



News for Lake Country UUs

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

MARCH 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

March 7: "Free to Choose," by Lori Hlaban

We say we are a "free church," but what does that mean? We might point to our lack of creed, but it's more about our covenants and polity. As this free congregation prepares to ordain one of its own to the Unitarian Universalist ministry, we will take a look at what that means both for the future minister and the congregation. (See page 9 for an article by Lori on her journey to ministry.)

March 14: "Charting Our Own Existence," by Rev. Jane Esbensen

Regardless of the best laid plans of mice and men, we are all bound to find ourselves, at one time or another, facing difficult things in our lifetime. How do we heal ourselves, find the path out of hard times, and rely on what we have within? Sometimes breaking the rules, stepping off the path, and marching to a different drummer can be a hard decision. But it can be a life-saving one, too. In this service about finding one's own way in the world, Rev. Jane will share her own personal story.

March 21: "An Alleluia Chorus: The Sun Hath Returned!" by Rev. Jane Esbensen

Come and celebrate the Spring Equinox with this joyful service! Enjoy music, song, and merriment as we dance in a new season: the budding of the earth, the renewal of the soul, the lightness of the heart. Here comes the sun!

March 28: "The Economic Injustice of Housing Foreclosures: What We Can Do"

Join us for our annual Justice Sunday, in which UU congregations nationwide come together to take action on a pressing social justice issue. The theme this year is economic justice, in light of the global economic downturn. This service will focus on the problem of housing foreclosures, which affects the communities in our region. A speaker from Common Ground, a southeastern Wisconsin social issues organization, will discuss the injustices surrounding the foreclosure crisis and how we can promote economic justice on this issue on a local level.

Food/Needs Collection

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





Journeying: One Minister's Thoughts

Happy Days are nearing! Spring is just around the corner. Don't you feel it? The light in the sky, that particular color of blue, the birds singing in the morning, the grass that's showing, the snow that comes large and quick but melts into puddles of reflected sky and promise? I love this time of year.....and look forward to open windows, soft breezes and, my favorite, being able to walk outside in exactly the same things I'm wearing inside! Ahhhhh...

Happy Days are also nearing with the upcoming Spring Retreat at LCUUC. I have never been to a retreat (yes, it's true!), but I've only heard good things about them in the past. And I only heard GREAT things about the retreats LCUUC has had. This year I'm a bit biased about the retreat since I'm actually one of the members on that committee who've been brainstorming and head scratching and leaning in delightedly around the long rectangular table as one or another of us throws out an idea. What a lot of transformation has occurred around that table, from the first meeting 'til now. The first day, as is always the case with people who come new to things, everyone was very polite, very quiet, never interrupted when others were speaking, and threw out ever-so-careful ideas of what might work, what might be of interest, what I was thinking, but please feel free to disagree with me, these are just my own thoughts not to be construed as placing anyone under any obligation because I've mentioned anything, and probably I shouldn't even have said anything just yet, oh dear...etc.

After all of these weeks, however, and myriad back and forth emails, the committee meets with GREAT enthusiasm: I can do that! GREAT solid thoughts and clearly articulated ideas about what WILL work and what WON'T work, and what we DEFINITELY want to offer! It all feels YES YES YES, and along with that a wonderful sense of warmth and caring for every single one of you who are being taken into consideration for this retreat, young and old alike.

This isn't really a plug, per se, but I really do hope that ALL of you plan to come on March 13th for the LCUUC Daylong Retreat. I will be SO happy to see all of you there, and am excited to see how the minutely detailed plans we have set into place come into life on that day, as you make it all real.

And Happy Days are also nearing with Lori Hlaban's upcoming Ordination on May 1st! I'm on Lori's committee and in meeting with Lori I've not only gotten to know her (which has been great!), but it's also brought back my memories of being ordained by the Menomonie congregation 14 years ago. I had worked with them, while I was still a seminary student, for two years. They loved the work I did with them and decided to ordain and call me as their settled minister. Since UU congregational polity states that it is only the congregation who can ordain and call a minister, they were able to make this decision even though I was not fellowshiped, nor had I finished my seminary degree. They made the decision to call and ordain me because of who I had shown myself to be as a person, who I had shown myself to be as their minister for those two years, what my past experience, both academic and professional, had provided me, and because we meshed just beautifully together. We had the same heart, the same purpose, the same way of being that made our decisions work, and brought energy and purpose toward becoming a stronger, larger, more viable church in the community. It was an honor to have been offered their love and their belief in me.

