



# The Circuit Writer

*First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau*

May 2018

## May 10:30AM Services at UU Wausau

### May 6

#### *-[Title Unknown]*

Dr. Doug Hosler, Guest Speaker

Musicians: Jacob & Molly Roseman

### May 13

#### *-Fashioning Home*

The Rev. Brian mason

Home is where we live and make memories. It's a particular town, city, or farm. When I get to thinking about home I can't help but miss my family. It's hard living so far away. But missing them isn't just a proximity thing. I remember feeling similarly when I lived nearby. And now, when I visit my hometown there is a sense of strangeness. Where once I felt a small sense of recognition in peoples' eyes, I now find an impartial kindness. So, what is it we call home?

Musician: Barbara Lattimer



### May 20

#### *-On Transcendentalism*

The Rev. Brian Mason

This Sunday's sermon will be an exploration of Transcendentalism, one of the intellectual movements that has informed Unitarian Universalism since it began, in the middle of the 19th Century. Ralph Waldo Emerson, once a rising star in Unitarianism, resigned his Boston pulpit to become, well, Emerson, the sage of Concord, and a founding member of the Transcendental Club. More than a just philosophy, Transcendentalism changed how nature and spirituality are regarded. At its core, Transcendentalism celebrates the goodness of people and the splendor of creation. This morning we will learn how Transcendentalism, and its leaders and sources, inform our religious movement today.

Music: Adult Choir

### May 27

#### *-Spiritualizing the Democratic Life*

The Rev. Brian Mason

Columnists and academics, on the left and right of the political spectrum, frequently mention that the America we live in is fracturing. That faith in the citizenry isn't bending, it's all but broken under the pressures of economic inequality, racial division, and political unrest. There is no denying we live in a trying era, with real problems. But democracy isn't just political, it's spiritual and religious. Walt Whitman believed, as David Brooks recently reminded readers in his op-ed, "What Holds America Together," "democracy 'supplies a training school for making first class men.' It is 'life's gymnasium.' It forges 'freedom's athletes' – strong and equal women, courageous men, deep-souled people capable of governing themselves." Democracy, for Whitman, is an adventure requiring not just citizens, but citizen athletes. Perhaps it's time we reclaim and live it as such.

Music: Youth Choir



## From a Window on Grant

I was delighted when spring's rumored and long-awaited arrival finally took place. I noticed just before the weather turned spring-like the river grew impatient, or at least I assumed so. Even though we were still in the grips of freezing temperatures and 20 plus inches of snow on the ground, the river defiantly shattered its ice and started sending chunks down river.

Furthermore, the migratory birds showed up for the tail end of our snowmageddon, which I think it's safe to conclude they weren't particularly thrilled about. Hearing songbirds and feeling the spring sun while still surrounded by a blanket of snow was a surreal experience for this Midwestern-son. It's a winter I'll never forget. As I was promised by so many of you, winter's grip makes spring's arrival all the more special.

This winter has been an eventful one at church. I've spent a lot of time getting to know the friends and members of our church. That, for me, is the most important aspect of my calling as minister. Ministry is about creating sacred spaces. But equal to that, it's about nurturing healthy relationships. Alongside that, I've also

devoted a good portion of time working with the Board of Trustees and Endowment Committee discussing church By-Laws and endowment management strategies.



Doing this kind of detailed work would be dreadful were it not for the talented, engaged, and generous leaders here in our church. The work they've done and continue to do in service to our church is inspiring. I have the utmost faith that our shared efforts will ensure our congregation maintains its current course, which is one of growth, collaboration, and engagement.

UU Wausau is a remarkable place.

It's hard to believe just one year ago, on May 7, all of you called me to serve as minister to this congregation. It was one of the most memorable days of my life. Maybe even more special than my first springtime in Wisconsin. Maybe.

In faith,

*Brian*



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## Office Space



Did you notice anything different about your pledge statement last month? That's because we now have a brand new church management program. All of our internal pledge data was transferred from one program to another, so please check your statement to make sure it matches your records. Rest assured that I have not found any issues, but we can never be too careful with financial data.

The new program is called Realm, and it has many more capabilities than our old program (which we had been working with since 2008). One of those, which we will be rolling out in the

near future, is a church app. You will be invited to sign up and from there will not only have access to church members' contact info, but also the ability to change your own info and view your pledge and donation history.

In the meantime, I will be working on a printable directory. Because it will also come from Realm, you can expect that it will look a bit different than what you are used to.

In time, I believe our new program will be an invaluable communication tool for the congregation!

