

May 2007 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

REMINDER: There will be no *Movie That Matters* in May. Come to the Brew Fest the first Saturday of the month instead!

Adopt A Highway

Our new stretch of road for the Waukesha County Adopt-A-Highway program is Highway E, from the intersection with K (northwest corner of LCUUC property) north to where E turns sharply to the west (about 1-1/2 miles total). This program requires that we pick up the roadside trash 3 times a year - spring, summer, & fall. Takes about 2 hours total, and is a nice sociable walk in addition to doing something to help our environment. Our spring cleanup will be on Saturday morning, May 5. Meet at the LCUUC parking lot at 9:30AM. Wear good walking shoes, gloves and a hat; we supply the bags, orange vests, and refreshments! Contact Gerry F at the church office if any questions.

Attention All Football Enthusiasts:

We are in the process of organizing an "OVERS vs. UNDERS" soccer day. As many will recall from past matches, the OVERS possess (or at least think they possess) superior skill but have lesser ability in areas of speed, endurance, balance, etc. We consider it a *win* simply if we don't get injured. Now the UNDERS are obviously superior in far too many areas that include... everything the OVERS lack as well as raw talent, quickness, etc. Stay tuned for more details about the big match!

Meditation Mondays

In May we will return to our usual 2nd Monday of the Month Meditation Gatherings led by Paul Norton of the Order of Interbeing. We'll meet from 7 – 9 pm on May 14th at the church. Paul will offer instruction in meditation from 6:30-7:00 pm for beginners or those wishing to have a refresher. Over the next year we will loosely use the book *A Path With Heart*, by Jack Kornfield, as a guide. In May we will study chapters 2 and 3, but it is fine to come without having read the material. Meditation Mondays are free and open to all members, friends, and community members. Please call Joanne N at the church office with any questions.

UU're Home

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) can fulfill your dream. For 27 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at 828-281-3253 or at info@uurehome.com, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

Host listings on the *UU're Home* website at www.UUreHome.com are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published every year in April (and has many listings different from those on the website). For a copy of the 2007 directory, please send a check for \$20 (or \$25 and your e-mail address for both the book and a year's access to the website) to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

HomebrUU II

With the aromas of hops and barley and good cheer in the air, the 2nd Annual LCUUC HomebrUU Competition takes place on May 5, beginning at 7:00 pm. For the teams, and you know who you are, please note that over the next couple weeks, competition guidelines will be emailed out, and a sign-up sheet will be posted in the Social Hall. Please sign up for a job to help with the event, munchies that need washing down, and of course, a designated driver, which all teams are required to have. For the rest of you, you are all welcome to come (and so is your wallet, as it is a fundraiser). There is no charge to attend, and snacks and beverages are provided. There will be a silent auction, a "name the imposter" competition, live entertainment, witty mock commercials/skits, wild and crazy label art, and the opportunity for YOU TOO to vote on the best frothy goodness that LCUUC has to offer. This event is limited to LCUUC members and guests, 21 years of age and older. Remember: Don't brew, ferment, and keep it all bottled up inside. What good is a full head if you have no heart, or great worts but no action? Open up to others! Come share our good spirits!

ANNUAL RUMMAGE/PLANT SALE Friday May 18th and Saturday May 19th 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Our Second Annual LCUUC Rummage/Plant Sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 18th and 19th, at our church. It is time to start putting things aside for the sale. Items that sell well at rummage sales are furniture, small electronics, kitchen items, toys, tools, sports

equipments, antiques, children's clothing, infant items, books, bikes, games, and lawn and garden equipment. No adult clothing please. Delivery of rummage items to the church can begin before and after church services on May 6th & May 13th; place items along the back wall of the Fellowship Hall. You can also bring items to the church Monday, May 14th & Wednesday, May 16th from 5:00 to 6:30 PM or call Kay S at the church office to make other arrangements. Please bring items priced and in clean condition.

Plants of all types are welcome for the plant sale. Some examples are: house plants, garden perennials, shrubs, prairie plants, and young annuals. Last year, larger perennials such as hostas, ferns, bleeding hearts, irises, and daylilies sold extremely well. Small trees and shrubs also sold well. Plants may be individually potted or larger perennials may be split into clumps and bagged in double plastic grocery bags. Please identify with the common name (if not obvious) and flower color (if applicable). Deliver your plants to the church (May 14 – 18). Place them behind the garden shed.

