



# UU Laramie News

September 2022

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

## Services for September

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.



Our services this fall will revolve around the theme of “Change as a Spiritual Challenge.” The past (name your number of) years has brought what seems to be unprecedented change in so many realms - political, social, environmental, medical. When change is so disruptive as to shake us to our foundations, how do we respond? How do we gain perspective on change and develop insights into its effects?

### September 4 *Coffee & Conversation*

UUFL member Catie Ballard leads a discussion of how we respond to dramatic change.

### September 11 *Before, During, and After*

On this 21st anniversary, UUFL member Sara Saulcy offers a consideration of the profound impact of this cataclysmic event.

### September 18 *Stone by Stone*

Late in life Carl Jung began building a structure on the banks of Lake Zurich, a small castle where he could spend his time contemplating the work of a lifetime. For the first tower he gathered each stone himself, and on many stones carved words, images, symbols from dreams and from his studies of many cultures and religions. Visiting minister Rev. Whittenberg’s sermon will consider the stones we gather to make meaning of our lives.

### September 25 *Theodore Parker and the Arc of the Moral Universe*

Rev. Leslie Kee presents the powerful words and ideas of this influential 19th century UU minister.



Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Laramie

#### Minister

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

#### UUFL Board

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

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

## Minister's Musings

As I ease back into the familiar duties and routines of church after an enjoyable month of self-care, I can't help but think about what has changed and what is the same around UUFL. I'm still enjoying the flow in the sanctuary where we have the pulpit on the same level as the congregation and I'm really glad we have invested in some good tech equipment, so our zoom participants have a good quality experience. I'm also happy the corporate feel to the fellowship hall has been mitigated a bit by the off-centered smaller grouping of tables and some dashes of color.



I am concerned though about the state of our RE rooms and the fact this last year of passively monitoring the cracks in the walls has essentially set us back a whole year following the slow rebound from the year-long pandemic shut-down. Before the additional cracks were discovered, the ad hoc RE committee was energized and busy doing lots of research, meeting with contractors, submitting proposed budgets, visiting with parents, and brainstorming on how to restart the RE program - and now it seems as if we're back to square one.

The other project which got set-aside this past year was the follow-up congregational meeting to discuss the future of UUFL. The first meeting was held in the spring of 2021 and was well-attended and feedback positive. After doing some values-clarification, participants were asked, if money were no object, what UUFL could, and should, be like five years from now? And that's where we left off. In my mind, this question is more important now than ever. The Committee on Ministry has offered to put-together and facilitate this next meeting, and I hope this will happen soon before weather and travel become an issue.

Another opportunity has arisen to help jump-start our conversations about the future of UUFL, when our Pacific Region's Lead, Sarah Schurr, has offered to come to Laramie. This would be an excellent opportunity for everyone to hear the latest thinking in what so many small congregations are wrestling with just like UUFL. I hope this is also a meeting we can put together and everyone will make an effort to participate.

I recently spent some time reading through several obituaries of UU ministers and was reminded of how much a minister is needed to provide leadership and professional guidance to their congregation. As we begin a new program year facing so many of the same questions and concerns that have been very close for too many years now, perhaps the first question for all of us is – what do you need from me, your minister? And, how do we all talk with each other about change – or not?

Like all of you, I love UUFL – our solid historical presence, our deep commitment to UU values, and a shared yearning to find a way to be able to hand this beautiful religious community to the next generation. This past year has given me a lot to think about and realize, it's going to take all of us to have the conversations and make the decisions about what is next for our beloved community.

See you in church!

*Rev. Kee*

## Remembering Our Friends

**Barbara Deshler**, a frequent visitor to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Laramie, passed away on July 22, 2022. She lived most of her adult life in Wyoming. Barb graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1968. In September 1969 she married her husband, Terry, three weeks after they were accepted into the Peace corps to serve in Kenya. After returning to Laramie, Barb worked at the University Science Library and then again at the Laramie library. In 1988, Barb completed her third degree, in education, and soon began teaching in a mixed 4 th -5 th grade at the University lab school. She taught there from 1994 until retirement in 2013. After retirement Barb started worrying more about what the future held for her four grandchildren and she soon became quite active working with others in Wyoming to seek solutions to the climate crisis which is upon us.



She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Terry, her children and grandchildren, her mother, Betty of Casper, brother Tom, sister Janet, plus multiple nieces and nephews. A celebration of her life will be held on September 24, beginning at 3:00 at the Laramie train depot. The celebration will be followed by a potluck reception. If you wish to donate to a climate cause in Barb's memory, consider the Citizen's Climate Lobby.



**Melissa Peters**, a part of our Fellowship congregation since June 2016, passed away on June 29, 2022. Melissa was a long-time member of the Contemplative Yarns group, driving all the way from the Colorado foothills near Tie Siding to be with us and share her wonderful sense of humor. At a recent meeting of Contemplative Yarns, those of us who met all wore orange, Melissa's favorite color, in her honor.

Her wisdom, her warm personality, and her ready laughter will be greatly missed by all of us.



## Family Promise

Our week to host families is September 11 – 18. Families stay in a motel, but we deliver food to the Presbyterian Church on Tuesday and Thursdays for them to deliver to the families. 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

September 11-18

October 16-23

## Help with Dogs Needed

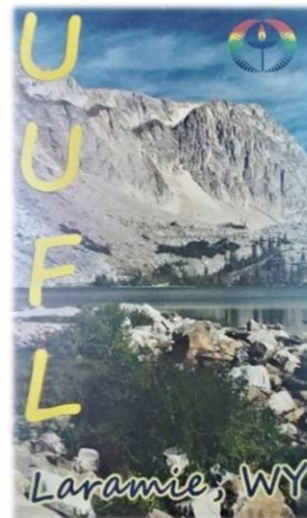
Visiting minister Rev. Whittenberg needs help with her dogs during the service on September 18. If you have a place to house her dogs during the service, please contact Barbara Bogart at [ballenbogart@gmail.com](mailto:ballenbogart@gmail.com).

## 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).

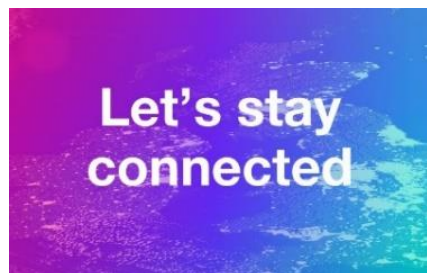
## Contemplative Yarns

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. All are welcome. If you are interested in participating, e-mail [uularamieneews@gmail.com](mailto:uularamieneews@gmail.com) or drop by on a Saturday.



## 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)).



**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!



## Clean-up Sunday

A dozen helpers showed up on Sunday, August 14 to tackle weeds in the alley and front lawn, and brighten the windows in the sanctuary. Thank you for your hard work: Bob Kelley, Daved Levitan, David Perry, Jeff Lockwood, Ken Chestek, Laura Miller, Linda Meeker, Madeline Dalrymple, Nancy Lockwood, Ralph Garret. Robin Chestek, and Sara Saulcy.





Hike in Snowy Range Mountains  
Sunday, August 7, 2022

From left to right:  
Front row - Nan Lockwood, Barbara Bogart, Samantha Weatherston, Lukas Rabie,  
Paul Rabie, Emma June Rabie  
Back row - David Perry, Jeff Lockwood, Madeline Dalrymple  
Not pictured/photographer: Daved Levitan

