



Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services

- June 6 Nonduality: The Third Way of Religion** – Around the world there are two major threads of religion faith and experience; faith like a Christian’s belief in God and experience as in Buddhist meditation. There is a third way, knowledge. Not intellectual knowledge, but direct knowledge, like you know you exist. Richard Clarke and Carol Johnson have studied and practiced this for the last 30 years and they will share what they have come to know.
- June 13 Living with Uncertainty** - One of the many lessons the pandemic has brought is a reminder that we live in an uncertain world, a world where we don’t have all the truths, all the answers. We’ve seen governments stumble to provide solid and certain guidance on safe and effective behaviors in the pandemic. We’ve had friends, relatives (or yes, ourselves) glom onto factually suspect ideas and practices (e.g. conspiracy theories) as ways to inject a kind of assumed assuredness into these uncertain times. So how do we live with uncertainty? How do we make these best choices when information is scarce, or suspect? How do we make peace with doubt? Rev. Matt will explore living with uncertainty as a spiritual practice.
- June 20 Astrology as a Spiritual Practice** – Pamela Cucinell has been involved in serious study of astrology and metaphysics for almost 40 years. What began as curiosity bloomed into an understanding that something is intended with each moment, whether or not we comprehend it. Observation of Earth’s relationship with its Moon and place within the solar system can deepen understanding of time, relationships, karma and consciousness evolution. The Universe offers symbols that resonate as well as synchronistic events. Astrology is Pam’s work and her spiritual practice; she sees the heavens as messages from Source that guide one’s ability to work in concert with the cosmos.
- June 27 Craving** - Craving is part of life, at some level essential for survival. There is a continuum of craving for substances (drugs, drink, food) and experiences (work, gambling, sex) that at the extreme can lead to unhealthy behavior and to addiction. It’s hard for many of us to control these cravings and the moralistic judgements our society places on people who can’t manage their cravings doesn’t help. We’ll explore some new ideas (and some very old ideas) in controlling cravings. Rev. Matt will give the talk.



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

I'm writing this one week into a visit with Liz in North Carolina, enjoying sunny, breezy, comfortable days. It's been a bit of an unusual visit, with a gasoline shortage, and a couple of power outages, along with confusion about protocols for the pandemic. I know, these things sound like life in Mexico, but let me focus on the latter item. A few days ago, the US Centers for Disease Control significantly changed its advice on pandemic protocols, saying that vaccinated people could now eliminate masks, congregate indoors, pretty much do anything. It's been a little odd, this shift. A couple days ago, Liz and I stopped in an REI co-op store, that bastion of the liberal enviro-outdoor ethic, and the front door clerk informed us, almost apologetically, that we didn't need to wear masks in the store. Yet all the clerks, and most customers, perhaps in solidarity with those clerks, still had masks on. Then yesterday, we joined friends at a local brew-pub for some jazz. It was outdoors, and in this case, no one was masked, except the employees at the bar. And, yes, the singers were unmasked (though at some distance).

Yes, there are worries that we're not finished with the pandemic; it rages worldwide. It's possible the US South will see a resurgence as people congregate in the air-conditioned indoors; vaccine hesitancy is higher in that region. But my deeper worry is that we will wind down this pandemic without really learning anything; we will simply race to return to "before time", without

reflecting on the lessons the pandemic has offered us. Will this pandemic become a minor footnote in history, like the flu pandemic a century ago?

Several commentators have noted that while old cemeteries and town centers in Europe, Canada and the US are thick with memorials to their first world war dead, there exist almost no monuments to those who died in the pandemic.

Here at LCUUF, I hope we will take in the wisdom the pandemic offers. How this pandemic seemed to target people who were already struggling and exposed disparities that many want to whitewash over (pun intended). How this pandemic pointed to the power and limits of science and rationality, and warned us to ignore these at our peril. How this pandemic encouraged us to find new ways of working (from home) and connecting (online) and letting go (of gatherings, travel, plans).

I'm sure LCUUF will be a different fellowship than we were before the pandemic. We'll find ways to balance in-person and on-line activities as we reach a more geographically diverse community. We'll find ways to stay connected with each other, to care for each other, even when we don't see each other week to week. I hope the worst of the pandemic truly is behind us, and I also hope we don't forget its lessons.





Cat Barnett, MAL

BOARD MEMBER MESSAGE

Getting back to the Fellowship in Person

As we get closer to the end of this pandemic, a lot of us are thinking about gathering at church in person again. The Board had several discussions about how to handle this for our Fellowship, and did a lot of research on health rules and recommendations from government, both here in Mexico and in the places we are from. In March we were talking about having a reservation system, socially distanced seating, masking, and hand sanitizer at the door.

Today, our information is different. In the US, the CDC has advised us that vaccinated people may gather indoors. Also, we are finding that with possibly a few exceptions, all of our members are vaccinated now. Some have travelled home for this, and others have been vaccinated here – the second shot was last week. So the board thinks we are safe to reopen completely. Members can decide whether they are comfortable coming in person and whether or not they feel a need to wear a mask. We have all learned something about public health during this time. I hope I don't really need to say that you should stay home if you are sick. But because we can gather doesn't mean we are quite ready at the Fellowship to reopen. We want to continue with our Zoom services; the online services have been an unbelievably good tool for keeping us connected during the pandemic (a benefit of the pandemic?), and in the future we want our members to be able to attend services no matter where they are, or what their circumstances. Online services are the way we do that. The tech

team will be purchasing some additional equipment, especially some very large televisions, to support the broadcasting of our Zoom services. The equipment will be installed soon, probably this month, and there will be a test with a small audience at a service using the new equipment. That means that probably, sometime in June, you will see an invitation to come to the Fellowship for services. HALLELUJAH! That is my feeling, anyway. So when you see that, come to church, see your friends in person, even hug them, and enjoy our community as it was meant to be. Human beings love to be close to each other, and we have all been suffering apart, along with the world, for over a year. We have had enough, and the end and the beginning is very near.

