



News for Lake Country UUs

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

DECEMBER 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

December 7: "What Will You Give?", by Rev. Linda Berez

The season of giving and buying may be in full swing, but consider how offering yourself might be the greatest gift of all. Lending a hand or a listening ear, especially during this time of year when, for some, the season isn't so jolly, may be more valuable than a stack of presents.

December 14: "Nature's Way: Discovering the Sacred in the Natural World," by Philip Chard, author, columnist, and nature therapist

Of the many paths we pursue in our quests for the divine (church, scripture, community, prayer, ritual, meditation), nature is the only one that flows pure and undiluted from the Creator. In nature we meet the unblemished manifestations of the sacred mystery we call "the universe" or "life." This presentation will explore nature's way, a spiritual path into the natural world that leads us to the divine.

December 21: "Holiday Cheer," by Rev. Linda Berez

This intergenerational celebration of Winter Solstice and Christmas will, we hope, light up the holiday and holy days of winter. Come and be together to sing, enjoy the music, and rejoice in this season that holds great meaning for so many people all over the world.

December 24 at 4:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Service, by Rev. Linda Berez

All are welcome to gather at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve for a holiday service of carols, stories, and candles. This is a chance to sing together and be together. We hope you and your family will be able join our minister, the Rev. Linda Berez, for this special service.

December 28: "Unitarian Universalists, Cats and Dogs," a sermon authored by Rev. Chris Buice and presented by LCUUC member John Kuhn

This service from the Church of the Larger Fellowship on-line resource uses a cat-dog metaphor to explore why we need both our humility and our pride, and how the merger of Unitarians and Universalists brought together two different ways of thinking.

Food/Needs Collection

The first Sunday of the month is our food pantry collection. Please bring your contribution to church with you on Sunday, December 7th.





A Note From Our Minister

Greetings,

A chill is in the air and snow from a recent dusting is still visible on the roofs in my neighborhood. Winter is almost here. For some of you, I know that you look forward to this time of year, the opportunity to spend time outdoors skiing, hiking, hunting, sledding, skating, camping. For others, like me, on a really cold day I'm happiest curled up next to a fire with a warm mug of cocoa or a bowl of soup. Of course, there are times when you'll find me skating around the rink at Red Arrow Park in downtown Milwaukee. Time outside connecting with nature reminds us of our Seventh Unitarian Universalist Principle, which talks about affirming our respect for the interdependent web of which we are all a part.

Recently, in the Adult Religious Education Class, "Spirit of Life," which I am teaching and which you are invited to attend on the third Tuesday of this month, we talked about what it means to be part of that web. My understanding leads me to think about the web like a spider web. Consider how a tug or a pull on one strand of the delicate but very strong web will move or disrupt a part of the web on the other side. This is how I see our actions in the world. By becoming more aware of the effects our choices have on the whole, we can find ways to help the web remain strong. Written with nature in mind, the Seventh Principle reminds us to tread lightly on the earth, to care for this planet, and to appreciate its beauty. Winter has a beauty all to itself which, I hope, we can all find ways to appreciate.

With winter and snow, we also have Christmas this month. We will have two Christmas services this year, and all are welcome to both. First, on December 21st, we will gather for an intergenerational service at our regular time of 10 a.m. Then on Wednesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve, join us at 4 p.m. for a service for children and adults where we will sing Christmas carols together and I will share a few stories. One part of the service, which is traditional for many, is the lighting of candles at the end of the service. This is something I first did as a student minister in Boston and enjoyed greatly last year. I look forward to being in community with you all as we pass the light around the circle again this year.

I am also cognizant that this is a time of the year that can be difficult for some. Perhaps it is the pressure of the holidays, or maybe someone close to you died this past year, or loved ones are far away, or you're affected by the change in seasons and the lack of sunshine. Whatever the reason, there are times in our lives when being with others for comfort and support is helpful. If you would like to attend, join us on December 18th at 6 p.m. at church, no reservation needed.

My friends, I hope in whatever way you choose to enjoy the winter months that you will stay safe and keep warm and have fun. See you soon.

Linda

Reminder

Rev. Linda Berez is available by appointment and has office hours on Tuesdays from 3 to 5 p.m. You may call the church office at 262-369-1703 x500 and leave a message or email her directly at minister@lcuuc.org.

