



# The Circuit Writer

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

December 2016

## 10:30AM Services at UU Wausau

### December 4

#### ***-Doubt, Truth, and the Paradox Dancing at the Center of it All***

Worship Leader: Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

Music: Carol & David Finanger, Harp & Violin

So much is uncertain right now; so much is in flux. To what can we hold? What must we question and what role does doubt play in the creation of a belief system? And on this Sunday we have the joy of welcoming new members! Potluck lunch following service.

### December 11

#### ***-Angels in Our Midst***

Worship Leader: Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

Music: Mara Beckman

In the Judeo-Christian tradition, an angel is one who delivers an important message. Who have been the angels in your life? What messages might we need to hear now?

\*\*Christmas Pageant Rehearsal following the service. All those with speaking / singing parts must be present and we encourage all other children who will be participating to be present if possible.



### December 18

#### ***-“Follow the Star”***

Worship Leader: Rev. Laurie Bushbaum, Julie Trombley, and Children

Music: Mara Beckman and Morgan Forbes, piano

Are you ready to follow the star? Are the angels and animals and shepherds ready? The journey of the heart can begin in Bethlehem — or Wausau, Paris, or Weston. Everyone has a part to play.

### December 25

#### ***-Lay-led Christmas Day Service***

Worship Leader: Worship and Ministry Team



## Special Services

### December 21

#### ***-Solstice Service at 7:00PM***

Worship Leader: Worship and Ministry Team

### December 24

#### ***-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:30PM***

Worship Leader: Rev. Laurie Bushbaum and Worship Associates

## In the Interim...

During the service on Sunday, Nov. 13, I handed out large safety pins. The goal of wearing a safety pin is to join the growing, international movement of those wearing a SAFETY pin as a signal to those who are marginalized and feel especially vulnerable, that we will stand with them and create safety for them. Granted, just wearing a safety pin will not solve the country's problems but until we know what else to do, we can be ready and committed to protect someone who is vulnerable. Millions and millions of us need to be ready to stand. Why?



Dozens of ugly incidents have already been reported since the election. In a Northern Suburb of Minneapolis, a school is investigating graffiti scrawled on a bathroom door that reads "whites only" and "\*\*\*\*\* niggers." At Wellesley College, two Trump supporters harassed students and were escorted off the campus by security. Pro-Nazi graffiti has been spotted in Philadelphia and at the University of New Mexico. The KKK has announced a victory parade next month in North Carolina. In a Middle School students have screamed "Build that Wall" at their peers. Women have been threatened to remove their hijabs.

But how can you provide safety? An online tutorial, based on a plan written by a French woman, offers 3 basic steps to follow if a person is being verbally harassed for any reason.

1. Make eye contact with him/her, initiate a greeting, smile and move close to them and greet them. Ignore the attacker. Engage the person being harassed in conversation.
2. Talk to the person with whom you are standing. Pick a topic, any general topic, even the weather. The goal here is to make the attacker feel ignored and irrelevant.

3. If the aggressor does not leave, invite the person to leave with you to a place that is safe.

For now, this is something we can do. Let us practice standing strong.

In faith,

*Rev. Laurie*

## Office Space

Happy Holidays!!

In each Order of Service throughout December, you will find Christmas Eve offering envelopes. The annual collection goes to The Neighbor's Place and The Community Center for Hope. Offerings can be dropped off at the office or placed in the offering plate any time during the month of December. Last year, you raised \$1,498 for these important agencies.

Like last year, the candle-lit Christmas Eve service will begin at 5:30pm. We made this change last year to give families more quality time together, and it seemed to be a hit!

After the Christmas Eve service, we will share cookies together in the Atrium. The cookie reception is a long-standing tradition here at UU Wausau. Please drop off your cookies in the Atrium on your way to the service. Don't worry; if I see you sneak a bite before the service your secret will be safe with me.

Speaking of the holiday services, please note that the church office will be closed this year from December 25 until January 2, If you are in the habit of handing in your annual pledge on those last few days of the year, please put your payment in an envelope and place it in the black mailbox to the left of the entrance. I will be sure to take care of your payment as soon as I return, and will back-date it to the date of payment. Contact me at the office if you have any questions: [anji@uuwausau.org](mailto:anji@uuwausau.org) or 715-842-3697.

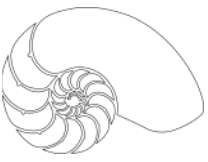


See you in church!

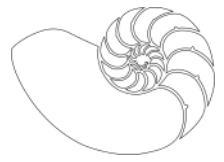
*Anji Spialek*

Congregational Administrator





# Lifespan Faith Development



## Sign Up for the Christmas Pageant!

The Christmas Pageant will be during the December 18<sup>th</sup> service. Children and youth who would like to be a part of "Follow the Star" can sign up on the clipboards in the atrium.

With speaking, singing, drumming and non-speaking parts, there's a place for every student who wishes to participate! Speaking parts include: Mary, Joseph, Angels, and Shepherds. Non-speaking parts include: Star, Wise People and Animals (any type and many are needed). Lead roles will be decided via a simple lottery drawing of interested youth.