And it was historic, as well: I was the first minister they'd had in 50 years!!! My ordination was a beautiful ceremony - not filled with empty pomp and circumstance as many occasions

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often are, but one filled with genuine love and trust and faith and hope. As it should be. And because ordination is for life, it is a gift given with the greatest sense of respect and responsibility: both by the congregation toward the one they are ordaining; and by the one being ordained, to the congregation and to the greater association of UU churches around the country and around the globe.

While I was called to that particular congregation, there are other ways to be ordained into the UU ministry. Thus, while Lori is not being called to be the minister of LCUUC, she does come from within your congregation, has been encouraged to pursue the ministry by you, and has been supported by you for all these years. And since it is the congregation and only the congregation who can ordain someone into the UU ministry, and since this decision is made based on experience with a person in the capacity of minister, in the call to this vocation in life, it is fit and right and significant and really thrilling that LCUUC is going to be bestowing its belief upon Lori in this manner. And I am honored that I get to be a part of it!

So mark your calendars: March 21st, the first day of Spring; March 13, LCUUC Daylong Retreat, and May 1st, Lori Hlaban's Ordination! Happy Days ARE ahead!

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!

Your Board of Trustees met on Thursday, February 11th, 2010, opening the meeting with a short chalice lighting ceremony. A major item on the Board's agenda was the analysis of the operating budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Items for discussion included the cost of the annual retreat; payments for membership dues; maintenance and upgrades to the physical plant; and, the sealing and striping of the parking lot. Furthermore, the electronic communication policies were also reviewed. The church by-laws contain a brief definition of the words "member" and "friend," and these two categories, plus a third, "guest," were reviewed as they relate to the electronic mail lists and the church website.

Submitted by Mike S

International Women's Day

March 8 is International Women's Day, a global day celebrating the economic, political, and social achievements of women past, present, and future. In some places like China, Russia, Vietnam, and Bulgaria, IWD is a national holiday. As the first IWD took place in 1911, next year will be the Global Centenary.

Nonprofits such as Women for Women International are using March 8 to help draw attention to female victims of war in areas such as East Congo, the Sudan, and Bosnia Herzegovina. This year, they are planning a special "Join Us On The Bridge" campaign. For more information, visit www.womenforwomen.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to:

March

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 2 Alexis J V | 21 Lucas W |
| 3 Larry S | 23 Doug P |
| 4 Logan S | 23 Mike F |
| 6 Will J | 26 Ethan S |
| 13 Susan T | 28 Josh C |
| 14 Erin S | 30 Isabel J S |
| 14 Patricia H | |
| 17 Duke W | |

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



The Common Good Campaign to Offer LCUUC Members and Friends Opportunity to Put a Value on Our Priceless Community

What drew you to LCUUC? What keeps you here? How do you reply when someone asks you about your church and what you love about it? These are the things the Stewardship Committee hopes you will ponder over the next few weeks as you consider the role you want to play as guardian of this cherished church community. The stewardship we see day in and day out in the life of the church is abundant, with boundless creativity and uncountable volunteer hours. The stewardship we may not see directly comes in the form of our pledges to sustain the fiscal well-being of the church and to help us realize our goals for the future.

Leading up to Stewardship Sunday on April 11th, The Common Good campaign will provide a variety of ways our members and friends value this community in the hopes that all will recommit themselves to nourishing our church. In addition, we plan to make personal contact with individuals to learn about how they view their role as stewards and share our own insights into the important role each of us plays in sustaining our church.

Submitted by Kim S on behalf of the Stewardship Committee

UU Orientation March 6 and 7

If you are interested in learning more about LCUUC, you are invited to our Spring UU Orientation Sessions. It is a great way to learn about our church and meet other folks. The first session will be held on Saturday, March 6th from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and will focus on our spiritual journeys. The second session will be on Sunday, March 7th from 11:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. During this time our minister, Jane 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 Welcome Table in the foyer. Contact Yvonne F or Lynne S if you have questions.

