



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,

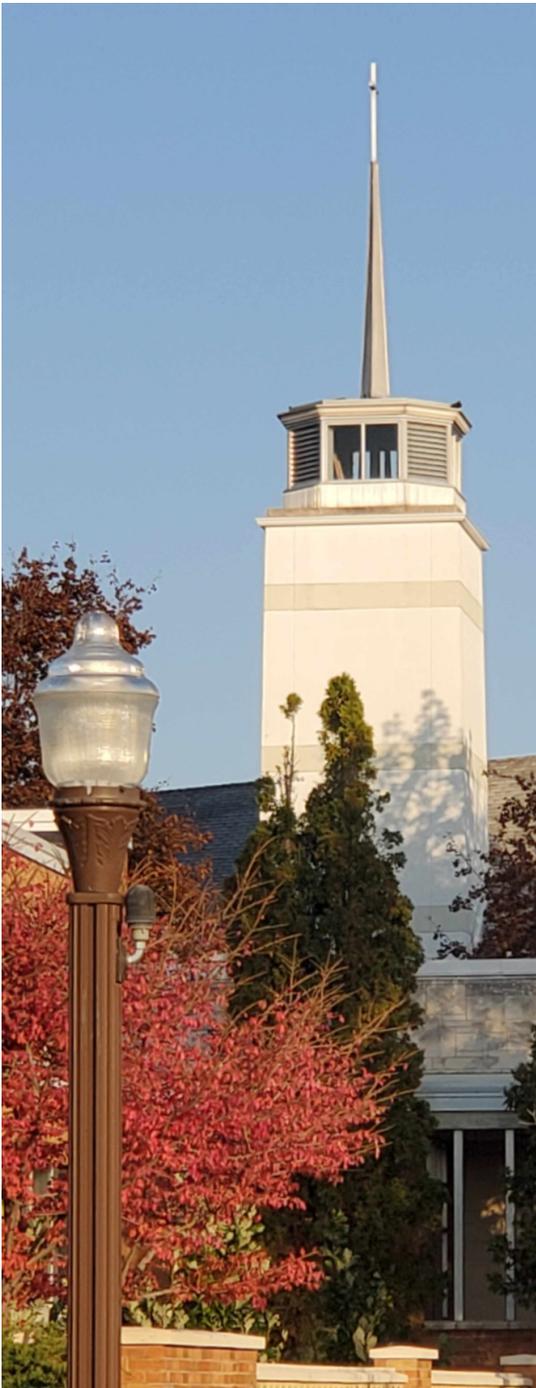
As summer ends, I hope each of you have been able to spend time reconnecting with family, friends, creation, and our Creator in the warm weather and water of Wisconsin. These summer months can be renewing when our “soul-ar panels” are able to recharge our spiritual batteries with intentional worship, praise, and growing closer to God and each other.

