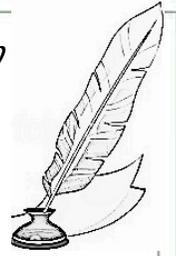




From Pastor Jayneann's pen



At the origin there was the Logos, and the Logos was present with God, and the Logos was god. This one was present with God in the origin... It was the true light, which illuminates everyone, that was coming into the cosmos. He was in the cosmos, and through him the cosmos came to be... the Logos became flesh and pitched a tent among us.

These words from the opening of John's gospel account are less familiar than: "In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus..." In truth, the John is usually used only for Christmas morning. (And UMs don't do Christmas morning often.)

I chose a strange translation—said to be closer to the original Greek because of one word: *Tent*. "God's Word (or Reason, actually) became flesh and pitched a tent among us."

You can find so many great passages in the bible. Take this one from the Hebrew prophet Habakkuk:

Though the fig tree does not blossom,
and no fruit is on the vines;
though the produce of the olive fails,
and the fields yield no food;
though the flock is cut off from the fold,
and there is no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the LORD;
I will exult in the God of my salvation.
God, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
and makes me tread upon the heights.

Since I first read this as a teenager, I've loved its poetry and hope. Hope is big with me. (All my favorite movies are "Inspirational.")

People need hope as much as we need sunshine and water. When finding hope is difficult, people just work harder to find it. In Palestine, the other pilgrims and I were amazed by the hope of the people who spoke to us. One woman in Haifa put it this way: "I'm not privileged enough *not* to have hope." (!!!)

Some years, hope is easy to come by. Others, not so much. Then comes December with Advent and Christmas and most of the time our hope is resurrected. After all, God is so crazy-in-love with creation that God sets this fantastic series of events in motion so that we'd believe it.

And God doesn't set up residence in some palace or fortress. Just like the Bedouins we saw from a distance in October, more like a transient living out of a rucksack or a housing-challenged person equipping a large box with all the comforts of home, God ... pitches a tent among us!

God chose—and chooses—solidarity, particularly with the folks on the underside, by taking up residence with us, in a style that says, "I'm no better than you. We're in this together."

Since I'm not on the underside at present, I'm so thankful that God doesn't *just* love the ones that society treats roughly. God loves each of us.

I don't know how things are for you this December. But it's my opinion that we can always use more hope. So I encourage you to do whatever grows hope for you. Light a candle ... Step outside and look at the stars ... Give someone a hug ... Notice your breath ... Accept help ... Give help ... Make or build something ... Ring a bell ... Pray ... Sing ... Laugh with someone ... *well, you get the idea* ...

May you know God's hope & peace!

Memorials on All Saints Sunday



Children Singing



Some of our Mission Guatemala team



Milestones

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

Kenneth Scheffler, a long time member of our congregation, died Wednesday Nov. 21. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this time, as well as our own congregation.



Savvy Seniors will meet on Monday December 5th at 11:30am at El Mezcal, 3100 Rib Mt Drive.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Madeline Opper Sheila Lentz-Krahn Joe Schreiber	14	Sharon Gisselman Stan Schacht Lois Susor	21	Herm Krahn
2	Corine Laub	15	Dakota Vannes	23	Ann Johnson
6	Sandy McCrory Roxanne Wenzel	16	Robert Bauer	24	Vicki Nowaczyk
7	Lynne Sydow Betsy Duginski	18	Dean Marquardt	26	Bella Jauch
9	Yvonne Firary Carrie Hockerman	19	Dave Carlson C. Merrill McMahan Andy White Brynn Schepp	28	Dennis Carey
11	Cyrus Adams Arthur Chang Kris Lahren	20	Chad Decker Maddie Eckardt Beth Burke Caleb Kroeplin Holly Zahn	29	Anita Gerber Meredith Majernik
13	Charlie Strong			30	Michael Lattimer Sue Majernik Charlotte Jauch
				31	Krystal Costello Nancy Bogumill Sara Koss Darlene Lee

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

Our 9:03 Breakthrough Prayer

At First United Methodist Church, we believe in the power of prayer. We believe that God works through us to do God's great thing in our lives and in the life of the world.

