



OCTOBER
2020

THE MESSENGER



Dear First Family of Faith,

I remember when my children were young, they found the sparkly white landscaping rocks around our house to be especially precious. After enjoying them and picking out their favorites to keep, they set up a table at the end of the driveway and offered the rest individually for sale to our patient and generous neighborhood. I enjoyed seeing their wonder and delight in these shimmering stones, as well as their entrepreneurial spirit. It is convicting to realize how often I am too hurried to notice the small but beautiful gems hidden under a layer of dirt or leaves.

There are also spiritual gems that we easily miss. We call these "GEMs" - God Encounter Moments. These are experiences when we realize that God reaches out to remind us of his presence and love in a way that we really needed. The other day I got a call from a college friend who had just been at Mayo Clinic to have a tumor on her lower spine looked at. It was a relief to find out it was benign, but it didn't explain her chronic pain and fatigue. Then her intake physician who had been randomly assigned to her noticed she had very low Vitamin B12 levels. He happened to be a specialist in rare diseases associated with B12 deficiencies, so he ordered a few more tests and discovered that my friend had an advanced case of a B12 disease that was causing all of her symptoms that she thought was caused by the tumor (which had previously been misdiagnosed for the past 10 years as standard back pain). Amazingly, he caught it just before the disease would have become irreversible. My friend and I praised God together for this GEM - a beautiful God Encounter Moment - as we could both clearly see how God had put her with just the right intake physician who caught this and could correct it.

God Encounter Moments can take many forms. Some people may call it serendipity or random luck. However, our faith believes in a God who creates order out of chaos, who delights in bringing people closer together, who heals our diseases, and who forgives our sins and debts. It's easy to relegate that belief to our heads instead of actively recognizing the precious ways and times God reaches out to remind us of his character and love. Just as there are about 200 different types of gemstones on this earth, there are many kinds of God Encounter Moments. Examples can be a new or life-changing understanding of scripture, a deep sense of assurance in a difficult situation, an acute awareness of God's presence, or a way that God gets your attention.

I would love to hear from all of you about the GEMs (God Encounter Moments) that you start to notice. Please email or call me to share an example of a moment that you realized God came close. I can treasure these stories confidentially with you, or, with your blessing, share them in future newsletters to help encourage each other in our faith. As God promises in Isaiah 45:3,
 "I will give you the treasures of darkness
 and riches hidden in secret places,
 so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
 the God of Israel, who call you by your name."

Pastor Rebecca



We are excited to announce a new ministry that honors the legacy of Claire Hornby and her love for animals! Claire's Critter Closet will help supply dog and cat food and supplies (litter, leashes, treats, etc.) for people who are going through financial difficulties. When a job or health is lost, people sometimes have to make a hard choice between feeding themselves or their pet. It usually results in either a person going hungry or an animal being sadly surrendered to a shelter. Claire's Critter Closet will help keep people and their pets together and fed during hard times. We envision it will work in conjunction with the Personal Needs Closet. The confirmation students will be developing and running this ministry with the help of all other people who would like to join in. Please contact Pastor Rebecca if you're interested. Many thanks to Jon Goertz for developing this logo!



Disaster Relief Donations Needed

Is your heart breaking as you watch the news of floods, hurricanes, fires, and tornadoes? You can make a positive difference to bring hope and help to people whose homes and lives are torn apart! Wausau First UMC is opening our doors to churches all over the Northcentral District to bring disaster relief donations between October 14-24. We also encourage members of our church to bring donations between 9am-1pm Monday thru Thursday anytime until October 24. All the supplies will be stored in the Fellowship Hall, and then picked up by a large truck and taken to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Pawnee, IL where they will be quickly distributed to help people in disasters all over the country and world.

Here are some things that are most needed: cleaning supplies, work gloves, trash bags, travel-size toiletries, cloth and disposable face masks, baby receiving blankets (28"x28" or 32"x32"), diaper cream, hand towels, and boxes of 12 colored pencils. To learn more about how we can best help please go to www.midwestmission.org for more information. Thank you!

Milestones

Death: We grieve this month the loss of Claire Hornby, a dedicated child of our church family, who died September 8th.



