

November Newsletter

For questions or details regarding any activities listed below, please send an email to church@lcuuc.org or call our church office at 262-369-1703.

Get Involved/Things to Do

November Fourth Sunday Outing

On November 26th join us for a leisurely, level hike on the Ice Age Trail along the Oconomowoc River near North Lake. Along the way I'll introduce you to Geocaching. Can we find the hidden caches? Bring a lunch to eat at church or grab a bite on your way. We'll meet at 12:30 at the parking lot off Funk Road about 1/4 mile west of Hwy E.

December Third Saturday Outing

In December, let's go to Retzer Nature Center's Planetarium Show, *The Season of Lights*. "This beautiful holiday season program investigates the most fascinating winter solstice celebrations from all over the world. It also searches for possible explanations for the 'Star' seen by the Wise men." We'll see the 2:00 pm show on Saturday, December 16th. Tickets are \$4.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12 and seniors age 60 and up. Reservations are recommended; call 262-548-7801.

For more information about either outing check the bulletin board or ask Liz K at the church office.

Make A Difference Day, November 11th

We will have two groups helping elderly individuals with yard work on November 11th as part of Interfaith's Make A Difference Day. Both yards are in Hartland. The groups will meet from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. If you'd like to help out, please contact Kerry D at the church office

Choral Notes

We invite you to experience the joy of singing with LCUUC's choir for the Christmas season. Rehearsal for Christmas music will begin in mid-November and we will perform at the service on December 17th. This is a nice opportunity to "give choir a try." Contact Karen H at the church office.

The November Movie that Matters

Come and see the documentary, *The Future of Food*, by Deborah Koons Garcia on November 4th, at 7:00 pm. This film is an in-depth investigation into the disturbing truth behind the unlabeled, patented, genetically engineered foods that have quietly filled grocery store shelves for the past decade. Are you aware that an estimated 60% of all processed food is genetically modified? Why should this matter? See this film! (Deborah Garcia, who made this documentary, is better known as the widow of Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead.) Donations will be collected to support Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, a public non-profit organization founded in 1984 that provides organic farmer & gardener education as well as research, policy, and market development promoting sustainable agriculture. Organic snacks will be served and a discussion will follow. This is an open event, so bring your family and friends to view this *Movie that Matters!*

Other Announcements:

As We Approach Thanksgiving Submitted by Tim Fuller, Board President

Our church community has a few traditions that we have nurtured since the beginning of our existence: Flower Communion, Water Communion, Child Welcoming, and New Member Welcoming are good examples. All have the celebration of our community in common, and most have something to do with food; usually special snacks or a community meal is served. We are fast approaching our annual Thanksgiving meal on November 19th. I'm not sure whether it falls under unintended consequences or unforeseen ones, but having morning services in our own building will require some adjustments to this celebration. We will have the meal after the service; that's a no-brainer. Storage and/or on-site preparation of food will be a challenge since we don't quite have the kitchen or oven space we had at Jerusalem Presbyterian Church, but several creative solutions have already been proposed. There will be sign up sheets posted in the social hall. You will receive more information in the order of service, on the polylogue, and through announcements during the upcoming services. I want to encourage all our members and friends to attend this event. We have much to be thankful for as a church community. Let us be thankful together.

UU Orientation Class

New members, those thinking about joining the church, and friends are encouraged to attend a two-part UU Orientation Class. The first part is on Saturday, Nov. 11th from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. This part will be led by our minister, and will focus on our ongoing spiritual journeys. The second part will be on Sunday, Nov. 12th from 11:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. During this time we will share the history of Unitarian Universalism, LCUUC's history, governance, current programming, what it means to be a member and ways to get involved. It is a great way to connect with others and learn about our church. A light lunch will be provided on Sunday for participants. Childcare will be available for those who request it in advance. Please contact Yvonne F or Lynne S at the church office by November 5th if you are interested in attending or have questions.

2006 FRUIT AND NUUT SALE

The annual SEWUUC fruit and nut sale, sponsored by Southeastern Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist Congregations, will be held in October. Orders will be taken at our church from October 8 to October 29. Delivery of your orders will be on Sunday, November 12. The proceeds of the sale of the delicious nuts, dried fruits, and candies are used to spread the "good news" of our liberal faith through sponsorship on Wisconsin public radio stations. Mary P or a helper will take orders during coffee hour after the Sunday services.

Social Action

Outreach Meals: LCUUC has committed to provide 6-10 volunteers to help serve the Outreach Meal on Friday, November 24th from 5-7 pm. These are held at St. Matthias Episcopal Church at 111 E. Main Street in Waukesha. We have also been asked to bring 4 gallons of milk and dessert to serve 40. Please contact Helen B at the church office if you are able to volunteer.

