



THE MESSENGER

First Wausau United Methodist Church
Downtown Wausau Wisconsin

From the Pastor

By Pastor Rebecca Voss

Dear First Wausau Family of Faith,

'Tis the season of finals, graduations, and students eager to take a break from the 3 "R's" – Reading, (W)Riting, and (A)Rithmetic. There are three more "R's" which were the recent focus of the United Methodist General (worldwide) Conference, held April 23-May 3 in Charlotte, NC. They include Regionalization, Revise the *Social Principles*, and Remove Harmful Language. The delegates worked hard and considered more than 1,000 petitions that could transform the future of the UMC, including our local congregation.

The first "R," Regionalization, recognizes that though the UMC has grown quickly and fruitfully throughout the world, our governance is not globally just, has been set up to allow conferences and churches in the United States to maintain disproportionate power. It could be described as a Christianized version of colonialism. 78% of the delegates affirmed that we are no longer a U.S. church with missions in other countries but a worldwide church with diverse cultures and self-determination on how best to work and lead in their areas.

The second "R" is for Revise the Social Principles. After several decades, the world has changed and presented new ethical issues and needs for justice. The updated 43-page *Social Principles* can be found at this link: <https://www.umcjustice.org/documents/124>. This is connected to the third R – Remove Harmful Language. By a vote of 523 to 161, the half-century ban on LGBTQ marriages and clergy was lifted. The new language describes "marriage as a sacred, lifelong covenant that brings two people of faith (adult man and adult woman of consenting age OR two adult persons of consenting age) into a union of one another and into a deeper relationship with God and the religious community."

In addition to the 3 "R's," many other significant decisions were made. These include granting deacons sacramental authority in their appointed ministry settings, entering into full communion with the Episcopal Church, reducing the number of Bishops in the US from 39 to 32, approving an apology to victims and survivors of sexual misconduct by clergy and lay leaders, and ending the option for local churches to disaffiliate.

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Savvy Seniors

Savvy Seniors will be meeting on **Monday, June 3rd at 11:30am** at Wausau Mine Co. and **Monday, July 1st at 11:30am** at Arrow Sports Bar. 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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

CELEBRATION OR COMFORT.

Prayer shawls are available to the congregation both in the narthex and parlor of the church.

Please avail yourselves of this ministry for comfort in cases of illness, grief or loss. Also kindly remember to present them for celebrations such as: baptisms, confirmations, graduations, and marriage.

WUMF Monthly Stewardship News

Paying It Forward
June 2024

Happy spring! You may have booked summer trips and camp for your kids already – now it's time for you and your team! Save the date for Stewardship Conference on Friday, Aug. 9 and Saturday, Aug. 10!

WUMF is seeking helpers for our table at Annual Conference, **June 7-9**. Will you be in the Green Bay area with some spare time? Let us know at wumf@wumf.org.

WUMF offers a seminary scholarship for U.S. seminary students *with a tie to a Wisconsin church*. Applications are due **July 1**.

Help for the Stewardship Team
Meaningful Ministry, Successful Stewardship
Stewardship Conference at Pine Lake this August

If you've read this newsletter before, you probably already know that the number one reason people give to a non-profit, including the church, is because of a belief in its mission and vision. But, after reading that statement, have you ever wondered:

- How do we, as a church, generate a vision? Who is responsible for making that happen?
- Does a vision last forever or does it need to be reworked at some point?
- How do we communicate what we've done toward accomplishing that vision?

- What are younger generations looking for in a church? How should that affect our vision?

This year's Stewardship Conference at Pine Lake, on August 9 - 10 will focus on both the best practices for successful stewardship along with meaningful ministry practices that drive, not only generosity, but all vital ministry in the church. Workshops will include:

- Revisioning and Reimagining Your Church (don't just tweak your traditions)
- Beyond Nickels and Noses: Measuring What Matters
- Building Powerful Donor Relationships
- Finding Your Timothy: Discipling the Next Generation
- Hearing from Gen Z: What do they think about the church and what are they looking for?
- Storytelling as the Basis for Year-Round Stewardship
- The Art of the Ask
- And more . . .

You can come in-person, just for the day (either Friday or Saturday) for \$20, for the full retreat for \$80, if you're sharing a room or \$125 for your own room, or attend virtually via Zoom for \$40. (Meals and beautiful location included for in-person options.)

All participants will receive recordings of the workshops they can share with their congregations. For more information, a full list of workshops with descriptions, and registration information visit: www.wumf.org/upcoming-events. Questions? Contact Rev. Jason Mahnke, Director of Programming and Campaigns, at jason@wumf.org.

Pastoral Message Cont...

As the Council of Bishops President, Tracy S. Malone, said, "The work done at General Conference is not as important as what the church will do next. Let us imagine a church where no one, nobody, is marginalized. Let us imagine a church that transcends geography, cultures, languages, borders, barriers, and differences. As you go forward from this General Conference, tell the world about Jesus. As you go, tell them about his love. As you go, be love. Let's walk together, beloved, and let us never grow weary of doing the work of the kin-dom." Amen!

