



LCUUC NEWSLETTER January 2024

Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church Hartland, Wisconsin

W299 N5595 Grace Drive Hartland, WI 53029 Phone: (262) 369-1703 www.lcuuc.org

Worship Services

Join us in the Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church sanctuary for in-person worship. For an order of service, go to OOS. You can watch the service online here: [LIVE STREAM](#). Sunday services are at 10am. Email joys and sorrows that you want shared aloud during worship to candles@lcuuc.org by 4:00pm on Friday. Masks are welcome but not required. Contributions in the Sunday collection baskets will be used to support LCUUC except for the 2nd Sunday of the month contributions which go to the designated charity/social justice program.

CALENDAR

Wednesdays:

12 Noon-1pm Midweek Meditation Moment

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 4

6-8pm Craft & Chat

Sunday, January 7

10am Worship Service "Guided by Love"

As we set sail into a new year, this service will help us begin to calibrate our compasses for the journey ahead.

Sunday, January 14

10am Worship Service "Liberating Love"

Love is being proposed as the foundational central core of our faith tradition. Join us as we consider the potential of love as a catalyst for change in the world.

Sunday, January 14

1:30-3:30pm Parent Orientation for OWL

at UUCW in Brookfield

Monday, January 15

Family Promise Host Night

Our next host night at Family Promise of Waukesha County's Emergency Overflow Shelter

Saturday, January 20

9am Monthly Nature Meditation

at Hartland Ice Age Marsh

Sunday, January 21

10am Worship Service "Loving What Is"

We see many things we might wish were different in the world. We'll explore the ironic tension between acceptance of current reality and the desire to change things for the better.

Sunday, January 28

10am Worship Service with John Drury

REVEREND MATT'S MUSINGS

You've done it! You made it through another year. This is no small accomplishment. I wonder what blessings this year has held for you? I wonder what lessons this past year has asked you to learn?

Coming into this new year, it feels like we're being called upon to move quickly. To be doing something. Somewhere. This is a very important time in history, after all.

Your Board is working hard to help this organization run as efficiently as it can with the resources you currently have available. They know that you are in a tighter financial stretch, and they are doing what good Boards do - they are working to mitigate risks to the organization's ability to fulfill its larger mission in the world.

I'm transitioning into the next phase of my role here as well. Now that we've gotten to know each other and it feels like a basic level of trust has been established, it's time for us to begin to wade a bit more deeply into our work together. While the Board is working to keep you afloat, my focus will be on helping you decide where you want to point the sails of your next adventure (both individually and collectively).

This community has done great things in the past. You founded a church. You've raised a generation of kids. You've made meaningful contributions to a wide array of social justice initiatives. You're still doing lots of great work today. But you're also facing some challenges. Fewer kids, new demands from a rapidly changing world...what will this community do for an encore?

There's an old saying, "What got you here might not get you there" that applies to the kind of work we're endeavoring to undertake together. While there is value in looking back to glean the valuable lessons that can be brought forward, our faith also challenges us to boldly stay ahead of the demands of an ever-changing world. This type of deep, reflective work takes time, and it takes intention. It can force us to examine some of our most deeply held beliefs. It compels us to consider perspectives we might not have had to consider in the past. It invites us to add new skillsets to our toolboxes.

This is slower work. This is the type of effort we need to settle into over time. To breathe together into life. To allow to emerge.

25 years ago, a small group of parents looked at the challenges of the world, decided they wanted to band together to help prepare each other's kids to face those challenges, and built a church that did just that.

What challenges do you see on the horizon today? What hurts do you want to try to heal? And how do we need to collectively adapt to remain a relevant force for good in your community?

These are exciting questions for exciting times. I am eager to see what new destinations this community sets its sights upon in the coming year. I believe in you, and I can't wait to see how you'll adapt and thrive to face the new challenges of our shared tomorrows.

Hang on, beloveds. It's gonna be a wild ride!

MEETING WITH THE MINISTER

Want to meet with Rev. Matt? He would surely love to meet with you! Find a time that will work for you both by emailing him at minister@lcuuc.org. Rev. Matt's schedule includes a Sabbath on Fridays. Please check the Master Calendar at <https://lcuuc.weebly.com/calendar.html> for his upcoming availability.



