

Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church W299 N5595 Grace Drive, Hartland, WI 53029 (262) 369-1703 [www.lcuuc.org](http://www.lcuuc.org)

# NEWS for Lake Country UUs

**Black Lives Matter** LCUUC is a Welcoming Congregation for bisexual, gay, lesbian, queer, non-binary and/or transgender people



## APRIL 2022

**Worship services** Services begin at 10am

**Come on in: We're Back In-Person and also Online!** LCUUC is now holding its services both in-person and online again at 10am on Sundays at LCUUC. For an order of service, go to OOS.

*Option 1) Watch worship online here:* Live Stream. After worship, join us on Zoom for Virtual Coffee Hour (Meeting ID: 934 2920 7467). If you have a joy or sorrow to be shared aloud during worship, please email it to [candles@lcuuc.org](mailto:candles@lcuuc.org) by 8am on Sunday.

*Option 2) Join us in the LCUUC sanctuary for in-person worship.* We recommend wearing masks and following LCUUC COVID guidelines.

### Designated Collection for April – UU Ministry for Earth

**Sunday, April 3, 2022**

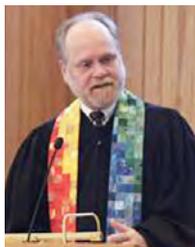
**Sacred Silliness –Claire Johnson, LCUUC member**

We run the risk of being too adult. We run the risk of not seeing the world through the eyes of a child, as a place of wonder. We run the risk of taking ourselves too seriously. When it seems as if conflict is more present than happier moments, let us take a few moments to bring back joy. It is often said that laughter is the best medicine. Humor is a sign of resilience, as well as a way to make any occasion a little bit brighter. Come enjoy a light-hearted service that celebrates the sacredness of humor.



**Sunday, April 10, 2022**

**Realistic Hope & Hopeful Realism –Rev. Phillip Lund, Congregational Life Consultant of the MidAmerica Region**



According to recent surveys of religion in America, a continued decline of church membership in future decades seems inevitable. What does that mean for those of us who enjoy the important social benefits that belonging to a religious community provides? How do we manage the tension between hope and realism when it comes to the future of our faith? Let us explore what we, as Unitarian Universalists, can do for religion today...and tomorrow. Phillip Lund has over twenty-five years of experience serving congregations in the areas of faith formation and spiritual growth, first as a religious educator in Bloomington, Indiana, New York City, and Chicago, Illinois, and most recently as a congregational life consultant working for the MidAmerica Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago and a certificate in InterSpiritual Counseling from One Spirit Learning Alliance in New York. He lives in Saint Paul, Minnesota, with his wife, Julia, and their son, Henry David.

**Sunday, April 17, 2022**

**Awakening to Love –Rev. Carin Bringelson, LCUUC Minister**

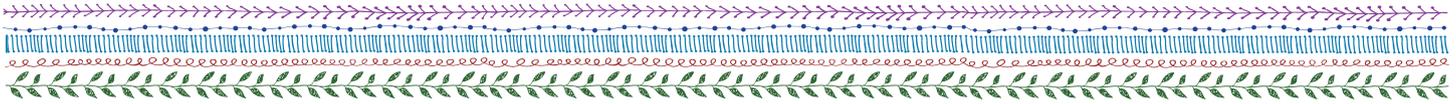
On this Easter Sunday, our all-ages worship service will include music, story, and creative coloring. How might Unitarian Universalists reclaim this Christian holiday to be reminded of the Love already in our midst – celebrating Love in all of its forms? An Easter egg hunt will occur outside (weather permitting) after worship service.

**Sunday, April 24, 2022**

**Get Rooted, Get Ready! –Ray Grosch, LCUUC member**

When you imagine pathways to embodying the inherent worth and dignity of all people, particularly climate migrants, what do you see? Who is with you on this journey to realign our values and practices with justice? What transforms and gives way to new beginnings? Who and/or what are you accountable to along the way? Join LCUUC's Ministry for Earth Committee for a special Earth Day worship service exploring these questions in a collective journey on the pathways to being rooted and ready for climate justice. This month LCUUC's designated collection will go to the UU Ministry for Earth.





