



The Circuit Writer

April 2022

April Services

Sunday, April 3 | 10:30AM

Believe It or Not: Faith Matters

The Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk, guest speaker

What might we mean when we call ourselves a community of faith?

What does “having faith” mean?

In what, in whom, do we place our faith?

Does faith *matter*?

Sunday, April 10 | 10:30AM

Palm Sunday

the Reverend Brian Mason, preaching

Sunday, April 17 | 10:30AM

Easter Sunday

the Reverend Brian Mason, preaching

Sunday, April 24 | 10:30AM

Spring Sing!

Service led by the Rev. Brian Mason and Music

Director Margaret Jerz

St. Augustine wrote somewhere, “He who sings, prays twice!” We couldn’t agree more. Join us this Sunday for a music-filled service.

RE Updates

Nursery: During Sunday Worship, 10:15-11:45 am, we offer childcare for children ages 0-4.

Elementary Religious Education: This month Elementary RE will be exploring the Soul Matters theme of "Awakening" with stories, games, art, and more! Our Elementary RE group is open to children in grades K-6th. Elementary RE kids will start with their families in worship and after the Time for All Ages, we will head down to the RE Commons.

Youth Wellspring: For youth in grades 9-12, Youth Wellspring offers youth and their advisors and opportunity to come together in deep discussion and discernment about their own UU Faith, connect with one another, and explore spiritual practices that can begin a lifetime of peace while deepening their connection to Unitarian Universalism through the UU Sources. Youth Wellspring meets Sundays from 10:30 am -12:00 pm.

No Religious Education Groups, April 17: Due to Easter, RE groups will not meet on Sunday, April 17. Instead, children and youth are invited to join their families in worship so we can celebrate as a whole community.

Family Easter Egg Hunt, April 17

UU Wausau Families of all ages are invited to join us after our Easter service for a cooperative Easter Egg Hunt! Unlike a traditional egg hunt, we’ll work together to find the eggs the UU Easter Bunny has hidden, and once all the eggs are found, everyone will get a few treats for their Easter baskets.



From A Window on Grant

On my calendar it listed March 20 as the first day of spring, which is a cruel joke for pretty much everyone in Wisconsin who lives at or above interstate 29. Thankfully, my bitterness about spring's delayed arrival was lessened by the news that there will indeed be baseball this year.

ESPN's early power rankings lists the Brewers in 4th and my dear St Louis Cardinals in 11th. This is obviously someone's poor attempt at a joke given the Brewers' marquee hitter averaged only .248 last season, which doesn't even put him in last season's top 100. I'm also reminded that my team, which is probably God's team, has won 11 World Series titles. The Brewers? you ask...0, zilch, nada. We also have 48 players and coaches elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. The Brewers?...a measly 8. We also have a better mascot, a beautiful red cardinal, birds I've started seeing again, which brings me back to the topic I started with: Spring.

It is a lucky coincidence that we—and by “we” I mean people in the northern hemisphere—get to celebrate Easter in spring. It's a holiday, regardless of whether you're a Christian,

ripe with reminders about possibility and second chances (not to mention miracles and new life). And while spring is delayed and too short in duration up here, I can't help but delight in how quickly the flowers, green, and leaves seem to come. It goes from grey and white to blue and bright almost overnight. And just the other day I saw a sign of spring in my backyard when I spied, there in the snow, blades of grass. Ah, *new life*, I thought. Grass is risen (and let the people say, “It is risen indeed!”). I pray all of you enjoyed winter in your own way, but that you, like me, are eager to thaw out and see what mystery awaits this spring.

Regardless of what comes, I hope you'll join us for some—or maybe even all—of our special activities and on Sundays. It is good to be together (and to see your beautiful faces again) and to have one another as we journey through these unusual times—even if you root for the wrong team.

With love (and go Cardinals!),

Brian

April Community Focus Collection

Garden Sprouts!

A new kind of garden sprouts will be showing up at Monk Botanical Gardens. These sprouts will be in a high-quality daily preschool program using nature as the foundation for their learning.

Monk Gardens is raising funds to provide scholarships for its Sprouts Garden Preschool scholarship fund. They hope to raise enough funds so they can offer this program to families at little or no cost. This is an area that has been identified as needed in the Life of Marathon County report. There are proven benefits to early childhood learning through nature connections.

They are specifically seeking to raise enough funds to support 15 low-income students through scholarships in the 2022-2023 school year. For more information about this new program visit <https://www.monkgardens.org> or be in church on Easter Sunday to take part in the Community Focus Collection.

This month's CFC Sunday is April 17.

Note from the Office: Our March Community Focus Collection raised \$1248 to help support the Wausau Free Clinic! Thank you for your generosity!

REflections

A few years ago, Washington State University Extension (WSU) published an article about how to “grow oaks from little acorns.” The article is no longer available, but according to it, it is estimated that only 1 out of 1,000 acorns turn into an oak tree. They can dry out before they are “planted” by Mother Nature, rot, or become food for a host of different animals. Then, even if they do manage to sprout, they must contend with invasive species and other plants that will crowd it out for resources, like sunlight. The odds are not in little acorns’ favor.

