



UUCP News

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Palouse

May
2026

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May 3, 10:00 am

Zen for These Times: A UU Spiritual Practice

Service Leader: Rev. Janine Seitetsu Larsen

Celebrant: Nancy Nelson

Rev. Janine Seitetsu Larsen, ordained Zen Buddhist Priest and long-time UU, will share some of her discoveries in following the path of Zen as a Unitarian Universalist. Janine retired last June after 9 years on staff at University Unitarian Church in Seattle. For 12 years prior to that, she served the UUA as District Executive in the Pacific Northwest, and then on Regional Staff. Janine is a past president of the Woodinville UU Church, where she was an active member and lay leader for several years before joining UUC.

May 10, 10:00 am

On Unconditional Love

Service Leader: Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevens

Celebrant: Michelle Hazen

Every child is born worthy of perfect, unconditional love. Unfortunately, we who are available to love are human, so love and life are messy. Luckily, practice is what makes perfect...and how better to spend a life than to practice loving more fully?

May 17, 10:00 am

The Meaning of Home

Service Leaders: Ryan Urie and Nils Peterson

Home is our place of belonging, a place of memory and hope, the place where the stories of our lives play out. However, as housing has become unaffordable to more and more of the population, our communities have become less stable, more anonymous, and less able to provide a sense of belonging and meaning. How do we address our communities' need for both housing as a human right and home as a human necessity?

May 24, 10:00 am

Forward Through the Ages

Service Leader: Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevens

Celebrant: Zena Hartung

We build on foundations we did not lay. We warm ourselves by fires we did not light. We sit in the shade of trees we did not plant. We drink from wells we did not dig -Rev. Peter Raible

Last year, the UUCP lost its last remaining founding member, Coralie Borning. How do we keep her memory alive, along with memories of the other people who built and sustained our community for its first 80 years? Why is this important? And what shifts in us when we think of ourselves as future elders, building something for a generation of UU's not yet born?

May 31, 10:00 am

Bridging and Blessing

Service Leaders: Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevens and Ginger Yoder, DFF

Our annual service celebrating the growth and development of the children and young adults in our community. We'll celebrate transitions in the lives of our young people- from the youngest who are ready to shift from the nursery to RE classes through those graduating from High School.



Minister's Pages—Minister's Musings: Seasons of Love



*525,600 minutes...how do we measure a life?
How about love?
-from Rent, the musical, by Jonathan Larson*

The relationship between a congregation and its minister has frequently been compared to a marriage. You meet, you fall in love, you make a public commitment to stick together, and then the real work begins. At some point, whether through divorce or death, every relationship ends.

All of these seasons of love are alive within me. The infatuation stage began as soon as I clicked on UUCP's congregational record. I remember the day Joseph let me know that I was the first choice candidate for my first choice congregation. I told him I was over the moon; he said he'd give me a high five up there.

I remember the joyful moment when the congregation welcomed me back into the sanctuary after voting to call me, singing "Enter, Rejoice and Come In!" I made the choice to wait a while for a formal installation. I wanted the words we said to mean something, to be built on actual relationships. Who was there for the Installation Service in October of 2013? To my knowledge, it marked the first joint installation of a minister and a religious educator in the UUA.

While in some ways the honeymoon never ended, I do want to acknowledge that this community has moved through a lot of trauma and tragedy. I like to think my expertise in those areas helped us keep grow-

ing and deepening when things were hard and heartbreaking. I know the grace, generosity and wisdom I witnessed and experienced first hand from all of you helped me grow and deepen.

From the ways you lived our faith loudly in the public square, to the ways you wrapped around people in our midst who were struggling and needed support, this community exemplifies the best of what it means to be UU's. Structurally, we shifted from the 'pastoral' model, where the minister holds the center, to a 'program' model, where the ministries are truly shared. I still remember the holy moment when we installed the Lay Pastoral Ministers; thank goodness we did that before the pandemic, because that group, and the fact that the pastoral load was shared, were what got me through those two years.

