



The Circuit Writer

First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

March 2019

March 10:30AM Services at UU Wausau

March 3

- Of Faith and Love and Fire and Grapevines

The Rev. Brian Mason

I experience life through my faith. The world shines through in senses and seasons, and love and life, and yes, even death. My faith is sometimes hearty and other times thin. It is there with the best of me and also with the worst. My faith is there when I read the morning paper, walk the halls of hospitals, and make a marriage. Let us gather this morning for a conversation about faith, the practice, and crises of it.

March 10

-Healthcare as a Moral Issue

Guest Speaker Joel Lewis

Joel Lewis, an Organizer with Citizen Action of Wisconsin, will share how his background in Catholicism and Quakerism informs his work as an organizer. Mr. Lewis's current project aims to inspire Wisconsin's elected officials to expand healthcare coverage to the more than 80,000 people who, under the current system, are unable to afford it.

March 17

-Lent for UUs

The Rev. Brian Mason

Lent can be for UUs too. Traditionally, Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and anticipation; a period of self-examination and reflection. It lasts 40 days, mirroring the time Jesus spent in the wilderness. Or, put another way, the time he took a hardcore spiritual retreat in the boon-docks. In an age characterized by isolation, distraction, and consumption, a moment of quiet and forbearance may hold the key to more cheerful hearts.

March 24

-Ms. Malden Just Wants to Go Home

The Rev. Brian Mason

Politics in America is changing. When is it not? Our nation has enjoyed a mostly two-party system for a long time. But it appears we are on the brink of a fundamental shift. Republicans are fracturing, as are the Democrats, with segments in both parties moving further to the left and right. Moreover, research suggests Americans are choosing their religion, not based on personal convictions, but rather on political affiliation, resulting in endless echo chambers. Let's break polite company's cardinal rule this Sunday—let's talk politics and religion.

March 31

-Lessons Learned from Hummingbirds

The Rev. Brian Mason

Lord have mercy, but spring just might be on the horizon. Some of us spend winter on ski slopes or sleds. Others endure it in front of therapy lamps. (The lucky ones spend it in Florida or California.) As we anxiously await the rustle of spring, let's meditate on nature's patience and hummingbirds.



From a Window on Grant



Sunday mornings are often a flurry of activities. We scurry into the sanctuary, our children go off to RE classes, we worship, break for coffee, and are out the door before lunch. In the receiving line I usually hear at least six things I feel like I need to follow up with. I get quick updates about doctor's appointments and ski meets, comments about the sermon, and book and podcast suggestions.

By the time I make it out for coffee I've got so much on my mind I have to take a breath before I pour a cup. This rush of activity and racing of the mind isn't unique to me. All of us know what it's like to feel rushed, to feel pulled from one thing to the next. The challenge is to deepen our awareness of the world unfolding right before us. To be fully present to the person we're in conversation with, to be aware of the messages our bodies are sending us, and to be open to the uncanny and unexpected.

March, thank heavens, is finally here, and that means spring is around the corner. I pray the cold and snow are almost over. I don't think Wausau has any room for much more snow. As eager as I am for the return of warmer weather, I am grateful for February's ferocity. It reminded me of the importance and need for the warmth of human fellowship in all its expression, fast or slow. I am grateful for the church for this and for the people who make it one.

With Gratitude,

Brian



Please note:
The church office will be
closed the week of
March 25.
Thank you!

Office Space

This month, I would like to shine a spotlight on the importance of all of our UU Wausau volunteers.

Thanks so much to all of you who have volunteered your time and efforts on Sunday mornings: ushers, greeters, coffee hosts, altar flower providers, fair trade coffee vendors, teachers, and worship associates.

Beyond that, we count on volunteers to host our potlucks and Second Friday Nighters, as well as special events: soup sales, the goods and services auction, valentine's baskets, Christmas gifts for children in need, bringing flowers to and visiting our homebound; these are only a handful of the ways in which your commitment and service make this place what it is.



Let's all take a moment to appreciate what makes UU Wausau truly special: You.

See you in church,

Anji

REflections

Do you want to know more about consensus building or conflict management, congregational growth, or social justice issues? If you do, then perhaps the Mid-west Leadership School is for you.



This is a week-long intense opportunity for adults AND youth to explore their spirituality and nurture the gifts they bring to their congregation. MidWest Leadership School and Youth MidWest Leadership School will take place July 14-20 in Decorah, Iowa. For more information visit <https://mwls.org>. If you are interested in attending contact me at julie@uuwausau.org.

