



News for Lake Country UUs

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

APRIL 2010

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

April 4: "Easter Sunday Service," by Rev. Jane Esbensen

With the rising of the sun and the Rising of the Son, Easter is here and we will be in full celebration! Come and enjoy a beautiful Easter service with glorious music, stories old and new, traditions from here and abroad, and maybe even a large rabbit sighting! Wear your best and join in this celebration!

April 11: "The Uncommon Common Good," by Rev. Jane Esbensen

In this second of three Auction Sermons, this service will take a look at the concept of the Common Good and how or if it is possible to tap into it within our diversely religious world. With a starting point of Catholic social teachings, this service will be one of thoughtful consideration about how Unitarian Universalism echoes the voices of other religions and is willing to do the hard work to land alongside them as partners in the creation of a world that holds, as it core premise, the common good.

April 18: "Reconnecting with Earth," presented by the course study group at LCUUC

Reconnecting with Earth is a six-session course for the workplace, faith center, or home addressing core values and how they affect the way we view and treat the Earth. This is another of a series of courses offered by the Great Lakes Earth Institute. We will be sharing our insights learned from this course in this Earth Day service. Other Earth Day activities are being planned for the day (see also Green Sanctuary article on page 8).

April 25: "Understanding Islam Through a Father's Advice to His Son," by Muhammed Isa Sadlon

This service, based on a letter from the Prophet Muhammed's son-in-law Ali to his son, gives insight into the message of Islam. Isa Sadlon is the Executive Director and CEO of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee.

See page 9 for a poem written by church member Bill L as part of our Stewardship Campaign.





Journeying: One Minister's Thoughts

*Life has taught us that love does not consist in gazing at each other,
but in looking outward together in the same direction.*

Antoine de Saint-Exupery
French writer (1900 - 1944)

Is it April already? Is the church year really almost over? It feels as though it's just begun and hardly anything's been accomplished (of what I had intended to do!), and yet, as I was on the floor of my office the other day, piles of papers surrounding me while I sorted, filed, pondered and threw away, I was absolutely stunned at how much happened this year. Water communion seems ages away, I don't remember Halloween, Thanksgiving stays etched in my memory as one huge feast where the food never ended. Christmas was one of candlelight and music and the magical appearance of Sankta Lucia, our beautiful children's faces aglow as they followed her out into a new year. And the new year came. A long January, to reflect and take stock of our lives and to get ready to welcome in February with love and laughter and tears of suffering for those in Afghanistan and Somalia and India and Haiti, as well as for those in our own community. Then March arrived with the early cry of geese returning, the promise of new things to come, new possibilities to roll up our sleeves for.....and now we are in April.

April. The month that will lead us with great speed toward May and then to June and then to a long summer break. And in the Fall a new church year will begin. What will it look like? What will it contain? What do we want to get done, make sure happens, focus on, attend to, create and nurture and sustain?

What indeed? What are your hopes and dreams for this church? What do you want it to look like? What do you want it to stand for? Why do you need it to be here? Why do its doors need to stay open, and who are they open for? What does it provide for you that is so important that you come every Sunday and get involved and give it life with your very presence? These are the questions we all need to ask ourselves now, in particular, as the Stewardship campaign gets up and running. Stewardship. To take care of something, to make sure that it endures, to think not only of today but of the future as well. This church is our church. Created by us, governed by us, and sustained by us. We are the keepers of the dream. We are the ones who get to say how we want it to be, and why we want it to be that way, and we are the ones who with our time and energy and financial commitment will ensure it is everything we dreamed of. And what we are dreaming of is something greater than the sum of its parts. What we are dreaming of is a church with meaning and relevance, for us, for this community, and for the world at large. Indeed, we are not just here to gaze at each other with love, but to look outward together in the same direction with love. The world awaits. April is here and with it the chance to make our dreams come true.

Affectionately,
Jane

Contacting Rev. Jane:

Rev. Jane's office hours are Tuesdays 9-3 and Thursdays 1-9. The office phone number is 262-369-1703. Rev. Jane is also available via email and cell phone at 608-843-7554.

On Board!

