



The CIRCUIT WRITER

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

November 2015

November Services at First UU

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Nov. 1 – A People of Grace

Jim Coakley – Service Leader

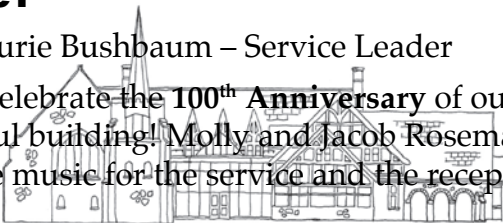
Jim and Rev. Laurie will be swapping pulpits for the day! Grace is a central concept from our Christian heritage that we don't talk about much anymore. Our Unitarian and Universalist forbearers rejected the concepts of original sin and the need to be granted pardon by a divine being. Unfortunately this caused us to ignore the concept of grace altogether. But today grace is being reclaimed and reframed in terms of kindness and gratitude. In this context, how do we become a people of grace?

POTLUCK SUNDAY: The first Sunday of every month we have a church potluck in Walker Hall. Please bring a dish or dessert to share, and join us for lunch and good conversation!

Nov. 8 – The Stonecutter or the Stone?

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum – Service Leader

Come celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our beautiful building! Molly and Jacob Roseman will provide music for the service and the reception to follow.



Nov. 15 – UUs for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME)

Guest Speaker: Pamela McInnes;

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum – Service Leader

Pamela McInnes, a member of First Universalist Church of Minneapolis, has been involved with UUJME for many years. UUJME works for a peaceful and just resolution of the Palestine-Israel conflict, affirming the equality, dignity, freedom, and security of all peoples involved. UUJME's principal activities are educational programs, support of local social action groups, conducting and sponsoring trips to Palestine-Israel, and advocacy. UUJME is guided by UU principles, international law, UN resolutions, universally accepted principles of human rights, the right to religious freedom, and UU actions and statements.



Nov. 22 – Bread Communion for All Ages

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum – Service Leader

All are invited to bring bread — of any kind — from any part of the world. We'll gather around the table to feast on the beauty of the world, the gift of food, and our connections to all life. Nursery care available; all other students are invited to join their families in the sanctuary to participate in this intergenerational service.

Nov. 29 – Topic To Be Announced

Nursery care available; all other students will be participating in a service project to feed the birds this winter.

In the Interim...

On Sunday, October 18, we kicked off our 2016 Stewardship Campaign, "Our Blue Boat Home." What an absolute joy it was to have Peter Mayer — UU musician, singer, and song writer — with us at the service to sing his hymn of the same name, a favorite of so many.



Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

At this time of the year, when the season turns, I'd like to remind all of us what a blessing it is to have this church, which holds you as you cross into each new season of the year, and each new season of your life. While some crossings are easy and joyous, some are not. I share this poem for all of you in the midst of crossings. May your UU faith be a companion to you.

O Boatman, Thou Take the Boat Away

by Bijay Kant Dubey

*O Boatman, Thou,
Take the boat away,
as the waters lie they deep
And the river in ripples,
the currents strong enough,
The wind is blowing hard
And the flow is in stream,
My lord, Thou the Boatman,
Thou ferry it, ferry it across
With the rudder,
Ferry it, ferry it...
O Boatman,
Take the boat away,
I have to go across,
I have to go across
That bank!*

Finally, as we prepare to cross into a new church fiscal year, the Stewardship Team reminds you to **please get your Pledge Card in as soon as possible** so that we can finalize a budget that ferries us all into the future.

In faith and love,
Rev. Laurie

Office Space

Every holiday season, our Sanctuary is decorated with a festive array of Poinsettias and greens. The week of Christmas, our Caring Ministry delivers some of these Poinsettias to congregation members who are unable to take part in services with us.



Please consider making a donation to go toward the purchase of Poinsettias — in honor or in memory of someone dear to you — to support this caring holiday tradition. For a tax-deductible donation of \$25, I will also print a memorial or special message in the Christmas Eve Order of Service, acknowledging your tribute.

