



The Circuit Writer

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

January 2017

10:30AM Services at UU Wausau

January 1

This will be our traditional congregation sharing of readings, stories, music, hopes, and dreams for the new year. This is participatory service, largely created by those attending. Everyone is encouraged to bring some insightful/inspirational words, a story, or song or musical piece to sing or play. The service will be coordinated by the Worship & Music Ministry Team.

January 8

-The Anthropology of Magic

Back by popular demand, Ron Lippi, recently retired university professor who taught a wide range of popular anthropology courses at UWMC for 26 years, will be here to cast his spell on us. Ron's comments will address: What is the difference between religion and magic? How is magic believed to work? What is its role in belief systems around the world?

Worship Leader: Randy Jefferson

Music: Karen Zuidema, piano



January 15

-Creative Maladjustment: Stories of Resistance

Rev. Dr. MLK said, "Human salvation lies in the hands of the creatively maladjusted." To what must we be "maladjusted?" As we begin the new year, I will tell stories of courage and resistance by the creatively "maladjusted." This is a lead-in for the conversation we will have as a congregation on Jan. 22.

Worship Leader: Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

Music: David Deon and the Soul Inspirations

January 22

-Saying "No" and Saying "Yes"

What does it mean to live our UU Principles here and now? What is the "yes" that inspires us to say, "no?" Today we will talk together about how you as a congregation want to shape your ministry after the Presidential Inauguration.

Small group discussion following the service.

Worship Leader: Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

Music: Bart Hobson, slack-key guitar

January 29

-Follow the Yellow Brick Road

What does the great modern myth of *The Wizard of Oz*, tell us about the human journey? We must all set off into the unknown, dodge dangers, find helpers along the way and navigate new territory. The first in a series on traveling...

Small group discussions following the service (see Jan, 22 service)

Worship Leader: Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

Music: Karen Zuidema, piano

In the Interim...

I want to share with all of you, excerpts from a letter that UUA President, Rev. Peter Morales, sent to all UU clergy. And while it was addressed to us, it is a public letter and applies to all UU's.



These are tough times. We are living in the midst of historic cultural turmoil. Long festering resentments are being unleashed, posing immediate threats to the most marginalized in our society and presenting long-term danger to our natural environment.

People are understandably anxious. I hear reports of a spike in attendance at worship services across the country. I can only imagine the pastoral demands you are facing—at a time when we ministers are in as much need of support as our congregants. Thank you for your courage, your perseverance, your faithfulness.

I believe we are entering dangerous times. I expect that the new administration will unleash human rights abuses aimed at migrants and Muslims shortly after it takes office. In the longer term, other marginalized groups (women, the poor, people of color, transgender people, etc.) will be in danger...

Among the dangers we face is the temptation to “normalize” the situation. I pray that the incoming administration will prove to be more humane than its rhetoric and many of its most ardent supporters. I see no evidence that this is the case.

We must prepare to provide sanctuary and resist. First, we must provide sanctuary in the broadest and richest sense of the term. We begin with offering safe places for reflection and healing for our congregants and for those coming to seek spiritual community. But these times demand more. We must provide sanctuary to those most vulnerable. In particular, migrants (primarily from Mexico and Central America) may well face mass deportation. In addition, Muslims have been targeted.

Second, we must prepare to resist human rights violations in active ways. We must make it much

harder to deport, register, discriminate and de-spoil. In the past most of our work for justice and compassion has been positive. We have been advocates for marriage equality, racial justice, civil rights, immigration reform and environmental justice. To use a sports metaphor, we have played offense. We joined with others to advance an agenda. Today we must prepare to “play defense.” We will have to respond quickly to acts of the government. We will have to react rather than act. We will need to be agile and fast.

As always, the key will be to work together. We have shown our ability to do this from resisting the human rights violations of Joe Arpaio in Arizona to joining in the resistance at Standing Rock. We are effective when our congregations and ministers work together at the local level, combined with support from regional and national staff. We make a difference when we form strong partnerships with other faith groups and secular organizations.

At the national level, we are working to form partnerships with other faith groups and other UU organizations.

I invite you to visit the “Show the Love” hub on [uua.org](http://www.uua.org) (<http://www.uua.org/action/show-love/resources>) for resources. I encourage you to see what colleagues are doing and to share what you are doing on <http://www.uua.org/action/show-love>.

In the coming weeks you will hear more as we work together to support you. For now, I want each of you to know that you are not alone. Together we are strong. Together we inspire one another. Together we can do this. We need one another.

Thank you again for all you do.

Love will guide us. Hope will sustain us. Ultimately we shall prevail.

Here at First UU, in January, we will begin a process of congregational discussion to consider how you, as a congregation, want to take a stand.

