

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



DECEMBER 2022



Worship services

Designated Collection for December – Honor the Earth

LCUUC is holding its services both in-person and online at 10am on Sundays at LCUUC. For an order of service, go to OOS. If you have a joy or sorrow to be shared aloud during worship, please email it to candles@lcuuc.org by 8am on Sunday.

Option 1) Join us in the LCUUC sanctuary for in-person worship. We will be following current LCUUC COVID guidelines. At this time, masks are strongly recommended.

Option 2) Watch worship online here: [LIVE STREAM](#)



Sunday, December 4, 2022 at 10am

A Touch and A Dash, Claire Johnson, LCUUC member

A touch of this, a dash of that...baking as a spiritual practice. As some of us prepare to travel for the holidays – whether it be to Grandma's, good friends, or here at LCUUC – come enjoy a warm service with treats during and after! Gluten-free options will be available. This is one you won't want to miss. (Photo by Nadine Primeau on Unsplash.)

Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 7pm



Blue Holiday Vespers, Rev. Carin Bringelson and Caryl Whiteman - Weekday Vespers Worship

Are you feeling more blue than jolly this year? During this midweek worship service, we will share sacred space as we acknowledge and honor our feelings of loss, grief, anger, regret, or pain during this season. Come find peace by being with one another and engaging in rituals that honor the complex realities of our lives. We will meet in the sanctuary and on ZOOM. (Meeting ID: 927 5063 4778 Passcode: 070679)

Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 10am

Wonder of the Seasons, Rev. Carin Bringelson, LCUUC Minister

December is filled with religious and spiritual holidays: Advent/Christmas, Hanukkah, Yule/Solstice, Kwanzaa, and more. Let's wonder together about the connections and reflections that this time of year offers. How might the season's stories speak to us during this time in history?



Sunday, December 18, 2022 at 10am



Wild, Wondrous, Darkness, Rev. Carin Bringelson, LCUUC Minister

The Winter Solstice is just around the corner. As the daylight hours wane, our part of the world is submerging once again into seasonal darkness. Today we will honor the wholeness/holiness of both the light and the darkness. (Photo by Denis Degioanni on Unsplash.)

Saturday, December 24, 2022 at 3pm

Seeking Wonder and Refuge, Rev. Carin Bringelson, LCUUC Minister

This afternoon's Christmas Eve service for all ages will include stories, music, and poetry chosen to speak to feelings of awe and wonder as we explore the miracle of love in human form. The monetary offering collected will go to the Minister's Discretionary Fund which is used, at the discretion of the minister, for needs as they arise for individuals and families within the congregation and/or the community. (Illustration by Sam Usher.)

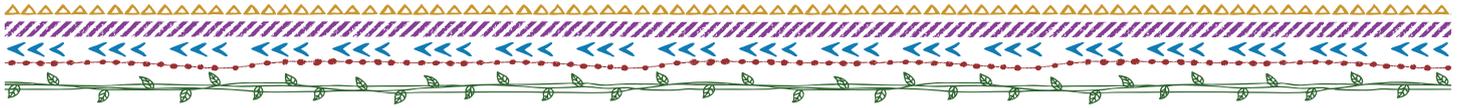


Sunday, December 25, 2022 at 10am



Coffee with Claire," Claire Johnson, LCUUC member

On this holiday morning, we will enjoy building community together in the social hall. Come grab a cup and a tasty treat while we talk and reconnect with one another. Please note that, since this is NOT an official worship service, we will not be live streaming. This event is only in-person. (Photo by Nathan Dumlao on Unsplash.)



Carin's Corner:

The theme for the month of December is “Wonder.” What is the Shimmering Gem that you wonder about these days? By “wonder” I am especially referring to that which makes you pause in awe. And by “Shimmering Gem”... well, that’s kind of a long story.

In early November the Worship Artists gathered for a retreat. During our time together, we explored the purpose of worship in contemporary Unitarian Universalist communities.

