



# The Circuit Writer

*First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau*

March 2018



## March 10:30AM Services at UU Wausau

### March 4

#### ***-Being Good and Doing Good***

The Rev. Brian Mason

Musician: Margaret Jerz & the UU Choir

Unitarian Universalism's Principles, held "as strong values and moral guides," are regarded as cornerstones of our Faith in this modern era. Chief among them is the First, which states: "The inherent worth and dignity of every person." But just because we believe each of us are worthy, good, and honorable doesn't mean we're exempted from actually doing good (q.v. the 6th). The 1st Principle is an affirmative statement, a guide. Think of it like a road trip: it's the place we're headed, not where we're at. As Unitarian Universalists, we're not called simply to be good, but to do good. This morning's sermon will consider all that we're called to do as people of Principles.

### March 11

#### ***-Toward an Inclusive Community***

Eric Giordano

Musician: Parker Quinn

The talk will address issues of bias, including some of the barriers that prevent us from recognizing our own biases. I'll present some of the results from the Toward One Wausau project and suggest some broader lessons learned about creating an inclusive community.

*Eric Giordano serves as Associate Professor of Political Science for the UW Colleges and is the founding director the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service (WIPPS).*

# WIPPS

WISCONSIN INSTITUTE for  
PUBLIC POLICY and SERVICE

### March 18

#### ***-Kicking It Old School***

The Rev. Brian Mason

Musician: Karen Zuidema

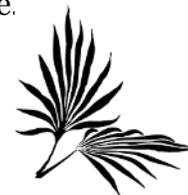
Historically, the church was a centerpiece of American culture. Just take a moment and think where churches are usually located: the centers of town. One of the most important aspects of the church is to serve as a community center, a place where people gather to envision ways to achieve goodness for all townspeople. In a sense, the role of the church is, borrowing a phrase from recent trends in food, to be hyper-local. I firmly believe that if churches are to remain a vital part of American culture we must consider how we, collectively, impact the towns and peoples we live amongst. I think it's time we do something, how shall I say, Old School? It is my prayer that the church considers more ways we might partner with people, organizations, and others within our city to more deeply live our principles, as Unitarian Universalists, in our great city, amongst its fine people.

### March 25

#### ***-Out of One, Many***

The Rev. Brian Mason

On Palm Sunday, held on this day, one week before Easter, Christians invite all who are willing to meditate on Jesus Christ's life and work. In the scriptures, we read that as Jesus made his way into Jerusalem, people throughout the city gathered to lay their cloaks upon the ground to show respect for the rabbi. They marveled because rumor had it this man performed miracles. But also, they marveled because here, embodied in this poor refugee from a hillbilly city, was someone who challenged the oppressive Roman Empire. This Sunday we will meditate on Jesus' life and work, but also on human-kind's duty to serve others; and the big things that become possible when the small things start to add up.



## From a Window on Grant

The recent events in Parkland, Florida, have me experiencing a lot of mixed emotions of which hopelessness, rage, sorrow, and humility are chief among. Each day I read op-eds and articles about the responses from some of our elected leaders. That, in itself, can induce fury. Politicians are, by nature, somewhat slow to act. In principle, I'm okay with that. No decision, especially when its repercussions become the lived experience of the American people should be done without careful consideration. But therein lies my sorrow: nothing, for years, seems to have changed.



Littleton, Colorado; Blacksburg, Virginia; Aurora, Colorado; Newton, Connecticut; Charleston, South Carolina; Roseburg, Oregon; and now Parkland, Florida. It's not like we don't have any reason to feel angry or hopeless, or both. I find it so painful to acknowledge that tragedies like this occur with horrific frequency. So, it came as no surprise to me that survivors of the tragedy in Parkland were quick to counter peoples' thoughts and prayers with demands for action.

This has gone on far too long. That our schools, movie theaters, colleges, and houses of worship are targets for mass murderers is not only a national tragedy, it is nothing short of a collective sin of which we are all a part.

