



NEWS for Lake Country UUs

LCUUC is a Welcoming Congregation, meaning that the congregation believes in being inclusive of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people.



Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church

W299 N5595 Grace Drive
Hartland, WI 53029
(262) 369-1703 www.lcuuc.org



Our Mission

LCUUC is a diverse religious community supporting one another in our spiritual search for truth, meaning and compassionate connection. Based on the Unitarian Universalist Principles and the transforming power of love, we strive for positive change in the world.

Our Vision

2020 LCUUC is an inclusive spiritual community that is diverse, growing, vibrant, and economically sustainable. We provide enriching lifespan education and a strong public presence supporting social justice.



DECEMBER 2017



WORSHIP SERVICES

All services begin at 10am unless noted

December 3

Mawlid! —Rev. Amy Shaw

The holiday of Mawlid celebrates and commemorates the birth of the prophet Mohammed. Join us for this joyous festival service!

New Berlin Food Pantry

December 10

The Gifts of the Magi: A Christmas Pageant —Rev. Amy Shaw

This service is a warm and family oriented holiday service and pageant, featuring some of our RE children, youth, and volunteers.

December 17

Rediscovering Hanukkah & Rays of Hope that Bind Us —Rabbi Brian Comrov

Take a journey with Rabbi Brian Comrov, Rabbi of Congregation Or Tikvah of Oconomowoc to rediscover the Jewish Holiday of Hanukkah in a light in which you have never seen it. Rabbi Comrov will review with us the history and significance of the holiday as well as educate us as to why every person regardless of their faith needs to take the message of Hanukkah with them always.

UU Service Committee

December 24 at 10am

A Child is Born —Rev. Amy Shaw

Please join Rev. Amy Shaw for this Christian Communion service. This service will feature an Anglican/Episcopal style high church liturgical service, homily, and communion.

December 24 at 4pm

What Child is This? —Rev. Amy Shaw

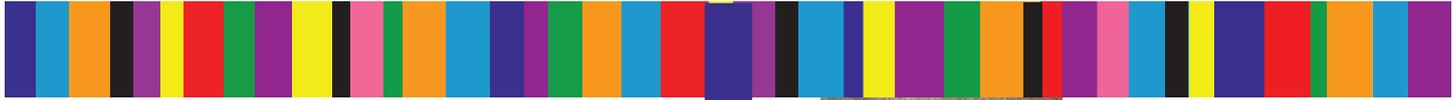
What child is this, who is born to bring hope to the world? All are welcome for this traditional Christmas Eve service. The service will begin at 4pm, and will feature traditional Christmas carols and sacred readings. There will be goodies, coffee, and cider available after the service.

December 31

Starting Over —Rev. Amy Shaw

It is never too late to begin again. And again. Come and explore the hope inherent in every new beginning, and celebrate the coming New Year!

(This will be Rev. Amy's last service before her sabbatical begins, so come and wish her well!)



SABBATICAL SURVIVAL GUIDE

As most of you know, Rev. Amy will be going on sabbatical from January 1, 2018 until May 1, 2018. She will then be on vacation and study leave from May 1, 2018 until July 1, 2018 when she returns to the pulpit.

Here are some **SABBATICAL FAQS**

- **Can I call/write/email Rev. Amy during sabbatical?**
No. You can't. In the event of a catastrophic emergency, Board President Karen Haskell may make the decision to call- please see her if you feel your situation rises to this level. Catastrophic emergency would include things like the church building burning, a member or child's death, or other similar circumstances with long term effects and an inability to wait for Amy's return.
- **Who should I call if I need pastoral care during that time?** You have two options. During sabbatical, you may call or email CHRIS PRANGE-MORGAN (a trained chaplain with Froedtert Healthcare) or ERICH MORAINÉ (an ordained Zen priest) for support
- **While Rev. Amy is gone, can we use her office for meetings or storage or Family Promise?** No. Rev. Amy's office will be secured while she is gone.
- **Will Rev. Amy come to church on Sundays during sabbatical?** No.
- **Who will be preaching while she is gone?** Worship Arts has an amazing line-up of guest ministers, including Rev. Drew Kennedy, Rev. Scott Prinster, Rev. Suzelle Lynch, Rev. Tony Larson, Rabbi Brian Comrov, and many more!
- **Who should I see if I have a problem with a church issue while Rev. Amy is gone?**
 - o About Sunday Worship- see Sue Andrews
 - o About Church Policy or Organization- see Leann Rigoli
 - o About Business – see Brittani Collins in the office
 - o About the building/grounds- see Gerry Flakus
 - o About the Capitol Campaign- see Gail Ostler
 - o About the Sangha- see Erich Moraine
 - o About where something might have been stored- see Kirsten Johnston
 - o About anything else- see the Board or a Board member

