



The Circuit Writer

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

May 2016

May Services at UU Wausau Sundays at 10:30am

May 1

-Bubbles and Beyond

Rev. Carlton Elliot Smith

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum, Worship Leader

We humans create settings where we feel safe and valued. Paradoxically, while some have the experience of being protected and appreciated, others have the experience of being victimized and demeaned. What does it mean to belong to a faith that affirms and promotes the "inherent worth and dignity of every person" when the powers and principalities of this world dictate that some lives matter more than others? How does this shape our lives from day-to-day?

Carlton Elliott Smith is one of nine members of the Congregational Life Staff serving the Southern Region of our Unitarian Universalist Association. He is the primary UUA contact for congregations in Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana and Pensacola, Florida. Before starting his current position, he worked as a parish minister in Metro New York, Oakland (CA), Greater Boston, and Northern Virginia.

No Potluck: Instead of potluck, please bring healthy snacks for all!

March for Racial Justice: Gather at 12 noon. After March, all are invited to return to UU Wausau for a Community Listening Circle.

Music: Ray Kramer; The 7th St. Gospel Singers



May 8

-Confessions of a Radical Homemaker

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

Quaker writer Rufus Jones said, "Religion, at its best, is the discovery of home." This service is Intergenerational; together we will build an imaginary home constructed of our collective ideas about home.

Before the service, join us for the annual **Mother's Day Breakfast! All proceeds, as well as the community focus collection, go to The Women's Community.**

Music: Morgan Forbes and Ray Kraemer



May 15

-This I believe

Richard Olson, Worship Leader

Today members Heather Busig, Jodi Maier and Theran Peterson will share their beliefs with the congregation.

Music: Karen Zuidema

May 22

-Coming-of-Age Celebration

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum, Worship Leader

This service will include heartfelt statements from UU Wausau youth who participated in this **year's COA program. Let's support and celebrate** the Spiritual Growth of our youth and the leaders and mentors who guided them.

Music: Emma Busig and Ray Kraemer

May 29

-The Gettysburg Boys...

Randy Jefferson, Worship Leader

This service will honor Memorial Day with reflections on how the day originated, and from recent visits to ground made sacred by the Civil War. We will also remember members of our congregation who died in the last year.



In the Interim... And Peeling the Onion!

“The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.”

-Helen Keller



As most of you know, UU Wausau has had several conversations in order to create your Congregational Covenant. We are now heading into the process of working on a Congregational Vision and Mission statement. It

has been quite a few years since the Vision/Mission has been updated. The Vision Statement 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.

When you think of Vision and Mission, it might help to think of an onion. For example, for each word or phrase you come up with to consider for a Vision or Mission statement, ask what is at the next, deeper layer. One response to the question of vision might be, **“UU Wausau will teach our children to respect other faiths.”** I know this is a very important goal for most of our UU congregations, but what is the next, deeper layer? Could it be, **“UU Wausau honors the spiritual diversity of all humanity?”** And yet, I would challenge, what is the next deepest layer? What is even underneath honoring spiritual diversity? **And what does it mean to “honor”** spiritual diversity? As you think about your Vision for this Beloved Community, how deep can you go? Can you find the deepest core, the heart of the heart that you believe should guide all that this congregation says and does? What is your deepest hope for who and what this congregation becomes in the next 5-10 years? You might want to pick up a copy of my sermon from April 24 about Vision, or read it on our website.

Here is the schedule for the remaining Vision and Mission Conversations:

Sunday, May 15, 9:00- 10:15

Sunday, May 22, 12:00-1:15

Thursday, May 19, 6:30-8:00 pm, at the home of Randy and Anne Jefferson, 3926 Riverview Dr. Wausau. Please call or email to RSVP or sign up at church for any of these options!

Interim Minister

Office Space

On Saturday, May 14, from 10am—5pm, UU Wausau will be joining 80 historically significant sites in 15 communities across the state taking part in Downtown Wisconsin Open House!

The open house is a free event for unique and notable Wisconsin buildings to open their doors to the public for tours and presentations.



Wausau’s event will feature the

Marathon County Historical Society, River District Antiques, the former Wausau Club, the CVA building, several churches, and more.

Here at UU Wausau, we will focus on Yawkey Hall and the library while discussing the historical significance of the Yawkey family both to our church and the city of Wausau.

Volunteers are (as always!) welcome, please let me know if you have an interest.

See you in church!



