of the group's choosing. The first meeting will be held **Sunday, February 4th at 2:00 pm at Day's Bowl-A-Dome**. Contact Mark Johnson or Dennis Reynolds to join or for questions.

The second group is a men's prayer/bible study group which will meet the **second Sunday of each month at 11:15 am** in the B.K. Smith Room. Contact Dick Ostwald or Dennis Reynolds for more information.



## Personal Needs and Claire's Critter Closets

The Personal Needs and Claire's Critter Closets are a growing and much-needed mission of our church to our community. We are still in need of a coordinator for Claire's Critter Closet. Contact Pastor Rebecca if you or someone you know would be interested.

A special thank you to Mark, Jen, and Pete Johnson for their continued support to these missions by providing gift cards donated from Thrivent Action Teams to purchase needed materials.

Both closets are open on the 2nd Tuesdays from 1-3pm and 4th Saturdays from 9-11am. In 2023, we served 286 individuals representing 799 household members with 78% being from the Wausau area.

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. You may contact Mike or Liz Fischer for more information about getting involved.

The PNC and Critter's Closet 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.



## THE MESSENGER

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Our Mission:

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

# FEBRUARY WORSHIP

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

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

### HOLY COMMUNION

#### *With Wings Like Eagles*

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Isaiah 40:21-31; Mark 1:29-39

## SCOUT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

### *Crossing Over*

Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

## ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

### *There Your Heart Will Be*

Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Will be joined by First Presbyterian Church and Grace United Church of Christ.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

### Lent Week 1 - *Praying for Guidance*

Psalm 25:1-10

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

### Lent Week 2 - *Praying for Wisdom*

Psalm 22:25-31

New Members/Baptisms

## SUNDAY, MARCH 3

### HOLY COMMUNION

### Lent Week 3 - *Praying for Deliverance* - *Pastor Kyabuntu*

Psalm 22:25-31

### STAFF

Pastor

Rebecca Voss

[rebecca@firstmethodistwausau.org](mailto:rebecca@firstmethodistwausau.org)

Director of Comm./Finance

Georgia Reynolds

[georgia@firstmethodistwausau.org](mailto:georgia@firstmethodistwausau.org)

Director of Discipleship

Julie Mieke

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Building Engineer

Andy White

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(715) 842-2201

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