Julie

March RE Schedule

- March 3: Regular Classes
- March 10: Regular Classes
- March 17: Regular Classes
- March 24: No classes, Large group activity, nursery open
- March 31: No classes, Large group activity, nursery open

Like the First Hint of Green

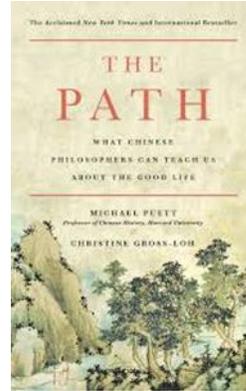
By Jennifer McGlothin

As the first hint of green begins to peek
through the barren ground
As that little sprig grows into a healthy stem
As that stem grows into a stalk and forms
a bud
As that bud slowly opens with each new day
To form a yellow daffodil
Let us be, like that first hint of green,
renewed by the warm of the sun's rays
And ready to emerge with a new energy,
ready to face the day.

Adult Religious Education

Minister's Book Club:

Wednesday, March 27, 6:30PM-8:00PM or
Thursday, March 28, 10:00AM-11:30AM. We'll
read and discuss *The Path: What Chinese
Philosophers Can Teach Us About the Good Life*
by Michael Puett and Christine Gross-Loh.



Exploring Contemplative Practices:

Exploring Contemplative Practices: Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. In our hectic day-to-day lives we all need opportunities to intentionally slow down. This workshop series will introduce you to a different Contemplative Practice each week. You'll have the opportunity to learn about and then try the practice, in each workshop. You'll leave with some basic knowledge and the ability to add the practice to your own personal toolbox of Contemplative Practices. Each workshop will be led by a member of our congregation. Registration is not required. Contact Julie at julie@uuwausau.org with questions. Remaining schedule as follows:

March 2nd: **Labyrinths as a Contemplative Practice**, with **Marguerite Donnelly**

March 9th: **Drumming as a Contemplative Practice**, with **Margaret Jerz**

March 16th: **Collage as a Contemplative Practice**, with **Sarah Mason**

March 23rd: **Zentangle as a Contemplative Practice**, with **Sally Schmidt**



News for UUs

☛ March First Sunday Potluck

Give a hand to the Busig family for hosting March's First Sunday Potluck!

This month's theme is green food - just in time for St. Patrick's Day. Bring along your favorite green tinted dish to share on Sunday, March 3, and meet us in the dining hall after the service.

☛ March Second Friday Nighters

As of now, there is no one scheduled to host Second Friday Nighters in March.



☛ 12 Days of Love

Many thanks from the **Ari Schmidt Fund committee** for the 40 generously filled baskets. What wonderful collections of useful, thoughtful and fun items. The agencies were enthusiastically appreciative as we delivered them.

Receiving agencies included: The Warming Center, Neighbor's Place, Community Corner Clubhouse, Open Door, Head Start, First UU Wausau, Randlin Home, The Women's Community Southeast Asian Program and the Juvenile Detention Center.



☛ March Community Focus Collection

The Community Focus Collection on March 17th will be taken for a nationally recognized group working out of Tucson, Arizona called **No More Deaths**. This group is a ministry of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson. It won the UUA Wilton Peace Prize for their contribution to 'peace and human progress' in 2018. From leaving food and water in the desert to documenting Border Patrol abuses to testifying in DC, they are fighting to end human rights abuse at the border. Find out how you can help.

In February, you raised \$414 for **Blessings in a Backpack!**

☛ QiGong & Tai Chi

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 6:30 until about 9:00 pm, you are welcome to join teacher **Larry Riddle** and others for stretching and Qigong (on Tuesdays) and for stretching and Tai Chi (on Thursdays). The stretching portion of the classes lasts for about 90 minutes. For Qigong and Tai Chi students, *stretches are required*. Beginners are welcome. Wear loose fitting clothes and flat tennis shoes, if you have them. These classes are free and open to the public.

☛ YWCA Women of Vision

The YWCA invites you to participate in the 26th annual Women of Vision recognition program by nominating a woman who has provided inspiring, innovative, impactful leadership and/or has made significant contributions to the community of Central Wisconsin. An independent panel of community members and past Women of Vision will select the award recipients.

The deadline for nominations is April 1, 2019 and the ceremony is May 17th

Please contact the YWCA at 715-842-3381 for further information and to obtain the nomination forms.