LCUUC is a well-organized church, and will do fine with this, our first ever sabbatical period. If you have questions or concerns, please see Rev. Amy before January 1st, and she will be glad to speak with you.



Minister's MUUsings

The year is nearing its close and I am preparing for a sabbatical. This means lots of wrapping up, and checking off, and making sure that little is left to chance before I leave for my time of study, and reflection, and spiritual growth.

If you have questions or concerns about the sabbatical process, please feel free to call or email me before January 1, 2018, and I will be glad to talk with you.

I will be in Virginia, or traveling to and from Virginia, from December 12th — December 16th, attending a December 14th Interfaith Protest Against the NRA, sponsored by a local UU church in Fairfax. For all those who have donated to help me attend the protest, or who have sent good wishes, thank you so very much. I am honored to be able to carry the wishes of LCUUC forward and to speak truth to a dangerous power in our country.

With all of the hubbub that comes with sabbatical preparation and travel, I find I have to take a moment each day, and to remind myself to see the humor, even in the busiest times. Some days this can be more challenging than others, especially when I am trying to decorate for the holidays in the midst of all else.

Yesterday, I got out my new manger set, and I had to smile as I remembered how very unique the old one was. Rather than to try and explain it, I want to share a piece I wrote earlier this year about that original nativity set. It's called "The Night Dippy Ate Jesus." I hope it reminds you to smile as you do the thousand things you have to do at this time of the year.

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“The Night Dippy Ate Jesus.”

You see, a few years ago, a friend bought me a Nativity set. She wasn't making a passing remark about my spirituality, or attempting to assist me in displaying a beautiful and fragile representation of the birth of the Christ child.

She is a smart aleck, and was at Big Lots with \$10.

The Nativity set in question is unique (and I say this in a world where there are already moose, zombie, shotgun shell, rubber duck, and Mary-with-her-head-in-a-snow-globe Nativity sets. Limbo dancers would step over this bar and shake their heads sadly in defeat.).

This Nativity set does not have zombies; zombies would be an improvement. It was created in a far off and exotic city, possibly near Chernobyl or Three-Mile Island.

The inhabitants of the dwelling (calling it a “manger” or a “barn” would be an affront to skilled primitive hut builders anywhere) are a testament to racial harmony. The planet of origin of these races, however, is indeterminate. They appear to be the victims of a particularly virulent and multicolored plague.

Mary the Mother of Our Lord is a lovely figurine. A dashing blonde woman who, given her blue-green completion, died of drowning in one of the less-reputable Nazareth public pools. She either has three arms or a chest condition no one talks about.

Joseph is a cheerful Carbon Monoxide cherry-red. As his robe is a pond-scum green, this leaves no doubt as to his fitness for Christmas, but the jolly Santa hat perched on his head clashes oddly with his staff and sandals.

Two of the Wise Men appear to be extras from a Seven Dwarves expansion playset. These would be the dwarves with names like Bruiser and Lefty, who aren't allowed around Snow White since the incident happened. They are both purple. One cannot be placed near a sheep, or his positioning suddenly makes sense in a new and terrible way.

The third Wise Man, if human, would be approximately seven feet tall. He has one eye, but in an effort not to utilize an unexpected number of facial features, the designer did give him two lovely noses and what appears to be a beak. The overall effect is rather festive.

The animals of the set add yet another layer of theological depth. The cattle are Texas Longhorns. One of the sheep has scales. For some inexplicable reason, the “included gentle animal visitors” included a T-Rex (orange) and what appears to be a large skunk (blue and yellow). Sometime I really must examine the Christmas story more closely.

There is an Angel of the Lord figurine included, which completes the holiday tableau. It is nailed to the dwelling by its head, and seems overall, given one thing and another, to be less of a joyous herald and more of a dire warning. I suspect Bruiser.