Newsletter Delivery

The newsletter database is tied to the directory, and it is constantly changing and being updated. Once in a while, your newsletter (via the postal service or email) doesn't arrive as expected. If you haven't received your newsletter by the first week of the month, please contact Kirsten J.

On Board!

The LCUUC Board met on Nov. 13th. Highlights on the meeting are as follows:

The Board President reported that the annual Thanksgiving meal was to take place on Sunday Nov. 23rd after the service, with plans for about 150 people. Special thanks go to all those who contributed to this annual event.

Our Minister reported that 16 guests attended New Member Orientation Class held on Nov. 8th and 9th. Thank you for all who have worked on this class. The first "Sprit of Life" class was attended by 8 members; this class will be ongoing.

The DRE reported that OWL Facilitator Training was held at LCUUC on Oct. 17th and 18th, with 18 participants including four of our LCUUC members. Thanks, DRE!

Our treasurer reported that our October Finance Report had a good cash flow due to the silent auction and incentive received from WE energy. Thank you, Silent Auction Committee, for all your hard work.

Old Business

~~Board Retreat: Goals were reviewed. The Human Resource Committee will form a task force to define needs for an administrative assistant. The Board needs to consider questions for the Long Range Planning Committee survey regarding shared ministry. To improve our diversity practice, Liz K. will look into movies relating to diversity.~~

Our first New Board Member Orientation was attended by two new board members, who found it to be very helpful. Thank you, Rob S., for offering this orientation.

Security System: The Board discussed a recommendation by the Security Task Force to install a security system. John S. reported that having a security system would not lower insurance premiums. It is believed that having a security system will not make LCUUC more secure on Sunday morning, and there was no serious need for protection against theft.

New Business

Funding for Welcoming Congregation: There was a request for funding for the film "For the Bible Tells Me So." Some board members will preview the movie and report after the preview.

Long Range Planning Update: The Long Range Planning Committee has met, and goals have been identified. They will look at the need to create a stronger infrastructure, full-time ministry, financial needs, and congregational programming. More details to come.

Welcome new members Sally P., Teresa S., and Dana P.. (See also later in the newsletter; others have also recently become new members but subsequent to the board meeting and so not on this month's list.)

Submitted by Kaz S.

Doorbell Reminder

If you are hosting a meeting or event at the church, it is recommended that you keep the door open until people have arrived. Then, you can take the doorbell chime (plugged in below the office window) to your meeting space (and plug it in). In doing so, you will be sure to hear anyone ringing the doorbell. Please remember to put the remote back in the outlet below the office window at the end of your meeting.

❧ December Calendar of Events ❧

(all events at LCUUC unless otherwise noted)

(see page 8 for more details on many of these events)

Every Tuesday	SOS	7-8:30 pm
Tuesday, 2	Music Committee*	7:00-9:00 p.m.
Thursday, 4	Mindfulness Meditation	7:00-9:00 p.m.
Sunday, 7	Choir rehearsal	8:30 a.m.
	Food pantry collection	During the service
	<i>A New Earth</i> discussion	After the service
Thursday, 11	Board meeting	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, 13	Movie that Matters	7:00 p.m.
Sunday, 14	Choir rehearsal	8:30 a.m.
	Green Sanctuary	11:45 a.m.
Tuesday, 16	Spirit of Life, Adult RE	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Thursday, 18	Get-together with Rev. Berez (see page 2)	6:00 p.m.
	Mindfulness Meditation	7:00-9:00 p.m.
Sunday, 21	Choir rehearsal	8:30 a.m.
	Sing for service	
	<i>A New Earth</i> discussion	After the service
Sunday, 28	No choir rehearsal	

Hold the date:

Jan. 11: Old Befana, at 3 p.m.

Feb. 28-March 1: LCUUC Retreat

* For questions about the Music Committee, contact Secretary Michelle H..

Church Etiquette Reminders

With our many visitors and new members, the Worship Committee thought it would be helpful to review some of the procedures during our Sunday mornings together. We would like to start our service on time, so please be seated before 10:00 a.m. You may even choose to give yourself a few extra minutes to be seated and catch your breath, with some time for reflection.

In the past we have discussed whether or not to leave while the postlude is being played. The musicians have designed the postlude to be “walkin’ and talkin’ music.” They expect that we will begin leaving. Please know that you have the option of remaining seated to listen to the music if that is your choice.

