



News for Lake Country UUs

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

SEPTEMBER 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 WI, 53029

At the intersection of Hwy E and Hwy K

September 7: "Water Communion," by Rev. Linda Berez

Come and celebrate our Annual Water Communion. Everyone is invited to bring a small amount of water that has some significance or meaning in their lives. It might be water that came from a lake, a river, or an ocean. Maybe it came from a vacation you took with your family, or from your backyard fountain. Maybe you collected water from the devastating rains at the beginning of the summer or from the snow melt of last winter. Every drop you bring reminds us of the importance of water to each of us individually and as a community, and we will take time for people to share their stories. Please join us for this intergenerational service.

September 14: "Are you a UU?," by Rev. Linda Berez

Even those of us who have been Unitarian Universalists for more than half our lives or more find the question of our religion a difficult one to answer. We may be tempted to say what we're not because explaining Unitarian Universalism is complex, a reflection of our very lives. At the same time, regardless of whether you've attended one Sunday worship or 100, once you find this community, a community committed to compassion, justice, and equity, you know you've found a church home. So are you a UU? Come explore together.

September 21: "Across the Great Divide," by Rev. Jane Esbensen

What does a small country, nestled between the open sea and the deep-fabled forests of the north, have to offer us, the greatest country in the world? Jane Esbensen is an ordained UU minister. She recently spent the last 2 1/2 years living and working in Sweden, and her talk today will be a reflection piece on the juxtaposition of how life can and, perhaps, should be lived, and what tangible shifts in perspectives it would require of us to get there.

September 28: "The Threshing Place," a sermon authored by Rev. M. Maureen Killoran and read by LCUUC member Colleen K

This sermon from the Unitarian Universalist online resources spans the continuum from Pagan and Celtic rituals, to Old and New Testament quotations, to Emily Dickinson and Trappist Monks. The collective wisdom offered encourages us to pause at the thresholds of our lives. To grieve for what can no longer be and when it's time to cross the threshold, step forward, and let your future begin!

Calling all greeters and coffee makers!

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to be a greeter or coffee maker for Sunday services starting this month. We will have a brief organizational meeting after the service on Sunday the 7th, starting at noon, to discuss how things will work. Please bring your calendars. Also, we are still looking for additional volunteers, so if you are at all inclined to be a "regular" greeter or coffee maker, please try to attend the meeting, or call Carlyn W to discuss.





A Note From Our Minister

Greetings,

Yes, summer is waning. As I write these words to you, the signs are apparent. The festivals and fairs are winding down, stores are gearing up their "Back to School" displays, and there are even Halloween displays up in some places. This morning there was a bit of fall-like temperatures in the air, and many summer vacations are coming to an end. Yes, before you know it the autumnal equinox will be here.

The good news, of course, is that our church year will be back in full swing on September 7th, when we will gather once more for our Annual Water Communion. (See the description on the first page for more information.)

I'm looking forward to this coming year as your half-time consulting minister. This will be my second year here at Lake Country UU Church. Preparation is already under way for some of the twenty worship services I will offer over the course of the next nine months. In addition to my Sunday schedule I'll continue to participate on many committees and on the Board of Trustees. I also hope to offer at least two adult education classes (see below) and work with the membership committee to welcome new members.

As always, I'm available via email and phone, and by appointment in my office. New this year, weather permitting, I'll be in the office Tuesdays from 3 to 5 p.m.

As you know, during the last church year many of us watched the Harry Potter movies together. This year I'd like to offer a "Movies with the Minister" series again. I have a few thoughts of the films I'd like to see but I'd really like to hear from you. Please email or call me with your suggestions. Let's keep them kid friendly. I'll make my decision for our first movie by the October newsletter deadline so we can gather together October 11th at 6:30 p.m.

Also, October will be a good time to begin an Adult Education class that comes to us via the Unitarian Universalist Association. It's called: "Spirit of Life: Exploring Spirituality for Unitarian Universalists." Last year over fifty congregations field-tested this brand-new curriculum. It looks rich and rewarding, and I hope you will join me for this program. More information will follow on the member list and in the October newsletter.

One thing I've come to appreciate living here in Wisconsin is the change of seasons. As we begin to turn the page from summer to fall, so too do we turn the page to a new church year. My hope for this year is that it's filled with the light and love of this community that gathers once more to "rejoice in life, find the sacred, and seek justice with open minds and hearts." May it be so.

