

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



Jan. 31 & February 2021

Worship services

Connect with us on Zoom each Sunday at 10am for our Virtual Service

Our services are streamed/broadcast live and may be posted publicly. If you do not want your picture or name to be seen, please turn off your video and change your screen name after you have been admitted to the meeting.

February 2021 – Designated collections to The Way Out and Hartland Food Pantry

January 31

The Way Out –Presented by Eli Rivera and LCUUC's Social Justice Committee

As Unitarian Universalists, we are called to uphold the worth and dignity of each person, which requires us to work against racial injustice. Our criminal justice system is one of the most oppressive systems of racial injustice. This worship service will help us unite our hearts and minds as we hear from Eli Rivera, co-founder of "The Way Out," which provides a path out of our criminal justice system by providing employment opportunities for "Returning Citizens" coming out of prison.

February 7

Covenants of Care –Rev. Carin Bringelson, LCUUC Minister

When a community truly incorporates newcomers into its communal life, that community is changed. What does it take to be open to the gifts that each individual brings? How might groups prepare themselves to be changed in ways yet to be revealed? We will welcome new members to LCUUC with a special ritual.

February 14

From You, I Receive –Rev. Carin Bringelson, LCUUC Minister

On this day when we dedicate children in the Unitarian Universalist tradition -- celebrating the blessings that they already are -- we will consider the commitments we make to future generations. We often think of "stewardship" (of land, for example) as protecting the resources that already exist. Additionally, stewardship also refers to the way in which we nurture growth to ensure the future.

February 21

Learning Mercy in a Burning House –Dr. Monique Liston, guest speaker

Dr. Liston was born and raised in Milwaukee, WI. She attended Howard University in Washington, DC where she obtained a BA in Sociology followed by a MPA from the University of Delaware and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She teaches at Marquette University and is proudly the Chief Strategist and Joyful Militant at UBUNTU Research and Evaluation, an organization that embraces Black women's thought, livelihood and leadership. She finds her spiritual work is in leadership and facilitation.

February 28

Writing to Heal –Joanne Nelson, LCUUC member

We've been living through a pandemic for nearly a year now and many of us are looking for ways to balance all the emotions that come with this disruption to our lives. Writing can help us heal--and even thrive--emotionally, physically, and spiritually according to various authors and researchers. Join us (and bring a favorite writing implement) as we explore how writing can help heal what hurts.

In addition to being a member of LCUUC, Joanne Nelson is a psychotherapist and author of the memoir, *This Is How We Leave*. Her writing appears in numerous anthologies and literary journals and she contributes to WUWM's Lake Effect. Nelson lives, writes, and teaches in Hartland, WI. Find more information at wakeupthewriterwithin.com



Carin's Corner

With “mercy” as our theme for the month, I am drawn to recall how frigid February can feel some years. Brutal cold can have me calling “mercy” -- as in, “I’ve had enough!” Simultaneously, I’m also reminded of a poem by Greta Crosby found in our grey hymnal, reading #543. It starts like this:

*Let us not wish away the winter.
It is a season to itself, not simply the way to spring.
When trees rest, growing no leaves, gathering no light,
they let in sky and trace themselves delicately against dawns and sunsets.
The clarity and brilliance of the winter sky delight.*

Before I beg winter to leave me alone, I hope I take some time to delight in it. What can we learn by slowing down long enough to notice the blessings of a particular season? Might those blessings be another kind of mercy to explore?

Within this newsletter, you can learn more about several exciting developments:

- 1) I’m pleased to be entering into negotiations to remain your minister for the 2021–2022 church year.
- 2) Starting in February, I’m offering weekly Zoom office hours.
- 3) Please join me in attending a national conference on Sat. Feb. 27th.
- 4) I am collaborating with Rev. David Kraemer to offer an Adult RE program.

And, as usual, please be in touch. We are in this together.

In Growing Faith,

Rev. Carin
revcarin@lcuuc.org

Meeting with the Minister

If you would like to meet with Rev. Carin, please email her to schedule a time: revcarin@lcuuc.org. Or drop-in during her “Office Hours” at this **Zoom Room** every Thursday that she works, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- Jan. 25 – Feb. 1 for Study–Leave Week
- Feb. 15 – 22 for Off Week
- March 15 – 22 for Off Week

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.



