



The Circuit Writer

First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

January 2018

January 10:30AM Services at UU Wausau

January 7

-God or No God?

The Rev. Brian Mason

“So, what do you actually believe in?” is a question I occasionally get after telling someone I am a Unitarian Universalist. And, if I’m honest, it’s not the easiest question to answer. Another question I’m asked is, “So, do you all believe in God, or what?” which isn’t so easy to answer either. This Sunday we will consider these questions and, hopefully, grow our delight with one of our Tradition’s greatest virtues: diversity.

January 14

-Martin Luther King Jr.

The Rev. Brian Mason

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

Music: Jacob and Molly Roseman



January 21

-By Their Fruits Ye Shall Know Them

The Rev. Brian Mason

Many of you may be familiar with the saying “Ye shall know them by their fruits.” Summarily, it means you can tell a lot about a person by observing their conduct, allegiances, and interests. The great Unitarian theologian James Luther Adams wrote: “The quality of one’s associations determines the character and meaning of one’s existence.” In other words, “By their groups shall ye know them.” So much can be gleaned by learning someone’s associations. And so it goes for churches as well. Our conversation this morning will investigate the risks and rewards of voluntary associations, such as a church, and the very distinct way we UUs create and sustain them.



January 28

-For What It’s Worth

Richard Olson

One can tell a lot about any individual or group by examining what they value, whether these values are expressed in words or actions. Often our values clash and the discussion of ‘what-is-worth-what’ can be divisive. What drives us to draw battle lines and join in the skirmish when we aren’t even sure what the issues are?



From a Window on Grant

I want to thank all of the parents, volunteers, and participants who made our 2017 Christmas Pageant such a marvelous event. Thanks to everyone who helped sew or buy a costume, decorate, clean up, and gift the church with dozens of hours of rehearsal and commuting time. Your efforts really paid off! I cannot count the number of compliments I got about the Children's Choir, the actors, the costumes, and set. It really was something special.

As some of you may recall, our church has been searching for a Music Director since September 2017. I'm delighted to report that our search is finally over. We will begin 2018 with a Music Director!

Margaret Jerz, who many of you know, will serve as our interim Music Director, lasting until the end of June. Margaret brings decades of experience with her, not only as an accomplished pianist, but also as a gifted educator and choral director. In the weeks and months to come, be on the lookout for announcements calling for people interested in joining an adult choir. I know you're out there! (And I'd love to have a choir ready by Easter.) The choir's first practice has already been scheduled for Wednesday, January 24, 6:30-8:00 PM.

Beginning in fall, our permanent Music Director, Karen Zuidema, will start with us. Like Margaret, Karen brings years of experience as a talented teacher, musician, and choir director. I look forward to working with Margaret and Karen, and am already excited to see the new directions our music program will take us.



Finally, several people have told me that our church has been getting a lot of visitors on Sundays. This is great news! I bet some of you can remember what it's like to visit a church for the first time. For some lucky people, it's no sweat. But for others, like me, it's a time of high anxiety. So, if you happen to notice someone you don't quite recognize, be certain to give them a warm welcome. See if they need a quick tour, or an introduction to me or Julie or Anji. Sure, the stained glass is beautiful; the church is an architectural gem; our coffee hour is one of Wausau's best; but the real asset here is you.

In faith,

Brian

Office Space

Happy New Year! It's the time of year to take stock of things and get organized. Did you know that UU Wausau can help with that? Every UUA certified member of the church has access to their own file folder locked safely away in the church office. In it, you can store copies of important paperwork such as insurance papers. Many members choose to keep funeral and memorial service plans and wishes in their church files. Also, if we see you in a local newspaper or newsletter, a clipping is placed in your folder.

Not sure what, if anything, is in your church folder? Stop by the office and check it out. It's a great opportunity to make sure that all of your information is up-to-date!



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 | briqmill5@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

I would like to give one more huge “Thank you!” to the cast and crew of our successful December 17th Christmas Pageant:

Pageant Cast:

Director - **Sarah Rudolph**
Narrator - **Brian Mason**
Mary - **Emily Hanson**
Joseph - **Quinn LaFrombois**
Angel Gabriel - **Rosemary Spialek**
Angel of the Lord - **Lilyan Casey**
Heavenly Host - **Josephine Keller, Delaney LaFrombois, Kira Pierce, Ruby Fischer, Zoe Briquetelet Miller**
Shepherds - **Ragnar Spialek, Jack Trombley, Brandon Whalley**
Star - **Lucy Wright**
Magi - **Ben Peterson, Giana Heiser, Scott Hanson**
Animals - **Caiden Heiser, Jonathan Trombley, Annie Peterson, Jocey Heiser, Eleanor Mason, Jack Place, Olivia Plank**
Stage Crew - **Melissa Heiser, Gina Hanson, Karen Peterson, Lee Ann Venne**



