

SEPTEMBER
2020



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you all for your warm welcome to Wausau! Our family has been greatly blessed by your kindness and caring, and we are enjoying Wausau and this congregation as our new home. The many outdoor features and natural beauty of this area have been great to explore in the beautiful summer weather. I can see why you've chosen to live in Wausau.

At one point or another, you also made an intentional decision to call FUMC your church home. Among all the other churches in this area, something here connected with you, and you decided to commit. The last 5 months have tested many commitments we have. Marriages and relationships are more strained, businesses have had to let trusted employees go, our country is torn by division over significant issues of equality, safety, and justice, and we've all had to make more sacrifices than most of us ever have. The fact that you are reading this letter, watching online or reading bulletins and sermons, giving generously, and staying active in the life of our church in a more virtual way is something I appreciate deeply.

As farm families are fond of saying, "*we need to make hay while the sun shines*". This summer I enjoyed doing a version of that by meeting outdoors with you through the ***Fresh Air Fellowships*** on Sunday evenings in our backyard, and also through an invitation to those without internet to have the ***Pastor on Your Porch***. There are still so many of you I haven't been able to meet or get to know, so I'd like to offer ***Picnic with the Pastor***. At Noon on the five Tuesdays of September (9/1, 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29) I will meet whoever comes outside for lunch in the courtyard. For health reasons in this time, please bring your own bagged lunch, and I'll arrange seating at least 6 feet apart so we can eat and drink in fresh air without our masks.

The staff and I greatly miss seeing all of you. At the recommendation of several of you, we've decided to keep the parking lot door locked all the time—even during office hours—in order to keep the staff and the building safe and healthy. Please call the church office at (715) 842-2201 if you are planning on coming for any reason so we can be prepared to open the door for you. Once you are here, you may either call from your car or ring the doorbell (to the right of the door) so that we can let you in.

Thank you for your patience as we experiment with various set-ups to determine how the sound and video will work best. Our plan is to get the sanctuary wired for WiFi so we can live-stream the service on Sunday mornings once people can gather together and still offer worship online for those who need or prefer that. We also envision putting an 80" TV monitor on an electronic lift inside a shallow cabinet in front of the pulpit, so it can go up or down depending on if the pulpit is being used. We also need a WiFi-capable video camera with a powerful zoom lens and a microphone that can cut out the reverb that we plan to place in the balcony. Donations for this equipment are very appreciated! For now, we will be recording our services on Wednesday evenings at 5pm so that you can watch them during the weekend.

Thank you for your care and commitment toward this family of faith and our mission to the community and world!

Pastor Rebecca

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WAUSAU

THE MESSENGER

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED

The church is looking at recruiting some cleaning help for the months of September and October, and possibly into early November. Our custodian, Andy White, is having foot surgery in early September and will not be allowed to put weight on it for at least 6 weeks, and then he will have some rehab time. We have several people (and would welcome anyone else who is interested!) who have volunteered to help with the mowing and trimming outside, but we are still looking for some help with cleaning in a few areas of the church while Andy is gone. This would involve coming in for a few hours once a week to sweep, vacuum, mop a floor or two, etc...in the areas of the church that are used the most during this time. Staff will be assisting with disinfecting and minor bathroom cleaning daily where needed. If you are interested and available to help with any of this, please contact Joan in the church office (715-842-2201) with your name and contact information as soon as possible. We will need to start working with the volunteers the first week of September. Thanks for helping the church in this way, and we wish all the best to Andy during his surgery and recovery!



Bonnie Goertz-SPRC Chair

Drive-In Communion Service



Thank you to all the volunteers and participants who made our first Drive-In Communion Service something that filled our hearts with Christ and faces with smiles! We've decided to offer two more before the weather turns cold. Please mark **Sunday, September 13** and **Sunday, October 4 at 10am** on your calendars to join us for Drive-In Communion services again. October 4 is also World Communion Sunday, which is particularly meaningful to join in communion with Christians throughout the world as a sign of Christ bringing us together in unity.



Milestones

Deaths: We grieve this month with the loss of these members of our church or of our families.

Vivian Thompson, a long time member of our congregation, died July 15th.