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



OUR HOMESCHOOLER GROUPS

Rev. Matt received gifts from or homeschooler groups. Local homeschooler groups have been renting space from LCUUC this past year for various school activities. This has been an additional source of income for our congregation to help offset expenses.

THE TURNING OF THE YEAR: A SPECIAL MUSIC SERVICE

Jane Johnson started by explaining that a survey was done about our worship services. Members expressed interest in more and diverse music. Wow, did this service deliver! Participants were clapping, singing, and dancing. What an inspirational morning and a wonderful way to close out 2023. This truly was a spiritual gospel music celebration. Many thanks to Gervis Myles, Dave Cornette, Chris Lehnert, and Jeff "H" Harrington, members of the Blues Disciples and Tweed Funk from Milwaukee – and great appreciation to Jane Johnson for coordinating this very special morning.



Gervis Myles, vocals
Dave Cornette, drums



"H" Harrington, bass



Chris Lehnert, keyboards



Robert Weiss, guitar

ON BOARD

The Board of Trustees met on December 20. We opened with the customary monthly reports from the Treasurer, the Council Liaisons, and Reverend Matt. Following these reports, the Board welcomed three guests: Val and Bob Wisniewski, owners of Avalon Graphics in Hartland, and Darcy Sobczak, who works with Arrowhead School District youth through GSA, the Gender and Sexuality Alliance.

The dialogue between the Board and our guests was very enlightening and instructive. Topics included the ways LCUUC can develop more presence in the community, how we can become more productive in acting upon our mission and vision, and how we can help fill unmet needs in fostering a free, open, and accepting society.

Other Board business included discussion of various means by which we may reach financial stability, the tasks our committees will take on in this process, their roles and responsibilities, and how we will gauge and measure progress.

Finally, we addressed the issues of member attendance at Board meetings and the channels by which membership can communicate ideas and concerns to the Board.

We hope your holidays were happy!
Mike Campbell

LCUUC Board Members

Harry Nichols & Brynn Vukelich, Co-Presidents

Jon Hubbard, Vice President

Stephanie Tisoris, Secretary

Tim Fuller, Treasurer (ex-officio)

Rev. Matt Aspin, LCUUC Minister (ex-officio)

Mike Campbell, Member

Claire Johnson, Member

Kristin Sanden, Member

Karl Timm, Member

We are a Welcoming Community

For more than twenty years, the Welcoming Congregation Program sponsored by the UUA has helped Unitarian Universalist congregations to become more welcoming and inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The spiritual practice of welcome is a very important one to the LCUUC faith community, and the continuing commitment to bringing attention to and taking action in regards to social justice issues is our work.



FINANCES

In June, our congregation approved a budget for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, with a \$47,000 deficit. This projected deficit is primarily due to the hire of a full-time minister, salary increases to keep up with inflation and decreases in contributions. As of November 30th, we have collected \$77,000 in revenue and spent \$108,000. The cash balance remains high at \$316,000 which includes both restricted funds of \$128,000 and operational funds of \$188,000. While the expenses are right on target with the budget, contributions are below prior years by \$10,000 to \$15,000. We are hoping that the decrease in contributions is due to changes in patterns of giving. The Finance Committee continues to closely monitor the budget and in particular the contributions.

Good news is that the Finance Committee transferred \$240,000 to Landmark Credit Union where we project that we will receive \$10,000 in interest payments. In prior years, we were only receiving less than \$50.

Over the next few years, it is imperative that we close our deficit gap. Stewardship is asking all members to increase their pledges by \$10 per month or \$120 per year. This is much less than a daily cup of coffee from a coffee shop. All Board members have agreed to increase their pledges by at least this amount. While this amount won't make us rich, it will increase our revenues by \$13,000. Hopefully, we can all commit to this small increase in our giving to plug the gap which we approved.

Soon, the Treasurer's Report which provides a snapshot of LCUUC Finances will be posted in the Member Access of the webpage so anyone interested can review our financial information. Finance Committee members are happy to answer any questions. Just email Gail Ostler, at gailostler@live.com.



Please help us close our deficit gap

FAMILY MINISTRY

TEACHERS NEEDED

In the spirit of giving, please check your schedule and sign up for any dates that you might be willing to give of yourself to teach our spirit play, upper-aged, or nursery classrooms. I know you have so many people and places pulling for your time, so please know how much I appreciate from the bottom of my heart all of your energy and efforts. The best thing you can give our children during this holiday season is the gift of YOU! Here is the quick link to sign up (the proverbial cupboard is getting bare):

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MEJgAR7Z7gEmTgheh_f8KC5BkXvmbUALvEqbpc36ciY/edit#gid=0 If you have any questions, please contact Juliet Rogers at cfm@lcuuc.org.



