



The Circuit Writer

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

February 2017

10:30AM Services at UU Wausau

February 5

-Latitude, Longitude and True North

Worship Leader: Rev. Laurie

Music: Steve Rhyner

Humans can navigate by the stars, by following a river, the location of the sun or noticing on which side of the trees moss grows. We find our way through the world with maps, compasses, wisdom and experience. We use topographical maps, street maps, and maps in our neural pathways. How many kinds of navigation do you use in a day and is True North the destination?

February 12

-From Love to Accountability

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Wayne Arnason

Music: TBA

As Valentine's Day approaches, we are reminded that every romantic relationship goes through changes! One of the first and hardest changes comes when the intense emotions of "falling in love" are succeeded by the responsibilities of being accountable to another person for holding up your end of the relationship. This passage from love to accountability is an important one in other critical relationships in our lives – relationships with our spiritual practice, and with our justice commitments.

Wayne Arnason is a retired UU minister living in Appleton, where his wife serves as Interim Senior Minister at the Fox Valley Fellowship. He is a lifelong UU with a forty year career in ministry. Wayne has also served as President of the UU Ministers Association, the UU Buddhist Fellowship, and Chair of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

February 19

-You Can't Get Lost in the Lost and Found

Worship Leader: Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

Music: Karen Zuidema

What does it feel like to be lost? To be found? Can our theology and our attitude orient us in the "wilderness?" Perhaps you have heard that phrase, "All who wander are not lost..."

* After the service, stay and watch *The Sharps' War* – a documentary about an heroic Unitarian couple who rescued Jews in WW II.

February 26

-A Guest in our Midst

Music: Karen Zuidema

A visiting UU minister will be our guest this morning. Come and hear a new voice and experience a different preaching style.



In the Interim...

In my sermon on Sunday, Jan. 22, I talked about the importance of being able to say both “Yes” and “No” at the right time.

Going to the Women’s March in Madison the day before was a way for me to experience a “Yes” in the midst of saying “No.” Experiencing the solidarity, the hope, the community, the singing and art at the March gave me courage. On Sunday, Jan 22, we also started a congregational conversation about how you, as First UU, might want to resist the way our values and cherished Principles are being maligned right now.

You are invited to come to one of the conversations after Sunday services and/or to see the bright and



large poster in the Atrium filled with post-it-notes. Please read the hand-out there and consider the 4 kinds of resistance tools. On the color-coordinated paper, add your ideas and suggestions for how First UU might employ these tools. Ponder how you might be willing to step up and help.

In this spirit, I share the following poem by a UU colleague, the Rev. Robin Tanner.

Office Space

Every Valentine’s Day weekend our sanctuary becomes a little more beautiful thanks to a special gift from the Lewis family.



In 2004, the sons of John and Rosemarie Lewis decided that they wanted their parents to be remembered every year here at UU Wausau, and gave us a donation of \$1,000 to be put into an investment fund.

Each February, the interest from that account is used to buy flowers for our sanctuary in loving memory of John and Rosemarie.



See you in church!

Anji Spialek

*Revolution
Has already
Begun
At the kitchen table
Over toast
And sliced orange-
We remember the taste of sunrise
We look into one another;
Courage is captured in the hands connecting
silently
While the children giggle
Unaware of the silent promises
Their parents make.
Revolution has already
Begun
In the sanctuaries
Temples
Mosques
Synagogues
On the prayer mat
Tallit brushing across the shoulder
The candles ablaze,
Our voices rise
In the resonance of resistance and resilience.
Revolution has already
Begun
They are knitting
Her
Into form once more;
The floors of the factory are animated with the
rivets of her persistence,
Bread and roses
As the mothers of the movement answer her
phone call;
Some sitting down, some rising, some wheel-
ing, all moving in the motion of her genesis.
Revolution has already
Begun
She was here
At your birth
When you were
Named into being
And held toward the eastern sky.
Remember beloved:
Revolution has already
Begun.*

In faith, hope, and courage – Rev. Laurie



Lifespan Faith Development

Happy February! Or as I like to call it—“Love Month.” I love February and February 14th specifically. I know, I know, there are many critics of Valentine’s Day and many reasons to be critical. I get it. But for me, the idea of a whole day that we reserve to honor who and what we love can warm me for an entire month of cold Wisconsin winter. You see, I don’t believe that Valentine’s Day should be reserved for romantic love. I think it should be about any love—love for our neighbors, our friends, our parents, our children, our planet, the stranger you smile at in the grocery store. How different might our world be if more of us viewed every day as “Love Day” and every month as “Love Month”?



