



LCUUC NEWSLETTER

January 2025

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

Phone: (262) 369-1703
www.lcuuc.org

WORSHIP SERVICES

Join us in the Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church sanctuary for in-person worship. 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. Contributions in the Sunday basket collections will be used to support LCUUC except for the 2nd Sunday of the month contributions which go to the designated charity/social justice program.

Sunday, January 5 “Once Upon a Time,” with Rev. Matt Aspin, LCUUC Minister

Sunday, January 12 “Protest and Change,” with Rev. Matt Aspin, LCUUC Minister

Sunday, January 19 “An Honest Reckoning,” with Rev. Matt Aspin, LCUUC Minister

Sunday, January 26 “Creation Myths,” with John Drury, LCUUC Member



The LCUUC choir performing on Sunday, December 22

REVEREND MATT'S MUSINGS

The new year is a good time for me to reflect upon my journey with this community...where we've been, where we are, and where we're headed next.

As your Developmental Minister, there are 5 areas I'm focused on during our time together:

- Heritage (Year 1)
- Mission (Year 2)
- Leadership (Years 2-4)
- Connections (Years 2-4)
- Future (Years 3-5)

So...how are we doing?

My first year here was all about getting to know you. Your history, your stories, where you've been, how you see yourselves in the world. It was also a time of developing relationships and building trust so that we'd be prepared for the work ahead. I think that part went really well! Thankfully, I didn't find any MAJOR issues. Sure, there have been some bumps along the way, as there are in any community, but in general there are very competent people here, and you play well together. Many deep, caring relationships have been formed between long-term members.

Although you are very welcoming, it can be hard for new folks to "break in" (which is not unexpected, and your Membership team is doing some very intentional work to reduce those connection barriers). Lots of long-term members have been carrying a lot, for a long time. Finding new volunteers has been an ongoing challenge, but when the ask is made, folks do generally step up as needed.

There was a great deal of energy as we entered the new church year in September. A team had worked over the summer to develop engaging new curriculums for the kids, and the Social Justice team began considering how to build on the great legacy that came before to meet the challenges of a new day. The decision was made to have the Marketing Committee lead the Mission review work, but that has not gotten as much traction as we had hoped. This is the most important work of this year, and a recent leadership transition gives us the opportunity to take the work that has been done, reset, and ensure we get to the end of this church year with that work complete. This is so important that I'm going to make sure it really jumps off the page here:

Please try to participate in ALL of the mission development work you see advertised this year...it's crucial to the future success of LCUUC!

The world is changing rapidly, and the demographics of this community have changed quite a bit. There are more elders here than when you began, which increases the opportunity to practice caring for each other while greatly expanding the pool of communal wisdom that can be shared with the next generation of parents that come here looking for a home.

What do you want the legacy of this community to be? What needs exist today that you are uniquely equipped to fill? What things no longer serve you that will need to be released to make room for what is needed most today? These are the types of questions we'll be wrestling with for the remainder of the year.

The other work that is happening in earnest is strengthening your leadership capacities (which were already pretty strong!). I've worked with the Board and many of your committees to revisit their covenants (the foundational processes UU's rely on to ensure our relationships are as strong as they can be and that ALL voices are included in our important decisions). The Board has worked to ensure they are providing clear guidance so the committees are all pulling in the same direction, and we've streamlined our technology infrastructure to make it easier to share information across the organization. (And we know...more training is needed here. It's coming!). We also offered training from Braver Angels, designed to help us have difficult conversations in places where disagreements emerge—one of the most vital skills needed in today's highly siloed, often fractured world. We're strengthening our connections to our local sibling congregations, and as we get clearer on our mission and vision, we'll begin to connect even more deeply with the resources available from the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Are there challenges? Sure. There always will be. The Family Ministry team is really trying hard to adjust to the real-world variability inherent in families' Sunday morning commitments and the new challenges parents are facing today. We're trying to figure out how to balance the need to be a safe space for all with being an inclusive space for folks with varying perspectives. Finding a common way forward isn't easy, but it is vital. Author Prentice wrote: "When we engage, we collaborate with the world and its creation. We are able to establish and clarify our shared values, our visions, and give meaning to what surrounds us - which in turn shapes us and those around us. In contrast, to disengage is to allow others to mold culture and determine meaning for our lives."

So, the question I invite you to consider as we embark on this next year is this...

What is the world you hope to create?

Because this community is where that world is being made.

Happy New Year, everyone. I know we're going to make it a great one. Together.

