



The Circuit Writer

First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

December 2017

December 10:30AM Services at UU Wausau

December 3

-Advent, or a Season of Expectation

The Rev. Brian Mason

It's no secret I love Christmas. I love Advent calendars, reindeer, one horse open sleighs, the colors red and green, beards, and evergreen trees almost as much as I liked laser tag and Michael Jackson in the '90s. Without fail though, at the end of every year I feel a sense of sadness when the season's finally over. (It's not because I didn't get a Red Ryder BB gun either.) What I miss is that feeling of expectation in the weeks leading up to the big day; I miss the feeling of one year's ending in exchange for another; I miss the quiet mystery I felt when I walked cold streets lined with sparkling lights; I miss my daughter's hourly inquiry about the days left until Christmas; and I miss the sense of expectation, the not yet time of Advent. Come, this Sunday, and let us discuss the joys of waiting, and the mysteries yet to come.

Music: Karen Zuidema



December 10

-Have Mercy

The Rev. Brian Mason

How many of you are hard on yourselves? How many of you can more easily and quickly list 10 things you don't like about yourself than 10 things you do? You're probably not alone. Let me rephrase that: You're definitely not alone. This morning we'll discuss mercy, our duty to give it, but mostly our self-imposed deprivation of it.

Music: Ray Kraemer & Louis Pradt

December 17

-Annual Christmas Pageant



Please join us for this fabulous tradition, when our children & youth will perform a play depicting the story of Jesus's birth, in Bethlehem. With special music from the Children's Choir, a brand-new stage set and script, you won't want to miss this!

Music: Margaret Jerz & the Children's Choir

December 24

-No 10:30AM Service—see below for info about our evening candlelight service.

December 31

-This will be our traditional congregation sharing of readings, stories, music, hopes, and dreams for the new year. This is participatory service, largely created by those attending. Everyone is encouraged to bring some insightful/inspirational words, a story, or song or musical piece to sing or play. The service will be coordinated by the Worship & Music Ministry Team.

Music: Ray Kraemer & Louis Pradt

Dec 24th Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service at 7:00PM

Worship Leader: The Rev. Brian Mason

This evening we will gather to sing traditional Christmas hymns, shine our lights bright in the night, and be reminded of the beauty and gift inherent in each new life.

Music: Margaret Jerz

From a Window on Grant

December is filled with special events, beginning with Hanging of the Greens on Friday, December 8, at 6:30pm. This is an intergenerational event open to all. Very soon some detailed information will be sent out. But the instructions are pretty simple: RSVP, think of some food or drink you'd like to bring and share, and come and have fun. Everyone could use a break from the seasonal sprint so many of us endure around the holidays.



The second event is the Christmas Pageant, which will be held on Sunday, December 17, at 10:30am. For the first time in many years we'll be graced with the voices of our very own Children's Choir, which is

being directed by Margaret Jerz. The Pageant itself is being directed by Sarah Rudolph, and Theran Peterson is constructing the set. The Pageant we're performing is adapted from the one celebrated by the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord, New Hampshire (Founded 1827), for over 150 years.

What I love about this traditional Christmas Pageant is that it tells a story that brings us into direct conversation with our spiritual ancestors, and other people of faith throughout the world. If there's a unifying element within the Christmas story, and I believe there is, it's the invitation we're offered to acknowledge the beauty and possibility inherent in each new life.

And finally, on Sunday, December 24, at 7:00pm, our church will celebrate the annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Following the service, we will gather in the atrium for some light refreshments and stimulating conversation.

There's a lot going on this month and I hope to see you all at each of the events.

In faith and love, *Brian*



Office Space

Happy Holidays! I am so excited about all of the fun activities we have going on this month! First of all, you know my kids like to be involved and this year they are taking part in both the Christmas Pageant and the Children's Choir. Brian already mentioned the Hanging of the Greens (feel free to bring along a bottle of wine!) and our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (back at our traditional 7PM time), but there's even more to look forward to!



After the Christmas Eve service, we are bringing back our Cookie and Punch Reception in the atrium, courtesy of our hosts, Karen and Tim Peterson! We will also include contributions of fruit and cheese as a nod to good health. Your donation of a dozen cookies may be dropped off during office hours the week before Christmas. Fruit and cheese donations are best brought with you to the service. Thank you!

