



News for Lake Country UUs

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

NOVEMBER 2009

Rev. Jane Esbensen, 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

Nov. 1: "Saints and Sinners," by Lori Gorgas Hlaban

Today is All Saints Day in the Christian calendar, and a time in many cultures for celebrating their ancestors and honored dead. This service will explore the notion of Unitarian Universalist saints – or sinners – in our history. Are the terms "saint" and "sinner" useful for contemporary Unitarian Universalists?

Nov. 8: "The Meaning of Compassion," by Sally Pla and Kelly Kohl

Nov. 12 is the very first official worldwide "Charter for Compassion" Day. The charter was initiated by religious scholar Karen Armstrong and generated by religious and secular leaders around the world, who came together to write a pact – the Charter – to help us all overcome global spiritual differences and seek to celebrate a specific commonality underlying all world religions: The Golden Rule. Come learn about the Charter project, and reflect on ways compassion can become more conscious in our lives.

Nov. 15: "The Cross under the Pines," by Rev. Jane Esbensen

How many people have a cross lying in their backyard? Not many, but we do. Where did it come from? What is it doing out there? What does it mean to us to have it, unseen but present? Life presents us with all sorts of opportunities to look at things from different vantage points, through different lenses, and make sense of it all. We have a cross outside that is silently prodding us to think about its presence in the life of this church. What are we supposed to pay attention to? Come and listen....

Nov. 22: "Roots and Wings: A Thanksgiving Homily," by Rev. Jane Esbensen

Today is the annual Thanksgiving Day Service *and* New Member Sunday *and* Potluck Meal at LCUUC. A lot of things happening all at once! As we welcome new members into this church today, we are at the same time reminding ourselves why it is we are even here. We are pilgrims, all. Let's celebrate this church's tradition of fellowship and food with a remembrance of what religious freedom truly means. Come hungry!

Nov. 29: "Attuning to Nature: Insights from Wiccan Traditions," by Rev. Selena Fox

Selena (Senior Minister of Circle Sanctuary, an international Wiccan church serving Nature religion practitioners worldwide since 1974) will explore some contemporary and ancient approaches for attuning to sacred dimensions of Nature and aligning with the cycles of sun, moon, and seasons. Learn about Wiccan spirituality, rooted in the Nature religions of old Europe, and consider some ways of adapting some Wiccan symbols, lore, customs, and ceremonies for enriching personal, family, and community life. (See also speaker bio on page 9.)

Food/Needs Collection

The first Sunday of the month is our food pantry collection. Please bring your contribution to church with you on Sunday, November 1. The collection will be for the Oconomowoc Food Pantry.



Journeying: One Minister's Thoughts

By Rev. Jane Esbensen



It's autumn. A contemplative time. The busyness of the summer months is through, the hectic pacing of those early September days has reached the place of routine. October has come and gone, as quickly as the rains and as swiftly as the leaves littering the ground.

It's November. The month of transition between fall and winter where here in the Midwest the snows can come at any time, or not. We wait and scan the skies, still hoping for just one more glimpse of Indian Summer before winter really arrives. We anticipate the changing of this season as much as the change of season from Winter to Spring – only now we are going in reverse. We unpack our warm clothes, take out the blankets, close the windows, stock the larder with root vegetables and heavy breads. Hibernation mode creeps stealthily in time with the fading of the light, earlier and earlier each day, and the raw, damp cold descends upon our faces and hands. "Too soon, too soon," we think, even though it happens the same way every year, and when winter finally arrives...ah...that first snowfall is magical and we are glad.

It's time to begin settling down, and settling in, and pushing our sleeves up. Into the rhythm of the church year, into the groundwork, into the foundation, into this life called religious and intentional we are begun. It is time for us to stand together as one body, as one church, and look at the human enterprise and want to call it good – but see that we still have far to go until that is the truth. Until there is no more suffering in the world, until there are no more injustices being forged, until there are no longer the extreme haves and have-nots, we have much work to do. But we are lucky. We have each other to lean up against in these days and months and years ahead, to give us our sustenance. We have each other to call upon, to join up with, to do the stuff that courage and moral fiber demand. The work will get done. The world will become the place of our vision and our hopes. This church will endure and will have made a difference.

