

LCUUC NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

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 <u>OOS</u>. Sunday services are at 10am. Email joys and sorrows that you want shared aloud during worship to <u>candles@lcuuc.org</u> 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.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, June 1 "Celebrating Authentic Selves"

A special Pride Month service by the Welcoming Congregation Renewal Work Group with meaningful readings, songs, and a surprise unveiling! What does it mean to be a Welcoming Congregation? We will share a few stories from the 2025 UUA Common Read "Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families."





Sunday, June 8 "Flower Communion," with Rev. Matt Aspin

The flower ceremony is a favorite UU tradition. Everyone is invited to bring a flower to the service – from a garden, the woods, the roadside, wherever. And everyone takes a different flower home!

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR TEEN LGBTQ+ SAFE HOUSE IN HARTLAND
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, June 15 Rev. Matt Aspin, LCUUC Minister

Sunday, June 22 Parade Preparation Work Day

Sunday, June 29 LCUCC Members & Friends Marching in Hartland Parade

REVEREND MATT'S MUSINGS

Our Soul Matters theme for this last month of our current church year is *Freedom*. I remember seeing this topic published last year and wondering how many would be thinking about a highbrow concept like "freedom" in June, amidst the hustle and bustle of school graduations and summer vacation plans.



How quickly things can change.

There are MANY freedoms that those of us whose identities align with the majority take so easily for granted that the concept is barely even considered most days. The right to vote. The right to marry whomever we love. The right to make our own health care decisions. The right to access drinking water free from industrial chemicals. The right to publicly speak out against injustice. The right to due process. These freedoms, while currently accessible to MOST, are still not nearly accessible to ALL. And they are currently being intentionally pulled back at an alarming rate. There's a bumper sticker that reads, "None of us is free until all of us are free," a sentiment perfectly aligned with UU value of Interdependence.

I used to think about freedom from a very ego-centric perspective. Younger me was usually seeking freedom FROM things-especially responsibilities that seemed onerous. I wished I could be free from having to mow the lawn each week, or pay bills every month. The myriad of other freedoms I had were honestly just taken for granted. I was born in the United States of America. I'll ALWAYS be free to vote for my preferred elected officials...right? That isn't even something I even need to think twice about...is it?

These days, I am reminded almost daily that all of those freedoms I used to just take for granted are NOT free-and never have been. Each and every right, each and every protection, each and every law on the books is there because someone, or more precisely, MANY someones...chose to devote their lives to pushing against one injustice or another until our elected officials could no longer do anything BUT write them into the current laws of the land.

This month, as we celebrate Pride and hold up the inherent worthiness, power, and beauty of our LGBTQIA+ siblings, I am reminded that the most important freedom we all have is the choice of where we decide to devote our time and energy. We can either become actively engaged citizens that retain control of our hard-fought rights and ensure they are available for all, or we can bury our heads in the sands and say, "Well, those things that folks are complaining about aren't MY problem, so I don't really need to be involved." The problem with that approach, beloveds, is that our souls always know the truth. We may think we can just turn a blind eye to those things that are happening that we know in our hearts aren't right, or we can accept the responsibility that has been bequeathed to us from the ancestors that fought and died for our freedoms. If we do choose to engage, the freedom we are ultimately exercising is the right to get to the end of our lives knowing that we did all that we could to make the world a better place for others besides ourselves.

I can tell you, having accompanied enough folks at the end of their journeys...there are few other freedoms more valuable to exercise than this. No one ever ends up regretting the time they spent contributing to the benefit of others.

Enjoy the slower, lazy pace of summer. Take some time to catch your breath. I'm quite sure you've earned it. But do so with the goal of restoring your strength and preparing for the work ahead. There is so much that needs to be done at this moment in history to protect the freedoms that so many that came before dedicated their lives to achieve. Only we can be the change we hope to see in this world. This is the call of our UU faith at this pivotal moment in history. I hope you will join me in heeding the call.

