

# The Circuit Writer

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

September 2017

## September Services at UU Wausau

**September 3**

**-Annual Church Picnic**

Picnic begins at 11AM.

This year, we have a new location: Oak Island Park shelter, 500 River Dr, Wausau East.

As always, bring a dish to pass and your own plates and utensils, please. Also bring along any lawn games that you would like to share.

New this year, Brian will be giving a “blessing of the backpacks” at 12:30PM, so be sure to bring yours.

Come out and enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship!



**September 17 - 10:30AM**

**-On Reverence**

The Rev. Brian Mason Speaking

I was amazed at the wide-spread interest in the eclipse that traveled eastward across the U.S., bringing millions of people together for a moment of shared awe. I couldn't help but thinking, gazing up at moon's rare movement across the sun, there's something sacred about acknowledging one's own smallness in contrast with the vastness of life itself. There's much in our shared world worthy of marvel. So then, let us take a moment to wonder together, growing a sense of reverence for the world we all share.



**September 24 - 10:30AM**

**-A Confederacy of Heretics**

Mr. Richard Olson Speaking

It is often said that there is a fine line between genius and madness. The same might be said about heresy and orthodoxy, whether it's religious or social. Do you have a favorite heretic?



**September 10 - 10:30AM**

**-Water Communion**

The Rev. Brian Mason Speaking

Today we celebrate the official start of our church year. Where I come from, this annual intergenerational service is called “In Gathering,” which is a time to gather and communally acknowledge the possibilities inherent in new beginnings. In preparation for the service, please bring a small portion of water from somewhere special to you. It doesn't have to be melted snow from the Himalayas, it can be sourced from a place special to you like a drinking fountain in the local library. The highlight will be listening to the stories each of us tells about the waters' different sources and why they matter.



UU Wausau is hiring!! Are you or someone you know looking for a fun and rewarding part-time job? We are looking for a lead childcare provider. Approximately 13 hr/month, \$15/per hr. Click the following link for more info: <http://uuwausau.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Lead-Childcare-Provider-Needed.pdf>



## “From a Window on Grant”: New Beginnings

Can you remember picking out a new toy when you were a kid? I remember how ecstatic I felt as



I walked through the store with the new toy held tightly in my hands. And then, hours later as my mom continued to meander through every aisle, I'd have to do everything in my power to avoid total self-destruction.

It was so agonizing to hold this marvelous new gadget that seemed to possess its own potential energy. If you know what I'm saying, then you basically know how I felt finishing up my chaplaincy in St. Louis. All I could think about was how I'd been called to serve as the minister of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau. I'm fairly certain I talked about this church and my ideas for it every day. So, it's almost impossible for me to tell you how excited I am to be here with you, embarking on this great journey together.

In seminary, professors always reminded those of us preparing to enter parish ministry just how vital our first year would be. I seem to remember an entire class session or two dedicated to the topic. Unfortunately, many of my belongings are still in storage, so I'm unable to get to my notes on the topic. Most of the advice was formed in the negative: “Don't do X”; “A minister hoping for success would be wise to avoid Y”; and, “For the love of all that is holy, never do Z!”

As I remember it, the only guidance formed in the positive went something like this: “Your first year should be devoted to establishing meaningful relationships with the people who were nice enough to give you the job in the first place.” This seems pretty sound to me, and since I can't get to my notes this is what I'm sticking with. In all seriousness though, I'm so delighted to finally be here. As I said in the final sermon I preached during candidate week, serving as your minister is a dream come true.

I expect this will be an exciting, meaningful, and joy-filled year here at church. If I haven't already, I look forward to reconnecting with you soon. Feel free to drop me a line, give me a call, or stop by. I can't wait to learn why this church matters to you, and what your hopes and dreams are for it.

In faith and love,

*Brian*

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## Office Space

It's church picnic time! This year, we are meeting at Oak Island Park for the first time. There is a lovely trail along the river and a large playground that can be viewed from the shelter area. Also new this year, we will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers. Yum!