November has arrived.

Affectionately,
Jane

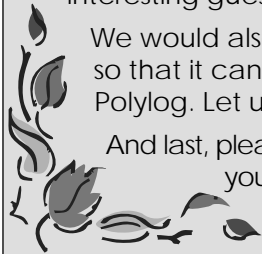
Worship Committee Needs Your Feedback

As you all know, our services are structured so that in a typical month we have two services provided by our half-time minister, Rev. Jane Esbensen, and the other 2-3 services are filled with either a guest minister/outside speaker, or a service from the UUA's Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF).

The Worship Committee would like input from the congregation in several ways. What topics would you like to hear more about? Do you know of outside speakers that you think would be interesting guests for our church?

We would also like to solicit input from the congregation for a particular worship service, so that it can include that personal experience and perspective, sort of like a built-in Polylog. Let us know if you think you would be interested in this.

And last, please remember that there is a suggestion box on the Welcome Table in the foyer. If you have any ideas, comments, or concerns, be sure to write them down and put them in the box. Thanks!



On Board!

During our retreat in late September, the Board considered the effects of growth on our congregation, how we make decisions, and the organizational structure of our church. We also began to plan strategies for accomplishing our objective of calling a full-time minister by 2012. Calling a minister is a three-year process governed by LCUUC bylaws and the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our first step in this process will be to elect a Ministerial Search Committee during a congregational meeting. Notification will be mailed to members when the date for this meeting is scheduled.

Last spring LCUUC began the process of earning the designation of "Welcoming Congregation." One requirement of this process is to adjust congregational bylaws and other relevant documents to include an affirmative nondiscrimination clause concerning membership, hiring practices, and the calling of religious professionals. In October the Board approved a change of wording to meet this requirement. The congregation will be asked to approve the new wording at the next congregational meeting, and we should receive the official designation shortly thereafter.

We are all anticipating the transition to our new church website, designed by Bruce F. Kathie G and Erich M gave the board an update on efforts to get it up and running. The new site, using the Joomla content management system, will be easier to update, resulting in more timely and accurate information being available. It should be in operation soon.

Submitted by Patty W

New Member Welcome

As part of the service on **Nov. 22**, LCUUC will welcome new members. The congregation and new members will covenant to be partners in the search for truth, meaning, and justice within a caring community. People interested in joining LCUUC should talk with Rev. Jane Esbensen (262-369-1703) or Yvonne F.

New UU Orientation Nov. 7-8

Are you interested in learning more about LCUUC? Would you like to meet others who are new to the church? Do you want to know more about how to become a member and what is involved? If so, you are encouraged to attend a two-part UU Orientation Class. Rev. Jane Esbensen will lead the session on **Saturday, Nov. 7 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.** This session will focus on our spiritual journeys and getting to know each other. The second session will be held on **Sunday, Nov. 8 from 11:45 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** During this time, Rev. Esbensen and others will talk about the history of Unitarian Universalism, LCUUC's history, governance, current programming, what it means to be a member, and ways to get involved. A light lunch will be provided on Sunday for participants. Childcare will be available for those who request it in advance. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the social hall under "Church Life." Contact Yvonne F or Lynne S if you have questions.

November
**Happy Birthday
 Wishes to:**

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 3 Stacy M | 13 Russell L |
| 4 Liz K | 16 Ellen T |
| 6 Alexandra E M | 17 Abby L |
| 7 Alison H | 19 Kathie G |
| 7 Morgen M | 20 Eric L |
| 8 Stephen S | 25 Shelby S |
| 12 Sara F | 26 Susan L |
| 12 Greg V | |



