



The Circuit Writer

First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

January 2019

January 10:30AM Services at UU Wausau

January 6

- Great Expectations, Great Disappointments

The Rev. Brian Mason

By now the bottom of the Christmas trees is bare, only the tree's skirt and fallen needles remain. The New Year's Day resolution has been made, and perhaps you've already missed three out of five workout days. This season of newness reminds us that it's never too late to begin again. This morning we'll gather to let go of last year's lost hopes and name this year's new ones. For today, we begin again.

January 13

-A Dying Unitarian Looks at Life and Broadcast Journalism

Glen Moberg

Glen Moberg reflects on his long career in broadcast journalism, and what it has taught him about life and the roles the media plays in our society. The sermon will be illustrated with audio recordings of what Glen considers to be some of his best work as a storyteller at Wisconsin Public Radio, with live performances of some of his original music.

Glen Moberg is wrapping up an almost 50-year career in broadcast journalism, including his current position as a talk show host and reporter at Wisconsin Public Radio, in Wausau. He has worked in management and on-air positions for numerous radio and television stations in Wisconsin. A native of Chicago,

Glen's parents met in 1951 at a Unitarian church on the city's south side. He and his wife, Mary Beth, joined the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau in the early '90s. Glen's daughter, Melody, is the Director of Religious Education at the University Unitarian Church in Seattle. His son, Thomas, recently graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a degree in fine arts. Glen has been diagnosed with cancer and has been told he has between a few months and a year left to live.

January 20

-Truth-telling as Healing

Dr. Fran Kaplan & Reggie Jackson, Consultants with Nurturing Diversity Partners in Milwaukee, bring their thought-provoking work on truth-telling and its forms to UU Wausau. Facing the truth can be unsettling, making us feel exposed and uncomfortable. But Dr. Kaplan and Mr. Jackson will show how truth-telling is an essential step towards reconciliation and healing. They will discuss the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy, how his ideas and activism led our nation to face the truths of our history, and how his vision for the Beloved Community lives on today.

Following the service at 3:00pm, Dr. Kaplan and Mr. Jackson will speak on The Trauma of Racial Bias at the YWCA. More information about this event can be found on the church website, Facebook, and in this Circuit Writer.

January 27—see page 2



From a Window on Grant



Somehow the holidays manage to simultaneously be a marathon and a sprint. Welcome to the finish line! I pray you survived intact, or mostly so at least. Like many churches, December is a flurry of activities, and ours is no different. I want to thank the Board of Trustees for all their hard work leading our church this past year. Their work, often behind the scenes, is easy to overlook. But I not only see it, I reap the rewards of their vision and purpose first hand.

I also want to thank the volunteers, adults and children alike, who gifted their time to enrich the life of this church, to decorate, lead services, teach, open their homes for 2nd Friday Nighters, cook and serve food, take part in the Christmas Pageant, usher, serve as worship associates, and on and on. So often visitors and new members tell me that it is the warmth of this community that keeps them coming back. I am so grateful for the big hearts that warm this place.

Likewise, I want to thank the staff of this church: Anji, Julie, Margaret, Elizabeth, and Katelynn. Their talent, tireless dedication, and support of my work as minister is a Christmas and New Year unto itself.

And last, but in no way least, I want to thank all the friends and members of this congregation. It is my privilege to serve as your minister. I can think of no higher calling than the one I answered a couple of years ago. At times, it has challenged me. As well it should. But being this church's minister is one of the delights of my life.

Happy New Year, dear friends. I can't wait to see what 2019 has in store.

In Faith and Love,

Brian



January Services Continued

January 27

-Trusting the Possible

The Reverent Dr. Wayne Arnason

Congregations that use the “Soul Matters” lectionary of worship themes are working through the January theme of “Possibility” and are moving towards the February theme of “Trust.” This transition has me thinking about how we develop the spiritual practice of trust in a world in which constant change is routine, where and divisive and protective self-absorption is becoming the norm. Are the possibilities we proclaim in our Principles and our common life in church just high ideals, ever out of reach, or can we “trust the dawning future more” by the ways we embody in our community life what we believe is possible in the larger world?