Now it's time to move together into the last season of love—the season where we say goodbye to one another. This season can be a rich time. I'm not leaving until June 30th, so there is plenty of time for walks, lunch dates, cups of tea, laughter, tears and celebrations. We are going to do this right!

In the end, underneath all these seasons, these changes, anticipated and unexpected, there exists a tapestry of love and gratitude, of meaning and shared commitment. It holds us, warms us, and makes us stronger and softer, all at the same time. I am woven into the fabric of this place, and this place—and all of you-- are woven into me. I will carry you with me always.

Upcoming UUCP Board Meetings

The fourth Monday of every month, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, in the Third Floor meeting room and on Zoom:
May 14 (RE Art Room), June 22, July 27.

UUCP Staff Information

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevens, Minister

Please make an appointment at calendly.com/revehstevens or call 208-310-5937.

Ginger Yoder, Dir. of Lifespan Religious Exploration

Office hours: Monday 10:00-2:00

Summer Stevens, Administrative Secretary

Phone: 208-882-4328 Email: uuchurch@palouseuu.org
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10:00-2:00

Sam Welsh, Music Director

musicdirector@palouseuu.org

Ryan Urie, Building Manager

bldgmanager@palouseuu.org

2026 UUCP Board

President: Suzanne Seigneur
Vice President: Barbara Hellier
Secretary: Alexandra Broughton

David Nelson
Tom Salsbury
Donald Stanziano
Ashley Anderson
Pam Arborgreen
Sherry Caisley

Treasurer: Sue Engels



Minister's Pages—Church Chat: To-Do List



Things don't always tie up in a nice bow. Even when you make strides with people and relationships, it's complicated.
— Aaron Tveit

There are a few things on my list that I'm hoping to finish before I say a final goodbye. We finished the covenant (check!) and paid off the mortgage (check!) but I want to do what I can to ensure that the interim minister doesn't have to enter too many processes midstream. My departure also adds some things to our respective lists, including saying goodbye, which is a doozy.

On my end, I'm working with Barbara Hellier and the staff to update the personnel manual and job descriptions. My work with Bans Off Moscow will end with a bang on June 27th, with our second Diva Night fundraiser. (Hopefully also a celebration of successfully getting reproductive rights on the ballot). I am also on the Family Promise Capital Campaign committee, and while I definitely won't finish that task, I'm hoping to recruit at least a few donors from the UUCP before I go. (Let me know if you would like to be one of them).

Added to my to-do list are things like figuring out a move, something I've never done solo before, and church-related tasks like documenting things that I hold in my head that your next minister will need to know. With regards to the former, because moving

things is more expensive than buying new, I think I'm only going to take the things I really love with me. I'll be donating or selling a lot of things, including a baby grand piano that I am determined to find a good home for. (Please reach out with any leads).

Unexpected tasks added to your to-do list include things like selecting and welcoming an interim minister. The board has put together a committee to do the selecting, but the welcoming is an all-hands-on-deck kind of affair.

One of the things that I've found profoundly moving is the way pretty much all of your lay leaders, upon receiving news of my departure, pivoted almost immediately to figuring out how to support each other and the wider congregation. Sometimes we shy away from things that feel sad or hard, but I'd encourage you to also be present to feelings of loss, anger, or disappointment, as well, and to engage with me in ways that feel appropriate. If you want to process with someone else, the Committee on Ministry is holding two listening sessions. Details are in the weekly email, and the COM can open up additional opportunities if needed, so let us know. You can also reach out to any of the Lay Pastoral Ministers.

Of course, we'll also be celebrating! I've heard rumors of a party, and I'm looking forward to reading the notes in the memory book. Goodbye is saying thank you, so there will be plenty of time for appreciation and gratitude, flowing both ways.

Parking at UUCP

The 1912 Center asks that we check their calendar at <https://www.1912center.org/> and refrain from parking at the 1912 Center when there are events scheduled at the same time as UUCP Sunday services or other events.