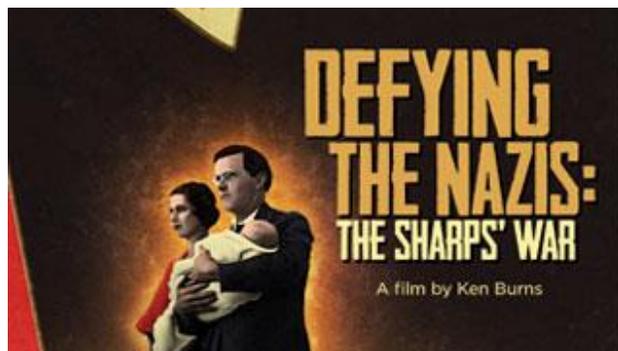
In that spirit I’m excited to offer you a 6-week beginner Loving-kindness Meditation class that we’ll kick off on February 12th, 4:00 pm in the church atrium. Loving-kindness meditation is a meditative practice that strives

to cultivate feelings of goodwill, kindness and warmth. It begins by focusing inward, building warm feelings and positivity within ourselves before we spiral outward to the ultimate goal of cultivating and sending out feeling of love and kindness to all beings. We’ll meet together for an hour each week, Sunday’s 4-5 pm for some basic instruction, time to ask questions and group practice. We’ll meet weekly February 12th to March 19th. This class is open to anyone ages 10 and up and registration is required, as space is limited. To register email me at julie@uuwausau.org or call 715-842-3697.

Looking for a way to show your love and appreciation for your church? How about volunteering in Faith Development? It’s teacher recruitment time again! I’m looking for teachers and assistants for the Winter II session, which is 5 weeks February 19th to March 19th. Volunteers work in teams of 3-4 so you do NOT have to be available all 5 of those Sundays to be of service. I’m looking for help in the 4-6 year old, 1st-3rd grade and 4th-6th grade rooms. If you’re willing to serve in this way please let me know.

Adult Lifespan Faith Development Class

Join other life-long learners for **HodgePodge**, where we will explore a variety of topics on Thursdays, 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.



Did you know...

that Unitarian Minister Rev. Waitsill Sharp and his wife, Martha, went undercover in WW II and rescued thousands from the hands of the Nazis? Here is another chance to see this great, Ken Burns’ documentary about their amazing work:

Sunday, Feb. 19 – NOON (Movie runs 80 minutes)

However you choose to do it; a simple smile at a stranger, attending a loving-kindness meditation class, volunteering in Faith Development, or a grand romantic gesture to the love of your life, get out there and spread some love around this month.

Julie Trombley



Director of Lifespan Faith Development

“I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.”

~Martin Luther King Jr.



UU Wausau Treasurer's Congregation Report - 4th Qtr 2016

1. 2016 Key Financial Numbers:

Total Income	\$340,186
Total Expense	\$276,284
Net Income	\$ 63,902
Pledges Budget	\$245,500
Pledges Income	\$248,284

2017 Pledges:

Pledges Budget	\$255,000
Pledges YTD 1/12/17	\$247,424
Pledges Shortfall	\$ 7,576

