



LCUUC NEWSLETTER

February 2026

Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church

W299N5595 Grace Drive Hartland, WI 53029

Phone: (262) 369-1703

www.lcuuc.org

Join us in the Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church sanctuary for in-person services. For an order of service, go to [OOS](#). Sunday services are at 10am. Email joys and sorrows that you want shared aloud during worship to candles@lcuuc.org by 4pm on Fridays. Masks are welcome but not required. .

Sunday, Feb 1 “Progress is Possible, Not Guaranteed,” with Claire Johnson, LCUUC Member

That life will challenge us is not a question of if, but rather of when. How do we prepare ourselves to weather the inevitable storms?

Sunday, Feb 8 “Grief as Resilience,” with Rev. Matt Aspin, LCUUC Minister

Our society has developed a significant discomfort with grief, leaving many burdened with the weight of unprocessed loss. Can we reclaim the wisdom of our ancestors and realize that how we process grief determines our future capacity to live and to love?

Sunday, February 15 Immigration: Side With Love, Darryl Morin, National President and Chairman of the Board for Forward Latino

Immigration: Side With Love, which will feature speaker Darryl Morin, National President and Chairman of the Board for Forward Latino.

Sunday, February 22 “Collective Resilience,” with Rev. Matt Aspin, LCUUC Minister

Individual spiritual practices can only take us so far. How do we tap into the power of the collective? How does a community nurture resilience?

Worship Arts is looking to add a few more people to our Reader list for upcoming services. Readers are the assistants to whomever is in the pulpit on Sunday. You will be given a script to read a few days before Sunday so you can go over the outline and the readings. It's a great way to get a new perspective (literally) on Sunday mornings, and it's also a nice volunteer opportunity. Please contact Jane Johnson for more information jjnjohnson@aol.com.

REVEREND MATT'S MUSINGS: The Time is Now

Hello Beloveds,

I'm writing this month's musing from the Target Center in Minneapolis, where I'm gathered with other UU ministers from around the country and many local residents, waiting for a rally to begin in protest of the ongoing immigration enforcement presence in this community. Organizers, clergy, and thousands of supporters have come together in response to a surge in federal immigration actions that has drawn national attention and mobilized widespread demonstrations.

The reports from the region are heartbreaking, and the pain experienced by local families and neighbors is real. Faith leaders from across the country were invited here to **bear witness and learn from the deep resistance and organizing taking place**. The decision to convene this gathering was made just days ago, and nearly a thousand clergy and advocates arrived from places as far away as Anchorage, San Diego, Vermont, and Atlanta. What has unfolded is a fully organized

movement—with coordinated logistics, home hospitality, charter buses, and food for all—that is garnering national and international attention.

Faith leaders from across the country were invited here to bear witness and learn from the deep resistance and organizing taking place.

The only way this is possible—truly the ONLY way—is because relationships have been built over many years among diverse groups. This is precisely why our Social Action Committee has been partnering so closely with organizations like SOPHIA, Voces de la Frontera, MICAH, and others. Their long-term justice work has been vital, but even more important are the **trusting relationships cultivated along the way**. It is these relationships that activate in moments of crisis and help protect our communities.

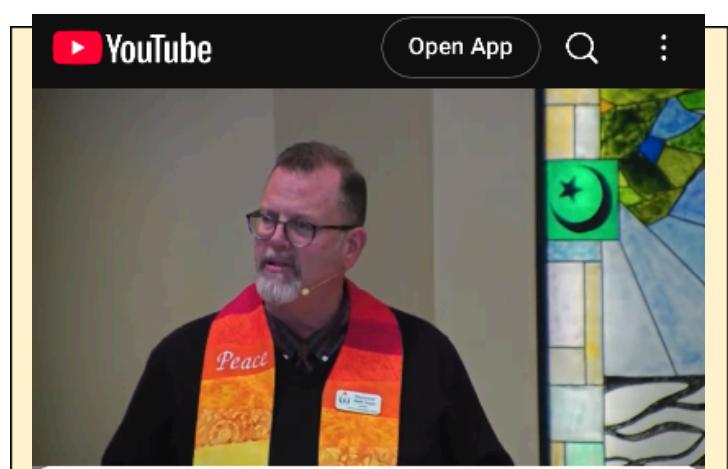
I am honored to support their efforts and to serve as your minister in these challenging times.

