



UUCP News

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Palouse

June
2022

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Sunday Services — June 2022

June 5, 10:00 am

The Grace that Scorches

Service Leader: The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevens

On Pentecost Sunday, we'll use the ancient story as a jumping off point to reflect together on what we are called to do in the days to come.

June 12, 10:00 am

Service Sunday

Service Leader: All

After a very brief opening worship, offered both online and in person, we'll set to work cleaning, unpacking, and getting ready for our official re-opening. Those who aren't comfortable helping in person are invited to write letters to legislators or choose another way to serve others.

June 19, 10:00 am

Intergenerational Flower Communion

Service Leader: Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevens and Ginger Yoder, DFM

Our first full multi-platform service, with the sanctuary open and virtual participation welcomed, as well. We will celebrate being back in our beautiful building and explore this new way of being together.

June 26, 10:00 am

Sunday Morning Worship at the UUA's General Assembly

Service Leaders:

Rev.'s Gretchen Haley, Sean Neil-Barron, and Shari Halliday-Quan
Once a year, UU's across the country attend a single worship service as it's being presented at General Assembly. This powerful, communal worship experience will be live streamed both on Zoom and in the Sanctuary for those who would like to watch it with friends.

Grief Support Group

Grief comes to everyone at some point in life. If you are grieving, you are welcome to join our Grief group, which meets on the first Monday of the month from 6:00-7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Grief Group is taking a break for the summer, and will return in the fall, hopefully in person.

A Plea for Our Month of Sundays Program

We have been lucky to be able to meet virtually in this era of self-quarantine and social isolation. I want to remind you of our mission to minister to the needs of people in our community who are struggling in these times because of loss of income, food insufficiency because of loss of school lunches and breakfasts, loss of social services, illness and other things we can't even imagine. As part of our mission to be of help, we collect money every Sunday and give it to local agencies who work to meet these needs. Since we do not have a collection in our virtual services, we need to help by sending checks and cash to the church office to support our Month of Sundays program. Please indicate on your check or cash envelope that it is to go to the Month of Sundays program. Thank you for caring.

—Mary Jo Hamilton



Minister's Pages—Minister's Musings: Under Construction



The road to success is always under construction.
-Lily Tomlin

We are gearing up to move back into the building, but there are still lots of things on the list to fully finish (and furnish) it. Meanwhile, here at my home, they are about to begin the construction of a roundabout. I am looking forward to an entire summer of dust, noise, and detours. It reminds me of the saying: "Around here we have two seasons. Winter and Road Construction."

As human beings, we seem to be perpetually under construction as well. Life changes around us, and we have to grow, learn and adapt. We change, and our habits, practices, and self-image have to shift in tandem. My friend Dana is fond of talking about our constant battle against entropy. Doing nothing doesn't insulate us from having to change.

How does one become reconciled to a life that is constantly under construction, whether literally or figuratively? When it comes to actual construction, communication seems to be the key. One of the mistakes we made in planning the church renovation and expansion was neglecting to talk to our neighbors during the planning phase. We established clear lines of communication before construction started, but the damage to those relationships may already have been done.

Clear communication allows for people to set realistic expectations. The project managers for the roundabout stopped by my house the other day, and walked me through things like their work schedule, the traffic

revisions, and the changes to my property. There's no shortage of unknowns, but at least I have a start and end date, and I know how far I'll have to circle around when I want to go somewhere.

I must confess, I occasionally feel exhausted by the way my life and psyche are continually under construction, too. Much as I know that stasis isn't an option, I sometimes wish life came with a 'pause' button. Though it doesn't, we do. To survive and thrive, I need to press mine with some regularity. Rest and recuperation are essential.

What's more, we don't get to wait until everything is finished and perfect to rest. We need to learn to be comfortable- or at least accepting- of the fact that we are, by nature, continually under construction. Phill Simmons, in an essay entitled "Unfinished Houses," wrote:

Our houses, like our lives, will never be finished, never be settled. The only thing that will settle the affairs of this life is death itself. To be too settled in this life is, in Emerson's sense, to die while still living, to live a sort of death-in-life. Only so far as we are unsettled is there any hope for us. Let us remain unsettled, therefore, in order that we may truly live.

In this unsettled world, in this unsettling time, let's prioritize communication and rest. Let's stick together, accepting that chaos and entropy are all around us. Let's build lives that are meaningful and satisfying, not because of the end product, but because the process of being under construction has value all its own.

