

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



March 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.

March 2021 – Designated collections to Lake Area Free Dental Clinic and Waukesha Food Pantry

March 7

You Hold Me Up: Intraspecies Respect –Rev. Carin Bringelson, LCUUC Minister

How hard can it be to respect our fellow human beings? When we mess up--as we certainly will as the fallible human beings that we are-- what are our options?

March 14

Spring Ahead: Religious Naturalism –Rev. Carin Bringelson, LCUUC Minister

The clocks spring ahead more easily than we do. What can we do to be in tune with and respect the "natural world?" We'll be exploring Religious Naturalism as an orientation to life.

March 21

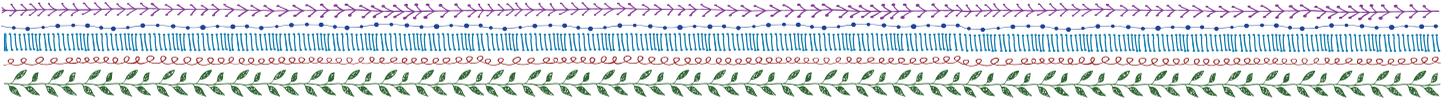
Transitions Youth Service –Chris Rollins, Director of Religious Education and 5th & 6th graders

It is a tradition in our church to do a 'Coming of Age' program with the children as they move into their middle school years. Transitions 1: Identity is the curriculum that our 5th and 6th grade children experience to develop self-awareness, a sense of community and strengthen their connection to the church. The youth, along with the Director of Religious Education, will be leading this worship service. This service is a joint service with the United Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Waukesha.

March 28

Lesson from the Silk Road –Rev. Dr. Lee Barker, guest preacher

Today we will explore the spiritual orientation that is required to be in relationship with those who are different from us. Guest preacher, the Rev. Dr. Lee Barker served as President and Professor of Ministry at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago from 2003 until his retirement in 2019.



Carin's Corner

My head and heart love to commemorate anniversaries. I celebrate the anniversaries of births, congratulate those recognizing love anniversaries, and even acknowledge the power of death-iversaries. No matter what the occasion may be, I appreciate being able to slow down long enough to remember the sacred connections that break my heart wide open, reminding me of the Love that moves within, between, and beyond us all.

As we enter into March 2021, I am acutely aware that the pandemic-versary is close at hand. Last year at this time we were learning to turn on a dime, changing the way we Do Church (and the rest of life, as well). I wasn't here at LCUUC a year ago, but I'm so grateful for the leaders at the time who broke trail for the community out in the wilderness.

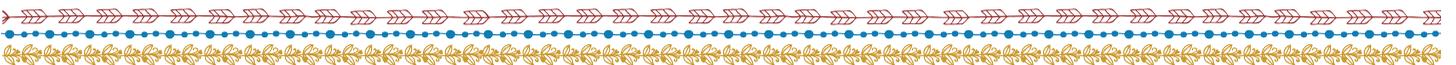
Tell me about the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic in your life. What stories do you recall when reflecting on the changes required of this community, of your families, of your larger communities? What did you need to relinquish? What new doors opened because something different was expected of you? What devastating grief is still reverberating in your bones? Have there been any unexpected gifts in the midst?

Wherever you are on the #PandemicFatigue scale, I support you in respecting your process--know that you are exactly where you need to be. Respect is the theme for the month of March, and the word comes from a Latin root that means "to look back, to regard." I am trying to respect all of the responses I have to the unfolding world events. When I bring a "soft gaze" to the situation, I become less judgmental and more patient--both for myself and others.

Please tell me your stories about how the pandemic has changed your life. Come say "hi" at my Thursday Zoom office hours (11 a.m. - 1 p.m.) or send me an email. Let's stay in touch, for we are in this together.

In Growing Faith,

Rev. Carin
revcarin@lcuuc.org



Meeting with the Minister

Drop-in during Rev. Carin's Office Hours at this **Zoom Room** every Thursday that she works (11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

If you would like to schedule a time outside of those office hours, please email 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. Her upcoming calendar includes the following:

- March 15 - 22 for Off Week
- April 12 - 19 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



Still time to register for "A Call to Faith in Turbulent Times"

Rev. Carin Bringelson and Rev. David Kraemer of United UU Congregation are co-facilitating an Adult Religious Exploration course. Together, as members of both congregations, we will explore what our faith commitments and values require of us as Unitarian Universalists as we respond to current events via a course entitled "A Call to Faith in Turbulent Times."