Congregational Administrator



Ministerial Search Committee Update

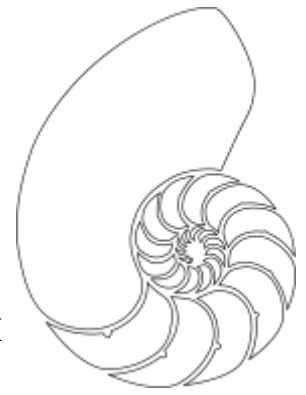
After what seems like months since the Ministerial Search Committee was announced, we are eagerly setting off on the multitude of tasks required to welcome a new settled minister in **Fall, 2017. Watch for our official “Kick-Off” party on June 5th. I’m pretty sure that many of you** look at the Fall, 2017 period of time and wonder why, oh why, does it take that long? We wondered that **too....until we reviewed the UUA “Settlement Handbook” that outlines our tasks and we reviewed the “Resource Guide for Ministerial Search Committees.” Here are a few**



of the things on our plate: (1) Develop ways of best listening to you and learning about every-**one’s hopes for the future, (2) Develop a Ministerial Record and a detailed packet that explains who we are and, hopefully, entices ministerial candidates to express an interest in us, (3) Review candidates packets of information, and thoughtfully narrow that list down, (4) Interview selected candidates and visit neutral pulpits to hear them preach, (5) Negotiate terms with “the one” we would like, (6) Present the candidate to you, our congregation....and then (7) Celebrate!** April 8th & 9th we met with our delightful and oh-so-helpful UUA Facilitator, **Patricia D’aurio for our getting-to-know one another and planning retreat. It energized all of us and we are really looking forward to actively listening to you, having discussions imbued with grace, and finding the person(s) whose hopes for the future match ours and whose skills fit our needs. It is very important to know that while we will be trying very hard to keep you up to date on the work of the committee, most of our work will be strictly confidential in order to be respectful of the process and of potential candidates. Each of you have responsibilities as well. We ask that you respect our process. We ask that you keep an open mind regarding candidates. We ask that you trust us, as your representatives, to make a decision that will be best for our church and for our community. Please feel free to call any of us to talk about our process, your hopes, your concerns - we’re eager to listen: Linda Haney, Mary Pierce, Holly Briquet Miller, Bart Hobson, Ingrid Zavadoski, Jeff McDonald and Sheryl Hemp.**

Lifespan Faith Development

We are quickly approaching the end of our Faith Development class year. **Here’s a look at what’s coming up in May--May 8th is an inter-generational service with no regular RE classes. May 15th there will be regular RE classes for each group. On May 22 the Coming of Age group, grades 10-12 will take part in the Sunday morning service and will be sharing their individual credos with the congregation. Our youth 4th grade and up will stay in the sanctuary to witness this service while the children 3rd grade and younger will have regular classes. Most classes will have some sort of end of year celebration on either May 15th or May 22nd. There will be no RE classes on May 29th due to Memorial Day.**



2015-2016 Faith Development surveys are now available at church. If you are a parent or have



volunteered in Faith Development in any way this past year please complete a survey. There is a survey specifically for parents of children or youth in RE and a survey specifically for volunteers. If you are a parent AND have

volunteered please complete both surveys. You can find these surveys on the table in the atrium. Please take a moment on a Sunday to complete these surveys (or take it home to complete) and then return them to a member of the church staff. Your voice matters. Please take this opportunity to have it be heard.

Julie Trombley

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Director of Lifespan Faith Development



The Board Table

Last month fellow Board member Jody Maier spoke of opportunities within the church and how we all have a shared responsibility for the care of our church community. That care can take many forms but comes with a price tag. What is on the price tag is very, very valuable. It is your time. All of us are busy, no exceptions, but if you look around there are members who are giving up this very precious commodity to ensure that things are getting done in our church community.

As we move toward our calling of a settled minister, prospective candidates will be "looking under the hood" so to speak as to how we function as a church. Candidates would be encouraged by an engaged congregation. Seeing this level of commitment within the membership, and their willingness to share responsibilities would make us an attractive prospect. This however, is not a temporary goal. We need to demonstrate to them that what they are seeing is truly who we are. Participation from all of our members is critical, well beyond this current search.

Please consider giving some of your precious time to our beloved community. There are so many opportunities waiting; volunteering to teach, serving on a committee, or hosting coffee hour, to name just a few. There is always a need.



Besides being a member of the church board, I am also co-chair of the Property Committee. In this latter capacity I would like to give an update on the church kitchen. Many of you know that the church received a very generous bequest from Barb

Seegert which was earmarked for remodeling the kitchen. We have a workable design and are currently waiting for the mechanical (plumbing,

electrical, ventilation) drawings to be completed. These drawings will be available to us in June. Contractors will then bid on the project. Work will begin after selecting a qualified contractor. This work will undoubtedly have an effect on our potlucks depending on when work actually begins. Please rest assured that we will be reusing as much of the existing cabinetry as possible and will have the new cabinets made to match the old ones. If you have any questions regarding the kitchen or anything else related to the Property Committee please feel free to contact me.