- I am pleased to write that my first quarterly Treasurer's report to the congregation, which provides a summary of financial results for 2016, is generally a very positive one. For the second straight year, our income (\$340,186) exceeded expenses (\$276,284). In accordance with established Board policy, the surplus of \$63,902 was moved into the Reserve Fund, which is managed by the Board. The Board has already acted to return the \$7,500 transferred in 2016 from the Endowment Fund to the General Operations Fund back to the Endowment Fund, since it was not needed to cover operations expenses.
- About 87% of our budget income is from pledges. Fulfilling pledge commitments is critical to the well-being of our church. Again in 2016 you came through. Before we closed the books on the 2016 Stewardship Drive, we approved a budget of \$245,500 in pledge income. We received pledge payments of \$248,284 during 2016. Thank you for your contribution to pushing us over our projected pledge income.
- The major income factor that helped produce the surplus was Non-Pledged Contributions of \$45,487, as only \$3,000 was budgeted. We are very thankful for the generous donations of members making financial contributions above the amount they pledged. We were also helped in 2016 by fundraising efforts that generated \$4,300 more than budgeted. Thanks here as well to all those involved in planning, organizing, executing, and buying. 2017 is an auction year, so more opportunity ahead to have some fun while helping address our church's financial needs.
- A number of expenses ended the year below budget. Hiring Julie Trombley part way into the year, thus having her direct the Lifespan Faith Development program for less than a full year had the biggest dollar impact. We are glad we will have Julie on board for the full year in 2017, which will see us paying the full budgeted amount for her critical services. Other notable cost savings were produced by mild winter weather without large amounts of snow and prudent building use practices. That helped keep our heat/lights and snow removal costs significantly below budget.
- The decision the Board made to take advantage of our positive financial position late in the year and authorize \$15,000 in mortgage payment to go along with \$10,000 from the Endowment to reduce our long term loan debt by \$25,000 proved to be one that could be funded from existing general operations funds without assistance from the Reserve Fund. That leaves more Reserve Funds available for other needs, some of which we know we are facing related to building and grounds, as well as the ministerial search process expenses, and others that we recognize will arise in the future.

UU Wausau Treasurer's Congregation Report - 4th Qtr 2016

7. 2016 was a very solid year financially. It has helped strengthen the attractiveness of our church for prospective ministerial candidates. It's something for which we should all take a few moments to express a collective well done to one another.
8. Our new habit of positive annual financial results is heartening. We must continue our efforts to keep our financial house in order, striving to make habit become our regular practice. We still have some pledge work for 2017 to do to again get pointed in that direction. As of 1/12/17, pledges were short \$7,576. \$247,424 has been pledged, while our 2017 budget anticipates \$255,000 in pledge income. We know several reliable sustaining members, whose past pledges would cover a major portion of the shortfall, have yet to pledge. I end with a reminder to anyone intending to pledge who has not completed the simple process. Please help us again successfully close our Stewardship Drive by doing your part to ensure we meet our 2017 pledge budget. Thank you.

I am honored to serve you. Respectfully submitted,

Randy Jefferson
1/19/17



Unitarian Universalist Association President Rev. Peter Morales and UU Service Committee President and CEO Hon. Thomas Andrews invite you to sign your name to the **Declaration of Conscience** to commit to putting UU values into action to resist hate, fear and bigotry. *“By signing the declaration, individuals and congregations will be affirming our core values and declaring our willingness to put them into action. Please read it and, with your signature, join us in standing on the side of love, protecting the most vulnerable among us, and defending core values that are under attack.”*

To read more about the Declaration of Conscience, and to sign, visit the UUA website here: www.uua.org



Ministerial Search Committee Update

It has been a busy couple of months for the Ministerial Search Committee! In early January we learned that we had a significant response in terms of ministers who are interested in our congregation. So, for the past month we have been checking references, exploring websites, reading and watching sermons, getting to know the candidates, meeting weekly (and sometimes more), and conducting many hours of phone interviews. We are excited to report that we now have the list down to three excellent candidates who we will be getting to know more deeply over the next couple of months, through in-person interviews and observing sermons at other churches.



At this point the candidates are all necessarily confidential, but we can assure you that foremost in our minds is selecting the person who will best meet the needs of our, particular congregation. In that vein, within the next month or so we'll share some more with you about what all of our surveying uncovered as to the wants, needs, and desires of the church at large.

We also want to share that we have had some changeover on the committee in the past few months. Both Bart Hobson and Linda Haney have left the committee for personal reasons, and we want to sincerely thank them for their service to the church and for their contributions to the search process. We are pleased to report that Andy Benedetto has agreed to step up and join us, and brings with him a wealth of experience both with our church and with the interviewing and hiring process.

We couldn't be prouder to represent our congregation to these candidates, and are looking forward to getting to know these ministers even better over the next two months. We'll keep you all close at heart as we imagine and determine which of these candidates would be the best choice for our new, settled minister.

