



# News for Lake Country UUs

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

**JUNE 2009**

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

**Summer Schedule for 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

**Services will be held on:**

**June 7**

**July 12**

**August 16**

**Weekly services resume in September**

**June 7: "Flower Communion Sunday," by Rev. Linda Berez**

Let's celebrate our annual Flower Communion together, our last service for this church calendar year. Everyone is invited and reminded to bring a fresh flower. Together, these different flowers will become a beautiful bouquet. From the bouquet, people will be invited to take a flower different from the one they brought. Our Unitarian Universalist tradition of the Flower Communion lifts up the idea that our common bouquet would not be the same without the unique addition of each individual flower, and thus it is with our church community – it would not be the same without each and every one of us. All are welcome to this intergenerational service.

**Remaining summer services:**

**July 12: "Responding to the Crisis of Global Warming: The Ultimate Snap Quiz on Our Beliefs, Perceptions and Ability to Shift Gears," by pulpit guest Eric Hansen\***

Humans, both as individuals and societies, have confronted towering crises before. What lessons and hope can we draw from those experiences? How do humans perceive that a crisis is at hand – and an immediate change in course is wise? What moves individuals and groups to speak out and mobilize their fellow citizens? Searching for insight, we'll reflect on several stories of crisis and response.

\*Author Eric Hansen, a life-long Unitarian, is an award-winning environmental essayist and outdoors writer. He is also a commentator for WUWM's Lake Effect program and a regular guest on Wisconsin Public Radio.

**August 16: Topic and speaker to be announced in next newsletter**

**Food/Needs Collection**

Our food pantry collection will take place on Sunday, June 7. Please bring your contribution to church with you that day. The Hartland Food Pantry will be the beneficiary of our gifts.



## A Note From Our Minister



Greetings,

Many of you have been wondering, and asking me these past few months, about my plans for the future. Well, I can report some good news. As of a few weeks ago, my partner accepted the opportunity to serve the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal, Illinois as their interim minister beginning August 1st. We will begin the process of moving in late July, and I am currently exploring possible opportunities in the Bloomington-Normal area. As soon as I have more information about "what's next" for me, I'll let you know. What's most important is that Marcia and I are very excited about this next great adventure in our lives, and in our ministries.

I also hope you know that right now, as you read this, a search is on for another consulting minister for Lake Country UU Church. What I know about the process, which is similar to the one that brought me to LCUUC two years ago, is that it is going well. Once a new minister is identified, I know you will welcome him or her into your church home, as warmly as you welcomed me here.

One aspect of my leaving at the end of July will be not keeping in touch with any of you, either in person, by phone, or by email. This is important because as you welcome your new minister, you will want to establish a healthy relationship with him or her. By not keeping in touch with me, you will have the opportunity to get to know your new minister, and I will get to know the people in my new setting. If you have any questions or concerns, as always, I welcome the conversation, and hope you would please feel free to contact me before I leave.

My final worship service with you is our annual Flower Communion on June 7th. I love the ritual and the beauty of this service. I remember that last year, when I asked you to share the stories about your flowers, some of you admitted that you took them from a neighbor's garden. This year I hope you will bring your stories again. Although, if you do take flowers from your neighbor's garden, I trust you'll have permission.

The annual meeting of the members of the congregation is after the service on June 7th, so be sure to plan accordingly, and look for more information in your mailboxes and in this newsletter.

Finally, many of you know that I'm a huge Harry Potter fan. You may also know that next installment of Harry Potter is coming to a theatre near you on July 17th. I'd like it, if it's at all possible, for a group of us to go together. Are you interested? Let me know and let's see what we can do.

I look forward with great anticipation to the next two months with you and the start of summer. May peace be with you.

Linda

## ☯ June Calendar of Events ☯

(all events at LCUUC unless otherwise noted; see page 6 for more details)

Every Tuesday	SOS *	7–8:30 p.m.
Tuesday, 2	Meditation class	6:30–8:30 p.m.
Sunday, 7	Food collection Annual meeting	During the service 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, 9	Meditation class	6:30–8:30 p.m.
Thursday, 11	Board meeting	6:30 p.m.
Sunday, 14	Overs-Unders soccer match  (location to be announced via email)	1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 16	Meditation class (last one)	6:30–8:30 p.m.

Hold the date: Adopt A Highway Saturday July 11, at 9 a.m. Meet at the LCUUC parking lot.

\* **Secular Organizations for Sobriety**, also known as Save Our Selves, is dedicated to providing a path to sobriety, an alternative to those paths depending upon supernatural or religious beliefs. SOS respects diversity, welcomes healthy skepticism, and encourages rational thinking as well as the expression of feelings.