Treasurer's Congregation Report - through December 2018

1. Key 2018 Annual Budget Numbers:		2019 Pledges (Pledge Drive Through 2/18/19):	
Total Income	\$331,917	Pledges Budget	\$285,000
Total Expense	\$316,752	Pledges Made	\$281,877
Net Income	\$ 15,165	Pledges Lower Than Budget	\$ 3,123

Outstanding Mortgage: \$159,729

2. We ended the 2018 fiscal year with a surplus of \$15,165. This amount was transferred to the Reserve Fund, bringing this restricted fund to \$81,859. The Reserve Fund is managed by the Board and has been used in recent years for making payments to reduce the mortgage principal and address unbudgeted expenses.
3. Total pledges received for 2018 were \$263,702, which exceeded our budgeted pledge amount (\$255,000) by 3.4%. Pledges received were about 0.5% less than the amount actually pledged for 2018, \$265,000.
4. Total Contributions, which are comprised of pledges, non-pledge contributions, and plate offerings, produced \$293,006 in income. This amount was \$24,806 (9.2%) higher than budget.
5. Operating expense for the year was under budget by \$4,994 (1.6%). All expense categories were at or under budget with the exception of Building and Grounds, which was \$9,631 (30.6%) over budget. This excess was due to unbudgeted bat removal expenses of about \$12,000.
6. 2018 was another solid year for the church financially due to the generosity of members and friends, and sound fiscal management by staff and the Board. We have challenged ourselves in 2019 to build on the strong foundation that has been laid by increasing our budgeted pledge dollars from 2018 by almost 12% to \$285,000. The 2019 pledge numbers at the beginning of this report show that, while we have exceeded the 2018 results for both pledge dollars and pledges actually received, we are still short of our goal. If you have yet to make a 2019 pledge, or are in a position to increase your pledge, please make your intentions known to Anji Spialek, our Congregational Administrator. Thank you.
7. The report submitted by the local accounting firm that examined our financial processes to ensure that our accounting practices meet the appropriate industry standards indicated that all are in order and no irregularities were identified.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Jefferson, co-treasurer
2/18/2019

Social Justice Committee Update

Thoughts, Attention and Action

The poet Mary Oliver writes on prayer, “It’s often useful to put aside conventional questions of belief and existence in order to dwell on the importance of attention.” **Attention** has been a key element of the Social Justice Committee’s renewed work.

Renewed Attention and Energy

The Social Justice Committee now has a good mix of veterans and new members. All have been exploring how the committee can best reorganize, identify a relevant purpose, and move ahead on new priorities. The reorganization took place in October followed up in November with a meeting guided by Faith Wilfley which focused on establishing priorities and goal setting. There were many topics and needs identified, but the group narrowed their focus to the priority areas of **Reproductive Rights and Immigration**. The group decided that both reproductive rights and immigration issues align with national, state and local priorities. Goals include building relationships, expanding congregational involvement, improving communication, and strengthening the structure of the committee. In November and December a resolution regarding the work of the committee was drafted, reviewed and brought to the Board of Trustees and congregation for its approval at the annual meeting.

So What’s Next?

Over the next few months two work groups, one on reproductive rights and the other on immigration will research and identify projects that can be accomplished in a realistic way that support and improve the lives of those in need. We want to learn from the experience of others, partner when possible with community groups who are already involved in action projects and expand in areas not yet addressed.

Success: Attention to Racial Injustice

The Social Justice Committee worked with the YWCA, People for the Power of Love and the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service to organize “The Trauma of Racial Bias” event held at the YWCA on January 20th. Presenters were Fran Kaplan and Reggie Jackson from Nurturing Diversity Partners in Milwaukee. They also spoke on “Truth-telling as Healing” at church that morning. They did a wonderful job and brought valuable insight for the many people who attended. Our hope is to bring them back up North to continue the conversation and help our community take more steps towards racial equity.

For Your Attention

A priority of the social justice committee is to communicate with the congregation, reach out and encourage new members to join so that you can share your knowledge, interest, and energy. Feel free to share suggestions or to drop in to a meeting on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 PM in the church’s dining room. Come to listen, share your ideas, and learn with us! There is also a sign up in the atrium if you would like to be added to a listserv where you will get meeting notices and minutes.

Roxann Bornemann,
Committee Member

Under the Big Top...



2019 Auction FUNdraiser
April 27 at 6:00 p.m.

The Circus Is Coming to First UU Wausau

Ladies and gentlemen: Step right up!

Your calendar has been marked for **Saturday, April 27 at 6 p.m.** for this year's Goods & Services Auction. **It's time to submit your catalog description of the goods and/or services you're going to contribute.** Be daring. Be high-flying. Be death-defying. Be **GENEROUS!**

Whether or not you contribute an item to be placed up for auction, please attend the auction event on April 27 and enjoy our 3-ringed spectacle of fundraising fun — wherein you'll be cordially invited to bid like . . . umm, well, like a caged lion trying to buy your way free from the crack and sting of the lion tamer's whip! Too dramatic? Okay, bid like there's no net, and only YOU can keep liberal religious values from losing their grip on the trapeze of bad metaphors.