A Call to Faith in Turbulent Times, Adult RE offering

Many Unitarian Universalists and other people of faith are challenged by this moment in our nation's history. The actions of political leaders raise large moral questions that compel many of us to explore what our faith commitments and values require of us.

To help clarify how our values call us to respond, Rev. Carin Bringelson is collaborating with Rev. David Kraemer of United UUC to offer an online, four-part series. Together we will help nurture, support, and strengthen Unitarian Universalists to respond to this moment and its significant challenges.

Sessions will be held on Zoom from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of March and April, 2021.

To register by March 3, 2021, please fill out this FORM.

Each session has these intentions:

- To create a space to explore feelings regarding current events.
- To explore metaphors to sustain one's spirit for the long haul.
- To affirm that being in community sustains courageous acts.

Session topics include:

- Session One: Call to Vision, Saturday, March 13
- Session Two: Call to Love, Saturday, March 27
- Session Three: Call to Imagination, Saturday, April 10
- Session Four: Call to Relationship in Action, Saturday, April 24

Learn more about these small group ministry sessions **HERE**.

New Day Rising Conference, Saturday, February 27, 11am-8pm

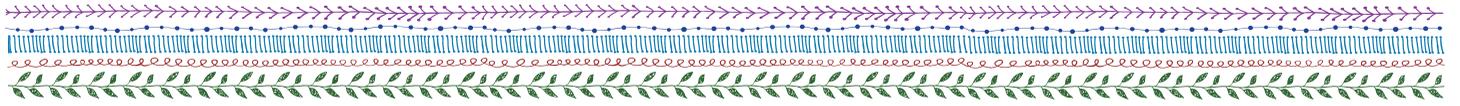
All are welcome to participate in this day-long UUA-sponsored conference, where we will be encouraged to take a new step in changing white supremacy culture. It will be an opportunity to learn what our fellow congregations are working on, and how we might apply it here in our congregation/lives. There will be worship, workshops and caucusing, with plenty of breaks. More info can be found **HERE**.

If you're interested in signing up, or have questions, please contact Rev. Carin at revcarin@lucuc.org or Kerry Duma, Social Justice chair at kerryduma@gmail.com. Rev. Carin can also assist you with covering the registration fee if you need.

Adult Enrichment Opportunity: Chair Yoga class offered through UU Church West.

Chair yoga is appropriate for every body & every age! The practice will move your whole body through a series of seated and standing yoga poses. With the support of a chair, participants can safely perform a variety of postures designed to increase flexibility, balance, range of movement and strength. The practice can also be done standing or on a mat. Restorative breathing exercises and a final relaxation will promote stress reduction and mental clarity. **HERE** is a video introduction to Chair Yoga.

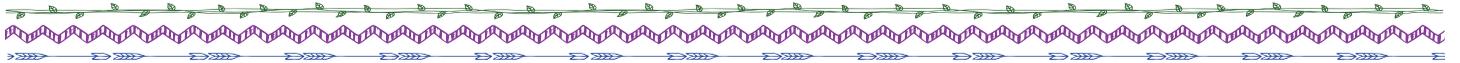
Meets online via Zoom on Tuesdays, 10–11am. Hosted by UU Church West in Brookfield, and led by the Rev. Dr. Monica L. Cummings, Warriors at Ease L1 Yoga Teacher and Assistant Minister of Pastoral Care at Bradford Community Church UU in Kenosha. Cost: \$10/session, or \$30/calendar month, or \$75/10 sessions (no time limit). To register, go to UUCW Chair Yoga **HERE**.



GRACE NOTES

This month was full of amazing special music performances by church musicians. Karen Haskell recorded a beautiful, Aretha Franklin-esque version of Sam Cooke's anthem "A Change is Gonna Come" for the 1-17 Living The Dream service. Also featured in this service was a haunting version of the Billie Holiday classic "Strange Fruit" by Mare Edstrom-Fox. Our 1-24 service will feature an original song by Garrett Waite called "State of Things", as well as the 1st recorded Performance by Beth Ann Wuerl titled Anyway [Martina McBride]. Beth Ann has recorded 2 more songs for upcoming services including an amazing version of the Alicia Keys song "We Gotta Pray" We hope to see more contributions by Beth Ann in months to come!

