



# The Circuit Writer

*First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau*

April 2018

## April 10:30AM Services at UU Wausau

### April 1

#### ***-Resisting Praising Marvelous Things***

The Rev. Brian Mason

On this Easter Sunday, a holiday regarded with skepticism by some UUs, I invite you to journey into a sacred event celebrated the world over, by millions of fragile and hopeful souls just like ours. Easter is a day that sorrow and possibility are considered. A day that considers the possibility of eternal life, what that may or may not be. Easter is a day that miracles, impossible though they may be, are given the benefit of the doubt, if only for an hour.

Musician: Margaret Jerz & the First UU Choir

### April 8

#### ***-Guest Speaker – Andrea Huggenvik***

This Sunday we welcome to the pulpit Andrea Huggenvik, the Executive Director of the YWCA in Wausau.

Musician: Ray Kraemer

### April 15

#### ***-Fashioning Home***

The Rev. Brian Mason

Moving to a new town (and in to a new house) has me thinking a lot about home lately. Home is the place we live and make memories. It can also be a particular city, town, or farm. When I get to thinking about home I can't help but miss my family. It's hard living so far away. But missing them isn't just a proximity thing. I remember feeling similarly when I lived close by. Now, when I visit my hometown there is a sense of strangeness. Where once I felt a small sense of recognition in peoples' eyes, I now find an impartial kindness. So, what is it that we call home?

Musician: Jacob and Molly Roseman

### April 22

#### ***-Questions for the Minister***

The Rev. Brian Mason

This Sunday, the children, youth, and young adults from the Religious Education (RE) program will have their questions for the minister answered. In recent weeks, participants in RE have carefully crafted several questions they hope to get an answer to. Wisdom will or will not abound. So, please, come and see what the brightest minds of this congregation are curious about, and what your minister has to say in response.

Musician: Parker Quinn & the First UU Choir  
Special music from the World of Wonder Class!

### April 29

#### ***-A Theology of (Cardinals) Baseball***

The Rev. Brian Mason

This morning we will consider America's pastime and how it embodies the best and worst of humankind. How it shows us to be explosive, vindictive, and devilishly devoted to the win. How it shows us to be so terribly boring from time to time. But also, how it reveals us to be vessels capable of bringing people to their feet in riotous joy. This morning we'll consider the most perfect game. Go Redbirds! (Feel free to wear your favorite team swag to this service.)

Musician: Karen Zuidema



## From a Window on Grant

In seminary I was taught to regard congregants as ministers too. My teachers always liked to support their statements with bible verses. And, when in doubt, they suggested we attribute most scriptural quotes to St. Paul. So, somewhere in there, and likely said by old St. Paul, you will find that all of the faithful are ministers. Or, put in fancy terms, there is a priesthood of all believers.

I've come to regard the Unitarian theologian, James Luther Adams's belief that not only is there a priesthood of all believers, but a prophethood too. I believe these lessons because I've discovered them to be true.

In my observations I've seen that there is a quiet grace that permeates this church. I've observed it in the care you give the sick and dying. I've observed it in your willingness to share your hearts, your joys and concerns. I've experienced it in the warmth of your dining rooms where bread is broken, and friendship is practiced.

In Marilynne Robinson's book *Home*, the narrator, Glory, has returned home to care for her father, the Rev. Robert Boughton. Throughout the book Glory meditates on her life, experiences and family. Her father, once a prominent minister, now sick and dying, was a traditional man by the standards of his era. At one point the narrator brings us into Glory's mind, recalling this sweet memory: "She seemed always to have known that, to her father's mind, the world's great work was the business of men, of gentle, serious men well versed in Scripture and eloquent at prayer, or, in any case, ordained in some reasonably respectable denomination. They were the stewards of ultimate things."

I get a chuckle when I read the part about serious people being ordained in some reasonably respectable denomination. It is the final sentence that has lived with me since I first read it. And here's why: To be a church, to lovingly hold the world in all its magic and mystery is to be a steward of ultimate things. That is what the priesthood of all believers means.