When accessing the UUCP parking lot on the west side of the building, please **ONLY** use the driveway from Adams St. (beside the McConnell Mansion) and the Exit onto Second Street.

As a courtesy to our neighbors, please DO NOT use the alleyway from First Street to access the UUCP parking lot.

Reminder From Your UUCP Board

The Covid and flu season is upon us. If you think you might be getting sick, take advantage of the opportunities to participate by Zoom and stay away until you are well again.

We encourage everyone to wear a mask.

Masks are available at both entrances to the sanctuary should you arrive at church and find that you have forgotten to bring one.

Our Little Free Pantry Always Needs Donations!

The free little pantry out in front of the church has been a great success...so much so that we're running out of food to fill it with!

If you have nonperishable food or toiletries to donate, please leave them in the small basket just outside the Fellowship Hall (or just add them to the Free Pantry) so we can keep providing for our community.

Children are also invited to bring donations forward during the Sunday service. Thank you!

May 2026 RE News

Bridging – Honoring Transitions; Sunday, May 31

As the earth turns toward spring and summer we are planning our annual Bridging Sunday for church. This is the ceremony where we honor the transitions in our children and youth's lives (and often our own). We especially hold up our graduating seniors who are moving into young adulthood. **If you have a graduating senior please let me know if they would like to officially bridge.** I can give some more information about what that looks like and means in the life of the church if needed!

Middle and High Schooler SUUmer CON(frence); August 16-20, Lake CDA

Don't let this amazing opportunity go by! The only UU Summer sleepaway conference for youth in region is on Lake CDA this August. This is a life-changing experience for our youth! And, as summer is approaching fast, thus so is the deadline for signups! The final deadline for registering your rising 6th to graduating 12th grader is **July 19th**. However, for our church to plan scholarships, **please sign up your youth by May 31 if you wish to receive financial support.** We are making the commitment to give at least ½ scholarships for each participant, the cost then becomes \$287 each! Watch emails for the link, or contact Ginger.

CON Worship Creation with Rev. Elizabeth; Sunday May 31, 11:30-12:30

As hosts of this year's CON we are invited to create the opening worship experience. Rev. Elizabeth will guide us in creating a welcoming and spiritual experience that sets the tone for our time together at CON.

Middle and High Schoolers – Baking and Serving Mother's Day Treats Sat May 9 5:30-7:00 pm; Sun May 10 10:30 am

Join us for dinner followed by baking delicious treats for social hour after church on Mother's Day Weekend. We will have several to choose from (and you can send me your wishes and I'll buy ingredients). Then/or, come on Sunday to set out the desserts and serve them out during social hour.

Parent Night Out on hold for May

Due to the plethora of events in our congregation and larger community PNO will be hold for May.

Divorce Group; Monday, May 11, 7 pm

This caring group is for any and all who have been through a divorce, long term breakup, are in the process of uncoupling, or considering this path. We will meet to support one another in this often complicated journey. Childcare provided upon request. Rev E's office and on zoom. *Note this is the second and not the third Monday of the month!

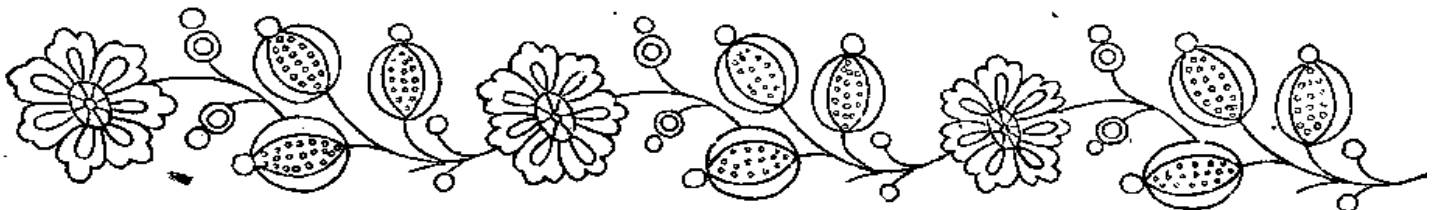
May 2026 Month of Sundays: Weekend Food for Kids

The May recipient of the Month of Sundays collection is Weekend Food for Kids. This program, which is provided by the Unitarian Church of the Palouse and St. Marks Episcopal Church, provides child-friendly food on weekends during the summer months when School District programs are not available.

