



UUCP News

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Palouse

June
2026

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June 7, 10:00 am

Table Church: Flower Communion

Service Leaders: Staff and Shared Worship Team

After the success of Cornbread Communion last November, we're now going to try using the same format for our annual Flower Communion service. Rather than sitting together in the sanctuary, we'll be dividing into small groups of 6-8 to sit at tables located all around the church building. Each table will have a worship leader, who will guide those seated together through a script that combines the usual elements of our service with opportunities for more intimate conversations. We'll have a special table for the most introverted among us, where you'll be invited to journal or make art rather than engaging in conversation. For this to work, we'd invite everyone to:

- Mix it up. Find a place to sit where there are people you don't already know.
- If you are hard of hearing, choose a table in one of our smaller spaces.
- Embrace the (hopefully slight) discomfort of doing something different.
- Bring a flower with you to share.

June 14, 10:00 am

Leaderless Movements

Service Leaders: Ryan Urie and Zena Hartung

Human organizations are often structured as hierarchies with empowered leaders at the top and obedient followers below. Nature, however, consists largely of self-organizing systems that achieve incredible things without any central authority or decision-maker. Let's explore how we can similarly self-organize for social change in ways that decenter authority and better reflect our values of equity, pluralism, interdependence, and democracy.

June 21, 10:00 am

Decolonize Your Mind

Service Leaders: The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevens

Euro-centric culture has us believing that certain things work in particular ways. But what happens when we release these paradigms and explore indigenous worldviews? Could we replace capitalism with a gift economy, for example? Or patriarchy with matriarchy? What about truly embracing the concept of Hétewit Wéetés, or "Precious Land"?

June 28, 10:00 am

Saying Goodbye Is Saying Thank You

Service Leaders: Rev. Elizabeth and Friends

Join us for Elizabeth's last service. There will be fabulous music provided by Jon and Rand, The Chelseas, and Will Fontaine, as well as brief reflections on the gifts given and received in our shared ministry.

Rev. Elizabeth's Fellowship and Farewell Potluck Picnic

Save the date, June 28! Join us for Rev. Elizabeth's Fellowship and Farewell Potluck Picnic at 11:30 a.m., immediately following the Sunday service on June 28 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Palouse. We'll continue the morning with music, food, and warm fellowship as we share stories and fond memories, offer our heartfelt gratitude for her ministry among us, and send her forward with our very best wishes for the journey ahead.

Everyone is welcome!



Minister's Pages—Minister's Musings: Legacies of Strength and Love



Sing out praises for the journey, pilgrims, we, who carry on, searchers in the soul's deep yearnings, like our forbears in their time. We seek out the spirit's wholeness in the endless human quest.

Look inside, your soul's the kindling of the hearth fire pilgrims knew. Find the spirit, always restless, find it in each mind and heart. Touch and hold that ancient yearning, kindling for a newfound truth.

Stand we now upon the threshold, facing futures yet unknown. Hearth behind us, wayside hostel built by those who knew wild roads. Guard we e'er their sacred embers carried in our minds and hearts. (Singing the Living Tradition, Hymn #295)

I once stayed in the "Rev. Mark Mosher-DeWolfe" room at the "Elliott and Pickett House," a Bed and Breakfast in Boston that was owned by the Unitarian Universalist Association and used to house visiting dignitaries, or, in my case, committee members, back before the association moved its headquarters to the Back Bay. Mark was a young, openly gay UU minister who died tragically of AIDS in 1988. He is also the author of "Sing Out Praises for the Journey," which I share above.

A brief biography of Mark hangs on the wall in the room where I stayed. The last line is particularly poignant. Speaking of his final ministry, it says he served his congregation "with love and strength." I can't imagine a lovelier epitaph.

Serving as your minister has taught me so much about love and strength, and I am so grateful for all

I've learned. I am incredibly privileged to have walked with you in times of sorrow, and to have listened to your stories of pain and loss. I have held your hand in the hospital, helped you say goodbye to those you loved, and held you when you cried. You taught me that when I let my heart break, it heals in such a way that it can hold more. To all of you who let me love you when you were hurting, thank you.

I have celebrated with you, rejoicing in your accomplishments, sharing holidays, establishing new traditions and honoring old ones. I have blessed your babies; I have made music and I have made merry alongside you. I've hiked and cooked and made art and played games with you. To all of you laughed and frolicked and worshipped with me, thank you.

The strength of a community doesn't reside in a single person. Rather, it lives in networks of connection and dedication. Individuals contribute as they can, to strengthen and sustain a place, a people, a philosophy of life. To all of you who contributed to UUCP by volunteering, offering advice or expertise, donating money, time, or supplies, or simply being present and being who you are, thank you.

To be allowed to love so many unique and amazing human beings has been a gift beyond measure. I am braver and stronger, but also wiser and more fully myself because of you. I will carry the memories of our time together always. Each of you is woven inextricably into my mind and heart. To all of you who let me be your minister, thank you.

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:
June 22, July 27, August 24.

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: Boundaries (drat it all)



The relationship of minister and parishioner has the qualities of a friendship, but no matter how warm and deep, authentic and reciprocal the relationship is it is not a sustainable friendship... when our ministries come to an end so must the relationships, lest we take up space the next ministry needs if it is to take root.

