



Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services

Jan. 2nd – Welcome to this Place of Possibility –One of my Unitarian Universalist ministerial colleagues has said, “I often like to think of us as the religion of “Why not?!” At our theological core is a sense of openness, of making space for possibility. We have an expansive religion, easily able to hold many ideas, beliefs, values, at once, all as possible. As we close out one year, and begin another, it’s a good time to reflect on what’s possible for us. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will give the sermon and Dee Dee Camhi is the Service Leader.

Jan. 9th – UU History – Trudy Crippen and Catherine Luria will present a history of Unitarian Universalism. The service leader is Kathleen Pharis.

Jan. 16th – Finding UU –Long time LCUUF member Carol Powell will tell of her journey from being a Catholic nun to becoming a Unitarian Universalist. The service leader is Lorna Dean.

Jan. 23rd – State of the Congregation – As this is the service just prior to our Annual General Meeting, let’s take time to reflect on what we’ve accomplished in the last year, and in the years before that. We’ll also consider what the future might hold, what big questions we might face, and how we might begin to explore, if not answer, them. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will give the sermon and the service leader is Lynn Cleek.

Jan. 30th – Embracing the Other –The last few years have brought a deepening of The Othering of America; Republicans vs Democrats, pro-vaccination vs anti-vaccination, Woke vs non-woke. Is this dynamic working for us? What now? Tim Schubert will give the talk and the service leader is Eric Luria.

In-Person Fellowship Attendance Requirements

The LCUUF Board decided at their September meeting to amend the current, in-person attendance requirements. **We will now require that all attendees be vaccinated for Covid.** No one will be required to show proof of vaccination. You may be vaccinated anywhere, with any vaccine. This change will be effective beginning with the first service in October. **Masking and social distancing will still be required for attendees in addition to Covid vaccinations.**

This change is being implemented in an effort to be responsive to the congregation and to encourage in-person attendance. The Board will review this new policy after we have had some experience with this change. We will carefully consider feedback from those attending and those not attending. Of course we will also review any change in the number of attendees. So that you are aware, the Board was split in coming to this decision, so it is especially important to let us know your feelings about, and experiences with, this new policy.



We are also 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

As I write this, the winter solstice has just passed, and we enter into a time of gradually increasing daytime. My body begins to notice this in early January, when my spirits begin to pick up. Even in Mexico, with relatively little seasonal daylight variation, I notice. This is also the time of transition from one year to another, and for many of us, time to reflect on the past year and plans for the coming year. Let me just note that I'm extremely pleased with what we've been able to do this last year, as challenging as that year has been. Our Sunday Services are broadly accessible online and in person, and our small group programs are accessible as well. Our recent pledge drive was phenomenally successful - which indicates to me that people in our fellowship trust their leadership to use their money wisely to accomplish important work. I'm grateful for that trust and support.

As we look to the future, there are certainly short term questions we need to consider - chief among them, How do we continue to navigate this pandemic? (Or an ongoing endemic - see my column last month). But more important, and harder to frame, are questions about the longer term future.

One way we as a congregation can think and talk about our future is through Open Questions. These are sometimes known as adaptive questions or 'frame-bending' questions. These are not about setting annual goals, but about thinking of the big, strategic, long-term questions about who we are and what we do. I don't get to frame these questions, nor answer them - they belong to the congregation, and it's the role of the board (if it chooses to) to pose and explore these questions.

However, my own version of such Open Questions swirl around in my mind, and this is a good time to share them, if only to get you thinking about such things. The central question is "Who are we?" What makes this congregation different from other UU congregations, primarily those in the USA and Canada? How is our membership different from that of congregations in the north? What do we want to become? We are largely comprised of migrants from the north, but perhaps we might like to become more diverse.

Another question is "How do we relate to our neighbors?" How do we work with other religious and social service organizations in the Lakeside area? What do we hope to accomplish, together?