This program is designed to target children from food-insecure households, but no child who wants a bag of food is turned away. The program started in 2014, when we distributed 25 bags of food per week for 10 weeks. In 2024 we distributed 952 bags of food in 11 weeks.

Food prices are rising dramatically. We are also able to provide fresh local fruit to the kids in collaboration with Backyard Harvest and other local fruit growers. This is a real treat for our kids.

Many thanks to all our volunteers who shop, pack bags, and distribute the food bags to the kids. Without their help, we could not do this. For more information, contact Mary Jo Hamilton, mar-yjomoscow@gmail.com.



Communication & Connection

Spring brings deep blue skies and lime bright greens, the earliest flowers and unfolding buds on woody stems. More sun, more bird song, and insects exiting the winter leaf litter. Sap flows, energy grows, and everyone comes out again. We clear the dusty ragged cobwebs and new tensile strands spin into crisp orbs that catch the dew. We awaken in May like seeds do while nests fill and windows open.



Connection with nature. Invigorating. Rife with living symbols and metaphors. Consider for example the flurry of wings, the singing of home-building among the trees where sticks are woven for nests suitable to fostering the next generation. Attended by both brilliant and simple ecru feathered birds. They flitter as bright patches of dancing color to attract and neutral colors to blend and brood. Songs, feathers, flight, and nests. Incubating and raising up new life. Heralding spring.

Nests are often overlooked as a tatter of twigs; perhaps a shell we spot but soon forgotten once the birds have flown. But nests are significant in themselves, even as messy as they seem. They have been renewed to cradle small globes that will crack to release gangling chicks, ever-hungry and vulnerable but safe within the twigs. The tiny house of twigs, softening fluff, and roofed by parental wings and chest. We are beguiled by the birds, yet there is also the marvel of the nest. And their metaphor.

Imagine picking up countless akimble sticks, left-over dead or broken live from wind; flying them up to

the forks and gaps of larger branches. With curious dexterity, weaving the whole jumble into a durable nest, holding firm for weeks or years. Broken bits designed into a new purpose, somehow unified by a mere foot and beak and the instinct to thrive. What might we take from this? Sometimes our lives, in a reverse of fortune or adverse politics or a crisis of soul, feel like a scattered pile of broken sticks, abandoned on the forest floor. Severed from roots or the reaching to sky. We seem lost in the litter. Apart from what we've known, what we were prepared for, what we were.

However, life finds a way. With a little help, say from a strong-winged bird or a standing-firm community, even the broken bits are gathered up and woven with renewed purpose. Salvaging the useful, weaving a creative structure, adding elements to secure and line a nest able to hold through storm and patience, until new life arises from that small community of surprisingly tough eggs. Along with the growing nests of many other trees. What was broken and discarded becomes a process in rebirth. And as the metaphor goes, in that woven connection, capturing the sky and soaring above, we rise to sing. From fracture and with care and focused intent, as a vibrant community of many elements, we incorporate better days into our persistent transformation. Sticks, storms, chicks, forests, hand to hand, and wing to sky, we will lift into the dawn of light.

—Victoria Seever

Love Is Our Prayer - National Day of Prayer Interfaith Gathering May 7, 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church

The Moscow Interfaith Association is responding to the sacred call to love one another by hosting an interfaith gathering entitled "Love is Our Prayer" to be held on May 7, the National Day of Prayer.