Small group meetings for deep listening

Soon after the Fellowship begins in person services, I, Cat Barnett, will offer small group meetings for the purpose of deep listening. The meetings will be scheduled for 15 minutes after the end of the service, at the Fellowship for one or one and a half hours, depending on the size of the group. A sign-up sheet will be available. A commitment of 4 weeks of attendance will be requested. After 4 weeks the group will end, and later another may begin. The format of the meetings is this: There will be questions, just like the questions we have been using for discussion after our services. Each person present will take a turn talking about how the sermon topic intersects with their life. It is not a discussion. That means the person speaking speaks uninterrupted, with no questions and everyone else focuses on listening. When it is your turn to speak, you may ask questions of someone who has spoken, but questions and back and forth talk should be very minimal.

I participated in and led many of these meetings at my former church. What I found was that participation led to a much deeper understanding of other church members and deeper friendships. Being listened to in this way made me feel loved. What better gift do you have for another than your full attention? I hope to see some of you there.

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY JUNE, 2021

UUA hosts virtual General Assembly June 23 - 27, 2021

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FUEL OUR MOVEMENT

This year's GA includes four collections benefitting the **Living Tradition Fund**, the **Katie Tyson Fund for Youth and Young Adult Ministries**, **Side with Love**, and this year's local beneficiary of the Sunday worship collection, **MICAH: Milwaukee Inner-city Congregations Allied for Hope**.

Participants can support each collection by [donating online](#), via text-to-give, or by clicking on the Donate button in the GA mobile app. Payment options include credit card, PayPal, or Apple Pay.

New this year is an [Express Donate](#) option allowing you to support all four collections with a single gift. For example, make an express donate gift of \$100 and each collection receives \$25. [Learn more about the collections](#).

UUA ELECTION 2021: CANDIDATES FORUM ON JUNE 1

A Candidates Forum sponsored by the Election Campaign Practices Committee (ECPC) is scheduled for June 1 at 5 p.m. PT / 6 p.m. MT / 7 p.m. CT / 8 p.m. ET. **Jay Kiskel** and **Rev. Sam Trumbore** are running for a single position (#8) on the UUA Board of Trustees. Candidates will give statements, answer questions, and engage in discussion. **Rev. KC Slack** and **Elizabeth McGregor** of the ECPC will serve as moderators. Attendees are invited to submit questions for the candidates in advance by email to elections@uua.org, or during the forum by typing them into the Q&A panel. Register for the Candidates Forum Webinar on Zoom.

PREPARE FOR GA BY JOINING A UUA BOARD WEBINAR

The UUA Board invites you to register for two new webinars. What to Expect at GA 2021 will be offered four times, with two additional sessions providing an in-depth look at the Rules of Procedure. Each webinar will last 75 minutes and advance registration is required. Webinars will be recorded and posted on uua.org for on-demand viewing.

What to Expect at GA 2021 Webinar Wednesday, May 26

4 pm PT / 5 pm MT / 6 pm CT / 7 pm ET
[Register for the May 26 Webinar](#)

What to Expect at GA 2021 Webinar Wednesday, June 2

4 pm PT / 5 pm MT / 6 pm CT / 7 pm ET
[Register for the June 2 Webinar](#)

What to Expect at GA 2021 Webinar Thursday, June 10

4 pm PT / 5 pm MT / 6 pm CT / 7 pm ET
[Register for the June 10 Webinar](#)

In-Depth Look at the Rules of Procedure Webinar

Saturday, June 12

10 am PT / 11 am MT / noon CT / 1 pm ET
[Register for the June 12 webinar](#)

REGISTER NOW!

If you haven't registered for Virtual GA 2021 already, there is no better time than right now! Registered attendees are among the first to hear program announcements, such as the Ware Lecturer, and only registered attendees will have access to the **NEW!** GA app. So, register early to join online discussions, familiarize yourself with the GA schedule, and find your place in our community of communities.

UUA BOARD OPEN HOUSE

UUA Co-Moderators Meg Riley and Charles Du Mond invite you to come and check in with the UUA Board of Trustees at its upcoming Zoom Open House. Bring your questions and chat about:

- what the Board has planned leading up to General Assembly
- **General Assembly 2021**
- serving Unitarian Universalism as a volunteer at the national level
- the progress of the Article II Study Commission
- your congregation's engagement with *Widening the Circle of Concern*
- the UU issues that matter to you

Advance registration is required. Open Houses are held monthly and are not recorded. We look forward to seeing you!

Tuesday, June 8: 4 pm PT / 5 pm MT / 6 pm CT / 7 pm ET

[Register for the June 8 Zoom Open House](#)

2021 WARE LECTURE: STACEY ABRAMS AND DESMOND MEADE

The UUA President invites a distinguished guest each year to address the General Assembly as the [Ware Lecturer](#). Please join us Saturday, June 26 at 4 pm PT / 5 pm MT / 6 pm CT / 7 pm ET. [General Assembly registration](#) is required.



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 June recipient is FoodBank Lakeside, which provides food assistance to local families. 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.) If you have questions contact Lorna Dean at: lmdean695@gmail.com



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- | | |
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| Member at Large | Eric Luria |
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JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 06 Buddy Dowdy-Winslett
- 08 Helen White
- 10 Bob Jones
- 16 Francisco Urzua
- 16 Sheryl Swain
- 23 Mary Helen Montgomery



HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Humanist Discussion Group will not meet in June. We will resume meeting in July. 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 July newsletter is June 20th and should be sent to Editor Kathy Koches, at: kkoches@gmail.com