In Search, Ingrid Clark Zavadoski

The Board Table



Fellow 1st UU Wausau members,

At the January meeting of the Board of trustees I was elected president for 2017. I am thankful for the trust the board has put in me and will do my best.

For those that don't really know who I am, please allow me to introduce myself. Karen and I joined the church in 1990. We are life-long residents of Wausau. Karen is a retired school teacher and I still work as a remodeling contractor.

We came to this church in search of finding a more open minded spiritual community. Both Karen and I have served on your board in the past. I am currently the Property Committee co-chair along with Linda Ware.

2017 should prove to be an exciting year for our church. We are in the middle of our search for a settled minister, are seeing more and more new faces on Sundays who are seeing what we are all about, we have lots of kids in RE, a large group in the OWL program, and will soon have a newly remodeled kitchen thanks to an overly generous bequest from the late Barb Seegert. We have many people helping to share the load of volunteer positions to help everything run smoothly. Those volunteers could use more of us to help shoulder the tasks. Please consider helping out.

If you have any concerns please feel free to contact me or any of the other board members.

Tim Peterson



How to Contact Your Search Committee:

Ingrid Clark Zavadoski iclarkz@gmail.com

Sheryl Hemp wishemp@aol.com

Jeffrey McDonald jeffmcdonald@charter.net

Holly Briquetelet Miller briqmiller5@aol.com

Mary Pierce gibbypie@gmail.com

Andy Benedetto abenedetto@charter.net



2017 Goods & Services Auction - STIR IT UP!

Mark your calendar: **Friday, April 21, 6 p.m.** for this year's Goods & Services Auction. The event will again be held at church. We will have heavy hors d'oeuvres and yummy desserts. In addition, we promise there will be a great assortment of auction items and entertainment. The church will once again be transformed!

This wonderful evening of eating, socializing, and bidding happens once every two years. It's a great opportunity to spend time with new and old UU friends in a fun, social setting—and win services, events, and items that keep on giving well into the future.

Our theme this year is "STIR IT UP," as in:

STIR IT UP and be engaged with our new minister, coming soon.

STIR IT UP with your UU community to stay supported and moving forward inside and outside of church.

STIR IT UP (literally) in our newly remodeled kitchen.

(Auction theme song "STIR IT UP" compliments of Bob Marley.)

The proceeds will help continue the church's dynamic expansion. Your participation is a fun way to *help fund our expanded programs, expanded outreach, expanded lay leadership, expanded community, and expanded consciousness*. Along the way we also hope to have *expanded fun!*

We have an ambitious fundraising goal, and we raise this money when YOU (church members and friends) donate goods, skills, dinners, and services—and others bid on your offerings. Examples of past donations include:

Guided outings (hiking, camping, canoeing, boat picnics)

Theme dinners (Thai, Finnish, Indian, Mystery, Valentine's Day)

Food (dessert-a-month, soup/bread Sunday suppers, cooking classes, homemade wine)

"Edu-tainment" events (yoga lessons, dance lessons, local micro-brewery beer-tasting party, golf lessons, music lessons)

Helpful services (carpentry, tutoring, legal services, landscaping, computer help, pet sitting, handyman help)

Cottage or vehicle use

Goods (art work, jewelry, summer flower bouquet-of-the-month, pottery, antique furniture, firewood)

In addition, **you could solicit local vendors for items or gift certificates.**

Please consider any way you might contribute (time/donation or both) and contact Jerry Phelan (GCPheLAN@gmail.com; 715 506-1642). **We're looking for people to join the Auction**

Committee to help with planning, set-up, decorating, etc. Our next Auction Committee planning meeting will be held at church on **Sunday, February 5, at 9:30 a.m.**

Thank you... We're looking forward to a wonderful event!



News for UUs



☛ Community Focus Collections

Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$600 for the **Wausau Warming Center** during our January Community Focus Collection!

In **February**, we will take a collection **Randlin Homes**, a faith based non-profit offering a comprehensive recovery, training and transition program in a family environment to people who have had struggles in life and are committed to make their future different than their past.

