

The Circuit Writer - November 2020

Monthly theme: Healing

What does it mean to be a people of Healing?

Sunday Services for November 2020

Our **online-only** services are uploaded to our [website](#), posted on [Facebook](#), and sent via e-mail at 10:30AM every Sunday. You can sign up for e-mails from First UU Wausau [here](#).

November 1st, 10:30AM: Do Not Be Afraid: A Theology of Life's 2nd Half, *the Reverend Brian Mason, preaching.*

November 8th, 10:30AM: Unexpected – *the Rev. Kimberley Debus, pulpit guest*

Life can be a struggle at the best of times – and right now, it's even harder. How can we hold the pains, sorrows, and troubles of life in a time of pandemic, and where can we find relief?

November 15th, 10:30AM: On Healing, *the Reverend Brian Mason, preaching*

November 22nd, 10:30AM: A Thanksgiving Meditation – *the Reverend Brian Mason, preaching*

November 29th, 10:30AM: Keep Awake: Advent in a Pandemic —*the Reverend Brian Mason, preaching*

*Join Julie & Brian on Sundays at 11:45AM for Coffee Hour on Zoom!
{Link sent via e-mail every Wednesday at 1pm.}*

Here's how Coffee Hour will work: We'll take 5-10 minutes to gather and let people get settled. We'll then create break-out rooms - random groupings of 5 or 6 people. You'll have a chance to introduce yourself and then share answers to a couple of questions (posed each week by facilitators). Each person will have about 5 minutes to speak; you are welcome to pass if you like. After half an hour, everyone will come back to the big group and we'll say goodbye for the week. This is a great way to make new friends and stay connected to old friends.



From a Window on Grant

I don't know why this is, but there always seems to be at least someone at every party who, when discovering that I'm a clergyman, tells me that they believe in God or that they're spiritual. This comment is most often followed by, "But I don't go to church anymore." They usually go on to say something like, "For me the church is nature. I can be just as religious as anyone out on the trails." "Of course you can," I say. "But are you?"

The religious educator Sophia Fahs said, "It matters what we believe." This simple yet profound statement reminds us that beliefs have and demand consequences. If you believe that your marriage is important, you are kind and trusting, forgiving and affectionate. If you believe democracy matters, you vote. If you believe your children deserve a loving home with clear boundaries and boundless love, you'll parent that way. This is what I call living a value-rich existence. And collectively we believe in education, and so we build schools. We believe in medicine and therapy and rehabilitation, and so we build hospitals. We believe in charity, and so we build shelters and distribute food.

When we really believe in something, we enact it. It becomes a behavior. We live what we believe because what we believe matters. It's never passive.

I don't doubt there are thousands who believe like Unitarian Universalists, people who cherish democratic process, reason, diversity, universal love and acceptance, and so on. But how many of those people fail to express those beliefs by not committing to a church that attempts, albeit imperfectly, to embody those values?

The church is a symbol, a gathering place for people who are actively responding to the Spirit's call to preach the truth in love, to be humble, to serve, and to be evidence of hope in a too often hopeless world.

I don't worry about the Spirit. The Spirit's eternal. What I worry about is the Spirit's demands. Because they, like the church, depend on us.

Cheers and blessings,

Brian

REFlections

Do you have a gratitude practice in your family? If you do, hop over to our private member Facebook group and tell us about it. If you don't, this might be the perfect time to try one. You might share gratitude around the dinner table each evening, or as part of a bedtime routine. You might make a tree and cut out fall colored leaves for each person to write a gratitude on each day. You could start a family gratitude journal where everyone writes about a gratitude each day. If your children are older, suggest a social media gratitude challenge where everyone in the family posts a gratitude each day on a social media account. In the world we live in there's plenty to complain about. I challenge you to flip the script for the next month and ask your mind to look for things to be grateful for instead, or at least in addition. I think of you often. I miss seeing you, and I hope you are well. Please reach out if you have questions about any RE offerings or if there's anything you need.

Take good care of yourself. I hope to see you in Zoom soon!

With Love,
Julie



UU Wausau Youth Group Service Project

Sunday, October 18th, 13 youth and 3 adult advisors masked and social distanced to rake and do yard work for Keep Area Teens Safe (KATS), at the future site of a local teen homeless shelter.

What does it mean to be a people of Healing?

This is our Religious Education question for the month of November.

Explore this question with this exercise from the Soul Matters small group packet:

Remember what past healing required. Make your own list/poem by completing the sentence, “I knew I was healing when...” Take a morning (or a week) to think about your own past healing journeys and complete the sentence. Here’s an example from Minds Journal.