In solidarity, in courage, and in hope,

Rev. Louise



Lifespan Faith Development

I would like to give one more huge “Thank you!” to the cast and crew of the December 18th Christmas Pageant:

Narrator = **Rev. Laurie Bushbaum**

Reader = **Lucy Wright**

Mary = **Brooklyn Hess**

Joseph = **Ragnar Spialek**

APS Angel = **Giana Heiser**

Angel of the Holy One = **Josie Keller & Olivia Hess**

Shepherd = **Lilyan Casey**

Star = **Kira Pierce**

Wise People = **Jack Trombley**

Animals = **Annie Peterson, Jonathan Trombley, Jackson Casey & Elli Reichardt**

Singers = **Molly Anderson, Danika Monarski & Brooklyn Hess**

Drummers = **Joni Hahn, Ben Peterson & Miles Casey**

Pianist = **Mara Beckman**

Stage Crew = **LeeAnn Venne, Karen Peterson & Julie Trombley**



Julie Trombley

Director of Lifespan Faith Development

Adult Lifespan Faith Development Class

Join other life-long learners for **HodgePodge**, where we will explore a variety of topics on Thursdays, Jan 19, Feb 2 & 16 and March 9 & 23. The topics, which may not always be announced in advance, will be of general interest and often based on TED Talks. We will begin at 10am and conclude in about an hour. Sign up in the atrium. Facilitated by Richard Olson.

Schedule Reminders

December 25th—No classes or nursery

January 1st—No classes or nursery

January 8th—All regular classes resume

Office Space

Happy New Year!

Your UU Wausau Staff would like to start 2017 off right by hosting Second Friday Nighters here at church on Friday, January 13.



We'll kick off the evening at 6PM with a light dinner. Julie, Rev. Laurie, and I will provide soup and beverages. Please bring a hearty appetizer or a dessert to share.

After dinner, we'll have a BINGO party! We have been setting aside prizes all year, so you don't want to miss it. The entire family is invited to join us for this evening of fun and fellowship.

See you in church!

Anji Spialek

Congregational Administrator



News for UUs



☛ January Community Focus Collection

Our Jan 18, 2017 Community Focus Collection will benefit the **Wausau Warming Center**. As I write this it is 0 degrees outside and I can only imagine how awful the nights must be for those who have no warm place to go. The WWC provides overnight accommodations for the homeless of Marathon Co. These individuals are not able to be served at the traditional shelters or cannot access these shelters due to capacity. Individuals struggling with mental health, drug or alcohol issues are allowed to use the center. The center provides a place for up to 25 adult men/women, hot dinner, breakfast, showers and laundry facilities. It is open 7pm to 9am Nov. -April. As we experience these colds days...lets be generous for the center.

☛ Women's Book Pack

The Book Pack will meet 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. This fills up quickly so sign up soon!

☛ Poetry Reading

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, mid-central region, is sponsoring a poetry reading in Yawkey Hall on Sunday, January 29 at 2PM. The featured poet will be Mike Kriesel, followed by an open mic. The event is free and open to the public, and you are cordially invited!

☛ Madison Bus Trip - Women & Friends March at the Capitol

Saturday, January 22 9:00-5:30

Church member **Nancy Stencil** has arranged for a Lamer bus to take church members and friends (and their friends) to the March in Madison, in solidarity with the March in Washington D.C. We are standing with all of those who will be vulnerable in the next Administration.

We will leave the church at 9AM and leave Madison about 3PM for an estimated return time of 5-5:30PM.

If all 55 seats are sold, tickets will only cost \$20 round trip.

Scholarships available. Contact Rev. Laurie or Nancy Stencil.

Please sign up on the list on the Atrium Table or call the church.

☛ Movies with Meaning

On January 26th UU Wausau and Move to Amend will show a filmed talk by David Daley on gerrymandering. *The True Story Behind the Secret Plan to Steal America's Democracy* will begin at 6:30PM.





January 2017 Calendar



1	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service	17	Tues	6:30PM	BOT Meeting
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon			6:30PM	Qigong
2	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg			7:00PM	ADHD Parent Group
		6:30PM	Wausau Bird Club			7:00PM	Table Tennis
3	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong	18	Wed	11:00AM	Shawl Time
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			3:30PM	Proud Theater
4	Wed	1000AM	Shawl Time	19	Thu	10:0AM	HodgePodge
		3:30PM	Proud Theater			6:00PM	Unity Project
5	Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project			6:30PM	Tai Chi
		6:30PM	Tai Chi			7:00PM	Table Tennis
6	Fri	6:30PM	Community HU Song	21	Sat	8:00AM	Wmn's Early Risers
						4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
7	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation	22	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
8	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon	23	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
9	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	24	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong
10	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong			7:00PM	Table Tennis
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	25	Wed	3:30PM	Proud Theater
11	Wed	3:30PM	Proud Theater	26	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi
12	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi			7:00PM	Table Tennis
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	28	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
13	Fri	6:00PM	2nd Friday Nighters	29	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
14	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation			2:00PM	Poetry Reading
15	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
		4:00PM	People/Power of Love	30	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon	31	Tue	2:00PM	Women's Book Pack
16	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg			6:30PM	Qigong
						7:00PM	Table Tennis

January 2017

Membership Anniversaries



Judy Stevens, 55 years. Scott Williams, 47 years. Jim and Liz Brezinski, 40 years.
 Steve Gantert and Diane Walker, 25 years. Mike and Deb Wasilczuk, 21 years.
 Sheryl Hemp, 14 years. Ken and Connie Schmiede, 12 years. Bart Hobson, 4 years.
 Barb & Carl Drake, 2 years. Sue Rainville, 2 years. Dani Sadowski & Sarah Frank, 2 years.
 Jim & Barbara Klapperich, 2 years. Geri King, 2 years. Kelly & Clint Schultz, 1 year.
 Shannon Thielman, 1 year. Theran & Meg Peterson, 1 year.
 Diane Ninnemann, 1 year. Josh Wright, 1 year.