



UU Laramie News

June 2021

Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Laramie
1402 E. Gibbon Street
Laramie, WY 82072
(307) 745-8874

Services for June

Beginning this month, UUFL will revert to offering all its own services. We will be allowing in-person services depending on the current County Metrics available on the Wyoming Department of Health website. See page 6 for details.

At this time, we are planning on holding all services at the Fellowship building, unless otherwise noted (e.g. Pilot Hill Hike). Many services are planned for meeting on the Fellowship lawn. If there is inclement weather, we will meet inside the building. If in-person services are not allowed, we will meet virtually, via the Laramie Zoom room.

See page 7 for important information regarding Zoom services, including login information.

June 6 “Pilot Hill Hike” - UUFL Member Nancy Lockwood will lead a 3-mile hike in the Pilot Hill area on the eastern edge of Laramie. Geologist Bern Hinckley will provide commentary about the terrain during the hike. The hike begins at 10 am at the east end of Willett Drive (past Iverson Hospital and the golf course). See page 3 for additional information.

June 13 “How Does Your Garden Grow?” - Bring veggie and flower seeds and plants to exchange or to plant in one of the community garden boxes on the south side of the Fellowship building. Then we will dedicate a newly planted lilac bush in memory of Fellowship member Tera Nichols.

June 20 “Flower Communion” - This lovely ceremony traditionally marks the beginning of summer for the Fellowship. Bring a flower or two to contribute to the communal bouquet.

June 27 Rev. Kee leads this service with a message on the theme of “Assertive Love.”



Minister

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Minister's Musings

At last the lilacs have arrived and the air is filled with birdsongs! As plans for summer services are being put in place, it's hard for me not to feel about summer like a child feels about Christmas. It seems as if I look forward to my favorite season with so much anticipation, that I risk not taking the time to enjoy every day. And so this year, I'm making a 'summer resolution' of sorts, to do just that: enjoy every day to its fullest because it really is true, time flies when you're having fun!



Because so many of us enjoy this warm window of time, plans for hikes and outings to enjoy nature are blocked out on the calendar. Because interacting with nature's beauty, I believe, is part of a healthy spiritual practice, it is a real blessing to live where we can encounter nature's gifts easily and share in this special joy that truly nourishes the spirit – and keeps us in shape!

For those of us who enjoy a more traditional Sunday gathering, we are blessed to have a lovely yard and welcoming fellowship hall, so we can gather to share our enjoyment of being a UU community – another important way to engage in spiritual self-care. Our building and grounds have been on their own for too long because of the pandemic, and so it will be good to be able to reconnect with our sacred spaces filling them with conversation, warm feelings, and enjoyment.

And if you'd still like another option to choose from, the UU Casper congregation will be holding dual services all summer beginning this month. You can attend via the Casper Zoom Room, and be a part of the services being held in the sanctuary with folks who are ready to get back to in-person worship – truly a both/and endeavor!

Thanks to our webmasters and newsletter editors, it's easy to keep track of what's going on this summer. Having some really nice choices is a good way to make the most of your Sunday mornings and taking care of your UU spirit! See you in church!

Rev. Kee

What's New at UUFL?

You have many ways to keep connected with UUFL!

Facebook: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Laramie (public)

Facebook: UUFL Community Group (private)

This is a private group for UUFL members and friends who want to discuss current issues and challenges.

Website: uularamie.org

For more news and events, and the latest updates!

UUFL Calendar

David Perry maintains a current event calendar on the UUFL website (uularamie.org). You can always check there to see what is happening. Remember, all scheduling for use of the building must be done through David (dperry@uwyo.edu).