Gratefully,

Pastor Rebecca Borke Voss



Please lift up and pray for...

Andy and Linda White and their family after a house fire condemned their daughter, Hayley's, home. Also for Linda's sister, Catherine, who passed on 5-24-24.

Molly Hoffman and her family as they grieve the loss of her grandson, Quinn, who died in an accident on 5-27-24.

Roger and his family as they grieve the loss of his wife and long-time church member, Arlene Gundelfinger.

Merrill McMahan who received his kidney transplant and is now recovering at home.

Grief Counseling

A grief counseling group is available for those 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 Miede to inquire.

We also offer weekly grief meditations on the Care page of our church website.

June Mission



We served 214 individuals and their families so far this year by providing household supplies to help stretch their budgets. These are available on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 1-3pm and the 4th Saturday of the month, 9-11am.

Throughout the month of June, donate loose change, put cash in the small brown envelopes, memo a check, or donate online under fund name: *Personal Needs Closet*

Physical donations of personal needs items (shampoo, soaps, toilet paper, etc) can also be dropped off by the PNC door or church office.

July Mission



Claire's Critter Closet has provided 138 individuals this year with dog and cat food and supplies (litter, leashes, treats, etc.) who are going through financial difficulties. It helps keep people and their pets together and fed during hard times.

Throughout the month of July, donate loose change, put cash in the small brown envelopes, memo a check, or donate online under fund name: *Claire's Critter Closet*

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

JUNE 2024

Birthdays can be found on calendars below.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Beth Rohland 9:00am Worship with Holy Communion 10:00am Coffee Hour	Tony Borchardt 11:30am Savvy Seniors (Wausau Mine Co.)	Andrew Koss		Marian Attoe 8:00am AA	Ken Thario Dale Zietlow Office Closed WI Annual Conference (Green Bay, WI)	Rita Bennett Joshua Dvorak WI Annual Conference (Green Bay, WI)
9 WI Annual Conference (Green Bay, WI) 9:00am Worship - Hymn Sing Guest Organist 10:00am Coffee Hour 6:00pm Organ Concert by Hunter Erickson	10	11 Sue Kissinger 1:00pm - 3:00pm Personal Needs Closet/ Claire's Critter Closet 1:00pm UWF - Laundry Soap Making (Kitchen) 5:30pm Trustees	12 Andy Flath 5:45pm Missions Team	13 8:00am AA	14 Office Closed	15
16 Carol Reitz Father's Day 9:00am Worship 10:00am Coffee Hour	17	18 6:00pm SPRC 7:00pm Finance Committee, BK Smith Room	19	20 First Day of Summer 8:00am AA	21 Office Closed	22 9:00am - 11:00am Personal Needs Closet/ Claire's Critter Closet
23 Men's Group (Courtyard Cookout) 9:00am Worship 10:00am Coffee Hour	24 7:00pm Ministries Council	25	26 Mike Zahn	27 8:00am AA	28 Office Closed	29 Laura Grogan Peggy Stamp Finnley Schreiber
30 9:00am Worship 10:00am Coffee Hour 4:00pm Community Meal (First Presbyterian)	1 11:30am Savvy Seniors	2	3	4 Church Office Closed Independence Day 8:00am AA	5 Office Closed	6

JULY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1 11:30am Savvy Seniors, Arrow Sports Bar	2 Marilyn Muelber	3 Avery Wyrick Janelle Milne Walter Winchell	4 Church Office Closed Independence Day 8:00am AA	5 Office Closed	6 Georgia Reynolds
7 Dan Daubert Jacqueline Chang Gwyneth Chang Hannah Marquardt 9:00am Worship with Holy Communion 10:00am Coffee Hour	8	9 Monica Dvorak 1:00pm - 3:00pm Personal Needs Closet/ Claire's Critter Closet 5:30pm Trustees	10 Courtney Rohland 5:45pm Missions Team	11 8:00am AA	12 Bowman Seiser Office Closed	13
14 9:00am Worship 10:00am Coffee Hour	15 9:00am SPC 10:00am Finance Committee, BK Smith Room	16 6:00pm SPC 7:00pm Finance Committee, BK Smith Room	17	18 8:00am AA	19 Zoe Martin Office Closed	20
21 Richard Rayborn Mark Johnson 9:00am Worship 10:00am Coffee Hour	22	23 Samuel Cowan	24 Thomas Krueger Bev LaCrosse	25 8:00am AA	26 Michael Marzu Office Closed	27 9:00am - 11:00am Personal Needs Closet/ Claire's Critter Closet 1:00pm - 4:00pm Bish- op Hee-Soo Jung Fare- well Celebration (St. Paul's UMC - Stevens Point)
28 9:00am Worship 10:00am Coffee Hour	29 Blake Grogan	30	31 Gloria Rybarczyk	1 8:00am AA 1:00pm Worship Design, Parlor	2 Office Closed	3

Message from Mary Ann Dykes

Dear Church family,

Thank you so much for sharing coffee hour with me on May 19th. I have been nourished by this church family throughout these years as you have offered me the opportunity to "Live and Share God's Love" in so many ways.

