

FEBRUARY
2021

Love The Lord
Your God

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WAUSAU

THE MESSENGER



Dear First UMC Family of Faith,

Ghandi pointedly said, “I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.” Sad to say, when I watch news of violence and corruption mixed with flags proclaiming Christ, I feel similar to Ghandi. Each of us probably has a story or more about someone who claims Christ but doesn’t live the Gospel. If Ghandi was still alive, came to Wausau, and saw your love and faith in action, I think he would fully embrace Christ and his followers. So how can we as individuals and as a church live our faith in a way that helps bring people to trust Christ? How can we intentionally welcome people in Christian community rather than drive them away with words or actions that negate truth and grace?

As you think of people who claim Jesus’ name at the same time as they embrace lies, selfish ambition, and violence, it’s important to pray and live with truth and grace. Perhaps you have the opportunity to speak and pray directly with them, or maybe your response can only be prayerful as you watch troubling news of chaos by self-described Christians. Either way, always begin with grace and truth. *Do not be overcome with evil but overcome evil with good.* (Romans 12:21). Speak and pray with grace that always welcomes repentance and forgiveness, and truth that insists that God created universal ethics and the order that science and math are based on. Speak and pray with humility to acknowledge there are ways we could be deceived or wrong, and we’re open to God’s conviction and correction. Speak and pray with the opposite spirit of whatever troubles your soul. If you see violence, pray for peace. If you see addictions, pray for healthy connections. If you see racism or sexism, pray for equality. If you see deception, pray for truth to be revealed. If you see greed, pray for generosity. We’re often troubled by things in others that we also wrestle with ourselves, so pray for others *and* yourself.

We are a country in need of great healing. We are a culture in need of the real Christ. I invite you to join in prayer at 9:03 am and/or pm every day. Let’s break through the moral corruption, violent anger, health disasters, economic devastation, and everything else that the enemy of our souls is using to try to steal, kill, and destroy us. We can show the opposite spirit with this daily prayer of thanks and trust in God to guide, connect, and empower us.

Hello God, thank you for this day.

It’s 9:03 and we need your help...

Guide us by your Holy Spirit to reach new people,

Connect us all through Christ’s love, and

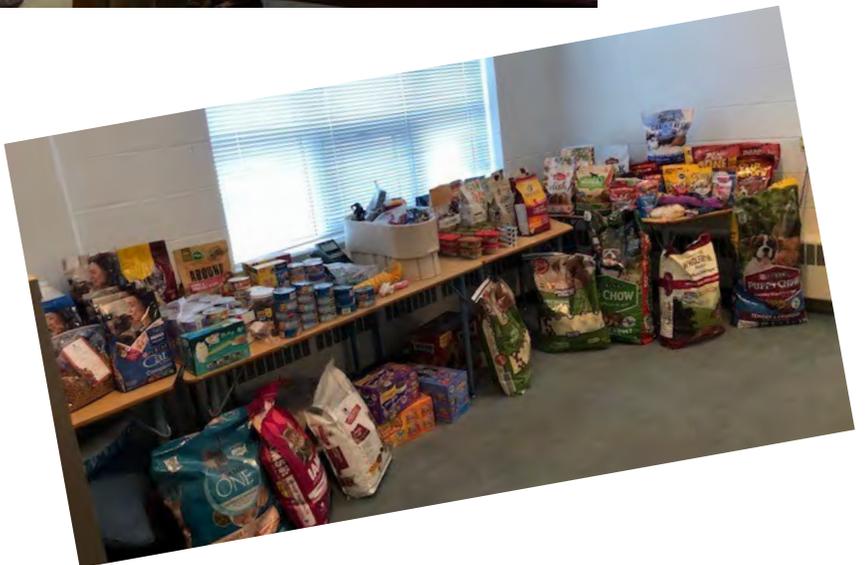
Empower us to love and serve others. Amen

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Rebecca



**CLAIRE'S
CRITTER CLOSET**
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN





Helen and Leonard Pivet Scholarship

Are you planning to attend college, technical school, or graduate school this fall? Our church offers a scholarship, renewable for up to four years for members who could use a boost. The application is available in the church office and on our website. It is due on Monday March 1st.