Pilot Hill Hike

June 6 Sunday program

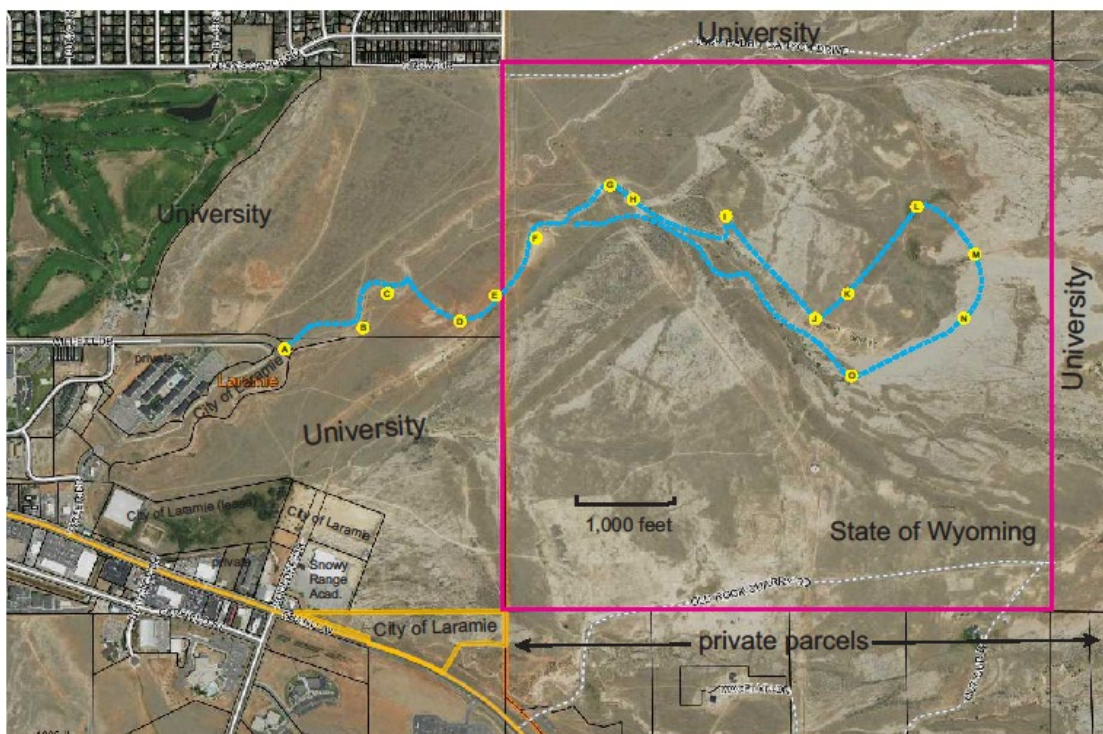
Pilot Hill Hike – 10:00 am

Join Nancy Lockwood and Laramie Geologist Bern Hinckley on a Pilot Hill hike. Bern will lead as along a path that provides observations of the primary geologic features relative to Casper Aquifer protection and general geology. Bern is a Professional Geologist and a member of the Albany County Planning and Zoning Commission. He is an active advocate for protection of the Casper Aquifer.

We will meet at 10:00 am the east end of Willet Drive. Drive east on Willet Drive, crossing 30th street, going up and over a hill (the golf course will be to the north and the hospital to the south), past the apartments to the south where Willet Drive ends with a circular turn around. Park along the side of the road along the turn around.

The hike is 3.7 miles round trip. To be able to fully benefit from Bern's wealth of knowledge (i.e., to allow time for stops and discussion) plan on around 3 hours. As the hike is more or less an out and back hike, you can head back at any point.

Bring water, snacks, and clothing layers appropriate to Laramie's early June weather.



Casper Aquifer - June 6, 2021

Andrew Standard Graduates from Laramie High School

On May 28, Laramie High School conducted its 2021 commencement. In person, inside, and “on-time” this year! Among the graduates is our very own Andrew Standard, son of Matt Standard.

Andrew has been a lifelong Fellowship attendee, participating in his first Fellowship activities while in utero, including the baby shower thrown for his parents by the Fellowship. Shortly thereafter, he was blessed in the Fellowship sanctuary.

Andrew participated in R.E. for many years. He acted in two R.E.-led plays and assisted in other presentations as he got older. He was always well prepared for these events, knowing his parts well and serving in both a leadership and mentorship role to other RE students. According to Andrew’s dad, the Fellowship has been a significant space for him growing up.

Matt states Andrew has excelled in academics and academic competitions such as Battle of the Books.

Andrew has also excelled as an athlete in golf and track & field (200 and 400 meter, 4x400relay, and long jump) and will be playing on the golf team at Eastern Wyoming College this fall.

Membership Committee

The UUFL Membership committee is Robin Chestek (Chair) and Andi Noakes. Please help keep the member / friend database up to date! If you have a change of address, phone number, or email address, please send your updated contact information to Robin at rchestek@gmail.com.

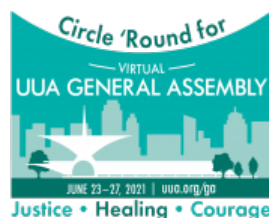
Contemplative Yarns

Saturday picnics are happening once again. We meet at 12:30 pm each Saturday. Look for us either on the SE corner of Harbon Park (the park across the street) or on the lawn by the front doors of the building. If the weather is bad, we may be inside the building. We have even been known to meet in the parking lot when the wind is bad. We are also planning a camping trip this summer at Vedauwoo and a hike to Medicine Bow Peak in July. If you are interested in participating in Contemplative Yarns, e-mail uularamienews@gmail.com.

UUA General Assembly 2021

The Board is seeking volunteers to be delegates for the UUA General Assembly, June 23 – 27. We are allowed to sponsor two voting delegates. Please contact a member of the Board if you are interested.

The UUA Board of Trustees has passed a resolution making the 2021 UUA General Assembly a **100% virtual event**. They hope to reach record-breaking attendance. For more information, visit <https://www.uua.org/ga>.