**There will be one Dress Rehearsal on Sunday, December 11, following the service.** Very simple costumes and/or props are to be provided by the participants themselves from home.

Contact Julie at [julie@uuwausau.org](mailto:julie@uuwausau.org) with any questions or to sign up!

*Julie Trombley*

Director of Lifespan Faith Development



It's been wonderful to see youth and families getting involved in the sanitary, lighting the chalice and in last month's Bread Communion. Talk to Julie if your family would like to be involved in some way too.



## Upcoming Schedule

December 4 <sup>th</sup>	All regular classes held
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	All regular classes held
December 18 <sup>th</sup>	Intergenerational Service (Christmas Pageant)
December 25 <sup>th</sup>	NO classes
January 1 <sup>st</sup>	NO classes
January 8 <sup>th</sup>	All regular classes resume

## Soup Collection

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



### First Universalist Unitarian Church

504 Grant Street, Wausau, WI 54403  
Office Hours: Tue-Thu, 9AM-2PM  
(715) 842-3697, [www.uuwausau.org](http://www.uuwausau.org)

#### Board of Trustees:

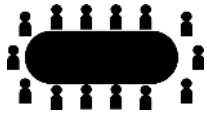
Randy Jefferson, President	<a href="mailto:rpj1115@yahoo.com">rpj1115@yahoo.com</a>
CJ Heiser, Vice President	<a href="mailto:heiser.cj@gmail.com">heiser.cj@gmail.com</a>
Judy Beier, Secretary	<a href="mailto:jandjbeier@yahoo.com">jandjbeier@yahoo.com</a>
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Kathi Hupy	<a href="mailto:khupy@hotmail.com">khupy@hotmail.com</a>
Joyce Kurth	<a href="mailto:joyce.kurth@gmail.com">joyce.kurth@gmail.com</a>
Jody Maier	<a href="mailto:jkmaier@charter.net">jkmaier@charter.net</a>

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

#### Staff:

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum,	<a href="mailto:laurie@uuwausau.org">laurie@uuwausau.org</a>
Anji Spialek,	<a href="mailto:anji@uuwausau.org">anji@uuwausau.org</a>
Julie Trombley,	<a href="mailto:julie@uuwausau.org">julie@uuwausau.org</a>





# The Board Table



In case you were not able to attend the annual congregation meeting November, 20, 2016, this is a summary of the report I wrote for that meeting. I encourage you to secure a copy of the complete original as well as the other reports presented when you are at church. The focus for



the board this year has continued to be taking actions we determined were best for the long term health and vitality of the church - strengthening our finances, putting ourselves in the most favorable position to call a new minister, and encouraging the involvement of members in

shared ministry through ministry teams and other opportunities for engagement. We have made significant progress on all fronts this year. We are doing well. We cannot let up.

First UU funded a half-time Director of Lifespan Faith Development position this year, and we were fortunate to hire the experienced and talented Julie Trombley to fill it. We are thankful for all she has done and what she has accomplished. We need to do our part to help Julie succeed. When her call goes out for teachers or other assistance, please step forward. Seeing the wonder of our children first hand is truly rewarding.

Prudent budgeting and careful spending, along with successful stewardship efforts have put us on sound financial footing. Surplus growth combined with a generous unallocated member gift has resulted in a board decision to use \$15,000 of our Reserve/Special Funds combined with a \$10,000 Endowment Fund contribution to reduce our mortgage principle to below \$200,000 and restructure the mortgage. These actions will result in major long term interest savings and a reduction of 3 1/2 years in the length of the loan.

The fiscal challenge for us now is to complete another successful Stewardship Drive. The board has made a concerted effort during this

interim period to increase our minister compensation package so that we can attract strong ministerial candidates. The 2017 budget does that. We have also added a part-time music coordinator beginning mid-year, and intend to make a fair share contribution to the UUA and Region for the first time in a number of years. These are also important considerations for any candidate looking at us. We must meet our pledge income goal to keep our momentum moving forward.

In addition to your critical financial support, the church needs you to share your talents and time with us. Ministry Teams are in varying stages of development. The Social Justice Team is starting to come alive. We need to pick up the baton that Laurie has so ably carried for us. The Hospitality Team can always use more help to spread the vital interpersonal tasks we depend on among more of us. Remember the Lifespan Faith Development Team that will be forming in the year ahead too as you consider how you can play a bigger role in the health of our church.

Carol Bronston was looking to reduce the Treasurer responsibilities she has shouldered so well since 2002. I was seeking a new way to serve after I go off the board. We had a match. Effective 1/1/2017, by Board appointment, I will assume a co-Treasurer role working with Mary Pierce on the monthly financial report production and analysis for the Board and quarterly congregation reporting. Mary has very ably stepped into her co-Treasure role this year, and has mentored me well on audit processes and report production. Carol will continue serving as the Treasurer responsible for providing support to the Endowment Committee. We are deeply grateful for Carol's dedicated service.

