

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 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.

All of January 2021 – Collection is for Feeding America Eastern WI

January 3

What's the Big Idea? –Members of the LCUUC Big Ideas Book Group

This service will share ideas from 3 important books relevant to our January theme, desolation & consolation. These books address three perennial questions:

1. “Why can’t we just get along & why do we seem to disagree so deeply?”
2. “Are we on the right path & have we made any real progress?”
3. “What is the good life & how can we learn to flourish?”

January 10

The Taste of Shabbat: Lectio Divina as Spiritual Practice –Rev. Carin Bringelson, LCUUC Minister

After a year like 2020, there’s much to digest. Perhaps we experienced moments of compassion as well as moments of dread. Turning to a text for guidance—and reading it multiple times to access ever deeper meanings—has been a spiritual practice utilized by religious seekers in previous centuries. We’ll try our hand at *Lectio Divina* today

January 17

Living the Dream: Racial Equity in 2021 –Rev. Carin Bringelson, LCUUC Minister

On this weekend commemorating the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we will consider the spiritual work needed to create the dream he articulated while exploring how calls for an anti-racist society have evolved within the 21st century.

January 24

Realistic Optimism: Meeting the Challenges of the Pandemic –Philip Chard

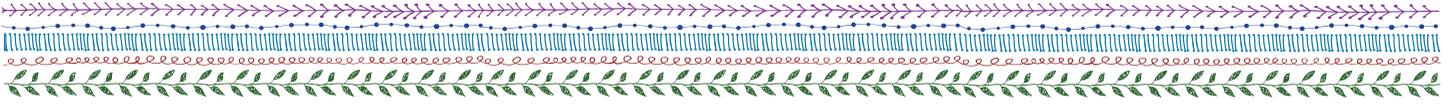
“Realistic optimism” is a learnable attribute that is pivotal in successfully meeting the many psychological and interpersonal challenges imposed by the COVID pandemic. Unlike pie-in-the-sky optimism, research shows the realistic variety allows us to adapt, grow more resilient and maintain self-mastery in the face of adversity and life disruptions. During this presentation, we will examine the critical components of realistic optimism, including:

- Resilience
- Emotional self-regulation
- A growth mindset
- Effective self-care in support of personal well-being
- Emotional Intelligence

January 31

The Way Out –LCUUC 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.



Carin's Corner

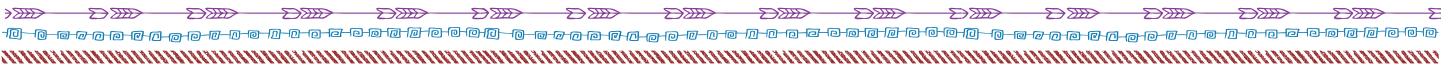
Wintertime's cold, frozen landscape seems like the appropriate location to be contemplating the theme for this month: Consolation and Desolation. While it may be a new calendar year, the challenges that 2020 brought do not suddenly disappear. Even with a COVID-19 vaccine being distributed, we still have hospital staff stretched to their limit. Even with a presidential inauguration this month, we still have political divides that limit our capacity to create and collaborate. Even with a federal holiday memorializing a Peace and Justice Warrior, we still face the three evils Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King named as racism, poverty, and war. Desolation abounds.

That is what makes me so grateful for the LCUUC community: consolation also abounds. From conversations filled with kindness, to enthusiastically pitching in, to finding ways to stay connected in safer ways: people of LCUUC know that the church is about its people, and it built out of relationships of care. What a blessing to be in community with folx who recognize desolations while also offering consolations to one another!

Please be in touch. We are in this together.

In Growing Faith,

Rev. Carin

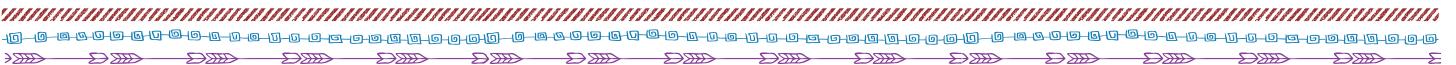


Meeting with the Minister

Rev. Carin is pleased to meet with members and friends of LCUUC. Please email her to set up a time: revcarin@lcuuc.org.