Dear Pivet Scholarship Committee,

I hope you are all doing well and staying safe during these unprecedented times. I wanted to write to you again to thank you all for your generosity with awarding me the Pivet scholarship, but also to give you an update on how my studies have been going. At the time of writing, I'm about to embark on my spring semester of my sophomore year at the University of Minnesota. I can't fathom that my undergraduate degree is almost halfway completed already. The time goes by much too quickly. I'm still double majoring in history and elementary education. I've really enjoyed my courses in these subjects and teaching still is what I feel very passionate about. The class I'm most excited to have completed is my 3rd semester of Spanish. I passed the language proficiency exam, which I'm very proud of. I don't know if I feel fluent at the language, but I do enjoy using Spanish. Hopefully I can find a way to keep practicing and using the skill. School has been a lot different with COVID-19 and classes being held fully online. I find Zoom classes to be harder to make personal connections with classmates or professors. Despite this, I'm glad my university is prioritizing safety at this time, even though it may not be the ideal situation. I wanted to finish by not only thanking you for the scholarship I receive, but the work I've seen our church do in Wausau. While at college I saw the news article about our church's warming station being opened in our basement, and it filled me with joy. I am so grateful to be a part of a church that puts their faith into action and genuinely helps others in our community through our programs. I strive to do God's work, like you have exemplified, by getting my degree and using it for good. The Pivet allows me to afford to do that, and I am so grateful for that.

I'm wishing you all my best from Minnesota and hope to see you all as soon as safely possible at church.

Best Regards, Michael Del Conte



February Missions Donation

Our February donation will support the Personal Needs Closet which provides cleaning supplies, paper products and toiletries to individuals in need. These are available on the 2nd Tuesday 1-3pm and the 4th Saturday 9-11am.

Financial donations and items including shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste/brushes, feminine products, diapers/wipes, adult disposable underwear, body wash/soap, deodorant/lotion, liquid hand soap, dishwashing soap, disinfectant cleaners, laundry soap, paper products, and shaving products can be used.

Donations for Warming Center

Thank you for the recent donations you have given to the Warming Center. Please take items to the Catholic Charities office at 540 S. Third Ave, Wausau on Wednesdays from 9am-2pm. They can be reached at 715.849.3311, 9am-4pm. Please note that they cannot accept bed linens, blankets, pillows, etc. They welcome donations of hand and foot warmers, warm clean socks, new underwear, and thermal underwear.

Random Thoughts by Mike Zahn THE GREAT PEACEMAKER

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” Matthew 5:9

I don’t have a list of things we should do to be a peacemaker, but I do know some things NOT to do. One of those things is something I did on Wednesday, January 6. When I saw pictures of rioters invading my nation’s Capitol, I was totally disgusted and personally offended. So I did the most useful I could do (NOT!) I got sucked into the tornado on Facebook and screamed at people. Man, that felt good (NOT!) and changed a lot of minds (NOT!) I was NOT a peacemaker that day.

Recently I did some research on the origins of the term “bury the hatchet” and found that, before Columbus, there was a man named Deganiwidah, who is known as The Great Peacemaker in the Iroquois Nation. He had a vision to bring peace to several warring tribes and enlisted the help of Hiawatha (the real man), and a woman named Jigonhasee to convince tribal leaders to create a Great Law of Peace. The Great Peacemaker told them all, “We do our best thinking of peace when we gaze upon the sky.” The leaders of the Five Nations “buried their hatchets” under a Great White Pine tree as a commitment to never use weapons against each other again and this peace has lasted for centuries.