Our exploration included watching and discussing an inspiring and thought-provoking video entitled “The Alchemy of Worship.” (Watch it and let me know what you think/feel.)

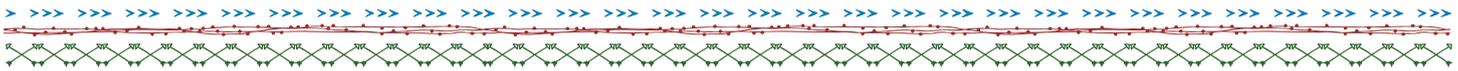
Here are a few of my take-aways from this powerful video:

- Worship IS about meaning-making in community
- Worship IS about creating connections – to counteract the alienation in our world
- Worship is NOT about conveying information
- Worship IS about exploring questions that are eternal in our lives as humans
- Worship IS about the relationships we have with “texts” of multiple kinds
- Worship IS about centering powerful stories that hold deep truths
- Worship is NOT about being an expert or being smart
- Worship IS about an ethic of trust, an ethic of risk
- Worship IS about exploring gems that shimmer for us

If you wonder about worship — do any of these ideas and practices intrigue you? — please reach out to me. I would love to explore worship-crafting with you while I’m still serving LCUUC through the middle of 2023.

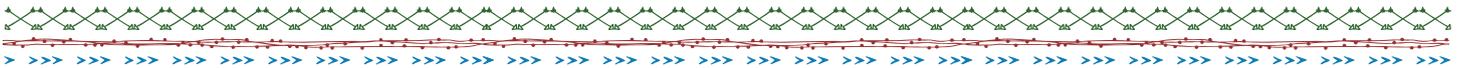
Also, because some of you have asked: next month I will be going into “search.” This is the process through which I will seek another congregation to serve later in 2023. I won’t be able to share much with you during the search process, but I will let you know once things are official in April. In the meantime, please know that I am committed to serving LCUUC with integrity, transparency, and compassion. Email or speak to me with questions.

In Growing Faith,
Rev. Carin
revcarin@lcuuc.org



BYO LUNCHES

Last one of the year on December 21st at Noon. Connect with your friends and other church members the third Wednesday of each month at noon, May through December! We meet outside by the firepit, the third Wednesday of the month at 12:00. Bring your lunch and a lawn chair and enjoy lively conversation and fellowship. We will move indoors if the weather is inclement or too cold. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mark Ubbesen at 262-751-7180 or markubbesen@gmail.com.

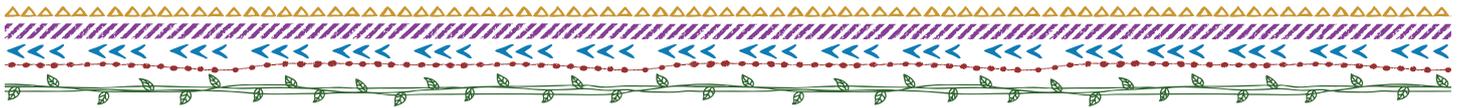


Meeting with the Minister

Want to meet with Rev. Carin? You can set up a time that works for you by emailing her at revcarin@lcuuc.org.

Rev. Carin’s ¾-time schedule includes a Sabbath on Mondays as well as one “Furlough Week” every four weeks. Please check the Master Calendar [HERE](#) for her upcoming availability.

If you need to reach Rev. Carin with a pastoral care emergency while she is away, please contact coordinator of the Caring Circle, Paula Hillmann: paula.hillmann@gmail.com. Paula will be in touch with Rev. Carin if needed.



LCUUC has joined up with **Soul Matters** - a network of Unitarian Universalist congregations who follow the same monthly themes. These themes will be woven through all aspects of LCUUC life, from weekly services & religious education, to small groups & individual learning opportunities. Explore what may be a good fit for you - organic growth into sharing and discussion is welcome and encouraged!