Youth Choir:

Director - **Margaret Jerz**
Rosemary Spialek
Ragnar Spialek
Josephine Keller
Julianna Thurs
Sylvia Wright
Lucy Wright
Lilyan Casey
Eleanor Mason
Maggie Schmidt
Tessa Schmidt
Molly Anderson
Nya Harrington
Giana Heiser
Jocey Heiser
Zoe Briquetelet Miller



I'd like to offer a special thank you to **Theran & Ben Peterson** for building our beautiful set. And of course, I'd like to thank all of the families who gave of their time in order to get their children to rehearsals.

I'm excited to let you know that I'll be offering a 6 week beginner mediation course starting January 14th. We'll meet Sunday, 4:30-5:30 pm. Anyone 10 years and up is invited to participate. Sign up by emailing julie@uuwausau.org or on the sign-up sheet in the atrium.

See you in the new year!

Julie



Schedule Reminders

December 24th—No RE classes or nursery
December 31st—No RE classes or nursery
January 7th—All regular classes resume



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



☛ Women's Book Pack

Book Pack has decided to disband after thirty years of stimulating discussions. It began in the 1990s when **Anne Jefferson** announced that she wanted to discuss a particular book with women of the congregation.

So many women of the church showed up to discuss the book, we broke up into three groups. Over the years the groups shrunk to one group.

Those remaining decided they will get together on a rare occasion simply to keep in touch.

☛ Thoreau@Walden.pnd

Prophet? Social Reformer? Minimalist? Who was that tetchy 19th Century man and why does he matter more than ever in this century? Learn something new, add to the discussion, leave inspired. One 90-minute session, 10am, Jan 17. Sign up in the atrium.

Facilitated by **Richard Olson**.



☛ Martin Luther King Jr. Banquet

Celebrate the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and his legacy of social change through non-violence with **N.A.O.M.I.** Tickets are \$20 each and include a soul food dinner catered by **Urban Street Bistro** as well as an evening of entertainment. The dinner takes place on January 15, 2018 at 5:30pm at the **YWCA** in Wausau. Tickets can be purchased at the YWCA or by contacting naomi4justice@yahoo.com. While you are at it, consider purchasing a ticket for someone who cannot afford one. If you cannot afford a ticket, please contact N.A.O.M.I. for assistance.

☛ Soup's On!

UU Auction 2017 Family-Friendly Soup Luncheon will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2018, 11:45AM in the UU Wausau dining hall. The menu offers a choice of soups and chilies that are child-friendly and vegetarian. The soup will be accompanied by assorted breads, crackers, cookies, and fellowship. Hosted by **Kathi Hupy** and **Sharon Faville**, with assistance from an army of chefs and bakers including (but not limited to): **Macia Anderson, Carol Bronston, Orval Quamme, Sally Decker, Linda Haney, Margaret Jerz, Mary Beth Maas, Suzan Miller, Laura Syring, Jeannie Russell, LeeAnn Venne, and Anna Gresch**. If you didn't get a chance to sign up at the UU Auction, please do so now! Adults \$10.00, children over 6, \$5.00, and a maximum family cost \$25.00. All proceeds go to the UU Wausau operating budget.

☛ January Community Focus Collection

Our January 21 CFC will benefit local NGO **Good News Project**. While GNP serves Wausau with their *Help Closet* for medical equipment lending and *GNP Electronics Recycling* this collection will be focused on **Hurricane Relief for the island of Dominica** where their teams have built homes for the homeless for almost 35 years.

GNP will be sending a crew to Dominica in April to start with the rebuilding effort. A full crew of USA volunteers has already signed up for this trip. A video taken during their last trip is available here: [Good News Project/Island of Dominica](http://GoodNewsProject/IslandofDominica).

Their first focus will be to "help those who have helped so many," replacing the lost roofs of the GNP local island volunteers. They are in need of equipment and tools as the GNP storage shed was a total loss and equipment was looted.

Please consider making a donation any time during the month of January. Just make a note on your envelope or check for **GNP Collection**.



News for UUs



☛ Poetry Reading

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, Mid-Central Region, is hosting its quarterly poetry reading in Yawkey Hall on Sunday, January 21, at 2pm.

Kurth Luchs, Stevens Point, will be the featured poet, followed by an open mic. You are all cordially invited to join us!