See you in church,

*Anji*



# Religious Education

## Religious Education

As we enter the last month of Religious Education classes for the church year (but don't miss our two intergenerational services in June!) I find myself feeling a deep appreciation, as a DRE and a mother, for the volunteer teachers who make each week of RE happen. Twelve of our teachers have volunteered for the entire church year, signing up for all three RE sessions. 12! The entire church year! They didn't teach every Sunday. I think they'd tell you that they felt like they had a good balance of Sundays in the Sanctuary and Sundays in a classroom. But what dedication to the children and youth of our congregation! Can you help me show some appreciation to all of our teachers this month? Perhaps your child(ren) would like to make a card, draw a picture or write a letter to their RE teachers. Maybe you'd like to send some thank you cards yourself. Of course, you can always thank the teachers in person at church. While you're at it ask them what they like about working with our young people. I bet their answer will warm your heart.

*Julie,*

Director of Religious Education



### May RE Schedule

- May 6<sup>th</sup> - Regular classes
- May 13<sup>th</sup> - No classes. Intergenerational Service for Mother's Day
- May 20<sup>th</sup> - Regular classes. Last day of classes for the church year!
- May 27<sup>th</sup> - Large group activity

### June RE Schedule

- June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Baccalaureate (celebrating our graduating seniors). Intergenerational Service
- June 10<sup>th</sup> - Flower Communion. Intergenerational Service



*The 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Compass Points class at their Fun Night April 6<sup>th</sup>*

### Here are our fabulous 2017-2018 volunteer RE teachers:

Kim Casey  
Melissa Goessl-Heiser  
Joni Hahn  
Gina Hanson  
Randy Jefferson  
Mary Beth Maas  
Sarah Mason  
Kay Meyer  
Kate Passineau  
Karen Peterson  
Meg Peterson  
Theran Peterson  
Jaime Rannow  
Sally Schmidt  
Mark Schuler  
Jeremy Trombley  
LeeAnn Venne  
Josh Wright  
Mandy Wright  
Heather Young  
Rose Young



# News for UUs



## ☛ Bacon Fest Brunch!

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13 and we will be honoring all Motherly folk with our annual Bacon Fest celebration. Please make plans to brunch after the church service in our dining hall. Eats will begin at 11:30 a.m. Good will donations of \$5 are appreciated with all proceeds going to the Women's Community. Mothers eat gratis. **Josh Wright** is looking for Dads and children to help with food and service. Please contact him ( 715-212-0999 or [josh-uawright888@gmail.com](mailto:josh-uawright888@gmail.com) if you are able to assist. Thank you!



## ☛ Summer Service Leaders Needed

As many of you know, summer services are lay led, covering a wide range of topics generally selected by the leader. We have eleven summer services this year, June 17 - August 26, for which we need leaders. If you have not led a service before, let this be the year you join the ranks of summer service leader. With our varied interests and rich life experiences, all of us have a message worth sharing within us. The Worship and Music Committee is available to lend you assistance if needed. Please contact committee members **Randy Jefferson, Jim Maas, or Kay Meyer** if you are interested in being a worship leader this summer. Thank you.

## ☛ Congratulations!

**Grace Schuler**, daughter of **Mark Schuler** and **Lisa Giordano**, was named a 2018 Kohl Excellence Scholar through the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation. Excellence Scholarship recipients have demonstrated excellence in the academic arena and high motivation to achieve, have displayed a broad range of activity and leadership outside the academic setting, and have shown strong promise for succeeding in college and beyond. Grace will receive a \$10,000 scholarship from the Kohl Foundation and will be recognized at a special reception .

## ☛ May Second Friday Nighters

Carol Bronston and Orval Quamme will host an adults only gathering on Friday May 11 at 6pm at their home at 817 Becher Dr., on the SE corner of W. Crocker and Becher Dr. Turn onto Burek from Randolph (turn north) or Campus Drive (turn south) and drive to Crocker. Turn east toward the river and turn right on Becher. To your left will be a light tan brick ranch style house with a solar light post at the driveway.

There are two parking places in front of the garage for people who might have difficulty walking the somewhat long driveway. There is parking on both sides of Becher Dr. and Crocker.

Weather permitting, you can walk to the river by descending a short hill behind the house, crossing the 2016 Jerry Phelan designed and built bridge over a stream and a narrow island. As the evening progresses, you are invited to the lower level of the house for some musical fun with our very own Ray Kraemer on piano with rhythm section and recorded music.



## ☛ UU Summer Camping Trip

Now that Spring has finally arrived it's time to start thinking about the annual UU camping trip! Greg and Ingrid Zavadoski have 6 sites (plus one group site) reserved from August 17-19 at Franklin Lake campground (10 miles East of Eagle River). With two families per site, the camping cost is approximately \$20 per family for the weekend. Meals are shared so that you put your effort into one and relax the rest of the time. Come and swim, kayak, hike, bike, run, or read a book by the continuous campfire.

Email Greg and Ingrid at [gzavados@gmail.com](mailto:gzavados@gmail.com) to sign up on a first come, first served basis. New members or families with young children are especially encouraged to join us. This event has been a touchstone for several generations of UU families, with some having spent over 11 summers in those woods! Check out photos from the last camping trip here: [UU Summer Camping trip 2017](#).

