



The CIRCUIT WRITER

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

September 2015



September Services at First UU

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

9/13 ~ Gathering of the Waters

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

Come and celebrate our annual "Gathering of the Waters" service as we join in beloved community. This service for all ages includes the story of a bubble and a raindrop meeting, music, and a rainstorm. All are invited to bring water from your tap, a pond, river, lake, stream, or ocean as we affirm our common humanity and the Mystery that sustains us all. This is a service for all ages, though children ages 0-3 may stay in the Nursery.

Service to be followed by Religious Education Open House and Registration.

9/20 ~ Sweet Surrender

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

This Sunday falls between the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). Each of these important markings in the year connects to the theme of surrender. And while we have all heard the phrase "Sweet surrender," sometimes letting go is just darn hard.

9/27 ~ Learning to Walk through Locked Doors (or "Sunday School" Re-invented)

Rev. Laurie will lead this service about new ways of seeing the typical and reinventing the ordinary. Do you know when Sunday School was invented and why? Do you know who utterly altered the way we teach "religious education" in the UUA? A brief look back can inspire us as we move forward in how we shape religious education at First UU. ✚



Church Picnic

September 6 - Save the Date

UU Wausau's Annual Church Picnic will be held rain or shine on Sunday, September 6 at 11:00 a.m. at Riverside Park (100 Sherman Street, Wausau).

Bring a dish to pass, your own plates and utensils, and your favorite outdoor games.

The Annual Church Picnic is the perfect opportunity to catch up with your UU friends as we prepare to start a brand new year.

Everyone is welcome - bring a friend! ✚

In the Interim...

Many years ago, beloved church member Phil Carspecken, who edited the newsletter, came up with the name and the logo for the Circuit Writer. It is such



Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

a clever play on words, as the logo was an old-fashioned circuit-riding minister on horseback. Phil has passed away, though his legacy of a quality newsletter lives on. Individuals and communities face twists and turns. People enter and exit.

Thus, for a while, during this Interim Ministry journey, we have a new Circuit Writer logo. You might know that First UU of Wausau has a 7-circuit labyrinth. Labyrinths are ancient spiral forms that beckon walkers to follow a path. Labyrinths can be made of stone, grass, clay, rock, glass, or simply drawn in the dirt. A labyrinth is not a maze, where one can get lost. Rather, a labyrinth has an entrance that invites all to a path toward the center, where everyone is welcome. On a labyrinth, the way out is the same as the way in; having passed through the center, we might be a little transformed. Think of the symbolic phoenix bird rising out of the ashes of fire, transformed.

The new Circuit Writer logo is a flaming chalice that also allows one to enter the flame and exit again. This logo symbolizes an invitation to join the warmth of community and the power that we share together. We share our ideas, our hope, our joys and sorrows. We share our questions and our wisdom. We gather on Sundays, lighting the flame of our chalice, transformed by opening our hearts and minds. We pool our financial resources and our talents. We journey together through ease and challenge. We spiral through the lessons of life, growth, death and re-birth.

As the First UU Interim Ministry journey continues, and the congregation creates a new Mission and Vision Statement later this year, I

suspect the logo will change again. As First UU articulates who and what you want to be, an image to capture this essence of this community will emerge. For now, let us circle together near the flame, warmed, inspired, transformed.

In love,

Rev. Laurie



P.S. Watch for monthly opportunities to walk the First UU labyrinth.

First Universalist Unitarian Church

504 Grant Street, Wausau, WI 54403

Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
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Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. All interested members and friends are welcome to the board meetings.

Church Staff

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum, Interim Minister:

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jamaas2001@yahoo.com

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Greetings families! Please join us on Sunday, September 13, for a **Religious Education Open House** right after the service. Bring your children to meet teachers and see the curriculum and classroom.