Kenn



* NEW FUNdraising INITIATIVE! *

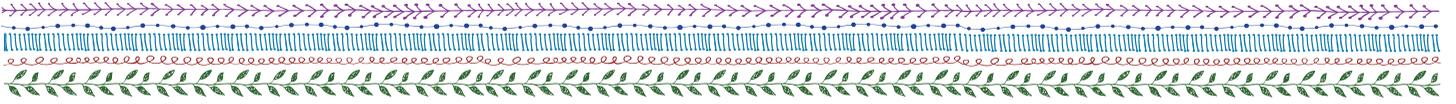
In lieu of our Fall Auction, the FUNdraising committee wants to encourage *"pop-up" events and other donations throughout the fall and winter, both to continue our fundraising efforts as well as to develop and maintain community.

Consider hosting a Pop-Up Event or donate an item! Here's some ideas:

- A pop-up event could be an online event – for example, teaching a hobby, art lessons, cooking class, discussion about a topic of interest, scavenger hunts, storytelling, singing, game night, charades.
- Cook a meal and deliver it to each house and have everyone eat together on zoom.
- Host a virtual movie night *via a platform such as Netflix Party (a chat window allows you to share thoughts, jokes and more...)
- Or, host an in-person, outdoor event* such as a snowshoe, campfire gathering, or cross country ski outing.
- Items could include something you've made, for example, candles, quilts, scarves, hats, jewelry, cards, pottery...the list goes on. Photograph the item and include a description. We know some of you are already thinking of ways to make your family and friends feel extra loved this holiday season and a handcrafted gift is a great idea!
- Book Donations are a fun way to get new (OK, slightly used, but awesome!) reading material. You can add puzzles and/or games to expand your book donations!

If you would like to host an event, or donate an item, let us know and we'll get the word out! Let's have some fun!

Thanks much,
Lynne Smith, Chair of the FUNdraising Committee
lynnethetwin@gmail.com 262-719-4392



SOCIAL JUSTICE

LCUUC’s Holiday Gifts Program Raises almost \$3,000 for organizations helping those in need!

A huge thank you to all those who generously participated in our *LCUUC Holiday Gifts* program in December. Your donations will make a huge difference for families in need during this very difficult time. Here are the donation totals:

- Family Promise - \$960
- The Hope Center - \$515
- The Guest House - \$405
- Voces de la Frontera - \$390
- SOPHIA Waukesha - \$355
- Lake Area Free Clinic - \$350

Our thanks to Ginger Goral for all her work setting the program up and making it available to the members of our congregation, giving us a chance to practice generosity during the holiday season.

Black Lives Matter Sunday evening Zooms

The Social Justice Committee has hosted a number of Zoom discussions on Sunday evenings this church year. We’ve watched and discussed movies and books written by and/or about Black lives. Educating ourselves is one of the ways we move toward a society of greater equity and understanding.

- In January, we had the privilege of meeting Mary Sue and Eddie Short, the main characters in the book *A Small Town Rises*, about a white college girl and Black sharecropper who met during the civil rights movement of Freedom Summer in 1964, and eventually married and moved to Waukesha. About 50 people joined the call and were inspired by their story.
- Here’s our plan for February:

Black individuals who helped change the world – shared group discussion Sunday evening, February 21 from 7–8pm

Join us in a Zoom discussion and learn about influential African Americans. Be prepared to share about one person of color who made a difference. We ask each of you to research and bring the story of one person to share with the group. We are taught about white men, but almost never about Black men or women. This hour will be a time of sharing and learning, so our understanding of history isn’t just about white males. The Zoom link will be posted on the church website. Email Kerry Duma with questions- kerryduma@gmail.com.



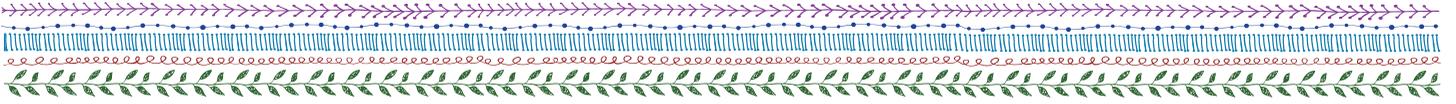
Mr. & Mrs. Short in 1964 and during our Zoom discussion

February’s Designated Collections

Our Designated Collection this month will go toward *The Way Out*, (twout.org) an organization working to help people coming out of prison find jobs. Its mission is to break the cycle of incarceration by providing living wage jobs and empowering technology solutions to these citizens. We will learn more about *The Way Out*, in the worship service on January 31.

Our February Food Pantry collection will go to the **Hartland Food Pantry**.

