



The Circuit Writer

First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

February 2019

February 10:30AM Services at UU Wausau

February 3

- Poetry Sunday: Mary Oliver

The Rev. Brian Mason

On January 17, the beloved poet Mary Oliver died. Throughout her long and successful career she would pen poems that celebrate nature's abundance and humankind's precarious and precious place in it. Her poems are read in worship services, at weddings, before family meals, and at the graveside. This Sunday we will weave our way through several of Oliver's poems and experience what Margalit Fox, in the New York Times, described as her ability to knit together "both the primal joy and the primal melancholy of being alive."



February 10

-This I Believe

Holly Briquelet Miller, Tim Peterson, and Julie Trombley

The late-Reverend Max A. Coats, long-time minister of our church in Canton, New York, once said Unitarian Universalism isn't a religion, per se, but an approach to it; we UUs engage our faith with all our humanity, embracing it as life embraces us: with mystery and surprise, and joy and sorrow. Please join us this Sunday morning to hear as three members share their spiritual testimonies and stories about their life and faith.

February 17

-Questions for the Minister

The Rev. Brian Mason

Inter-generational Service



Every year the children and youth of our congregation submit questions to the minister on topics ranging from his opinion on Crocs to what was the most embarrassing moment of his life, not to mention inquires about the meaning and purpose of life. Please join us for this inter-generational tradition when everything is questioned and almost nothing is answered.

February 24

-A Crisis of Faith

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 and walk the halls of hospitals. I cry tears through my faith and make a marriage with it at the same time. Let us gather this morning for a conversation about faith, the practice, and crises of it.



From a Window on Grant



I remember visiting with a home-bound congregant a couple of months back who shared with me what life was like when he moved to Wausau many decades ago. He arrived with the ink on his diploma still drying. Eager and filled with big ideas, he had no way of knowing that a long and love-filled marriage awaited, nor could he have known the success he'd have professionally, or the sorrows that were to come.

Somewhere in that conversation we got on the topic of the duties and responsibilities of citizenship. Citizenship, at least in my mind, isn't something inherited or applied for, though it is that in a simple, legalistic sense. I like to think of citizenship as something enacted. Good citizens do more than just pay their taxes and vote, stand for the national anthem, and shout, "U. S. A.!" every four years when the Olympics are on. Good citizens, members of this American republic, live the notion that all people are equal, they enact the fundamental truth that all people deserve freedom and a happy life. Wise people know that citizenship demands duty, responsibility.

Membership in anything comes with a cost; it comes with responsibilities. Sometimes membership requires nothing more than a few bucks a month like a gym membership. But there are other memberships, like membership to a nation, which we call citizenship, and this demands much more than money. It demands action.

This congregant told me that when he got to Wausau, he made a personal commitment to belonging to an organization that had a positive impact on the community and the people therein. His search led him to the First Universalist Unitarian Church. He said he stayed here throughout his working life because this church actually made a difference; members helped build homes for the homeless, cook meals for the hungry, give shelter to the cold, and rest for the weary. They performed their membership in the world; they enacted their citizenship.

I am so proud of our history and heritage. But I refuse to rest on its laurels. As members of this church and community we have a responsibility to uphold our principals, preserve the integrity of our congregation's mission and vision, and gift it to the generations of people who will call this their spiritual home. So, dear friends, I'm curious, in what ways can we be the church that continues to make a difference? How can we ensure we walk the walk while talking the talk?

In Faith,

Brian



Office Space

Did you know that February is National Wedding Month? Here at UU Wausau, we rely on wedding rentals to help boost our annual budget. Although most brides and grooms choose our beautiful sanctuary, those who are having smaller weddings gravitate toward the open and sunny atrium.



Since our renovation of Yawkey Hall and the adjoining bathroom, our wedding rentals have increased. The new large bathroom off of Yawkey is considered a "bride's dressing room" and has plenty of space, mirrors, and lighting for brides to get ready for their special moment.

This year, we have already had 2 weddings here at UU Wausau, and have 5 more scheduled, as well as 2 scheduled for 2020.

If you know of someone looking for the perfect place to tie the knot, let them know that UU Wausau has everything they need to make their day special.

See you in church!

