

2022



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WAUSAU

# THE MESSENGER



Dear First UMC Family of Faith,

At the end of July I spent a couple of days with Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey, the founder and director of the Missional Church Consultative Initiative (MCCI) on an Express Day team for another MCCI congregation. Just as we experienced as a congregation last November at our Express Day, I was really inspired by the process of praying with and listening to church leaders and members in order to discern the various “prescriptions” for renewal needed in that church and community. I wanted to learn more about how to lead church revitalization in our church and in more churches in the future.

Sue came to Wausau the following week and answered my prayer to learn more in an unexpected way. She described sensing God nudging her for many months to ask me to join a Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) program at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio in her cohort based on the MCCI model of church revitalization grounded in prayer. She hadn’t asked me because she knew I had so many other things going on in my life, but the morning of our visit she was awakened to God’s conviction that she had to ask me and trust that all the doors would open for me to begin my doctoral studies in three weeks.

It was a leap of faith for her to ask me. My faith was stretched thinking about the immense opportunity and commitment involved and trying to imagine how God could line up everything necessary in such a short amount of time. It helped that I had graduated with my Master of Divinity from United, but I still had to complete the enrollment application, essays, travel and hotel plans for the first Intensive Week of studies, and someone to take care of my daughters and household while I would be away. With God’s grace, I was admitted, enrolled, and everything was set up for my first week in Ohio within 48 hours.

The first question many people ask is whether this means I’m leaving First UMC and Wausau. The answer is no. A D. Min. degree is designed to prepare clergy for advanced leadership while they are also serving a congregation or chaplaincy. It’s likened to becoming a “Doctor of the Church”, equipped with specialized training to help diagnose signs of spiritual health and sickness and determining the best ways to bring healing and wholeness to the Body of Christ. I’ll continue to pastor First UMC full-time and serve as the President of the Board for New Beginnings for Refugees, but I’ll need to manage my time very well for the next three years in order to attend a week of intensive classes at the beginning of each of six semesters, do research, and write a dissertation for 10 credits each semester.

As I go back to school along with students of all ages, I invite each of you to join me in learning and growing in our faith. We begin Sunday School on September 11, and I hope that children, youth, and adults of all ages will attend regularly with an open heart and mind to how God is always ready to lead and inspire us in new ways.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Rebecca

715-842-2201

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





**UMC's 175th Year Celebration at  
Wausau's 150th Year Celebration  
in Marathon Park.**



**Members of our church  
reading with our new  
neighbors from Afghanistan.**



**Thank you to members  
of the Wausau Weeping  
Willows 4-H club for  
stocking the shelves of  
Claire's Critter Closet.**







We grieve this month at the loss of Jean Langbehn, wife of Dale Langbehn, a long time member of our church family, who died August 10th.



Since Labor Day falls on the first Monday in September, Savvy Seniors will be Tuesday, Sept 6, at Shanghai Grill in Weston, 11:30am. As always, if there are any questions you can call Vicki Nowaczyk at 715-571-3009 or e-mail [vicki.nowaczyk@gmail.com](mailto:vicki.nowaczyk@gmail.com)



- |                                  |                                |                                     |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Janet Wyrick                   | 12 Barbara Day                 | 21 Mary Borchardt<br>Martie Pahriss |
| 2 Chloe Larson                   | 14 Julia Ebert                 | 22 Catherine Koss                   |
| 3 Morgan Stamp                   | 16 Ginny Grothe                | 23 Lawrence Muelver                 |
| 4 Dawn Decker<br>Jerome Volkman* | 17 Steve Loftus                | 26 Betsy Larson                     |
| 6 Will Wyrick                    | 18 Ann Harmon                  | 27 Nick Harvey<br>Dennis Sauer*     |
| 7 Ray Nowaczyk                   | 19 MaDonna McMahan<br>Curt Day | 29 Kay Harmon                       |
| 8 Rob Rybarczyk                  | Jessica Wenzel                 |                                     |

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



### Project Connect Event

On the morning of Wednesday, September 21 our church will host Project Connect, a program designed to bring the homeless and near homeless together with the service providers who can help them with food, shelter, job opportunities and access to healthcare.

Up to twenty service providers including The United Way, Bridge Community Clinic, The Presbyterian Free Clinic, Job Service and The Neighbor's Place will provide information filled tables and knowledgeable people to help those attending find available services of which they may not have been aware.

In addition to the opportunity for the guests to find needed help, the service providers take the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas on how they can best serve the folks in need of secure shelter and a brighter future.

About 50 breakfasts consisting of French Toast, Sausage, Juice, and Coffee will be served by the excellent cooking, serving, and cleaning crew of Mary Ann Dykes, Barb Ritchie, Karen Peterson, Dennis Carey, Tom and Nancy Bogumill, Bill Owen and Dick Rayborn.

