



# UU Laramie News

November 2022

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

## Services for November

All our services are held in person at the Fellowship building, with zoom access. Masks are recommended for those attending services in the Fellowship building.



UUFL Thanksgiving Potluck  
See page 4 for details

### November 6 *UUFL Transitions in the 21st Century*

November marks the 20th anniversary of our move from the Pyramid on the Plains to our building on Gibbon Street. We will reflect on that transition, point out the origins of some of the objects and traditions that were brought over from our previous building, and share thoughts on transitions we might anticipate in the next 20 years. We hope to have a couple honored guests in attendance who were important to our leadership through our move to "a centrally located building close to campus on a paved street."

### November 13 *Mending as a Spiritual Practice - Barbara Bogart*

When something we value is broken, how do we respond? Do we discard it? Do we hide it away? Or do we pick up the pieces and consider how to mend it? And how does the act of mending both reveal and enhance its meaning?

### November 20 *Rev. Kee is in the pulpit.*

### November 27 *Coffee and Conversation – Catie Ballard*

Coffee and conversation today will be warm, tasty, and fun! Join the conversation!



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@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 ([Catie.Ballard43@gmail.com](mailto:Catie.Ballard43@gmail.com))

#### UU Laramie News Editor

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



## Minister's Musings

Because this autumn has been mild and the wind hasn't blown all the leaves off the trees yet, it's hard to believe November has arrived. Many Halloweens have been celebrated by trick-or-treaters bundled up in snow boots and mittens navigating slippery sidewalks and front porches. But this year, the official hazards of winter weather haven't appeared yet and we've all enjoyed more fall hikes, family outings, and footballs games without having to don arctic-weather coats and hats.



But winter is around the corner and the longer nights still beckon us to the traditional time of enjoying the indoors and introspection, especially members and friends who are committed to the wellbeing of UUFL. When Rev. Sarah Schurr was here a few weeks ago, her Sunday service and facilitation of the congregational meeting were an opportunity for collective pastoral care and conversation.

For those of us who were able to participate, we named and lifted up some of the traumatic experiences and shared pain UUFL has gone through these past several years. And while the purpose was not to dwell in the past, by naming and acknowledging a collective trauma, we honored the experiences and created a shared understanding that everyone has been impacted - individually and collectively. To name these experiences, is to weave them into the fabric of the historical story of UUFL. The experiences of the recent past are not what define us, but they are part of who we are and the lessons to be learned should be heeded as we look to the future.

Another important part of the conversation was learning the past couple of pandemic years have impacted all churches across the United States. Many of the larger congregations have more resources and volunteer capacity to weather something as far-reaching as a pandemic, while many of the smaller churches obviously do not -- and UUFL is no exception.

I have been blessed with the time to visit and deepen my relationships with many UUFL members and friends during my tenure as your minister. One of the most important things I've heard from so many of you is there is a deep commitment to keeping UUFL open, welcoming, vibrant, and a bastion of liberal religion in Laramie. But in too many ways, we are still struggling with events from the past and so are in need of a new conversation and a new sense of adventure.

As an eternal optimist, I believe in UUFL and in all of you. I also know it is important we not shy away from challenging our comfort zones and the lure of what has worked in the past. The pandemic changed everything and so, today, we have a unique opportunity to find ways to talk about the future and what we need to do as stewards of this liberal church community.

And, as a member of a progressive, change-engaged UUA, we are not alone. UUFL's membership in the UUA includes access to many wonderful, new, innovative ideas and strategies generated from the most recent generation of emerging leaders. One of my favorite mantras is, 'a good leader works themselves out of a job.' We are all leaders here at UUFL and it's time to get busy. See you in church!

*Rev. Kee*



## Micro Musings of a Board Co-Chair

Rev. Sarah Schurr spoke at our pulpit on October 9; as the Pacific Western Region's Small Congregations Specialist she brought insights and ideas which have spurred conversations and questions and more ideas within our fellowship. Through those conversations, it has become apparent that we are not all working from the same information, especially regarding church finances, investments, and liabilities. At our October Board meeting we considered the need for an information-sharing meeting to provide data, answer questions, and clarify the processes entailed to change current investment structures. Please stay tuned as we work to schedule such a gathering this Fall. I, personally, would appreciate seeing everyone in a relaxed, perhaps even festive atmosphere, knowing that we will move forward from the same page. We have much to be thankful for!



Warmly,

*Linda Meeker*

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## UUFL Calendar of Events

David Perry maintains a current event calendar on the UUFL website ([uularامية.org](http://uularامية.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)).

## 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 9:30 am on Saturdays at the Fellowship. Our days of meeting at Harbon Park are over until next year. If you are interested in participating, e-mail [uularamieneews@gmail.com](mailto:uularamieneews@gmail.com) or drop by on a Saturday.

**New  
Time**

**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: [uularامية.org](http://uularامية.org)** For more news and events, and the latest updates!



## 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. However, 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**

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Please Join Us

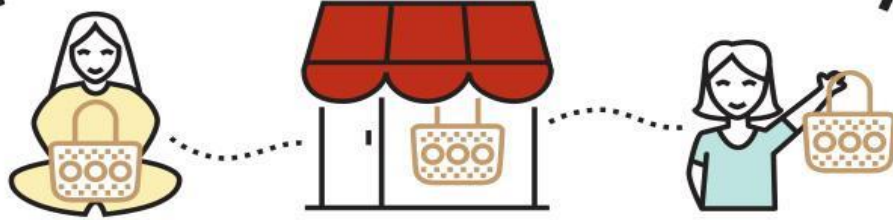
UUFL Thanksgiving Potluck  
Sunday, November 20, 5 pm



We want this to be a low-key event.  
Please bring a dish to share and your own place settings.  
We will not have a sign-up sheet for food.



# MAKER-TO-MARKET



**Spread blessings around the world when you shop your values at Laramie’s Ten Thousand Villages Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar on**

**Friday, Nov 11, from 4-6 pm, and Saturday, Nov. 12, from 9 am to 4 pm  
at the First United Methodist Church, 1215 East Gibbon (Harney St. entrance)**

Fair trade means that the makers of each item receive a living wage for their country and work in a safe environment. Your holiday gifts and decorations will help artisan families earn the income to recover from natural disasters (such as the earthquake in Haiti), to send their children to school, and to improve their shelters and health care. The long-standing relationships built between nonprofit Ten Thousand Villages and Third World artisan co-ops gives the artisans the opportunities, dignity and hope they need to achieve economic success.



Laramie’s Holiday Bazaar will include unique holiday decorations and ornaments, jewelry, warm hats, baskets, socks, paper goods, housewares, toys, coffee, chocolate, and many other beautiful handcrafted items!

Shoppers also will have the opportunity to purchase soap, socks and other useful items to be donated to Laramie Interfaith, our community’s general assistance nonprofit. Even if you don’t need more “stuff,” there are others who do!



ten thousand villages.