



The Circuit Writer

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

March 2016

March Services at UU Wausau

Sundays at 10:30am

March 6 - *The Puritans Had One Thing Right: Covenant*

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

Music: David Lauth, UU guest musician from Minneapolis, piano and vocals

UUism is a religion of a different kind. It is not primarily about what we believe; it is about how we covenant to be in relationship as spiritual seekers. This Sunday kicks off our month of gathering input from the Congregation as we prepare to craft a Covenant of Right Relations.

POTLUCK will include conversation about Covenant.

CHILDCARE PROVIDED

March 13 - *To Be Announced*

Worship Leader, Bart Hobson

Music: Karen Zuidema

March 20 - *Human Trafficking*
Worship Leader, Richard Olson

Today we welcome guest speaker Andrea Oyuela, who is both the Hispanic Program Coordinator and the Human Trafficking Advocate at **the Women's Community**.

March 27 - *Resurrection Stories*

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

Music: Jeff Krause,
Jim & Sarah Macco

This multigenerational service will celebrate the ways that living beings rise up! Children will be decorating mini-kites to “fly” at the end of the service.



In the Interim...

In the next 8 months First UU has important, core work to do in order to be prepared to call **your next “settled” minister. The congregation needs to become clear on it’s Covenant, Vision and Mission.** Input from each and every person is important. Please attend one session if you **can. For those members who can’t get to church,** we will mail you a form so that you can share your ideas. Covenant, Vision and Mission form the foundation of the HOW, WHERE and WHAT First UU claims about itself. To be clear about each of these foundational puzzle pieces will increase your chances of selecting a new minister that will be a match for your goals and priorities. But how are Covenant, Vision and Mission different and related?



A Congregational Covenant is a Covenant of Right Relationship. It is a statement of how members of the congregation will behave toward one another so that you embody UU values, live the Principles, and grow toward your Vision and Mission.

If we think in terms of spiritual journey, the Covenant of Right Relationship is the vehicle that allows us to travel together in strength.

Vision: The Vision is a carefully defined picture of where the congregation wants to be in five or more years. It is the dream of what the congregation can become.

Example: *Our church is an embodiment and celebration of the world as we hope it will one day become. A climate of profound hospitality, love and acceptance radiates from our campus and our members. Our sanctuary is bursting with people from a diversity of theologies, philosophies, ethnicities, cultures, colors, classes, abilities, generations, sexual orientations and political persuasions, all dwelling together in peace, seeking the truth in love and helping one another. Our compassion is reflected in our actions to care for one another, our neighbors and the environment. Our religious education involves all ages in peace, seeking the truth in love and helping one another. Our compassion is reflected in our actions to care for one*

another in peace, seeking the truth in love and helping one another. Our compassion is reflected in our actions to care for one another, our neighbors and the environment. Our religious education involves all ages and aims at connecting heads, hearts and hands. (All Souls, Tulsa)

If we think in terms of the spiritual journey, the Vision is the place on the map toward which we travel.

Mission: A concise statement of what the congregation wants to be known for, or known as, within the wider world; what the congregation wants to mean to the community. The Mission is a verb, a doing, and should be short and memorable, or at least contain a short, memorable phrase. The Mission should distinguish the congregation from other institutions in society; distinguish the congregation from congregations of other faith traditions.

If we think in terms of spiritual journey, the Mission is the banner we carry.

Examples: Seek Truth, Practice Love, Celebrate Life; Love Beyond Belief

[Interim continued on page 5.]



Office Space

It’s almost Spring, when my fancy lightly turns to thoughts of: rummage sales.

Friday, June 3 & Saturday, June 4, UU Wausau will be having our own rUUmage sale! All proceeds will go into the 2016 operating budget.



Between now and then, please hold on to quality non-clothing items that you wish to donate. We will be collecting items the week before the sale, and can use all the hands we can get to help with pricing, set-up, and day-of duties. Please contact me (715-842-3697 or anji@uuwausau.org) if you can help out.

