



The Circuit Writer

First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

November 2018

November 10:30AM Services at UU Wausau

November 4

-Good Stewardship's Many Hats

The Rev. Brian Mason

Today's service will end just a bit early, so we can perform a fire drill. It's mostly for our Sunday RE teachers and youth. But it's for those of us who spend most Sundays in the sanctuary too. Good stewardship is just as much about generosity as it is about having a defibrillator in the event someone experiences cardiac issues. Good stewardship is about protecting our greatest assets – and that's you. This morning's sermon will be about stewardship's many hats. And remember, walk, don't run!

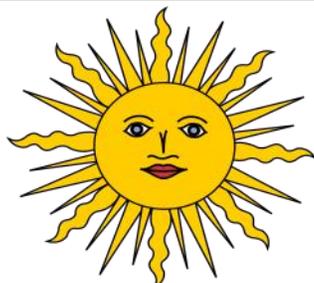


November 11

-On Gratitude

The Rev. Brian Mason

I try hard not to, but I take so much for granted. There are, of course, so many daily, simple pleasures worthy of gratitude that I overlook or totally ignore as I bury my nose in my phone or rush around from place-to-place. The great English writer G. K. Chesterton, in "Christmas and Salesmanship," wrote that "Gratitude, being nearly the greatest of human duties, is also nearly the most difficult." In other words, humans tend to take things for granted. Let's push back on this tendency and grow our capacity for the greatest of human duties—giving thanks.



Fall Back!

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 4 at 2AM!

November 18

-Bread Communion

The Rev. Brian Mason

What is your heritage? Who are your people? What traditions do you preserve and share with your friends and family? Please bring the bread (or baked good) of your heritage to share. And of course, bring the story, or stories, that convey its specialness to you. This service is intergenerational.



November 25

-A Thanksgiving Meditation

The Rev. Brian Mason

Mayflower pilgrim William Bradford kept an extraordinary account of the pilgrim's experiences in the New World. Bradford's diary, also known as *Of Plymouth Plantation*, chronicles the year 1620 to 1647. Within the journal's pages is a description of the First Thanksgiving. Many myths surround this American tradition, but only Bradford's journal can set the record straight. This morning we'll meditate on thanks and giving, and the First Thanksgiving.

We would like to give a hearty Thank You to **Carl & Barb Drake**, who donated \$100 in loving memory of **Gerda Klement**. Their donation went toward the purchase of 5 new teal hymnals for the sanctuary.

From a Window on Grant

Last month we kicked off our annual pledge drive. We're off to a great start, and I'm optimistic we'll achieve our ambitious benchmark.

So often I read about churches throughout the United States that are in decline. But our church tells another story. We've been blessed with a growing congregation filled with people of all ages and walks of life.



Every Sunday after church in coffee hour I get such enjoyment observing "vintage" (i.e., aged to perfection) adults sharing their wisdom with the youth, and the youth sharing their bountiful energy with everyone. This great mingling and unique interaction amongst people, along with our amazing music programming, lifespan religious education offerings, and diverse array of fellowship societies and community groups, combine to make our church a very special one.

We have every reason to be proud of what we are creating. We have every reason to be proud of our church, and you have every reason to be proud of yourself. Together we are creating a community of hope, and vision, and acceptance.

So, in this season of thanksgiving, I want to thank you for all that you bring to and offer this church community.

I can't wait to see what our future has in store. After all, we're only getting started.

In Faith and Love,

Brian



Office Space

Happy November, friends!

This fall we have been blessed with an abundance of visitors here at UU Wausau. People of all ages have been hearing about our church and coming to see for themselves. It's wonderful to look around on a Sunday morning and see the sanctuary and atrium full of both new faces and the faces of those I know and love.

One thing that I've heard time and again from church members is that the thing that kept them coming back for more in their early visits was the friendly and caring reception they received from other members of the congregation.

My goal is to make visitors feel welcome and at home here at UU Wausau. Visitors will want to return and become part of our amazing community if they feel wanted here — and they are!

I would like to thank all of you for taking the time each Sunday to walk up and introduce yourself to a stranger, offer a cup of coffee to someone who looks just a little lost, or encourage a new face to join in your conversation. These small things are part of what makes me so proud of our community, and are a cornerstone of the church's future growth and prosperity.



See you in church!

Anji

P.S. My family is hosting the November potluck and we've chosen the theme "old-fashioned casseroles". Time to dig out Grandma's recipes! I can't wait to try them.