Family Promise

We are still a host church for Family Promise but don't need to provide shelter, just food for families. Families now stay in a motel, but in the future Family Promise's goal is to find a permanent shelter for temporary housing for the families.

In June, UUFL is providing meals for Family Promise the week of June 20th. There are currently 2 families in residence. The preferred way to deliver food is to drop off nonperishable food, or food in serving size containers, to the United Presbyterian Church, located at 215 South 11th. Drop off times are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 am to 4 pm. Ring the bell at the side door and a person will come and pick up your delivery.

There are other opportunities to help, either by volunteering or by donating diapers for their pantry.

If you have questions please call Bren at 307.761.0887 or check their website at <https://fpalbanycounty.org/>. They do many things for our community. Thank you for being involved. Bren Lieske, Family Promise Volunteer Coordinator

The UUFL schedule for participating in the Family Promise program for the upcoming months is as follows:

June 20 – 27
July 18 – 25
October 10 – 17

News from the Program Committee

and now we return to our regular programming

For more than a year, our Sunday services have been offered via Zoom in collaboration with the UU Casper congregation. Beginning this month, this joint programming will come to an end, and each congregation will revert to offering its own services.

For us, this means returning to our schedule of Rev. Kee in the pulpit for one Sunday each month, with lay-led services for the other three or four Sundays. In the new church year that starts in June, Rev. Kee plans to be in Laramie for the fourth Sunday of each month. (There's always an exception, of course; she will be in Laramie on July 18.)

The current plan for services is to adhere to the new Board policy regarding meeting in person. See page 6 for details. Information for each Sunday will be posted on the UU Laramie website and on the UUFL Facebook pages.

The Program Committee is developing plans for streaming Sunday services via Zoom beginning in September. In the meantime, you can look forward to our usual summer activities – Flower Communion in June, hikes, picnics, and the annual book discussion in July, and Water Communion at the end of August.

Your ideas for future programs are always welcome. Please contact Barbara Bogart, Program Committee Chair, at barbara.a.bogart@gmail.com.

Building Use Policy *updated May 2021*

The UUFL board has updated the policy governing the use of the Fellowship building by small groups during the COVID-19 crisis as of May 5, 2021.

We will be allowing in-person services depending on the current County Metrics available on the Wyoming of Department of Health website (<https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/infectious-disease-epidemiology-unit/disease/novel-coronavirus/covid-19-orders-and-guidance/>, click on County Transmission Indicators).

If the Albany County Transmission Indicator is in a **Green Zone**, services may be **in-person, indoors**.

If the Albany County Transmission Indicator is in the **Yellow or Orange Zone**, services may be **in-person, outside**.

If the Albany County Transmission Indicator is in one of the **Red Zones**, services will be **virtual** only, i.e. via Laramie Zoom room.

Requirements:

1. Users must wear masks or cloth facial coverings.
2. Users are responsible for cleaning tables, doorknobs, and bathroom surfaces with appropriate solvents.
3. There must be a gap of 24 hours between groups using the building.
4. A maximum of 20 family groups is allowed in the Sanctuary and no more than 12 people are allowed in the Social Hall. The two spaces may not be occupied simultaneously.
5. The kitchen remains closed

Recommendations:

6. Please maintain a social distance of 6 feet or more.
7. The doors and windows may be open for ventilation, weather permitting.

The board will regularly review and revise these policies as conditions and state guidelines change.

NOTE: All scheduling for use of the building **MUST BE** done through David Perry (dperry@uwyo.edu).



Zoom Room Information

UUFL has a Zoom Room members and friends may use to host UUFL related events. Contact Michael Wade (darooke22@gmail.com) for details on how to use the Laramie Zoom Room to host a meeting.

Below is the Zoom access information for both the Laramie and Casper Zoom Rooms.

Laramie Zoom Room
Meeting ID: 290 700 5294
Passcode: Board0805

Casper Zoom Room
Meeting ID: 459 187 0381
Passcode: 084964

Important Information Regarding Zoom Services

The Zoom information for every Sunday service in the UU Laramie zoom room is the same. The meeting id is 290 700 5294. The passcode is Board0805. This is all the information you need to access the Zoom room. You do not need to have a live link to click on.

Please keep this information handy. You could copy and paste the meeting id and passcode onto the desktop on your computer or to a piece of paper kept next to your keyboard. Another option is to print out this page and keep it by your computer. This will avoid the frustration of trying to find the link in the newsletter or on Facebook on Sunday morning.

To get to the service, open Zoom on your computer, click on "Join a meeting" and then enter the meeting id and passcode when prompted to do so. You can access the UU Casper Zoom room by using their room id (459 187 0381) and passcode (084964) in the same way. *Barbara Bogart, Program Committee Chair*



By Melissa Gibson