

THE CIRCUIT WRITER

January 2020

January services at First UU Wausau Monthly theme: Integrity

Sunday, January 5th, 2020 – 10:30AM:

“Modest Expectations”

The Reverend Brian Mason, preaching

Sunday, January 12th – 10:30AM:

“Throwback Sermon”

The Reverend Brian Mason, preaching

In recognition of our church’s 150th anniversary, the Reverend Brian Mason will be selecting sermons from the historic ministers of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau and giving them new life by preaching them with occasional commentary to offer perspective for living in the 21st century. As we approach a historic anniversary, he, and others, will offer a “throwback” sermon the first or second Sunday of the month. Please come and hear the words of Noble McLaughlin, Brainard Gibbons, Joseph Nerad, John Robinson, Glenda Walker, and other luminaries who have led this church through troubled and thrilling times.

This month’s Throwback: “Why I am not an Atheist” by the Rev. John Robinson (minister from 1969-1973).



Sunday, January 19th – 10:30AM

Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

The Reverend Brian Mason, preaching

This Sunday we will honor the life and living of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We will consider his commitment to championing civil rights and efforts to expand racial and economic justice and learn how his work continues to inspire justice movements at work in our society today.

Sunday, January 26th – 10:30AM

“Meeting God”

The Reverend Elizabeth Hazel, guest speaker

The very things that scare us most can also trigger in us a profound awareness of the Holy Spirit making changes in our lives. Sometimes we are afraid that diversity will confuse us or divert our attention away from the things that really matter but instead it increases our appreciation of God by making us give the world and the people we push away a second glance.

Elizabeth Hazel is a retired United Church of Christ minister. She pastored churches in Massachusetts, Illinois, and Wisconsin. She is widowed and has four step-children living in Louisiana and Massachusetts. She holds a Master of Divinity from Boston University School of Theology, a M.A. in Art History from the University of Wisconsin and has published over 100 articles on art and art and disabilities in the likes of “The Christian Science Monitor,” the “Providence Journal-Bulletin,” and “The Boston Globe.” She was a research assistant for the late James Luther Adams, a Unitarian minister and professor of Christian Ethics at Harvard Divinity School. She is currently the Northwest Association mission committee chair of the United Church of Christ (WI Conference) and a former delegate to the denomination’s General Synod.

FROM A WINDOW ON GRANT. . .

*God is not a Christian invention nor monopoly, and Universalists find God more fully and truly revealed
In the universe and man than in the Bible. --THE REV. BRAINARD F. GIBBONS*

In recognition of our church's 150th anniversary, I will be selecting sermons from the historic ministers of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau and giving them new life by preaching them with occasional commentary to offer perspective for living in the 21st century. As we approach a historic anniversary, I will offer a "throwback" sermon on the first or second Sunday of each month. Please come and hear the words of Noble McLaughlin, Brainard Gibbons, Joseph Nerad, John Robinson, Glenda Walker, and other luminaries who have led this church through troubled and thrilling times.

I want to invite you to revel in the rich and proud religious heritage of our past. In November 2020, our church will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its gathering. Hundreds of people have called this church their spiritual home. If you listen closely to the voices of our ancestors, you might discover magic and beauty in their voices; you might unearth something new and meaningful for your life today. Let your guard down just a bit and trust Gibbons' advice that God, or the Spirit of Life, is found more fully and truly in people - in every era.

I know for certain they have things to teach us today. But we'll never know if we don't listen. And listening, dear friends, in our era, is a radical thing to do. So, be radical.

Happy New Year!