The Christ figure is, of course, the central figure of the set.

It would have to be.

This Jesus is less of a “baby Jesus” and more of a “crucified Pieta Jesus”. He is either an act of God or the reason his mother is that blue color. He himself is green.

He has been nailed to the manger. In crucifixion position.

The overall effect is one of a Nativity set crafted by someone who has vaguely heard of Christianity, but wants no part of it. Jesus is wearing swim trunks. They are yellow.

I took my newly received manger set and stared at it in awe and wonderment. Unfortunately, most of the wonderment was wondering whether or not God had noted my ownership of the set, and exactly how far down in Hell the ownership would place me.

I chucked it in a big box with some spare kitchen equipment and became a minister in case the Good Lord had been looking.

This was an excellent choice until yesterday, when I needed my cheese slicer, which was in the box.

I wander downstairs. I find the correct carton, marked with arcane sigils and diverse screeds of demon banishing. I bring it up. I rummage.

Eventually, I find the cheese slicer. It was under the T-Rex. Leaving Nativity bits scattered on the floor, I make lunch.

I look over, in time to see Dippy take a bite of the manger and its tacked in occupant. I choke on my coffee.

Before I could move, she struck again, and the left buttock of the Lord vanished in a crackle of lead paint and toxic PVC shards.

I got there too late. Green and yellow splinters crunched underfoot, and while Jesus certainly rose from the grave and the dead, He was not about to rise from the Dippy.

He was an ex-savior.

Dippy ate Jesus.

There was a rumble of thunder in the background.

I'm not taking any chances. This time I'm joining a convent.

May your holidays be happy and joyous,
and may no one eat any of your decorations!

In Love and Faith,
Rev. Amy

SECURITY AGAINST SHOOTERS

Another mass shooting in the news, this time by a gunman with body armor and large magazine rapid-fire firearms in a church in Texas, and there have been countless other incidents over the past decade.

Churches seem to be tempting targets for these kinds of perpetrators, so what should we do to protect ourselves? Bringing our own guns to church with the idea that a “good guy with a gun” is the solution, is not recommended by legitimate law enforcement. We have consulted with Waukesha County Sheriffs Dept. personnel and various publications dealing with this issue, and here are our recommendations (reprinted from a previous Newsletter article):

It is the policy of LCUUC that no firearms are permitted on church premises, both inside and outside. Signs have been posted at the entrances to the parking lots and on both doors to that effect.

- Anyone who is on LCUUC property or at a church function has the responsibility to help insure compliance with our policy of no firearms allowed on church property.
- The doors should be locked at all times, except the front door may be kept unlocked during Sunday services. Visitors can use the doorbells to alert those inside when there are visitors.
- The Greeters and Ushers in particular should be trained to be observant for people bringing firearms onto LCUUC property, before, during, and after a service or event.

In the event that somebody is found to have a firearm, a Greeter, Usher, the Minister, the President of the Congregation, any Board member, any staff member, or the person in charge of the event should:

- Immediately approach and **politely** inform the person of our church’s NO FIREARMS policy, and ask her/him to please remove the firearm(s) from the premises.
- If the person refuses, the person should be informed that she/he does not have permission to be on LCUUC property, and directed to please leave the property.
- If the person refuses, **then call 911 (there is a phone on the Welcome Table in the front foyer) and inform the operator that somebody has an unauthorized firearm on our property, and immediate police assistance is required to remove the person from the church property.**

In the event of an active shooter, we are advised by police:

- If the shooter targets the congregation, direct confrontation is essential. This is dangerous, but you can improve your chances by distracting the shooter, yelling from multiple directions, and tackling him from behind.
- **Call 911 as soon as possible.** Police will want to know the number of shooters, location of suspects, types of weapons, possible traps or explosives, and location of sensitive areas such as Sunday schools or nurseries. Stay on the line in order to provide real-time information to police on the scene.
- When police arrive, stay on the ground until you are told to move. People have a built-in urge to run for safety. But movement creates confusion and complicates the situation for police. When you do get up, avoid sudden movements or any object in your hand that could be construed as a threat.



CHURCH CLEAN-UP SCHEDULE

Each LCUUC family unit has been assigned one Sunday to clean up the kitchen after social hour.