### Carin’s Corner:

Last April I took this photo outside of LCUUC. Photos of April flowers remind me that, despite the hardships and sorrows in our lives, the earth continues to turn, the seasons continue to change, and that “awakening” (which is our theme for the month of April) will happen no matter what we do. Not only is the earth awakening with the coming of Spring, but this congregation is awakening after successfully and thoughtfully navigating pandemic life.

The other day I realized that I feel a little bit like Rip Van Winkle – the character who was asleep for 20 years. Call me Rip Van Covid. It’s been two long years of “pandemic time” (where we can’t keep track of how long ago something happened) and “pandemic brain” (where we forget things we wouldn’t usually forget or have a hard time processing new information).

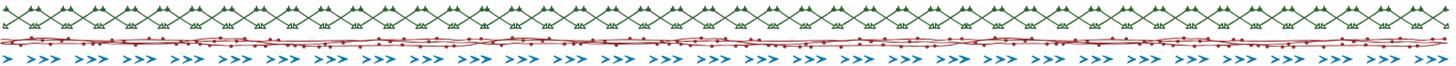
Two years ago, this congregation had recently completed some capital improvements and was over half-way through a “lay-led” year. Suddenly, with a quick succession of decisions, LCUUC had to pivot to online life. And now, as we return to some previous activities (like worship) in new ways (like live streaming while also in the sanctuary), we may be asking ourselves: What just happened? Where is everyone? Who is that kid who grew up, seemingly overnight? What will happen next?

Kind of like those daffodil bulbs lying beneath the soil, I have faith LCUUC will once again bloom. As is required of all gardening, we will be called to plan, plant, water, and weed. We will need to notice what’s growing with awe and gratitude, stay attentive, and be open to surprises.

Whatever the future may bring, as individuals and as a community, these times are calling us to engage in “Awakening!” I’m grateful that we get to be on the journey together.

In Growing Faith,

Rev. Carin [revcarin@lcuuc.org](mailto:revcarin@lcuuc.org)



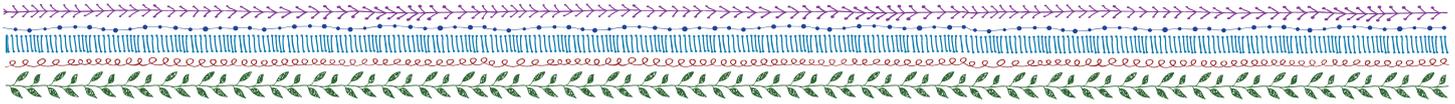
### Meeting with the Minister

Rev. Carin would love to meet with you. In whatever way you would like to connect, she is happy to accommodate. Set up an appointment by emailing her at [revcarin@lcuuc.org](mailto:revcarin@lcuuc.org).

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Rev. Carin’s ¾-time schedule includes a Sabbath on Mondays as well as one “Off Week” every four weeks. Please check the Master Calendar [HERE](#) for her upcoming availability. If you need to reach Rev. Carin with a pastoral care emergency while she is away, please contact chair of the Caring Circle, Yvonne Fort at: [myfort2@wi.rr.com](mailto:myfort2@wi.rr.com).





LCUUC has joined up with **Soul Matters** - a network of Unitarian Universalist congregations who follow the same monthly themes. These themes will be woven through all aspects of LCUUC life, from weekly services & religious education, to small groups & individual learning opportunities. Explore what may be a good fit for you - organic growth into sharing and discussion is welcome and encouraged!

## April - Welcome to Awakening

Please visit the LCUUC website for individual opportunities revolving around this month's theme. These include podcasts, movies, articles, books and weekly exercises to promote more in-depth thought and conversation with family and friends.