October

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 Ellie Schreiber | 15 Jeremy Zuleger |
| 3 Margaret Getzin | 16 Tammy Lahren
Kirsten Hornby |
| 4 Madison Mariani | 18 Bob Wylie |
| 6 Betsy Ness | 19 Gary Kurth* |
| 7 Gary Getzin | 25 Pam Steinke
Andrea Anderson* |
| 8 Roger Gundelfinger
Lisa Day | 29 Gus Anderson
Gary Boushley |
| 9 Jake Rybarczyk | 30 Michael Koss
Diane Misoni
Gregory Cowan |
| 11 Todd Larson | 31 Cheryl Beltz
Erin Grimm |
| 12 Cheryl Wenzel
Laura Cowan | |
| 14 Erika Ness | |



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

Reminder: Be on Alert for Scam Emails, Texts, Calls

As part of continuing to care for our church family and community, it is important to remind everyone to be alert for emails, phone calls, and/or texts that could be scams. There are too many people lately trying to take advantage of others through the use of technology in a negative way. During the past months, both our former pastor and our current pastor have had their email accounts hacked in one way or another, which allowed unauthorized access to their contact lists. The hackers then used this list to send out email requests for money and gift cards, making most of the information look very real, almost legitimate.

If you receive an email or text asking for money or gift cards, there are several things you can do to check its authenticity. First, look very closely at the sender's email address. If it doesn't end in org., com, or net, or it's off by a couple of letters, then it is probably questionable. Check the email for spelling and grammar mistakes—this could indicate it's from a foreign source. Do not give out any personal information in an email. If you have a chance, contact the person or group the email supposedly came from to check out how authentic it is. However, do not reply to the email to check on this. Give the person a call with a phone number you trust (not one, for example, given in the email) or check with them personally to find out if they really sent it. Following one or more of these small steps could prevent the scam from working, at least on you.



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



UMW Wisconsin Conference Plans Virtual Annual Gathering

The theme of this year's conference is "Walking in the Light". There is no cost and it will be Saturday morning, October 17. More information is available at www.wisconsinumw.org or contact Kay Waugh at 920-434-7101.

If you participated in the reading program, send your titles to Suzanne Goldsmith, at suziegoldsmith@hotmail.com. Since we are not meeting, our fund raising has stopped and we are depending on members to pay their pledge if possible during this difficult time, continue to pray for all of the women, children and youth that our missions support. Pledges can be sent to our treasurer, Sharon Gisselman.

Please note: There will not be a Cookie Walk this year. Instead UMW will take preorders for boxes of cookies. Details will follow in Nov.

Barb Ritchie, UMW President

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 October the donation will be used to support Mission Guatemala. They provide personal needs clothing and education to community members.

*Thank You,
Ray Nowaczyk Missions Committee Chair*

Random Thoughts by Mike Zahn

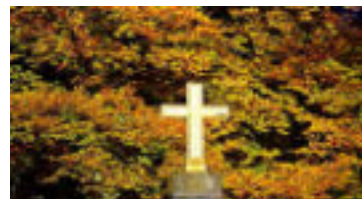
God Calls

In the book of 1 Samuel, God calls directly to Samuel—not once, but three times. Samuel finally comes to understand that it is God himself, not the priest Eli, who is calling. God calls to each of us, sometimes in not very obvious ways. And sometimes it takes three calls for us to get the message that God is trying to give us!

In my observations, full-time ministry really requires a special calling from God. People have high expectations for their pastors, but probably no higher than they have of themselves. For most of us, this would be a terribly stressful occupation; but I think that for the right individuals, pastoral ministry must be a joy to do, because that is their calling, and they are empowered by God to do it.

Look at what Pastor Rebecca has done since arriving in Wausau three months ago—she has had to officiate three funerals; she has made home visits to families; she has done music therapy for Claire; she has had to take the reigns and navigate her new church through all the obstacles that this pandemic has brought; she has to prepare a sermon each week; she has to organize and lead meetings; she has to participate in anything that the Wisconsin UMC Conference requires of her; and still have some personal life! And she does all this, and whatever is to come, with enthusiasm and a smile on her face and love in her heart.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. I'm not sure if we are doing something official to honor our new pastor, but I encourage you to show your appreciation in some way—a note, an email, a phone call, a gift, a positive comment on social media about our services or her message, or a stop by church. Let's show Pastor Rebecca that we are grateful that God has called her to our church!



