

# *The Circuit Writer - December 2020*

Monthly theme: *Stillness*. What does it mean to be a people of *Stillness*?

## *Services for December 2020*

*At this time, all services are online-only, available at 10:30AM on Sunday unless otherwise stated. Every service is posted to our [website](#), [Facebook](#), and sent via e-mail. Sign up for e-mails from First UU Wausau [here](#).*

**December 6, 10:30AM: Advent II** — the Reverend Brian Mason, preaching.  
*Children's Chapel on Zoom at 9:30AM.  
Youth Group on Zoom at 4PM.*

**December 13, 10:30AM: Advent III** — the Reverend Brian Mason, preaching  
*Children's Chapel on Zoom at 9:30AM.  
Youth Group on Zoom at 4PM.*

**December 20, 10:30AM: 101<sup>st</sup> Christmas Pageant: "O Zoom, All Ye Faithful"** — Julie Trombley, RE students, and the Rev. Brian Mason. This year's Christmas pandemic-inspired pageant will include a play by Corey Turnpenny that invites you behind the scenes, into a Zoom staff meeting of angels who are preparing for the birth of Jesus. The church elves are still building the other elements of the service.

NOTE: Service will be in video format.

*Children's Chapel on Zoom at 9:30AM.  
Youth Group on Zoom at 4PM.*

**Monday, December 21, 7:30PM: Winter Solstice Service**— *led by Randy Jefferson.* Again this year on the northern hemisphere's longest night we will celebrate the coming of the light and the sacred circle of life, incorporating some of the elements from past solstice services into 2020's go to Zoom format.

**Thursday, December 24, 7:00PM: Christmas Eve Candlelight** — *the Reverend Brian Mason, preaching.* Join us this Christmas Eve for an evening of beloved music, hymns, and readings. At 8PM, we will gather as a congregation on Zoom to wish our church family a Merry Christmas and sing "Silent Night" together. Ready a candle—or stop by the church office to grab one — in time to join us for this lovely Christmas tradition.

NOTE: This service will be sent as a podcast at 7PM along with the Zoom link to gather and sing "Silent Night" together at 8PM.

**December 27, 10:30AM: So Now What?** — the Reverend Brian Mason, preaching

*\*\*No RE Classes this Sunday.\*\**



## *From a Window on Grant*

When I wake up, darkness; when I get off work, darkness; most days in winter, darkness. Can someone tell me where to get some light this time of year?

Religiously speaking, Christmas is a time of year that celebrates the power of light over darkness.

In the church's calendar, the season before Christmas is Advent (Nov 29 to Dec 24). It's sort of a spiritual time-out, a cosmic pause. We're invited to prepare for the light and joy of Christmas by doing something quite hard for most people to do and that's to stop and be quiet. And what are you supposed to do now that you're still? You stare into the darkness.

The Anglican priest Tish Warren says that "To practice Advent is to lean into an almost cosmic ache: our deep, wordless desire for things to be made right and the incompleteness we find in the meantime." The world, our world, is filled with sickness and pain, with suffering and sadness. And we, dear friends, our bodies and lives, are filled with those things too, a fact so painfully evident in this pandemic moment.

The church's rhythmic calendar that moves us from life to death and back to life does many things, not least of which is how it teaches that joy's frequent travel buddies are grief and sadness. After all, what is accomplishment without struggle? What is reunion without separation? What is love without loss? What is light without darkness?

Advent invites you to grieve. After this strange and strained year, all of us can benefit from a few days of mourning. But Advent, just like wintertime darkness, ends in light, a new day, dawn, hope.

Blessings,

Brian

## *REflections*

Every year around this time I revisit the book, “Unplug the Christmas Machine” by Jo Robinson & Jean Coppock Staeheli. Revisiting the wisdom in this book is one tool that I use to realign myself with what really matters this time of year. It can be so easy to get caught up in the consumer-based frenzy that marketers tell me I should feel right now. This book reminds me to stay grounded during the holiday season. Everything seems to have a new, or different, or pronounced meaning during these covid times and this book was no exception. “Unplug the Christmas Machine” states that the four things children (and I would argue people of all ages) really want for Christmas are: 1) a relaxed and loving time with their family, 2) realistic expectations about gifts, 3) an evenly paced holiday season and, 4) reliable family traditions. I would invite you to pause for a moment and ask yourself how you might give your children (and yourself) those four things during the holiday season. I find myself especially drawn to numbers one and four and plan to spend some time over the next few weeks thinking about how I can enhance traditions and meaningful time together for my family over the winter holidays.