At our March meeting, the Board discussed several key issues and several ongoing initiatives to improve the functioning of our church:

The Board planned a **congregational meeting** to discuss our plans for ministry. The meeting was held on March 14th after the service, and included a summary of Pathways, different ways of hiring/calling a minister, Rev. Jane's current position, UUA recommendations about fellowshiping and ordination, and what our by-laws say about calling a minister. Many thanks to Chris P, Lynne S, and Rev. Jane for providing all this information to the congregation, and thanks also to all who attended and contributed to the Q&A. A summary of the meeting has been prepared (thanks, Lynne!) and is in the final stage of receiving feedback from Board members and Rev. Jane. Look for it in your inbox very soon.

The Board voted to offer Rev. Jane an **agreement for continuing her ministry** next year. Hours and salary will be discussed after the results of the Stewardship campaign. We look forward to another excellent year with her!

The Board also discussed the ongoing **Stewardship** campaign's financial message and focus for our canvass. All Board members plus members of the Stewardship campaign and several other volunteers are serving as canvassers. Many of you will have been contacted already by your canvasser to arrange a time to meet to go over the goals of this year's campaign. If you have not, expect to be contacted shortly. We hope everyone in the congregation welcomes the opportunity to learn about Stewardship this year and will become excited about the changes that a successful campaign will bring forth.

The Board reviewed the **definitions of Member and Friend**, as proposed by the Membership Committee. The proposal clearly listed the benefits of membership and friendship and also included the option of incorporating dues to the UUA into the annual pledge. After small revisions, the proposal will be brought again to the Board for a vote. If adopted, this will mean a change in current policies and also a congregational vote on a by-law change. More to come on this in the near future.

We also received an update on a new **electronic communication policy** and discussed proposed changes to the role and scope of the **Committee on Ministry**. We hope to be able to vote on proposals relating to both these areas at our Board meeting next month.

Submitted by Kathie G

Ceremonies, Ceremonies

New Member Welcome Ceremony – April 11

Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church will welcome new members as part of the worship service on April 11. The congregation and new members will covenant to be partners in the search for truth, meaning, and justice within a caring community. Friends interested in joining LCUUC should contact Rev. Jane Esbensen (262-369-1703).

Child Welcoming Ceremony – May 9

Every child needs to be welcomed into this world and guided into adulthood with loving kindness. Unitarian Universalists do this with a Child Welcoming Ceremony in which the family and religious community accept their responsibility to help each child in this endeavor and welcome them into the guardian fellowship of the church. If you are a LCUUC member and would like to participate in the ceremony or want more information, contact Rev. Jane Esbensen.

Happy Birthday Wishes to:

April

1 Arlene R	22 Anna F
8 Greg D	22 Maya P
9 Esther F	22 Tim P
10 Dave C	23 Yvonne F
11 Rhiannon R-M	27 Nicolas M
12 Joanne N	
15 Dawn J	
15 Jessika J	
20 Laurie S	



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

Lori Hlaban's Ordination—May 1st at 3 p.m.

We hope you will join in the special celebration as LCUUC ordains one of our members, Lori Hlaban, into the Unitarian Universalist ministry!

A cornerstone of the UUA principles is a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. One of our members, Lori Hlaban, has been doing so in depth these last few years. Lori's calling led her to receive her Masters of Divinity Degree and being approved by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the UUA. What began as an interest became a passion and has turned into a vocation.

In our system of UU governance, Lori is not officially a minister, however, until ordained by a congregation. While she will not be serving LCUUC directly as our minister, we have the honor of ordaining her into the ministry. UU ministers and leaders throughout the district, Lori's mentors, colleagues, family, LCUUC members, and friends are all invited to attend this special event. The ordination ceremony will begin at 3 p.m., with a reception following. Childcare will be provided. We hope you will join the celebration!

Nominating Committee Report

According to Article IX of the Bylaws of Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church, the nominating committee shall nominate at least one LCUUC member for each elected church position to be filled. Additional nominees may be made by petition of at least ten voting church members in writing to the nominating committee at least three weeks before the Annual Meeting of the congregation. Nominations may not be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

The 2009-2010 Nominating Committee is pleased to submit the following LCUUC members for election at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation:

President: Mike S

Board of Trustees for a three-year term:

Jim H
Barb H
Blake M

Nominating Committee for 2010-2011:

Liz K
Tim P
Kazuko S
Greg V
Christina W

Respectfully submitted by the current
Nominating Committee

☯ April Calendar of Events ☯

(all events at LCUUC unless otherwise noted; see elsewhere in newsletter for details)

