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Issue 40

Dec 24, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023

Attend our weekly services in person or via Zoom on Sundays at 10:30am CST. We are located at 261 Hidalgo, Riberas Del Pilar. To participate on Zoom use this link:

[Sunday Service Zoom Link](#)

Click Here To Send Your Joys And Sorrows For Sunday Dec 24, 2023

Send Joys and Sorrows Now

[Click for Order of Service](#)

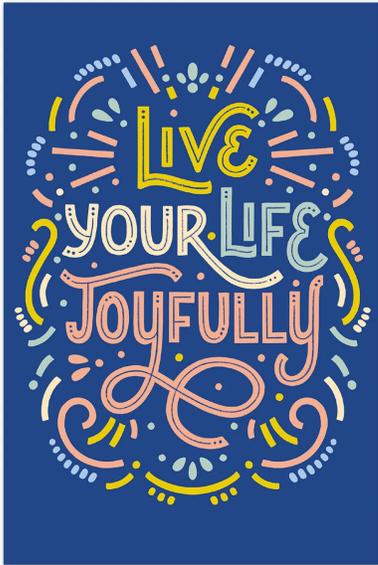
**THIS WEEK: Sunday  
December 24, 2023  
"Stories and  
Carols"**



**Presenter: Rev. Matt Alspaugh**

**Annie Morris: Service Associate**

For our Christmas Eve service, we'll have a variation of the traditional "Lessons and Carols" service, with some stories that might be a little, um, atypical, and lessons certainly different from the familiar mashup of the two versions of Jesus' birth (in the gospels of Matthew and Luke). But the carols will be the familiar ones!



**NEXT WEEK: SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

**"Living Joyfully, Embracing The  
Gift Of Joy"**

**Presenter: Jane Castleman**

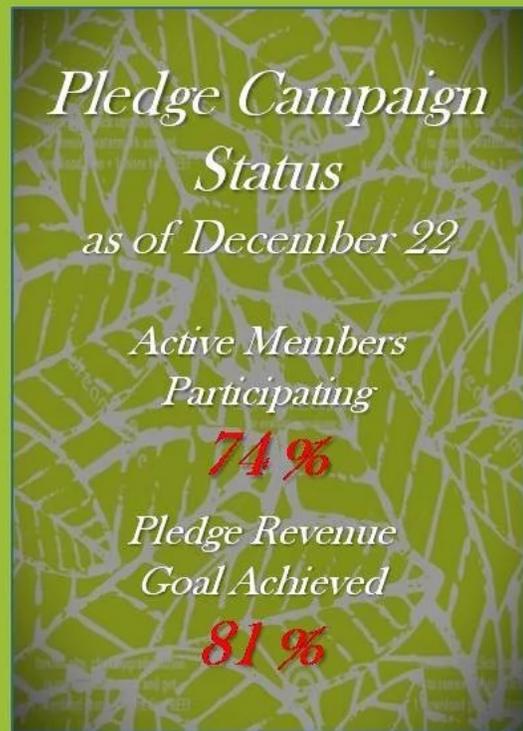
**Service Associate: Rena Swan**

"Living Joyfully: Embracing the Gift of Joy" will explore the transformative power of joy. Joy is not a fleeting emotion, but a way of living—a choice we make every day. It is a gift we give ourselves and share with others, cultivating a sense of

wonder, gratitude, and delight in our lives. Join us as we celebrate this last service of 2023 with joy for all that we have shared.



*Credit: "What Peace Looks Like" by 13-year-old Anja Korzen, a primary school student in Slovenia*



## Building The Beloved Community: Update

**As of December 22, 74% of the Fellowship has submitted a pledge totaling only 81% of our pledge goal. If you have not pledged, you can Email Al Castleman with your pledge:**

**[ajcastleman@yahoo.com](mailto:ajcastleman@yahoo.com)**

Read the special pledge appeal from our Treasurer at the link below:

**Pledge Letter**

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### **Update From LCUUF Board**

The LCUUF Board met on Monday December 18th for its monthly meeting. Action taken at Monday's meeting included:



- **IMPORTANT: Officially designating 12:00 noon as the starting time for LCUUF Sunday Services when we move to our new location.** Note our last service in our current location will be Sunday January 28th where

we will begin at the current site and will end at St. Andrews. More details to come.

- Approval for a fundraising request by Hanna Frederick to host a chocolate-making workshop in 2024-stay tuned for more details.
- Approval of 2024-25 compensation for paid staff - details to be presented in the final board-approved budget that will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting.