While doing some summer cleaning around the office, I came across a copy of *Favorite UU Recipes*, a cookbook put together by the congregation in 1993. If you are looking for something tasty to bring to the picnic, here's a recipe from our own **Margaret Carspecken:**

### Wisconsin True Blue Potato Salad

- 1 1/4 c . Dairy sour cream
- 2 Tbsp. minced parsley
- 2 Tbsp. tarragon white wine vinegar
- 1/2 tsp. celery seed
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 3/4 c (3 oz.) crumbled Wisconsin Blue Cheese
- 4 c. cubed, cooked potatoes
- 1/2 c. diced celery
- 1/2 c. green onion slices
- 1/2 c. sliced water chestnuts



Combine sour cream, parsley, vinegar and seasonings; mix well. Stir in blue cheese. Pour over combined remaining ingredients. Toss lightly. Makes 6 servings.

Thanks for the recipe, Margaret!

See you in church, *Anji*



## Religious Education

It's an exciting time of the year in Religious Education! I hope you can join us for the church picnic on September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00. If you will be a student this year (pre-school through college) bring your backpack to the picnic! At 12:30 there will be a Blessing of the Backpack to get the new school year off to a good start.

RE classes will begin on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Our Sunday morning RE schedule will have some changes from last year. Children 0-4 can be dropped off in the nursery starting at 10:15. All other children and youth will be asked to attend the first part of the service in the Sanctuary and move to their classes after the "Story for All Ages". All RE classes will end when the service is finished. If your child(ren) are in an upstairs classroom please pick them up at the end of the service. All children and youth in downstairs classrooms will be released at the end of the service to come upstairs and find the adult responsible for them.

Please be sure to fill out a yellow RE registration form between now and September 17<sup>th</sup>. We need a new one each year for any children or youth participating in RE.



Here's our exciting line up for class topics this year:

### 4K-1<sup>st</sup> grade - World of Wonder

Our youngest class will focus our seventh Principle. This interactive and hands-on curriculum instills respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, and appreciation of its beauty, excitement, and mystery.

### 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade - Picture Book Bible Tales and Picture Book World Religions

This group will split the year between two topics. They'll start the church year with picture books about Bible Stories, with a U.U. perspective. Mid-year they'll shift their attention to World Religions.

### 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade - Compass Points

This meaningful curriculum guides pre-adolescents on a yearlong spiritual journey with opportunities to explore their identities, their beliefs, their UU faith, their relationships with others and their connections to the world.

### 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade - The Simpsons

This curriculum uses episodes of *The Simpsons* as the basis for in-depth discussions of a wide variety of religious topics. After viewing, the class will engage in discussion and activities, designed to encourage deep contemplation of issues.

### 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade - Virtue Ethics

We make hundreds of decisions every day. Some are small. Some are life changing, although we may not know their significance when we make them. This program's premise - in the words of the Buddha - is that "our thoughts and actions become habits and our habits shape our character." We have some control over our character. We can shape the person we want to be by making intentional, thoughtful decisions.

*Julie*, Director of Religious Education

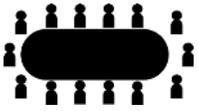


### RE volunteers needed!

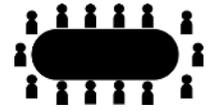
If you're interested in working with the children or youth of our congregation contact Julie at [julie@uuwausau.org](mailto:julie@uuwausau.org).



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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 9:00-11:00 am. The first meeting will be September 28<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:julie@uuwausau.org) to reserve space in childcare for the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.



# Board Table



Greetings friends,

Welcome to autumn of 2017 and a new season for the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau. This is always a reinvigorating time of year as many of us find our way back as congregants after a summer of adventure and relaxation (or whatever you do wherever you go). This year the autumnal calendar will stand in juxtaposition with the vernal happenings at the UU. We have a new settled minister, a new religious education program, a new kitchen and dining hall, a new bridal chamber, and a new look in the sanctuary. The time that many have been working toward and all have been anticipating is now at hand. Now is our time to engage and be active!