And that's not all! Sunday, December 10 is our first Christmas Sweater Sunday! Grab your Christmas shirts - no matter how beautiful or ugly they may be - and show your holiday spirit!

See you in church, *Anji*

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:

Tim Peterson, President timnp67@aol.com

Judy Beier, Secretary jandjbeier@yahoo.com

Nan Cedar nancedar31@gmail.com

Kevin Briquetelet-Miller briqmillier5@aol.com

Joyce Kurth joyce.kurth@gmail.com

Jody Maier jody.maier@wausausupply.com

Josh Wright joshuawright888@gmail.com

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

Religious Education

It's an exciting time of year! It can also be a hectic and stressful time of year. I recently participated in a webinar for religious educators titled, "Helping Your Congregation De-stress for the Winter Holidays." The facilitator Katie Covey, a well-known RE curriculum author, offered a piece of wisdom that I found interesting. She stated that the four things children and youth really want for Christmas are: 1) A relaxed and loving time with the family, 2) Realistic expectations about gifts, 3) An evenly paced holiday season and, 4) Reliable family traditions. I would invite you to pause for a moment and ask yourself if you're giving your children those four things during the Holiday season. If you're looking for a new family tradition we're offering several opportunities at First UU Wausau this month that could fit the bill. Perhaps your family wants to join in for the Hanging of the Greens on the 8th or participate in Holiday Sweater Day at church on the 10th or the Christmas Pageant on Dec 17th or the beautiful candlelight Christmas Eve service on the 24th.



Wishing you an evenly paced, relaxed, and loving Holiday Season,

Julie,

Dir. of Religious Education

Volunteers Needed

RE is looking for Sunday morning volunteers to work with children and youth! If you feel like you have something to offer please contact me at julie@uuwausau.org. Together we'll thoughtfully consider where your talents would be most useful.

December RE Calendar

- Dec 3rd— Regular RE classes
Youth choir rehearsal—9:45 am
- Dec 8th— Hanging of the Greens—6:00 pm
- Dec 10th—Regular RE classes
Holiday Sweater Day
Youth choir rehearsal—9:45 am
Christmas Pageant rehearsal—11:45
- Dec 16th—Christmas Pageant and
Choir Dress rehearsal—4:30 pm
- Dec 17th—No regular RE classes—
Intergenerational Christmas Pageant
(nursery open)
- Dec 24th—No RE or nursery—
7 pm Intergenerational
Christmas Eve Candlelight service
- Dec 31st— No RE or nursery

A big thank you to **Sally Schmidt** for holding a jewelry making fundraiser. She taught several church members how to make these beautiful beaded pendants made from original Universalist Church silver flatware, and raised \$180 for UU Wausau!



Open Arms, support for the joys and challenges of raising children is a group which aims to support anyone doing the work of raising children. We will meet twice a month, the 2nd and 4th Thursday, 9:30-11:00 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/>

News for UUs



☛ Annual Congregational Meeting

The 2017 Annual Congregational meeting will take place December 3, directly after the service. All UUA certified members are encouraged to attend to vote on the **2018 Budget**, nominations to the Board of Trustees, and minutes from the last two congregational meetings. The proposed budget is available on our website (www.uuwausau.org) or the reception counter.

☛ WomenCraft Holiday Gifts



Scott and Peggy Stalheim will have woven items for sale from this Fair Trade certified social enterprise in Ngara, Tanzania on **Dec. 3rd and 10th** before and after the Sunday Service. Ngara is one of the poorest areas of Tanzania, where 80% of the population has an average income of \$95 per year. There are over 300 artisans from 17 villages within a 60 km area of Tanzania. Their average age is 40, 81% are married, 72% farm their own land. On the average they care for 5 children and support 1 orphan. 77% had malaria this year. 99% of their earned income is spent on purchasing children's clothing, education and growing nutritious food.

WomenCraft's members weave with a traditional technique passed down for generations. The grasses and banana stalk used in production are cultivated near their villages, and hand-dyed fabrics are purchased in the local markets. Visit www.womencraft.com for more information

☛ Hanging of the Greens

This 2nd Friday Nighters, December 8 beginning at 6pm, we will ring in a brand new tradition: the Hanging of the Greens here at UU Wausau! Help us ring in the holiday season with an evening of decorating and celebration. As with other 2nd Friday Nighters, please bring a dish to share. See you there!