Robert Schmoltdt, son of Sandy Schmoltdt & brother of Sue Marquardt, died July 27th.



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



September

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 Janet Wyrick | 17 Bruce Brandenburg
Steve Loftus |
| 2 Jerry Evans
Chloe Larson | 18 Ann Harmon |
| 3 Morgan Stamp | 19 MaDonna McMahan
Curt Day
Jessica Wenzel |
| 4 Dawn Decker
Jerome Volkman | 21 Mary Borchardt
Martie Pahriss |
| 6 Will Wyrick | 22 Catherine Koss |
| 7 Ray Nowaczyk | 23 Lawrence Muelver |
| 8 Rob Rybarczyk | 26 Betsy Larson |
| 10 John Burke | 27 Nick Harvey
Dennis Sauer |
| 12 Barbara Day | 29 Kay Harmon |
| 14 Julia Ebert | 30 James Wadinski |
| 16 Ginny Grothe | |

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

Making Prayer a Priority

Our schedules often fill up with appointments, lists, and projects that leave little time for us to have meaningful conversations with our Maker. First UMC would like to help provide everyone with a "Prayer Priority" included in the church calendar.

We will follow a general rhythm, as you will notice when you look through the prayer priorities for each day of the month. Even if you can't look at your calendar for the specific prayer focus, you can remember and pray for these overall categories each day of the week:

Sundays: The Suffering & Seniors

Mondays: Missions & Outreach

Tuesdays: Teachers & Students

Wednesdays: Wausau & Wisconsin

Thursdays: The Thirsty & Hungry

Fridays: Friends & Family

Saturday: Servant-Leaders & Staff at FUMC



People need people

GIVE BLOOD

Schedule an appointment today

Thursday
Sept
10
12 PM to 4 PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

First United Methodist Church Blood Drive

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED please call 877-232-4376 or visit versiti.org

All donors will receive a Versiti gift as our thanks.

Masks Required:

As part of recent state-mandated regulations, we require all donors to wear personal masks or face coverings

Versiti, Blood Centers are pleased to announce the SARS CoV-2 antibody test will be performed on all blood donations.

Call 877-232-4376 or visit versiti.org/WI



CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

- Donating your blood with the Blood Center of Wisconsin saves the lives of Wisconsin hospital patients and provides Wisconsin researchers learning how to fight childhood cancers and diseases.
- "Claire's Crew" is raising funds to support DIPG research to improve prognosis and treatment. You can buy a yellow ribbon (\$1), bracelet (\$2), or t-shirt (\$20) on the honor system at the Hornby home canopy.
- Pray for the children being diagnosed, treated, and bravely battling cancer, along with their families, friends, medical teams, and researchers who are working hard with love to overcome this struggle.



SOMEONE I
LOVE
NEEDS A
CANCER
CURE.

please pray!



RANDOM THOUGHTS by Mike Zahn

September 2020 Multiplication or Satisfaction

The account of the Feeding of the Five Thousand can be found in each of the four Gospels. Over the years, I have generally envisioned Jesus multiplying the five loaves and two fishes over and over in mass quantities in order to give everyone all the food they wanted at this feast.

However, I found an interesting commentary note in Bob Firary's copy of The Interpreter's Bible book that Yvonne graciously gave to me. The writer points out that nowhere in any of these Gospel accounts is it asserted that Jesus actually multiplied the food. Matthew's version (14:13-21), for example, just states that "they all ate and were satisfied" (v. 20). This subtle revelation has changed how I view this event.

People have a lot of trouble being satisfied. And figuring out the differences between wants and needs can be even harder. We always want more, or different, or better. Ecclesiastes 6:7 puts it well: "All man's efforts are for his mouth, yet his appetite is never satisfied."

So in human terms, five loaves and two fishes are totally inadequate to feed thousands of hungry people. But with God, nothing is impossible. Reminiscent of the Lord's Supper, Jesus looked up to heaven and gave thanks for the elements provided. And everyone shared with each other and was satisfied.

I believe the great miracle here is not so much that God multiplies our blessings to give us all we want, but that God takes what we already have and transforms it into what we need.

