



# LCUUC NEWSLETTER

**Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church  
W299N5595 Grace Drive Hartland, WI 53029**

# February 2025

**Phone: (262) 369-1703  
[www.lcuuc.org](http://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](mailto:candles@lcuuc.org) by 4pm on Fridays. Masks are welcome but not required. Contributions in the Sunday basket collections will be used to support LCUUC except for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month contributions which go to the designated charity/social justice program.

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**Sunday, Feb 2 “Brigid Ushers in the Light Half of the Year with Imbolc,” with Rev. Sandy Peters**  
Imbolc, also called St. Brigid’s Day, is a Gaelic festival symbolizing new beginnings & the approach of Spring.

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**Sunday, Feb 9 “Reparations: A Deeper Dive,” with Guest Rev. Marilyn Miller**

Reparations is more than financial recompense but embodies both personal and community acknowledgement of harm and a process for moving beyond repentance with the potential for transformation.

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**Sunday, Feb 16 New Member Sunday & “Fully Embraced” with Rev. Matt Aspin, LCUUC Minister**

Community offers many benefits, but can also require some sacrifice. Are the benefits worth the costs? Are there things we have to give up to be included? Are there some things we should NEVER have to give up? Join us on this New Member Sunday for an exploration of what it means to be a member of a chosen community.

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**Sunday, Feb 23 “Embracing Death’s Mystery,” with Fran Bills, LCUUC Member**

Fran will give an overview of the many cultural and religious views on death along with another, different, perspective you might find more appealing.



# REVEREND MATT'S MUSINGS

## Writing the Next Chapter of LCUUC's Story

Welcome to the New Year. Did you set a resolution? If so, have you maintained your resolve? Don't feel badly if your answer is a sheepish, "Well, no...not exactly." Research shows that the majority of resolutions folks set have been abandoned by THE FIRST FRIDAY of the year! Why is it so hard for we humans to rewrite our scripts?

The short answer is simply because it is. We are wired to create habits to simplify our daily decision-making processes, to seek pleasure, and to avoid pain. The things we tend most often to want to change are related to one or more of our habits. The habits we want to change usually emerged to serve one purpose or another, but can be REALLY difficult to release if no longer serving that need. Alternatively, adding a new habit that we think will make our lives better in one way or another requires a great deal of intentional repetition to push out those existing habits that are no longer serving us.

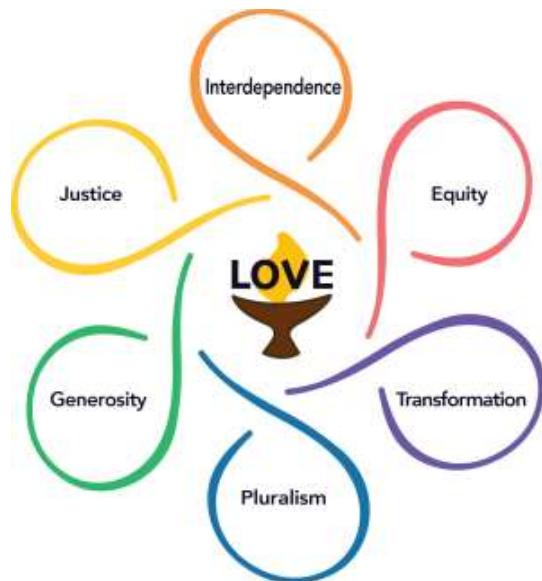
Church communities have habits, too, and it can be just as hard to make changes there (sometimes even harder). We come together each Sunday, we do what we do, then we go back to our lives. We connect with the folks we know, we attend the meetings for the committee we signed up for, we contribute where we can. Who has time to even think about if we are spending our time doing the right things, never mind considering if we should even keep doing some of the things we've always done?

Good news is, our Unitarian Universalist faith offers guidance to help us live our lives with expanded self-awareness, clearer intentions, and loving support as we find our way through the challenges life inevitably throws our way. My most recent sermon included an invitation to spend the next few weeks really examining the professed values of our faith as a potential source of clarity and direction. (Click [here](#) to watch if you happened to have missed it).