I’m wishing you an evenly paced, relaxed, and loving Holiday Season. Take good care of yourself. I hope to see you in Zoom soon!

With Love,  
*Julie*

### *What does it mean to be a people of STILLNESS?*

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

From this month’s Small Group packet:

*“Don’t tell me to be calm  
When there are so many reasons  
To be angry...  
I didn’t say to be calm, said the wind,  
I said to breathe.  
We’re going to need a lot of air  
To make this hurricane together.  
-Rev. Lynn Unger*



Often when stillness weaves its way into our discussions, it’s framed as a retreat strategy. A balm from the frantic and frequently wounding world. But as wise ones like Rev. Unger remind us, that’s not quite right. It’s less like a locked room that keeps all the enemies out and more like an oxygen mask that brings us back to life, that fills us with power. Stillness doesn’t simply slow our breath and energy; it fills us with it.”

*Turn the page to see ways to join us this month as we explore **STILLNESS**.*

### 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**

Dec 6th: Step away from busyness

Dec 13<sup>th</sup>: Listen for the voices of angels

Dec 20<sup>th</sup>: Rekindle hope by watching for the light

Dec 27<sup>th</sup>: No Zoom RE classes

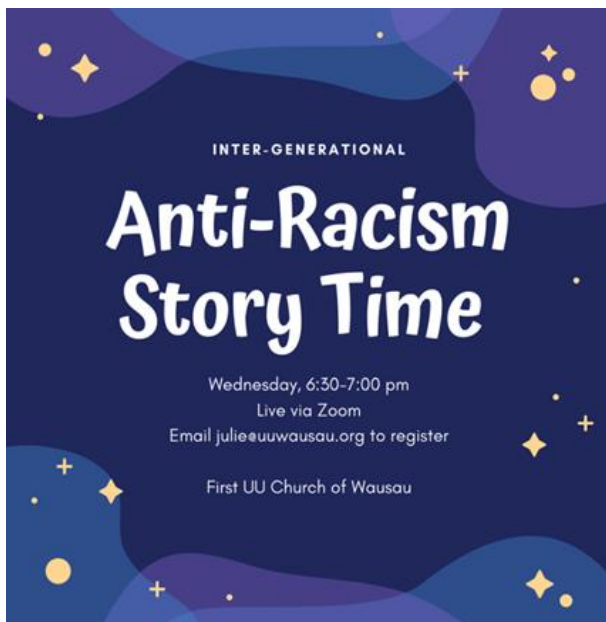
### Anti-Racism Family Story Time

**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 [julie@uuwausau.org](mailto:julie@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

[julie@uuwausau.org](mailto:julie@uuwausau.org) for the Zoom link.

### 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**

Dec 6th: Step away from busyness

Dec 13<sup>th</sup>: Listen for the voices of angels

Dec 20<sup>th</sup>: Rekindle hope by watching for the light

Dec 27<sup>th</sup>: No Zoom RE classes

### Soulful Home

This monthly PDF packet of at-home Religious Education exploration is created with families with children in mind, but contains activities and information that could be enjoyed by anyone. The packets align with the monthly Religious Education question. Email [julie@uuwausau.org](mailto:julie@uuwausau.org) to request a Soulful Home packet.

### 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](mailto:julie@uuwausau.org) to request a packet.

### 12 Days of Christmas with UU Wausau

Twelve (EXTRA) opportunities to pause and connect with your UU Wausau community in the month of December. We'll meet mostly via Zoom, to make sure everyone can stay safe, at 7:30 pm (except where noted in the schedule). We'll have a different host each evening who will do something like: read a holiday story, treat us to holiday music, lead a discussion, or some other fun and creative offering. Most evenings we'll spend 15-20 minutes together (exceptions to this are also noted in the schedule). These family-friendly gatherings were created to give you a daily opportunity to connect with your church community, in real time. So make some hot chocolate, log on, say hello, see faces you've been missing, hear voices, and know that we all are still 'out there.' We know that Zoom isn't really an adequate replacement for being together in our beautiful church building, but it does offer a way to connect. We hope you'll take the opportunity. **We'll kick off our 12 Days of Christmas on December 13<sup>th</sup>** with Margaret Jerz hosting a Christmas carol sing along! Zoom links will be emailed.



