

The Circuit Writer - August 2020

Join us for our **online service** every Sunday! Our podcast is e-mailed and posted on our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/firstuuwausau>) Sunday mornings at 9:00am, along with an Order of Service.

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

Sunday Services for August 2020

August 2: Take Care: In this time of physical distancing and virtual church, we miss some of what makes our Sunday mornings special. How do we reach out to one another and show our care for each other in this new way of being together? *The Reverend Kimberley Debus, preaching*

August 9: *The Reverend Brian Mason, preaching*

August 16: *Julie Trombley, Director of Religious Education, speaking*

August 23: Ordinary Loss Throughout our lives we all face many losses. Some are minor but seem major at the time. Other times, these losses are traumatic and lead to acute grief. We need to grieve, and we do so in many ways; it is a healthy process. What is unhealthy though, is when we allow our grief to be heavier than the actual loss. *Richard Olson, speaking*

August 23: In this period of heightened recognition of the advantages being white in America and interest in learning ways to address racism, we are grateful Kayley McColley has agreed to provide reflections of her experiences as a black person in Wausau. Kayley is a 20 year old who was raised in Wausau, graduated from Wausau West High School and currently is working here in the health care field. Kayley is a committed community activist and sought after voice. *Kayley McColley, speaking*

During this time of virtual services, know we hold you in our thoughts and our hearts, and look forward to the day we can all gather together in person again.



Fall 2020 Soul Matters Small Group Registration Open!

Soul Matters, a program used by hundreds of UU congregations across the country, uses monthly themes to explore ways of being that line up with Unitarian Universalist values. Soul Matters Small Groups offer structured and facilitated sharing, and deep listening, around a monthly theme. These groups offer the gift of deeper connection to life, others, and ourselves--rather than the opportunity to debate or intellectualize.

Fall session groups will meet 2 times per month, September through January, for a total of 10 meetings. A commitment to attendance is important, as meetings are as much about connection to group members as they are about exploring the topic. These are closed (as opposed to drop-in style) groups of 6-8 participants, offering the opportunity to get to know group members well, over the 5 months you'll meet together. Prior to each meeting, participants will be given suggested spiritual exercises, questions, and resources to help guide exploration on the theme, before engaging in group conversation at the meeting. Themes this session include: Renewal, Deep Listening, Healing, Stillness, and Imagination.

Soul Matters Small Groups are an opportunity for meaningful connection with other congregants, even if/when the church building can't be open! There are several options for meeting times and options to meet fully online or to meet in person at church, when it's safe to do so. Click [here](#) for more detail and to register for a group. The registration deadline is August 14th. **Registration is required.**

Contact Julie, Director of Religious Education at julie@uuwasau.org with questions.



Office Hours

Though the church is closed, the church office *is* open! Currently, Danika is usually in the office Monday-Thursday, 9AM-1PM. Please feel free contact any of the staff (e-mails are listed on the back of this newsletter) to set up a time to meet.

MidWest Virtual Leadership School

MidWest Leadership School, offered by MidAmerica UUA, is perfect for anyone new to congregational leadership or those already in leadership wanting to expand and hone leadership skills in a time of change. You can find more information about Leadership School here: <https://www.mwls.org>. Registration happens through congregations, contact Julie at julie@uuwausau.org to express interest in attending. This school is open to those above the age of 18. Below is an update on Leadership School from MidAmerica staff:

We will hold four sessions, three weeks apart: September 12, October 3, October 24, and November 14. Sessions will run from 9:00 am Central / 10:00 am Eastern and go for about three hours. Each session will begin with brief worship, then history and theology with [Rev. Connie Simon](#), minister of First Unitarian Church, Cincinnati. The rest of the time (with appropriate breaks) will focus on an area of congregational leadership. Rather than sitting for lectures, students will be given assignments to do before each meeting—readings, videos, etc., that center the day's topic. We will use our time together for conversation and questions about the materials.

In addition to these four Saturdays, students will be expected to attend a weekly Credo session—a small group ministry session facilitated by one of our MWLS lay staff. These will be scheduled at a time that works for the group members.