Rev. Carin's ¾-time schedule includes a Sabbath on Mondays as well as one "Off Week" every four weeks. Her upcoming calendar includes the following:

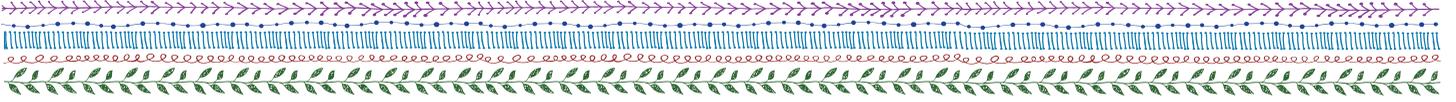
- Dec. 28, 2020 – Jan. 4, 2021 for Vacation
- Jan. 19 - 24, 2021 for Off Week
- Jan. 25 - Feb. 1 for Study-Leave Week
- If there's a need to reach Rev. Carin with a pastoral care emergency while she is away, please contact chair of the Caring Circle, Yvonne Fort at: myfort2@wi.rr.com.



LCUUC ORIENTATION will be held via Zoom on: Sunday, January 10th at 12 noon

If interested in learning more about the UU faith and LCUUC and its path to membership, please complete the online registration form under the visitors tab at lcuuc.org





Youth Religious Education (RE)

Greetings!

January's Soul Matters theme is: **IMAGINATION**. As we begin the year 2021, I hope that we can all remind ourselves that imagination is such an important aspect for our children & youth to have in their lives. It can give them dreams and allow them to find solutions when they think there are none.

The January class schedule is:

- 4K–1st grade will meet at 11am on 1/10 & 1/24
- 2nd–5th grade will meet at 11am on 1/17 & 1/31
- Middle School (6th–8th grade) will meet at 6:30pm on 1/17 & 1/31
- High School (9th–12th grade) will meet on 1/10 & 1/24

****There will not be any RE classes on Sunday 1/3 due to D.R.E. vacation**

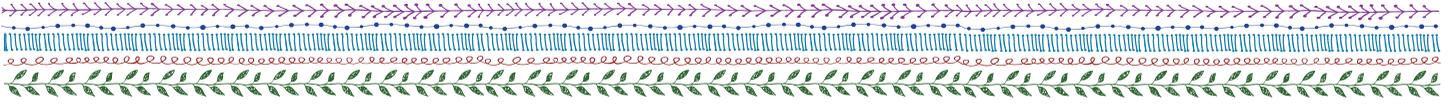
On Friday evening, **1/15 we will be having our January RE Family Night** from 6:30–7:30pm on Zoom. This informal zoom meet-up will invite everyone to enjoy an activity together as a family while Zoom “chatting” with others. Details will be sent via email from the Director of RE in early January at to the month’s project/theme.

Pictures of some of our RE highlights including the Family Friday Fun Night and the Holiday Pageant are included in this newsletter. Enrollment for Religious Education is ongoing this year and information about classes can be found at lcuuc.org

“Imagination will often carry us to worlds that never were, but without it we go nowhere.” ~ Carl Sagan

In Peace– *Chris Rollins, Director of Religious Education*





SOCIAL JUSTICE

Special event January 17th

On January 17th, we have a very special opportunity – the Freedom Summer activists highlighted in the book **A Small Town Rises** are joining us for a Zoom discussion. All are encouraged to buy and read the book. The book features a black sharecropper and a white college girl who joined the struggle for justice in 1964. They married, had children and have lived in Waukesha for many years. Mary Sue and Eddie are humble and engaging—our discussion will be an exceptional opportunity to learn about a transformative time in our history. We encourage everyone to join the discussion, even if you aren't able to read the book, and include your youth – they will learn so much as well.