Please take the time to read the report also for the additional thanks to Laurie, Anji, you the congregation, and the Board that I was so fortunate to stand beside during my term.

I think 2017 is going to be a great year for our church.



# News for UUs



## ☛ Community Focus Collections

December and the giving season is upon us. The Community Focus Collection and the Caring Committee are teaming up for the entire month of December to “Fill the Basket” for the Neighbors Place and the Community Center of Hope in Mosinee. Although monetary and food donations are always welcome, both centers suggested personal care products would be especially good. These are items that are not usually available in large quantities at the pantries. This ranges from feminine products, deodorants, shaving products, cream rinse, shampoos, soaps....even laundry detergents. We are asking that these donations be dropped off in our “basket” labeled *personal care products* in the atrium all through the month of December. Any dollars collected during the Christmas Eve service will be shared equally with the two centers. Both the Caring Committee and the CFC thank you for your generosity.

## ☛ Women’s Book Pack

The Book Pack will not meet in December but will resume meeting on January 31. The book to be discussed then will be *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes.

## ☛ 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](mailto:dawn1969@yahoo.com). This fills up quickly so sign up soon!

## ☛ UU Soup Sale

Thanks to everyone who prepared soup, baked bread or purchased items at the soup sale. We took in approximately \$366 to go towards new furniture in the RE classrooms! Thanks to everyone for successful sale, and an especially big thanks and high-five to Karen Peterson!

## ☛ Join the Unity Project

The Unity Project is a recently formed group whose goal is to build a stronger, more diverse community. It formed in the spring of 2016 following the March for Racial Justice and the Save our Children Peace March. So far it has included members of several ethnic groups, LGBT community, NAOMI, People for the Power of Love, and welcomes all other groups and individuals who want to be involved.

The Unity Project meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 6:00pm in our church.

The UP will work with People for the Power of Love in planning a “Safety Pin” potluck Sunday, December 4, 4pm, at the First UU Church. Come and share food, promote the safety pin project and share thoughts and feelings about how to foster unity in our community.

Future projects will include planning a banquet in January in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

The Unity Project is a great chance to help foster racial justice and inclusion in our community! For more information check out Facebook at (U) nity (P) roject or contact Kate Gaines at [naomi4justice@yahoo.com](mailto:naomi4justice@yahoo.com) or 608-960-0697.

### CIRCLE of LIFE

#### Bernetta Petruzates

December 4, 1933 - November 3, 2016



#### Jean Beck

January 8, 1933 - November 4, 2016





# December 2016 Calendar



1	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi	15	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			7:00PM	Table Tennis
2	Fri	6:30PM	Community HU Song	17	Sat	8:00AM	Wmn's Early Risers
3	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation			4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
4	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service	18	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
5	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	19	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
		6:30PM	Wausau Bird Club	20	Tues	6:30PM	BOT Meeting
6	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong			6:30PM	Qigong
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			7:00PM	ADHD Parent Group
7	Wed	1000AM	Shawl Time	21	Wed	7:00PM	Table Tennis
		3:30PM	Proud Theater			11:00AM	Shawl Time
		6:00PM	Power Flow Yoga			3:30PM	Proud Theater
		6:30PM	Eckankar Book Group			7:00PM	Solstice Service
8	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi	22	Thu	7:00PM	Table Tennis
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	24	Sat	5:30 PM	Christmas Eve Service
10	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation	25	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
11	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon	26	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
12	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	27	Tue	7:00PM	Table Tennis
13	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong	28	Wed	3:30PM	Proud Theater
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	29	Thu	7:00PM	Table Tennis
14	Wed	3:30PM	Proud Theater	31	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
		6:00PM	Power Flow Yoga				



## Happy Membership Anniversary!

Don & Jane Christianson, 45 years. Larry Petruzates, 35 years. Liz Barr, 27 years.  
 Becky Filiatreux, 26 years. Bob Ringstad, 26 years. Glenda Walker, 26 years. Nan Cedar, 24 years.  
 Gale Fisher & Dave Wenninger, 24 years. Jerry Phelan, 24 years. Steve Rhyner, 18 years.  
 Lee Williams, 18 years. Ray Kraemer, 15 years. Kent & Heather Busig, 12 years.  
 Kathy Thurs, 12 years. Greg & Ingrid Clark Zavadoski, 12 years. Pat & Kay Meyer, 10 years.  
 Jeff Leigh, 9 years. Charles Patten, 9 years. Jane Rusch, 9 years. Lanore Rusch, 9 years.  
 Nancy Zitek, 9 years. Paul & Carol Hagstrom, 9 years. Kim Schmutzler, 8 years.  
 Kim & Dean Day, 7 years. Francis Passineau, 7 years. John Pochinski, 6 years.  
 Stuart & Karen Churness, 4 years. Katrina Becker & Tony Schultz, 3 years.



First Universalist Unitarian  
Church of Wausau  
504 Grant St.,  
Wausau, WI 54403

## The Circuit Writer - December 2016

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FIRST UNIVERSALIST  
UNITARIAN CHURCH  
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

SINCE 1870