☞ March 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, 4	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	6:30-8:30 p.m.
Saturday, 6	UU Orientation Book Club	10-11:30 a.m.
Sunday, 7	Choir rehearsal Food pantry collection Social Action Committee UU Orientation	8:25am During the service 11:30 a.m. 11:45 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Monday, 8	Mindfulness class, Intra-vaganza	6:30-8:30 p.m.
Tuesday, 9	Lay-led Mindfulness Meditation	7-9 p.m.
Thursday, 11	Board meeting	6:30 p.m.
Friday, 12	World Religions Group	7-8:30 p.m.
Saturday, 13	Day-long, In-House Retreat	10 a.m. -7:30 p.m.
Sunday, 14	Choir rehearsal	8:25 a.m.
Monday, 15	Mindfulness class, Intra-vaganza	6:30-8:30 p.m.
Thursday, 18	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	6:30-8:30 p.m.
Sunday, 21	Choir rehearsal Sing for service	8:25 a.m.
Monday, 22	Mindfulness class, Intra-vaganza	6:30-8:30 p.m.
Tuesday, 23	Lay-led Mindfulness Meditation	7-9 p.m.
Sunday, 28	Choir rehearsal	8:25 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.

Hold the date:

Saturday, April 3: Day of Mindfulness with Dr. Paul Norton (see page 7 for details).

Sunday, April 25: ChoralFest

Upcoming Neighboring Faiths Field Trip



The Middle School RE class continues to explore various world religions. Adults in the World Religions study group are welcome to come along. Please contact Kerry Duma if you are interested. The next visit will take place on **Sunday, March 7** and will be to the Islamic Society of Milwaukee. We will be meeting with Dr. Shah, their Religious Director from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Carpools will leave from the Park 'n Ride at Hwy 83 and I-94 at 10 a.m.

Church Happenings/Things to Do

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 March we will be meeting on the **9th and the 23rd**. Let's hope we won't have heavy snow on those evenings. 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 members, friends, and community members. We have a great core group of meditators and would enjoy seeing some new faces (or returning old ones).

Contact Diane M with any questions.

World Religions Study Group

The World Religions Study Group will meet Friday, March 12 at 7 p.m. to discuss Islam. All are welcome to join us. Participants in the group are invited to join the middle school RE class on their visit to the Islamic Society of Milwaukee on Sunday, March 7 (see page 5). Contact Patty W for details if you plan to go. In preparation, please read the chapter on Islam in Huston Smith's book.

Unmasking the Magic Within! Sat., March 13, 10 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.



Join us for a day of learning, listening, creating, and enjoyment for your whole family. This is a day where we can get to know each other better, with opportunities to just play or relax, as well as partake in a number of interesting,

engaging workshops and activities for all ages, including:

- Mask Making
- Drumming
- Reiki

- Visual Journaling
- Making your own percussion instrument
- And for those who like a more active challenge—a chance to create an "Interactive Path to Enlightenment" (you have to come to find out more about this one...).

Lunch and dinner will be served, with vegetarian options at both meals. Adults and families are invited. You need not be a church member to participate. Cost (includes lunch, dinner and all workshops): \$20/adult, \$15/child. If you have any questions, please contact anyone on the planning committee. If you're interested, please contact us immediately, as we have already ordered food and supplies.

Please Help Fix Our Faces

Do you have beads, feathers, sequins, or any craft materials that you don't need? We're looking for all kinds of materials to decorate individual masks at the March 13 Unmasking the Magic Within! retreat. Please donate your unwanted craft supplies for this fun family project. Just drop them off in the office before March 13. Thank you!

An LCUUC Cookbook!!!

Anoush C is collecting favorite and fabulous recipes for an LCUUC cookbook. This cookbook will encompass appetizers, soups, salads, breads, vegetarian and vegan entrees, entrees featuring meat, poultry, and fish, casseroles, side dishes, and desserts. As you can see, she needs your help (and your kitchen creativity!). If you have a signature dish (or several) please email her at for more information.



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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.



Volunteers needed for Spring Yard Clean Up, May 2010

Individuals, families, and congregation groups are needed to rake winter debris, wash outdoor windows, clean gutters, install screens, trim bushes, and more for seniors and adults with disabilities in Waukesha County (and your community). Choose the time and date to volunteer in the month of May. To volunteer, visit www.interfaithwaukesha.org to download a volunteer flyer or sign-up form, or contact Becky Cooper at 262-549-3349, X 226 or beckyhomann@interfaithwaukesha.org.