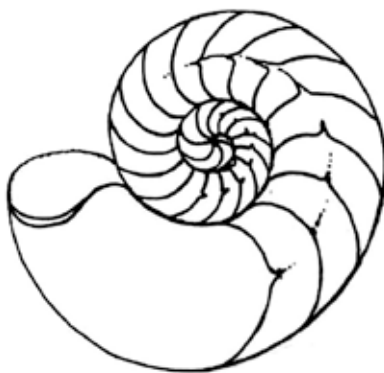
Programs for children and youth begin on Sunday, September 20.

Class Times: *Note this change—*

Please pick up your Nursery-age children immediately after the service. All other groups will be in session until 11:45. Please wait until this time to pick up your children.

If your family participated last year, you will receive a Fall 2015 RE Program guide in the mail. If not, there are extras in the office for you. Here is a snapshot of this year's learning themes:

- Nursery: Children experience safe play and nurturing community with our kind and trusted nursery staff, Jefferson and Elizabeth Le.
- Ages 4–6: **Chalice Children** strives not just to teach about our faith, but also to provide experiences around the strength of community, the wonder and awe that transcend everyday understanding, and life issues we all share.
- Grades 1–3: **Walking the Rainbow Path** provides children with a developmentally appropriate way to understand and engage with the UU Principles. Through stories, games, and creative activities, The Rainbow Path becomes a tool to help children begin to name their own religious/spiritual experiences, to give language and images that create a framework on which to build their own belief system, and to nurture their ethical growth.
- Grades 4–6: **Toolbox of Faith** invites participants to reflect on the qualities of our Unitarian Universalist faith, such as integrity, courage, and love, as tools they can use in living their lives and building their own faith. Each of the sessions uses a tool as a metaphor for an important quality of our faith, such as reflection (a mirror), flexibility (duct tape), and justice. First UU kids will build wooden toys as gifts to children through the Neighbor's Place.



- Grades 7–9: **Building Bridges** is a world religions program to deepen youth's understanding of the dynamic, fascinating, and varied world in which they live. It seeks to broaden their knowledge of humanity and embolden their spiritual search by visiting local religious communities and comparing them to our own.

- Grades 10–12: **Coming-of-Age** will explore what it means to be

UU by reflecting on their own beliefs and values, deepening their understanding of religious issues, building a supportive community of youth, practicing leadership skills, establishing relationships with adult congregational mentors, and actively participating in worship services. It will culminate in a final rite of passage and statement of belief presentation. Classes will typically meet during services the first three Sundays of each month. A brief orientation meeting for parents and students will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 13. ✚

Adult Faith Development

*Films co-sponsored by First UU and Move to Amend (4th Thursdays of the month):

Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m. ~ **Follow the Money; Corrupting Our Schools.*** Education, Inc., examines for-profit interests that have been quietly and systematically dismantling America's public education system under the banner of "school choice."

Oct. 22, 6:30 p.m. ~ **Selma.*** Selma is the story of a movement; it chronicles the tumultuous three month period in 1965, when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., led a dangerous campaign to secure voting rights for African Americans.

Oct. 11, 12:00–2:00 ~ **"Nurturing Children's Spirits."** In this workshop put on by Denise Konen, you will discuss the impact of your own religious history on children's spiritual growth. You will learn how children's faith develops so that you can trust your inner wisdom in making meaning of their spiritual experiences. Explore ways to articulate your spiritual values to children.

Light lunch provided.

Office Space

Autumn is on its way, and with it comes change here at UU Wausau. Beginning with the October edition, the Circuit Writer is going primarily digital. While both the newsletter and our website are being reinvented, it is the perfect time to update the way we communicate with members and friends.



The October edition will be available on the church website, and a monthly email will be sent alerting Circuit Writer subscribers that a new edition is available. If you currently receive the newsletter in the mail, please be sure to contact me at the office (715-842-3697 or anji@uuwausau.org) to make sure I have your up-to-date contact information and to get you subscribed. If you already read the digital copy, you do not need to change a thing.