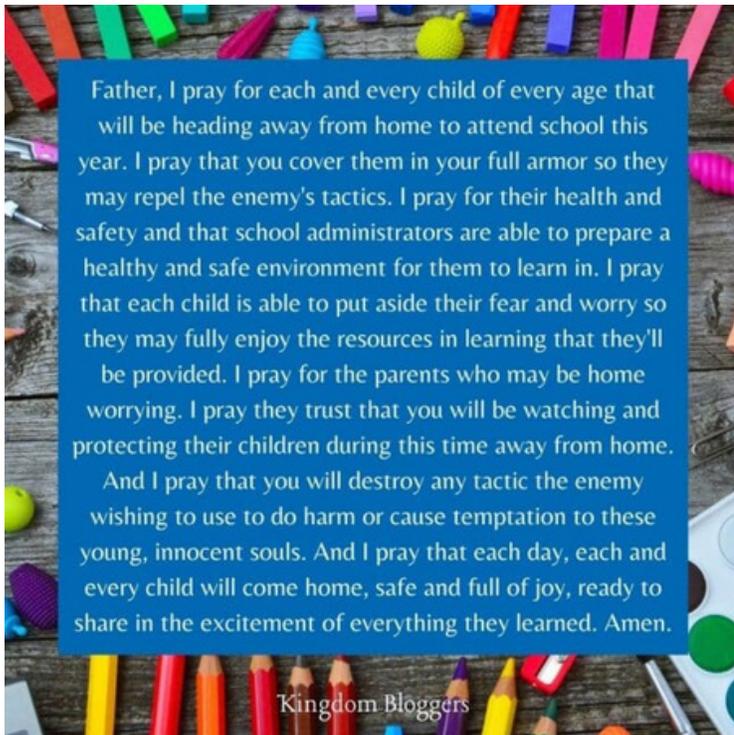
One difference in worship this summer was having a combined 9 am Sunday service. Your feedback has been very helpful, with 35 surveys returned so far. You liked being able to worship with people you don't know as well who normally go to the other service. You also enjoyed elements of worship that are unique to each service that you were able to experience as we blended those elements together into one service. 94% of you would like to have a combined 9am service next summer as well. Comparing this year's attendance to last year's totals for the two services, it looks like it is the same if not improved.

We are now back to the school-year schedule with an 8 am service in the Chapel and 10 am service in the Sanctuary and will soon be adding a few “FOCUS” groups at 9am. These will be for children, youth, and adults, with an emphasis on Faith, Outreach, and Care that leads to Unity and Strength. The SPRC is pleased to announce that Julie Mieke has been hired as our new Discipleship Director to coordinate the FOCUS groups. FOCUS groups will be offered on other days and at other times in addition to Sunday mornings. Our goal is to start them near the end of September or early October, and to have every member and worshiper be part of at least one FOCUS group.

Even as the days get shorter and the sun is lower in the sky, God's Son still shines. Let's all keep our “soul-ar panels” pointed toward Christ through participation in worship and FOCUS groups. May your souls be filled with the grace and glory of Jesus!

With Christ's Love,
Pastor Rebecca





Prayers for students and teachers as they start the 2023-2024 School Year

Pray for the students who are homeless, who are “couch surfing” at a friend’s, living in their cars, etc.

Pray for the students who are hungry, for those who aren’t covered by health insurance, for the students who have been or are being abused.

Pray for the students who have been traumatized by gun violence or other forms of violence.

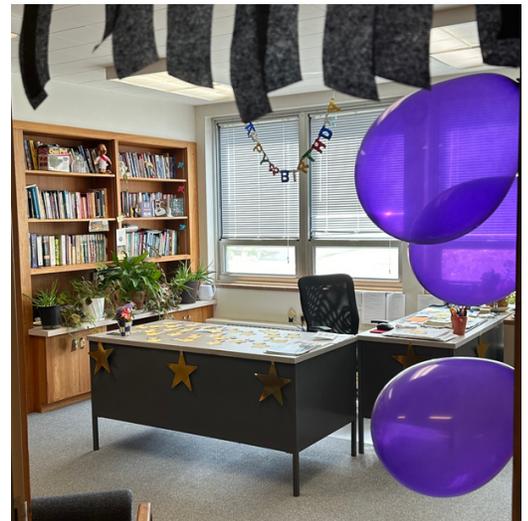
Pray for the parents and families of students who were murdered while attending school knowing their beloved child will not be attending school this year.

Pray for the families of teachers who have died protecting their students.

Joyce Luedtke



A couple elves decorated Pastor Rebecca’s office last month in honor of her **50th** Birthday.



Happy Birthday!

September Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Janet Wyrick | 12 Barbara Day | 22 Catherine Koss |
| 2 Chloe Larson | 16 Ginny Grothe | 23 Lawrence Muelver |
| 3 Morgan Stamp | 17 Steve Loftus | 23 Kate Sims |
| 4 Dawn Decker | 18 Ann Harmon | 24 Cathy Hamblin |
| 4 Jerome Volkman | 19 Curt Day | 26 Betsy Larson |
| 6 Will Wyrick | 19 MaDonna McMahan | 27 Dennis Sauer |
| 7 Ray Nowaczyk | 19 Jessica Wenzel | 29 Kay Harmon |
| 8 Rob Rybarczyk | 21 Mary Borchart | |
| 9 Tracie Bissonnette | 21 Martie Pahr | |



In Sympathy

Please pray for Martie Pahrís and her family as they grieve the loss of her father. **Lt. Col. James Michael Pahrís**, USA, Retired; Minister of Education; train enthusiast, and longtime resident of Jonesborough, passed away on August 29, 2023, just shy of the age 84, surrounded by family.

<https://www.dillow-taylor.com/view.php?r=5103>

First Wausau



Savvy Seniors

Savvy Seniors will be meeting on Monday September 11th, at 11:30 at **Tequila Salsa** in Rib Montain. This is a social group open to singles & couples over 55. We would love to have you join us! Any questions, call Vicki Nowaczka at 715-571-3009. Thank you.

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

Welcome our new Director of Discipleship, Julie Míehe!



I am Julie Míehe and was born and raised in southwest Wisconsin on a dairy farm. I went to nursing school immediately out of high school. I retired from nursing a year ago. I started my career on the transplant unit and have been doing a wide variety of things since but most recently working in employee health and handling workers compensation claims of our employee. I have held many positions within the local district and conference in Wisconsin. I led our youth group for 12 years. I have been involved in United Women in Faith and have been president, secretary of program resources and chair and member of the committee on nominations. As a part of UWF I also served on the nominations committee for the jurisdiction. I have been the dean, assistant dean, and registrar for Mission u and have had the honor of leading two of the annual studies at the conference level. I have been on 6 VIM trips: one international medical mission trip to Laos, 4 in the states and one in Wisconsin. I am on the board of laity for the second time and was a member of the Committee on Status and Role of Women. I have taught Sunday school, led Bible studies, sung in the choir and been a part of the church council and am passionate about mission. I was a participant in Faith Alive and am currently the Dean of that program. Outside church I love to knit, read, do crafts, and attend UW Madison men's basketball games. I am a divorcee with a son and daughter. My son and his wife have my three grandchildren who are a huge blessing.



Autumn 2023 First Wausau Worship Overview

The Journey Begins: Aug. 27, Sept. 3, 10, 17

We seem to be always beginning. Or at least we have a tendency to speak about how we start our journey of faith. Yet, each day is a new beginning, a reaffirmation of the desire to be a disciple of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Once again, the journey begins.

Even though there are those of us who are more seasoned travelers on the journey of faith, we are constantly met with new disciples. Rather than being slowed down by this, we are rejuvenated by the zeal that new converts often bring with them. “The journey begins” then is a time of celebration and of hopefulness. We are looking forward to becoming the community that we long to be and are described as being by the very one we follow.

So, here in the late summer and beginning of fall, when some things are winding down and other things are starting up, it is time for us to remember who we are and to whom we pledge our ultimate allegiance. Let’s go back to our first love and embrace our God with passion and with joy.

For the Long Haul: Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8, 15

The Sundays after Pentecost can seem to drag on and on at times. Throughout the long summer, we are asked to maintain our enthusiasm for faith and for worship. This is where we learn again that our faith journey is a marathon and not a sprint. Sure, we’ve heard that before and maybe even could say we know it. But what does it mean?

The first thing it means is that we won’t get too far in our discipleship journey on enthusiasm alone. There will be times when we’ve hit a dry spell, or when we find ourselves in a desert. And as the examples in our chosen texts for the next four weeks show us, grumbling and fear will be ever around us and even within us at times. Enthusiasm wanes and emotions come and go. It takes discipline to sustain the pace as we walk our faith journey. It takes commitment and the will to keep putting one foot in front of another.