On Sunday mornings we are a congregation, not an audience. Many UU churches struggle with whether or not to applaud for music during a worship service. Our music is meant to inspire, and clapping is more associated with entertainment. However, “No clapping” rules seem too restrictive. So, please refrain from clapping unless you are particularly moved (as opposed to complimenting a good performance). Silence following a beautiful piece of music can say it all. But when a piece has you moving and just knocks your socks off, an enthusiastic response is called for, so have at it.

We would like to suggest that the same goes for the children. Parents and teachers can explain the suggestions that have been made, and let them know that their music adds to the worship service rather than being a performance. Both children and adults appreciate smiles, thoughtful words after the service, and other thoughtful ways of showing your appreciation.

The offertory has been interesting, even occasionally entertaining, especially with our “split” pew sections. Many folks make their offerings to the church electronically, or mail checks annually, quarterly, etc. Even if you do not have an envelope to put in the basket, we would appreciate it if you would take it and pass it along the row. We will try to have helpers in the “split” pews to help avoid confusion. If your children are helping you as an usher, please help them understand what is expected of them.

If you have any thoughts about our worship services that you’d like to share, please don’t hesitate to contact one of the members of the Worship Committee or Rev. Berez.

Members of the Worship Committee are John K., Colleen K., Gerry F., Mike S., and Kelly K. Thanks for your cooperation!

Fundraising

2008 Silent Auction

Our 2008 Silent Auction brought in \$5,477.50, which is about \$120 more than last year. A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated items and also to everyone who purchased those items to make our Silent Auction a BIG SUCCESS!!!.

The Committee has distributed all of the winning tallies, and is accepting payment at church on Sundays. Alternatively, you can send your payment to Amy S. as indicated on your tally sheet. Now it is your turn to enjoy what you purchased!

Submitted by the Silent Auction Committee—Esther F., Terry C., and Amy S.

Equal Exchange Chocolate, Coffee, And Tea

Consider giving something for the Christmas Holidays that tastes great! Equal Exchange fairly traded organic chocolate, coffee, and tea are a great choice. The farmers get a fair price for producing these products, and LCUUC and the UU Service Committee get some needed funds.

Equal Exchange items are for sale in the Social Hall most Sundays before and after the service.

Submitted by Esther F.

Walking Life's Pathways Together

The Pathways Committee (long range planning) would like to hear from you. The LCUUC mission and vision statements describe why we exist and what we want to become. Our question to you is "How can we move closer to fulfilling our mission and living our vision?"

Please write as little or as much as you would like about how LCUUC is fulfilling its vision and mission for you personally and for the congregation as a whole as well as ways in which it is falling short of these ideals. The more specific you can be, the more helpful it will be for us in our process. Please respond by mail or email to Sonia Wichmann by December 7th or give your comments to one of the committee members at church.

Thank you, from the Pathways Committee: Eric L., Yvonne F., Meriah F., Chris P., and Sonia W.

MISSION: 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.

VISION: Our vision for Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church is to be a joyful and diverse spiritual community that welcomes all people. Our full-time facility is located in the Lake Country Area and will reflect our commitment to living in harmony with the natural world. Together with a full-time minister, we will offer worship services, educational programs, and social justice projects that are consistent with our mission and that enrich and serve our congregation as well as the greater community.

Submitted by Sonia W.

Why Should LCUUC Become a Welcoming Congregation?

If you go to the UUA site, you will read: "The Welcoming Congregation Program is a completely volunteer program for congregations that see a need to become more inclusive toward bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people."



We do not need to be more inclusive. We are already welcoming. So what will change if we become a "Welcoming Congregation" and add the rainbow chalice to our directory listing on the UUA's website? By adding this label, we will be advocating on a daily basis our message of equality and support.

I have been asked, as a new member of LCUUC, why this is important to me. I am very fortunate to be close friends with "non-traditional" families. I have personally lost friends because of my friendship with members of these non-traditional families. I do not want to hide my belief that all people have a right to marry whomever they love. I do not want our church to hide our support. I want to advertise and shout that we will not only welcome anyone but will encourage everyone to talk about his or her life and family.

By participating in the workshops that help us to qualify for this label, we will develop language and understanding for better communication with the Lake Country community that does not agree or support us in our effort. The ultimate goal of becoming a "Welcoming Congregation" is to transform our greater community so that there is no longer a need for the label.

Submitted by Barbara H.