SPRC Update

The Covid pandemic has kept our church committees and groups from meeting in person, but many of them, like SPRC, have continued to be very active through virtual meetings on ZOOM and other venues. For awhile, SPRC was helping guide the church through the initial weeks regarding the shutdown, with Pastor Jayneann. It was then suggested that a Covid committee be established to take that over once Pastor Rebecca started in July. Since then, SPRC has worked with our new pastor to help her navigate her new church in these unusual times, made especially challenging because she could not meet many of us in person. The committee also worked with the rest of the church staff, especially the office staff, during the transition. Luckily, this all went very smoothly and everyone has settled into working together well in the last couple months.

There are several things coming up that will continue to keep SPRC busy, including working with Andy as he recovers from foot surgery and then helping him transition back to work. Charge Conference is coming up in November, which involves us helping to complete the annual report for the conference, with updates for 2021. We are very grateful for the smooth transition between our former and new pastors this past July, and are especially appreciative of the efforts by the church staff to help make this happen.

Equal Exchange Coffee/Tea Update

As the weather now turns cooler, it's time to put the coffee pot on again. Even though we have not been at church for some time, the Equal Exchange coffee and tea are still available. This is a project of the United Methodist Women which supports our mission projects while supporting small farmers who grow the coffee.

"Equal Exchange is an alternative trade organization made up of small farmers, Equal Exchange worker-owners and you! Together we are building supply chains that work for all of us and the planet we share." (from the website)

We have ground regular, ground decaf along with English Breakfast tea, Ginger tea, Black Chai tea, and Roobis tea. There are also still a few bars of chocolate in the dark Lemon ginger flavor and plain milk chocolate.

Please stop by and pick up some of these products and enjoy them as you settle down with a good book or quiet time. We thank you as the needs of the world continue and we can play a part in supporting them through this endeavor.

Downtown Memory Café

We are teaming up with the Center for Visual Arts to offer it's first online Zoom ART PROJECT. Invitations have been mailed and special kits dropped off to participant's homes.

Date: Thursday October 15, 2020

Time: 10:30am-Noon

Place: Virtual Event

If you know of someone with dementia who might enjoy this unique "social event," please contact Maggie Schoenfeld at 715-842-9809. This person will likely need assistance with a computer. Kits are available to be dropped off through October 14.





Calendar

October

<p>4 Seniors living alone</p> <p>No Worship Services on Site. Visit fumcwausau.org 10:00AM Drive-in Communion Service</p>	<p>5 Homeless Ministry</p>	<p>6 Teachers & School Board</p>
<p>11 Those suffering with chronic pain</p> <p>No Worship Services on Site. Visit fumcwausau.org Pastor Appreciation Day</p>	<p>12 Community Meals</p>	<p>13 Students with special needs</p> <p>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Personal Needs Closet 5:30 PM Trustees, Zoom 6:15 PM Missions Team, Zoom</p>
<p>18 Those suffering with cancer</p> <p>No Worship Services on Site. Visit fumcwausau.org</p>	<p>19 Those who are unemployed</p>	<p>20 Parents & Students</p> <p>6:00 PM SPRC, Zoom 7:00 PM Finance Committee, Zoom</p>
<p>25 Seniors who lose their independence</p> <p>No Worship Services on Site. Visit fumcwausau.org</p>	<p>26 Guatemala Mission</p>	<p>27 Music Educators</p> <p>5:30 PM Worship Design, Zoom</p>
<p>Stay Healthy & Safe: <i>Wear a Mask</i> <i>Practice Social Distancing/Respect Others</i> <i>Wash Your Hands</i> <i>Use Hand Sanitizer</i></p>		

