

Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church W299 N5595 Grace Drive, Hartland, WI 53029 (262) 369-1703 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



JANUARY 2022

Worship services

You are invited to join in Sunday worship services in one of two ways!

Option 1) Watch worship online via live stream. If you have a joy or sorrow to be shared aloud during worship, please email it to candles@lcuuc.org by 8am on Sunday. Immediately after service, join us for **Virtual Coffee Hour** on Zoom [HERE](#). (ID: 934 2920 7467)

Option 2) Join us in the LCUUC sanctuary for in-person worship. If you have a joy or sorrow to be shared aloud during worship, please write it on an index card when you arrive. We will be wearing masks, recommending social distancing, and following LCUUC Covid safety precautions.

January's Designated Collection is for **Family Promise**

Sunday, January 2, 2022



Worthy Now –Rev. Carin Bringelson

Let's start the New Year by joining the Church of the Larger Fellowship. We will learn about and share our support for their ministry and mission by watching this video service together.

Sunday, January 9, 2022

Seed Catalogs –Rev. Carin Bringelson

Planting a garden requires intention, forethought, and planning. We don't always know what the harvest will reap, but we do know nothing will grow in the fall if we don't do some work the previous winter. During this month of "Living with Intention," let's come together to imagine what this next church phase can be, and what we need to compost, cultivate, and water in order to make our "garden bloom." *Image by Bruno Kelzer on Unsplash.*



Sunday, January 16, 2022

Say YES to Choice: Reproductive Justice in the 21st Century –Rev. Carin Bringelson

As we begin our 30 Days of Love celebration on this Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, let us remember that Unitarian Universalism has a long legacy of advocating for safe, legal, accessible abortion care for anyone who needs it. Come explore the theological underpinnings that support our work to Side with Love as the United States prepares to mark the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade ruling.

Sunday, January 23, 2022



Can I be a humanist Jewish Buddhist Christian Pagan Unitarian Universalist? –Arthur Thexton, an "upraised UU"

The spiritual or religious impulse is a natural, and nearly universal, part of being a human being. Even the most hard-core rationalist, scientific humanists developed faith systems to explain and celebrate the sense of awe they feel in the face of the overpowering forces which are beyond our control; they often just don't want to call that faith "religion." But a faith in which there is no god is just as much a leap of hope as the faith that there is one, or more. So, what of us Unitarian Universalists?

Sunday, January 30, 2022



Living Into Our Commitment –Dr. Elías Ortega, President of Meadville Lombard Theological School and Professor of Religion, Ethics, and Leadership

In this sermon, we will discuss ways in which living into our commitments is an invitation and a sacred task. It is an invitation to be a people committed to repairing harm and restoring covenant. When we live into our commitments as a sacred task, we are transformed by the work we do into the beloved community's likeness.



Carin's Corner:

In order to "Live with Intention," as our theme of the month suggests, we must pay attention.

Paying attention is no small feat for us humans in these times. News headlines, social media posts, instant notifications – all of these can be distracting when what we are actually hungry for spiritually is deeper stillness, stronger connections, and more justice.

The same is true for our larger community: LCUUC as a congregation must pay attention to "What Is" currently happening while also making plans for "What Will Be."

In January the Board of Trustees (BOT), Leadership Development Committee (LDC), and the Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) will participate in a Leadership Retreat. There is mission/vision work to be done during these pandemic and post-pandemic times. The retreat will include exploring the Mission and Purpose of LCUUC along with big "Driving Questions." Ask me or anyone in the above named groups if you're curious to learn more. As a reminder, this year the BOT president is Lisa Alvarado; the chair of the LDC is Rob Suhr; and Greg Sanden serves as the chair of COSM.

These times are asking us to Live with Intention in our individual lives as well as in our collective lives. I'm grateful that we are all on the journey together.