Tim Peterson

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Board of Trustees:

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

Staff:

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Knowing Our Past



The Merger of the Universalist and Unitarian Churches

By Judy Stevens

In January 1950, a letter was sent from the Universalist Church of America in Boston to every Universalist parish about the practicality of constructing a plan for the federal union of the Universalist Church of America, The American Unitarian Association and, if possible, other free fellowships. The vote was to be neither final nor decisive—only to state if the parish church wished to study and consider the possibilities of federal union. If by June 1, 1950, 51% of the parishes voted “yes,” then the Board of Trustees of the Universalist Church of America would appoint a commission to develop a specific plan of federal union. It would then be submitted to the Biennial Assembly in 1951. If the plan was accepted, it would be submitted to each parish. If the vote received a 75% majority in favor within the church and 75% of the churches recorded an affirmative vote, then the plan could be put into application. A commission would also be appointed by the American Unitarian Association to develop a plan of federal union. If by June 1, 1950, 51% of the parish churches of each denomination (holding at least twelve regular and duly constituted meetings for worship, education or business a year) voted to consider the union, then the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America would appoint a representative commission of seven members each. The commission would develop a comprehensive plan for federal union and submit the plan to the General Conference of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America. If approved by both national bodies, the plan would be submitted to the parish churches of both denominations for study. Parish churches would be requested to vote on the plan within two years. If approved by 75% of the parish churches of each denomination, at duly constituted meetings of their voting members, by a vote of 75% of the members present and entitled to vote, then the plan for federal union would be put into **effect. All this took many years and it wasn't** until February of 1959 that parish churches cast

their votes. On February 23, members of our church met and 60 votes were cast: 56 in favor of the merger, 1 in favor of withdrawal, 1 in favor of status quo, 1 in favor of establishing a committee on cooperation, and 1 abstaining. On May 10, 1959, the merger commission announced that Universalist and Unitarian churches across the nation voted 3 to 1 in favor of immediate merger of the two denominations. On February 1, 1960, at a special meeting in Yawkey Hall, members of our church voted 48 to 1 in favor of the merger plan. At the General Assembly of the Universalist Church of America held in Boston May 24, 1960, 85% of the Universalist and Unitarian delegates voted in favor of merger. The union of the two denominations finally took place May 10, 1961.



May Membership Anniversaries *Happy Anniversary!*

Jerry Gunderson	59 years
Leigh Tuckey	54 years
Ellie Ullrich	47 years
Tim and Karen Peterson	26 years
Bob & Sally Decker	24 years
Richard Olson	21 years
John Faville	17 years
Bill and Tricia Forbes	13 years
Mandy Wright	11 years
Donna Seidel	11 years
Susan Schwartz	9 years
Jody & Kati Maier	8 years
Wayne Olson	5 years
CJ Heiser & Melissa Goessl-Heiser	5 years
Collin Csuy	5 years
Kevin and Holly Briquetet Miller	4 years
Diane Cauger	2 years

News for UUs



☛ **May's Community Focus Collection**

Mother's Day is a day of celebration and support of mothers everywhere. Our Community Focus Collection this Mother's Day will go to The Women's Community where mothers in great need of our support will be appreciative of whatever help we can give. TWC Executive Director, Jane Graham Jennings will speak to our congregation this morning. Spring and summer months often bring a downturn in contributions to TWC as people get busy with outdoor activities, vacations, and family events. These are **things TWC residents and clients often aren't** able to take part in. Your help can perhaps give them an outing with their kids, fill in empty spots in their food pantry, or purchase a needed bit of summer clothing or shoes. TWC is also looking for volunteers in many areas. Consider giving of your time as well.

☛ **Mother's Day Breakfast!**

Please mark your calendars for our annual **Mother's Day Breakfast 9:00 a.m. May 8.** Everyone is welcome to attend. Volunteers are needed (Dads and kids only!) to cook, clean, and serve for our beloved mothers. Please contact Jody Maier at 715-218-8163 or jody.maier@wausausupply.com to commit. All moms eat free. We ask for a \$5 donation from **all others. Proceeds go to benefit the Women's Community of Wausau. Don't delay, make your plans now!**

☛ **Community Garden Collection**

Our generous congregation raised \$267 for the Growing Faith Community Garden in April!



