



## Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services

**Nov. 1 – “Dia de Los Muertos is Different This Year”** – With the cemeteries closed and festivals cancelled, this is a good opportunity to delve into the origins of this holiday and understand how it informs the Mexican culture. We will feature a virtual altar slideshow presentation of loved ones and friends who have passed on. If you would like your loved one included in this presentation, Please send to [roy\\_haynes@aol.com](mailto:roy_haynes@aol.com) by October 25, 2020: a photo of your loved one(s), their name(s), and their relationship to you. Rev. Matt will give the talk and Monica Devine is the service leader.

**Nov. 8 – “As the World Turns: Reflections on Living Through the Last US Political Campaign”** - Dee Dee Camhi, a passionate Democrat Abroad, will speak on how she has dealt with the political situation in the US in the past four years. Trudy Crippen will be the service leader.

**Nov. 15 – “Possibility”** – Possibility is hope in action. I love the teaching of Margaret Wheatley: “There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about. Ask: What’s possible? not What’s wrong? Keep asking.” We’ll explore what possibilities are in front of us and how we might act on them. Rev. Matt Alspaugh is the speaker and Deb Gang is the service leader.

**Nov. 22 – “It was the best of times; it was the worst of times”** – This title comes from Charles Dickens, “A Tale of Two Cities”. Our presentation will explore why both conflicting images may seem right today. The speaker is Fred Harland and the service leader is Sandy Wallin.

**Nov. 29 – “There’s a Crack in Everything”** – “That’s how the light gets in” so Leonard Cohen tells us, borrowing from a story by Rachel Naomi Remen. We will explore the possibility of gratitude for everything, even the imperfections in our lives. This is also the wrap-up of our annual Pledge Drive; we’ll report on our results and celebrate. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will give the talk and Lorna Dean is the service leader.



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**

Much sadness. In the last few weeks, one of our members entered hospital for surgery related to cancer, and another was diagnosed with lung cancer. Another lost a brother to COVID-19; another lost a close cousin. In my own life, a cousin is back in hospital with complications with a kidney transplant. A brother-in-law is now on hospice in hospital with metastasized cancer.

It comes in waves. A long stretch of time much the same, and then, many people ill, many losses at once. The worry comes in waves, too: what is the prognosis, how will the bills be paid, what will life be like with this disease as the uninvited guest? And, not least, the grief comes in waves, too. We grieve not just for those around us now who suffer, we also recall all the others in our past, their illnesses, and their losses. Our minds are quick to recall the hard details of the past, of misfortune and loss, and our feelings follow, sadness, melancholy, and grief. I think of writer Parker Palmer's concept of the 'tragic gap', the gap between how things are and how they might be. Grief is the recognition of that gap, that things now are not as we had hoped they would be. Grief clarifies the value of the connections with others we have in this life. Grief reminds us that our lives are precious, that they are short, and that the lives we have are just that, the lives we have now, not lives we may have imagined for ourselves in the past. If you would like to talk about grieving or other pastoral care topics, I am ready to be a support for you, as are any of the members of the Care Team.

- Matt Alspaugh - [minister@lakechapalauu.org](mailto:minister@lakechapalauu.org)
- Trudy Crippen - [trudycrippen@gmail.com](mailto:trudycrippen@gmail.com)
- Doug Mattoon - [douglasmattoon@gmail.com](mailto:douglasmattoon@gmail.com)
- Sharon Robinson - [Sharonrr@aol.com](mailto:Sharonrr@aol.com)
- Colleen Beery - [colleenbeery@gmail.com](mailto:colleenbeery@gmail.com)

**Grief Arrives In Its Own Time**

Stuart Kestenbaum

It doesn't announce itself or knock on the door of your heart. Suddenly it's right behind you, looking with great pity at the back of your neck and your shoulders on which it spends days placing a burden and lifting it.

Grief arrives in its own sweet time, *Sweet* because it lets you know that you are alive, *time* because what you are holding becomes the only day there is: the sun stops moving, the sky grows utterly quiet and impossibly blue. Behind the blue are the stars we can't see and beyond. the stars either dark or light, both of which are endless.



**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  |



Lorna Dean Treasurer

## FROM THE BOARD

A *pledge* is the annual amount you plan to donate to LCUUF during the upcoming fiscal year, February 1, 2021, to January 31, 2022. The LCUUF Pledge Campaign started on October 4 and will end on November 29, 2020.

Your pledge shows your commitment to LCUUF for the upcoming year. As Treasurer, I use the total pledges to develop a budget for the upcoming year. We are asking Members and Friends to make a pledge now, for the next fiscal year.