“I knew I was healing when:

I started responding rather than reacting

I enjoyed time alone

I saw my parents as people with their own unresolved trauma

I set boundaries + when people didn’t respect them,

I knew they were clearing space for those who did

I was ok with being misunderstood”



Join us in the following ways this month as we explore **HEALING**.

Children’s Chapel

RE for children in Kindergarten through 6th grade

Sunday mornings, 9:30 am-10:00 am

Live via Zoom

Adults and families welcome!

Topics

Nov 1st: Don’t run away from healing

Nov 8th: Let gratitude heal you

Nov 15th: Listen before healing others

Nov 22nd: Telling the truth of Thanksgiving

Nov 29th: No Zoom Class; lesson will be pre-recorded and emailed

Youth Group

RE for youth in 7th through 12th grade

Sunday afternoons, 4:00 pm-5:00 pm

Live via Zoom

For youth and advisors only

Topics

Nov 1st: Don’t run away from healing

Nov 8th: In-person, outdoor activity

Nov 15th: Telling the truth of Thanksgiving

Nov 22nd: Find ways to comfort yourself

Nov 29th: No Zoom Class

Anti-Racism Family Story Time

Wednesday evenings, 6:30-7:00 pm

Live via Zoom + a recording of each story available to those unable to attend live.

We’ll use children’s picture books to start conversations around anti-racism. Appropriate for all ages. All are welcome. Families

are encouraged to attend together. Email ju-lie@uuwausau.org to register and request Zoom link.



UU Parenting Circle

Sharing, listening, supporting, learning

Thursday evenings, 8:00-9:00 pm

Live via Zoom

All parents welcome. Email ju-lie@uuwausau.org for the Zoom link.

Soul Matters Small Groups

If you aren’t in a group but would like to explore the packet on your own or with friends, email julie@uuwausau.org to request a packet.

*Official notice—from the Board of Trustees
of First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau*

As required by the Bylaws, an annual meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, December 13th at 11:45 AM.

Due to safety considerations because of the coronavirus pandemic this meeting will not be held in person. Instead we will be holding our very first Zoom annual meeting. Here are additional details regarding the process:

A link to the meeting will be emailed to all members a few days before the meeting. For additional instructions on how to access Zoom or if you have any questions, please contact our congregational administrator Danika Kozlovich at danika@uuwausau.org or (715) 842-3697. You will also receive the annual report to the congregation at least 10 days before the annual meeting. This will be emailed to you unless you specifically want a copy mailed to you via the post office. You could also make arrangements to pick up a hard copy at church. Please contact Danika if you want an arrangement other than email.

Included in the annual report will be at least the following:

- reports of officers and staff
- the election of members to the Board of Trustees, the Endowment Committee, and the Nominating Committee
- an annual budget
- a revised endowment committee declaration statement
- a Treasurer term limit by-law change

We will vote on necessary business during the course of the Zoom meeting. If you are unable to attend the Zoom meeting you can also request an absentee ballot ahead of time. This would then need to be returned to the church by the day of the annual meeting in order to be included in the vote total. Again, please contact Danika if you want an absentee ballot mailed to you. All church members are allowed to vote.

Thank you for your patience as we navigate out annual meeting in our current Zoom world!!

Sheryl Hemp
Secretary

UU Wausau Personnel Committee Call

November 1, 2020

Greetings Fellow UUs,

We have a great opportunity to serve and invest your talents. The Personnel Committee is seeking new members for the first time in many years. The Personnel Committee is a three member team that supports the Board of Trustees, Minister, and staff. Essential duties include oversight of annual employee and compensation reviews, employee handbook compliance and revisioning, and human resource advisement.

The ideal candidate will have experience in Human Resources, personnel management, and/or serving in a similar role with other non-profit organizations. A typical commitment means attending monthly (one hour) meetings, annual goal setting and follow through, as well as being available to support the Board and Staff on an as needed basis. This is a standing committee that reports annually to the Board.

For the past eleven years it has been our fortune to have Marsha Fitzgerald serve us on this committee. Marsha is concluding her service as committee Chair. On behalf of the congregation I humbly thank Marsha for her dedication and commitment. Her leadership has the Personnel Committee in a healthy, active position. She has performed wisely and ably and will be missed.

This is a great time to join Brian Stezenski-Williams and me, Jody Maier, as a member of the Personnel Committee. Our calendar and goals for 2021 are set, and we each have experience to help new members assimilate. The upcoming year will be my last year on Personnel as well so we are seeking two members to ease the transition process. The Personnel Committee essentially functions as our Human Resources team so it is vital we fill these vacancies. While the most important qualification is your willingness to commit your time and attention, it is equally important that we have committee membership with practical personnel experience.