In Growing Faith,

Rev. Carin revcarin@lcuuc.org

Covid Safety Precautions

The Covid Work Group met in November 2021. Here is what's new from that meeting:

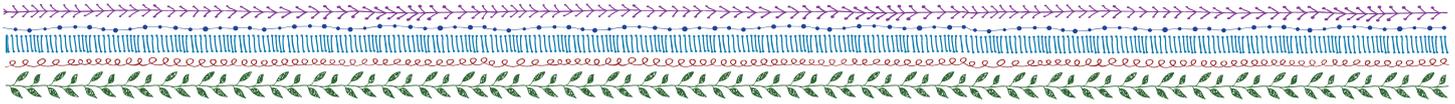
1. **There will be no invitations into congregational singing during worship services until after the proposed HEPA filtration units are in place.** Some performers will be allowed to sing if they have been fully vaccinated and are wearing masks. Speakers continue to be expected to be fully vaccinated and wear masks.
2. **If you test positive for Covid after having been in the building, please inform the office as soon as possible.** We will send out an email explaining to members of the community that they may have been exposed Covid. We will also encourage you to inform the people you have been in close contact with.
3. **We are discouraging people from eating and drinking in the church building at this time.** This allows everyone to keep their masks on when in the presence of others.



LCUUC continues to be guided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the overall risk level of Waukesha County per Covid ActNow.

- 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
- Wear a mask if you are over 2 years old
- People outside of family units are recommended to stay physically distant from one another
- We recommend sanitizing your hands
- Post-worship social time may occur outside the building—or indoors with social distancing and masking
- We recommend downloading the "WI exposure notification app" for the purpose of contact tracing should the need arise
- We recommend that all eligible people get a vaccination (unless medically contraindicated)

The Covid Working Group will meet next on Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Contact Rev. Carin or Mieke Craven with questions.



THANK YOU FOR THE HEPA FILTRATION UNITS!

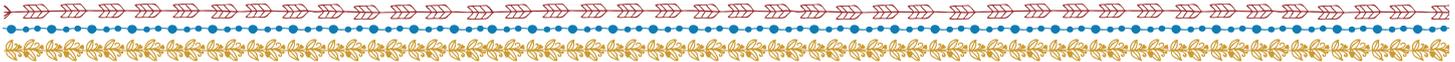


Per the plan developed by the Covid Working Group, LCUUC was in need of HEPA filtration units throughout the building. Many of these units have now been purchased and installed, thanks to the following generous donors:

- Paula and Greg Hillmann
- Mike Jury
- John Kuhn
- Patty Walker

Thank you so much!

Only **two (2) more large HEPA filtration units** are needed so that we can put them in the Social Hall. If you would like to donate one, please contact Mike Jury at mjury331@gmail.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!



January - Welcome to Living with Intention

“Here’s what I discovered. Intention is different from setting goals or resolutions in that it “pulls us into” who we truly are. Goals and resolutions “push us out” into future possibilities. To set intentions, we must listen to our inner voice which tells us who we truly are.” - Katie Covey

So here we are again, in the month of January, with its talk of daring resolutions and demanding calls to become better. It’s hard to resist. After all, who of us couldn’t benefit from a bit of self-improvement? And so, most of us gladly go along and declare “This is the year I’m finally going to be a better me!”

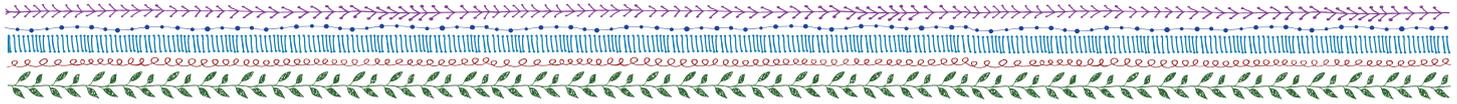
But are we sure this is what we really want? When you read that quote above about being “pulled in” rather than “pushed out,” what happens in your heart? Is being pushed really what you want and need? Are you really excited about the New Year’s work of striving to create a brand new you? Or do you suddenly notice an internal whisper that says, “I long to be pulled in more deeply to the self I already am”? In other words, maybe our real New Year’s work is not about pushing forward into self-improvement, but about pausing, stepping back and asking, “What hunger has my heart?”

There is, after all, a big difference between becoming better and becoming ourselves. Self-improvement is not the same as self-alignment. Wanting to get from point A to point B is something quite different from longing to find your inner anchor. Bottom line: Goals and intentions may indeed be more distinct than we have thought. And being clear about that may be more important than we have thought.