Our **March** Community Focus Collection will be in support of **Bridge Community Health Clinic's Dental Health Department**. They believe that everyone, no matter their income or life situation, deserves dental health services. While they do accept commercial insurance plans, Medicaid or BadgerCare, Medicare and other programs as well, there are still those people who fall through the cracks. They have established a unique financial program that can help those who are underinsured or have no insurance. That's where we come in. Your donation is for those people. Your donation can be made anytime in March. Just make a note on the little envelope and drop it in the collection plate or mail it to church.



☛ Women's Book Pack

Book Pack will meet Tuesday, February 28 at 2:00 p.m. in Apt. 217 of Primrose Retirement Community to discuss *Brooklyn* by Colm Tolbin.

☛ NEW Creative Sharing Group

The Creative Sharing Group is for anyone with a portable hobby or craft. The idea is to practice the hobby or craft while communing with other artistically inclined folks. Coloring, crocheting, creative journaling, water coloring, miniature painting, carving and scrapbooking are just some examples of portable, creative activities. This group will meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 10:00am to 12:00 noon.



☛ UU Kids Love the UN!



Did you know that the UUA has its own United Nations Office?

In March, four UU Wausau 5th graders who attend the Wausau Area Montessori Charter School will be visiting New York to take part in a **Model United Nations** program. The program is designed to give children an inside look at UN operations and the role of the UN as a humanitarian assembly. Students who take part in the program are inspired to take an active role in current events and social justice.

Our UU Wausau students have furthered this project by studying the UUA's United Nations Office, and plan to visit the UUA UNO to learn more about international advocacy work at the UN, based on our Universalist Unitarian values.

On **Sundays February 5th and 12th**, stop by the "UU Kids Love the UN" table in the Atrium to purchase crafts and baked goods that the students have made. All proceeds will go toward the cost of their trip. Thanks for your support!

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:

Tim Peterson, President	timnp67@aol.com
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Josh Wright	joshuawright888@gmail.com

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



February 2017 Calendar

1	Wed	1000AM	Shawl Time	14	Tues	6:30PM	Qigong
		3:30PM	Proud Theater			7:00PM	Table Tennis
2	Thu	10:00AM	HodgePodge	15	Wed	11:00AM	Shawl Time
		6:00PM	Unity Project			3:30PM	Proud Theater
		6:30PM	Tai Chi	16	Thu	10:0AM	HodgePodge
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			6:00PM	Unity Project
3	Fri	6:30PM	Community HU Song			6:30PM	Tai Chi
5	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service			7:00PM	Table Tennis
		10:00AM	UU Kids Love the UN	18	Sat	8:00AM	Wmn's Early Risers
		11:45AM	First Sunday Potluck			4:30PM	OWL Class
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon	19	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
		4:00PM	People/Power of Love			4:00PM	People/Power of Love
6	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg			4:00PM	Meditation Class
		6:30PM	Wausau Bird Club	20	Mon	6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
7	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong	21	Tue	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			6:30PM	Qigong
8	Wed	10:00AM	Creative Sharing			6:30PM	BOT Meeting
		3:30PM	Proud Theater			7:00PM	ADHD Parent Group
		6:30PM	Eckankar Book Group	22	Wed	7:00PM	Table Tennis
9	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi			10:00AM	Creative Sharing
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			3:30PM	Proud Theater
11	Sat	3:00PM	Buddhist Meditation	23	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi
12	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service			7:00PM	Table Tennis
		10:00AM	UU Kids Love the UN	25	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
		4:00PM	Meditation Class	26	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon			4:00PM	Meditation Class
13	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
				27	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
				28	Tue	2:00PM	Women's Book Pack
						6:30PM	Qigong
						7:00PM	Table Tennis

February 2017 Membership Anniversaries

Russ & Linda Forbess, 41 years. Brad Schmicker & Sarah Rudolph, 22 years.

Glen & Mary Beth Moberg, 20 years. Jeanette Johnson, 18 years.

Lisa & Tammy Rajek, 14 years. Anji Spialek, 7 years.

Lisa & Jim Macco, 7 years. Jen & Matt Powers, 7 years.

Kim & Dean Day, 7 years. Wayne & Mary Pierce, 5 years.

Tami & Graham Coulson, 4 years. Sarah & Brian Gunning, 4 years.

Lila Hobson, 4 years. Cecilia Stroede, 3 years.

Donna Allgood, 3 years. Jeanine Sewell, 3 years.

