



First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

# The Circuit Writer

June 2022

## Services for June 2022

**Sunday, June 5 | 10:30AM**

### **Baccalaureate and Bridging**

*Service led by the Reverend Brian Mason & Jessica Zimmer, Director of Religious Education*

Join us as we celebrate two of the church's graduating high school seniors, RE's bridging children and youth, and the teachers and volunteers.

**Sunday, June 12 | 10:30AM**

### **Flower Communion**

*the Reverend Brian Mason, preaching*

Flower Communion is an annual ritual that celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community. Originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, the Communion was introduced to the U.S. by the Reverend Maya Capek, Norbert's widow. In this ceremony, everyone in the congregation brings a flower. Each person places a flower on the altar or in a shared vase. The congregation and minister bless the flowers, and they're redistributed. Each person brings home a different flower than the one they brought.

**Sunday, June 19 | 10:30AM**

### **Sunday Worship**

*the Reverend Brian Mason, preaching*

**Sunday, June 26 | \*\*11:30AM\*\***

### **UUA General Assembly Sunday Morning Worship Livestream**

Gather in the church's Atrium as we livestream the largest annual gathering of UUs joining in worship. The UUA President, the Rev. Susan Frederick Gray, is pleased to announce that the Rev. Gretchen Haley, Senior Minister of the Foothills Unitarian Universalist Church in Fort Collins, CO, will lead the 2022 Sunday Service at General Assembly.

**\*Services start at 10:30AM  
unless otherwise stated**

**"It is worthwhile to live and fight courageously for sacred ideals."**

**-Norbert Čapek**



## REflections

Summertime means, like school, our Religious Education program goes on break. Looking back over the RE year, there were so many wonderful things that happened. As part of our end of the year session, the Elementary RE group wrote a collaborative story with all their favorite things (some more fantastical than others) from the year. I present for your reading pleasure *The Little Frog Goes to the UU:*

Once upon a time, there was a little frog. The little frog was hopping along and came across the UU church where some kids had drawn a hopscotch with chalk. The frog loved to play hopscotch and hopped along the hopscotch right into the church. Inside, Margaret was playing the piano, and the frog, being quite musical, decided it wanted to play too. The little frog hopped right up on the piano. Inside the piano, the little frog found an Easter Egg hiding for the Easter Egg hunt and decided to hop inside. Someone found the egg, wanted to see if there were goodies inside and tossed the egg onto the ground. The little frog didn't like being tossed in the egg and decided to hop downstairs to RE. In RE, there were kids playing and having fun with their friends. A few kids noticed and were startled by the frog. Admittedly, finding a frog in RE is a strange sight. So, the frog decided to head into the elevator and check out the scavenger hunt in Walker Hall. After exploring the building for a while, the frog realized it was snack time. It hopped back downstairs to get some goodies from the bake sale. After a good snack, the frog was feeling a bit tired, and decided to take a nap out on a car in a shady part of the parking lot. The owner of the car didn't notice the frog snoozing, and the little frog was quite surprised when it woke up at Rev. Brian's house. The little frog was so surprised it jumped onto Rev.

Brian's face! Rev. Brian liked the frog, and being a cool cucumber, put the frog down and didn't scream at all. The little frog thought about where to go next and remembered hearing about a game that was going to be played in RE. So, the little frog hopped back to the UU church, and played parachute with all the UU kids, who were not afraid of the frog anymore.

### *The End!*

And a special thank you to all our RE Volunteers who helped make these (and more!) wonderful memories happen. Their dedication to our RE program and participants is clear. Many of them supported more than one program this year, and in a year when it would have been so much easier to say "no," they said "yes," and led RE with grace, flexibility, spirit, and heart.

When you see them around, please join me in thanking them for a wonderful year!

Heartfelt and deep appreciation to: Joni Hahn, Anne Jefferson, Sarah Mason, Jimmy Mayer, Karen Monarski, Kate Passineau, Karen Peterson, Jaime Rannow, Sally Schmidt, LeeAnn Venne, and Greg Zavadoski!



