



The Circuit Writer

July 2022

Sunday Services—July 2022

Sunday, July 3 | 9:30AM

“Cows are People Too: Religion and the Question of Animal Rights”

Dr. Ryan O’Leary, guest speaker

Dr. O’Leary will be speaking about the intersection of personhood and animal rights, which has recently been the subject of several legal cases involving ethical questions about the rights of highly intelligent animals, most notably Happy, a Bronx Zoo elephant that advocates argued was illegally detained.

Sunday, July 10 | 9:30AM

Understanding Neurodiversity

Jaime Rannow, guest speaker

Neurodiversity refers to the diversity of human brains and considers differences in our thinking as another natural variation in humans; it often includes autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and dyspraxia. Join us for an overview of the different types of neurodivergence, dispel common misconceptions, and highlight the strengths of neurodiverse thinking.

Sunday, July 17 | 9:30AM

“The Monster in the Mirror”

Richard Olson, guest speaker

They say revenge is a dish best served cold. And all too often people seek revenge instead of justice. Narcissists prefer revenge, the beneficent, justice. Which do you see in the mirror?

Sunday, July 24 | 9:30AM

“Little Bunny, Speciesism, and Elvis”

Greg Venne, guest speaker

Christianity places species in a hierarchy with Homo sapiens divinely granted the top spot. This service will discuss facets of speciesism, question the validity of establishing a hierarchy, and probe how humans use elements of speciesism to develop superior and inferior subspecies within humankind. (And the Elvis thing? Well, everything doesn't have to make immediate sense.)

Sunday, July 31 | 9:30AM Sunday in the Yawkey House Gardens

the Rev. Brian Mason, preaching

Join us in the beautiful Yawkey House Gardens for a service about the history of Unitarian Universalism in Wausau.

Light refreshments and social hour to follow.



Reflections

Over the summer, RE is going to be focusing on spiritual practice. Specifically, the spiritual practices of play and joy. And I would love for everyone to join us.

As I wrote to families in my June 26 RE Update, it can seem strange to include play with deep spiritual work such as meditation, labyrinth walking, worship, and prayer, but play is an underutilized tool in our spiritual toolbox. As Mister Rogers said, "Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning, but for children, play is serious learning." And for all of us too!

Research has shown play is a mechanism through which we can learn, connect with others, make community, build trust, and express and release emotions and stress. Play also centers us into the here and now, connects our mind to the whole of our body, and provides us the opportunity to work through, reflect on, and find meaning in our experiences. And let's not forget, play is fun, makes us happy, and brings us pleasure!

So, the invitation to play this summer is really an invitation to take a break, to name and release the stress we have all been holding, and create and re-affirm our connections through joy.

To support families and children in play, we'll be sending out a play materials to Elementary RE families (be on the lookout for them in the mail after the 4th of July), and looking at ways our youth can connect during the summer (if there is something your youth would be interested in getting a group together for, the youth group advisors or me know!).

To play together as a community, we will be hosting two family fun events at UU Wausau (see below). And for adults, there will be a UU Wordle and/or a spiritual practice of joy and play included in each week's Wednesday email.

Summer Fun Day, July 16

On Saturday, July 16 at 4:00 pm at UU Wausau, families are invited to join us for our first summer fun day. We'll start with some water play and games (swimsuits/clothes you don't mind getting wet encouraged). After we're all played out, we'll head inside for dinner (pizza, salad, fruit, and veg) and a movie. Families are invited to bring a dessert to share, but no worries if you forget/don't have time. *Dinner and movie will happen rain or shine, and in the event of inclement weather, we'll change water play to games inside.*

Summer Fun Day, August

We're working through some scheduling for our second Summer Fun Day, but we're planning an evening at UU Wausau of storytelling over the campfire in August. We'll have a pizza dinner, smores, and some not-too-spooky stories. Watch for the July RE Update and August Newsletter for more details. *In the event of inclement weather, we'll move indoors.*

Both of our Summer Fun Days are geared for families with elementary-aged children, but UU Wausau families of all ages (with or without children) are welcome!