In September, we took a new step in our congregational prayer life. Every day at 9:03 a.m. and p.m. (or when it works for us) we pause and ask God to be active in and through the life of First Church. Of course, God is always active everywhere, always working to bring from God's kin-dom on earth. But unless we're paying attention, we can miss it. So the breakthrough part of "Breakthrough Prayer" is really about us noticing.

God, our hope beyond our own abilities and our light in the shadows, help us to draw close to you and to notice your actions that are as many and as varied as the snowflakes. Let something wonderful begin through us. Amen.

We've added a second prayer for our younger set, or for anybody who wants an easy-to-memorize way to join in. Please... join us.

We want to trust you, God. We want to follow where you lead. Help us to notice and follow you every day. Amen.

Keep praying, everyone! If you haven't started, that's okay—Begin now.



December 10	7:00pm	Advent Gathering
December 5	9:30am	Sunshine Gals
December 13	9:00am	Cookie Baking Day
December 15	9:00 am	Cookie Walk Set Up
December 16	8:30am	Cookie Walk

COOKIE BAKING DAY

The UMW will be working on a mission project Thursday, December 13th 9:00 am to about 4:00 pm, or whenever we are done. We're looking for cookie bakers - we'll provide the cookie dough and equipment. Please join us in fellowship for any time during that day. Bring a sack lunch if you're able to stay into the afternoon, and any cookie dough or special cookie cutters you would like to use.

On Friday, December 14th we will be decorating cut-out cookies from 9:00am-???

Think of someone who would enjoy a Christmas treat and surprise them! It's a win-win, because the profits go to our mission work and you get to enjoy our specialties.

We will also have pre-boxed treats in a Christmas box. If you wish to donate cookies or candy to help us, they can be brought to the church on Friday the 14th or Saturday the 15th. Any questions, please call Nancy Flath at 715-446-3252.



Cookie Walk

Sunday, December 16th, 2018

Get cookies made by your own local
United Methodist Women of First UMC

Purchase by the pound or prepackaged

Random Thoughts by Mike Zahn

December 2018

11 Things I Love About This Church

Most lists go to 10, but this one goes to 11. . .

1. Jesus Christ—in word and action we try to follow Him, and help each other strive toward His perfection. Our whole existence is to glorify God through Jesus.
2. Choir - It is a family and a joy to be part of the music.
3. Handbells—As good as Choir, but I get to just close my eyes and bask in the sound.
4. Social Media- more specifically, how people in our church use it. For good. Family photos and sharing positive things.
5. Behind-the-Scenes Servants—There are so many people here who do so many things unseen that are so important to the life of our congregation and to God's family.
6. Monday Night Yoga- Maggie leads a tight-knit group in exercise and spiritual presence.
7. Wednesday Night Live- there is a sweet spirit on Wednesday nights, and the kitchen crew is the best! I hear music and laughter that I want to share with the world..
8. The Building - Yes, it's sprawling, and so early 1960's. But I remember coming through the front door from the YMCA parking lot and feeling like I'd arrived at home.
9. The Organ- What a magnificent blessing! And we've had a number of great musicians who have made this grand instrument come alive over the decades.
10. The Art—There is amazing artwork everywhere in our church. My dream is to open it up on Artrageous Weekend and give tours.
11. Missions—people here like doing things for people. A dozen members have been working for a year to prepare for Mission Guatemala. Local missions and outreach like Personal Needs Closet, Downtown Memory Café, Ramp-Up, and ones you haven't even thought of. . . yet.

You all have so many gifts. We collectively have so much of God's love to share. Next time you meet someone new, especially at church, greet them with the love you have shown me, and our sprawling building will not be large enough to hold everyone. Merry Christmas!

