

THE CIRCUIT WRITER

November 2019

November Sundays at First UU Wausau

“Meanwhile the wild geese,
high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.”

- *Mary Oliver*

Sunday, November 3:

The Reverend Brian Mason, preaching

RE: Regular classes

Sunday, November 10: “For Goodness’ Sake”

Richard Olson, preaching

RE: Regular classes

Chapter 27 of the Tao Te Ching offers these two rhetorical questions: “What is a good man but a bad man’s teacher?” “What is a bad man but a good man’s job?” Lao-Tzu, the wise sage that he was, knew how to cleverly issue a charge to the world.

Sunday, November 17:

The Reverend Brian Mason, preaching

RE: Regular classes

Sunday, November 24: Bread Communion

The Reverend Brian Mason, preaching

No RE this Sunday: children are invited to participate in this intergenerational ceremony. Nursery is available for children 5 years and under.

What is your heritage? Who are your people? What traditions do you preserve and share with your friends and family?

Please bring the bread (or baked good) of your heritage to share. And of course, bring the story, or stories, that convey its specialness to you.

You won’t want to miss this annual UU Wausau tradition!

FROM A WINDOW ON GRANT. . .

I have to begin this newsletter with some thanksgiving. For the past few weeks I've had to wear the minister's hat, and also the congregational administrator's. On one hand, it's never a bad thing to learn more about the place you work. I enjoy learning new things. And I love this church and will always do everything I can to ensure that it runs smoothly, even if it means I have to make personal sacrifices. But on the other hand, it was too much. It was more work than I can do alone; it's more work than anyone can reasonably expect me to do, too.

Thankfully I didn't have to.

There are people in this church that recognized that and gave freely of their time to help support this church and me during a time of transition - People like Anne Jefferson who came in and answered phones and kept the office open so I could still "be the minister" - and Karen Monarski, Joyce Kurth, Dänika Kozlovich, and Randy Jefferson.

There was Karen Peterson who visited homebound members. There was Tim Peterson who swung by every couple of days to see if there's anything he could lend a hand with.

There was the anonymous person who left a brownie in my mailbox, which I instantly devoured in one bite.

There were all of those encouraging emails that told me how much they appreciate having me as their minister.

There were all of those committees that kept up the good work of this church.

There was the Caring Committee that once again hosted beautiful memorial services and receptions. There was Randy Jefferson, again, who preached for me in a pinch, and Richard Olson who picked up a Sunday in November with short notice. There was Julie Trombley, Margaret Jerz, and Rachelle Schorer who lifted me up when all I wanted to do was lie down. And then there were all of you who, together, make this church a warm sanctuary of love and fellowship. Thanks to all of you who've helped out in recent weeks. It means the world to me and proves that this really is a healthy, vibrant congregation.

But I want to end this letter by saying how impressed I was by the October 20 service led by Ruby Fischer, Danika Monarski, and Alek Zavadoski. I was inspired by their message of *Communication, Leadership, and Change*.

I want to answer one of the challenges they offered by pledging to sponsor a youth member of our church to attend General Assembly every year, for as long as I'm UU Wausau's minister. What that means, specifically, is that I will cover the cost of registration and offset travel and lodging by an additional \$200. I'm doing this because I want to empower the youth of this church with the tools they need to be the selfless, humble, and committed leaders our churches need. In that service, their leadership ability and potential were on full display. They inspired and reminded me that being a leader means you sometimes follow, that the hardest and best form of communication is to listen, and that I must be willing to be led and changed by the voices of the people right here in our midst. Their message couldn't have come at a better time. For that I am eternally grateful.

So, who's going to sponsor the next youth ambassador to General Assembly? Nobody likes to travel alone!

See you in church,

Brian

REflections

Gross & Creepy Snack

A special *thank you* to everyone who helped make Gross & Creepy Snack a fun experience. This is a BIG morning that requires a lot of hands. Thank you to everyone who brought a snack! Thank you to Maggie, Tessa, & Sally Schmidt; Kate & Lily Passineau; Josh, Sylvia, & Lucy Wright; Helen Walsh; Marsha Fitzgerald; Karen Peterson; Joni Hahn; Mary Pierce; Jeremy Trombley; Chloe Maier; Maddie Busig; Jefferson Le; and Ingrid, Greg, & Alek Zavadoski, for decorating, organizing and running games, and helping to clean up! Thanks for making this a special day for the children and youth of our congregation!