We will need your help organizing, selling, and advertising this sale. There will be a signup sheet for helpers in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions please contact Kay S for the rummage sale and Deb S for the plant sale at the church office.

Other Announcements:

Fundraising

Scrip Opportunities: You can order or purchase scrip from a variety of over 70 gas stations, grocers and other retailers, earning money for LCUUC through purchases you would make anyway! Some of the most popular items include Kwik Trip, Speedway, BP, Kohls, Piggly Wiggly, & Sentry. Or, consider gift cards for Barnes & Noble, Best Buy or Panera Bread. PLEASE NOTE: Once we deplete our current stock, we are no longer maintaining a scrip inventory, and we are only ordering once per month. New scrip orders for May should be turned in by Tuesday, May 15. Payment is due when you receive your scrip order, which should be available at the Sunday, May 20 service. For a listing of available scrip, pick up an order form in the Social Hall, or contact John S at the church office.

Child Dedication Ceremony

Unitarian Universalism is not known for its many rituals and sacraments. Quite the contrary, we have few. However, one that is most widely held and beautiful is that of Child Dedication. It has been said that most cultures, through their various systems of belief, have created celebrations to honor the miracle of birth and the responsibility of family and the larger community for a child's education, including its religious education. Our Unitarian Universalist

faith is no exception. During the morning worship service on Mother's Day, May 13, we will have a child dedication ceremony. If you would like to have your child dedicated in this special way, please contact Rev. Green at minister@lcuuc.org or Yvonne F at the church office.

Mother's Day For Peace

Sunday, May 13th 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Looking for a special way to celebrate Mother's Day? How about taking back the original meaning of Mother's Day - a day to work for peace. Back in 1870, mothers came together to bemoan the carnage of the civil war and urged women to work for peace. This year, bring your family to Mother's Day For Peace - an afternoon that will include music, inspiring speakers, a children's "peace bike parade", creating a peace mural, and more.

This year, Mother's Day For Peace will be held at LCUUC from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. The High School class will be selling a simple lunch after social hour to raise money for their trip to New Orleans. After lunch, we hope many of you will be able to help set up for and attend the afternoon's activities.

We hope to have this event outside, so we are asking everyone to dress for the weather and bring lawn chairs and blankets to sit on. Youngsters are encouraged to bring their bikes, decorated with their ideas to represent peace, for a short parade. If the weather is bad, we'll host the event in the church.

Please help make the 3rd annual Mother's Day For Peace a special part of Mother's Day this year. Bring your mom and invite your friends and neighbors.

Questions? Contact Kerry D at the church office.

Becoming an Effective Advocate

Submitted by Patty W

“Your legislators are here for you, use us!” Those are the words State Senator Lena Taylor, 4th district, Milwaukee, used to open the *Putting Faith into Action* conference on March 27. This conference, hosted by Interfaith, was open to members of congregations to learn how to advocate on behalf of issues of concern to faith communities. Senator Taylor's message was clear: If people voice their concerns, they can effect change, but the way they go about it makes a difference. Some of the Senator's suggestions for getting our voices heard, in Waukesha, Madison or Washington, are:

- Communicate by writing or in person. When writing, try to personalize it in some way that increases the chance it will get past staff so that the legislator will read it personally. For example, write on a greeting card instead of standard stationary.
- Strength in numbers. If you have others who share your concern, be sure to state this in your communication. The next election is always looming for legislators and the prospect of votes and volunteers is powerful.
- Be clear and specific in your communication. Ask for a specific action, ask for a response, and make your priorities plain.

Carolyn Castor of the Midwest States Center expanded on these ideas in her workshop on *Effective Advocacy*. She believes one of the best ways to influence legislators is to invite them to have a conversation with your group of concerned citizens. Representing your viewpoint, it works well to have a small group of well-informed citizens from mixed districts. It is very important to emphasize this is a conversation, not a debate, where confrontation is not employed, but ideas are shared and solutions are brainstormed. A good strategy is to use memorable stories that illustrate your concern.

