



News for Lake Country UUs

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

MARCH 2009

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

March 1: "I Don't Know," by LCUUC member Mike Santo

The focus of this sermon will be the limits of knowledge, and how these limits free us for a personal encounter with transcendence. This meditation will address the difference between knowing and thinking, and our relationship with our bodies (knowing) and other persons (thinking).

March 8: "Godless," by Dan Barker, co-president of Madison-based Freedom From Religion Foundation

Dan Barker will tell us about his transformation from an evangelical preacher to one of America's leading atheists, and will enlighten us with his unique songs. His latest book, *Godless*, along with other literature and music from the FFRF, will be available for sale after the service.

March 15: "To Whom it May Concern," by Rev. Linda Berez

Prayer is central to the lives of religious people everywhere. Praying to a higher power, that which is holy, might include prayers before meals, before bed, upon waking in the morning, and especially during times of need. As Unitarian Universalists, how do we understand what is holy, and to whom do we pray, if we pray at all? How do we talk about prayer to our children? Please join Rev. Linda Berez and Chris Peske as we explore together the answer to these and other questions related to prayer.

March 22: "A Celebration of Transitions," by LCUUC 5th grade RE class with Leann Rigoli

This service will be a presentation of poems, stories, and music in celebration of completing the first part of LCUUC's "coming of age" curriculum. "Transitions Part 1: Identity" focuses on the transition from childhood to adolescence. During this special service, you will hear what our young people have to say about themselves and their place in our religious community.

March 29: "Justice Sunday 2009," by guest (tbd) in conjunction with the LCUUC Social Action Committee

Justice Sunday 2009 celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Learn how our congregation can help move the world closer to justice! The goal of Justice Sunday is to connect participants with people on the frontlines of today's human rights movement and offer meaningful actions for people of all ages.

**Our food/needs collection
will take place during
the March 8 service.**





A Note From Our Minister

Greetings,

Philosopher George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Recently, I was fortunate enough to join 40 other Unitarian Universalists from across the continent, on a transformative journey. For seven days we traveled by bus, visiting the places where the civil rights movement of the late 1950s and 1960s changed lives forever.

Many people involved in the Unitarian Universalist Association, including President Bill Sinkford and Moderator Gini Courter, were a part of our group. I also invited my mom to join me on the journey. We began the tour in Birmingham, Alabama. There we had the opportunity to visit the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, the site of the bombing that killed four girls in 1963 and marked a turning point in the movement's efforts. It was a poignant moment walking down the stairs and into the basement and standing almost exactly where the bomb went off. It was a moment to consider the hatred and fear that must have existed in the people who killed the girls, and to think about how little has really changed, and also how far we have come.

Another member of our group was the Rev. Clark Olsen. On March 9, 1965 Clark, the Rev. James Reeb, and the Rev. Orloff Miller were leaving a restaurant in Selma, Alabama when Reeb was attacked from behind. We had the honor of hearing from Clark himself the story of what happened that day. We ate at the restaurant and stood with him on the spot where the attack occurred. We heard Clark choke back tears as he spoke of how he was the last person to hold Reeb's hand before he lost consciousness. The national outcry over Reeb's death, a white man, fighting for the civil rights of African Americans, is believed by many to have led to the passage of the National Voting Rights Act of 1965.

But there are others who expressed indignation over the fact that it took the death of a white man to incite outcry, while just two weeks earlier, Jimmie Lee Jackson, an African American man, was killed by the Marion, Alabama police while protecting members of his family. It was Jackson's death that ultimately began the attempts to march from Selma to Montgomery, but Reeb's death that seemed to make it possible. While we were on the tour, we had the chance to see Jackson's grave and marker, shot up with bullet holes and mounted securely to the ground so no one could topple it over, as has happened in the past.

We also walked on the Edmond Pettus Bridge, the site of Bloody Sunday, the place where the first march ended in violence, and the site of Turnaround Tuesday, March 9th, that fateful day when the marchers were turned back into Selma and Reeb and the others went back to Brown Chapel to wait to hear from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. about plans for a future march.

For me, the trip across the bridge was sad and freeing, and although we didn't continue our march on foot to Montgomery, we did continue on to the State Capital in our bus, where we met up with other UUs for a demonstration against hate crimes targeted at gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people. We were there to witness against modern-day discrimination against the backdrop of Dr. King's and Rosa Park's historical city.

