

The Circuit Writer - April 2020

Monthly theme: Liberation

What does it mean to be a people of liberation?

Join us for our **online service** every Sunday! Our podcast is e-mailed and posted on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/firstuuwausau>) Sunday mornings at 10:15, along with an Order of Service. Grab a cup of coffee, settle into a comfortable chair, and join us as our community gathers in spirit together. Then join us on Zoom at 11:30 for our virtual Coffee Hour, and enjoy catching up, seeing familiar faces, and spending time in the warmth of beloved community.

Want to sign up for e-mails? Contact danika@uuwausau.org and she'll be happy to add you.

Sunday Services for April 2020

April 5: April's Throwback Sermon: "Unitarian Universalism - A Love Story" by the Reverend Brian Mason. Brian will (re)preach the first sermon he delivered to UU Wausau about becoming a UU and his call to the ministry. Service will include special music by Margaret & Dänika and a time for all ages led by Julie.

April 12, Easter Sunday: This Easter we invite you to journey into a sacred holiday celebrated the world over, by millions of fragile and hopeful souls just like ours. Easter is a day that miracles, impossible though they may be, are given the benefit of the doubt, if only for an hour. The Reverend Brian Mason, preaching

April 19: Led by Julie Trombley, Director of Religious Education

April 26: The Reverend Brian Mason, preaching

The First UU Wausau staff posts Morning Meditations on Facebook at 8:30AM, Monday-Saturday. Follow First UU Wausau on Facebook to be uplifted, and for reminders that despite the distance, we are still all valued members of this interdependent web of existence. We hold you in our thoughts and our hearts, and look forward to the day we can all gather together in person again.



From a Window on Grant. . .

UU Wausau Members and Friends,

At a time when everyone is adapting to address Covid-19, staying connected is more important than ever. We as your church's minister, staff, and leadership will be keeping you updated about how we are doing church while we cannot be together in person. Here's where we are at right now:

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship is the heart of everything we do. We continue to gather as a worshipping community online.

A prerecorded Podcast is e-mailed and posted on the [website](#) and [Facebook](#) every Sunday at 10:15am. We hope getting it out early allows enough time for you to pour a cup of coffee and settle in to worship at the usual 10:30am start time.

OFFICE HOURS

The staff is here! If you'd like to communicate with us, please email to set up an appointment.

SUSTAINABILITY

We exist because of your generosity, and your gifts are critical right now. We also know that this is a hard time for many.

If you are able, you can help us show up for members and friends, support our staff, and remain a strong community by paying your pledge or making an additional gift.

CHURCH BUILDING ACCESS

We are caring for our beloved building by limiting access to staff only and having it thoroughly deep cleaned. Our physical church home will be ready to welcome everyone back as soon as possible.

STAYING CONNECTED

Website: <http://uuwausau.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/firstuuwausau>

Podcast weblog: <https://uuwausau.podbean.com>

Sign up to receive newsletter and emails: <https://uuwausau.us4.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=9de22009d8202fb7abde1e46b&id=7ee8a51d24>.

CARE & SUPPORT

We are collecting information about what members of our church community may need and how others can help. Do you or anyone you know need grocery or medicine pick-up? Can you help a neighbor? E-mail Brian directly if you're in need of assistance or willing to help.

In times like these, how we show up matters. Take good care of yourselves and each other. Call each other! Check in. If you don't have a current church directory, email Dänika and get one. I hereby deputize every member of this congregation as a Pastoral Care Provider. Circle five names in the book and call them. Really, call them.

Take a breath, slow down, smile, serve, and live simply. UU Wausau puts love first, and that's what we'll continue doing.

Sincerely,

Brian

Stay connected!

Our weekly and monthly offerings:

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Mondays

Meditation with Julie (13 & up)
10-11am on Zoom

Monday-Saturday

Morning Meditation
(i.e., poetry, music, prayer)
8:30am on Facebook

Wednesdays

Community Hangout with Brian (all ages)
11am-12pm on Zoom

Choir Hangout with Margaret
6:30-7:30pm on Zoom
Email Margaret for meeting information

Sundays

Children's Chapel (4 & up)
10-10:30am on Zoom

Worship

Services are now podcasted, which are emailed and published on the [website](#) and [Facebook](#) every Sunday at 10:15 a.m.

Virtual Coffee Hour (all ages)
11:30am-12:30pm

Youth Group (7th-12th graders)
4-5pm on Zoom

MONTHLY GATHERINGS

Minister's Book Club (Meets September-May)

Last **Thursday** of every month*
(*note the change of day) from 6:30-8pm

April's book:

The Wordy Shipmates by Sarah Vowell

Meeting date: April 30

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/799498915>

Soul Matters (private groups)

Separate emails with details will be sent to each group; email Julie for questions

2nd Friday Nighters

Next meeting: April 10 on Zoom
6:30-8:30pm



How to participate:

To join Zoom gatherings, go to <http://www.zoom.us> to download the Zoom program on your computer, tablet, or smartphone, or call into (312) 626-6799 from any phone.

