

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



May 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.

Collections for May and through the summer are for The Food Pantry of Waukesha and Black Lives Matter to Wisconsin UUs Reparation Fund

May 2

As Is –Rev. Tony Larsen

The last time Rev. Tony Larsen was in our pulpit, he gave a sermon titled “As If.” Two small words, two small syllables, four single letters—yet large in meaning. Well, this Sunday Rev. Tony will give a sermon on two other small words: “as is,” also large in meaning. About this topic, he says: “If you’ve ever been to the discount section of a store (or gone to a yard sale), you may have seen the label ‘as is.’ It lets you know that there may be some flaws in the product, so you buy it at your own risk. Should parents, children, and other human beings come with that label too?”

May 9

From Me to We: Community Care –Rev. Carin Bringelson, LCUUC Minister

In a time of rampant individualism, caring for each other requires our attention and intention. What can we do to extend our circles of care -- both within this congregation and in our lives beyond LCUUC?

May 16

Religious Education Sunday –Christine Rollins, Dir. of Religious Education & High School Youth

This service celebrates the completion of the Religious Education classes this year with special recognition of the many volunteers that are involved in making the program so wonderful here at LCUUC. Select youth from our congregation will be involved in the service and will share music. As a highlight during the service, we will also be celebrating our HS seniors’ last year in the program and join them as they complete their final rite of passage from youth to young adulthood during the Bridging Ceremony. Please join us as we celebrate the youth of LCUUC and the joy that they bring to our community and the world!

May 23

Fragile and Rooted: Flower Communion –Rev. Carin Bringelson, LCUUC Minister

Originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, the Flower Ceremony was introduced to the United States by Norbert’s widow, the Rev. Maya Capek. In past years, attendees were invited to bring a flower to place on the altar during worship service. After the congregation and minister blessed the flowers, they were redistributed so that each person took home a different flower than the one they brought. In this year of COVID, we invite you to participate in in Flower Communion through one of two ways:

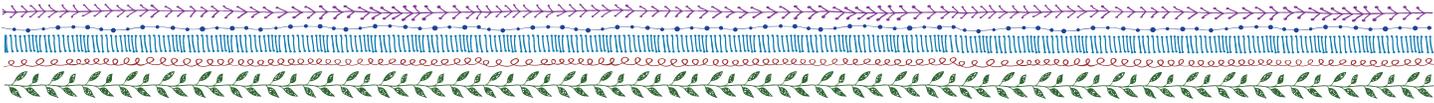
- Send a photo of yourself with a flower by Thursday May 20 to revcarin@lcuuc.org
- Participate in a flower exchange on Saturday May 22, from 1pm-2pm. Details to be announced.

The Annual Meeting will occur after the Flower Communion worship. All book-signed members are eligible to vote.

May 30

Loved Into Being –Rev. Carin Bringelson, LCUUC Minister and other UU Ministers

Faith in Unitarian Universalism isn't just an intellectual exercise: it's "heart" work. This full-length worship experience will feature a sermon by UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, as well as vibrant music, storytelling, and other worship elements that will help us to grow in Mayspirit, in courage, and in generosity.



Carin's Corner

Carin's Corner: Filled with Gratitude

I am grateful to serve LCUUC alongside wonderful staff members -- some of whom have been working under very challenging circumstances for at least a year. Our Administrator, Leann, has developed office processes that ensure bills are paid and messages are answered. Our Director of Religious Education, Chris, has not only moved the classes to an online format this year, but has designed and co-led worship with our young people. Our outgoing Music Director, Kenn, successfully provided high quality music despite not being live in the sanctuary. In the interim between music directors, our accompanists Tracy and Beth Ann will be offering beautiful selections. Our Zoom Worship Technician, Marc, has made Sunday mornings look smooth and stress-free, despite the new ideas I ask him to implement almost weekly. Please join me in thanking our hardworking Staff Members! THANK YOU, ALL!

I am also grateful for all of our unpaid volunteers, be it the Board members or various committee members or the Worship Artists who facilitate weekly worship services. Speaking of Sunday mornings, I want to remind you all that I'm here to listen—particularly at those times when you come away from worship service feeling unsettled, confused, or upset by something that occurred. While sometimes discomfort is a part of growth, at other times discomfort is an indication that harm has occurred. If that's ever the case for you, please contact me directly: revcarin@lcuuc.org I want to learn about your experience and explore with you what (if anything) might be good next steps.