If you are unable to clean on your assigned date, arrange to switch with another family. Clean-up instructions are posted in the kitchen.

December 3 Mike & Yvonne Fort

December 10 Pack and Prestby

December 17 Peske and White

December 24 Heidi Peterson and Rankin

December 31 Matt Peterson and Real



ANOTHER LEAP OF FAITH

In 2016 it became clear that our building needed major maintenance work which could not be accommodated within the annual budget. Rotting shingles and a 50-year-old boiler provided an opportunity to develop an exterior and interior reflecting our UU values and serving as a welcome beacon for the greater community to join us in fellowship.

The Capital Campaign Working Group selected MSI General to work with us to develop our plans. MSI General is a design build company located in Nashotah with experience working with churches throughout the country and has an excellent reputation.

On December 3rd, we kick-off the Capital Campaign. Join us at 11:30am for the unveiling of the new plans for our church.



Social Justice

LCUUC will again be doing “**Living Below the Line**” the week of January 14. This program allows families to gain a glimpse of what it’s like to live below the poverty line by challenging us to spend \$1.50/day on food for five days. We will encourage people to do this Monday, January 15– Friday, January 19. It’s only 5 days, but it’s hard, and opens our eyes to how difficult it is to be without resources. We will encourage you to donate the money you would have spent on groceries. We plan to send those donations to “Save the Children”, which is doing much-needed crisis support work for the Rohingya in Bangladesh. More info will be in the January newsletter. We hope many of you will join us!

After kicking off “Living Below the Line” in church on Sunday morning, we will be hosting a Flash Food Drive to collect food for the Food Pantry of Waukesha. Volunteers will hand out flyers to shoppers as they enter the store with a list of items that are currently needed by the food bank and ask them to purchase one or more items and drop them off in one of our barrels on their way out. These types of food drives often collect six or more barrels of food in an afternoon. Watch for an announcement of date and location. There will be signups for volunteer shifts. This is a great opportunity for intergenerational social justice



We hope many of you will sign up for the **Examining Whiteness** class on 6 Sundays in January/February. Please see announcement about this and sign up in the social hall.

Save the Date! On **Monday evening, January 29th**, the Social Justice Committee will be hosting a “Racial Harmony” forum at the Kettle Moraine High School with Reggie Jackson, a much sought after speaker and consultant for Nurturing Diversity Partners focusing on the

African-American experience, anti-bias education programs and diversity training at schools, libraries, churches, and businesses. Mr. Jackson is the 2015 winner of the Eliminating Racism Award from southeast Wisconsin’s YWCA, the 2016 Courageous Love Award from the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, and the 2017 Frank P. Zeidler Public Service Award from the City of Milwaukee. More details to come!

Multiple events continue to be happening in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the fair housing marches in Milwaukee (see 200nightsoffreedom.org). We continue to coordinate with Black Lives Matter to Wisconsin UUs (LIKE them on Facebook). Another central location to keep up with what’s happening in our area regarding Racial Justice is ridracism-mke.org.



EXAMINING WHITENESS: An Anti-Racism Curriculum

Racism affects us all by shaping our identity. This UUA course, prepared by the Rev. Doctor William Gardiner, is for UUs, especially white people who are interested in understanding the complex history of white supremacy in the US and the impact it has on us as individuals and society as a whole.

Providing an anti-racism curriculum for white people allows deeper understanding of issues that are essential to furthering a white anti-racist identity. Topics include the emotional lives of white people,

racial identity development and journey, white power and privilege, and developing a positive white identity.

The class will meet Sundays at 11:30am from January 21 to February 25, 2018. Please sign up to participate either by emailing Brittani at admin@lcuuc.org or, starting in November, on the sign-up sheet in the Social Hall.



Youth Religious Education (RE)

Greetings!

Today is a blustery winter day. Random Holiday decorations have been popping up all over town and soon we will be celebrating with our loved ones during the Holiday season in December! Here at LCUUC, we will be having our annual Holiday pageant on December 10th and this year we will be sharing the story of The Gift of The Magi. We will need children/youth to join the Children's Choir for a performance of select music during the pageant. If your child would like to be part of the Children's Choir during this service, they should come to rehearsals on Sunday 11/26 (11:30 after service in the sanctuary), Sunday 12/3 (11:30am in the Spirit Play room), and Saturday morning Dec. 9th from 9am--11am. We will have a pancake breakfast for all who come on 12/9 and then a full service rehearsal that morning. Please see Chris Rollins, Nancy Bratt, or Doug Esty if you have any questions.

