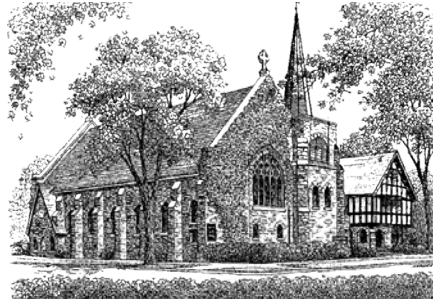


April
2023



The
Circuit
Writer

Sunday Services in April

Sunday, April 2, 2023

10:30AM

"Listen!"

Potluck Sunday

Led by Preacher in Residence, the Reverend Suzanne Wasilczuk.

Listen! What do you hear? In a time when spring is breaking through the ice and snow of winter, what are the sounds that surround us? To what do we listen? How do we listen? To words? To sounds? To emotions? To silence? Let us explore one of our senses.

Sunday, April 23, 2023

10:30AM

"Praise for the Sweetness & Sing Sunday!"

Community Focus Collection

Led by Preacher in Residence, the Reverend Suzanne Wasilczuk.

The field of ethics asks: What is required of us? Environmental ethics asks: What is it that nature requires us to be for her, to do for her? Eco-theological ethics asks: What is required of us, and who, or what, does the requiring? On this day after the 53rd celebration of Earth Day we consider these questions.

Sunday, April 9, 2023

10:30AM

"This Resurrection Madness"

Easter Sunday

Led by Preacher in Residence, the Reverend Suzanne Wasilczuk

This Easter Sunday we remember and celebrate the renewal of hope, love, justice – both in a retelling of the final days of a mortal and moral man, and in a variety of children's stories about bad days, new life, and love.

Sunday, April 30, 2023

10:30AM

"In Search of the Wizard: Brains, Heart, & Courage for the Journey"

Led by Preacher in Residence, the Reverend Suzanne Wasilczuk.

We are, each of us, on multiple journeys, individually and collectively. Though we are on somewhat different paths, because we are human our journeys encompass many of the same themes. So, let's go off together, to see that Wizard.

Sunday, April 16, 2023

10:30AM

"Life After Death: Why Green Burial"

Led by the Natural Burial Committee

During a summer service almost six years ago, Randy Jefferson proposed an option to traditional burial and cremation practices. It generated a buzz. On April 16, the topic of green burial will be revisited by members of our church's Natural Burial Committee. You'll hear a green burial story, explore what this option may mean for you, bust some myths, find out what the Committee has been doing and hear what we will need from our congregation to realize the dream of a green burial cemetery in north central Wisconsin. Join us. Don't let the topic deter you. We promise it will be lively.





Our Whole Lives for Older Adults – Not your kid’s sexuality education, kind of.*

When we think of sexuality education, often what comes to mind is pre-teen and teen memories of film strips and videos of puberty drawings, awkward conversations with our gym teachers, vague, yet mechanical, conversations about the “birds and bees”, and list of thou shall nots. But that is not what Our Whole Lives (OWL) is.

OWL is a comprehensive, holistic, justice-centered, lifespan approach to sexuality education and is much more than puberty and reproduction. All levels of OWL, including our Jr. High and Older Adult programs, are based on a definition sexuality which does include sexual health and reproduction, but expands it to also include identity (who we are), intimacy (emotional closeness with others including partnerships, friendships, etc.), sexualization (the way sexuality is used to influence, manipulate, or control people), sensuality (our bodies and senses), and each person’s feelings, experiences, and values.

So if your children, grandchildren, neighbors, friends, were able to take OWL, Older Adult will have the same value-based foundation (hence the kind of*). However, Older Adult OWL is also radical in the sense that it invites adults in midlife and beyond, who typically are excluded from sexuality education and research, to “...enjoy life affirming sexual expression (solo or partnered), and enable them to move beyond their intellect to address the attitudes, values, and feelings they have about their own and other’s sexuality,” using that broad definition above (Older Adult OWL, pg. xvii).

Older Adult OWL is also more than conversations about sexual dysfunction, which much of the communication around sexuality and older adults focuses on. It is about embracing a full and healthy sexuality, reducing stereotypes and shame, normalizing age-related changes, fostering knowledge, attitudes, and vocabulary to help adults be good elders and sexuality educators for their family and community, and addressing sexuality with candor, sensitivity, and respect for older adults’ wisdom and life experience (Older Adult OWL, pg. xvii).

We will be using four standalone sessions from the full program, and while we think individuals and the group will get the most from attending all weeks, it is not required.

Please also note the updated schedule.