The book, **A Small Town Rises** by Lee Anna Sherman is available:

- Autographed/delivered copies from the Shorts: msshort432@gmail.com or 262-422-7693;
- **Books and Company**, Oconomowoc

The discussion will be January 17th, from 7–8:15pm. To register, email kerryduma@gmail.com for a Zoom link, sent to you closer to the event.

Milwaukee Food Pantries Need our Help!

In January, we are collecting all month for **Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin**. This will be our Designated Collection and Food Pantry Collection. The pandemic is causing extreme food shortages for many families in Milwaukee, and on January 1, there is concern that there will be what some are calling a “food cliff,” depending on funding from the government.

From the **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin** President and CEO Patti Habeck said she has started to notice troubling trends among the food insecure: more families, new faces and people with less and less food. About 40% of people receiving food assistance have never been in the system before, she said. “Usually when someone reached out to us and needed food assistance, people had food in their home — it wasn't down to their last can of vegetables,” she said. This time, people need food because their cupboards are bare.

LCUUC Holiday Gifts!

We had a tremendous response to our LCUUC Holiday Gifts program, where you donate to charities in line with your values in honor of friends and relatives as your gift to them. Thank you sincerely to everyone who participated!

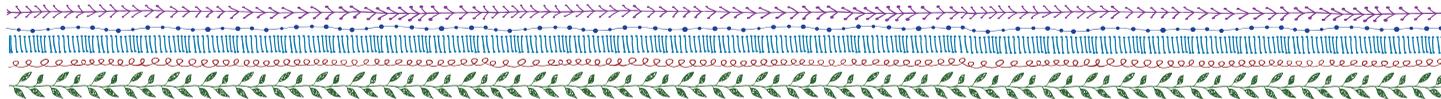
Join your fellow LCUUC community for BELOVED CONVERSATIONS!

Beloved Conversations is a program for Unitarian Universalists seeking to embody racial justice as a spiritual practice. In **Beloved Conversations**, we are here to heal the impact of racism on our lives, in order to get free together. This program has been offered in more than 200 congregations across the continent over the past decade. This year, it went virtual. We are hoping to get a large group from LCUUC to participate in this class this spring. Our own Sara and Bud Hudson have been doing the program this fall through UUCW. Here's what they have to say:

“LCUUCers” have a chance to become an even more loving compassionate community. Here's how this class has shaped us: In October we started this virtual course meeting over a 3-month time period. There are 6 lessons, all complete with wonderfully educational resources (video lectures, interviews, discussions, music, art, dance) all expanding our knowledge and feelings. Every 2-3 weeks we met as a Pod of 5 people writing a covenant to work, learn and practice listening to one another and discussing the video lessons. The main emphasis is on learning more deeply about yourself and your reactions to the lessons and issues relating with People of Color. Also, during this time we have 3 “Making Meaning” sessions which includes a sermon and review of all studied material with ALL participants (200-300).

This course gives everyone a chance to grow and learn alone and together with others in their congregation and helps build a stronger community at the same time. The program offers opportunities to engage in lots of different styles of learning and processing. It has a framework that acknowledges and honors the spiritual nature of this work and an understanding that it is essential to our personal and religious development. It offers tools and strategies to continue to deepen your learning and your commitment to racial justice.

More info is available at bcvirtual.meadville.edu. Information about registering will be available soon. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Carin or Kerry Duma at kerryduma@gmail.com.



BIG IDEAS BOOK GROUP: Winter/Spring 2021

Saving Capitalism by Robert Reich

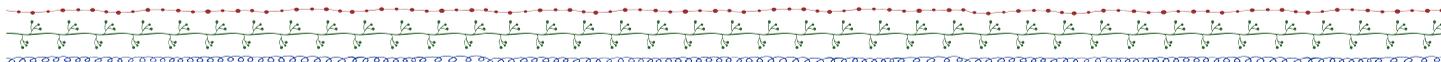
America was once celebrated for and defined by its large and prosperous middle class. Now, this middle class is shrinking, a new oligarchy is rising, and the country faces its greatest wealth disparity in eighty years. Why is the economic system that made America strong suddenly failing us, and how can it be fixed?