# *12 Days of Christmas*

*with UU Wausau*

13TH: MARGARET JERZ

14TH: BUSIG FAMILY

15TH: ROXANN BORNEMANN

16TH: SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE  
MOVIE DISCUSSION, 7-8 PM

17TH: SCHMIDT FAMILY

18TH: SHERYL HEMP

19TH: MASON FAMILY

20TH: DANIKA KOZLOVICH

21ST: SOLSTICE GATHERING, RANDY  
JEFFERSON, 7:30-8:30 PM

22ND: EMAILED VIDEO

23RD: ANNA GRESCH & FAMILY

24TH: CHRISTMAS EVE PODCAST,  
7 PM, ZOOM SILENT NIGHT 8 PM

7:30 PM, ~15 MINUTE GATHERINGS,  
EXCEPT WHERE NOTED.

A DIFFERENT HOST EVERY NIGHT!

## *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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 our annual meeting in our current Zoom world!!

Sheryl Hemp  
Secretary

## *Planning Ahead for 2021*

To say that our Church has been fortunate so far in the Pandemic is an understatement that misses the point. We have navigated the many challenges of the pandemic because we have supported each other and because of the thoughtful leadership provided by our minister, staff, lay leaders, and Board of Directors, working together to find a path forward that allows us to stay connected in meaningful ways that most of us had not considered prior to March. The podcast services have been a wonderful success and source of spiritual support. Surprisingly, our financial position, despite economic uncertainty and decline, has remained strong.

But to assume that that things will simply continue to go well because they have, would, I think, be a mistake. We need to work together to ensure the financial health of our church so that we can continue to provide a leading liberal religious voice in our area. Of course, this begins with our personal pledges to the annual stewardship drive. We all need to participate at a level that is meaningful and manageable for us.

Given the continued economic uncertainty, however, I think we also need to revive and reinvent our auction to generate some additional revenue to ensure the delivery of our Church's mission in 2021, our 151<sup>st</sup> year. Doing an auction in 2021 is right on schedule (the last auction was in 2019), and the pandemic creates an opportunity/ AKA "necessity" to do things differently. Historically, we have tended to rely heavily on the same brave souls to raise our money year after year until they finally wear out and politely withdraw, leaving everyone wondering how we will possibly continue raising funds in the future.

Perhaps the pandemic can help us take a different, more proactive, approach in 2021. The best place to start is by thanking everyone who worked on the 2019 auction. They are:

*Jerry Phelan, Laura Syring, Sarah Thurs, Lila Hobson, Sheryl Hemp, Mike Moen, Marsha Fitzgerald, LeeAnn Venne, Greg Venne, Christina Priewe, Matt Priewe, Erin Verley, Heather Busig, Jeannie Russell, Wolfram Weinberg, Anji Spialek, Diane Walker, Karen Peterson, Tim Peterson, Bart Hobson, and Bill Schumacher.*

Certainly, those who want to continue being part of a planning group for 2021 would be most welcome to say the least. We need to learn as much from them as we can. But to succeed, we also need to engage new volunteers with new skills, perspectives and relationships to help us re-shape the auction as a virtual event. To get started, we will be hosting an initial Zoom planning meeting in the first half of January. The date will be in the January *Circuit Writer*, posted on our Facebook page and emailed to everyone.

*-Brian Stezenski-Williams*

## *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 Trigs'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 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.

## *Please welcome our newest members of First UU Wausau!*



### **Greg & Rachel Kresse**

Greg is a part-time Psychotherapist at the Centre For Well-Being and Rachel is a retired Adult Educator. Moved to Wausau from Milwaukee in 1996 because of our love for Nordic skiing. Currently Greg (coaches) and Rachel (manages) the Racing division of the Wausau Night Gliders (middle school Nordic ski team). They are also avid gardeners - flowers, prairie, and food. Greg and Rachel eagerly look forward to becoming a part of the UU Community.

### **Jessica Lind**



Jessica was invited by a friend to attend a Soul Matters group last year. She says that the podcasts have brought great comfort and the journey that led her to UU Wausau reassures her this is the place for her. Jessica is married, with a son in college, a daughter who is a senior in high school, and a golden doodle. Jessica is passionate about her career and helping people in our community. She is looking forward to getting involved in the UU Wausau community and meeting new people.