--The Rev. Mark Morrison Reed, in his Berry Street Address, "After Running Through the Thistles, the Hard Part Begins"

Once I conclude my ministry on June 30th, professional ethics demand that I hold a strict boundary. You won't get any emails, phone calls, texts, or Facebook messages from me, and I won't answer any from you. If we bump into each other in town somewhere, you don't have to pretend not to see me, but I won't linger or chat. Most importantly, I won't talk about church, or offer pastoral care.

I am a person in a role, and as a person, I have formed real and deep connections. I've become embedded in the community, and I've been nurtured, challenged, and transformed. It's not that I don't want to stay in touch.

However, I believe that the role matters, and my

presence in your life, however small and distant, might get in the way of you bonding with the people who will step into the role after I go. I could tell you horror stories of ministers who sabotaged their successors and so, the congregations they served, by yielding to the impulse to prioritize what they as a person wanted over the responsibilities of the role. I don't want to do that.

Once your relationship with your new minister has solidified, sometimes a little more leeway to re-connect simply as people who knew each other once and care about each other still. If you travel to Raleigh, we might grab a meal. Or maybe I'll swing through the Palouse on a Western road trip someday.

This may be the hardest part of my job. Certainly, it feels that way right now. I've always been better at loving than letting go, and letting go of all of you at the same time hurts like the dickens.

That said, I trust that you are in good hands going forward. Meanwhile, you can trust that I will take everything you've taught me and put it to good use. You can also trust that I have, as always, an incredible network of friends and colleagues supporting me through this transition. Change is hard, but we will be okay!

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.

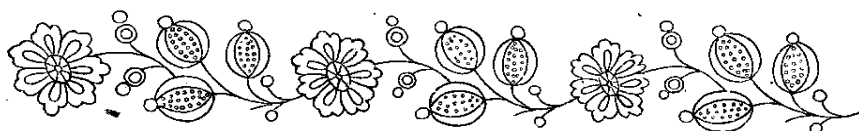
Masks are available at both entrances to the sanctuary should you arrive at church and find that you have forgotten to bring one.

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!





Message from the Board—Welcome Rev. Shelly Thompson!

Rev. Shelly Thompson, she/her, will join our congregation as Interim Minister beginning August 1.

We are delighted to welcome her to our church community. Rev. Shelly is known for her warm, engaging, and supportive approach to ministry. She brings a compassionate pastoral presence, deep listening skills, and a collaborative spirit that helps congregations navigate times of transition with care, clarity, and hope.

Ordained in 2018, Rev. Shelly received Preliminary Fellowship within the Unitarian Universalist Association the same year. She completed her Master of Divinity degree in 2016 at Meadville Lombard Theological School, a Unitarian Universalist seminary in Chicago. Her additional professional training and experience includes transitional ministry, multiculturalism, congregational spiritual direction, sexuality education facilitation, anti-racism work, and community organizing.

Rev. Shelly brings extensive experience in interim ministry, faith formation, membership development, pastoral care, and collaborative leadership. Since entering ordained ministry, she has served congregations in multiple interim ministry roles as well as positions focused on faith formation and membership ministry.

Rev. Shelly also holds a Masters degree in counseling psychology, along with a B.A. in psychology and expressive arts.

Before entering ministry, she worked in counseling and social service settings supporting at-risk youth and families. These experiences continue to shape her thoughtful, systems-oriented approach to ministry and her commitment to compassionate care.

As an interim minister, Rev. Thompson is especially committed to helping congregations strengthen relationships, deepen shared ministry, and move thoughtfully through periods of change. We look forward to welcoming her into the life of our congregation this August.

—Suzanne Seigneur

June 2026 RE News

UU Asynchrony:

A support group for parents and those with close relationships with neurodiverse children

Second Mondays of Each Month, 7-8:30 pm

June 8th, UU Church of the Palouse Ministers Office

Asynchrony is a support group to learn more about neurodiversity in our children and ourselves. As parents and educators we share how to best support our kids, our experiences, and view resources. Together we will listen, gain understanding, empathy, and become more supportive of our children. Open to members/friends of the UUCP and to the public community.

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! Here is the link.

<https://cryptpad.fr/form/#/2/form/view/4Dq3157k62TQd6-NgodmH0oRTA64YqwqlTNowibm-VQ/embed/>

Divorce Group, Monday, June 15, 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!

Communication & Connection



As per a Google search (condensed), in Communication, a connection is the emotional or logical bond that occurs when individuals actively exchange and understand information. Connection is the resonance that builds meaningful relationship. Some key elements in this integrated definition include durability over time and deep listening by shifting your attention to the other with openness and empathy.

Connections are as infinite as the stars. Cultures see stars as patterns of stories told, as guides to new journeys, as symbols of endurance. They can be seen on a flag or in the twinkle of a mischievous eye or as a puffy mobile over a crib. And like infinite stars, our lives are built and flourish in the connections: a constellation of star to star, story to story, and the circuitry within and between them.

