



The Circuit Writer

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

April 2016

April Services at UU Wausau Sundays at 10:30am

April 3

-Ordinary Miracles Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

What do Jesus, the poet Mary Oliver, and Zen Master Thich Nhat Hahn have to say about miracles? Are miracles about bread, water, earth or something else? And just when was the last time you saw one?

Music: Molly and Jacob Roseman

First Sunday Potluck following service!

April 10

-The Great Garage Sale Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

Just like we outgrow our shoes, we can outgrow our habits, beliefs and ideas. Sometimes we just have to let go, like cleaning our closets in the spring.

Community Focus Collection for the Growing Faith Comm. Garden

Music: Jeff Borski on organ

Covenant Conversation 11:45-1:00.

Childcare provided.



April 17

-Circle 'Round for Freedom

This Sunday we will focus on criminal justice reform. The prison population in Wisconsin has more than tripled since 1990 and Wisconsin has the highest black male incarceration rate in the country. Incarceration is expensive and comes with additional social costs. NAOMI President Ron Alexander and NAOMI Community Organizer Kate Gaines will share information about the criminal justice system in Wisconsin and what reforms are needed.

Music: Mara Beckman, piano

April 24

-What is Your Mississippi? Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

What do you dream First UU might become? What are your deepest hopes and desires for this community? What gift does it offer the world? What Vision of it feeds your heart? Today we begin the process of dreaming about **First UU's future and what it might look like.** The process of Creating a Vision and Mission Statement is part of the preparation for calling a new minister!

Music: Karen Zuidema, piano

Mission & Vision Conversation 11:45-1:00.

Childcare Provided.



In the Interim...

I'm often not very fond of modern art but while on vacation last week in CA Michael and I happened upon a small sculpture park. We saw this sculpture, made of overlapping red circles.



Odyssey 3 by Tony Rosenthal

But just as I was about to pass this sculpture, without more than a glance, it caught my attention. I counted the circles; there were four. Then I moved and counted again; now I saw five. Then I moved to another angle and could see only three. Fascinating.

Looking at this red sculpture then reminded me of the old story about the blind people and the elephant. As each person felt one part of the elephant they thought they knew the whole elephant. Life is like that. So is community and truth. And so it is good to remember that we all see Truth differently. It is good to be reminded **of the Six Sources we UU's name from which we draw truth:**

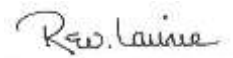
- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;

- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



Which sources are most inspiring to you at this time in your life?

Happy Spring,



Interim Minister

Office Space

I am excited to announce that I am taking on the challenge of producing our Circuit Writer!

As you know, we have seen many changes over the last couple of years, and the Circuit Writer has been no exception. We have been very fortunate to have Jim Maas reformat and produce the newsletter starting last fall. He has done a wonderful job of keeping us informed over the last six months. A big thank you to Jim! Another big thanks goes to Sarah Thurs, who has edited the newsletter.



My hope is that by working on the newsletter I can gain a fuller awareness of everything that is happening in our church. I happily wear many hats, and anything that helps pull together the big picture is welcome.

This change means that you can submit your Circuit Writer contributions directly to me at anji@uuwausau.org. Feel free to let me know if you have newsletter suggestions.

See you in church!



Congregational Administrator

Lifespan Faith Development

“End-Of-Life” Planning and Decision Making Panel

Please join us on Saturday, April 2 from 9:00 -noon for this panel discussion on end-of-life issues as we hear presentations on: living arrangements for later states of life, hospice and palliative care, funeral planning, cremation planning, and elder law.

Guests will include Social Worker Lori Knauf from St. Claire’s, staff from Brainard Funeral Home, John Buettgen from the Wisconsin Cremation Society, Sean Chramega from Hospice and Palliative Care, and attorney Mark Munson.

This program is free and open to the public. All are welcome.

What is Islam? Who are the Muslims?

