



The Circuit Writer

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

July 2016

July Services at UU Wausau 9:30AM

July 3

-Thomas Jefferson—Declaring Religious Independence

The Fourth of July holiday Sunday seems a fitting time to investigate the religious insights of the crafter of the Declaration of Independence. What do Jefferson's words and actions tell us about what he believed? We claim him as a UU, but was he? Does it matter? What is it that makes someone a UU? Join us as we explore Jefferson's religious legacy and opine on these questions

Worship Leader: Randy Jefferson

Musician: Ray Kraemer

July 10

-To Be Announced

Worship Leader: CJ Heiser

July 17

-Ars gratia spiritualitas

From primal cave etchings to modern computer assisted representations, we can access and foster spirituality through the visual arts.

Worship Leader: Richard Olson

Musician: Ray Kraemer

July 24

-Simplicity

Finding your way to where you want to be. Enough said.

Worship Leader: Randy Jefferson

July 31

-Conversion

Why do people switch from one religion to another?



News for UUs



☛ Women's Book Pack

The Book Pack will meet on July 26 at 2:00 p.m. in apt. 217 of Primrose Retirement Community to discuss *The Three Weissmanns of Westport* by Cathleen Schine.

☛ Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, Mid-Central Region, is sponsoring an open mic poetry reading on Thursday, July 28, at 6:30pm in Yawkey Hall.

The featured poet will be Nancy Austin. Following her presentation, audience members are invited to read their poems. The event is free and open to the public.

☛ South Beach Up North Concert

Join us on July 16 and July 17 when South Beach Chamber Ensemble presents *South Beach Up North*.

July 16 at 6pm, enjoy *Mozart on the Move* in the Atrium. Bring a picnic basket and bottle of wine! Admission is \$10 at the door.

July 17 at noon, return for *Brahms and Vaughan Williams* in the sanctuary. Free.



In the Interim...

Some, but not all of you, know that First UU received the grant we applied for from the Fund for UU Social Responsibility!! The purpose of the grant was to fund the March for Racial Justice, the Community Listening Circle, to try and support new community leaders and partners for ongoing justice work, and to work towards a multi-cultural and multi-racial MLK dinner. All of this work is in partnership with NAOMI, the North Central Area Organized to Make and Impact. NAOMI is an interfaith organization working on social change. NAOMI is the local chapter; Wisdom is the name of the Wisconsin state chapter. Both locally, and statewide, we are focused on criminal justice reform. In Wausau, NAOMI is working on the re-establishment of the bus system through the area.



We applied for \$6,500 and actually were awarded \$8,500! I have met with Kate Gaines, the NAOMI staff member, to line out how we might spend the full grant amount. This work we do in the next year will be part of our Social Justice and Service Ministry Team.

Through the March for Racial Justice this year we developed a fantastic partnership with Hmong leaders. Because of this connection, we offered hospitality support for the Hmong Peace March on May 31.

With our grant, there is more that we can do. Watch for the re-start of the Social Justice and Service Ministry Team. These activities are currently part of the SJ Ministry Team: Community Focus Collection, March for Racial Justice, the MLK dinner, Community Meals at First Presbyterian, the Growing Faith Community Garden, and the terrific Ari Schmidt Fund. With our grant, we can dream up a one-time project that will draw young adults into engagement in SJ work. Have any ideas? If you would like to be part of the Social Justice and Service Ministry Team, please let me, or Kathi Hupy know. We do make a difference in the world!

Rae Laurie

Office Space

Wow, that was some rummage sale we put on last month! I was blown away by how many of you pitched in to donate, set up, price, move furniture, help sell, and clean up. Not only was the rummage sale a successful fund-raiser (\$4,000!) it was also a fantastic community-building event. A giant thank you to everyone who contributed. I hope you all had as much fun as I did.

While looking through the building for unused items to sell, Rev. Laurie and I came upon this beautiful-ly unusual lamp. The base is made of polished driftwood, and the shade looks as if it may have been hand-woven. We are looking for any information that



you may have about it. Was this a gift to the church? From whom? Is it hand-made? How long has it been here? Anything that you can remember about this unique piece would be appreciated, just give me

a call at the church office (715-842-3697) or send me an email (anji@uuwausau.org) if you have answers!

See you in church!