Early signs from Washington seem to be different this time. Leaders on both sides of the aisle seem to be listening to the collective voices of the young women, men, and parents of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High.

For us, keepers of the Faith, we must ensure this horrible tragedy doesn't slip from our collective attention. We cannot let it become just another piece of yesterday's news. 17 families will never hear their beloved's voice again, nor will they feel their embrace. This shouldn't be the case.

There's no way to prevent every tragedy from happening. But there are pieces of legislation that can be put into place that will make things like this harder to pull off. It is our duty to ensure this kind of violence doesn't become commonplace in our society. I don't know where best to start. But I'm going to start by writing my elected officials. Change has to start somewhere. This time I'm going to change, too. I refuse to give into my feelings hopelessness and rage. But I cannot deny my fear. So, I'm reaching out to you all for hope.

In faith,

*Brian*



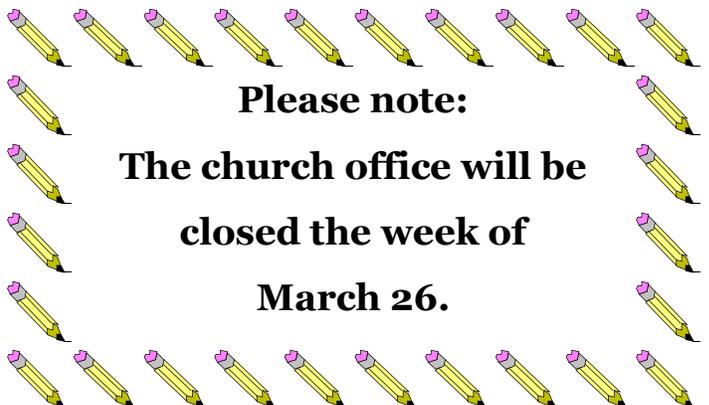
## Office Space

Help Wanted! Are you looking for a behind-the-scenes way to contribute to the church? Consider volunteering an hour or two a week in the office! Office volunteers often help out with things such as straightening and replenishing pencils and envelopes in the sanctuary, watering plants, loading or unloading the dishwasher, straightening name tags, filing invoices, taking out recycling, special projects etc. The sky's the limit! Okay, maybe not the sky, but your help would certainly be appreciated. If this sounds like something that would be rewarding to you, give me a call or an email and we'll get started!



See you in church,

*Anji*



## Religious Education

I'm so grateful for our RE teachers! They volunteer their time to prepare and teach lessons. They gift their creative talents. They each bring something unique that our kids would miss out on if they weren't in the classroom. They also give from their hearts, taking the time to know and care for the kids in their classroom. The majority of our teachers have stayed all church year, signing back up for each session to keep building relationships with the children and youth in their room. Our teachers are amazing! And I know I'm not the only one who appreciates the service our teachers are providing for our church community. If you appreciate our teachers and have your own time and talents to gift, would you like to help me with a teacher appreciation event this spring? Let me know through email or the sign-up sheet in the atrium.



*Julie,*

Director of Religious Education

## Adult Leadership School

Are you currently--or soon to be--in an active lay leadership role? Do you want to know more about consensus building or conflict management, congregational growth, or social justice issues? If you answered yes to any of these questions then perhaps the Midwest Leadership School is for you! This is a week-long intense opportunity for personal growth that will take place July 15-21 in Decorah, Iowa. For more information contact Julie or visit <https://www.mwls.org/mwls/information>.

## Meditation for Wellness Group

Our recent meditation class is transforming into a meditation group, to meet every other Sunday afternoon at 4:30. All are welcome regardless of experience level. Ideal for preteens, teens and adults looking for a group meditation experience. March meditation date: March 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Upcoming RE Schedule

**March 25<sup>th</sup>** No regular RE classes, instead a large group activity is planned for children & youth.

The nursery will be open.

**April 1<sup>st</sup>** No regular RE classes.  
Intergenerational Easter service.

The nursery will be open for children 5 and under.



### Give All to Love

Give all to love;  
Obey thy heart;  
Friends, kindred, days,  
Estate, good-fame,  
Plans, credit and the Muse,—  
Nothing refuse.