Please consider this opportunity and contact either Brian or I with your interest. We will be happy to answer your questions and flesh out the commitment necessary to continue our success.

Thank you!

Jody Maier

VP Board of Trustees

Jody Maier: canoemaier@gmail.com

Brian Stezenski-Williams: BS-W@outlook.com

The Community Focus Collection

The Community Focus Collection committee has been asked by the UU Community Suppers committee, (a part of the Social Justice committee), if we would make a CFC appeal to our community for monetary donations for the February and March suppers.

The UU Community Suppers are hosted by us 4 times a year and normally are cooked and served in the Presbyterian church. Due to the restrictions of Covid -19 the kitchen and the dining room are closed and the food is handed out basically in the parking lot. This presents real difficulty when hoping to serve a HOT meal. There is no way to keep 70-90 servings warm from 3:45-5:00. The Community Supper committee has decided to try to raise money via the Community Focus Collections to cater hot meals for those two months.

They have talked to both the Mint and Trig's deli for estimates, Mint \$7.00 and Trig's \$6.00/serving. They will deliver and keep warm to the Church on that Sunday afternoon and then pick up. The \$500.00-\$600.00 per February and March are more than the Community Supper budget usually allows but these are really abnormal times and it just seems so right to serve a hot meal during these cold months. We have talked to the other churches who host these meals throughout the year and they too have opted to try and serve hot meals.

Committee Focus will be putting this appeal in the CW November, December, January and February just to remind our community of the need.

Hopefully when UU Wausau's turn comes around again, October and November 2021, they will be back in the Presbyterian kitchen and dining room again and back within their budget.

Checks can be made out to UU Wausau and designated for the "Community Supper". Send them to Danika and she will keep us up to date.

As Brian has stated, during these very trying times, our larger community needs us more than ever. Please donate whatever you can, and know that we appreciate it very much, as do our "clients".

Thank you from the Community Focus Collection committee.

2021 Stewardship Appeal...

Hello, Fellow UU Church Congregants.

Despite all of the earth-shaking new events and crises we are facing in 2020, one of the things that remains constant for us as UUs is our need to support our beloved church for another year.



Investing in the care and feeding of our source of spiritual guidance — that is, pledging our annual financial support for First UU Church of Wausau — remains a priority if we wish to continue to maintain our treasured church resources and relationships to sustain us in times like these... and beyond.

The Reverend Brian mentioned in a recent sermon that the stewardship of our democracy is something we must undertake with fervor. I believe we all feel the same charge about our church and need to support it with a similar fervor for our shared future.

Soon, you will be receiving a 2021 Pledge Form in the mail asking you to support First UU Church for the upcoming year with your dollars and personal involvement. Please give generously to this cause that brings so much to you — and the larger community — through its sermons, fellowship, classes, charitable causes, committees, and more.

We've made giving to First UU Wausau easier than ever now, too!

Mail or drop off a CHECK — 504 Grant St., Wausau, WI 54403

Give via TEXT — Text **FirstUWausau** to **73256**. Our trusted Realm system will reply with a link where you can easily donate via your phone.

Donate ONLINE — Visit: <https://onrealm.org/uuwausau/give/online>

Choose to donate to your annual pledge or another fund, how often you wish to contribute, and more.

Stay safe and protect your loved ones,

Carl Drake
2021 Stewardship Committee

UU Winter Retreat

The UU Winter Retreat will be different this year, but still promises plenty of outdoor winter family fun. Due to COVID, we have found a venue that still allows us to gather for outdoor fun but more safely houses each family separately. Central Wisconsin Environmental Station Family Camp offers individual cabins for each family.