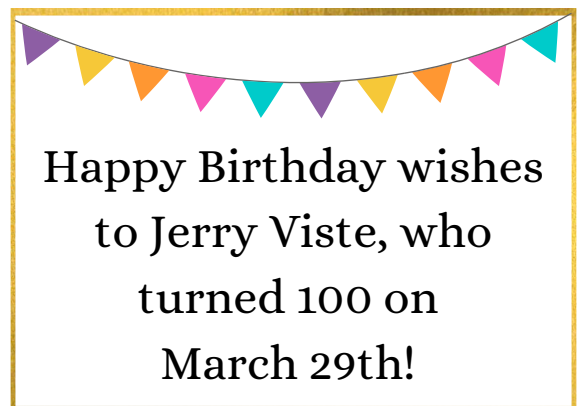
April 11: Attitudes about Aging - Explore cultural and personal attitudes about aging, sexuality, expression, attraction, and choice.

April 18: Family Matters - Explore challenges that come up between the generations around sexuality, and learn ways to improve communication, establish boundaries, understand expectations, and how, as a family team, promote healthy sexuality and family dynamics.

April 25: Sexuality and Loss - Delve into the many types of loss and grief that can be experienced around sexuality; learn strategies to acknowledge and release feelings of grief and loss; and identify the joy and pleasures that remain in life.

May 2: Body Image - Explore how body image, aging, sexual self-esteem, and sexual self-efficacy intersect, and how an honest, compassionate, and positive body image can help us make the best decisions for ourselves.

To sign up for OWL, use the link for the Spring Adult RE programs (page 3) or contact Jes, jessica@uuwausau.org.





Upcoming Religious Education Programming

Children:

Elementary RE, April 2, 16, and 30

In April, our Elementary RE group will be exploring the Soul Matters theme of "Awakening" with stories, play, art, and more! Our Elementary RE group is open to children in grades K-6th grade and meets during worship on Sunday Mornings.

Due to Easter and the Spring Sing, Elementary RE will not meet on Sundays, April 9 or 23. Children and youth are invited to join their families in worship on those Sundays.

Youth:

Our Youth Group is open to youth in grades 7-12th, and alternates meeting during worship on Sunday mornings for game days (using popular games to explore UU themes) and on Sunday afternoon/evenings for "Popcorn Theology" with a movie, food, big questions. In April, our Youth Group will meet on:

- April 2 - Movie Day @ 3:30-7:00 pm
- April 16 - Game Day, during worship (@~10:45 am)
- April 30 - Movie Day @ 3:30-7:00 pm

Family Programming for April

Easter Egg Hunt, April 9

UU Wausau families of all ages are invited to join us after our Easter service for a cooperative Easter Egg Hunt. Unlike a traditional egg hunt, we'll work together to find the eggs the UU Easter Bunny has hidden, and once all the eggs are found, everyone will get a few treats for their Easter baskets.

We Rock It! Book Club April Read

Geared for tweens and their families (caregivers, grandparents, etc), we meet weekly

Spring Adult RE Offerings:

Register & see program details here:

<https://bit.ly/UUWausauAdultRESpring2023>

Our Whole Lives for Older Adults (50+)**

Tuesdays in April & May, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

April 11: Attitudes about Aging

April 18: Family Matters

April 25: Sexuality and Loss

May 2: Body Image

Breathe Book Discussion:

Zoom: May 17 @ 7:00 pm

In-person: May 21 @ 11:45 am

Spirit In Practice:

Mind Spiritual Practices: April 13 @ 6:30 pm

Body Spiritual Practices: April 20 @ 6:30 pm

Soul Spiritual Practices: April 27 @ 6:30 pm



on Thursdays at 7:00 pm on Zoom, to discuss that month's graphic novel or chapter book. Selections explore themes of equity, inclusion, justice, and celebrating the diversity of differing and intersecting identities, including race, ethnicity, sexuality, faith, ability, class, and gender. April's book is "When Stars Are Scattered" by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed.

Email Jessica, jessica@uuwausau.org, for the Zoom link.



UU Wausau Passover Seder

UU friends, please mark your calendars for dinner at 6pm on Thursday, April 6, 2023 as we come together to attend our church's first community Passover Seder. We will gather in the dining hall to share the rituals, the practices and the meal, of this important date in the Jewish calendar; the story of a people who have survived despite all odds – including but not limited to the efforts of Pharoahs, kings and hitlers of every variety. Participants celebrate a freedom they have struggled to maintain at all costs, dispersed across the world, for generations.