Neighbors from many faith traditions will come together at 7pm in the United Methodist Church of Moscow to celebrate the power of love at the heart of spiritual life. Through music and personal witness, they will affirm that love – not power – is the vital force that guides us to practice compassion, humility and care for one another. The program will include participation from nine different congregations and religious communities as well as audience participation. All are welcome to attend.

Through song and sacred readings from many faith traditions, we will affirm compassion, humility, and care for one another. We will commit ourselves to resisting hatred with courage, protecting the powerless, and choosing love in public life.

The Moscow Interfaith Association is made up of representatives from ten different denominations and organizations including United Methodist Church of Moscow, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church of Moscow, the Bahai Association, the Jewish Community of the Palouse, United Church of Moscow, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, R House, Zen Buddhists and the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Palouse. Their purpose includes charity, communication and outreach with a vision to create a community where people of all faiths are valued and appreciated and come together for the common good.

For more information, contact Nancy Nelson, nancy.nelson.moscow@gmail.com

What Did You Think of the Service? Shared Worship Team Collecting Feedback

What lifted you up in a church service? Did anything make you uncomfortable? What resonated with you? Is there anything you would change?

These are some of the questions members of the Shared Worship team will be asking you after services occasionally. We are calling them “Response Sundays” and you may have noticed the first one on Oct. 27. Small, colorful papers were handed out with two questions that Sunday and (hopefully!) you had a chance to fill one out. People on Zoom had a chance to participate in the Zoom Room following the service.

If you didn’t have a chance to answer the questions, but would like to, you can email Nancy Nelson at nancy.nelson.moscow@gmail.com.

We will use your answers to guide us as we continue to collaborate on services that lift us up and inspire us to live out our UU principles.

Look for another Response Day sometime this winter with new questions. Our plan is ask for feedback with the papers (and emails) four times a year.



Message from the Board—Upcoming Transition

Our church profile is now live on the UUA Ministerial Search website, and Interim Ministers have begun reviewing it. We expect to know by early May who is interested in serving the UUCP, with interviews to follow and a selection anticipated in early June.

In the meantime, the Board encourages you to make use of the resources available to help process this upcoming transition. A Zoom Listening Circle will be held on May 7 at 7:00 p.m. by the Committee on Ministry, members of the Lay Pastoral Ministry team are available for conversation and support, and Reverend Elizabeth will continue to hold office hours through June. If there are additional ways we can support you, please reach out to any Board member or email UUCPBoard@palouseuu.org. Your Board: Ash Anderson, Pamela Arborgreen, Alexandra Broughton, Sheri Caisley, Barbara Hellier, David Nelson, Tom Salsbury, Suzanne Seigneur, and Donald Stanziano.

Thank you, Suzanne

Young Adults Group

Are you over 21 and looking for an open community of love? Welcome to the UUCP Young Adults group.

We meet up every Sunday from 11:15-12:15 on the Balcony, to talk about different topics that affect us on a day-to-day basis. We create a space where everyone is welcome; regardless of race, gender, sexuality, faith, or ability.

Wholly Crones

Wholly Crones is a gathering of UUCP women of a certain age. We meet twice a month on the first and third Monday of the month from 1:30-3:00 pm in the 3rd Floor Meeting Room/Library at UUCP. Contact Mary Jo Hamilton if you’d like to be added to the e mail list. (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. 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.