Rev. Matt

MANY THANKS TO
GERRY FLAKAS
FOR COORDINATING
AND LEADING
OUR ROADSIDE
CLEANUP
FOR 25 YEARS!



LCUUC Roadside Cleanup Crew on Saturday, May 24, 2025



WELCOME TO NEW LCUUC MEMBERS JEANNE AND JOE PEPITONE

Jeanne and Joe Pepitone met at a Halloween party on State Street while students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Who says nothing good happens on Halloween on State? They'll be celebrating their 37th wedding anniversary this summer.

After graduating, Jeanne's degree in actuarial science led her to San Francisco working for a pension consulting firm. Not long after, Joe joined Jeanne with his degree in landscape architecture and they settled in the Bay Area.

Eventually, they decided to move back to Wisconsin, where they raised their three children. A decade ago, Jeanne discovered LCUUC when she joined the Kintsugi Sangha, a step that led both Jeanne and Joe to join LCUUC just recently.

Outside of work, Joe enjoys fishing, yard work, and golf, while Jeanne spends her time quilting, sewing, reading, and gardening. The couple share a deep love for the outdoors, spending time with their two dogs, hiking the ice age trails and canoeing.

PRIDE MONTH EVENTS



THURSDAY JUNE 5 FRIDAY JUNE 6 SATURDAY JUNE 7

Summerfest Grounds 200 N. Harbor Drive

https://www.pridefest.com

2nd STREET in Walker's Point from Scott Street to Seeboth Street



https://www.prideparademke.o





LCUUC earned the designation as a UUA Welcoming Congregation on December 3, 2009. We are working on our renewal in 2025.





SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025 from 1:00-7:00pm UNITED UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

506 N. Washington Avenue in Waukesha

You are invited to Waukesha Pride 2025 on Saturday, June 14, 2025 from 1:00pm to 7:30pm at the United Unitarian Universalist Congregation at 506 N. Washington Avenue in Waukesha – followed by an After Party at Maddy's Bar and Music Lounge at 200 Madison Street in Waukesha, featuring entertainment by Taaysty Entertainment. This event is proudly hosted by LGBT Waukesha, PFLAG Waukesha, the United Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Waukesha, and Taaysty Entertainment. [https://www.lgbtwaukesha.org]



AN INVITATION TO AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AT UNITARIAN CHURCH NORTH IN MEQUON





"SKILLS FOR DISAGREEING BETTER"

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2025 10:00am to 11:30am

LCUUC IS HOSTING THIS BRAVER ANGELS WORKSHOP

This workshop will help participants understand the values and concerns of those who differ from them politically and teaches essential skills for communicating across difference and finding common ground. You will get the opportunity to practice skills for communicating more effectively in the presence of disagreement.

[https://www.BraverAngels.org/attend-a-workshop

BICENTENNIAL OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

On May 25, 1825, a group of Unitarian ministers in Boston met and voted to charter an association that would help to organize the growing Unitarian religious movement in the United States – and of course, in its own very Unitarian way, "evangelize" the newly-established liberal religious denomination. The American Unitarian Association (AUA), which was chartered the very next day, is one of the two precursor organizations to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). And this year, we are celebrating that milestone bicentennial birthday! [Source: UUA]

A FEW NOTABLE UNITARIANS

John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Louisa May Alcott, Horatio Alger, Jr., Steve Allen, Susan B. Anthony, P.T. Barnum, Clara Barton, Alexander Graham Bell, Ray Bradbury, Andre Braugher, Diahann Carroll, e e cummings, Charles Darwin, Charles Dickens, Dorothea Dix, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Fannie Farmer, Horace Greeley, Edvard Grieg, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Julia Ward Howe, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Horace Mann, Herman Melville, Isaac Newton, Florence Nightingale, Linus Pauling, Beatrix Potter, Christopher Reeve, Paul Revere, Albert Schweitzer, Pete Seeger, Rod Serling, Henry David Thoreau, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., and Frank Wright. [https://www.uua.org]

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).



And if you would like to give a helping hand, please contact Paula!

