



The CIRCUIT WRITER

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

January 2016

January Services at First UU

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Jan 3 – Something Old, Something

New — *Richard Olson – Service Leader*

As is our tradition, we celebrate this beloved community by creating a communal service. Please bring readings, poems, quotes, thoughts, artistic endeavors, etc., to this somewhat impromptu first Sunday of the year.

Jan 10 — Fundamentalism: Mending the God-Shaped Hole

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum – Service Leader

As we look at the frightening rise again of fundamentalism in the world, how do we check our own little branch of ideological supremacy?

Jan 17 — Do You Know Who Killed MLK? An Inconvenient History

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum – Service Leader

MLK was even more radical than we were taught. What does it mean to learn the truth of his death?

• **New Member Sunday** If you would are ready to join First UU, please contact Rev. Laurie.

Jan 24 – The Balance of Nature, the Nature of Balance

Richard Olson – Service Leader

Jeff Borski, Organist

Does the so-called 'balance of nature' really lead to balance? What happens when we throw human nature into the mix?

Jan 31 — Defining Moments

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum – Service Leader

Robert Frost's classic poem about two paths diverging in a wood describes significant choices we make throughout our lives. What have been your defining moments?

The Board Table

Judy Beier

Board of Trustees

Hospitality

I think most would agree one of our remarkable characteristics is our welcoming atmosphere. Whether one is a "long-timer," relatively new to the congregation, or just visiting, we pride ourselves on smiles and hellos. Our greeters greet, our ushers usher, and our visitor contact strives to make newcomers feel welcome. The wide ranging conversations at our Glorified Coffee Hour introduce and reintroduce one and all. Prospective members are welcomed via brunch, a brief video about UUism, and good conversations with our minister and membership group. The monthly potlucks offer a great opportunity to sit down, slow down, and reconnect. These are things that foster our sense of community. There are other social occasions, the family camping weekend and Second Friday Nighters for example, and there are probably future options just waiting to be explored. It is up to us.

We have signup sheets out every Sunday to sign up for any of the Hospitality opportunities, or the same is available on our website. Listed below are the areas needing help and the contact person (if there is one [if not, consider this another volunteer opportunity!]). Easy clear directions are provided.



Continued on page 4

In the Interim

As I prepare this column for the January CW, we are preparing for the Solstice Service.

By the time this issue of the newsletter reaches you, the New Year will be upon us. May the light of the New Year enter in...



Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

*The birds they sang
At the break of day
Start again
I heard them say
Don't dwell on what
Has passed away
Or what is yet to be
Yeah the wars they will
Be fought again
The holy dove
She will be caught again
Bought and sold
And bought again
The dove is never free.
Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in...*

*Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything (there is a crack in everything)
That's how the light gets in
Ring the bells that still can ring (ring the bells that still can ring)*

Forget your perfect offering

There is a crack, a crack in everything (there is a crack in everything)

That's how the light gets in

That's how the light gets in

That's how the light gets in

—Leonard Cohen

In faith and love,
Rev. Laurie

Office Space

Happy New Year! I hope that your holiday season was merry and bright.

Now that we are embarking on 2016, I have a few resolutions as your administrator:

- I resolve to enroll in at least one of the continuing education modules provided by the Association of Unitarian Universalist Administrators. Did you know there was such a thing?! I am thinking of taking Technology Certification and possibly Finance Certification.
- I resolve to attend as many meetings of the Board of Trustees as possible so that I keep up-to-date with the goings-on of church governance.
- I resolve to read the following UUA Common Reads: *Acts of Faith* by Eboo Patel, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander, *Behind the Kitchen Door* by Saru Jayaraman, *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness* by Paul Rasor, and *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. Every year, the UUA suggests a book that is relevant and of interest to UUs. I am a little behind.

I look forward to continuing to learn and grow with the congregation.

See you in church!