☛ Crude Beyond Belief

Join us in Yawkey Hall on Thursday, January 25th, at 6:30pm for Movies with Meaning.

This month's film is titled *Crude Beyond Belief*

A farmer, **Tom Franz** takes us on a tour of Kern County's oil fields. You will see how oil drilling and fracking have nearly destroyed the land and air quality in central California. The organizations of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and Fresans vs Fracking have joined together to protect the environment.

This is a timely video because of the new state laws rescinding the mining moratorium and the relaxation of air quality control in Wisconsin.

Free and open to the public.

☛ Caring Ministry Pizza Party

The Caring Ministry delivers meals to members in need, provides members with transportation to and from church when needed, and assists with memorials.

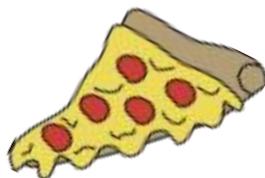
If you would like to become involved, we invite you to an informational pizza dinner on

January 16, at 5:30 pm

in the dining room. Please consider offering your time to help others through the UU Caring Ministry.

Please RSVP to **Karen Peterson** at

tpkptpep@aol.com



☛ The 12 Days of Valentines

A tisket, a tasket, what's inside the Valentine's basket?

Share love on 12 days leading up to Valentine's Day by putting a useful or thoughtful item (one per day, suggested list available) in a basket which we provide. We will find a good recipient for your basket through local social service agencies and deliver them in time for Valentine's Day. Share some cheer in the "dead of winter" to warm the heart of another as well as your own.

Sign out a basket with a list of suggested items at church in late January. Return your filled basket on Sunday, February 11.

Sponsored by the **Ari Schmidt** Fund for Bus, Bail, and Pizza

A Note from the Endowment Committee

As we mourn the recent passing of **Nancy Frawley** and reflect upon her energetic spirit along with her many decades of involvement and service to First UU, we also want to express our appreciation for her generous bequest. In 2016, Nancy wrote the following reason for being a member of the Red Granite Legacy Society (i.e., for including UU Wausau in her will):

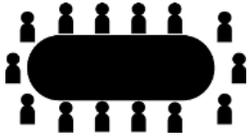
"As part of the Legacy Society, I hope the UU Church will always be open to and respectful of people with differing beliefs — religious, political, social."

Those few words just about say it all. Thanks Nancy! Rest in the knowledge that your bequest will help ensure that your religious values continue to thrive in this community. You will be missed.

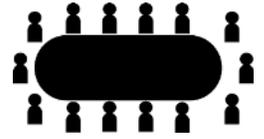
Endowment Committee

(Tom Eberlein, Dan Schaut, Jerry Phelan, Carol Bronston, Tim Peterson)





The Board Table



So begins another new year to add to our “New Beginnings”. At our December 19, 2017 Board of Trustee meeting we said goodbye to Nan Cedar who so capably served on the board for 6 years. Her enthusiasm, hard work and sense of humor will be missed. We also are going to miss **Kathi Hupy** who always spoke her mind and made us ask tough question and justify our answers. Her insight will be missed. Best part is that both of these women will do other great work for our community. We look forward to those who are joining us in January: **Sheryl Hemp, Heather Busig** and **Karen Monarski**. All of us on the board welcome them and look forward to a productive 2018.

In terms of productive, I thought I would share some potentially exciting news. I say potentially because the Property Committee is still reviewing bids and options. We have committed ourselves to add to the recent upgraded enhancements to our beloved building. With the sanctuary renovation in 2014/15, the restoration of the kitchen, dining room, and bathroom in 2015/16, we would like to add Yawkey Hall in 2018. To that end we are exploring the costs of plaster renovation and painting, updated overhead lighting, new carpeting (!!!!!), new cushions for the cane furniture, staining the window sills, cleaning drapes and fixing that hardware and ***maybe, perhaps, with any kind of luck*** a gas insert for the fire-place. As I said this is tentative, probably expensive and maybe will have to be done over a period of time. But the committee is determined to start this in 2018 and I have no doubt that you will hear more of this as time goes on. What we need now is information on bids, suggestions from all of you as to what is most important in the Hall

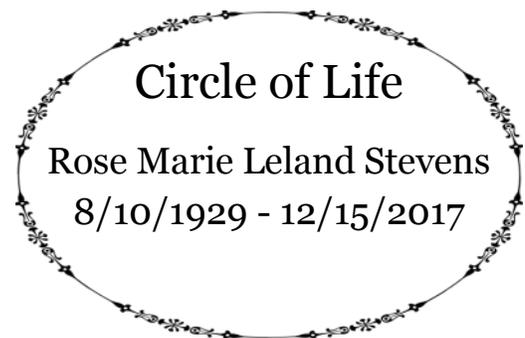
to be tackled first...and last, or not at all. This is an important space in our church...it is used by us, guests, renters. It should reflect the importance that we place on our historic building.