# News for UUs



## ☛ May Community Focus Collection

Our May Community Focus Collection will go to **The Women's Community**. Our church has a long history with this organization. Phyllis **Birmingham**, **Josie Paleologue** and **Pierce** and **Betty Langlois** were part of the first paid staff at the original TWC. They were instrumental in laying the groundwork for the future of TWC in the Wausau area. Since 1976 TWC has helped women in need, providing shelter, counseling, education and advocacy to aid them in getting their lives back. Please be generous in your continued support.



## ☛ 3 UU Students Plan to Visit China

In October of this school year, Horace Mann Middle School welcomed 24 student visitors and 3 staff members from Zhangjiagang, China. The 24 visitors were matched with Horace Mann students, who became known as "student buddies".

After the student buddies returned to Zhangjiagang, conversations began about bringing students from Wausau to China. We are proud to share that there are 8 students and 2 chaperones planning to visit China in May to experience the culture and spend a couple days in a Chinese school. Of the 8 students going, 3 are from our very own UU congregation: **Chloe Maier**, **Charles Leigh**, and **Charlie Place**.

The students are selling delicious Seroogy's candy bars in a variety of flavors to assist with the cost of the trip. Monies raised through the purchase of candy bars will be split evenly among all students to defray travel costs. Look for candy bar sales in the atrium!

## ☛ Bird club

In celebration of World Migratory Bird Day, please join the Wausau Bird Club in a spring walk at the Robert W. Monk Gardens, Saturday, May 19, 2018 at 6:30am. This walk is before the Monk Gardens event: the Green Saturday Plant Sale and Garden Flea Market. We will stroll the gardens in search of spring migrants then enjoy shopping for plants and garden items at the flea market. Bring binoculars if you have them! Free event and open to all ages.



## ☛ Rummage sale

Our Rummage Sale is quickly approaching—June 8 and 9. We can accept donated items the first week of June, but if you have a donation that you must drop off before that, we will find room! Lots of help will be needed with set-up, pricing, sales, and take-down. Please see **Anji** or **Karen Peterson** if you would like to help. Our last sale was a fun bonding experience for all who participated, and raised \$4,000 for the operating budget!

## ☛ Social Action News

The End Child Poverty campaign calls for a goal to reduce child poverty in Wisconsin. End Child Poverty WI is seeking 10,000 signatures to show public support for the goal of cutting child poverty & racial disparity in half. Learn more and consider joining the campaign at [www.endchildpovertywi.org](http://www.endchildpovertywi.org)



## May Membership Anniversaries *Happy Anniversary!*



Jerry Gunderson, 61 years	Leigh Tuckey, 56 years	Ellie Ullrich, 49 years
Tim and Karen Peterson, 28 years	Bob & Sally Decker, 26 years	Richard Olson, 23 years
John Faville, 19 years	Bill and Tricia Forbes, 15 years	Mandy Wright, 13 years
Donna Seidel, 12 years	Susan Schwartz, 11 years	Jody & Kati Maier, 10 years
Wayne Olson, 7 years	CJ Heiser & Melissa Goessl-Heiser, 7 years	Collin Csuy, 7 years
Kevin and Holly Briquet Miller, 6 years	Diane Cauer, 4 years	Andrew Holloway, 1 year
Carl Berge, 1 year	Anna Gresch, 1 year	



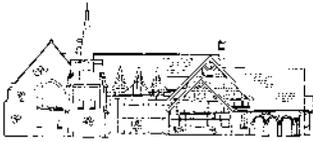


# May 2018 Calendar



1	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong		4:00PM	People/Power of Love	
		7:00PM	Table Tennis		6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice	
2	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time	17	Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project
		4:00PM	People/Power of Love			6:30PM	Tai Chi
		6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice			7:00PM	Table Tennis
3	Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project	19	Sat	8:00AM	Women's Early Risers
		6:30PM	Tai Chi	20	Sun	9:00AM	Teacher Appreciation Breakfast
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			10:30AM	Church Service
6	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
		11:45AM	First Sunday Potluck	21	Mon	4:00PM	Caring Ministry Mtg
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon			6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
7	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	22	Tues	6:30PM	Qigong
8	Tues	6:30PM	Qigong			7:00PM	Table Tennis
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	23	Wed	6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice
9	Wed	6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice	24	Thu	9:30AM	Open Arms Parenting
10	Thu	9:30AM	Open Arms Parenting			6:30PM	Tai Chi
		6:30PM	Tai Chi			7:00PM	Table Tennis
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	26	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
12	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation	27	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
13	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
		11:45AM	Bacon Fest Brunch!	28	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon	29	Tues	6:30PM	Qigong
14	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg			7:00PM	Table Tennis
15	Tues	6:30PM	Qigong	30	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time
		6:30PM	BOT Meeting			6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	31	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi
16	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time			7:00PM	Table Tennis





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

## The Circuit Writer - May 2018

*Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau*

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SINCE 1870