Sign up for LCUUC member email updates, to receive individual opportunities revolving around this month's theme. These include podcasts, movies, articles, books and weekly exercises to promote more in-depth thought and conversation with family and friends.

December – Welcome to The Path of Wonder

This seems to me the main problem... How can we contrive to be at once astonished at the world and yet at home in it?... How can this world give us at once the fascination of a strange town and the comfort and honor of being our own town? –G.K. Chesterton

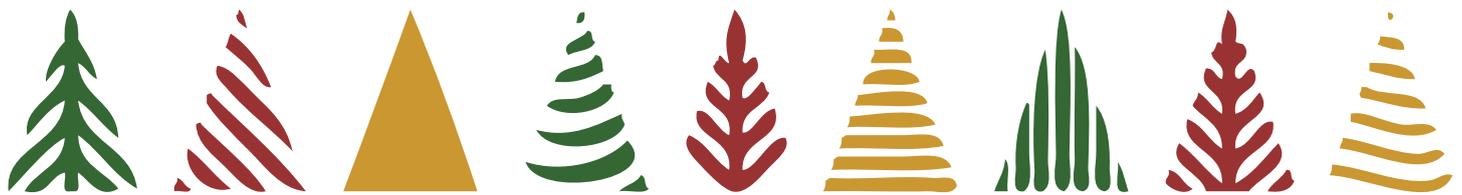
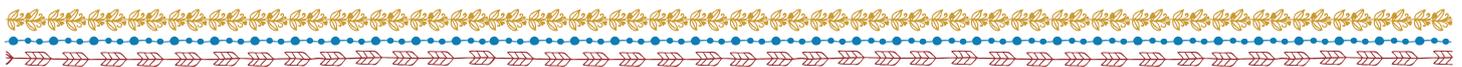
The path of wonder seems well worn. It's a journey that brings us down to size. Just think of those pictures which reveal that our galaxy is just one of billions more. Or think of when you've stared into the empty darkness of a midnight sky or an endless ocean. Such images remind us that the universe is more vast than we can imagine. They leave us with a sense of wonder that overwhelms. In the face of such an incomprehensible abyss, one can't help but feel humbled and small.

But religion never wants us to stop there. Hold on it says. Just stand at the abyss a bit longer. Lean in a little bit more. And when you do, you'll realize that this path doesn't end with a deep darkness that doesn't care. No, if we remain there in witness long enough, a new message emerges. You look into the vast mystery and surprisingly, it stares back, as if to say, "Welcome home."

As astronomers tell us, contemplation of the vast universe doesn't make them feel smaller; it makes them realize the larger story of which they are a part. We are stardust, as they say. From the vastness we came and to it we will return. In other words, the path of wonder is not so much about feeling small; it's about feeling connected.

And not just connected to the stars, but also to each other. Wonder, and its cousin awe, reduces us in order to make room for something more than our self-centered needs, wants and worries. With our narcissism shrunk down to a reasonable size, it becomes possible to notice that we are not the only ones up there on the stage. It's in this way that looking up into the cosmos allows us to look across at each other. Which is, of course, a huge gift, because while being center stage and center of the universe can feel powerful, it's also a very lonely place to be.

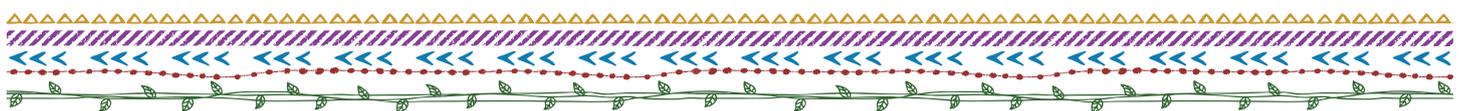
So friends, don't just look up at the stars this month. Let's make sure that our looking up leads to us looking across. And as we do, may we - like our friend G.K. Chesterton - not simply be astonished at the universe, but also feel at home in it.