So I thank you in advance for your suggestions, support (you know we might ask) and encouragement. These are exciting times and the energy in our congregation can be felt.



Kudos to the RE dept., Julie and Sarah and Margaret and all the helpers for a marvelous Christmas pageant. But most of the praise must go to our young people who worked hard and performed so well.

Judy Beier,
Secretary, Board of Trustees





January 2018 Calendar



| | | | | | | | |
|----|------|---------|----------------------|----|------|---------|----------------------|
| 1 | Mon | 6:00PM | Women's AA Mtg | 17 | Wed | 10:00Am | Shawl Time |
| 2 | Tue | 6:30PM | Wausau Bird Club | | | 10:00AM | Thoreau Class |
| | | 7:00PM | Table Tennis | | | 4:00PM | People/Power of Love |
| 3 | Wed | 10:00AM | Shawl Time | 18 | Thu | 6:00PM | Unity Project |
| | | 4:00PM | People/Power of Love | | | 6:30PM | Tai Chi |
| 4 | Thu | 6:00PM | Unity Project | | | 7:00PM | Table Tennis |
| | | 6:30PM | Tai Chi | 20 | Sat | 8:00AM | Wmn's Early Risers |
| | | 7:00PM | Table Tennis | 21 | Sun | 10:30AM | Church Service |
| 7 | Sun | 10:30AM | Church Service | | | 1:00PM | Poetry Reading |
| | | 6:00PM | Overeaters Anon | | | 4:30PM | Beginner Meditation |
| 8 | Mon | 6:00PM | Women's AA Mtg | | | 6:00PM | Overeaters Anon |
| 9 | Tue | 6:30PM | Qigong | 22 | Mon | 6:00PM | Women's AA Mtg |
| | | 7:00PM | Table Tennis | 23 | Tues | 6:30PM | Qigong |
| 11 | Thu | 9:30AM | Open Arms Parenting | | | 7:00PM | Table Tennis |
| | | 6:30PM | Tai Chi | 25 | Thu | 9:30AM | Open Arms Parenting |
| | | 7:00PM | Table Tennis | | | 6:30PM | Movies with Meaning |
| 13 | Sat | 4:00PM | Buddhist Meditation | | | 6:30PM | Tai Chi |
| 14 | Sun | 10:30AM | Church Service | | | 7:00PM | Table Tennis |
| | | 4:30PM | Beginner Meditation | 27 | Sat | 4:00PM | Buddhist Meditation |
| | | 6:00PM | Overeaters Anon | 28 | Sun | 10:30AM | Church Service |
| 15 | Mon | 6:00PM | Women's AA Mtg | | | 4:30PM | Beginner Meditation |
| 16 | Tues | 5:00PM | Care Min Pizza Party | | | 6:00PM | Overeaters Anon |
| | | 6:30PM | BOT Meeting | 29 | Mon | 6:00PM | Women's AA Mtg |
| | | 6:30PM | Qigong | 30 | Tues | 6:30PM | Qigong |
| | | 7:00PM | Table Tennis | | | 7:00PM | Table Tennis |
| | | | | 31 | Wed | 10:00AM | Shawl Time |



Happy Membership Anniversary!

Judy Stevens, 56 years. Scott Williams, 48 years. Jim and Liz Brezinski, 41 years.

Steve Gantert and Diane Walker, 26 years. Mike and Deb Wasilczuk, 22 years.

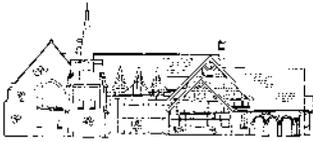
Sheryl Hemp, 15 years. Ken and Connie Schmiede, 13 years. Bart Hobson, 5 years.

Barb & Carl Drake, 3 years. Sue Rainville, 3 years. Jim & Barbara Klapperich, 3 years.

Kelly & Clint Schultz, 2 years. Shannon Thielman, 2 years. Theran & Meg Peterson, 2 years.

Diane Ninnemann, 2 years. Josh Wright, 2 years. Anita Stahl, 1 year.

Loretta Ulmschneider, 1 year. Kim Casey, 1 year.



First Universalist Unitarian
Church of Wausau
504 Grant St.,
Wausau, WI 54403

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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