



The Circuit Writer

First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

October 2017

October 10:30AM Services at UU Wausau

October 1

-A Theology of Relationships

The Rev. Brian Mason

Two days after I arrived in Wausau I married a couple who had been together for nearly 11 years. The couple, like their ceremony, was endearing and sweet. Shortly after their wedding I began meditating on what it means to be in relationship, and how, in some ways, it's like a calling.

Music: Karen Zuidema



October 15

-Universalism 101

The Rev. Brian Mason

These next two weeks we will discuss our Tradition's theological history and heritage. On this Sunday, we will begin with an exploration of Universalism, beginning with the question, "What can Universalism mean to us today?"

Music: Karen Zuidema

October 8

-The Salvation of Solitude: Responding to the Call of the Wild

Randy Jefferson

Blending personal observation with the wisdom of wilderness warrior Sigurd Olson the service will be a reflection on the restorative power of wild places.

Music: Karen Zuidema



October 22

-Unitarianism 101

The Rev. Brian Mason

Continuing the discussion about our Tradition's theological history and heritage, this week we'll be learning about Unitarianism, beginning with the question, "How can Unitarianism inform us in this modern era?"

New Member Recognition

Music: Karen Zuidema



October 29

-Remembering Our Saints

The Rev. Brian Mason

On this Sunday before Halloween, we will honor the memory of the dead, or as I think of them, the saints among us. Please bring some treats to give at the end of the service, as we will be visited by some very special guests!



“From a Window on Grant”:

On September 16th, my family and I took a kayaking trip up the Wisconsin River. Until then, my daughter had never been on a boat, so the trip seemed destined to be a delight, and it was. What I didn't expect was the emerging brilliance of the fall leaves, which was doubly so, as the trees themselves were reflected upward on the surface of the water. Paddling along with my daughter in the kayak was a treat in itself, but experiencing it vicariously through her infectious joy was worth all the arm pain I awoke to the following morning.

Many things are still new for me here. While I've worked in a church before, this is my first settled ministry, so the learning curve, while not insurmountable, is steep nevertheless. And I'm okay with that. I'd have it no other way to be honest. And that's where you come in, dear friends and members of First UU Wausau. I want to extend an open invitation to any and all of you who are interested, willing, and able to meet me for an informal lunch each and every Tuesday, 12-2. No strings attached. You don't even have to tell me if you are or are not coming. Just show up, bring a bite to eat, and your wonderful self. Sometimes I will move these meetings out of the walls of the church and into a local coffee shop or restaurant. In those cases, I'll be sure to put a memo on the church's Facebook page beforehand.

What I hope for is a chance to get to know you just a bit more. Furthermore, I want to learn what your hopes for our church are. For me, ministry is many things: It's about creating sacred spaces, building community, and growing our souls. But chiefly, it's about meaningful relationships. So, if you ever have an afternoon to yourself and you'd rather not eat alone, or you're just in the mood for a change of scenery then, please, come on by. I look forward to breaking bread with you.

In faith and love,

Brian



New Member Orientation

The staff of UU Wausau excitedly invites you to New Membership Orientation on Saturday, October 14, from 10am-12pm. Together we will learn about the history of this congregation, and the theology and origins of Unitarianism, Universalism, and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). But most importantly, we will share conversation and fellowship while exploring the basics of membership. So, please, join us! Childcare is available upon request. **Please RSVP to Anji by Thursday, October 12: anji@uuwausau.org.**

Office Space

Have you noticed the beautiful flowers in the sanctuary this year? They have been lovingly provided by church members! If you would like to supply the flowers for a Sunday and commemorate a special occasion or person, please sign up at the atrium table.



See you in church, *Anji*

October 2017 Membership Anniversaries



Barb Roberts	50 years
Linda Ware	49 years
Marsha Fitzgerald	43 years
Joyce Kurth	21 years
Jim Maas	18 years
Barb Lonsdorf	15 years
Mary Beth Maas	15 years
Erin Verley	9 years
Elmae Passineau	9 years
Mark Schuler and Lisa Giordano	6 years
Tom and Lynn Grimes	6 years
Scott and Peggy Stalheim	6 years
Alice and David Davies	4 years



Religious Education

Our church year is off to a great start in Religious Education! We currently have 75 registered participants for this year (ages 0-18) and had 47 children and youth attend classes our first week. I want to thank our volunteer facilitators who have stepped up to help with our first session. Sunday classes would not be possible without volunteers! These are our facilitation teams for our fall session:



World of Wonder (4K-1st grade)

Karen Peterson, Sarah Mason, Meg Peterson & LeeAnn Venne

Bible Tales (2nd-4th grader)

Kay Meyer, Mary Beth Maas, Theran Peterson & Rose Young



Compass Points (5th-6th grade)

Mark Schuler, Kate Passineau, Jaime Rannow & Joni Hahn

Simpsons (7th-8th grade)

Josh Wright, Heather Young, Kim Casey & Jeremy Trombley

Virtue Ethics (9th-12th grade)

Melissa Goessl-Heiser & Julie Trombley

If you feel moved to contribute your time and talents to RE in some way talk with me about volunteer opportunities.

