

"Environmental Issues of Our Time" Course

The Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church Green Sanctuary Committee will be offering a 6-week course on Environmental Issues of our Time, beginning in February, 2015. The primary goal of this course is to increase knowledge and understanding of current environmental issues, which will enable us to make better informed choices (e.g., what we purchase, do on our property, how we vote) and act as better stewards of the Earth. This is in keeping with the principle of *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part*. It is important to recognize that **we** are also part of this web of existence. Activities such as mining and fracking not only impact the environment, but also humans living in that environment. Economically disadvantaged and minority groups are often disproportionately affected in a negative way. Increased knowledge and understanding of these issues will put participants in a better position to work toward environmental justice

The course will be led by Elisabeth Harrahy, an Associate Professor at University of Wisconsin - Whitewater and LCUUC member.

The course will run on Sundays from noon to 1:30 from February 15 through March 29, with the exception of March 8, at Lake Country UU Church, W299N5595 Grace Drive, Hartland.

A different topic will be presented each week:

- Feb. 15: Hydraulic fracturing (a.k.a., fracking)
- Feb: 22: Endocrine disruptors (including pharmaceuticals) in our water and wastewater
- Mar. 1: Eutrophication and blue-green algae blooms
- Mar. 8: NO SESSION
- Mar. 15: Mining (mountaintop removal in the Appalachians, proposed open pit iron mine in WI)
- Mar. 22: Pesticides (Atrazine, glyphosate, 2,4-D)
- Mar. 29: Threats to Lake Michigan (including invasive species)

Each session will include a PowerPoint presentation (lots of photos, brief video clips) that introduces the topic and focuses on environmental (and sometimes human health) impacts. Open discussion time (with some guiding questions) will follow. Optional homework may include brief papers to read and a documentary to watch (e.g., *Gasland*).

A donation to LCUUC of \$5 per session is suggested and can be offered at the time of the class.

If you are interested in participating in this course, **please sign up by Jan. 25, 2015**. There is a minimum number of participants needed for the course to go forward. Look for the sign-up sheet on the church "Green Sanctuary" bulletin board, or sign up by emailing the church office (admin@lcuuc.org), including your name, phone number, and the name of the course "Environmental Issues" in your message."

Contact Elisabeth Harrahy, Gerry Flakas or Ray Grosch, or email the church office, for any questions.

