



The CIRCUIT WRITER

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

February 2016

February Services at First UU

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Feb. 7 – Searching for Truth and Meaning in the Bible

Jim Maas – Service Leader

Music: Charles Patten, Ray Kraemer, Danika Kozlovich

UUs affirm and promote “A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” What truth and meaning can we find in the Bible? Find out.

Feb.14 – Love in Action: Seeds of Hope

Rev. Laurie, Worship Leader Music: Karen Zuidema, piano

In November, the Ari Schmidt Fund handed out 5 envelopes of cash to church members to see how they could give to the community. Hear about the projects from those who were our stewards of generosity. I think you will hear about socks, games and who knows what else... We will all be touched by these Seeds of Hope stories.

NAOMI Forum: Hear about a possible UU grant to help us meet and partner with the local Black community, beginning with our March for Justice on May 1.

Feb. 21 – You Don’t Have to Run Away to Join the Circus

Rev. Laurie – Worship Leader

Music: Jeff Borski, organ

Today everyone is welcome under the Big Top: clowns, lion-tamers, elephants, and all those people who get out of the little clown car. That’s us; we are all in the circus. Theologian Sam Keen wrote, “The circus overwhelms us with improbable spectacles... What kind of sacrament is being celebrated in this church of impossible possibilities?”

Feb. 28 – Winter Faith and Spring Faith

Rev. Laurie – Worship Leader Music: Karen Zuidema, piano

The earth has its seasons and the heart has its seasons, too. We cycle through periods of grief and loss just as we celebrate this period of Interim Ministry. Are you mostly in grief or mostly seeing new possibilities for ministry here at First UU Wausau?

The Board Table

Judy Beier

Board of Trustees



Justice and Service Ministry

Here is the last of our articles on the ministries of our Church. These last two months we have discussed the Program Ministry (Lifespan Faith Development) and the Hospitality Ministry (Ushering, Greeting, Coffee Hosts, Potluck, Caring Circle, and Membership). This

month, we’d like to inform you more about our Justice and Service Ministry.

No one ministry is more important than another, and all require the active participation of each member of our community to the best of their capabilities. However, Justice and Service also require us to address up front how to take our values, present them to our Congregation, define them, devise action plans, and take that action into the greater outside community.

[Board Table continued on page 6]

In the Interim

You know how one thing often leads to another? Well, our Black Lives Matter march in May was one thing. Here is the possible other...



Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

Would we like to partner with the NAOMI community organizer in Wausau, whose position was funded by a grant from the Episcopal Church?

Kate Gaines, the NAOMI (North-Central Area Congregations Organized to Make an Impact) community organizer, would help us write a grant to the UU Funding Program. The UU Funding Program is a denominational grant-making program of the UUA funded by a very large endowment at the UU Church of Shelter Rock in NY. There are four types of grants. We could apply for one in the "Fund for UU Social Responsibility." These grants are given to UU Congregations to make an impact in their local communities. They fund projects: "that increase the direct involvement of UUs in service, advocacy and/or community organizing to create justice in the larger community; link Unitarian Universalists with the larger community; and foster a generosity of spirit and action in all aspects of our UU communities."

In meeting with Kate and the NAOMI leaders, we realized that there is a great opportunity to build on last year's Black Lives Matter march. This year, on May 1, we can hold the second March for Racial Justice.

One part of our grant would be to bring more of the Black community to the March for Racial Justice with expanded programming the day of the march. Secondly, we would hold a monthly gathering to build connections with our Black neighbors between the march and next year's Martin Luther King dinner. Finally, we would hope to then have a much larger—and more diverse—

gathering at the MLK dinner to celebrate our justice work together.

NAOMI and all the NAOMI congregations and their members would be our partners. The NAOMI organization is much stronger than it has been; there is a revitalized NAOMI clergy caucus with many clergy leaders from around the area.

The NAOMI leaders are really excited about this! The more of us calling for justice, walking for justice, and sitting around the table creating connections to build justice, the sooner justice will come.