Calendar of Events

November 2020

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*

	<p>1 All who need healthy food 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>2 Faith-based friendships Office Closed</p>	<p>3 Music Ministry</p>
<p>7 Leaders of our country 6:00 PM Bible Study-Zoom 5:00PM Record Sunday's Worship 6:30PM-7:30PM Confirmation Class, Room 101 & Zoom 7:30PM - 8:15 PM Youth Group Zoom</p>	<p>8 Those who wrestle with God 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>9 Family Quality Time Office Closed</p>	<p>10 Pastor Rebecca Voss & family 9:00AM Lower Level Cleanup Day</p>
<p>14 Wisconsin Executive Branch 6:00 PM Bible Study-Zoom 5:00PM Record Sunday's Worship 6:30PM-7:30PM Confirmation Class, Room 101 & Zoom 7:30PM - 8:15 PM Youth Group Zoom</p>	<p>15 Confirmation Students 10:30AM-Noon Memory Café Virtual Event 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>16 Forgiveness within families Office Closed</p>	<p>17 Volunteer Workers 9:00AM Lower Level Cleanup Day</p>
<p>21 Police & Fire Departments 6:00 PM Bible Study-Zoom 5:00PM Record Sunday's Worship 6:30PM-7:30PM Confirmation Class, Room 101 & Zoom 7:30PM - 8:15 PM Youth Group Zoom</p>	<p>22 Those with growing faith 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>23 Healing for broken relations Office Closed</p>	<p>24 Ministries Council 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Personal Needs Closet</p>
<p>28 Wisconsin Legislative Branch 6:00 PM Bible Study-Zoom 5:00PM Record Sunday's Worship 6:30PM-7:30PM Confirmation Class, Room 101 & Zoom 7:30PM - 8:15 PM Youth Group Zoom</p>	<p>29 Those in need from aftermath of natural disasters 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>30 Families who are grieving Office Closed</p>	<p>31 COVID Response Team DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS NOV 1ST—TURN CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR BEFORE GOING TO BED</p>



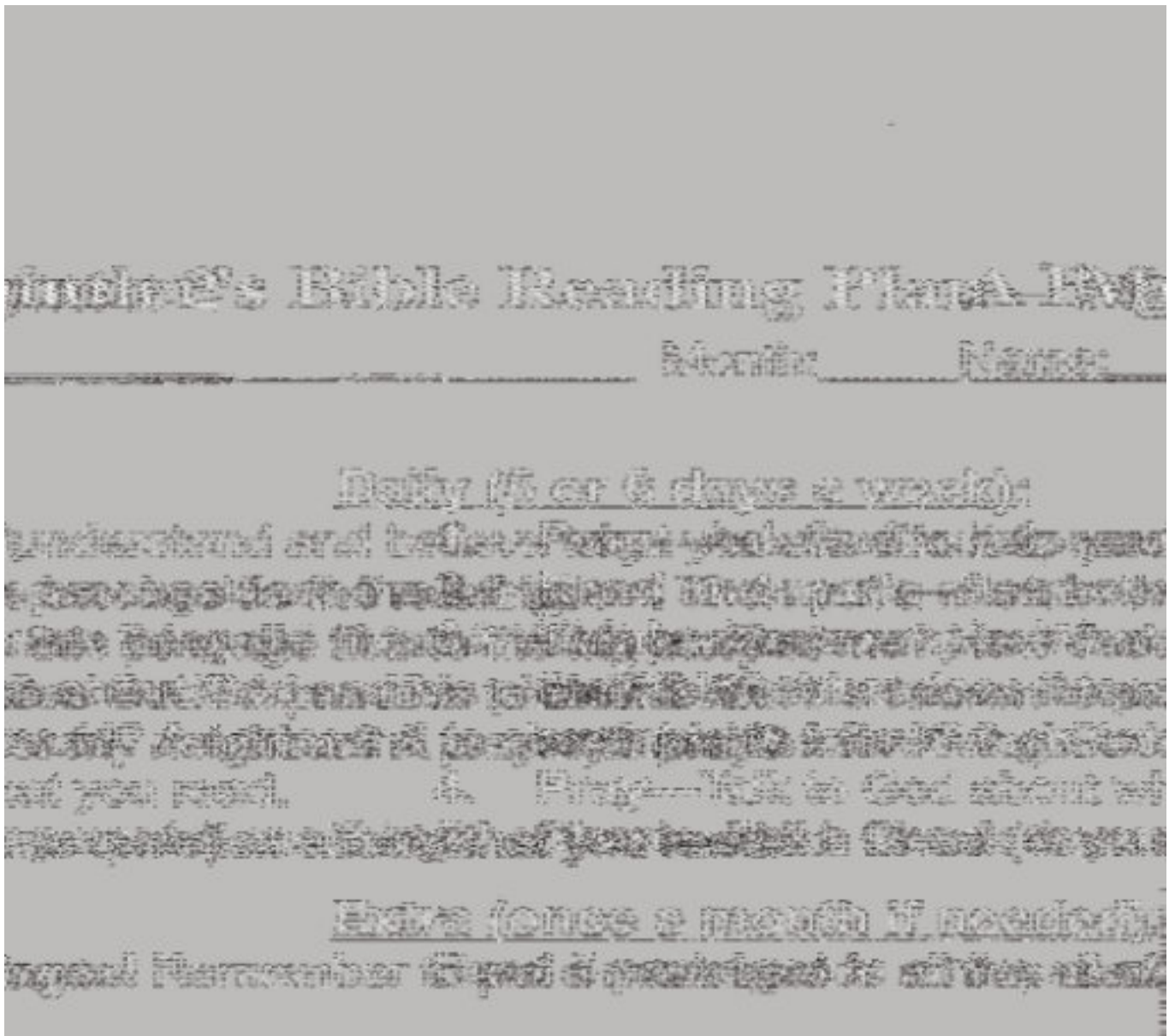
Faith Formation

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 each 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!



