



The Circuit Writer

First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

November 2017

November 10:30AM Services at UU Wausau

November 5

-Installation Service

On this special Sunday, the congregation will celebrate the installation of the Rev. Brian Mason as Minister to the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau. The sermon will be delivered by the Rev. Earl Holt, with a special message to the congregation from UU Wausau's last ministerial intern, the Rev. Jim Coakley. Reception to follow.

Music: Karmen Teigen, organ;
and special music by Open Tab

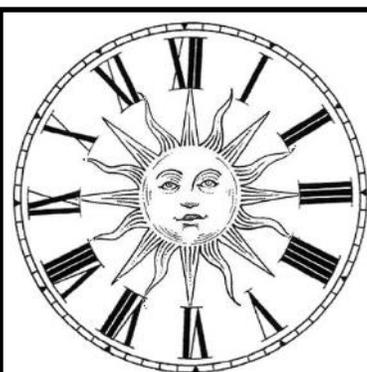
November 12

-A Season of Giving

The Rev. Brian Mason



Research has proven that couples who are generous by doing things for their significant others so simple as taking out the trash, putting the coffee on in the morning, or giving surprise gifts are far happier than their counterparts who do not. In sum, generosity isn't just appreciated by the recipient, it actually makes life happier. This morning we will discuss the science of generosity, and the gifts of giving.



Fall Back!

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 5 at 2AM!

November 19

-Bread Service

The Rev. Brian Mason



What is your heritage? Who are your people? What traditions do you preserve and share with your family? Please bring the bread (or baked good) of your heritage to share. And of course, bring the story, or stories, that convey its specialness to you.

Music: Ray Kraemer & Louis Pradt

November 26

-To Be Announced

Music: Ray Kraemer,
with special music by the Wind Quintet



November 2017

Membership Anniversaries



Clifford Livingston	50 years
Dan & Carolyn Schaut	37 years
Joni Hahn	36 years
Nan Cedar	25 years
Dave & Renee Peterson	20 years
John & Mary Robinson	18 years
Marguerite Donnelly	18 years
Linda Haney	11 years
Brian & Tammy Stezenski-Williams	11 years
Sarah Thurs	11 years
Kathi Hupy	11 years
Gail and David Berge	10 years
Judy Beier	8 years

From a Window on Grant

In Wausau, Christmas comes early it seems. First off, it's already cold. Secondly, on a walk downtown, I noticed one of the charming shopping boutiques already has its Christmas decorations and wares displayed. Meanwhile, I haven't even bought my Halloween candy. I'll keep telling myself there's still time to buy Christmas presents, but I'll likely end up paying expedited shipping fees as I order gifts from my phone on the drive home for the holidays.



The holiday season has become, emotionally speaking, a mixed bag for me. I won't lie and say that it's all cheery, because it isn't. Occasionally, I become emotional this time of year, and long for simpler times, like when so much of my family was only a quick drive away.

Now, with death and distance between a growing number of us, I watch from afar as my parents, cousins, aunts, and uncles grow older and grayer; and my nieces and nephews grow taller.

There is rich serenity in this too, of course. I've grown fond of seeing how drastically my nephews' voices have changed from the last time we were together, and how witty my nieces have gotten. I've also loved watching as my cousins and sisters started greying, while my hair stayed the same brown as always. And then it started to recede. And recede.

I like this season because I can get so much from things so simple: I find life in the sharing of meals, in the making of plans, the changing over of the season into that time of cold retreat, when blue becomes gray, and green, white. In short, I find serenity in the feelings of home and belonging that, every so often, manifest within me as if a gift from the coldness itself.

Making a home, no less feeling at home, is a trying endeavor. It takes, among other things, dedication, sacrifice, and investment. But, when done well, a home is a sanctuary from the business of our lives, and a welcome refuge to friends and family when they come searching for a place to shed tears, and share stories and laughter.

Long before churches existed in formal buildings, even before there were creeds and councils, people of faith met in homes where they would join together to share common hopes and dreams, sing sacred songs, and break bread. I am undeniably biased, but when we gather together we collectively transform the stone building on the corner of Grant and 5th into a home. Without its history and you to shepherd it into the future for generations to come, it is simply an aging building on the corner of a street. Each and every one of you bring this place alive, you are who makes this place a refuge, a space to shed tears and find acceptance, a place to call home, a church.

Now, in this season of giving that we call Stewardship, I kindly ask that you consider what you're willing to contribute to ensure this church achieves all you hope it can. I am so honored to be your minister, and look forward to celebrating my Installation Service with you on Sunday, November 5th, at 10:30am.

