



The Circuit Writer

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

November 2016

10:30AM Services at UU Wausau

November 6 (Daylight Savings Ends!)

-Locker Room Talk and the Culture of Taking What You Want

Worship Leader: Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

Music: Carol & David Finanger, on harp & violin

Rev. Laurie will consider whether Donald Trump's attitudes about women have anything in common with the Doctrine of Discovery. And why has the UUA written a Social Witness Statement of Conscience repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery?



November 13

-Nourished by the Mystery

Worship Leader: Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

Music: Jeff Krause, piano

What is sacred food and what makes food important? What foods are part of your family, cultural or spiritual story?



November 20

-Bread Communion for All Ages

Worship Leader: Worship & Music Team

Music: Karen Zuidema

All are invited to bring bread; bread of any kind, from any part of the world. We gather around the table to feast on the beauty of the world, the gift of food, and our connections to all life.

Nursery care available; everyone else will be together in the sanctuary.



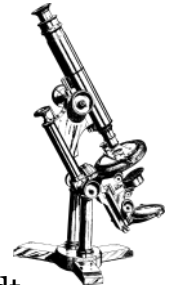
November 27

-Miracles and Microscopes

Worship leader: Richard Olson

Music: Ray Kraemer and Louis Pradt

The so-called war between science and religion pits reason against faith, two opposite concepts that some believe can be compatible.



Congratulations, Jim Coakley!

The Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

invites you to the ordination of

Jim Coakley

Saturday, November 12,

4:30PM. Potluck to follow.

2600 Philip Lane, Appleton, Wisconsin

Guest preacher,

the Rev. Dottie Matthews.

In the Interim...

I want to complement the Search Committee for asking a very important question.

On one of their surveys they asked members to consider what each can do to encourage/ support the minister and make ministry a successful partnership. It is true that good congregations help create good ministers and good ministers help create good congregations. We each have our role to play in creating a ministry that is welcoming, nurturing, challenging, creative, and just.

Last week, on Facebook, I asked my UU colleagues the question, "What do you want a congregation to know about how to support you and to support healthy ministry?" I told them I would share some of their responses. So, here they are, in no particular order:

1. Let the minister know if their ministry has been meaningful. Give them a call, write a quick email, send a card. (Thanks to those few, you know who you are, who put flowers at my door and muffins in staff boxes. We appreciate it so much.

2. If you don't understand or don't agree with something the minister has said, talk to him/her. This basic practice of healthy communication goes a long way to minimize conflict and build connections. Stop the gossiping.

3. Find out your minister's birthday and the anniversary of their ordination. Acknowledge them, especially the big anniversaries of ordination, the 10 and 25 year dates.

4. Honor the minister's day off. Do not call unless it is a true emergency.

5. Find out what your new minister wants, needs, likes. Some people love going to parishioners' homes for dinner; others don't enjoy that but might love to have you show them a favorite hiking spot or cultural treasure.

6. Choose leaders who have the skills and commitment to make ministry strong.

7. Wear your nametags! It helps the new minister and newcomers all the time.

8. Make room for new people/ideas, try new things. Eliminate "we always," from your vocabulary and substitute, "let's try it."

9. Make sure you know what you are doing or are willing to do if you call a minister of color. Understand that it is just the beginning of what could be a great adventure in ministry.

10. Honest criticism paired with honest praise over time becomes helpful feedback.

11. If you have Covenants, read them often and hold one another accountable with love.

Rew. Laurie

p.s. I will be out on medical leave for 2 weeks for a scheduled surgery on Nov. 16.



Office Space

It's that time of year again when the leaves are almost gone and cold, snowy weather is just around the corner. Luckily, our sanctuary always seems warm and cozy during the holiday season, thanks to the Poinsettias and greenery provided by your generous donations. Thanks to the Caring Ministry, poinsettias also brighten the season of our members who are unable to join us at Sunday services.

Consider making a \$25 donation to go toward this holiday tradition in honor or memory of someone you hold dear. A memorial or special message will be printed on the Christmas Eve Order of Service to acknowledge your tribute.

Send your donation and memorial information to the church office at 504 Grant St., Wausau, WI 54403 by December 19th.