Please send your donation and memorial information to the church office **by December 14.**

Anji Spialek

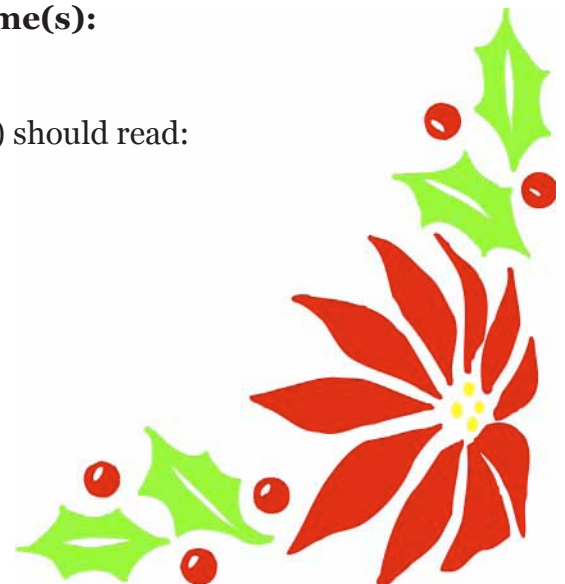


Poinsettia Memorial Order Form

Suggested \$25 tax-deductible donation per memorial.

Donor Name(s):

Memorial(s) should read:



Lifespan Faith Development

Building Bridges Field Trip

Sunday, November 1

The Building Bridges class (Grades 7–9) will head out on their first community field trip. They're visiting Mt. Sinai Congregation, located at 910 W. Randolph Street in Wausau. Our UU youth are so fortunate to be able to tour this Jewish Congregation with Rabbi Dan Danson.



UU students literally build a bridge.

Joseph Campbell Series

Tuesdays: Nov. 3, 10, & 17, 6:30–8:00 pm

This series entitled “The Message in the Myth” is taught by John and Jean Greenwood. Please register at church.

“Every religion is true one way or another. It is true when understood metaphorically. But when it gets stuck in its own metaphors, interpreting them as facts, then you are in trouble.” ~ Joseph Campbell

Sources Supper

Saturday, Nov. 21, 4:00–7:00 pm

The Sources Supper ritual aims to create a deep connection with our Unitarian Universalist heritage via story telling and conversation around a common meal. The stories represent four founding events in UU history, plus two key turning points in later history. The conversations occur around questions following each story, similar in style to a Passover Seder. Please sign up on the Atrium table or by calling the church office.

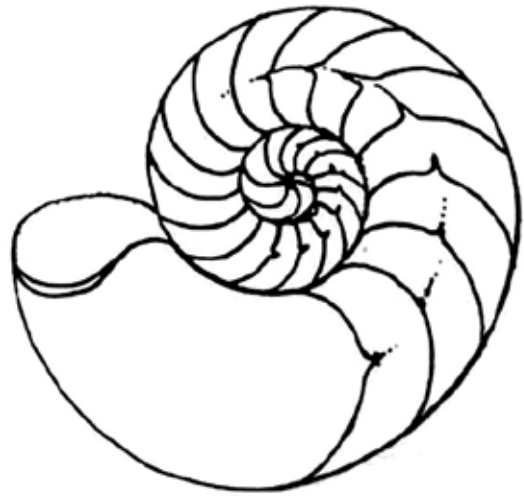
Consider the Conversation

Saturday, Dec. 5, 9:30–Noon

Consider the Conversation is a remarkable, thought-provoking film that looks at many of the issues that we will all face at the end of life. The producers have three goals for this film: (1) to change the current American attitude from one that predominantly views end-of-life as a *failed medical*

event to one that sees it as a *normal process rich in opportunity for human development*; (2) to inspire dialogue between patient and doctor, life partners, parent and child, minister and parishioner; and (3) to encourage medical professionals, healthcare organizations and clergy, to take the lead in counseling others.

Film to be followed by a discussion with a panel of experts in the field. *Consider the Conversation Part 2* will be shown later in the year.



Jess Robinson Passes the RE Torch

Big Thanks to Jess Robinson for stepping in to help launch our Lifespan Faith Development programs for children and youth.



Sarah Thurs

Since the church year kick-off, Jess has been managing supplies, curricula, and resources for our volunteer teachers. Because her yoga schedule outside of church is expanding, Jess is unable to continue assisting us in this RE role. (She'll still teach Family Yoga classes here at church on Tuesday nights, though. Yea!) As such, Sarah Thurs — better

known as Ju-Ju and True's mom — will fill in as our Temporary RE Assistant (10 hours/week) until the Board is able to determine if we will have a budget to hire a half-time RE Director in 2016. RE-related queries may be directed to sarah@uuwausau.org.

The Board Table

Dawn Ashenbrenner

President, Board of Trustees

Happy Fall! We're back into the swing of things at First UU.



As you know, the Board has set four goals for the 2015–2016 year. So far, the Board's column in the CW has discussed the first two of these goals. This month, I want to talk about our third goal, which touches on an uncomfortable subject for many of us—money.

