



April Services

April 1 “Reclaiming . . . Resurrecting . . . Our Lives with Hope” - Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler
In this service I will reflect on one of the most precious spiritual things we possess as human beings -- hope. Frankly, it seems to me that many of us have of late, for a wide variety of reasons, seen a subtle erosion of hope in our lives, especially in terms of our relationship with the larger society and the social order.

April 8 “Care of the Soul with a Capital S” - Rev. Leslie Kee, UU Community of Casper
Now is the time for us to admit that, as Americans, we each have a responsibility to respond in love – which means to actually prioritize the values of compassion and forgiveness and not just pay lip service to them. Only by this type of soul work will we find different answers to the question, “how can we fix that which is causing so much harm?”

April 15 “*The Life of Pi* and the Taste of Pie” -- Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler
What’s the connection between an emblematic mathematical construct (3.14+) and a tasty treat? UUFL’s Stewardship Committee’s 2018-2019 theme involves both Pi and Pie. So my annual pledge drive sermon, lovingly referred to by my colleagues as “The Sermon on the Amount,” will weave Pi and Pie together to ask you for your financial support of the Fellowship in the coming fiscal year.

April 22 “Earth Day: Being Good Ancestors” - Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler
Born in 1970 from the environmental movement, Earth Day is grounded in two important questions: What kind of world do I want to leave for future generations? And what do I need to do to be a good ancestor? In conjunction with this service, the Social Action Team is showing the documentary film *The Reluctant Radical* at the Fellowship on Friday, April 20 and again on Sunday April 22. See page 6 for details.

April 29 “The Story of Guns: How Narrative Shapes the Gun Control Issue” - UUFL members Kenneth Chestek, Rebecca Roberts, Linda Meeker and Barbara Bogart
By discussing narratives about guns and gun control from four different perspectives -- the law, communications, mental health and folklore studies -- we will try to untangle the Gordian Knot that is contemporary discourse about gun control and the Second Amendment.

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.

Child care for all children is available every Sunday except for the summer months.

Bits from the Board

The Board has been busy with safety issues, the 2018-2019 budget, and developing new options for our Religious Education (RE) Program.

Times are a-changing' when it comes to Sunday mornings and Sunday School (RE as we know it). Children and families are busy with so many other things other than attending regular services. There are lots of materials available through our UUA website, and the Board will be exploring new avenues to move into the modern world of changes for our youth. If you are interested in being a part of this planning, I would be glad to send you information.

We will be hosting the first family (or families) for Family Promise from April 29th through May 6th. There are opportunities and training for volunteers, as shown in the schedule below. The training provided by Family Promise is well worth attending. Other churches and community members will also provide volunteers to help us during the week so it doesn't depend only on members of our congregation. My dream is that the Fellowship will make this a welcoming time for the families as they stay with us.

Volunteer Training Opportunities for Family Promises:

Tuesday, April 3rd, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 7, 11 am - 1 pm

All training sessions will be held at the United Presbyterian Church, 215 S. 11th St. in Laramie.

Bren Lieske
UUFL Board Chair
bpatchranch@yahoo.com

PICTURE YOURSELF IN OUR PULPIT THIS SUMMER

Do you have an interesting or inspiring message to share with our congregation? Or do you know someone you believe could share an inspiring message with our congregation? Email Rev. Ziegler at revziegler369@yahoo.com or Barbara Bogart at Ballenbogart@gmail.com for an application. Applications are also available on the Welcome Table in Fellowship. Completed applications can be returned to either Rev. Jackie or Barbara by May 1. Selections will be made by the Program Committee and Rev. Ziegler at the committee meeting on May 15.



The carpet in our sanctuary has been professionally cleaned in preparation for the arrival of our new chairs. Doesn't it look great?

Committee News

Membership Committee

1. Rotating Greeters - Some of our Greeters have stepped down, so we are looking for four new volunteers to join our happy troupe. It's not a huge time commitment, about once a month, usually. The Greeters hand out the order of service, welcome visitors, take the offering, and make a note of how many adults and children are in attendance. That's it! No meetings involved! And it's a great way to serve the Fellowship. Interested? Please contact Robin Chestek at rchestek@gmail.com or you can sign the sign-up sheet in the Social Hall.

2. We need a new Database Manager. Andi Noakes would like to step down from being our Database Manager, so we need to find a replacement right away. Right now the Database is in Access, but we are open to changing it over to Excel, so we need someone who is proficient in both. This position needs to be filled by a Member of the Fellowship. Please contact Robin Chestek at rchestek@gmail.com for more information.