*You live like this, sheltered, in a delicate world, and you believe you are living. Then you read a book (Lady Chatterley, for instance), or you take a trip, or you talk with [someone], and you discover that you are not living, that you are hibernating... Monotony, boredom, death. Millions live like this (or die like this) without knowing it. They work in offices. They drive a car. They picnic with their families. They raise children. And then some shock treatment takes place, a person, a book, a song, and it awakens them and saves them from death. -Anais Nin*

**The breeze at dawn has secrets to tell you. Don't go back to sleep. -Rumi**



We all know what it was like. The world was alive once. When we were little. The trees whispered words. Animals spoke to us with their eyes. Playgrounds could become castles. The stars somehow told us we were special. Life could speak. The magic wasn't imprisoned in childhood. We've all had adult moments when we've "come alive." Wonderfully lost in our work, our creativity or a kiss. Time both stopped and was set on fire. It happened as well in moments of alignment. When our inner life and outer life fell into step. We were finally "us." Everything was clear, and enough. There it was in the flower too. Actually in so many simple things: freshly baked bread, blackberries, a deer standing still staring at us without blinking, our children laughing. For those fleeting moments, we lacked nothing. We felt gifted beyond comprehension. We knew what "rich" really means.

And it's not that these moments of awakening don't still happen. There's just something about how we've got things organized that places a fog between them and us. As Anais Nin says, we believe we are living, but really aren't. It's surprising actually - how easily we let dullness sink in, how often we allow life to be muted.

But there are always those memories. That whispering tree. That magic kiss. That moment of being true to ourselves. That priceless taste of blackberry juice on our tongue. They can be brought back. Yes, we forget what it feels like to be fully awake and for life to be fully alive. But forgetting means we can remember. It means we can help each other remember. And remembering opens a door for us to find our way back.

**So maybe the message this month isn't simply, "Awaken!" but also, "Remind!"** We need to tell our stories so others remember theirs. We need to take each other back in time, so we can fully inhabit our present. It's no small thing. On our own, we are so easily convinced being wide awake was a delusion, so easily fooled into thinking that life never really felt that good or seemed so clear. But with help, we wake up. **We remember what it is like for life to shimmer. And for us to shimmer too.**

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## New Member Welcome

Please welcome LCUUC's newest member, Stephanie Tisoris. Stephanie is not new to Unitarian Universalism having been a member of the Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Appleton before moving to Oconomowoc. She is single and has two adult children. With a master's degree in community counseling, she works as a psychotherapist in Oconomowoc. She is an enthusiastic gardener and is a member of the Wisconsin chapter of **Wild Ones** which promotes landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities. Stephanie, whose undergraduate degree is in art, enjoys both creating beautiful things, currently knitting is her interest, and appreciating beautiful things created by others. She also enjoys paddling her kayak, doing yoga, and reading.



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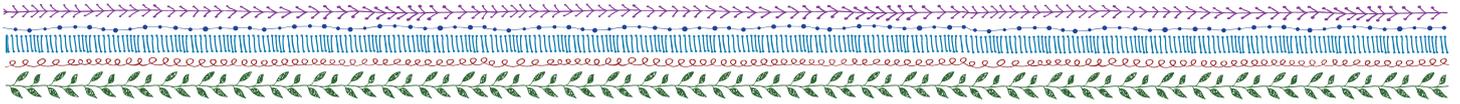
## Call Process Task Force

At the January 2022 Board Retreat, one idea percolated to the top. LCUUC needed to explore the congregation's desire to have a called minister versus continuing with a contract minister. The Board directed the Leadership Development Committee to form a task force to explore this idea. Leadership and the Board are excited to announce the activation of a **Call Process Task Force** made up of the following members: Kim Suhr, John Kuhn, Beth Peske, Mike Campbell, and Lynn Lance.

Over the next six months, the **Call Process Task Force** will be collecting information from the congregation and making a recommendation to the board on calling a minister.