REflections



A special thank you to everyone who helped make Gross and Creepy Snack a fun experience. Thank you to everyone who brought a snack. Thank you to Maggie, Tessa, Sally & Steve Schmidt, Kate Passineau, Erin Verley, Anji, Ragnar and Rosemary Spialek, Charlotte Knihtila, Davin Yakey, Christina & Matt Priewe, Ben, Annie, & Theran Peterson, Josie Keller, Ruby Fischer, Chloe Maier, and Danika Monarski, for decorating, organizing and running games and for helping to clean up! Thanks for making this a special day for the children and youth of our congregation!

Julie

November RE Calendar

November 4th—Regular classes

November 11th—Regular classes

November 18th—No RE—Intergenerational Bread Communion service (nursery will be open for children 5 years and under)

November 25th—No regular classes—Nursery open and large group activity in the basement for all children and youth in attendance.



60 children and youth took part in this year's Gross & Creepy snack celebration!

Christmas Pageant and Choir Sign-Up!

The Christmas Pageant is December 16th. Children and youth who would like to be a part of the pageant and/or in one of the choirs can **sign up on the clipboards in the atrium**. Children and youth are welcome to be in a choir, the pageant OR both.



Choirs

There will be **TWO** choirs for the Christmas Pageant this year! This includes a children's choir for children grades 4K-5th AND a youth choir for those 6th grade and up.

The **children's choir** will have 5 rehearsals: Nov 25th and Dec 2nd at 9:45 am, Dec 9th at 9:45 am and again at 12:30-2:00 pm, and Dec 15th 4:00-5:30 pm.

The **youth choir** will have 7 rehearsals: Nov 11th and 18th at 9:30 am, Nov 25th and Dec 2nd at 9:15am, Dec 9th at 9:15 am and again at 12:30-2:00 pm, and Dec 15th 4:00-5:30 pm.



Pageant

With speaking and non-speaking parts, there's a place for everyone who wishes to participate in the pageant! Speaking parts include: Mary, Angel Gabriel, Angel of the Lord and one Shepherd. Non-speaking parts include: a Star, Joseph, Magi, Shepherds, Heavenly Host (angels), and Animals (any type and many are needed).

Lead roles will be decided via a simple lottery drawing of interested youth.

There will be 2 **pageant** rehearsals: Dec 9th 12:30-2:00 pm (lunch provided), and a Dress Rehearsal on Saturday, Dec 15th, 4:00-5:30 pm.





News for UUs

📌 Request for Assistance Cards

In an attempt to reach any church goer in need, the Caring Committee has a new Caring Committee Request for Assistance Card. These will be located at the back of the church by the caring/concerns cards. Anyone needing some assistance may fill one out, but if you know of someone who needs assistance, you may fill a card out asking that he or she be contacted. These cards will be confidential, and can be dropped in the slot in the office. Our hope is that we can reach more people who may need assistance. Of course, you are also welcome to contact Brian or someone on the Caring Committee.



📌 Family Winter Retreat

Join old friends and make new ones at the **Family Winter Retreat** January 25–27, 2019. We meet at **Camp Manitowish** in Boulder Junction for a fun-filled weekend of sledding, cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing, good food and fellowship. There is room for 12 families (each room has 4 bunks) with shared bathrooms and communal meals. Cost is around \$31/night/adults 13 and up, \$15/night 6-12, free 5 and under. If you are interested contact **Dawn Ashenbrenner** at 715-212-6481 or dawn1969@yahoo.com. Spots fill up quickly!

📌 Mental Health Peer Support Group

The Northwoods Alliance on Mental Health is hosting a Peer Support Group for anyone who is concerned about their own mental health. The group meets at the Wausau YWCA the 4th Wednesday of every month from 4–5PM. Attendance is optional and registration is not required. N.A.M.I. trained facilitators lead discussions on successes, strategies, challenges, and resources. Visit naminorthwoods.org for info.

📌 Nov Community Focus Collection

At General Assembly in 2015, members of the Unitarian Universalist Association voted to take a sustained look at how we, as a religious association throughout history, have valued and centered the perspectives, the voices, and the leadership of Black Lives within Unitarian Universalism.

One of the results of that vote is The Promise and the Practice of Our Faith campaign, which was envisioned as an opportunity for us, as people of great faith, to take the lead in addressing our denominational history and, collectively, shaping our future. Because we know that, together, we can collectively work to promote Black Lives within Unitarian Universalism.

