



The Circuit Writer

August 2022

Sunday Services—August 2022

Sunday, August 7 | 9:30AM

“Me & Zen, Now & Then”

Dr. Donna Keuck, guest speaker

Japanese sociologist Dr. Donna Keuck looks back over her fifty years as a practicing Zen Buddhist. The service will explore the development of Buddhism and of Japanese religions. Donna will read a short piece she composed for the UU spiritual autobiography project in the spring; with participation from Barbara Drake, formerly associated with the Rinzai Zen Center of Appleton, and music from Margaret Jerz.

Participants will have an opportunity to sample, very briefly, the sitting meditation of Zen.

Light refreshments and a book display will follow.

Sunday, August 14 | 9:30AM

“Awakening Creativity in Aging”

Anna Gresch, guest speaker

Anna Gresch, PhD, Gerontological Neurosciences with Katy Barrington, PhD, Art Therapy, Adler University, Chicago will present how creativity enriches relationships and contributes to physical and mental health in later life. The latest science findings will show what myths of the aging brain functions have been debunked. A display of creative endeavors from numerous UU Wausau congregants will be featured.

Sunday, August 21 | 9:30AM

“Grace, Redemption, and Then Again...”

Lon Newman, guest speaker

Lon Newman, who was, for 28 years, the executive director of Family Planning Health Services with headquarters in Wausau, has returned to his musical roots since his retirement 6 years ago. He's been playing at Long Term Care facilities, senior centers, and maybe a Northwoods tavern or Virgin Islands bar or two. He's sharing with us a broad musical exploration of the relationship between faith, action, hope and redemption. Some gospel tunes, some folk tunes, some with a tinge of country or rock and roll -- all having a contemporary message. Some tunes show a bit of the darker side of our chosen natures. . . plus a whimsical tune or two just so he says we don't take ourselves too seriously.

Sunday, August 28 | 9:30AM

Sunday Worship

Led by the Reverend Brian Mason



Reflections

Summer has always felt to me like a strange time for Religious Education (RE). From the outside it can appear laid back with just a few summer family events, it really is one of RE's busiest times of year. Full of reviewing the prior year, developing materials, making schedules, prepping spaces, and planning for the next RE season. At the end of the month families will get information about programming and registration, but in the meantime, I can say I am really excited for this year's lineup. There will be some familiar choices, like Sunday morning RE, and some new ones as well.

And while I am excited for what lies ahead, I am also reminded that it can be easy to let the hustle and bustle of planning time overwhelm the season. And I don't think I am alone in that respect. So, I want to invite you to come enjoy the bounty of warmth, sounds of the community, and the sweetness that summer brings with two events we are hosting in August.

First, on **Sunday, August 7 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.**, rising 8th-12th graders are invited to join the youth group for an afternoon of contemplative photography and ice cream. The group will meet at UU Wausau, head out around downtown looking for texture and patterns, and stop for a treat before heading back to

UU Wausau. Youth will need a phone (with a camera) or a camera. For questions, or if your youth plans on attending, please email me at jessica@uuwausau.org.

The second event is our **August Family Fun Day!** On Thursday, August 11 at 6:00 p.m., families of all ages, with or without children at home, are invited to join us for dinner (pizza and salad), dessert, and stories over the fire. Families are encouraged to bring camp chairs, but we'll have extras on hand. In the event of inclement weather, we'll move indoors. RSVPs for this event are not required but are appreciated to help with food planning.

All the goings on for the upcoming RE year will be available on Sunday, September 4th at the Backpack Blessing (save the date). In the meantime, though, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or chat with me at one of our upcoming events.

In community,

Jes



Board Report to the Congregation—August 2022

It's universally known that volunteerism is essential for creating, maintaining, and growing a vibrant, engaged church community.

If you've had the good fortune to have been involved with our Church for a number of years, you have witnessed and probably been part of the volunteerism that has supported and enriched our church in the work that needs to be done like greeting and ushering, teaching religious education, hosting pot-lucks, and serving on important groups/committees like Social Justice and Caring, to name just a few.

The pandemic put almost all our volunteer activities on hold. We are now facing the challenge of returning to our earlier levels of engagement. Our religious education program may be the most obvious example of a program that needs revitalized volunteer effort. There are other needs as well. The benefits of meeting those needs are many. Increasing volunteerism will create weekly opportunities to engage with and get to know each other, to realize the power of coming together to make good things happen in and outside of our church.

Because volunteerism is essential to every aspect of our operations, connectedness as a community, and impact as a church, our Board is calling on the entire congregation to re-engage and commit to volunteering in some aspect of our church in the year ahead. Where, when, and how you do that are up to you. A good place to start would be to join a hospitality team committed to handling the Sunday morning tasks of greeting,

usher, and coffee hour 3 or 4 times per year. To support this effort, we are happy to announce that we are establishing a new, part-time staff position of volunteer coordinator to ensure volunteers have what they need to be effective.