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

☞ November Calendar of Events ☞
 (all events at LCUUC unless otherwise noted)

| | | |
|---------------|--|----------------------|
| Every Tuesday | Buddhist meditation | 8–9:15 a.m. |
| Every Tuesday | SOS* | 7–8:30 pm |
| Sunday, 1 | Choir rehearsal | 8:25 a.m. |
| | Food pantry collection | During the service |
| | Reconnecting with Earth Course | 11:45 a.m. |
| Wednesday, 4 | Buddhist talk (see p. 6) | 7–8:30 p.m. |
| Saturday, 7 | New UU Orientation (see p. 3) | 10–11:30 a.m. |
| Sunday, 8 | Choir rehearsal | 8:25 a.m. |
| | New UU Orientation (see p. 3) | 11:45 a.m.–2:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday, 10 | Mindfulness Meditation (see p. 6) | 7–9 p.m. |
| Thursday, 12 | Board meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| Sunday, 15 | Choir rehearsal, possibly sing for service | 8:25 a.m. |
| | Reconnecting with Earth Course | 11:45 a.m. |
| | Third Sunday Outing (see p. 7) | |
| Tuesday, 17 | Worship Committee | 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, 19 | Library Committee | 6:30 p.m. |
| Friday, 20 | Women’s Outing (see p. 7) | |
| Sunday, 22 | Choir rehearsal, possibly sing for service | 8:25 a.m. |
| | New Member Welcome Ceremony | During the service |
| | Thanksgiving Potluck Meal (see p. 6) | After the service |
| Tuesday, 24 | Mindfulness Meditation (see p. 6) | 7–9 p.m.** |
| Sunday, 29 | No choir rehearsal | |
| | Reconnecting with Earth Course | 11:45 a.m. |

* **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.

** If you are new to meditation and would like a brief introduction or a refresher, arrive at 6:30 p.m. , otherwise at 7:00 p.m.

Hold the dates

Continuing Reconnecting with Earth Course, Sundays Dec. 13, Jan. 3, 17, 31, Feb 14.

Children's RE News

As fall unfolds, our children have been spending quite a bit of time out of the classroom. The **K-4 to 2nd Grade** class is going outside every week during RE, looking at plants, bugs, leaves, and trees – experiencing the web of life. Parents, thank you for remembering to put their coats in their classrooms before class, or having them take their coats with them when they leave for RE.

The **3rd to 5th Graders** have been playing a lot of active games in their classroom and outside. This month they will be learning about safety, medicine, and famous UU physicians and the work they have done. We are looking for a nurse, doctor, EMT, or firefighter to come and talk to them about first aid. Please let me know if you could help out in this way.

The **Middle Schoolers** have started their visits to houses of worship as they explore Neighboring Faiths this year, with their first field trip, to Congregation Emanu-el in Waukesha on Oct. 16. Here's a synopsis of their visit: *Turnout was great with 16 middle schoolers and parents attending. The class brought a chalice as a gift, and Nicole Bera was asked to assist in the lighting of the chalice as the Sabbath candles were lit for the service. The middle schoolers were most interested in the Hebrew spoken during the service as well as seeing the Torah following service. They spent nearly an hour after the service learning more about Judaism, what it means to be Jewish, and what "kosher" really means.* They will be exploring Christian faiths next.

The **High Schoolers** cleaned up our stretch of highway last month, and will be participating in Interfaith's "Make a Difference Day" on Nov. 1 – helping an elderly individual with yard work. They took part in a "High School Extreme Makeover" on Oct. 23, making art to adorn their class walls.

Thank you to all who supported our Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser for RE on Oct. 4. We raised a little over \$200. Please consider buying a UU coffee mug as a gift for yourself or another. The profits from the sale of the mugs will support our RE budget as well.

We are always looking for ways to involve our children in work that benefits our community and our world. Please share any ideas you have for ways we can do this.

Warmly in faith,
Kerry Duma
Director of Religious Education

Social Action

Housing Trust Fund Campaign Update: LCUUC is an official endorser of the creation of a housing trust fund in Waukesha County to support more affordable housing here. The group leading the campaign for a housing trust fund is the Waukesha County Affordable Housing Task Force. The task force has started meeting with county board supervisors, and will continue to meet with all 25 of them, to present a proposal for a housing trust fund. If you are interested in voicing your support, visit the task force web site to find out how to contact your supervisors (www.affordablehousingtaskforce.org). You can also see Betsy F-C from the Social Action Committee if you have questions.