### Annual Meeting

Please attend the LCUUC Annual meeting June 7, right after the service. Important votes will be on the agenda, including election of new board members. Official announcements will be mailed to voting members. Our church bylaws also require that your annual dues be paid prior to the meeting (see also page 4).

### June

Happy Birthday  
Wishes to:

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 2 Marie-Claude M | 18 Ella F      |
| 4 Mike G         | 19 Lynne S     |
| 7 Dana E P       | 20 Alex N-Z    |
| 9 Matthew K      | 21 Blake M     |
| 10 Helen B       | 21 Lis T       |
| 10 Andrew P      | 21 Janica Y    |
| 13 Cole P        | 24 Kelly L     |
| 14 Gretchen M    | 25 Barbara B   |
| 14 Maya S        | 27 Johnny T    |
| 16 Kerry D       | 28 Nathaniel P |
| 17 Joshua K      | 29 Terry C     |

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



## On Board!

The LCUUC annual meeting will be held right after our June 7 Flower Communion service. Each year we take this opportunity to review our current state and progress. You'll hear about the great accomplishments of the various groups and committees, the current finances and budget for next year, and the overall state of our church. You'll also hear about the important work of our Pathways Committee and of our efforts to become a Welcoming Congregation (see article on page 8).

Eligible members\* can cast a vote on these important items:

- ◆ Three new board members, board president, and nominating committee members
- ◆ On becoming a Welcoming Congregation
- ◆ Bylaw changes

We may have an opportunity to vote on refinancing the mortgage, depending on the terms our bank has to offer.

Per our bylaws, the annual meeting announcement and agenda will be sent via first class mail to eligible voting members.

We have much to reflect on this year.

I would also like to take a moment to convey my personal thanks to Rev. Linda Berez for the wonderful job she has done as minister to our congregation. It's been a period of growth for us and for her that has afforded many opportunities and challenges. It has been a privilege and pleasure for me to work with Linda in my role as board president. On behalf of the congregation, we wish you all the best in your new venture!

\* See note below.

*Submitted by Tim P*

## Annual Dues

To refresh memories... "Dues" is the annual amount we pay, per adult church member, to support the local (SEWUUC), regional (CMwD), and national (UUA) Unitarian Universalist church associations. By treating the dues separately, all members can readily know how much money is being passed through to these organizations. All other LCUUC donations, unless designated otherwise, go to support the congregation. This year, the dues total is remaining at \$78.50 per member (\$157 per 2-member family). Our church bylaws require that dues be paid prior to the annual meeting (June 7) in order to have voting privileges. Make checks payable to LCUUC, and write "includes dues" in the memo area. If your dues payment will be difficult in this time frame, please contact Linda B or Tim P. For any other questions regarding dues, your pledge, or current donations, please don't hesitate to contact me.

*Submitted by John S, Treasurer*

## Our Pathway is Planned

Great news! We have a plan!

Last Fall, the LCUUC Board charged the Pathways Committee to prepare a long-range plan for our church in four areas: ministry, programming, leadership, and finances. Throughout the church year, the Pathways Committee investigated these issues. The Pathways Committee's activities included: gathering comments from the church membership regarding our church mission and vision; conducting a church service in January, to explain the process; holding two World Café listening sessions; and preparing and conducting a multiple-choice survey of the congregation.

The Pathways Committee then conducted a careful discernment process, to consider what it heard from the congregation. From this the Committee developed goals for the four areas of inquiry, followed by objectives to accomplish each goal, and strategies for accomplishing the objectives.

On May 12, the Pathways Committee delivered its 10-page report to the Board, with 58 pages of accompanying documentation. The Board carefully considered it at their meeting on May 14 and approved the plan. The plan is now being distributed to the congregation, and will be on the agenda of the congregational meeting on June 7 for consideration and possible approval of the congregation.

What's in the plan? The key goals are: To call a full-time minister by 2012; to improve the intentionality and diversity of programming; to have a sustainable leadership structure; and to increase revenue to support an administrative assistant within 2 years and a full-time minister within 3 years. That tells just part of the story, though, because these goals are accompanied with more particular objectives, and suggested strategies. The best way to find out what's in the plan is to read your copy. The plan will be delivered in an upcoming email message if you are on the email list, or you can get a paper copy at the church. The supporting documentation is also available, on request.

The future is exciting! Vibrant! Fulfilling! Sustainable! And, it is ours!

