



The Circuit Writer

First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

September 2018

September 10:30AM Services at UU Wausau

September 2

-Annual Church Picnic

Picnic begins at 11AM at Oak Island Park shelter, 500 River Dr, Wausau East.

Please bring a dish to pass and your own plates and utensils. Also bring along any lawn games that you would like to share.

Brian will be giving a “blessing of the backpacks” during the picnic, so be sure to bring yours.

Come out and enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship!



September 9

-Homecoming & Water Ceremony

The Rev. Brian Mason

Homecoming Sunday is an annual intergenerational tradition at UU Wausau. The entire congregation is invited to celebrate Homecoming Sunday with the Unitarian Universalist ritual of Water Ceremony. Please bring a small container of water collected from a special place during the summer’s travels or closer to home. Pouring them into a common vessel, our inner and outer journeys are shared.

September 16

-The Parson’s Reflections, One Year In

The Rev. Brian Mason

On August 1, 2017, I rolled into Wausau, embarking on my first settled parish ministry. Sure, I’d been a hospital chaplain for a number of years, served various churches as a student minister and intern, but I’d never been a solo parish minister until I got up here to the edge of the great Wisconsin Northwoods. This morning I’ll offer some reflections on my first year as UU Wausau’s minister and share some hopes for our future.

September 23

-Philosophy and the Meaning of Life

Mark T. Brown, Ph.D.

Most people have wondered about the meaning of life at one time or another, but for philosophers, it is a central preoccupation. Does the question even make sense? What would an answer look like? Might there be more than one answer, or none at all? Is it the most important thing in the world, or an idle exercise for people with too much time on their hands?

Professor Emeritus Mark T. Brown taught in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin Colleges from 1986-2017. From 2012-2018, Dr. Brown served as an instructor in the Physician Assistant Program at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he specialized in Bioethics. Dr. Brown is a Senior Fellow at the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service and Member of the Wausau Aspirus Hospital Bioethics Committee.

September 30

-What Unitarian Universalism Is & What It Isn’t



The Rev. Brian Mason

Visiting with mentors, attending General Assembly in Kansas City, and preaching in several UU churches this summer gave me opportunity to think about this unique faith we practice. Unitarian Universalism is a great religion, a cathedral window through which the world is reflected in a splendid array of unique colors. But can Unitarian Universalism be everything for everyone? This morning will be a meditation on the history of our faith, where we’re at as a denomination today, and where we might be headed.

From a Window on Grant

Getting the building all tidied up to kick-off the start of the new church has me thinking about what it means to be religious. Most religions encourage practitioners to act and believe in certain ways. Some religions are conservative and restrictive, while others are more liberal and undefined. All of this is just another way of saying that religion doesn't have a very straightforward definition.

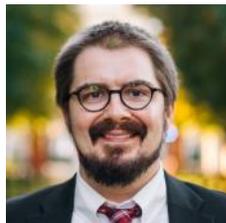
Even so, if you claim to be a Unitarian Universalist then you're saying you're religious. I recognize there are probably as many takes on religion as there are people in this congregation. So, then, what is religion?

In the words of my colleague, the late Forrest Church, "religion is our human response to the dual reality of being alive and having to die." In other words, religion is what we do, it's how we live.

The Catholic **Saint Teresa of Calcutta** asked, "If you were to die today, what would others say about you? What was in you that was beautiful... that helped others pray better?" Far more than books or film, what influences people most is watching others live meaningful, selfless lives. After all, it is what we do that matters. If you want to know what matters most in your life just take a moment and think about how you spend your time.

Susan Frederick-Gray, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, likes to say, "this is no time for a casual faith." Our faith demands much of the practitioner. We cannot be indifferent to our values and responsibilities. We have to be committed to living into the fullest expression of the love and duty we say is at the heart of Unitarian Universalism.

Not any old church or religious community will do. It's hard to find a place to call one's own. Each of us has our own needs and expectations. But I hope you find a place that speaks to your soul, a place where you find friendship, appreciation, and community. A place that challenges you to pray with your feet, to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly as the prophet says.



I hope you find a religious community you call home, a place that sets your heart afire.

When you find a religious community that's right for you it will be able to lend light in dark times. It will be a place where friends lift you up when you're down, a place where you can unwind and laugh, and celebrate life's milestones.

This is the kind of place UU Wausau is. It's this way because of you. So, dear friends, I hope you had a relaxing and joyful summer. But mostly, I hope to see you in church.

In faith & Love,

Brian



Office Space

It's hard to believe it's back-to-church time again. What a quick summer! I'm excited to see all of you at the annual church picnic on Sunday the 2nd.

We will meet at Oak Island Park again this year, since it worked out so beautifully last year to have a playground and grill nearby. **Jeremy Trombley** and **Terry Spialek** will be your grill-masters again this year, serving up hamburgers and hot dogs. Thanks, guys!

Please bring your own plates and utensils. Also bring a dish to pass, a lawn chair, and any fun lawn games you want to play. We will provide water, coffee, and iced tea, but you are welcome to bring your own beverages.

Back-to-church also means back-to-school. Have the kids bring their back-packs to the picnic for Brian's Blessing of the Back-Packs. It's a great way to start out the year.