3. Have you moved recently? Do you have a new phone number or email address? Do you feel you need to change your membership status? Please contact Robin Chestek at rchestek@gmail.com with your new info so that we can update our database.

Robin Chestek, Membership Chair

Committee on Ministry (CoM)

Thank you to everyone who completed the UUFL survey in February. We received a lot of valuable, useful information. The full survey results (17 pages) are available in the Fellowship office. We are in the process of summarizing the survey results and the summary should be available in mid-April.

We also updated our Policy and Procedures for Resolving Concerns (p. 4). We now ask that complaints or concerns be submitted to the CoM in writing.

Your Committee on Ministry,
Madeline Dalrymple, Jeff Lockwood, Laura Miller, and Rev. Jackie Ziegler

Rebecca Roberts presents a check to Terri Longhurst, Director of Hospice of Laramie. Rebecca chaired this year's Chocolate Fiesta which earned more than \$3,000 for Hospice.

Thanks again to everyone who participated in this year's Fiesta!



Policy and Procedures for Resolving Concern

Upon receiving a written complaint or concern, the CoM will follow these steps:

1. Ask the individual to communicate directly with the person who is the source of concern. If this has been done with no resolution or can't be done due to reasonable considerations, the CoM will become involved in the issue.
2. Remind the individual of the CoM policy regarding anonymity.
3. If the individual does not want to reveal his/her name and there are no extraordinary reasons for anonymity, the CoM will do nothing. If there is a legal issue, the CoM will communicate with the UUFL Board regarding how to proceed. If the individual is willing to be identified, the CoM will proceed.
4. Ask the individual what s/he would like the outcome of the process to be. What result is desired to alleviate or mitigate the concern?
5. Based on the nature of the issue, one of four procedures will be followed:
 - a. The CoM will facilitate a meeting between the individual and the person the complaint concerns.
 - b. The CoM will facilitate and attend a meeting between the individual and the person the complaint concerns.
 - c. The CoM will redirect the individual to a more appropriate committee or context within the UUFL to address the concerns.
 - d. The CoM will communicate with the person the complaint concerns (using the name of the complainant) and attempt to resolve the issue. The CoM will communicate to the individual making the complaint the outcome of the discussion.

Safety Committee

The UUFL Safety Committee -- Bob Kelly (chair), Robin Chestek, and Rev. Jackie Ziegler -- conducted a congregational meeting on March 18 to outline safety procedures for the Fellowship and to present their newly developed safety and emergency handbook. The handbook is now available in the Fellowship office.

The goal of the committee is to improve the safety of UUFL for different kinds of emergencies. Here are some of the highlights of the Safety Committee's presentation:

Building modifications:

- Break-resistant films on all RE windows.
- Change north RE window to allow egress.
- Rekey locks to single key.
- Add northeast exit door in sanctuary.
- Add motion detectors for new outside lights.

Equipment:

- Walkie-talkies at three locations (safety usher, RE, pulpit) to help in warnings, coordination, head-counts
- AED unit

Recruit a pool of Safety Ushers

- One on duty during each Sunday service.
- Training in first aid and CPR.
- Training in program like ALICE.
- Frequent meetings - updates, experience, training.

General:

- Become familiar with all available exits and their locations.
- First responders - Laramie Fire Department, Laramie Police Department, Sheriff would arrive just minutes after a 911 call. They need clear access, hence choosing the corner UUFL sign as a gathering place.
- 911 dispatchers are limited to three phone lines. They recommend we have preferred callers, to help avoid excess calls. Any Safety Usher present on duty or in attendance would be among the first to call 911.

What's going on . . .

Social Action Team Showing
THE RELUCTANT RADICAL
Friday, April 20 and Sunday, April 22

THE RELUCTANT RADICAL is a documentary film that features the valve turner activist Ken Ward as he confronts his fears and puts himself in the direct path of the fossil fuel industry to combat climate change. Ken breaks the law as a last resort and with great trepidation, to fulfill what he sees as his personal obligation to future generations.

In October 2016, while President Barack Obama was still in office, Ken Ward and four other climate change activists, called the "Valve Turners," cut chains and closed emergency shutoff valves on five tar sands oil pipelines in four states. In one morning, they briefly stopped the flow of all Canadian tar sands oil into the United States. They did this because they passionately feel the continued failure to reduce carbon emissions threatens our children's lives and future.