Applying the UU Thanksgiving model used by Randy Jefferson and Sheryl Hemp, we will share the harrowing story of the Passover by

that profound and comforting practice of reading to each other then sharing the foods and drink assigned to each passage. We can safely say that when a story has scary parts, it's better to have a friend right there with you. Thank you to Randy and Sheryl for their understanding this human need and putting it into practice. Following this ceremony, we will have the chance to eat together, something at which UUs are expert. Our menu will have vegetarian and meaty options, some provided by the committee, the rest via that UU classic - a potluck! - for sides and salads.

- Jeannie Russell

First Sundays Potluck—April 2nd

Join us after the service on Sunday, April 2nd, for our First Sundays Potluck, hosted by members of our Adult Choir! Bring a dish to share, and join us up in the Dining Hall for food and fellowship.

Glorified Coffee Hour - April 30th

Sunday, April 30th is our last Sunday with the Reverend Suzanne Wasilczuk during the Rev. Brian Mason's sabbatical! Please stay after the service for a glorified coffee hour with snacks, coffee, and cake, as we thank her for her time and ministry. Treats (fruit, cheese, crackers, etc.) to add to our coffee hour are very appreciated!

Second Friday Nighters - April 14th!

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!!!

Please join your Friday Nighter hosts, Greg and LeeAnn Venne & Tim and Karen Peterson for a fun-filled intergenerational evening at our very own church. The fun begins on Friday, April 14 from 6:00pm to 8:00 pm.

Please bring a favorite game or games if you wish, a favorite snack to share, and your own beverages.

Tables will be set up in the Atrium. Greg will bring his guitar for a singalong of old rock n roll songs. Also, just join us for good conversation with friends!





Living Green - April 2023

April CFC—April 16th

Nine wild turkeys gather on the neighbor's lawn. The tom struts, displays his feathers. The hens busy themselves with breakfast. A passing motorist brakes, backs up, pauses to take photos with a cell phone. The birds just go about their business.

After dinner we walk to the bridge and lower the thermometer into Cedar Creek. Log the temperature. Return to sit on the deck and count the croaking frogs in the wetland. It's been twenty-five years since I was a frog volunteer for the Nature Conservancy in Ramsey Canyon near the Mexican border. Now Chris and I have joined the Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey.

The meadow conversion in the southwestern quadrant of lawn has begun. Tilling, prepping the soil, planting. Waiting is the hard part. That, and keeping an eye out for the turkeys. Honestly, I'd rather they eat the sprouts than the frogs, but it's all part of the circle of life.

On the circle theme, Sunday, April 23rd will mark the first anniversary of Project SEA-Change at UU Wausau. The 2022-23 scroll will be on display. The 2023-24 scroll will be unfurled for the first time. The Changing of The Scroll, we're calling the event. We invite you to bring a serving of a chopped fruit or vegetable for the communal salad with which we will celebrate Earth Day 2023 after the worship service.

Scrolls are part of religious life. The Torah Scroll, the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Dunhuang Scrolls to name a few. The scroll for Project SEA-Change is a living document of our efforts to sustain "the interdependent web of existence, of which we are all a part."

With thanks for your participation in this project,

Donna Keuck for the EAG

Healthfirst will be the focus of the April Community collection. This non-profit reproductive health care provider is located in nine counties in Wisconsin. Here in Marathon County Healthfirst is located in Wausau.

In addition to confidential clinical services, Healthfirst also serves women and children through the WIC program (Women and Infant/Children). Their purpose is to improve the reproductive and nutritional health within our communities. Their mission is dedicated to providing quality, confidential reproductive health care, education and nutrition counseling that is affordable and accessible through direct care and strategic partnerships.

Included in their services is screening for sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS testing for men and women. This is made available using a sliding fee scale. They also provide reversible birth control methods. They do not provide abortion services. Healthfirst provides all-options pregnancy education and supports the right of the client to make her own decision based on her situation. Healthfirst does not make abortion referrals. Additionally, they provide preventative health care including annual exams, testicular exams, pelvic exams, breast exams, labs, HPV vaccines and overall health education.

Healthfirst is an important service provider to our community. We welcome the opportunity to learn more about them and provide support.

**Our March CFC raised \$279 for RISE UP.
Thank you for your generosity!**



From the Board Table

It's spring, and there is a lot of positive energy in our church:

- Our interim minister has carried us forward with her thoughtful and engaging sermons
- Our lay services have continued to broaden and enrich how we worship together
- Our various groups and standing committees are continuing to meet, work together and support each other as well as the broader community
- Reverend Mason's sabbatical is going well and he will be back with us soon
- Our financial position is looking sound

But as good as all these things are, we do have serious issues to address and we will have to do this together soon as a congregation:

- Our demographics and membership numbers are going in the wrong direction
- We need new leadership in key areas starting with stewardship (leadership for the annual campaign) and financial oversight (specifically, treasurer) as well as new board members
- Our financial projections for 2024 indicate that we will need to make some difficult budget decisions this year in order to be financially sound going forward
- The ongoing maintenance of our beautiful church and grounds will continue to demand more capital investment and therefore new/additional funds and fundraising efforts

I could go on, but the point is simply this, we will need to work together and engage even more deeply than we have up to this point because these challenges demand our best thinking and engagement. Enjoy the arrival of spring, but when the call comes from the Board to engage, please do so fully. The alternative will not sustain us.