See you in church!

Congregational Administrator

Lifespan Faith Development

Adult Lifespan Program for March

Consider the Conversation, Part 2: Saturday, March 5, 9:30-noon. Come and see part 2 of this amazing and ultimately life-affirming documentary series about death. You do not need to have seen part 1 to appreciate part 2. After the film and a heart-felt discussion, Rev. Laurie will talk about planning for your own Funeral or Memorial service and you can begin a file for your own Celebration of Life. Part 3 in April will include a panel of experts involved in end-of-life care.

Please call to register: 715-842-3697 or sign up at church. NO cost.

Consider the Conversation 2: Stories about Cure, Relief, and Comfort explores some of the unintended consequences of American medicine's success at fighting disease/extending life and sheds light on the important role of the patient/doctor relationship and patient/doctor communication when living with severe chronic disease. It contains the perspectives of patients at various stages of disease as well as the physicians who care for them.

Looking for one good man!

The UU Wausau “Train-the-facilitator Course” for Our Whole Lives (OWL): Sexuality Education for Grades 7-9 will be held in our church the weekend of June 10, 11, and 12. The OWL program has been held for our youth a number of times 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 UU Wausau Certified trainers for this program. To be qualified to teach the course, you MUST receive 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, which UU Wausau will cover 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.



Building Bridges Field Trip

The Building Bridges class (Grades 7-9) will be visiting the Quaker Community service in Stevens Point on Sunday, March 20. Because the one hour service begins at 10:00, participants will need to leave from UU Wausau at 9:00. The dress code for the service is casual. Interested adults are invited to go along. There is a sign-up sheet in the atrium.

Reminder: There will be no classes on March 27th because there will be an Intergenerational Easter service.

There will be no classes Sunday, April 3rd due to Spring Break. Children will be planting flower seeds for the community garden.



Lifespan Faith Development Staff

Our Lifespan Faith Development Staff for 2016 includes Marla Tobalsky as the temporary Assistant for the rest of the church year. She will help facilitate the teaching schedule, and can be reached at marla@uuwausau.org.

Julie Trombley, the new Director, will be with us most Sunday mornings to guide the classrooms until the end of the school year, when she will assume the position on a permanent basis. She can be reached at Julie@uuwausau.org.



The Board Table

The Board of Trustees of First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau has completed an annual review of our Membership Roll to ensure that we are accurately accounting for active members in accordance with our Bylaws. Maintaining an accurate membership count is important as our annual combined contribution of \$84 per member to the UUA and Midwest Region are based on that count. In addition, our membership count is used to determine salary ranges and benefits when applying the UUA Fair Compensation guidelines for our minister and other staff.

By making a financial contribution, an individual is fully participating in the life of the church. Also, membership is required to vote at congregational meetings and serve on the Board of Trustees, or be on the Endowment and Nominating Committees.

Not everyone chooses to be a member. We also welcome and appreciate non-member friends who share their talents and energies as part of our larger community.

As specified in the Bylaws, membership is available to anyone eighteen years of age or older subscribing to the purposes of the church and willing to give of their gifts, service, and presence. Membership is established by signing the membership book and submitting an annual financial contribution of record of any amount, generally for which a pledge form has been completed. The Bylaws further state that lack of an annual financial contribution of record is one of the reasons members may be removed from the Membership Roll.

The Board has determined that members who did not make a financial contribution in 2015 and did not complete a financial pledge form for 2016 during our all member stewardship drive will be notified by letter that they have one final opportunity to maintain their active membership. These individuals should submit a pledge form or make a financial contribution of record by March 31, 2016. If neither of these is done, their name will be removed from the Membership Roll and transferred to our listing of friends

of the congregation. Membership can be reinstated at any time by submitting a written financial pledge and making a financial contribution.