Elsewhere in the UU Community

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!

UUSC

Learn more about UUSC's history and current human-rights and social-justice work – and find out how UUSC can help you put your faith into action.

UUSC 101 workshop: **Saturday, March 6**, 2:00–4:00 p.m., followed by worship with Charlie Clements at 4:30 p.m. and a catered reception at 6:15 p.m. Worship with Charlie Clements: **Sunday, March 7**, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

The event will take place at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Dr., Madison, WI . Go to <http://www.fusmadison.org> for more information. To RSVP for Saturday's activities, please contact Wendy Cooper at wendyc@fusmadison.org.

Women's Leadership Day

UU Women's Connection proudly presents a program to celebrate the 200th birthday anniversary of Margaret Fuller and honor UU women who have similarly stepped up in difficult times as did this feisty and fearless UU foremother. The event will take place at Third Unitarian Church in Chicago on **Saturday, March 20**.

One singular, outstanding women from each congregation will be honored. Female leaders and volunteers from the district congregations may register for a modest \$15, which includes celebration, honoring, ritual, Margaret Fuller Conversation Salons, lunch, entertainment, and more. For more information or to register online, go to www.womenandreligion.org, or email connections@uuwomensconnection.org.

Registrations must be received by **March 15**.

Social Action/Green Sanctuary

March 28, Justice Sunday, Economic Justice

There will not be a designated collection this day, but there will be a speaker on the foreclosure campaign as it relates to economic justice. Betsy F-C and the SAC committee have been working with the Common Ground Foreclosure Campaign to provide us with important information on how to act to make a difference. Thank you to those of you who have already signed the petition.

Bread of Life Meal Program

LCUUC will team with Westbrook Church to serve a meal one of the last Thursdays in March. Sign-ups will be in the Social Hall after the date and time are emailed to our member_list.

HOPE Outreach Meals

Our next opportunity to serve is this summer!

Habitat for Humanity in Nicaragua

Tom H has the details for an opportunity to join UU Church West on a Bridges to Community Brigade Aug. 14-22. Tom also sends out emails for local, monthly, Habitat opportunities.

Food Pantry and Designated Collections

The January 3 collection for the Food Pantry of Waukesha County gathered \$124; January 17, UUSC Haiti, \$1,160.00; January 17, Waukesha Homeless Shelter, \$491.00; Jan. 24 UUSC Haiti \$808.00. The February 21 collection was for the HOPE Center; the next Food Pantry collection will be on March 7.

Garden For Good

A planning and information session was held in late February at LCUUC. Contact Barbara H for an update or to learn how to become involved. Anyone in the community can become involved.

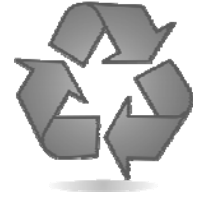
Welcoming Congregation

Although we always have been ...we are now official!

Submitted by Terry C

Waukesha County Recycling

Our Green Sanctuary group encourages all of us to recycle our solid waste whenever possible. LCUUC has two blue recycling bins in the Social Hall, one for paper and cardboard, and the other for metal and plastic cans, bottles, and jars. There are two recycling bins next to the parking lot, which are emptied twice a month. According to the Waukesha County recycling newsletter, "Since 1991, the 25 communities that participate in the county recycling program have received more than \$6.2 million from a share of the state recycling grant and sale of recyclables". And there is "a revenue of \$40 per ton versus a cost of about \$40 per ton to landfill waste." Recycling reduces your local taxes as it reduces the amount of usable material going into the landfill, so recycling your recyclable waste at home helps your pocketbook as well as your environment.



What can be recycled?

Recyclable bottles and cans:

- Steel/tin and aluminum cans including empty aerosol cans (rinsed, labels OK)
- Aluminum foil pans – cleaned
- Glass bottles and jars – all colors
- Plastic bottles, jars, jugs #1 & #2 only

Recyclable paper:

- Newspaper
- Magazines and catalogs
- Junk mail (windowed envelopes are OK)
- Office paper and shredded paper
- Corrugated cardboard – cut to 3' x 4', flattened and bundled
- Cereal, snack, and tissue boxes, beverage carriers, paper egg cartons, paper towel rolls
- Phone books and paperback books

Also, spent fluorescent lamps contain mercury and should be disposed of properly. There is a box in the Social Hall for compact fluorescent lamps (CFL), and a box just inside the furnace room door for fluorescent tubes.