GIVE THE GIFT OF YOU!



OWL ("Our Whole Lives") for Grades 7-9 starts soon!

Space is still available for friends & neighbors of UU families to be part of this truth & values-based class on human sexuality. Led by trained UUCW (Brookfield) and LCUUC (Hartland) facilitators at UUCW in Waukesha (506 N. Washington Avenue, near Waukesha Memorial Hospital).

Important Dates: **SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 from 1:30-3:30pm – PARENT ORIENTATION**

SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 11 – MAY 5 from 5:30-8pm – WEEKLY WORKSHOPS

More details at:

<https://onrealm.org/UUCW/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NmZmNTImOTctNmNmYS00MjJkLWI1MWUtYWZmMTAxMzk2MzNl>

CRAFT & CHAT

Thursday, January 4th 6-8pm

Chris Rollins is hosting CRAFT & CHAT at LCUUC from 6-8pm on the 1st Thursday of every month. Bring your craft projects to work on, bring some topics to chat about, and bring yourself to CRAFT & CHAT! If you want to come to enjoy the space/time but don't have your own projects, there will be adult coloring books provided for anyone to use. There will also be some delicious tea provided. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Rollins at collinscareer@gmail.com



The Caring Circle supports church members who are experiencing personal difficulties.

If you find yourself in need of a helping hand, please contact Paula Hillmann at:

paula.hillmann@gmail.com

or 262-366-5991 (cell).

KINTSUGI SANGHA

We meet every week to meditate together and share our interest in the philosophy of Zen as a way of life. While different from UU in some ways, Zen is very similar in other ways. These two traditions make great roommates. Drop in and visit sometime.



Please check the sangha page on the LCUUC website for current information. It is located under the Community Life drop down tab on the homepage of the LCUUC website. You can also use the link: <https://lcuuc.weebly.com/kintsugi-sangha.html> to get to it directly.

Monthly Nature Meditation – Saturday, January 20th – 9am

Hartland Ice Age Marsh

The January nature meditation will be on Saturday, January 20, 2023 at 9:00am sponsored by the Kintsugi Sangha. The meditation happens on the third Saturday of every month, rain or shine, so dress for the weather. No prior meditation experience is required. We will start with a short reading, then spend twenty minutes quietly experiencing the environment by walking or finding a space to sit (either individually or in small groups – your choice) and observe the sounds, smells, sights and feel of the space. We'll gather again to share the experiences and another short reading before returning to our individual routines. Since this is a meditative experience, we ask that you do not bring things that may be distracting to yourself or others (e.g. pets) and that you silence your communication devices before the meditation starts. For more information, contact Tracy at tracywren@yahoo.com

Here is a Google map link: [Hartland Ice Age Marsh · Cottonwood Ave, Hartland, WI 53029](#)



Sangha Midweek Meditation Moment on Wednesdays in Sanctuary

We'll sit together on Wednesdays from 12:00 noon to 1pm in the LCUUC sanctuary. This is a time to settle, collect your thoughts, and re-establish a sense of calm from everyday stresses and busy-ness. It is different from the Monday night sangha meetings in that this is no talking, all silent: two seated meditation periods and one walking period. No prior experience is necessary. Drop in a few minutes early to have time to take off your coat and shoes in the entryway. Please maintain silence as you enter the sanctuary and find a place to sit either on a cushion or in the front row of pews. The meditation bell will ring promptly at noon. When we are finished at 1pm, please maintain silence as you exit the sanctuary.

For any questions please contact Erich Moraine directly at 414-418-4727 emoraine108@gmail.com



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!

Please visit the LCUUC website for 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.