UUCP Staff Information

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevens, Minister

Office hours by appointment—to make an appointment, follow this link: calendly.com/revehstevens

Zoom Room #662-139-0963

Ginger Yoder, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration

Ginger.Allen@palouseuu.org

Monday & Wednesday 10:00-12:00, and by appointment

Ryan Urie, Family Ministries Assistant

Email: traigo12@gmail.com

Summer Stevens, Administrative Secretary — office now in the Methodist Church

Phone: 208-882-4328

Email: uuchurch@palouseuu.org

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 2:30-4:30, in the borrowed office at the Methodist Church; Monday, Wednesday, & Friday afternoons—working from home

Sam Welsh, Music Director *musicdirector@palouseuu.org*

2022 UUCP Board

President—Judy Brown

Vice President—Tom Woodrum

Recording Secretary—Ellery Blood

Fran Rodriguez

Hydee Becker

Kat Clancy

Duane DeTemple

Diane Prorak

Marcus Smith

Treasurers:

Judy LaLonde & Sue Engels



Minister's Pages—Church Chat: What to Expect After Reopening



In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity. – Sun Tzu

As we get closer and closer to reopening, the excitement builds. While I know I sound a little like a broken record, I want everyone to be prepared for continued messiness and change. The contractors will continue to work on finishing up the details (including painting the addition). It is going to take a while to get moved in, just as it does in our homes when we move. You know that period of time where you're figuring out where everything fits? Buying new pieces of furniture to suit the new space? Feeling overwhelmed by all the boxes?

That's going to be the UUCP, pretty much all summer.

Then there's the finances. We're still raising money, and while it's clear we are still a little short of paying for the whole project, it's unclear exactly how short we are going to be. There are a number of expenses (eg. furniture) that weren't in the initial budget. We probably won't know the final cost until we are almost to the end of the calendar year, when the building loan converts to a mortgage.

As if that weren't enough, Sam, Ginger and I are all taking some much needed vacation time in July.

You'll be navigating through the chaos and uncertainty without us. As volunteers and other staff members step into unfamiliar roles, I know you all will be gracious and kind. Human communities, including ours, are gloriously beautiful even when they are messy..

But don't worry. We're making space for celebration and fun. Save the date for a reopening dance party with the Senders: August 26! And of course, our first multi-platform service will be Flower Communion on June 19. I'll see you there- in person or on Zoom.

Reopening is a process, not a single event. And that process is probably going to last a full year. We'll have our formal building dedication next spring, and call ourselves officially moved in. In the meantime, please keep your knees soft and your expectations reasonable.

If you have questions, feel free to ask. Concerns? Maybe wait a while to see if they get addressed. We'll have plenty of opportunities in the fall to talk through how we want to inhabit our amazing new space.

Let's savor the sense of accomplishment, but also think about how each of us can pitch in so that we can finish strong. There's a lot of work yet to be done. How might you contribute? Though many hands make light work, it will take all of us offering something in the way of time, talent, or treasure to get 'er done.

Month of Sundays—Circles of Caring Adult Day Health

The Month of Sundays recipient for June is the Circles of Caring Adult Day Health Foundation. Adult Day Health provides social and therapeutic services for those with chronic illness and developmental disabilities, while allowing caregivers time off to work, do chores and rest. The overall goal of the program is to make it possible for adults living with dementia and chronic illness to be successful, safe, and surrounded by family and friends. The Foundation offers a unique day-use program that provides a safe, caring, and nurturing atmosphere for adults and elders. It also provides a wide range of services specialized to assist participants with their medical, social, and family needs, while improving or maintaining their physical, social, and cognitive functioning. They are located at 588 SE Bishop Blvd., Suite D, Pullman, WA 99613. Phone: 509-334-6483, email: info@circlesofcaring.org



Wholly Crones—Meeting Monthly on Zoom

Wholly Crones is a gathering of UUCP women of a certain age. We meet once a month, currently on Zoom, from 1:30-3:00 on the first Tuesday of the month. Contact Mary Jo Hamilton if you'd like to be added to the list to be invited. maryjomoscow@gmail.com.

The group has no formal structure. Our meetings begin with a quick check-in to catch up on each other's lives. If they wish, members volunteer to host a monthly meeting with ideas they select to discuss. Members of the group are also invited to add to our question jar, which contains questions that will lead to interesting discussions. We occasionally meet in person for a planned activity – going out to lunch is always popular.

We are a group of friendly “life-experienced women” who socialize and explore and discuss a variety of topics such as aging, decision making, women's issues, current events, medical care, priorities and spirituality in the second half of our lives. Anything is open for discussion.

You would be most welcome.

Family Ministries and RE – June 2022

UUs Go Camping, June 10-12, Southfork Clearwater Campground

Join your UU community for a summer campout along the beautiful South Fork of the Clearwater River. We have reserved the group site for up to 25 people and it includes a vault toilet, potable drinking water, a lazy river and a huge sandy beach. Perfect for playing, fishing, relaxing, and walking along the water. It is about a 2 hour drive (30ish min past Grangeville on Hwy 14). All are welcome to camp or to come just for a day to play. Please sign up using the signup genius here being sure to account for all members of your party.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4EAF2DABFC1-uucamping>

More information about the campsite be found here:

<https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/234446>

The group site is suitable for tent camping and I believe for RV parking (I'm checking on this, please contact me if you want to bring your RV). After our 25 person limit is reached there are other sites available but are first come, first serve, so we cannot promise a spot will be available. Contact Ginger Yoder for more information ginger.allen@gmail.com



Navigators USA Chapter 337 Launch Event!

