



# The Circuit Writer

*First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau*

October 2018

## October 10:30AM Services at UU Wausau

**October 7**

***-To Be Determined***

Guest Speaker

**October 14**

***-Hoping Against Hope***

The Rev. Brian Mason

Several months ago, I swore off watching the news and late-night comedy shows. The rampant political tribalism was just too much. And even with those changes I couldn't escape it. Politics are all anyone seems to talk about these days. With Thanksgiving just around the corner, you might find it helpful to strategize how to maintain table manners in this period of polarization. So, let's model civility this morning and remind ourselves that there's plenty to hope for, even in these trying times.



**October 21**

***-What is the Bible Anyways?***

The Rev. Brian Mason

For some (or many) UUs, the Bible is regarded as an odd and contradictory artifact from a by-gone era. It's fine to think like that I suppose. But it's more than that. A lot more. For starters, it's a genealogy of quirky families, a repository of intriguing histories, and a collection of beautiful writings and poetry. Moreover, it's a sustained meditation on the necessity of grace and the redemptive nature of humankind. This morning will be the first of many explorations through Unitarian Universalism's sacred sources.

**October 28**

***-All Souls' Day***

The Rev. Brian Mason

Today we will remember the lives of our beloved departed.



### October Membership Anniversaries *Happy Anniversary!*

Barb Roberts	51 years
Linda Ware	50 years
Marsha Fitzgerald	44 years
Joyce Kurth	22 years
Jim Maas	19 years
Barb Lonsdorf	16 years
Mary Beth Maas	16 years
Erin Verley	10 years
Elmae Passineau	10 years
Mark Schuler and Lisa Giordano	7 years
Tom and Lynn Grimes	7 years
Scott and Peggy Stalheim	7 years
Alice and David Davies	5 years
Lora Winsborough	1 Year
Matt and Christina Priewe	1 Year
Rick and Kara LaFrombois	1 Year



## From a Window on Grant

Postseason baseball is right around the corner. If things go my way the St. Louis Cardinals will bring home their 12<sup>th</sup> World Series title. October baseball is undoubtedly the best time to watch the sport.



There's something electric about the game this time of year. The players seem to pull out all the stops and the potential for on-field magic seems to rest on the edge of being. But everyone isn't a fan of

baseball. On nights when I watch it at home I can count on having the living room all to myself. Thankfully, the season properly referred to as the Postseason is also known as autumn, or do you call it fall up here?

In any case, it is during this time of year that a short drive out of town will put you face-to-face with fields lined by trees ablaze with color. I suppose it is a fair tradeoff that shorter hours of daylight give way to apple cider, pumpkin patches, and trick-o-treating.

Autumn's also a great time to go to church. There's plenty to pray for, especially the Cardinals and Packers. Within the church, autumn occasionally symbolizes change or spiritual transformation. But why pursue a transformation? For starters, to get there you have to practice spiritual calisthenics, which means you strive to attain something only God can give. (Feel free to replace "God" with whatever suits you.) Exercising real faith means you reserve a portion of each day exclusively for love and grace. This is harder than it sounds. In my experience, distraction and avoidance come in many convenient forms.

But let's get down to basics – autumn means winter is right around the corner. So, if you're like me you need to get your garage ready to actually have a car in it. But I don't feel like cleaning out the garage just yet (or ever, for the matter). And heaven knows I'm not ready for winter. In protest, I plan to spend my time enjoying apple donuts and hot cocoa, and Halloween candy and baseball. Oh, and going to church.

I hope to see you there,

*Brian*



## Office Space

Now that the ball is really rolling on our church year, it's time to kick off the 2019 Stewardship Campaign!



The Pledge will kick-off on Sunday, October 14 following service during the First Sunday Potluck, which we rescheduled so that they would coincide. Look for more information on what to expect from the potluck in the News For UUs section of this Circuit Writer.

Speaking of First Sunday Potlucks, have you heard about the fun new twist this year? Each month will have a volunteer potluck coordinator who will take care of setting up, organizing the yummy offerings, and general clean-up. Of course, there are plenty of people there to help, and coordinators will get an official lesson on how to use our new dishwasher.

That's not the fun part, though; the fun part is that potluck coordinators can choose a theme for their event! Themes will be announced the month before, and will allow for an opportunity to try new things.