See you in church,

Arji





REflections



It's an exciting and busy time of the year in Religious Education. Curriculum has been researched, selected, and adapted/edited. Volunteers have been contacted. I'm currently in the middle of meeting with teaching teams and getting our RE meeting spaces ready for the start of the year. Exciting new things are in the works for high school youth. It's shaping up to be another fantastic year in RE! At this time of year, with so many new beginning (maybe it's the teacher in me but I'm always more apt to set resolutions at this time of year than in January), I'd like to invite you to take a few moments to think about what it is that you hope your children/youth take away from our RE program. Maybe even make a list. Then I'd invite you to think about the way (and the frequency in which) your family engages with our church community. Do the two match? Given the way you participate, can your children have the outcomes you want? Or is this an area where you might consider a change?

I hope you can join us for the church picnic on September 2nd at 11:00. Everyone who will be a student this year (pre-school through college) is invited to bring their backpack to the picnic. Right at 11:00 there will be a Blessing of the Backpacks, where **Brian** will share a message and blessing with students. September 9th will be the kickoff of regular 10:30 services with our intergenerational Water Ceremony.

RE classes will begin on September 16th. Our Sunday morning RE schedule will have some changes from last year. Children 0-3 can be dropped off in the nursery starting at 10:15. All other children and youth will be asked to attend the first part of the service in the Sanctuary and move to their classes after the "Story for All Ages". If your child(ren) are in an upstairs classroom (nursery & 4K-1st grade) please pick them up at the end of the service. All children and youth in downstairs classrooms will be released at 11:45 to come upstairs and find the adult responsible for them. 7th & 8th graders in OWL will be released at 12:15.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you back in the building!

Julie



Please be sure to fill out an RE registration form between now and September 16th. We need a new form each year for every family participating in RE.

Here's our exciting line up for class topics this year:

4K-1st grade—Love Surrounds Us

Our youngest class will explore our 7 UU principles, in the context of Beloved Community—family/home, school, and neighborhood. Participants will engage in activities that emphasize the love they feel in community.

2nd-4th grade—Free to Believe

Free to Believe explores UU sources and principles while enriching the social, emotional, and spiritual life of children. They will explore values, beliefs, and principles through hands-on activities, stories, songs, and discussions.

5th-6th grade—Toolbox of Faith & Windows and Mirrors

This group will split the year between two programs. They'll begin with Toolbox of Faith, which invites participants to reflect on the qualities of our UU tradition, such as integrity, courage, and love, as tools they can use in their lives. The second half of the year they'll use Window and Mirrors, which focuses on diversity. The program nurtures children's ability to identify their own experiences and perspectives and to seek out, care about, and respect those of others.

7th-8th grade—Our Whole Lives

OWL is the UUA's comprehensive sexuality curriculum. OWL equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information on human development, relationships, personal skills, responsible sexual behavior, sexual health, and contemporary societal issues. Participants must have permission to join the group and parents must attend an orientation prior to the first session. There is a cap on the number of participants in the class and the class is currently full.

9th-12th grade—Principled Music

This program uses song lyrics to start discussions on social justice issues. Social justice issues will include racism, civil rights, bullying, homophobia, gender stereotyping, income inequality, and war. Participants will be invited to submit their own ideas for songs that fit into each theme.



News for UUs



☛ What Moves Us

Lacking an easily memorized common creed, coupled with what might be called an aversion to traditional language of reverence, we UUs sometimes struggle to explain our beliefs-not just to strangers but to other UUs as well. This five-session adult program will be 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 20th and 21st Century thought. This course relies on input from a wide range of participants, from “seasoned” UUs to ‘emerging’ UUs to explorers. Sign up in Atrium. 10-11:15 am, Tuesdays, Sept 18, 25 and Oct 2, 9, 16.

Facilitated by **Richard Olson**.

☛ Second Friday Nighters

Now that the church year is starting up, it’s time to return to our tradition of getting together the second Friday night of each month! This year, **Greg and Ingrid Zavadoski** have agreed to be our very first hosts.

Join Greg and Ingrid at their home, 720 E. Crocker St, Wausau East, starting aft 6:30pm on Friday, September 14 for fun, food, and fellowship. The Zavadoskis will provide beverages; please bring a hearty appetizer or dessert to share.

Children are welcome to join in the festivities. The family has one dog. See you there!

☛ Birding in Brazil

Join the Wausau Bird Club here at UU Wausau on Monday, September 10 at 6:30PM for a free presentation by **Mary Backus** about her 2017 birding trip to Brazil.

☛ 2018 Community Focus Collections

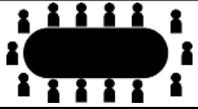
As this is the start of the Church year it is also the start of the Community Focus Collections. As in the past each collection will take place on the 3rd Sunday of the month. A preview of the collection will be in that month’s CW and hopefully we will have a personal representative making the appeal. **Joyce Schneider, Jim Maas** and **Judy Beier** met during the summer and have tentatively scheduled September, October, November and December. They also welcome ideas for the Collections and do hope we hear from some of you. We are an incredibly generous congregation and want to be an active part of our community.