Dr. Sabeel Ahmed, Director “Gain Peace” project, will be presenting this topic followed by a question and answer session at the Holiday Inn in Marshfield, WI on Saturday, April 23rd at 4:00 PM. The Islamic Society of Central Wisconsin invites the public to this free seminar, where they hope to dispel misconceptions about Islam and Muslims.

Register at <http://iscw.eventbrite.com>.

Laughter Club!

Join Certified Laughter Leader, Bernie Corsten for Laughter Yoga! Laughter has been shown to reduce stress, depression, and pain, improve your physical and emotional well-being, and create a positive outlook. Bernie will take you through imaginative activities sure to make you laugh out loud! Laughter Yoga takes place on Fridays from 1:00-2:00 PM in the Mount View Room at Aging & Disability, 1100 Lakeview Dr., All ages are welcome. \$2.00 suggested donation.

Words from our new DLFD

I would like to sincerely thank each of you for **the warm welcome you’ve extended as I’ve come on board** as a member of your staff team. It truly is a pleasure to be with you and your children each Sunday. I look forward to June **when I’ll be available to move**



into the full 20-hours-per-week of the position. I know the last year has been full of transition and has not necessarily been easy. The way that you have pulled together to keep your Faith Development program running as smoothly as possible really is a testament to the strength and commitment of your church community. **I’ll do my best next year to make things easier for you and take as much burden as possible off of volunteers. One way that I’ll do that is through curriculum planning,** which is one of my professional strengths.

In the coming months please watch for a Faith Development survey to come your way. There will be one survey for parents and one for all teachers or volunteers from the year. **These will be available at church. I’ll also make them available via email or some other digital format to make it convenient for parents and volunteers to complete. Moving forward, it’s very important for me to hear your thoughts. When you see these surveys please take a few minutes to complete one and have your voice be heard.** Thanks!

Julie Trombley

Director of Lifespan Faith Development



The Board Table

I have been one of your trustees for less than three months. This time has provided many introspective moments. I expect many more such moments during my tenure on the board. These are opportunities to grow, to retreat, to repair, to improve. That opportunity depends on the choice made in the moment. What defines the current moment? What opportunities exist for us in the now?

We have weathered significant change in our congregational community the last few years. At times this change has slipped past us like a soft rain shower in the small hours of the night. Quiet, unnoticed except for beads glistening in the dawn. At other times the change has raged with wind, sounded off us in thunder, left us scrambling for shelter, searching for meaning in its wake. If a house is built right, it need not fear either weather. If the shelter is mended and tended, it will endure.

The shelter of our church community requires all of us to mend it, each of our talents to tend to its structure. Change is an energy visited upon our door. How we harness that energy is our opportunity. How we go about the work of tidying up the mess of change will define our community for many years. What we do and say is important. How we do it and how we say it even more so.

The word “covenant” in the context as it pertains to us is defined as “a solemn agreement between the members of a church to act together in harmony with the precepts of the gospel.” For UUs, I believe our gospel is the Seven Principles. We are in a moment that requires us to define our covenant formally as a congregation, as well as intimately as individuals. How we come together to define our covenant is a stitch, a glue, a binder for our spiritual house. Are we reaching out with compassion? Do we engage with love and peace? Can we serve each other beyond our own interests?



I look forward to engaging with each of you as we shape ourselves and our community. I will lean on you for support when the winds blow strong. I will need to be reminded that **“how” matters and know that I can count on you for support.** I will do my best to be there for you.



-Jody Maier

Unitarian Universalist Association Renews Ties with Boy Scouts

On March 24, the UUA signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding designed to provide guidance to UU congregations who wish to charter scouting units.

This move towards re-establishing organizational ties is due to the **BSA’s recent policy changes** making scouting more inclusive of gay scouts and gay scout leaders.

Visit the [UUA website](#) for more information:.

