



# The Circuit Writer

*First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau*

April 2019

## April 10:30AM Services at UU Wausau

### April 7

#### **- Spring Sing!**

The Rev. Brian Mason, Margaret Jerz, and the UU Wausau Choir

The great preacher and musician Thomas H. Troeger regards music as prayer. Humankind, unique among creatures, can use its gifts to create art that brings people closer to God, closer to what truly matters. Of course, art can be used to inspire unsavory things or worse. But when used well, art is able to inspire acts of justice and righteousness. This Sunday we will experiment with Troeger's idea of music as prayer. Please join us for Spring Sing! as we sing some of our favorite hymns and hear special performances by the UU Wausau choir.

### April 14

#### **-A Message From Our Youth, on Self-Acceptance**

Join us as our high school youth take over the pulpit for the day! Under the supervision of youth advisors Karen Monarski and Jaime Rannow, the high school youth have prepared a service on a topic that's important in their lives. They'll share their experiences, insight, and wisdom on the ways self-acceptance, or the lack of it, affects their lives.

### April 21

#### **-Practicing Resurrection**

The Rev. Brian Mason

This Easter Sunday sermon, the title of which is borrowed from the poet Wendell Berry, will consider how we can be Easter people always, embodying and enacting in the world its themes of mercy, and love, and grace every day.

### April 28

#### **-Six Poems in Search of a Religion**

Linda Ware

Along the lines of the play *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, writers use others' voices for their own doubts and reflections. The play recounts the fate of a group of characters left unresolved by their author. Desperate for conclusion, the characters interrupt the rehearsal of another Pirandello play to demand that the director and cast stage their story. Poets speak also as characters, ruminating on religion and churches and their own needs— in the voices of a church mouse, a frustrated carpenter, a British tourist, or a woman not at church on Sunday morning. We'll look at six poems— or excerpts— that will also be printed in the Order of Worship so you can follow along, either as amiable spectators or in search of your own meanings.

*Linda retired as professor emerita of English at UW-Marathon County. Her teaching areas included women writers, American ethnic studies, and literature/visual arts connections. She was also statewide English Chair for the UW Colleges. She is the wife of the late attorney G. Lane Ware. Her daughter heads litigation and regulatory compliance at Netflix, and her son is a screen and television writer. She served as an officer of the Wisconsin Arts Board and President of the Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters prior to her current role as Chair of the Board of the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service.*



## From a Window on Grant



I'll admit that this winter has been difficult for me. The cold and snow had me feeling cagy, as if I was imprisoned in a snow globe. By mid-February it was next to impossible to see around the snow banks. Every time I drove, I felt as though I was risking life and limb. I'd often say a quick prayer, something like, "Lord, please let me make it home for dinner. We're having tacos tonight."

But spring, or at least Wisconsin's version of it, has finally arrived. Let's keep our fingers crossed spring doesn't get confused again this year.

In the spirit of this season, I thought I'd pass along a spring-themed poem. I've read Billy Collins's "Today" several times this winter. Mostly because I love the images it evokes. And don't we all know that a little fantasy (or levity) can go a long way when the weight of the world (or the snow) seems stacked against us?

If ever there were a spring day so perfect,  
so uplifted by a warm intermittent breeze  
that it made you want to throw  
open all the windows in the house  
and unlatch the door to the canary's cage,  
indeed, rip the little door from its jamb,  
a day when the cool brick paths  
and the garden bursting with peonies  
seemed so etched in sunlight  
that you felt like taking  
a hammer to the glass paperweight  
on the living room end table,  
releasing the inhabitants  
from their snow-covered cottage  
so they could walk out,  
holding hands and squinting  
into this larger dome of blue and white,  
well, today is just that kind of day.



Amen,

*Brian*

## Reflections

Volunteer Appreciate Week is April 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. I want to give a shout out to all of the wonderful volunteers that make Religious Education possible. Thank you to all of the teachers who work with children and youth each week, the volunteers who lead adult programs, the amazing individual who keeps all of our supplies organized, and the subs who step in when a regular teacher can't be here. Please know that you are each VERY appreciated!



*Julie*

## Midwest Leadership School

I'm very excited that we have three youth, Ruby Fischer, Alek Zavadoski and Danika Monarski, who plan to attend Midwest Leadership School this summer, July 14-20! This is a tremendous opportunity for Danika, Alek, and Ruby and our whole congregation, as the youth will come back and share their new knowledge with all of us. Please watch for some fundraising events that will happen this spring to help offset tuition costs for Alek, Danika, and Ruby and consider contributing to support the youth of our congregation.

## Youth Choir

Calling all youth choir participants! A youth choir will perform during our Bridging Service on June 9<sup>th</sup>. All children and youth 6 and up are welcome to participate. Rehearsals will take place at 9:45 on Sundays May 5, 12, 26, and June 2. To participate, sign up in the atrium or email [julie@uuwausau.org](mailto:julie@uuwausau.org).