Linda

☯ September Calendar of Events ☯

Every Tuesday	SOS	7-8:30 pm
Wednesday, 3	Social Action Committee	4:45 p.m.
Thursday, 4	Mindfulness Meditation (see p. 5)	7:00-9 p.m.
Sunday, 7	Choir rehearsal	8:30 a.m.
Thursday, 11	Board meeting	6:30 p.m.
Sunday, 14	Choir rehearsal RE classes begin (see p. 4)	8:30 a.m.
Thursday, 18	Mindfulness Meditation (see p. 5)	7:00-9 p.m.
Sunday, 21	Choir rehearsal Sing for service	8:30 a.m.
Sunday, 28	Choir rehearsal 1Sky Green Jobs Now (see p. 5)	8:30 a.m. After the service

On Board!

In a recent *New York Times* ad concerning the Knoxville shooting, the UUA affirmed our UU values, saying, "We will not give in to fear. We will meet hatred with love. We will continue to work for justice. Our hearts, and the doors of our more than 1,000 Unitarian Universalist congregations nationwide, remain open. Unitarian universalists stand on the side of love."

Despite the shocking nature of this tragedy, we live in one of the safest times in human history. We shouldn't succumb to media-stoked fears but instead remain committed "to our religious mission: to welcome the stranger, to love our neighbor, to work for justice, to nurture the spirits of all who seek a liberal religious home, and to help heal this wounded world."

My recent email to our members asked for volunteers to help draft a security plan for LCUUC, one that maintains our desire for openness with practical planning and preparation.

We also have many other ways to serve the church and encourage everyone, especially new members, to get involved and take the opportunity to meet and work with other members. If you would like to sign up or have a question, please send an email or call me. Speaking of volunteers... Chris P has agreed to serve as VP of the LCUUC Board this year.

Here is the list of opportunities for committees or areas of expertise where we need help:

- Annual retreat planning
- Fundraising committee
- Long-range planning committee
- Insurance
- Assistant treasurer
- Security plan task force
- Sextons
- Volunteer coordination
- Support for the September 13th Small and Emerging Congregations Workshop

Submitted by Tim P

September

Happy Birthday
Wishes to:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1 Ginger G | 17 Michelle C |
| 2 Paige T | 19 Judy F |
| 2 Olivia T | 19 Kinalya H |
| 4 Linda K | 21 Laura S |
| 4 Will T | 23 Tracy M |
| 5 Chris S | 23 Mary P |
| 12 Amy S | 24 Lori H |
| 14 Mona C | 26 Jason W |
| 14 Aislynn W | 28 Eric G |
| 15 Logan W | 28 Tammy W |
| 16 Kevin S | 29 Rick C |

(Please contact Kirsten J if your name is not included in the birthday congratulations.)



Religious Education

Welcome back from your Director of Religious Education! I hope you all had a great summer with time for fun and relaxation. I am excited to be with you all at the beginning of this church year. As you know, our congregation is alive with the ideas and energy of children. With our RE programs, we offer a strong community in which children can learn, develop meaningful relationships with peers and adults, and grow spiritually. We strive to offer an opportunity for our children to learn about themselves as they search for truth and meaning in their lives, and we help them grow in compassion and respect for all people. We teach them to respect and care for the earth, and we hope to inspire in them a life-long commitment to peace and justice.

Our RE classes begin on **Sunday, September 14th**. We have some great curricula and some fabulous teachers who will be offering the following classes:

Our kindergarteners (K-4 to K-5) will be using the curriculum Celebrating Me and My World. These lessons celebrate the wondrous qualities of the children themselves and expand outward to the things and people around them. This program provides opportunities for young children to grow in their sense of trust, in their caring for others, and to develop self-identity and a sense of connection with all life. They will be taught by Jessy K, Amy J, and Meriah and Rob F.

Our 1st and 2nd graders will be learning the faith and practice of Unitarian Universalism by focusing on their own experiences with the fundamental concerns of personal identity, human relationships, life and death, using the curriculum Around the Church, Around the Year. Their teachers will be Kim S, Emily K, and Dave J.