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I find myself still reflecting on the words I heard and the places I saw. I know this experience will weave its way into my sermons, including a very poignant moment that I'll talk about more on March 15th, when I will be speaking about prayer in our lives.

For more information about the Unitarian Universalist Living Legacy Pilgrimage, go to <http://www.uua.org/events/livinglegacy>. Take time to look at the blogs linked to these pages also.

One of the most important parts of my trip to the south is the reminder of what so many people put their lives on the line for—a chance to be truly free, free to vote, free to come and go as they pleased, free to sit on the bus where they wanted. As the people who tell us their stories age and die, we will lose their memories unless we keep them alive and pass them on to our children. I know many whom we encountered along the way are proud that our 44th President is an African American; it's a dream that has become a reality. Let us continue to find ways to work to keep their dream alive.

I invite you to check out the rest of the newsletter for the many activities coming up in March. I hope to see many of you at the movie "For the Bible Tells Me So," on March 14th.

May peace be with you.

Linda

On Board!

At our monthly Board meeting, we reviewed the wide range of church activities that are taking place, including special Religious Education programs, workshops to help us achieve Welcoming Congregation status, and our Pathways Committee's work to help us identify what changes we should pursue at LCUUC for the future. Please make sure to look through the newsletter for more information in each of these areas!

At this point, our thanks go to everyone who submitted budget information and special expense requests. The Finance Committee and Board completed their preliminary reviews, approving a very preliminary budget that includes the majority of requests. At present, we are looking at reduced spending for newspaper advertising next year, and using those savings to help us cover costs for some of the most needed maintenance/improvements, likely including replacements of bathroom fixtures, and needed repairs and repainting of selected ceilings and walls.

By the time you receive this newsletter, I hope to have communicated with all the committee chairs regarding the status of their budget requests. To help on the revenue side, we plan to resume holding a rummage/plant sale annually in the spring, beginning this May 15–16. This and the annual Time, Talent & Treasure Silent Auction held in the fall will be our two major fundraisers.

The biggest uncertainty in our budget has to do with staffing, since we don't know yet whether Linda will be able to continue her ministry at LCUUC during 2009–10. We hope to have a better idea later in March. We are also looking further ahead at our mortgage situation. Our current mortgage note comes due on March 15, 2011, at which point we would need to refinance the remaining principal. We are starting to explore whether there is any advantage to rewriting or refinancing the mortgage prior to that time.

Members should look to receive more information about the budget and the stewardship campaign (annual pledges for 2009–10) later in March. By mid-May, we should have received all of the 2009–10 pledges, and we should have a better idea of where we stand regarding staffing. At that point, we will finalize the budget.

Submitted by John S

Cardboard City Rescheduled

The **Cardboard City** that was scheduled for March 21st **has been moved to May 8th**. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters. We will be collecting pledges to raise money and awareness for Southeastern Wisconsin organizations that help the homeless.

☞ March Calendar of Events ☞

(all events at LCUUC unless otherwise noted)

(see pages 5 and 6 for more details on several of these events)

Every Tuesday	SOS	7–8:30 p.m.
Sunday, 1	Choir rehearsal	8:30 a.m.
	Voluntary Simplicity course	12–1:30 p.m.
Thursday, 5	Welcoming Congregation Workshop	6:30–8:30 p.m.
Sunday, 8	Choir rehearsal	8:30 a.m.
	Food pantry collection	During the service
	Voluntary Simplicity course	12–1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, 10	Mindfulness Meditation	7–9 p.m.
	Social Action Committee	6 p.m.
Thursday, 12	Board meeting	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, 14	UU Orientation Class	2–3:30 p.m.
	Movie that Matters	7 p.m.
Sunday, 15	Choir rehearsal; Sing for service	8:30 a.m.
	UU Orientation Class	11:45 a.m.–2 p.m.
Tuesday, 17	Spirit of Life Adult RE class	6:30–8 p.m.
Thursday, 19	Welcoming Congregation Workshop	6:30–8:30 p.m.
Saturday, 21	Choir practice for Choralfest	9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
Sunday, 22	Choir rehearsal	8:30 a.m.
	Voluntary Simplicity course	12–1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, 24	Mindfulness Meditation	7–9 p.m.
Thursday, 26	Welcoming Congregation Workshop	6:30–8:30 p.m.
Sunday, 29	Choir rehearsal	8:30 a.m.

