



# UU Laramie News

August 2022

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



## Services for August

Services begin at 10 am, unless noted in the service description. We continue to offer our Sunday services both in person and via Zoom. Masks are recommended for those attending services in the Fellowship building.

### August 7 Hike in Snowy Range Mountains

Come join us on a hike on the Libby Creek trail in the Snowy Mountains. We will meet at the Fellowship parking lot at 9:00 am and ride share to the trail head at the Green Rock Picnic area off Highway 130. Bring water, trail snacks if desired, sunscreen, bug repellent, appropriate clothing for the weather, and a picnic lunch for after the hike. It is good to come prepared for the possibility of changing mountain weather - a thunderstorm, wind, and changing temperatures. To park at the trailhead, you need a forest service pass or \$5 per vehicle. This hike is a 3.5-mile loop that includes a nice view from the high point just a few paces off the trail, a rustling stream (Libby Creek, named after a 19th century prospector), and a small waterfall (listen for cascading water and watch for the short side trail that leads to the creek); all this in just a few miles and only about 500 feet of elevation change. For further information contact Nancy Lockwood at: [nanlockw@gmail.com](mailto:nanlockw@gmail.com); 307-399-9080.

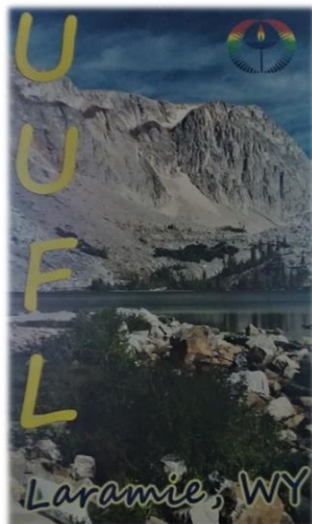
### August 14 Fellowship Clean-Up

As summer winds down, let's honor our building and grounds with a good scrub-up, inside and out. We'll gather at 10 am with buckets and gloves, clippers and rags, to make our Fellowship shine.

### August 21 Water Communion

For our traditional end-of-the-summer ceremony, bring some water, real or virtual, that symbolizes a meaningful event or experience this summer. We'll pour our individual contributions into the communal bowl to celebrate our reunion.

### August 28 Rev. Kee is in the pulpit



#### Minister

Rev. Leslie Kee ([lkee@wyoming.com](mailto:lkee@wyoming.com))

#### UUFL Board

Board Co-Chairs: Linda Meeker ([ldangrous1@gmail.com](mailto:ldangrous1@gmail.com)),

David Perry ([dperry@uwo.edu](mailto:dperry@uwo.edu))

Treasurer: Matt Stannard ([stannard67@gmail.com](mailto:stannard67@gmail.com))

Secretary: Robin Chestek ([rchestek@gmail.com](mailto:rchestek@gmail.com))

Member: Catie Ballard ([cdonbdoc@bresnan.net](mailto:cdonbdoc@bresnan.net)),

#### UU Laramie News Editor

Laura Miller ([uularamienews@gmail.com](mailto:uularamienews@gmail.com))

## Musings from the Co-Chair

I am just back from my summer travels and, despite having a great time with grandkids and family, the background settings are thoroughly depressing. We were first in Jackson where we did a few of our favorite hikes in the Tetons and had a couple meals on the shore of Jackson Lake. The lake is still beautiful with the backdrop of Mt. Moran, but the shoreline is tens of feet below its usual level. Coulter Bay Marina is nothing more than a mud hole. The marinas at Signal Mountain and Leeks are still accessible by water at the moment. Jackson Lake is a natural lake whose level was raised 39 feet in the early 20th century to provide irrigation water for the potato growers of Idaho along the Snake River. They “own” the top 33 feet of the lake and are using virtually all of it this summer.



After returning for two days to catch up on bills and laundry, I took off for Crested Butte to spend time with my daughter and her son. One of our days we took an excursion to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. I was last there in 1966 on a father/son trip. On our way this time, we passed Blue Mesa Reservoir, a lake that didn't even exist in 1966. The water level there was positively breathtaking, and not in a positive way. Water is being released from there in an attempt to shore up the level of Lake Powell downstream after the Gunnison joins the Colorado River to provide water and power to downstream users in Arizona and California.

It has been impossible to miss the effects of climate change for the past several years. First it was the beetle kill in the National Forest. There are so many dead trees up at Chimney Park, where I like to cross-country ski to avoid the madhouse of the Happy Jack area, that I avoid skiing entirely if I pull into the parking lot and see the trees swaying three feet or more in the wind. Then there have been the multiple fires on that side of the Laramie valley culminating in the Mullen Fire that threatened our cabin in Woods Landing not quite two years ago. Yet seeing empty lakebeds brought the drying of the west squarely into focus in a gut-wrenching way that nothing else has.

The UUA has many resources for working for Climate Justice ranging from RE curriculum materials to various ways to get involved from the personal to the congregational and beyond. Many of our members on the Social Action Committee have been and are currently active in climate justice projects. Perhaps it is time or past time for us to be more involved at the congregational level. I fear for the planet we are leaving our grandchildren.

*David*



Let's stay  
connected

**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](http://uularamie.org)**

*For more news and events, and the latest updates!*

## UUFL Calendar of Events

David Perry maintains a current event calendar on the UUFL website ([uularamie.org](http://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](mailto:dperry@uwyo.edu)).

## Family Promise

Our week to host families is July 31 – August 6. Families stay in a motel, but we deliver food to the Presbyterian Church on Tuesday and Thursdays for them to deliver to the families. There are currently two families. One is a mother and her 16-year-old son. They have a griddle in their room so they can cook things. No allergies, but the son is somewhat picky. PB&Js, and chicken patties are his favorite. The other family is a young couple with a 2-year-old and a 3-month-old. The fridge in their room is broken and they can't switch their rooms. However, Family Promise will store meals at the church until they are going to eat. No allergies, no preferences, but gift cards might be good because of their fridge situation. Both families have solid transportation as well.



Thanks for your continued support of Family Promise. It is a much-needed resource in our community. Bren Lieske, Volunteer Coordinator UUFL/Family Promise. 307.761.0887 or [Bpatchranch@yahoo.com](mailto:Bpatchranch@yahoo.com)

### *2022 UUFL / Family Promise Dates*

July 31-August 6

September 11-18

October 16-23

## Membership Committee

The UUFL Membership committee is Robin Chestek (Chair) and Ken Chestek (Database Administrator). 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](mailto:rchestek@gmail.com).



## Contemplative Yarns

We meet at Harbon Park at 12:30 pm on Saturdays for conversation. Many enjoy a picnic lunch during our time together. In case of inclement weather, we meet in the Fellowship building. We welcome others to join us. If you are interested in participating, e-mail [uularamienews@gmail.com](mailto:uularamienews@gmail.com) or drop by on a Saturday.

## COVID Policy *updated March 25, 2022*

We strongly encourage all eligible members to be fully vaccinated and we continue to recommend indoor masking as ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect our community, but in the current phase of the pandemic, we no longer require masks inside the Fellowship. In addition, use of the kitchen and food service is permitted by groups that wish to do so. The Board will continue to monitor pandemic conditions and adjust our policies if we need to return to more restrictive measures.

## Zoom Room Information

**Laramie Zoom Room**  
**Meeting ID: 290 700 5294**  
**Passcode: no passcode needed**

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



Hike at Little Laramie Trailhead in the Snowy Range  
Sunday, July 17, 2022  
*Photo courtesy of Madeline Dalrymple*