



News for Lake Country UUs

Lake Country Unitarian Universalists
rejoice in life, find the sacred, seek justice,
with open minds and hearts.

MAY 2008

Rev. Linda Berez, Minister
Kerry Duma, Director of Religious Education
Karen Haskell, Choir Director

Sunday Services and Religious Education for Children/Youth—10:00 a.m.

W299 N5595 Grace Drive, Hartland, 53029

At the intersection of Hwy E and Hwy K

May 4: "Messages from Earth—Are We Listening?" by Sue Loomans

This is our annual Earth Day service presented by the Green Sanctuary Committee. Sue Loomans, a climatologist who was one of our speakers at last fall's Step It Up 2007 rally, will be our guest speaker. We are planning to hold this service outside, weather permitting, and to have outdoor Earth-related activities, such as Adopt A Highway and tree planting, after the service. Come prepared for the outdoors!

May 11: "Mother's Day for Peace," by Rev. Linda Berez

The observance of a Mothers' Peace Day was begun in the 1870s, based on an idea from Unitarian Julia Ward Howe, and was eventually replaced by the Mother's Day holiday we now celebrate. Howe's hope for peace and an end to war is just as relevant today as it was back then. The service will also include a Ceremony of Dedication for the children of members of the congregation who were born during this past year or who are new to the community (see below).

May 18: "Finding the Truth," by Rev. Linda Berez

What is truth? Where do we find meaning? As Unitarian Universalists we are encouraged to search freely and responsibly for answers to these questions throughout our lives. Please join Rev. Linda Berez on a journey into the places where truth and meaning might be found in our lives.

May 25: "Against All Enemies," by Lori Gorgas Hlaban

Members of the military take an oath to protect the country against all enemies, foreign and domestic. In this Memorial Day service, we will consider military veterans, and others, to be honored as veterans in the struggle to ensure freedom for all.



Child Dedication Ceremony—May 11

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 worship service on Mother's Day, May 11, we will have a Child Dedication Ceremony. If you would like to have your child dedicated in this special way or if you have any questions, please contact Rev. Linda Berez at minister@lcuuc.org or 262-369-1703.





A Note From Our Minister

Greetings,

I am very happy and pleased to let you know that the Board of Trustees offered me the opportunity to serve Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church for one more year and I accepted. I look forward to continuing my work with the Board, our Religious Education Director, the Membership Committee, and all others, as we get close to reaching the 120-member milestone. I look forward to new UU classes, teaching and leading more Adult Education classes and discussion groups, another possible "Movies with the Minister" series, leading worship twice a month, and other activities. I'm also very open to hearing from you if there is something you'd be interested in me leading next year, or if you have a sermon topic suggestion. I won't promise that I will be able to fulfill all requests but I'll seriously consider any proposal.

As for the rest of this church calendar year, I'm looking forward to the upcoming services this month. On Mother's Day, in addition to our service on peace, we will also take time to dedicate some of the children new to our church. This Ceremony of Dedication is a special one because it is a time when the community blesses, celebrates, and welcomes these children. The service on the 18th will be on my favorite UU principle, the fourth, which is about affirming the search for truth and meaning. I hope you will be able to make it to both of these services.

This is also the time of year when some of our youth will be graduating from High School. I have always been concerned with what happens to our Unitarian Universalist teens as they become young adults and leave their home UU churches and go off to college or decide not to continue attending services for whatever reason. So I wanted to help to find a way for them and other young adults to stay connected to our movement. That is why, when I was the ministerial intern for the Church of the Larger Fellowship, I worked to make the Church of the Younger Fellowship a reality. As they say on their website at www.uucyf.org, the CYF is a specialized ministry effort of the Church of the Larger Fellowship designed to meet the needs of spiritual young adults ages 18-35. It currently ministers to hundreds of young adults worldwide. If you are interested in more information about this unique ministry to young adults, please email or call me or Kerry Duma, and be sure to check out the CYF website.

