

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Laramie

## March 2018 Newsletter



### March Services

#### March 4 “Love and Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood,” Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler

“*There’s Martin Luther King, and there’s Gandhi ... and there’s Fred Rogers,*” wrote Gene Collier, columnist for Post-Gazette.com in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in his article eulogizing Fred Rogers. Mister Rogers touched the lives of children and adults alike because he spoke so simply and eloquently about loving yourself and others. There are probably a few among us whose lives and hearts were touched by this exceptional man. February 19, 2018 was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first broadcast of “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.” In honor of the anniversary we’ll consider Mister Rogers’ messages of love and ask if those messages are as relevant in today’s world.

#### March 11 “Coffee and Conversation: Taking a Break” with UUFL member Catie Ballard

Catie leads us in a consideration of how Spring Break offers us an opportunity to consider how and why we step out of our busy routines to refresh and renew ourselves.

#### March 18 “A Balancing Act,” Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler

It is hard to figure out a balance between being safe in our sanctuaries and at the same time being a welcoming community to the stranger who comes to a Sunday service. A problem is that today we don’t know the intent of the stranger who comes through our doors. Is the person coming with the innocent intent of finding out about the Fellowship and what Unitarian Universalism means? Or does the person have a malicious intent? As you all know this is a very serious concern. My reflection will lift up the importance of finding that balance. Related to this concern, after this service there will be a special and very important congregational meeting. Please see page 3 for more information.

#### March 25 “Why Buddhism?” with guest speaker Ron Frost and Catie Ballard

What draws people to Buddhism? How is it a lived philosophy or religion? What practices or beliefs come from Buddhism? Join Ron Frost, a longtime student of Buddhism, and Catie Ballard in a lively conversation. Bring questions and plenty of joy!

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Sunday services are held at 10 a.m. at 1402 East Gibbon Street  
unless otherwise noted.

*Sunday service topics may change due to unforeseen circumstances.  
We regret any inconvenience this may cause.*

Religious Education classes for children 5-12 are held every Sunday of the month from September to May.  
Child care for all children is available every Sunday except for the summer months.

## Bits from the Board

Our Chocolate Fiesta went well. We made right around \$3000 to give to Hospice of Laramie. I thank all the volunteers and people in the community who worked on this project -- bringing chocolate, donating their time and donating items for the silent auction -- and for those who purchased the donated items.

On Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup> our church pews made their way to Sunrise, Wyoming to serve as seats in a new mining museum theatre. The theatre is located in the first YMCA in Wyoming built in 1917. I feel so fortunate that the pews will be recycled and put to good use. Our new chairs will be delivered on March 29<sup>th</sup> and in the interim we will use our old blue chairs in the sanctuary.

Valentine's month seems like a good opportunity to thank all the volunteers who make this Fellowship function...Barbara, thanks for doing the newsletter. It is an important way to keep in touch and I know I enjoy catching up with all that goes on. I wish to thank the Committee on Ministry, Social Action, Membership, Caring Committee, Budget and Pledge Committees, Building and Safety Committees, Program Committee, and Chocolate Fiesta Committee. I hope I haven't slighted other standing and ad hoc committees and volunteers out there. These individuals are volunteers and if you have the opportunity to thank someone for their time and service, they would welcome that.

Bren Lieske  
UUFL Board Chair

### A Gentle Reminder – An Invitation to Continue to Make a Difference

In February 2018, through our members' and friends' participation, the Fellowship's Food Insecurity Program donated \$60.00 to Interfaith Good Samaritan's food pantry. Interfaith relies significantly on donations of canned goods and other foods from individuals and organizations. They also rely on financial donations to allow them to purchase specific kinds of food that might be in limited supply at a given time.

Interfaith's Executive Director Mike Vercauteren shared at the February meeting of Laramie's Interfaith Ministers' Group that **1,000 pounds** of food is given out every day. Often by Thursday the food pantry's shelves are close to empty!

As gentle reminder, **IF** you can, please continue to bring one non-perishable food item to Fellowship on Sundays and place it in the large basket in the front of the sanctuary and, **IF** you can, put a donation of \$1.00 in the small donation box on the table above the basket.

Along with other Laramie churches and organizations making monthly contributions, our contributions are making an important difference. The Board of Trustees and I thank you for helping with this important need.

~ The Board of Trustees and Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler

## Committee News

### Membership Committee

Are you looking for a way to help the Fellowship without a huge time commitment? Join the Rotating Greeters! The Greeters welcome folks as they arrive on Sundays for the service, especially our visitors, help collect the offering, and take a headcount of attendees. That's it! We need two greeters every Sunday (either a couple or two individuals to team up), and you'd be scheduled once a month or every month and a half. Interested? Please contact Robin Chestek at [rchestek@gmail.com](mailto:rchestek@gmail.com).

Have you moved recently? Do you have a new phone number or email address? Please contact Robin Chestek at [rchestek@gmail.com](mailto:rchestek@gmail.com) with your new info so we can update our database.

