

LCUUF NEWS OF THE WEEK



Lake Chapala Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship



Issue 103

Mar 9 - Mar 16, 2025

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Attend our weekly services in person or via Zoom on Sundays at 12:00pm CST. We are located at St. Andrew's Anglican Church, San Lucas 19, Riberas del Pilar.

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UPCOMING SERVICES



Lake Chapala Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship



This Week: Mar 9, 2025

"Changing and Unchanging Faith"

Presenter: Rev. Matt Alspaugh

Service Associate: Annie Morris

Do Unitarian Universalists have faith?

Many of us struggle with the idea of faith. I cannot speak for all UUs, but for myself, if faith is something certain and unchanging, then I am one of little or no faith. But if my faith can change, if I can have faith in things unknown to me, then yes, I am full of faith, I'm faithful. We'll explore the complexities of faith in the UU world, and what faith might look like for many of us.

NOTE: The quarterly Sunday service planning meeting will immediately follow today's service.

Next Week: Mar 16, 2025

"An Invitation To Authenticity"

Presenter: Mark Etkin

Service Associate: Jane Castleman

Personal relationships are an important part of our spiritual life. We often hide ourselves behind barriers of fear, not knowing how to be more connected to others. This service will explore a model from a personal growth center in British Columbia about how to engage our courage and curiosity to take steps to be more open and vulnerable with others to bring more intimacy into our lives.



Rev. Matt Alspaugh

Organizations, including congregations, often define their culture by trying to discern deep questions like "who are we?", "where are we going?", and "what do we stand for?". In organizational development speak, these are questions of mission, vision, and values.

The mission answers, very succinctly, "who are we and what do we do?" I like the way one old UU document put it: "Does the congregation have a mission -- not a mission statement, but a glowing coal at its center -- and if so, what is it?" So what is the glowing coal in the heart of LCUUF? That's a question we haven't really explored, certainly since the very early days of the fellowship.

The vision describes, "where are we going?" It might be seen as a guiding beacon that points us toward some place five years or more into the future. As I understand it, LCUUF's last work on vision preceded my coming in 2017, and the key thing that came out of that work was, "we will have a minister." And so I was invited to come here.

The values describe "what we stand for," what is important for us. We had a congregational workshop on values in February 2020, led by a minister from the USA, where we developed a set of three key values: oneness, openness, and compassionate

action. This workshop was intended to be the first of several to develop our mission and vision as well, but the pandemic stopped all this activity.

LCUUF has lived through many changes, hiring a minister, the pandemic, several moves, and growth, among others. I think now is a good time to reconsider these deep questions. I'd love for us to work together to define what we do, where we're going, and how we do it. But an important point: this is congregational work. It is done by all of us as are willing to be part. It's not work to be done by the board or some small committee — those schemes usually end up with a document gathering dust on a closet shelf.

Our board is meeting next Saturday for its annual board retreat. Among many other retreat topics, I expect the board will take up these: How do we go about creating our mission, vision, and values? What process will we use so everyone has a voice? How do we end up with short, clear statements that help us move into the future? I'm optimistic the board will outline a good process for us. ¡Vamanos!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daylight Savings Time Again

Sunday marks the beginning of Daylight Savings Time in the United States and Canada . Although we in Mexico have no time change and remain on Central Standard Time, **those who connect with us on zoom, please adjust your time accordingly when attending services or events on zoom.**

Sunday Service Planning Meeting March 9th

Please join the Sunday Service Team for the Quarterly Planning Meeting right after the service on March 9th. All are invited to participate in the formation of upcoming services.

Social Action Team Meeting March 13th

Thank you Dee Dee for stepping up to chair the Social Action Team which is back in business. The next meeting will be at DeeDee

Camhi's house on Tuesday, March 11 at 4:00pm. Rio Papaloapan
#66, Ajijic. If interested please send email to Dee Dee
rdcamhi@gmail.com

Hunger Is Everywhere: What Is Being Done About It?



Presenter:

Kriss Gang

Service Leader:

Deb Gang

March 2, 2025

Lake Chapala UU

Video Recording for Sunday, March 2nd

March Humanist Discussion Topic

From politics to everyday life, humans have a tendency to form social groups that are defined in part by how they differ from other groups. We will explore the science behind this concept and ask the question are we hard-wired to distinguish Us vs Them.

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet **Wednesday Mar. 26** at 11am Central Standard Time Via Zoom. Please note that some US states will be on Daylight Savings Time. The



zoom link

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

If you want to be added to the reading list,

contact Bob Koches at

bobkoches@gmail.com

Monthly Women's Group Brown Bag Lunch!