GEM-God Encounter Moments



Welcome to the Warming Center!

If you haven't yet read my pastoral letter on the cover of this newsletter, it may be helpful to do that before reading this article. I am excited to share a big "GEM" - God Encounter Moment - that will hopefully warm your heart. A week ago Jen Marzu forwarded a local news article to me describing how Community Partners, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping Wausau community service organizations find a safe and affordable place to successfully help those in need, had hit an "environmental hazard" roadblock. They were in urgent need to find a place to house the Warming Center, a night-time shelter during the cold months for single homeless members of our community, who need a lot more space to maintain safer distances between guests.

Since I have seen a strong desire in our congregation to help serve the hurting and use our space to do that, I found and "friended" a board member, who was quoted in the article, through Facebook. The next morning he excitedly came to see the spaces at church, and then he returned with other board members and the Director of Catholic Charities Homeless Ministries, Tracy Rieger, who manages the Warming Center. During each tour there have been tears of joy and hope at how our space is an answer to many prayers.

Bruce Brandenburg and Dick Rayborn were able to join these visits and have worked out an agreement that was unanimously approved by the Ministries Council on Monday, Sept. 28. An extensive legal document has been written, but here are the highlights:

1. This is a lease from November 1, 2020 - April 30, 2021. At least two Warming Center staff will be present between 5:30pm-9:30am. Homeless guests are admitted starting at 7pm and leave at 8am.

2. The guest entrance will be the glass door in the courtyard by the elevator. There will be a health screening station and registration table in that area, and masks will be distributed and worn by all. The Chapel and Parlor will be locked, and there will be locking accordion gates installed to separate the bathrooms and office area as well as to keep guests from entering upstairs rooms.

3. Guests and the services they need will be housed downstairs. The Game Room will be the main sleeping area with cots spaced 6 feet apart and a small table at the end of each cot for eating, writing, reading, card games, coloring, etc. The Yoga Cave will be used for storing and securing the tote bins that keep all of their clothes and possessions each night, the mop closet will be renovated into a shower room (funded by a grant), the first classroom will be an isolation room for guests who have COVID or flu symptoms, and the next two classrooms will be exam rooms for the Free Clinic (started at First Presbyterian) to give medical treatment to guests. The Free Clinic will also be open in the late afternoons a few days a week for those who can't afford healthcare but aren't homeless.

4. On the main level, staff and volunteers will enter through the kitchen parking lot door. They will use the kitchen to assemble dinner and breakfast containers of donated food. Staff and volunteers will use the main level bathrooms (guests will only use the lower level bathrooms). Staff will also have access to the laundry room on the second floor to wash each guest's clothing about once a week. Bedding, towels, and the hospital scrubs that guests wear while here will be washed by a commercial laundry facility.

5. Any groups that currently use these spaces in the lower level will be able to use comparable places in the building. We will be in contact with each group to figure out the best options.

6. The Warming Center will pay for all accordion gates, security cameras, renovations, as well as rent.

This is a lot of information with a lot of opportunity for our congregation to serve hurting people. In order to be ready by November 1, we need your help in a few ways:

- **Saturdays October 10 and 17** starting at **9 am** will be work days to move everything out of the Game Room and classrooms downstairs. Please come and offer your muscles, moral support, and/or munchies.
- If you're interested in taking unclaimed furniture, table games, or "stuff" for your home or workplace, please contact Margaret Getzin or Barb Ritchie.
- Volunteers and staff are needed for the Warming Center. Please contact Tracy Rieger at trieger@cclse.org or call her at 715-409-0107 for more information.

We thank God for moving so remarkably in our midst. This truly is a GEM and an answer to Break-through Prayer!