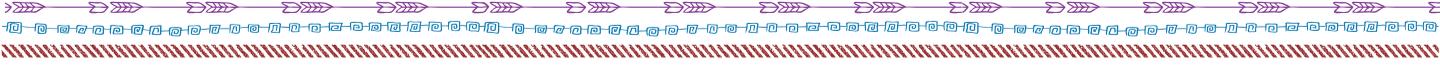
Please register by March 3, 2021, by filling out the form [HERE](#).

The four sessions will be held on Zoom from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. on March 13th & 27th and April 10th & 24th (the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the months).

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.

Learn more about these small group ministry sessions [HERE](#).



Welcome to our new members!

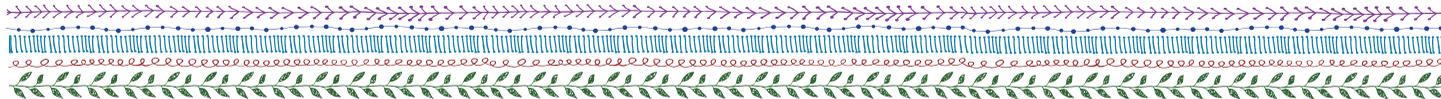
Jan Amundson

Jan Amundson is excited to join the LCUUC family. Her spiritual journey started in the Lutheran Church, and over time she became drawn to communities that accepted a wider range of beliefs and congregants. When her son was young (he is now in his mid-40s), she found a welcoming UU fellowship near their home in Minnesota, and although it has since disbanded and she now lives in Wisconsin, she maintained her connection to UU through visits to the First Unitarian Society of Madison and remote worship. Jan lives outside of Lake Mills with her husband, and in her working years she enjoyed a fulfilling career as an educator. Now in her free time, she likes knitting, quilting, gardening (she is a Master Gardener!), and most recently she has taken up making jewelry. Jan is looking forward to a time when it is safe to congregate again and she can meet the LCUUC community in-person.



Bev Buhr

Bev became a UU about 27 years ago when her then young daughter's inquisitiveness about religion inspired her to revisit questions of meaning put aside after leaving the Catholic church as a young adult. She found a home at James Reeb UU Congregation in Madison where she met her soon-to-be-wife, our Reverend Carin. They have been married for over 20 years, making it legal in 2014. Together they have raised Brianna, the daughter whose curiosity brought them together. Bev is recently retired, after careers in the fire service and nursing, and short stints as a microbiologist and exercise physiologist. She is passionate about racial justice. She loves the outdoors and is in the process of setting up a cargo van for camping. Bev loves yoga, playing pickleball and is a lifelong Packer fan.



GRACE NOTES

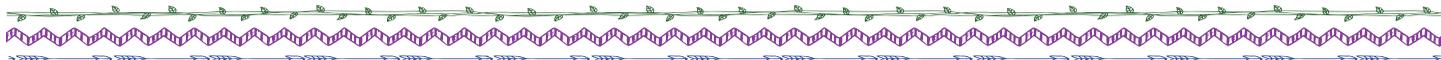
In January and February we have featured more music by LCUUC members than ever before. Beth Ann Wuerl contributed a couple of Martina McBride classics, as well as two Alecia Keys songs, and the inspirational "Hands" by Jewel. We are so happy to have Beth Ann's amazing voice in the mix. Karen Haskell also did a beautiful version of "the Brandi Carlile song The Mother" for our 2-14 service.

On 2-21 we will feature a gorgeous duet version of "A Beautiful Noise" by Alecia Keys featuring Beth Ann and Karen. Greg Valde also recorded the incredibly relevant Mary Gauthier song "Mercy Now" for this service.

Many thanks go out to the musicians of LCUUC. We are so lucky to have you!

As always be in touch with your questions and comments.

Kenn



* NEW FUNdraising INITIATIVE! *

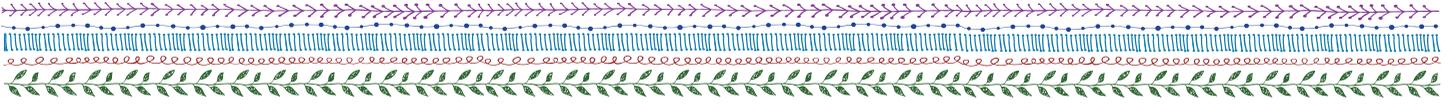
In lieu of our Fall Auction, the FUNdraising committee wants to encourage *"pop-up" events and other donations throughout the fall and winter, both to continue our fundraising efforts as well as to develop and maintain community.