While I have your attention, I want to give you a brief update on the significant progress made on our four Board goals for this year which focused on Stewardship, Lifespan Faith Development, Ministry Teams, and Ministerial Search. The successful stewardship drive which resulted in pledge income meeting budget for the first time in a number of years meant we were able to hire a Lifespan Faith Development Director whose hours will go to half-time in June. We need to continue work this spring to involve members in participating on the Lifespan Faith Development Ministry Team to assist Julie and Laurie as they develop and implement plans for the 2016-2017 church year, beginning in September, 2016. The Worship and Music Ministry Team increased its size and has been active this year planning and conducting services. As noted in another article in this issue, they are seeking members interested in participating in services as worship associates or worship leaders. The Hospitality Team has been active on a wide range of Caring activities and providing food for the large number of memorial services we have had this year. In addition, efforts have been initiated to ensure that we have full Sunday Steward coverage for greeters and coffee hour hosts. We expect that the activities associated with the upcoming May 1 March for Racial Justice will result in expanded involvement in the Justice and Service Ministry Team. In January, the newly selected Ministerial Search Committee began their extensive work to identify and initiate the tasks required of them, establish UUA Region contacts, and to assess what 1st UU is seeking in a new minister. **It's a talented, committed, experienced Committee** that we are fully confident will present us with the best possible ministerial candidate in a little over one year.

Randy Jefferson
Board of Trustees President



Connections

UUA LGBTQ Resources

“Each of us has worth and dignity, and that worth includes our gender and our sexuality. As UUs, we not only open our doors to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, we value diversity of sexuality and gender. We create inclusive religious communities and work for LGBTQ justice and equity as a core part of who we are. All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.” Many valuable LGBTQ resources are available at uua.org/lgbtq.

February Community Focus Collection

The UU Wausau congregation generously donated \$449.40 to benefit the Community Corner Clubhouse! The organization helps **“adults with persistent mental illness and AODA issues realize their potential by providing them with a Clubhouse where they can meet friends, build self-confidence, learn valuable life skills and discover untapped talents.”**



Regional Assembly 2016

The WHO in the New Era of Unitarian Universalism

April 29 - May 1 • St. Paul, MN

MidAmericaRegionUUA.org/ra

Downtown churches: Stations of the Cross

First UU Wausau will again be participating in the **“Stations of the Cross”** on Monday, March 21. The vigil begins at 6:00pm at First United Methodist. This year, First UU will be the third station. While First UU is no longer a Christian church, our roots are in the Judeo-Christian tradition and there are many UUs who consider themselves liberal Christians. Our participation in the annual event has built trust and inter-faith goodwill with our neighboring churches. It was very moving last year to host nearly 150 community members, many of whom **had probably never been in a UU church. Let’s show them our hospitality.**

[Interim]

In March we will be gathering congregational input in the our Covenant of Right Relations on these date:

- Sunday, March 6, from 12:00- 1:00/1:15
CHILDCARE PROVIDED
- Tuesday, March 8, 12:15-1:15
- Sunday, March 13, 11:45-1:00
- Sunday March 20, 9:00-10:15
CHILDCARE PROVIDED

In April, we will focus on Vision and Mission:

- Sunday, April 3, Potluck and Mission/Vision Conversation 12:00-1:15
- Sunday, April 10, 11:45-1:00
LUNCH AND CHILDCARE PROVIDED
- Tuesday, April 19, 12:15- 1:15
LUNCH PROVIDED
- Sunday, April 24, 12:00-1:15

We are also trying to plan an evening event for April; stay tuned.

Rae Laine

Interim Minister



Ministerial Search Committee

Your Ministerial Search Committee recently met to set the schedule for finding a new settled minister for our church. We intend to complete this process by the fall of 2017.

The Committee has two immediate goals:

To develop a strong working relationship among the Committee members.

To survey what the congregation needs and desires in a new settled minister.

The Committee will have help from the UU Association's **Transitions Office in meeting these** goals. The surveying will include both formal and informal opinion gathering. To facilitate the latter, here is a brief description of each Committee member. Feel free to communicate with any of us at any time.