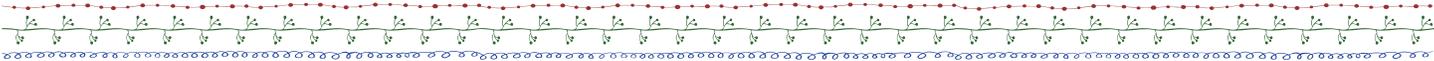
And finally, I am grateful for each and every one of YOU—members and friends of LCUUC who believe in the good things that come from building Beloved Community together. I know Zoom Gloom and Pandemic Fatigue are real. I don't have any easy answers for our congregation, but I do know that there is no better time than NOW to strive to be our best selves. I also know that Hope and Love are real, and that Beloved Community is exactly the place where we grow those seeds, knowing that we are in this together.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting on Sunday May 23rd!

In Growing Faith,

Rev. Carin
revcarin@lcuuc.org

In honor of April's National Poetry Month, Rev Carin created a "PoeTree" for LCUUC, hanging copies of our favorite poems on the tree/plant outside her office.



Spring Workdays at LCUUC

Sundays, May 1 & 8, 9am - noon

Please join the Grounds Committee to help clean up our beautiful grounds for spring!

No experience necessary!

Bring garden gloves if you have them. We will paint some benches, weed the Children's Garden and Commemorative Garden, spread some wood chips, plant some flowers, and install a new fountain.

Please wear a mask and keep a safe distance from others.

For questions, please contact Janis Tyler at 262-993-1799 janistylert1@gmail.com





Sign up for committees and workgroups - Sharing the Ministry

LCUUC members will again be signing up for committees and workgroups through Sharing the Ministry online in May! All committees and/or workgroups are looking for new members. Please click on the Sharing the Ministry Screencast Video [HERE](#) to learn how to sign-up. Do not hesitate to join more than one! Many hands make light work!

Committee Chairs Needed:

Fundraising, Public Presence, Facilities, Grounds

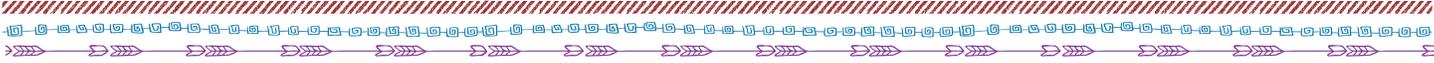
NEW! First Responder Training

LCUUC will train eight members to be LCUUC First Responders. The goal is to equip these members with the knowledge and skills to respond to emergencies that may arise during the use of the church building or grounds. Please sign up using the Sharing the Ministry tool on the LCUUC website.

The training will entail:

- One hour of training on the LCUUC Emergency Response Plan
- Five hours of training and certification in CPR, AED, and First Aid
- Training date for the fall has not been set

Don't wait! *Sign up for committees or workgroups today!* Thank you for Sharing the Ministry!



LCUUC Board and Leadership Development committee nominees

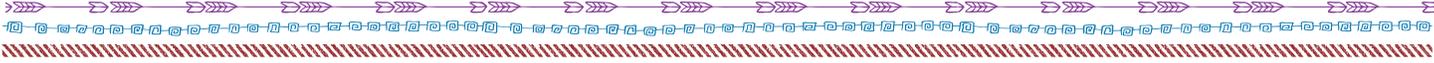
The Leadership Development Committee is pleased to put forth the following candidates to the membership for approval at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 23, 2021:

LCUUC Board:

- Mieke Craven
- David Harker
- Quentin Watson

Leadership Development Committee

- Ginger Goral
- Cathy Marrari
- Joanne Nelson
- Rob Suhr
- Patty Walker



Meeting with the Minister

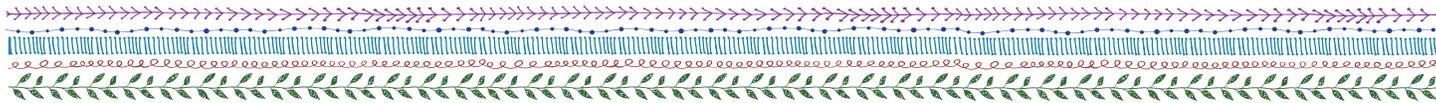
Now that the snow has melted, Rev. Carin is happy to meet with you in-person outdoors, per the COVID Guidelines. Please email her to schedule a time: revcarin@lcuuc.org