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

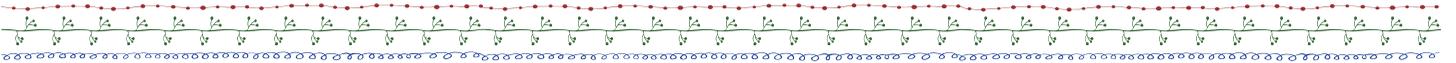


SOCIAL JUSTICE

March's Designated Collections

In March we are collecting for the Lake Area Free Dental Clinic (L AFC Dental). L AFC Dental is for those in need of access to basic dental, educational and referral services. L AFC Dental serves Medicaid and uninsured adults who live in Waukesha County or the Oconomowoc School District, whose incomes do not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. We will announce this collection in the worship service on March 21st.

On the first Sunday in March, we will collect for The Food Pantry of Waukesha.



Dear LCUUC Community of Friends,

As President of the LCUUC Board of Trustees, I wanted to briefly update you on where we are regarding re-gathering during this period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are all optimistic that we are beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel with the roll out of vaccines and recent declines in hospitalizations. However, uncertainties remain as to when we will attain "herd immunity" given virus mutations, vaccine efficacy against the variants, the impact of political efforts to lift mitigation measures, etc. So, we must be prepared for the possibility of a long journey back to the old normal and continue to embrace opportunities for a new normal. For now, things will remain "as is" with the building closed to regular activities.

Since May 2020, the LCUUC COVID-19 Work Group has been studying many aspects of our situation. The group has been working in association with UUA recommendations to use a science-based approach while remaining committed to LCUUC ideals and values in developing practical measures that help ensure the health and safety of our congregation, employees, and the greater community.

At the January 19 meeting, the Board requested more information from the COVID-19 Work Group. The Work Group met on February 8 and agreed to:

- Study the most recent UUA materials and CDC/Wisconsin DHS guidelines on re-gathering
- Meet on March 1 to collectively review and recommend next best steps for LCUUC re-gathering
- Report back to the Board for its March 16 meeting

After the March 16 Board meeting, we will pull in more voices and ideas from our membership as we develop our LCUUC pandemic policy. Not an easy task and certainly, as always, a work in progress. Please watch for ways in which you can let us know your thoughts and intended actions related to re-gathering, both indoors and virtually.

Thank you and be safe, healthy and happy. Please let me or one of the Board Members know if you have questions, concerns, ideas.

Paula Hillmann, President LCUUC Board of Trustees



Youth Religious Education (RE)

Greetings!

The March Soul Matters theme is: **Commitment**. As we move into the month of March, I am happy to share that both the high school seniors and the 5th & 6th grade youth are continuing in our traditional bridging programs. The 5th & 6th graders will be concluding their Transitions programming this month by leading a joint worship service on March 21st for both LCUUC & UUUC in Waukesha. They have been meeting weekly on zoom and they have been creating some wonderful projects as they look at their own lives as they move into another stage of adolescence.

The March class schedule is:

- **4k – 1st grade will meet at 11am on 3/7 & 3/28**
- **2nd – 5th grade will meet at 11am on 3/14 (3/21 is 5th – 6th grade transitions service so no class this day)**
- **Middle School (6th – 8th grade) will meet at 6:30pm on 3/14 & 3/21**
- **High School (9th – 12th grade) will meet at 6:30pm on 3/7 & 3/28**

On Friday evening, 3/19 we will be having our **March 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. For March, our activity will be making dog toys for the *Hoovers Hause All Dog Rescue* in Mukwonago, WI. Please have some used cotton t-shirts that can be cut up into strips for our activity that evening. I will be sending out more detailed instructions in early March so that families can join in the fun of upcycling for a great cause!

“You always have two choices: Your commitment versus your fear”.
~ Sammy Davis Jr.

In Peace-

Christine Rollins, Director of Religious Education



We are pleased to celebrate the Child Welcoming ceremony that occurred during the Feb. 19th service. Beth Ann & Mike Wuerl, along with their children Maya, Eliza, and Killian, were welcomed by Rev. Carin Bringelson, Christine Rollins D.R.E. and the LCUUC congregation!



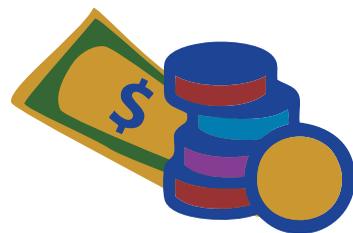
ON BOARD

Here we are in March already! Maybe some of you are ready to be done with winter, as this year's conditions have been more in the true spirit of the season. I know that I have been grateful to have a reliable snow blower. I often gauge the severity of a winter by the number of homes still displaying their Christmas decorations in late February, and

my neighborhood has more than usual. Whether you are longing to welcome spring or still appreciating winter, here are some highlights from the February Board of Trustees meeting.