For the first time in several years, we have a functioning Stewardship Committee. Andy Benedetto, Carl Drake, Donna Seidl, and Mandy Wright have been busy planning the Fall Stewardship Campaign. I have no doubt that this team will run a successful fund drive. But the job isn't over at the end of the drive. The Board's third goal states that not only will the Stewardship Committee run the fall drive, but also that we will establish a plan for ongoing development of lay leadership in Stewardship.

It has become more evident that Stewardship needs to be a year-round pursuit. You may plan a household budget on a yearly basis, but I would wager that you revisit your plan and goals more frequently throughout the year. If it becomes apparent that you need to make adjustments, you either cut expenses or find other income sources. Likewise, the Board did a lot of cutting last year, but we did not work to find ways to raise more money. One reason for this is that we were already stretched thin and did not have a Stewardship Committee to turn to for assistance. It is our hope that as we go forward, the Stewardship Committee will be a year-round presence.

We also need to start planning for our settled minister. Part of this planning is being able to offer a competitive salary. For a congregation of our size, in our location, we are looking at a base salary of between \$54,200 (for a new, inexperienced minister) and \$83,950. Add at least 20% to that figure for benefits. I know for some of you that seems like a large amount—way more than you feel is appropriate. However, these are numbers that are sanctioned by the UUA (please refer to the UUA website), and these are salary ranges that potential

settled ministers will be looking for.

Because we need a salary that can attract a quality minister, we must have a successful Stewardship Drive this year. The budget needs to be voted on at the annual meeting in December, and it is based on income from pledges that are just starting to come in. *We must increase our pledges from last year to secure a quality minister — and our future.*

If you haven't sent your pledge in yet, please do so as quickly as possible. Setting up monthly automatic payments is easy, and it's the most efficient way to pay your pledge. It also helps us to know how much money will be coming in regularly.

Thank you in advance for your support to First UU. We count on you to move us forward together. As always, please feel free to contact me or any Board member with any questions or concerns.



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.

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Knowing Our Past...

Probably one of our most popular ministers was **Reverend Brainard Gibbons**, who attracted many people to this church because he was such an outstanding speaker. Brainard was our minister from 1942–1943 and again from 1945–1953. (During 1943–1945, we had an interim minister because Brainard was serving as a naval chaplain.)

In 1952, Brainard approached church member **Betty Langlois** with the suggestion that an adult study group be formed. There was a good response, and the group began meeting on the first and third Friday evenings of the month in members' homes. The group became known as the "**Universalist Forum**" and initially attracted 30 to 50-year-olds. Originally, the forum group began reading such books as Will Durant's *Story of Philosophy* about the great thinkers and philosophers from the early Greek and Roman periods, which stimulated a lot of discussion. After a number of years, though, the Universalist Forum became more of a social and study group, and speakers from the community were brought in to talk about the hot topics of the day. In the late 1960s, the group became larger and met just one Friday a month. Potluck suppers were usually held before the meetings.

Later, in the 70s, 80s, and 90s, many of the Forum members began taking biking trips together in summer and fall, and this group became known as the "**Biking Vikings**." They took biking trips to various places in the Midwest and Northeast, as well as several trips to Europe. Eventually, when the Forum group became too large to meet in members' homes, they held their meetings in Yawkey Hall, changed the programs to more formal presentations, and also invited any non-members who wished to attend.

As years passed and members were lost through death or from moving away, the Forum ceased to exist by 2006. As Betty Langlois wrote: "*It was wonderful to be able to socialize with the same people you studied with. I loved the balance with those friends and the deep friendships that were formed.*" ☺

Judy Stevens

* Rev. Gibbons became a controversial leader of the Universalist Church of America, promoting the idea that Universalism was more than just a branch of Christianity.



20th Century

November Membership Anniversaries

Clifford Livingston	48 years
Dan & Carolyn Schaut	35 years
Joni Hahn	34 years
Nan Cedar	23 years
Dave & Renee Peterson	18 years
John & Mary Robinson	16 years
Marguerite Donnelly	16 years
Dan & Jessica Bowers	9 years
Linda Haney	9 years
Brian & Tammy Stezenski-Williams	9 years
Sarah Thurs	9 years
Kathi Hupy	9 years
Gail and David Berge	8 years
Judy Beier	6 years



UU NOTES

• Jim Peck's phone number is now 952-898-4005. Arbors @ Ridges, 13897 Community Drive, Burnsville, MN 55337.

• **Back to Standard Time;** change your clocks back on November 1 so you don't miss church.