Coordinators can even decorate the dining hall if they wish. This is a great activity for friends and family to work on together!

Please sign up for this opportunity and more at the sign-up table in the atrium.

See you at the Stewardship kick-off potluck!

*Anji*

~~~~~  
We would like to give a hearty  
Thank You to **Kate Passineau**,  
who donated \$100 in loving  
memory of her Dad, **Ray Kocik**.  
Ray loved music, and Kate's  
donation is going toward the  
purchase of 5 new teal hymnals  
for the sanctuary.  
~~~~~



# REflections



Our church year is off to a great start in Religious Education! We currently have 86 registered participants (ages 0-18) and had 52 children and youth attend classes our first week and 51 our second week. I want to thank our volunteer facilitators who stepped up to help with our first session of RE classes. Sunday classes would not be possible without volunteers! We dedicated our RE teachers on Sunday, Sept 16<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary and also treated them to a volunteer appreciate dinner that evening at Stoney Acres Farms. A special thank you to **Tony Shultz** for hosting us and for the fabulous farm tour.



**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 28<sup>th</sup>). 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. Everyone is asked to contribute a snack. I'll **need volunteers** who want to help plan games/activities, decorate Sunday morning, and/or help supervise the festivities to sign up. Email [julie@uuwauau.org](mailto:julie@uuwauau.org) or see the sign up table in the atrium if you'd like to help.



*Julie*



RE Volunteers at the appreciation dinner.

Here are our teaching teams for the fall session:

Love Surrounds Us (4K-1<sup>st</sup> grade)—**Karen Peterson, Christina Priewe, Kara LaFrombois, & LeeAnn Venne**

Free to Believe (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade)—**Sally Schmidt, Kim Casey, Sarah Mason, & Meg Peterson**

Toolbox of Faith (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade)—**Theran Peterson, Sarah Thurs, Gina Hanson, & Erin Verley**

OWL (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade)—**Josh Wright, Mandy Wright, Melissa Goessl-Heiser & Julie Trombley**

Principled Music (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)—**Kate Passineau, Jaime Rannow, Karen Monarski, & Greg Zavadowski**



## ***First Universalist Unitarian Church***

504 Grant Street, Wausau, WI 54403

Office Hours: Tue-Thu, 9AM-2PM

(715) 842-3697, [www.uuwausau.org](http://www.uuwausau.org)

### **Board of Trustees:**

Tim Peterson, President	<a href="mailto:timnp67@aol.com">timnp67@aol.com</a>
Kevin Briquetelet-Miller, V.P.	<a href="mailto:briqmill5@aol.com">briqmill5@aol.com</a>
Judy Beier, Secretary	<a href="mailto:jandjbeier@yahoo.com">jandjbeier@yahoo.com</a>
Joyce Kurth	<a href="mailto:joyce.kurth@gmail.com">joyce.kurth@gmail.com</a>
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Karen Monarski	<a href="mailto:krmon12@gmail.com">krmon12@gmail.com</a>

Board meetings are held at 6:30PM on the third Tuesday of each month. All are welcome.

### **Staff:**

Brian Mason, Minister	<a href="mailto:brian@uuwausau.org">brian@uuwausau.org</a>
Anji Spialek, Administrator	<a href="mailto:anji@uuwausau.org">anji@uuwausau.org</a>
Julie Trombley, Dir. RE	<a href="mailto:julie@uuwausau.org">julie@uuwausau.org</a>
Margaret Jerz, Music Dir.	<a href="mailto:margaret@uuwausau.org">margaret@uuwausau.org</a>





# News for UUs



## ☛ UU Caring Committee

If you are a nurturer, a cook, have nice hand-writing, or love to visit with the elderly, The UU Caring Committee is looking for YOU! We need a few more volunteers for the following:

- To give about 2 hours a few times a year to assist with a memorial service
- To prepare a meal, a few times a year, for someone recently hospitalized or needing assistance
- To send out a card for someone under the weather or celebrating a birthday, a few times each month
- To visit a homebound member once a month
- To give a member a ride to church a few times a year



None of these tasks is very taxing or time consuming, but each one nurtures a member of our church.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these “jobs” email **Sara Eberlein** at [eberlein.sara@gmail.com](mailto:eberlein.sara@gmail.com) or call 715-842-3920

Committee meetings are NOT mandatory for anyone volunteering to help!