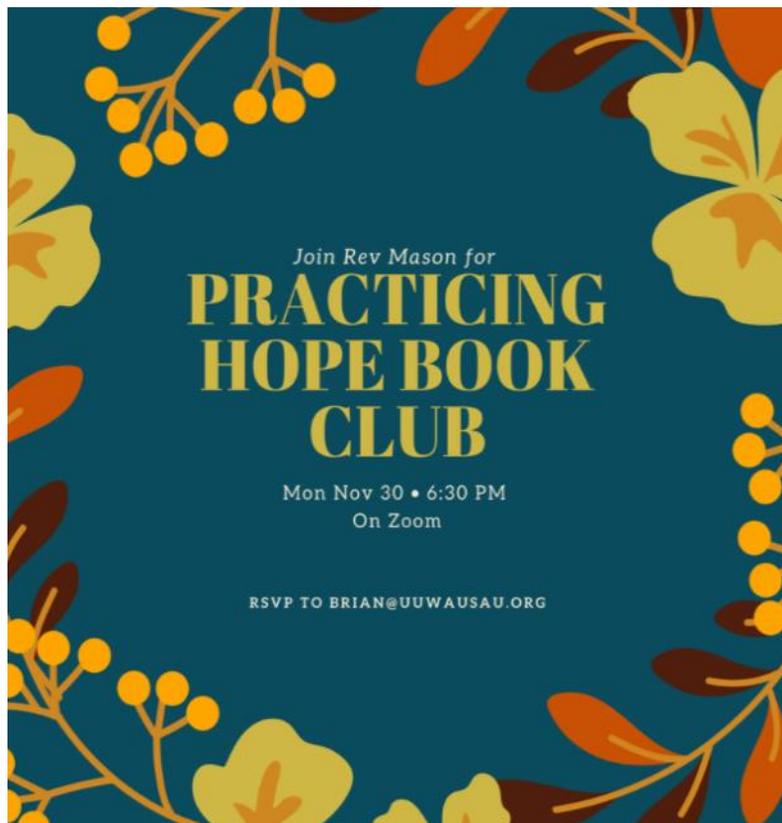
The Winter Retreat will be February 5-7, 2021 at a cost of \$134/person. That cost includes:

- 2 nights lodging
- Saturday Breakfast Lunch and Dinner
- Sunday Breakfast
- Linens and towels
- Snowshoes
- camp leaders for night hikes or other activities of the group's choosing

If arriving early Friday afternoon, dinner on Friday, around 5:30pm, would be an additional fee of \$11/person.

Located on two lakes near Amherst, WI, with opportunities for snowshoeing, hiking and cross country skiing. There will be a common area for meals and gathering for games, socializing, with masks and precautions. Iola Winter Sports Club offers groomed ski trails and we will be able to watch ski jump competitions that weekend as well.

Mark your calendars and contact Sally and Steve Schmidt at sallyschmidt213@gmail.com or 715-370-1157 with any questions.



Practicing Hope Book Club

Join the Rev. Mason for Practicing Hope Book Club. November's read is "Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings," by Joy Harjo.

Meeting takes place via Zoom on Monday, November 30, at 6:30PM.

Check out the book selection here: <https://tinyurl.com/y432p6xw>

To participate, RSVP to the Reverend Brian Mason: brian@uuwausau.org

Seven Principles of UU Congregations

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. We live out these principles within a “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

As the Reverend Barbara Wells ten Hove explains, “The Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in Unitarian Universalist religious communities.”

1st Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

2nd Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

3rd Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

4th Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

May we move through this month holding these principles in our hearts.

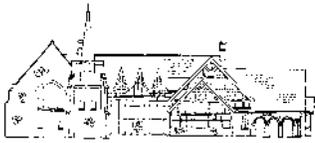


-from www.uua.org

NOVEMBER 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30AM: Children's Chapel on Zoom 10:30AM: <i>Service led by the Rev. Brian Mason</i> 4PM: Youth Group—Live via Zoom	2	3 Election Day	4 Choir meeting on Zoom: 6:30pm Anti-racism Family Story Time: 6:30pm on Zoom	5 UU Parenting Circle 8PM on Zoom	6	7
8 9:30AM: Children's Chapel on Zoom 10:30AM: <i>the Rev. Kim Debus, preaching</i> 4PM: Youth Group—Live via Zoom	9	10	11 Anti-racism Family Story Time: 6:30pm on Zoom Veterans Day	12 UU Parenting Circle 8PM on Zoom	13	14
15 9:30AM: Children's Chapel on Zoom 10:30AM: <i>Service led by the Rev. Brian Mason</i> 4PM: Youth Group—Live via Zoom	16	17 BOT meeting on Zoom 6:30PM	18 Anti-racism Family Story Time: 6:30pm on Zoom	19 UU Parenting Circle 8:00PM on Zoom	20	21
22 9:30AM: Children's Chapel on Zoom 10:30AM: <i>Service led by the Rev. Brian Mason</i> 4PM: Youth Group—Live via Zoom	23	24	25 Anti-racism Family Story Time: 6:30pm on Zoom	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 10:30AM: <i>Service led by the Rev. Brian Mason</i>	30 Practicing Hope Book Club on Zoom 6:30pm					



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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Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9AM-1PM
Please contact us to set up an appointment.
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