Poinsettia Memorial Order Form

\$25 tax-deductible donation per memorial

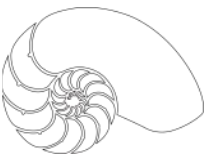
Donor Name(s)

My 1st memorial should read:

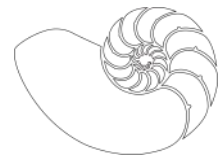
My 2nd memorial should read:

My 3rd memorial should read:





Lifespan Faith Development



Teachers Needed

Do you love to learn and grow? Do you want to serve your church community in a truly meaningful way? Do you want to get to know young people in our congregation and be a part of their lives? Do you want to help young people develop their own ideas/beliefs? Do you want to be a part of making church a fun and exciting place for young people to be? We are looking for facilitators for Sunday morning RE sessions! Our Winter 1 session will run 5 weeks, January 8th to February 12th. Our plan is to create teams of 3 volunteers for each age level. This way you can rotate in and out of the classroom to fit your schedule (with 2 facilitators 'on' each week) but we can still provide some continuity for our child and youth participants. There will be a brief facilitator training before the 6 week session begins, written lessons will be facilitator-friendly and Julie will be available to help in any way needed - all to ensure that ANYONE would be comfortable and successful facilitating! Classes in need of facilitators include the 4-6 year olds with a Dr. Seuss themed curriculum, 1st-3rd grade with the Rainbow Path curriculum, 4th-6th grade with a Harry Potter based curriculum and 9th-12th graders using the Popcorn theology curriculum.



Please contact Julie at julie@uuwausau.org or sign up in the Atrium if you are interesting in helping.

Julie Trombley

Director of Lifespan Faith Development

The **Phoenix House** (4th-6th grade Harry Potter and UU group) are collecting canned soup to battle the **Hunger Horcrux**. Please drop off donations in the classroom or in the box outside the sanctuary by December 4th. Healthy Choice brand is particularly needed.

Last month, you helped them fight the **Illiteracy Horcrux** by donating 64 books to benefit the **“Books on the Bus”** program! They expressed their gratitude to the congregation with this note:

“Dear UU Congregation, Thank you for donating books so our class could give books to the Books on the Bus program! Our class enjoyed looking through the books! Thank you for helping our class!”

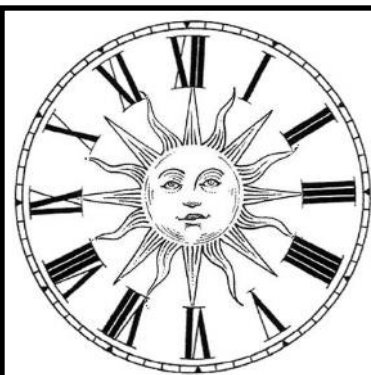


Community Suppers

The next Community Supper at the Presbyterian Church will take place on Sunday, November 6 at 3pm. The Community Supper is a wonderful opportunity for families to come together in service to those in need in our community without the stress of a long-term commitment.

Help is needed with everything from greeting, cooking, serving, and clean-up, allowing everyone in the family to find a rewarding job that matches their skills and age.

If your family would like to help with this or future Community Suppers, please contact Marsha Fitzgerald at mkfitz8814@yahoo.com.



Fall Back!

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 6 at 2AM!

Financial Statement Through September 30, 2016

Income		Expenses	
Pledges	\$193,013	Personnel	\$110,103
Other Contributions	19,109	Gen. Admin	17,400
Endowment	0	Bldg. & Grds.	13,093
Auction	10,696	Utilities, Prop. Tax	8,847
Other Fund Raising	3,943	Programs/RE	7,349
Building Use	5,048	Music	2,435
Parking Lot	4,339	Denom.Contrib.	10,924
Misc.	<u>16</u>	Debt Service	<u>12,384</u>
Total Income	\$236,164	Total Expense	\$182,535

At 75% through the year, expenses are at 75%; income, however, is at 83%, for a net income of \$52,628. The higher income can be explained by a non-pledged contribution of \$15,000 made during July and by 100% of the auction income already being transferred into the operating budget. Income from parking looks light due to a prepayment recorded last year in monthly parking and building use has declined about 26% from last year mainly due to fewer yoga classes and less use by Church Mutual.

In expenses, building and grounds is only at 8% of 2015 because of the high remodeling expenses we had last year. We appear to have had better weather too because of the lower gas and snow removal expenses. Personnel is also much lower than 2015 because of the change in one administrative position that included fewer hours. The change to on-line Circuit Writers has resulted in copier and postage costs being down 31% and 38% respectively. We are on track to paying UUA and CMD at 75%, 10% higher than last year.