Resources for Ministry

A Financial Narrative for October 2019

Our Financial Picture for August 2020			
August Revenue		August Expenses	
Pledged Offering	\$ 17,675.00	Staffing	\$ 17,558.27
Non-Pledged Offering	\$ 5,375.00	Programming	\$ 1,165.10
Other Revenue	\$ -	Apportionments	\$ 4,227.00
From Endowment	\$ -	Building Operations	\$ 1,203.47
Total Revenue	\$ 23,050.00	Total Expenses	\$ 24,153.84
		Net YTD	\$ (1,103.84)

GIVING “Tis the Gift to Be Simple” October 2020

’Tis the gift to be simple, ’tis the gift to be free; ’tis the gift to come down where you ought to be.
(Simple Gifts/Shaker Hymn, Joseph Brackett)

During the Covid-19 pandemic, most of us are living under conditions of enforced simplicity. There are fewer luxuries and entertainments to spend money on and for most of us, less traveling, shopping, and visiting. Although, some people find the forced confinement to be stressful itself, most people are, all in all, under less of the kinds of stress they usually experience.

John Wesley, in his sermon, “The Use of Money (#50),” insists that simplicity is essential for the Godly use of money. If we earn all we can honestly, then we are to save all we can, meaning retain all we can, by not using it wastefully. Rather than spending on luxury foods and personal ornaments (home, fashion, etc.), says Wesley, we should “be content with what plain nature requires.” Nor, should we lead our children into an extravagant lifestyle.

Why, then are we saving? In order to serve God through 1) supplying your own simple needs, 2) and the needs of your family and household, and then 3) giving your surplus to the “household of faith” and to other people for their simple needs. We are not the proprietors of creation, but rather the stewards of it. So, when we are planning an expenditure, Wesley advises us to ask, 1) am I acting as a proprietor or a steward? 2) am I following Scripture? 3) can I offer this as a sacrifice to God, through Jesus Christ? and 4) will this action be judged as righteous?

There are plenty of churches and people in need during the pandemic. This is a good time to get even better at God’s simplicity. As Wesley says in ending his sermon, “Give all ye have, as well as all ye are, a spiritual sacrifice to Him who withheld not from you his Son, his only Son.”

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

FUMC Wired

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

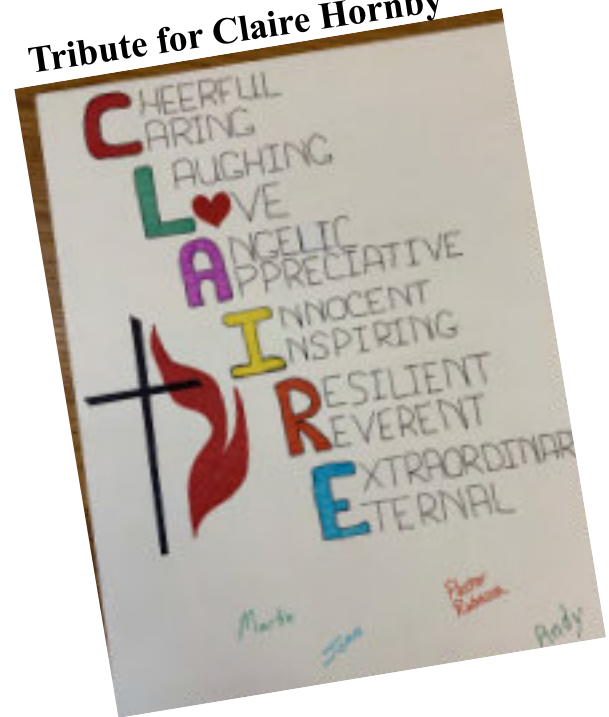
facebook.com/WausauFUMC

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

Phone: 715.842.2201



Tribute for Claire Hornby



Andy's Recovery from Surgery



STAFF

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. – 1 p.m.

Monday – Thursday

Please call before visits at (715) 842-2201

fumc@fumcwausau.org

www.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 OCTOBER

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

We are 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.

Continue to join us as we are inspired by the stories of Joseph and see how his life was a foreshadowing of Christ's life and love for us.

Sunday, October 4

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: Are You Willing to Face Your Past?

Texts: Genesis 42-43

Sunday, October 18

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: Are You Satisfied With God?

Text: Genesis 45

Sunday, October 11

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: Do You Want to be Set Free?

Texts: Genesis 44-45

Sunday, October 25

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: Are You Willing To Move with God?

Texts: Genesis 46-47