At the Treaty of Lancaster in 1744, a chief told the colonists: “Our wise forefathers established Union and Amity between the Five Nations. This has made us formidable; this has given us great Weight and Authority with our neighboring Nations. We are a powerful Confederacy; and by observing the same methods our wise forefathers have taken, you will acquire such strength and power. Therefore, whatever befalls you, never fall out with one another.” Ben Franklin later persuaded the USA’s founding fathers to use the Great Law of Peace as a model for our system of government.

Today, let’s be children of God and gaze upon the sky to become peacemakers and “bury the hatchet” in our hearts, our homes, our churches, our communities, our state, our nation, and our world.

We could use a Great Peacemaker right now. That Great Peacemaker. . . is you.

God give his nation wisdom and psalms (continued)

- Proverbs 15:1-5; 22:1-6.....“A soft answer” and “A good name”
- Ecclesiastes 1:1-14.....“All is vanity and a striving after the wind”
- Ecclesiastes 12:1-14.....“Remember... your Creator in the days of your youth”
- Song of Songs 2:8-17; 8:6-7.....“The voice of my beloved” and “Love is strong as death”
- Job 1:1-22.....Satan tests Job
- Job 3:1-3, 11, 20-26Job wishes he was never born
- Job 11:1-6, 13-16, 20.....Zophar accuses Job of sin
- Job 38:1-4; 40:1-9.....The LORD questions Job
- Job 42:1-17.....The LORD blesses the latter days of Job more than his beginning
- Psalm 1:1-6.....“Blessed is the man who... delight[s] in the law of the LORD”
- Psalm 42:1-11.....“Why are you cast down, O my soul?”
- Psalm 91:1-16.....“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High”
- Psalm 100:1-5; 148:1-14.....“Make a joyful noise” and “Praise the LORD!”

God deals with his sinful nation—Part 1: The northern kingdom, Israel

- 1 Kings 11:1-13, 29-31, 42-43.....Solomon sins and dies
- 1 Kings 12:1, 16-20, 25-31.....The kingdom is divided and Jeroboam builds golden calves
- 1 Kings 16:29-34; 17:1-7.....Ahab provokes the LORD to anger and Elijah says rain will stop
- 1 Kings 18:1-2; 17-29.....Elijah says it will rain again and calls for a contest with Baal
- 1 Kings 18:30-46.....The LORD proves that he is God, sending fire and a great rain
- 2 Kings 2:1-14.....Elijah is taken to heaven and Elisha takes his place as prophet
- 2 Kings 5:1-14.....Naaman is healed of his leprosy
- Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 4:4-11God spares Nineveh and teaches Jonah about mercy
- Amos 5:1-3, 14-15, 18-24.....“Fallen... is the virgin Israel” and “The day of the LORD”
- Hosea 11:1-11.....“Out of Egypt I called my son”
- 2 Kings 17:6-23.....Israel is exiled from their own land to Assyria

God deals with his sinful nation—Part 2: The southern kingdom, Judah

- 2 Kings 18:1-8, 13, 28-35.....Hezekiah trusts in the LORD and Assyria attacks Judah



We grieve this month at the loss of:

Alberta Cunningham who died on December 29th.

Todd Larson, husband of Betsy Larson who died on January 5th.

Esther Gerber, mother of Vicki Nowaczyk who died on January 14th.



February

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | Bill Owen | 10 | Sarah Cowan
Cameron Milne
Autumn Seiser | 21 | Jaden Love |
| 2 | Thomas Schmoldt | 12 | Josie Rybarczyk | 23 | Pat Higgins |
| 7 | Warren Fabel
Gregory Chang
Geraldine Slock
Sue Huang Chang | 14 | Cati Quiros | 25 | Danielle Del Conte
Sue Marquardt |
| 8 | Jason Majernik | 16 | Erik Anderson
Anjali Dvorak | 27 | Bernice Kohlman
Wes Ebert
David Quiros |
| | | 19 | Anna Schreiber | 28 | Patricia Krause* |

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



Dear Church Friends,

I would have liked to hug you “good-bye,” as I depart for my new life in North Carolina. Instead, I’ll share part of Psalm 37 that gave me comfort during the last six months:

*Trust in the Lord and do good.
Dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
Take delight in the Lord,
And God will give you the desires of your heart.*

That “safe pasture” part was very needed by my soul. May it be so for all of you! I was blessed by our time together. My address & email is:

Nancy Runner
204 Private Cooper Lane Apt 1-A
Jamestown, NC 27282
nancyrunner@hotmail.com

In Christ, Nancy

I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, cards, donations, plates of food and visits during this most difficult time. The outpouring of love and compassion have been incredible and have helped ease the pain.