HOLIDAY CHOIR starts November 30th

The holiday season is approaching and the LCUUC Choir will be inviting church members and friends (high school age and up) who wish to sing with us for the Winter Holiday Service on December 11 at 10am and Christmas Eve at the 3pm service. This is a great opportunity for those of you who enjoy singing choral music but can't make a commitment to a full year schedule of choir or if you are a new member, this is a fun way to meet people and become more involved in church life. No previous singing experience is required, but you must be able to commit to four Thursday rehearsals, November 30 and December 7, 14, and 21 from 6:30pm. to 8:15pm in the Sanctuary. If you are interested in singing with us, please contact Tristan Strelitzer at music@lcuuc.org so we can have a folder and music ready for you. We'd love to have you join us!

Tristan Strelitzer and the Choir



Gingerbread House Party



Sunday, December 4th 11:15-12:30

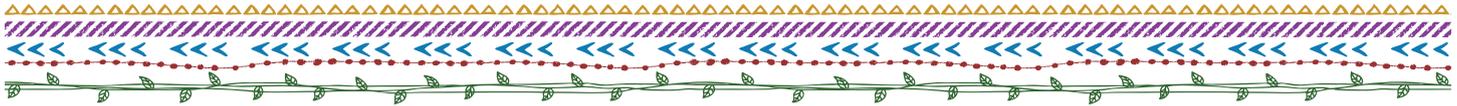
All ages are invited to join in some Festive Holiday fellowship at LCUUC! Following Sunday Service on Dec 4th, celebrate the holidays with the annual Gingerbread house decorating party!

Gingerbread kits will allow creation as a team, a family, or individually!

Hot Chocolate, Tea, and Coffee will help kick off this hygge holiday season!

(We will also offer a take-home gingerbread house option.)

Please RSVP by Fri, Dec 2nd to cfm@lcuuc.org



LCUUC TIME, TALENT & TREASURE ONLINE AUCTION!
Donations accepted through January 11th
Online Auction Saturday, January 14th - Monday, January 23rd
 Email donations (with pictures) and questions to Chris Kunert: ckunert2@gmail.com
A LIST OF DONATION IDEAS IS ATTACHED!! BE CREATIVE!

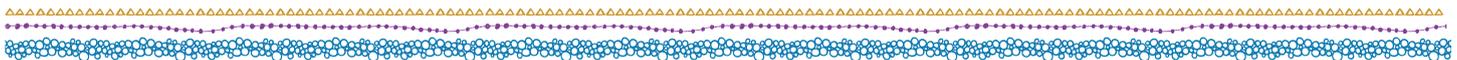
Guidelines for Donations:

- Email your donations to Chris Kunert by Wednesday, January 11th
- **Events can take place between January 28th - October 31st, 2023**
- Indicate date, starting and ending time, maximum number of participants, minimum bid and retail value if applicable.
- Items donated should be new or gently used.
- Homemade goods, including food items, are encouraged.
- Please send a picture, if possible, that can help “market” your event, or one can be provided
- Delivery of items will be decided by the donor and highest bidder.

General Information about the Online Auction Process

- Bidding begins on Saturday, January 14th and runs thru Monday, January 23rd
- It’s easy, convenient, and you can bid 24/7!
- We’ll be using BiddingOwl again. You will need to register and login before bidding. Go [HERE](#) to register.

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! Have fun!

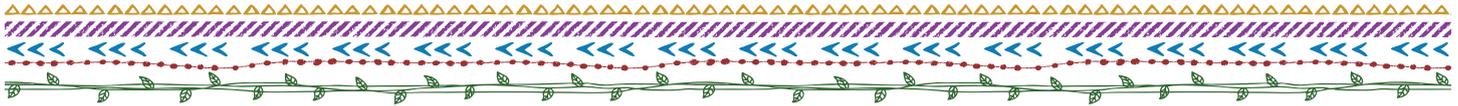


Family Ministry

Family Ministry is excited to begin again in person at our LCUUC building after a long Covid season. Juliet Rogers will be working as the Coordinator of Family Ministry to support volunteers in keeping our programs going and running smoothly. You can contact her with any questions or concerns at cfm@lcuuc.org. She would especially love to hear from you if you are willing to volunteer! Click [HERE](#) to sign up now for a date to lead Spirit Play or Nursery: Volunteering is easy and does not require preparation or experience, so please consider helping us today! (All that is required is a background check and confirmation of vaccination status.) Juliet is off on the last Sunday of each month. In the absence of a volunteer to cover for her, you can expect children to remain in the sanctuary for service for that Sunday.