So this month, maybe our most meaningful work is to make room. All around us this month, there’s going to be tons of talk about creating goals and imagining who we might become. But living with intention seems to be more about creating a quiet space that allows us to connect with who we already are, a space that protects us from the pressure to accomplish and instead makes room to ask questions of integrity.

And if we are able to carve out that quieter space, then maybe we will discover that this isn’t the year of “finally becoming a better me.” Maybe we’ll decide it’s enough to simply “finally be me.”

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.



Religious Education Round-up

As we turn the page on yet another year I welcome and am open to all that the universe has in store for our youth and families. I am eager to serve our church communities in the Interim Religious Education Coordinator role. This role is a bit different from a traditional “Director” role and I want to expand a bit on what this name entails. Interim means that I will be in this position until the end of the fiscal year, basically the end of June. At that time, we will revisit the role and see what, if anything, needs to be changed or kept the same. Coordinator means that I am in an administrative role helping to organize events and coordinate volunteers under the direction of the minister.

Our **Soul Matters** theme for January is *Living with Intention*. This month we will explore the ways in which we are called to *Live with Intention*. What does this mean? What skills does it take to live this way? How do we help develop these skills in our youth? Look for weekly family activities in your inbox that align with our theme for the week. Below is an overview of our weekly lessons.

- Lesson A: It Takes Empathy** – The activation of our intentions.
- Lesson B: It Takes Passion** – The driver of intention.
- Lesson C: It Takes Persistence** – The fuel of intention.
- Lesson D: It Takes Accepting Mistakes** – The impacts of intention.
- Lesson E: It Takes Pausing** – The replenishment and sorting of intention

Planning for the Future

The next RE Team Huddle is Thursday, January 13, 6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. on Zoom. Join the huddle [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 956 4108 5960; Passcode: 513546)

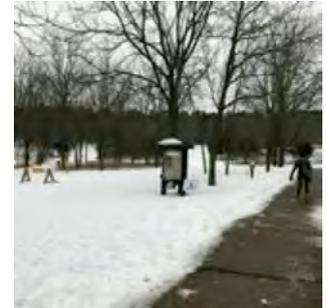
The Zoom Room opens at 6:15 p.m. for socializing.

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

Current Opportunities

January Family Hike

Bundle up and join us for a family friendly hike on Sunday January 23 at 1pm. We will meet in the Homestead parking lot. We will be walking the Plantation Path trail at Lapham Peak. This is a 1.8 mile paved trail that winds through a prairie and a wooded area. This trail is maintained in the winter and will be plowed so it is accessible to all (wheelchair, walker, and stroller friendly). There are spots to turn around on this trail so it is easy to make the experience shorter if need be. Lapham Peak is part of the Wisconsin State Park system and requires a pass (day pass OR park pass) to enter. If you need financial assistance to purchase a pass please contact Reverend Carin at revcarin@lcuuc.org. Any questions? Contact Beth Ann at dre@lcuuc.org.



Calling all RE Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers for the RE programs. Volunteering would include leading our youth group or leading an RE class. The youth group (middle and high school) is set to meet twice a month, every other Sunday at 1pm alternating between LCUUC and UUU. We are still discussing what RE classes will look like for our elementary age children but before we can figure that out we need to have volunteer staff to be able to run it. 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.

Youth Group

The Youth Group will be open to middle and high school youth. The hope is to meet two times per month alternating between LCUUC and UUU. Please watch for information regarding this. Families may register their young person for this year’s Religious Education program at any time.

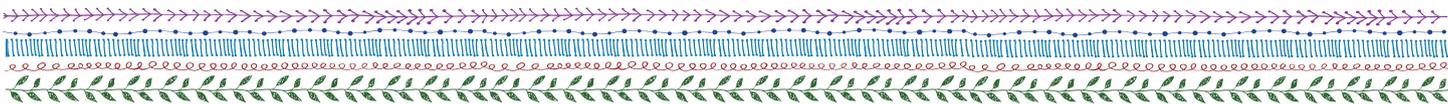
Soul Matters Activities

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.