July's Shared Summer Services - 2025

This summer LCUUC is partnering with two other area Unitarian Universalist congregations to share worship together. The role of "Host Congregation" will be rotated among the different UU buildings in Hartland, Waukesha, and Brookfield.

Each congregation will host once in July. We might have a larger crowd thanks to being able to welcome new UU visitors. On the dates when we are the guests, we will have the opportunity to visit the other two congregations and enjoy fellowship with them.

Here's the July Worship Schedule:

| | Time of | <u>Physical</u> | | | |
|--|----------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|
| <u>Date</u> | <u>Service</u> | <u>Location</u> | Online Access | Special Notes | <u>Speaker</u> |
| 7/6/24 | 11:00 AM | LCUUC | Zoom: watch for available link | none | Rev. Matt Aspin, LCUUC Minister |
| 7/13/24 Unitarian Universalist Church West | AM | Unitarian Universalist Church West, 13001 W North Ave, Brookfield, WI 53005 | https://uucw.org/livestream/ | We are guests at UU Church West in Brookfield | TBD |
| 7/20/24 | AM | United Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 506 N Washington Ave, Waukesha, WI 53188 | https://www.uniteduuc.org/ | We are guests at United UUC in Waukesha | TBD |
| 7/27/24 | 10:00 AM | LCUUC | Zoom: watch for available link | We are HOSTING 2 UU sibling congregations | Rev. Matt Aspin, LCUUC Minister |

Put another way:

- The two Host Dates for LCUUC are July 27th and August 24th. Please come welcome fellow Unitarian Universalists from Waukesha County and beyond.
- The two dates to travel to United UUC in Waukesha are July 20th and August 17th. (Please note their services start at 10:30 a.m.)
- The two dates to travel to UU Church West in Brookfield are July 13th and August 10th.

Please contact the LCUUC Office at admin@lcuuc.org or 262-369-1703 with questions.

August's Shared Summer Services - 2025

This summer LCUUC is partnering with two other area Unitarian Universalist congregations to share worship together. The role of "Host Congregation" will be rotated among the different UU buildings in Hartland, Waukesha, and Brookfield.

Each congregation will host once in August. We might have a larger crowd thanks to being able to welcome new UU visitors. On the dates when we are the guests, we will have the opportunity to visit the other two congregations and enjoy fellowship with them.

Here's the August Worship Schedule:

| | | Physical | | | |
|--|----------------|---|---|--|--|
| | <u>Service</u> | <u>Location</u> | Online Access | Special Notes | <u>Speaker</u> |
| 8/3/24 | 10:00 AM | LCUUC | Zoom, watch for available link | none | Rev. Matt Aspin, LCUUC Minister |
| 8/10/24 Unitarian Universalist Church West | 10:00 ΔM | Unitarian Universalist Church West, 13001 W North Ave, Brookfield, WI 53005 | https://uucw.org/livestream/ | We are guests at UU Church West in Brookfield | TBD |
| 8/17/24 | AM | United Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 506 N Washington Ave, Waukesha, WI 53188 | https://www.uniteduuc.org/ | We are guests at United UUC in Waukesha | TBD |
| 8/24/24 | 10:00 AM | LCUUC | Zoom, watch for available link https://events.locallive.tv/worship/lake-country-unitari | We are HOSTING 2 UU sibling congregations | Rev. Matt Aspin, LCUUC Minister |
| 8/31/24 | 10:00 AM | LCUUC | Zoom, watch for available link | none | Rev. Matt Aspin, LCUUC Minister |

More Information About Shared Summer Services

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- The two dates to travel to UU Church West in Brookfield are July 13th and August 10th.

Please contact the LCUUC Office at admin@lcuuc.org or 262-369-1703 with questions.