The Reverend Dr. Wayne Arnason was a pulpit guest two years ago during a weekend consultation with our Board of Trustees, and we're glad to welcome him back during a follow-up consultation with the Board and staff. Dr. Arnason retired in 2016 from a forty-year career of full-time parish ministry and denominational leadership. He has served as Secretary of the UUA, President of the UU Ministers Association, and Chair of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. Now living in Charlottesville, Virginia, Dr. Arnason shares his life with the Rev. Kathleen Rolenz, who is serving an interim ministry in Annapolis, Maryland.

REflections

One more huge “Thank you!” to the cast and crew of the December 16th Christmas Pageant:

Pageant Cast:

Narrator = Brian Mason

Mary = Annie Peterson

Joseph = Quinn LaFrombois

Angel Gabriel = Lilyan Casey

Angel of the Lord = Lucy Wright

Heavenly Host = Delaney LaFrombois, Jonathan Trombley, Catherine Shaw-Burns, Aliya Surti

Shepherds = Ragnar Spialek, Bridger Rice, Burke Eberhardy

Star = Tessa Schmidt

Magi = Emily Hohenstein, Jack Trombley, Levi Hubbard

Animals = Wyatt Hubbard, Emerson Hayon, Olivia Hess, Rowan Ballard

Stage Crew = Karen Peterson, Lee Ann Venne, Christina Priewe



*Special thanks to Theran & Ben Peterson for assembling our set

Children's & Youth Choirs:

Director—Margaret Jerz

Lilyan Casey

Burke Eberhardy

Emily Hohenstein

Levi Hubbard

Wyatt Hubbard

Eleanor Mason

Ben Monarski

Danika Monarski

Bridger Rice

Ella Rice

Quinn Rice

Maggie Schmidt

Tessa Schmidt

Ragnar Spialek

Jack Trombley

Lucy Wright

Sylvia Wright

I'd also like to thank the families who gave of their time in order to get their children to rehearsals!

Julie

Office Space

Happy 2019, Friends!

Looking to read more in the new year? Stop by my office some Sunday to check out the church library. We have lots of books to choose from with topics such as religious history, church governance, women's history, marriage, parenting, and almost anything else you can think of that is important to UUs.



We also have copies of the UUA's annual common-reads, books chosen by the UUA that they believe will strengthen UU identity and practice as well as deepen and develop UU faith.

One such book is *The New Jim Crow - Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. I highly recommend reading this one if you haven't had a chance to already. The San Francisco Chronicle called the book “The bible of a social movement.” Two copies are available in my office, and I would be happy to order more if need be.

See you in church!

Anji





News for UUs

☛ Understanding the TRAUMA of Racial Bias—and why it matters to all of us.

On Sunday, January 20 from 3-5pm at the join us at the YMCA (613 North 5th St.) to learn, reflect, and share.

Dynamic guest speakers, Dr. Frank Kaplan and Mr. Reggie Jackson, will share their insights about how the legacy of racial injustice has affected our community and how we can build a new legacy of racial equality.

Q&A will follow the presentation.

Dr. Fran Kaplan and Mr. Reggie Jackson are consultants with Nurturing Diversity Partners of Milwaukee and are affiliated with America's Black Holocaust Museum. They are nationally-known speakers on issues of race and diversity.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 715-842-3381 or go to the [event Facebook page](#).

☛ Family Winter Retreat

Join old friends and make new ones at the **Family Winter Retreat** January 25–27, 2019. We meet at **Camp Manitowish** in Boulder Junction for a fun-filled weekend of sledding, cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing, good food and fellowship. There is room for 12 families (each room has 4 bunks) with shared bathrooms and communal meals. Cost is around \$31/night/adults 13 and up, \$15/night 6-12, free 5 and under. If you are interested contact **Dawn Ashenbrenner** at 715-212-6481 or dawn1969@yahoo.com. Spots fill up quickly!

☛ Poetry Reading and Open Mic

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, mid-central region, is hosting a poetry reading and open mic in Yawkey Hall at UU Wausau on Sunday, January 27 at 1pm. Our own Rev. Brian Mason will be the featured reader/speaker, followed by an open mic during which poets will be able to read their poems. The event is open to the public, and you are cordially invited to join!