I hope you have an amazingly playful and joyful summer; I hope to see you at our summer events; and I'd love to hear how you incorporate the spiritual practices of play and joy this summer!

In community,

Yes

Living Green

There was a profusion of red at the Weston farmers' market on Saturday morning. Ruddy reds of rhubarb. Cheery reds of cherry tomatoes. Juicy reds of strawberries. Scruffy reds of radishes. Wild reds of geraniums and crimson fires glowing deep inside jars of jam. We came home laden with red and promptly made a strawberry-rhubarb crumble. Ate more than was polite. Red can do that to me.

Among its myriad meanings, red symbolizes courage and energy. Also action and change. After talking with many of you around the table in the atrium where the scroll for Project SEA-Change is unfurled on Sunday mornings, I come home energized. The man who spoke of planting a pollinator garden gives me hope. The woman who declares her love of composting fills me with joy. Hearing about your good deeds for Planet Earth warms my heart, which is often chilled by despair over war and injustice.

Through sharing your acts of earth kindness, you inspire all of us to live according to the UU principle of "respect for the interdependent web of existence, of which we are all a part."

With heart-red thanks,

Donna Keuck for the EAG



Baby Announcement

Henrik Robert Eberlein, son of Ross and Julie Eberlein of Stevensville, Montana, was born June 17th.

Henrik is the grandson of Tom and Sara Eberlein and the great grandson of Doris Eberlein.

Congratulations, Eberlein family!



Mark your calendars for the South Beach Up North concert here in our beautiful Atrium on Saturday, August 6th, at 6pm!



Building Unity Presents: The Democracy Tour!



All Summer - Over 30 Stops! Sounding the Alarm & Building a Movement!
VOTE! VOTE!

Join Us at the Wausau Tour Stop:

Wednesday, July 13, 2022
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Universalist Unitarian Fellowship of Wausau
504 Grant St. (Outdoors)

A gathering of people committed to building a WI movement for peace, justice, sustainability, & democracy. Bring food, snacks, & drink if you can. Family friendly activities and opportunities for action.

Follow the Democracy Tour on Facebook & support it however you can! www.facebook.com/buildingunitywi/



Scan for More information ↑

From the Board Table

I don't really remember exactly how or when I first found the Unitarian Universalist faith, but it was some time in my mid-twenties, of course. As I began to forge my own path through life, I had a growing realization that even though the local church in which I grew up had provided a solid spiritual foundation for me, the faith of my youth no longer filled my needs. I dabbled in independent Christian churches, where the community that I found was appealing, but the faith aspect was limited, or lacking.

I had become a "None" – part of a growing segment of the population that was religiously unaffiliated.

But when I first found my way to a UU church (Unitarian Church North, in Mequon, WI), I discovered a gathering of like-minded individuals whose faith was guided by doctrine but not constrained by dogma; nor did it conflict with - but often was guided by - intellect and scientific observation. I readily found people with whom I could connect. I'd found my community.

It was also around that time that I became a traveling physical therapist. As a "traveler," I was assigned to fill short-term staffing needs around the country, typically 3 months at a time. Being in a location for only a short time, I had only a short time to make connections within a community. The local UU church was a place where I knew I could find people of like mind, enriching my experience in my new town.

So when I found my way to Wausau, I knew I belonged at First UU. In the first few months of coming to this church, I connected

with so many people I'd met in other roles outside the church who I thought were interesting people that I'd like to get to know better. I'd once again found my faith community.

But it seems that the ways in which we create community was greatly challenged by the pandemic that arrived in early 2020. As we emerge from the chaos of the last 2 years, we are forced to acknowledge that a cultural shift has been affecting how we "do church" even before the pandemic.

In light of this, the Board, associated committees, and staff have initiated conversations about how we define and nourish a vibrant and growing community of the church, where people create and strengthen friendships, where other "Nones" find a spiritual home. We are inspired and informed by the past while thinking openly and creatively about the future.