Collections: CROP Walk collections were \$338, which was donated through Cooperating Congregations of Waukesha County (CCWC). Thank you very much. \$179 was generously donated on October 4 to the Food Pantry of Waukesha County. The November 1 collection will be for the Oconomowoc Food Pantry.

Designated Collections: October's Designated Collections was for the Waukesha Interfaith Senior Programs. The November Designated Collection will be for the new Bread of Life Meal Program in Hartland. In December, there will be no Designated Collection, just encouragement to get involved with the "Giving Tree."

Meal Program: Dave C is in the process of engaging LCUUC with the St. Anskar's meal program. This will be a once/year commitment of shopping, cooking, serving, and paying for the meal. Most of the clients are elderly/homeless.

Winter Coat Drive: Thank you to Dave C for the coat donation sign and to all who have been giving coats, hats, mittens, sweaters (warm outer clothing). A delivery was made, as planned, on Oct. 25, to CCWC, but we will continue to collect as long as you are willing to give!

Community Link: Barbara H told us about volunteersoflakecountry.org for any donations for family needs, such as furniture, dishes, etc. They have storage!

Submitted by Terry C

Get Involved / Things to Do

Making Your Life Count

On **Wednesday, November 4**, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Domo Geshe Rinpoche (www.white@conch.org) will be speaking on "Making Your Life Count." During her Midwestern tour, of which this talk is a part, she will be offering an ongoing commentary on Precious Human Life and the 8 freedoms and 10 advantages that make spiritual practice possible. How can we make the most of this life, in moving us forward on our evolutionary path to transformation?

Suggested donation: \$15.

A flyer is posted in the social hall with more information. Contact Kathie G with any questions.

Potluck Lunch with Our Minister

Carlyn W and Nancy B will host a potluck lunch with Rev. Jane Esbensen on **Saturday, November 7th**, from 1 to 4 p.m. This will be held at the W's house. There is a sign-up on the bulletin board in the social hall. If you haven't already spent some time with our new minister, consider signing up for this gathering. It is a fun way to get to know other members as well!

Annual Thanksgiving Potluck

This has been one of our favorite annual traditions. Members, friends, visiting guests, and relatives are all welcome. Everyone who shows up will be fed! We will serve at the church, **immediately after the November 22 Sunday service**. There will be sign-up sheets in the social hall after services in November. In addition to signing up for dishes, we'll also be asking for volunteers to help with setup and cleanup. Contact Barb A with any questions.



Terrific Tuesdays

Tuesday evening meditation continues with Dr. Paul Norton of the Order of Interbeing. We are slowly reading through the book *Wherever You Go There You Are* by Jon Kabat-Zinn. Paul will meet with us the fourth Tuesday of each month. We will also have a lay-led meditation session on the second Tuesday of the month. All sessions will be from 7 to 9 p.m. On the fourth Tuesday, Paul will offer instruction in meditation from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. for those interested. **In November the dates are the 10th and the 24th.**

Terrific Tuesdays are free and open to all members, friends, and community members.



Chess Club for Kids

LCUUC and UUCW are collaborating to host a chess club for kids of all ages. Larry H, experienced chess coach and UUCW member, will coach the club. Club meetings will alternate between LCUUC (11/8, 12/20, 1/17) and UUCW (11/20, 1/3). The club will meet from 4 to 6 p.m. They will also have an opportunity to participate in tournaments, competing as a club. Larry has successfully coached the Montessori School of Waukesha for the past 3 years, working with kids from kindergarten up. He is patient and kind, but pushes kids to do their best. There will be opportunities to participate in chess tournaments as a club team. Contact Susan L for more information, and to let her know if you plan to attend.



Get Involved / Things to Do *(continued)*

Have Fun!
Build Community!
Relax!
Connect!
Explore!