### **Gary & Maggie (Margaret) Werhane**

Gary is a retired salesperson and Maggie is a former teacher. They moved to Wisconsin 45 years ago from Illinois. They live in Weston and spend their winters in Sun City, Arizona. They enjoy travel and camping. Their daughter Amanda lives in Madison and introduced them to the UU church where she is an active member. Gary and Maggie have been active members of a church all of their life. However the need for growth in their spiritual life led them to UU Wausau. They are delighted that several of their friends belong to our church also. They look forward to being active members of UU Wausau.

## *Fair Trade Gifting for the Holidays and Beyond!*

Would you like to lift a friend's spirit in these challenging times? Do you need a consumable holiday gift for that person who has everything? ***Consider a bag of Fair Trade goods!*** We offer both COVID Care bags and Holiday gift bags. Pay only for the contents which you choose. Order through the church office (via phone—715-842-3697—or [e-mail](#)) and then pick up your order during office hours, M-Th, 9am-1pm.

Let Danika know the following:

- + What kind of bag:  
     COVID care bag  
     Holiday bag
- + Whether you would like a free Holiday/Christmas mug (while supplies last)
- + Your selection of merchandise from the following:

Coffee	\$9.00
	French Roast whole bean
	French Roast grind
	Love Buzz whole bean
	Love Buzz grind
	Decaf whole Bean
	Decaf grind
Chocolate bars	\$4.00
	Dark - caramel crunch
	Dark - lemon ginger and black pepper
	Dark with almonds (limited)
	Dark - mint crunch
	Very dark
	Extreme dark
	Milk
	Milk - caramel crunch
Cocoa (limited)	\$8.00
	Regular
	Dark
	Spicy
Tamari Almonds	\$8.00
Honey	\$8.00
	Pints of unpasteurized honey from Orval Quamme

*Profits from sales of Fair Trade Goods support the Ari Schmidt Troublemaker Fund for Bus, Bail and Pizza which provides assistance to First UU members and participants who undertake social justice experiences or projects.*

## *Please Support First UU Church of Wausau in 2021 — It's a MATTER of SOUL...*

If you haven't yet turned in your [2021 Pledge Form](#) committing your financial support to First UU Church, please take 2 minutes to return it so the Board can do its important budgeting work with sound numbers. **As of the time of this newsletter's printing, we have a number of outstanding Pledge Forms we'd sure like to see come in.**

We understand that life gets busy with the holidays — and we certainly are mindful of the havoc a once-in-a-century pandemic is creating. But our church is a place of strength and support during hard times like these, and it takes YOUR GENEROSITY to allow us to do as Rev. Brian said and “*Keep ministering to those in need, singing a joyful noise, maintaining beloved traditions, and growing, not only in membership, but in that spirit of love that's been our guide for 150 years.*”

Personally, I couldn't have made it through this difficult year without my Soul Matters Sisters. I know a number of us have commented on how therapeutic and soul-supporting being part of the small-group Soul Matters classes has been for us — even when we had to switch from gathering at the church to calling in from home via Zoom. If you're involved in one of the many spiritually uplifting sessions that Julie so skillfully facilitates, please ask yourself:

### **What are UU Wausau's “Soul Matters” classes worth to you?**

These twice-a-month classes are just ONE of the many ways our dedicated staff at First UU Wausau are working hard to remain relevant, involved, and supportive of the church's Friends and Members. What a GIFT we have in this offering. Please return the GIFT and pledge generously.



We have several **easy ways for you to pledge your financial support** to First UU Church:

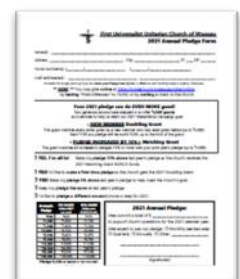
[Download a Pledge Form here](#)

Return the Pledge Form that Members received in the mail in the S.A.S.E. provided.

Request a Pledge Form be snail-mailed or emailed to you: [danika@uuwausau.org](mailto:danika@uuwausau.org)

Give online at <https://onrealm.org/uuwausau/give/online>

Text “FirstUUWausau” to 73256



*(We'll gladly accept your Pledge Form anytime, but it's helpful to have most forms in by mid-December to assist with budget planning — and to save us from calling to check in on your pledging intentions.)*

**We kindly thank you in advance for your generous support of this beloved church community.**

*—Sarah Thurs, on behalf of the 2021 Stewardship Committee*

## *Immigration Justice — Fox Valley UU Needs Our Help*

The Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship has recently requested our help as they continue to support four people seeking a safer home in the United States. They are paying a small amount each month to offset living expenses and give these struggling individuals a bit of spending money. They also pay for other expenses such as school fees, clothes, and legal fees; however, with the uncertainty facing DACA and asylum seekers in our country, Fox Valley UU now needs our help. These are real people with real stories. Per Fox Valley UU:

One young man holds DACA status and is struggling with mental health issues. His father was deported 2 years ago after living and working in the United States for over 20 years. We are helping with medication costs and bus passes to allow him to attend classes and appointments.