*Submitted by Eric L*

## Social Action and RE Recaps/Announcements

The **Cardboard City** event brought many together for a good cause! On Friday evening, May 8th, over 70 people gathered at LCUUC to construct a Cardboard City – an event to create awareness of homelessness in our communities and to raise money for the Hebron House of Hospitality, a homeless shelter in Waukesha. The night combined learning and fun. We raised \$929 for Hebron House, learned about that organization as well as Habitat for Humanity from our two speakers, and enjoyed an evening of fellowship and fun with our UU friends. Our high schoolers joined with high schoolers from Our Saviors Lutheran Church up the road to panhandle for money on the corner and raised almost \$200. Thanks to all who participated, contributed, and helped make this event a success. And congratulations to those who lasted sleeping outside in the torrential downpour overnight.



The **Waukesha County Affordable Housing Task Force** is holding a training session on the use of outreach materials to build support for a housing trust fund in the county. The training session is on Monday, June 8 at 2:00-3:30 p.m., at the tentative location of UU Church West in Brookfield. Learn how to spread the word on how a housing trust fund would benefit Waukesha County communities! Even if you can only commit to sharing information with one other person or organization, your help in this crucial effort would be appreciated! For more information, contact Betsy F-C.

(continued from previous page)

Thank you to all for their generous contributions of money and food during the **monthly food pantry collections**. At the regular service on May 3, LCUUC collected \$215 + 4 bags of food for the Food Pantry of Waukesha County.

The **Cooperating Congregations of Waukesha County**, looking for last-minute volunteers for a Memorial Day Outreach Meal, made a special call to LCUUC. Congratulations! Within minutes of sending out that call, this congregation came through with enough volunteers to staff the meal on a holiday. Our next scheduled Outreach Meal service will be in August, so look out for that call over the summer.

The next Social Action committee meeting has yet to be scheduled. Keep an eye/ear out for that information. All are welcome to join.

### RE Recap

Thanks to all who enjoyed the **spaghetti lunch fundraiser** put on by the high schoolers after church on May 17. We raised \$330 for the high school summer trip to Sylvania Wilderness Area.

Congratulations to Nadine B, Holly E, Matthew K, and David S on their upcoming graduation from high school. We appreciate your sharing your talents and your faith statements with us and we wish you all the best.

## Get Involved / Things to Do

### Mindfulness in Everyday Life

The Mindfulness in Everyday Life programming will continue through June 16th on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 per week for this spring program led by Paul Norton, M.D. of the Order of Interbeing. Please call Joanne N with any questions.

Following completion of the class we will again hold monthly meditation sessions for church and community members. Time and day of the week will be announced in the next newsletter, and on our website.

### Adopt A Highway

I have tentatively scheduled our summer Adopt A Highway for Saturday July 11, at 9 a.m. (to avoid the hot afternoon sun). Meet at the LCUUC parking lot.

Our stretch of road is Highway E, from the intersection with K (northwest corner of LCUUC) north to where E turns sharply to the west. It takes about 1 1/2 hours total. Per Waukesha County rules, children participating must be at least 11 years old or in 6th grade. Wear good walking shoes and gloves; we supply the bags, orange vests, and refreshments! Please contact Gerry F if you wish to participate.

### Summer Fun...

#### Intergenerational Activities

We've seen a great response for these upcoming events!

Please look at the board in the social hall and sign up.

Event details will be emailed once dates and locations are set.

- ⇒ Overs-Unders Soccer match – June 14th @ 1:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Family Hike
- ⇒ Card and game night @ LCUUC
- ⇒ A Day @ Ottawa (beach, swimming, volleyball, bocce, etc.)
- ⇒ Friday or Sunday night "Twilight" Golf – starts in June
- ⇒ Softball game and picnic – to be held at Genesee Depot park
- ⇒ A Day (or night) of Music @ LCUUC
- ⇒ Fall Camping (tentatively planned for October 10th thru 11th @ Hartman Creek)

*Submitted by Mr. Fun (aka AI H)*



**SEWUUC Unsung UU – 2009**

**Article intentionally deleted for website version of newsletter.**

## Welcoming Congregation News

The board has voted to put to the vote of the membership: "Shall we become a Welcoming Congregation?" at the annual meeting on June 7th. Welcoming Congregations (certified by the OBGLTC) are identified by an icon in our "Find a Congregation" search results on the national UU web search engine. Voting to become a Welcoming Congregation will not change who we already are, it will just be another way to communicate our dedication to openness and inclusiveness. Below are the steps a church must take to be qualified to become officially designated a Welcoming Congregation. During the Welcoming Congregation Workshops, we discovered we were well suited for this designation, and we hope you will show with your vote that you agree.



provide worship coordinators and speakers with guidelines on inclusive language.