In the *Mobilizing Your Congregation to Take Action* workshop, the following suggestions were presented:

- Bring in experts to explain the issue you wish to take action on.
- Encourage the minister to talk about the issue from the pulpit.
- Form a team to take the lead.
- Reduce the issue to a one page, easily understandable explanation of the issue that defines what action is needed. Define the action in order to include more people. Could be learning, support, anything that in some way advances the cause in the desired direction.
- Involve people of all ages.

In listening to concerns voiced by representatives of congregations from all over the Greater Milwaukee area at the *Putting Faith into Action* conference, it became clear that LCUUC is a leader when it comes to moving beyond talk to action. We hope LCUUC can use this information to continue to put our UU principles into action.

RE News

We Believe in Peace

Did you know that there is a Unitarian Universalist Office at the UN? LCUUC's third through fifth grade class recently studied the United Nations and the Unitarian Universalist Office there as part of the We Believe curriculum. In class, the children worked together to create their own nations, designed flags for them, and created descriptions of their geography and government. They came up with a list of things that they believe are important to work for in order to bring about world peace:

“We think peace would be more likely in the world if the United Nations would:

- Teach people to resolve conflicts peacefully
- Provide housing, food, water, and medicine to people who need it
- Provide guards to protect people during conflicts
- Provide a jury to help countries resolve conflicts peacefully
- Encourage people to pick up litter and protect the environment
- Help people to talk their ideas out peacefully

...We know that the United Nations is working toward many of these goals already, and we are glad that Unitarian Universalists are helping the United Nations to create a peaceful world.”

With the help of RE teacher Sue Lewis, the class shared these ideas in a letter to our fellow UUs who are working at the United Nations.

Summer RE: Adults, Share Your Passion with Our Children (Yes, you!)

What’s your absolute favorite thing to do? Yoga? Drama? Cooking? Kites? Geography? Gardening? Passion can be infectious, and we want our kids to catch it! Would you be willing to lead a one-time “mini-workshop” on your special interest during one of the 2 summer worship services? (July 15 and August 12) The activity would need to fill about 40 minutes for a group of no more than 10 children and younger youth. It can be as formal, or as informal as you like. You don’t need to be an expert--just share your enthusiasm. I’d like to offer at least 3 mini-workshops each Sunday, each including a Principles and Purposes component. (It’ll work--just ponder it for a minute.) Could you lead a nature activity? Origami? Storytelling? Art? Kites? Puppets? Labyrinth walking? Drumming? Songwriting? See the DRE, Christi E at the church office ASAP if even a little voice inside you says, “this might be fun...”. (You don’t have to go it alone--assistance for leading a workshop is available, as well as supplies and other resources.)

Calling all Young Musicians

RE Sunday is coming up on June 3rd. Kids, your musical contribution is needed to help us make a “joyful noise” during our annual worship service celebrating children’s religious education. (Accompanists are available.) Please see Christi E or Karen H at the church office.

UU-Ministry For Earth/Green Sanctuary

The Green Sanctuary committee was started in January of this year. Our church is a member of the UU-Ministry For Earth program, whose mission is “to facilitate and support the work of Unitarian Universalists by affirming and promoting ‘respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.’ We do this by focusing on the theological, spiritual, and ethical aspects of human activities that affect the health and sustainability of the living earth.”

Our mission at LCUUC is:

“The Green Sanctuary Committee of Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church is guided by the wisdom of the 7th Principle of the UUA – to “respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part”. We strive to be consistent with the mission of the Green Sanctuary Program of the UU Ministry for Earth. We seek to stimulate dialog on the theological, spiritual, and ethical aspects of human activities that affect the health and sustainability of the living earth, and to promote and support practices and activities consistent with these ideals - at LCUUC in our congregation, worship, and facilities; with the lifestyle choices of our members, friends and families; and as a member of the Lake Country community.”

We now have 33 members on our eco_list, which we use to communicate ideas and plans among our members. We welcome more of you to join, be part of the polylog, and participate in learning about, and defining the direction and details, of our works.