Mission Offering

The December Mission offering will celebrate our church's mission and ministry to the community by supporting the Personal Needs Closet. In 2017, we helped over a thousand people stretch their budget by providing household supplies. To give to the mission offering, use the small brown envelopes in the pew rack.

All Church Clean Up

Thank you to the hard-working crew who worked to clean and polish our building:

Terry Flath, Bruce Brandenburg, Lincoln Larson, Sam Cowan, Mike & Diane Zahn, Beth Burke, Nancy Bogumill, Maggie Schoenfeld, Eileen Denfeld, Don & Sue Kissinger, Timm Fischer, Courtney & Beth Rohland



The Angels' Star

By Joan Stroyny

High above the earth
a heavenly star appears to shine,
telling us the story of Christmas
from so long ago in time;
when angels lead the shepherds
on a journey across the land,
where they came upon a sacred manger
in silence amid the sand.

they witnessed the birth of our Savior
born to be Lord and King,
and now we crown him with jewels,
our gifts of praise we bring.

the angels' star in the night still shines
to light up the heavens above,
it will bring us the Christmas gifts
of hope, peace, joy and love.

Dear Pastor and Church Staff,

We are truly grateful for your willingness to let us use your youth activity room for our Boy Scout Troop 419 weekly meetings. The space is perfect for our activities and the boys are very happy to be there.

Thank you for your support,

Boy Scout Troop 419

Dear First United Methodist Church,

The generous donation of your church building for our annual United Way Make A difference Day on October 27th, is greatly appreciated.

Over 130 elderly residents were served by over 700 volunteer rakers. Being able to provide a central location, parking, bathroom and kitchen facilities is so important to the event.

Thank you for "making a difference" through your kindness and partnering with us to help meet community needs. We look forward to working with you again next year.

Krista Mischo

Volunteer Engagement Coordinator

May You Know a Blessed Advent



Calendar of Events

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

- 8:00am Morning Chapel
- 9:00am Education Hour
- 10:00am Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:00am Fellowship Time, Parlor
- 1:00pm Grapevine Faith Alliance Worship

MONDAY

- 6:00pm Yoga, Rm 19, Lower Level

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

- 5:30pm Chinese Bible Study
- 6:15pm Jubilate Bells
- 7:15pm Chancel Choir, Chapel

THURSDAY

- 8:30am AA, B. K. Smith Room
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts, Basement (*not Dec. 27*)

FRIDAY

Office Closed

SATURDAY

Office Closed

December 13, Thursday
9:00am Cookie Baking Day

December 15, Saturday
9:00am Cookie Walk Set-up
9:00am Lesson & Carols Rehearsals

December 16, Sunday
8:00am Worship in the Chapel
8:30am UMW Cookie Walk and
Mission Store, Fellowship Hall
10:00am Lessons & Carols Service

December 18, Tuesday
5:30pm Staff/Parish Relations Committee,
Room 101
7:00pm Finance Committee, Room 101

December 19, Wednesday
5:15pm Messy Church, Meal &
Christmas Caroling

December 20, Thursday
6:00pm Cub Scouts, Basement

December 24, Monday
2:00pm Christmas Eve Worship, Chapel
4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship
8:00pm Christmas Eve Worship

December 25, Tuesday *Christmas Day*
Office Closed

December 26, Wednesday
Office Closed

December 30, Sunday
8:00am Christmas Carol Sing Worship Service
& 10:00am
4:00pm Community Dinner, First Presbyterian
Church

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

December 3, Monday
11:30am Savvy Seniors, El Mezcal,
3100 Rib Mt Drive

December 5, Wednesday
9:30am Sunshine Gals

December 9, Sunday
2:00pm Memory Café, Grand Theater

December 10, Monday
7:00pm UMW Unit Meeting &
Advent Gathering, Parlor & Chapel

December 11, Tuesday
1:00pm Personal Needs Closet
5:30pm Board of Trustees, B.K. Smith Room

December 12, Wednesday
9:00am MOM's Club, B.K. Smith Room
6:30pm MCCI Implementation Team,
B.K. Smith Room



Opportunities

*Here at First United Methodist Church, a person has all sorts of ways to serve –
inside the building and in the wider communities,
with indoor quiet work, with tasks that involve sweat equity.
There are ways for each person to contribute to building God's realm on earth.
Below are just a few of the ways.*



*... the Human One didn't
come to be served but rather
to serve and to give his life
to liberate many people.*

Mark 10:45

Shop at

THE MISSION STORE

Sunday, December 16th
9:00 to 12:00 Before & After Church

A special kind of gift...