Hold the dates: April 4 and 5, Junior Youth Con

March
**Happy Birthday
Wishes to:**

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 2 Gwendolyn W | 17 Carol K |
| 2 Kathy W | 17 Duke W |
| 2 Alexis N-Z | 21 Lucas W |
| 3 3 Larry S | 23 Mike F |
| 4 Jackie S | 23 Doug P |
| 4 Logan S | 26 Ethan S |
| 6 Will J | 26 Nora W |
| 9 Lauren H | 30 Isabel Jo S |
| 11 Samantha T | |
| 13 Susan T | |
| 14 Patricia H | |
| 14 Erin S | |

Happy belated birthday to Bergen F,
whose Feb. 23 birthday was inadvertently
omitted from last month's birthday list.

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



Announcements

UU Orientation Class, March 14 & 15

New members, friends, and anyone thinking about joining the church are encouraged to attend a two-part UU Orientation Class led by Rev. Linda Berez. Sessions will be held on Saturday, March 14 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 15 from 11:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday's session will focus on our spiritual journeys. On Sunday, Rev. Berez and others will talk about the history of Unitarian Universalism, LCUUC's history, culture, governance, programming, what it means to be a member, and ways to get involved. A light lunch will be provided on Sunday for participants, and child care will be available for both sessions to those who request it in advance. If you are interested, please sign up by March 8 on the orange sheet found on the large bulletin board in the social hall. Contact Yvonne For Lynne S if you have questions.

Music Coordinators Sought

The Music Committee invites you to consider sharing your musical talents with LCUUC. We are looking for people who would be interested in volunteering as music coordinators next year. Music coordinators lead the hymns during the service and provide music for the prelude, offertory, and recessional. We work with the Worship Committee, the speakers, the choir director and the sound person to provide music that adds to the service. Please consider adding your musical "voice" to our Sunday services. Contact any member of the music committee if you are interested. Members are E.C. G, Karen H, Michelle H, Tracy M, Robin R, and Greg V.

Get Involved / Things to Do

Movie that Matters

On **March 14**, we will be showing the documentary "For the Bible Tells Me So" at LCUUC. This film asks the questions: Can the love between two people ever be an abomination? Is the chasm separating gays and lesbians and Christianity too wide to cross? Is the Bible an excuse to hate? Through the experiences of five very normal, very Christian, very American families—including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson—we discover how insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child. The film is informed by such respected voices as Bishop Desmond Tutu, Harvard's Peter Gomes, Orthodox Rabbi Steve Greenberg, and Rev. Jimmy Creech.

Details: March 14 at LCUUC, 7 p.m. After the movie, we will take time for a group discussion and talk about how this movie relates to the greater community and ourselves.

Sprit of Life

The Adult Education class "Sprit of Life" continues this month on **March 17** from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. All are welcome to join. Please call or email Rev. Linda Berez for more information or to reserve a space.

United U & U Society of Mukwonago Dances of Universal Peace

Friday, **March 20** Dances of Universal Peace will honor the spiritual traditions of indigenous peoples. The purpose of the Dances of Universal Peace is to bring peace into our lives and into the world by being in loving relationship with one another and celebrating through song and dance. Each dance is taught individually. No prior experience is necessary. Persons of all ages and abilities are welcome to attend.

The dances are an outreach of the United Unitarian & Universalist Society of Mukwonago and are held every third Friday of the month at the United Church of Christ in Mukwonago at S93 W30740 Hwy NN from 7 to 9 p.m. For information, see www.wisdup.org.

Meditation Musings

In March we will again offer Meditation on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Paul Norton, of the Order of Interbeing will lead Meditation on **March 10** from 7 to 9 p.m.; he will offer an introduction to meditation from 6:30 to 7 p.m. for those new to meditation or wishing a refresher. Our members will lead meditation on **March 24** from 7 to 9 p.m. Both sessions are free of charge to members and the community.