Due to the Holiday calendar this year, we will not be having Religious Education classes or Nursery services on Sunday Dec. 24th or Sunday Dec. 31st so that all of our volunteer teachers and our Nursery employees can take time to celebrate the Holidays with their families and friends. Please plan accordingly for your children and the nursery space will be available if you need to step out of service briefly with your child.

We will be having our December Living Our Principles Joint RE class on Sunday December 17th in which we will be talking about Caring and Sharing in celebrating our 1st UU Principle: We believe that each and every person is important. The 4^k- 8th graders will be working on some Holiday activities that allow them to share and care with each other, their families, and our congregation.

Looking forward to 2018 we are planning for the following activities:

- I am still working on securing OWL teachers for our 7th-9th graders in hopes of being able to offer O.W.L. (Our Whole Lives) classes in Spring 2018. There is the possibility of collaborating with another UU church in our area that I'm in contact with. If you have taken the O.W.L. teacher training and you would like to work as one of the teachers this year- please contact me a.s.a.p. I am also looking for volunteers to attend future O.W.L. training classes so that we can continue to provide this most essential sexuality education curricula to our youth in the future. Please see me if you are interested in attending a future training workshop next year.
- Our LCUUC high school seniors are beginning their Bridging programming and will be spending time with their chosen mentors during the coming months.

- We have reached the half-way mark in our RE programming and we will be beginning new curriculums in some of our classrooms in January 2018! The teachers have been working with the new curriculums successfully and our students seem to be enjoying learning more about our UU beliefs using the many lessons they are presented.

I would like to wish everyone a Joyful Holiday and New Year! I celebrate my role as Director of Religious Education here at LCUUC and I cherish the programming that we are able to share with the children and youth of our beloved congregation!

"The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind."

~Maria Montessori

In Peace

Chris Rollins, Director of Religious Education



Board Report

Tis' the season to appreciate and give thanks. We board members are very grateful for the trust that this community has in us. It is an honor to serve on the board of trustees.

The Capital Campaign Committee has been working since last winter and is excited to roll out the campaign. Stay tuned.....

This years church auction was financially our most successful. The board thanks our fund-raising committee for their vision and many hours of time spent developing our first live auction. It was great fun and we look forward to all of the wonderful fellowship that many will experience attending the auction events.

LCUUC BOARD MEMBERS

President—Karen Haskell	(262) 490-8606
Vice President—Paul Fackler	(262) 744-4165
Secretary—Laura Nyquist	(920) 650-4267
Treasurer—Claudette Hamm	(414) 708-3510
Helen Bera	(262) 968-2336
Megan Fedders	(262) 510-9814
Greg Hillman	(262) 691-3465
Susan Lewis	(262) 446-2131
Pam Prestby	(414) 940-2910
Kevin Seay	(262) 309-9054



Grace Notes

"I call architecture frozen music." –*John Wolfgang von Goethe*

We ended the month of October with musical sweets for Trick or Treat in Hartland and singing pumpkin carols for the community on the 26th. Then we welcomed the dark on 10/29 with our Sunday morning service and our celebration on Samhain.

Our theme for November was Faith.

- We started with the exploration of our reaction to evil by presenting our version of "Sympathy for the Devil" with our own band and a guest soloist.
- We gave our own thanksgiving in a song with words written by children in RE.
- We sang "Draw the Circle Wide" again with special soloists.

Our theme in December will be Hope.

- We will open with a Taize-style musical/meditative service on 11/26.
- 12/3 – Celebration of Mawlid, Mohammed's birthday.
- 12/10 – Christmas Pageant presented by our children and choir with instrumentalists and soloists. There will be joyful singing by everyone.
- 12/17 – Hanukah
- 12/24 – Two services, "High Church" at 10am and our traditional Christmas Eve service with carols at 4pm.
- 12/31 – We will welcome the New Year with joy!

As you can see there will be a lot of music to warm our souls as we approach this cold, dark end of the year. Let us sing together.