Anji



REflections

I want to officially welcome and thank two new teachers who recently joined a Sunday morning teaching team—Joni Hahn and Jefferson Le. They will both be teaching in the 4th-6th grade classroom. Teaching teams through the end of the year will be as follows:



4K-1st grade:

**Kara LaFrombois, LeeAnn Venne,
Karen Peterson, Christina Priewe**

2nd-3rd grade:

**Kim Casey, Sarah Mason, Sally Schmidt,
Meg Peterson**

4th-6th grade:

**Sarah Thurs, Theran Peterson, Joni Hahn,
Jefferson Le**

7th & 8th grade OWL:

**Josh Wright, Melissa Goessl-Heiser,
Mandy Wright, Julie Trombley**

High School:

**Jaime Rannow, Karen Monarski, Kate
Passineau, Greg Zavadoski**

Sunday morning RE classes wouldn't be possible without the amazing volunteers who put their time and talents toward prepping lessons and connecting with children and youth. Thank you, amazing volunteers, for all that you do!

Julie

February RE Schedule

February 3rd—Regular classes

February 10th—Regular classes

February 17th—No RE classes—Intergenerational Service, “Ask the Minister” (nursery open)

February 24th—Regular classes

Adult Religious Education

Minister's Book Club:

Wednesday, February 27th, 6:30-8:00 p.m. **OR**
Thursday, February 28th, 12:00-1:30 p.m.
Discussing *Why Religion?* By Elaine Pagels.
Please register with Brian at (715) 842-3697 or
brian@uuwausau.org.

Exploring Contemplative Practices:

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., beginning February 23rd. In our hectic day-to-day lives we all need opportunities to intentionally slow down. This five-week 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. Current schedule as follows:

February 23rd: Meditation as a Contemplative Practice, by **Julie Trombley**

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

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

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





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 useful or thoughtful items (suggested list available) in a basket which we provide. 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 February 3. Return your basket to church by Sunday, February 10 and the **Ari Schmidt Fund Committee** will find a recipient through local social service agencies and deliver it 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.

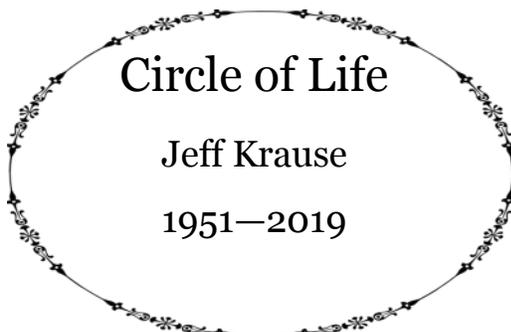


☛ Wausau Bird Club

On Monday, February 4, the Wausau Bird Club will meet at UU Wausau at 6:30PM. Bob and Hiroko Sanders will present bird photos from their travels. All are welcome.

☛ Buying or Selling a Home?

Long-time UU Wausau member and local Realtor, **Lisa Lopez**, has an exciting offer! When you Lisa and her company, Amax-Immo, for your real estate needs, the company will donate 5% of its proceeds to our church, or a non-profit organization of your choice. Call Lisa at 715-846-5340 or check out the flyer in the atrium for more information.



☛ Wisconsin's Fish are in Hot Water

Learn the Facts from Retired DNR Fisheries Biologist **Frank Pratt**

Wisconsin's waterways are warming. Many of our fish are in real trouble. Frank Pratt will share the results of 38 years of research on our rivers, streams and lakes to help us understand what is already happening in those waters today and what that means for tomorrow. If you care about the future of Wisconsin's fish, you need to hear what he has to say. Afterwards, we will talk about what each of us can do to make a difference. The love our state has for fish and fishing unites people from all walks of life, cultures and the political spectrum.

Free and open to the public:

February 26, 7 p.m., UW Center for Civic Engagement, Wausau

February 27, 6:30 p.m., Mead Wildlife Center, Milladore

February 28, 6 p.m., T.B. Scott Free Library, Merrill

Sponsored by WIPPS and Citizens' Climate Lobby



The Board Table

Greetings friends,

Without the benefit of snow, winter is a grim companion. I love the quilt snow provides the land. It reveals contours previously unseen. So too with other senses. There is a palpable change in sound and smell I find appealing. When the snows finally arrive, (I have faith!) I will greet them with snowshoes on my feet and gratitude in my heart.