Sign Up for the Christmas Pageant and Pageant Choir!

It's Christmas Pageant time! Our Christmas Pageant is scheduled for Sunday, December 15th, during the regular 10:30 am church service time. Children and youth who would like to be a part of the Pageant and/or the Pageant Choir can **sign up on the clipboards in the atrium**. Children and youth are welcome to be in the Choir, the Pageant, OR both.

Pageant

With speaking and non-speaking parts, there's a place for everyone who wishes to participate in the Pageant! Speaking parts include: Mary, Angel Gabriel, Angel of the Lord, and a Shepherd. Non-speaking parts include: Star, Joseph, Magi, Shepherds, Heavenly Host (angels), and Animals (any type and many are needed).

Lead roles will be decided via a simple lottery drawing of interested youth.

There will be two Pageant rehearsals, December 8th, 12:30-2:00 pm (lunch provided) and a Dress Rehearsal on Saturday, December 14th, 4:00-5:30 pm.

Pageant Choir

Open to anyone who loves to sing (the ability to read is a plus)! **The Pageant Choir will rehearse November 10th at 9:30 am, November 24th at 11:45 am, December 1st, at 9:30 am, December 8th, 9:30 am AND 12:30-2:00 pm, and December 14th, 4:00-5:30 pm.** With so little practice time, it's very important that Pageant Choir participants mark their calendars and plan to attend MOST rehearsals.

Very simple costumes are to be provided by the participants themselves, from home.

Pictured: 2019's Gross & Creepy Snack Participants



REflections...for Adults

November's Soul Matters question: What does it mean to be a people of ATTENTION?



This month's small group packet is FULL of wonderful resources and information on the topic of ATTENTION. The packet also contains an invitation to several spiritual exercises, and reflection through the monthly questions. These packets are available to all members. If you aren't in a small group, you can pick up a packet on the reception counter at church, or ask Julie to email one directly to you.

Our next round of small groups will begin in February. You'll have the opportunity to register in January. Contact Julie with questions.

November Adult RE Offerings:

First UU Wausau Adult Choir – Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00

Singing as spiritual practice. Join the choir to connect to yourself and others through soulful music.

Drum Club – Mondays, 7:00-8:00 pm

1005 Steuben Street, home of Margaret Jerz, Music Director

No previous experience in percussion is necessary – just a pair of hands and the willingness to listen, watch, focus, and match. All instruments will be furnished. The sessions will feature equal parts of community building, meditative drumming, and recreational activities along with the development of fundamental skills.

Family Drum Club – Tuesday, November 19th, 6:30-7:30 pm

1005 Steuben Street, home of Margaret Jerz, Music Director

Similar to Adult Drum Club but geared to all ages. This percussion experience includes plenty of instrument exploration.

Minister's Book Club

Please note that the Minister's Book Club will take a holiday break for November and December, and will return in January.

Early Risers

If you'd like to join other church members or friends the 3rd Saturday of the month, 8 a.m. at The Eagle's Nest for breakfast and conversation, please join us! Currently the 12 members are all females but all are welcome. For more information and to get on the email list to be notified of meetings, please email Carol Bronston at cbronston39@gmail.com.

FIRST UU THANKSGIVING DINNER!

Join us again for the First UU Thanksgiving Dinner, in our Dining Hall!

What: An evening of readings, songs, toasts, feasting, and fellowship

When: Thursday, Nov. 21, at 6PM

Provided: Turkey, potatoes and gravy, plates and tableware

Bring: In addition to family & friends -

- A dish to share—vegetable, salad, bread, dressing, or dessert
- A toasting beverage and glass
- A contribution to cover the cost of turkey

Sign up: (so we know how many to prepare for) At the table in the Atrium, or contact Sheryl Hemp to RSVP, get more info, or volunteer to help. (715) 571-0604 or wishemp@aol.com



FAIR TRADE BASKETS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Do you need a hostess gift for the Holidays? Or a consumable gift for that person who has everything? Consider a basket of Fair Trade goods. We will provide baskets (or bring your own), tissue and wrappings. You purchase the Fair Trade chocolate, nuts, coffee or hot chocolate (new this year-watch for a Sunday tasting event soon).