Rev. Carin will continue to offer weekly Office Hours on the Thursdays that she works, from 11a.m. – 1p.m. Simply go to this Zoom Room. 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 an "Off Week" every four weeks. Her upcoming calendar includes the following out-of-office/offline days:

- * May 10-17, 2021 (Off Week)
- * May 31-June 6, 2021 (Vacation)
- * June 7-14, 2021 (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



LCUUC Banner and Chalice to Make Appearances at G.A.

This year's UUA General Assembly is happening online, so it will be easy to attend (with a short commute)! Register at: uua.org/ga

Special events to enjoy include:

- Opening Celebration on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 5pm Central: General Assembly will begin with a procession of banners from hundreds of Unitarian Universalist congregations and organizations – including LCUUC's!
- Rev. Carin wrote and recorded a Chalice Lighting for a worship service co-created with the Milwaukee-area congregations. It features the LCUUC chalice, so keep your eyes out for its appearance!
- The Ware Lecture will occur Saturday, June 26, 2021 at 6pm Central. This year the lecturers will be Stacy Abrams and Desmond Meade. Learn more [HERE](#).



Questions? Contact Rev. Carin at revcarin@lcuuc.org

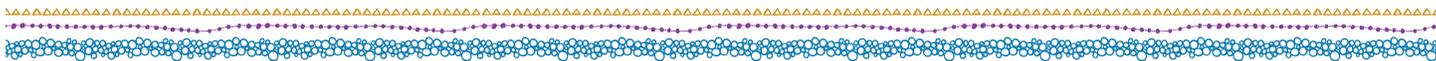


GRACE NOTES

This will be my last newsletter. As I'm sure most have heard, my Music Director position at LCUUC will end effective 5/1/2021. I am thankful for my time spent as Music director the last couple years. I have learned many valuable lessons, and am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve. I am also grateful for the members of LCUUC that I was fortunate to have shared the process of making music with. We are all truly blessed by the contributions of our LCUUC musicians, guest musicians, accompanists, and sound technicians. My sincere appreciation goes out to everyone involved!.

Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything. –Plato

Kenn

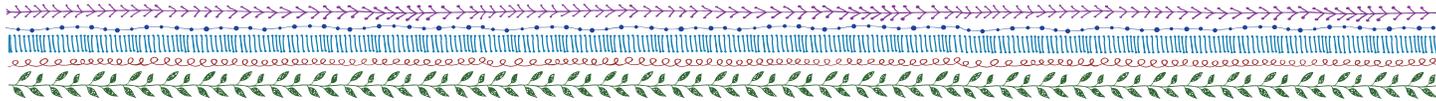


Hike at Lapham Peak Sunday, May 16 at 2pm

Come join us for a hike at Lapham Peak. We'll meet at Homestead Hollow parking lot and walk about 2 miles then enjoy a cool cup of cider and some socially distanced outside visiting. All are welcome, bring a friend! Call or text Patty at 263-966-3357 with questions. Sponsored by the LCUUC Membership Committee.

*A state park pass is required for entrance into Lapham Peak. If you need help purchasing one please contact Reverend Bringelson.





LCUUC TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE ONLINE AUCTION!

Online Auction Saturday May 1 – Tuesday, May 11

General Information about the Online Auction Process:

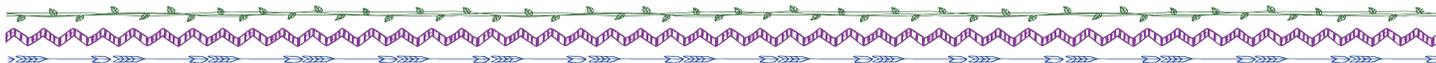
It's easy, convenient, and you can bid 24/7!

You will need to register and login before bidding [HERE](#).

When you register, you can opt to be notified by email and/or text when you are outbid on an item.

Once ready to bid, go to **VIEW ITEMS**. You can view **ALL ITEMS** or items based on a category.

Invite your friends and family to bid!