## ☛ Poetry Reading

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, Mid-Central Region, is hosting its quarterly poetry reading in the dining hall here at UU Wausau on Thursday, October 25, beginning at 6:30PM. **Patricia Williams**, Iola, will be the featured poet, followed by an open mic. You are all cordially invited to attend!

## ☛ “First” Sunday Potluck—MOVED

Join us October 14th after the service for a baked potato bar and salad themed potluck. Baked potatoes will be provided - please bring favorite potato toppings (ham, bacon, broccoli, cheese, sour cream, salsa, etc.) or a salad to share. We look forward to seeing you there!

## ☛ Second Friday Nighters

Join Karen Wentz and LeeAnn and Greg Venne at Karen’s home, 1028 Easthill Pl., on Oct 12 at 6:30pm for 2nd Friday Nighters. This event will be adults-only. There are no pets in the home. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

## ☛ What Moves Us

We UUs sometimes struggle to explain our beliefs-not just to strangers but to other UUs as well. This adult program is a condensed version of a UUA Tapestry of Faith curriculum whose goal is to “peel back the doctrine-rich theological language that can prevent us from affirming our faith experiences with one another and in the wider world”. We will center on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century thought. This course relies on input from a wide range of participants, from “seasoned” UUs to ‘emerging’ UUs to explorers. 10-11:15 am, Tuesdays, Oct 2, 9, 16.

Facilitated by **Richard Olson**.



## ☛ CROP Hunger Walk

Join fellow UU members and members of other Wausau churches, for the annual CROP Hunger Walk, which raises funds to end hunger locally and around the world. The event takes place on Sunday, October 7 in Marathon Park.

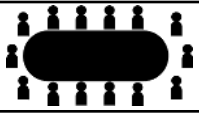
## ☛ We have a Defibrillator

You may have noticed that a new case for a defibrillator has been hung on the east wall of the atrium. We have purchased a new defibrillator, which will be hung up after staff has had proper training on its use in early November.

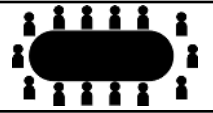
## ☛ Contributions Wanted!

The monthly Circuit Writer needs you! Do you have information that could benefit the congregation? An important announcement? A photo, piece of artwork, or poem to share? Please submit your offerings to Anji Spialek by the 20th of each month.





# The Board Table



## Church Fall Clean Up



With fall upon us, most of us will be busy cleaning up our yards and preparing our homes for the winter that lies ahead. By getting rid of items that are no longer needed and putting away items that bring a sense of satisfaction as we leave the fall and head toward winter.

This past summer, thanks to your incredible generosity, Yawkey Hall was remodeled. The contents of Yawkey Hall were moved elsewhere during the restoration. It became apparent that we need to do some cleaning up of our own.

This is an invitation to join your fellow members in organizing the contents of our building. The four areas we would like to reorganize are the storeroom off Walker Hall, the rec room and stage area, the old boiler room (often referred to as the dungeon), and the crawl space beneath the sanctuary. During the month of October, members of the Property Committee, and others, will be color coding items that are to be moved to another part of the building. They also will code items to be removed to a dumpster that will be in the parking lot. Our goal is to make the space we have more usable.

Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup> is the scheduled date for this clean up. Work will begin at 9:00 A.M. and wrap up by noon. As an incentive, pizza and liquid refreshments will be shared in the dining hall at the completion of the work. Please consider helping.

Tim Peterson

Board President and Property Committee Co-chair



## It's PLEDGE time!

**We invite you to attend the Church Potluck after the service on Sunday, October 14 — Help us kick off our annual Pledge Drive for the 2019 church fiscal year.**

CELEBRATE all that our church has to offer at this exciting time of NEW BEGINNINGS . . .



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

A scrumptious **potato bar buffet** will be served in honor of our Stewardship A-PEEL! (See details in this newsletter for what side you can bring to round out this lovely church luncheon.)

Come hungry and ready to eat, pledge, bond, and BE INSPIRED among friends. UU Wausau has even more great things in store for us all — with YOUR help!