Updates from the Reconciling Team

We have been working hard to lead our church to become a Reconciling Congregation to intentionally welcome the LGBTQ community in our midst. Before proceeding with a Church Conference vote to do so, we wanted to make sure any questions about this are answered. Are any of you having questions or concerns? Please address them to members of our team and then we will proceed to try to answer them so we can move forward on this issue. Please email questions to Gary Getzin at ggetzin9254@charter.net or to Jen Johnson at chetsmom2005@aol.com by September 30. We also invite you to send questions anonymously to the church at FUMC - Attn: Reconciling Team, 903 3rd St, Wausau, WI 54403

Missions Update

Our loose change offerings have supported our mission projects over past years. But with not meeting for the past months those donations have declined.

We continue to provide assistance to those in need but the available funds are diminished. I would like to encourage everyone who is able to, send a check or drop a donation in the secure mail slot at the Third St entrance.

For August and September the donation will be used for the Community Dinner on the 5th Sundays.

Thank You,

Ray Nowaczyk Missions Committee Chair

Mission Team Project

When people go through hard times, they often find comfort in their pets. Many who are going through financial hardships have to sadly surrender their animals because they can't afford to buy them food while they are unemployed, or they sacrifice their own nutrition so their animal can eat.

The Mission Team is wondering if there is interest from a group of people who would like to establish and run a Pet Needs Closet at first UMC. We could use the empty room next to the Personal Needs Closet rooms to store dog and cat food, cat litter; and other pet supplies that can be shared with people in need to help keep people and their pets together and fed.

If you love pets and are interested in serving those who need temporary help caring for their animals, please contact Pastor Rebecca via email or church phone. We need a variety of people to serve in helping clarify the vision and get this established as a new mission, get donations of supplies and money, and helping with distribution. If this is a way God is calling you to be caretaker of the earth and its creatures, then we look forward to your involvement!



Calendar

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
<p>29 Seniors living alone For Online Worship Services Visit fumcwausau.org</p>	<p>30 Those who are unemployed</p>	<p>1 Teachers preparing for school 10:00 AM Full Staff Meeting 12:00PM Picnic with the Pastor</p>	<p>2 Wausau area 4:00PM Bible Study 5:00PM Reunion 7:00PM-7:45PM</p>
<p>6 Those suffering with cancer For Online Worship Services Visit fumcwausau.org</p>	<p>7 Essential Workers Labor Day-Office Closed</p>	<p>8 Students beginning a new year 12:00PM Picnic with the Pastor 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Personal Needs Closet Open</p>	<p>9 Wisconsin 4:00PM Bible Study 5:00PM Reunion 7:00PM-7:45PM</p>
<p>13 Seniors who are grieving For Online Worship Services Visit fumcwausau.org 10:00AM Drive-in Communion Service</p>	<p>14 Community Meals</p>	<p>15 School board support 12:00PM Picnic with the Pastor 6:00PM SPRC Meeting, Zoom 7:00PM Finance Committee, Zoom</p>	<p>16 Wausau area 4:00PM Bible Study 5:00PM Reunion 7:00PM-7:45PM</p>
<p>20 Those suffering with chronic pain For Online Worship Services Visit fumcwausau.org</p>	<p>21 Guatemala Mission</p>	<p>22 Music Educators 12:00PM Picnic with the Pastor 5:30PM Worship Design, Zoom</p>	<p>23 Wisconsin 4:00PM Bible Study 5:00PM Reunion 7:00PM-7:45PM</p>
<p>27 Seniors who lose their independence For Online Worship Services Visit fumcwausau.org</p>	<p>28 Homeless Ministry 7:00PM Ministries Council, Zoom</p>	<p>29 Students with Special Needs 12:00PM Picnic with the Pastor</p>	<p>30 Downtown 4:00PM Bible Study 5:00PM Reunion 7:00PM-7:45PM</p>

of Events

2020

Stay Healthy & Safe:
Wear a Mask
Practice Social Distancing
Wash Your Hands
Use Hand Sanitizer