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 6:30 PM 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

Update on Congregational Covenant

The Transition Team, Board Members and Rev. Laurie have facilitated three conversations about creating our first Congregational Covenant. What is a CC? It is an agreement about how members commit to be in relationship that makes this a healthy and emotionally **safe place for all**. Please see Rev. Laurie's March 6 sermon on the topic: [The Puritans Had One Thing Right: Covenant](#).

There are 2 more chances for you to participate in a CC conversation and share your valuable input:

-Sunday, April 10, 11:45-1:00 after the service. Childcare provided.

-Sunday evening, April 17, at the Zavadoski home. Time to be determined.

If you will not be able to participate in a conversation, please see the form on page 6 of the *Circuit Writer* that you can fill out and either email, or snail mail to the Office so that we can hear your ideas.

Following is an example of an effective Congregational Covenant:

Unitarian Church of Evanston Covenant of Engagement

In service of our mission to nurture the human spirit for a world made whole, the members of the Unitarian Church of Evanston create a community of joy and hope, cultivating this ground and sowing seeds of a better world.

Toward these ends we covenant to:

• speak and listen with open hearts and minds;

• engage in authentic, courageous, and civil conversation;

• clearly articulate our expectations and priorities;

• speak directly to those concerned with an issue;

• offer and receive appropriate criticism and praise; provide timely, specific and clear feedback;

• be kind and gracious, understanding our limits and those of others;

• apologize and forgive ourselves; accept an apology and forgive others;

• **trust others' intentions and give each other the benefit of the doubt;**

• take responsibility and hold ourselves and each other accountable for our actions;

• be patient with ourselves and each other; express gratitude;

• share and encourage others to share abilities and responsibilities for the operation of the church and its work in the larger community;

• be generous in offering our gifts and receiving the gifts of others;

• say yes when we can, say no when we must;

• practice curiosity and willingness to learn;

• appreciate differences of opinion and theology;

• know that we may be wrong; be open to new ideas and willing to change our minds;

• practice resilience and perseverance wherever we engage.

Adopted May 15, 2011



Your Transition Team is:

- Cindy Owen
- Sally Schmidt
- Jim Schneider
- Andy Benedetto
- Sue Miller

INPUT FOR CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT

If you are not able to come to one of the Congregational Covenant workshops, please use this process to share your input with the Transition Team. If possible, please read **the sample covenant from Evanston, and Rev. Laurie's sermon from March 6.** (Sermon is on the UU Wausau website under "Worship-Recent Sermons" and copies are available on the atrium table.)

"The nature of covenant means that we grant one another the right and responsibility to call us back to the promises we have made. The promises we make and the promises that we want others to make to us are inseparably bound together—one and the same thing."

STEP 1. Recall an individual or group that was especially important and affirming to you. What qualities made this relationship positive?

STEP 2. Please write down 4-6 promises that you want to make to the congregation, as well as 4-6 promises you want the congregation to make to you, which would make this congregation a safe place: physically, emotionally, spiritually.

STEP 3. Using those promises, draft a statement beginning with, We covenant:

STEP 4. Please mail or email your covenant reflections to Anji in the church office.



Knowing Our Past



Ministers of Our Church (part 2)

By Judy Stevens

In 1974 Peter Scott, his wife, Dolly, & their 3 children came to Wausau. Peter was 40 & in his 18th year of ministry. Although Peter had many good qualities & gave interesting sermons, he was very outspoken & not diplomatic, often offending people in the congregation. Some members stopped coming to church & cut their pledge. After 4 years, Peter was asked to leave. He & Dolly divorced, & Dolly & the children remained in Wausau. Dolly was very involved in our church & was a wonderful member.