The Circuit Writer will still be mailed to those who do not have internet access or who have a difficult time reading a computer screen, and hard copies will be available at church for visitors. We hope that this new format will allow us to save time, money, and trees!

Anji Spialek

Congregational Administrator

From the Board

I'm a big believer in setting goals—for my professional life, for my health, and for my personal life. For example, this year I set a goal of running a marathon this fall. Although my training runs of 14-20 miles at a time are not always a pleasant task, setting goals helps me to focus on what's important to me and strive to make sure my actions help me to achieve my goals.



Goal setting is also important for organizations. At the August board meeting, the following goals for the 2015-2016 church year were approved:

- 1.) First U.U. Church of Wausau will begin building a model of comprehensive and integrated Lifespan Faith Development for all ages, including the staffing and Ministry Team to support it long term.
- 2.) First U.U. Church of Wausau will fulfill all tasks necessary to establish the Ministerial Search Team and meet targets for selecting a settled minister by spring 2017, to begin summer 2017.
- 3.) First U.U. Church of Wausau will conduct a formal Stewardship Drive in fall 2015, and establish a plan for ongoing development of lay leadership in Stewardship.
- 4.) First U.U. Church of Wausau will begin implementing functioning Ministry Teams by spring 2016. The Ministry Teams are: Lifespan Faith Development; Worship and Music; Hospitality; and Social Justice and Service.

When the church year begins in September, there will be changes. Religious education will have a new look, a new name, and a new energy. Reverend Laurie and many volunteers have worked hard over the summer selecting curricula, lining up teachers, and preparing for the coming year. Because this is an area of great importance to so many of us, the Board approved a temporary, part-time (10 hours/week) administrative assistant position to help keep the Lifespan Faith Development program running smoothly. We were fortunate to receive an unexpected financial gift that is allowing us to pay for this position. However, this is only temporary. We do hope to hire a part-time RE Director in the 2016 budget year, but that will depend on the success of our Stewardship Drive.

I hope you will become part of meeting our goals for this church year. Maybe your goal is to get more involved at First UU. We need you. If you are interested in volunteering your time or talents, please contact Reverend Laurie, Anji, or any board member.

Dawn Ashenbrenner

Board President



Knowing Our Past...

One of the tasks of the Interim Ministry period is knowing and understanding the congregation's history. As part of this project, Judy Stevens, First UU historian and archivist par excellence, has agreed to write a monthly history column in the Circuit Writer. Since November 2015 will be the 100th anniversary of the completion of our current building, Judy has focused this first article on building history. ~ *Rev. Laurie*

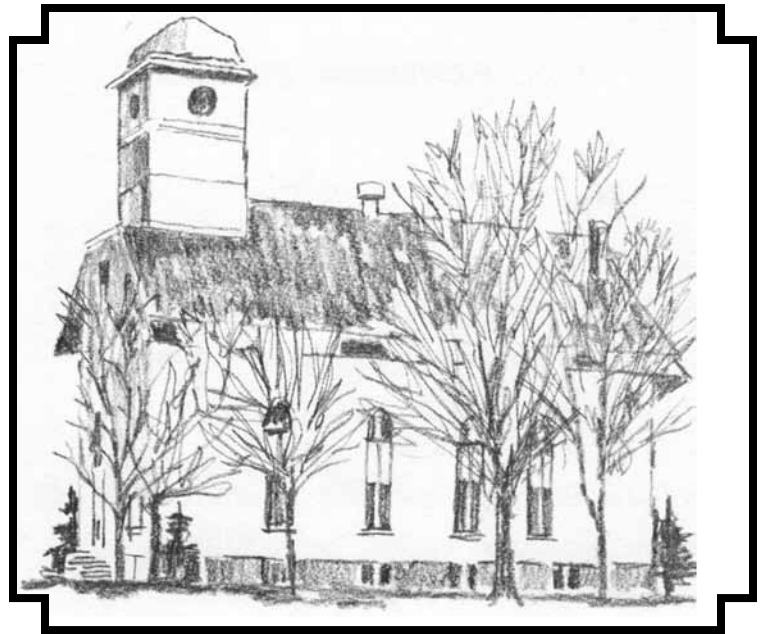
On December 10, 1870, a society was organized in Wausau known as the Liberal Religion Society, and in 1871, a church was built on the northeast corner of Fifth and McClellan Streets. The first minister, Reverend Schultz, came soon after the church was finished. He conducted a private school in the adjoining parsonage. He was followed by Reverend Fall who stayed until 1879. After he left, no services were held for several years.