If you are the guardian of a child joining our program, please register them (forms are [HERE](#) or in the social hall or email cfm@lcuuc.org). Most weeks, Juliet will lead the children and teachers out of the sanctuary with the Family Ministry lantern. Children over 8 will remain in the sanctuary for service unless a class is being held for their age group. As always, there are busy bags available for children who wish to stay with their guardians and crossword searches for older kids. Our theme for this month is COURAGE. We move forward with courage as we forge Family Ministry!





SOCIAL JUSTICE

Giving Tree for Family Promise families & the Hope Center

Once again, LCUUC has a "Giving Tree" in the church foyer that will allow us all to help some people who have less this holiday season.

LCUUC has signed up to sponsor three Family Promise families this year. There will be tags on our Giving Tree that will be for specific requested items for each family. There will also be tags for items requested by the Hope Center for their clientele. Feel free to take as many tag as you like.

Gifts need to be purchased and brought to church, unwrapped by Sunday, December 11th. There will be a bin in the foyer for purchased items. Thank you all for your generosity!

Sponsored by LCUUC's Social Justice Committee

Designated Collection for December

The Hope Center in Waukesha will be the recipient of our Designated Collection for the month of December. Their mission is to "Reduce the risks of poverty by helping people in Waukesha County meet basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing through services, partnerships and community collaboration." Their vision is to "Provide hope and resources to help people survive."

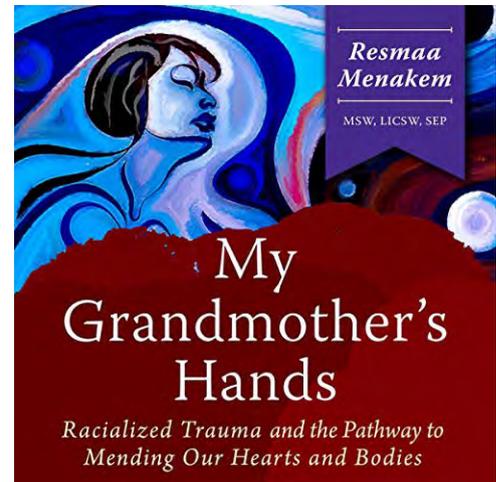
Join a Virtual Panel Presentation on My Grandmother's Hands, on December 3rd

LCUUC, as a member of Black Lives Matter to Wisconsin UUs (BLM2WUU) is hosting a Virtual Panel Presentation on the book below. We invite all members and friends to attend this presentation. We hope many of you will get and read the book and join the discussion groups that will be happening in early 2023.

*My Grandmother's Hands:
Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*
by Resmaa Menakem
Saturday December 3, 2022
10:00am–12:30pm

Panelists include:

- Sienna Lytle, Senior Manager of Diversity, Equity and Belonging for Hubspot
- Dr. Geof Swain, Founding Director of the Wisconsin Center for Health Equity
- Erica Turner, Co-founder of Bridge the Divide
- A Police Officer-representative panelist is anticipated, but not yet confirmed

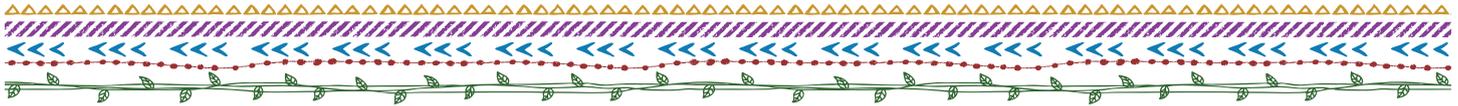


In this groundbreaking work, therapist and author Resmaa Menakem examines the damage caused by racism in America from the perspective of body-centered psychology. He argues this destruction will continue until Americans learn to heal the generational anguish of white supremacy, which is deeply embedded in all our bodies. Our collective agony doesn't just affect African Americans. White Americans suffer their own secondary trauma as well. So do blue Americans—our police.