Available on November 24 for Thanksgiving giving and after church on December 1, 8, 15, and 22. Profits from sales of Fair Trade goods support the Ari Schmidt Troublemaker Fund for Bus, Bail and Pizza which provides assistance to First UU participants undertaking social justice experiences or projects.



Remember that First UU Wausau has **Fair Trade coffee and chocolate** for sale on Sundays. The products come from Equal Exchange: A worker owned co-operative founded in 1986. Take some home to share with friends and family.

The modest profits from these sales go to the Ari Schmidt Fund for Bus, Bail and Pizza – which offers funding to individuals from our church community wishing to experience,

SECOND FRIDAY NIGHTERS

The November 2019 Second Friday Nighters will be hosted by Mary & Mike Moen from 6:30-9:00PM on Friday, November 8th, at their home. Their address is 303 South 32nd Avenue, on Wausau's west side, near Menards.

This is an adult only event and there is one small dog who is mistress of the house. Questions? Call the Moens at (715) 848-1796.

LOST & FOUND

Lady's jacket found after the service for Ben Christian-son. To retrieve please call Carol at (715) 675-0353 and identify.

WINTER RETREAT

Join us for this year's Winter Retreat at Camp Manitowish's Schwartz Lodge Jan 24-25-26, 2020. A full week-end of friends, fun, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, shared meals and winter fun.

Contact Sally Schmidt at (715) 370-1157 or sallyschmidt213@gmail.com to sign up or for info.

The 2019 Annual Congregational meeting will take place December 8 after the service. All UUA certified members are encouraged to attend to vote on the 2020 Budget, board and endowment nominations and minutes from last year's meeting.

TYLER'S HOME FOR KIDS

Respite is sometimes a term people are not familiar with, but it is the number one supportive service for families that have a child with disabilities. It is define as a "much needed break" from the daily cares and demands of raising a child with special needs. Having a child with a disability can be physically, emotionally and financially draining on the entire family, but especially the parents. Because it can be difficult to find qualified or willing caregivers for their child, parents start to feel overwhelmed. Respite is designed to give families a chance to relax and re-energize. Studies have found that regular respite decreases stress and depression for caregivers.

Opportunity Inc. developed "Tyler's Home" in 2000 with the support of a local couple, Liz and George McKinnon, who needed and dreamed of a respite home in their community. The reality came together through the support of volunteers, businesses, and agencies when Tyler's Home became fully licensed to provide respite for children one week through 17 years. Being able to care for children with all disabilities, as well a various special medical needs, makes this "home away from home" a unique asset in our community.

This month's CFC is to help raise funds to support parents and caregivers who need this help, to be able to afford it. Respite care is not inexpensive, but Opportunity Inc. strives to raise funds to enable those who would benefit be able to use it. As always, we thank you for your unfailing generosity.

CFC Committee

NOVEMBER 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Buddhist Meditation 4PM
3 10:30AM — Service 1st Sunday Potluck! 3:30PM —Narcotics Anonymous 6PM — Overeaters Anonymous	4 Women's AA 6PM Wausau Bird Club 6:30	5 Qi Gong 6:30PM	6 Shawl Time 10AM PFPL—6PM Adult Choir 6:30PM	7 Tai Chi—6:30PM	8 Second Friday Nighters— Mike & Mary Moen's house 6:30PM	9 Buddhist Meditation 4PM
10 10:30AM — Service 3:30PM —Narcotics Anonymous 6PM — Overeaters Anonymous	11 Caring Committee meeting 4PM Women's AA 6PM	12 Qi Gong 6:30PM Board of Trustees Mtg—6:30	13 Adult Choir 6:30PM	14 Tai Chi—6:30PM	15	16 Women's Early Risers—8AM Buddhist Meditation 4PM
17 10:30AM — Service 3:30PM —Narcotics Anonymous 6:00PM — Overeaters Anonymous	18 Women's AA 6PM	19 Qi Gong— 6:30PM	20 Shawl Time 10AM PFPL—6PM Adult Choir 6:30PM	21 UU Thanksgiving Dinner! 6PM Tai Chi—6:30PM	22	23 Buddhist Meditation 4PM
24 10:30AM — Service 3:30PM —Narcotics Anonymous 6:00PM — Overeaters	25 Women's AA 6PM	26 Qi Gong— 6:30PM	27 Adult Choir— 6:30	28	29	30 Buddhist Meditation 4PM



First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau
504 Grant Street
Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

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Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

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