Rev. Matt

WATCHING WORSHIP SERVICES ONLINE

LCUUC has started Zoom coverage of our Sunday morning services.

You can watch and listen in, even if you can't be there in person.

This is the Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/96107523767?pwd=WaZDdD5LMveY4VbWyiCbjJuXGdCsnY.1>

You will also need the password: **634902**



SUCCESSFUL HOLIDAY COOKIE SALE

Thank you to all bakers, buyers and eaters of cookies! A total of 133 boxes and bags of cookies were donated by our wonderful LCUUC bakers. We raised more than \$400 to help support LCUUC and the Old Befana program on the 15th. Special thanks to Chris Rollins for her help with the till.

Megan & the Family Ministry Team

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & FAMILY MINISTRY

Religious Education & Family Ministry has been busy this holiday season finishing our curriculum, celebrating all the fall and winter holidays, and decorating cookies at our annual party to support the big holiday pageant. We have enjoyed a full staff of amazing volunteer teachers who have each dedicated time and energy to our kids in the classrooms and outside. Thank you to you all!

Juliet Rogers, Coordinator for Family Ministry

MUSICALLY SPEAKING

Joy, Joy, Joy, Sing with Joy!

Such joy to have so many of us singing together in the choir at the December 22nd service. I am deeply grateful to Karen Haskell for directing the choir, Ellen Burgermeister's accompanying and each of the singers being at church early each Sunday to learn and practice their parts (Do Be Do Be Do) to share their joy with all of us.

January is upon us, most likely bringing cold and snow, but also slowly lengthening days and shorter nights. With the echoes of the Holidays still in the air, it seems like the perfect time to get together, make music, sing some songs, and hold each other close. Sounds like church to me.

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.

Tracy Moraine, Music Coordinator



SCRIP FUNDRAISING PROGRAM TO BENEFIT LCUUC

HERE'S A NEW THING TO START IN THIS NEW YEAR! To support LCUUC when you make some of your everyday purchases through the SCRIP Fundraising Program, please visit our website at <http://lcuuc.org/giving>.



WELCOMING CONGREGATION RENEWAL



Work Group Members:

Jane Johnson

Jim & Linda Kishline

Cathy Wendorf Peterson

John Prestby

Kristin Sanden

Kim Suhr

Mark Ubbesen

Ires Watson

Like many UU congregations, LCUUC received its Welcoming Congregation designation many years ago – for us, it was December 3, 2009. But, being welcoming isn't a one-time thing. So, a renewal process has been developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). The UUA renewal guidelines include: developing welcoming worship services twice a year, recognizing LGBTQ days of observance, providing welcoming education, and supporting a welcoming project/organization with donations and/or resources.

For the members of our work group, this renewal effort is about more than checking off boxes. We want to truly BE a Welcoming Congregation - a place and community where LGBTQ individuals feel welcome, supported, and safe.

We are exploring ways that we can be welcoming. We are currently researching organizations that provide resources and education to support the LGBTQ community. We plan to share what we learn and give members of our congregation opportunities to learn along with us. We welcome your questions and encourage your involvement.

LCUUC BOARD MEMBERS

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



BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

The Board of Trustees met in December for their monthly meeting to continue the work of the church while processing and re-aligning following the departure of our former board president, Jon Hubbard. We held up gratitude for Jon's contributions, including his role in challenging our community to be more inclusive. We turned to our recently developed Board covenant; our promise to each other in how we communicate, collaborate and work through challenging situations for the good of LCUUC and each other. We returned to our Developmental Goals, as Rev. Matt reviewed all that has been accomplished in the past year and a half and next steps along our journey.

We know that the sudden departure of Jon and Audrey has raised questions and emotions in our beloved community. Many church members attended one of two listening sessions to process and understand more about the situation. Rev. Matt, Board president Mike McNett, and our Affiliated Minister Erich Moraine continue to be available to answer questions or listen to any individual concerns you may want to share. A third listening session will be scheduled if we hear feedback that this is desired.

The organizational structure of UU congregations is a bit different from many other church and business organizational models, therefore it can be helpful from time to time to remind ourselves of our roles and how we make decisions in our community:

Board of Trustees (BOT): Oversee the church's operations and implement decisions made by the congregation.

Minister: provides spiritual and organizational leadership. They do not hold ultimate decision-making power.

Members: Each member has a voice and the right to participate in decision making. Members of the congregation elect the Board of Trustees, vote at congregational meetings, choose a minister, adopt budgets and establish church policies. Members volunteer on committees to help support the work of the church. Committees communicate needs and collaborate with the BOT.