I look forward to supporting your efforts and seeing where our story takes us next as this new year begins to unfold.  
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>



Rev. Matt

## REVEREND SANDY PETERS

### Our Pulpit Guest on Sunday, February 2

#### “Brigid Ushers in The Light Half of the Year with Imbolc”

Imbolc, also called St. Brigid’s Day, is a Gaelic festival that symbolizes new beginnings and the approach of Spring. Sandy will start off with a morning ritual of greeting the four corners, the animals that represent each corner and the gifts they bless us with. Then move into the Druid Light Body exercise, pulling the light healing energy up from the earth into our bodies. She will tell a special story about Brigid’s cloak during our Time for All Ages that will include a simple weaving project.



Sandy is a retired teacher from New Berlin. Mother of four, grandmother of four. Part-time minister of Community of the Living Spirit in Waukesha. Founder of fundraiser Running for Water – raising over \$34,000 so far! She walks every morning. The only weather she doesn’t walk in is lightning storms. Her coldest walk was -28 – and that was NOT the wind chill – it was the actual temperature.

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## REVEREND MARILYN MILLER

### Our Pulpit Guest on Sunday, February 9

#### “Reparations, A Deeper Dive”

Reverend Miller is a life-long Milwaukeean. She has served for over 40 years in some capacity of education for every age range in several institutions. Reverend Miller retired after twelve years of service with the members, partners and community of The Lutheran Church of the Reformation, ELCA. She served as President of the Board for Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH) from 2015 to 2020, and an additional year on the Executive Team, and continues to participate as a MICAH leader. She is currently a Partner of Leading for Racial Equity LLC, which provides anti-racism training and tools for transformation in small non-profit and faith-based organizations.

*Reparations is more than financial recompense  
but embodies both personal and community acknowledgement of harm  
and a process for moving beyond repentance with the potential for transformation.*

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## SECOND HOUR ON FEBRUARY 9th WITH REVEREND MARILYN MILLER

Rev. Miller will continue the conversation about Reparations during Second Hour on February 9th. The Second Hour will start 15 minutes after the worship service ends and will be held in the Sanctuary.

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## FEBRUARY 12 SPECIAL COLLECTION:

### Black Lives Matter to Wisconsin Unitarian Universalists (BLM2WUU)

BLM2WUU is composed of representatives from five local Unitarian Universalist congregations in southeastern Wisconsin: First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee (FUSM), Lake Country Unitarian (LCUCC) in Hartland, Unitarian Church North (UCN) in Mequon, United Unitarian Universalist Congregation (UUUC) in Waukesha, and Unitarian Universalist Church West (UUCW) in Brookfield. BLM2WUU meets regularly to develop anti-racism programs. LCUUC is represented by Claudette Hamm, Sara and Bud Hudson, and Cathy Wendorf Peterson.

## MUSICALLY SPEAKING

On February 2 we will mark Imbolc (Mid-Winter Day), the calendar midpoint between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox and a celebration of the return of the first signs of Spring. Imbolc is a time for planting seeds, both literal seeds and the seeds of our dreams for future growth and development. It is also a time for cleaning, to make way for our new ideas and plans.

Our music program is planting seeds. With the positive response to the choir in December, we are planning to have another choir session this Spring. Stay tuned for more information as those seeds start to sprout.

We are also interested in having more people involved in special music throughout the year and in hymn leading on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in planting either of these seeds in your musical garden, let me know at [music@lcuuc.org](mailto:music@lcuuc.org) or talk with me after a service.

And as you do your own Spring cleaning at home, keep your eyes open for any hymnals or choir music that you may have borrowed from the church in the past. We'd love to see those come home. Drop them off in the office or give them to me on a Sunday morning.

Through the cold month of February and beyond, keep making music with whatever seeds you have. It will bring you joy and make the long nights seem shorter.

