



Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services

April 4 – Easter/My Road to Understanding Unitarian Universalism – Cat Barnett will share her slow road to understanding Unitarian Universalism – Service Leader is Susan Miller

April 11 – What is the Character of Your God? - Many of us who were raised in some traditional religions, have at some point asked (perhaps unconsciously) the question, “What is the character of my God?” Many of us found the character of God wanting, and rejected him (yes, that god was usually a “him”). Some of us live comfortably with that rejection as atheists, others have sought reasonable alternative ideas of God. We’ll explore one of these alternatives, known as process theology. It’s an idea with a difficult name, and a bit difficult to explain. However for some UU theists, process theology allows them to reclaim a concept of God that is rational and consistent. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will be the speaker and Susie Lindeman will be the service leader.

April 18 – Ageing Gracefully – Loretta Downs is a Lakeside resident with a Master’s Degree in gerontology. She is a past president of the Chicago End-of-Life Care Coalition and a Certified Senior Advisor. She will be speaking about adjusting to the health challenges, vulnerabilities and loss of independence that many people experience as they age. Cat Barnett will be the Service Leader.

April 25 – “Más Fuertes Juntos: Stronger Together” - We are holding a shared service with the UU Fellowship of San Miguel Allende, the other large migrant UU congregation in Mexico. We also will welcome other UUs in Mexico (and elsewhere!), as we explore how we might be stronger if we work together in growing and sharing our UU faith. Rev. Tom Rosiello & Rev. Matt Alspaugh will lead this service. **Please note that the Zoom connection is different this Sunday only:**

<https://zoom.us/j/414604040?pwd=NGdNV1FoNGNIOHpLdlhuUjFGbW4vQT09>



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

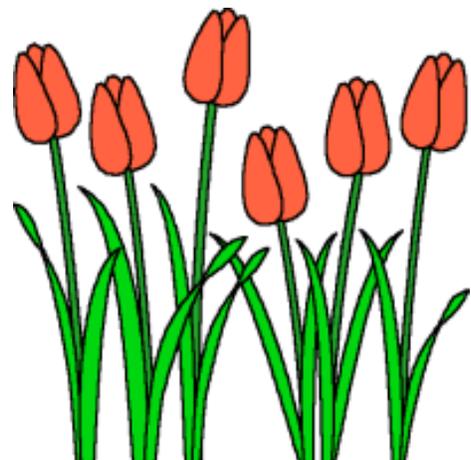
+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+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.





Rev. Matt Alspaugh

**MESSAGE
FROM MATT**

We have just passed one full year in pandemic mode, which for us began March 14, 2020, with the end of in-person services. While we're optimistic towards the future, as vaccinations are beginning, we know we are not done with this pandemic, and may not be for some time. What will post-pandemic life be like? It's hard to predict, however, my credence is that it will not be a simple return to things as they were before.

A look at past pandemics, especially the so-called 'Spanish Flu' a hundred years ago, bears this out. The 1920s, the 'Roaring 20's' were a period of rapid social change, increased spending, increased social interactions, and sexual licentiousness. Religiosity decreased. Even home design was influenced by the pandemic, with kitchens and bathrooms being redesigned to appear clean, white, and sanitary. And now, as then, some of the adaptations we've made in this pandemic will be permanent. Video meetings are surely here to stay. Working from home, at least part of the time, will remain an option for many.

It's helpful to think about what 'After Time' will be like for LCUUF. We'll very much want to get together in person, and so I suspect meals, events, and activities will be a major priority. At the same time, we've seen the value in using technology to stay connected with seasonal people and those who cannot travel to our

building, and we do not want to lose that. Continuing to make our services available online may in fact reduce overcrowding for a while, giving us the luxury of time to plan and fundraise for a new building. It's hard to know how larger societal aspects might affect us. Will more people move to Lakeside? Will people working remotely, the so called 'digital nomads', find Lakeside attractive? Will more people want to connect with our fellowship from distant places? This is happening already with some other UU congregations. If there is a downturn in religiosity, will Unitarian Universalism be included, or are we sufficiently on the margins to be unaffected?

