



The Circuit Writer

May 2022

May Services

Sunday, May 1 | 10:30AM

Beloved Community: A Sanctuary for All

Pey Carter, guest preacher

Martin Luther King, Jr. envisioned a beloved community built with a foundation of economic and social justice and love. Join guest speaker Pey Carter, as they talk about how we can use storytelling and narrative justice to make a sacred space of worship where all people can be embraced.

Sunday, May 8 | 10:30AM

Sunday Worship

the Reverend Brian Mason, preaching

Sunday, May 15 | 10:30AM

Sunday Worship

the Reverend Brian Mason, preaching

Sunday, May 22 | 10:30AM

Sunday Worship

the Reverend Brian Mason, preaching

Sunday, May 29 | 10:30AM

Sunday Worship

the Reverend Brian Mason, preaching

RE Updates

Nursery

See REflections (page 3) for an update on our Sunday morning childcare.

Elementary Religious Education

This month Elementary RE will be exploring the Soul Matters theme of "Nurturing Beauty" 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, will head down to the RE Commons. *The last day of Elementary RE is May 22.*

Youth Wellspring

For youth in grades 9-12, Youth Wellspring offers youth and their advisors an 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 10:30am - 12:00pm. *Youth Wellspring ends May 15.*

First Sundays Potluck—May 1st!

Bring a dish to share, and join us upstairs after the Sunday service on May 1st to celebrate Spring with delicious food and community! This month's potluck will be hosted by the UU Wausau Adult Choir.



From A Window on Grant

Early on Saturday, April 23, the board gathered for a meeting with a non-profit consultant we've been working with. It was a fascinating conversation, and, among other things, we discussed the church's current Mission and Vision statements (read them [here](#)). They are a bit...long. Most—if not all—of us agreed that they need some work. For starters, as they're currently written, our mission statement reads more like a vision statement and our vision statement reads like a mission statement. And then there's a litany of dictates under the heading "Our Congregational Covenant" that read like an ends statement rather than a covenant. I could go on, but I'll move on.

This got me thinking about what the church's mission statements have been in the past. As a historically Universalist congregation, I knew without looking that they'd discuss Jesus Christ. But I had no clue what they'd emphasize – fellowship, service, prayer? I did some digging, and here's what I found.

UU Wausau used to publish a weekly newsletter called *The Wausau Universalist*. Subscribers paid \$0.50 per year and in return every Friday they got a copy of the upcoming Sunday's order of service, snippets of sermons, thought-provoking quotations, and news about church events and even personal paragraphs detailing unique things that congregants were doing. It was basically UU Wausau's social media for the early part of the 20th century.

On the cover of the weeklies are two sentences that read to me like "mission statements." The first one is under the masthead (so it's obviously *very* important), and it reads:

"Not to maintain ancient creeds and customs, but to attain the attitude of Christ towards God and man."

The other, directly below the church's name (obviously also *very* important) are these words:

"Here we learn to respect our differences, cherish our agreements, and foster the joys of religion."

I'd happily take either of those over what we have currently. I think they succinctly capture what it is that we're supposed to do as a church: honestly assess who we are, recognize and celebrate our unique gifts and contributions, perform acts of service, and orient our collective attention to that which is greater.

But let me ask you – What do you think of our church's historic mission statements? What do you think of the ones we have now?

In the months ahead I expect you'll be invited to have some conversation about this topic. So, I want to encourage you to start thinking about it now. What is our purpose? How will we get there? What holds us accountable?

I'll leave you with this. On the cover of *The Wausau Universalist* dated May 21, 1933, it had a quote about church from the lapsed Unitarian and sage of Concord, Ralph Waldo Emerson. Here's what old Waldo had to say:

"What greater calamity could befall a nation than the loss of worship? Then all things decay.

Literature become frivolous, science cold and society lives on trifles."

Why does church (and its mission) matter? Because, if Emerson's right, everything depends on it. Everything.

Warmly,

Brian

REflections

The pandemic has brought several challenges to churches, and one UU Wausau, and many churches, have been facing is with childcare. Even before the pandemic, there was a shift in what families expect to do on Sunday mornings. Some still want childcare, but other families prefer to keep their little ones with them, maybe grabbing a toy or two from the nursery or using it only when fussy. This combined with the fact that children under five are not yet able to be vaccinated, the nursery has been used very sporadically and minimally over the past months. With a decline in volunteers and changes in staff, we have also struggled to have it fully staffed each week. And yet we know we want to create a welcoming environment for families.