Sometimes an event can break or distance those symbols of well-lit connection. Things happen. Loss, misunderstanding, divergent routes, and even the natural order of things. Things change. Does that mean that the meaning behind those connections falls away? Or do they remain within us as an inseparable part of us? Even the bad connections we wish had never occurred can be fodder for growth and resilience. But mostly we deem the things we hold dear as the connections that infuse us with purpose, gratitude, and mutuality.

When things are tough and we or others are vulnerable, we reach out to connect and draw upon the wisdom we've discovered in each other. A hand may be as close as our fingertips in the lessons shared and the richness of memories even when that hand is far away. We connect. We congregate. We embrace the stranger. We find a home in each other. A fractured

nation yearns for healing and unification. Neighbors choose not to isolate and come together to put out a fire. It's the favorite teachers and grade school pals and youthful fantasies vibrating in our histories. It's in the overcoming of family feuds and having friends we can talk to for hours who haven't been seen in decades. Connections. Reflected in a sea of starry aspects.

Many many stars. All kinds of narratives. Local and global. Faction, fraction, whole, holy, diverse, interconnected, transformative. The love and the impulse for love are never forgotten and are carried on and onward. Whatever the changes or disappointments, the shifting spheres, the reappointments to another time and place, we maintain the substance of what we've grown together and into. Even in gnarly opposition, there's something in common we speak to. In the scatter of stars, it's how we connect the dots to envision the constellations, to lift a story across the sky. So again, do the threads which are so interwoven, extensive, passing every which way through time, does anything cherished actually fall away?

So too to say, when a beloved reverend re-locates across the country, follows another star, is she not still here in all of us as part of us, in our binding over 14 years? Alive in more ways than memories. A beating in our pulse and we in hers. Present in aspirations for a better world and thriving stories. Reverend Elizabeth, forever beloved as a star in our constellation. The leadership and compassion, ever-bright. Best wishes on a star, here and in Raleigh and everywhere. All ever-connected. All of it at hand in our hearts.

—Victoria Seever

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.

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.

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.



June 2026 Month of Sundays: Latah Recovery Center

The June Month of Sunday recipient is the Latah Recovery Center. The LRC, located in downtown Moscow, opened in 2015 and has proven to be a valuable addition to our community. They work with people to engage in recovery from addictions and behavioral health disorders through peer-to-peer interaction and evidence-based practices to promote a healthy community.

Free Services Provided:

- Recovery coaching and peer support. Our trained coaches have lived experience with mental health and addiction issues. They are here to help you navigate these issues and develop a recovery wellness plan.
- They offer 25-30 recovery support, educational and social groups per week.
- Harm Reduction-This service includes free condoms, and naran.
- Rural Crisis Center Network-24/7/365 behavioral health crisis support.
- Vandal Recovery-Services for University of Idaho students.
- Recovery Radio-Check out their podcast!
- Latah County Jail Re-Entry Program-Help for the incarcerated as they transition back into society.
- They administer two alcohol- and drug-free residences, one for men and one for women, for people recovering from addictions.

The LRC has expanded to a second facility in Pullman. For more information check their website <https://latahrecoverycenter.org/>.

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.



May Board Meeting Summary



There was no regular Board meeting in May. The next Board meeting will be June 22.

UU Asynchrony:

A support group for parents and those with close relationships with neurodiverse children

Second Monday of Each Month, 7-8:30 pm; June 8th, UU Church of the Palouse Ministers Office

Asynchrony is a support group to learn more about neurodiversity in our children and ourselves. As parents and educators we share how to best support our kids, our experiences, and view resources. Together we will listen, gain understanding, empathy, and become more supportive of our children. Open to members/friends of the UUCP and to the public community.

Hosted by Ginger Yoder and Kirsten LaPagila

Ginger Yoder, Director of Faith Formation at the UU Church of the Palouse. With a background in child development and early childhood education she brings a holistic, family-systems perspective to supporting neurodiverse children and their caregivers.

Kirsten LaPagila has experience in designing education for youth with their various neurodiversities for over twenty years. Her academic focus is on the motivation to engage in learning, particularly STEM learning.

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.**

Affordable Housing Project Pullman Elm St Townhouses

The Elm St Townhouses are being planned for a lot at the corner of West Main and Elm St in Pullman. The timeline is still in flux, but the following is tentatively anticipated:

End of May 2026 – Close purchase of land

July—Sept. — Site work

Oct. — Foundations

Completion of construction – May 2027

Home sales — June 2027

The buyer's household income must be below 80% AMI (see below).

1 person: \$57,750

2 people: \$66,000

3 people: \$74,250

4 people: \$82,500

The houses are 1200 square feet, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. The building is two stories, with one accessible bedroom and bath on the main floor and two bedrooms and the second bath upstairs. There will be no stair barrier to entry and the front door will be extra wide to facilitate a wheelchair user.

The homes will come complete with kitchen appliances and washer and dryer. Some of the funding for the project will require that the buyer put in 60 hours of sweat equity labor. Tasks will probably include landscaping around the house and some interior painting.

The Trust needs to sell the houses quickly—if you are interested or know someone who might be interested, please contact Nils Peterson.



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>

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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