At LCUUC, we seem to find a way to make every activity a social activity. Coffee hour after Sunday services, fundraising events, social action projects and adult enrichment classes offer opportunities to connect with others in the congregation. However, it is also nice to join in activities in which the sole purpose is just to have a good time with other UUs. The Social Activities Committee is planning a variety of activities for LCUUC members, friends, and visitors of all ages. Please check www.lcuuc.org and the "Church Life" bulletin board in the Social Hall for updated information and more dates as they are scheduled. If you have an idea for a social activity that you'd like to make happen at LCUUC, please contact Wendy R or Kristin S.

Third Sunday Nature Outings: Pack a picnic and head out after church every third Sunday of the month for a seasonal outing. The next outing will be November 15th. Activities may include hiking, bicycling, cross country skiing and canoeing/kayaking depending on the time of year and weather.



Overs/Unders Soccer Games: This legendary soccer game is a longstanding rivalry between the adults (overs) and the youth (unders). The game takes place in the fall and spring at Centennial Park in Hartland, future dates TBD. All ages are welcome. A good attitude and an openness to creative rule interpretation are more important than actual soccer talent.



Circle Dinners: Join other adults for a shared meal and conversation. Each participant hosts one meal for a small group and joins a different mixture of adults in their home twice more. This is a perfect way to get to know others in our fast growing congregation. Look for a sign-up in late October or early November.



Women's Gatherings: Women are invited for a monthly outing to make deeper connections and enjoy time together. Locations TBD. The next outing is Friday November 20th

Game Night: Come in from the cold to LCUUC in January, February, and March to enjoy board games with others of all ages. Dates TBD.



Chat-n-Craft: Bring your knitting, sewing, scrapbooking or other creative project to LCUUC to work on in community. A date in late November/early December will be announced so that you can have time to work on those holiday gifts.

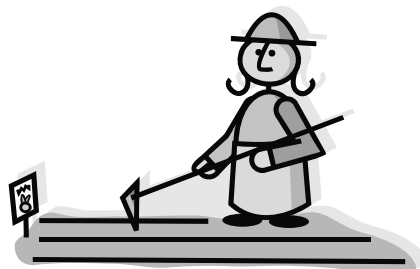
Summer Camping and Summer Picnic

(continued on page 9)

The Volunteers of Lake Country Garden for Good

The Volunteers of Lake Country (VoLC) Garden for Good was a great success this summer. As you may know, we started out calling it the VoLC Community Garden but we found that too many people were confused by the name and thought we had plots for local families. Because we were a group of community people caring for the garden and donating all the produce to local food pantries and meal sites, we voted to rename it Garden for Good. We had about 40 volunteers helping at different times. Of our volunteers, 17 came from our congregation and the rest from the greater community. Our core volunteers were dubbed the "Weed and Water Brigade" and came regularly to tend the garden throughout the summer.

There was an amazing variety of produce planted in the Garden. Due to the unusually cool weather and large variability in rainfall, some crops produced more than expected, and some less. Cool weather crops, which were planted later than normal, did well due to the cool summer. Salad greens and broccoli were harvested throughout the summer. Both varieties of parsley were harvested until the first frost. Kohlrabi, onion, and cabbage were harvested when mature. A second crop of cabbage is still growing. A late planted crop of potatoes yielded over a 5-gallon pail full. Several varieties of peppers did very well and continued to be harvested until the first frost, as were the bush and pole beans. Peas did not fare as well, but yielded smaller amounts that went exclusively to the food



pantries. Vine crops such as squash and pumpkins were donated to the church for decorations, except for the butternut and acorn, which went to the Cooperating Congregations of Waukesha County (CCWC) meal site. Eggplants also went to CCWC. Tomatoes, both regular and grape varieties, were heavy producers.

It quickly became apparent that produce from the garden, plus additional donations from VLC volunteers and members of the community, would overwhelm the Hartland Food Pantry. Contacts were made with the Food Pantry of Waukesha County, the Pewaukee Food Pantry, and meal sites operated by CCWC and the Salvation Army (SA) to take additional produce.