Some of the things we have accomplished so far are:

- * Presented the April 22 “Earth Day” worship service, to communicate who we are, what are our plans and accomplishments, and how the principles and practices of Green Sanctuary can benefit you, our church, and the community.
- * Had an energy audit by WE Energies last fall, which identified energy-saving opportunities and incentives from WE Energies.
- * Planted 10 (small) burr oak trees on the property last fall, the start of a native oak savannah.
- * Upgraded our EXIT signs, window spotlights, and hallway lights to high efficiency light emitting diode (LED) or compact fluorescent (CFL), saving over 3,600 kilowatt-hours (\$360) per year in our electric consumption, at a net cost (after rebates) of \$50.
- * Installed an insulating blanket on the water heater.
- * LCUUC is participating at the 25% level in WE Energies’ “Energy For Tomorrow” program, which means that 25% of our electricity is provided by renewable (wind, landfill gas, hydro, and solar) sources.

Some things “in the works” are:

- * Upgrade the fluorescent lighting in the kitchen and social hall to high efficiency lamps and ballasts (no “buzzing”).
- * Install a bike rack to promote alternatives to driving to church.
- * Formulate a naturalized landscape plan, with the Landscaping Committee.
- * Enter the Hartland Independence Day parade (July 1), to promote Energy Independence.
- * Hold a “Choices for Sustainable Living” discussion group.
- * Present forums to the public on energy conservation and sustainable living.
- * Replace our “energy hog” refrigerator with an “Energy Star”.
- * Propose installing a solar photovoltaic system as a demonstration project.

What’s in it for you, and what you can do:

- * Learn about why and how to save energy and \$\$\$.
- * Learn about why and how to live a more sustainable lifestyle.
- * Join and participate in the Green Sanctuary Committee.
- * Join and participate in the Landscaping Committee.
- * Participate in Green Sanctuary workshops and forums.
- * Join and support local environmental and energy conservation groups.
- * Subscribe to your utility’s “renewable energy” program.
- * Put the wisdom of the 7th Principle into practice in your life!

FROM THE MINISTER'S MAILBOX

Dear Ones,

Here we are nearing the end of the regular church year and I have but three more weekends to be with you as your minister. I will be leading two services in May, and my last service will be on June 10. What a bittersweet time this is, and as such, I have been doing quite a bit of reflection lately. I think it appropriate to share with you some of my thoughts on the subject of reflection as it relates to three particular elements of our worship service.

Joys & Concerns – What a privilege it is to be a part of this ritual in a Beloved Community. One dictionary definition of reflection is careful thought, and sharing our most pressing concerns and joyous occasions is a sacred time that deserves careful thought. Joys & Concerns is not intended as a political platform, announcement venue, or weekend update. It is about the milestones of our lives that we feel called to share with our spiritual community. Reflecting on what we would share and what is shared by others will lift up the sacred nature of this unique practice and strengthen our bonds of community.

Polylogue – Some of you may have wondered why I do not include a polylogue in the worship services that I lead. As a minister, and from my not-so-distant experience as a layperson, I do not find talkback forums such as the Polylogue particularly worshipful. This is not to say that there is not a need or place for them, as I believe there is. Another definition of reflection that I recently found may be useful here. It is the process of reconsidering. Reconsidering requires consideration, and for most people that isn't easily accomplished in a matter of a brief moment. Often, a polylogue immediately after the sermon tends to encourage reaction rather than reflection. Reflecting on our feelings and initial reactions will encourage a more profound and fruitful dialogue among us.

Postlude – Another hot topic in many congregations! I have been leaving the service each Sunday after my words of benediction, and as the Postlude is beginning, so that I might stand at the doors and greet you individually as you leave. I will not be doing that any longer. I still hope to greet you, but I will leave when the service concludes; that is, when the postlude is finished. Lately, I have realized how much I miss spending those few minutes in reflection – contemplation - as a way to complete my experience with the worship service. In our rushing to the door to greet people, or rushing to get a cup of coffee (no matter how much we might need that caffeine!) we may be denying ourselves of the possibility of something wonderful. Just as the Prelude helps to prepare us for the service and gives us a few minutes to center and quiet ourselves, the postlude gives us a few minutes to reflect on what we have just experienced and what we might take with us when we leave. Reflecting on our worship experience will provide us with either inspirational or challenging (and sometimes both) touchstones for the week ahead as we go about our daily lives in the wider world.

I share these thoughts with you not to dictate what you must do or not do, but simply that you might reflect upon them! See you in church.

Your MOD Minister,
Rev. Kathleen A.Green