Our 3rd to 5th graders will sample the meaning behind many holidays and holy days of the major world religions and learn what common values other religions share with UU traditions as they study Holidays and Holy Days, a favorite curriculum where they'll hear and discuss stories and participate in a variety of hands-on activities. Their teachers will include Helen B, Sue L, Beth P, and Betsy F-C.

Our middle schoolers will have a busy year as they plan to host a Middle School Youth Con, an overnight conference for middle school-aged youth from UU churches throughout Southeastern Wisconsin, where they will have a chance to connect with other UUs in our larger community and to learn and take on leadership roles. They will also be exploring issues of theological and ethical

importance to our world using the new curriculum Popcorn Theology, which uses sections of popular movies to create learning opportunities for participants to examine our choices, explore concepts such as truth and meaning, right and wrong, and learn about how our faith can help us understand our questions, seek answers, and deal with the trials of life. This group has the teaching team of Dave C, Anna F, and Angel T.

Our **high schoolers** have a great year ahead. The super-popular classes with Greg V "Exploring the Big Questions in Religion" will happen every 2nd Sunday. They will choose and work on social action initiatives with Phil S, and will have some great classroom discussions on topics of their choosing, such as carbon footprints, non-conformity, and LGBT issues with Al H, Mike G, and Janica Y. The first few classes will be devoted to exploring our 5th principle, "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process" in anticipation of the November elections. Robin R will bring his considerable knowledge and experience to these classes.

Both the middle and high school youth will be doing a **Ropes Course on Sunday, September 28th**. This is a fun way to allow the kids and their RE teachers to get to know each other and focus on a variety of topics including leadership, motivation, adaptability, trust, cooperation, goal setting, and communication.

Our graduating seniors and our 5th graders will be invited to participate in our **Transitions programs** again this year. These programs recognize milestones in our children's lives and help them examine themselves and their beliefs in relation to our religious community. These programs will culminate in a worship service planned and presented by the participants and their advisors

If you would like to learn more about our RE programs or have any questions, I would love to talk to you. I am available on most Sundays after the service and am in the church office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call or email me with ideas, questions or concerns. I want it to be a great year for every child and youth who walks in our doors. Please help me by letting me know what's important to you and how we can make LCUUC and Unitarian Universalism an important part of your family's life.

Warmly in faith, Kerry Duma, Director of Religious Education, 262-369-1703 or dre@lcuuc.org .

Get Involved / Things to Do

LCUUC Choir

I am pleased to welcome a few new choir members and our loyal returning singers, for another year of music. We would love to have anyone who might find joy in singing, give choir a try. Our rehearsals are most Sunday mornings before the service at 8:30 a.m. Singing with this fine and humorous group is a wonderful way to begin a Sunday morning. There is no audition necessary and you must be in at least 6th grade to join. Contact Karen H with any questions.

Treble Choir

We would like to continue the treble choir this year, and need to know who would be interested in joining us. Treble choir is open to anyone 9 or older who enjoys singing and would like to sing with a group. If your child would be interested in being a part of the treble choir this year, please contact Morgen M.

Mindfulness Meditation: Therapeutic Thursdays

Starting in September, Meditation Tuesdays will become Therapeutic Thursdays as our sessions will now be held on the **first and third Thursday of the month!** On each first Thursday of the month (starting September 4th) meditation will be led by Paul Norton of the Order of Interbeing. We meet from 7 to 9 p.m. in the sanctuary. Paul will offer instruction in meditation from 6:30 to 7 p.m. for beginners or those wishing to have a refresher. On the third Thursday of the month we will be offering member-led meditation and meet from 7 to 9 p.m. Call Joanne with any questions.

An October Walk in the Park

Come for a wonderful, and productive, walk in the park For those of you who don't know, our own Mike F is largely responsible for the fabulous native prairie restoration project that continues at Lapham Peak State Park. And on **Sunday, October 5th** we're invited (ok, I asked him to do it) to learn about the prairie as we collect seed from various prairie plants. These seeds will later be planted and the native prairie expanded. We'll meet at 1:00 p.m. near or at the park. The exact location is undecided but I'll get the word out in plenty of

time. Feel free to make casual lunch plans with each other for between the Church service and the walk/seed collection. The weather and the trees should be spectacular for this fun, educational, and helpful outdoor outing. Don't miss it! Feel free to contact me, Liz K, the organizer, or Mike F, the man behind the curtain, if you have any questions.