Linda Haney is a former UU Church Board member and is active in our religious education and Ari Schmidt Fund groups. She is retired from a career in health safety. Email: lhaney1@mac.com

Sheryl Hemp is another former Board member and has served on the church auction committee, among others. She is a mental health therapist at North Central Health Care. Email: wishemp@aol.com

Bart Hobson has led occasional summer services and worked on the church auctions. He is an urgent care physician at the Marshfield Clinic. Email: hobsonbd@hotmail.com

Jeffrey Mc Donald joined the church in 2014. He teaches at North Central Technical Institute. Email: jeffmcdonald@charter.net

Holly Briquet Miller has been a church member for five years. She and her husband own **Briq's ice cream.** Email: briqmiller5@aol.com

Mary Pierce joined the church in 2012. She is an accountant and teacher. Email: gibby-pie@gmail.com

Ingrid Clark Zavadoski has been a church member since 2004. She teaches writing at University of Wisconsin – Marathon County. Email: iclarkz@gmail.com

Worship & Music Ministry Team



The Worship & Music Ministry Team and Laurie want to continue to expand the opportunities for participation in Sunday Services. There are multiple roles for worship associates. Lighting the chalice, doing a reading, leading a responsive reading, reading/telling a **children's story, and assisting with hymn singing** are among the ways to be involved. Training is available as needed. All ages are welcome. We also have a need for worship leaders to lead services when Laurie is away and we have a guest speaker. Finally, as many of you know some of our services are lay led with members/friends of our congregation leading the service and providing the message. Many of our summer services are lay led. We appreciate the willingness of those who volunteered to lead services in the past and ask that you please consider doing so again. In addition, we are very interested in expanding our team of worship leaders who also provide the message. If any of the mentioned roles pique your interest, please contact Randy Jefferson or Laurie. Thank you.

Board of Trustees:

Randy Jefferson, President	rpj1115@yahoo.com
CJ Heiser, Vice President	heiser.cj@gmail.com
Judy Beier, Secretary	jandjbeier@yahoo.com
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Kathi Hupy	khupy@hotmail.com
Joyce Kurth	joyce.kurth@gmail.com
Jody Maier	jkmaier@charter.net

Board meetings are held at 6:30pm on the third Tuesday of each month. All are welcome.

Staff:

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum, Interim Minister	laurie@uuwausau.org
Anji Spialek, Congregational Administrator	anji@uuwausau.org
Julie Trombley, Dir. of Lifespan Faith Devel.	julie@uuwausau.org
Marla Tobalsky, Temp. Lifespan Devel. Asst.	marla@uuwausau.org



Knowing Our Past



Ministers of Our Church (part 1 of 2)

By Judy Stevens

From 1872, when the first of our 3 churches **were built, to the present we've had 21 ministers** & 4 interim ministers. The first 2 who served stayed an average of 1-5 years each & not much is known about them. Beginning in 1919, the number of years each minister served was 4-14. Dr. William Taylor was invited to be our minister in December 1919, & he & his wife lived in the new church parsonage, which had been furnished by the Yawkey family. Dr. Taylor was paid \$2,000 a year! At this time the U.S. & Europe were experiencing an influenza epidemic, & the Wausau Board of Health banned all public meetings, church services & school sessions until the end of December. Dr. Taylor remained our minister for 8 years, & he was held in high regard.

Following Dr. Taylor was Dr. Noble McLaughlin who served from 1927-1941, when he died. In an article about him in the October 23, 1927 newspaper he spoke of having close friends in ministers of many other denominations with whom he loved to discuss religion. He also said that he **believed "Universalism is the greatest adventure in religion the world has ever known, for it is an everlasting, personal quest for truth, liberal & broad, & is based on the principles of teachings of the greatest personality the world has ever known, Jesus Christ."**

Rev. Brainard Gibbons, a former lawyer, was chosen to be our minister in 1942. He was here for 1 year before becoming a navy chaplain from 1943-1945. He returned to Wausau & served as our minister until 1953. Rev. Gibbons was passionate about Universalism & liberal religion & an eloquent speaker who attracted many people to our church during his ministry here. In 1953 he was chosen General Superintendent of the Universalist Church of America in Boston & held that position until 1956.