My Grandmother's Hands is a call to action for all of us to recognize that racism is not about the head, but about the body, and introduces an alternative view of what we can do to grow beyond our entrenched racialized divide. This book paves the way for a new, body-centered understanding of white supremacy—how it is literally in our blood and our nervous system. It offers a step-by-step solution—a healing process—in addition to incisive social commentary.

Register [HERE](#).

Follow-up Reflection Discussion Groups will be scheduled in early 2023



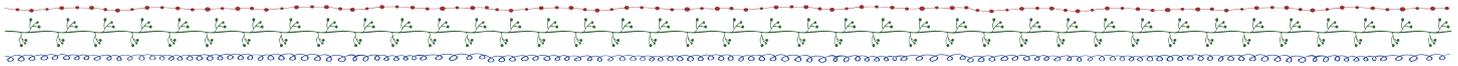
LCUUC Board Members

Harry Nichols & Brynn Vukelich, Co-Presidents
 TBD, Vice President
 Dave Harker, Secretary
 Jon Hubbard, Member
 Tim Fuller, Treasurer (ex-officio)
 Claire Johnson, Member
 Kristin Sanden, Member
 Gail Ostler, Member
 Rev. Carin Bringelson, LCUUC Minister (ex-officio)

HOPE CENTER MEAL Looking for volunteers on December 17th

Calling all LCUUCers to help with our first time back serving a meal at the Hope Center in Waukesha! We have scheduled to serve breakfast on Saturday, December 17th from 9-11 am. We need 5 people to arrive at 7:30am to help prepare and serve the meal (and to bring the items to help prepare it) which includes eggs with cheese, pancakes, syrup, butter, fruit, juice, milk, tea and the VERY popular assorted sweet breads and cookies for a dessert tray. We will be creating a SignUpGenius to help you contribute to help the Hope Center and its clients, even if you are unable to attend on the day.

Items can be dropped off at church by Friday the 16th so that we can pick them up that afternoon to use on the 17th. Please try to either buy/prepare/bring in items to help us to put on the meal, and/or sign up to help us to serve and connect with the clients that morning. We are so excited to have this opportunity once again to help others in our local community. Please save the date! Contact Chris and Beth Peske (bcpeske@gmail.com) with any questions. Look for the SignUpGenius link to be shared in the LCUUC Weekly Upbeat.



The LCUUC CHURCH CALENDAR can be found [HERE](#)

Our Mission

LCUUC is a diverse religious community supporting one another in our spiritual search for truth, meaning and compassionate connection. Based on the Unitarian Universalist Principles and the transforming power of love, we strive for positive change in the world.

Our Vision

2020 LCUUC is an inclusive spiritual community that is diverse, growing, vibrant, and economically sustainable. We provide enriching lifespan education and a strong public presence supporting social justice.

LCUUC Staff & Hours

Church office phone: (262) 369-1703
 * All staff have mailboxes in church office

Minister: Rev. Carin Bringelson, she/her
revcarin@lcuuc.org (262) 369-1703

Rev. Carin's ¾-time schedule includes a Sabbath on Mondays as well as one "Off Week" every four weeks.

Accompianists: Tracy Moraine and Beth Ann Wuerl

Choir/Music Director: Tristan Strelitzer
music@lcuuc.org

Congregational Administrator: Leann Rigoli
admin@lcuuc.org (262) 369-1703
 Administrative hours: Tues, Wed, Fri 8am-4pm



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