Our summer of lay led worship ministry (many thanks to those that invested and inspired!) will be giving way to the services of our new settled minister Rev. Brian Mason on Sunday, September 10 at 10:30 a.m. Our Director of Religious Education, Julie Trombley, will have our classes in full bloom as well. This is also a great time to review the volunteer and service opportunities provided to us. We have lofty ideals and goals that need many hands to achieve. Please consider the ministerial opportunities afforded to us and become active in your way.

All of the trials and good work of the last few years have led us to this moment. It is a moment of excitement, anticipation, and good will. It is a moment of expectation and activity. It is a moment that needs the nurturing hands of stewardship. It is a moment that needs expansive involvement, and recommitments. It is a moment that needs all of us. It is a moment that needs you. Our church is as vital as we allow for and right now it is vital that we call more to join as members on our spiritual journey and vital that

more resources be applied across the spectrum of operating a living faith such as ours.



With the work of search, remodeling, and mission/vision goals achieved we now must engage those results with our stewardship. Our Church is large and our call to minister is lofty.

These needs require volunteers to provide labor for our good works, and well as financial contributions that allow us to grow. Many of us pulled back during the change and tumult of moving from one settled minister to another. This is understood and expected. I call on each of you to now return and reinvest with your community. I call on each of us to reach out to those we haven't seen in a while. I call on you to invite those you think may find a spiritual home with us. We are ready to receive.

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## **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:**

Tim Peterson, President	<a href="mailto:timnp67@aol.com">timnp67@aol.com</a>
CJ Heiser, Vice President	<a href="mailto:heiser.cj@gmail.com">heiser.cj@gmail.com</a>
Judy Beier, Secretary	<a href="mailto:jandjbeier@yahoo.com">jandjbeier@yahoo.com</a>
Nan Cedar	<a href="mailto:nancedar31@gmail.com">nancedar31@gmail.com</a>
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Josh Wright	<a href="mailto:joshuawright888@gmail.com">joshuawright888@gmail.com</a>

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

### **Staff:**

Brian Mason, Minister	<a href="mailto:brian@uuwausau.org">brian@uuwausau.org</a>
Anji Spialek, Administrator	<a href="mailto:anji@uuwausau.org">anji@uuwausau.org</a>
Julie Trombley, Dir. RE	<a href="mailto:julie@uuwausau.org">julie@uuwausau.org</a>



# News for UUs



## ☛ Wausau Bird Club

Join the Wausau Bird Club in welcoming Michael John Jaeger, president of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology, presenting Wisconsin's Proud Bird Conservation Tradition: What's the Future? On Monday, September 11 at 6:30PM at UU Wausau. Free and open to the public.



## ☛ Second Friday Nighters

Second Friday Nighters kicks off at 6PM on September 8 at the home of Macia Anderson and Jim Sheibley, 1312 Green Vistas Dr, Wausau East. The event will be adults only.

## ☛ AmazonSmile

There is a new way to help support UU Wausau ! Every time you shop online at Amazon, use our AmazonSmile link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-0823471>, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the church!

## ☛ ADHD Parent Connect

Join us the third Tuesday of the month at 7PM for ADHD Parent Connect, a support group for parents of children with ADHD/ADD. Come and be part of a community to share, learn, and grow. ADHD topics will be addressed during our meetings. Meetings will be held the 3rd Tuesday of the month 7 - 8PM.

## ☛ Movies with Meaning

Join us Thursday, September 28 at 6:30PM for a showing of *Chasing Coral*. The documentary depicts the destruction of coral reefs due to the warming of our oceans. Coral provides a wonderfully productive habitat for many sea creatures and its loss threatens the stability of ocean life. Free and open to the public.