30 Days of Love

Thirty Days of Love is an annual celebration that runs approximately from the middle of January to the middle of February. It is a way to lift up ways that humans are working together to take action for racial justice. I will share online resources each week from the Side with Love campaign during the 30 Days of Love. For more information, go [HERE](#).





ON BOARD

Greetings from the LCUUC Board -

Hoping the holiday season was joyful and brought warm memories to help carry you through the winter.

As the busyness of the holiday season ends, perhaps you're looking for ways to continue staying active during the winter season and beyond.

LCUUC is in need of volunteers to fill committee chair positions and other essential duties, to maintain a vibrant church community. No matter what your interests and talents are, there is likely a place to help our church community. Please reach out to board members, Rev. Carin or other committee members if you are interested and would like more information.

Some of the recent activities the Board has been working on include a resolution to the parking lot easement with our neighbors. This has been a long process, but we are hoping to see an acceptable solution for both the church and neighbors in the coming months.

A new commercial loan has been approved which will allocate funds to repave the parking lot in the coming year. The new financing will also reduce our monthly mortgage payments. A big thank you to the Finance Committee for their hard work and perseverance to make that happen.

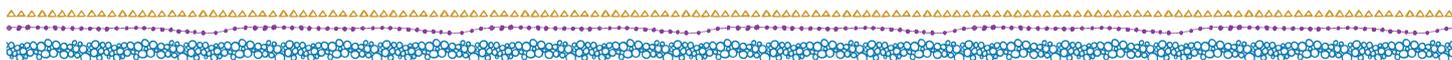
The Board has approved adding an HR Committee and has changed the Tech Committee to a working group. These changes will improve the hiring and management process of future LCUUC employees and relieve some of the workload for other staff.

Thank you for being part of this wonderful church community.

See you in Church,
George

LCUUC Board Members

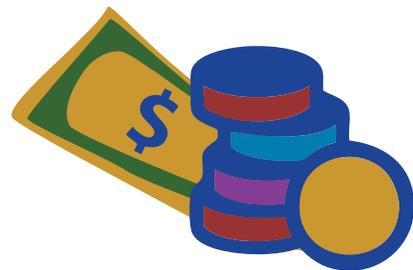
Lisa Alvarado, President	George Ehrhardt
Brynn Vukelich, Vice President	Dave Harker
Amy Seay, Secretary	Harry Nichols
Tim Fuller, Treasurer (ex-officio)	Gail Ostler
Mieke Craven	Quentin Watson



Finance Report

Preliminary year-end projections which include the unbudgeted expenses which the Board previously approved, show that LCUUC may end the year on target with the budget. However, it should be noted that a \$12,000 deficit was budgeted. In January, staff and committee chairs will be asked to re-evaluate these projections. Although contributions are down, expenditures are down also because the positions of RE Director and Choir Director have been vacant all year.

Of particular concern are contributions. Contributions are beginning to slide, and to date we are about \$6,000 lower than the previous two years. Additionally, the Stewardship Committee reports that pledges are down by \$5,000. This is particularly worrisome as we have had several members leave. The Finance Committee will continue to monitor closely pledges and contributions. While projections show that the 2021-22 year will be okay, there could be severe financial implications for 2022-23.





Meeting with the Minister

Rev. Carin would love to meet with you. Feel free to:

- Zoom with her at your convenience
- Schedule time for a phone call
- Take a walk for a talk
- Meet indoors with masks

In whatever way you would like to connect, she is happy to accommodate. Make arrangements by emailing her at revcarin@lcuuc.org.

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.

Would you like to ensure that LCUUC will be here for future generations?

The recently created ENDOWMENT FUND is ready for contributions. Contributions are tax deductible. The earnings can be used to support special projects. Fund is there to help in times of financial need.

Information available on LCUUC website under "giving", brochures are on the welcome table or contact Kirsten Johnson (262-347-8770), Eric Larson (262-893-2056) or Ric Sternkopf (414-581-0647)



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

Music Director

Davey Harrison
music@lcuuc.org

Congregational Administrator: Leann Rigoli
admin@lcuuc.org (262) 369-1703

Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Fri 8am-4pm

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