'T is a brave master;  
Let it have scope:  
Follow it utterly,  
Hope beyond hope.  
It was never for the mean;  
It requireth courage stout.  
Souls above doubt,  
Valor unbending,  
It will reward,—  
They shall return  
More than they were,  
And ever ascending.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



# News for UUs

## ☛ We Need YoUU!

Sunday mornings just wouldn't be the same without a smiling face at the door to greet old friends and welcome new visitors, or the fellowship we enjoy along with snacks and fresh, hot coffee after service. If you are looking for a fun, low-commitment way to serve your church community, consider signing up to be a Greeter or Coffee Host! Sign-up sheets are on the sign-up table in the atrium, and there's always someone willing to help you learn the ropes. Also, feel free to bring snacks or beverages for the atrium table. Sharing our time, service, and bounty with each other makes Sundays even more special!

## ☛ Stations of the Cross

On Monday, March 26, UU Wausau will participate in the downtown church Stations of the Cross event. This is a unique opportunity to host community members in our beautiful building and provide for them a uniquely UU Easter message. This traditional Christian experience of the last week of Jesus's life is a collaboration of several Wausau churches. Participants start at Church of the Resurrection at 6:30pm and walk from church to church, briefly experiencing each station of Jesus's journey to the cross. UU Wausau is the 5th Station. Free and open to the public.

## ☛ Food Donations



UU Wausau welcomes food donations for the Neighbor's Place and the Women's Community. Non-perishable food items can be placed in the shopping cart in the reception area.

## ☛ No March Second Friday Nighters

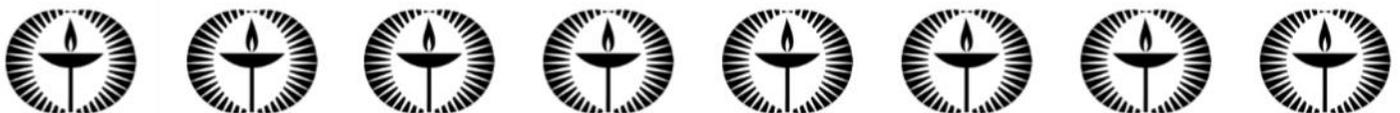
As of publication, no one has signed up to host Second Friday Nighters for March. Let the church office know if you would like to host, and Anji will send out notification if a last-minute host is found.

## ☛ March Community Focus Collection

On March 18, we will take up a Community Focus Collection for The Open Door of Marathon County. The Open Door offers temporary help to current and newly released inmates, such as clothing and a safe place to have a coffee and talk to volunteers about the resources that are available to them. According to their mission statement: "The Open Door is organized to provide charitable and educational services to meet the immediate needs of individuals who are incarcerated and /or who have been released from prison".

## ☛ Wausau Bird Club

Please note that The Wausau Bird Club has canceled its March meeting at UU Wausau.



# News for UUs



## ☛ Pantheon of Illustrious UUs:

A Judge, a Nurse, and a Showman. In Part III of our series Pantheon of Illustrious UUs (or those who leaned that way), we will highlight Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., Clara Barton and P. T. Barnum. 10am, Thursday, March 15. No need to sign up, just show up! **Richard Olson**

## ☛ Movies with Meaning

Join us at 6:30pm on March 22 for Movies with Meaning. This month's film is "The Burden" which tells the story of fossil fuel dependence as our greatest long-term national security threat, and why the military is leading the transition to clean energy. The film is the centerpiece of a strategic media engagement campaign to inspire a movement that strengthens our energy security and harnesses the power of American innovation to make us leaders in the 21st century global clean energy economy.

## ☛ Transportation Needs

The Care Committee is always looking for people willing to help transport church members who are in need of assistance. This can be for appointments during the week and/or rides to and from church on Sundays. Please contact Joyce Kurth at 715-842-0392 or [joyce.kurth@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.kurth@gmail.com) if you are willing and able to help out. In gratitude...