Julie,

Director of Religious Education



Gross & Creepy Snack is coming!

For families new to our church Gross & Creepy Snack is a much loved tradition that takes place on the last Sunday in October (this year October 29th). That morning, in lieu of regular classes, all children and youth will be together in the basement commons for a Halloween themed celebration. The basement commons will be decorated and set up for a fun-filled morning. We ask members to contribute a gross or creepy (or fun fall-themed) snack and for all participants to wear a costume to the celebration. We



will **need volunteers** who want to help plan games/activities, decorate Sunday morning, and/or help supervise the festivities. Email julie@uuwauau.org if you'd like to help.

Building Your Own Theology

Whether you consider it a shortcoming or a quality, we UUs lack a formal, common, or easily - definable theology. True, we have our Principles and Sources of the Living Tradition, but those have been identified and defined for us. Yet, some of us find something lacking, and we may not know what that is until we find it. This adult course, loosely based on a UUA curriculum by the same title, will center on many components of theology: values, human nature, reality, religious meaning, spirituality, death, etc. We will access many sources, from history to current events to our own life experiences. We will explore a variety of theologies, clarify and fine tune our own, and produce a living credo. There will some hands-on activities, some light reading, a great deal of sharing, and maybe some donuts. ix sessions, Wednesdays, 10-11:15am, Oct 11-Nov 15. Sign up in the Atrium. Facilitated by **Richard Olson**



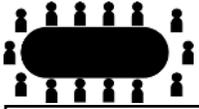
OPEN ARMS

Parenting Group

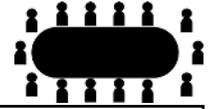
support for the joys & challenges of raising children

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 2nd and 4th Thursday, 9:00-11:00 am. 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 to reserve childcare. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/OpenArmsWausau/>



Board Table



As we end the Jewish High Holy Days, I need to share a bit of my life. I have recently returned from my younger granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah in Rochester, NY. Over three years ago, after her sister Anna's Bat Mitzvah, I had vowed to do my homework before Mollie's ceremony. Descended from Calvinists and Baptists, I am not Jewish; my son converted to Judaism after his marriage and he and his family are members of a reformed temple. However in typical Joyce fashion, I failed to complete my assignment. But maybe in a way, I did. Maybe in a way, I understood what I was supposed to understand about the message of this Rite of Passage—family devotion, lifelong study, and private prayer.

I truly know only bits and pieces about Judaism. My knowledge is defined by my limited experiences. Mollie, however, has spent most of her life studying and learning about her religion. Wearing her great grandfather's prayer shawl, she read in Hebrew from a lengthy passage in the Torah. She was surrounded by people whose families have suffered numerous diasporas; who have known horrors beyond imagination. I, on the other hand, only know what I know in my heart. This, though, is what I do understand. At this sacred event, the family of her father, who represent many backgrounds and beliefs, were welcomed. We were invited in. We were embraced. We were fed. We were loved.

And, of course, what I do not understand is the hatred directed towards these kind, generous people. Why would my beautiful, giving and oh so brilliant granddaughters be hated by anyone? Why would they become targets? That evening as we danced the Hora and Mollie was lifted on a chair over our heads, I celebrated in my heart and vowed to continue the struggle on behalf of humanity. I share this in gratitude and love for those who walk beside me in this struggle.



Joyce Kurth

Community Focus Collections begin this month! Over the years, we have financially supported many organizations including the Women's Community, Neighbors' Place and Boys & Girls Club. This year, we will also give to some new organizations. There are many small local service agencies or non-profits that do extraordinary work with limited resources. If you know of a group that could use our assistance this year, please contact Joyce Schneider, Judy Beier, or Jim Maas .

Our first CFC will take place on October 22 and be dedicated to the UUA's hurricane relief. These efforts are targeted at the devastation caused by Irma , Harvey and Maria, helping UU congregations restore and relieve the effects of the damage done to their congregations.

First Universalist Unitarian Church

504 Grant Street, Wausau, WI 54403
Office Hours: Tue-Thu, 9AM-2PM
(715) 842-3697, www.uuwausau.org

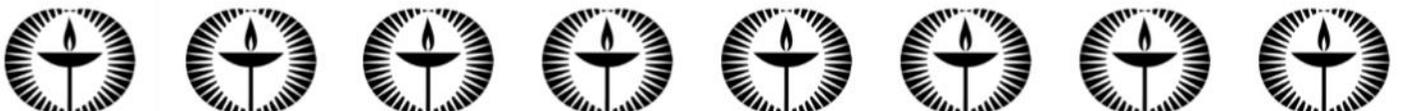
Board of Trustees:

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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



News for UUs



☛ Buddhist Teacher, Khenpo Pema

The UU Wausau Buddhist Meditation Group presents Buddhist teacher, Khenpo Pema on Wednesday, October 11 at 7PM. The event is open to the public. Suggested free-will donation: \$10-\$20, but no one will be turned away.