• **WomenCraft** returns! Scott and Peggy Stalheim will again have woven items for sale from this Fair- Trade-certified social enterprise in Ngara, Tanzania, on November 29 and December 13 before the church service. WomenCraft's members weave with a traditional technique passed down to daughters for generations, with new designs created by village artisans. The grasses and banana stalk used in production are cultivated near their villages, and hand-dyed fabrics are purchased in the local markets. Through WomenCraft, over 300 artisans advance themselves, raise healthier families, and create stronger communities in one of the poorest areas in the world.



• Family Winter Retreat

Make plans now to join the winter retreat at Camp Manitowish in Boulder Junction January 29-31, 2016, for a weekend of cross country skiing, sledding, snowshoeing, and indoor fun. There is room for 12 families. Costs are roughly \$26/adult/night, \$13/6-12/night, and free for 5 and under. To sign up or for more information contact Dawn Ashenbrenner at dawn1969@yahoo.com.

• UUJME Statement on Escalating Tensions

The Board of Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME) is deeply saddened and alarmed by the increasing violence in Palestine-Israel. The past several months have seen an escalation in Palestinian protests in response to killings and attacks on property and religious sites by Israeli settlers, many of whom carry guns and use them at will and with near-total impunity. A growing number of Palestinians have been killed, including children, with hundreds injured and hundreds more arrested. A growing number of Israelis are being killed and injured.

• **Food Pantry Donations** gratefully accepted in the Reception Hall.



• Book Pack

Book Pack will meet November 24 at 2:00 p.m. in Apt. 217 of Primrose Retirement Community. We will discuss *The Secret Scripture* by Sebastian Barry.



• **Book Donations** are gratefully accepted in the Reception Hall.

• Fire Drill

Please note that Sunday, November 1, there will be a fire drill at 11:30 a.m. ☹️

• **Glorified Coffee Hour** welcomes donations of healthy snacks, munchies, and juice to share with our members and visitors every Sunday.



Circle of Life

Barb Seegert 1948 – 2015

Carol Newman 1939 – 2015

Brad Lantzer 1961 – 2015

November Calendar

- 1 Sun Daylight Savings Time Ends!**
10:30 AM Church Service
11:30 PM Fire Drill
11:45 AM Potluck
4-7:00PM Stewardship Party
6:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous
- 2 Mon 6:00 PM Women's AA Meeting**
6:30 PM Wausau Bird Club
- 3 Tues 12:00 PM Lunch with Laurie**
5:30 PM Family Yoga
6:30 PM Qigong
6:30 PM Joseph Campbell Series
7:00 PM Table Tennis
- 4 Wed 10:00 AM Shawl Time**
3:30 PM Proud Theater
6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga
- 5 Thr 1:00 PM Barb Seegert Memorial**
6:30 PM Tai Chi
7:00 PM Table Tennis
- 6 Fri 6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga**
6:30 PM Community HU Song
- 7 Sat 4:00 PM Buddhist Meditation**
- 8 Sun Church 100th Anniversary**
10:30 AM Church Service
11:30 AM Anniversary Reception
10-1:30 PM Labyrinth Walk
12:00 PM Auction Eggroll Delivery
6:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous
- 9 Mon 6:00 PM Women's AA Meeting**
- 10 Tues 12:00 PM Lunch with Laurie**
5:30 PM Family Yoga
6:30 PM Joseph Campbell Series
6:30 PM Qigong
7:00 PM Table Tennis
2-9:00 PM Lifetouch Portraits
- 11 Wed 3:30 PM Proud Theater**
5:30-7:30 Labyrinth Walk
6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga
6:30 PM Eckankar Book Group
2-9:00 PM Lifetouch Portraits
- 12 Thr 6:30 PM Tai Chi**
7:00 PM Table Tennis
2-9:00 PM Lifetouch Portraits
- 13 Fri 6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga**
7:00 PM Second Friday Nighters
2-9:00 PM Lifetouch Portraits
- 14 Sat 9-4:00 PM Lifetouch Portraits**
4:00 PM Buddhist Meditation
4-6:00 PM Stewardship Party
- 15 Sun 10:30 AM Church Service**
6:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous
- 16 Mon 6:00 PM Women's AA Meeting**
- 17 Tues 12:00 PM Lunch with Laurie**
5:30 PM Family Yoga
6:30 PM Joseph Campbell
6:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting
6:30 PM Qigong
7:00 PM Table Tennis
- 18 Wed 10:00 AM Shawl time**
3:30 PM Proud Theater
6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga
- 19 Thr 6:30 PM Tai Chi**
7:00 PM Table Tennis
- 20 Fri 6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga**
- 21 Sat 8:00 AM Women's Early Risers**
4:00 PM Buddhist Meditation
4:00-7PM Sources Supper
- 22 Sun 10:30 AM Church Service**
NO RE CLASSES
11:45AM Visitor Brunch
6:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous
- 23 Mon 6:00 PM Women's AA Meeting**
- 24 Tues 12:00 PM Lunch with Laurie**
2:00 PM Women's Book Pack
5:30 PM Family Yoga
6:30 PM Qigong
7:00 PM Table Tennis
- 25 Wed 3:30 PM Proud Theater**
6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga
- 26 Thr Thanksgiving!**
- 27 Fri 6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga**
- 28 Sat 4:00 PM Buddhist Meditation**
- 29 Sun 10:30 AM Church Service**
6:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous
- 30 Mon 6:00 PM Women's AA Meeting**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2015)