- Budget season is underway as committee chairs work with their committee members and board liaisons to submit their 2021–22 church year requests by March 8. Once requests have been submitted, the Finance Committee will work diligently to present the Board a proposed budget.
- Along with the hard work of our committees, a few temporary teams (Personnel, Technology and Covid-19) were a topic this month. Here are some key deliverables they are engaged in, respectively:
 - Employee handbook – New fiscal year timing
 - Live streaming our in-person worship services – To be timed with church re-opening.
 - Updated recommendations for regathering – Report out for April Board meeting.
- The poor condition of our church parking lot (48 years old) was a topic of discussion with a recognition that it will likely need replacing. More to come on this as the Finance Committee considers options.
- The Leadership Committee is hoping to leverage report content from the November UUA-hosted Ministerial Startup retreat that was attended by many congregants, along with a 2021–22 budget request, to embark on strategic planning for the church.
- A new contract is being written by Board President Paula Hillman, based on last month's exciting news that Rev. Carin has embraced our offer to continue her $\frac{3}{4}$ time ministry with LCUUC.
- The LCUUC Board of Trustees would like to remind everyone that church members are invited to attend any Board Meeting as an observer. It was nice to see a few members take advantage of this in our February meeting. Going forward, the preceding Friday LCUUC Weekly Upbeat will include the Board meeting agenda and ZOOM meeting links. Please note that Board meetings are traditionally held in the evening, the 3rd Tuesday of each month.
- Should your interest in the LCUUC Board of Trustees run deeper, please keep in mind that the Leadership committee will be looking to fill 2021–22 church year vacancies (members, vice president and president). Please feel free to reach out to any Board member with questions and/or let Rob Suhr know you have an interest in serving.
- Finally, as we all long for in-person social gatherings during this virtual meeting, pandemic period (heck, who even knew what ZOOM was a year ago?), please keep an eye on our website regarding opportunities for outdoor gathering hikes being planned by our Membership Committee.

Harry Nichols, on behalf of the LCUUC 2020-21 Board of Trustees

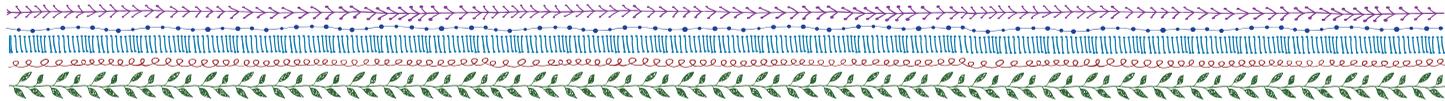


FINANCES

Revenues through January 2021 were \$156,500 and expenses were \$130,500. Revenues are on target with the prior year and expenses continue to be low due to the shutdown of the building and lower charges for utilities and delaying strategic planning.

In March, the Finance Committee begins to review budget requests from Committee Chairs. Just am reminder to Committees that have not yet submitted their requests, they are due March 8th.

At the February Finance Committee meeting, we discussed the repaving of the parking lot. The parking lot is 48 years old and badly in need of repaving. The current estimates range from \$98,000 to \$133,000. As part of the budget discussions in March, the Finance Committee will consider whether to move forward with this project and how it might be financed.



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:

- March 15 - 22 for Off Week
- April 12 - 19 for Off Week

Thanks for your patience and understanding

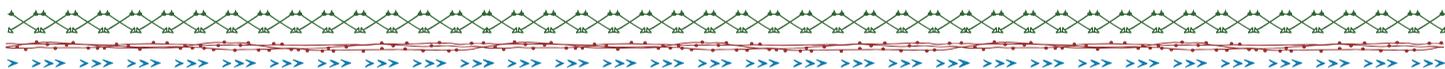
Office Manager: Leann Rigoli
admin@lcuuc.org (262) 369-1703
Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Fri 8am-4pm

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

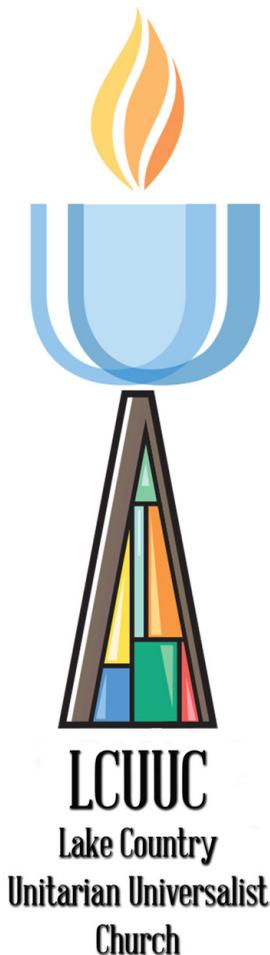
Zoom Worship Technitian: Marc Nadal

Cleaning: Kaya Rollins



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



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.