The Great Story: Humanity's Common Origin Story

Internationally acclaimed author and speaker Michael Dowd will appear at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center on **Tuesday, October 14th** from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Drawing from his latest book, *Thank God for Evolution!*, which has been endorsed by five Nobel Prize Winners and supported by over 120 other science and religious luminaries, Michael Dowd will share humanity's common origin story known as The Universe Story. This 13.7 billion year evolutionary epic will offer incredible views of the cosmos that embrace science and religion alike. This program is a must for nature lovers, spiritual and non-spiritual seekers, the curious and even those with doubts, as well as those who just enjoy a good story. After this program, there's a good chance you will never see the world the same again! Members, \$10; non-members, \$12.

UUs United for Social Justice through Common Ground

UUs United for Social Justice invites you and your interested friends to a "Where Are We Going, and How Do We Get There" soiree on **Sunday, September 7th**, from 1 to 3 p.m., in the party room at Yankee Hill, 626 East State Street, Milwaukee. Parking meters are free on Sundays!

Common Ground leaders will bring you up to date on current issue initiatives, then we'll explore how your passion might become a Common Ground focus. Refreshments will be served. Please let us know by September 1st whether or not you'll be joining us so that we can plan for your maximum comfort and enjoyment. Contact Rod or Sharon D with any questions.

Over the Summer ...

High Schoolers' Colorado Trip

On Friday, July 25th, nine youth and five adults from LCUUC traveled to Colorado for the high school social action trip. This year the youth involved were Hilary and Alison H, Roza H, Mackenzie M, Morgen M, Jenna S, Calvin and Will T, and Nora W. The chaperones on this trip included Karen H, Tom H, Phil S, Jim T, and Patti W. The group took two days to travel to their destination, which was directly on the Colorado trail about twenty minutes outside of Breckenridge; the elevation was 10,000 feet! The task that week was to rebuild a bridge and a 156-foot boardwalk that needed some serious repair. In addition to the fourteen people from LCUUC there were about 6 other adults who were in charge of camp who also helped us work, and there were three young men from Texas who signed up to help on the Colorado trail. The group worked a half-day on Sunday, two full days on Monday and Tuesday, had the day off on Wednesday, worked a full day on Thursday, and then worked another half-day on Friday to total five full days of work. The group camped the entire week just about a quarter mile away from the work site. We worked with many new tools including a Pulaski, pickaxe, sledgehammer, level, and a lopper. Building the bridge and the boardwalk we learned how to build a bridge, make a trail, and make an even grade, and we also learned that building can be very hard work. Camping was a lot of fun, but sometimes it got a little chilly—it averaged around thirty-five degrees at night and early morning, so everyone bundled up. Once the sun came up it got into the mid eighties. Most everyone got to go hiking. A group of people hiked up to an elevation of 11,800 feet to see a beautiful opening called Georgia's Pass. Ask anyone—the mountains looked incredible up above the tree line. We worked hard, had fun, made new friendships and strengthened old ones. The entire group agreed that it was an awesome trip and definitely worth going again or finding something like the Colorado Trail for next year!

Submitted by Hilary H, high school volunteer

UU Musicians Network

Three hundred and thirty musicians from around the country circled back to where the Unitarian Universalists Musicians Network first met 25 years ago, in Boston. I was delighted to be there this year. Each day of the conference began with worship at the historic Arlington Street Church. The harmony created through both music and words was inspiring. We had many workshop leaders, with Nick Page being our daily director; Nick helped us prepare stunning choral music for the Sunday service. He gave me many new ideas that I will share with you this year. I attended several workshops each day, my favorites being Voice Technique, Conducting Solutions, and Congregational Song and the Living Repertoire. Daily recitals gave me an opportunity to sing a moving song that Rev. Marcia Marino had recently written to comfort the people of the UU church in Knoxville. The Sunday morning service was the highlight of my time there. Our UUA president, Rev. Bill Sinkford, spoke eloquently, and the music of over 300 voices filled the sanctuary, moving me to tears several times. I was deeply inspired and energized by my time with my musical colleagues. Thank you for your support of this conference.