You may be asking, what is the difference between a called minister and contract minister? According to the UUA's Transitional Ministry Handbook, "...Ministry is considered a vocation, arising from a sense of calling to a profession of faith and service, and a life of meaning. A called minister is one who has been formally voted upon by the congregation to stay in relationship for an indefinite duration of time, in contrast to being contracted for a specified period of time, or in an annually renewable position... A called minister becomes less like a "consultant" and evolves into a vested leadership partner, mutually engaged with the congregation for the fulfillment of its long-term mission."

Please keep an eye out for information and next steps in the process. The **Call Process Task Force** wants and encourages all voices to be heard.



## Social Justice

### Widen our Circle and join “HANDS ON!”

**Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> (after church)**

Sponsored by LCUUC’s Social Justice Committee

1. Get your hands dirty by helping the **PEACE GARDEN PROJECT MKE** and help prep an area in Sherman Park for a peace garden to commemorate lives lost to gun violence. More info about **Peace Garden Project MKE** is below. Contact Sara or Bud Hudson at [sbhudson@hotmail.com](mailto:sbhudson@hotmail.com) with questions.

**OR**

2. Use your hands to help make 300 sandwiches for the **Guest House of Milwaukee!** This will be done after church in the social hall. The Guest House offers shelter, housing, education and services to those in need in Milwaukee. Contact Kerry Duma at [kerryduma@gmail.com](mailto:kerryduma@gmail.com) with questions.

**AND**

*Please consider donating to cover the cost of the sandwiches!*

A total of \$300 is needed to make 300 sandwiches. Donate online at LCUUC or in an envelope at church.

**Thank you for your support and involvement!**

### Widening the Circle - Hands On! - April 3, 2022

We are excited to be joining Camille Mays from Sherman Park. She is the founder of “Peace Gardens Milwaukee” which she started in 2015 when gun violence was high. Her mission statement is: “Peace Garden Project MKE is committed to promoting healthy neighbors and healthy neighborhood spaces spreading a message of Peace and Love!”

On Sunday, April 3 at 1pm we will be meeting at the corner of 38th and Center Street at 3831 Center Street where Emani’s Peace Garden is. It needs to be cleaned up before planting in April or May. All we need to bring with us is work clothes and shoes, plastic yard bags, work gloves and a chair if you need one.

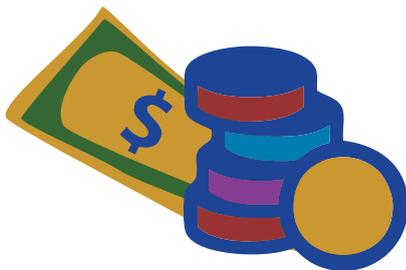
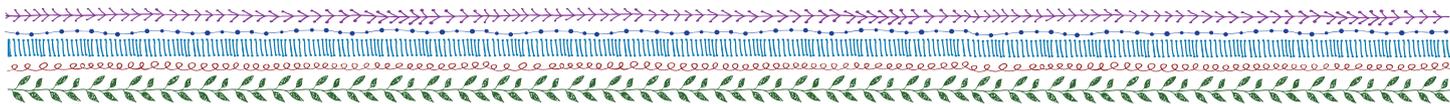
We can carpool if you like by meeting by 12:15 pm at the Hudson’s home (2522 N 89th Street, Wauwatosa and phone 414-212-8404 home or 414-510-0987 cell). And, if some of you wish to carpool from LCUUC to our house, we can connect you to one another for that arrangement.

Lastly, there’s a possibility of after the work project to go out to eat in Sherman Park with Camille as our guest with any of you who may be interested.

Please respond by Sunday, March 27 to Sara/Bud Hudson ([sbhudson@hotmail.com](mailto:sbhudson@hotmail.com) or above phone numbers) if you’d like to participate in this “Hands On” project.