☛ Community Focus Collections

The holidays are a difficult time for many in terms of food insecurity. As always, we will focus our donations this December on area food pantries. Our grocery cart in the reception area is always there to accept non-perishable items to be delivered to The Neighbors' Place, the Women's Community, and the Mosinee Community Center of Hope.

In December orders of service, you will find a giving envelope. All monies received will go to local food pantries. Envelopes will be collected during our Christmas Eve Service, or you can drop them off at the office any time.

All of us on the CFC committee thank you in advance for your generosity for helping make this holiday season a little brighter for our neighbors.

During last month's community focus collection, we raised \$675 for United Way Marathon County's Ready to Read program!

☛ Looking for Hostess Gifts?

Don't forget our Fair Trade coffee, nuts and chocolate. Plus we have some awesome already assembled gift baskets for your purchase. Stop by the Fair Trade table during coffee hour after church.

You will be supporting both farmers who are receiving a living wage and our own Ari Schmidt Fund for Bus, Bail and Pizza!



The Board Table

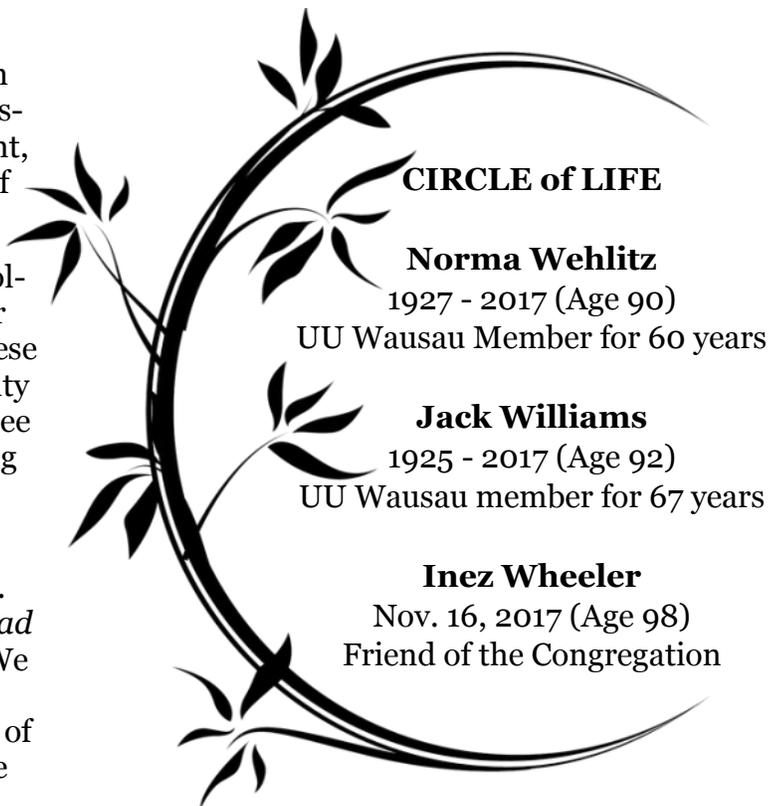
In this, the season of thankfulness, our church has so much to be thankful for. A settled minister, an excellent staff, a growing RE enrollment, plus a new kitchen and dining hall are some of our joys.

This is also the season of giving. Each week volunteers give of themselves. From teaching our children to making the after service coffee, these people give this church the precious commodity of their time. Sadly, more often than not, we see the same volunteers, week after week, covering the bases for all of us.

I may sound a bit like Margot Zemach's Little Red Hen, but the need is very real. Volunteers are what make the *bread* for this church. We are all busy. We all have other things to do. Two words from you can make a world of difference. "Not I" but "I will". The choice is yours.



Tim Peterson, President of the Board of Trustees



CIRCLE of LIFE

Norma Wehlitz
1927 - 2017 (Age 90)
UU Wausau Member for 60 years

Jack Williams
1925 - 2017 (Age 92)
UU Wausau member for 67 years

Inez Wheeler
Nov. 16, 2017 (Age 98)
Friend of the Congregation

Stewardship Drive Update

THANK YOU to all those who have already completed their 2018 Pledge Form. We're delighted to report:

Both \$5,000 matching grants have been met. What's more, each of these generous Member-sponsored grants has been extended by \$2,500!