In faith,

*Brian*



## Office Space

My idea for this month's column was to find an Easter recipe to share from the *Favorite UU Recipes* book that our congregation published in 1993. During my search I came upon this "Recipe for an Enduring Liberal Church" written by **Phil Carspecken**:

*"Take one small and dedicated group of people who, in 1870, blended together to form a Universalist Society in Wausau, Wisconsin.*

*Fold in a generous amount of determination, sprinkle with a dash of vision, season well with purpose, and let simmer for two years.*

*Then, in 1872, pour contents into a "vessel" — the Wausau Universalists first church, built at Fifth and McClellan Streets.*

*In 1886, after vigorous fermenting, substitute a larger "vessel" — the second Universalist church, built just west of the first one.*

*In 1915, when the expanding blend of ingredients require it, substitute a still larger and finer structure — the present First Universalist Unitarian Church, at Fifth and Grant Streets.*

*Simmer with the even heat of devotion, and periodically through the decades, add ample amounts of inspiration and rededication, to further enhance flavor and quality.*

*Each year at Canvass-time, fold in a generous portion of commitment and stir vigorously, to assure full strength and enrichment.*

*By faithfully following this recipe, and with the brilliant heat of the Chalice Flame, applied each week, Wausau UUs have kept the spirit of liberal religion aglow in the Central Wisconsin River Valley for nearly one-and-a-quarter centuries.*

*That small group who met in 1870 has been served by 23 ministers, through the years, and has expanded by 1993 to well over 200 adult members and a thriving Church School.*

*The First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau has leavened this area with reason and respect for diverse religious views. Its rare blend of ingredients has enriched its congregation and the larger Wausau community."*

It's hard to believe that 1993 was 25 years ago, isn't it? We have grown and progressed since then, but I like to think that if Phil were here, he would recognize the same devotion and dedication at UU Wausau today.

See you in church, *Anji*



# Religious Education

## Religious Education

Spring is upon us and the end of the church year will be here before we know it! Mark your calendars for these exciting spring RE events:

**April 1<sup>st</sup>** will be an intergenerational Easter service. The nursery will be available to children 5 and under and all children and youth are invited to stay in the sanctuary and participate in the service. No regular RE classes will be offered.

**Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**- 6-10 pm- 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Compass Points Fun Night! All 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the Compass Points class are invited to an exciting evening of pizza, games, crafts and a movie! Please RSVP to [julie@uuwausau.org](mailto:julie@uuwausau.org) if your youth plans to attend.

**April 8<sup>th</sup>**, 11:30-11:45—World of Wonder song practice

**April 15<sup>th</sup>**, 11:30-11:45—World of Wonder song practice

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>** will be an intergenerational service titled, “Ask the Minister.” Children and youth were asked to think of things they would ask their minister. They worked together in their RE classes to submit 3 questions per class to Brian. In this service Brian will answer some of those questions. The nursery will be available this Sunday and all children and youth are invited to stay in the sanctuary and participate in the service. No regular RE classes will be offered.

Also on **April 22<sup>nd</sup>**, the World of Wonder class will perform a special musical number during the service.



**May 13<sup>th</sup>** will be an intergenerational service for Mother’s Day. The nursery will be available to children 5 and under and all children and youth are invited to stay in the sanctuary and participate in the service. No regular RE classes will be offered.

**May 27<sup>th</sup>** the nursery will be open and a large group activity will take place for any children and youth in attendance. No regular RE classes will be offered.

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>** will be our intergenerational Baccalaureate and Bridging service. We’ll honor our graduating seniors in addition to recognizing the end of another RE year. The nursery will be open and all children and youth are invited to stay in the sanctuary and participate in the service. No regular RE classes will be offered.

**June 10<sup>th</sup>** will be our intergenerational Flower Communion service. This is a special ending to our church year. The nursery will be available to children 5 and under and all children and youth are invited to stay in the sanctuary and participate in the service. No regular RE classes will be offered.

*Julie,*

Director of Religious Education



Beekeeper **Barbara Drake** served as a special guest speaker in the 4K-1<sup>st</sup> grade World of Wonder room on March 18<sup>th</sup>.



# News for UUs

## 📣 Giant Thanks to Margaret Carspecken!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Margaret Carspecken, who for the last several years has written personal notes to send along with sermon copies to our members who aren't able to get to church for services.

It's time to pass the torch. Is there someone who would like to continue this tradition? If so, please let Anji know.

P.S. **Happy 98th birthday Margaret!**

## 📣 Poetry Reading

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, Mid-Central Region, is hosting its quarterly poetry reading in Yawkey Hall on Thursday, April 26, at 6:30pm. Linda Aschbrenner, Marshfield, will be the featured poet, followed by an open mic. You are all cordially invited to join us!