## *From the Board Table*

As many of you may know, I'm new to the Northwoods. I moved to Antigo 4 years ago in May and started to explore my new home. In search of community, I took a chance that there might be a UU presence somewhere in the area and I was pleasantly surprised to see there was a church in Wausau; not too far away. So, early one Sunday morning in June, I ventured into the "big city" to check it out. I had modest expectations: perhaps a small community building housing an appropriately sized congregation. Imagine my surprise as I turned onto Grant Street and saw our church building for the first time. I was literally awe struck. I LOVE old stone buildings of any hue...but I ADORE the red stone masonry that our church is largely made of. I double checked to make sure I was in the right spot, and sure enough written clear as day First Universalist Unitarian Church. My heart was glad! In the years that followed, I have come to deeply appreciate the artistry of the building, inside and out. The building offers beauty in every room, every built-in structure. Spaces large and small that offer inspiration for the many activities of our congregation.

I've heard stories about how it used to be, back before the big renovation, and I've seen pictures of what it was like way back when. In June of 2018, when I first started coming, Yawkey Hall was off limits, undergoing major repair. When it re-opened, I marveled at the space; the work done was exquisite. As a member of the Board for the last 2 years, I've been more attuned to some of the ins and outs of maintaining this magnificent space:

- patching and repairing where water has crept uninvited,
- taking steps to encourage flying mammals to find a more appropriate roost,
- integrating technology to meet the moment to serve our congregation during the pandemic,
- deep cleaning that followed the unfortunate incident of vandalism last year,

- and most recently, the beautiful work on the tower and finishing touches on interior walls throughout.

We are most fortunate to have members of our congregation dedicated to taking care of this building that has touched the lives and souls of so many. This past weekend, I asked our church administrator to show me the work that has been done most recently and it was a pleasure to take the time to appreciate the details. She showed me the freshly painted walls in the Atrium, in Yawkey Hall, and inside the tower. These are the final touches after much work has been done to repair (and prevent) water damage. Most notable, though, is the work done on the tower. I strongly encourage one and all to take some time to notice the restoration done there:

- the original exterior light fixture has been repaired and brought into working order,
- the stunning exterior door has been oiled and practically glows,
- the water damage around the stained glass windows has been repaired both inside and out.

Like all good restoration, the finished work is seamless and it's hard to imagine how it was not so long ago. Evidently, the plaster on the interior walls had crumbled away, leaving the brick exposed and making the most peculiar sound as it fell. Now, though, the plaster has been replaced and the windows are framed beautifully once again. Despite all that has been done, as with all things, the work continues and there are more projects on the horizon. I have full faith that the members of this congregation, and the people in the community who love the building as much as we do, will continue to take loving care of it for the next 150 years.

In peace,  
~Kara Hall

## *Treasurer's Report to the Congregation*

Financial Results 1/1/2022 – 4/30/2022

Key Annual Budget Numbers:		2022 Pledges (Stewardship Drive Results):	
Total Income	\$144,973	Pledges Budget	\$350,000
Total Expense	\$137,683	Pledges Actual	\$330,716
Net Income	\$ 7,290	Pledges Less Than Budget	\$ 19,284

Outstanding Mortgage: \$130,171      Endowment Fund: \$614,587

Total Income was 106.7% of budget, while Total Expenses were 102.6% of budget.

Investment loss in the Endowment was \$83,846 from 1/1/2022 to 4/30/2022.

Thank you to everyone making pledges for 2022. The \$330,716 pledged for 2022 was 94.5% of our pledge goal (budget). While it represents only a 0.6% total dollar increase over 2021, since 9 fewer pledges were received for 2022, the average 2022 pledge, \$3,211, was 9.3% higher than the average 2021 pledge, \$2,939. More detail on pledge results by quartile are in #5 below.