The time is now.

—Rev. Matt

Did you know?

In person is always best, but you can now watch or listen to any sermon you might have missed since the beginning of the year. Follow this link, subscribe to LCUUC's You Tube Channel, and never miss another informative and uplifting Sunday message. <https://www.youtube.com/@LCUUC>



WE'RE ZOOMING!

Our Sunday services are viewable live during the service via Zoom call.

Being on site is always the best, but if you can't make it to church, check out the members only section of our website for a link and the password. To keep this option available, we need a group of people to help host the Zoom sessions, follow the service script and operate the camera during the service. If you are comfortable operating a computer and would enjoy making connections with those who are coming to our services online, we could use your help. Please stop at the Zoom table in the back of the sanctuary after the service and talk with us or send Tracy an email at tracywren@yahoo.com. Training and support will be provided. Scheduling is flexible.

By the way, be sure to check out the [Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church YouTube channel](#) for recordings of each Sunday's sermons. ***While you're there, help us be more visible in the virtual world by liking the videos and subscribing to the channel!***

MUSICALLY SPEAKING

As I write this article, my phone is buzzing, warning me of the cold weather coming. How are you staying warm this winter? ***Pro tip - Singing together is heartwarming!*** There is plenty of music happening here to keep you warm!

Join the mini-choir and warm your soul as we sing a fun energetic piece on February 22 for the service. It's an easy song with three parts called "Resilience" by Abbie Betinis, a perfect fit for the Soul Matters theme



of Resilience for the month. We'll have three short (20 minutes maximum) practice sessions immediately after the service on February 1, 8, and 15. You don't even need to read music for this one. Join the fun. I promise you will feel a glow afterwards.

We had almost a dozen people at the drum and chant circle in January. If you missed it, don't worry, we'll do it again on February 22nd from 11:30 – 12:15 in the sanctuary. Bring a percussion instrument if you like or use one of the church's. Let's see where the music takes us.

And a few of us are working on a special piece to share with you all on February 15 at the service. Watch the LCUUC Weekly Upbeat on Fridays for more information.

There are lots of ways to be involved with the music program here at LCUUC. If you are interested in sharing your music at church, or want to share your opinions about the music program, drop me an email at music@lcuuc.org or talk with me after the service.

In harmony,

Tracy Moraine, Music Coordinator

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE CALL TO ACTION

Social Action Committee Members:

*Theodora Compton
Terrie DeWalt
Kerry Duma
Meridan Flint
Claudette Hamm
Sara and Bud Hudson
Jim and Linda Kishline
Nancy Landa
Lisa LaBorde
Kathy Lopez
Lauren Lutz
John Prestby
Rose Presser
Brittany Rogers
Ashleigh Spitz*

*Chairperson: Fran Bills
Board of Trustees Liaison:
Gina Magnus*

Food Pantry Donation

LCUUC donated \$732 to the Food Pantry of Waukesha County. Thank you for helping neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

February Designated Collection: Forward Latino

The February 15 collection will support **Forward Latino**, a nonprofit that empowers affiliates to engage communities, strengthen democracy, improve working families' lives, protect the environment, and advocate for equality and civil rights. Donations can also be made online anytime.

<https://lcuuc.weebly.com/donate-or-pay.html>

The Social Action Committee is organizing the February 15 worship service, **Immigration: Side With Love**, featuring speaker **Darryl Morin**, President and Chairman of Forward Latino and CEO of Advanced Wireless, Inc. Darryl is also a committed community member and father of two.

Verifier Training

Speaker: Adam Foxman, volunteer with Voces de la Frontera and dual-language teacher

Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: First United Methodist Church, 121 Wisconsin Ave., Waukesha

Voces de la Frontera is a Wisconsin-based grassroots organization led by immigrant workers, youth, and low-wage workers. For over two decades, it has protected and expanded civil, immigrant, and workers' rights through leadership development, community organizing, and empowerment.

Immigration Action

ICE and Border Patrol activity may soon affect Milwaukee and Waukesha County. Voces de la Frontera, a leading immigrant rights group, provides guidance, advocacy, and training for churches and community allies.