- ◆ Provide main worship space and ministerial services for bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender rites of passage, such as services of union and dedications of children.
- ◆ Welcome bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender persons in the congregation's brochure.
- ◆ Ensure that publications, public information, and programming reflect the requested status of any individual as s/he sees appropriate; recognize same-gender couples in directories and other publications as they desire.

### Community Outreach

- ◆ Offer religious education that incorporates bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender life issues, including the workshop series from the Welcoming Congregation Program.
  - ◆ Promote participation by the congregation's minister, religious education minister or director, president, and/or moderator in the Welcoming Congregation Program.
  - ◆ Offer a congregation-wide workshop program(s), with follow-up opportunities for study and reflection.
  - ◆ Use the Unitarian Universalist sexuality education program, *Our Whole Lives*.
- ### Congregational Life
- ◆ Form a broad-based Welcoming Congregation committee to offer programs and monitor progress.
  - ◆ Adjust congregational bylaws and other relevant documents to include an affirmative nondiscrimination clause concerning membership, hiring practices, and the calling of religious professionals.
  - ◆ Use inclusive language and content as a regular part of worship services, and
- ◆ Celebrate and affirm bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender issues and history during the church year
  - ◆ Participate in and/or support efforts to create justice, freedom, and equality for bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people in the larger society.
  - ◆ Provide main worship space and ministerial services for bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender rites of passage, such as services of union and dedications of children. (This guideline is also listed as number 8 under Congregational Life.)
  - ◆ Establish and maintain contact with local bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender groups to offer support and promote dialogue and interaction.
  - ◆ Advertise in the local press and/or other media that reaches the bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender communities.
  - ◆ Provide use of building space on an equivalent basis with other Unitarian Universalist organizations when requested by members for programs and meetings of an Interweave (Unitarian Universalists for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns) chapter.

*Submitted by Barbara H*

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# Green Sanctuary

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## North West Earth Institute Courses Next Fall

The LCUUC Green Sanctuary Committee hosted a 5-session North West Earth Institute series on Voluntary Simplicity this past spring. This series was attended by 12 of us, and culminated in our April 19 Earth Day Sunday service, where some of us talked about our experience with this course.

The NWEI discussion courses provide an enjoyable, supportive setting in which to examine personal values and habits, engage in stimulating discussion, and make personal changes if desired. Since 1993, tens of thousands of individuals and hundreds of organizations have been involved in Northwest Earth Institute courses. Groups consist of 8 to 15 people who meet weekly for about an hour to discuss readings from a course book. Course books, each about 100 to 150 pages in length, contain a diverse collection of essays, articles, and book excerpts organized around weekly themes to create lively discussion. Discussion questions and a suggested meeting format are included as well.

We are tentatively planning an informational session after coffee on Sunday September 13, for whoever might be interested in participating in NWEI courses at LCUUC this fall. We will explain how these courses work, and leave it up to the participants in the informational meeting which course(s) to hold, and when to hold them. The NWEI courses available from the Great Lakes Earth Institute are:

- ◆ Voluntary Simplicity (<http://www.nwei.org/pages/simplicity2.html>), a five-session course addressing the distractions of modern society that keep us from caring for ourselves, our relationships, and our environment.
- ◆ Exploring Deep Ecology (<http://www.nwei.org/pages/deepecology2.html>), a nine-session course addressing core values and how they affect the way we view and treat the earth.
- ◆ Discovering a Sense of Place (<http://www.nwei.org/pages/bioregion2.html>), formerly called Bioregional Perspectives, a nine-session course focusing on knowing and protecting our place.
- ◆ Choices for Sustainable Living (<http://www.nwei.org/pages/sustainable2.html>), a nine-session course exploring the meaning of sustainable living and the ties between lifestyle choices and their impact on the earth.
- ◆ Globalization and Its Critics (<http://www.nwei.org/pages/globalization2.html>), a nine-session course designed to look at globalization and its impact on society and culture.

Healthy Children – Healthy Planet (<http://www.nwei.org/pages/HealthyChildren2.html>), a nine-session course designed to create healthy environments for children by developing a child's connection to nature and by recognizing the pervasive effects of advertising.

*Submitted by Gerry F*

### Summer newsletter deadline

The final summer issue of the newsletter will be a combined July/August one. Because the July service will not take place until the 12th, we will not be sending out the issue right at the start of the month. This means we are moving back the deadline for sending material to **June 25**. If you will be away on vacation in the week leading up to this deadline but anticipate having something to submit, please send it along before you go!



### 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

### 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](mailto:newsletter@lcuuc.org)

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