CROP Walk: Nine LCUUC folks joined the 100 or so walkers in the Lake Country CROP Walk in Hartland on October 1. CROP Walks are interfaith community events to build

awareness and raise funds for sustainable self-help and development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance in more than 80 countries. 25% of the funds raised go to local food pantries. Donations are still trickling in, but at last count the Lake Country CROP Walk has raised over \$3000. Thanks to all who walked, or donated to, this event.

10 Tree Challenge: UU Ministry for Earth issued a challenge to all member congregations to plant 10 native non-invasive trees this year. LCUUC met this challenge (in a small way) by planting 10 burr oak trees, donated by one of our members, on the southeast quarter of our property. Some day this area could be a savannah, dominated by these 10 trees. In the meantime, you will have to look hard to see them, and use a lot of imagination, but they are there.

Adopt A Highway: We completed our Adopt A Highway road cleanup season on September 30, and said “so long” to our Capitol Drive stretch and the Sluggers Bar parking lot rendezvous. Next year we will have Highway E, from K (just northwest of LCUUC) north to Highway EF. We will be able to meet at the LCUUC parking lot, on the days and times of our choice, not subject to working around a business establishment's business hours. And one of the roads leading to LCUUC will have our name on it!

Social Justice Empowerment Workshop a Success!

We had a great turnout at our Social Justice Empowerment Workshop on Saturday, October 14. Sixteen of us came together to help determine the direction of social action work in this congregation. We began by making a list of many of the social action projects we have been involved in. The list was long and quite extensive—we have done a lot! And we could continue to do a myriad of activities, potentially offering something for everyone, but we question how much we are really making a difference. We talked about the potential to go deeper, focusing on one or two main issues, and working at the local, state and national level on them—being involved with service, education and advocacy for these issues.

The priorities we identified as those we would like to focus on were Energy Conservation and Economic Empowerment. Although we are passionate about both of these, we decided that the one we are more prepared to focus on initially is Energy Conservation. Under Economic Empowerment, there was discussion of getting involved by working at a deeper level in the areas of Homelessness, Health Care and Hunger. The consensus was that we need to do some research to find out where the biggest needs are in our community and what organizations we could potentially partner with.

This decision to “go deeper” means that some of the things we have been doing will have to be let go. The Social Action committee will not organize and sponsor some of the collections and activities done in the past. However, since so many of us are involved in worthwhile social justice projects all the time, we will be putting up a new bulletin board—an “ad-hoc,” free-speech area where members can post other events, initiatives and information that aren't being coordinated by the church. Phil S volunteered to work, with our youth, on monitoring what's up on this board. We will simply ask that each posting be identified by the person who's posting it. The Social Action bulletin board will only highlight the work being done through our Social Action committee. Gerry F will oversee this board.

So, some changes and some opportunities—there is so much that we, as a congregation can do. We welcome your involvement. We will need your help. If you have ideas or would like to get involved, take on a task, or perhaps even join our committee, please talk to any of the members of the social action committee: Kerry D, Helen B, Liz K, Janica Y or Gerry F. Give us your feedback; volunteer to join us! This will be an exciting time for LCUUC!

FROM THE MINISTER'S MAILBOX

Dear Ones,

Our fabulous Open House Sunday has come and gone! It was a wonderful day and I am so glad to have been a part of it. Many people worked untold hours on the event, just as so many worked on the Building Dedication Ceremony just one month previously. LCUUC is a very busy place. That's a great thing! And LCUUC is a place with many talented and dedicated members & friends. That's a great thing, too! But LCUUC is also a place where fatigue and burnout can become real threats to the vitality of congregational life.

With the first snow flurries having already made their debut, the sound of crackling logs in the fireplace becomes the seasonal mantra, and we know that school vacations and family gatherings are on the way. The next couple of months will be extremely busy for many of us. We will need to nurture ourselves, our families, and each other. I would suggest for you, as members & friends of LCUUC, the question I put to myself during this time of year: Is *now* necessary? With that question in mind, I ask myself if taking on a particular project, or adding on another responsibility, right *now*, is necessary. The key word for me is 'necessary'. More often than not, it won't hurt to wait until the new year to take on a new task. Social activist Dorothy Day said, "There is always work to be done". Of course, she is right and there are times when 'now is necessary'. However, when now is *not* necessary, we need to give others and ourselves permission to say so.

When I return on Nov. 12, I will be speaking about what membership means, and I can tell you that it *doesn't* mean working yourself to the point of exhaustion for months on end. Getting the hard work done is only a part of it. Membership also means caring for yourself in order to be a healthy, happy, productive part of the life of LCUUC. And it means caring for each other.

May we all enjoy this exciting time of year filled with holidays, families, friends, good food, flannel sheets, and a few minutes of quiet for ourselves. May we give ourselves permission to slow down and smell the pumpkin pie!

Blessings to you,

Kathleen Green
Your MOD Minister