LCUUC's **Immigration Sub-Committee**—Fran Bills, Rose Presser, Rob Suhr, Kim Suhr, Gina Magnus, and John Prestby—is developing strategies to support our immigrant brothers, sisters, and children. Interested members can reach out to Fran Bills and join upcoming **Rapid Response Training** events.



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Meet and Greet with Wisconsin Supreme Court Candidate Chris Taylor



On Sunday, January 23, LCUUC hosted a Meet and Greet with Wisconsin Supreme Court candidate Chris Taylor. Congregation members and community guests gathered to hear directly from Chris about her priorities, the upcoming election, and the role of the Supreme Court.

Attendees asked questions, shared perspectives, and engaged in a lively discussion, reflecting LCUUC's commitment to civic engagement and community connection. We thank everyone who attended and helped make the event a success.

(Pictured at left: Judge Chris Taylor and Mary Cullen)

Join in the campaign:

<https://www.chrisforjustice.com/homepage-new#join>



Plan Ahead for MUUSA 2026: A Week of UU Fellowship and Growth

Looking ahead to summer, consider joining UUs from across the Midwest at **MUUSA (Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly)**, July 5–11, 2026, at **Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin**. This intergenerational retreat offers fun, fellowship, and personal growth in a safe and welcoming space for all ages.

MUUSA features **programming for everyone, prepared meals, lodging, and opportunities to connect with like-minded UUs**. Whether you're seeking spiritual exploration, social activities, or family-friendly experiences, there's something for everyone.

Rooted in Wisconsin since 1944, MUUSA is a beloved UU tradition. Registration details and general information are available at musa.org. Check the brochure for more specifics on programs and accommodations.

For congregational outreach, contact **Guy Loftman, MUUSA Outreach Coordinator**, to connect and learn how your congregation can participate.



Spring Is Coming – Get Ready for the 2nd Annual LCUUC Plant Sale! 🌱

The 2nd Annual LCUUC Plant Sale is on the way! We'll be offering a selection of native plants that support local ecosystems, conserve water and soil, capture carbon, and boost biodiversity.

A full plant list will be available soon, with pre-orders opening so you can reserve your favorites. Watch for details and get ready to welcome spring with plants that help the earth thrive.

(Pictured at left: Pale purple coneflower, a Wisconsin-listed threatened species due to habitat loss.)



CRAFT & CHAT Thursday, February 5th from 5:30-7:30pm

CRAFT & CHAT meets the first Thursday of every month. Bring your craft projects to work on and bring some topics to chat about! If you want to come and enjoy the space/time but don't have your own projects, there will be adult coloring books provided for anyone to use. There will also be some delicious tea provided. If you have questions, please contact Chris Rollins at crollinscareer@gmail.com.

LCUUC GAME NIGHTS

an opportunity to enjoy casual fun & fellowship

Friday, February 20th from 6:30-8:30pm

How it works:

We will have a variety of board games and decks of cards available. People can start up various games and you can join in on what appeals to you that evening. If you own a favorite game, please bring it along and teach others the game.



Bring a favorite snack to share with everyone if you are able and willing (think snack...not meal)

This is an ADULTS only event, so please get a sitter if you want a night out. (If families are interested in a game night, we can coordinate with the Family Ministry Committee to set up a separate event.)

Water will be available, otherwise Bring Your Own Beverages. Alcohol is allowed as this is adults only.

This event has no RSVP. Simply show up during the 6:30-8:30pm time to join in the fun.

Co-Facilitators are Chris Rollins (Adult Enrichment Committee Co-Chair) & Megan Fedders. Please contact Chris @ [HYPERLINK "mailto:crollinscareer@gmail.com"](mailto:crollinscareer@gmail.com) [chris email](mailto:crollinscareer@gmail.com) or cell 262-269-9787 with any suggestions or questions.

Mark Your Calendar: April 7 Elections



April 7 may feel a long way off, but it's never too early to keep voting on the radar. Local and statewide elections shape our courts, schools, and communities in ways that reach far beyond Election Day.

The ACLU reminds us that voting is one of the most powerful ways to protect democracy. When participation drops, decisions are made by fewer voices, often leaving the most vulnerable communities without representation.

So no need to set your alarm just yet—but do plan to **vote on April 7**, and help make sure every voice counts.