### LIKE THE FIRST HINT OF GREEN

Chalice Lighting By [Jennifer McGlothlin](#)

As the first hint of green begins to peek  
through the barren ground

As that little sprig grows into a healthy stem

As that stem grows into a stalk and forms a  
bud

As that bud slowly opens with each new day

To form a yellow daffodil

Let us be, like that first hint of green,  
renewed by the warm of the sun's rays

And ready to emerge with a new energy,  
ready to face the day.

We light this chalice to bring a glimmer of  
that warmth into our space.

## 📣 No April Second Friday Nighters

As of publication, no one has signed up to host Second Friday Nighters for April. Let the church office know if you would like to host, and Anji will send out notification if a last-minute host is found.

## 📣 Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee asks you to share your viewpoint through letters.

During a time when 'all things political' seem to be the topic of the day, we want to make an effort to assure everyone that diversity of opinion is valued. Your views, whatever they may be, should be shared and considered in a civil manner. We are an inclusive church. The Social Action Committee has set up a table in the atrium where you can write a letter to your representatives or a letter to the editor. Paper, envelopes, stamps, pens and addresses are available. You provide the content. If a picture is worth a thousand words, a letter has to be worth more than an email.

Stop by the Social Action Table to share your voice through letters regarding gun reform or a topic of your choice.

**"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."**

- Martin Luther King Jr.



# News for UUs



## ☛ Separate <sup>and</sup> ~~but~~ <sup>^</sup> Equal Unequal.

Our fourth session of Pantheon of Illustrious UUs (or those who leaned that way) will highlight the contributions of those from our ranks who advocated for racial equality during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Thursday, April 19, 10am. No sign-up required. **Richard Olson**

## ☛ Want to Lead a Summer Service?

First call for summer worship leaders. As many of you know, summer services are lay led, covering a wide range of topics generally selected by the leader. Many are held in Yawkey Hall. While they still contain basic service elements, they are less structured than during the regular church year. We have eleven summer services this year, June 17 - August 26, for which we need leaders. If you have led one in the past, please consider doing a service again this summer. If you have not led a service before, let this be the year you join the ranks of summer service leader.

With our varied interests and rich life experiences, all of us have a message worth sharing within us. The Worship and Music Committee is available to lend you assistance if needed. Please contact committee members **Randy Jefferson**, **Jim Maas**, or **Kay Meyer** if you are interested in being a worship leader this summer. Thank you.



## ☛ Rummage Sale!

Our fundraising rummage sale is planned for June 8 through 10. Our last sale raised \$4,000 for the operating budget. As you begin your spring cleaning, please set aside any items that you would like to donate for the sale. Information about how you can help with the sale will be coming soon.

## ☛ April is National Volunteer Month

Thank you for making UU Wausau great through your dedication and hard work. Beautifying the sanctuary, ordering and selling coffee, greeting and ushering, acting as a Trustee, weeding, property maintenance, teaching, committee work, coffee hour clean-up, maintaining the little free library, folding orders of service, organizing events and fundraisers, sending birthday cards to the children, decorating classrooms... This list only begins to cover the important volunteer work that makes UU Wausau run smoothly. Thank you for all that you do!

## ☛ *Being Mortal* Documentary Screening

Join Northcentral Technical College in their Health Sciences Auditorium on April 17 at 6pm for a free community screening and discussion of the PBS FRONTLINE documentary *Being Mortal*. Based on the bestselling book by Dr. Atul Gawande, this film explores the hopes of patients and families facing terminal illness and their relationships with the palliative team members who care for them. Be part of a national conversation taking place in communities that asks: "Have you and your family had these important conversations and planned ahead?"



## April 2018 Membership Anniversaries



Elnora Buechler, 66 years

Marianne Pickering, 61 years

Louis & Sandra Pradt, 49 years

Russ & Kerry Wilson, 38 years

Tom & Sara Eberlein, 37 years

Nancy Hollis, 36 years

Linda Alfinito, 31 years

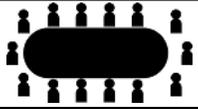
Mike Moen, 27 years

Karen Pleuss, 18 years

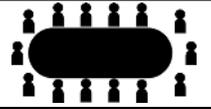
Dawn Ashenbrenner, 17 years

Sharon Faville, 17 years

Carol Kraemer, 3 years



# The Board Table



Greetings friends,

Gratitude! Spring is returning for a visit. What joy the sound of running water. What pleasure the touch of our Sun. I notice a general improvement in attitude among friend and colleague. No one I have encountered has cursed the arrival of spring, though many cry too little, too late.