Tracy Moraine, Music Coordinator



## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE CALL TO ACTION

### *Social Action*

#### *Committee Members:*

*Kerry Duma*

*Claudette Hamm*

*Sara & Bud Hudson*

*Jim & Linda Kishline*

*Rose Presser*

*John Prestby*

*Lynne Smith*

*Chairperson: Cathy*

*Wendorf Peterson*

*Board of Trustees*

*Liaison: Kristin Sanden*

We are facing setbacks on many social justice issues today. Already marginalized people are being maligned and are feeling threatened. Social safety net programs are being targeted for cuts and even elimination. Federal funds for programs already approved by Congress are being frozen. It can feel overwhelming, but we need to continue to address these issues. The Social Justice Committee has reorganized itself. Our new name is the Social Action Committee. Committee members are taking on responsibility for monitoring different issues, researching what can be done, and sharing that information with our committee and our congregation. We ask all of you to watch for our Social Action Opportunities emails. Think about what social justice issues are most important to you and what issues are most urgent. Look for ways that you can get involved. Please let our elected officials know when you do not support the votes and actions they are taking.

"I cannot do everything, but I can do something." Edward Everett Hale

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

We had a very productive board meeting on Tuesday 1/21/25. Below is a list of items accomplished:

- **Right Relations Document:** In light of the sudden departure of our previous board president, it was decided that the church needed to more thoroughly formalize the handling of disagreements between members. The procedural document was approved.
- **Vice-President:** The promotion of Mike McNett to board president left a vacancy for the vice-president position. We are pleased to announce the Stephanie Tsoris has volunteered to take on this role.
- **Minister Evaluation:** Following the UUA's guidelines, the minister should be evaluated once a year. Volunteers were identified to perform this action.
- **Safety:** The church's safety policy was discussed and next steps identified to implement training for dealing with safety issues such as: active shooters, fire, gas leaks, etc.
- **Finances:** The treasurer presented the monthly statement of finances which are in line with projections (which is to be running at a small deficit). How to mitigate these loses in the long term was briefly discussed.
- **Board Covenant:** after discussing it for half a year, the board finalized a formal statement of the purpose of the board and how its members will behave. To summarize it into a phrase, it is "respect for the other in all interactions." Next year we hope to use this covenant as a basis so that we can spend more time on church management tasks.
- **Sunday Service Streaming:** The live streaming of the Sunday church service via Zoom has been implemented by Erich Moraine and the process is being matured to be runnable by lay church members. We are currently looking for volunteers to run the Zoom sessions. With enough volunteers, this would likely be a once-a-month obligation (contact [Erich Moraine](#) to volunteer). Additionally, church sermons videos are being upload to the LCUUC YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@LCUUC>.
- **Braver Angels:** The national organization [Braver Angels](#) works to improve cross-partisan relations which is sorely needed in today's political environment. A Second Hour series about its principles was hosted at our church before the elections. The board discussed whether LCUUC should host a Braver Angels alliance. A workgroup is being formed to investigate this initiative.

Submitted by Karl Timm

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## LCUUC BOARD MEMBERS

Mike McNett, President  
Stephanie Tsoris, Vice-President  
Rob Suhr, Secretary  
Mike Campbell, Member  
Claire Johnson, Member  
Kristin Sanden, Member  
Karl Timm, Member  
Tim Fuller, Treasure (ex-officio)  
Rev. Matt Aspin (ex-officio)  
Rev. Erich Moraine (ex-officio)



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Hi- I'm Rose Presser and volunteered to write my own bio, which feels a bit like writing one's obituary! I came to LCUUC after noticing the interesting building first, then realizing it was Unitarian, which has always held my interest. After exploring the website, I saw the Kintsugi Sangha and as many of you have said, "I found my people."

I've entered a new life chapter after divorcing this past year and finding the Unitarian principles that share my goals for social justice and healing in our world. On the practical side, I have two sons, ages 41 and 38 and four beautiful grandsons, ages five and under. One family is in Washington, DC and the other is in La Crosse, which makes for fun travels. I retired as a psychiatric nurse practitioner after 25 years as an NP and 40+ years as an RN. I now volunteer at City On A Hill, a free medical clinic in Milwaukee.

Like many of us, I used to regularly play tennis, cross-country ski, and run sprint triathlons until my hips caught up and demanded to be replaced. Sewing is now much more interesting. I'm trying to hang in there, however and increase my activity. I'd love to go dancing---line dancing or contra folk dancing anyone?