JANUARY 2024 - Welcome to the Gift of Liberating Love

Love, it sits in the chest,
at least at the start.
It's what makes our heart beat again after being broken,
and our lungs breathe again after being closed off in the dark for far too long.
For some, it came in the form of our grandfather's eyes
which saw us as carriers of something bigger and more precious
and older
than our little bodies disclosed.
For others, it arrived as we pressed hard
against our mothers' warm skin
and heard a speechless whisper say
we can always come home.
We recognize love as the thing that allowed us to finally remove our masks,
or that which said I don't want you to take it off, until you are ready.
We were taught love by those who arrived in the midst of our fear
and shook as we shook, instead of simply trying to make our trembling stop.
But here is the secret. The inevitable awakening.
The wonder that each of our lives is meant to reveal.
Love doesn't just love us;
It asks us to become it.
That's why those metaphors of comforting quilts
which wrap us in their warmth will never do.
True love is always a thunderstorm
that cracks us clean open
so the echoes of other breaking hearts
can make their way in.
Yes, it wants us to be whole and strong.
But love's deepest longing is that we will use that strength
to tear down the structures that leave others bloodied and bruised.
We must always remember what Selma's prophet of peace regularly preached:
Love and power are always rightly wed.
And maybe this is where the second secret comes loose.
As I shake the walls to let others free,
I learn that the ones I've liberated include me.

Unitarian Universalist Orientation Class on Sunday, February 4

Dear LCUUC Members and Friends,

We hope this message finds you well and filled with the spirit of curiosity! As we embark on a new year, we are excited to extend a warm invitation to our upcoming Unitarian Universalist Orientation Class.

Date: February 4, 2024, Time: 11:30 AM Location: LCUUC Room 1

A light lunch will be served.

If you're new to our community, this orientation class is designed to deepen your understanding of Unitarian Universalism and provide valuable insights into the rich tapestry of our diverse and inclusive faith.

What to Expect

Introduction to Unitarian Universalism:

- Discover the core values and principles that unite us as a community.
- Explore the history and evolution of Unitarian Universalism.

Our Beloved Community:

- Learn about the vibrant and welcoming community that makes LCUUC special.
- Connect with fellow seekers and make new friends who share similar spiritual journeys.

Pathways for Engagement:

- Explore the various ways you can become involved in our community, from worship services to social justice initiatives.
- Find your niche and discover how your unique gifts can contribute to our collective well-being.

Q&A Session:

- Have your questions answered by seasoned members and leaders.
- Engage in thoughtful discussions about the Unitarian Universalist faith and its role in today's world.

How to RSVP

To reserve your spot in this enlightening orientation class, please sign up at the Welcome Table or online at [LCUUC.org](https://www.lcuuc.org). Come join us on February 4th at 11:30 AM and take the first step toward discovering a welcoming community where you can be your authentic self. We look forward to sharing this enriching experience with you!

For more information contact Patty Walker, Membership Chair

pattybennettwalker@gmail.com 262-966-3357



LCUUC's Time, Talent & Treasure Online Auction 2024!

We're gearing up for our annual fundraising auction!
It's time to put your thinking caps on and mark your calendars!

What are you able to donate this year to add not only to the fun and connection, but to help support LCUUC??!!

Guidelines for Donations:

If the donation is an event: 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.

Donations accepted through January 31st

Online Auction Friday, February 2nd- Friday, February 16th

Email donations and questions to **Chris Kunert: ckunert2@gmail.com**



SCRIP FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

You can now support LCUUC when you make some of your every-day purchases through the SCRIP Fundraising Program. Please visit the homepage of our website at <http://lcuuc.org/Giving> for details.

christmas eve SERVICES



Gingerbread House Party

Sunday
December 10th



Intergenerational activities are great fun! Many thanks to all who participated.



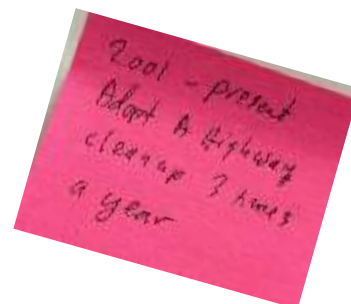
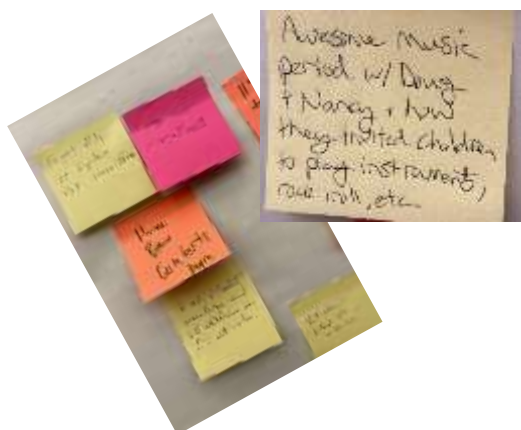
Exploring Our Stories to Plan for Our Future

Congregation members joined with Rev. Matt, the Board, and Rev. Lisa Presley to share stories about LCUUC's history, how this congregation has impacted our lives, and how we want to move forward. Sticky notes were posted to highlight some of our history together.