Like and Follow SOPHIA and WISDOM LCUUC is a partner organization with SOPHIA – the local affiliate of WISDOM, both of which organize around issues of Racial Equity, Criminal Justice Reform, Immigration, Transportation and Housing. If you are on social media, please consider “liking” and “following” SOPHIA Waukesha and WISDOM. (While you’re at it, be sure you have “liked” and “followed” Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church!)



Youth Religious Education (RE)

Greetings!

February’s Soul Matters theme is: **Beloved Community**. As we move into the month of February, I am happy to share that both the high school seniors and the 5th & 6th grade youth are participating in the UU traditional bridging programs. Our seniors, Ava and Zachary, have chosen their mentors and are meeting with them in the coming months as we watch them become young adults this senior year. The senior bridging celebration will take place on the R.E. Sunday service on May 16– mark your calendars now! And just as exciting is the Coming-of-Age program with our 5th & 6th graders where they look at their own Identities as they leave childhood and become young teens in our church. Their zoom meetings will be happening during February and March and the program will conclude with the youth leading their own zoom worship service on March 21! Both services are going to be so exciting and I’m looking forward to both Sunday’s this Spring!!

I would also like to share that two of the youth for the 5th & 6th grade Transitions program are from UUUC in Waukesha families. The small size of UUUC doesn’t allow the experience of these ‘Coming of Age’ or bridging programs as part of Religious Education curriculum at their church. They are excited to be able to share in this opportunity while participating in our online RE classes this year. I am happy we can support the spiritual growth of both LCUUC and UUUC families this year. Having a sense of community and being with other UU’s is a wonderful feeling that many UU adults will give when asked what keeps them at their UU church or what attracts you to our church? I know this is just as true for our children and youth. The only HS teen from UUUC is so happy to be able to speak and share with other UU teens from our church. They support and encourage each other and it’s always so wonderful when real friendships can grow from sharing in the RE program growing up.

The February class schedule is:

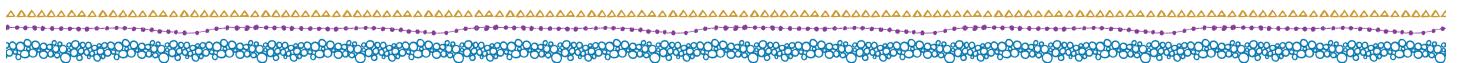
- **4k – 1st grade meets at 11am on 2/7 & 2/21**
- **2nd – 5th grade meets at 11am on 2/14 & 2/28**
- **Middle School (6th – 8th grade) meets at 6:30pm on 2/14 & 2/28**
- **High School (9th – 12th grade) meets on 2/7 & 2/21**

On Friday evening, **2/19 we are having our February RE Family Night from 6:30–7:30pm on zoom.** This informal zoom meet- up will invite everyone to enjoy an activity together as a family while zoom “chatting” with others. We will be sharing via zoom screen pictures of our **Favorite Family Vacations** and dreaming of the vacation we are going to all take someday when travel is safe in our world again! Bring your daydreams, ice cream, smores, or any other must have treat on vacation and share with us your photos and your favorite memory of a trip. Each family will have up to 10 minutes to share with the group. Please allow every family member to pic a few photos and share one thing that made their chosen trip their Favorite!!

“If you’re always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be.” ~Maya Angelou

In Peace-

Christine Rollins, Director of Religious Education



Good News!

Dear Friends,

Last evening the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to extend Rev. Carin Bringelson an offer of contract renewal for 2021-2022. On behalf of the Board, I am pleased to announce that she has accepted our offer for continuing her 3/4 time ministry. The Board is working with the Finance Committee to negotiate the terms of her contract.

Warm regards,

Paula Hillmann, President, Board of Trustees





ON BOARD

The Board of LCUUC hopes everyone is staying healthy and finding the quiet solitude of winter a peaceful time to reflect on the positive things found all around us. Even though we are not able to meet in person, the Board and Committees have been busy. Zoom meetings have become second nature and we are glad to have this available as we stay connected to continue with church business.

While the building is not being used by all, it is being well taken care of by the Facilities Committee members. A few small changes to the building have been made, which were guided by the Emergency Response Planning Committee. Those include better evacuation routes, safety equipment logs, and other safety related items. A new internet provider has been contracted, which is now providing faster speed to our internet use. Members of the Facilities Committee and others are working to formalize the easement agreement with our neighbors on the southwest portion of the church property. A large part of the south parking lot is part of the easement and we are working through details to clarify our use.