This is not, however, a self-generated discipline, though the self is involved. But the other truth before us is that we are not alone as we continue along our discipleship path. First of all, there is the ever-present Spirit of God who sustains and enlivens us the more we seek God in our daily lives, as we proceed on the long haul of faith. God is with us. Secondly, there is a community of faith that encourages us, mentors us, learns with us and even from us at times. We are in relationship with the church in the long haul. Indeed, we might argue that the only way we can make it for the long haul is together. There’s a saying that sums it up: “if you want to go fast, go alone; but if you want to go far, go together.” We are in community as we journey, especially for the long haul.

September Mission Offering



We again helped over 100 individuals stretch their budget by providing them with much needed household and personal supplies. Items such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, laundry soap, and toilet paper etc. are welcome donations! You can help by donating loose change or cash in the small brown envelopes located in the pews or memo a check.

Remember that the Mission Offering must be clearly marked. Either write a note on your check or use the brown envelopes in the back of the pew. Just loose change in the offering plate will not go to the monthly offering.



We Need Your Help

Both the Personal Needs Closet and Claire's Critter Closet are in need of paper bags with handles on them. Please help our missions (and the planet) by saying no to plastic and switch to paper and drop your bags off at church. Thanks for your help!



Safety training at First Wausau UMC

Feeling safe wherever we are is so important, but it is not a “given” in our world today. Whether it is a medical emergency, a weather emergency, an active shooter situation, etc...as a church and as a faith community, we need to be prepared. On Sunday, August 13, some trained professionals gave us some practical steps to take as we begin looking at how to prepare and protect our congregation and community, if needed.

One of our church members, Dennis Reynolds who works with the Wisconsin State Patrol, and also is a Firefighter/EMT, and Robert Dorgan, who works for the Red Cross in central Wisconsin shared their knowledge to members of our congregation. Their focus was to bring awareness to our church (and if out in the community) of how we could respond to a variety of emergencies. The sessions focused on preparing and responding quickly and safely at church or in any setting during a disaster situation. They also demonstrated how to give chest compressions safely to an adult who may need them. We were able to practice with special pillows made to simulate the chest area. They also discussed usage of the church’s defibrillator and how to administer Narcan, which will be available in the church building.

Dennis Reynolds is in the process of completing training/certification to be able to train interested church members and friends in CPR and other first aid. This training will be held at church later this fall.

**This training will be held at church later this fall.
Please try to attend!**



Looking for a way to serve your church?

Ushers, Counters, and PowerPoint people fill very important roles on Sunday mornings.

Ushers (and Greeters) welcome and guide people to worship and make sure everyone can safely and fully participate.

Counters are church members who count and record the Sunday morning offerings immediately following the service, which usually takes about 30 minutes.

Please consider serving in either and/or both of these important roles once month. Contact Pastor Rebecca or Joan at 715-842-2201 or sign up on the clipboard in the Parlor.

A final schedule will be shared with all who serve as an Usher/Greeter or Counter. If you are unable to serve on your designated Sunday, please call someone who is serving on a Sunday you are available and arrange to trade weeks for that month. If you swap a Sunday, please let Joan know ASAP so it can be changed in the bulletin. Thank you!