Friday, December 1, 2023



Rev. Lisa Presley, Congregational Life Primary Contact,
Unitarian Universalist Association Regional Office



How to Get in Trouble

Participants had the opportunity to let Rev. Matt know: "What's the fastest way you can get in trouble at LCUUC?" Here are just a few of the suggestions: (1) Be rigid, (2) Drift too far from Humanism, (3) Be dishonest, (4) Get rid of our traditions, (5) Tell us you're here to fix us, (6) Expect us all to agree, and (7) Have boring sermons.

Rev. Matt was told that we appreciate that he sticks around for coffee and visiting after the worship service!



The tables were unexpectedly turned when Rev. Matt was asked what we could do to get in trouble with him! Rev. Matt responded that he wants us to come up with things the congregation wants to do that are inspiring.

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING OUT ON MONDAY, JANUARY 15

Hello All and Best Wishes for a Very Happy New Year!

I want to thank all of you for your continued support of our Family Promise participation as we have transitioned on to the next model and are helping to support the Emergency Overflow Shelter (EOS) in Waukesha. The EOS provides shelter for families and singles who are experiencing homelessness. These individuals and families come to the EOS only after **every** other available bed in Waukesha is full. Sadly, the EOS has had guests from the first day it opened this fall. We continue to have a healthy census even in the face of the mild weather. (As of today, we are housing 3 families [3 adults and 12 children], and 9 singles [4 men and 5 women]).

Our last host night was December 20 and thanks to the generosity of so many of you we were able to provide and serve a lovely meal and stock the pantry with requested food items. Thank you all for your kindness. It is humbling to be there and share a meal with our guests. They are all so appreciative!

Our next host night is Monday January 15. I will be sharing a Sign Up Genius soon. Please remember that on site volunteers must have completed the training and background check, but there is no training necessary to contribute food for the meal or other supplies. Everyone is welcome to donate!

Thank you all again,

Gina Magnus
LCUUC Volunteer Coordinator for Family Promise
gmarksonmagnus@gmail.com
262-424-7640





Our Mission

LCUUC is a diverse religious community supporting one another in our spiritual searches 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.

The online LCUUC Church Calendar can be found [HERE](#)

LCUUC Staff: All staff have mailboxes in the church office

Minister: Rev. Matt Aspin minister@lcuuc.org

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

Accompanists: Tracy Moraine and Ellen Burgermeister

Coordinator of Family Ministry: Juliet Rogers cfm@lcuuc.org

Congregational Administrator: Leann Rigoli admin@lcuuc.org

Church Office Phone: (262) 369-1703

Administrative Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm

New Newsletter Editor:

Cathy Wendorf Peterson newsletter@lcuuc.org

Please submit articles by the 25th of each month. Constructive criticism and suggestions welcome 😊

BONUS PAGE:

At the Christmas Eve worship service, we were given what looked like gift bags as we entered the sanctuary. It turned out that they were filled with items we needed to pull out of the bag one by one as we recited a prayer together that was shown on the overhead screen. This page is an attempt to recreate a bit of that experience and give all of us food for thought for the new year ahead.

First, we were instructed to pull out the heart shaped sticker and then we recited together:

May this heart help me remember
That I am like the innkeeper
May this heart help me remember
That I can open my heart to others



Next, we were instructed to pull out the cotton ball and then we recited together:

May this softness help me remember
That I am like a shepherd
May this softness help me remember
That I need to care about others

Then, we were instructed to pull out the loop of gold tinsel and put it on our heads.

Then we recited together:

May this halo help me remember
That I am surrounded by love
And may this halo help me to remember
We are each a part of the Angels song



Finally, we were instructed to pull out the gold star sticker and we recited together:

May this star remind me
Of the brightness of wisdom
That is with me wherever I go

Rev. Matt leading this experience and wearing his tinsel halo and sticker heart. Many thanks to Juliet Rogers, our Coordinator of Family Ministry, for planning and organizing this very special Christmas Eve worship service.