In 1886 a new church was erected on a lot donated by Mrs. Mary Scholfield on the northwest corner of Fifth and McClellan. This building was sold in 1914 to Mount Sinai Synagogue, and at a meeting in April, 1914, the Universalist Society reorganized under the name First Universalist Church of Wausau. Property on the corner of Fifth and Grant Streets was purchased and Alexander Eschweiler, a well-known Milwaukee architect, was chosen to design the building. It took him one and half years to build the church, which included Yawkey Hall



and an attached parsonage. The cost was about \$150,000 and Mr. and Mrs. Yawkey paid for the cost of Yawkey Hall, the parsonage, and the furnishings of these buildings.

On November 2, 1915, the church was dedicated and the cornerstone was laid with full ritualistic



Our first church 1872-1881

ceremonies by the Masonic lodge of Wisconsin. In 1956, a remodelling of the parsonage was completed and this east wing now consisted of seven separate classrooms, a church office, the minister's office, and a combined lounge and library.

On September 26, 2006, our congregation broke ground on a \$1.9 million addition. The east wing was demolished and a new handicapped-accessible addition with elevator and atrium was built and completed in August, 2007. We will celebrate the 100th anniversary of our Grant Street church this year, but we have been a liberal religious presence in Wausau for 145 years! ✠

Judy Stevens

September Membership Anniversaries

Dennis and Mary O'Flyng	44 years
Carol Bronston	42 years
Andy Benedetto	35 years
Ollie Kyler	32 years
Kathy Schmirler	18 years
Barb May	16 years
Gary and Kathy Schneck	11 years
Beth Martin	5 years
Rose O'Connor	2 years
Katie O'Connor	2 years
Paul Kage	2 years
Jayne Fuglister	2 years
Tom Fuglister	2 years
Jane Neal	2 years

UU NOTES

Services and Your Family

This year, we will have Activity Bags at the entrance to the Sanctuary for any child who might like one for some activities to do while attending the service. Please return it to the back of the sanctuary as you leave. Children can learn a great deal simply by being with you for part of the Sunday service, even though some of it may seem “above their heads.”



Please help your children sing and watch the lighting of the chalice.

(NOTE: Your family can go to the church’s website at UUWausau.org to sign up to light the chalice for the service together!) Please share your own thoughts and feelings with them about the beauty and importance of what happens in the Sanctuary.



Meditation

Lama Kunga Tharste Rinpoche has agreed to

teach in Wausau on Tuesday, September 1. He is another wonderful teacher and is well known and respected all over the world.

He will be giving the White Mahakala empowerment, beginning at 6:30 p.m. That means he’ll be introducing us to a specific guided meditation, leading us through it and teaching us how to

practice that meditation on our own as well. So it’s a meditation experience rather than a talk.

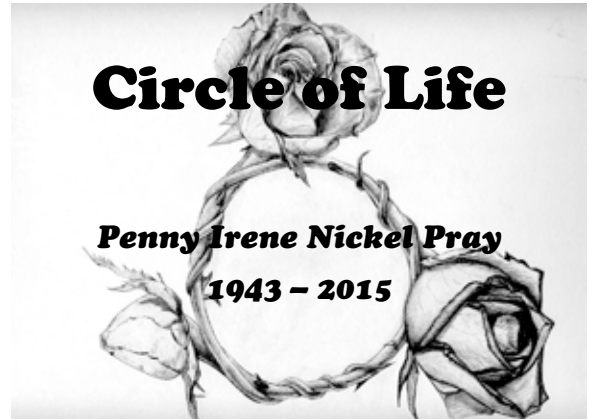
The event will take about 90 minutes.