KINTSUGI SANGHA

We meet **weekly to meditate together** and explore Zen as a way of life. While Zen differs from Unitarian Universalism in some ways, the two traditions share many values—making them surprisingly compatible. **Drop in and visit us any Monday, 6:30–8:30 PM.**

For the latest information, see the **Sangha page** on the LCUUC website under the *Community* dropdown, or go directly to: <https://lcuuc.weebly.com/kintsugi-sangha.html>.

Learn more about Kintsugi Sangha below.

Community Minister's Corner

I'd like to offer a quick overview of what makes the sound and video happen for a Sunday service.

In that wooden cabinet at the back of the sanctuary lives the mixing board, the heart of the sound system. It has connections for 24 separate sound sources, each adjustable for volume, highs and lows, stereo left to right, and reverb. Those 24 channels combine to become the sound you hear from the speakers on the ceiling. Speaking of hearing the service, did you know we have an assisted listening system? Radio receivers and headphones are available at the sanctuary entrance for anyone who could use a little volume boost. Ask an usher for help if needed.

It takes training and practice to become a sound tech, starting with selecting the right microphone. The style most often used is a wireless headset microphone and transmitter, the size of a raisin, that sits alongside the speaker's cheek. This lets you move freely while avoiding feedback—a problem common with old corded microphones. Thanks to better training and equipment, feedback is now rare.



The sound tech follows a prepared script to know when to turn mics on or off. Only microphones in use are on, creating cleaner sound and reducing feedback. This requires careful attention to follow every cue.

Next to the sound booth sits the Zoom technician and camera operator, who manage the Zoom call, camera, and recording software. They follow the same script as the sound tech, changing camera angles and zooms, and sharing Zoom participants' Joys and Concerns to the candle table. The recording is edited and uploaded to LCUUC's YouTube channel, where over 60 services are ready to watch. Search "Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church" to view by date or in playlists like Holidays and Celebrations, New to UU, and Guest Speakers.

In closing, **we could use more sound and video technicians.** It's fun to work with this technology and help share the minister's message with a larger audience. Contact me or Tracy Moraine if you'd like to learn more.

— Rev. Erich Moraine, Community Minister

For more information, contact Rev. Erich Moraine
emoraine108@gmail.com

MONTHLY (THIRD SATURDAY) NATURE MEDITATION on FEBRUARY 21st at 9am



The monthly **nature meditation**, sponsored by the **Kintsugi Sangha**, is open to everyone. We will gather on **Saturday, February 21 at 9:00 AM** at **Dickten Park in Nashotah**. The meditation begins with a short reading, followed by about **30 minutes of quiet walking or sitting**, fully engaging with the outdoors through our senses. We then gather again to share our experiences and enjoy another short reading before returning to our weekend plans.

The meditation takes place **regardless of the weather**, so please dress appropriately for the outdoors. Since this is a meditative experience, we ask that you **do not bring distractions** (e.g., pets) and **silence communication devices**

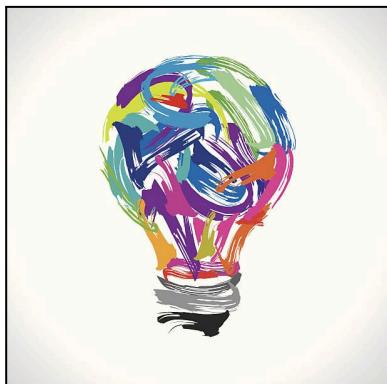
For questions or more information, contact tracy@kintsugisangha.org.

Soul Matters and Beyond

Explore Online UU Small Groups This Winter–Spring

Consider joining one of the **Soul Matters** six **extra small groups** that are available for those wanting to explore their spirituality further. These are paid opportunities and include:

- **Practice Matters** – 4th Tuesdays, Feb–May. Explore spiritual practices from world religions and apply them to your life.
- **Creativity Matters** – 3rd Wednesdays, Feb–May. Engage monthly themes through creative expression—no artistic experience needed.
- **UU Writers** – Last Tuesdays, Feb–May. Reflect on themes through journaling, poetry, prose, or storytelling.
- **BioSpiritual Focusing** – Four sessions, March 2, 9, 16 & 23. Connect body and spirit through contemplative awareness.
- **Shamanic Journeying** – Initial workshop Feb 24 (bonus Feb 26), then 4th Tuesdays March–June. Explore Core Shamanism through meditative drumming with Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig.