— Anji Spialek
Congregational Administrator

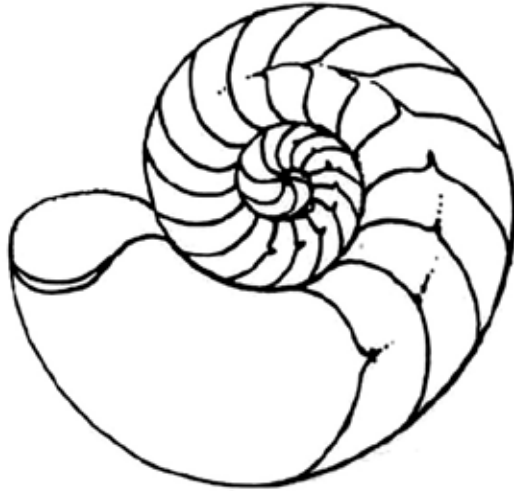


Lifespan Faith Development

Building Bridges Class Trip

Youth in Grades 7–9 will be taking a field trip to St. Mary's Oratory (325 Grand Ave) to observe their 10:00 High Mass, where they will experience the liturgy, hear the Gregorian chant, and see all the ceremonies performed at the altar.

If you have a child in the Building Bridges class, please have them at the church by 9:30 on Sunday, January 17, so students can carpool with our volunteer drivers and find parking/seats in time for the 10 a.m. service. Mass will last until 11:30, so students may be back a bit late from their trip that day if they pause to tour the church or ask any questions after the service. Anyone wishing to join the students that day is welcome to accompany the group.



If attending, sign up on the Atrium table. RSVPs necessary. See below for the description from Mt. Sinai:

The Community Shabbat is our annual service and open house. At our Community Shabbat we “slow down the service” and take time to explain the meaning of many of the prayers and rituals. Afterwards we gather for an Oneg Shabbat (a Shabbat social) and Rabbi Dan is available to answer questions.

Both groups and individuals are welcome to come, but we do ask that you RSVP.

Hiring Update

The good news is that our Stewardship Drive this year has been very successful. We have the necessary pledges to begin the hiring process for a 20-hour-per-week Coordinator/Director of Lifespan Faith Development! Rev. Laurie and the Personnel Committee have put together a job description; it was listed in the *City Pages* on December 10. You may also see it on the First UU website by clicking on the link on the home page.

We will begin interviews in January and let you all know the results of our search.

Adult Faith Development in January

Community Shabbat at Mt. Sinai Temple, Wausau

Friday, January 15, 7:30 p.m. at Mount Sinai

Join Rev. Laurie and other congregation members to participate in this interfaith learning and worship experience.



Thursday Film Series

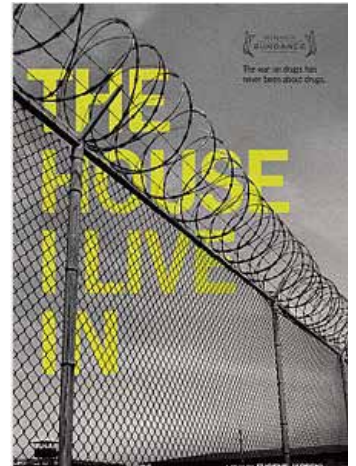
The House I Live In
by Eugene Jarecki

Thursday, January 28,
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Won the Grand Jury Prize: Documentary at the Sundance Film Festival.

This documentary goes inside America's longest war to examine the effects of drug laws on everyone from the dealer and the grieving mother to the jailer and the federal judge.

Info: <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/films/house-i-live-in/>



Martin Luther King Day Banquet

First United Methodist, 903 Third St. Wausau
Doors Open at 5:30; Dinner starts at 6:15 p.m.
Guest Speaker: Rev. Willie Brisco, Milwaukee
Community Leader, Criminal Justice Advocate
Tickets: \$15-\$30, anything over \$15 is tax deductible
Special dietary needs requested in advance

RSVP to Kate Gaines at:

kategaines_wisdom@yahoo.com

Sponsored by NAOMI ⊕

Board Table, continued

Each week we need:

Ushering: (Karen Peterson) 2 people

Greeters: (_____) 2 people

Visitor Contact: (_____) 1 person to welcome our visitors, offer them our contact sheet, and meet them after the service to answer questions.

Coffee Hosts: (_____) 2 people to set up and clean up.

Less often:

Pot Luck: (_____) Set up/Clean up - once a month - many hands

Special Occasion Meals: (_____) e.g., Mothers' Day Brunch, Thanksgiving Sources Supper, Volunteer Thank-You Meals

Membership Ministry

Membership: At least 3, to help host the new-member welcoming breakfast, maybe 3 per church year.

Coordinate with Church staff to help generate active involvement of new members.

Caring Ministry

We can also take pride in our caring community. For those who have benefited from the cards, calls, shawls, visits, food, concern, or just plain "presence," our Congregation tries to exemplify the value of the inherent worth and dignity of all, especially our Church family. This continues through end-of-life services.

Organizing Committee

Suzan Miller – General Contact, Special Projects

Laura Syring – Food, Memorial Services

Karen Peterson – Cards, Visits, Transportation

Cindy Owen – Comfort Shawls

Mary Beth Moberg – Daily Hospital Checks

Many others join in to plan and assess our activities.

The Organizing Committee tries to stay abreast of

needs and occasions of note and fill those needs with our "on call" volunteers.

These are the areas that help us be a welcoming and caring community.

None of these things happened by chance. None of these things happen in a vacuum.

The vision behind these Ministries is the knowledge that our community makes its caring known through various programs. We do, however, need the whole Congregation to step up and make this vision a reality.



We need your help. Please volunteer. You know the old adage; many hands make light work. ⊕

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:

laurie@uuwausau.org

Anji Spialek, Congregational Administrator:

anji@uuwausau.org

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Jim Maas, Desktop Designer: newsletter@uuwausau.org

Sarah Thurs, Editor: sarah@uuwausau.org

Knowing Our Past...

In 1910 a prominent member of our church, Judge A.H. Reid, secured the charter for Troop 1 of America from Sir Baden Powell of England. This Troop 1, which met at our church, was thought to be the first Boy Scout troop in Wisconsin—and possibly in the U.S.! Three other troops were formed at the church between 1910 and 1946, and a Cub Pack was organized in 1951 with three dens.

In the 1920s and 1930s Universalists were not looked upon with favor by the Wausau YMCA because they were considered heathens! Years ago I found a wonderfully written article in our church history material. The church member who wrote this didn't identify himself and I'm really sorry because I would love to know who he was. The article is too long for this space in the Circuit Writer, so I'm including just the following:

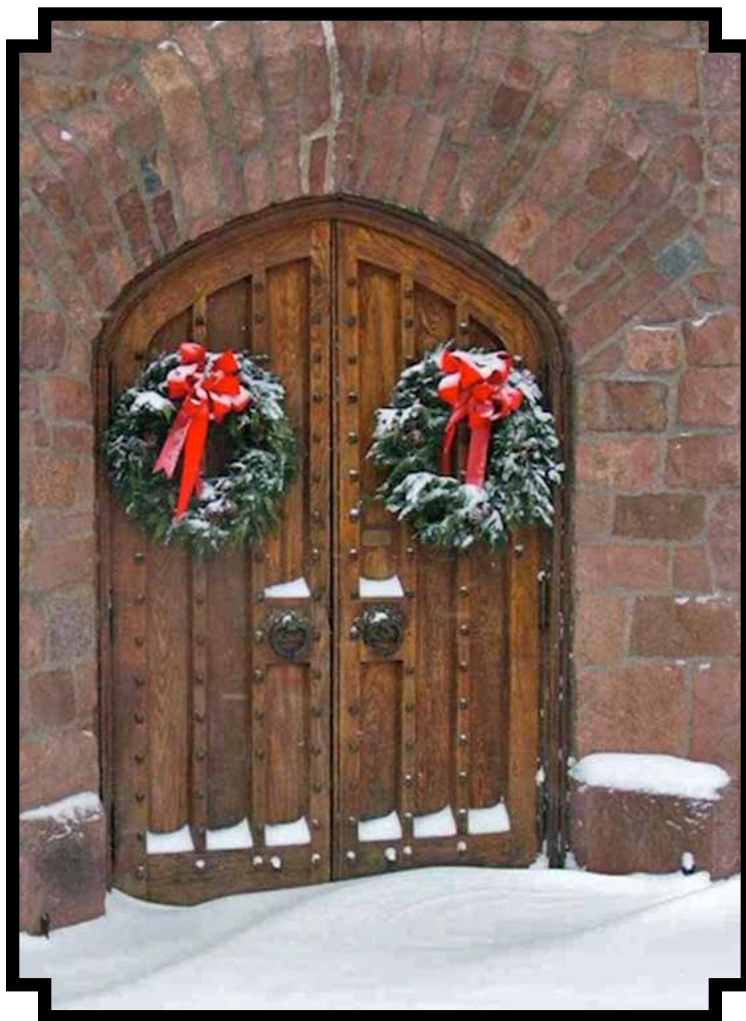
"At the outset of the association (the YMCA) in Wausau, a number of this church could donate all that he cared to for the support of that institution; he could become a local member but he was not permitted to have anything to say as to the general policy of the association.

Today (1926) a Universalist can become a member of the local board of directors and may have a word to say on state policies, but as to national policies, I am informed that we are still placed with non-Christian and ungodly people of the earth. However, the YMCA never had a more sincere worker than Mr. Jon Manson (a Universalist). He was general chairman in the work of raising funds for the creation of the association's present magnificent building...

There was a strong feeling among the Universalists that, inasmuch as the association only wanted their money and yet considered them outcasts, it was better to let them paddle their own orthodox canoe. This feeling was greatly lessened by the noble Christian-like work of Mr. Manson, and as a consequence the members of the First Universalist Church are giving according to their numbers as much to the support of the YMCA as any church in the city." ⊕

— Judy Stevens

Editor's Note: Undoubtedly, those early Scout troops positively affected the lives of hundreds. My father, Frank Maas, became an Eagle Scout in one of those troops and went on to serve as a scoutmaster in Portage for decades. I was recruited to serve on the Camp Tesomas staff one summer. J.M.



January Membership Anniversaries

Judy Stevens	54 years
Scott Williams	46 years
Jim and Liz Brezinski	39 years
Greg and Terri Kohnert	37 years
Steve Gantert and Diane Walker	24 years
Mike and Deb Wasilczuk	20 years
Jeff and Jenny Sorenson	14 years
Sheryl Hemp	13 years
Ken and Connie Schmiege	11 years
Bart Hobson	3 years



UU NOTES


Ari Schmidt Fund Initiates “The Seeds of Hope Project”

Over a year ago, the Ari Schmidt Fund committee members started discussing a possible project to give away funds to selected individuals and families with the goal of “paying it forward.” This resulted in the development of “The Seeds of Hope Project,” introduced by Reverend Laurie during the November 22nd Bread Communion church service. Reverend Laurie asked for five volunteers who would each receive a \$100 dollar bill with the instructions to “do good” with the money, increase its power in some way, and report back to the congregation about their experiences on February 14, 2016. The volunteers selected were: Chloe Maier, Shannon and Jordan Thielman, the Lila and Bart Hobson family, the Clint and Kelly Schultz family, and the Brian and Tammy Stezenski-Williams family. Please support them as they work toward their individual goals. We look forward to hearing their stories and seeing their outcomes!

Help “Seeds of Hope” Volunteers by Buying Socks


Shannon and Jordan Thielman are coordinating a fundraiser to obtain socks for homeless and low-income residents in our community. The Wigwam Company in Sheboygan has agreed to offer a deep discount for warm winter socks—only \$1.00 per pair. On Sunday, January 17, Shannon and Jordan will give church attendees an opportunity to “buy” socks for \$1.00 per pair to donate to their cause to help their project grow. They will distribute them to local homeless shelters and other groups serving those in need.

They are also looking for someone to pick up the winter socks in Sheboygan in late January or early February so as to avoid incurring shipping costs. Please let Shannon know if you can help: shannon0312@yahoo.com.

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


Family Winter Retreat—January 29–31

Make plans now to join the winter retreat at Camp Manitowish in Boulder Junction for a weekend of cross-country skiing, sledding, snowshoeing, and indoor fun. There is room for twelve 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.

 **Book Pack** will meet in Primrose Retirement Community, Apt. 217, to discuss *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. If you get the *UU World* magazine, you’ll find it is currently the UUA Common Read.

January CFC to Support Syrian Refugees

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is an international human rights organization currently working in more than a dozen countries around the world. It has been working toward a goal of a world free from oppression and fostering social justice for 75 years. In September, the UUSC partnered with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) to launch a refugee crisis fund to aid the over 11 million refugees fleeing from Syria. You’ll be hearing more about the UUSC in January, when a Community Focus Collection (CFC) will be taken for the Refugee Crisis Fund.

 **Slow Food Marathon County** is screening the documentary “To Make a Farm,” an intimate portrait of young adults who decided to become small scale farmers in Canada. A vegetarian stew with bread and salad will be provided. Discussion to follow the film. \$5 donation to cover the screening license fee; free for children and students. Please RSVP to slowfoodwausau@yahoo.com to reserve your spot on January 26 @ 6:30 pm.

Circle of Life

Doris See, UU for 65 years.

– November 30, 2015

January Calendar

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| <p>1 Fri 6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga
 6:30 PM Community HU Song</p> <p>2 Sat 4:00 PM Buddhist Meditation</p> <p>3 Sun 10:30 AM Church Service
 11:45 AM Potluck
 6:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous</p> <p>4 Mon 6:00 PM Women's AA Meeting
 6:30 PM Wausau Bird Club</p> <p>5 Tue 5:30 PM Family Yoga
 6:30 PM Qigong
 7:00 PM Table Tennis</p> <p>6 Wed 10:00 AM Shawl time
 3:30 PM Proud Theater
 6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga</p> <p>7 Thr 6:30 PM Tai Chi
 7:00 PM Table Tennis</p> <p>8 Fri 6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga
 7:00 PM Second Friday Nighters</p> <p>9 Sat 4:00 PM Buddhist Meditation</p> <p>10 Sun 10:30 AM Church Service
 6:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous</p> <p>11 Mon 6:00 PM Women's AA Meeting</p> <p>12 Tue 12:00 AM Lunch with Laurie
 5:30 PM Family Yoga
 6:30 PM Qigong
 7:00 PM Table Tennis</p> <p>13 Wed 3:30 PM Proud Theater
 6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga
 6:30 PM Eckankar Book Group</p> <p>14 Thr 6:30 PM Tai Chi
 7:00 PM Table Tennis</p> <p>15 Fri 6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga</p> <p>16 Sat 8:00 AM Women's Early Risers
 4:00 PM Buddhist Meditation</p> <p>17 Sun 10:30 AM Church Service
 Building Bridges field trip
 (Buy socks for Seeds of Hope)
 6:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous</p> <p>18 Mon 6:00 PM Women's AA Meeting</p> <p>19 Tue 12:00 PM Lunch with Laurie
 5:30 PM Family Yoga
 6:30 PM Qigong</p> | <p>6:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting
 7:00 PM Table Tennis</p> <p>20 Wed 10:00 AM Shawl time
 3:30 PM Proud Theater
 6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga</p> <p>21 Thr 6:30 PM Tai Chi
 7:00 PM Table Tennis</p> <p>22 Fri 6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga</p> <p>23 Sat 4:00 PM Buddhist Meditation</p> <p>24 Sun 10:30 AM Church Service
 6:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous</p> <p>25 Mon 6:00 PM Women's AA Meeting</p> <p>26 Tue 12:00 PM Lunch with Laurie
 2:00 PM Women's Book Pack
 5:30 PM Family Yoga
 6:30 PM Qigong
 6:30 PM Slow Food – Documentary/ soup
 7:00 PM Table Tennis</p> <p>27 Wed 3:30 PM Proud Theater
 6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga</p> <p>28 Thr 6:30 PM Tai Chi
 6:30 PM Documentary – The House I Live In
 7:00 PM Table Tennis</p> <p>29 Fri 6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga
 Winter Retreat</p> <p>30 Sat 4:00 PM Buddhist Meditation</p> <p>31 Sun 10:30 AM Church Service
 6:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous</p> |
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Christmas Pageant cast