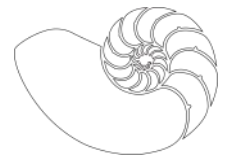
Anji Spialek

Congregational Administrator

Membership Anniversaries **CORRECTION**

Last month, we listed a 70-year anniversary for **Jeanette Johnson**. She stopped by the office to let us know that we must have confused her membership date with that of her husband. As of this February, Jeanette has been a member of UU Wausau for **17 years**. She did, however, appreciate and enjoy the card and well wishes!

Lifespan Faith Development



June has been a busy month in Faith Development! The end of the school year brought three weeks that I could devote my full 20 hours per week to the church and we got a lot accomplished! At the beginning of the month an OWL training, that was beautifully organized and graciously hosted by our own Linda Haney, was offered at UU Wausau. It was attended by 19 future facilitators, including 5 from our congregation. Linda truly did a fantastic job pulling this training together, thank her for her hard work when you get the chance.

Our other major task was to choose curricula for our upcoming church year and we've decided on a line-up that I'm excited about. My goal for our next church year is to offer Sunday morning sessions that are fun, hands-on and engaging, for facilitators and attendees, and I feel that the curricula selected have that spirit. Start thinking about which of these fun curricula you'd like to help with next year! As always, you as volunteer facilitators will be what makes our RE year successful.

Here's our exciting plan for next year's groups:

4-6 year olds

Dr. Seuss and Unitarian Universalists

Participants will explore UU Principles using the stories of Dr. Seuss! Each hands-on session explores a different Dr. Seuss story through activity, imagination, play, creativity, movement, discussion and/or games. Dr. Seuss stories lend themselves well to creativity and fun. I hope our facilitators and the children in the group will make the most of that!

1st-3rd grade

Walking the Rainbow Path (year 2)

Participants will engage with the UU Principles through stories, games, and creative activities. The curriculum is designed to help children in their faith formation as UU's and in their spiritual growth as young human beings; it provides language and images that create a framework for children to build their own belief system and to nurture their ethical growth. This second year will add a weekly alter activity and more project activities, including a rainbow quilt.

4th-6th grade—*Harry and UU*

Harry Potter! Through a social action curriculum based on J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter books, participants will use fun wizarding activities as the basis for discussion about values, social action and the seven UU principles. In addition, this group will learn and work on several real world social action projects, referred to as "Horcruxes". One 5th grader's reaction to the curriculum, "I won't be able to miss a single class!"

7th-9th grade—*Our Whole Lives (OWL)*

OWL is the Unitarian Universalist Association's comprehensive sexuality curriculum. OWL equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information on human development, relationships, personal skills, responsible sexual behavior, sexual health and contemporary societal issues. The curriculum is intensive and lasts the entire church year. Participants must have parental permission to join the group (more about OWL below).

9th-12th grade—*Popcorn Theology*

It's movie time! Popcorn Theology takes young people's interest in the visual arts and channels it into learning opportunities. Each session uses a portion of a different popular movie to: examine how the choices we make affect our lives; explore how truth and meaning related to perspective and point of view; understand how the right of conscience calls us to do what is right; consider how our faith can help us understand our questions, seek answers and deal with the trials of life.



More about OWL

If you would like your child(ren) to participate in OWL during our upcoming year please email me at julie@uuwausau.org before August 15th. There are a limited number of spots available in the group and just with member youth we have the potential to be quite full. We will accommodate all UUA certified member families and then will do our best to accommodate as many friend and community families as possible. I will finalize the participant list by the end of August and then will be in touch with participant families to schedule a mandatory parent orientation. It is not possible to add participants after this group begins so if you want a spot make sure you email before August 15th.

My Schedule

In addition to my position being only 20 hours a week, it is also part-year and my summer break has now begun! I'll be back in the office the week of August 15th and will check my email occasionally during my off time. Don't panic if you email and don't hear back from me right away (particularly about OWL). I will receive the email and will eventually respond.

Happy Summer! Get out and enjoy the sunshine!