☛ Jan Community Focus Collection

Our Community Focus Collection on January 20th will go to help Blessings in a Backpack DC Everest-Wausau, a volunteer run local non-profit that feeds 1200 children on the weekends at 17 community schools. The weekend gap beginning at 3pm on Friday afternoon and ending at 8am on Monday morning is a time that many children of struggling families go hungry. Blessings depends on donations like ours to feed our community children.

☛ Yoga Returns!

Starting Sunday, January 6 at 3:30pm, Jean Miller will lead a 6-week yoga class here in our Atrium. No need to sign up or attend every session. Free will donations accepted.

Jean teaches a gentle Hatha yoga. Emphasis is placed on breath, proper alignment, and being in the present moment. All levels are welcome. Options are given for modifications or challenges. Your practice, your mat. Every body and everybody are welcome! Please bring a yoga mat (a few will be available if you need one).



Circle of Life

Robert L. Judell

11/28/1920 - 11/16/2018

News for UUs



🍷 12 Days of Valentines

A tisket, a tasket, What's inside your Valentine basket?

Share love on 12 days leading up to Valentine's Day by putting a useful or thoughtful item (one per day, suggested list available) in a basket which we provide. We will find a good recipient for your basket through local social service agencies and deliver them in time for Valentine's Day. Share some cheer in the "dead of winter" to warm the heart of another as well as your own.

Sign out a basket with a list of possible small items at church on January 20 and 27. Return your filled basket on Sunday, February 10.

Sponsored by the Ari Schmidt Fund for Bus, Bail and Pizza.



🍷 Movies with Meaning

Join Wausau United to Amend and American Association of University Women (AAUW) Wausau Branch on Thursday, January 24 from 6:30 – 8:00 at UU Wausau for a screening of the PBS film *Dark Money*. *Dark Money* examines one of the greatest present threats to American democracy: the influence of untraceable corporate money on our elections and elected officials. The film takes us to Montana, a frontline in the fight to preserve fair elections nationwide. An intrepid local journalist worked to exposed the real-life impacts of the US Supreme Court's Citizens United decision. He uncovered the shocking and vital truth of how American elections are bought and sold.

🍷 January First Sunday Potluck

Join us after the service on Sunday, January 6 for our First Sunday Potluck. Our hosts this month are CJ Heiser and Melissa Goessl-Heiser and the theme is chili! So whip up a batch of your favorite chili recipe or grab a side-dish or dessert, and meet in the dining hall for some fellowship!

🍷 Second Friday Nighters

Please note that there is no Second Friday Nighters planned in January as of the time of printing.

🍷 Wausau Bird Club

Join the Wausau Bird Club here at UU Wausau on January 7 at 6:30pm to hear a presentation from Darcie Howard, Executive Director of the Monk Botanical Gardens. Free and open to the public.

I Have Always Hated to Wait for Things

By Elizabeth Coatsworth

Through the windy night something
is coming up the path
towards the house.

I have always hated to wait for things.
I think I will go
to meet whatever it is.

Happy Membership Anniversary!



Judy Stevens, 57 years. Scott Williams, 49 years. Jim and Liz Brezinski, 42 years.

Steve Gantert and Diane Walker, 27 years. Mike and Deb Wasilczuk, 23 years.

Sheryl Hemp, 16 years. Bart Hobson, 6 years. Barb & Carl Drake, 4 years.

Sue Rainville, 4 years. Jim & Barbara Klapperich, 4 years. Kelly & Clint Schultz, 3 years.

Shannon Thielman, 3 years. Theran & Meg Peterson, 3 years.

Josh Wright, 3 years. Anita Stahl & Loretta Ulmschneider, 2 years. Kim Casey, 2 years.



The Board Table

Happy 2019 from the Board! We hope that everyone has had a blessed holiday season and ample time with friends and family. We are excited for the New Year in our church – filled with friendships, good company and fun community events.

To start the year off - one of the events that we want to highlight is the **Goods and Services Auction** to be held **Saturday, April 27th**. Mark your calendar for this amazing experience! This wonderful evening of fabulous food, socialization and auction offerings only happens once every two years. It is a great opportunity to spend time with new and old UU friends in a fun social setting. We will again have the auction at the church. Additional details about the event to be announced.

The proceeds from the auction will go towards our church's ongoing programming and operational needs. Your participation is a fun way to help fund these goals.