Hartland Food Pantry had limited refrigeration and would only accept small amounts of produce during their normal hours of operation. Pewaukee Food Pantry also had limited refrigeration but would take more produce than Hartland. Because of the two pantries' hours of operation the usual routine would be drop off to the Pewaukee location Wednesday and Saturday mornings, followed by Hartland Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning.

Food Pantry of Waukesha County received excess donations beyond what Hartland could accept early in the harvest year. However, as the meal sites and Pewaukee Food Pantry needs became clearer the donations to Waukesha diminished as summer progressed.

Meal sites operated by CCWC and SA provide 100-150 meals each evening on alternating days (Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday). Both sites would take large quantities of standard and unusual produce as well as herbs. Often donated produce and harvested produce would be plentiful enough to supply both food pantries and each

Garden for Good *(continued from previous page)*

meal site twice a week. The CCWC site accepted hard-to-process produce such as eggplant, squash, carrots, and kohlrabi, which SA did not want its volunteers to cut up; however, SA took all the green tomatoes we had at the end of the season. Both meal sites loved fresh herbs and salad crops, which the food pantries did not want because they would perish too quickly. The CCWC site received produce once or twice a week. The SA received produce several times a month but not weekly.

Submitted by Barbara H

Get Involved/Things to Do *(continued from page 7)*



I Want You, to Brew Like a UU!

It's not too late to sign up to participate in the Fifth Annual UU Homebrew Festival and Competition! We expect entries from our sister UU congregations again this year, so get hopping and keep your spirits up! We just

managed to keep the UU Homebrew Chalice on home soil last year -- but it took a scurvy band of pirates to do so. The Wild West team of bandits is hot on the trail!

What am I talking about? This is about getting together with friends, making new friends, and socializing with UU members and guests throughout the Waukesha County area. You and your team brew some beer and enter it in a light-hearted competition. The competition is on April 24th (tentatively), so you have plenty of time to get started. It's a fundraiser, a community builder, and, did I mention, it is award-winning beer (plus some loser beers).

If you missed the sign-up sheet during the silent auction, you can still register by contacting Eric L. If you want to learn more about this, or if you want to participate on an existing team rather than have your own team, call Eric, who can make those arrangements for you.

This is for pride and glory, folks! We can't let LCUUC down!

YOU: UU! YOU BREW TOO!

Submitted by Eric L

2009 Silent Auction Results

Our 2009 Silent Auction raised **\$5,201**. Of that amount, the Middle Schoolers raised \$158 and the High Schoolers raised \$163. A big "thank you" to all who donated auction items and also to everyone who purchased those items to once again make our Silent Auction a big success. Please stop by the Silent Auction table set up in the Social Hall to obtain your winning tallies.

Silent Auction Committee: Esther F, Terry C, Amy S

SEWUUC FrUUit & NUUt Sale

Nov. 1 and 8: Last days to place your orders for these top-quality products that are great gifts for family, friends, and business associates, also tasty for holiday baking and snacks.

The sale benefits communal advertising for area UUs, by announcing the presence of churches through: 1) sponsorship on radio (WUWM, WHAD, and WGTD); 2) print advertisements targeting young adults; and 3) returning 10% of each congregation's profit for local publicity.

November 29 Speaker Bio

Rev. Selena Fox is Senior Minister of Circle Sanctuary, an international Wiccan church serving Nature religion practitioners worldwide since 1974. Selena travels internationally speaking and facilitating ceremonies. Her articles have been widely published. In addition, Selena is a holistic counselor with a MS in Counseling from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Active in interfaith endeavors for more than 40 years, Selena is President of the Greater Madison Interreligious Association and serves as a diversity consultant to state and federal agencies. A longtime environmentalist, she is Executive Director of Circle Sanctuary Nature Preserve near Barneveld, Wisconsin and founder of Circle Cemetery, one of the first conservation cemeteries in America. More info about her and her work can be found at <http://www.selenafox.com>.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

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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