Todd was an organ donor and will go on through these people. He saved two lives with his kidney donations, one with his liver donation, and two with his eye donation are able to see. Quite an honorable legacy.

*Thank you again,
Betsy, Steven, Lincoln, Chloe, London & Dane.*



Due to the restrictions for the COVID -19 outbreak, we will not meet for the month of February. We will resume our fellowship as soon as the restrictions are lifted. Hope to see you soon!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	1 Community Meals	2 Elementary Teachers	3 Local bus 5:00 PM MCC 6:00 PM Wor Study-Zoom 7:00 PM You
7 Those in Nursing Homes No Worship Services on Site. Visit fumcwausau.org	8 Homeless Ministry	9 Middle School Teachers 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet 5:30 PM Trustees, Zoom 6:15 PM Missions Team, Zoom	10 Wausau C 6:00 PM Wor Study-Zoom 7:00 PM You
14 Widows & Widowers <i>Happy Valentine's Day!</i> No Worship Services on Site. Visit fumcwausau.org	15 The Unemployed	16 High School Teachers 6:00 PM SPRC-Zoom 7:00 PM Finance Committee, Zoom	17 ASH W Police & F 5:00 PM Drive 6:00 PM Wor Study-Zoom 7:00 PM You
21 Seniors away from families No Worship Services on Site. Visit fumcwausau.org	22 Claire's Critter Closet	23 Higher Education 5:30 PM Worship Design, Zoom	24 WI Leader 6:00 PM Lent 7:00 PM You
28 Those suffering from cancer No Worship Services on Site. Visit fumcwausau.org	1	2	3

Stay Healthy & Safe:

Wear a Mask

Practice Social Distancing/Respect Others

Wash Your Hands

Use Hand Sanitizer



Prayer Priorities
Sundays: *The Suffering & Seniors*
Mondays: *Missions & Outreach*
Tuesdays: *Teachers & Students*
Wednesdays: *Wausau & Wisconsin*
Thursdays: *The Thirsty & Hungry*
Fridays: *Friends & Family*
Saturdays: *Servant-Leaders & Staff*

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Businesses CITeam World Religions Bible Youth Group Zoom	4 <i>Those with growing faith</i> 4:00 PM Record Sunday's Worship 7:00 PM Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall	5 <i>Family quality time</i> Office Closed	6 <i>Rob Perkins</i>
City Council World Religions Bible Youth Group Zoom	11 <i>All who need healthy food</i> 8:00 AM Messenger Articles Due 4:00 PM Record Sunday's Worship 7:00 PM Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall	12 <i>Faith-based friendships</i> Office Closed	13 <i>Worship Design</i>
WEDNESDAY <i>Fire Depart.</i> Service In Ash Wed Service World Religions Bible Youth Group Zoom	18 <i>Area Food Pantry Volunteers</i> 4:00 PM Record Sunday's Worship 7:00 PM Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall	19 <i>Grieving families</i> Office Closed	20 <i>Missions Team</i>
Classes Women Bible Study-Zoom Youth Group Zoom	25 <i>Those in poor health</i> 4:00 PM Record Sunday's Worship 7:00 PM Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall	26 <i>Healing for broken relationships</i> Office Closed	27 <i>District Superintendent</i> 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Critter Closet
	4	5	6

FUMC Wired

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

facebook.com/WausauFUMC

WiFi Network: FUMC Guest
(password: *fumcpublic*)