## ☛ 12 Days of Love

Many thanks from the **Ari Schmidt Fund** committee for the 50 generously filled baskets. What wonderful collections of useful, thoughtful and fun items.

The agencies were enthusiastically appreciative as we delivered them.

Receiving agencies included: Neighbor's Place, Community Corner Clubhouse, Open Door, Faith In Action (homebound), First UU Wausau and 5 Programs delivering services out of The Women's Community (Elder Abuse Program, Latino Program, Southeast Asian Program, Human Trafficking Program, Youth Support Program).



## Happy Membership Anniversary!



Edith Peterson—62 years, Jerry Viste—62 years, Dee Scholfield—61 years  
Randy & Anne Jefferson—43 years, Jim & Joyce Schneider—35 years,  
Cindy Owen—20 years, Sally Schmidt—15 years, Laura Syring—15 years



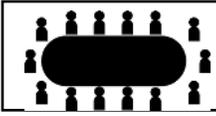
# Treasurer's Congregation Report - through December 2017

1. Key Annual Budget Numbers:		2017 Pledges:	
Total Income	\$300,555	Pledges Budget	\$255,000
Total Expense	\$276,582	Pledges Paid	\$245,274
Net Income	\$ 23,973	Pledges Shortfall	\$ 9,726

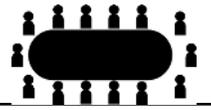
Outstanding Mortgage: \$193,275

2. After experiencing a bit of a financial roller coaster through 2017, we finished the year in a positive financial position. Major factors influencing this result are highlighted below.
3. Total Contributions Income for 2017 was \$276,689, which was 5.8% above the budgeted \$261,500. As had been noted throughout the year, this was driven primarily by Non-Pledged Contributions, \$26,815, versus a budgeted amount of \$3,000. The 2018 budget includes higher Non-Pledged Contributions (\$10,000). It is worth noting that Plate Offerings of \$4,600 exceeded the budgeted \$3,500 by more than \$1,000 (31.4%).
4. Because of parking fee increases, \$6,967 in parking income was 38.8% higher than the budgeted \$5,020.
5. Other Receipts, which are almost entirely from building use and the auction, were about 30% below budget, \$11,900 vs. \$17,022. It is anticipated that building use income will increase in 2018, and \$10,000 is assured for 2018 from the auction apportionment previously set aside by the Board.
6. Total 2017 Income of \$300,555 was 4.2% above the budgeted \$288,542.
7. Total Expense for 2017 was \$276,582, 2.8% below the budget of \$284,490. About \$7,300 of this \$7,908 difference was in music related expenses
8. Total Income exceeded Total Expense by \$23,973. Included in this surplus was a \$5,000 transfer from the Endowment Fund. Because of the positive financial results, the Board reduced the surplus by the amount of the Endowment transfer and returned this money to Endowment.
9. 2018/2019 Prepaid Pledges total \$86,872, almost \$30,000 more than last year, and more than \$18,000 greater than the highest prepaid in the last five years. This may have been impacted by the new federal tax law.
10. As has been separately reported by the Stewardship Committee, we had a strong and successful stewardship campaign for 2018. We began 2018 with pledges exceeded our target by 4%, \$10,273. We do not anticipate that expenses will be under budget to the degree they were in 2017, so meeting our promised pledge income will have a greater impact on our ability to again realize positive financial results in 2018. An analysis of our pledge profile by pledging quartile will be included in the next quarterly Treasurer's report.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randy Jefferson, co-treasurer  
2/28/18



# The Board Table



Our role as the Board of Trustees is to act as the governing body of our church. Within this role we are charged with many tasks, including setting goals and strategies for the year. I would like to highlight some of these goals and encourage anyone interested to reach out and get involved as we move forward.