Robin Chestek

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### Safety Committee

The Safety Committee continues to work on plans for building modifications and associated actions. These include the duties of a UUFL member who would be a "safety usher" during each Sunday service. The committee has also drafted a safety manual, which offers suggestions for dealing with various emergency events. The manual, the formation of a pool of safety ushers, and other safety topics will be the focus of congregational meeting at the end of the service on Sunday, March 18.

At this meeting, the Safety Committee will share their draft of the policy and procedures that they have put together to address the safety and well-being of people when they're gathered in the sanctuary. Please plan to stay after the service to learn what you can do to increase your personal safety and to honor and support the work of the members of the Safety Committee.

Robert Kelly  
Safety Committee Chair

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### Budget Committee

IT IS BUDGET TIME AGAIN! We have begun work on the 2018-2019 Fellowship Budget. Any member of the Fellowship who is interested in working on the Budget Committee is welcome to participate in this important work. It is a time limited commitment and will involve attending a couple of meetings and some work on your own. Please contact me if you are interested or have questions. Thanks.

Bob Strayer, Board Treasurer  
742-9809

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### Caring Committee

The caring committee is available to respond to members and active friends in need of celebration or support. When you or someone you know has experienced illness, the loss of a loved one, a professional milestone, the birth or adoption of a child, or any other significant life event, please contact a member of the committee or Rev. Jackie. Members of the committee are Jim Erdelyi ([erdelyi@uwyo.edu](mailto:erdelyi@uwyo.edu)) and Ralph Garrett ([randmgarrett@centurylink.net](mailto:randmgarrett@centurylink.net))

## Serious *and* Light-Hearted Ponderings from Rev. Jackie

I have always been in awe of people who are nurses or school teachers. However, they are professions I have always said I wouldn't ever consider going into, even though there were and are many benefits to working in them. Why? Simply put, caring for the well-being of other people is a profound responsibility, and the depth and breadth of the responsibilities involved are so intense, that I felt I would not be able to perform – they were too enormous for me.

Speaking now specifically of teachers—as if the mounting pressures of test scores and email messages to parents and bus duty and hall duty and new certifications and all those meetings weren't enough -- now they have graciously accepted the added responsibility of being human shields to protect their students. A shield which is not impervious because the bullets can penetrate the shield, killing the teacher. School teachers, who once seemed mostly removed from the life-or-death risks faced by the ranks of police officers and firefighters, are now facing those same risks. They now have the responsibility to act as human shield for their students against shooters. Maybe until recently, I am sure that while they were in college studying to become school teachers, there wasn't a "Shooter on Campus 101" course that they had to take.

Even though teachers are willingly accepting the role of being human shields, my heart aches for them and their families who must wonder every day if their spouse, parent, child or friend will return home after school each day when they go to take up the profound responsibility of being a teacher. I am even more in awe of them today for their courage to become human shields.

As I pray for the students, police officers, firefighters and first responders, I pray for school teachers too.

~ No cheers. At this moment more prayers, Rev. Jackie

# March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Path to Membership
4 Service 10am Meditation 4pm Path to Membership	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Service 10am Meditation 4pm	12	13 Program Committee 5:15 pm	14 Board meeting Noon	15	16	17
18 Service 10am Meditation 4pm	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Service 10am Meditation 4pm	26	27	28			

Upcoming Events - Path to Membership , March 3 and 4

## Good to know . . .

### Lights Out!

Whenever you use the Fellowship building, please double check to make sure that

- trash in both the kitchen and the bathroom has been emptied
- stove and oven are off and coffee pots are unplugged
- the floors have been swept and vacuumed
- all the lights are off
- no water is running
- both front and back doors are securely locked

Thanks!

### Building Reservations

The Fellowship building is available for use by reservation. To make a reservation, go to [uularamie.org](http://uularamie.org) and click on the calendar to check building availability for the date you want. Then email David Perry at [dperry@uwyo.edu](mailto:dperry@uwyo.edu) with the particulars (date, time, purpose, etc.), and he will add your event to the calendar.

### Meditation Group

The meditation group meets on Sundays at 4 pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for an hour's guided meditation.

## UUFL

1402 E Gibbon St.

Laramie, WY 82072

[www.uularamie.org](http://www.uularamie.org)

*On Facebook:*

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
of Laramie

### Minister

Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler

307-460-9066

### 2017-2018 Board

Bren Lieske, President

Bob Kelly

Andi Noakes

Matt Stannard, Secretary

Bob Strayer, Treasurer

## Sunday Service and Other Events Cancellation Policy

Please note that Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Laramie's (UUFL) services or other sponsored events may be cancelled during snow or other weather emergencies (when weather is bad enough that the authorities don't want people out and about). If there is such a city/county-wide emergency, and the minister and the Board of Trustees' Chair deem it appropriate to cancel a service or event, if possible, the cancellation notices will be sent out through an emergency congregation-wide email, its website and Facebook, and a message on the UUFL's office phone answering system.

The Board encourages people to use discretion and not attend any service or event if they feel the weather conditions are not suitable for driving, regardless of whether or not a service or a UUFL event has been officially cancelled.

-- The Board of Trustees