Finally, May brings the "Movies with the Minister" series to a close with *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. Of all of the Harry Potter movies, with the exception of the first one, I have to say I enjoyed this one the most. I hope you to see you on May 10th at 6 p.m.

Congratulations to everyone graduating soon. Be safe, be well, and take care.

Linda

Office Hours—Rev. Linda Berez is available by appointment. You may call the church office at 262-369-1703 x500 and leave a message or email her directly at minister@lcuuc.org.

Movies with the Minister: *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* will be shown on May 10 at 6 p.m. in the Social Hall at church.

☞ May Calendar of Events* ☛

(all events at LCUUC unless otherwise noted)

| | | |
|---------------|---|--------------------|
| Every Tuesday | SOS | 7-8:30 p.m. |
| Sunday, 4 | Choir rehearsal | 8:30 a.m. |
| | Treble choir rehearsal | 9:25 a.m. |
| | Food/needs collection | During the service |
| Monday, 5 | Publicity Committee | 7-9 p.m. |
| Thursday, 8 | Church Board | 7 p.m. |
| Saturday, 10 | <i>Harry Potter & the Order of the Phoenix</i> | 6 p.m. |
| Sunday, 11 | Treble choir rehearsal | 9:25 a.m. |
| | (No adult choir rehearsal) | |
| | Child Dedication Ceremony | During the service |
| Tuesday, 13 | Meditation (instruction at 6:30 p.m., see pg. 10) | 7-9 p.m. |
| Wednesday, 14 | Waukesha Co. Affordable Housing Task Force (see pg. 9) | 10-11:30 a.m. |
| Wednesday, 14 | Social Action Committee | 6:30 p.m. |
| Saturday, 17 | Socrates Café, tentative, location tbd | 7 p.m. |
| Sunday, 18 | Choir rehearsal | 8:30 a.m. |
| | LCUUC Activity Fair | After the service |
| Wednesday, 21 | Waukesha Co. Affordable Housing Task Force (see pg. 9) | 10-11:30 a.m. |
| Sunday, 25 | Choir rehearsal | 8:30 a.m. |
| | Treble choir rehearsal | 9:25 a.m. |
| | LCUUC Activity Fair | After the service |
| Tuesday, 27 | Meditation (see pg. 10) | 7-9 p.m. |
| Thursday, 29 | Book discussion on <i>The Battle for God</i> by Karen Armstrong* | 7 p.m. |
| Saturday, 31 | LifeWays' Spring Festival | All day |

* Read to page 132. Led by Rev. Linda Berez. Call or email to confirm your attendance.

Note: There will be a wedding rehearsal at the church on May 16 and a wedding on the 17th (Noon - 4:30 p.m.).

Calendar Reminder: If you have a church-related event that you're trying to schedule, please e-mail secretary@lcuuc.org to make sure the date(s) you're planning are free of conflicts. Also, if you are the chair of a committee, please send your committee meeting dates from now through June to secretary@lcuuc.org as soon as they are set. We've run into occasional room conflicts, especially with after-church meetings.

On Board!

Contracts: We are excited to report that we have a permanent contract with Kerry D for the DRE position (see also Kerry's article on pg. 6). We also have LifeWays' amended lease signed and filed. LifeWays requested approval of installation of a play pump to be filled with a hose, and the request was granted.

Training for the defibrillator: We are investigating what would be the best way to train our church members to use the donated defibrillator.

Matching travel funds: We have matching travel funds available for the District and the General Assembly. No one has expressed interest thus far. We have \$600 available; if we funded two people we could provide \$300 each, with a possible match from SEWUUC. If anyone is interested in attending, please let a board member know. The General Assembly is June 25th in Ft. Lauderdale.

New members: We are happy to welcome our new members; their bios appear on pgs. 7-9. WELCOME!

To better serve you: We are checking into using Google Web Calendar to better serve the church community. Updates will follow.

Wedding planner resignation: Due to the resignation of our Wedding Planner, Rev. Linda Berez will be assuming responsibility of coordinating with prospects who would like to have their wedding at the church. Thank you, Linda, for stepping in to assume the responsibility.