We have an ambitious fundraising goal, and we raise this money when YOU (church members and friends) donate goods, skills, dinners, and services — and others bid on your offerings. Examples of past donations include:

- **GUIDED OUTINGS** (hiking, camping, canoeing, boat picnics)
- **THEME DINNERS** (Thai, Finnish, Indian, Mystery, Valentine's Day)
- **FOOD** (dessert-a-month, soup/bread Sunday suppers, cooking classes, homemade wine)
- **"EDU-TAINMENT" EVENTS** (yoga or dance lessons, local beer-tasting party, golf lessons, music lessons)
- **HELPFUL SERVICES** (tutoring, legal services, landscaping, computer help, pet sitting, handyman help)
- **COTTAGE OR VEHICLE USE**
- **GOODS** (artwork, jewelry, summer flower bouquet-of-the-month, pottery, antique furniture, firewood; if your item won't bring in at least \$20, please save it for next year's church rummage sale fundraiser)

Feel free to solicit local vendors for items or gift certificates, too!

This wonderful evening of eating, socializing, fortune-telling, bidding, merriment, and more happens every 2 years. It's a great way to spend time with new and old UU friends in a fun setting — and to **WIN services, invitations to events, and fabulous items via the Goods & Services Silent Auction.**

Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres & yummy desserts. We promise a great assortment of auction items and FUN of all sorts. The proceeds from the 2019 auction will help continue the church's dynamic expansion.

Please consider any way you might contribute (time/donation or both) and contact Jerry Phelan (GCPhelelan@gmail.com; 715-506-1642).

We're looking for people to join the Auction Committee to help with planning, set-up, decorating, etc. Our next Auction Committee planning meetings will be held at church on **Sunday, March 3 & 24 at 9:00 a.m.**





March 2019 Calendar



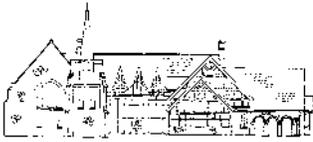
2 Sat	10:00AM	Adult RE Labyrinth	17 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation		3:30PM	Yoga
3 Sun	9:00AM	Auction Meeting		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
	10:30AM	Church Service	18 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
	11:45AM	First Sunday Potluck		7:00PM	Amnesty Int'l
	3:30PM	Yoga	19 Tue	5:00PM	People/Power of Love
	6:00PM	Overeaters Anon		6:30PM	Board of Trustees
4 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg		6:30PM	Qigong
	6:00PM	Social Justice Mtg	20 Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time
5 Tue	6:30PM	Qigong		4:00PM	People/Power of Love
6 Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time		5:00PM	Proud Theater
	4:00PM	People/Power of Love		6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice
	5:00PM	Proud Theater	21 Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project
	6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice		6:30PM	Tai Chi
7 Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project	23 Sat	10:00AM	Adult RE Zen Tangle
	6:30PM	Tai Chi		4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
9 Sat	10:00AM	Adult RE Drumming	24 Sun	9:00AM	Auction Meeting
	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation		10:30AM	Church Service
10 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
	3:30PM	Yoga	25 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
	6:00PM	Overeaters Anon	26 Tue	6:30PM	Qigong
11 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	27 Wed	5:00PM	Proud Theater
12 Tue	6:30PM	Qigong		6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice
13 Wed	5:00PM	Proud Theater		6:30PM	Minister's Book Club
	6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice	28 Thu	10:00AM	Minister's Book Club
14 Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi		6:30PM	Tai Chi
16 Sat	8:00AM	Women's Early Risers	30 Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
	10:00AM	Adult RE Collage	31 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation		3:30PM	Yoga
				6:00PM	Overeaters Anon

Join our knitters for **Shawl Time** on the first and third (and fifth, if there is one) Wednesdays of each month to create shawls to keep us cozy in the sanctuary and to distribute to those in need of some loving comfort. In March, Shawl Time will meet on the 6th and 20th at 10:00 AM.

All are welcome - seasoned and beginning knitters alike!

Happy Membership Anniversary!

Edith Peterson—63 years, Jerry Viste—63years, Dee Scholfield—62 years
 Randy & Anne Jefferson—44 years, Jim & Joyce Schneider—36 years,
 Cindy Owen—21 years, Sally Schmidt—16 years, Laura Syring—16 years



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

The Circuit Writer - March 2019

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

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