Rev. Richard Drinon was chosen as our 20th minister. He remained at our church from 1978-1989. He had a doctorate degree in cultural anthropology & spent a number of years doing work for the UU Service Committee in Uganda, East Africa, Saudi Arabia, Spain & Germany, specializing in community & educational development in the rural areas of those countries. He also spent time in Toronto as director of the Unitarian Council. Before coming to Wausau he was minister of 2 churches in Vermont. While serving our church, Dick was especially interested in humanism, ethical questions, nuclear issues, & death & dying. He was elected to the WI State Board of the ACLU in 1985 & appeared before a Circuit Court Judge in Madison as a witness for the ACLU in a case about the display of a crèche on public property. The case was important to those who believe in separation of church & state. Dick left Wausau to become executive director of the Ferry Beach Park Assoc.—a UU camp. Following that he served at several UU churches in MA. He died in 2008 at the age of 76.

From 1989-1990 we had our first interim minister, Scotty Meek, & in 1990 the search committee picked Glenda Walker as their chosen candidate. She was installed on Sunday, October 21, 1990—our first woman minister! Glenda received her Master of Divinity Degree from Harvard Divinity School at age 57. Before studying for the ministry Glenda had been a social worker. She was the first clergy person in Wausau to speak out & advocate for gays & lesbians, & she conducted joining ceremonies for those who wanted them. Glenda was one of 3 women recognized as leaders for the very first YWCA Women of Vision in Wausau. After 10 years as minister of our church Glenda retired,

but she continues to be an active member.

Charlotte Saleska arrived in 2000 becoming our interim minister for one year. In 2001 Paul Beckel was chosen to lead our church, & he, his wife, & 2 sons moved to Wausau. He worked to ensure civil rights for members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgendered community. In 2006 our church members voted to accept the **“Statement of Conscience” to oppose the proposed constitutional amendment to ban civil unions & same gender marriage.** That same year the classroom and office wing of our church was demolished to build a larger facility that would meet current fire codes, be handicapped accessible, & feature a glass atrium space that would be open for church & community events. Paul worked closely with the building committee & architect, & the new addition was completed in 2007. In 2014, Paul accepted a call to be minister of the UU Church in Bellingham, WA.

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum is now our interim minister & will be with us for 3 years to help get **“our house in order” so that we will be in good shape to attract a new minister.** Laurie was ordained over 30 years ago & is passionate about creative worship, including people of all ages, & helping congregational systems grow & change. We are fortunate to have her here.

April Membership Anniversaries!

Dolores DeVoe	75 years
Jack and Betty Williams	66 years
Elnora Buechler	64 years
Marianne Pickering	59 years
Louis and Sandra Pradt	47 years
Russ and Kerry Wilson	36 years
Tom and Sara Eberlein	35 years
Nancy Hollis	34 years
Don and Barb Hermanson	32 years
Linda Alfinito	29 years
Mike Moen	25 years
Kris Weirauch	25 years
Karen Pleuss	16 years
Dawn Ashenbrenner	15 years
Sharon Faville	15 years
Collin Csuy	5 years
Carol Kraemer	1 year

News for UUs

☛ Recent Community Focus Collections

The CFC committee thanks all who donated both to the Community Corner Club House and to the 1st United Methodist Church's Personal Care Needs Closet. Each group is thankful for our generous responses. If you wish to continue to donate personal care items to the Closet feel free to drop them off at church, clearly marked for the Methodist Church and we will get them over to the closet. I must say one of the things they REALLY need are feminine products (not covered by Food Share). Thank you, thank you.

-Judy Beier

☛ Women's Book Pack

Book Pack meets at 2:00 PM on April 26th in Apt. 217 of Primrose retirement Community to discuss *Outline* by Rachel Cusk. *Outline* is one of "the 10 best books of the year" according to the *New York Times* Book Review.

☛ Second Friday Nighters

This month's Second Friday Nighters will take place April 8th at the home of the Busigs, 2201 Elmwood Blvd. beginning at 6:30 PM. The event is child-friendly. Please be aware that the Busigs have a dog.

Don't forget to bring along a yummy snack to share!