Every Tuesday	SOS*	7–8:30 p.m.
Thursday, 1	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	6:30–8:30 p.m.
Saturday, 3	Day of Mindfulness	8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, 4	No choir rehearsal Food pantry collection	During the service
Thursday, 8	Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, 10	Socrates Café (see pg. 6)	7 p.m.
Sunday, 11	Choir rehearsal	8:25 a.m.
Tuesday, 13	Lay-led Mindfulness Meditation	7–9 p.m.
Thursday, 15	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	6:30–8:30 p.m.
Saturday, 17	“Food Inc” showing	Doors open at 6:30 p.m., film starts at 7 p.m.
Sunday, 18	Choir rehearsal	8:25 a.m.
	Earth Day Potluck	11:30 a.m.
	Earth Day Grounds Work	12:30–3 p.m.
Saturday, 24	Bruufest	6 p.m.
Sunday, 25	No morning choir rehearsal Choralfest at UUCW	3 p.m.
Tuesday, 27	Lay-led Mindfulness Meditation	7–9 p.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.

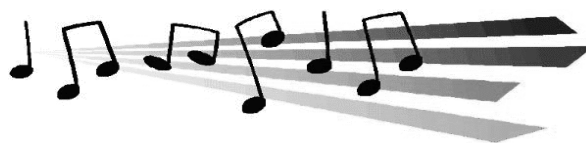
Hold the date:

Saturday, May 1: Ordination of Lori Hlaban at 3 p.m.

Friday and Saturday, May 14-15 Rummage Sale

Choralfest Sunday April 25

Save the Date! Choralfest will be held at 3:00 p.m. on **Sunday, April 25**, at Unitarian Universalist Church West, 13001 W. North Ave., Brookfield. Choirs from many southeastern Wisconsin UU congregations, including ours, will perform. Admission is free but a goodwill offering will be taken. The music is always superb at this wonderful event. Save the date and invite your friends and relatives!



Church Happenings/Things to Do

Writing as a Spiritual Exercise



We welcome all writers or wanna-be writers to drop in on the first and third Thursday of the month (in April that's **the 1st and the 15th**) for 2 hours of writing time, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. No need to reserve a

spot or show up on a regular schedule, just drop by if you can. We start with a brief exercise to warm up the writing muscles and then enjoy quiet time to write in the fellowship of others. Call Joanne with questions .

April 3 Day of Mindfulness

Come join us in fellowship as we celebrate a day of mindfulness together on **Saturday, April 3**. All are welcome, whether you are a seasoned veteran or new to the practice. The day will be led by Paul Norton, MD, a member of the Order of Interbeing.

A tentative schedule:

8:30	Registration/coffee, tea
9:00	Introduction/meditation instruction
9:30	Sitting and walking meditation
10:30	Break
10:45	Outdoor walking
11:30	Movement/guided meditation
12:15	Silent lunch (bring your own, vegetarian please)/lazy time
1:15	Dharma talk
2:15	Guided meditation
3:00	Break
3:15	Discussion sharing
4:30	Good-byes

Fee \$15. Please bring your own meditation cushion(s) if possible. Contact Kathie G to reserve your spot or with questions.



Tuesday Evening Meditation

We are continuing our lay-led meditation sessions at LCUUC at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. In April we will be meeting on the **13th and the 27th**. We are still slowly reading through "Wherever You Go, There You Are" and have another excellent book to share and discuss when we finish this one.

Terrific Tuesdays are free and open to all LCUUC members, friends, and community members. Please come and join us! Contact Diane M with any questions.

Socrates Café



Socrates Café takes place on the second Saturday of the month, **April 10, from 7 to 9 p.m.**, at Milwaukee Street Traders (523 Milwaukee St) in Delafield.

If you're not familiar with Socrates Café, it consists of a casual, lively philosophical discussion! Bring a question (if you'd like), such as "What is courage?" or "What is enough?" Using the Socratic method, in which the meanings of the words and the underlying assumptions in the question are examined, we will perhaps not answer the question, but it will be explored from many angles. You might come to listen, you might want to participate in discussion. Either way, we hope to see you there! Contact Lynne S with any questions.

Trip to Bahai Temple for Middle Schoolers



Our middle schoolers will travel to the Bahai Temple on **Sunday, April 18**. They will attend a prayer service and have a tour of the beautiful temple. The group will leave from the church at 9:30 a.m. Plans are still being formulated regarding the return. Questions, contact Kerry Duma.

(continued from previous page)

Fun Activities in Planning Stages

In the coming months we will have details worked out for:

- ◆ a Spring "Overs-Unders" soccer game
- ◆ a clean-up by canoe and/or kayak of Fowler Lake
- ◆ Friday night golfing

Also, make sure to mark your calendar to attend Bruufest on April 24th (see below).