**We need you to PLEASE PLEDGE GENEROUSLY to grow our reach, our membership, our programs, and our vision.** Please consider what this church means to you — and to our broader community — as you complete your 2019 Pledge Form.

**Watch for a stewardship mailing updating you on our many, exciting NEW BEGINNINGS for UU Wausau.**

In service,

Your 2019 Stewardship Committee: Carl Drake, Marsha Fitzgerald, & Sarah Thurs

# Treasurer's Congregation Report - Through August 31, 2018

1. Key Annual Budget Numbers:	2018 Pledges (Based on Pledge Drive Results):
Total Income        \$230,689	Pledges Budget        \$255,000
Total Expense       \$208,879	Pledges Made        \$265,273
Net Income        \$ 21,810	Pledges Exceeding Budget        \$10,273

Outstanding Mortgage: \$162,435

2. After eight months, our operations expense budget is showing a surplus of \$21,810 (10.4%).
3. Pledges received through eight months plus eight months allocation of 2018 prepaid pledges (2018 pledges paid in 2017) total \$170,930. That puts us just above the eight month target for 2018 budgeted pledges (\$170,000 = 66.7% of \$255,000), and 3.3% below the eight month target for 2018 actual pledges (\$176,849 = 66.7% of 265,273). We are still doing well related to budget, but have slipped a bit in the last three months in relation to pledges received. Summer may have had something to do with that. As I always say in these reports, we need to maintain our financial focus and continue to meet our pledge commitments.
4. The outstanding mortgage amount above reflects the impact of the \$25,000 in accelerated payments made this year, \$12,500 from Reserve Funds, and a matching \$12,500 from Endowment Funds. This reduction in mortgage principle is a significant investment in the long term financial health of the church.
5. The Board is contracting with a local accounting firm to have an examination of our financial processes conducted to ensure that our accounting practices meet the appropriate industry standards and to identify any opportunities for improvement.

Respectfully Submitted

Randy Jefferson

09/18/18



## AUTUMN CHANT

By Edna St. Vincent Millay



Now the autumn shudders  
In the rose's root,  
Far and wide the ladders  
Lean among the fruit.

*Now the autumn clambers  
Up the trellised frame  
And the rose remembers  
The dust from which it came.*

Brighter than the blossom  
On the rose's bough  
Sits the wizened orange,  
Bitter berry now;

*Beauty never slumbers;  
All is in her name;  
But the rose remembers  
The dust from which it came.*



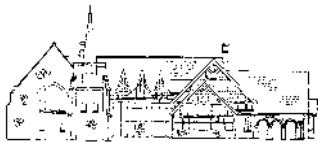


# October 2018 Calendar



1 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	16 Tue	10:00AM	What Moves Us
	6:30PM	Wausau Bird Club		6:30PM	BOT Meeting
2 Tue	10:00AM	What Moves Us		6:30PM	Qigong
	6:30PM	Qigong		7:00PM	Table Tennis
	7:00PM	Table Tennis	17 Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time
3 Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time		4:00PM	People/Power Love
	4:00PM	People/Power of Love		6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice
	6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice	18 Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project
4 Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project		6:30PM	Tai Chi
	6:30PM	Tai Chi		7:00PM	Table Tennis
	7:00PM	Table Tennis	20 Sat	8:00AM	Women's Early Risers
6 Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation		4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
7 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service	21 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
	11:45AM	First Sunday Potluck		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
		Stewardship Kick-Off	22 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
	6:00PM	Overeaters Anon	23 Tue	6:30PM	Qigong
8 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg		7:00PM	Table Tennis
9 Tue	10:00AM	What Moves Us	24 Wed	6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice
	6:30PM	Qigong	25 Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi
	7:00PM	Table Tennis		6:30PM	Poetry Reading
10 Wed	6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice		7:00PM	Table Tennis
11 Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi	27 Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
	7:00PM	Table Tennis	28 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
12 Fri	6:30PM	2nd Friday Nighters			Gross & Creepy Snack
13 Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
14 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service	29 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
	6:00PM	Overeaters Anon	30 Tue	6:30PM	Qigong
15 Mon	4:00PM	Caring Ministry Mtg		7:00PM	Table Tennis
	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	31 Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time
	7:00PM	Amnesty Int'l		6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice





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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