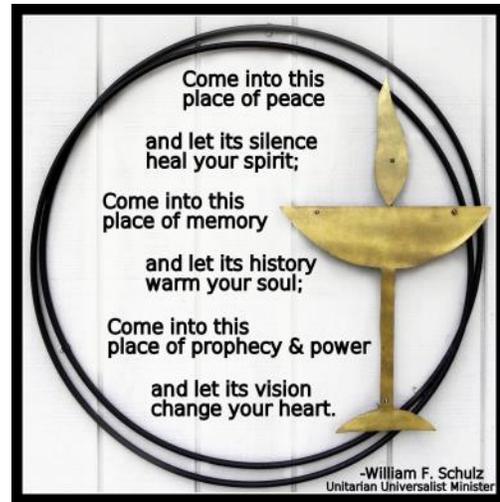
As a Board we see the need to review our governance policy. We will work on ensuring that our church bylaws and policies are in alignment, and will present any revisions to the congregation for a vote. This will include work between the Board of Trustees and the Endowment Committee to look at current policies and revise as recommended. This will be a lengthy but very important process, and again if anyone is interested in helping please reach out to the Board.

Another goal is to look at membership and how it should be defined and how we can expand our membership. There are so many great things going on at UU Wausau, and there are many people out there who may be seeking a sense of community and acceptance found here. We need your help and ideas with defining, maintaining and expanding our membership.

The Board feels it is important to maintain and expand our Social Action footprint in our congregation and the greater community. Our UU Church is a leader in the community when it comes to social action and we want to keep the momentum going and expand our reach even wider. We will need continued and further involvement to keep up and expand all the good work and progress in our social action goals and commitment.

Thank you to all the volunteers past, present and future. The Board has its work cut out for us and the congregation's help and support is appreciated as we keep working towards achieving these goals.

Kevin Briquet Miller, Vice President



## ***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 Briquet-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>
Jody Maier	<a href="mailto:jody.maier@wausausupply.com">jody.maier@wausausupply.com</a>
Josh Wright	<a href="mailto:joshuawright888@gmail.com">joshuawright888@gmail.com</a>
Sheryl Hemp	<a href="mailto:wishemp@aol.com">wishemp@aol.com</a>
Heather Busig	<a href="mailto:hbusig@gmail.com">hbusig@gmail.com</a>
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>



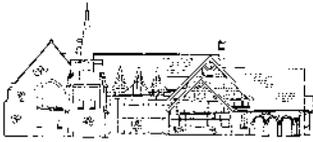
# March 2018 Calendar



1	Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project	15	Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project
		6:00PM	Poetry in the Bible			6:30PM	Tai Chi
		6:30PM	Tai Chi			7:00PM	Table Tennis
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	17	Sat	8:00AM	Wmn's Early Risers
4	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service	18	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
		11:45AM	First Sunday Potluck			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon	19	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
5	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	20	Tues	6:30PM	Qigong
6	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong			6:30PM	BOT Meeting
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			7:00PM	Table Tennis
7	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time	21	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time
		4:00PM	People/Power of Love			4:00PM	People/Power of Love
		6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice			6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice
8	Thu	9:30AM	Open Arms Parenting	22	Thu	9:30AM	Open Arms Parenting
		6:00PM	Poetry in the Bible			6:30PM	Movies with Meaning
		6:30PM	Tai Chi			6:30PM	Tai Chi
		7:00PM	Table Tennis			7:00PM	Table Tennis
10	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation	25	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
11	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service			4:30PM	Meditation Group
		4:30PM	Meditation Group			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon	26	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
12	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	27	Tues	6:30PM	Qigong
13	Tues	6:30PM	Qigong			7:00PM	Table Tennis
		7:00PM	Table Tennis	28	Wed	6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice
14	Wed	6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice	29	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi
15	Thu	10:00AM	Pantheon Class			7:00PM	Table Tennis
		6:00PM	Poetry in the Bible	31	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation

March is Women's History Month. Read about ten of the countless influential UU women who changed the world for the better here:

[Unitarian Universalist Association](http://www.uua.org)



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Church of Wausau  
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## The Circuit Writer - March 2018

*Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau*

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FIRST UNIVERSALIST  
UNITARIAN CHURCH  
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

SINCE 1870