Submitted by Karen H, Choir Director

Fundraising: Equal Exchange fairly traded coffee/tea/chocolate

We have been using Equal Exchange fairly traded organic coffee for our Sunday after-service coffee for a number of years. We started selling Equal Exchange organic products to individual members and guests of the congregation at cost to build awareness of the fair-trade concept. Since these products were so well received and the prices so reasonable, we raised the prices slightly so LCUUC could gain some funds from the sales as well. For the 2007-8 church year, 192 bags of coffee, 6 boxes of tea, 18 cans of cocoa, and 348 chocolate bars were purchased, with \$483.15 net proceeds to LCUUC.

We will be selling Equal Exchange coffee and tea on September 7. Unfortunately, we have been advised by Equal Exchange that prices will be going up, mostly due to higher world coffee and cocoa prices, so our prices will go up somewhat too but will still be very reasonable. See Esther F if you are interested.

Green Sanctuary

WE Energies "Blue Skies Green Fields" Wind Turbine Tour

WE Energies has made a major commitment to using wind turbines to generate electricity. Their new Blue Skies Green Fields Energy Center, located in northeast Fond du Lac County, consists of 88 wind turbines capable of generating 145 megawatts of electricity, enough for 36,000 average residential homes. WE Energies is offering a free tour of this facility on **Saturday, September 13th**. We are planning a car-pool to this tour. Please contact Gerry F if you are interested.

1Sky "Green Jobs Now" event

Last November the Green Sanctuary Committee organized a "Step It Up 2007" event at Lapham Peak State Park, where over 200 people signed a petition calling for 5 million "green jobs" as part of a plan to stem global warming. As a follow-up, a 1Sky "Green Jobs Now" event is scheduled nationwide. We will hold our event on **Sunday September 28th** after church. There will be a petition to our elected officials to invest in these green jobs and a Clean Energy Corps, and a group photo of all who wish to participate. Please contact Gerry F with questions.

Choices for Sustainable Living

The Green Sanctuary committee is offering a course called "Choices for Sustainable Living" through the Great Lakes Earth Institute. Ideal group size is 8-12 members, but we will try to accommodate all that are interested. The course consists of nine discussion sessions, with a corresponding reading for each session. The book is \$20. We are thinking about starting the course in late October or early November, and meeting every other week, with a break for the holidays. We will meet in the church on a week night, yet to be determined. We could meet after church one Sunday to handle some of the specifics.

An informational flier describing the course in detail will be posted on the announcement board in the social hall.

Anyone interested may contact Chris P.

Church West's New Solar-Electric Photovoltaic System

UU Church West in Brookfield celebrated the commissioning of their new rooftop solar-electric photovoltaic (PV) system on June 21. This project was led by their Green Sanctuary committee, with the encouragement and support of their minister, Rev. Suzelle Lynch, and their congregation. They deserve our congratulations for taking this bold step to set a highly visible example of applying the UU Seventh Principle in their community.

The system includes 42 solar panels mounted on the church roof-top, for a total of 8.4 kilo-Watts (kW), and an electronic inverter converting the DC power from the solar panels to AC power delivered to the electric utility power grid. They received incentives from WE Energies and Focus on Energy to reduce their installed cost from \$77,500 to \$28,000, and will receive \$0.225 per kilowatt-hour, almost twice the rate for electricity they consume, for solar-generated electricity sold to WE Energies. They expect to generate 10,000 + kW-hr/year (about 15% of their total annual consumption), which will reduce their annual electric bill by approximately \$2,250.

Last year our Green Sanctuary Committee discussed the possibility of a PV system at LCUUC. A system like the one at UUCW would generate at least 20% of our annual electric consumption, but we realized that there were higher priorities for upgrading our building, with higher potential energy savings, than a solar PV system:

- We needed a new roof, which was installed this year, adding roof insulation. This should save over 2000 therms of gas per year, which is over 5 times the energy produced by an 8.4 kW solar PV system.

- Our heating plant is old and will need replacement in the not-too-distant future. A new high-efficiency boiler would save about another 1000 therms/year (almost three times the energy savings from the PV system). Replacing the heating/ventilation blowers with high-efficiency units would save still more energy.

We plan to learn from UUCW's experience and monitor new developments. The cost of solar PV collectors is trending down, with potential dramatic price reductions a few years away as new technologies under development come to fruition. Hopefully, we can have a solar electric system at LCUUC some day.

WHO'S WHO AT LCUUC

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

Board Members:

Tim P, President
Liz K
Erich M
Chris P
Kay S
Lynne S
John S, Treasurer
Rob S
Patty W

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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