Decision Making: When making significant decisions, UU churches (and their Board and committees) strive for consensus, or at least a strong majority. We encourage open dialogue and consideration of diverse viewpoints.

Per our bylaws, when there is a mid-year vacancy on the BOT, the Leadership committee nominates a new member to serve out the remainder of the term and the Board votes to approve the nomination. As usual, the congregation will vote on new board member nominations for a 3-year term at the spring congregational meeting for the next church year. The Board is excited to welcome Rob Suhr as an additional board member. The Board also voted in Rob as Secretary and voted Mike McNett as Board President. A vote for Vice President will take place at our next board meeting in January.

Submitted by Kristin Sanden

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES OFFICERS

MIKE MCNETT, BOARD PRESIDENT

Mike joined LCUUC in 2020 (just as COVID was hitting), after his wife Lois Remeikis had joined and thoroughly loved it. Mike shared, "When I attended my first service, I was fighting back tears. I was hooked!"

Mike was born in Illinois and worked as a physician in multiple specialty areas until he retired in 2021. He shared that he feels that his greatest accomplishment as a physician was working with the Vice Chair of the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board to address over-prescribing of opioids; by the time he retired, doctors in Wisconsin had cut their opioid prescribing in half.

In his free time, you will find Mike woodworking, playing/producing/listening to music, wine appreciation, doing home fix-it projects, physical fitness, participating in and facilitating Breathwork, and traveling the world with Lois. And ridding the world of buckthorn!!

Mike stated that he joined LCUUC's Board of Trustees this year "because I care deeply about our church and want to see it thrive. My goal is to help make our church vibrant, engaged, enthusiastic, and a powerful force for change. I want us to be a beacon of hope for our struggling society, with a reputation that attracts others to us!"



ROB SUHR, BOARD SECRETARY

Rob Suhr has been a member of LCUUC for 20+ years. He lives with his wife, Kim, in Wales and has two grown children, Ellen and Shelby, who grew up actively involved in our congregation. Kim and Rob heard about LCUUC through friends, Kristin and Greg Sanden, and were interested in finding a community of open-minded, spiritual seekers who could be guides for them and their young children. Rob shared that some of the aspects of LCUUC that are most meaningful to him are the supportive community, the church's embracement of music, and the deep friendships he has made over the years. In his free time, you will find Rob biking, hiking, skiing, volunteering, reading, and playing the tuba.

Rob previously served on the BOT and has volunteered to join the Board for the remainder of the 2024-2025 church year (with the option of continuing on the BOT, if confirmed by the congregation this spring) in the Lake Country area.



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 or call 262-366-5991 (cell).

JANUARY 12 SPECIAL COLLECTION: PALESTINIAN CHILDREN'S RELIEF FUND

LCUUC's Designated Collection on January 12th will go to the **Palestine Children's Relief Fund's** *Gaza Relief and Recovery Campaign*, which aims to address urgent humanitarian needs and support long-term recovery efforts in Gaza. The funds raised will primarily focus on immediate relief, including providing essential medical supplies, food, medical treatment, clean water, and other necessities for families affected by the conflict. Additionally, this campaign will support rebuilding healthcare facilities and providing long-term support through impactful programs and projects to support the needs of children and the health sector in Gaza. It will also allocate resources towards trauma counseling, mental health support, and other initiatives for children affected by the conflict, aiming to foster healing and resilience within the community.



FAMILY PROMISE AND EMERGENCY OVERFLOW SHELTER UPDATE

Family Promise has now scheduled a tentative date of January 13 to re-open the Emergency Overflow Shelter (EOS). Repairs are ongoing due to the damage caused by a broken water pipe. The opening date will be confirmed when possible. While we wait for confirmation, we are still asking for donations of 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.

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, click on "Get Involved" then select "Volunteer with Family Promise." You will see the "VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY, Waukesha Winter Overflow Emergency Shelter." You can select from MAKE A MEAL, DRIVE FAMILIES, and FAMILY SUPPORT.

Background checks are required for everyone working with our guests and 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

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. 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. Paula will get in touch with Rev. Matt if needed.





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

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!**

COOKIE DECORATING PARTY



Old Befana: the Holiday Musical

By Ken Lonquist and Friends



L-R: Joanne Schilling Esperé Eckard-Lee Ken Lonquist Sage Eckard-Lee

Many thanks to everyone who supported bringing this wonderful program to LCUUC.