☛ **Second Friday Nighters**

The Second Friday Nighters on May 13th will be hosted by Carol Bronston and Orval Quamme, 817 Becher Drive, corner of Becher and W. Crocker in NW Wausau. The house is on the river, so we'd like to start at 6:00 to capture some daylight. Depending on the weather, all will be welcome to cross "Jerry's Bridge" to the island and visit the fire pit and the river. This is an all adult gathering. There are no pets. Beer, wine, pop and mixed drinks will be provided. Please bring dishes to share. The drive way is rather long but there are 4 spaces near the house. For those who can walk a little further, there is parking on both sides of Becher Dr. The driveway has a 3-headed solar light at the street end.

☛ **Women's Book Pack**

Book Pack will meet May 31 at 2:00 p.m. in Apt. 217 of Primrose Retirement Community to discuss Alice Munro's *The Beggar Maid*. "Alice Munro re-creates the evolving bond-one that is both constricting and empowering-between two women in the course of almost forty years."

☛ **Roy Zimmerman: *This Machine***

This Machine is ninety minutes of Roy Zimmerman's hilarious, rhyme-intensive original songs. The title is a reference to Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger to be sure, but also an acknowledgement that songwriting does good work in the world. "Sometimes I think satire is the most hopeful and heartfelt form of expression," says Roy, "because in calling out the world's absurdities and laughing in their face, I'm affirming the real possibility of change." Roy's songs have been heard on HBO and Showtime. He's shared stages with Bill Maher, Robin Williams, Ellen DeGeneres, John Oliver, Kate Clinton and George Carlin. He's been profiled on NPR's "All Things Considered," and he's a featured blogger for the Huffington Post.

Hear Roy Zimmerman LIVE and in person! Saturday, May 14, 7:30PM, UU Wausau, 504 Grant St. \$15 or pay what you can afford.



May 2016 Calendar

1	Sun	10:30 AM	Church Service	15	Sun	9:00 AM	Mission & Vision Talk
		12:00 PM	March for Racial Justice & Comm. Conversation			10:30 AM	Church Service
		6:00 PM	Overeaters Anon			6:00 PM	Overeaters Anon
2	Mon	6:00 PM	Women's AA Mtg	16	Mon	6:00 PM	Women's AA Mtg
3	Tue	6:30 PM	Qigong	17	Tue	6:30 PM	BOT Meeting
		7:00 PM	Table Tennis			6:30 PM	Qigong
4	Wed	10:00 AM	Shawl Time			7:00 PM	Table Tennis
		3:30 PM	Proud Theater	18	Wed	10:00 AM	Shawl Time
		6:00 PM	Power Flow Yoga			3:30 PM	Proud Theater
5	Thu	6:30 PM	Tai Chi			6:00 PM	Power Flow Yoga
		7:00 PM	Table Tennis	19	Thu	6:30 PM	Mission & Vision Talk Jefferson's Home
6	Fri	6:30 PM	Community HU Song			6:30 PM	Tai Chi
7	Sat	4:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation			7:00 PM	Table Tennis
8	Sun	9:00 AM	Mother's Day Breakfast	21	Sat	8:00 AM	Wmn's Early Risers
		10:30 AM	Church Service			4:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation
		6:00 PM	Overeaters Anon	22	Sun	10:30 AM	Church Service
9	Mon	6:00 PM	Women's AA Mtg			12:00 PM	Mission & Vision Talk
10	Tue	5:00 PM	Caring Ministry Mtg			6:00 PM	Overeaters Anon
		6:30 PM	Qigong	23	Mon	6:00 PM	Women's AA Mtg
		7:00 PM	Table Tennis	24	Tue	6:30 PM	Qigong
11	Wed	3:30 PM	Proud Theater			7:00 PM	Table Tennis
		6:00 PM	Power Flow Yoga	25	Wed	3:30 PM	Proud Theater
		6:30 PM	Eckankar Book Grp			6:00 PM	Power Flow Yoga
12	Thu	6:30 PM	Tai Chi	26	Thu	6:30 PM	Tai Chi
		7:00 PM	Table Tennis			7:00 PM	Table Tennis
13	Fri	6:30 PM	2nd Friday Nighters	28	Sat	4:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation
14	Sat	10:00 AM	WI Downtown Open House	29	Sun	10:30 AM	Church Service
		4:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation			6:00 PM	Overeaters Anon
		7:00 PM	Roy Zimmerman	30	Mon	6:00 PM	Women's AA Mtg
				31	Tues	2:00 PM	Women's Book Pack
						6:30 PM	Qigong
						7:00 PM	Table Tennis