A related question might be "How do we relate to our UU neighbors?" That is to say, what might involvement and support of other UUs in Mexico look like? We know that there are a couple other congregations here, and some informal groups, as well as, surely, individual UUs - and these are comprised of Mexicans and migrants. How might we connect with them? What questions arise for you? Are they variations of these, or other different ones? I'd love to hear your thoughts. I hope to talk more on January 23, at the service before our Annual General Meeting.



A heartfelt thank you to Lew Crippen, who has served as LCUUF Board President for the past four years. Your dedication and hard work are appreciated and you have guided LCUUF through some difficult times. Thank you!



Board Member's Message

Lew Crippen, President

This is my last article in the newsletter as President of our Fellowship. Going forward it is an opportunity for new ideas and directions to come from a new president who is not encumbered by institutional memory of how we have always done things, but who is guided by traditions of the past.

Looking back, I am reminded of all the members and friends of the Fellowship who have contributed of their time and talents to the ongoing success and operation of the Fellowship. Our current Board members: Charlie Jacobs, Vice-President (who also spends his free time running the tech team); Susan Miller, Secretary; Lorna Dean, Treasurer; and Kriss Gang, Eric Luria, and Cat Barnett, members-at-large.

Of course there are many former Board members, Committee members and various workteam members, Service Leaders, Service Presenters and Musicians who contributed to the Fellowship: Robert Barnett, Steve Barr, Susan Barr, Colleen Berry, Jim Bellamy, Joan Bellamy, Paul Bennett, Teresa Boyczuk, Gala Bragg-Kolmsee, Donna Burroughs, Dee Dee Camhi, Karyn Carpenter, Al Castleman, Jane Castleman, Richard Clarke, Lynn Cleek, Gary Cleek, Linda Conklin, Trudy Crippen, Pamela Cucinell, Bobbe Dannenbrink, John de Waal, Buddy Dowdy-Winslett, Lori Fjelsted, Bill Frayer, Howard Frederick, Deb Gang, Jeanne Haely, Mardele Harland, Roy Haynes, Fred Harland, Liz Hill, Cate Howell, Frank Howell, David Hudnall, Donna Jaramillo, Hugh Jenney, Linda Jessen, Peter Jessen, Carol Johnson, Bob Jones, Nancy Jordan-Zanot, Elizabeth Katz, CB Kelley, Sue Kelley, Janice Kimball, Bob Koches, Kathy Koches, Fred Koesling, Jak Koke, Susie Lindeman, Karawynn Long, Catherine Luria, Heidi MacLennan, Jan Manning, Valerie Marcum,

Rikki Martin, Doug Mattoon, Ellen McFarland, Alan McKean, Bob McKeown, Sharon Merits, Dave Miller, Liz Moulder, Paula Odom, Angela Peace, Bill Phillips, Bonnie Phillips, Larry Pihl, Carol Powell, Michael Reason, Kaya Reed, Susan Reynolds, Mary Roam, Sharon Robinson, Teresa Sande, Jack Shanks, Sheryl Swain, Francisco Urzua, Jack Voller, Susie Wagner, Sandy Wallin, Joani Ward, Marty Weston, Bill White, Helen White, Norman Woods, Sharon Woods and Margaret Zielinski. Add to this list, Rev. Matt Alspaugh.

Regrettably, as in any list of inclusion, there is a substantial chance that I have inadvertently left some deserving individuals out. Please accept my apologies in advance for those oversights, which were no doubt due to my failing memory, or my lack of awareness of deserving efforts.

It was my original plan to mention each person's accomplishments (or at least their highlights), but I soon realized that this would make the article too long and unreadable. Then I thought I'd just categorize each person in some group, such as "former Board Member-at-large" but then I realized that Fred Koelsing was a former Board Member, a member of the Pledge team, a service leader, and a service presenter, plus a notable reader of important passages. Or Kathy Koches, our Newsletter editor, is (or has been) a Board Member, Sunday Service Member, Secretary and Chair, as well as a choir member. This too, seemed both too hard a task and way too unwieldy. So, in the end, I settled for listing everyone I could remember who had helped the Fellowship function and grow. An impressive and lengthy list.