Donations appreciated. (\$30 suggested but not required.) ✝



Thanks

- Thank you to the John and Alice Forester Charitable Trust for the unexpected gift of \$14,000 which we received in July!
- We are grateful to Jim Maas for the CW layout and design and to Sarah Thurs for editing.



● As we start our pledge drive for the 2016 church fiscal year, the Stewardship Committee chose to use Peter Mayer’s hymn, “*Blue Boat Home*” as the theme for our campaign:

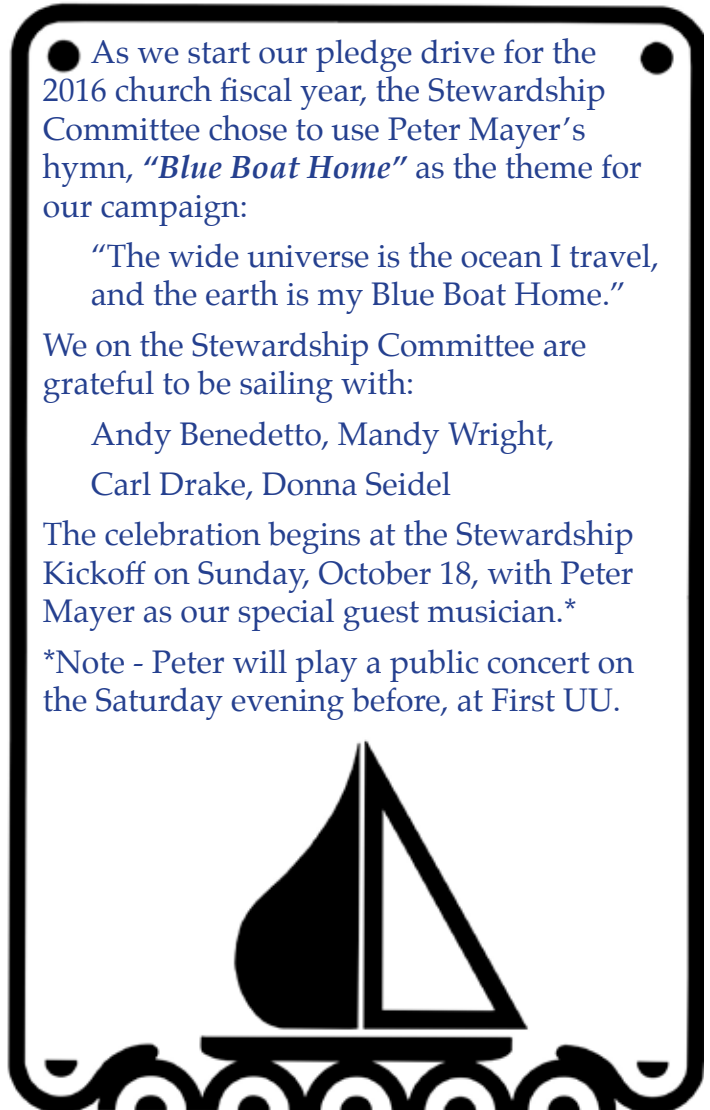
“The wide universe is the ocean I travel,
and the earth is my Blue Boat Home.”

We on the Stewardship Committee are grateful to be sailing with:

Andy Benedetto, Mandy Wright,
Carl Drake, Donna Seidel

The celebration begins at the Stewardship Kickoff on Sunday, October 18, with Peter Mayer as our special guest musician.*

*Note - Peter will play a public concert on the Saturday evening before, at First UU.