Roof construction: We are happy to report that roof construction has begun. As we were having our board meeting, Greg S walked around the church with buckets in his hands checking for roof leaks. Thank you, Greg.

Submitted by Kay S

🌀 Church directory 🌀

The members' portion of the LCUUC directory has been updated to include our newest members. Please check your email for the two-page attachment. If you don't use email or are having difficulty opening the attachments, you can obtain a copy in the church entryway.

Congregational Meeting

At the Congregational Meeting on **June 1, 2008**, members will get to put our fifth principle into practice when we vote to fill the positions of President, three Board members, and five Nominating Committee members whose terms are expiring. The 2008 Nominating Committee, comprised of Yvonne F, John K, Phil S, Kim S, and Sonia W, has presented the following slate of candidates. Bios for the President and Board of Trustee candidates follow.

President

Term of service: 2008–2009

Tim P

Members of the Board of Trustees

Term of service: 2008–2011

Lynne S

Patty W

Chris P

Members of the Nominating Committee

Term of service: 2008–2009

Sue L

Karl T

Tim F

Joanne N

Kirsten J

Additional nominations may be made by petition of at least ten voting church members in writing to the Nominating Committee at least three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. In accordance with LCUUC by-laws, nominations will not be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

**Bios of the candidates
removed from web version
of newsletter.**



Religious Education

I am excited to report that I have officially signed a contract to be the Director of Religious Education at LCUUC. Having served in this capacity on an "acting" basis since last November, I can tell you that it is a rewarding, challenging, and exciting position helping to steer the religious education of our children and youth. I look forward to continuing to foster an environment that nurtures and helps our children grow, learn, and explore in a community of respect and acceptance.

Our religious education program benefits from the structure laid out by the UUA and the curriculums that we use, and it thrives due to the dedication and creativity of our RE teachers and the people serving on the Religious Education Committee. I know I join the rest of the congregation in being grateful for the work of all these individuals, who are also fortunate to be able to work with the children of LCUUC—kids who are bright, engaged, curious, and talented in many ways. I feel blessed to be a part of all this.

I am honored to have the trust of this congregation to serve as your Director of Religious Education and look forward to a long, healthy relationship.

Keep in mind that I am in the church office three days a week and am available other times if you'd like to talk or meet. Give me a call if you have anything you'd like to talk about.

*With warmth and peace,
Kerry D*

Our children are engaged in the life of this church and are involved in social action. Here are some of the things they have been doing recently:

- Our high school students hosted the very successful Coffee House for Darfur fundraiser. See pg. 11 for more details.
- Many of our children and youth helped make the plates that we sold to raise money for Darfur.
- Some of our 3rd through 8th graders helped sell food at the Local Food Fair last month and decided to donate the profits to the Hunger Task Force.
- Our 3rd to 5th graders made cards for the Caring Circle to use when people in our congregation need a note to cheer them up.

Youth Involvement in the Green Sanctuary/ Earth Day Service on May 4

Our middle schoolers spent quite a bit of time looking at and discussing our 7th Principle this year, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." They explored the messages in music related to this principle, and chose some of the music for the service on May 4. They also chose the Story for All Ages and wrote a cinquain that they will share in the service.

We are hoping that some of our children and youth will be able to stay after the Green Sanctuary service on May 4 to help plant flowers and some small trees.

(article continued on page 7)

Social Action Project: Hands Are for Helping

"I would like to give five goats so it would help people buy milk and cheese..." — RE Student

Our youngest Religious Education students are participating in a social action project to raise money for the Heifer Project. Making use of the wonderful photography talents of Janica Y and the darling hands of our K4-5 RE class, we will be selling note cards in sets of 5 (for \$10/set) showing children's tender, loving hands. The cards are blank inside and would make a wonderful Mother's Day gift. Look for them in the Social Hall on **Sunday, May 4**.

