



UU Laramie News

August 2021

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

Services for August

UUFL is offering all its own services now. We are allowing in-person services depending on the current County Metrics available on the Wyoming Department of Health website. See page 5 for details.

At this time, we are planning on holding all services at the Fellowship building. 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.

August 1 "Speaking of Books" - What books have you loved (or hated) this year? What are your recommended "must reads"? We will meet in the Fellowship to talk about and exchange books. You can also join us in the Laramie Zoom room (290 700 5294 - passcode Board0805).

August 8 Member Ken Chestek will lead the service this morning.

August 15 "Clean-up Sunday" - Bring rakes and clippers and whatever else we can use to make the outside of our building shine!

August 22 Reverend Leslie Kee will introduce the August worship theme "Harmony."

August 29 "Water Communion" - This traditional end-of-the-summer ceremony brings us back together by mingling the waters (real and virtual) we have gathered throughout the summer and sharing the meaning of the experiences behind the water.



Minister

Rev. Leslie Kee (lkee@wyoming.com)

UUFL Board

Board Co-Chairs: Linda Meeker (ldangrousl@gmail.com)

David Perry (dperry@uwyo.edu)

Treasurer: Jennifer Wade (Jswade.wyo@gmail.com)

Secretary: Robin Chestek (rchestek@gmail.com)

Catie Ballard (cdonbdoc@bresnan.net)

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Laura Miller (uularamienews@gmail.com)

Minister's Musings

Even though summer is supposed to be a time of lazy days and just coasting through the heat, these past few weeks some turmoil seems to have found its way into UUFL's season of relaxation. It's been common knowledge for quite some time now the whole neighborhood in which our building is located sets on top of a significant amount of ground water and so UUFL is not the only church dealing with the effects this instability has on a building. Word has it, our neighbors, the Methodists across the street, are plagued by the same issues of shifting foundations and cracking corners.



The year before-last (pre-covid), UUFL spent a fair amount of money 'fixing' the SW corner of our building, and towards the end of that project, several folks approached me about the possibility of some aesthetic upgrades to the RE rooms since half of them were already dismantled. The board gave me permission to assemble an ad hoc committee to develop a proposal for spiffing up both of the rooms – and then the covid hit. Obviously, everything was put on hold for this past year.

When we finally felt safe enough to return to the building, I resumed my monthly trips to Laramie and have enjoyed being able to hang out in the building and visit with so many of you throughout the several days I'm in town. What I'm fondly referring to as 'the ad hoc RE Committee' was ready to pick up where we'd left off, and so all the outdated, duplicate, and unusable supplies and toys have been sorted and relegated; and the remaining usable supplies are what is organized on the tables in the middle of the north RE room. The goal has been to get a clean slate for the general contractor to assess the space and develop a plan-of-work and cost proposal for the board.

Fortunately, we were able to meet with a very reputable contractor last month, and during the course of our visit, I discovered the cracks in the NW corner of the north RE room. Obviously, pulling down the dried-up dusty insulation panel in that corner has been like opening a Pandora's Box.

Based on a holistic accounting of the treats this Pandora's Box has bestowed upon us, as your minister, I decided to write a candid memo to the board which included a recommendation for the creation of a more holistic, strategic building repair/maintenance/upgrade plan. During the subsequent special board meeting that was held on July 21, it became clear the superseding issue is obtaining a professional assessment of the geology underneath the whole of our property. It just makes sense to put new paint, new markers, puzzles, and new window treatments on hold until we can determine the overall status of the 'basement' of our property and building.

Even though there are several other very important conversations in which the whole congregation needs to be involved, for example, how to pay for whatever needs to be done, at this point, the Board of Trustees under the leadership of Linda Meeker and David Perry, have stepped up to this challenge, and I am more than willing to continue doing my part as your minister.

Rev. Kee



What's New at 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).

Contemplative Yarns

Contemplative Yarns has been enjoying the summer with camping and hiking trips. Come join us on Saturday afternoons at Harbon Park, across from the UUFL at 12:30. Bring a lawn chair and a lunch for conversation and friendship. If you are interested in participating in Contemplative Yarns, e-mail uularamienews@gmail.com.



Social Action

Having been pretty dormant for the past year, we're trying to get back up and running (or at least walking.) We've had three meetings this month. We've decided to have a monthly rotating chair and have set up a schedule for that. However there probably won't be regular monthly meetings; they will be "as needed".

Identifying and selecting issues and/or activities to support has been discussed, and it's been agreed that most of that can be done at the committee level. Adopting areas of concern on which to focus would help with this, and we will coordinate our focus with the rest of the fellowship. July's offering went to Family Promise (\$100), and in August we'll collect for Interfaith. Change for Change will be collected on the Sundays when Reverend Kee is in the pulpit. *Ralph Garrett*



Family Promise

At the present time there are 3 families staying in a motel with Family Promise. The number of families can change at any time due to the community needs. **We will be providing meals the week of August 15th -21st.** Family sized portions that can be heated in a microwave or frozen are welcomed as well as pre-packaged shelf stable foods. Please drop off food at 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.



Thanks for helping this needed organization. Please call Bren Lieske (307.761.0887) or get on the Family Promise website for more information.

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.

News from the Program Committee

In past years, our usual practice for the fifth Sunday of the month and holiday weekend Sundays is to schedule an informal coffee and conversation session. But this fall, we are trying something new -- creating programs on Sunday afternoons for the Laramie community at large that will introduce them in an informal way to the Fellowship and to Unitarian Universalism in general.

On September 5 (Labor Day weekend), we are planning an afternoon event called "Blessing of the Boots, Bikes & Backpacks", with book and treat giveaways. We are also planning outreach programs for October 31, November 28 (Thanksgiving weekend), and December 26. If you would like to participate in these programs or can help us publicize them, please let us know. You can contact Barbara Bogart at ballenbogart@gmail.com to find out more about our plans.



Swap, Sell, DONATE

Do you have some items you want to get rid of? E-mail uularamienews@gmail.com and we will list it in the newsletter. Please do not leave items at the church for pickup.

Eurika upright vacuum + bags, best offer. Call or text Marian E at 760-8273.

Several gardening books, free. Call Laura at 742-5252

4 B flat clarinets, all good, but could use some work, free. Call Michael at 742-5252

Building Use Policy *updated June 9, 2021*

The UUFL board has updated the policy governing the use of the Fellowship building during the COVID-19 crisis as of June 9, 2021. The Board will reconsider and update this policy at the end of the summer.

Requirements:

1. Users must wear masks or cloth facial coverings **inside** the building.
2. Users are responsible for cleaning tables, doorknobs, and bathroom surfaces with appropriate solvents.
3. There must be a gap of one hour between groups using the building.
4. A maximum of 20 household 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. While the kitchen may be used, we do not anticipate food being served inside the building.

Recommendations:

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

Indoor Church Services:

We are allowing in-person services inside, but to protect those among us who might be vulnerable to infection, we continue to require masks or facial coverings **inside** the building.

We are allowing in-person services depending on the current County Metrics available on the Wyoming Department of Health website. This policy applies if the Albany County Transmission Indicator* remains in any of the green or yellow zones. If the county Transmission indicator declines to one of the **Red Zones**, services will be **virtual only**.

* <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/infectious-disease-epidemiology-unit/disease/novel-coronavirus/covid-19-orders-and-guidance/>, click on County Transmission Indicators

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