### OUR MISSION AT PEACE GARDEN PROJECT MKE

Our main objective at **Peace Garden Project MKE** is to provide trauma informed care and healing to community members, organizers, and others doing work in the community, especially those who have suffered from gun violence. We provide healing, wellness, and coping tools. Camille Mays has over 12 years of community organizing experience, sound healing certification, and is a victim of gun violence, having lost her son Darnell to gun violence in November of 2019. Gregory Powell II has over 20 years of arts experience and mentoring. We work closely with community members, elected officials, medical professionals, universities, grassroots organizers, and other community stakeholders in areas most impacted by gun violence to work to build community, shift mental wellness stigmas and to provide resources, tools and activities for overall well-being.

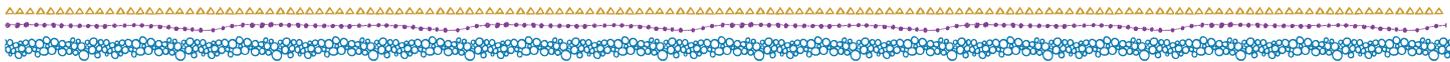


## Finance Report

It's budget season for LCUUC. The budget process has been designed in the past couple of years to have as much transparency and input as possible. The process typically starts in February and doesn't end until May. This length of time allows committees, Finance Committee, and the Board of Trustees to thoroughly review the programs and plans for the following year.

The process goes like this.... Each year in February, the Finance Committee asks committee chairs along with their members to develop their budget for the following year in March. Budgets requests submitted have detailed information about what is requested and how much it will cost. These requests are then reviewed by the Finance Committee and may be revised based on the information received and communication with committee chairs. The Finance Committee then sends a recommended budget to the Board of Trustees in April. The Board of Trustees reviews the recommended budget and makes adjustments as deemed appropriate. In May the Board of Trustees approves the budget which is then sent to the congregation for the annual meeting.

To further enhance transparency, this year, we will hold an information session in April for interested church members BEFORE the budget is approved by the Board of Trustees.



## ON BOARD

Maybe I'm imagining things, but there seems to be a new energy in the air. Even those of us who love winter are happy to walk outside, occasionally at least, without a coat on. Welcome, Spring!

It's a joy to be able to experience in-person services again, yet still have the option to enjoy them from home, if not the same day, later on in the week. That is one benefit of having the Livestream option and a number of people are taking advantage of it. Thank you to the COVID Working Group for the time, energy, and guidance they provided as we navigated the last two years.

It is truly appreciated.

The Board has welcomed Jonathan Hubbard as a new board member for the remainder of the year. He is filling Mieke Craven's spot, as she was unable to stay on. Thank you, Jonathan!

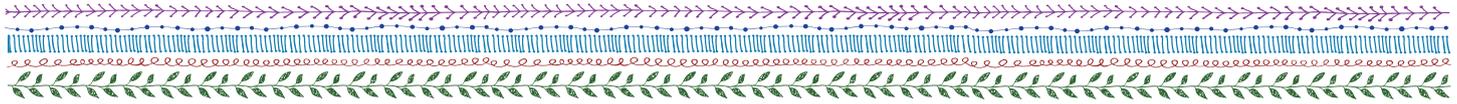
Thanks also need to go out to Leadership for their efforts to find people willing and able to fill the many positions our church has. That's not an easy job! Please give thought to where you can share some of yourself during committee signups in May.

