



Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services

Oct. 4 – “Abundant Life” - Rev. Matt Alspaugh is the speaker and the Service Leader is Heidi MacLennan. So many of the messages we receive in our culture are about scarcity and shortcoming. From the media we’re told we’re not beautiful, or secure, or smart or satisfied unless we purchase this product or that service. How do we stop feeding the dissatisfied infant part of us that always wants more, and find contentment with what we have? We’ll explore the nature of true abundance. This is the start of our Pledge Drive that funds the fellowship; Lorna Dean will speak to us about the pledge program.

Oct. 11 – “October Celebrations” – October is a month with many celebrations. We will explore some of these and there will be a SURPRISE near the middle of the month pertinent to LCUUF. Jan Manning is the speaker and Cate Howell is the Service Leader.

Oct. 18 – “Why We Love Hell So Much (At Least Some of Us)” – Rev. Matt Alspaugh is the speaker and the Service Leader is Eric Luria. A surprising number of people (and not just Christians) believe in hell. About 2/3 of Americans are believers; for Canadians, only about 1/3 believe in hell. What's the motivation for such belief? What kind of people find such belief attractive? The Universalists among us are very curious, even perplexed ... let's find out.

Oct. 25 – “United Nations 75: The Future We Want; The World We Need.” - The United Nations is celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2020, providing an opportunity to reflect on the successes, ongoing challenges and global priorities going forward. The speaker is Mardele Harland and the Service Leader is Fred Harland.



For the foreseeable future, we are meeting on-line, at our usual time, Sundays at 10:30, using a service called Zoom. Here's how to get set up. We suggest you do this before the meeting.

To join via video on your computer, tablet or smartphone, please click the link below – you will be stepped through downloading a free app that will let you connect to the meeting.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/233941792>

Meeting ID: 233 941 792

Or, for audio, just dial-in by your location

+52 229 910 0061 Mexico

+52 554 161 4288 Mexico

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

Elsewhere? Find your local phone number: <https://us04web.zoom.us/u/fnTR4N3JJ>

We encourage you to try to connect early, to get things set up. However, you won't be able to join the service until about 10:00am on Sunday. But it's good to get set up early.





**MESSAGE FROM
REV. MATT**

It's been about six months, maybe a little longer, since the pandemic became real for most of us. I remember the specific day that it became real for me: the evening of Sunday March 15th. I was returning from a weekend retreat, where I was completely isolated from news or even contact with family. When I was leaving the retreat, I opened my phone, and looked at messages - cancelations, of the Sunday service, of Liz's travel plans to Mexico, of a family gathering planned in April. We had entered a different world.

Last week, as part of an on-line group, we explored how our life has been in the last six months. We used a tool common in the coaching and counseling world, one that invited us to consider our activity and growth in numerous areas of life: health, family, friends, physical environment, recreation, finances, vocation, education, intimate relationship, service to others, and spirituality.

I pondered these areas, focusing on these recent months. Many had been dialed back because of the pandemic protocols: I had less contact with family and friends, and with Liz, and opportunities for service to others was curtailed too. On the other hand, I made hiking in the hills a priority, once it became permitted again, my spending was decreased, and I had much more time for reading and spiritual practice. When I looked at the broad patterns in these things, I noticed that with those things I did for myself, I was doing fine. However, with those things I did for others, for the world, I felt these had been curtailed. No wonder I have been feeling just a little bit off.

There's an archaic, unfamiliar word for what I think I've been feeling: acedia. Acedia is a state of restlessness that leads to spiritual disconnection; to apathy, boredom, even despair. It can lead to a loss of purpose and direction, a disconnection with the world or what is divine. Acedia seems to fit this in-between time, with its uncertainty and isolation. Naming this feeling has power - for I realize I've been here before, and I know what to do to change it.

So I will redouble my efforts at spiritual practice, meditation, journaling, spiritual reading, and maybe artistic pursuits. I'll look for ways to be in service even in these times.

At this six-month point, how are you doing? What have you had to dial back, and what has taken its place? How are you feeling about that? What might you do differently in the coming months? I'm happy to talk with you about this subject if you like.