The WSU Extension article goes on to describe how humans can help cultivate oak trees. First, it involves putting a tarp down to catch fresh acorns, but be careful, you don’t want the first ones that fall – those are likely bad. Then you have to sort the acorns, take off their caps, see which ones float, discard and dry the ones that sank, keep them in your refrigerator until the weather turns cool, plant outside about an inch down (preferably in place where they won’t be out competed for resources), and hope that the acorn and Mother Nature can do the rest. Cultivating acorns is not a guarantee that you’ll get an oak, definitely not an insignificant amount of work, but the odds are greatly improved.

All the possibility and promise of a tree in that tiny oak nut is like the possibility and promise of the Religious Education (RE) program, all ages community, and relationships we hope to cultivate at UU Wausau, especially after two years of pandemic. And with no to little effort some acorns and mighty oak-like programs and community can take root. We can just hope that a family or child really connects with the Time for All Ages or that they create some lasting relationship over the snacks during coffee hour

and from that develop some profound, deeply felt faith. I call this “Faith Development by Accident.” Again, though, the odds of it happening for more than a rare few would not be in our favor.

Rather we know, just like growing mighty oak trees, we need to nurture and cultivate the seeds of possibility. To create an all ages community and faith, it takes intentionality. It takes simple things like learning the names of our children and families and greeting them each week (and them doing the same in return) all the way to creating a RE program made for the 21st century and modern families.

It also takes all of us. In the immediate, I have opportunities for subbing in the nursery, helping to declutter and simplify the RE storage rooms, leading an RE activity this summer, and coordinating the summer family camping trip. While this list seems like tasks, much like the steps above for cultivating acorns, at the heart of them is creating events, programming, and spaces that offers connection and shared learning, which is at the heart of Faith Development, our RE program, and UU Wausau.

Yours in Faith,

Jes



From the Board Table

Happy Spring and the recent springing forward of time. Both seem especially profound this year. Spring is always such a hopeful time for those of us in the North and even more so this year as we try to come forward from another difficult winter. The cold and the isolation have been a struggle for many, and COVID only reinforced this.

Springing forward brings more light and the opportunity to bask in the sunshine. It feels hopeful and optimistic that we can finally look forward!

And with this, the Board is truly excited to announce the return of some pre-pandemic activities.

One of the first opportunities will be a long standing tradition for great food and fellowship – the first Sunday of the month pot-luck. After the service on April 3rd the Board will be hosting the pot-luck. Please bring your appetite and a dish to pass and join us in the dining room.

As we ease responsibly out of COVID restrictions, we will hopefully be able to add even more of our beloved church gatherings. I hope that Second Friday Nighters, a church Thanksgiving dinner, another goods and services auction and the ability to finally celebrate our church's 150th anniversary could finally be on the horizon. And perhaps some new gatherings and times for community will come forward as well.

Let's all Spring forward together.

-Sheryl Hemp
Board President

Red Cross @ UU Wausau

Blood Drive

Thursday, April 7, 2022

12pm-5pm

save a life.
give the gift of blood.

First UU Wausau | 504 Grant Street | Wausau, WI 54403



From the Stewardship Committee

I recently listened to Randy Jefferson's inspiring sermon entitled: "The Vernal Equinox: Honoring the Balance." As well, I was quite taken by Margaret Jerz' selection of songs, which included Joyce Poley's work "Keepers of the Earth". If I were to add a verse to this song, it would read:

*And we are called as keepers of our Church,
We are called to speak of its sacred worth,
For our children
And our children's children
We are called as keepers of our Church*

I want to thank you, my fellow congregants, for coming forward once again as Keepers of our Church and taking on the financial burden required to support its Sacred Worth. We have pledges and monies totaling over \$330,000, just \$20,000 shy of our goal.

Thank you once again. Any additional monies will be gratefully received as we try to reach our goal.

- Carl Drake

May Circuit Writer Submissions

Do you have information or an article to share in the May Circuit Writer? Please submit your info to danika@uuwausau.org by Wednesday, April 20th for inclusion.

Coffee Hour
is back -
if we have hosts!

Sign up to host:

<https://tinyurl.com/UUWausauCoffeeHour22>



Natural Burial Lives

In order to investigate the establishment of a green burial cemetery in the region served by First UU of Wausau, the board of trustees has created the Natural Burial Committee. Based on the response to the summer service I presented on this topic five years ago and the follow-up discussion held several months after, I know there is interest in the concept within the congregation. The board has given us the opportunity to act on our interest.

Needed now are several others willing to join me on the committee so we can collectively put together a plan for making this option to traditional burial/cremation available in north central Wisconsin. Please contact me or talk with me in church to volunteer or discuss further.

Thank you.

Randy Jefferson

Phone: (715) 845-3806

Email: rpj1115@yahoo.com



Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate

CHOCOLATE - \$4
COCOA MIX - \$7
COFFEE - \$10



April 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 <i>Please note: The Buddhist meditation group meetings have been postponed indefinitely.</i>
3 10:30AM: Sunday Worship , led by the Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk, guest speaker First Sunday Potluck! Youth Wellspring 10:30AM	4 Women's AA 6PM	5 Qi Gong 6:30PM Anti-racism Family Storytime 6:30PM on Zoom	6 Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 1pm Adult Choir 6:30pm	7 Red Cross Blood Drive 12-5pm Tai Chi 6:30PM	8	9
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 504 Grant Street
 Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

Red Cross @ UU Wausau
Thursday, April 7th
12pm-5pm
Save a life. Give the gift of blood.

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 Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

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Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9AM-2PM
Please contact us to set up an appointment.
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