Our church grounds have had quite a bit of work done and the Grounds Committee has plans for many more improvements, including a Legacy Forest and improvements to the Commemorative Garden. The Grounds Committee would like to invite anyone interested in working on the grounds to watch for occasional workdays announced in the church bulletin. This is a great way to find fellowship while getting exercise and staying socially distant.

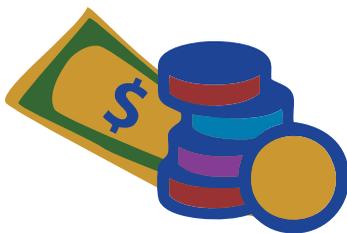
In November we attended a Zoom retreat, part of which identified the many responsibilities needed to have a well-run church community. In January we met to identify who will be responsible for those church activities. There are many projects that various committees are working on - if you have any questions, please feel free to call one of your Board members.

Thank you so much for being part of our beloved church community.

Respectfully submitted,
George Ehrhardt

LCUUC Board Members

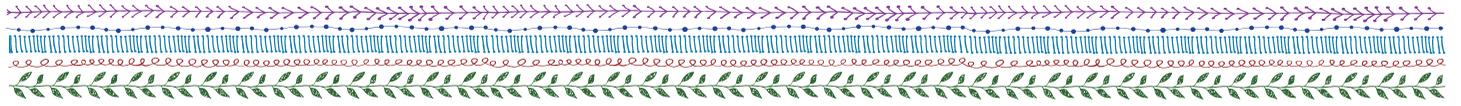
Paula Hillmann, President	George Ehrhardt
Dave Cicero, Vice President	Catherine Marrari
Amy Seay, Secretary	Harry Nichols
Tim Fuller, Treasurer (ex-officio)	Gail Ostler
Lisa Alvarado	Brynn Vukelich



FINANCES

Revenues through December 2020 were \$122,700 and expenses were \$107,600. Revenues are on target with the budget. Expenses are slightly lower due to the shutdown of the building and lower charges for utilities, delaying the use of a strategic planning consultant and lower hiring expenses than expected. Projections through the end of the year are predicting a deficit of \$6,800. As the budget shortfall was \$21,000 this is a positive improvement.

Based on an analysis of the terms that Waukesha State Bank provided should LCUUC decide to refinance the current loan before November 2021, the Finance Committee concluded that we should not refinance now. If we refinance now there would be a penalty of \$10,000 which would be included in a blended interest rate. Interest rates are not expected to increase though the end of the year and LCUUC should be able to negotiate a better rate in November.



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

Mondays are my Sabbath. Fridays are my study/write days. My ¾ time schedule is such that I work 3 weeks then I am off the 4th week. My upcoming schedule includes being out:

- Jan. 25 - Feb. 1 for Study-Leave Week
- Feb. 15 - 22 for Off Week
- March 15 - 22 for Off Week

Thanks for your patience and understanding

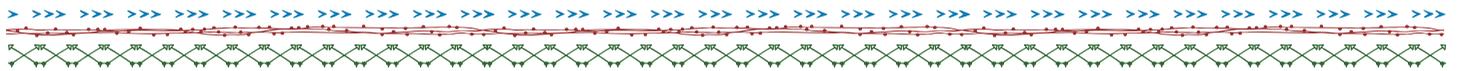
Office Manager: Leann Rigoli
admin@lcuuc.org (262) 369-1703
Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Fri 8am-4pm

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

Music Director: Kenn Fox
kenn@pguitars.net (262)369-1703
Available by appointment—please contact him directly

Zoom Worship Technitian: Marc Nadal

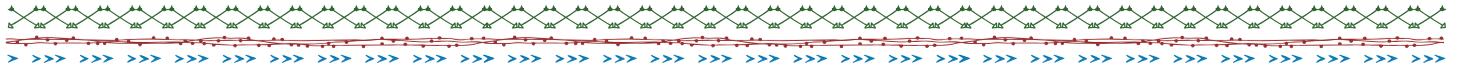
Cleaning: Kaya Rollins



Office Hours for Rev. Carin

Beginning in February, Rev. Carin is holding “Office Hours” on every Thursday that she works, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Simply click on this link to the **Zoom Room**.

You will be taken to a “waiting room” from which Rev. Carin retrieve you.



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.