Rev. Carlton Fisher succeeded Gibbons in 1953 & was our minister for 10 years. Prior to coming to Wausau he had been executive director of the

Universalist Service Committee, a representative of the Universalist Church of America in **Europe where he directed the denomination's** program for post WWII emergency relief in Holland & Hungary. He also spent time in post-war Japan helping evacuee families from Manchuria locate in Nagano, Japan. While in Wausau, Rev. Fisher was elected President of the Universalist Church of America, succeeding Rev. Gibbons. While in this position, Rev. Fisher remained as our minister, & during his tenure as president the merger of the Universalist-Unitarian churches took place in 1960.

When Rev. Fisher left Wausau we were without a minister for a year. During that time our services were led by outside guest speakers & church members. In 1964 Rev. Joseph Nerad became our minister. He remained here for 4 years, & he was very active in liberal causes, particularly civil rights. He took part in the 1965 civil rights march in Selma, AL & marched with Rev. Martin Luther King.

In 1969 John Robinson was chosen as minister. Prior to this he was an intern minister at First Unitarian Church of Chicago. He had been a teacher & a social worker working with unwed mothers, drug addicts, alcoholics & dysfunctional families. John was a very popular minister & being just 29 he connected with the young people. He & his family lived on a hobby farm & every June church members were invited to the farm for a picnic. John was area coordinator for the Clergy Consultation Service on Problem Pregnancies, an organization of all faiths committed to providing counseling to pregnant women who were unwed or married & wanting alternatives to raising a baby. John left Wausau in 1973, accepting a ministry position in Kirkwood, MO. He remained there until he retired several years ago.

Membership Anniversaries

Edith Peterson	60 years
Jerry Viste	60 years
Ralph Buechler	60 years

Happy Anniversary!

News for UUs

☛ Power Flow Yoga Changes

Beginning in April, Blake Andrews Power Flow Yoga will be held only on Wednesdays from 6-7pm. **Due to changes in Blake's schedule, he will no longer be able to offer class on Friday.** Wednesday classes are open to the public. If you are able, bring a food or free-will donation.

☛ Citizens Climate Lobby

If you are deeply concerned about global warming and are ready to do something meaningful to preserve this amazing planet, you are invited to attend the inaugural meeting of the Rib Mountain Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby on Saturday, March 5 from 10am-noon here at UU Wausau. If you have questions, please contact Dan at 715-630-1949 or check out the website at citizensclimatelobby.org

☛ Wausau Bird Club

At the Wausau Bird Club meeting on Monday, March 7th, Mary Backus will present a slide presentation of her safari to Kenya. Free and open to the public.

☛ Women's Book Pack

The Book Pack will meet on March 29th at 2:00 p.m. in Apt. 217 of Primrose Retirement Community to discuss the last half of Alice Munro's *Family Furnishings*, pages 346 to the end.

☛ Second Friday Nighters

Judy Beier will host this month's Second Friday Nighters on March 11 at 6:30pm at her home at 502 McIndoe St. in Wausau. Door is locked—press #6 to be buzzed in. Judy is on the 3rd fl. Elevator available. Please bring an appetizer to share, and Judy will **provide beverages. Judy's home is pet-free, and this will be an adults-only event.** Call Judy with questions at 715-359-9755.



☛ March Community Focus Collection

The Community Focus Collection this month will be for the Personal Needs Closet at First United Methodist Church. This volunteer run closet is open to the public and other service agencies to cover those items not easily found at food pantries and not covered by Food Share. This includes basic items for personal hygiene. This Closet, funded in part by the Methodist church but mostly through community donations is essential to many in our community who are unable to afford something as simple as shampoo and soap. Please be generous this month for our good neighbor and the work that they do.