## April RE Schedule

April 7<sup>th</sup>—Regular Classes

Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>—10:00 am-12:00 pm,  
H.S. youth service rehearsal  
5:00 pm, OWL overnight

April 14<sup>th</sup>—Inter-generational Service, Youth-led

April 21<sup>st</sup>—Inter-generational Service, Easter

April 28<sup>th</sup>—Regular Classes

## Adult Religious Education

### Contemplative Collage

Back by popular demand!

Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-9:00 pm

Bring your favorite beverage and a light snack to share. You're also invited to bring craft paper, old magazines, stamps, or any other potential collage materials that you're willing to share with the group. And of course, still come if you don't have any of those things to contribute.

Art-making is a contemplative practice that affects us internally, through our thoughts & emotions, as well as externally, through the creation of object & imagery which can serve as a source of inspiration & healing.

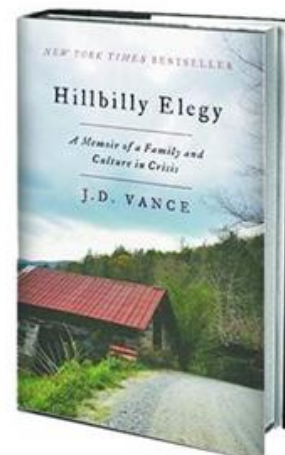
Collage is a playful, eclectic, & liberating medium for any-and-all skill levels.

Pictured collage by Nancy Cedar



### Minister's Book Club

Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. We'll read and discuss "Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis" by J.D. Vance.







# News for UUs

## ☛ April First Sunday Potluck

This month, Joyce Kurth and Nan Cedar are hosting our First Sunday Potluck! The theme, just in time for Easter, is Spring egg dishes and salads.

Everyone is invited to join in the fellowship in the dining hall after the service on April 7th. If you can, please bring a dish to share. If you can't, we want to see you there anyway!

## ☛ April Second Friday Nighters

Please join Heather and Kent Busig at their home on Friday, April 12 at 6:30pm for an evening of socializing and good food. This is a great way to get to know people who attend First UU Wausau. Bring a hearty appetizer to share. The hosts will provide beverages. They do have a dog, who will be in her crate while people are over. It is not usually necessary to eat beforehand. This is an adults only event. 2201 Elmwood Blvd., Wausau. 715-370-2036

## ☛ Summer Service Planning

There may still be some snow on the ground, but your Religious Services Committee is eager to start planning summer services. We are a two person committee seeking the input of the congregation through suggestions for speakers, topics, or any other ideas you have regarding summer services. As many of you know, most summer services are lay led on a wide variety of subjects, using flexible presentation formats. We have scheduled two short meetings at church and invite anyone with ideas to attend one of them. We will meet Wednesday, 4/10, at 12:00, and Sunday, 4/14, after church. If you are unable to make either meeting, but have suggestions or would like to volunteer to be lead a summer service, please contact either Randy Jefferson or Sheryl Hemp. Thank you for helping ensure that our summer services reflect the interests of a broad cross section of our congregation.

## ☛ April Community Focus Collection

Our April 21st Community Focus Collection will go to Wausau's **Proud Theater**, an award winning innovative youth theater program whose mission is "to change the world through the power of theater and make a positive difference in the lives of the LGBTQ+ and allied youth through the tenets of art, heart and activism". Proud Theater encourages young people to share their own stories through original theater works presented to the community at large. Wausau's Proud Theater meets at our church and we are happy to support them.

In March, you raised \$708 for **No More Deaths**, a ministry of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson, which won the UUA Wilton Peace Prize for their contribution to 'peace and human progress'. 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. Thank you for your generosity.

## ☛ NAOMI Annual Support Breakfast

Join other interested community members on April 9 from 7—8:30am at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Wausau. Enjoy a delicious hot breakfast and learn about all of NAOMI's upcoming work and how you can show your support.

Free and open to anyone interested in NAOMI and their work.



# News for UUs



## ☛ Slow Food Potluck and Movie Night

Join Slow Food Marathon County on April 11th as we gather for our first potluck of the year! This is an opportunity to meet other fantastic home cooks and foodies and celebrate the spring thaw. Wow us with your delicious & fresh, locally-sourced dishes.

We'll meet in the dining room at 5:30 pm and plan to start the film just after 6 pm. This event is free to the public, and kids are welcome. This feel-good Hollywood movie about a food truck is rated R for strong language.

## ☛ Poetry Reading

The mid-central region of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets will hold its quarterly poetry reading on Thursday, April 25, at 6:30 pm in Yawkey Hall. The featured readers will be several area poets who have had their poems published in the 2019 WFOP calendar. The event is open to the public, and you are all invited to attend and celebrate National Poetry Month with us.

### In the Rising Sun Today

By [Joel Miller](#)

We all know loss and pain.  
Let none of it divide us.  
In the rising sun today  
Let us do together what we cannot do  
alone:  
Roll away the stones that close our  
hearts.

## ☛ Info from Guest Speaker Joel Lewis

Since 2013, Gov. Scott Walker has rejected billions in federal Medicaid funding. This created a gap in which approximately 82,000 working Wisconsinites have been denied truly affordable health coverage they should have been eligible for. Expanding BadgerCare is essential because the health insurance market has failed to provide low income Wisconsinites with affordable health insurance options, and low wage jobs are far less likely to include affordable coverage. Doing so could become a stepping stone to opening up BadgerCare to all as a "public option."