That means...

\$2,500 BONUS GRANT for new Members who have never pledged before (\$5,000 already met + \$2,500 new grant, for a potential total of \$7,500 in bonus funds)

\$2,500 BONUS GRANT for Members who increase their pledge by at least 15% above their pledge from the previous year (\$5,000 already met + \$2,500 new grant, for a potential total of \$7,500 in bonus funds)

While we're THRILLED to have already raised an extra \$10,000 through these two generous Member-sponsored matching grants, we're still short of meeting our 2018 pledge goal of \$255,000. (Plus, we can still earn 5,000 BONUS DOLLARS for taking this Member up on the above grant extensions.)

So...

If you haven't returned your 2018 Pledge Form yet, please do so ASAP.

Anji has printed forms at the Front Desk, or you may download a Pledge Form at UUwausau.org/finance and mail it to: 504 Grant St., Wausau, WI 54403.

We eagerly anticipate meeting this goal — with YOUR help. **Just think of all the GOOD we can do at UU Wausau TOGETHER...**

Your 2018 Stewardship Committee,

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





December 2017 Calendar

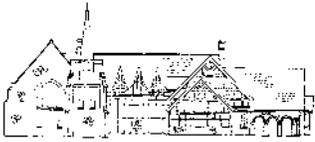


1	Fri	6:30PM	Community HU Song	13	Wed	6:30PM	Eckankar Group
3	Sun	9:45AM	Youth Choir Rhrsal	14	Thu	9:30AM	Open Arms
		10:30AM	Church Service			6:30PM	Tai Chi
		11:30AM	Annual Meeting			7:00PM	Table Tennis
		12:00PM	First Sunday Potluck	16	Sat	8:00AM	Wmn's Early Risers
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon			4:30PM	Youth Choir and Pageant Rehearsal
4	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	17	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
		6:30PM	Wausau Bird Club				Christmas Pageant
5	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	18	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
6	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time	19	Tues	6:30PM	BOT Meeting
		5:00PM	People/Power of Love			6:30PM	Qigong
7	Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project			7:00PM	Table Tennis
		6:30PM	Tai Chi	20	Wed	10:00Am	Shawl Time
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			5:00PM	People/Power of Love
8	Fri	6:30PM	Hanging of Greens	21	Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project
9	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation			7:00PM	Table Tennis
10	Sun	9:45AM	Youth Choir Rhrsal	24	Sun	7:00PM	Christmas Eve Svc
		10:30AM	Church Service			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
			Christmas Sweater Day!	25	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
		11:45AM	Pageant Rehearsal	26	Tue	2:00PM	Women's Book Pack
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon			7:00PM	Table Tennis
11	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	28	Thu	7:00PM	Table Tennis
12	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong	30	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	31	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
						6:00PM	Overeaters Anon



Happy Membership Anniversary!

Don & Jane Christianson, 46 years. Larry Petruzates, 36 years. Liz Barr, 28 years.
 Becky Filiatreaux, 27 years. Bob Ringstad, 27 years. Glenda Walker, 27 years.
 Nan Cedar, 25 years. Gale Fisher & Dave Wenninger, 25 years. Jerry Phelan, 25 years.
 Steve Rhyner, 19 years. Lee Williams, 19 years. Ray Kraemer, 16 years.
 Kent & Heather Busig, 13 years. Kathy Thurs, 13 years. Greg & Ingrid Clark Zavadoski, 13 years.
 Pat & Kay Meyer, 11 years. Jeff Leigh, 10 years. Charles Patten, 10 years. Jane Rusch, 10 years.
 Lanore Rusch, 10 years. Paul & Carol Hagstrom, 10 years. Kim Schmutzler, 9 years.
 Kim & Dean Day, 8 years. Francis Passineau, 8 years. John Pochinski, 7 years.
 Katrina Becker, 4 years. Tony Schultz, 4 years. Laura Place, 1 year. Jaime Rannow, 1 year.
 Gretchen Egan, 1 year. Margaret Jerz, 1 year. Kate Passineau, 1 year. LeeAnn & Greg Venne, 1 year.
 Katelynn DeLosh, 1 year. Jared Kage, 1 year.



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Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

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FIRST UNIVERSALIST
UNITARIAN CHURCH
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

SINCE 1870