☛ Little Free Library

Books are coming and going from our Little Free Library. Check one out yourself! We could use a few more books for children, youth and adults. Please donate a few favorites (in good condition and relatively recent) which you would like to share. You can put them in the labeled box by the office door in the reception area. Excess books will go to our rummage sale or the Marathon County Public Library. Questions? Talk to Suzan Miller, Sally Decker, Judy Beier or Linda Haney.

☛ Slow Film 2016

Join Slow Food Marathon County on March 2 in the UU Wausau atrium for a CSA Fair, potluck, **and showing of the film "Fresh," which focuses on sustainable agriculture.** Prior to the film, will be a CSA Fair featuring local farmers followed by a potluck.

5:30 PM: CSA Fair

6:30 PM: Potluck

7:00 PM: Film

COST: \$5 donation to cover screening license fee. Free for children and students

RSVP slowfoodwausau@yahoo.com to attend potluck and film. (No RSVP for CSA Fair.)



March 2016 Calendar

1	Tues	5:30 PM	Family Yoga	16	Wed	10:00 AM	Shawl time
		6:30 PM	Qigong			3:30 PM	Proud Theater
		7:00 PM	Table Tennis			6:00 PM	Power Flow Yoga
2	Wed	10:00 AM	Shawl time	17	Thurs	6:30 PM	Tai Chi
		3:30 PM	Proud Theater			7:00 PM	Table Tennis
		6:00 PM	Slow Foods	18	Fri	6:00 PM	Power Flow Yoga
		6:00 PM	Power Flow Yoga	19	Sat	8:00 AM	Wmn's Early Risers
3	Thurs	6:30 PM	Tai Chi			4:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation
		7:00 PM	Table Tennis	20	Sun	10:30 AM	Church Service
4	Fri	6:00 PM	Power Flow Yoga			6:00 PM	Overeaters Anon
5	Sat	9:30 AM	Consider the Convo	21	Mon	6:00 PM	Women's AA Mtg
		10:00 AM	Climate Lobby	22	Tues	5:30 PM	Family Yoga
		4:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation			6:30 PM	Qigong
6	Sun	10:30 AM	Church Service			7:00 PM	Table Tennis
		3:00 PM	Community Supper	23	Wed	3:30 PM	Proud Theater
		6:00 PM	Overeaters Anon			6:00 PM	Power Flow Yoga
7	Mon	6:00 PM	Women's AA Mtg	24	Thurs	6:30 PM	Tai Chi
8	Tues	5:30 PM	Family Yoga			7:00 PM	Table Tennis
		6:30 PM	Qigong	25	Fri	6:00 PM	Power Flow Yoga
		7:00 PM	Table Tennis	26	Sat	4:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation
9	Wed	3:30 PM	Proud Theater	27	Sun	10:30 AM	Church Service
		6:00 PM	Power Flow Yoga			6:00 PM	Overeaters Anon
		6:30 PM	Eckankar Book Grp	28	Mon	6:00 PM	Women's AA Mtg
10	Thurs	6:30 PM	Tai Chi	29	Tues	2:00 PM	Women's Book Pack
		7:00 PM	Table Tennis			5:30 PM	Family Yoga
11	Fri	6:00 PM	Power Flow Yoga			6:30 PM	Qigong
		6:30 PM	2nd Friday Nighters			7:00 PM	Table Tennis
12	Sat	4:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation	30	Wed	10:00 AM	Shawl time
13	Sun	10:30 AM	Church Service			3:30 PM	Proud Theater
		6:00 PM	Overeaters Anon			6:00 PM	Power Flow Yoga
14	Mon	6:00 PM	Women's AA Mtg	31	Thurs	6:30 PM	Tai Chi
15	Tues	5:30 PM	Family Yoga			7:00 PM	Table Tennis
		6:30 PM	Qigong				
		6:30 PM	BOT Meeting				
		7:00 PM	Table Tennis				





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Church of Wausau
504 Grant St.,

The Circuit Writer

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

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**FIRST UNIVERSALIST
UNITARIAN CHURCH
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN**

SINCE 1870