Your fair trade purchase will give hope to families around the world.

Crafts available from 37 countries.

A note from Tom & Jayne Fox:

We need to inform you that this will be the last year that Jayne and I will be coordinating the Mission Store. We hope that one of you/churches will step forward to carry on the 28-year tradition. We would be available to help with transitioning along with donating the trailer and equipment.

Community Christmas Dinner

Please join us for dinner and fellowship at 12 Noon at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 426 Washington Street

Greater Wausau area residents who would be alone on **Christmas Day** are invited to share in the 50th annual Community Christmas Dinner **at noon on December 25th**. The Community Dinner, sponsored by area churches and community volunteers, is served **free of charge**. A free will offering is welcome.

Anyone wishing to help please give us a call at (715) 551-4166 after 6:00pm

Justa Mitten Tree?



Well, yes and no.

The new-forming UMW Justa Circle has taken on the Mitten Tree as their first project. *But we need more than mittens!*

In an effort to bring this seasonal favorite into better focus, an eye-catching Christmas tree setting is arranged near the sliding glass doors in the parlor. We connected with The Women's Community and, in addition to their day-to-day needs/requests found on the website, the following "wish list" was provided:

- * Girls leggings and tights size 4-14
- * Really needed boys & girls underwear in all sizes
- * Boys undershirts size 4-14
- * Boys and girls socks small, medium, large
- * Hats, gloves and MITTENS!

Our Justa Circle invites you to pick up an item from the list above and join us in mission this December. *Do not wrap your item*. Place in any of the open-topped decorated boxes near the tree. Delivery will be made the evening of December 16th.

Faith Formation

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The children and youth will be presenting a short Christmas program during the 10:00 worship service on Sunday, December 9th. Come and see our young people as they share the Christmas story with us through word and costumes. A big thank you to Mike Zahn and all the Sunday School teachers who have worked to put this together.



MESSY CHURCH

We will have a Christmas Messy Church on Wednesday, December 19th at 5:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be activities and then a meal at 5:45, followed by caroling in the neighborhood around the church. Invite your family and friends and any children you know to come and join us as we celebrate Christmas!

COMING IN JANUARY...

Faith Formation will resume on Sunday, January 6th at 9:00. The children in Faith Quest will be learning about going "Into the Promised Land".

Wednesday evening activities will resume on January 16th at 5:00 pm. The children will continue learning about the "Fruit of the Spirit" in Children's Music.

Plan now to be a part of these opportunities.

JANUARY



LESSONS AND CAROLS

Our Chancel Choir and the Jubilate Handbells have been rehearsing to present music for Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 16th during the 10:00 worship service. In addition to the choir and bells, we will have strings, clarinet and percussion to accompany the carols and anthems. Come and hear the Christmas story through scripture and carols during this special service of music.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

2:00 pm in the Chapel
Mickey Marzu playing piano,
"Carol of the Bells"

4:00 pm in the Sanctuary
Chancel Choir singing
Candle Lighting Service
Nursery Provided

8:00 pm in the Sanctuary
Catherine Harmon singing,
"Some Children See Him"
String Ensemble
Candle Lighting Service

Members of migrant caravan seeking better lives

Adapted from United Methodist News Service article by Kathy L. Gilbert, Nov. 19, 2018

While some have labeled Central American migrants headed to the U.S. as criminals or opportunists, many people of faith see them as children of God escaping desperate situations in their home countries.