We welcomed a mother and her infant son to our area in March just as the country shut down. The mom is seeking asylum after fleeing her home while 8-months pregnant and traveling for over 20 days to get to the United States. She has not had her court hearing yet, and lives in limbo while our government keeps putting up more and more road blocks. In the meantime, she is starting to take classes studying nursing and her son is a thriving active 1-year-old. They are living in a very loving supportive family.

This family is also offering a home to a young teen who was left alone in the United States. She and her mom fled violence in their home country and arrived in the United States together. They presented themselves at the border and were immediately separated when she was only 12. Her mom was deported and she stayed in detention for 8 months by herself. Now after being removed from 2 different foster homes, and 3 different schools, in 2 different states, she arrived in the Fox Valley in early May. She is enrolled in school and both of these young women are actively learning English with the help of Fellowship members and our local Literacy Council. They are both smart and determined and working hard to learn English and continue their studies.

At this time, First UU Wausau is not involved in providing direct support to asylum seekers, so please take these individuals under your wing by sending a contribution (via check with "Immigration Justice" noted in the memo line) to:

Fox Valley UU Fellowship  
2600 E Philip Lane  
Appleton, WI 54915

*"You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late."*  
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

## *Moving Movies*

### *Hosted by the Social Justice Committee*

Join a Zoom gathering on Wednesday, December 16th at 7 PM for a discussion of the movie ***Hidden Figures***, hosted by the Social Justice Committee. At your convenience, watch the movie (or read the book) prior to the 16th. For this holiday season, we've chosen this uplifting film based on the true story of three brilliant African-American women at NASA who helped the United States win the Space Race. For those inclined toward more grit in their racial justice movie selections, stay tuned for future selections. *Hidden Figures* is rated PG, so, at your discretion, feel free to include your younger family members in the movie-watching — and possibly the Zoom discussion.

For December's discussion, here are some questions to consider as you watch the movie:

How did you react to the light and optimistic tone of the movie as it confronts a troubling part of our society? How have we changed since the period of the movie (more than fifty years ago)?

Are there hidden figures in your life and/or our community? Are/were there opportunities for you to effect change?

After one of the women is promoted, another says, “Any upward movement is movement for us all. It’s just not movement for me.” Have you ever felt that way?

Michelle Obama famously said, "I've learned that it's harder to hate up close." As you watch the film, notice the number of instances where that notion is dramatized.

The movie can be rented and streamed from YouTube, iTunes, and elsewhere for about \$4.

[Use this Zoom link](#) at 7 PM on December 16th to join the discussion.



## *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](mailto:sallyschmidt213@gmail.com) or 715-370-1157 with any questions.



## *Circuit Writer Submissions*

Do you have an event or article you want included in next month's Circuit Writer? Please send your information to Danika at [danika@uuwausau.org](mailto:danika@uuwausau.org) by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue! E-mail or call (715) 842-3697 with any questions. Thank you!

## *Would you donate at a UU Wausau sponsored blood drive?*

Every two seconds, someone in America needs blood. As the single largest supplier of blood in the U.S., the American Red Cross works tirelessly to ensure that lifesaving blood and blood products are available to patients in need. The Red Cross needs to collect nearly 13,000 blood donations and more than 2,600 platelet donations every day to meet the needs of accident and burn victims, surgical candidates and those receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or sickle cell disease. The coronavirus pandemic is causing critical blood shortage across the country.

To help meet this critical need, First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau would like to sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive in the new year. The American Red Cross requires that we have at least thirty people committed to donating blood before we can move forward with plans for a drive. By hosting a blood drive, we will demonstrate, in this critical time, our commitment to community health needs while helping to ensure that an adequate blood supply is available for patients in need. The American Red Cross has strict Covid-19 safety protocols in place at all of their blood drive locations. Giving blood is safe, simple and helps save lives. Each pint of blood that is donated may be helping as many as three people's lives.



Would you donate at a UU Wausau blood drive? Email [julie@uuwausau.org](mailto:julie@uuwausau.org) before **December 8<sup>th</sup>** to express your interest. Remember that we need at least 30 of you willing to donate before we can move forward!