Phone: 715.842.2201

Our Financial Picture for		December 2020	
December Revenue		December Expenses	
Pledged Offering	\$ 13,506.00	Staffing	\$ 19,345.26
Non-Pledged Offering	\$ 35,215.00	Programming	\$ 1,098.12
Other Revenue	\$ 7,208.00	Apportionments	\$ 10,567.50
From Endowment	\$ 1,546.34	Building Operations	\$ 4,803.94
Total Revenue	\$ 57,475.34	Total Expenses	\$ 35,814.82
		Net MTD	\$ 21,660.52

Giving is Love and Love is Giving

By Rev. Krystal Goodger, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

"God loves a cheerful giver." Why do you give? Why do you put money in the plate? Why did you sign up for EFT? Is it to keep the lights on? Is it out of obligation? Is it because "it is just the right thing to do?" In this month of February, when consumer products turn red, chocolate, and velvety, society asks us to think about love. We give gifts to others because we love them. Could it be that we give in church (online) because of Love? We are called to give to God because God loves us. We are called to give to God because we love God. We are called to give, not begrudgingly, but cheerfully! When we give, we are saying, "I love you God!" We are not saying, "Fine, here you go God." Why do you give?

Look inside of yourself right now. Be honest. Why do you give? When the plate passes you, what goes through your mind? In this time of online giving, has your giving changed? Have you been giving more or less? More or less often? Why? Always remember, you cannot out give God! God loves us and has, does, and will do so much for us. So, in response, we give back to the Lord. We give out of LOVE.



Ash Wednesday Services



Ash Wednesday is February 17 this year and is the beginning of the season of Lent. There will be two options for Ash Wednesday worship. The first option is a Drive-In service with your car radio tuned to FM 98.3 at 5 pm at First UMC on February 17. We will have communion with safe, individual "Celebration Cups" and offer ashes imposed on the back of your hand.

The second option is an online joint service led by the pastors of Immanuel Lutheran, First UMC, First Presbyterian, and Grace UCC that celebrates both communion and the Imposition of Ashes in a virtual way. We hope you all can join us for one or both of these worship services to begin our Lenten Journey.

Zoom Lenten Study

At 6pm on Wednesdays between February 24 and April 7, we will have our Lenten study, "Seven Words to the Cross" (not to be confused with "Seven Words *from* the Cross"). This study was developed in 2014 at Cargill United Methodist Church in Janesville, Wisconsin. It focuses on seven different words that were spoken from viewers who observed Jesus' death. We have each thought or said similar things, and Jesus continues to offer forgiveness and new life for all of us who accept Christ's grace. Please contact Daniel Flesch at Daniel.flesch@outlook.com if you would like to get the Zoom link or have any questions.



STAFF

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Finance Director	finance@fumcwausau.org	Martie Pahriss
Secretary	joan@fumcwausau.org	Joan Stroyny
Building Engineer		Andy White

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Purpose:

Live and Share God's Love

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

As we continue to worship safely, we want to offer hymnals to lend to anyone who would like to read and even sing along with the service in the bulletin. Please call the church office at 715-842-2201 if you would like to pick one up or have one brought to you. We miss everyone and continue to pray for you and a safe return to worship and life.

Sunday, February 7 *Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

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

#66 (UMH) Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

#474 (UMH) Precious Lord, Take My Hand

#498 (Baptist Hymnal) O God, We Ask for Strength

Sunday, February 14 *Transfiguration Sunday*

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

#2103 (TFWS) We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

#173 (UMH) Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies

#2102 (TFWS) Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory

Ash Wednesday, February 17

Drive-In Service 5pm

Sunday, February 21 *First Sunday in Lent*

Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:12-15

#154 (UMH) All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

#2105 (TFWS) Jesus, Tempted in the Desert

#269 (UMH) Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Sunday, February 28 *Second Sunday in Lent*

Psalm 22:25-31, Gen 17:1-7, 15-16, Mark 8:31-38

#185 (UMH) When Morning Gilds the Skies

#415 (UMH) Take Up Thy Cross

#396 (UMH) O Jesus, I Have Promised