### ROSE PRESSER

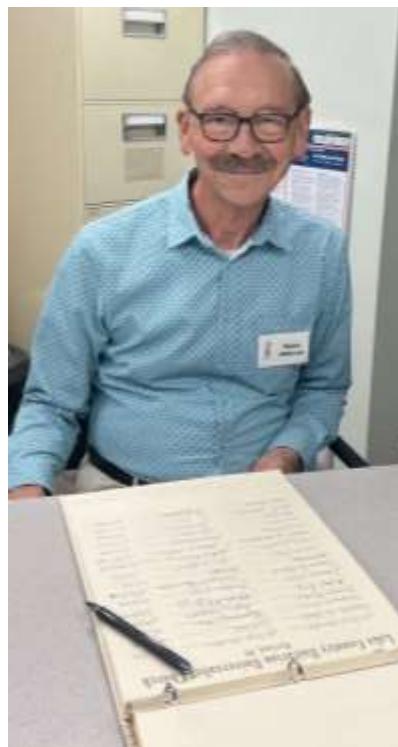
Monty has a strong curiosity and loves to dig in and study things deeply. He grew up in Bloom City; population 40. He enjoyed an independent childhood roaming the hills and valleys.

He graduated from Richland Center High School, then majored in zoology at UW-Madison. Upon graduating in 1969, he chose early enlistment with the Air Force. He served in Tainan, Taiwan – where he met his wife, Kuei. They married, had their daughter Kristyn in 1972, then moved to Wisconsin after Monty's enlistment ended. Their son Kory was born in 1975.

Monty spent his career in government service. The year after Kuei was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease, he retired as Deputy Director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission office in Milwaukee. Monty was Kuei's primary caregiver for eighteen years. Kuei died on December 13, 2021.

Monty met his partner Fran Bills on April Fools' Day in 2023. He says they are a perfect match with similar interests. Monty had been considering Unitarian Universalism and Fran introduced him to LCUUC. He is our newest Worship Associate!

### MONTY JOHNSON



## FAMILY PROMISE AND EMERGENCY OVERFLOW SHELTER UPDATE

Thankfully, the Emergency Overflow Shelter opened in mid-January. We are continuing to collect supplies and non-perishable food items to stock the EOS. See the poster in the foyer at church for a list of needed items. There are boxes in the foyer to collect your donations. Our latest donation of several huge boxes of Cheerios were delivered to the EOS by Linda and Jim Kishline. Thank you to everyone who has donated. Every donation is appreciated.

LCUUC is one of many congregations and service groups who are participating in providing meals, supplies, and volunteers. We choose the timing and frequency of our involvement. The other volunteer opportunities (van drivers and Day Center fellowship) would be on an individual basis. To find out more about how you can help, go to [www.familypromisewaukeshawi.org](http://www.familypromisewaukeshawi.org), click on "Get Involved" then select "Volunteer with Family Promise." You will see the "VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY, Waukesha Winter Overflow Emergency Shelter." Select from MAKE A MEAL, DRIVE FAMILIES, and FAMILY SUPPORT.

Background checks are required for everyone working with our guests. The full online training is suggested for everyone, but only required if an individual will be alone with guests and no Family Promise or Heron House staff is there. If you had a background check last year, you are still good to volunteer.

Family Promise continues to provide a vital service for this very vulnerable population and your support is greatly appreciated. **Please don't hesitate to contact Gina Markson Magnus with any questions at 262-424-7640.**

Gina Markson Magnus, Family Promise Volunteer Coordinator for LCUUC

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## MEETING WITH THE MINISTER

Want to meet with Rev. Matt? He would surely love to meet with you. Find a time that will work for you both by emailing him at [minister@lcuuc.org](mailto:minister@lcuuc.org).

Please check the Master Calendar at <https://lcuuc.weebly.com/calendar.html> for his upcoming availability. Rev. Matt's schedule includes a Sabbath on Fridays. If you need to reach Rev. Matt with a pastoral care emergency while he is away, please contact the coordinator of the Caring Circle, Paula Hillmann at [paula.hillmann@gmail.com](mailto:paula.hillmann@gmail.com). Paula will get in touch with Rev. Matt if needed.