Our prepaid pledges for 2016 were a historic high \$68,392, however monthly pledge payments have lagged. To meet our budget of \$245,500 in pledged income, we now need an additional \$52,487 to come in over the last three months, so please keep your payments coming in.

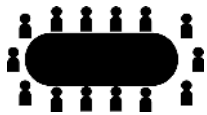
As you are aware, the will of Barb Seegert included an extremely generous gift designated for updating the kitchen. The Property Committee has been busy laying the plans which will be implemented next year.

Carolyn Bronston, Co-Treasurer



WomenCraft Returns!

Scott and Peggy Stalheim will again have woven items for sale from this Fair Trade certified social enterprise in Ngara, Tanzania on **December 4th and 11th** before and after the Sunday Service. WomenCraft's members weave with a traditional technique passed down to daughters for generations, with new designs created by village artisans. The grasses and banana stalk used in production are cultivated near their villages, and hand-dyed fabrics are purchased in the local markets. Through WomenCraft, over 300 artisans advance themselves, raise healthier families, and create stronger communities in one of the poorest areas in the world. Visit www.womencraft.com for more info!



The Board Table



As winter approaches so does the final business of our Church year - our Annual Meeting.

First order of business will be the approval of 2015 Annual Meeting minutes. I'm sure we all remember the details of the meeting. Fear not, they will be published again for your perusal.

Our proposed 2017 budget was tentatively approved at the October 18th Board of Trustees meeting and will be presented to the congregation for a vote. We are optimistically increasing the number and amount of pledges, crossing our fingers on a "not miserably" cold winter (Farmer's Almanac notwithstanding), hoping to bring in the soaring sound of music with a part-time Music Director, and facing the reality of calling a new settled minister with a fair (and attractive) compensation package. WOW! That all said, the Board has worked very hard to be realistic and pragmatic.

Another piece of business will be the approval of the Nominating Committee's recommendation filling the vacating Board position of Randy Jefferson. The two other positions coming up for re-election for another 3 year term will also be presented for approval.

One seat on the Endowment Committee will be presented for approval.

Three positions on the 2017 Nominating Committee will be on the docket, two members at large and one Board representative.

The minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting held on October 9, 2016 adopting our new Mission and Vision and Covenant statements will be presented for approval.

So as you see, there is much to finish up and plenty for all to weigh in on. The Annual Meeting is a time for your stamp of approval in regard to the work done during the year by church staff, volunteers, and the Board. Please come and be part of the process.



All documents will be available ten days prior to the meeting so all can be well informed as to the items being voted on. Be prepared to ask questions or give advice.

Our Annual Meeting for 2016 will be held on November 20, after the service. It is a month earlier this year as much needs to be done to facilitate the Search Committee's processes.

See you on the 20th!!! Judy Beier



First Universalist Unitarian Church

504 Grant Street, Wausau, WI 54403

Office Hours: Tue-Thu, 9AM-2PM

(715) 842-3697, www.uuwausau.org

Board of Trustees:

Randy Jefferson, President	rpj1115@yahoo.com
CJ Heiser, Vice President	heiser.cj@gmail.com
Judy Beier, Secretary	jandjbeier@yahoo.com
Tim Peterson	timnp67@aol.com
Nan Cedar	nancedar31@gmail.com
Kevin Briquelet-Miller	briqmill5@aol.com
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,	laurie@uuwausau.org
Anji Spialek,	anji@uuwausau.org
Julie Trombley,	julie@uuwausau.org



Ministerial Search Committee Update



The Ministerial Search Committee is hard at work this fall putting the finishing touches on our Congregational Record as well as the online and paper versions of the packet that will show prospective ministers who we are at UU Wausau. We will continue to keep you updated on our progress; please be assured that even though our "official" surveys are completed, the Search Committee remains very interested in your thoughts so please do not hesitate to reach out with any feedback or questions you may have along the way.