Julie Trombley

Director of Lifespan Faith Development

The Board Table

Greetings fellow UUs,

On Saturday, June 18 the First Universalist Unitarian of Wausau Board of Trustees and Interim Minister Revered Laurie Bushbaum gathered on retreat at the Wausau YWCA. Seven members of the nine person board were able to attend. Our purpose was to educate ourselves collectively on how to better serve you as trustee. It was the first time we were able to gather outside of direct church business to work on improvement plans. The time was much anticipated by all.



Kelly Fischer, a non-profit consultant, was our instructor/subject guide. She has ample experience working with many other local boards. This was evident in her deft ability to steer topics through a conclusion and capture the take away actions necessary to forward the task. Ms. Fischer helped illustrate the need to template a best practice approach that will allow us to organize and document the workings of our congregational focuses. This is critical to allow us to do more while maintaining a low operating budget. It will also archive the procedures, processes, and history necessary when persons move in and out of various positions. In short, we are focused on positioning ourselves to better handle change

Our time on Saturday also afforded each of us the opportunity to listen to the passions and ideas of all in attendance. I think folks often associate the committee work we do with undesirable, bureaucratic tedium, or personality clashes. I am both pleased and proud of how my colleagues approach the work of the board precisely because of their positive approach that matches in no way these cliché outlooks. Each individual freely expresses their view, while

keeping the goal being discussed the focus rather than one's own vision. While I have only been a trustee for six months, their fellowship in service has us feeling as we've been at it together for years. I learn more about the business of our church, our policies, and the spiritual connection among us all. We are bonded in our full respect of the moment.

That's all we can ask and give.

Peace...

Jody Maier



First Universalist Unitarian Church

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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



Ministerial Search Committee Update

THINK OF A MINISTER.

DON'T THINK OF AN ELEPHANT.

Chances are you thought of both. And distinct images perhaps popped into your head. In terms of a minister, what images came to mind? Was it a particular gender, race, or age?

Beyond Categorical Thinking is a highly recommended part of the search process for our congregation. In finding the person who would be the best match for our minister, we could potentially overlook or even let biases keep us from knowing that a particular person would be the best match for us.

Other congregations have assumed that their ideal minister looks a certain way, and often ministers who are not white or male or heterosexual or able-bodied or of a particular age or class are discounted and seen as “less than” in some ways.

Ministers in our faith who are people of color, bisexual, gay, lesbian, female, transgender, differently-abled, young, old, ethnically different or of a different class- all of these credentialed ministers still face discrimination as part of the ministerial search process.

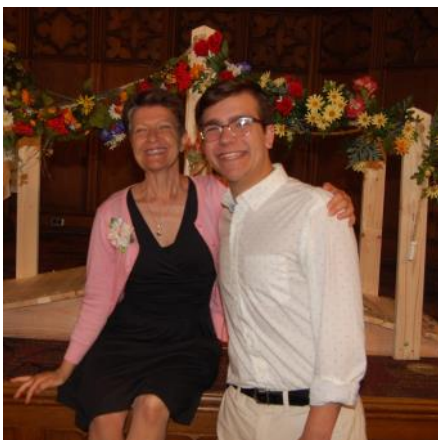
In our efforts to find the best match, our congregation will host a Beyond Categorical Thinking worship service and workshop this fall. We will have trainers come and meet with our search committee, lead the Sunday service, and facilitate 3-hour conversation where we will have a chance to examine how we can avoid letting prejudice become a part of our search process. This is yet another way for us to put our faith into lived experience and improve the odds that regardless of identity, we will find the minister who is the best match for us and will serve us well.

This opportunity allows the entire congregation fuller participation in the search process. It will allow us to explore our hopes and concerns for a new minister, learn more about the search process, and see how our own history (both personal and congregational) might interfere with our efforts.

As soon as we confirm the date with the UUA, whom our congregation has asked for help in this process, we will provide all of the details about how to participate. We look forward to sharing this experience and continuing our journey to call a settled minister together.



Congratulations, Graduates!



Congrats to high school grad, Isaac, seen here with Rev. Laurie.



Congrats to UWSP grad, Jefferson, our long-time childcare provider.





Knowing Our Past



Social Issues - Part Two

By Judy Stevens

In the 1980s a group from our church plus several other churches and organizations (like the League of Women Voters) decided to start a recycling center. Helping with this endeavor was George Evenhouse, owner of LB Trucking. Each Saturday, people could drop off newspapers, cans, and bottles at a building on Townline Road manned by volunteers from the church or organizations that were assigned to work at the center that particular day. This was the first recycling program in Wausau.