Donations Needed For Family Promise Apartment Housing This Summer

Family Promise of Waukesha County provides short-term apartment housing for homeless families with minor children. Their big needs right now are for 5 box fans and 5 air purifiers. They also need laundry detergent, shower liners/curtains, hand soap, dishwasher pods/liquid, multi-purpose cleaning spray, body wash, toilet brush, shampoo and conditioner, loofahs, tooth brushes and toothpaste, disinfectant spray, and shower mats. There is a collection box set up in the LCUUC foyer. Gift cards for Kwik Trip and area grocery stores are always welcome – you can leave them in the Social Justice mailbox in the office. If you are able to donate a fan or air purifier, the Social Action Committee can help with pickup and delivery. Another ongoing need is the Meal Train to provide a weekly group meal for the shelter families. You can make a meal on your own or gather a few friends or family to cook together. The Family Promise website provides a current census so you will know how much food to prepare and deliver. Thank you for any help you can give to these families experiencing the challenges of homelessness. Many thanks to Linda and Jim Kishline for delivering donations to the Family Promise office in Waukesha!

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THE GATHERING – MONDAY, JUNE 9 at 7pm

The Gathering is a monthly virtual event from the UUA Side With Love, created to ground, inform, and mobilize UUs and partners in this critical moment. Each month, we come together for:

- Spiritual Grounding Strengthening our hearts and spirits for the work ahead
- Political Analysis Understanding the threats to democracy and justice
- Collective Action Organizing with others to counter anti-democratic forces and build a just and loving world

Register now and be part of the movement here.

MUSICALLY SPEAKING

Our choir will perform on June 8th during our annual flower communion service. We have nearly 20 people (including some new members and friends) that have volunteered to start their Sunday mornings early to rehearse and learn their parts so our choir can fill our sanctuary with music.

One of the pieces the choir will sign is 'Single Voice, Solitary Flame', the refrain speaks to me about the importance of each of us and of the LCUUC community.

"We are a light, shining in the darkness, turning night into day. We are a song, ringing in the wilderness, showing others the way. But it starts with a single voice and a solitary flame."

As we finish our church year, gathering for our flower communion and our annual meeting and looking forward to summer and the next church year, remember how important our community's light is in the darkness, and how important your voice is in helping our community's song ring out in the wilderness. Spread the word and shine on!

Tracy Moraine, Music Coordinator



NOMINATIONS FOR LCUUC LEADERS

The Leadership Development Committee is pleased to put forth the following candidates to the LCUUC membership for approval at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 8, 2025:

Board Members

- Rob Suhr
- Chris Peske
- Gina Magnus

Board President

Mike McNett

Leadership

- Kristin Sanden
- Monty Johnson
- Returning -- Lois Remeikis, Mark Ubbesen

Endowment

Joanne Nelson





GOOD COOKIE AWARD Helen Bera

Helen Bera has been a constant presence in caring for, looking after, teaching and leading the children of LCUUC since she joined with little ones of her own 20+ years ago. Helen has taught every age, overseen the nursery, served on the RE Committee since its inception and even chaired that committee. If she's in church, she is always looking out for our kids. When she sees a new family, she makes sure they know what's going on for their children. If Helen is here and the kids have RE, she will help out whenever needed. And she's always "young at heart" and joins the kids up front for the Message for All Ages! Her tireless commitment to our children is so deeply appreciated. Thank you, Helen!



GOOD COOKIE AWARD Mike Jury

Mike has done a lot of work to correct the water situation (I don't know all the details. but know it's been very time-consuming), and generally for our building! He also helped out the Membership Committee for our orientation session when Patty was sick.



THE BEST COOKIE BAKER AWARD Claire Johnson

With gratitude and appreciation to Claire for generously sharing her time and talents to provide delicious plates of cookies for our Good Cookie Award recipients.

Claire has incredible baking skills!

THANK YOU, CLAIRE!



BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

The Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, May 20th, to vote on approvals of the upcoming budget from Finance, the agenda for the annual meeting (to take place after service on June 8th), and a few amendments of the Emergency Preparedness Plan, to name a few. It looks like we are in good shape financially right now (hooray!) We are also up in members and pledges (double hooray!!)