First UU Church of New Bedford received a grant to develop and implement a restorative justice program in juvenile court; the UU Fellowship of Boca Raton's grant created a summer music camp for 60 bilingual children.

[*Interim* continued on page 4.]

Office Space

UUA Mid America will be holding their Regional Assembly in St. Paul, Minnesota, from April 29 through May 1. If you have ever thought about going to a Regional Assembly, this year is the perfect chance to catch it close to home.



The theme will be: "The WHO in the New Era of Unitarian Universalism... looking at who we want to be as faith communities in the coming years. Who will we Unitarian Universalists need to be, to be relevant? How will we get there? Who will be joining us on this journey?"

I've been told that the assembly is a mind-widening and idea-sparking experience, and I'm excited to attend this year. I look forward to meeting and sharing with other UU professionals and members, and hope that some of you will join me there. Check out their website at www.midamericauua.org for assembly and registration information.

See you in church!

*Anji Spialek
Congregational Administrator*

Lifespan Faith Development

New Resources for Older Adults

Older adulthood is a time to look back on one's journey and to affirm that which is of most importance. Most older adults face the physical realities of aging and the emotional realities of loss and grief at some point. While many older adults are active participants in familiar organizations and communities, for some this can be a challenge.

The Faith Development Office announces a new set of web pages for older adults. These pages offer support for the older adult journey, whether you are an older adult yourself, a caregiver or family member, or part of a congregation engaged in ministry with older adults. The curated resources are designed to enrich and support the journeys of older adulthood. Topics include: Body, Mind, and Spirit; Facing Death, Grief, and Loss, Programs for Groups, Making Medical Decisions, Caregivers, and Legacy.

OWL Training for Congregational Facilitators

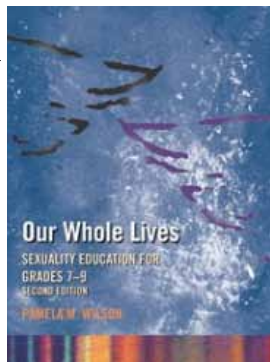
SAVE THE DATES... June 10–12

The First UU Wausau "Train-the-Facilitator Course" for Our Whole Lives (OWL): Sexuality Education for Grades 7–9 will be held at our church the weekend of June 10, 11, and 12. The OWL program has been held for our youth a number of times in our church to rave reviews. Rev. Laurie calls OWL, "One of the most important things her own kids participated in."

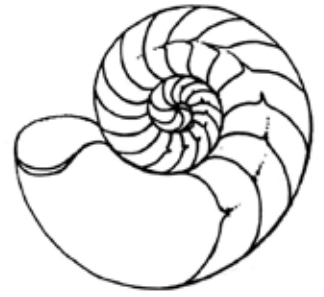
We would like to increase the number of First UU-certified trainers for this program. To be qualified to teach the course, you MUST receive a full 22 hours of instruction; hence, the commitment to attend ALL of the scheduled hours on these three days.

The course will begin on Friday evening, June 10, continue early on Saturday, June 11, for a full day, and conclude for a good part of the day on Sunday, the 12th.

There is a registration fee; First UU Wausau will cover the fee for up to four trainers in our



Congregation in exchange for a commitment to be a leader of the OWL program at our Church. We intend to offer OWL again next fall. OWL facilitators work in teams and make a commitment for the church year, though they are not "on" every Sunday. Please contact Linda Haney (lhaney1@mac.com or 715-379-3615) if you'd like further information or to register and be an important part of this crucial life-learning for our youth.



Welcome Julie Trombley

Meet our new Director of Lifespan Faith Development: Julie Trombley. Julie attended the UU Fellowship in Stevens Point when she lived there; she and her family now live in Mosinee. UUism is a good match for their values.



Julie has a B.A. in Family Consumer Science with a minor in Health and Wellness Education. Her Master's is in Health and Human Development. She has taught at the junior high, high school, and college levels. She and her husband, Jeremy, have three children (ages 3, 5, and 9), so Julie is happy to be moving to a part-time position.

Julie has taught classes in Human Growth and Development, Infant and Toddler Development and Programming, Development of the Preschool Child, Family Structure and Interaction, Family Life Education, Human Sexuality, and the Adult Learner. She has worked with at-risk youth and has been a career counselor for high school students. While the Personnel Committee was impressed with Julie's education and professional experience, we were equally impressed with her warmth, kindness, and deep commitment to building relationships based on compassion.

[Julie, continued on page 4]

[Board Table, continued]

Some of these actions are very visible to us and are working well: Food Pantry Delivery, Community Focus Collections, Fair Trade Coffee/ Chocolate sales (whose profits support the Ari Schmidt Fund for the Bus, Bail, and Pizza [Bus to Weston project, Seeds of Hope initiative]), and honey sales to support the Church Flower Fund. Some are not so visible: Sunday Community Suppers at First Presbyterian Church, Growing Faith Community Garden, and Special Events/Projects (Black Lives Matter march).

Perhaps there are still other ways we can work to put our social values into achievable action, whether immediately (Food Pantry Delivery) or sometime in the future (a march for equality as in a second Black Lives Matter march). It's important to be able to realize that we UUs are trying to make or are already making a difference.

This process requires discussion, the winnowing of ideas, and calls to action. Most importantly, it requires active participation. Listed below are the existing groups, people who might (or might not) be in charge, and the length of time/talent commitment.

- **Community Suppers**—Matt and Jen Powers, Sunday 4 times per year. Matt and Jen announce in the CW when the supper is coming up and how many people they would like to help. This entails helping set up/clean-up and greeting arrivals, bar bakers, etc. 15–20 people for a couple of hours at most.

- **Fair Trade Sales**—Joyce Schneider, Sunday sales, set up/break down 3–4 times per year. Joyce has arranged for each Sunday this year to be manned. However, more are always welcome. It's a great way to meet all who are in the Atrium enjoying coffee and conversation after the service, and it's so organized that it takes very little time to set up, arrange and sell the products, and take it down. Starts about 10:00 and is over around 12:15.

- **Food Pantry Delivery**—Karen Peterson, when basket is full.

- **Community Focus Collection**—Doesn't have a chair right now, but this year's schedule is filled; once per month during the church year. Our Sunday plate collections go to a non-profit group with an emphasis on local needs. ☞

The CFC committee will research, decide on the focus, and arrange for a representative to describe the agency's work during the church service. Meets 1–2 times in late summer to set the calendar for the year. 3–5 volunteers needed.

- **Growing Faith Community Garden**—Suzan Miller, Cindy Owen, Laurie Bushbaum; Come as often as you can manage...no green thumb required. In conjunction with other churches in our area, we are charged with the planting, weeding, and harvesting of our bounty as needed. Call Sue if you would like to help; watch the CW for announcements or spring breaking out.

- **Ari Schmidt Fund**—Joni Hahn, Joyce Schneider, Leanna Oertel, Linda Haney, Sally Decker, Sue Miller, Tony Schultz; 2–3 times per year or as needed. This special fund distributes money through an application process for church participants to carry out or participate in social justice projects/experiences.

Any or all of these very active programs will benefit from increased ideas and participation. We are asking for volunteers at all levels of expertise. Contact any of the people listed above or call me... I would be thrilled to help you get involved! ☞

[Interim]

The UU Mountain District used their grant to build a social change network among UU Congregations in Colorado. Want to learn more? Google "UU Funding Program."

And... please plan to attend the conversation after the service on February 14. It will also be a topic of conversation at the March 6 Potluck.

I'll see you around the table and we'll talk.

Rev. Laurie

[Julie]

Julie will be with us mostly on Sunday mornings until the end of the school year. Her email will be Julie@uuwausau.org.

Marla Tobalsky will step in as a Lifespan Assistant to assist Julie for the rest of the church year. She will help facilitate the teaching schedule (Marla@uuwausau.org). ☞

Knowing Our Past...