Unless otherwise stated, meetings can be accessed here:

<https://zoom.us/j/3391177251>.

Our permanent meeting code is 339 117 7251.

REflections...for Adults

Reflections...for Adults

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



From this month's packet: "If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time, but if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together" by Lila Watson.

The spiritual exercises this month range from a music-focused meditation to an invitation to escape ruts or face fears. The monthly questions are as thought provoking as ever and the resources in the "Companion Pieces" section plentiful. Soul Matters packets are available to all church members. As you aren't able to get into the church to pick up a packet, please be sure to email Julie at julie@uuwausau.org to request one be emailed to you.

Be sure to check out the April Zoom schedule (page 3) and our calendar (page 9), for all of the weekly and monthly offerings for adults!



Don't Forget the First UU Little Free Library!

During this time of separation
if you're looking for something to read
Or have books to share,
Stop by our Little Free Library
to take or give.

The stock will be periodically updated,
but can always use an infusion of books.
It's one thing we can share
during this time of forced isolation.



From the Board Table

Greetings you beautiful UUs you,

As I sit to write this letter to you the newly minted season of Spring has sprung forth one of its earliest blossoms: the first documented case of COVID-19 in Marathon County. I could write about how your Board of Trustees held its latest meeting via web conferencing as we learn to go about our work and practice social distancing, or about how the Board is placing committee effort into updating its Policy handbook, or about how together we are studying effective models of church governance in an effort to better prepare us as leaders and set strategic goals. I could talk about the tremendous work being done to re-envision our Endowment, or the Capital Campaign efforts that align with the re-envisioning. Heck, I could talk about our upcoming 150 year anniversary celebrations, or all of the good works being done in the name of our faith community as led by so many of you.

I could talk about those things. Perhaps I should talk about those things. It just feels wrong to ignore the beast in the room named Global Pandemic.

It feels appropriate to give consideration to the entity responsible for canceling sporting seasons, travel, commerce, and entire communities. This creature has crippled economies, decimated nations, and killed thousands of people indiscriminately. COVID-19 has torn through medical communities and shattered our centuries evolved systems of convalescence.

Cripes, it single handedly shuttered the bars and taverns in Wisconsin. Oh the humanity!

It feels appropriate to give consideration to all of the acts of beauty on display since the awakening to our new shared reality. Like the rapid and assured response from our local and state agencies despite a lack of prepared response from our federal agencies. And like the community meal services that have mobilized to ensure the neediest among us are taking nourishment. And like the online community of artists singing, painting, writing, and creating hope and positivity in a world in sore need of it. And like countless friends and neighbors looking in on each other to be sure their needs, no matter the size and shape, are being met.

It feels appropriate to acknowledge the selflessness of our health care providers as they place themselves directly in the infection zone in their efforts to help their communities. To acknowledge the education providers as they pivot without practice or plan to an entirely new platform of public instruction. To thank those working throughout the supply chain to bring food and medical stores close enough to us that we may replenish without fear of shortage. To everyone who would prefer to be home yet ventures forth to fulfill their duty.

So much is uncertain at this moment. What social change will the next public address bring? When will services re-open? Who touched this surface? Was that a cough from my co-worker next to me? Will we ever go back to life before COVID-19? Is beer production an essential service? It is a scary thing to sit and wait for an invisible foe to attack.

Fortunately we have our faith and our community. The building may be closed until further notice, but our hearts are more open than ever. Each of us now has the same opportunity to practice the first Principle of our Faith by abiding Social Distancing tenets. Perhaps born from fear and time on our hands, we nonetheless are exploring each other's faith as we share our practices of mindfulness, meditations, and prayer; thus giving our most intimate hopes room to grow in others.

From the Board Table

We can see our Mother Earth clean and heal herself before our own eyes. This gives way to imagination as we consider the possibilities of accomplishing global environmental repair post-pandemic. Barely into the moment with the worst still likely to come we can already glimpse a better tomorrow previously only the province of dreamers.

I do not fear, nor do I despair. The best of our stories have yet to be written. The beauty of tomorrow has yet to dawn. We have time and providence to make the world we will hand our children. Hand in hand, washed in soap and water for at least twenty seconds, we will build our better world upon the opportunity of now.

Yours in faith,

Jody Maier

From the Ari Schmidt Fund Committee

For those of you who may have missed our previous articles about the May 10th, Mother's Day intergenerational church service, the Ari Schmidt Fund hopes to be sponsoring the service with the theme of "pay it forward." For all of those times that you've appreciated those who have shown you kindness, helped you, and were a friend to you - paying it forward is one effective way that you can say thank you by passing kindness-gifts along to others. Although at this point, we have no idea if we will be having an in person "Pay It Forward" service on Mother's Day, we do know that between now and then, given the current pandemic crises, opportunities to pay it forward will abound.