FIRST UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH

Church Office Hours

The church is open Tuesday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (and by appointment).
Please call 715.842.3697 to make an appointment outside of office hours.

September Calendar

- | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----|----------|-------------------------------|----|-----|----------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1 | Tue | 12:00 PM | Lunch with Laurie | 15 | Tue | 12:00 AM | Lunch with Laurie |
| | | 5:30 PM | Family Yoga | | | 5:30 PM | Family Yoga |
| | | 6:30 PM | Qigong | | | 6:30 PM | Board of Trustees |
| | | 6:30 PM | Lama Rinpoche
Meditation | | | 6:30 PM | Qigong |
| | | | NOTE: No Table Tennis Tonight | | | 7-10 PM | Table Tennis |
| 2 | Wed | 10:00 AM | Shawl Time | 16 | Wed | 10:00 AM | Shawl Time |
| | | 3:30 PM | Proud Theater | | | 3:30 PM | Proud Theater |
| | | 6:00 PM | Power Flow Yoga | | | 6:00 PM | Power Flow Yoga |
| 3 | Thr | 6:30 PM | Tai Chi | 17 | Thr | 6:30 PM | Tai Chi |
| | | 7-10 PM | Table Tennis | | | 7-10 PM | Table Tennis |
| 4 | Fri | 6:00 PM | Power Flow Yoga | 18 | Fri | 8:00 AM | Women's Early Risers |
| | | 6:30 PM | Community Hu Song | | | 6:00 PM | Power Flow Yoga |
| 5 | Sat | 4:00 PM | Buddhist Meditation | 19 | Sat | 4:00 PM | Buddhist Meditation |
| 6 | Sun | 11:00 AM | Annual Church Picnic | 20 | Sun | 10:30 AM | Church Service |
| | | 6:00 PM | Overeaters Anonymous | | | 6:00 PM | Overeaters Anonymous |
| 7 | Mon | 6:00 PM | Women's AA Meeting | 21 | Mon | 6:00 PM | Women's AA Meeting |
| 8 | Tue | 12:00 AM | Lunch with Laurie | 22 | Tue | 12:00 PM | Lunch with Laurie |
| | | 5:30 PM | Family Yoga | | | 5:30 PM | Family Yoga |
| | | 6:30 PM | Qigong | | | 6:30 PM | Qigong |
| | | 7-10 PM | Table Tennis | | | 7-10 PM | Table Tennis |
| 9 | Wed | 3:30 PM | Proud Theater | 23 | Wed | 3:30 PM | Proud Theater |
| | | 6:00 PM | Power Flow Yoga | | | 6:00 PM | Power Flow Yoga |
| | | 6:30 PM | Eckankar Book Talk | 24 | Thr | 6:30 PM | Tai Chi |
| 10 | Thr | 6:30 PM | Tai Chi | | | 7-10 PM | Table Tennis |
| | | 7-10 PM | Table Tennis | 25 | Fri | 6:00 PM | Power Flow Yoga |
| 11 | Fri | 6:00 PM | Power Flow Yoga | 26 | Sat | 4:00 PM | Buddhist Meditation |
| 12 | Sat | 4:00 PM | Buddhist Meditation | 27 | Sun | 10:30 AM | Church Service |
| 13 | Sun | 10:30 AM | Church Service | | | 6:00 PM | Overeaters Anonymous |
| | | 6:00 PM | Overeaters Anonymous | 28 | Mon | 6:00 PM | Women's AA Meeting |
| 14 | Mon | 6:00 PM | Women's AA Meeting | 29 | Tue | 2:00 PM | Women's Book Pack @
Primrose Apt 217 |
| | | | | 30 | Wed | 10:00 AM | Shawl time |
| | | | | | | 3:30 PM | Proud Theater |
| | | | | | | 6:00 PM | Power Flow Yoga |



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Church of Wausau

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