Harmoniously,
Nancy and Doug

Couples in Recovery

December 3, 2017 from 9 am to 9:55 am

The Couples In Recovery program (CIR) is intended to help the recovering couple bring serenity and peace into their home and relationship. CIR is a 12-step based recovery group for couples who are in a committed relationship. One or both partners in the couple attend individual 12-step recovery groups, and together they desire to strengthen their relationship through recovery. Please join us the 1st Sunday of each month at LCUUC. For more information, call 262-569-1011



Lekooks With Ukes

Join us as we sing and play our ukuleles; anything from "All You Need is Love" to "Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah". No experience necessary. Tuesdays, 3pm, Social Hall. Contact: Christina White 414-852-6303



Kintsugi Sangha - Meditation

Kintsugi Sangha is a community ministry of LCUUC under the direction of Rev. Shokan Mui (Erich Moraine), our volunteer community minister. Drop by for a visit to this Zen community which is open and welcoming to all traditions.

The Kintsugi Sangha meets on Thursdays in the sanctuary from 6:30 till 8:15pm for meditation, instruction, and conversation. Newcomers or those wanting additional time are welcome as of 6pm. There is no prerequisite for attendance, everyone is welcome regardless of experience.



LCUUC calendar

Sunday, December 3

9am Couples in Recovery
9am Choir rehearsal
9am Sunday morning meditation
10am Sunday service
11:30am Stewardship committee meeting room #5

Tuesday, December 5

3pm Lekooks with Ukcs
6:30pm RE committee meeting
7pm Worship arts committee meeting
7pm SOS meeting

Wednesday, December 6

12pm Midweek meditation moment
6:30pm Choir practice

Thursday, December 7

6pm Kintsugi Sangha—meditation
7pm NVC practice group

Friday, December 8

7pm TED talks @ Milw. St. Traders

Sunday, December 10

9am Choir rehearsal
9am Sunday morning meditation
10am Sunday service
11:30am Stewardship committee meeting room #5

Tuesday, December 12

3pm Lekooks with Ukcs
4:30pm Finance meeting
7pm NVC practice group
6pm COM
7pm SOS meeting

Wednesday, December 13

12pm Midweek meditation moment
6:30pm Choir practice

Thursday, December 14

6pm Kintsugi Sangha—meditation

Sunday, December 17

9am Choir rehearsal
9am Sunday morning meditation
10am Sunday service

Tuesday, December 19

2pm Staff meeting
3pm Lekooks with Ukcs
4:30pm Finance meeting
7pm NVC practice group
7pm SOS meeting
7pm Board meeting

Wednesday, December 20

12pm Midweek meditation moment
6:30pm Choir practice

Thursday, December 21

6pm Kintsugi Sangha—meditation

Sunday, December 24

9am Choir rehearsal
9am Sunday morning meditation
10am Morning Sunday service
4pm Afternoon Sunday service

Tuesday, December 26

3pm Lekooks with Ukcs
4:30pm Finance meeting
7pm Social Justice committee meeting
7pm SOS meeting

Wednesday, December 27

12pm Midweek meditation moment
6:30pm Choir practice

Thursday, December 28

6pm Kintsugi Sangha—meditation

Sunday, December 31

9am Choir rehearsal
9am Sunday morning meditation
10am Sunday service



LCUUC Staff & Hours

Church office phone: (262) 369-1703

Senior Minister: Rev. Amy Shaw
minister@lcuuc.org (513) 709-7058
Office Hours: Tue, Wed, Fri 11am-5 pm
(Also available by appointment—please contact her directly)

Religious Education Director: Christine Rollins
dre@lcuuc.org (262) 369-1703
Office Hours: Tuesdays 8:30am-4:30pm
(Also available by appointment—please contact her directly)

Office Administrator: Brittani Collins
admin@lcuuc.org (262) 369-1703
Office Hours: Daily except Wed 9am-3pm

Music Director: Nancy Bratt
music@lcuuc.org
Office Hours: By appointment only

Choir Director: Doug Esty
choir@lcuuc.org
Office Hours: By appointment only

Accompanist /Organist: Tracy Moraine
Associate Accompanist: Karen Haskell
Cleaning: Jiana Greene

* All staff have mailboxes in church office