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Area City Councils Bible Study Zoom Record Sunday's Worship 4:00PM Youth Group Zoom</p>	<p>3 <i>Those with growing faith</i></p>	<p>4 <i>Families who are grieving</i> Office Closed</p>	<p>5 <i>Andy White</i></p>
<p>Executive Branch Bible Study Zoom Record Sunday's Worship 4:00PM Youth Group Zoom</p>	<p>10 <i>All who need clean drinking water</i> 12:00PM-4PM Blood Center of WI Blood Drive</p>	<p>11 <i>Healing for broken relations</i> Office Closed</p>	<p>12 <i>COVID response team</i></p>
<p>Area Police Departments Bible Study Zoom Record Sunday's Worship 4:00PM Youth Group Zoom</p>	<p>17 <i>Those who wrestle with God</i></p>	<p>18 <i>Quality time with families</i> Office Closed</p>	<p>19 <i>Martie Pahrts</i></p>
<p>Legislative Branch Bible Study Zoom Record Sunday's Worship 4:00PM Youth Group Zoom</p>	<p>24 <i>All who need healthy food</i></p>	<p>25 <i>Faith-based friendships</i> Office Closed</p>	<p>26 <i>Trustees team</i> 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Personal Needs Closet Open</p>
<p>Wausau businesses Bible Study Zoom Record Sunday's Worship 4:00PM Youth Group Zoom</p>	<p>31 <i>Confirmation Students</i></p>	<p>1 <i>Forgiveness within families</i> Office Closed</p>	<p>2 <i>Lawn, tree, & plant caretakers</i></p>

Take the 3 Minute Bible Basics Challenge!

Would you like a better understanding of God's Word? If you read about 15 verses a day (which will take less than 3 minutes) for the next year, people of all ages can trace the big story of the whole Bible with its central themes. It is perfect to read as a family at a meal each day or find a friend to call and read it with other on the phone.

Each month has 25 readings, so you can take a few days off each month as needed. We will include the next reading chart in the church newsletter each month so you can follow along. The first 8 months are in the Old Testament, and the last 4 months are in the New Testament. In a year from now, you will have read almost 15% of the whole Bible!

Please contact the church office or Pastor Rebecca to let us know you are taking the challenge. A celebration will be planned for reaching the goal together a year from now. We hope you join the challenge and trust that God will grow our faith!

A Beginner's Bible Reading Plan – Month 1

Name: _____ Month: _____

Daily (5 or 6 days a week):

1. **Pray**—Ask God to help you understand and believe what you are about to read.
2. **Read and mark**—Read one passage from the list below. Then put a mark in the box beside the reading.
3. **Think**—For example: What new thing did I learn? What puzzles me? How does this passage fit into the big story of the Bible? What does it teach about God and his plans? Is there a reason to praise God? A promise to claim? An example to follow? A sin to avoid? A command to obey? An idea for loving God or my neighbor? A prayer to pray?
4. **Pray**—Talk to God about what you read.
5. **Share**—Tell a friend (or your parents) one thing that you learned. Or ask them one question about what you read.

Extra (once a month if needed):

Read 5 passages in a row, all at once! Remember to put a mark beside all five readings.

God creates the world, but humans sin

- Genesis 1:1-19.....Creation week—Days 1-4
- Genesis 1:20 – 2:3.....Creation week—Days 5-7
- Genesis 2:4-17.....The Garden of Eden
- Genesis 2:18-25.....The creation of Eve
- Genesis 3:1-13.....The Fall—Adam and Eve sin
- Genesis 3:14-24.....The Fall—God's response
- Genesis 4:1-16.....Cain murders Abel

God destroys and recreates the world, but humans sin again

- Genesis 6:5-22.....The Flood—God calls Noah
- Genesis 7:11-8:1.....The Flood—Everything on the dry land dies
- Genesis 9:8-19.....The Flood—God's covenant with all flesh
- Genesis 11:1-9.....The tower of Babel