These groups are a **wonderful way to deepen your spiritual practice, explore meaningful themes, and connect with UUs nationwide**.

For more information or to register, contact **Rev. Scott, Soul Matters Team Lead**, at scott@soulmatterssharingcircle.com.

February 2026

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

The Board is pleased to welcome Chris Rollins as our new Office Administrator. She will be a strong addition to our staff. The Board thanks the hiring team—Joanne Nelson, Rob Suhr, Tim Fuller, and Rev. Matt—for their time and effort in filling this position. We also appreciate Rev. Matt for covering administrative responsibilities over the past few months, wearing many hats to keep operations running smoothly. Chris now oversees both administrative and bookkeeping functions as the Office Administrator.

One of our obligations as the Board was to review and approve the charters of our various committees. This year, all committees completed charters that clarify their purpose, goals, and activities, helping them stay aligned with the congregation's mission, attract volunteers, and clearly communicate their work to the community.

This year, you will also be hearing more about the Healthy Relationships Team. When conflicts arise in our membership, this team's purpose will be twofold:

- To facilitate the well-being of the LCUUC community by fostering harmonious relations and mediating conflicts within the membership.
- To be visible and available as a listening ear so that members can seek support and advice before interpersonal conflicts grow.

The Board will be refining the policy, developing the team, and providing training in the early part of the year. Stay tuned for more information.

In recent weeks, federal immigration enforcement actions in Minneapolis, including multiple shootings, have affected many in our congregation. Rev. Matt traveled to Minnesota to stand with fellow clergy, offering peaceful pastoral presence and support. Closer to home, LCUUC members and our Social Action Committee have joined protests and advocacy efforts to support those impacted. These actions reflect our commitment to justice, equity, and the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Through *all* of our efforts, we continue to strive for positive change in the world based on UU values and *the transforming power of love*.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Tsoris

Caring Circle



The Caring Circle offers short-term support for church members while long-term or professional services are arranged. Working with ministerial staff, we provide emotional and spiritual care. Services may include cards or calls, social visits, meals, grocery or prescription pick-up and delivery, and transportation for essential needs.

If you need support—or wish to help by providing meals, transportation, errands, or social visits—please contact **Claudette Hamm** at 414-708-8145 or claudette.hamm@yahoo.com



LCUUC BOARD MEMBERS

Mike McNett, President
Stephanie Tsoris, Vice-President
Rob Suhr, Secretary
Mike Campbell, Member
Gina Magnus, Member
Chris Peske, Member
Karl Timm, Member
Tim Fuller, Treasure (ex-officio)
Rev. Matt Aspin (ex-officio)
Rev. Erich Moraine (ex-officio)

MEETING WITH THE MINISTER

Want to meet with Rev. Matt? He would be glad to connect with you. To find a time that works for both of you, email him at minister@lcuuc.org. Please check the [Master Calendar](#) for his upcoming availability.

Rev. Matt observes a **Sabbath on Fridays**. If you have a pastoral care emergency while he is away, please contact the coordinator of the Caring Circle, **Claudette Hamm**, at claudette.hamm@yahoo.com. Claudette will reach out to Rev. Matt if needed.





OUR MISSION

LCUUC is a diverse religious community supporting one another in our spiritual searches for truth, meaning and compassionate connection. Based on the Unitarian Universalist Principles and the transforming power of love, we strive for positive change in the world.

OUR VISION

2020 LCUUC is an inclusive spiritual community that is diverse, growing, vibrant, and economically sustainable. We provide enriching lifespan education and a strong public presence supporting social justice.

The online LCUUC Church Calendar can be found [HERE](#)

LCUUC STAFF: All staff have mailboxes in the church office

Minister: Rev. Matt Aspin minister@lcuuc.org

Music Coordinator: Tracy Moraine music@lcuuc.org

Congregational Administrator: OPEN admin@lcuuc.org

Church Office Phone:
(262) 369-1703

Newsletter Editor:

Stephanie Tsoris newsletter@lcuuc.org

Please submit articles by the 20th of each month.

VISIT LCUUC AT: [WEBSITE](#), [INSTAGRAM](#), [FACEBOOK](#)

This newsletter was edited with the help of AI.