Our new Navigators USA scouting group is holding our first event Sunday, June 5, from 2:00-5:00 (plus optional Dutch-oven dinner afterward). It will take place at Robinson County Park. Groups of children will work through a series of stations to learn vital outdoors skills like knot tying, map reading, plant identification, water purification, and first aid. If you would like to volunteer for this event or plan to attend, please contact Ryan Urie (ryan.urie@palouseuu.org). Thanks!

Ginger Yoder, Family Ministry Director

Home Office Hours: Monday and Weds 10-12; also available by appointment

Moscow-Pullman Meditation Group

The UUCP's Moscow/Pullman Meditation Group is currently using alternative meeting methods—contact Ryan Urie at ryan.urie@palouseuu.org!

You can learn more about us at nwmindfulness.wordpress.com or on Facebook at moscow / pullman meditation group. For questions, email Ryan Urie, group facilitator, at ryan.urie@palouseuu.org

Joining a meditation group can motivate you to maintain a consistent practice!



Message from the Board

I can't believe we're gearing up for our first hybrid service later this month. It will be so good to have people back in the sanctuary again. Even more so, with the upgrades to the audio/visual tech installed, we'll be able to continue supporting those members who wish to attend the services remotely.

On a personal note, this is a bit bittersweet for me as I recently found out that I'll be moving to Indiana for work. It's a temporary move, with me returning summer 2023, but it looks like I'll only get one or two services in the new building before I leave. Looks like I'll be making use of those tech upgrades. See you all on Zoom!

—Ellery Blood

Living the Seventh UU Principle: The World You Want Is Up to You

This is the time of year when the school year comes to a close and we start making plans for the summer months. What are you going to be doing? Will you be planting a garden? Will you be taking a trip? Will you be working on a special project? There are so many ways to spend the summer. Please take some time to share your plans with us.

—Pat Rathmann

Communication & Connection

How you say something matters—by word, vote, demeanor. An example: one may hear that we are a minority; why speak up or bother to vote. It is important to send a message, to be counted; to let those candidates, who've invested their platform and commitment, know you are listening and acting, even when they've small chance of winning. It's important to encourage those voices to step forward and be heard.

Demeanor says a lot about being heard effectively. Sometimes we speak like a resounding bell; sometimes a whisper hushes a crowd so it will listen. A genuine smile, the kind that crinkles your eyes and radiates throughout your body, can alleviate the anxious heart and soften attitudes. Standing with one's back up can alienate; standing straight and tall may invite respect. And words, as we well know, contain a slew of possibilities, both those gone awry and those evoking partnerships and overcoming polarity.

Context is relevant. Style collects attention. Clarity and openness can balance an equation. There is an art to communication, whether by moxie or calm, and an arc from integrity in a cause. It takes some doing to put our best foot forward in an appropriate shoe for the occasion. It takes more when stumbling blocks are put in the way. Then we could be left with shaking our heads, trying not to thumb our nose, but mostly, groping by toe and tread for a path forward. Often, we just don't know what to do.

Would that there were a fairy godmother with



magic slippers to dress us for the part. Unfortunately, some people rely on something like that and don't carry a share of the weight.

Nor does a fairytale exist in reality. Mostly we're left with tying our own shoe laces and trudging through an uneven terrain, hopefully

caravanning the load toward a better destination.

One can find tips from manuals and sages but the playbook largely feels like one grueling step after another.

What are we to do when the going gets rough, tough and not enough to go on, and with altogether mind-numbing and heart-stopping stuff? Well, it just may be uncharted territory with all too familiar pitfalls in the way. How do we watch out for them while still remaining available to positive surprises and resources and unexpected turns? Tricky. But possible. Keep walking. Keep talking. Smiling. Keep the channels open to all sides. And pick a good pair of shoes.

Durable. Supportive. Serviceable tread. And yes, head for parts not necessarily known. Compass in hand. Companions at hand. Purpose and poise in hand as best as can. Thus we caravan on. It's what we do. It's how to get there—together, because ultimately, it has to be together. How we reach out and reach toward others, ultimately, is reaching for our amalgamated selves. It'll take big feet to cover ground. Big heart. Big grace. An open path. Focus on the possibilities. And utilitarian shoes.

—Victoria Seever



 Want to volunteer with Family Promise of the Palouse? 

 The UUCP is not able to host families until we are back in our building. In the meantime, call 
 FPP at 208-882-0615 to ask about volunteering. There are lots of ways you can help support the 
 good work they do. 



Environmental Task Force June 2022

As we get ready for the summer months, we start making plans. One of the things are doing is joining forces with other local groups for various activities.

We will definitely be getting together again with the Food Coalition as we have done for the past several years. We always plan to support a speaker series with them for a series of public talks. There is a lot of interest in supporting a Bee City so look forward to some information on that. If that sparks your interest, please contact Pat Rathmann to get involved.

—Pat Rathmann

UUCP

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Palouse
PO Box 9342
Moscow, ID 83843

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Mail Pledge Payments to address above

General Church Information

UUCP Phone: 208-882-4328
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Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevens, Minister
Judy LaLonde, Treasurer: 208-882-3556

<http://www.palouseuu.org>

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