I thank you for all that you do, and in advance for your generosity.

In faith and love, *Brian*

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
Judy Beier, Secretary	jandjbeier@yahoo.com
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Kathi Hupy	khupy@hotmail.com
Joyce Kurth	joyce.kurth@gmail.com
Jody Maier	jody.maier@wausausupply.com
Josh Wright	joshuawright888@gmail.com

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

Staff:

Brian Mason, Minister	brian@uuwausau.org
Anji Spialek, Administrator	anji@uuwausau.org
Julie Trombley, Dir. RE	julie@uuwausau.org



Religious Education

A special thank you to everyone who helped make Gross and Creepy Snack a fun experience for the children. Thank you to those who brought snacks. Thank you to Sally, Maggie and Tessa Schmidt, Kate & Lily Passineau, Gina Hanson, Charlotte Knihtila, Davin



Yaakey and Christina & Matt Prieue for decorating, organizing and running games and for helping to clean up. Thanks for making this a special day for the children and youth of our congregation!



Julie,

Director of Religious Education



November RE Calendar

November 5th—No RE- Intergenerational Instillation service (nursery will be open for children 5 years and under)

November 12th—Regular classes

November 19th—No RE— Intergenerational Bread Communion service (nursery will be open for children 5 years and under)

November 26th—No regular classes— Large group activity in the basement for all children and youth in attendance.



OPEN ARMS

Parenting Group

support for the joys & challenges of raising children

New to UU Wausau this fall: **Open Arms, support for the joys and challenges of raising children!** This group aims to support anyone doing the work of raising children. We will meet twice a month, the 2nd and 4th Thursday, 9:30-11:00 am. The goal of this group is for each member to grow as an individual and as a parent through connection and knowledge. Each meeting will include connection through coffee and time for discussion, and knowledge

through a speaker, video, article or presentation. A limited amount of childcare will be available at each meeting and must be reserved. Email Julie at julie@uuwausau.org to reserve childcare. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/OpenArmsWausau/>



News for UUs



☛ Women's Book Pack

Book Back will meet November 28 in Apt. 234 of Primrose Retirement Community at 3:00 p.m. to discuss *The Lottery and Other Stories* by Shirley Jackson. NOTE THE CHANGES IN APARTMENT NUMBER AND TIME.

☛ Building Your Own Theology

Whether you consider it a shortcoming or a quality, we UUs lack a formal, common, or easily-definable theology. True, we have our Principles and Sources of the Living Tradition, but those have been identified and defined for us. Yet, some of us find something lacking, and we may not know what that is until we find it. This adult course, loosely based on a UUA curriculum by the same title, will center on many components of theology: values, human nature, reality, religious meaning, spirituality, death, etc. We will access many sources, from history to current events to our own life experiences. We will explore a variety of theologies, clarify and fine tune our own, and produce a living credo. There will be some hands-on activities, some light reading, a great deal of sharing, and maybe some donuts. Wednesdays, 10-11:15am, through Nov 15. Sign up in the Atrium. Facilitated by **Richard Olson**



☛ Becoming Compost Revisited

The natural/green burial discussion will continue with a lunch gathering Thurs, 11/9, at 12PM at church. Randy Jefferson mentioned several resources at the last meeting including naturalpathsanctuary.org and greenburialcouncil.org (look at the video on Steelmantown Cemetery), and the book *Greening Death* by Suzanne Kelly. Please consider attending if you have interest in learning more about this option to traditional burial and cremation. No need to have attended Randy's service last summer to join in.

☛ Second Friday Nighters

Join Dan and Carolyn Schaut at their home at 1723 Mulligan Dr., Wausau East, on November 10 at 6pm. Please bring a hearty appetizer to share. This month's event is adults only.



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 14th.

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:

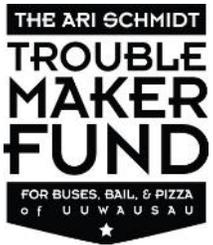


News for UUs



☛ Delicious Fair Trade Items for Sale!

Remember that UU Wausau has a variety of Fair Trade food items for sale - including chocolate bars, fruit bars, coffee, nuts, and olive oil. Take some home to share with friends and family. Plus look for special holiday packaging in the near future.



The modest profits from these sales go to the **Ari Schmidt Fund for Bus, Bail and Pizza**, which offers funding to individuals from our church community wishing to experience, participate in or start social justice activities.