The film will be shown at the Fellowship on Friday, April 20 at 7 p.m. and again on Sunday, April 22 at noon following the service. After the showing on April 20, Ken Ward will join the audience via a Skype/Zoom for Q & A.

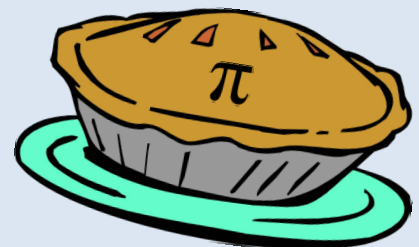
We are fundraising for the Legal Fund of the Valve Turners and are asking for a donation at each showing. For the Sunday showing ONLY, a luncheon will be offered before the showing and people are asked to make a contribution for the luncheon.

Stewardship + Canvass + Pledges = Pie

The Canvass Committee invites you to once again commit yourself to the health and well-being of our Fellowship. Our annual pledge week kicks off Sunday April 15; please watch your mail for a letter from the Committee illustrating how we divide our financial resources among our many priorities, as well as a giving guide to help you decide what your 'piece of the pie' looks like. Pledge cards may be submitted on paper or electronically to any Committee member. Our canvass process is a vital ingredient in creating our budgetary pie for the upcoming year. So--

Save the Date!

To celebrate the conclusion of pledge week, the Canvass Committee will be hosting a Piece of the Pie Party after the Sunday program on April 22. We're not looking for *piety*, just delicious pie! Sweet or savory pies of all types are requested to help create a time of fellowship, celebration, and community. Since we are definitely not a "one pie fits all" kind of people, let's see how many delectable varieties we can produce. Bust out your favorite recipes for all-American apple pie, English steak and kidney pie, French quiche— anything pie-like will be welcome! Please contact Linda Meeker (dangrous@bresnan.net or 742-6252) for more information or to help coordinate this fun UUFL event.



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

In 1991 when I was a seminarian, a group of us decided that we wanted Meadville Lombard to offer group spiritual direction sessions for us just like those given on a regular basis to seminarians in other denominations. We approached the Dean of the school with our request, and he told us that it would be impossible, because we had such diverse theologies and thus it would be difficult to structure meaningful sessions.

Being typical contrarian and independent Unitarian Universalists, we were unwilling to let the idea go. We decided that we'd meet on our own to experiment with what and how spiritual direction could be for Unitarian Universalists ministers. We experimented for a couple of years and though we never came up with "the" Unitarian Universalism way, we felt our time together deepened our call to ministry and our personal religious identity.

Fast forward to 2007 and, voila, our desire is manifested! The Rev. Jade Angelica, a Unitarian Universalist minister, creates the Unitarian Universalist Spiritual Directors' Network (UUSDN). In a May 11, 2007 *UU World* magazine article called "UU Spiritual Directors' Form Network" written by Michelle Bates Deakin, Angelica says,

A lot of Unitarian Universalists are really crying out for more of a connection to the spirit, and they don't exactly know what to ask for. . . . There is a growing hunger for spirituality and spiritual companionship in our culture, and UUs are no exception.

In the article Deakin writes:

Angelica believes that if more Unitarian Universalists knew what spiritual direction was and where it was available, they would want to explore it. Spiritual direction is a practice that can take many forms. It is a contemplative process of going on a spiritual journey or growing closer to the spirit in one's life. "It is a journey into meaning, a journey into purpose, a journey into mystery," says Angelica. "People think it's all about your prayer life or what kind of spiritual practice you are doing. But in reality, since spirit permeates every area of our lives at every moment, spiritual direction is open to any aspect of your life."

She explains that "the emphasis is on the relationship between the God energy and the person, not as in counseling where the emphasis is on relations between human beings."

Believing in God is not a prerequisite for undertaking spiritual direction. The purpose of spiritual direction is to connect a person with the spirit in his or her life, and that spirit takes on different forms for different people. Angelica finds the variety of spiritual experiences among UUs exciting. "A lot of Unitarian Universalists have trouble with God, but we talk about mystery, and everyone's understanding is welcome," she says.

Angelica is convinced that as more UUs become aware of spiritual direction, more will be drawn toward taking that spiritual journey. She was recently struck by a passage by the influential Catholic theologian and writer Thomas Merton, who wrote in 1960 that the early Christian desert mothers and fathers of the fourth century who practiced spiritual direction had set off on their own "free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Says Angelica, "How UU is that?"