Please send your pledge to me (Lorna Dean [lmdean695@gmail.com](mailto:lmdean695@gmail.com)) by email, as soon as possible. In your email, state your full name (both names if a couple is pledging together), the annual amount of your pledge for 2021-22, and the currency. You may state your pledge in U.S. or Canadian dollars or Pesos. It is preferable if you state your pledge in the currency you plan to pay it in.

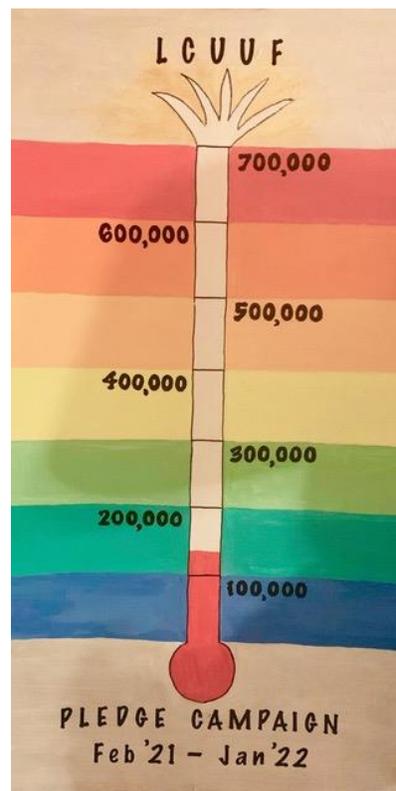
Our pledge goal is MXN 700,000 pesos. Many thanks to Joan Bellamy for designing our Pledge Thermometer this year. Each Sunday during the service, you will see the Pledge Thermometer marked up for the amount of pledges we have received to date. As of October 23rd we have received pledges totaling MXN 160,800 pesos. If you pledge in U.S. dollars, your pledge will be converted to pesos at 19:1, as LCUUF uses a fixed exchange rate in our account.

If you need to know how much you pledged, or have paid on your pledge, for the current fiscal year, send me an email at the email address above.

The main methods to pay your pledge, or to donate if you did not pledge, are:

- Use your own PayPal account to send your payment to [lcuufinc@gmail.com](mailto:lcuufinc@gmail.com). This sends your payment to our U.S. charitable organization, called Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fund, Inc. (LCUUF, Inc.), based in Texas.
- Use the Bill Pay function of your U.S. bank account to send a payment directly to LCUUF, Inc.'s U.S. bank. Contact Susan Miller, Treasurer of LCUUF, Inc., [ssmiller999@gmail.com](mailto:ssmiller999@gmail.com) for the bank information.
- Put Mexican pesos in an envelope with your name, the amount and date, and deliver it to me in Ajijic or David Hudnall in Riberas del Pilar. Contact me for addresses or if you need someone to pick up your envelope. You may also give your envelope to David Hudnall, Roy Haynes or Rev. Matt Alspaugh if you are at the LCUUF building for the Zoom service.

David Hudnall and I will be drafting the budget for 2021-22 in November/early December. The draft budget will be presented to the Board for approval at the December Board meeting. Then I will present the financial information for the current year, and the draft budget for next year, to the congregation by Zoom, after the service on Sunday, January 3, 2021. This budget presentation will be for questions and comments only. The final budget will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting held via Zoom after the service on January 24, 2021.





## 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 your pledge payments. 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 October donation, we collected MXN 7,991 pesos for Poco a Poco <https://www.pocoapocosanpedro.com/> which manages a Food Share program, in conjunction with The Brigada Estatal, in San Pedro Itzicán and surrounding villages.

In November, we plan to donate to Foodbank Lakeside again. See an update on their recent survey at: <https://foodbanklakeside.org/es/foodbank-lakeside-is-in-trouble/>

Our previous 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 elderly nutrition program.

Please designate your donation for "Share the Basket" when you use one of the usual payment methods (PayPal, Bill Pay or pesos) listed in more detail under the Board Column this month. Contact Lorna Dean, Treasurer, [lmdean695@gmail.com](mailto:lmdean695@gmail.com) if you have questions.



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

13 Sharon Robinson  
24 Norman Woods

22 David Miller



## HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Humanist Discussion Group will resume meeting on November 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm via ZOOM. Our topic for discussion will be The Economic, Geo-Political and International implications of the melting of ice in the Arctic Sea. The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86577912863>

If you wish to receive the reading materials prior to the meeting and are not on the mailing list please contact Bob Koches at: [bobkoches@gmail.com](mailto:bobkoches@gmail.com)



The LCUUF Newsletter is produced to provide LCUUF news to members and friends. Deadline for contributions to the December newsletter is November 20<sup>th</sup> and should be sent to Kathy Koches, at: [kkoches@gmail.com](mailto:kkoches@gmail.com)