The MSC hosted a **Beyond Categorical Thinking worship service and workshop** on October 2nd. Our energetic and informative facilitator Eddie Carroll, a UU BCT trainer, met with our search committee and shared wisdom and suggestions for the rest of our search process. Eddie reminded us what a unique relationship exists between a settled minister and the congregation, affirming our desire to explore this topic further, such as how to best welcome and support our new minister...watch for more information on this subject later this spring! Eddie led the Sunday service, sharing his moving personal story which served as inspiration to us all to remain committed to honoring our first principle: the inherent worth and dignity of all people. He then facilitated the 3-hour conversation where we had a chance to examine how we can **avoid letting prejudice become a part of our search process**. This experience was 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 allowed the entire congregation fuller participation in the search process. It allowed 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. If you were unable to attend either the service or the workshop and are interested in hearing more about what we discussed, please feel free to contact any member of the Ministerial Search Committee.

How to Contact Your Search Committee:

Linda Haney lhane1@mac.com
Sheryl Hemp wishemp@aol.com
Bart Hobson hobsonbd@hotmail.com
Jeffrey McDonald jeffmcdonald@charter.net
Holly Briquet Miller briqmill5@aol.com
Mary Pierce gibbypie@gmail.com
Ingrid Clark Zavadoski iclarkz@gmail.com

November 2016 Membership Anniversaries



Clifford Livingston	49 years
Dan & Carolyn Schaut	36 years
Joni Hahn	35 years
Nan Cedar	24 years
Dave & Renee Peterson	19 years
John & Mary Robinson	17 years
Marguerite Donnelly	17 years
Dan & Jessica Bowers	10 years
Linda Haney	10 years
Brian & Tammy	
Stezenski-Williams	10 years
Sarah Thurs	10 years
Kathi Hupy	10 years
Gail and David Berge	9 years
Judy Beier	7 years

Help Dig a Well From Which You Will Never Drink



A Note from the Endowment Committee

When confronted with the metaphor to help dig a well, Doris Eberlein replied that she already helped dig the well as a result of her early involvement in establishing the Endowment Fund. Now, Doris suggests that the metaphor is more properly about *FILLING* the well from which we will never drink. She writes:

I can remember when there was no "well." At the end of each fiscal year, if there was a debt, it was paid off by one or more of the affluent members of the congregation without discussion.

When I sat on the Board of Trustees, a bequest of more than \$30,000 was not invested but used for operational expenses. The Endowment Fund was not created until 1982 and was initially funded with stock donations. The first recorded value of the fund was \$47,770 in 1990. As one of the early Endowment Committee members, our concerns were to preserve and grow the Fund. Disbursements from the young Fund were out of the question. Since then, the Fund has been an important resource, most notably a \$50,000 disbursement in 2007 for the building renovation. However, the Fund's existence, growth, and vitality need to be augmented continually.

Today, it is difficult for any non-profit organization to thrive without an established foundation or endowment, and I support this renewed effort to encourage members to leave legacy gifts so that the First Universalist Unitarian Church's mission can remain viable for the future challenges we all face.

Many thanks to Doris for a lifetime of dedication, financial support, and service to this institution!

If you have any questions about the Endowment Fund or legacy giving, please contact any of the Endowment Committee members (Tom Eberlein, Dan Schaut, or Jerry Phelan).



UUA Connections



News from the most recent issue of *UU World* Magazine:

"In a historic moment for Unitarian Universalism, the Unitarian Universalist Association Board of Trustees has agreed to provide \$300,000 immediately to [Black Lives of UU](#) and committed to guaranteeing BLUU another \$5 million in long-term funding for its efforts to support black UUs and expand the role and visibility of black UUs within the faith."

The board's decision, on Friday, October 14, came during its three-day October meeting, at the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in

Manhasset, New York, in response to a presentation and funding request by BLUU. UU World will report on other aspects of the October 14–16 meeting in a second article next week."

Read the rest of the article at www.uuworld.org.



Leslie Mac & the Rev. Carlton Elliott Smith of BLUU requested \$5.3 million from the UUA Board of Trustees during the October meeting.

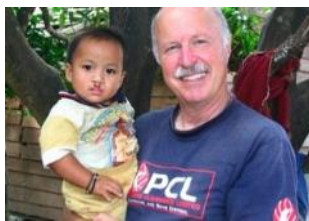
News for UUs



☛ We Help War Victims

The November 20th Community Focus Collection will be for **We Help War Victims**. During an emotional and inspirational presentation at the Oct 23rd Sunday service **Jim Harris** told the story of the origins of this unique project.