Thank you to all for heading the call to pledge. We needed a positive beginning to our fiscal year and you delivered. Your generosity will allow us to execute the budget with confidence.

The current concerns of the Board are reconciling conflicting governance policies, improvements and repairs to our building, and increasing member activity. A sub-committee of Trustees was created to review conflicts in the language of our policies. Work is expected to begin this spring. The Property Committee is working towards a renovation of Yawkey Hall. Plans are coming together as the vision is set. We are eager to track the progress.

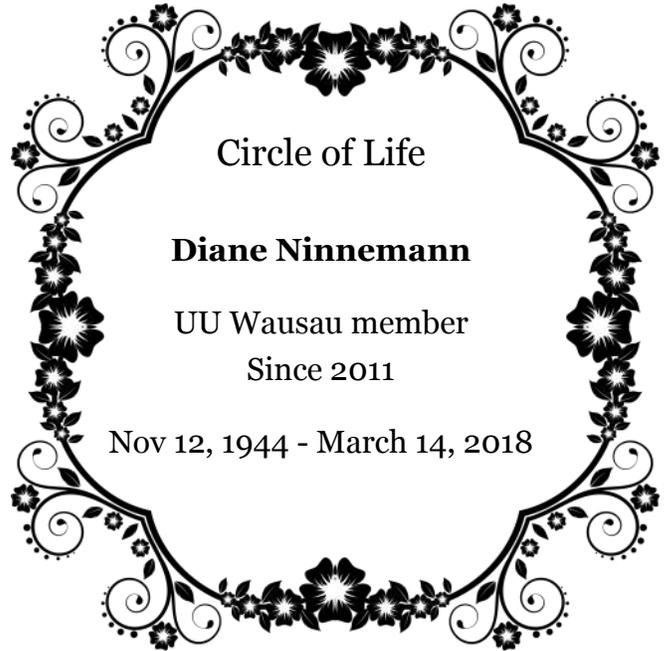
Our community needs us. There are many that would benefit from the outreach we can provide. If you have an idea we want you to share it. If you want to help we want to know it. Many hands make light work and we have much lifting to tend to. We hope you can share your time within our community as there are many opportunities to serve and participate.

When we participate we are visible. It is visibility that I have been reflecting on lately. As in the "all eyes are upon you" variety. I have come to understand that to be visible is to be accountable. It is why participation is key. It means we showed up. It means we spoke up. It means we advocated. It means we rolled up our sleeves and pitched in. It means we cared.

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

- Dr. Seuss

Jody Maier, Trustee



## ***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:**

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

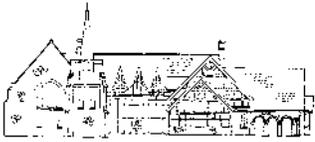
### **Staff:**

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

# April 2018 Calendar

1	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service	16	Mon	4:00PM	Caring Ministry Mtg
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon			6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
2	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	17	Tues	6:30PM	Qigong
		6:30PM	Wausau Bird Club			6:30PM	BOT Meeting
3	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong			7:00PM	Table Tennis
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	18	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time
4	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time			4:00PM	People/Power of Love
		4:00PM	People/Power of Love			6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice
		6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice	19	Thu	10:00AM	Pantheon Class
5	Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project			6:00PM	Unity Project
		6:30PM	Tai Chi			6:30PM	Tai Chi
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			7:00PM	Table Tennis
6	Fri	6:00PM	Compass Pts Fun Nt	22	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
8	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service			4:30PM	Meditation Group
		11:30AM	W.O.W. Song Practice			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
		4:30PM	Meditation Group	23	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon	24	Tues	6:30PM	Qigong
9	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg			7:00PM	Table Tennis
10	Tues	6:30PM	Qigong	25	Wed	6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	26	Thu	9:30AM	Open Arms Parenting
11	Wed	6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice			6:30PM	Poetry Reading
12	Thu	9:30AM	Open Arms Parenting			6:30PM	Tai Chi
		6:30PM	Tai Chi			7:00PM	Table Tennis
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	28	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
14	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation	29	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
15	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
		11:30AM	W.O.W. Song Practice	30	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon				





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Church of Wausau  
504 Grant St.,  
Wausau, WI 54403

## The Circuit Writer - April 2018

*Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau*

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FIRST UNIVERSALIST  
UNITARIAN CHURCH  
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

SINCE 1870