During the Promise and Practice campaign to fulfill the \$5.3 million commitment to the Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism Organizing Collective (BLUU), the UUA is providing annual cash and the denomination’s leadership has asked UUs everywhere to make a contribution to this historic campaign. UU Wausau, along with hundreds of UU churches throughout the world, will designate November’s Community Focus Collection to BLUU and The Promise and the Practice of Our Faith campaign.



📌 UU Wausau’s Food Cart

Have you noticed something new on our food cart? Wausau has a number of pantries that have continually changing needs and shortages. Each month one will be contacted to learn of their particular needs at that time. A list of those most needed items along with the name of the agency will be posted on the side of the cart. Please help us meet those specific needs by picking up something from the list when you go shopping to add to the cart. We’ll deliver the contents monthly (or more often if the cart is full). Thank you for your generosity.



News for UUs



🕯️ Hanging of the Greens

Friday, December 7 beginning at 6pm we will ring in the holiday season here at UU Wausau with an evening of decorating and celebration. Bring a dish to pass for a potluck in the dining hall before we haul out the holly and trim the trees! After decorating, we will gather around the tree in the atrium and sing carols. Hanging of the Greens is a fun event for the whole family.

🕯️ November First Sunday Potluck

The theme of our November potluck is “old fashioned casseroles”. Dig into your recipes for favorite casseroles from your childhood and meet in the dining hall Nov. 4 after the service.

🕯️ Second Friday Nighters

Shannon Thielman is hosting Second Friday Nighters at her home, 168834 School Rd., Nov 9 at 6:30pm. Please bring an appetizer to share. Children welcome. There are pets in the home.

🕯️ New Member Class & Refresher

Following service on November 11, from 12:00-1:30PM, anyone interested in becoming a member, or who enjoys warm fellowship, is welcome to gather in the minister’s study for conversation, light refreshments, and a signing of the Membership Book. Don’t worry if you’re a Packers fan – the game will be on. If you would like childcare please let Anji (anji@uuwausau.org) know by Nov. 8. Can’t wait to see you there!

🕯️ UU Thanksgiving Dinner

Join us for a UU Wausau Thanksgiving Dinner! It will be an evening of singing, toasts and fellowship on Fri, November 16th at 6PM in the dining hall. We will provide turkey and mashed potatoes, you bring a side dish or dessert to share, a toasting beverage and glasses, or a contribution to cover the cost of the turkey. Please sign up in the atrium so we know how many people to plan for.



Poinsettia Memorial Order Form



Help make our sanctuary festive and inviting during the upcoming holiday season, by making a small donation for the purchase of poinsettias and greenery! A memorial or special message will be printed on the Christmas Eve Order of Service to acknowledge your contribution.

Please send your donation and memorial information to the church office at 504 Grant St., Wausau, WI 54403 or email to anji@uuwausau.org by December 10th.

\$25 tax-deductible suggested donation per memorial

Donor Name(s) _____

My 1st memorial should read:

My 2nd memorial should read:

My 3rd memorial should read:

2019 Stewardship A-PEEL Is Off to a Great Start!

Thanks to everyone who helped us kick off our 2019 Stewardship A-PEEL at the October Potato Potluck — especially our hosts: **Christina and Matt Priewe and family**. What a lovely event for us all to share in together!

We collected many Pledge Forms at the potluck and feel we are well underway in meeting our goals. But we need your help so that great momentum doesn't **SPUD-ter*** out . . .



If you haven't yet turned in your 2019 Pledge Form, please complete and return your form ASAP. We'll certainly accept them anytime, but it's helpful to get them back by December 2 to assist with our 2019 budget planning.

**We ask that you please pledge generously to help us
GROW our reach, our membership, our programs, and our vision.**

As you complete your Pledge Form, pause to reflect on what UU Wausau means to you — and to our surrounding community — as a place of comfort and inspiration.

You can find extra forms and a collection basket at the church Front Desk, or you may simply return the form included in our recent mailing to existing Members, which included a letter from Rev. Brian Mason outlining the successes and opportunities for us at UU Wausau. (You can also [download a Pledge Form](#) from the church website.)