Part of the service will be the opportunity for you to share pay it forward activities. We hope during the service that you will bear willing to share a little of your pay-it-forward activities and what they have meant to you. There are so many things you can do and so many ways you can get in the pay-it-forward habit. My goodness, if ever there was time to "pay it forward" - it is now!

Hopefully, many of you have taken advantage of borrowing the non-fiction book Channel of Peace. Copies are available through the church office. You may have a little extra time to read, and it is the perfect wonderful and uplifting story for these times with many ideas for paying it forward. Some ideas are: calling one another, offering to shop for our especially vulnerable members, dropping off small gifts and keeping in touch in any safe way you can. The people in the book showed the world how to be, as Mr. Rogers said, "helpers."

Pictured to the right is another idea for a "blessing bag," with warm socks, snacks, basic toiletries, and a little cash, which would pay it forward to one of our community members.

Stay "hunkered down" and safe, beloved folks! More about "pay it forward" next month...



- The Ari Schmidt Fund Committee

Your faith, your community, & the census

What is the 2020 Census?

The census is a count of every person who lives in the United States and its territories. It happens every 10 years. It includes a few simple questions about things like age, sex, and the number of people who live in your home. The 2020 Census will collect the same data as the 2010 Census.

Why am I hearing about the 2020 Census from my place of worship?

The U.S. Census Bureau is partnering with faith-based institutions to promote the 2020 Census. These institutions volunteered to help because they understand how important a complete count is for their congregants and community. They are trusted voices in their communities and are critical to conveying the importance of the 2020 Census. In addition, faith communities often serve the same people that use many of the federal programs that receive funding based on census data. These programs include those that address poverty, hunger, homelessness, child care, emergency services, and public safety.

Will the 2020 Census ask me to identify my religion?

No. The U.S. Census Bureau asks about race and ethnicity in the decennial census, but it does not collect information about religious affiliation.

Why not?

U.S. law prohibits the Census Bureau from requiring anyone to disclose their religious affiliation.

Why should I respond to the 2020 Census?

Being counted matters for you and your community regardless of your religious affiliation. The 2020 Census will determine how many representatives your state will have in Congress. Census results will also help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding are allocated to states and communities each year for housing, schools, food assistance, health care, and other vital services.

Is the 2020 Census confidential?

Yes. The U.S. Census Bureau is required to protect your privacy and keep your answers confidential. By law, your personal information cannot be used against you or anyone else by any government agency or court, and it can't be accessed by the police department, DHS, ICE, FBI, or CIA.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.2020census.gov>

April 2020

Morning meditations are posted to our Facebook page Monday-Saturday at 8:30AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10AM Children's Chapel on Zoom! 10:15AM Podcast posted to FB & e-mail 11:30 Coffee Hour 4PM Youth Group	30 Meditation with Julie on Zoom (ages 13&up) 10-11AM	31	1 Community Hangout with Brian 11AM — Choir Hangout on Zoom 6:30PM	2	3	4
5 10AM Children's Chapel on Zoom! 10:15AM Podcast posted to FB & e-mail 11:30 Coffee Hour! 4PM Youth Group	6 Meditation with Julie on Zoom (ages 13&up) 10-11AM	7	8 Community Hangout with Brian 11AM — Choir Hangout on Zoom 6:30PM	9	10 2nd Friday Nighters on Zoom 6:30PM	11
12 10AM Children's Chapel on Zoom! 10:15AM Podcast posted to FB & e-mail 11:30 Coffee Hour! 4PM Youth Group	13 Meditation with Julie on Zoom (ages 13&up) 10-11AM	14	15 Community Hangout with Brian 11AM — Choir Hangout on Zoom 6:30PM	16	17	18
19 10AM Children's Chapel on Zoom! 10:15AM Podcast posted to FB & e-mail 11:30 Coffee Hour! 4PM Youth Group	20 Meditation with Julie on Zoom (ages 13&up) 10-11AM	21 BOT meeting on Zoom	22 Community Hangout with Brian 11AM — Choir Hangout on Zoom 6:30PM	23	24	25
26 10AM Children's Chapel on Zoom! 10:15AM Podcast posted to FB & e-mail 11:30 Coffee Hour! 4PM Youth Group	27 Meditation with Julie on Zoom (ages 13&up) 10-11AM	28	29 Community Hangout with Brian 11AM — Choir Hangout on Zoom 6:30PM	30 Minister's Book Club 6:30-8PM on Zoom! Meeting ID #799 498 915		



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

Inside this Issue:

April Services	1
<i>From a Window on Grant</i>	2
Weekly & Monthly Gatherings	3
<i>REflections</i>	4
<i>REflections for Adults</i>	5
Little Free Library	5
The Board Table	6
Ari Schmidt Fund	7
2020 Census	8
Calendar	9

All staff is available via e-mail.
Please contact us to set up a phone call or online meeting.
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