



The Circuit Writer

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

March 2017

10:30AM Services at UU Wausau

March 5

-The Sacred Mountain



Worship Leader: Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

Music: Karen Zuidema

This is sermon #4 in Laurie's *Spiritual Geography* series. Today's service will be a more contemplative service on the "mountaintop" experience. With readings, music, and congregational reflection, we'll consider the different faces of a mountain. Maybe I will tell the story of having lunch on the top of the Continental Divide.

March 12

-Stories from the Cell, EXPO and NAOMI



Guest Speaker: Talib Akbar

Music: Karen Zuidema and Sandy Staehling

Our speaker this morning is Talib Akbar, a member of EXPO (Ex-Prisoners Organizing) - a group of formerly incarcerated individuals working to end mass incarceration in Wisconsin. Like the local social change organization NAOMI, EXPO is an affiliate of the statewide WISDOM group. The members of EXPO aim to influence current conversations around criminal justice reform. Hear Talib's personal story, and have a chance to see the replica of a solitary confinement cell that he designed to bring awareness to the use of this punishment method.

March 19

-Wild Behavior, Indiscriminate Coloring, and Diverse Soliciting

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson

Music: Margaret Jerz

To become who we wish to be - the truly beloved community, diverse in age, expression, race, class, and theology - we will need to be more comfortable than some of us are with messiness. We will need to risk our assumptions and transform our habits. Thoughts and stories about the complicated journey to where we might be bound.

After service workshop 12:30- 4:00PM. Explore the meaning of race and racism in America, the steps of cultural competence, multicultural leadership, and how to be an ally.

March 26

-Notes from the Desert

Worship Leader: Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

Music: Molly and Jacob Roseman



In the Interim...

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

"I have one life and one chance to make it count for something... My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference."

— Jimmy Carter



There is a lot going on in the church, in Wausau, in the world. In this newsletter issue you will read about so many opportunities to respond, participate, and make a difference. Making a difference always matters, but right

now our community and country need us all. Because there are so many events coming up, I'm going to list them all here to give you a little cheat sheet. See the details elsewhere in the newsletter, at the Action Center in the church Atrium, and online.

From March 4-12, UU Wausau will host a replica of a solitary confinement cell. It's designer, Talib Akbar, now a member of EXPO, will be our guest speaker at the Sunday service. NAOMI will be hosting public events to show the cell and learn about necessary prison reform. On Friday, March 10 from 3:00-6:00PM, Sat. from 1:00-3:00 and Sun. from 10:30-1:00.

March 19 – Guest speaker Sunday morning and Workshop leader Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson. Lunch provided between church and workshop: *Maps, Tools, and Companions: Making the Journey of Racial Justice. Free and open to the public; possible through our Social Justice Grant from the UUA.*

Monday, March 20- 5:15-6:00PM. Meeting to discern whether we will keep the Growing Faith Community Garden going. If you are interested in volunteering in the garden but can't attend the meeting, please let Laurie know.

Thursday, March 30-NAOMI/WISDOM sponsored *Madison Action Day*- ride the bus from Wausau and spend the day lobbying.

Thursday, April 6- Community Poverty Simulation- G.D. Jones Elementary School gym, 4:30-7:30PM To reserve a spot call Kate Gaines at 608-960-0697 or email: naomiforjustice@yahoo.com.

Monday, April 10 - UU Wausau and St. John's partner to hold conversations as part of the *Toward One Wausau* project on diversity:

St John's: 9:30-11:00PM
UU Wausau 6:30-8:00 PM

*UU Wausau will not sponsor a March for Racial Justice this year as it would likely coincide with the final steps of the Ministerial Search process. But we DO need a Social Justice Ministry Team to partner with the new minister. Please sign up on the Atrium Table or contact Rev. Laurie.

In faith,

Laurie



Office Space

One of the things that makes me most proud to be part of UU Wausau is our monthly Community Focus Collection.

In our system, I am able to look back at the last 15 years of CFCs. In that time, our congregation has collected and donated \$79,801.67!

Many of those donations have gone to local organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, the Women's Community, the Humane Society, the Neighbor's Place, and the Salvation Army.

Looking over the records reads like a timeline of how we at UU Wausau have reached out to those in jeopardy around the world. We have organized collections for the 9/11 attacks, the South-east Asian tsunami, hurricanes Sandy and Katrina, honor flight, the Haiti earthquake, Merrill tornado relief, and, most recently, Syrian refugees.