(Religious Education, continued from pg. 6)

Also after the service on May 4 and May 11, our middle school class will help us all participate in the expanding climate movement. They are creating a banner that we can draw on and paint on showing what's most important to us in the face of climate change. This banner will be sent to the organization 1Sky, which is soliciting banners from schools, churches, and clubs across the country. All the banners will be combined into a massive tapestry and taken to Washington DC and spotlighted in a high-profile press event.

Fun summer opportunity

Do you have a special talent that you would be willing to share with our children at one of our services this summer? We are looking for a few people who have interesting hobbies or interests that they would be willing to share with our children during RE time at one of the summer services. If there is something you'd be willing to share, please let our DRE, Kerry D, know.

New Members

Bios of new members removed from web version of newsletter. As a result, page 8 and part of page 9 have also been removed.

(continued on next page)

Get Involved / Things to Do

LCUUC Activity Fair—May 18 and 25

Do you want to know how to get involved at church?

Do you want to meet more people?

Do you wonder what different committees do?

Do you have skills and interests you want to share?

Here's how to answer your questions ... join us after the service on **May 18 and 25** for the LCUUC Activity Fair.

People will be available to answer your questions, help you find ways to get involved AND SIGN UP TO HELP.

Ongoing Book Discussion

Come join us for a discussion of Eckhart Tolle's book *A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose*. We meet on the first and third Sundays of the month at 11:30 a.m. In May, the dates are Sunday the 4th and 18th. Contact Kay S or Dian E with any questions.

Waukesha County Affordable Housing Task Force

Come to LCUUC for a meeting of the Waukesha County Affordable Housing Task Force! The group's goals for 2008 are to increase community awareness of the need for more affordable housing in the area, and to evaluate how a housing trust fund might work in Waukesha County.

The next meeting of the group is on **Wednesday, May 21 at 10 a.m.** in the 3rd-5th Grade classroom here at LCUUC. A portion of the group is also meeting on Wednesday, May 14th at 10 a.m. in the same room to begin planning of the public education campaign. If you are interested in working for social justice within your community, please attend one or both meetings, or contact Betsy F-C for more details.

(continued on next page)

Get Involved / Things to Do (continued)

Terrific Tuesdays

We are excited to announce that beginning in May we will be offering meditation two times a month. On each second Tuesday of the month (starting May 13th) meditation will be led by Paul Norton of the Order of Interbeing. We meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at the church. Paul will offer instruction in meditation from 6:30 to 7 p.m. for beginners or those wishing to have a refresher. On the fourth Tuesday of the month we will be offering member-led meditation and meet from 7 to 9 p.m.



These gatherings are free and open to all. Please call Joanne N with any questions.

Facilities Call to Action

- Are you sitting around wondering what to do with the over-sized plumber's wrench you got for a birthday present?
- While your neighbors were gone and you were assigned to take care of their pets, did you go ahead and renovate their basement on a whim, since you had the key and you had already done yours?
- When branches fell in your yard, did you cut them up and remove them, or did you go ahead and mill them into several hundred linear board feet of lumber, and store them in your garage (instead of your car), so you can eventually use the wood to build a shed or gazebo?
- Do you like patching holes in your roof? (sorry, hopefully not needed after our new roof is on!)
- Aren't you just itching to put your as-of-yet-unused, floor-mounted, tilt-table, 3000 rpm drill press to good use?
- How about ... do you like caring for our church home in news ways that you haven't tried yet?

If you answered *Yes* to any of these questions, please consider being on the Facilities Committee or consider being a go-to person on occasion for us to call upon.

Here's a partial list of things we are currently working on and can use help with:

- re-tile ceilings sections
- paint those ceiling sections
- finish staining the steeple (north side)
- other painting project as they come up, interior and exterior
- support landscape initiatives
- support and help research green sanctuary initiatives
- help with sanctuary lighting project (to get rid of the buzzing, and save energy)
- research dual-flush toilets for the bathrooms
- install those toilets
- maintenance tasks such as work w/HVAC vendor and get repairs made, rotate pumps, check on plumbing leaks, call for service or repair yourself, develop maintenance plan to avoid another sewer backup
- be available as an on-call person for LifeWays and the church to call
- post and maintain list of work items to share with members
- build wall near sound area for installing equipment behind choir

Thanks for the consideration. Let us know if you have any interest.