The Caring Circle supports church members who are experiencing personal difficulties. If you find yourself in need of a helping hand, please contact Paula Hillmann at: [paulahillmann@gmail.com](mailto:paulahillmann@gmail.com) or call 262-366-5991 (cell).

"Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible."  
Dalai Lama



## **LCUUC TIME, TALENT & TREASURE ONLINE AUCTION 2025!**

**Saturday, February 1 to Sunday, February 16 at 9pm.**

**Donations accepted through January 31st**

Email donations and questions to Chris Kunert: [ckunert2@gmail.com](mailto:ckunert2@gmail.com)

**This is our main FUNdraiser of the year.  
Let's all help to make it fun and successful!**

### **GUIDELINES FOR DONATIONS**

- If the donation is an event indicate the following:  
Date (TBD not recommended).  
Starting and ending time.  
Maximum number of participants.  
Minimum bid and retail value if applicable.
- You do not need to write a blurb or provide photos. If you have an idea, just share it with us, and we'll do the rest.
- Items donated should be new or gently used.
- Homemade goods, including food items, are encouraged.
- Delivery of items will be decided by the donor and highest bidder.

### **GUIDELINES FOR USING THE BIDDING OWL PLATFORM**

Visit the Bidding Owl website: <https://new.biddingowl.com/LCUUCAUCTION2024>

- If you've registered with Bidding Owl in the past, you will not need to re-register. If you have not registered, you will need to do so before bidding.
- When you register, you can opt to be notified by email and/or text when you are outbid on an item.
- You can view "ALL ITEMS" or items based on a category.
- Some events will be listed multiple times. For example, a dinner for 8 people might be listed 8 times for individual bidders or 4 times for couples and 4 times for singles. Each listing may have a different highest bid, so you may want to check all of them before deciding which one to bid on.

**INVITE YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS TO BID AND SHARE THE LINK  
ON SOCIAL MEDIA. THANK YOU! AND HAVE FUN BIDDING!**

## GOOD COOKIE AWARD

### *Juliet Rogers*

In her time as a friend, member, Circle Round playgroup founder and as Family Ministry Coordinator, Juliet has gone above and beyond. She is cheerful and welcoming to our families and creative in her efforts to secure engagement. Juliet always has a smile, even when dealing with the occasional conflict that occurs with so many families and members with differing needs. We thank Juliet for her service to LCUUC and wish her all the best in her new job.



### **CRAFT & CHAT Thursday, February 6 from 5-7pm**

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](mailto:crollinscareer@gmail.com).

## LCUUC GAME NIGHTS

an opportunity to enjoy casual fun & fellowship

### **Friday, February 21 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 @ [crollinscareer@gmail.com](mailto:crollinscareer@gmail.com) or cell 262-269-9787 with any suggestions or questions.



## KINTSUGI SANGHA

We meet every week to meditate together and share our interest in the philosophy of Zen as a way of life. While different from Unitarian Universalism in some ways, Zen is very similar in other ways. These two traditions make great roommates. Drop in and visit sometime. Mondays from 6:30pm sharp to 8:30pm.

Please check the sangha page on the LCUUC website for current information. It is located under the Community drop down tab on the homepage. You can also use the link:

<https://lcuuc.weebly.com/kintsugi-sangha.html> to get to it directly.

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## MONTHLY (THIRD SATURDAY) NATURE MEDITATION on FEBRUARY 15 at 9am

If you'd like a reason to enjoy some quiet time outdoors and connect with others who also enjoy the outdoors, this is for you. Everyone is invited to the monthly nature meditation sponsored by the Kintsugi Sangha - no prior experience needed - please join us!

We'll meet at 9:00am for the nature meditation on Saturday, February 15 at the Hartland Ice Age Marsh, Cottonwood Wayside. The parking lot is off Cottonwood Avenue just south of Lindenwood Drive. This is a link to a Google map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/yHmeNeBjrowSwCwJ8>

**What to expect:** The meditation will happen no matter the weather, so dress for the outdoors. We will start at 9am with an introduction and short reading, then spend about twenty-five to thirty minutes quietly experiencing the environment by walking or finding a space to sit and observe the sounds, smells, sights and feel of the space. We'll gather again to share the experience and another short reading before returning to our individual routines.