Again, I am proud to be part of this church, and I hope you feel that way, too. Stop by the office some time and have a look at our Community Focus history!

Anji Spialek



Lifespan Faith Development

Volunteers Needed

We need YOU to make Sunday morning classes happen! Our last session of Faith Development for this church year is quickly approaching and once again I'm looking for volunteers to serve as teachers and assistant teachers for all age groups. This Spring session will include 5 Sundays between April 9th and May 21st (with Easter and Mother's Day off). Volunteers work together on teams of 3-4 and rotate through responsibilities and Sundays off so you don't need to be available all 5 Sundays to be able to help. This is a great way to grow personally in addition to giving back to the youth of the church. If you have questions or would like to help please contact me at julie@uuwausau.org.



Julie Trombley

Director of Lifespan Faith Development



23 OWL (Our Whole Lives) participants and five of their teachers gathered for a fun evening of activities and bonding on February 18th.



Upcoming Events

- **Harry Potter Family Movie Night**
March 10th @ 6:30. We'll be watching Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, rated PG. Popcorn will be provided. 
- **HodgePodge continues**
Join other life-long learners to explore a variety of topic on Thursdays, March 9th & 23rd. 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 10 am and conclude in about an hour. Facilitated by Richard Olson.
- **No regular Faith Development classes March 26th**—due to Spring Break. A large group activity will be held in the basement commons for any children and youth in attendance.
- **Community Poverty Simulation**
Understand the day-to-day realities of living in poverty. The Poverty Simulation provides an opportunity to walk in the shoes of a low-income family. Participants receive an identity and family profile and experience “one month” of poverty compressed into the real time of the simulation. This unique learning resource creates an insight into the state of chronic crisis that consumes so many families.
Thursday, April 6, 2017 from 4:30-7:30 PM.
To participate call **Kate Gaines** to reserve your spot at 608-960-0697 or email naomi4justice@yahoo.com by March 31st. To benefit the school food pantry, please bring a non-perishable item to donate.



Ministerial Search Committee Update

We are happy to report that we are on right on schedule and deep into the heart and soul of the search process, the pre-candidating weekends. We are incredibly excited that by the end of this month we will make a final decision regarding which candidate to invite to our congregation for Candidating Week later this spring! We value the trust and confidence you have placed in us to make this momentous decision. By the time we present you with our choice, we will have reviewed a significant amount of information from a wide variety of impressive candidates: histories and profiles read, sermons watched, dozens of references checked, and countless hours of both phone and in-person interviews conducted. Throughout the entire process, we are guided by the voices of our congregation, holding close the hopes, dreams, and concerns you all shared with us in surveys and conversations when we began this search process. Please feel free to continue to share any thoughts with us in these next few weeks. We ask for your continued understanding that in keeping with the UUA's strict guidelines for the search process, we must maintain the confidentiality of the candidates until the final candidate is announced, so we are unable to answer specific questions but are happy to chat about the process and listen to your continued insights at any time. Exciting times ahead, and we look forward to sharing the rest of this journey with you all as it unfolds.



How to Contact Your Search Committee:

Ingrid Clark Zavadoski iclarkz@gmail.com

Sheryl Hemp wishemp@aol.com

Jeffrey McDonald jeffmcdonald@charter.net

Holly Briquelet Miller briqmill5@aol.com

Mary Pierce gibbypie@gmail.com

Andy Benedetto abenedetto@charter.net

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Jody Maier	jkmaier@charter.net
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



2017 Goods & Services Auction

"Stir It Up" - Friday, April 21, 2017

It's REALLY time to figure out your auction offering and get your description submitted (email to gcphehan@gmail.com or fill out a form available at the auction table in the Atrium).

Please support the church with your generous donations of goods, skills, dinners, outings, and services. Others bid on your offerings, and the money raised helps this church continue to "stir it up."

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.**

Then on April 21st, wander throughout the church bidding on silent auction items. There will be hearty hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer, other refreshments, and plenty of time for hanging out ... and bidding up those valuable goods and services. Plus lots of other fun stuff.

Tickets to the event are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Purchase tickets (1) on Sundays in the Atrium, (2) from Anji during the week, or (3) just send your check along with name(s) to church.

Our next auction planning meeting will be held at church on Sunday, March 12th at 9:30 AM. All are welcome.