Governor Evers is looking to expand BadgerCare, but some Legislators still need convincing. Not all are opposed actually. In June of 2013, after pressure from Citizen Action of WI, and community allies, Sen. Jerry Petrowski said, "We should pursue the full expansion of Medicaid as part of our implementation of Obamacare", however 3 GOP votes would be needed to act.

There is something that all of you can do right now.

Go to [www.citizenactionwi.org/2019budget](http://www.citizenactionwi.org/2019budget)

Here, you can sign a postcard to WI Senate majority leader Scott Fitzgerald & Sen Petrowski. We ask that you contribute \$1 for postage. We will be organizing citizens all across the state to attend a budget hearing, and will be delivering these postcards throughout that process. You can sign up to join us and order a t-shirt with our demands on the back. Then, share this link with others urging them to sign and share!



## The Board Table

Hello Dear Friends,

Birthdays are, for me and many I know, a time for reflection and self assessment. Am I where I thought I would be? Am I heading in the direction I want to go? This month, I will turn 50, and this is certainly causing me to feel more contemplative than usual. There will certainly be some time for celebrating and a bit of indulgence, time spent reflecting on the past 5 decades, my own hopes and dreams from the past and what I want my future to look like. It looks like my 50s will be a time of transition. I am beginning to launch my children (two in high school, one in college), who have held such a huge part of my time and attention for the past 19 years. I am already getting a taste of a bit more time to rediscover my husband, learn new things, maybe travel a bit and to reconnect with friends and experiencing the joys and heartaches of children becoming adults and finding their own ways in the world.



Your Board of Trustees is working on how to celebrate another big birthday. Our church celebrates our 150th year of existence in 2020. This is a big deal, worthy of both celebration and contemplation. With this momentous occasion on the horizon, there is much to do. There will be parties to plan, invitations to send, and history to rediscover. We need all of you to help. Past years have included publishing a book and events to honor former ministers. Please consider what this church means to you and how you could contribute and stay tuned for ways to get involved in this truly momentous occasion.

Heather Busig



### 2019 UU Goods & Services Auction

#### UNDER THE BIG TOP!

**The circus is coming Saturday, April 27, 6 PM**

A big *THANK YOU* to all who have already contributed goods and/or services to the auction. Still thinking about your contribution? Don't take too long! The auction is coming up fast. Send your offering description to Jerry Phelan at your earliest convenience ([gcphelan@gmail.com](mailto:gcphelan@gmail.com)).

Also get your tickets soon. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Purchase tickets: (a) on Sundays in the Atrium, (b) from Anji during the week, or (c) by mailing your check & name(s) to church.

Save **April 27th** for a fun-filled evening. Wander throughout the church to bid on silent auction items. There will be hearty hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer, other refreshments, lots of fun, and plenty of time for hanging out.



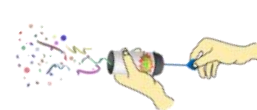
# April 2019 Calendar



1 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	16 Tue	5:00PM	People/Power of Love
	6:30PM	Wausau Bird Club		6:30PM	Board of Trustees
2 Tue	6:30PM	Qigong		6:30PM	Qigong
3 Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time	17 Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time
	4:00PM	People/Power of Love		4:00PM	People/Power of Love
	5:00PM	Proud Theater		5:00PM	Proud Theater
	6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice		6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice
4 Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project	18 Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project
	6:30PM	Tai Chi		6:30PM	Tai Chi
6 Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation	20 Sat	8:00AM	Women's Early Risers
7 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service		4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
	11:45AM	First Sunday Potluck		6:30PM	Collage
8 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	21 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
9 Tue	6:30PM	Qigong	22 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
10 Wed	5:00PM	Proud Theater	23 Tue	6:30PM	Qigong
	6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice	24 Wed	5:00PM	Proud Theater
11 Thu	4:30PM	Slow Food Movie		6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice
	6:30PM	Tai Chi	25 Thu	6:30PM	Poetry Reading
13 Sat	10:00AM	HS Service Rehearsal		6:30PM	Tai Chi
	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation	27 Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
	4:30PM	OWL Event		6:00PM	Church Auction
14 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service	28 Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
15 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	29 Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
			30 Tue	6:30PM	Qigong



## Happy Membership Anniversary!



Elnora Buechler, 67 years

Marianne Pickering, 62 years

Louis & Sandra Pradt, 50 years

Russ & Kerry Wilson, 39 years

Tom & Sara Eberlein, 38 years

Nancy Hollis, 37 years

Linda Alfinito, 32 years

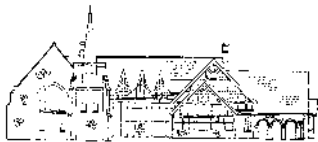
Mike Moen, 28 years

Karen Pleuss, 19 years

Dawn Ashenbrenner, 18 years

Sharon Faville, 18 years

Carol Kraemer, 4 years



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## The Circuit Writer - April 2019

*Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau*

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