From 1934–1994, a weekly choir was of huge importance in our church service, and we had the great fortune to have two different directors who remained with us for many years. **Franklin Krieger**, known as “Prof” Krieger, was our organist and choir director for 21 years. He grew up in St. Paul, MN, spent 3 years studying piano in Germany, and upon returning to St. Paul gave many recitals, performed with piano trios and the St. Paul Symphony, and accompanied several opera singers who sang with the Chicago Opera and the Met. When he came to Wausau to be our organist/choir director, he also gave private piano, voice, and organ lessons in his studio in Yawkey Hall and organized and directed the local Elks Male Chorus. “Prof” Krieger was a bachelor all his life and lived very frugally at the YMCA. He often painstakingly made copies of church music by hand to save the church money. In 1955, “Prof” retired due to ill health; he died a year later at age 81.

Juliana and Maurice Nord became our organist and choir directors in 1956. They were both excellent musicians: Juliana was a composer, pianist/organist, and lectured on comparative religion and philosophy in the U.S. and England. Maurice was a singer who had performed in recitals and operas in Chicago. During the 36 years that the Nords were “ministers of music” at our church, they formed an excellent adult choir. For about 18 of those initial years, they also organized two outstanding youth choirs: the Kinderchoir for 7 to 10-year-olds and the Universingers for 11- to 14-year-olds. Each year, the youth choirs presented several wonderful programs, but the highlight for our Congregation was the performance each spring of Juliana’s “Spring Cantata” for the combined youth and adult choirs.

By the 1970s, the youth choirs unfortunately ceased to exist, due mainly to the growing number of after-school activities being offered by the schools and other organizations. Maurice, who worked at Employers Mutual Insurance (later Wausau Insurance), formed and directed a large choral group while there, and each year they gave a wonderful performance for the community. Maurice and Juliana also gave private voice and piano lessons.

The adult choir was a close-knit group, and moving out of town or ill health was about the only reason a member left. I joined the church and choir in 1962 and sang until the Nords retired in 1994. There were several choir members who sang in both “Prof’s” choir and that of the Nords! Maurice died in 2008 at age 95; Juliana is still living. — *Judy Stevens* ☺



Abraham’s Circle: A Community Interfaith Dialogue

Two event series - February 1, February 8

This ecumenical dialogue features pastors and authorities from the Abrahamic faiths who will discuss sacred texts of their respective religions, key aspects that make each faith unique, and how each faith views non-members or outsiders. Five local representatives from the Mainline Protestant, Evangelical Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Islamic faiths will participate in this free, public discussion. February 1: **Abraham’s Circle: Living Our Faith in a Diverse World.**

February 8: **Abraham’s Circle: How Our Sacred Texts Shape Our Relationship with Others.**

Both events to be held from 5–7 p.m. at the UW Center for Civic Engagement James F. Veninga Theater. ☺

February Membership Anniversaries

Russ & Linda Forbess	40 years	Wayne & Mary Pierce	4 years
Brad Schmicker & Sarah Rudolph	21 years	Tami & Graham Coulson	3 years
Glen & Mary Beth Moberg	19 years	Sarah & Brian Gunning	3 years
Lisa & Tammy Rajek	13 years	Lila Hobson	3 years
Anji Spialek	6 years	Cecilia Stroede	2 years
Lisa & Jim Macco	6 years	Barbara Stachovak	2 years
Jen & Matt Powers	6 years	Donna Allgood	2 years
Kim & Dean Day	6 years	Jeanine Sewell	2 years


UU NOTES

The new Board officers are:


President: Randy Jefferson

Vice President: CJ Heiser

Secretary: Judy Beier

 **Community Suppers** Volunteers are needed for the February 7 and March 13 Community Suppers. Volunteers can contact Jen or Matt Powers at powersjm@charter.net or 715-581-5251.

 **Book Pack** will meet February 23 at 2:00 p.m. in Apartment 217 of Primrose Retirement Community to discuss the first 345 pages of Alice Munro's *Family Furnishings*.