We are excited to announce that beginning April 7th, Dr. Norton will lead the **Spring Intra-vaganza**. This is an eleven-week class. It will take the place of our usual meditation gatherings during the **months of April, May, and June**. Topics for the classes are:

- April 7 Beginning Mindfulness Practice
- April 14 Sitting and Walking Meditation
- April 21 Mindfulness of Body
- April 28 Mindfulness of Feelings
- May 5 Mindfulness of Thought
- May 12 Mindfulness of the World
- May 19 Gatha Practice
- May 26 Four Noble Truths
- June 2 Lovingkindness
- June 9 Compassion and Joy
- June 16 Equanimity

The fee is \$140 for the entire course and \$15 for any individual week. This fee includes the book *Beginning Mindfulness* by Andrew Weiss and two CDs of guided meditation. If you want more information, call Joanne N. To register, email milwmindful@hotmail.com or phone 414-962-8678. All proceeds go to the Mindfulness Community of Milwaukee and LCUUC.

Junior Youth Con at LCUUC

Next month, our Middle Schoolers will be hosting a Junior Youth Con in our building on **April 4 and 5**. Youth from area UU churches will join ours in a CREATION Art Con where children will have a chance to try various visual and performing arts-related workshops, games, and food.

The registration deadline is March 7 and the cost is \$25. If your child is planning to attend, be sure to submit your forms and check to Kerry Duma, Director of RE.

Green Sanctuary / Social Action

Home Watershed Management!

We are hearing more and more about our carbon footprints, but another way that we can have a significant impact on our environment is to reduce our *water footprint*. Now, of course, one of the best ways to improve this is to conserve water use by taking reasonable showers and using low-use appliances and fixtures. But we can also design our home landscapes to significantly increase the amount of water available to future generations.

Historically, water that falls as rain was absorbed by the earth to slowly percolate into rivers and aquifers over long periods of time—a process that could take centuries. With the increase of urban development, much of the earth is now covered by impermeable surfaces that block this cycle. Now the water is directed to storm sewers as efficiently as possible, breaking the water cycle and drastically increasing flash flooding, as we saw last year. Luckily, there is much we can do to repair this situation. On a municipal level, encourage your City Board to use low-impact development and Smart Growth planning to improve water cycling on a large scale.

On an individual home scale, the single most important thing you can do is to **install rain gardens** beneath your downspouts. A rain garden will capture the runoff and allow it to percolate into the soil as nature intended, thus reducing flooding and replenishing aquifers over time. Not only that, but rain gardens can be planted with native plants, providing needed habitat for butterflies, birds, and amphibians. In the first year of our rain garden we had nine Monarch chrysalises on our milkweeds!

Rain gardens are a beautiful way to landscape your yard, reduce your impact, and begin to heal some of the damage done in the past century. What you do can make a difference!

Resources:

Rain Gardens: www.dnr.state.wi.us/runoff/rg/

Low Impact Development:
www.lowimpactdevelopment.org

Submitted by Rob F, Green Sanctuary Committee

What's Happening in Social Action

Our congregation has been very generous with their contributions to our monthly designated collections. The January 18 Designated Collection for the Drop-In Shelter at St. Mathias raised \$841 for this much-needed service. Thanks to all! There was no designated collection in February, but in March we will be collecting for a social justice cause in conjunction with Justice Sunday (March 29).

The February 1st food pantry collection of \$279 in cash and eight bags of groceries was donated to the Mukwonago Food Pantry. Blake M said when he delivered the donations they were quite low on food and extremely grateful for the help. They especially appreciate the cash as they can purchase food wholesale.

Due to the retreat, the March food pantry collection will be moved to the 8th.

LCUUC will be co-sponsoring the April 19 Peace Conference at Unitarian Universalist Church West. Speakers for this event are *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* columnist and psychotherapist Philip Chard and UWM Professor Robert Ricigliano, Director of the UWM Institute of World Affairs and the UWM Peace Studies Program.

On March 14 at 7:00 p.m. Barbara H has arranged for a showing of "For the Bible Tells Me So" for our Movie that Matters. This will complement the ongoing Welcoming Congregation workshops, which are being offered Thursday nights (remaining ones take place on March 5 and 19) at 6:30 p.m. Come enjoy the show and discussion.

Terri F is working with Kerry Duma from RE to organize the Cardboard City event on May 8 and 9.

Dave C organized volunteers from LCUUC to serve the outreach meal offered by Cooperation Congregation of Waukesha County on February 20. The next opportunity to volunteer is August 28.

The next meeting of the Social Action Committee is **March 10 at 6:00 p.m.** Please join us if you are interested in these activities or have new ideas you would like the church to pursue.

Submitted by Patty W, Social Action Committee

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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