Social Action / Green Sanctuary

Food/Needs Collection

The designated food/needs collection for the **May 4** service is for the Jefferson Food Pantry Coalition, which is a group of 7 food pantries throughout Jefferson County that receives food and technical support from Community Action Coalition's Food Security Division. CAC's involvement with the coalition is designed to ensure that these food pantries are well-stocked with nutritious food and to facilitate collaboration among food pantries in addressing food security issues.

Thanks from the committee to the C family for the delivery of the April Food/Needs collection from our congregation to the Pewaukee Food Pantry. \$142 and several bags of grocery/needs items were contributed.

Coffee House for Darfur Huge Success!

The high school class hosted a great evening of music to raise money to help end the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan. Over 80 people came to hear the music of Sheila L, Karen H, Greg V and James F. The social hall was transformed into a cozy coffee-house atmosphere, complete with candles and a stage. Delicious baked goods were sold, along with free coffee, tea, and popcorn.

Information about what's happening in Darfur as well as an opportunity to sign a petition to end the killing was available at the coffee house. Over 70 signatures were collected and will be sent to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice asking for no more delays and an end to the obstruction to peacekeeping deployment.

The plates that were made at Fun and Friends Day were sold, and the total raised with admissions, baked goods, and plate sales was over \$1100, which will be donated to Amnesty International for their work to help the situation in Darfur.

A huge thank-you goes out to Anna F who not only oversaw the plate painting at Fun and Friends Day but also took the 80+ plates home, fired them, and brought them back to be sold—a huge job that made the whole project possible.

We also want to recognize work of our high schoolers who came early to set up, worked throughout the event, and stayed to clean up. And, of course, we are so lucky to have our high school teachers Phil S, who coordinated the event, and Al H, who helped pull it off.

Green Sanctuary

Earth Day Service May 4: Earth Day is a global observance to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the Earth's environment. The observance was originated by Wisconsin's Senator Gaylord Nelson in 1970 as an environmental teach-in and is now observed around the world on April 22 of each year. We will be holding our Earth Day service in early May rather than the Sunday closest to April 22 this year. The good news is that the weather should be warmer in early May, so we will hold the service outside if the weather permits. Also, weather permitting, we are planning outdoor activities after coffee, such as Adopt A Highway and tree planting, so dress accordingly if you wish to participate! We will also have Compact Fluorescent Lamps and literature to give away, thanks to WE Energies for their generous donation, and an Environmental Audit and Survey to help us learn your environmental practices and interests to help define future direction for Green Sanctuary.

Our **Green Sanctuary Program** is part of the UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE), which is an official program managed by the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations as a part of their Congregational Services program. The purpose of the UUMFE is to inspire and support personal, congregational, and Association practices that honor and sustain Earth and all beings. Part of our Earth Day service will focus on the UUMFE, and to encourage you to join the UUMFE as individual or family members. UUMFE membership brochures will be available to learn more about UUMFE, and join if you're interested. As always, Green Sanctuary is open to all LCUUC members and friends. See any Green Sanctuary Committee member if you are interested.

WHO'S WHO AT LCUUC

If you have any questions regarding Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church, feel free to call 262-369-1703.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church is a religious community that encourages spiritual growth in compassion, wisdom and understanding. We draw inspiration from the principles of Unitarian Universalism, diverse religious sources, and the breadth of human experience. We seek to live in accordance with this inspiration, working for positive change in our community, country and the world.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Submit all articles by the 20th of each month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

Mail items to: LCUUC—Newsletter,
PO Box 437,
Hartland, WI 53029-0437
Or email to: newsletter@lcuuc.org



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