Through classes and worship along with service and many groups, these memories will continue to nourish me in the future. May you all continue to be a light to this community as you go forward in ministry.

Blessings and Peace,

Mary Ann Dykes

Online Giving

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.

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>

*Check box at checkout to help cover online processing fees.
Thank you!



Important

The Messenger

Our next newsletter will be a combination of July(16-31) and August. If you have any articles to submit, please have those into the office by July 8th.



United Women in Faith

Our church's United Women in Faith group enjoyed its spring tea party in May. A few women also joined Wesley United Methodist Church for their spring tea. It was decided to postpone meetings for June and July to resume again on **August 14 at 1:00pm** in the Parlor.

Open Door volunteers will still be needed throughout the summer. Contact Barb Ritchie for dates.

Continue to keep UWF in mind as another rummage sale is being planned for **the first week in October!**

Clean Socks = Cash for Northcott Neighborhood House!



This is a call to clean out your sock drawer of those old, unused, no longer wanted/needed socks and have them applied to a mission project. UWF are collecting old socks that will be recycled, and the proceeds will be given to Northcott Neighborhood House. This Methodist mission has been serving Milwaukee since 1961, offering a food pantry, after school programs, and apprenticeship job training. We have supported Northcott since its beginning and this is an easy way to continue that support. Collection boxes will be in the parlor and narthex. Tell your friends and family, and together we will save some landfill space. Questions? Talk to Dottie Nietert.

FUMC Wired

Website: firstmethodistwausau.org
with links to the weekly sermon in text and podcast

facebook.com/WausauFUMC
youtube.com/@FirstWausauUMC

WiFi Network: FUMC Guest
password: fumcpublic

Phone: 715.842.2201



Coming up soon in August, eight individuals from our church will join Onalaska UMC on a Mission Guatemala trip. The group 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. Attendees include: Michael Marzu (youth), Pete Johnson (youth), Oliver Hornby (youth), Joy Rutter (youth), Addy Kaiser (youth), Margaret Getzin, Wes Ebert and Kirsten Hornby.

We are excited this group mostly consists of our church's youth. Please help us in supporting our youth with this great opportunity. If you would like to donate towards their trip costs please memo your check or cash payment, or donate online through fund name: *Guatemala*

Final payments for the trip are due in the month of June.

The total costs for each youth to attend is \$1,545.78. They have held a couple fundraisers and have been working to pay down these costs. We currently need a total of \$3,100 to complete our final payments by the end of June. Any contribution you can spare would be greatly appreciated by our church and youth!



Hymn Sing & Organ Concert

June 9 at 9:00am - Hymn Sing led by Hunter Erickson
6:00pm - Organ Concert in the Sanctuary
 (works by Bach, Dupre, Vierne and more!)

Hunter Erickson graduated this month from Interlochen Arts Academy. He is a member of the North Central Wisconsin (Wausau) American Guild of Organists Chapter. Hunter attended the Long Beach Pipe Organ Encounter, Long Beach, California, where he also participated in the student recital at Covenant Presbyterian Church Long Beach, California, in the summer of 2022. He has performed multiple recitals including ones at St. Mary Catholic Church in Oshkosh, WI, and Gesu Church Milwaukee. Hunter is currently the organist at St. Paul's UMC in Green Bay, WI. Hunter has been playing organ for 7 years. If interested, Hunter has a YouTube channel, which you can find under his name, "Hunter Erickson."

★ VOLUNTEERS ★

NEEDED

Greeters

Coffee Hour

Sign-up in the Parlor



May 26 – Sept. 1
9:00 am

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

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

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

June/July Worship

Sunday Worship Times: 9:00am Sanctuary

SUNDAY, JUNE 2
HOLY COMMUNION
Lord of the Sabbath

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-28

SUNDAY, JUNE 9
Hymn Sing by Hunter Erickson

SUNDAY, JUNE 16
Recognizing Broken Trust (*Spiritual Abuse*)
 Psalm 72:1-8; Ezekiel 34:1-10; 2 Peter 2:1-3

SUNDAY, JUNE 23
Reclaiming the Truth (*Impression Management*)
 Psalm 9:11-20; Zechariah 11:4-17

SUNDAY, JUNE 30
Recommitting to Character & Competence
 Psalm 24; Titus 1:5-9

SUNDAY, JULY 7
HOLY COMMUNION
Rethinking Forgiveness
 Psalm 130; John 8:3-11

SUNDAY, JULY 14
Releasing Forgiveness
 Psalm 51:1-9; Matthew 18:21-35

STAFF

Pastor	Rebecca Voss	rebecca@firstmethodistwausau.org
Director of Comm./Finance	Georgia Reynolds	georgia@firstmethodistwausau.org
Director of Discipleship	Julie Miehe	julie@firstmethodistwausau.org
Building Engineer	Andy White	

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