Leading political economist and bestselling author Robert B. Reich presents a paradigm-shifting, clear-eyed examination of a political and economic status quo that no longer serves the people, exposing one of the most pernicious obstructions to progress today: the enduring myth of the “free market” when, behind the curtain, it is the powerful alliances between Washington and Wall Street that control the invisible hand.

Laying to rest the specious dichotomy between a free market and “big government,” Reich shows that the truly critical choice ahead is between a market organized for broad-based prosperity and one designed to deliver ever more gains to the top. Visionary and acute, *Saving Capitalism* illuminates the path toward restoring America’s fundamental promise of opportunity and advancement.

- What: Join us for a discussion of this interesting and important book
- When: 10 Fridays from 7-8:30pm (1/22, 2/5, 2/19, 3/5, 3/19, 4/2, 4/16, 4/30, 5/14, 5/28)
- Where: Zoom
- Facilitator: Greg Valde

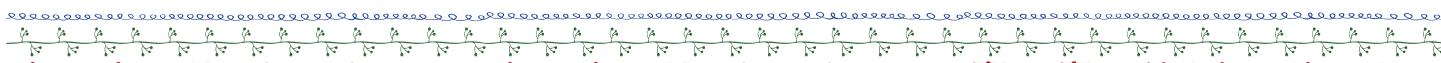
To sign up, please send an email to Greg valdeg@uww.edu and/or Leann admin@lcuuc.org by January 15. All participants should read the first 2 chapters prior to our first meeting and come prepared to share a favorite idea from the reading.



Meet LCUUC’s newest member: Carol Stark

Carol has been active in UU fellowships in Missouri and Minnesota for over 40 years and moved to Pewaukee with her miniature poodle from Minnesota early in 2020. She was excited to find LCUUC, but unfortunately, the pandemic hit and she has not been able to get to know many other members. A few of us were able to chat with her at a summer BYO gathering.

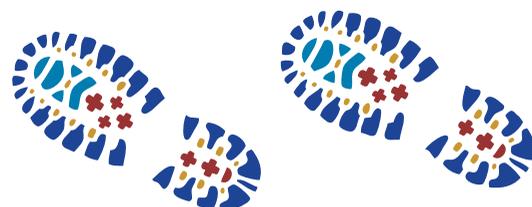
Carol has 3 children and 10 grandchildren in various states. She enjoys play bridge (at an intermediate level), gardening, baking and a variety of music, but especially classical. We look forward to returning to the building so we can welcome Carol in person to the LCUUC community.

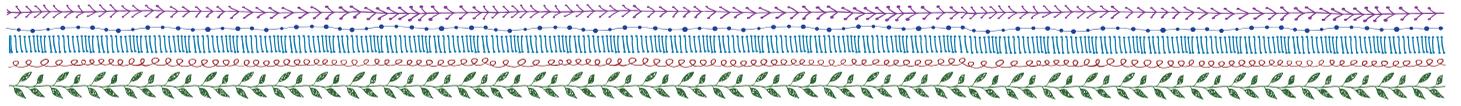


Winter Hike at Lapham Peak

Winter Hike at Lapham Peak Sunday, January 31 at 2pm. Bundle up and come on out for a hike with us! Enjoy the winter weather and some safe socialization. Meet at Homestead Hollow at 2:00. We'll walk the paved Plantation Path, about 1.8 miles. Hot drinks will be served afterward. All are welcome, bring a friend! Check LCUUC website lcuuc.org in case of foul weather.