God chooses a family to bless the world

- Genesis 12:1-8.....God promises to bless the whole earth through Abram
- Genesis 15:1-20.....God's covenant with Abram
- Genesis 17:1-8; 15-16; 21:1-3.....Abram and Sarai receive new names; Isaac is born
- Genesis 22:1-18.....God tests Abraham's faith
- Genesis 25:19-34.....Esau sells his birthright to Jacob
- Genesis 27:1-20.....Jacob steals Esau's blessing—Deception begun
- Genesis 27:21-40.....Jacob steals Esau's blessing—Deception completed
- Genesis 27:41-45; 28:1-5.....Jacob steals Esau's blessing—Deception's consequences
- Genesis 28:10-22.....Jacob dreams of a ladder to heaven
- Genesis 29:15-30.....Jacob marries Rachel and Leah
- Genesis 32:1-12.....Jacob prepares to meet Esau
- Genesis 32:22-32.....Jacob wrestles with God
- Genesis 33:1-7; 18-20.....Jacob meets Esau and returns to Canaan
- Genesis 37:1-13.....Joseph's dreams

This plan has 25 readings per month, with about 15 verses per reading. Month 1 has 350 verses—an average of 14 verses per reading.

Our Financial Picture for July 2020			
July Revenue		July Expenses	
Pledged Offering	\$ 10,369.00	Staffing	\$ 18,988.64
Non-Pledged Offering	\$ 3,150.00	Programming	\$ 2,460.86
Other Revenue	\$ 1,249.00	Apportionments	\$ 4,227.00
From Endowment	\$ 1,546.34	Building Operations	\$ 2,618.19
Total Revenue	\$ 16,314.34	Total Expenses	\$ 28,294.69
		Net YTD	\$ (11,980.35)



<u>STAFF</u>	
Pastor	Rebecca Voss rebecca@fumcwausau.org
Faith Formation, Music Director	Martie Pahriss martie@fumcwausau.org
Finance Director	Martie Pahriss finance@fumcwausau.org
Secretary	Joan Stroyny joan@fumcwausau.org
Building Engineer	Andy White
903 Third Street, Wausau, WI 54403 Office Hours: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday – Thursday Please call before visits at (715) 842-2201 fumc@fumcwausau.org www.fumcwausau.org	

Cedar Rapids Recover Mission Trip

On August 10th a severe wind storm hit the Cedar Rapids, IA area exceptionally hard. Above is a picture of the church where I attended as a college student. The damage and priorities are still being assessed, abut I anticipate that sometime in October they will be ready for our help. There are thousands of homes that need significant repairs, tree and debris removal, and preparations to get through the winter safely. In addition to outdoor workers, a pair of cooks to prepare meals and bring lunch to work sites would be helpful.

Some good friends in Cedar Rapids have offered to host a group from our church in their 7000 sq. ft. home. They have a separate kitchen, many comfortable bedrooms for older backs, and a lot of space to spread out on cots if any of our middle or high school youth are available to go while they continue with virtual education. I'm anticipating this will be a 4-5 day trip. Please contact me if you're interested in going or supporting in any way so I can work on coordination the logistics.

Learning Faithfulness in Storms,
 Pastor Rebecca
 715-842-2201
 Rebecca@fumcwausau.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

Sermon Series: Big Questions by a Big Dreamer: How Joseph's Life Inspires Ours

In September and October we'll be exploring the life of Joseph, who was the son of Jacob, grandson of Isaac, and great-grandson of Abraham. He lived with real-life hardships in bewildering times. From the time he was young, he understood how to see and trust in the goodness of God no matter what the circumstances are. In the words of Ray Pritchard, he was...

*Loved by his father. Hated and betrayed by his brothers. Sold for 20 pieces of silver.
Falsely accused. Judged guilty of a crime he did not commit. Abandoned and forgotten.
Promoted after his suffering. The means of salvation even for those who betrayed him.*

Join us for the next two months to be inspired by the stories of Joseph and see how his life was a foreshadowing of Christ's life and love for us.

Sunday, September 6

14th Sunday After Pentecost

Theme: Do You Know Why You Were Born?
Text: Genesis 37

Sunday, September 20

16th Sunday After Pentecost

Theme: Are You Willing to Wait for God?
Text: Genesis 40

Sunday, September 13

15th Sunday After Pentecost

Theme: Do You Know Who You Are?
Text: Genesis 39

Sunday, September 27

17th Sunday After Pentecost

Theme: How Big is Your God?
Text: Genesis 41