LCUUF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| President | Lewis Crippen |
| Vice President | Charles Jacobs |
| Secretary | Susan Miller |
| Treasurer | Lorna Dean |
| Member at Large | Eric Luria |
| Member at Large | Joan Ward |
| Member at Large | Fred Koesling |



SHARE THE BASKET

The LCUUF Share the Basket program donates MXN 5,000 pesos or more to an organization providing food to the Lakeside community during the coronavirus crisis. We appreciate the congregation's support for the Share the Basket program separate from their pledge payment. If we collect more than MXN 5,000 pesos in any month, the full amount will go to an organization providing food to the Lakeside community. If we collect less than MXN 5,000 pesos in donations in any month, the balance will be subsidized from the LCUUF treasury, as long as this is financially feasible. For the September donation, we collected MXN 8,189 pesos.

Our Share the Basket donations have been distributed to:

- July - Foodbank Lakeside for *dispensas* for families in need
 - Aug. - Bobby's La Terraza Restaurant for hot meals to local villagers
 - Sept. - Tepehua Centro Comunitario, AC for *dispensas*, community meals and an elderly nutrition program.
- In October, our donation will go to Poco a Poco/Bridgada Estatal which provides a FoodShare program in San Pedro Itzicán and surrounding villages.

Please designate your donation for Share the Basket when you use one of the usual payment methods (PayPal, Bill Pay or cash). Contact Lorna Dean, Treasurer, lmdean695@gmail.com if you have questions.

Submitted by Lorna Dean



PLEDGE CAMPAIGN 2021-22

Our Pledge Campaign will be conducted from October 4 through November 29, 2020. Members and Friends will be asked to make a pledge by email this year to the Treasurer, Lorna Dean, lmdean695@gmail.com in lieu of a pledge card.

Your pledge is a promise to donate a specific amount during the next fiscal year from Feb. 1, 2021, through January 31, 2022. The pledging process helps the Treasurer to construct a realistic budget for the upcoming year. The pledge goal for this year is MXN 700,000 pesos.

On Sunday, October 4, Rev. Matt Alspaugh will give a talk on "Abundant Life" and Lorna Dean will give a slide presentation with the details of the pledging process.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 03 Bill White | 15 John Roam |
| 04 Deb Gang | 16 Jim Bellamy |
| 07 Bob Koches | 17 Curtis Kirker |
| 09 Susie Lindeman | 22 David Miller |
| 09 Trudy Crippen | 24 Norman Woods |
| 10 Fred Harland | 29 Lynn Cleek |
| 12 Jak Koke | |



Susan Miller, Secretary

FROM THE BOARD

January 3 and January 24, 2021!

Get out your 2021 calendars! It's time to jot down some important dates!

On January 3, 2021, after the service, we will have a discussion about LCUUF's proposed 2021-2022 budget. Three weeks later, on January 24, 2021, also after the service, we will have the LCUUF Annual General Meeting (AGM). Among other business items that will be discussed and voted on during the AGM, there will be a vote on the budget and voting for members of the LCUUF Board of Directors.

The AGM is an important event in the yearly life of the Fellowship. The holding of the annual meeting is mandated by the ByLaws for the Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Article VI of the ByLaws states: "An annual meeting of the Fellowship shall be held at a date to be determined by the Board, provided however, that such date must be determined and publicized not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. The time, place, and agenda shall be published in writing and made available to the membership no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting."

Instead of having the AGM at the Fellowship as we have done in the past, the meeting will be held via ZOOM or other teleconference. Voting will be conducted online during the meeting. If you are unsure as to whether or not you may vote, Article IV of the ByLaws states, "All members shall have voting privileges thirty (30) days after signing the Membership Book."

The agenda for the January 24, 2021, AGM will be published as soon as it is available. If you have any questions, please let me know (ssmiller999@gmail.com) and I will do my best to provide you with an answer.

Here is a note from the Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee is open to submissions of names of members who would like to serve the LCUUF in Board positions for the 2021-2023 term: Treasurer and two Board Member at Large positions will be open. If you are interested in being on the list of nominees or recommending a member, please forward the nomination to paulaodom01@gmail.com for consideration.



HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet on October 28th at 4:00 pm via ZOOM. We will be discussing what has been called "The Age of Extinction." Due to human activities we are facing the loss of over 1 million species. We will discuss what has been called the Sixth Mass Extinction of Life on Earth which has resulted in more than two-thirds of all wildlife vanishing in the last fifty years. If you are not already on the mailing list and want the readings prior to this meeting please contact Bob Koches at bobkoches@gmail.com



The LCUUF Newsletter is produced to provide LCUUF news to members and friends. Deadline for contributions to the November newsletter is October 20th and should be sent to Kathy Koches, at: kkoches@gmail.com