Our Board held a retreat in late February (on Zoom of course). We began a conversation about what the coming year might be like. How we might continue our Sunday Services as "hybrid services" both in-person and on-line, how we might communicate better with congregants and the community at large, how we might reach out to other UUs in Mexico and farther afield. We realized we needed to ask you what your thoughts were, and plan a survey about how we might move forward, which will be emailed soon. If you have other observations or thoughts about what might be important in the post-pandemic time, please chat with any Board member or let me know (minister@lakechapalauu.org).



APRIL 4TH IN MEXICO



Susan Miller, Secretary

BOARD MEMBER MESSAGE

My husband, Dave, and I have a nine-year-old granddaughter who desperately wants to be a grownup, and the sooner the better. Her third-grade mind tells her that adults live a life of absolute freedom. They go to bed when they want. They eat when and what they want. They want to play all day? Not a problem! Pesky things like earning a living, living with other people, and getting enough sleep to fulfill your adult responsibilities haven't shown up in her mental radar. Yet.

I have to admit that being a grownup is not bad. I do, indeed, get to go to bed at a time of my choice (and live with the consequences if I have an early morning meeting). I pretty much eat whatever someone puts in front of me (even if it's not my favorite food). But I never get to play all day. Even though I'm retired, I still have responsibilities that aren't as much fun as playing with Legos all day.

High on the list of my not-looked-forward-to responsibilities are Zoom, Skype, or other online meetings. I know they are important. The Fellowship Board of Directors meetings, the ladies' meetings, committee meetings, meetings with friends here and elsewhere, consultations with doctors and business people: they all keep us up to speed and in the loop. But they're just not my favorite, and they aren't going anywhere soon, are they? Somewhere in my way-older-than-third-grade mind, I thought that by now we might be able to ditch the Zooms and meet in real life. Sigh.

And here's where it's not always fun being a grownup: Sometimes conflicts arise during distance meetings. Here is a short excerpt from the new

LCUUF Communications Policy, which will be sent out next week:

"Communications during virtual meetings may be problematic due to:

- Confusion and misunderstandings about verbal and nonverbal cues, or about the absence of verbal and nonverbal cues;
- Difficulties in establishing and maintaining trust and relationships among meeting participants; and
- Difficulties in obtaining the consensus needed to make decisions."

If any of these issues ring a bell with you, please read over the Communications Policy and see what you think, and then let the Board know what you think. Thanks!





MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Kriss Gang

Member at Large

Debbie and I arrived in Ajijic in August of 2019 and are permanent residents. We had never been to Lakeside but had researched retirement destinations in Costa Rica and Mexico for several years. We had planned to retire a year from now but both found ourselves without jobs in February of 2019. We initially focused on Costa Rica but ultimately decided on Mexico and chose to start our retirement in Ajijic...and we have never looked back. The day we arrived Lakeside we missed the turn to Ajijic and found ourselves in Chapala and on the Careterra to Ajijic where we saw the LCUUF sign and said to each other "How did we not know about this?" A prophetic beginning. Currently when I am not hiking the mountains of Ajijic, one of the main reasons we moved here, I am learning to speak Spanish, walking our rescue pup and enjoying this amazing community we have chosen as our home.

I grew up and lived most of my life in Ohio as did my wife Debbie of 38 years. We have two sons, Eric 34, and Steven 31. Eric and his partner Marie live in NYC and Steven lives in Flagstaff, AZ with his partner Katy. I grew up and lived in Elyria, Ohio, a west suburb of Cleveland until I went to college and Debbie grew up in Dayton, Ohio. We met in college and moved to Dayton until my job took us to Minneapolis, MN. We lived in MN for 12 years and moved back to Dayton, Ohio in 1998 until we moved here in 2019.