The Saturday Sessions will focus on the following themes:

Session 1: Identity: Creating the Beloved Community, focusing on questions such as who is “us,” what covenants bind us together, widening our circle of inclusion

Session 2: Mission Vision: Why Do We Bother, exploring the reasons your congregation exists, what your purpose in the world is

Session 3: Systems: How Does it All Fit Together, focusing on congregational DNA, how things work, how to lead from a systemic position

Session 4: Conflict: Being Together Across Differences, exploring how congregations resolve issues, and how to be together while disagreeing

Each session will look at leadership with deliberate emphasis on two areas: dismantling systemic white supremacy culture, and congregational life in a world with physical distancing.



From the Board Table...

What a strange world we are living in...and strange is the biggest understatement of all. I remember back to the beginning of the year when I was so excited about what 2020 could be. I thought the sound of 2020 had a nice ring to it – a nice symmetrical kind of ring. A good even sound to the number. I also thought the idea of 2020 could bring a perfect kind of vision – a very literal meaning to “2020”. That “2020” would live up to it’s potential. So what do I think now?

I could focus on the negative and recite the litany of traumas and tragedies of the past six months, but I refuse to do that. I still need to believe in the potential of this year and what “2020” vision can be. This is what I have noticed...this is what I have experienced.

Weekly Zoom meetings with my far flung family, sunsets, garden flowers, being silent and listening to real life experiences of racial injustice (still listening), support from amazing co-workers, farmer’s market veggies, pontoon rides, watching robins build a nest right outside my window, seeing the depth of people’s kindness and passion, walking and more walking, the support of a Soul Matters group, swinging, patio picnics, reading, watching people learn about the strength that they never thought they had, pickle ball, learning to enjoy my own company, nature, white lights in my windows at night, a loving and supportive church family, thunderstorms, the smell of freshly cut grass, music, finally sorting and organizing, good friends, laughter, sending thoughts of loving kindness to the world, breathing, social media (only the good stuff), book clubs, kayaking, surprise Easter flowers being delivered, silence....what is your list?

- Sheryl Hemp



Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate

At UU Wausau we use only Fair Trade coffee that provides living wages for growers and workers. The proceeds from the sales of our Fair Trade coffee, chocolate, cocoa, and local honey go to the Ari Schmidt Fund, named after a UU Wausau church member passionate for justice. Small grants from the Fund support justice-oriented local initiatives and church projects.

As we are currently meeting virtually, we have organized ways for you to continue to be able to purchase your favorite items while remaining safe.

Choose your favorites from the list below, e-mail your selections to danika@uuwausau.org, or call the church office, and set up a time to pick them up from the church – Dänika will meet you at the door with your order. You can pay with cash or check at the time of pick-up, or pay via our secure [Online Giving form](#) ahead of time (please select Ari Schmidt Fund from the drop-down menu).

Coffee, \$9 per 12oz bag:

- Love Buzz (whole bean or ground)
- French Roast (whole bean or ground)
- Decaf – Full City Roast (whole bean or ground)
- Decaf – Hazelnut Creme (ground)



Chocolate, \$4 per bar:

- Milk Chocolate
- Milk Chocolate Caramel Crunch with Sea Salt
- Dark Chocolate with Almond
- Dark Chocolate Caramel Crunch with Sea Salt
- Very Dark
- Extreme Dark

Cocoa Mix, \$8 per 12oz carton:

- Original
- Dark
- Spicy

Local Honey, 100% Raw, \$8 per jar

Produced by Orval Quamme



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

AUGUST 2020.....

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:00 AM Podcast posted to FB & e-mail <i>Service led by Kimberley Debus</i>	3	4	5 Choir Hangout on Zoom 6:30PM	6	7	8
9 9:00 AM Podcast posted to FB & e-mail <i>Service led by Brian Mason</i>	10	11	12 Choir Hangout on Zoom 6:30PM	13	14 Soul Matters registration deadline	15
16 9:00 AM Podcast posted to FB & e-mail <i>Service led by Julie Trombley</i>	17	18 BOT meeting on Zoom 6:30PM	19 Choir Hangout on Zoom 6:30PM	20	21	22
23 9:00 AM Podcast posted to FB & e-mail <i>Service led by Richard Olson</i>	24	25	26 Choir Hangout on Zoom 6:30PM	27	28	29
30 9:00 AM Podcast posted to FB & e-mail <i>Service led by Jerry Phelan & Kay Meyer</i>	31					



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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All staff is available via e-mail.

Please contact us to set up a phone call or online meeting.

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