 **Marshfield Mosque Trip** All are invited to join our youth in Grades 7-9 for an educational visit to Masjid Al-Noor (Islamic Society of Central Wisconsin) at M-115 Meadow Avenue in Marshfield on Sunday, February 7. We will be gathering in the Reception Area at church at 11:30 to coordinate carpooling and would like to be leaving at 11:45, as they have arranged for our group to be welcomed at 12:50, to observe their Zuhr prayer (2nd prayer of the day) at 1:00 PM, to be followed by a presentation on the Islamic faith at 1:15 and a Q&A session at 1:45. Sign-up sheets are in the Atrium or contact Marla@uuwausau.org.

Community Focus Collections (CFCs)

The next CFC will be held on Sunday, February 21, highlighting a little known but very necessary service; Community Corner Club House. The Club House is an outreach program of North Central Health Care providing a drop-in center that empowers and helps adults with persistent mental illness and substance abuse challenges to realize their potential by providing a place where members can meet friends, build self-confidence, and learn valuable life skills. The money raised on February 21 will help their chronically tight budget with funds for basic needs the members have, such as bus tokens and personal care items. Michelle Hazuaa, Director, will be our featured guest.

For future reference:

- **March 13th** will feature the **Personal Needs**

Closet, a volunteer-run project of the United Methodist Church serving the entire community. More on this in the next CW.

- **April 17th**, hopefully bringing us spring showers, will focus on the needs of our **Growing Faith Community Garden**.
- **May 8th** our collection will go to **The Women's Community** in honor of Mother's Day.

Please keep our CFC in mind each month and help the church to make a collective impact in our community through your generous donations to these deserving causes.



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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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February Calendar

1 Mon	6:00 PM Women's AA Meeting 6:30 PM Wausau Bird Club	16 Tue	12:00 PM Lunch with Laurie 5:30 PM Family Yoga
2 Tue	12:00 PM Lunch with Laurie 5:30 PM Family Yoga 6:30 PM Qigong 7:00 PM Table Tennis	17 Wed	10:00 AM Shawl time 3:30 PM Proud Theater 6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga
3 Wed	10:00 AM Shawl time 3:30 PM Proud Theater 6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga	18 Thr	6:30 PM Tai Chi 7:00 PM Table Tennis
4 Thr	6:30 PM Tai Chi 7:00 PM Table Tennis	19 Fri	6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga
5 Fri	6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga	20 Sat	8:00 AM Women's Early Risers 4:00 PM Buddhist Meditation
6 Sat	4:00 PM Buddhist Meditation	21 Sun	10:30 AM Church Service 6:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous
7 Sun	10:30 AM Church Service 3:00 PM Community Supper 6:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous	22 Mon	6:00 PM Women's AA Meeting
8 Mon	6:00 PM Women's AA Meeting	23 Tue	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
9 Tue	12:00 AM Lunch with Laurie 5:30 PM Family Yoga 6:30 PM Qigong 7:00 PM Table Tennis	24 Wed	3:30 PM Proud Theater 6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga
10 Wed	3:30 PM Proud Theater 6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga 6:30 PM Eckankar Book Group	25 Thr	6:30 PM Tai Chi 6:30 PM Documentary – Iron Jawed Angels 7:00 PM Table Tennis
11 Thr	6:30 PM Tai Chi 7:00 PM Table Tennis	26 Fri	6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga
12 Fri	6:00 PM Power Flow Yoga 6:30 PM Second Friday Nighters	27 Sat	4:00 PM Buddhist Meditation
13 Sat	4:00 PM Buddhist Meditation	28 Sun	10:30 AM Church Service 6:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous
14 Sun	10:30 AM Church Service 6:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous	29 Mon	6:00 PM Women's AA Meeting
15 Mon	6:00 PM Women's AA Meeting		



Board of Trustees Table Talk

During the Potluck on February 7th, the Board of Trustees will host a Table Talk forum to listen to any questions you may have concerning Board actions, directions, upcoming activities. We are tentatively planning on hosting these Table Talks during future Potluck Sundays. So, for the next few months, board members will be on hand to share the conversation about happenings within our church. Please plan on joining us. ☺