Submitted by AIH

You're Invited to Bruufest



Leave your hot dish at home (or bring him/her along!) and come to the 5th Annual UU Homebruu Festival and Competition on **April 24th at 6:00 p.m.** at LCUUC. You and your guests are invited.

This is a competition. Teams of homebrewers have brewed up their best entry, and you get to sample all of the entries, free of charge. Live entertainment, too! You can even choose to be one of the judges, for a \$10 donation. This is partly a fundraiser for Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church, so your generosity will be appreciated. But, it is mostly just "fun" without the "draiser," and a great chance to be together and have a good time. Please come!

Submitted by Eric L

LCUUC Rummage/Plant Sale

Fri, May 14 (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

Sat., May 15 (8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.)

It's time to start putting things aside to sell at our 4th LCUUC Rummage & Plant Sale . Merchandise that sells well at rummage sales

includes furniture, lamps, decorative items, small electronics, kitchen items, toys, bikes, tools, sporting goods, antiques, infant items, linens, books, DVDs, games, lawn and garden equipments, etc. We have decided to accept clothing for all ages this year. Clothing should be clean and in good condition. All other items should also be cleaned and it's helpful to say something about their condition and size via masking tape -- they will sell better. We would appreciate you pricing your items since we have very little time to set up in the evenings prior to this sale. Better clothing should be priced individually since we will have a set price for items such as shorts, shirts, slacks, purses, socks, caps, and books, etc.

Plants of all types are welcome for the plant sale. However, plants that sell best at this time of year are perennials, shrubs, prairie plants, young annuals, herbs and vegetables. Every plant should be identified as to common name, color, size, sun, shade, or both, and price. Plants may be individually potted or in flats. Larger perennials may be placed in double plastic grocery bags. Also, as part of the plant sale, we can include items for the out-of-doors, such as bird houses, feeders, benches, etc. Get your creative juices flowing!

Delivery of rummage items to the church can begin after May 1st. May 1 is the day of Lori Hlaban's Ordination Celebration. We will have more Rummage/Plant Sale Info in the May newsletter.

Kaz and I would still appreciate two people to co-chair this event this year. We are more than willing to help and share information. Whoever chairs the Rummage/Plant Sale will need your help in donating, organizing, selling, and advertising this sale. There will be a signup sheet for helpers in late April. If you have any questions please contact 2009 Rummage Co-Chairs Kaz or Esther or the Plant Chair Gerry F.

Submitted by Esther F

Annual Retreat Gets an Energetic "Thumbs-up"!

Our annual retreat was another wonderful opportunity to be together in community. It was a treat seeing our older and younger members and friends sharing experiences and conversation and having fun. About 50 of us gathered for a day that seemed to have a theme of energy. Many thanks to everyone who came and participated, and huge thanks to all those who helped plan and organize the day.

Social Action/Green Sanctuary

Social Action Report

Bill L headed up LCUUC's participation in the **Bread of Life meal** held at St. Anskar's Episcopal Church March 25th. Our church joined with Westbrook Church to plan, shop for, prepare, serve, and clean up after the meal for approximately 100 local senior citizens and food pantry patrons. Each month two of the nine local churches participating provide six or seven volunteers to the program. This not only gives the guests a chance to socialize with each other and the volunteers, is also a nice way for the volunteers from different churches to get to know each other and learn about different faiths.

Interfaith is sponsoring a **spring yard cleanup** in May. Volunteers who can provide services such as raking winter debris, washing outdoor windows, cleaning gutters, installing screens, and trimming bushes will be matched to seniors and adults with disabilities in Waukesha County. For more information or to sign up go to www.interfaithwaukesha.org.

Betsy F CI in conjunction with Common Ground has scheduled a **Listening Session** at LCUUC Tuesday, March 30 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Heather Dummer Combs will conduct the session with the goal of identifying emerging local critical social issues. Please join us to express your concerns and begin the process of change.

Our **Food Pantry Collection** on April 4th will be donated to the Food Pantry of Waukesha County. Donations of nonperishable food are welcome and cash donations are especially appreciated.

The next **Habitat for Humanity** work day will be April 17. Please contact Tom H to sign up or for more information.