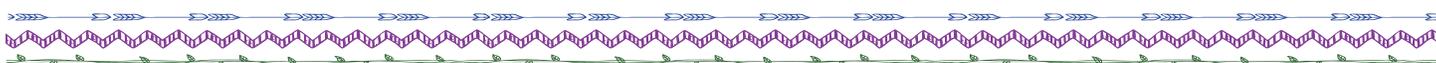
ON BOARD

It's been great to have visitors at our last few board meetings! Some came to see if being on the Board is something they'd like to do, while others just came to listen and learn. In case you're at all curious, I'd like to give you a glimpse into what a monthly board meeting is like. We begin with ascertainment of a quorum that is followed by Rev. Carin lighting a chalice and offering some opening words. Her words are inspiring, reflective, centering, or joyful ... depending on what she senses we need, I imagine.

Then we get down to business with motions to approve the meeting's agenda and the minutes from the previous month's meeting. Special announcements, if any, follow that and then it's time to hear reports. First comes Tim Fuller who shares his Treasurer's Report. Reverend Carin is next with her Minister's Report. After that, each Council Liaison has the opportunity to share any highlights from the committees they are aligned with. Then we move on to Old Business and New Business where, typically, the bulk of our conversations take place. At the end, Reverend Carin extinguishes the chalice and shares parting words with us. Throw in some laughs and there you have it!

If you haven't already, *please highlight Sunday, May 23rd, on your calendar as that is the day of the Annual Congregational Meeting*. It will follow the worship service. Please attend so you can hear all the latest LCUUC news and, of course, vote on the 2021–22 budget. Your presence will be enjoyed and appreciated. See you then!

Amy Seay, on behalf of the LCUUC 2020–21 Board of Trustees



A Big Thank You From Stewardship!

This past year has obviously brought new challenges, having to connect remotely instead of in person. It's not as easy, welcoming, or engaging to meet on Zoom to review the latest budget and pledge information, but we've had at least some attendance at all eleven meetings this year. Thank you to all who attended, shared their opinions and questions, and enriched our meetings.

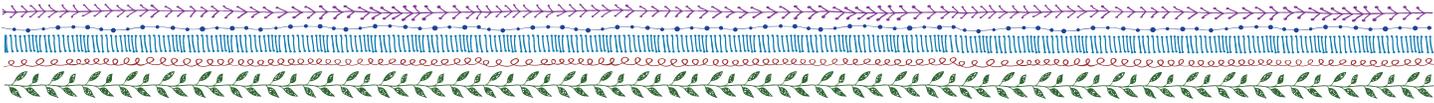
Those who have pledged have collectively responded generously to our appeal to close the budget gap, and my best estimate is that the pledges will end up 5% from last year! (This assumes the pledges and/or contributions of those who have not yet pledged will remain the same as last year, and represents about 12% of the total.)

One silver lining of having to deal with the pandemic is that Leann came up with an excellent web page, and a very easy to use online pledge card, which we plan to continue using in the future. No more having to print or find a paper copy, and put it in the lockbox. The new system makes it easier for everyone.

To those who have not yet turned in their pledge card, please think about our wonderful congregation, what it means to you, and let your pledge card show your commitment. For those of you who have so generously responded, thank you so much!!

As always, if you ever have any questions or ideas for stewardship, please don't hesitate to ask. Looking forward to seeing everyone in person for next year's stewardship campaign!

John Kuhn



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Black Lives Matter to Wisconsin UUs and Reparations

As many of you know, back in 2014 the five Milwaukee-area UU churches formed **Black Lives Matter to Wisconsin UUs** (BLM2WUUs). Representatives and pastors from each church comprise the collaboration council. LCUUC is a member with Sara and Bud Hudson representing us. Others are invited to join this important work.

A year and a half ago, we held our first *Reparations Workshop* with a panel of African-American partners from Milwaukee. Currently we are working on a continuing workshop with some of the same partners – more info to come. To show our Milwaukee partners that we are seriously committed to some form of reparations, the five churches have started a Reparations Fund.

BLM2WUU is partnering with Black Milwaukeeans to learn how we can best begin to make reparations for the harm experienced historically and presently by Black Americans. Consistent with our UU values and principles of the Black Lives Matter movement, we will seek the direction of members of the Black community concerning how our donated checks might best be spent, strengthening our practice of “followership.”