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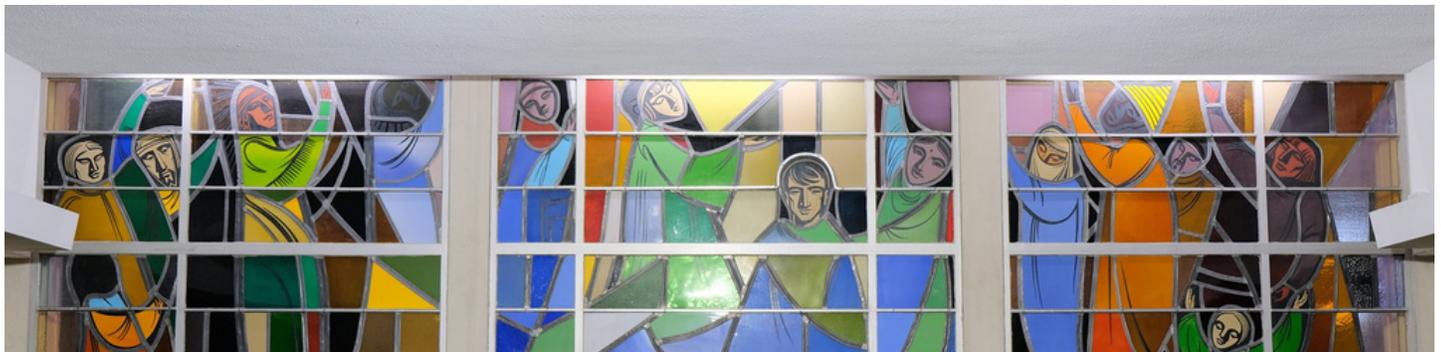


United
Women
in Faith



Fall Rummage Sale-United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith will be putting together another rummage sale this fall. This has proven to be a good way for the group to raise funds for the missions work they are involved in. The sale is tentatively scheduled for Thursday and Friday, October 5 and 6, 2023. Donations for the sale are very welcome at any time and may be placed on the stage in Fellowship Hall. Please make sure the donations you bring are free of mold/mildew and are free of that “basement smell”. The UWF also will not be selling any clothing items. If you have any questions, please ask Sara Koss, Sharon Gisselman, or Bonnie Goertz.



STAFF

Pastor	Rebecca Voss	rebecca@firstmethodistwausau.org
Finance Director	Georgia Reynolds	georgia@firstmethodistwausau.org
Secretary	Joan Stroyny	joan@firstmethodistwausau.org
Building Engineer	Andy White	

903 Third Street, Wausau, WI 54403
Office Hours: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Thursday
(715) 842-2201
www.firstmethodistwausau.org

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00am Worship, Sanctuary	28 7:00pm Ministries Council, B.K. Smith Room	29	30	31 8:00am AA, Room 101 1:00pm -3:00pm Circuit Clergy Meeting, BK Smith Room	1 Office Closed	2
3 9:00am Worship, Sanctuary, Holy Communion	4 Labor Day- Office Closed	5	6	7 8:00am AA, Room 101 7:00pm Boy Scouts, Choir Room	8 Office Closed	9
10 8:00am Worship, Chapel 10:00am Worship, Sanctuary	11 11:30am Savvy Seniors, Tequila Salsa Rib Mt.	12 1:00pm -3:00pm Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Crittter Closet/UHC rep here	13 5:45pm Missions Team, B.K. Smith	14 8:00am AA, Room 101 7:00pm Boy Scouts, Choir Room	15 Office Closed	16 9:30am UMW North Central District Annual Gathering Port Edwards
17 8:00am Worship, Chapel 10:00am Worship, Sanctuary	18	19 6:00pm SPRC, B.K. Smith 7:00pm Finance Committee, BK Smith Room	20	21 8:00am AA, Room 101 7:00pm Boy Scouts, Choir Room	22 Office Closed	23 9:00am -11:00am Personal Needs Closet/Claire's Crittter Closet
24 8:00am Worship, Chapel 10:00am Worship, Sanctuary	25	26 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Group, Parlor 5:30pm Trustees, B.K. Smith	27	28 8:00am AA, Room 101 7:00pm Boy Scouts, Choir Room	29 Office Closed	30

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.*

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

(9 AM COMMUNION WORSHIP)



Who Am I?

Psalm 138, Exodus 3:1-15, Matthew 16:21-28

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

How Many Times? (8 & 10 am worship)

Psalm 114, Exodus 14:19-31, Matthew 18:21-35

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

What is the Sign? (8 & 10 am worship)

Psalm 119:33-40, Exodus 12:1-14, Matthew
18:15-20

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

The Burden of the Day (8 & 10 am worship)

Psalm 105; 14-21, Exodus 16:2-15, Matthew 20:1-16