During each of the six years I have served as a church treasurer, I created a pledge profile by quartile. A portion of the 2022 profile is shown in the table below. As I noted last year, while our profile seems similar year to year, it is notable that since the 2017 pledge year, the combined first two quartiles who give 50% of our pledge income has shrunk from 11.8% of pledgers to 7.8%, a decrease of more than one-third. Our dependency on a few members shouldering the responsibility for half our pledge income remains a concern. We need to address our long-term financial health through a funding mechanism that will help us meet future operations requirements by offsetting pledge shortfalls resulting from potential decreases in the amount received from those in the top two quartiles.

Quartile	1st	2nd	3rd	4 <sup>th</sup>
#Pledges	1	7	20	75
% of Pledges	1.0%	6.8%	19.4%	72.8%
UUA Guide	10%	15%	35%	40%

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Jefferson  
Treasurer  
05/26/2022

## Living Green

The world outside my door is green now: leaf green, grass green, moss green, leopard frog green, peeper frog green, beetle wing green. I want to dance and eat and dream green. Then, too, there is the “green” of earth stewardship to celebrate. My heart rejoices in the many inspiring acts written on our community scroll in the six weeks since the launch of Project SEA-Change. Here is a sampling to savor with a cup of green tea.

### Bicycle, bicycle, bicycle, bicycle

**Bundle car-trip errands to save gas**

**Bought a rain barrel**

**Weeded milkweed garden**

**No Mow May**

**Ate more fresh food**

**Walked to work**

**Run a full dishwasher once a week**

**Hung clothes on a line**



By pausing to record an act of earth kindness on the scroll before or after each Sunday worship service, you encourage all of us to live according to the UU principle of “respect for the interdependent web of existence, of which we are all a part.”

With heartfelt thanks,  
Donna Keuck for the EAG

### Join us for Pride, June 4th!

On Saturday, June 4, UU Wausau will be hosting a "Leave a Blessing, Take a Blessing" booth at the River District's Pride Fest on the 400 Block! Stop by the booth to leave a message of love and support on a message board, get your own rainbow blessing, and check out all the other family fun!

# Red Cross @ UU Wausau

## Blood Drive

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

10am-3pm

save a life.

give the gift of blood.

First UU Wausau | 504 Grant Street | Wausau, WI 54403



## 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 Rev. 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.

-from [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

# June 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			June 1st Knitting 10AM Adult Choir 6:30pm	2 Tai Chi 6:30PM	3	4 Pride at the 400 Block! 
5 10:30AM: Baccalaureate and Bridging Service led by the Rev. Brian Mason and Jes Zimmer, DRE	6 Office Closed Women's AA 6PM	7 Office Closed Qi Gong 6:30PM	8 Office Closed Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 12pm Adult Choir 6:30pm	9 Office Closed Tai Chi 6:30PM	10	11
12 10:30AM: Flower Communion led by the Rev. Brian Mason 	13 Women's AA 6PM	14 Qi Gong 6:30PM	15 Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 12pm	16 Tai Chi 6:30PM	17	18
19 10:30AM: Sunday Worship led by the Rev. Brian Mason	20 Women's AA 6PM	21 BOT Meeting 6:30PM Qi Gong 6:30PM	22 Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 12pm	23 Tai Chi 6:30PM	24	25 Elmae Passineau Art Show & Silent Auction 1pm-3pm 
26 ***11:30AM*** UUA General Assembly Sunday Morning Worship Livestream	27 Women's AA 6PM	28 Qi Gong 6:30PM	29 Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 12pm	30 Tai Chi 6:30PM	The Church Office will be closed from June 6th through June 9th. Please contact Brian Mason if an emergency; otherwise, Danika will return your e-mail or call when she is back in town.	



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 504 Grant Street  
 Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

**Red Cross @ UU Wausau**  
 Wednesday, June 15  
 10am-3pm  
*Save a life. Give the gift of blood.*

*The Circuit Writer - June 2022*  
 Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

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**Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9AM-2PM**  
**Please contact us to set up an appointment.**  
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