Consider this a call to action to fully engage with re-building and strengthening our church so that it can be here to support our congregation, the community, and the broader world for our next 150 years. Our church, like every church, faces the critical challenge of long-term viability. Increasing volunteer engagement is an essential shared action to help us ensure our future well-being. The church community we all cherish needs each of us to fully participate in our volunteer opportunities. If you have suggestions on increasing volunteerism or want to join a hospitality team before our volunteer coordinator is hired, please contact a board member.

-Brian Stezenski-Williams and Randy Jefferson



Living Green

Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca* L.)

David Taylor of the U.S. Forest Service [notes](#) that there are more than one hundred species in the milkweed family of *Asclepiadaceae*. The genus name comes from Asklepios, the Greek god of medicine, and a few species have, indeed, been used in folk remedies. But, be warned, most milkweeds are highly toxic to humans, other mammals and many birds.

Common milkweed grows in sunny spots throughout the eastern United States and southern Canada. In recent years, the tall plant with the showy pink umbles has gained attention as the primary food of monarch caterpillars (*Danaus plexippus*). Monarchs are not the only insects attracted to the plant. Taylor calls the common milkweed “nature's mega food market for insects,” because it provides nourishment for more than 450 insect species.

Kudos to the member of our congregation who planted a milkweed garden this week and who took the time to share this Earth-positive deed on the scroll of Project SEA-Change. The butterflies, wasps, bees, beetles and ants that come to feed on the fruits of their labor will not thank them, but we humans can be grateful. By sustaining the pollinators, the milkweed gardener is living in harmony with our UU principle of “respect for the interdependent web of existence, of which we are all a part.”

With a grateful heart,

Donna Keuck for the EAG

SOUTH BEACH
Up North
2022

*Wausau's 16th Annual
Chamber Music Festival*

Saturday, August 6, 2022 | 6:00 PM
UU Church: Mozart on the Move
Casual Picnic Concert featuring a Local High School String Quartet

Sunday, August 7, 2022 | 6:00 PM
Wausau Conservatory of Music
String Quintets by Cherubini, Barber and Torrente

Thursday, August 11, 2022 | 7:00 PM
Woodson Art Museum
Smetana Piano Trio and Mozart Piano Quartet

Friday, August 12, 2022 | 7:00 PM
St. Matthias' Episcopal Church (Minocqua)
Smetana Piano Trio and Mozart Piano Quartet

Saturday, August 13, 2022 | 4:00 PM
Chestnut Center for the Arts (Marshfield)
Smetana Piano Trio and Mozart Piano Quartet

S O U T H B E A C H
CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

For more information call Michael Andrews at 305 389-1297 or visit www.sobechamberensemble.org

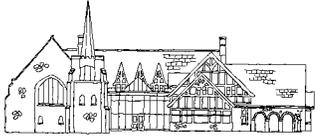
Support for this project was provided throughout the Community Arts Grant Program of the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin, with funds provided by the Wisconsin Arts Board, a state agency, the Community Foundation, and the B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation. Additional support was provided by Cloverbelt Credit Union, Cole Music Fund, Dudley Foundation, Evison Eyecare, Habush Habush and Rottier, Janke Book Store, Marshfield Area Community Foundation, Rindfleisch Performing Arts Fund, Schultz Strings, Sun Printing, UMR, Wausau Conservatory of Music, Wisconsin Public Radio, and Woodson Art Museum.



August 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9:30AM: "I Come From No Mean City, Part 2" the Rev. Brian Mason, in the Yawkey House Gardens	1 Women's AA 6PM	2 Qi Gong 6:30PM	3 Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 12PM	4 Tai Chi 6:30PM	5 Atrium Reserved 3-5:30pm	6 South Beach Up North Concert 6PM
7 9:30AM: "Me & Zen, Now & Then" Dr. Donna Keuck, guest speaker	8 Women's AA 6PM	9 Qi Gong 6:30PM	10 Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 12PM	11 Family Fun Day 6PM Tai Chi 6:30PM	12 Church reserved for private event 4pm-7pm	13 Church reserved for private event 7am-3pm
14 9:30AM: "Awakening Creativity in Aging" Anna Gresch and Katy Barrington, guest speakers	15 Caring Com. 3:30PM Women's AA 6PM	16 BOT meeting 6:30PM Qi Gong 6:30PM	17 Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 12PM	18 Tai Chi 6:30PM	19	20 Early Risers at Garden Pancake House 8:30AM
21 9:30AM: "Grace, Redemption, and then again..." Lon Newman, guest speaker	22 Women's AA 6PM	23 Qi Gong 6:30PM	24 Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 12PM	25 Tai Chi 6:30PM	26	27
28 9:30AM: Sunday Worship led by the Reverend Brian Mason	29 Women's AA 6PM	30 Qi Gong 6:30PM	31 Knitting 10AM The New Yorker Noon Swoon 12PM	Sept. 1 Tai Chi 6:30PM	2	3



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

The Circuit Writer - August 2022

Newsletter of the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

Inside this Issue:

August Services	1
REflections	2
Board Report	3
Living Green	4
South Beach Up North	4
Calendar	5
Board of Trustees & Staff Info	6



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