☛ Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, mid-central region, is hosting a poetry reading and open mic here at UU Wausau in Yawkey Hall on Thursday, April 28th at 6:30 PM. Gary Galbraith will be the featured poet, followed by an open mic, during which poets will be able to read their poems. The event is open to the public, and we hope you will join us to celebrate Poetry Month!



☛ April's Community Focus Collection

Gardening season is right around the corner, and **April's Community Focus Collection on April 10th** will be donated to the Growing Faith Community Garden. For the second year, UU Wausau will be working with other downtown churches in the garden at 3015 Townline Road **on a farm owned by Resurrection/St. Michael's.**

Last year, seed money from the participating congregations and a \$4,000 grant from the Aspirus Health Foundation allowed us to erect a fence, buy a rototiller, and begin to amend the **soil. With donations of compost from Hsu's, starter plants from East and West High Schools and Paquette's Greenhouse, and plants and tools from other individuals, we harvested over 700 pounds of produce that went to the Neighbor's Place for distribution to local food pantries.**

Funds raised this year will be used for a new straw bale gardening project, mulch, and supports for pole beans, peas and other climbers, and other needs as they arise.

Please be generous on April 10!

-Cindy Owen & Suzan Miller

☛ Organ Concert Series

Zion Lutheran Church presents concert organist, Craig S. Williams on Sunday, April 17, 2016 at 3:00 PM at 709 Sixth St. Free will offering. For more information, call 715-848-7286.



April 2016 Calendar

1	Fri	6:30 PM	Community HU Song	16	Sat	8:00 AM	Wmn's Early Risers
2	Sat	9:30 AM	Consider the Convo 3			4:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation
		4:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation	17	Sun	10:30 AM	Church Service
3	Sun	10:30 AM	Church Service			6:00 PM	Overeaters Anon
		11:45 AM	Potluck	18	Mon	6:00 PM	Women's AA Mtg
		6:00 PM	Overeaters Anon	19	Tue	6:30 PM	BOT Meeting
4	Mon	6:00 PM	Women's AA Mtg			6:30 PM	Qigong
		6:30 PM	Wausau Bird Club			7:00 PM	Table Tennis
5	Tue	6:30 PM	Qigong	20	Wed	10:00 AM	Shawl Time
		7:00 PM	Table Tennis			3:30 PM	Proud Theater
6	Wed	10:00 AM	Shawl Time			6:00 PM	Power Flow Yoga
		3:30 PM	Proud Theater	21	Thu	6:30 PM	Tai Chi
		6:00 PM	Power Flow Yoga			7:00 PM	Table Tennis
7	Thu	6:30 PM	Tai Chi	23	Sat	4:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation
		7:00 PM	Table Tennis	24	Sun	10:30 AM	Church Service
8	Fri	6:30 PM	2nd Friday Nighters			11:45 AM	Mission & Vision Talk
9	Sat	4:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation			6:00 PM	Overeaters Anon
10	Sun	10:30 AM	Church Service	25	Mon	6:00 PM	Women's AA Mtg
			Community Focus Collection	26	Tue	2:00 PM	Women's Book Pack
		11:45 AM	Covenant Convo			6:30 PM	Qigong
		6:00 PM	Overeaters Anon			7:00 PM	Table Tennis
11	Mon	6:00 PM	Women's AA Mtg	27	Wed	3:30 PM	Proud Theater
12	Tue	6:30 PM	Qigong			6:00 PM	Power Flow Yoga
		7:00 PM	Table Tennis	28	Thu	6:30 PM	Tai Chi
13	Wed	3:30 PM	Proud Theater			6:30 PM	Poetry Reading
		6:00 PM	Power Flow Yoga			7:00 PM	Table Tennis
		6:30 PM	Eckankar Book Grp	30	Sat	4:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation
14	Thu	6:30 PM	Tai Chi				
		7:00 PM	Table Tennis				