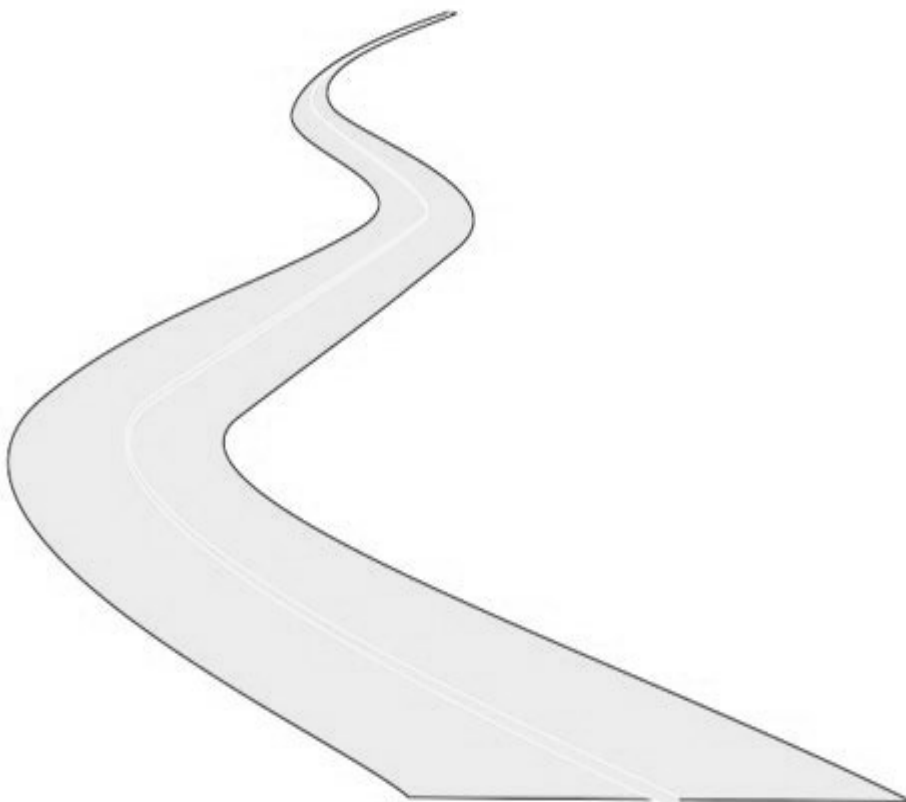
The members of the Unitarian Universalist Spiritual Directors' Network are practicing spiritual directors. They are ordained ministers and lay people. They are Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Pagan, Theist, Humanist and more. Most have participated in formal spiritual direction training programs. Guided by the practices of spiritual direction from a variety of religious traditions, they work with others, companioning and witnessing to their sacred stories and grace-filled moments.

The Network offers this short list of times when a person might want to contact a Spiritual Director:

- Perhaps you notice an awakening of the Spirit and want to explore this mystery.
- Perhaps prayer and meditation have been enduring practices, and a deepening is desired.
- Perhaps you face a growing edge.
- Perhaps you have questions about life's purpose.

I am sharing this because some of you have hinted that you feel you're missing something in your religious life. Your social justice work is still very important to you, but lately your efforts don't seem grounded in a spiritual dimension and you're sensing a growing need for that. I invite those of you who might be looking for something like this to go to this website www.uusdn.org. Besides meeting in person, you can connect with a UU Spiritual Director in other ways, including by phone.

Good people, I look forward to seeing you at our services or some other Fellowship event or around town. ~ Rev. Jackie



April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Service 10 am Meditation 4 pm	2 Contemplative Yarns 5:30	3	4	5	6	7
8 Service 10 am Meditation 4 pm	9	10 Program committee 5:15 pm	11 Board meeting Noon	12	13	14
15 Service 10 am Meditation 4 pm	16	17	18	19	20 Social Action Film, 7 pm	21
22 Service 10 am Social Action film, noon Meditation 4 pm	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Service 10 am Meditation 4 pm	30	For more information on events, see the Calendar on the UUFL website -- uularamie.org.				

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

Building Reservations

The Fellowship building is available for use by reservation. To make a reservation, go to uularamie.org and click on the calendar to check building availability for the date you want. Then email David Perry at 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

On Facebook:

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Laramie

Minister

Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler
307-460-9066

2017-2018 Board

Bren Lieske, President
Bob Kelly
Matt Stannard, Secretary
Bob Strayer, Treasurer

UUFL Newsletter

Barbara Bogart, Editor

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month. Please submit to:

uularamienews@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW ADDRESS:

uularamienews@gmail.com

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*