This coming church year there will be opportunities for the congregation to both hear more about and participate in those conversations. Until then I encourage you to consider the ways in which you connect within the larger church community.

-Karen Monarski
Board of Trustees



New Neighbor Update

The Senekai family is adjusting to life in Wausau, with support from all of us at UU Wausau, St Anne's, and the greater Wausau community at large. Prior to arrival in Wausau the father worked for 14 years as a member of the military alongside US Forces. They fled and were evacuated to a base in New Jersey from August to December. They left behind a 21 year old son and 19 year old daughter, and are still actively seeking ways to bring their remaining family members to safety in the US.

These events have understandably led to some significant trauma for the family, adding significant grief to the process of cultural adjustment. Recent challenges have included some acute health concerns, constant worry for family members left back in Afghanistan which has grown increasingly dangerous, and achieving a loan for the purchase of a family vehicle.

Recent success have included obtaining employment at Great Lakes Cheese, the diligent study and successful passing of his drivers exam and road test, both boys completing the school year, and mom obtaining a sewing machine and beginning to sew both for pleasure and to sell her handiwork as a source of income.

Ongoing obstacles include transportation for the family when the father is at work second shift; cultural adjustment, English language instruction, developing friendships and social networks for the mom who rarely ventures outside the house without her spouse due to cultural reasons, and finding meaningful activities for both boys over the summer months.

Celebrations include generous pro bono dentistry for both acute-and wellness-dental care, the team of Aspirus nurses who conducted a drive and made a sizeable donation directed toward a car and other personal needs. Smaller yet still significant successes include Mom learning to write her own name in English, when she had not been taught to read nor write in her native Pashto. The boys were able to enjoy sledding, school field trips, and a brief boating outing on Lake Wausau. Both boys beamed when given bikes and helmets; they are slowly venturing beyond their apartment complex parking lot as the family learns to navigate through town.

Contact [Christine Daniels](#), [Brian Mason](#), or [Sally Schmidt](#) for more information. Thank you for your generosity; please know that you truly have made a difference in another family's life.

-Sally Schmidt

From the Office:

Our new neighbors, the Senakai and Bihaqi families, have ongoing needs. Please [click here to access a list](#) of needs compiled by St. Anne's, and give as you can. Donations should either be mailed to or dropped off at St. Anne's church on Bridge Street.



The 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 Rev. 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.



-from www.uua.org

July 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:30AM: "Cows are People Too: Religion & the Question of Animal Rights" Dr. Ryan O'Leary, guest speaker	4 Office Closed Women's AA 6PM	5 Qi Gong 6:30PM	6 Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 12PM	7 Tai Chi 6:30PM	8	9
10 9:30AM: "Understanding Neurodiversity" Jaime Rannow, guest speaker	11 Women's AA 6PM	12 Qi Gong 6:30PM	13 Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 12PM Building Unity 4PM	14 Tai Chi 6:30PM	15	16 Summer Fun Day! 4PM
17 9:30AM: "The Monster in the Mirror" Richard Olson, guest speaker	18 Women's AA 6PM	19 BOT meeting 6:30PM Qi Gong 6:30PM	20 Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 12PM	21 Tai Chi 6:30PM	22	23
24 9:30AM: "Little Bunny, Speciesism, and Elvis" Greg Venne, guest speaker	25 Women's AA 6PM	26 Qi Gong 6:30PM	27 Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 12PM	28 Tai Chi 6:30PM	29	30
31 9:30AM: Service in the Yawkey House Gardens led by the Rev. Brian Mason	August 1 Women's AA 6PM	2 Qi Gong 6:30PM	3 Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 12PM	4 Tai Chi 6:30PM	The Church Office will be closed on Monday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. The office will reopen at 9AM on Tuesday, July 5th.	



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

The Circuit Writer - July 2022
 Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

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Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9AM-2PM
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