NEW ORIENTATION SESSIONS COMING UP IN JANUARY

Second Hour: New to UU Orientation – January 12, 2025 – after worship service

If you are new to Unitarian Universalism, join us after the service for this Second Hour session to:

- Discover Unitarian Universalism's core values that unite us as a beloved community.
- Explore how the history of Unitarian Universalism affects who we are today.

All are welcome to attend. You can also join us if you're not new to Unitarian Universalism but would like a refresher or want to learn more about the recently adopted new language on core UU religious values.

You do not need to RSVP for this session; just show up!

New to LCUUC Orientation – January 26, 2025, 11:15am - 12:45pm

If you are newish to LCUUC and/or interested in learning more, join us after the service to learn more about our community! Childcare will be available if needed. In addition to eating a light lunch together, we will discuss what brings you here so we can continue to welcome you in the best possible ways to meet your needs.

What to Expect

- Learn about the vibrant and welcoming community that makes LCUUC special.
- Connect with fellow seekers on our spiritual journeys.
- Hear about the various ways you can become involved in our community, from worship services to social justice initiatives.
- Find your niche and discover how your unique gifts can contribute to our collective well-being.
- Get information on what it means to be a member and the pathway to do so, if you become interested.

How to RSVP

- Sign up at the Welcome Table in the church foyer.
- Sign up online at <https://lcuuc.weebly.com/lcuuc-orientation-registration.html>.

If you are also new to Unitarian Universalism, we would encourage you to attend the New to UU Orientation on January 12, if possible.

For more information on either session, contact Betsy Foss-Campbell, Membership Committee Chair, at bfosscamp@gmail.com or 414-881-1633.

THANK YOU



BIG THANKS to everyone who helped to make the holidays special for our congregation and our community. Here's an attempt to thank each and every one with apologies for any misses: THANK YOU to our church staff, church decorators, choir singers and director, musicians, cookie bakers and buyers, donors of warm clothing for area homeless shelters, donors of supplies and food for the Emergency Overflow Shelter, gift givers for Family Promise families, worship associates and leaders, ushers, coffee makers, AV techs, greeters, chalice lighters, snow shovelers, donors and servers for the Hope Center's Christmas dinner, and an extra special thank you to Claire Johnson for hosting a Christmas Day gathering.

LCUUC GAME NIGHT

JANUARY 17 at 6:30pm

The Adult Enrichment Committee is sponsoring LCUUC Game Nights! – an opportunity to enjoy casual fun & fellowship on a monthly basis. Please come enjoy these evenings on Friday nights in the church social hall. Contact Chris at crollinscareer@gmail.com or cell 262-269-9787 with questions.



CRAFT & CHAT Thursday, January 2 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.

GOOD COOKIE AWARD

Tracy Moraine

Tracy has provided music and selected the music for our programs, mostly as an unpaid volunteer, for over 20 years. She has been playing the piano and organ, singing, and even directing the choir for us. Tracy is truly a VIP for our church for all she has done for our music, and is even organizing and leading monthly nature meditations. She deserves more than just cookies, maybe the whole bakery!





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 UU 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.

MONTHLY (THIRD SATURDAY) NATURE MEDITATION on JANUARY 18 at 9am

Everyone is invited - no prior experience needed! If you'd like a reason to enjoy some quiet time outdoors, this is for you. We'll meet at 9am for the nature meditation on Saturday, January 18 at the [Lisbon Community Park near Merton](#) in the lower parking lot. To get to the parking lot, go past the first parking lot on the left (Hilltop) then take the next left-hand turn to the lower parking lot. Here is a link to a map of the location: <https://goo.gl/maps/r1dAeHbEo9rL4tYm8>

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.

On February 15, we will meet at the Hartland Ice Age Marsh, Cottonwood wayside.

Questions, or **for more information** contact: Tracy Moraine
at tracywren@yahoo.com



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. Please note that we will not meet on Christmas and New Year's Day. 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.



LCUUC has joined up 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. Our middle school RE class uses the Soul Matters curriculum. 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.

JANUARY 2025 – LIVING LOVE THROUGH THE PRACTICE OF STORY

Stories are powerful. This month is all about remembering that power. Indeed, who of us hasn't felt controlled by a story? Stuck in a story? Hopeless about the way our story will end up? Simply put, our stories often write us as much as we write them.

That power of story plays out on a social level as well. Just think about our cultural struggles with economic or racial justice. The unconscionable income gap is often described as "natural" or "the result of complex global dynamics over which we have little control." Similarly, the story of race in our country is too often told as an "entrenched" story or minimized with a story about "how far we have come." The aim of all these cultural narratives is the same: to undermine action, and worse, to undermine our belief that things can change. Which is why it's so important to remember that the ability to tell a new story has been at the center of our faith from the beginning.