If you look at the church's membership book, you'll see that the first member signed it on September 7, 1997. So LCUUC will be celebrating its 25th anniversary (birthday?) this fall. That's a big deal! Let's hope we have that and many more things to celebrate!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Amy Seay*

### LCUUC Board Members

Lisa Alvarado, President	George Ehrhardt
Brynn Vukelich, Vice President	Dave Harker
Amy Seay, Secretary	Harry Nichols
Tim Fuller, Treasurer (ex-officio)	Gail Ostler
	Quentin Watson



## Religious Education Round-up

This month we explore the ways in which our times call us to “Awaken.” There are four ways we will explore the ways we can awaken. Below is an overview of what will be covered in our weekly RE Enrichment emails. Here they are:

- Lesson A: Waking up to What Really Matters:** Weighing things thoughtfully
- Lesson B: Waking up to Wonder and Beauty:** Being present
- Lesson C: Waking up to the Pain and Struggle of Others:** The power to help heal
- Lesson D: Waking up to the Interconnected Web:** Earth Day

### Current Opportunities

#### Multi-Age RE during Easter Service

Join us for a multi-age RE to be held in the social hall during Easter service on Sunday April 17th

#### Easter Egg Hunt

Stay for an easter egg hunt held on the LCUUC grounds starting at 11:30am after service on April 17th!

#### Youth Group

We have exciting things planned for our youth group. On May 7th we will be planning an aquatic ecology field trip. Watch your inbox for more information!

#### RE Enrichment Activities

Look for at home RE activities in the weekly emails! These activities will follow the Soul Matters curriculum and will include a youtube link to the children’s book for the week as well as easy activities to do at home as a family. Interested in receiving the RE enrichment emails? Send Beth Ann a note at [dre@lcuuc.org](mailto:dre@lcuuc.org) to get added!

### Planning for the Future

#### RE Huddle

The next RE Team Huddle is Thursday, April 14, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. HERE is the link to the zoom room! **\*\*The Zoom room will open at 5:45pm for socializing\*\***

#### RE Registration

Families may register their young person for this year’s Religious Education program at any time.

#### Interested in volunteering?

We are looking for volunteers for the RE programs. Volunteering would include leading our youth group or leading an RE class. Volunteers will have to submit to a background check and are required to be fully vaccinated and boosted. Interested? Email Beth Ann Wuerl at [dre@lcuuc.org](mailto:dre@lcuuc.org).

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## The LCUUC CHURCH CALENDAR can be found [HERE](#)

### 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.

### LCUUC Staff & Hours

Church office phone: (262) 369-1703  
\* All staff have mailboxes in church office

**Minister:** Rev. Carin Bringelson, she/her  
revcarin@lcuuc.org (262) 369-1703

Rev. Carin's ¾-time schedule includes a Sabbath on Mondays as well as one "Off Week" every four weeks.

**Cleaning:** Kaya Rollins

**Congregational Administrator:** Leann Rigoli  
admin@lcuuc.org (262) 369-1703  
Administrative hours: Tues, Wed, Fri 8am-4pm

**Interim RE Coordinator:** Beth Ann Wuerl  
dre@lcuuc.org



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### Covid Safety Precautions

The LCUUC Covid Work Group met in March 2022 to update recommendations. Upon review of these recommendations, the LCUUC Board announced the following changes that are in effect until further notice.

Continued expectations for all people entering the building when others are also present include the following:

- Stay home if you aren't feeling well or if you know you have been exposed to Covid-19 recently
- We recommend that all eligible people get a vaccination and booster shot (unless medically contraindicated)
- Wearing a mask in the building is a personal choice. If you are more comfortable wearing a mask at church, please feel free to do so. Masks are also optional while singing.
- Be respectful of others' risk tolerance. Please get consent before hugging and maintain physical distance unless all involved are comfortable being closer.
- Turn on the HEPA filtration units as high as is tolerable in the rooms that are being used
- We recommend downloading the "WI exposure notification app" for the purpose of contact tracing should the need arise
- All LCUUC staff and volunteers who have contact with numerous people are fully vaccinated/boosted. This includes worship leaders, musicians, religious education teachers and assistants, ushers, and greeters.
- If you test positive for Covid after having been in the building, please inform the office as soon as possible



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LCUUC continues to be guided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Please direct your questions to Lisa Alvarado, LCUUC Board President, at [lmalvarado@charter.net](mailto:lmalvarado@charter.net).