Submitted by Patty W

Earth Day Events at LCUUC

The Green Sanctuary Committee will again be presenting our **Earth Day service on Sunday, April 18**. You are encouraged to walk or ride a bike to church that day, in honor of Earth Day. There are some other events planned at LCUUC in observance of this annual event in honor of the Earth, and the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. On **Saturday April 17** evening, we will be showing the video "Food Inc", in which documentary film maker Robert Kenner uses reports by "Fast Food Nation" author Eric Schlosser and "The Omnivore's Dilemma" author Michael Pollin as a springboard to exploring where the food we purchase from the grocery store really comes from, and what it means for the health of future generations. Popcorn and organic non-alcoholic beverages will be served. Doors open at 6:30, video starts at 7.

On **Sunday, April 18** after the service, there will be an Earth Day Pot Luck Lunch. Bring a dish which includes local / organic / sustainably produced (any or all) food items to pass. We will have our usual organic fairly traded coffee and tea, plus juice and our own locally produced pure well-water for beverages.

Sunday, April 18 afternoon (12:30 – 3 p.m.), we will (weather permitting) be doing some outdoor activities on the grounds to make ready for spring. Comfortable out-door clothes are encouraged. Bring garden tools such as rakes and trowels. Details to follow.

Submitted by Gerry F



ALIVE

Arrived lonely and broken
(hearted and otherwise)
in the coldest time of winter,
to try to learn to meditate,
and met a member
who greeted me so warmly.
Kept coming back,
again and again,
soon on Sunday, too,
again and again.
When asked to join
my answer was "Amen."
Kindred spirits
helped me feel welcome and at home.
No money to speak of
could I pledge;
but I could give myself,
to help where and when I could.
Joined the Social Action Committee
to help those folks
I'd seen many times before,
who looked so much like me.
Kept meeting more church members
who felt so much like family.
Now I have this place
where I can give my love,
and have love returned to me.
Perfect balance!
Equilibrium!
As everyone can see.
And so I'm here
with all of you,
and so much more alive!

Poem by LCUUC member Bill L

Next Step on the Journey

The time draws near for the special service at which I'll be ordained to the Unitarian Universalist ministry! I'm looking forward to it with great anticipation, not as an ending but as a new beginning, the beginning of my new path as a professional minister. I'm so happy that this congregation will ordain me, and send me forth.

Jane and other ministers have told me that planning for this is like planning for a wedding. Thinking back, I'm quite sure my wedding was NOT this complex! For starters, there was only one minister at my wedding. There will be over a dozen ministers, ministers-in-formation, and other people of faith participating in the ordination service, and more taking part in the proces-

sional. We UUs are often informal, but ordination services are solemn and celebratory occasions. Most ministers put on clerical robes, and don their academic hoods or clerical stoles, to mark this special milestone in the life of a minister and a congregation.

I'm delighted that the Rev. Gordon Gibson will be preaching at my ordination service. I met Gordon and his wife Judy during my first year of seminary, when they were "ministers-in-residence" for a term at Meadville Lombard Theological Seminary. Two years later I took Gordon's travel class on the Civil Rights Movement, which included a transformational ten-day journey through the South. Retired from active ministry, the Gibsons now make their home in Knoxville, Tennessee. I hope you will welcome them warmly.

I look forward to welcoming several other good friends and colleagues, also – including the Rev. Tony Larsen from Olympia Brown UU Church, the Rev. Darrel Richey from James Reeb UU Congregation in Madison, the Rev. Linda Berez, and the Rev. Suzelle Lynch from UU Church West. I anticipate guests from other churches as well.

The service includes some special elements, though some may seem familiar. Though it's not a regular feature for ordinations, some of our children will present a Story for All Ages, as is our LCUUC custom. It is customary at ordinations for the offering to be donated to some special program to benefit Unitarian Universalism. The offering at this service will go to the CMWD Chalice Lighter Fund. LCUUC has been the recipient of two Chalice Lighter grants, and I ask that you give as generously as you are able to help grow this great faith of ours.

But, wait, there's more! On Sunday, May 2, there will be another special guest in our pulpit! My friend and colleague David Pyle will be preaching. David has some amazing stories and deep insights to share, and I hope you will extend a warm welcome to him.

As Yvonne F, Joanne N, and everyone on the ordination committee works together, our excitement keeps growing. We know we have a wonderful, welcoming, joyous congregation, and I know our guests and visitors will feel the special energy that is Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church. I hope you will be present and lend your light so our congregation may shine brightly!

By Lori Hlaban

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

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