Acting as a community of faith, rather than as individuals, we can have greater impact. Consulting with those most affected by COVID-19 and its economic and social and psychological ravages, by centuries of racism and white supremacy, and by the gross imbalance of power and resources that characterize our society and our community, we will deepen partner relationships and recognize the authority of lived experience.

BLMWUU invites you to contribute to a fund we have set up to aggregate our donations. Our community partners will guide the expenditure of these monies where they will be of greatest use.

Our fund is now up and running, and receiving tax-deductible donations. You can contribute to the **BLM2WUUs Reparation Fund** by:

- writing a check to United UUC, 506 N. Washington, Waukesha, WI 53188, with “Reparations” in the memo line
- texting 262-261-8829
- going [HERE](#). Use the dropdown menu to choose “Reparations.” Note: give this option a day or two to get set up.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Reparations Discussion - 4/25/21

LCUUC’s Social Justice Committee held a zoom discussion on Ta-Nehisi Coates article in the 2014 Atlantic magazine entitled “The Case For Reparations” on Sunday, 4/25. We discussed what are reparations and why reparations should be addressed. Thanks to those who facilitated and to all those who participated. There’s much to learn and understand.

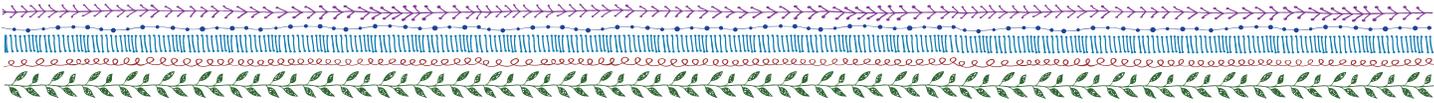
8th Principle:

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

Learn more about the Unitarian Universalist 8th principle [HERE](#).

Designated Collections

- In May, and going forward over the summer, we encourage donations to the **BLM2WUUs Reparation Fund** highlighted above.
- Food Pantry collections in May and over the summer will go to **The Food Pantry of Waukesha**



Youth Religious Education (RE)

Greetings!

The May Soul Matters theme is: **Story**. In the day to day lives we lead- stories often write us as much as we write them. We look to stories in so many of our Religious Education lessons with the kids/youth, to connect our faith to that of others. We use stories to share in a lesson. We create stories to find a meaning. I hope that we can all celebrate our own stories by sharing them with others, as words are what string our existence together.

The May class schedule is:

- **4k – 1st grade will meet at 11am on 5/2 for our final zoom class this year**
- **2nd – 5th grade will meet at 11am on 5/9 for our final zoom class this year**
- **Middle School (6th – 8th grade) will meet at 6:30pm on 5/9 for our final zoom class this year**
- **High School (9th – 12th grade) will meet at 6:30pm on 5/2 for our final zoom class this year**

Our annual Religious Education Sunday will be celebrated on zoom worship on May 16th. Our two High School seniors, Ava Craven & Zachary Suttinger, will be sharing their faith statements during our Bridging Celebration that morning. Ava’s mentor this year is Phil Smith and Zachary’s mentor is Greg Sanden. They will also be sharing some encouraging words during the service that morning. There will also be plenty of music and words from many of the children and youth in the RE program from both UUUC and LCUUC. I hope you can join worship that morning and celebrate our connections to the youngest generation at LCUUC!

Please save the date of Saturday 6/5/21 from 6–9pm for our END OF YEAR R.E. families bonfire. We will be gathering on the grounds of LCUUC to celebrate the end of a successful RE year and to look forward to a great summer in Lake Country and beyond! All RE families from both LCUUC and UUUC are welcome!! The RE Committee will be supplying Smore kits for each family who registers on the Sign-Up Genius to be coming via email in May.

“When we deny the story, it defines us. When we own the story, we can write a brave new ending.” ~Brene Brown

In Peace-

Christine Rollins, Director of Religious Education



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:

- * May 10-17, 2021 (Off Week)
- * May 31-June 6, 2021 (Vacation)
- * June 7-14, 2021 (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

Dave Cicero, Vice President

Amy Seay, Secretary

Tim Fuller, Treasurer (ex-officio)

Lisa Alvarado

George Ehrhardt

Catherine Marrari

Harry Nichols

Gail Ostler

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.