I come to retirement with over 25 years of experience in marketing, communications and performance improvement management. Throughout my career I served as a director of marketing,

worked as an account manager for Fortune 500 clients, owned my own communications and performance management company, wrote for industry trade publications and served as a performance management trainer, facilitator and presenter. My last several jobs were the most interesting. For 6 years prior to retirement I worked for the Kettering Foundation, a democracy research foundation. I concurrently served as a facilitator for court-ordered cognitive thinking classes for first time offenders in cases of shoplifting, anger management and substance abuse. And for my final job I served as Assistant Treasurer for Montgomery, Ohio, responsible for the county bank...a political appointment which is how I was ultimately left jobless and at that point decided it was time to retire.

My UU history began when my father ended his search for a religious home at the steps of a 150 year old Universalist Church (an original stop on the Underground Railroad) west of Cleveland, OH when I was still in elementary school. Since those early days, Unitarian Universalism has been an integral part of my life—wherever I've lived. I've served on boards for UU congregations of 100 members and 700 members. However the most influential experience of my life was when I served as a District Representative for the UUA Annual Program Fund. In this role I was responsible for promoting the value, services and benefits provided by the UUA. In addition, my job was to communicate with 53 district congregations with regard to their financial successes as well as struggles and to offer support and assistance as requested or needed. I served on this committee for over 7 years and it remains one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

When we were plotting our move to Ajijic we never counted on being involved in a UU fellowship. So to find myself on what is now my fourth UU church/fellowship board is to say the least, surprising. I hope that my diverse background with the denomination and four previous congregations as well as my unique career history will be of value as LCUUF navigates the complex issues of the covid and post covid era.

Thank you for the honor of serving and being a member of LCUUF.

Kriss Gang
Member at Large



New U.S. Brokerage Account for LCUUF, Inc.

Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fund, Inc. (LCUUF, Inc.), a U.S. 501(c)(3) charitable organization, now has a U.S. brokerage account with Charles Schwab. This means that you can donate appreciated stocks directly to LCUUF, Inc. with significant tax advantages.

I would like to express appreciation to a donor who initiated the process of obtaining a brokerage account and who has already transferred stock totaling USD \$100,985.67 to LCUUF, Inc.'s brokerage account in March 2021.

Tax Issues: For U.S. taxpayers, if you have shares that have appreciated in value, you pay capital gains tax on the gain when they are sold. However, if you donate the appreciated shares directly to a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the benefits are:

- The donor does not pay capital gains tax.
- The charitable organization receives the full value of the shares.
- The charitable organization does not pay tax if the shares are sold.
- The donor gets a U.S. tax deduction for a larger amount than if the shares were sold and capital gains tax paid, and the donor gave the remaining cash to the charitable organization.

We would like to encourage members and friends of LCUUF to consider donations of stock to LCUUF, Inc.'s brokerage account.

For further explanation of the U.S. tax issues, see:

<https://www.investopedia.com/ask/answers/07/donatestock.asp>

<https://www.cocatalyst.org/articles/how-to-deduct-appreciated-stock-donations-from-your-taxes> and

<https://www.schwab.com/resourcecenter/insights/content/charitable-donations-the-basics-of-giving>

Of course, you should discuss this with your own financial or tax advisor before proceeding.

Questions may be directed to Lorna Dean, Secretary of LCUUF, Inc. and Treasurer of LCUUF, A.C., 376-766-6112 or lcuufinc@gmail.com

Lorna Dean, Treasurer



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. Our April recipient is Poco a Poco, San Pedro Itzicán which manages a Food Share program, in conjunction with The Brigada Estatal, in San Pedro Itzicán and surrounding villages. 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. 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. If you have questions contact Lorna Dean, Treasurer, lmdean695@gmail.com



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 03 Kriss Gang | 18 Myra Williamson |
| 04 Colleen Beery | 24 Gary Cleek |
| 10 Deb Gang | 24 Mardele Harland |
| 11 Linda Conklin | 24 Catherine Luria |
| 16 Peter Jessen | 29 Sharon Woods |



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 | Cat Barnett |
| Member at Large | Kriss Gang |



HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet on Wednesday, April 28th at 4pm. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/233941792>

We will explore the relationship between Secular Humanism and Artificial Intelligence.

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



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