-Brian Stezenski-Williams
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Climate Fiction Book Reads

Concerned about the climate crisis? Feeling overwhelmed? Join a refreshing discussion with others concerned about climate and looking for some hope instead of despair. Climate Fiction Book Reads meets again on April 22 and May 20 at the Marathon County Public Library-Wausau from 10:30 am - 11:30 am.

We are reading short stories with hopeful themes. Short stories minimize the stress of reading a complete novel yet are full enough to inspire robust discussion.

Our next book is called: *Afterglow: Climate Fiction for Future Ancestors* edited by Grist. We decided to all read one "anchor" story and then choose two other stories to read on your own, and come prepared to share your reactions and thoughts with the rest of the group. Please read the first story "Afterglow" and the other two stories are of your choice.

Janke Bookstore expects to have book copies available by the end of March, at the front of the store with the other book club books. The library may choose to order some copies for their shelves too. If so, they likely won't be available until May.

Our next meeting date April 22 happens to fall on Earth Day. I hope to see you then. We'll use this same book for our gathering on May 20.

Please feel free to share the invitation and information with others.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeanine Knapp:

knapp.jeanineh@gmail.com





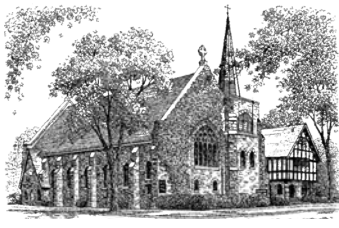
APRIL 2023



UU WAUSAU CHURCH CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
10:30AM: 2 "Listen!" <i>led by Rev. Wasilczuk</i> Potluck Sunday Youth Group Movie Day 3:30pm	3 Women's AA 6pm Bird Club 6:30pm	4 Qi Gong 6:30pm	5 Knitting Group 10am Noon Swoon 12pm Adult Choir 6:30pm	6 Seder Dinner 6pm Tai Chi 6:30pm	7	8
10:30AM: 9 "This Resurrection Madness" <i>led by Rev. Wasilczuk</i>	10 Women's AA 6pm	11 Adult OWL 10am-12pm Blood Drive 10am-3pm Qi Gong 6:30pm	12 Knitting Group 10am Noon Swoon 12pm Adult Choir 6:30pm	13 Spirit in Practice 6:30pm Tai Chi 6:30pm We Rock It! on Zoom, 7pm	14 2nd Friday Nighters @Church! 6-8PM	15
10:30AM: 16 "Life After Death: Why Green Burial" <i>led by the Natural Burial Committee</i> CFC Sunday	17 Women's AA 6pm	18 Adult OWL 10am-12pm BOT Meeting 6:30pm Qi Gong 6:30pm	19 Knitting Group 10am Noon Swoon 12pm Adult Choir 6:30pm	20 Spirit in Practice 6:30pm Tai Chi 6:30pm We Rock It! on Zoom, 7pm	21	22 Early Risers @TriCity 8:30am
10:30AM: 23 "Praise for the Sweetness" <i>led by Rev. Wasilczuk</i> Sing Sunday!	24 Women's AA 6pm	25 Adult OWL 10am-12pm Qi Gong 6:30pm	26 Knitting Group 10am Noon Swoon 12pm Adult Choir 6:30pm	27 Spirit in Practice 6:30pm Tai Chi 6:30pm We Rock It! on Zoom, 7pm	28	29
10:30AM: 30 "A Search for the Wizard" <i>led by Rev. Wasilczuk</i> Youth Group Movie Day 3:30pm	May 1 Women's AA 6pm	2 Adult OWL 10am-12pm Qi Gong 6:30pm	3 Knitting Group 10am Noon Swoon 12pm Adult Choir 6:30pm	4 Tai Chi 6:30pm	5	6





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



The Circuit Writer - April 2023

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

Inside this Issue

April Services	1
Adult OWL	2
RE Programming	3
Seder Gathering	4
First Sundays Potluck	4
April 30th Coffee Hour	4
2nd Friday Nighters	4
Living Green	5
April CFC	5
From the Board Table	6
Climate Fiction Book Reads	6
April Calendar	7
Board of Trustees & Staff Info	8

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9AM-2PM

Please contact us to set up an appointment.

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