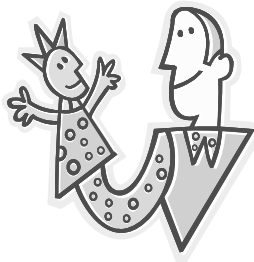
RE-flections—From Our Director of Religious Education

As we enter December, our church family has grown. It is a joy to see all the new faces in our RE classrooms as well as in the pews.

Last month, many of us were inspired at the Thanksgiving service by the chalice-lighting words written by our 1st and 2nd graders and by the beautiful chalice banner they created. Our 3rd to 5th graders, while learning about world religions, also did a lesson on homelessness and helped with the "Sock It to Poverty" campaign. They also made cards for our Caring Circle to send to members and friends who need a little extra care and comfort. And we thank our middle and high schoolers and the adults who helped clean up two yards on Make a Difference Day.



This month we have some special, fun opportunities for our children. On December 14th, the popular Gingerbread House decorating will again take place, facilitated by Janis and Jim T.. Children are asked to bring in a bag of candy, and will go home with a beautiful creation made by older and younger children working together.



On December 28th, our children will get the special treat of experiencing one of Robin R's puppet shows. Robin has been a professional puppet master for over 50 years. In this show, "The Wonderful World of Puppets," we will get to meet some of his favorite characters, including Arfer the dog, Pinocchio, Witch Fitch, and a real rock star. We thank Gerry and Esther F. for donating this auction item to the church.

As we enter this hectic time of year, it is important to keep in mind the spiritual needs of ourselves and our children. Be sure to make time for each other. Be present to your

children—listen to them and give them space to talk or to just be quiet together. Get outside together and enjoy the beauty of the crisp, cold world. If you are looking for a special gift, consider a journal—a place for your child to reflect on the important things in their lives on a regular basis. Of course, the best gift is to simply give of yourself. Thank you to all of you who have given of yourself to this church community. We are truly blessed. May you all have a warm, peaceful, and happy holiday season,

Kerry

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Human Sexuality Education for Grades 10-12

LCUUC will be offering the OWL program for youth in grades 10–12 in February and March of 2009. OWL is a progressive approach to sexuality education that addresses the totality of human sexuality in an age-appropriate manner. It is based firmly on the values of self-worth, sexual health, responsibility, justice, and inclusivity. The program affirms equity between the genders and the inclusion of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender people. Criteria for sexually healthy relationships are explicitly identified as a yardstick for making decisions.

An orientation session will be offered to members of the congregation who are interested in learning more about the program. Attendance at the orientation session is required of parents who have teens that are interested in participating in the program. The orientation will be held on January 11th, 2009 from noon to 2:00 p.m. at the church.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Kerry Duma, Director of Religious Education at 262-369-1703 or dre@lcuuc.org.

Trick or Treat Donations

Thanks to all who Trick or Treated for UNICEF. We raised \$49.26. This money has been sent to UNICEF to help get water, education, and medicine to children who need them.

Get Involved / Things to Do

Creating Communities

You are invited to the Creating Communities Campaign Kick-Off on **Tuesday, December 2nd**, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Steinhafel's Furniture Superstore (W231 N1013 Hwy F in Waukesha, near the corner of I-94 and Hwy F). Join the Waukesha County Affordable Housing Task Force as they officially launch their campaign for a housing trust fund in Waukesha County! Please preregister with Heather Dummer Combs, at 414-276-9050 or heatherdc@interfaithconference.org.

Mindfulness Meditation: Therapeutic Thursdays

Join us in meditation on Therapeutic Thursdays, the **first and third Thursday of the month** (in December, that's the 4th and 18th). On each first Thursday of the month, 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. We are loosely reading *The Places that Scare You* by Pema Chodron. Call Joanne N. with any questions.

A New Earth Book Club

A *New Earth* book club meets on the **first and third Sunday of the month**, after the service.

Movies that Matter



December 13 at 7 p.m.
Homeless in Paradise

Our first movie in the series follows four individuals who are homeless in Santa Monica, California. From their perspective, we see a political and social system drawing fire from all sides of the political and social spectrum.

Appropriate for middle school age group and up. Donations will be taken at the door to help offset this addition to our Church Library.

Spirit of Life

The Adult Education class "Sprit of Life" continues this month on **Tuesday, December 16th** from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. This month the focus of the class will be on spirituality and compassion. All are welcome to join. Please call or email Rev. Linda Berez for more information or to reserve a space.