## *Help promote Reproductive Rights — a plea from the Social Justice Committee*

Even though the results of the presidential election offer hope for fewer assaults on reproductive rights, please don't stop promoting UU values on this issue. Damages need to be repaired and bold steps forward need to be taken. UUs and the UUA have a long history of supporting Planned Parenthood.

In your holiday cards to all your favorite people, consider adding a note that you've donated to Planned Parenthood in their name, and then send your donation to Parenthood of Wisconsin, Inc., 302 N. Jackson Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202-5917 or give online at <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-wisconsin> ... or encourage your favorite people to show *their* support with *your* thoughtful Planned Parenthood gifts (T-shirts, coffee mugs, etc.) from <https://marketplace.plannedparenthood.org/>

Planned Parenthood delivers vital reproductive health care, sex education, and information to millions of people worldwide. Please be an advocate for comprehensive health care access in this difficult time!

# Make a Joyful Noise

*To support our Health Care Workers  
and Essential Workers!*



Our community would like to show support and gratitude to our local health care workers and essential workers for their dedication by encouraging our residents to Make A Joyful Noise each evening. We would love to pay tribute to those who are risking their lives to keep us safe.

Similar events have been held in Spain, France, Italy and New York where residents participated in nightly tributes by stepping outside their front doors to applaud, shout, play music, ring bells or bang pots and pans.

We would like to see if your House of Worship would be interested in participating by ringing your church bells for 2-4 minutes at 7:00 pm each evening to lead our community in honoring our front line workers. Church bells may play a chime, song, hymn or a few simple peels. The bell ringing doesn't need to be elaborate. We will additionally be encouraging community members to stand outside their homes and cheer, applaud, play music etc! The participating churches will be the unifying element!

We would like to know your level of interest within the next few days so we can begin promoting this community project. Please let us know if you will be able to participate and we will provide additional details relative to the start date for Make A Joyful Noise. Feel free to contact us at [info@vosstudios.com](mailto:info@vosstudios.com) with questions.

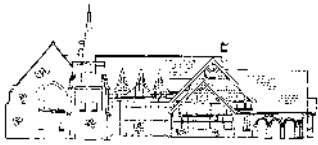
This initiative of this project is a collaboration between, Paula and Emily Voss and Mayor Katie Rosenberg. That being said we hope this becomes a community project where we can unite over a common cause of supporting our essential workers!



# DECEMBER 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>All services online-only, available at 10:30AM on Sunday unless otherwise stated. Every service is posted to our <a href="#">website</a>, <a href="#">Facebook</a>, and sent out via e-mail. You can sign up for e-mails from First UU Wausau <a href="#">here</a>.</i>		1	2 Choir meeting 6:30pm on Zoom  Anti-racism Family Story Time: 6:30pm on Zoom	3  UU Parenting Circle 8PM on Zoom	4	5
6 9:30AM: Children's Chapel on Zoom 10:30AM: Service led by the Rev. Brian Mason 4PM: Youth Group—Live via Zoom	7	8	9  Anti-racism Family Story Time: 6:30pm on Zoom	10 Social Justice meeting 6:30pm on Zoom  UU Parenting Circle 8:00PM on Zoom	11	12
13 9:30AM: Children's Chapel on Zoom 10:30AM: Service led by the Rev. Brian Mason 11:45: Annual Meeting 4PM: Youth Group—Live via Zoom	14	15  BOT meeting 6:30PM on Zoom	16 Anti-racism Family Story Time: 6:30pm on Zoom  Moving Movies 7PM on Zoom	17  UU Parenting Circle 8:00PM on Zoom	18	19
20 9:30AM: Children's Chapel on Zoom 10:30AM: Christmas Pageant! (in video format) 4PM: Youth Group—Live via Zoom	21  Winter Solstice Service 7:30PM—Zoom	22	23  Anti-racism Family Story Time: 6:30pm on Zoom	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service podcast 7:00PM  Gather on Zoom 8:00PM	25 	26
27  10:30AM: "So Now What?" Service led by the Rev. Brian Mason  **No RE classes**	28	29	30	31	<p>The 12 Days of Christmas!</p> <p>Join us online every evening from December 13-24!</p> <p>See page 5 for more info.</p>	



First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau  
504 Grant Street  
Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

## The Circuit Writer - December 2020

*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.**

**Church phone: (715) 842-3697, [www.uuwausau.org](http://www.uuwausau.org)**

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