Together the Trustees are working to establish near and long-term goals, set the annual calendar, and fill a vacant seat on the Board of Trustees. A review of fiscal year 2018 reveals we finished with performance slightly better than anticipated. Expenses were a little down, and collections were a little up. Current pledges for 2019 are coming in near expectations, though we are monitoring closely as we need them to be slightly up from they are now. We are collaborating in workshop with Rev. Wayne Arnason on Saturday, January 26. We expect to gain insights into goal setting and execution.



“Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law; this is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.” James Vila Blake, 1894

Love is the spirit of this church. It is what binds us. It compels us to listen. It compels us to learn. Love enables us to forgive. Love provides the sustenance for our community to grow.

Love without service is incomplete. Service provides the vehicle to deliver love. It makes the communication of love possible. It is the light in the dark. Service in the name of love creates empathy that will sustain itself and propagate more love. To serve with love. To help one another. To seek truth in love. To dwell together in peace.

I think this is the greatest aspect of our UU. Every member I meet practices these sentiments, though none of us are perfect in our practice, all aspire to be so, and in the consistent practice we serve and are served in kind. I am grateful for the opportunities the UU provides in faith, outreach, and community. We have so many ways to share our love together. Thank you for everything you contribute to our community.

Jody Maier
Board of Trustees Vice President



AS THE WILD WIND BITES

BY BEN SOULE

Let us hold a quiet moment together as our chalice is lit.
As the wild wind bites, so does the still flame warm us.
As the deep snows block our doors, so does the gentle flame bring us out.
As the crackling cold air stops our breath, so does the radiant flame draw from us
the words we need to give and to receive:
words of greeting, words of comfort, words of solace,
words to challenge our minds and words to bring us to action.
Let us gaze upon this our common flame,
so that we remember who we are and what we can do
when we are together.



Under the Big Top...

THE CIRCUS IS COMING TO FIRST UU!



2019 Auction FUNdraiser

April 27 at 6:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, April 27, 6 p.m.** for this year's Goods & Services Auction.

Come one, come all as we turn our sacred building into a 3-ringed spectacle of fundraising fun!

Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres & yummy desserts.

We promise a great assortment of auction items and fun of all sorts (but NO creepy clowns!).

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 items via the Goods & Services Silent Auction.**

Under the big top, you'll find sideshows of all sorts, Unitarian Universalists, and friends and guests of all manner (but NO creepy clowns... and, well, perhaps no elephants) — where every ring is center ring, and your UU community performs its spellbinding, high-wire act of supporting you on its shoulders while you support it on yours.

The proceeds from the 2019 auction will help continue the church's dynamic expansion. Your participation is a fun way to **help fund our *expanded programs, expanded outreach, expanded lay leadership, expanded community, and expanded consciousness.*** And along the way, we hope to have some *expanded fun!*

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 lessons, dance lessons, local micro-brewery beer-tasting party, golf lessons, music lessons)
- **HELPFUL SERVICES** (carpentry, 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)

In addition, **you could solicit local vendors for items or gift certificates.**

Please consider any way you might contribute (time/donation or both) and contact **Jerry Phelan** (GCPhelan@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 meeting will be held at church on **Sunday, February 24, at 9:00 a.m.**

THANK YOU... We're looking forward to a daring, high-flying event!
(And, well, o-o-okay, since we're an inclusive church, even creepy clowns are welcome!)

February 2019 Calendar

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



Happy Membership Anniversary!

Russ & Linda Forbess, 43 years. Brad Schmicker & Sarah Rudolph, 24 years.

Glen & Mary Beth Moberg, 22 years. Jeanette Johnson, 20 years.

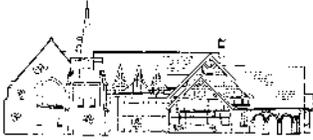
Lisa & Tammy Rajek, 16 years. Anji Spialek, 9 years.

Kim & Dean Day, 9 years. Wayne & Mary Pierce, 7 years.

Tami & Graham Coulson, 6 years. Lila Hobson, 6 years.

Donna Allgood, 5 years. Jeanine Sewell, 5 years.





First Universalist Unitarian
 Church of Wausau
 504 Grant St.,
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The Circuit Writer - February 2018

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

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