To all: my sincere thanks. You made my job easy.





UU Pledge Campaign for 2022-2023

The Pledge Campaign for 2022-23 officially ended on December 5, 2021. However, we have received additional pledges since then. As of December 17, 2021, the total pledges for 2022-23 are **MXN 920,100 pesos**. Our goal had been MXN 750,000 pesos, and I am pleased that we exceeded the goal.

Pledges were received from 43 pledge units (a single person or a couple pledging together) representing 67 people. The average pledge was MXN 21,398 pesos. The median pledge was MXN 12,000 pesos.

83% of the pledges were made in U.S. dollars, 3% in Canadian dollars, and 14% in Mexican pesos. All were converted to pesos for the pledge total.

I want to thank everyone for making this pledge campaign the most successful ever, especially the eleven new members who pledged, and the speakers, organized by Fred Koesling, who spoke on "Why I Pledge" each Sunday.

FINANCIAL PRESENTATION

There will be a Financial Presentation after the service on Sunday, January 9, 2022. I will present a summary of the LCUUF financial status for 2021-22 and the draft Budget for 2022-23. Then the draft Budget will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting after the service on January 23, 2022. Lorna Dean, LCUUF Treasurer



SHARE THE BASKET

Now that we are having in person services again, any loose pesos in the offering basket on Sunday will be split: 1/2 to the LCUUF general fund, and 1/2 to the Share the Basket recipient for the month.

If you pay your pledge or make a donation to LCUUF by PayPal, by Bill Pay, or pesos directly to Lorna Dean or David Hudnall, you may specify the amount that you want to donate to the Share the Basket program.

Our policy for Share the Basket, during the coronavirus crisis, has been: If we collect more than MXN 5,000 pesos in any month, the full amount will go to an organization providing assistance to low-income members of 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. However, we have received over MXN 5,000 pesos for each month so far this year.

Tepehua Centro Comunitario is our recipient for Share the Basket donations in January 2022.

<http://tepehua.org/>





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



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

03 Cheryl Cholavchuk	19 Joan Belamy
05 Kathy Koches	21 Charlie Jacobs
07 Hanna Frederick	25 Paula Odom
08 Steve Wilson	27 Pam Cucinell
10 Karyn Carpenter	29 Teresa Sande
14 David Hudnell	30 Jan Manning
18 Linda Samuels	



HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 4pm. Via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86577912863>

We will be discussing the book "The Dawn of Civilization" by David Graeber and David Wengrow. Their theories are re-writing how we look at society and freedom, starting with the hunter/gatherers and continuing on to modern times. The readings are extensive including a link to the controversial book. Take your time with the material. Remember Graeber is an anarchist as this colors his way of looking at prehistory.

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





Volunteers Needed

With the Fellowship opening up to in person attendance, The Welcome and Membership committee is looking for friendly, smiling faces that can meet and greet guests on Sunday mornings. It requires you to be there in person, greet guests and ask them to register. If you would be willing help part-time or specific Sundays, please reach out to Paula Odom paulaodom01@gmail.com.

The Nominating Committee for 2022 will submit the following slate to be voted on at the annual meeting on January 23rd. Nomination will also be accepted from the floor if the nominee accepts the nomination.

- President: Kriss Gang
- Secretary: Cat Barnett
- Member at Large: Dee Dee Camhi
- Member at Large: Catherine Luria
- Member at Large: Susan Miller

The nominees for the 2023 Nominating Committee are:

- Lynn Cleek
- Linda Jessen
- Lew Crippen



Kathy's Korner

Our internet has been out for the past ten days, so I am attempting to put this newsletter together at a coffee shop on my laptop. Please forgive any errors or omissions. It has been a pleasure serving as the LCUUF Newsletter Editor and I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year filled with joy!



The LCUUF News-letter is produced to provide LCUUF news to members and friends. Deadline for contributions to the February Newsletter is January 20th and should be sent to Editor Kathy Koches, at: kkoches@gmail.com