So, over the next few months, we are going to be trying a new Sunday childcare arrangement. Specifically, some new seating options in the Sanctuary. The balcony will have room for folks who need to groove, and there will be a small selection of toys, fidgets, and other handwork. A member of the RE staff or a volunteer will also be seated in the balcony to help support families. The nursery will be open, but unstaffed, for anyone who needs a quiet space, and we'll stream the service in there so no one has to miss out. Families are also welcome to continue to grab toys or other supplies and sit in the space what works best for their family.

As I told the families in the "This Week in RE Email" for April 17, I know worshipping can as a whole family can be stressful. You're worried about kids making noise, being bored, disturbing or feeling unwelcomed by those around you, and those anxieties are valid. As a parent, I have felt all of it. Parenting in the pews can feel daunting.

But I hope none of you feel that you are doing this alone. While we'll have staff or a volunteer in the balcony space for support, this is an intentionally multigenerational community,

and we are all here to support each other. So if you are lucky enough to be seated by family on a Sunday, I'll lift up some of the invitations that I shared with you in my October article from "Seven Rules for Worshipping as All Ages", originally written by CB Beal and then adapted by Lauren Wyeth:

Two. Grab a colored pencil or two on your way in. If the children seated behind you are rustling papers, share your colored pencils.

Three. If a baby cries, the universe is sending you a message. Don't miss it. If you are lucky enough to be sitting very nearby, thank the baby and the grownup who brought them for that gift.

Five. When a child sitting nearby is very squirmy, practice emanating unconditional love. Sacred opportunities to live out your values of acceptance and compassion often arrive disguised as bad timing. Don't fall for it.

And seven. When the three-year-old insists on standing on the front pew turned backwards looking at the rest of the people, don't miss the opportunity to meditate on their face.

And I'll add my own: Eight. Most importantly, people of all ages belong in our community, and the presence of each family (with or without children) is a gift!

In community,
Jes



From the Board Table

**** Please join us on Sunday, May 1st, after the service, for our First Sunday's Potluck! Hosted by the UU Wausau Adult Choir, this potluck will be all about celebrating Spring. Bring a dish to pass, an appetite, and join us for delicious food and great community!**

****As everyone knows, our UU Wausau's 150th celebration was delayed due to the COVID pandemic. We now want to move forward with celebrating our church's 152nd year. A group will be meeting on Thursday, May 12th at 5:00 at Whitewater Music Hall to start making plans for how to celebrate. Please join us on the planning committee. Hope to see you there!**

****General Assembly: The Unitarian Universalist Association's Annual Meeting will be held in Portland, Oregon on June 22-26. Please visit www.uua.org for more information. The Board would consider helping to pay for tuition for virtual or in-person registration for this event (housing and transportation would be on your own if attending in person). Please contact Sheryl Hemp at wishemp@aol.com by May 15th if interested in being considered.**

-Sheryl Hemp, Board President

Summer Service Leaders

It's time again for the annual outreach from the Religious Service Committee regarding summer services. We have nine Sundays between July 3 and September 4 (Brian is doing another Yawkey House Garden service July 31) that are in need of worship leaders. We hope to fill many of them through direct contacts we are making to individuals or groups who have done services in the past, but we also want to encourage others who are interested but have not previously led a summer service to *take that step this year*. Generally summer services are more informal and less structured than those held during the regular church year. The Religious Services Committee is available to assist with planning if needed. Please contact [Randy Jefferson](#), [Sheryl Hemp](#), or [Brian Mason](#) with questions or to volunteer. They would also like to hear from you if you have a suggestion for a guest speaker for a summer service. Thank you.

Red Cross @ UU Wausau Blood Drive

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

12pm-5pm

save a life.
give the gift of blood.



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

May Music News!

Mark your calendars for a very special Sunday—May 22! — the date of a long-anticipated residency with Sowah Mensah, ethnomusicologist, performer, composer, and “Master Drummer” from Ghana, West Africa. Under his guidance the Monday Evening Drum Club and our Adult Choir will share music from his home country.

Sowah is headquartered at Macalester College where he is the Director of African Music. He leads the African Music Ensembles there and at the University of Minnesota. Sowah has also taught music in both Ghana and Nigeria. In 2015 he received the Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award. He has written works for orchestras, bands, choirs, and African ensembles. Sowah has released three solo albums and has published a series of books on learning, teaching and performing African music.

Look forward to hearing our choir sing in the languages of Twi, Ewe and Ga, and seeing the Drum Club playing kpanlogos (drums), adenkum (gourds), and other West African instruments. You will also see and hear a piece played on gyils (xylophones).

May 22!
See you then!