"To our transgender youth: You are loved and welcome here."
- Rev. Peter Morales
UUA President



"I am dismayed that the Trump administration has rescinded the previous guidance issued jointly by the U.S. Education and Justice Departments to allow transgender students to use bathrooms based on their gender identity. It is now more important than ever that the Supreme Court rule in favor of transgender rights in the Gloucester County (VA) School Board case. The Unitarian Universalist Association has signed on to an amicus curiae brief in support of transgender rights in this case. The Unitarian Universalist community will fight for equal protection for transgender people at all levels of our society. To our transgender youth: You are loved and welcome here."

- Rev. Peter Morales, UUA President

News for UUs



☛ **Dedication of the Barb Seegert Memorial Kitchen!**

Our first celebratory potluck in the newly remodeled Barb Seegert Memorial Kitchen will take place after the service on Sunday, March 12. Bring a dish to share and join in the fun and fellowship. If you forget to bring a dish, please join in the fun anyway!

You won't believe your eyes when you see the new kitchen Barb so lovingly bestowed upon us.

☛ **Community Focus Collections**

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 March 28 at 2:00 p.m. in apartment 217 of Primrose Retirement Community to discuss the national best seller *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf.

☛ **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.

☛ **Wausau Bird Club**

The Wausau Bird Club will not meet in March.

☛ **Down and Out: Memoirs of a Homeless Bishop**

Bishop GERALYN WOLF was only the second woman in U.S. Episcopal Church history to be ordained a bishop. She was also the first bishop to be homeless for a month on the streets of Providence, Rhode Island. Why would she expose herself to the harsh realities of life on the streets? And how did it change her? She will share her experiences and insights from her book, *Down and Out in Providence: Memoirs of a Homeless Bishop*, and challenge us to examine our own reactions to the more vulnerable members of our community. Autographed copies of Bishop Wolf's books will be for sale at the event.



Tuesday, March 21, 7PM. Free and open to the public, UW Center for Civic Engagement. For more information, call 715-261-6368 or email info@wipps.org.

Caring Corner

Sue Miller is in rehab at Aspirus after surgery for a broken hip after a fall.

Ralph and Elnora Buechler are at North Central Health Care; Ralph in Memory Care and Elnora in rehab.

Roger Pickering's brother, **Donald Pickering**, passed away February 7.

Juliana Nord UU Wausau organist from 1956 till 1994, passed away February 8.

Beth Martin's father, **Donald Rosenberg**, passed away February 20.

Mary, Wayne, and Kira Pierce welcomed baby **Runi Duncan Pierce** into the world on February 24th.





March 2017 Calendar



1	Wed	1000AM	Shawl Time	15	Wed	11:00AM	Shawl Time
		3:30PM	Proud Theater			3:30PM	Proud Theater
2	Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project	16	Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project
		6:30PM	Tai Chi			6:30PM	Tai Chi
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			7:00PM	Table Tennis
3	Fri	6:30PM	Community HU Song	18	Sat	8:00AM	Wmn's Early Risers
5	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service	19	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
		11:45AM	Visitor Brunch			12:00PM	Racial Justice Workshop
		3:00PM	Community Supper			4:00PM	People/Power of Love
		4:00PM	Meditation Class			4:00PM	Meditation Class
		4:00PM	People/Power of Love			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon	20	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
6	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	21	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong
7	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong			6:30PM	BOT Meeting
8	Wed	10:00AM	Creative Sharing			7:00PM	ADHD Parent Group
		3:30PM	Proud Theater			7:00PM	Table Tennis
		6:30PM	Eckankar Book Group	22	Wed	10:00AM	Creative Sharing
9	Thu	10:00AM	HodgePodge			3:30PM	Proud Theater
		6:30PM	Tai Chi	23	Thu	10:00AM	HodgePodge
10	Fri	6:30PM	Harry Potter Movie			6:30PM	Tai Chi
11	Sat	3:00PM	Buddhist Meditation			7:00PM	Table Tennis
12	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service	25	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
		11:30AM	Solitary Confinement	26	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
		11:45AM	Kitchen Dedication and Potluck			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
		4:00PM	Meditation Class	27	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon	28	Tue	2:00PM	Women's Book Pack
13	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg			6:30PM	Qigong
14	Tues	6:30PM	Qigong			7:00PM	Table Tennis
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	29	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time
						3:30PM	Proud Theater
				30	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi
						7:00PM	Table Tennis



March 2017 Membership Anniversaries

Edith Peterson—61 years, Jerry Viste—61 years, Ralph Buechler—61 years