☛ QiGong and Tai Chi

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 6:30 until about 9:00 pm, you are welcome to join teacher **Larry Riddle** and others for stretching and Qigong (on Tuesdays) and for stretching and Tai Chi (on Thursdays). The stretching portion of the classes lasts for about 90 minutes. For QiGong and Tai Chi students, *stretches are required*. Beginners are welcome. Wear loose fitting clothes and flat tennis shoes, if you have them. These classes are free and open to the public. Please note that there will be no Tai Chi on Thanksgiving.



☛ Community Focus Collections

Our Congregation gave generously in October, raising \$866 for the UUA's Disaster Relief Fund! These funds will be targeted at the devastation caused by Hurricanes Irma, Harvey and Maria, helping local UU congregations restore and relieve the effects of the damage done to their congregations and its members.



☛ Little Free Library

Books are coming and going from our Library. Check one out yourself!

We could use a few more books for children, youth and adults. Please donate a few favorites (in good condition and relatively recent) which you would like to share. You can put them in the labeled box by the office door in the reception area. Excess books will go to our rummage sale or the Marathon County Public Library.



Questions? Talk to **Suzan Miller, Sally Decker, Judy Beier** or **Linda Haney**.

☛ Family Winter Retreat

Join old friends and make new ones at the **Family Winter Retreat** January 19-21, 2018. 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. Spots fill up quickly!



☛ Hanging of the Greens

Friday, December 8 beginning at 6pm, we will ring in a brand new tradition: the Hanging of the Greens here at UU Wausau! Help us ring in the holiday season with an evening of decorating and celebration. More details to come in next month's Circuit Writer. **Save the date!**

The Caring Ministry Needs You!

Caring Ministry

The Caring Ministry supports members who are ill, bereaved, homebound, hospitalized, getting married, having a baby, celebrating milestone occasions, or going through other life passages.

We provide points of contacts for those in need of a visit, meal, birthday card, transportation, or loving support in time of need or celebration. If there are joys or challenges in your life, or you know of someone who could use our services, please let us know.

Transportation

Caring Ministry offers transportation for individuals who are unable to drive. Some members may need a ride to an appointment or to church. Our committee is able to help. Please notify a member of Caring Ministry if you have such a need. If this is an area that you would be able to help, please notify Joyce Kurth at joyce.kurth@gmail.com

Cards and Visits

This subcommittee of Caring Ministry will send cards of celebration and support. Members will also visit the homebound, offering a connection to the church. If you are aware of someone in need of a visit, please let us know. Please contact Karen Peterson at tpkptpep@aol.com if this is an area you might offer help.



Memorial Receptions

The Caring Ministry is able to assist with memorial receptions that are held at our church. The committee will set up the reception area, provide and serve bars, cookies, coffee, and tea, and clean up afterward.

We also assist the family if they wish to have a catered reception. If you are interested in volunteering to help with memorial receptions, please contact Kathi Hupy at Khupy@hotmail.com Please indicate if there is a particular area you're interested in; baking for the reception, helping with a portion of the reception, such as setting up, serving, or clean up.

Meals

Our ministry will provide a meal to members in time of need. Please notify LeeAnn Venne at mom.venne@gmail.com

Please consider offering your help to Caring Ministry. Thank you!

November 2017 Calendar

1	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time	14	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong
		10:00AM	Building Theology			7:00PM	Table Tennis
2	Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project	15	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time
		6:30PM	Tai Chi			10:00AM	Building Theology
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	16	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi
3	Fri	6:30PM	Community HU Song			7:00PM	Table Tennis
5	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service	18	Sat	8:00AM	Wmn's Early Risers
		Brian's Installation Service		19	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
		3:00PM	Community Supper			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	Tues	6:30PM	BOT Meeting
		6:30PM	Wausau Bird Club			6:30PM	Qigong
7	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong			7:00PM	Table Tennis
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	22	Wed	5:00PM	People/Power of Love
8	Wed	10:00AM	Building Theology	23	Thu	HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	
		5:00PM	People/Power of Love			7:00PM	Table Tennis 
		6:30PM	Eckankar Group	25	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
9	Thu	9:30AM	Open Arms	26	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
		6:30PM	Tai Chi			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	27	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
10	Fri	6:00PM	Second Fri Nighters	28	Tue	2:00PM	Women's Book Pack
11	Sat	3:00PM	Buddhist Meditation			6:30PM	Qigong
12	12 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service			7:00PM	Table Tennis
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon	29	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time
13	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	30	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi
						7:00PM	Table Tennis



November is . . .

Adopt a Senior Pet Month

Contact these organizations to help a senior pet in need:

Humane Society of Marathon County 715-845-2810.

Lincoln County Humane Society 715-536-3459

New Life Pet Adoption Center 715-443-6699