April Board Meeting Summary



- The Buildings & Grounds Committee's current improvement project is building catwalks in the attic and adding more insulation to the attic.
- The Finance Committee would like to set a goal of putting 1%-2% of operating expenses into the Building Fund so the money will be there when it's needed for future expenses.
- RE is going well, with many new families & kids, and that some of them are participating in events outside of Sundays. It is hard to get childcare workers.
- Social Justice update - the Trans Inclusion class finished and they are hoping to expand it beyond UUCP and do a fully online session over the summer; they are sponsoring films at the Kenworthy; Peacekeepers is going well; Pullman Pride will be June 6; Bans Off will have a Diva Night at the Kenworthy on June 27; they are also working with other groups on ensuring free & fair elections.
- The Finance and Gift policy was unanimously accepted with minor wording changes - gifts over \$10,000 will be set aside for the Board to decide their disposition; smaller gifts will go into the "Uncategorized Income" account.
- The Finance Committee wants to establish Operating Reserves of around 3 months of expenses.
- The Ignite Grant Committee presented recommendations, which were unanimously approved.
- UUCP's profile is online for Interim Ministers to view; May 6-18 is the window for UUCP to look at the Interim Ministers who match with UUCP. The Board's regular May meeting is cancelled, & instead the Board will meet at 7:00 pm on May 14 to review the Interim Search Committee's evaluation of the candidates.

The Spring Chalice Lighter Call Ends June 30, 2026

The recipient of the Spring 2026 Cascadia Chalice Lighters Call is the **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks in Alaska**. This grant will assist the congregation in remediating black mold discovered last summer in their religious education spaces, including added drainage and mold removal. Providing a safe and comfortable space for the fellowship's growing youth population is a high priority, as they continue to work to attract young families. **Donations can be made** at <https://cascadiauu.org/chalice-lighters/current-cl-call-give-today/>

The Chalice Lighter program is a member-supported grant program that supports congregations throughout the PNW to enhance and expand their services or facilities. The UUCP has benefited multiple times over the last 25 years, most recently in 2024, and congregational participation is one criteria for grant eligibility.

More information, including how to make a donation is available at <https://cascadiauu.org/chalice-lighters/what-is-a-chalice-lighter/>

Feel free to reach out to **Jim Frenzel** with questions.

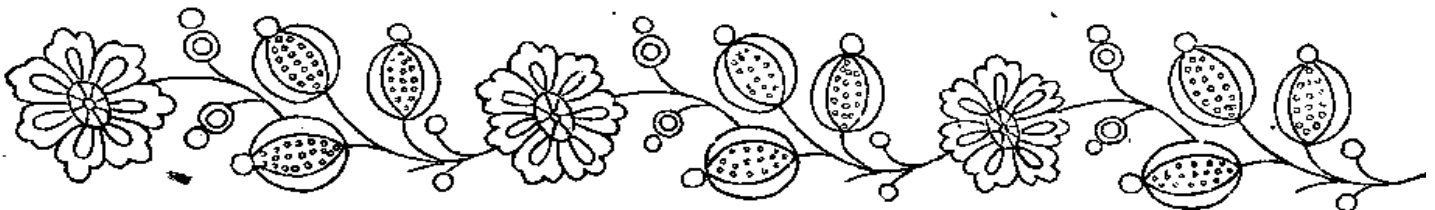
Food Recovery—FREE Food!

Every Friday @ 1:00 pm in the 1912 Center Art Room
(Occasionally in the UUCP Fellowship Hall, when the 1912 Center is not available)

►►► Bring Containers For Your Food ◄◄◄

(We **do not** provide containers)

We rescue food from a local buffet lunch and bring it to the 1912 Center for distribution. **Quantities vary and some items may run out.**



UUCP

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

Return Service Requested

Mail Pledge Payments to address above

General Church Information

UUCP Phone: 208-882-4328
Office Email: uuchurch@palouseuu.org
Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevens, Minister
Sue Engels, Treasurer

<http://www.palouseuu.org>

☐

REFUSED

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please check the box above and return.
We pay the postage. Thank you.

Would you like to receive email updates from the UUCP?

☐

Sign me up for the UUCP list, which receives notices of UUCP events, activities, etc.

☐

Sign me up for the Non-UUCP list, which receives notices of events, activities, etc. not directly related to the UUCP but of likely interest to our members and friends.

My email address is: _____
(please print clearly!)

☐

Please update my email address!

New email address: _____

Old email address: _____

Please print clearly.

Place in drop box into church office, email uuchurch@palouseuu.org,
OR mail to UUCP, PO Box 9342, Moscow, ID 83843