The first Community Focus Collection of the church year is for a program that is part of the Children’s Hospital of WI. A Visitation Center has been established for a ‘safe child exchange’. Currently the exchange is funded for operation for only 6 hours per week. They would like to increase that to 12 hours per week. Why do they need a ‘safe child exchange program’? Find out on Sunday, September 16th when you’ll have an opportunity to learn more during our Community Focus Collection.

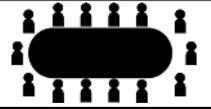
☛ Crop Walk—Save the Date

Join UU Members for the annual Crop Walk, Sunday, October 7, in Marathon Park. More information to follow.





The Board Table



Yawkey Hall is finished!!! It really wasn't as long as it might have been. Getting the contractors to work on a relatively small project in the middle of a summer could have been a nightmare, but Hase construction having worked on our building so often really came through. So now the question is: what was done that cost nearly \$30,000. Not for the first time do I wish I had taken before and after pictures. (Mainly before) What so many didn't and couldn't see was the deterioration of the ceilings (and the poor patch job done many years ago), portions of the crumbling west wall, the splitting of the wood frames on the ceiling beams, and the holes in the walls in the library.

What we could see was the filthy carpet, irrevocably stained with Kool-Aid, soda, and coffee, the water stained and peeling varnish on the window ledges and the just barely hanging drapes due to broken cords and brackets pulling out of the walls.

As usual in all remodeling projects is the high cost of labor. Our plaster and lathe ceiling and walls are very labor intensive to patch, our window ledges had to be hand sanded and then refinished, and the drapes once down needed to be cleaned and the rods repaired before they went back up. Rewiring the ceiling lights were also quite labor intensive as the wiring is old and buried deep in the ceiling opening. Actually ordering the carpet, although time-consuming (nothing like carpet by committee), was the easiest part.

So here is the approximate break down. Hase bill: \$17,600. This includes the demolition to prepare for the repairs, (walls and ceiling), the mill work repairs, repair of the old men's bathroom walls, Lights: \$1,600. Carpet:\$7,000. Drapes: \$1,000. Misc: \$1,000.



The Property committee wishes to thank all of you for your generous contributions to this project. It was exciting for us to work on it and we hope you are as happy with the results as we are. It is now truly the showcase that it was meant to be "back in the day". Use it, enjoy it and show it off!!!

PS: we are still looking into a fireplace insert (trickier than you would think) and dimmers for the overhead lights (also trickier than you would think).

Thank you everyone.

Judy Beier
Property Secretary
Board of Trustees Secretary



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
Kevin Briquelet-Miller, V.P.	briqmill5@aol.com
Judy Beier, Secretary	jandjbeier@yahoo.com
Joyce Kurth	joyce.kurth@gmail.com
Jody Maier	jody.maier@wausausupply.com
Josh Wright	joshuawright888@gmail.com
Sheryl Hemp	wishemp@aol.com
Heather Busig	hbusig@gmail.com
Karen Monarski	krmon12@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
Margaret Jerz, Music Dir.	margaret@uuwausau.org



September 2018 Calendar



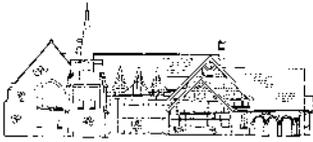
1	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation	17	Mon	4:00PM	Caring Ministry Mtg
2	Sun	11:00AM	Church Picnic			6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon	18	Tue	10:00AM	What Moves Us
3	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg			6:30PM	BOT Meeting
4	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong			6:30PM	Qigong
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			7:00PM	Table Tennis
5	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time	19	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time
		4:00PM	People/Power of Love			4:00PM	People/Power Love
		7:00PM	OWL Parent Meeting			6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice
6	Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project	20	Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project
		6:30PM	Tai Chi			6:30PM	Tai Chi
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			7:00PM	Table Tennis
8	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation	22	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
9	Sun	12:30PM	OWL Parent Meeting	23	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
10	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	24	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
		6:30PM	Wausau Bird Club	25	Tue	10:00AM	What Moves Us
11	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong			6:30PM	Qigong
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			7:00PM	Table Tennis
12	Wed	6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice	26	Wed	6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice
13	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi	27	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			7:00PM	Table Tennis
14	Fri	6:30PM	2nd Friday Nighters	29	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
15	Sat	8:00AM	Women's Early Risers			5:00PM	OWL Fun Night
		4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation	30	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
16	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon				

September Membership Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary!



Dennis and Mary O'Flyng - 47 years, Carol Bronston - 45 years, Andy Benedetto - 38 years
 Ollie Kyler - 35 years, Kathy Schmirler - 21 years, Gary and Kathy Schneck - 14 years
 Beth Martin - 8 years, Rose & Katie O'Connor - 5 years, Paul Kage - 5 years



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

The Circuit Writer - September 2018

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

Inside this Issue:

September Services	1
From a Window on Grant, Office Space	2
Religious Education	3
News For UUs	4,
The Board Table	5
September Calendar	6



FIRST UNIVERSALIST
UNITARIAN CHURCH
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

SINCE 1870