Old Befana

Old Befana returns **Sunday January 11th** at 3 p.m.

LCUUC and Lifeways Childcare have invited Ken Lonquist



and players to bring back their delightful performance of Old Befana. Old Befana is a musical story based on an ancient winter holiday tradition, seeped in the mystery of the season. Its warmth and magic are a recipe for enchantment, stirring listeners of all ages with an illuminating spin on that familiar night of miracles, its three Kings, bright shining star, and a very special child. Befana doesn't know whether the child coming to make the world a better place is rich or poor, black or white, a boy or a girl. "Anyone could be the one to make a better world," Befana sings. "It could even be... you!". This performance is open to the community, and donations will be accepted at the door. Save the date and look for flyers at church that you can post in your community or share with friends. For more information contact Kristin S, or Jessy K..

LCUUC Retreat

The LCUUC Retreat will take place on **February 28/March 1** at Lutherdale, in Elkhorn. Mark your calendar if you haven't already done so, and join us for a weekend of rest, relaxation, and spiritual renewal. If you have questions or would like to get involved in coordinating the retreat, please contact Kristin S. or Jeff K..

Social Action / Green Sanctuary

Giving Tree

The **Giving Tree** is now up at in the church foyer. The tree has been hung with ornaments printed with the first name, age, and desired gift for guests of Hebron House of Hospitality and Siena House Shelters.

If you would like to help make the season special for those living in shelters over the holiday, please take a tag and purchase the requested gift. Attach the tag to the new, unwrapped gift and bring it to church by **Sunday, December 14th**. There will be a collection bin for gifts in the church foyer.

Thank You,
Social Action Committee

October's Monthly Collection

Thank you to those who contributed to Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee for October's monthly collection for the Social Action Committee. You contributed \$476 to the worthy cause of the Waukesha County Affordable Housing Task Force.

Living Green—Passive Solar Energy

What is passive solar energy, and how can we use it? Passive solar technologies are means of using the sun's energy without use or need of active mechanical systems. Such technologies convert sunlight into usable heat and often store heat for future use in water or another thermal mass. A common example of passive solar heating can be experienced in a solarium or sunroom on the south side of a building in the northern hemisphere. Passive cooling is the use of the same design principles to reduce summer cooling requirements. This is often accomplished by shading the structure or heat collection surfaces from direct sunlight.

Solar heat collection systems that use a significant amount of conventional energy to power pumps or fans are defined as active solar technologies. Some passive systems can use a small amount of conventional energy to control dampers, shutters, night insulation, and other devices that enhance solar energy collection, storage, and use.

Passive solar technologies include direct and indirect solar gain for space heating and solar water heating systems. Some systems use of

thermal mass for storing heat energy and slowing indoor air temperature swings.

How it works

Objects struck by sunlight absorb the short-wave radiation from the light. The objects then re-radiate the energy as heat at longer infrared wavelengths. Where there is a material or substance between the sun and the objects struck that is more transparent (glass) to the shorter wavelengths than the longer; then, when the sun is shining, the net result is an increase in temperature, or solar gain. This effect, the greenhouse effect, is so called due to the solar gain that is experienced behind the glass of a greenhouse. In fact the entire earth is currently experiencing this in the context of global warming.

Additional uses of solar energy

Additional uses for solar energy include the solar chimney, solar ovens, and solar furnaces. A simple description of a solar chimney is that of a vertical shaft utilizing solar energy to enhance the natural stack ventilation through a building. Solar ovens use reflective surfaces to concentrate the solar energy into a small area and generate temperatures high enough to cook food. The term solar furnace has evolved to refer to solar concentrator heating systems. Using parabolic mirrors or heliostats, solar furnaces can achieve temperatures in excess of 538 °C (1,000 °F).

Passive solar systems have little to no operating costs, often have low maintenance costs, and emit no greenhouse gases in operation. They do, however, need to be optimized to yield the best performance and economics.

For additional information and ideas on how you can use solar energy check out websites such as:

<http://www.greenbuilder.com/sourcebook/PassiveSol.html>

http://oikos.com/library/energy_outlet/passive_solar.html

http://www.eere.energy.gov/de/passive_solar_design.html

Submitted by Ray G.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church
P.O. Box 437
Hartland, WI 53029-0437
262-369-1703
www.lcuuc.org

News for Lake Country UUs