Hosting Project Connect provides another great way for FUMC Wausau to serve our community and to *Live and Share God's Love*.



United  
Women  
in Faith

### **Annual Gathering Coming up!**

The North Central District United Women in Faith (UMW) is having their Annual Gathering at the Tomahawk United Methodist Church on Saturday, September 24th.

This event gives us the opportunity to rejoice, renew and reconnect with each other and our sisters from around the District. Registration begins at 9:00am. Join us for worship, a little business, the program "Rejoice, Renew and Reconnect" led by Margaret Getzin and a remembrance of who we are.

The cost is \$20 and includes lunch. Carpooling available! Contact Margaret at 715.297.8531 for details.



### **The Coffee Is In!**

We received a new shipment of Equal Exchange Coffee just in time for the cool autumn weather. Check out the Sisters' Blend ground coffee or the Organic Decaf ground. There is a price increase in the wholesale price of the decaffeinated coffees, so you will see a fifty cent increase in the cost of decaf. The prices are listed inside the cabinet door in the parlor. Put your check or cash in the little brown envelope and drop it in the brass slot in the office door down the hall. We have chocolate bars and teas, too. Try something new!

### **Personal Needs Closet;**

We again served over 100 individuals helping them stretch their budget by providing household supplies. These are available on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 1-3pm and the 4th Saturday of the month, 9-11am. Donate loose change, put cash in the small brown envelopes in the pews or write Personal Needs Closet on the memo line of your check.



### **Sunday School**

Sunday School begins September 11th at 9:00 am for all ages. Adults will be studying *God and the Gay Christian* by Matthew Vines and will be led by Margaret Getzin and Jennifer Johnson. They will meet in the BK Smith room. Children and Youth will meet upstairs and their lessons will follow our sermon series, "Having Words with Jesus." The children's leaders are Carrie Hockerman and Diane Zahn. Betsy Duginski will be leading our youth. We hope to see you here on the 11th.

### **Chancel Choir**

Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 7th, If you have ever sung in a choir or thought you might like to sing in a choir, then now is the time to join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:45 in the Sanctuary. Please contact Martie if you are interested.

**Come Sing with us!**

### **Jubilate Bells**

Bells will also begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 7th at 5:45 pm in the Bell Room. Please see Martie if you are interested in joining.





Our Financial Picture for July 2022			
July Revenue		July Expenses	
Pledged Offering	\$ 11,726.16	Staffing	\$ 16,930.07
Non-Pledged Offer-	\$ 2,400.00	Programming	\$ 576.85
Other Revenue	\$ 1,380.09	Apportionments	\$ 3,986.00
From Endowment	\$ 1,672.72	Building Operations	\$ 2,493.33
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 17,178.97</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 23,986.25</b>
		<b>Net MTD</b>	<b>\$ (6,807.28)</b>

## A Note in the Offering

A young child wrote this note to his pastor. "Dear minister, I'm sorry I don't give more money to the church on Sundays, but my father didn't give me a raise in my allowance. Could you give a sermon about a raise in my allowance? It would help the church get more money."

As funny as this is, many of us approach giving in this way, whether it's to the church or to any other organization that helps those in need. We'd give more if only we had a little more to give. We just need that raise and everything will be so much easier. There's only so much to go around and there's just not enough right now.

Unfortunately, this paints a false picture of God. Our world tells us over and over those resources are scarce. There's only so much to go around. And so, we can only give so much because otherwise there won't be enough left for us. We spend so much time and energy acquiring and worrying about what we don't have and often are so measured and cautious with what give, because we believe there isn't going to be enough. This is the myth of scarcity. That God hasn't given his children enough to go around. This is not the God we worship.

The truth is, we believe that the God we worship has given to us abundantly! Not only is there enough to go around, but there's also more than enough. And therefore, we give in response to the abundance God continually provides us with.

I have heard people say that the more they have given the more God has given them. From my experience, I don't think God gives more to the generous and less to misers. I have found that the more I give the more I recognize how much God has already blessed me with. It's not that God has given me more in a "quid pro quo" arrangement. In giving, I am transformed. I can see the gifts I have more clearly. I can give thanks more fully. I can give more joyously.

Thank God for the many abundances he has given to us!  
*Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation*



Dear Church Family,

I thank you for the many prayers, cards and best wishes you sent following my knee replacement surgery. I am doing well in my recovery and know that God's blessings and your support has made that possible. Will see you soon.