Kristin Sanden and Claire Johnson will be departing the BOT as their three-year term is now ended at the conclusion of this church year. We will vote in new BOT members at the annual meeting (Chris Peske and Gina Magnus). Rob Suhr will be formally appointed as he joined the BOT as a temporary member. We had an interesting church year with having to appoint a new President part way through, but we have worked really well as a team. I'd like to personally thank Mike McNett and Rob Suhr for helping us get back on track after former president and member Jon Hubbard abruptly left LCUUC.

As a departing BOT member myself, I feel really good where the Board stands as we come to a close of this church year. As uncertain as our Nation is politically right now, we have an even stronger foundation at the core of this community.

Respectfully Submitted, Claire Johnson BOT member

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)



COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Family Ministry: Megan Fedders

Facilities: Mike Jury Finance: Gail Ostler Leadership: Lois Remeikis

Marketing: Mike McNett (interim) Membership: Betsy Foss-Campbell Social Action: Cathy Wendorf Peterson

Stewardship: John Kuhn Worship Arts: Claire Johnson

WE'RE ZOOMING! VOLUNTEER HOSTS NEEDED

Our Sunday services are viewable live via a Zoom call during the service and we have consistently had folks who aren't able to come to the church building join us via Zoom. 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 on line, 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, like and subscribe!



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.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21 NATURE MEDITATION

The June nature meditation will be on **June 21**, at **9:00am** at **Chapman Park in Oconomowoc**. The park is next to the Summit/Oconomowoc Fire Station, 1400 Oconomowoc Pkwy, Oconomowoc. Here is a link to a map of the location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/A1cJiThCk8koBHde6

Everyone is invited - no prior meditation experience needed! If you'd like a reason to enjoy some quiet time outdoors, this is for you.



What to expect: The meditation will happen no matter the weather, so dress for the outdoors. We will start at 9:00 AM with an introduction and short reading, then spend 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.

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

We'll be at the Oconomowoc River Conservancy Park near North Lake on July 19.

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.





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.

JUNE 2025 – WELCOME TO THE PRACTICE OF FREEDOM

What if we could listen like the great salmon who goes about its ordinary life when suddenly something shifts. It does not come as a thunderous revelation, but a quiet knowing you have been preparing all your life to trust.

The path lived until now no longer satisfies but the path ahead seems thousands of miles long, and your womb is heavy.

-Christine Valters Paintner from her poem "Following an Ancient Call"

Who of us doesn't understand that "heavy womb?" Who of us hasn't felt a deep hunger begin to grow in our bellies? Who of us hasn't felt a particular new desire rise up, sure and clear? And who of us hasn't—at some point—turned our backs on that desire, that call? Not that we wanted to. It's just that we were stuck. Imprisoned, so to speak, by circumstances, responsibilities, constraints or assumptions which made that desire seem out of reach. We felt trapped, forced to say "No" when our heart wanted to say "Yes".

More often than we notice, this is the dilemma when it comes to freedom. It's not so much about running away from something as it is about wanting to run toward something but not being able to! In other words, there is a big difference between "freedom from" and "freedom to."

Our Unitarian Universalist faith gets this. At its best, it never simply asks us, "What do you need to get away from?" No, it pushes us to ask the deeper question of "What is it that you want to run toward?" Mature freedom is never about the absence of all constraints; it's about being able to commit yourself to the things that have your heart. Or to put it another way, true freedom is about constraints of our own choosing.

So, what is it for you, friends? Where in your life are you feeling forced to say "No" when your heart really wants to say "Yes"? What is it that you want to use your freedom for? It's not the bars of a prison that make us want to escape; it's suddenly noticing what's on the other side of those bars that makes us want to get out.

So, this month, don't take your eyes off of it. Keep that longing clearly in view. And if you do, you'll be surprised how easy it is to bend open those bars... and simply walk out.

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 <u>minister@lcuuc.org</u>

Music Coordinator: Tracy Moraine <u>music@lcuuc.org</u>

Lead Educator: Kara Stone cfm@lcuuc.org

Congregational Administrator: Leann Rigoli 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
Please submit articles by the 20th of each month.

VISIT LCUUC AT: WEBSITE, INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK