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Pledges	\$173,143	Personnel	\$124,441
Other Contributions	22,626	Gen. Admin.	17,057
Endowment	14,130	Bldg. & Grds.	41,645
Auction	9,196	Utilities, Prop. Tax	10,589
Other Fund Raising	377	Programs/RE	4,395
Building Use	6,889	Music	3,904
Parking Lot	5,759	Denom. Contrib.	10,042
Misc.	14	Debt Service	14,360
TOTAL INCOME	\$232,134	TOTAL EXPENSE	\$226,433

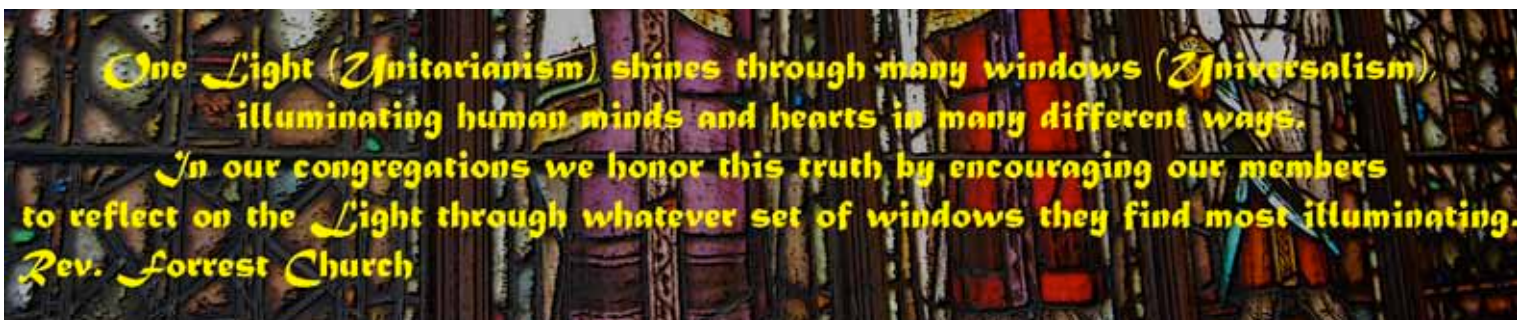
For the first three quarters of the year, we are showing a net income of \$5,701 with income at 79% of budget and expenses at 77%. The extra income is a combination of only 68.5% in pledges, offset by \$16,000 over budget in non-pledged contributions and \$4,000 over in endowment. The higher expenses stem primarily from dealing with the mold problem in the rec room. The overrun in building maintenance of \$26,000 is being paid by the \$14,130 from the endowment and from the reserve fund. An additional \$17,790 is coming from the endowment in October, \$10,000 for their budgeted contribution and the rest earmarked for mold correction and security and computer-related upgrades.

We have had a lot of unbudgeted expenses this year. The timing of these needs was unpredictable, but that some upgrades to the building and equipment will be needed from time to time is to be expected. We have not had a designated fund for this, but perhaps one should be started from some lump sum contributions we receive annually on a fairly regular basis. The past couple of years these have gone into "other contributions" and if any net income shows up at year end, into the reserve fund to be used at the discretion of the Board. But, some years the donor wishes them to be used for a specific purpose, say restoring the sanctuary. Since we don't know at budget constructing time whether the donations are coming or where the donors will want them placed, these sums cannot be part of the operating budget.

Expenses for the position of Education, Membership, and Program Coordinator are at 53% of budget for a savings so far of \$10,660. The savings should amount to somewhere around \$20,000 by year's end, or close to the deficit in pledges for the year. Other expenses, except those noted above, look pretty much as anticipated.

The Endowment Fund began the year at \$431,612. After investment losses and withdrawals that so far total \$14,130, it has a value of \$395,607. ☺

Jen Powers and Carol Bronston



First Universalist Unitarian

Church of Wausau

504 Grant Street

Wausau, WI 54403

Return Service Requested



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