We rarely think of our UU history this way, but one of the beliefs that gave birth to our religion was the belief that human beings are authors of their stories, not passive characters in them. It all goes back to that old theological debate for which our UU forebearers gave their lives. All around them people were saying that God had "predestined" not just the big story of humanity, but our smaller individual stories too. Supposedly, the argument went, some of us were slotted for heaven and others for hell. And God had written this list of sinners and saints in ink before the beginning of time. So, there was nothing any of us could do about it. "Well," said our spiritual ancestors, "that's a bit harsh, don't you think?!" And from there, they argued for a different way of seeing things. "Forget this extreme fate-driven story," they said. "Freedom has a much bigger role than you've been told. God is not so much the all-controlling author of the world's story as she is the magical muse that lovingly lures us to make our narratives our own." Shakespeare said, "All the world's a stage." Our spiritual ancestors basically said the same thing but with a friendly amendment added. And it went something like this: "All the world is an improv performance! Our job is to hop on the stage, pick up the storyline handed to us, and then put our own stamp on it!"

So, fate and freedom. This month is much more about the tension between these two than one might have thought, leaving us with questions like: Are you an actor conforming to the scripts of others? Or have you found your way to becoming the director and screenwriter of your life? How are you struggling right now to regain control of your storyline? How are you and your friends working to regain control of the storyline of your community, and our country?

No matter which question is ours, the answer, friends, is the same: Don't give the story line away.

From 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

Music Coordinator: Tracy Moraine music@lcuuc.org

Coordinator of Family Ministry: Juliet Rogers cfm@lcuuc.org

Congregational Administrator: Leann Rigoli admin@lcuuc.org

Church Office Phone: (262) 369-1703

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

Newsletter Editor:

Cathy Wendorf Peterson newsletter@lcuuc.org

Please submit articles by the 20th of each month.

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

Remember that whatever the new year brings, we are in this together!



TOGETHER IN THIS BOAT

Editor's Note: This article consists of excerpts from the sermon delivered by Rev. Erich Moraine on Sunday, December 22, 2024

Sailors used to use an elegant device called a sexton to keep their boat on course. And this little LCUUC boat we're in, we also have something to help us navigate. We have our UU values of interdependence, pluralism, justice, transformation, generosity, and equity – all surrounding love at the center. This is our guiding-star, this helps us chart difficult troubling waters. It is what this congregation navigates by, and it's hanging in the foyer. If you haven't noticed it, look for it as you leave this morning.

The community that Rev. Matt is helping us navigate into becoming, is one of tolerance, openness, and diversity. At some point, every one of us walked through those entry doors for the first time, having left the safety of what we know, in search of something new and different, seeking shelter of some kind. We came here because something was missing. Most all of us decided it was time to change boats or at least change the direction of the boat we were in. It wasn't working anymore, time for a change.

So here we are all together in this little boat getting tossed around a bit, bobbing up and down in these interesting times. One of the only things we boat passengers might agree on is that we don't necessarily agree, but if guided by our values and our commitment to following our guiding star – there is a way forward.

It is the responsibility of a congregational minister to look after the safety of everyone in the congregation, everyone in the boat, no matter who you are or how you got here. Look around. If one of these folks fell overboard and was in the water, would you help? Look around. Do you see people who would reach out to extend a helping hand to you if you started drowning? Do you see people that have born witness to your life, and you to theirs? Is that perhaps what you came here looking for? Think about that for a minute. Community is the boat we've climbed into and love is the star by which we navigate. We agree to take care of each other, even if we don't agree on everything.

Unitarian Universalism is a faith tradition which calls us to make choices. It does not mean you can believe anything you want, and while we are a big tent and embrace pluralism and transformation, don't climb into this life raft planning to change everyone's mind about what to do or where to go. Unitarian Universalism has well established principles and guidelines. Our tradition stretches back to the 16th Century. This boat may not be for everyone; good thing there are a lot of boats to pick from.

If you want to learn more about this boat there will be a two-session class offered in January to offer some history as well as unpack the values. Think about sitting in. Even the old timers here might learn something.

That said, here you are, here we are, this morning, together in this boat. So, stop swimming alone, climb in, climb on board, join the rest of us, we're all trying to find our way back home, wherever that is, and however you define that for you. Join in the discussion of paddle more this way or that, change the sails or not. Paint the foyer or not. Start another committee or not. Join your fellow travelers seeking shelter from the storm because for the time being, we are all in the same boat. Thank you for listening.