- We raise auction money when YOU (church members and friends) donate goods, skills, and services and when others bid on your offerings. Examples of past donations include:
- Guided outings (hiking, camping, canoeing, picnics)
- Theme dinners (Thai, Cuban, Indian, Greek)

- Food (dessert-a-month, soup/bread Sunday suppers, cooking lessons, homemade beer)
- Educational events (yoga lessons, dance lessons, canning)
- Services (carpentry, tutoring, legal services, golf lessons, landscaping, pet sitting)
- Cottage or vehicle use
- Goods (art work, jewelry, weavings, pottery, furniture)
- In addition, please consider soliciting local vendors for items and gift certificates

Please consider any way that you might contribute (time/donation or both) and contact members of the auction committee: Sheryl Hemp (wishemp@aol.com), Jerry Phelan (gcphelelan@gmail.com), or Laura Syring (llksyring@gmail.com). We can also be reached at church on Sunday mornings. In the near future we will have a dedicated auction table in the atrium.

We are looking for additional people to join the auction committee. Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, January 20th at 9:00 am at church.

Thank you! We are looking forward to a wonderful event.

Sheryl



Our 2019 Stewardship Appeal Is Going Extremely Well, But We're Not Quite There Yet...

We'd like to offer our **SINCERE THANKS** to the many of you who have already completed your 2019 Pledge Form. We're delighted to report that as of the time of this newsletter's release:

We've raised: \$262,000

And because of YOUR GENEROSITY, the church has received:

A \$5,000 GRANT (*doubling every dollar for first-time pledgers*)

And A \$5,000 GRANT (*matching every dollar 15% or more above the prior year's pledge*)

While we're thrilled to have raised a BONUS \$10,000 through these generous Member-sponsored grants —

We're just short of meeting our 2019 pledge goal of \$285,000

We can meet this ambitious goal — with YOUR help. Consider all the *great things* we can do at First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau TOGETHER...

Your 2019 Stewardship Committee,
Carl Drake, Marsha Fitzgerald, & Sarah Thurs





January 2019 Calendar



2	Wed	10:30AM	Shawl Time	17	Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project
		4:00PM	People/Power Love			6:30PM	Tai Chi
		5:00PM	Proud Theater	19	Sat	8:00AM	Women's Early Risers
		6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice			4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
3	Thu	6:00PM	Unity Project	20	Sun	9:00AM	Auction Meeting
5	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation			10:30AM	Church Service
6	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service			3:30PM	Yoga
		11:45AM	First Sunday Potluck			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
		3:30PM	Yoga	21	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon			7:00PM	Amnesty Int'l
7	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	22	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong
		6:30PM	Wausau Bird Club	23	Wed	5:00PM	Proud Theater
8	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong			6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice
9	Wed	5:00PM	Proud Theater	24	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi
		6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice			6:30PM	Movies with Meaning
10	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi	26	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation
12	Sat	4:00PM	Buddhist Meditation	27	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service
13	Sun	10:30AM	Church Service			1:00PM	Poetry Reading
		3:30PM	Yoga			3:30PM	Yoga
		6:00PM	Overeaters Anon			6:00PM	Overeaters Anon
14	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg	28	Mon	6:00PM	Women's AA Mtg
15	Tue	6:30PM	Board of Trustees	29	Tue	6:30PM	Qigong
		6:30PM	Qigong	30	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time
16	Wed	10:00AM	Shawl Time			5:00PM	Proud Theater
		4:00PM	People/Power of Love			6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice
		5:00PM	Proud Theater	31	Thu	6:30PM	Tai Chi
		6:30PM	Adult Choir Practice				

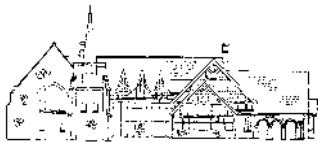


January is National Blood Donor Month

Due to increased seasonal illnesses during the winter months and inclement weather conditions, donations of blood and platelets decline and demand increases. The American Red Cross and Blood Banks of America encourage everyone who can donate to continue do so. Those who have never donated, it's easy to make an appointment. Blood donation is safer than ever before and saves lives!

To learn more about donating blood in Marathon County, visit the Blood Center of North-central Wisconsin's website at www.bcnwi.org.





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

The Circuit Writer - January 2018

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

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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.	briqmillr5@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

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