Submitted by Gerry F

My Journey to Ministry, by Lori Gorgas Hlaban

I have been intrigued, infuriated, and infatuated with religion most of my life. Intrigued because our parents chose to raise my brother and me without formal religious training. While my childhood friends complained about Sunday school and church I was thinking, "Wow, another school to learn different things!" If anyone had been paying attention, they might have had a clue about my future calling, as I studied Bible verses with the Lutherans and helped my Catholic friends memorize their responses for First Communion.

When I explored religions as a teenager, I became infuriated when the Christian church I was attending made it clear that my voice was unwelcome because I was female, and that the gift of God's grace was only available to those who adhered to the rules and teachings as followed there. In my senior year of high school I left church and remained unchurched until I was in my early 30s.

Then Tom and I brought our children to a Unitarian Universalist church about 18 years ago. We were both intrigued with a faith that trusted us to figure out what we believed within a general ethical framework. Soon, I was infatuated – here I explored and learned... and eventually began to teach, and even preach! Later, when we left that particular church to be active members of Lake Country UU Church I explored more – and friends started to nudge me toward ministry (unwittingly echoing the call from my inner voice).

It is here at LCUUC that I first preached a "real" sermon, it is here that I began seeing the big picture of church life, it is here that I began re-integrating traditional religious language into my own spiritual life, and it is here that I found the courage to take the leap of faith to apply to seminary.

There are differences of opinion on which congregation should

ordain a new minister, but the tradition and rules of our polity state that it is only a congregation that may ordain. Graduating from seminary did not make me a minister, nor did being welcomed into preliminary ministerial fellowship with the UUA.

It's only natural that I would seek ordination from Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church, the congregation of my heart. This is the congregation which gave me nurturing roots as I learned to spread my wings. Because I am not being called to serve as your minister, it was the Board of Trustees that voted to ordain me. I'm grateful to the members of the Board, but also mindful that it is the members of the congregation who will ordain me on May 1, 2010. I hope YOU will be here to take part in the congregational act of ordination.

Read "the small print" below for a description of the path to ordination.

The recommended path to ordination is quite a journey. During the first year of seminary, the seminarian will apply to the Ministerial Credentialing Office for "Aspirant" status. Sometime in one's first year, the aspiring minister also completes a career assessment – a battery of psychological tests and interviews designed to evaluate one's fitness for ministry. The wise seminarian will also start reading required books, and keep records of classes, etc. that one leads, or attends. Seminarians often fill vacancies in pulpits on Sundays when the regular minister is not there.

After completing one year of study, the minister-to-be meets with the Regional Sub Committee on Credentialing (RSCC) – a group of ministers and laypersons who review Aspirants' transcripts, career/psychological assessments, and other relevant information. If all goes well, "Candidate" status is granted.

Sometime during seminary, the ministerial

candidate will complete a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). During CPE, one serves as a chaplain in a hospital, nursing home, or other institution. One ministers to the sick, dying, grieving... and meets regularly with others performing the same and a supervisor.

One of the last steps is the Ministerial Internship. Over the course of a 9-month, full-time internship with a congregation, the intern gets a chance to put all the theory and learning from seminary and CPE into practice, while supervised by an experienced minister. Interns teach, preach, provide pastoral care, guide programs, officiate weddings and memorial services, visit members of the congregation – in short, they do all the things a minister does. Some seminarians complete an internship before finishing their academic studies, some after.

After all of the above, the candidate meets with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC). The MFC is a

committee of UU ministers, religious educators, and experienced lay people. Members of the MFC review everything the aspiring minister has done up to this point, listens to the candidate deliver a mini-sermon, and questions the candidate on every aspect of his/her ministerial identity and formation. If the interview goes well, the candidate is welcomed into preliminary fellowship.

After all this, the candidate may be ordained. In our system of governance (polity), ordination is bestowed upon a person by a congregation – and only by a congregation. Traditionally, a candidate is ordained by the first congregation to call her/him to be their minister. With the advent of more community ministers (chaplains, or ministers working in community-based ministries), and fewer candidates being immediately settled in congregations, this is changing. Many are ordained today by their internship or home congregations.

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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