One of those is the Rev. Gavin Rogers, from Travis Park United Methodist Church in San Antonio, Texas. He joined the migrant caravan on Nov. 9 for a few days because he wanted to hear the migrants' stories and understand why they are risking so much to leave their home countries. Rogers noted that some people hear the asylum-seekers say they're seeking a better life and translate that into "They're going to steal our jobs." But for refugees, a better life just means life.

Samuel Murillo, a pastor with the Methodist Church of Mexico, said the first group of people was welcomed into Mexico City in early November. "When they were in Mexico City, we came together as a collective of churches and faith groups and NGOs (nongovernmental organizations), trying to provide from our own backgrounds any kind of a pastoral, psychological support to them," Murillo, who is the youth and young adult president for the World Methodist Council, explained.

Those who call the people in the caravan a threat are using fear as a way to justify closing the border, Murillo said. From a Christian and societal viewpoint, the issue is how to address the desperation of seeking asylum. They will risk as much as they can not to go back to the violence they are running from.

Bishop Felipe Ruiz-Aguilar of the Methodist Church of Mexico said shelters are being prepared in Tijuana. "In general, the church's participation has gone fairly well, there's great organization, we know that the shelters are prepared and what kind of capacity each one offers." The first group of migrants to reach Tijuana were a group of LGBTQ migrants. "Things are going better for them in comparison to the others. Upon arrival, someone rented a very large and nice house in an upper-middle class area," Ruiz said.

Bishop Grant J. Hagiya, who leads the Los Angeles Area, said Methodists are extending "biblically rooted Methodist hospitality to those who come from afar." He issued a call for support and compassion with asylum seekers and refugees.

A number of organizations in the California-Pacific Conference work with migrants. Safe Harbors Network, a coalition of congregations, charities and individuals based at Christ Ministry Center, San Diego, is preparing to form a "wall of welcome," said the Rev. Bill Jenkins, director.

The Rev. John Fanestil, a U.S. pastor, and Guillermo Navarrete, a lay leader in the Methodist Church of Mexico, hold church every Sunday on the beach that separates Mexico and the U.S. Guillermo and his ministry team are opening a day center near the San Ysidro Port of Entry into the U.S. to help shelter and assist migrants from the caravan as well as people deported from the U.S. to Mexico, Fanestil said.

The California-Pacific Conference is working in coordination with the Conferencia Anual del Noroeste de Iglesia Metodista de Mexico supporting the efforts of the ministries related with migrants.

There is a growing network of Immigrant Welcoming Congregations, District Welcome Centers, Cal-Pac Neighborhood Immigration Clinic and "No Estan Solos" Camps and Retreats, Hagiya said.

Bishop Minerva Carcaño, a member of the General Council on Finance and Administration board, prayed about the caravans at the board's November meeting in Nashville. She is co-chair of the United Methodist Immigration Task Force. She said those in the migrant caravan are fleeing from violence and hunger and want to protect their children.

"It's not unlike what Mary and Joseph did for baby Jesus when Herod came against him and children of his age and of his gender. As the migrants come, we are reminded of Jesus. We are reminded of the fact that we are called to love God and make it real by loving our neighbor," she prayed. "We pray this experience of the courageous boldness of those who travel may stir within our hearts your commandment that we love you and that we love our neighbor. We remember that you beckon us to even love our enemy. And so be with those who travel and be with us as we determine if we will love them. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray."

How you can help: Give to the Global Migration Advance #3022144. Funds from this advance are being used to alleviate the suffering of migrants around the world.

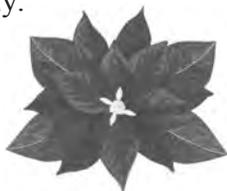
Resources for Ministry

A Financial Narrative for September 2018

As the year winds down, First Church's finance committee is looking at the conclusion to this year and the start of a new one. The brightest spot of the 2018 budget is that you have been generously paying your pledges at 100%! Knowing how much income we can expect, and being confident that you will be providing us that income throughout the year really helps in our budgeting process.