Sponsored by Membership Committee





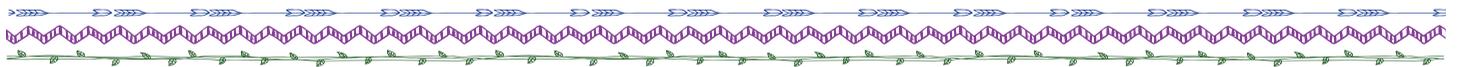
GRACE NOTES

We have lots of great music planned for the holiday season this year. Our Winter Solstice service on 12/20 featured several Celtic influenced songs with vocal performances by Tracy Moraine and Karen Haskell. We also featured a spoken word piece written and recited by Tim Fuller with guitar accompaniment. I also unveiled a new welcoming music solo guitar piece titled "Season of Grace"

Our traditional Christmas service on 12/24 was our first to be presented live from the sanctuary. Tracy Moraine played all of the piano accompaniments for Hymns, and our favorite Christmas carols. This service also featured Mare Edstrom-Fox doing a beautiful arrangement of an African American Spiritual "Mary Had A Baby." Greg Valde will present a service on January 3rd with lots of great music as well.

As always...be in touch with questions or comments.

Kenn

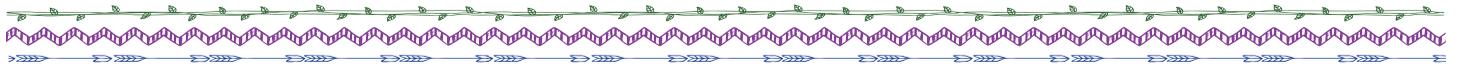


New Sunday Worship Zoom Technician Hired

Rev. Carin and the Recruitment Team of Caryl Whiteman and Karl Timm are pleased to announce that LCUUC has hired a Zoom Worship Technician to run our Sunday morning worship services. Marc Nadal, who will begin training on January 5, 2021, describes himself in the following way:

"Optimistic, outgoing, musical, and analytical are all words that describe me. When I'm not troubleshooting servers, I like to immerse myself in music. Whether I'm dancing at a camping music festival or volume mastering a track in my studio, you won't catch me missing a beat."

Please join us in welcoming Marc to LCUUC!



* NEW FUNdraising INITIATIVE! *

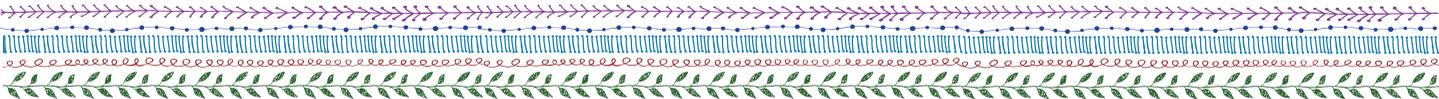
In lieu of our Fall Auction, the FUNdraising committee wants to encourage *"pop-up" events and other donations throughout the fall and winter, both to continue our fundraising efforts as well as to develop and maintain community.

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



ON BOARD

The LCUUC Board wishes a Happy New Year to all. We hope you all are safe and healthy during this trying holiday season and look forward to seeing you virtually.

The holiday season can be a hard time of the year. This year is especially true this year with the coronavirus raging and the inability to see friends and family in person. The Board encourages anyone needing support during this trying time to reach out to Reverend Carin at revcarin@lcuuc.org or Yvonne Fort, Caring Circle, at myfort2@wi.rr.com.

The Endowment Fund Working Group will be formed in January. We will be developing specifics around the Fund, such as: what amount should be in the Fund before drawdowns will be allowed; how much of a drawdown will be allowed; what specifically will the Fund be used for; what investment strategies will be used.

The Personnel Working Group has developed Terms of Agreement for Employment for the Worship Zoom Tech. Interviews have been held for and it is anticipated that an individual will be hired soon.

A portion of the LCCUC parking lot is owned by our neighbors. While use of this space is protected by an easement and LCUUC has been paying for the plowing and maintenance of this space, we have nothing in writing other than the Certified Survey Map. This has been an outstanding issue for many years. The Facilities Committee plans to define what the expectations are for the use of the lot and the requirements for formalizing the easement. The Committee will present options to the Board.