Since this is a meditative experience, we ask that you do not bring things that may be distracting to yourself or others (e.g. pets) and that you silence communication devices before the meditation starts.

In **March**, we will meet on the **Fourth Saturday, March 22** at the Merton Mill Pond.

Questions, or for more information contact: Tracy Moraine at [tracywren@yahoo.com](mailto:tracywren@yahoo.com)



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## MIDWEEK MEDITATION MOMENT

Come join us at 12 noon on Wednesdays for an hour of antidote to all the shopping, work deadlines, and political anxiety. An hour of gentle silence spent sitting and walking. No prior experience necessary, first timers are most welcome. The bell rings promptly at noon, please arrive 5-10 minutes early to settle in. In the spirit of reflective calm, when you arrive, take off your hat/jacket and shoes in the hallway and enter the sanctuary in silence.



# soulMatters

LCUUC has joined with Soul Matters – a network of Unitarian Universalist congregations who follow the same monthly themes. These themes will be woven through all aspects of LCUUC life, from weekly services & religious education, to small groups & individual learning opportunities. Explore what may be a good fit for you – organic growth into sharing and discussion is welcome and encouraged! Please visit the LCUUC website for individual opportunities revolving around this month's theme. These include podcasts, movies, articles, books and weekly exercises to promote more in-depth thought and conversation with family and friends.

## FEBRUARY 2025 – WELCOME TO THE PRACTICE OF INCLUSION

You hardly knew how hungry you were to be gathered in,  
to receive the welcome that invited you to enter entirely...

You began to breathe again...

You learned to sing.

But the deal with this blessing is that it will not leave you alone,

will not let you linger...

this blessing will ask you to leave,

not because it has tired of you

but because it desires for you

to become the sanctuary that you have found...

- Jan Richardson

Jan Richardson begins with hunger. And so do we. Just saying the word “inclusion” conjures it up: The primal hunger to belong; the longing to be let in. No one likes standing outside the circle. No one likes leaning against the locked door listening to everyone else laughing inside. From the time we are little, inclusion and belonging is the thing we seek. It’s the hoped for Holy Grail. The promised resting place.

But Richardson will have none of that. To belong is only the beginning. That’s what she wants us to know. One minute she’s wrapping us in comforting words about settling in and allowing ourselves to finally breathe. The next she’s shaking us awake and telling us to get up and go. That shaking should tell us something. Or to put it another way, hers is not a gentle invitation. It’s not some sweet reminder to think of others. It’s a warning: Beware of the kind of belonging that only wants to bless you!

Deep down we know this. The hard part is to remember it. To use Richardson’s language, if we find ourselves being invited to linger rather than leave, alarm bells should go off. We need to be wary of those who welcome us with a members only card and a soft couch. They may have let us in, but soon they will enlist us into the work of keeping others out. There will likely even be a part of us that wants to keep others out. After all, closed circles don’t just set us apart, they also sit us above.

But they also keep us small. Maybe this is why Richardson’s blessing is so intent on not leaving us alone. It knows that we only grow when the circle does. Circles that keep others out also keep the air out. No one inside a closed circle truly sings; they only suffocate, slowly. It’s all one big reminder that the true blessing of inclusion is not that you get to come inside the circle; it’s that you get to participate in expanding it. As the circle grows, so do we.

From [www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com](http://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com)



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

Music Coordinator: Tracy Moraine [music@lcuuc.org](mailto:music@lcuuc.org)

Congregational Administrator: Leann Rigoli [admin@lcuuc.org](mailto:admin@lcuuc.org)

**Church Office Phone: (262) 369-1703**

Administrative Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday from 8am to 4pm

**Newsletter Editor:**

Cathy Wendorf Peterson [newsletter@lcuuc.org](mailto:newsletter@lcuuc.org)

Please submit articles by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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