In addition to the action taken, the board received updates on the following:

- State of the pledge campaign (pledges are coming in but we have not heard from everyone)
- Status of 2024-25 budget (will be finalized within a week and presented and voted on by the board at a special meeting and presented to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting.)
- Status of lease contract negotiations with St Andrews (will be completed and signed soon)
- Tech transition from current location to St. Andrews (Bare Stage is building a custom stage that will accommodate their needs and allow for our studio setup to be permanent, no longer needing to be torn down. Charlie and Fernanda have been working at St Andrews to set the stage for our complete tech transition)

A reminder that the Board meets monthly on the 3rd Monday of the month at 2:00pm at our Fellowship location. All board meetings are open to members and friends.

Kriss Gang

President

## Mark Your Calendars For The Annual General Meeting!

Mark your calendars for the Annual General Meeting of the Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The meeting will be held on Sunday January 21st immediately following the Sunday Service. At this meeting you will receive a review of 2023 events and activities from the Board and fellowship committees/teams. Also LCUUF members will vote on our 2024-25 fiscal budget and candidates (to be announced) for open board seats.

There will be pizza and refreshments served. If you are a voting member we need you to attend.

Kriss Gang

President



## Celebrate The New Year At Our Annual New Year's Taco Party

Our annual New Year's day taco party will be at St. Andrews on January 1st at 1pm. The cost is \$150 pesos (Including tip).

Please bring your favorite beverage and treats to share. You can pay at the Fellowship on the next 2 Sundays or email Barley Donahue:

[Barleydonahue@gmail.com](mailto:Barleydonahue@gmail.com)



## December Humanist Discussion Group Topic

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet Wednesday, Dec 27th, 2023 at 11 am Via Zoom. Remember we are on Central Standard Time . The zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86577912863>

We will explore the ethical dilemmas around disinformation and the use of narratives and emotions in manipulating reality. An increasingly influential stream of research demonstrates the integration of cognition and emotion in political decision-making. Political cognition is emotionally shaped. The role of narratives in shaping people's minds has become an important area of research and debate, in particular in recent years when entire societies have made choices that seem "rationally" counterintuitive in this Post-Truth Era.

**Unfortunately there was no video recording of the December 17 Service, "Let The Mystery Be". However, If you would like to read Rev. Matt's presentation, click on the button below for a copy.**

"Let The Mystery Be"

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## WEEKLY AND MONTHLY EVENTS

Click on the + for info and links

**Humanist Discussion Group-Wed Dec. 27  
11am**

+



Wednesday Dec. 27 11:00am on Zoom (CST)

Topic: The Middle East is a real quagmire of relationships. It is further complicated by the raid by Hamas on Israel on Oct. 7 and all the neighboring States possibly stopping the Israel/Saudi detente. The people of Palestine are not loved by their Arab neighbors creating refugee problems of acceptance. The real losers are the civilians on both sides caught in the political middle. The history of the conflict goes back centuries. We will take a look at its antecedents and history, current affairs, and regional and global implications. If you wish to be added to the reading list contact Bob Koches at [bobkoches@gmail.com](mailto:bobkoches@gmail.com)

Click to join on Zoom

**Zoom Women's Group: 1st and 3rd Mondays**

+

12pm - 1pm 1st and 3rd Mondays Monthly Catherine Luria, Facilitator: Contact [CLuriaARNP@gmail.com](mailto:CLuriaARNP@gmail.com) for topics

## Zoom Meditation Lessons: 3-4pm Thursdays +

Richard Clarke, Facilitator. To find out more contact: [riberasmeditation@gmail.com](mailto:riberasmeditation@gmail.com)

[Click to join on Zoom](#)

## Coffee "Above" The Plaza: Thursdays 10:30am +

Meet other UUs for weekly at Los Gringos (above the ice cream place) on the Plaza. Bring a friend!

## Open Zoom Conversation: Fridays 2pm +

Conversation is open to all questions. Email Richard Clarke at [arunachalakindle@gmail.com](mailto:arunachalakindle@gmail.com)

[Click to join on Zoom](#)



# Birthdays Through The End Of December

Linda Jessen 12/25

Larry Phil 12/26

Flo Rhodes 12/26

Richard Clarke 12/28

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**Have News You Want To Share? Send it  
to:**

**[newsletter@lcuuf.org](mailto:newsletter@lcuuf.org)**

**Past Newsletters are Available on our  
Website**

**<https://lakechapalauu.org/lcuuf-monthly-newsletters/>**

**Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

**261 Hidalgo, Chapala  
Mexico**

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