-Margaret Jerz
Music Director



In loving, thankful memory of Elnora Buechler and Jerry Ellen Gunderson, long-time, faithful members of UU Wausau, who passed away this Spring. May their memories be a blessing.

May Antiracism Storytime

Children and their families are invited to join us for our Antiracism Storytime! For our last read of the RE year, we are reading the graphic novel [*Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy: A Modern Graphic Retelling of Little Women*](#), by Rey Terciero.

With this book, we'll be exploring the themes of identity, representation, family, LGBTQ+ issues, and friendship. We meet on Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm, and we'll be covering the following chapters each week:

- May 3: Chapters 1-5
- May 10: Chapters 6-10
- May 17: Chapters 11-16
- May 24: Chapters: 17-End

Email Jessica, jessica@uuwausau.org, to get a copy of the book and/or the Zoom information.

Wanted: One Reliable Used Car

Fazal, the adult male in the Afghan refugee family we are helping sponsor is soon to receive his driver's license. Next step on their road to independence is to acquire a car. With financial resources limited for them, our two sponsoring churches are reaching out to their congregations to see if any member has a reliable used car they would be willing to donate or inexpensively sell to the family. Please notify [Randy or Anne Jefferson](#), [Sally or Steve Schmidt](#), or [Brian Mason](#) if you have such a car.

May Community Focus Collection for UNICEF and The Children of Ukraine

As we watch the nightly news and search for answers to our own questions about What can we do to help Ukraine? we often feel helpless. While there are many groups helping on the ground to meet the ongoing, varied and always increasing needs in Ukraine the CFC Team decided to send our UU Wausau support to UNICEF.

UNICEF and its partners are on the ground in Ukraine providing support to children and families in desperate need of safety, stability and protection. It's focused on meeting the most critical urgent needs for safety, health care, safe water and nutrition while also safeguarding

children's rights and long-term well-being. UNICEF is also working in the bordering countries to help them give aid, provide services and support to the over 7.5 million children that have been forced to flee.

For more current information on UNICEF's work in Ukraine, [click here](#). And please give generously.

This month's CFC Sunday is May 15.

Note from the Office: Our April CFC raised nearly \$400 to help support the Sprouts Garden Preschool program at Monk Gardens! Thank you for your generosity!

Early Risers Meeting May 21st!

All women of the church are invited to gather for breakfast and conversation!

When: Saturday, May 21st at 8:30AM

Where: The Garden Pancake House: 508 Grand Ave in Schofield (the old Perkins building)

Let's Celebrate!

May Birthdays:

5-07: Gianna Heiser

5-07: Jes Zimmer

5-08: Mark Schuler

5-18: Jefferson Le

5-19: Eleisa Eberhardy

5-20: Annie Peterson

5-22: Delaney LaFrambois

5-23: Elliot Eisele

5-23: Davin Yahey

5-27: Sylvia Wright

5-06-1962: Leigh Tuckey

5-06-1990: Tim and Karen Peterson

5-08-2012: Kevin and Holly Briquet Miller

5-08-2014: Diane Cauer

5-11-2003: Bill and Trish Forbes

5-16-1993: Richard Olson

5-17-1992: Bob and Sally Decker

5-19-1996: Julie White

5-21-2017: Carl Berge, Anna Gresch

5-22-2011: Wayne Olson

5-25-1969: Ellie Ullrich

5-29-2011: Melissa and CJ Heiser

5-29-2018: Elizabeth Rossiter

May Membership Anniversaries:

5-01-2005: Donna Seidel

5-04-2008: Jodi and Kati Maier

5-04-2008: Jill Wollenzien

5-04-2021: Paul and Jayne Seiser

5-05-2019: Kara Hall, Jackie Krigbaum

From the office: Our apologies if we missed anyone who should be on this list. Please contact [Danika](#) to insure we have your information.

From the April Potluck Table

Slow Cooker Bigos (Polish Stew)

INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup of dry mushrooms - soaked in water	1/2 cup of chicken stock
2 pounds Sauerkraut (can be with carrots)	1 tbsp of olive oil
1/2 fresh shredded cabbage	15 dry plums (prunes)
8 oz of bacon (chopped into small pieces)	salt & pepper
1 big polish or hunter kielbasa - sausage (in 1" slices)	1 tbsp marjoram
1 onion (chopped finely)	3 bay leaves
Rack of pork ribs	4 allspice
water from soaking the mushrooms (about 1c)	1 tbsp of garlic powder
1/2 cup of red wine	small can of tomato paste

Start by soaking the dry mushrooms in water; soak overnight or at least 3-4 h. In a small saucepan, place the mushrooms and pour cold water o all the mushrooms are covered. There should be about twice as much water as mushrooms. In the morning, or after a minimum of 3hrs, simmer them for about 20- 25 min, until they are soft. Take them out of the water (do not pour out the water), let them cool down, and cut into small pieces.