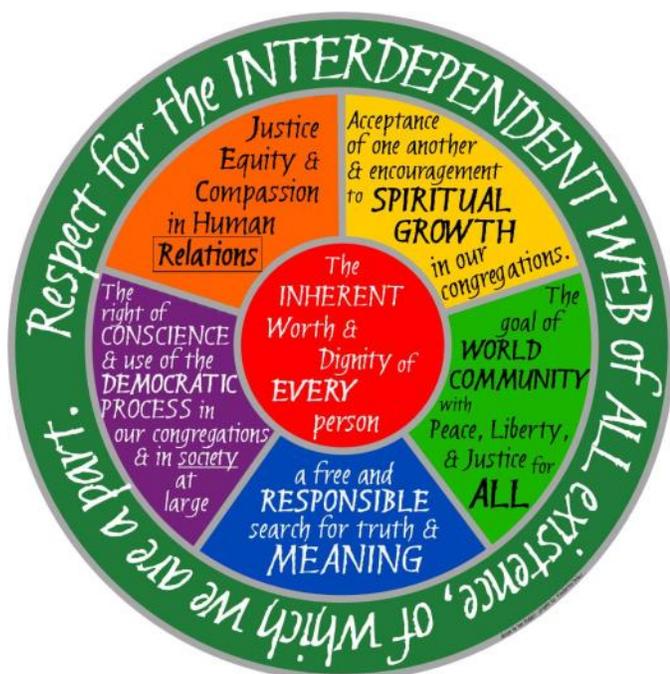
As you listen to members share their stories about what this church means to them, we invite you to take some time to reflect on all that UU Wausau offers its Friends, Members, and Visitors.

We thank you in advance for your generous support of this beloved church community.

Your 2019 Stewardship Committee,

— *Carl Drake, Marsha Fitzgerald, & Sarah Thurs*

** This month's "potato pun" courtesy of Tim Peterson. Thanks, Tim!
If you have a pun to share, email Sarah.Thurs@gmail.com.*



November Membership Anniversaries *Happy Anniversary!*

Clifford Livingston	51 years
Dan & Carolyn Schaut	38 years
Joni Hahn	37 years
Nan Cedar	26 years
Dave & Renee Peterson	21 years
John & Mary Robinson	19 years
Marguerite Donnelly	19 years
Linda Haney	12 years
Brian & Tammy Stezenski-Williams	12 years
Sarah Thurs	12 years
Kathi Hupy	12 years
Gail and David Berge	11 years
Judy Beier	9 years



November 2018 Calendar

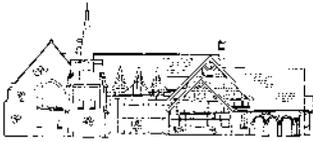


1 Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project	15 Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project
	6:30PM	Tai Chi		6:30PM	Tai Chi
	7:00PM	Table Tennis		7:00PM	Table Tennis
3 Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation	16 Fri	6:00PM	Thanksgiving Dinner
4 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service	17 Sat	8:00AM	Women's Early Risers
	11:30AM	Fire Drill		9:00AM	Church Clean-Up
	11:45AM	Potluck		4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
	6:00PM	Overeaters Anon	18 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
5 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
	6:30PM	Wausau Bird Club	19 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
6 Tue	6:30PM	Qigong		7:00PM	Amnesty Int'l
	7:00PM	Table Tennis	20 Tue	6:30PM	Board of Trustees Mtg
7 Wed	10:30AM	Shawl Time		6:30PM	Qigong
	4:00PM	People/Power Love		7:00PM	Table Tennis
	5:00PM	Proud Theater	21 Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time
	6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice		4:00PM	People/Power of Love
8 Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi		5:00PM	Proud Theater
	7:00PM	Table Tennis		6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice
9 Fri	6:30PM	2nd Friday Nighters	24 Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
10 Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation	25 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
11 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
	12:00PM	New Member Mtg	26 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
	6:00PM	Overeaters Anon	27 Tue	6:30PM	Qigong
12 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg		7:00PM	Table Tennis
13 Tue	6:30PM	Qigong	28 Wed	5:00PM	Proud Theater
	7:00PM	Table Tennis		6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice
14 Wed	5:00PM	OWL	29 Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi
	5:00PM	Proud Theater		7:00PM	Table Tennis
	6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice			

November is National Family Literacy Month!

Did you know that UU Wausau has both a children's and adult's library full of fun and informative books? The children's library is upstairs off of Walker Hall. The adult's library is in Anji's office. Books from both libraries may be checked out for your family's enjoyment.





First Universalist Unitarian
 Church of Wausau
 504 Grant St.,
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The Circuit Writer - November 2018

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

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