## ☛ Care Committee Volunteers Needed

Would you like to make a big difference in a little time? The Care Committee needs volunteers to visit fellow congregation members who are in need of fellowship. If that sounds like you, contact Karen Peterson at [tpkptpep@aol.com](mailto:tpkptpep@aol.com) or Anji in the office.



## ☛ rUUmage sale 2018

Spring is months away, but it's never too early to begin saving treasures for the church rummage sale! If you are reorganizing, please store your non-clothing goods until spring and donate them to the sale. Our last sale was a success, because of the items that were donated!

## ☛ Women's Book Pack

The Book Pack will meet at 2:00PM on September 26 at Primrose Retirement Community's Pub Room to discuss *The Lake of Dreams* by Kim Edwards.

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As we begin a new chapter in our First UU story a few acknowledgements are in order. Much thanks and love to Ingrid Clark-Zavadoski, Jeff McDonald, Sheryl Hemp, May Pierce, Holly Briquetlet-Miller, and Andrew Benedetto for their work as our Search Committee. We are all the beneficiaries of their sacrifice and willingness to accept the duty of calling a settled minister. A hearty round of applause to Tim Peterson and Judy Beier for their considerable efforts in renovating the kitchen, dining hall, and bridal chamber. Their work will provide a foundation for growth and gathering for a generation. Kudos to Randy Jefferson for ensuring Sunday worship services continued unabated this summer. We appreciate the quality these services provide. And deep gratitude and thanks to Anji Spialek and Julie Trombley. As a trustee I am afforded a unique perspective on the effort these two folks provide for us. Their passion and ownership make us better every day. I am thankful for their devoted attention to our needs. Please make a moment to thank all that contribute to making the wheel of our church turn round.

Jody Maier





# September 2017 Calendar



1	Fri	6:30PM	Community HU Song	16	Sat	8:00AM	Wmn's Early Risers
3	Sun	11:00AM	Church Picnic	17	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
		4:00PM	People/Power of Love			4:00PM	People/Power of Love
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
4	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	18	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
5	Tues	6:30PM	Qigong	19	Tue	6:30PM	BOT Meeting
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			7:00PM	ADHD Connect
6	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time			6:30PM	Qigong
		7:00PM	Angel Study Group	20	Wed	7:00PM	Table Tennis
7	Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project			10:00AM	Shawl Time
		6:30PM	Tai Chi			7:00PM	Angel Study Group
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	21	Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project
8	Fri	6:00PM	2nd Friday Nighters			6:30PM	Tai Chi
9	Sat	3:00PM	Buddhist Meditation			7:00PM	Table Tennis
10	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service	24	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
11	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	25	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
		6:30PM	Wausau Bird Club	26	Tues	2:00PM	Women's Book Pack
12	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong			6:30PM	Qigong
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			7:00PM	Table Tennis
13	Wed	6:30PM	Eckankar Book Group	27	Wed	7:00PM	Angel Study Group
		7:00PM	Angel Study Group	28	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi
14	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi			6:30PM	Movies with Meaning
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			7:00PM	Table Tennis
				29	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation



SEPTEMBER IS  
SELF CARE  
AWARENESS  
MONTH

During this busy time of back-to-school and back-to-church, remember to take some time out for you! Whether it's a quiet walk, a massage, meditation, or taking time for a favorite hobby, meeting your own needs is essential. **You are worth it!**



## September 2017 Membership Anniversaries



Dennis and Mary O'Flyng, 46 years  
Ollie Kyler, 34 years  
Gary and Kathy Schneck, 13 years  
Katie O'Connor, 4 years

Carol Bronston, 44 years  
Kathy Schmirler, 20 years  
Beth Martin, 7 years  
Paul Kage, 4 years

Andy Benedetto, 37 years  
Barb May, 18 years  
Rose O'Connor, 4 years  
Jane Neal, 4 years