When Rev. Glenda Walker was our minister from 1990-2000, she was an advocate for gays and lesbians and conducted joining ceremonies for those who wanted them. This issue came to a head in 2003 when a small group from the Kansas Westboro Baptist Church, led by Rev. Fred Phelps, came to Wausau for an anti-gay protest of *The Laramie Project*, a play being performed at the UUMC campus theater. They also planned to demonstrate at various churches (ours included)



100 community members met to discuss the best way to respond to the Westboro group. Rather than confront them during the demonstrations, they decided to hold a celebration of tolerance at the First Methodist Church. Our church and other UU churches (with direction from our Boston church) later adopted a "Statement of Conscience" to oppose the proposed constitutional amendment to ban civil unions and same gender marriage. It also called on all UU congregations to take action to ensure full civil rights for members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered community. In 2004, UU Wausau earned our Welcoming Congregation status from the UUA. Being welcoming means striving for radical inclusion, and creating spaces that honor every part of our identities, backgrounds, and experiences.

Our present interim minister, Rev. Laurie Bushbaum, is working with Wausau's downtown clergy & N.A.O.M.I. to promote the Black Lives Matter Movement and raise the many issues of racial injustice here in Marathon County. Under her guidance, UU Wausau recently planned a March for Racial Justice.



Did you know that the MidAmerica Region UUA offers free webinars? Topics include managing change, disaster preparation, conflict resolution and many more. You can find the webinars on their website here: [MidAmerica UUA Webinars](#).

General Assembly 2016 took place last month in Columbus, Ohio. You can find information about the event, including lectures and worship services here: [UUA GA 2016](#).



Participants from General Assembly 2016 surround protesters from Westboro Baptist Church



Banner Parade at the Opening Celebration



The Rev. Dawn Cooley preaches during the Opening Celebration



July 2016 Calendar



1	Fri	6:30 PM	Community HU Song	17	Sun	9:30 AM	Church Service
2	Sat	4:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation			12:00 PM	S. Beach Up North
3	Sun	9:30 AM	Church Service			6:00 PM	Overeaters Anon
		6:00 PM	Overeaters Anon	18	Mon	6:00 PM	Women's AA Mtg
4	Mon	6:00 PM	Women's AA Mtg	19	Tue	6:30 PM	BOT Meeting
5	Tue	6:30 PM	Qigong			6:30 PM	Qigong
		7:00 PM	Table Tennis			7:00 PM	Table Tennis
6	Wed	10:00 AM	Shawl Time	20	Wed	10:00 AM	Shawl Time
7	Thu	6:30 PM	Tai Chi	21	Thu	6:30 PM	Tai Chi
		7:00 PM	Table Tennis			7:00 PM	Table Tennis
9	Sat	4:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation	23	Sat	4:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation
10	Sun	9:30 AM	Church Service	24	Sun	9:30 AM	Church Service
		6:00 PM	Overeaters Anon			6:00 PM	Overeaters Anon
11	Mon	6:00 PM	Women's AA Mtg	25	Mon	6:00 PM	Women's AA Mtg
12	Tue	6:30 PM	Qigong	26	Tues	2:00 PM	Women's Book Pack
		7:00 PM	Table Tennis			6:30 PM	Qigong
14	Thu	6:30 PM	Tai Chi			7:00 PM	Table Tennis
		7:00 PM	Table Tennis	28	Thu	6:30 PM	Tai Chi
16	Sat	8:00 AM	Wmn's Early Risers			6:30 PM	Poetry Reading
		4:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation			7:00 PM	Table Tennis
		6:00 PM	S. Beach Up North	30	Sat	4:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation
				31	Sun	9:30 AM	Church Service
						6:00 PM	Overeaters Anon



Please Note: Rev. Laurie will be on vacation starting July 5 and will be back in the office on Monday, August 8. In case of a pastoral emergency please call Anji in the office or a Board Member and they will locate Rev. Laurie if necessary.

July is National Independent Retailer Month!

Here in Wausau, we have many wonderful independent retailers to choose from! For information about locally owned businesses in downtown Wausau, visit www.wausauriverdistrict.com.