While serving as the principal of Weston Elementary School Jim strove to learn more about the newest immigrants to our community and his school. Hearing the stories of how they arrived to our community, what they went through to get here and those left behind, Jim decided to travel to Laos and learn more. And what he saw shocked him. Even though he found surviving relatives whose stories he brought back to relatives here, he also discovered devastating information of the over 70 million unexploded cluster bombs left in every jungle, field, rice paddy...even schools. 20,000 people in Laos have been impacted by inadvertently stepping on these bombs. So for the last 18 years Jim has been going to Laos for three months to help in the disposal of this ordinance. He also is in the process of opening a museum in the Wausau Center Mall dedicated to the rich culture of this Southeast Asian nation. It is a way to build bridges of understanding between our two cultures and to remind the Laotians and Hmong here of their heritage. All donations will help continue his almost insurmountable task of blowing up bombs.



☛ Wausau Bird Club outing to Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum

Andy McGivern has graciously offered to give the club a personal tour of the Birds in Art exhibit. Andy is a curator of the museum, bird watcher, Web-designer of the club's website and active member of the Wausau Bird Club. Wednesday November 2, 2016 at 6PM.

☛ Women's Book Pack

Book Pack will meet Tuesday, November 29th, at 2:00 p.m. in Apt. 217 of Primrose Retirement Community to discuss *Circling the Sun* by Paula McLain.

☛ UU Wausau Winter Retreat

Join old friends and make new ones at the UU Wausau winter retreat January 27-29, 2017. We meet at **Camp Manitowish** in Boulder Junction for a fun-filled weekend of sledding, cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing, good food and fellowship. There is room for 12 families (each room has 4 bunks) with shared bathrooms and communal meals. Cost is around \$31/night/adults 13 and up, \$15/night 6-12, free 5 and under. If you are interested contact **Dawn Ashenbrenner** at 715-212-6481 or dawn1969@yahoo.com. This fills up quickly so sign up soon!



☛ UU Soup Sale

The UU Soup Sale is scheduled for Sunday, November 13. This year we would appreciate it if all the soup be delivered frozen the day of the sale in glass quart jars. If some of you have extra jars that you would be willing to share, please bring them to church for us to distribute. In addition to soup, we will also be offering nut breads for sale. There is something for everyone; bakers, cooks and of course buyers. **Proceeds from the sale will go to RE.** Please mark your calendar!

☛ Holiday "Care"oling

Faith in Action of Marathon County invites you to join them for the 9th Annual Holiday 'Care'-oling for Faith in Action Community Concert free-will donation fundraiser, Friday, November 11 at 7PM at Wausau West High School Auditorium. The concert features area choirs performing holiday music for your enjoyment. There will also be a bake sale and raffle.





November 2016 Calendar



1	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong	15	Tue	6:30PM	BOT Meeting
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			6:30PM	Qigong
2	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time			7:00PM	ADHD Parent Group
		3:30PM	Proud Theater			7:00PM	Table Tennis
		6:00PM	Power Flow Yoga	16	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time
3	Thu	10:00AM	Older, but Wiser			3:30PM	Proud Theater
		6:30PM	Tai Chi			6:00PM	Power Flow Yoga
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	17	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi
4	Fri	6:30PM	Community HU Song			7:00PM	Table Tennis
5	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation	19	Sat	8:00AM	Wmn's Early Risers
6	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service			4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
		11:45AM	First Sunday Potluck	20	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
		11:45AM	Visitor Brunch			11:45AM	Annual Meeting
		3:00PM	Community Supper			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon	21	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
7	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	22	Tues	6:30PM	Qigong
8	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong			7:00PM	Table Tennis
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	23	Wed	3:30PM	Proud Theater
9	Wed	3:30PM	Proud Theater			6:00PM	Power Flow Yoga
		6:00PM	Power Flow Yoga	24	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi
		6:30PM	Eckankar Book Group			7:00PM	Table Tennis
10	Thu	10:00AM	Older, but Wiser	26	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
		6:30PM	Tai Chi	27	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
12	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation	28	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
13	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service	29	Tue	2:00PM	Women's Book Pack
		11:45AM	RE Soup Sale			6:30PM	Qigong
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon			7:00PM	Table Tennis
14	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	30	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time
						3:30PM	Proud Theater
						6:00PM	Power Flow Yoga



November is National Gratitude Month



We are so glad you are part of the UU Wausau Family!