Brian

REflections

One more huge “Thank you!” to the cast and crew of the December 15th Christmas Pageant:

Pageant Cast:

Narrator = Brian Mason

Mary = Annie Peterson

Joseph = Quinn LaFrombois

Angel Gabriel = Sylvia Wright

Angel of the Lord = Lilyan Casey

Heavenly Host = Delaney LaFrombois, Emily Hohenstein, Tessa Schmidt

Shepherds = Jack Trombley, Ethan Jimenez, Owen Eisele

Star = Jonathan Trombley

Pageant Choir

Director – Margaret Jerz

Lilyan Casey

Emily Hohenstein

Josephine Keller

Delaney LaFrombois

Tessa Schmidt

Eliana Taylor

Nessaya Taylor

Jack Trombley

Lucy Wright

Sylvia Wright



I'd also like to thank the families who gave of their time in order to get their children to rehearsals!

Volunteers (Desperately) Needed

RE is looking for several Sunday morning volunteers to work with children starting January 19th!

Do you love to learn and grow? Do you want to serve your church community in a truly meaningful way? Do you want to get to know the children in our congregation and be an impactful part of their lives? If your answer is yes, then consider joining a teaching team for the 'spring' RE session. Teachers work in teams of 4. This way you can rotate in and out of the classroom to fit your schedule (with 2 facilitators 'on' each Sunday). This session of RE runs January 19th to May 3rd. Your commitment would be 4-5 Sundays during this 4 month time period. There will be a teacher training before January 19th, detailed written lessons will be teacher-friendly, and Julie will be available to help in any way needed – all to ensure that ANYONE would be successful teaching RE. Classes in need of teachers include the 4K-1st grade room with the Chalice Children curriculum, 2nd-3rd grade with the Moral Tales curriculum, and 4th-6th grade with the Harry Potter & UU curriculum. If you feel like you have something to offer please contact me as soon as possible at julie@uuwausau.org. Together we'll thoughtfully consider where your talents would be most useful.

REflections...for Adults

REflections...for Adults

January's Soul Matters question: What does it mean to be a people of INTEGRITY?



Once again this month's small group packet is full of wonderful resources and information on the topic of INTEGRITY. These packets are available to all members. If you aren't in a small group, you can pick up a packet on the reception counter at church or ask Julie to email one directly to you.

Our next round of small groups will begin in February. You now have the opportunity to register for a group if you haven't been in one this fall. Our next session of Soul Matters will run February-June. The topics we'll explore those month are: resilience, wisdom, liberation, thresholds, and play. The following three groups are available to join this session: **1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month, 10:00 am-12:00 pm; 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month, 1:00-3:00 pm; 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month, 1:30-3:30 pm.** As the name implies, space in these groups is limited. Registration is required. Reserve a spot by emailing your preferred meeting time to Julie at julie@uuwausau.org. Questions can be sent to the same email address.

January Adult RE Offerings (in addition to Worship Services and Soul Matters Groups):

Adult Choir – Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00

Singing as spiritual practice. Join the choir to connect to yourself and others through soulful music.

Adult Drum Club – Mondays, 7:00-8:00 pm

1005 Steuben Street, home of Margaret Jerz, Music Director

No previous experience in percussion is necessary –just a pair of hands and the willingness to listen, watch, focus, and match. All instruments will be furnished. The sessions will feature equal parts of community building, meditative drumming, and recreational activities along with the development of fundamental skills.

Family Drum Club – Tuesday, January 21st, 6:30-7:30 pm

1005 Steuben Street, home of Margaret Jerz, Music Director

Similar to Adult Drum Club but geared to all ages. This percussion experience includes plenty of instrument exploration.

Minister's Book Club – Tuesday, January 28th, 6:30 pm

Join Brian to discuss *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. This book is our denomination's suggested Common Read for 2020.

About the Book: Today in the United States, there are more than five hundred federally recognized Indigenous nations comprising nearly three million people, descendants of the fifteen million Native people who once inhabited this land. The centuries-long genocidal program of the US settler-colonial regimen has largely been omitted from history. Now, for the first time, acclaimed historian and activist Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz offers a history of the United States told from the perspective of Indigenous peoples and reveals how Native Americans, for centuries, actively resisted expansion of the US empire.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The coming year will mark 150 years of connection between our church and Wausau. For 105 of those 150 years, we have worshipped in the same sanctuary. We are here, and will continue to be here, with the love and support from the connection you have chosen to make with this church community.

My hope is that the connections you have made with this church, and its members, are of value and add meaning to your life.

It is our shared responsibility that our church be here for another 150 years. The gifts of your time, your talents, and your pledges will help ensure that we continue to provide a religious community welcoming to all.

Sincerely,
Tim Peterson

Note: We would all like to thank Tim Peterson for the gift of time he has given us through the 6 years he has spent on the Board of Trustees of our church. We appreciate you, Tim, and are ever thankful and grateful for your time and leadership.

BEYOND WORDS TO ACTION: A CALL TO ACTION

On Monday, January 20th, events will be held across the country to observe the Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday. On that day, there will be civic programs & school assemblies in various places that will focus on the life and work of Dr. King as well as to highlight the civil rights movement in general.

People for the Power of Love (PFPL) is sponsoring events in Wausau that will take place the weekend prior to MLK, Jr. Day, and on the day itself. These events will not just commemorate the holiday, but challenge us to act. All of these events will take place at Whitewater Music Hall located at 130 1st Street in downtown Wausau.

On Saturday, January 18, the symposium "Into the Deep" will be held from 9am-3pm, and will be an interactive program of music, spoken word, and discussion, calling the community to engage in creative dialogue on issues of inclusion and acceptance; it will feature Chris Norfleet and David Deon of PFPL.

ON Sunday, January 19th, NAOMI is partnering with PFPL to sponsor "Beyond Words to Action: Interfaith Communities Gathered for Racial Justice and Equity" that will be held from 3:30-6:30pm. NAOMI is the acronym North Central Area Congregations Organized to Make An Impact. People of faith will gather to reflect on Dr. King's legacy and to discern through group discussion possible courses of action in response to racial injustice and inequity evident today. Rev. Joe Ellwanger will speak on "Lessons from Birmingham". He was involved in the civil rights movement in the 1960's while he served a Lutheran church there. A simple meal will conclude the gathering. For more information, contact Pastor Bill Schrubba at wjschruba@gmail.com.

The 2020 observance will conclude Monday evening, January 20th, with a celebration. The keynote speaker will be Ms. Brandi Greyson, who is the Founder and CEO of Urban Triage, Inc, in Madison, WI. Providing music will be The Soul Inspirations. The evening begins with cocktails at 5:30pm, and dinner served at 6pm. The program will be held from 6-8pm.

Pre-register at www.eventbrite.com

PERSONAL CARE CART FOR SCHOOLS

While local food pantries allow access to needed food, they don't supply personal care products. On the recommendation of school social workers, we are changing over our food cart to a **Personal Care Cart** for local schools. These items are badly needed and are not expensive. You can help students from Wausau area schools receive these needed items by adding to our cart. It will be delivered to the District Administration Building where it will be used to fill the specific requests of the schools.

See the cart for a list of needed items, such as: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, dental supplies, deodorant, hand lotion, and chapstick, and thank you for helping care for local children.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE FAMILY FRIENDLY SOUP LUNCHEON!

On Sunday, February 9, after the church service, we will be holding a hearty soup luncheon in the Dining Hall for your enjoyment with family and friends. Some people signed up at our auction, but you can still join in by paying at the church office, or at the event. Offerings will include soups of all kinds, chilis, breads, crackers, relishes, coffee, and desserts!

Adults \$10.00. Kids 6 and older: \$5.00. Under 6 are free! Max per family is \$25.00.

But we can't do this without volunteers! Please, if you help every year, or if you just realized how much fun it would be to cook, set up or clean up, **sign up** on one of the sheets which will be available in the Atrium! **Thank you!**

- LeeAnn Venne & Carol Bronston

WINTER RETREAT

Join us for this year's Winter Retreat at Camp Manitowish's Schwartz Lodge Jan 24-25-26, 2020! A full weekend of friends, fun, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, shared meals and winter fun.

Contact Sally Schmidt at (715) 370-1157 or sallyschmidt213@gmail.com to sign up, or for info.



Remember that First UU Wausau has **Fair Trade coffee and chocolate** for sale on Sundays. The products come from Equal Exchange: A worker owned co-operative founded in 1986. Take some home to share with friends and family.

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.

FIRST UU WAUSAU'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY!

In 2020, First UU Wausau will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the congregation, which was first incorporated as the First Universalist Society of Wausau on November 20th, 1870.

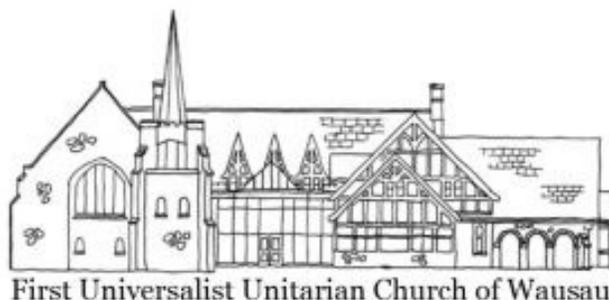
Beginning on January 12th with a Kick-Off Potluck after church we'll be celebrating and reviewing our history throughout the year. So far plans include periodic displays in the atrium, an RE activity featuring 150 bulb plants, a re-enactment sermon from an earlier age and music performances from the church's past, culminating in a banquet in November.

Making our 150th celebration even more special is that 2020 is also the sestercentennial (250th) anniversary of Universalism, noting John Murray's 1770 sermon in Thomas Potter's chapel in New Jersey.

It's going to be an exciting and fun time-stay tuned for updates as the celebration unfolds!

Please join us Sunday, January 12th, for our 150th anniversary year kick off potluck!

- The 150th Anniversary Committee



SOCIAL JUSTICE AND YOU

"UU the Vote" - Watch Party

If you consider our values and our work for social justice to be under attack, and you're wondering how you can do more than cast your one vote in the 2020 electoral cycle, UU the Vote might be of interest to you. This is a national effort by the UUA to promote UU values in the next election; it's about "integrating electoral engagement into our strategies for change so that we are advancing our vision of a just world and beloved community in every arena available to us."

UU the Vote is launching the new program with a webinar at 3 PM Sunday, January 12, and the Social Justice Committee is hosting a watch party. Come to Yawkey Hall a bit before 3 PM so we can watch the webinar together. We'll have a brief discussion afterward.

By the way, since Wisconsin is considered an important swing state in the coming election, UU the Vote plans to hire a full-time coordinator in Wisconsin, specifically *for* Wisconsin. Currently the Social Justice Committee has plans for voter registration efforts targeting young college students, and with the launch of UU the Vote, we will consider expanding our efforts by following some of the future leads/recommendations from UU the Vote. Stay tuned.

Visit <https://www.uua.org/justice/vote2020> and sign up for updates. You can also watch the launch webinar at home (but we'd rather you come share the fun with us). To watch at home, register by clicking on "Join the January 12 Launch" at the above site.

- Jerry Phelan, Social Justice Committee

JANUARY COMMUNITY-FOCUSED COLLECTION:

KIDS VOTING USA

Kids Voting USA - Marathon County is part of a national network of non-partisan Kids Voting USA organizations that collaborate with schools and election officials to promote civic education and citizenship among our K-12 students. They offer a variety of activities. From issue analysis and mock elections, to learning about the technology involved in voting, they strive to promote informed voting. Help support their important work by donating or volunteering with them. Learn more on January 19 during our Community Focused Collection for Kids Voting USA.

- CFC Committee

2020 ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DRIVE NEEDS YOUR \$UPPORT!

If you haven't yet turned in your **2020 Pledge Form** committing your financial support to First UU Wausau, please take 2 minutes (it's that QUICK!) to complete & return a form ASAP.

As of the time of this newsletter's printing, we have **over \$244,435 pledged** to support our church. That's fantastic, and we're so appreciative of to all of those who've already pledged, but:

We have a loooong way to go yet to reach our goal...

Your pledge helps us teach children and adults in our community about love and acceptance, forgiveness and grace, integrity and awe, and so much more!

In addition, **your financial support impacts our community** through its many **dedicated service projects** and by providing a **welcoming sanctuary and spiritual home for people from EVERY walk of life.**

Exciting news! An anonymous donor has generously offered an additional \$20,000 matching grant to be made to help us achieve our goal!
This generous offer ends on Valentine's Day, 2-14-2020!!

We have several easy ways for you to pledge your financial support:

Download a Pledge Form at the church's website, <http://www.uuwausau.org>

Pick up a Pledge Form at the church's Front Desk.

Return the Pledge Form existing Members received in the mail in the S.A.S.E. provided.

Request a Pledge Form be snail-mailed or emailed to you: danika@uuwausau.org.

(We'll gladly accept your Pledge Form anytime, but the sooner the better for budget planning.)

First UU Church is a cause you can truly FEEL GOOD about contributing to.

We thank you in advance for your generous financial support of this beloved church community — whether it's your 1st or 101st pledge. Please consider raising your annual pledge by 15% to help us meet our ambitious goal. **We can't do all the wonderful things that we do at First UU Church of Wausau without YOU!**

Please take some time to reflect on all that First UU Wausau offers its Friends, Members, and Visitors and **pledge generously to help us guarantee that people will always have a spiritual home that welcomes them just as they are, that inspires them to dream of a more JUST and LOVING world, and that nurtures them along the way.**

We thank you in advance for your generous support of this beloved church community.

Your 2020 Stewardship Committee,

Carl Drake, Marsha Fitzgerald, & Sarah Thurs



The Seven Principles of UU Congregations

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. We live out these Principles within a “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

As the Reverend Barbara Wells ten Hove explains, “The Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in Unitarian Universalist religious communities.”

1st Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

2nd Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

3rd Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

4th Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

May we enter this new year holding these principles in our hearts.

-from www.uua.org

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year! Church office closed.	2 Tai Chi 6:30PM	3	4 Buddhist Meditation 4PM
5 10:30AM — Service 3:30PM —Narcotics Anonymous 6PM — Overeaters Anonymous	6 Women's AA 6PM	7 Qi Gong 6:30PM	8 Adult Choir 6:30PM	9 Tai Chi 6:30PM	10 Second Friday Nights Walker- Gantert house 6pm	11 Buddhist Meditation 4PM
12 10:30AM — Service Throwback Sermon! 3:00PM—UU the Vote 3:30PM —Narcotics Anonymous 6PM — Overeaters Anonymous	13 Women's AA 6PM	14 Social Justice 6PM Qi Gong 6:30PM	15 Shawl Time 10AM PFPL—6PM Adult Choir 6:30PM	16 Tai Chi 6:30PM	17	18 Early Risers— 8:00AM Buddhist Meditation 4PM
19 10:30AM — Service MLK, Jr. Sunday CFC: Kids Voting USA 3:30PM —Narcotics Anonymous 6PM — Overeaters Anonymous	20 Church office closed. Women's AA 6PM	21 Board of Trustees 6:30PM Qi Gong 6:30PM	22 Adult Choir 6:30PM	23 Tai Chi 6:30PM	24	25 Buddhist Meditation 4PM
26 10:30AM — Service "Meeting God" guest preacher, E. Hazel 3:30PM —Narcotics Anonymous 6:00PM — Overeaters Anonymous	27 Women's AA 6PM	28 Minister's Book Club 6:30PM	29 Shawl Time 10AM Adult Choir 6:30PM	30 Tai Chi 6:30PM	31	



First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau
 504 Grant Street
 Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

The Circuit Writer - January 2020
Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

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Happy New Year!

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