In addition to the 1st & 3rd Mon ZOOM women's group meetings we are adding an IN PERSON BROWN BAG LUNCH at 12N on the 4th Monday. Please contact Trudy if you plan to attend.

trudycrippen@gmail.com

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY EVENTS

Click on the "+" for details

**Humanist Discussion Group Wed. Mar 26-
11am**

+



Politics to everyday life: Us vs. Them

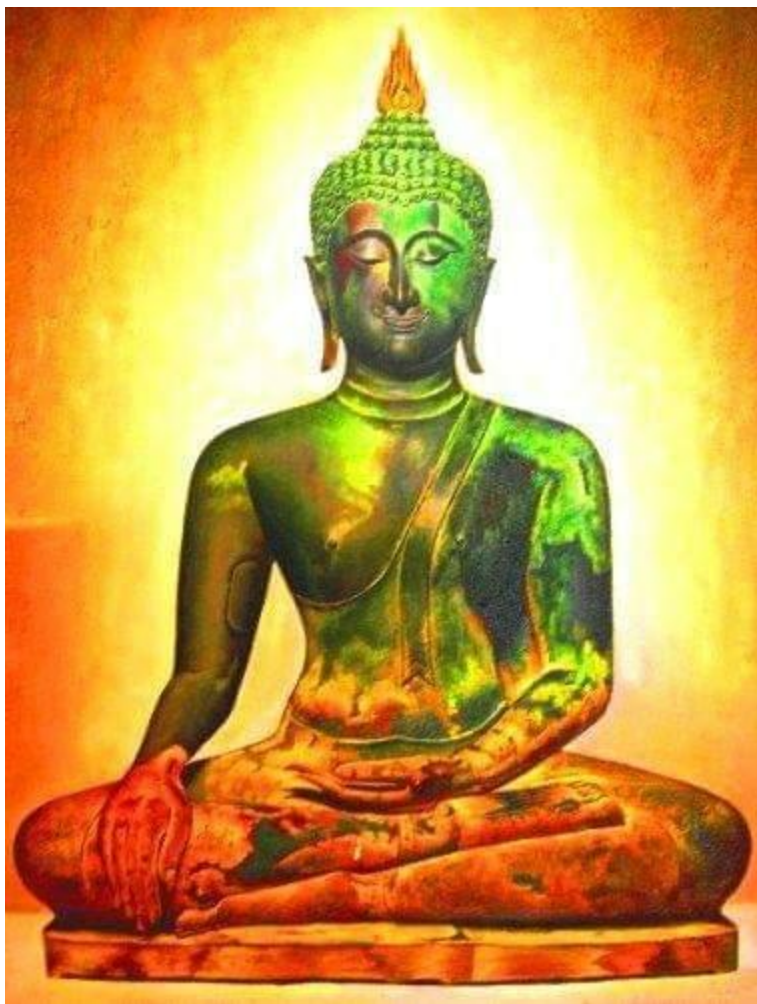
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[Click to join on Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86577912863)

Women's Group: 1st , 3rd and 4th Mondays +

12pm - 1pm 1st and 3rd Mondays Monthly Catherine Luria, Facilitator: Contact CLuriaARNP@gmail.com for topics. Now you can join us for a brown bag lunch on the 4th Monday of each month at Trudy Crippen's house. RSVP Trudy if you plan to attend. trudycrippen@gmail.com

Zoom Meditation Lessons: 3-4pm Thursdays +



Mindfulness is the fountain of youth for the mind. It enhances clarity, boosts mood, and keeps stress at bay. Meditation not only helps you age gracefully but also lets you savor life's every moment. Richard Clarke, Facilitator. To find out more contact: riberasmeditation@gmail.com

[Click to join on Zoom](#)

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

+

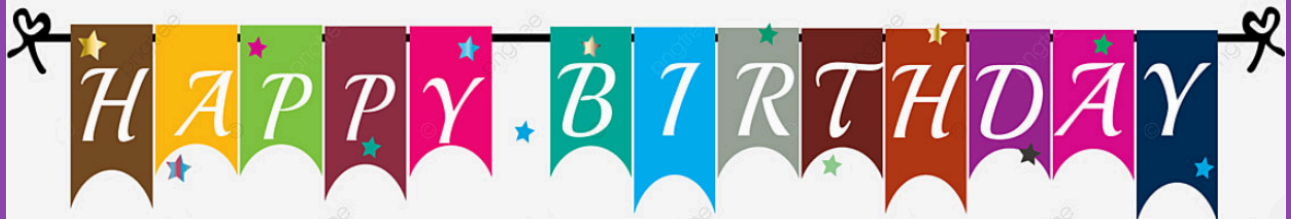
Meet other UUs for weekly conversations at Los Gringos (above the ice cream place) on the Plaza. Bring a friend!

Open Zoom Conversation: Fridays 2pm

+

Conversation is open to all questions. Email Richard Clarke at arunachalakinle@gmail.com

[Click to join on Zoom](#)



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Lois Cugini, March 13

Lorna Dean, March 15

Marie McGregor, March 16



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