Place the sauerkraut in a slow cooker (before you do that, try it and see it is not too sour or too salty. If it is, put it in a strainer and rinse it once or twice to wash off the extra salt).

Shred the fresh cabbage into thin slices and add it to the slow cooker. Mix both cabbages together.

In a frying pan, cook the sliced bacon for a few minutes until the fat melts and add it to the mix of cabbages. In the same frying pan sear the sliced sausage and next fry the chopped onion, add both to the crock pot. Mix everything together.

Cut the ribs into small pieces—not bigger than two ribs together. Pour olive oil into a frying pan and on high heat sear all of them for about 2 min. on each side. Place them with the mixture in the cooker.

Add all the liquids (water from the mushrooms, red wine, chicken stock), the chopped mushrooms and prunes, then mix everything and add all the spices - salt & pepper, marjoram, bay leaves, allspice, and garlic powder.

Add the can of tomato paste, close the slow cooker, and cook it on low for 8hrs. Enjoy with a piece of bread!

TIPS

Add salt to your taste; the sauerkraut might be very salty so make sure to try it.

While searing the ribs remember to make sure that the pan has to be hot.

You can also add shredded carrots, thin slices of apples and polish smoked prunes.

*-provided by Wolfram Weinberg
from www.polishmamacooks.com*

From the office: Want to share a recipe you brought to a First Sundays Potluck?

Send it to danika@uuwausau.org for inclusion in an upcoming issue of the CW!

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

May 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30AM: Beloved Community, led by Pey Carter, guest preacher Youth Wellspring 10:30am First Sunday Potluck!	2 Women's AA 6PM	3 Qi Gong 6:30PM Anti-racism Family Storytime 6:30PM on Zoom	4 Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 12pm Adult Choir 6:30pm	5 Tai Chi 6:30PM	6	7
8 10:30AM: Sunday Worship, led by the Rev. Brian Mason Youth Wellspring 10:30AM	9 Caring Committee 3:30PM Women's AA 6PM	10 Qi Gong 6:30PM Anti-racism Family Storytime 6:30PM on Zoom	11 Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 12pm Adult Choir 6:30pm	12 Tai Chi 6:30PM	13	14
15 10:30AM: Sunday Worship, led by the Rev. Brian Mason CFC Sunday— UNICEF to support Children of Ukraine Youth Wellspring 10:30am	16 Women's AA 6PM	17 BOT Meeting 6:30PM Qi Gong 6:30PM Anti-racism Family Storytime 6:30PM on Zoom	18 Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 12pm Adult Choir 6:30pm	19 Tai Chi 6:30PM	20	Early Risers at Garden Pancake House 8:30AM
22 10:30AM: Sunday Worship, led by the Rev. Brian Mason Visiting Musician: Sowah Mensah	23 Women's AA 6PM	24 Qi Gong 6:30PM Anti-racism Family Storytime 6:30PM on Zoom	25 Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 12pm Adult Choir 6:30pm	26 Tai Chi 6:30PM	27	28
29 10:30AM: Sunday Worship, led by the Rev. Brian Mason	30 Church Closed Women's AA 6PM	31 Qi Gong 6:30PM	June 1st Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 12pm Adult Choir 6:30pm	2 Tai Chi 6:30PM	3	4



First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

504 Grant Street

Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

Red Cross @ UU Wausau

Wednesday, June 15

12pm-5pm

Save a life. Give the gift of blood.

The Circuit Writer - May 2022

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.

Church phone: (715) 842-3697 | www.uuwausau.org

Board of Trustees:

Sheryl Hemp, President	wishemp@aol.com
Jeff Leigh, Vice President	jeff.leigh88@gmail.com
Brian Stezenski-Williams, Secretary	BS-W@outlook.com
Randy Jefferson, Treasurer	rpj1115@yahoo.com
Dawn Ashenbrenner	dawn1969@yahoo.com
Kara Hall	kara.h.hall@gmail.com
Karen Monarski	krmon12@gmail.com
Josh Wright	joshuawright888@gmail.com

Minister/Staff:

Brian Mason, Minister	brian@uuwausau.org
Jessica Zimmer, Director of RE	jessica@uuwausau.org
Dänika Kozlovich, Congregational Admin.	danika@uuwausau.org
Margaret Jerz, Music Director	margaretjerz1@gmail.com