The Board is planning a special Board meeting to finalize some of the work started at the Ministerial Startup Retreat in November. The focus will be to define roles and responsibilities as we have learned through the work done in November that there are many misunderstandings regarding who does what currently and who should be responsible.

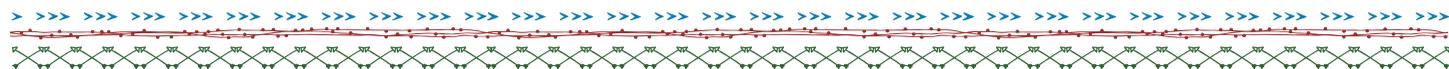
The annual congregation meeting this year will be held May 23, 2021.

If you have questions about Board activities, please contact a Trustee. Thank you for being a part of this community and for all you do.

Gail Ostler, on behalf of the LCUUC 2020-21 Board

LCUUC Board Members

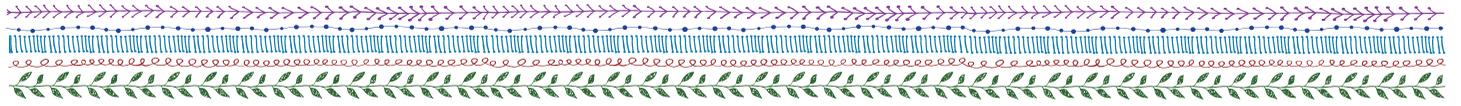
Paula Hillmann, President	George Ehrhardt
Dave Cicero, Vice President	Catherine Marrari
Amy Seay, Secretary	Harry Nichols
Tim Fuller, Treasurer (ex-officio)	Gail Ostler
Lisa Alvarado	Brynn Vukelich



FINANCES

At the end of November, the budget of LCUUC was on target and had revenues of \$99,700, expenses of \$90,500 and an unrestricted cash balance of \$141,900. Contributions are now back on track. Members and friends have been generous through LCUUC Holiday Giving and the Fall auction raised \$1,800. Those dollars will be reflected in the December financial statements.

Waukesha State Bank, LCUUC's bank, has provided us with some options for refinancing our commercial loan. Analysis is being done to determine whether it will be beneficial to refinance now through Waukesha State Bank or to wait until the loan is due in November 2021. If we wait, we will be working with various banks and credit unions to ensure we receive the best interest rates and payment options.



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:

- Dec. 28, 2020 – Jan. 4, 2021 for Vacation
- Jan. 19 - 24, 2021 for Off Week
- Jan. 25 - Feb. 1 for Study-Leave Week

Thanks for your patience and understanding

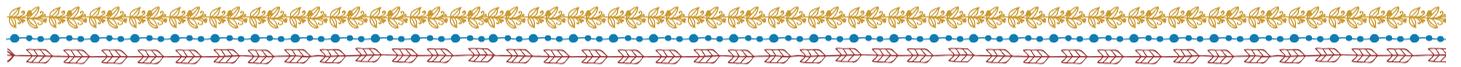
Office Manager: Leann Rigoli
admin@lcuuc.org (262) 369-1703
Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Fri 8am-4pm

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

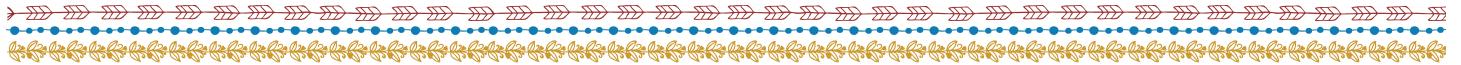
Music Director: Kenn Fox
kenn@pguitars.net (262)369-1703
Available by appointment—please contact him directly

Zoom Worship Technitian: Marc Nadal

Cleaning: Kaya Rollins



Note from the NEWS for Lake Country UUs editor: This new design for the newsletter segues us into 2021, bringing more soothing but strong colors along with steady, forward, progressive movement. May we all work for change in 2021! —Ginger Alberts Goral



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.