*Sharon Rayborn*



## **Random Thoughts:** E Pluribus Unum

by Mike Zahn

<sup>20</sup> "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message," <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. John 17:20-23

My great uncle- Uncle Rusty- was a magician, among many other things. I remember family gatherings where he would make quarters disappear—and then reappear again in the ears of one of my cousins, with the magic words-- E Pluribus Unum.

E Pluribus Unum is Latin for "Out of Many, One." Every coin in the United States contains this motto. I think every church should live by this principle also. Every individual Christian is different, every congregation, every denomination. What unites us is one thing- Jesus Christ. Without unity in him, we are divided, just like the rest of the world. Why then is it so easy to focus on our differences and so hard to see our similarities? I believe we each need to have more respect for others and more humility toward ourselves. The more we move our own individual darkness aside, the more the light of Christ can shine on all of us. May we embrace the idea of E Pluribus Unum!

## **Powerful Tools for Caregivers**

The Aging & Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin will be offering this 6 week educational program to help family caregivers through their caregiving journey by providing tools and strategies for increased self-care. Participants will learn to reduce stress, increase confidence, improve communication, handle difficult emotions, increase ability to make tough decisions, and find helpful resources.

Where: Lincoln County Service Center, Merrill

When: Thursdays, September 8th-October 13th, 1:00pm-2:45pm

Another option this fall is a VIRTUAL class via home laptop, tablet, or phone with internet access.

When: Thursdays, September 8th-October 13th, 1:00pm-2:45pm

Registration is required. Please call **888-486-9545** to register at ADRC-CW



THE *Hagar*  
HOUSE

## **The Hagar House is HIRING!**

They are looking to fill full and part-time staff position, over-night, weekdays or weekends, in hopes of opening by September 1st. The Hagar House (TTH) is a Christ-centered home for mothers and their children located in downtown Wausau. It is a grace-centered community of support, offering rest and resources to equip and empower single mothers and their children. Thank you for considering one of these positions.

**Attention RUNNERS & WALKERS:** The Hagar House is also sponsoring a Color Fun Run/Walk on September 17th at Doepke Park. More information and registration details are on their website, [www.thehagarhouse.org](http://www.thehagarhouse.org). Get a team together and register to attend this fun event while helping to support The Hagar House!

## **FUMC Online**

**Website:** [firstmethodistwausau.org](http://firstmethodistwausau.org)  
with links to the weekly sermon  
in text and podcast

**facebook.com/WausauFUMC**

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

**Phone: 715.842.2201**



# New Entrance Awnings



## Advanced Lay Servant Ministry Class

### **Leading Worship**

Friday, September 30, 2022, 6pm to 9pm AND

Saturday, October 1, 2022, 9:00am to 3:00pm

### **On-line via zoom**

Leader: Rev. Amy Powell

Class Book: Each person will need to purchase a book online. The class book is *Worshiping with United Methodists* by Hoyt L Hickman. It can be ordered for \$15 at [Cokesbury.com](http://Cokesbury.com).

Technology: Each participant will need good internet access and access to a computer equipped with web camera and microphone sound. There is no need to purchase a Zoom subscription. A class link will be sent to you via email prior to class.

Deadline to register is: September 21, 2022. To register or to contact with questions, email [powellmama@gmail.com](mailto:powellmama@gmail.com), or call 608-220-5873. Seating is limited so register early!

### STAFF

Pastor Rebecca Voss  
[rebecca@firstmethodistwausau.org](mailto:rebecca@firstmethodistwausau.org)

Faith Formation, Music Director  
Martie Pahriss  
[martie@firstmethodistwausau.org](mailto:martie@firstmethodistwausau.org)

Bookkeeper Marti Pahriss  
[finance@firstmethodistwausau.org](mailto:finance@firstmethodistwausau.org)

Secretary Joan Stroyny  
[joan@firstmethodistwausau.org](mailto: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](http://www.firstmethodistwausau.org)

## 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 September

---

## Sunday Worship Times

8:00 a.m. Worship in the Chapel

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

### Having Words with Jesus

It can be hard to understand Jesus. Often it is a teaching we have a hard time swallowing, and sometimes it is a story that reveals our hidden sins, prejudice, or blindness. **Having Words with Jesus** is our September worship series that reflects a variety of moods and meanings. We may feel like arguing, turning away, or giving up. But what if we listen again and explore the more difficult passages that we're used to skipping over? What may have turned us off from God has the potential to be seen in new ways that light up our faith. Join us as we have words with Jesus in worship!

### **Sunday, September 4 Finding the Lost**

Psalm 51:10-17, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10

### **Sunday, September 11 Counting the Cost**

Psalm 1, Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Luke 14:25-33

### **Sunday, September 18 Debts are Tossed**

Psalm 113, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

### **Sunday, September 25 Gulf is Crossed**

Psalm 146, 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31