☛ Chocolate, Coffee, Honey, & Nuts



What do they all have in common? They all help raise money for good works through the Ari Fund. While supplies are low at the moment we'll soon be getting more of our delicious fair trade items. Watch for more goodies and oil coming your way. Chocolate and honey will arrive soon. Check out the Fair Trade Table and say thanks to the volunteers who staff it.



☛ Women's Book Pack

Book Pack will meet October 31 at 3:00PM in Apt. 234 of Primrose Retirement Community to finish discussing *The Lake of Dreams*. Note the change in apartment.

☛ Poetry Reading

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, mid-central region, is holding its next poetry reading on Thursday, October 26, at 6:30PM, in Yawkey Hall. **Jim Pollock**, Stevens Point, will be the featured reader, followed by an open mic. The event is free and open to the public, and you are all welcome to attend!



☛ Second Friday Nighters

Celebrate Second Friday Nighters on October 13 at the home of Dawn Ashenbrenner and Saleem Surti, 6303 Hubert Ave., Weston. The event begins at 6PM, and children are welcome. For more info, contact Dawn or Saleem at 715-212-6481.

☛ Green Burial Revisited

Join Randy Jefferson on Sun, Oct 8, 11:45AM - 1:00PM in Yawkey Hall for a follow-up to the "Becoming Compost" service he led this summer on green/natural burial. You need not have attended that service to join this discussion of options to conventional burial and cremation. Included will be consideration of ideas regarding establishing a local natural burial preserve.

October 15 kicks off our annual pledge drive for the 2018 church fiscal year...

Watch for a mailing to arrive with updates on NEW FACES and NEW SPACES at UU Wausau.

As you see what's in store at this time of NEW BEGINNINGS, please consider what the church means to you and our broader community as you complete your 2018 Pledge Form.

The Stewardship Committee chose to draw from Plato for this year's campaign theme:



*"The BEGINNING
is the most important part of the work."*

We need YOU to pledge generously now to grow our reach, our membership, our programs, and our vision.

SO, MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

We're hosting a special **Stewardship Kickoff Breakfast after the service on Sunday, October 15.** Come ready to CELEBRATE all that our church has to offer at this exciting time of NEW BEGINNINGS. A scrumptious breakfast buffet will be catered by 6th Street Filling Station in our newly renovated church Kitchen and Dining Hall.

Come hungry and ready to eat, pledge, bond, and be inspired among friends for all that UU Wausau has in store — with your help!

Your 2018 Stewardship Committee,

Carl Drake, Marsha Fitzgerald, Christina Prieve, & Sarah Thurs





October 2017 Calendar



1 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service	15 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
	11:45AM	First Sunday Potluck		Pledge Kickoff Brunch	
	3:00PM	Community Supper		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
	6:00PM	Overeaters Anon	16 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
2 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	17 Tue	6:30PM	BOT Meeting
3 Tues	10:00PM	Private Memorial Svc		6:30PM	Qigong
	6:30PM	Qigong		7:00PM	Table Tennis
	7:00PM	Table Tennis 	18 Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time
4 Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time		10:00AM	Building Theology
5 Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project	19 Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project
	6:30PM	Tai Chi		6:30PM	Tai Chi
	7:00PM	Table Tennis		7:00PM	Table Tennis
6 Fri	6:30PM	Community HU Song	21 Sat	8:00AM	Wmn's Early Risers
8 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service	22 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
	6:00PM	Overeaters Anon		Welcome, New Members!	
9 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
10 Tue	6:30PM	Qigong	23 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
	7:00PM	Table Tennis	24 Tues	6:30PM	Qigong
11 Wed	10:00AM	Building Theology		7:00PM	Table Tennis 
	5:00PM	People/Power of Love	25 Wed	10:00AM	Building Theology
	7:00PM	Khenpo Pema Buddhist Teacher		5:00PM	People/Power of Love
12 Thu	9:00AM	Open Arms	26 Thu	6:30PM	Poetry Reading
	6:30PM	Tai Chi		7:00PM	Table Tennis
	7:00PM	Table Tennis	28 Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
13 Fri	6:00PM	Second Fri Nighters	29 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
14 Sat	10:00AM	New Member Class		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
	3:00PM	Buddhist Meditation	30 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
			31 Tue	2:00PM	Women's Book Pack
				6:30PM	Qigong
				7:00PM	Table Tennis

October is "Eat Better, Eat Together" Month!

The whole family will enjoy this Chicken Gumbo recipe. Found in UU Wausau's cookbook, *Favorite UU Recipes*, this gumbo was served at a church Mardi Gras dinner in 1993.

Chicken Gumbo

4T butter	1/2 cup celery, diced	1 cup okra, sliced
2 whole chicken breasts, diced	1 t thyme	1/4 cup parsley, chopped
1 large onion, diced	1 tomato, diced	cayenne pepper to taste



In saucepan, heat butter; brown chicken pieces. Remove chicken and lower heat. Add onion, celery and thyme; sauté for 5 minutes. Add tomato, okra, and parsley. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until okra is golden. Stir in 6 cups hot water, cayenne pepper, salt, and chicken. Cover and simmer for 1 hour. Serve with cooked rice. Serves 6 to 8.