As we approach the end of the year, it looks like we are on track to finish within our budget. But an additional part of that budget assumes that in the spirit of Christmas, people may choose to give more generously at the end of the year. So as you plan for gifts to your family and friends this Christmas, please also consider an extra gift to your church family.

POINSETTIAS



We will be using poinsettias and greens to decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to donate toward one or more flowers, the cost is \$10 (small) & \$20 (large) per plant – but any amount is welcome. About 30 of the poinsettias will be given to homebound members of our congregation on December 16th.

Please fill out the form below and put it in the offering plate, mail it, or bring it to the Church Office, along with your check. We will need to have your orders by no later than December 10th. On December 16th we will list the names of those remembered or honored in our worship bulletin.

Please print

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory / In Honor of (*circle one*)

Total Donation: \$ _____

Make checks payable to *First United Methodist Church*
Memo line: *Christmas flowers and/or decorations*

As we look forward to 2019 we are continuing to count on your generous support to keep your church actively pursuing God's mission in the world through our ministries and programs.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has already turned in your 2019 pledge card. (And if you haven't done so already, there is still time.) It is the faithful generosity of our members, constituents and friends that has allowed us to continue in our ministry in Wausau.

Wes Ebert, Finance Committee chair

Note from Pastor Jayneann: In the next couple weeks, I will be mailing you a Christmas letter, a tradition in many churches. Enclosed with it will be an envelope you might use for your special Christmas offering.

To the women and others of the congregation

 You are Invited to

An Advent Gathering

Music, Worship, Fellowship & Refreshments

7:00 PM, Monday, December 10th, 2018

Performance by Center Stage

hosted by
United Methodist Women
of First UMC



FUMC Wired

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

facebook.com/WausauFUMC

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

Phone: 715.842.2201



*We have so many ways in December to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child.
On which days will you join with other people from First Church for special Advent
or Christmas Happenings?*

- December 2 *1st Sunday in Advent*
- December 9 *2nd Sunday in Advent*
Youth & Children’s Christmas Program, 10 AM
- December 10 United Methodist Women Advent Gathering
- December 13 Cookie Baking Day
- December 15 Cookie Walk Set-Up
- December 16 *3rd Sunday in Advent*
Lessons & Carols Service, 10 AM
A special worship time featuring Scripture Lessons,
our Chancel Choir, Jubilate Handbells and Orchestra.
Cookie Walk
A variety of cookies, candies, breads & snacks contributed
by the United Methodist Women
Mission Store
Crafts available from 37 countries for purchase
- December 19 Messy Church & Caroling
- December 23 *4th Sunday in Advent*
- December 24 *Christmas Eve*
2:00 p.m. Service in the Chapel
4:00 p.m. Service in the Sanctuary
8:00 p.m. Service in the Sanctuary



STAFF

Pastor	Jayneann McIntosh	jmcintosh@fumcwausau.org
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Building Engineer	Andy White	

903 Third Steet, Wausau, WI 54403
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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

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WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

Sermon Series: Why We Need a Savior

Sunday Worship Times

8:00 a.m. Morning Chapel 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

With Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday of the month.

As United Methodists, we practice Open Communion. All who are seeking God are welcome at Christ's table.

Sunday, December 2 *First Sunday of Advent*

Theme: It's Not about Worthiness
Text: Luke 18:9-14

Sunday, December 23 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Theme: Distraction. Or Being Present
Text: Luke 10:38-42

Sunday, December 9 *Second Sunday of Advent*

Theme: A New Mind.
Text: Mark 2:15-17

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service Times
2 PM in the Chapel
4 PM in the Sanctuary
8 PM in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 16 *Third Sunday of Advent*

Theme: Powerlessness.
Text: t.b.a.

10 AM *A Service of Lessons & Carols*

Sunday, December 30

First Sunday after Christmas

Theme: Christmas Carol Sing
Text: Colossians 3:12-17