

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship ~ BUF.org

Community, Compassion, Commitment

August 25, 2021

Highlights – In this issue

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Sunday Service Zoom Link: Meeting ID
738 363 620 Worship starts at 10:20am

<https://zoom.us/j/738363620> Passcode
is **BUF** Phone: (669) 900-6833

Message from Paul

With news this week that Whatcom County has not yet seen the peak of this new covid surge, I'm feeling discouraged. I had so fondly anticipated seeing you in person again soon. There's a note elsewhere in today's MidWeek Update from the BUF covid task force about our short-term plans. You can anticipate regular updates in the MWU (which resumes its weekly schedule September 8th).



For now, I'd like to share with you a prayer written by my colleague, Rev Melissa Carvill Ziemer:

Nurturing Beloved Community (adapted)

There are things we could not (or would not have wanted) to imagine

Decades ago, or just a few years ago, or even months and weeks ago

we might not have anticipated

the tragic trajectory of this global pandemic

or the heartbreaking, terrifying end of the war in Afghanistan.

Everywhere people are traumatized, directly or secondarily.

The sources of trauma are too many to count and too easy, too.

The world is burning

except where it is flooding.

We keep having to calculate risk

and just when it seems we might have completed our calculations

the equation changes again.

It is just too much!

Holy One, Beloved, Great Mystery,

Spirit of Life and Love and Truth and Justice,

Dear God of many names

Be a near presence

so we can rest in your eternal embrace whenever we need.

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*Remind us to turn toward one another too
so that we might help one another
by sharing one another's joys and sorrows.
Help us tune in to the beauty of our world,
and the little joys,
and the beautiful ways people resist
destruction and empire,
and the countless, enduring natural wonders
all around us
so that our cups might be filled
and we can taste the sweetness that abides.*

*Then,
when we turn again to the work of
caring for your creation,
nurturing beloved community and
reminding people of your love
with our presence and our compassion:*

*with our words and our actions
may we be blessed in our labors.
And may we know our labors are truly a
blessing.*

Amen to that, and blessings to you all,

Paul

Upcoming Sunday – Outdoor Service @ BUF

For September 5th and 12th (we have not made plans beyond this) we'll be meeting outdoors in front of BUF. We'll keep the parking lot open so that people can spread out, so please plan to park in the school, or the bank, which are on either side of us on Ellsworth Street. Please bring your own chair.



Sunday Services in September

All services will be live-streamed on Zoom

Aug 29 Love and Unity: The Principles as Pillars of Our UU Faith – Rev Barbara ten Hove

Sept 5 Outdoors! Animal Blessings bring your animal friends, companions, and pets. For special animals who have died, or those who would be unwieldy, bring photos or collars.... Bring stuffed/toy animals too...as long as they're friendly. Please only bring animals that are leashed or contained, certain to be sociable, along with waste bags to clean up as needed.

Sept 12 Outdoors! Water Communion, please bring a bit of water representing a recent experience, insight, or event. During the Water Communion each of us will have an opportunity to comingle our waters in a common bowl to represent our interdependence and connection with the natural cycles of earth and sky.

***Empathy is the most
radical of human emotions
– Gloria Steinem***

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BUF Covid Task Force Resumes Weekly Meetings

The BUF Covid Task Force has resumed its weekly meetings to determine strategies for reopening activities at BUF. On August 19, UUA released new guidelines <https://www.uua.org/pandemics/gathering-guidance> for reopening, which are being evaluated by the BUF Task Force. In addition, the task force is assessing input from UU Administrators and American Choral Directors Association. BUF Task Force is considering a Town Hall meeting and/or a survey of the congregation to solicit input from our members.

At their recent meeting they approved a proposal by Kevin Allen-Schmid to resume choir rehearsal in the sanctuary with restrictions (see Rehearsal article below). BUF has submitted documents to the City of Bellingham to secure permits to proceed with the ventilation upgrades, previously approved by the congregation. While not directly tied to the reopening plan, the construction work may impact the availability of the sanctuary for services. Stay tuned for more updates!

BUF Choir Resumes Rehearsals – Where the Spirit Sings

Kevin Allen-Schmid, BUF Music Director kevin@buf.org

The Covid Task Force gave Kevin Allen-Schmid the go-ahead to begin Fall Choir rehearsals in the sanctuary. Conditions for those participating are a) you must be fully vaccinated and b) all choir participants and accompanists will wear masks (per state mandate). While in both indoor and outdoor rehearsals or performances, individual singers may choose to sit or stand at whatever distance from the others is comfortable for them. When and how choirs may resume performing for indoor or outdoor services will be announced as the year unfolds.



Our coming season will be called “**Where the Spirit Sings,**” and our ultimate aim is to nurture and share our spiritual wellbeing through singing and playing *in person* in the 2021-2022 fellowship year.

Chalice Choir, open to all singers, will meet weekly on Wednesdays from 6:45-8pm, in person, in the BUF sanctuary, starting on **September 8**. The auditioned Phoenix Ensemble will rehearse from 8:15 to 9pm. Information about Treble Voices will be announced soon. Special music offerings of all kinds are welcome throughout the year, both in video and live format. No Zoom choir rehearsals are planned at this time.

I so look forward to our coming year of singing and playing together, in full voice and spirit! Please contact me with any questions or suggestions. kevin@buf.org

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August 30, Taizé Returns to Zoom Only

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/753181200>

Meeting passcode: **BUF**



Given the rise in the number of people in Whatcom County with Covid 19 plus an impending surge predicted in the next 2-4 weeks, we have decided for the safety of all, and especially the most vulnerable among us, to return to Zoom only for this service. The additional **August 30th** service replaces the service that falls on September's Labor Day. We'll be back in touch to let you know what to expect for our October service.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org

Intro to Anti-Racism Facilitated Workshop September/October 2021

WHAT: BUF & UU Blaine and Mt Vernon joined forces to create this exciting opportunity to move us all towards a more inclusive, anti-racist, multicultural transformed society. Facilitated by Courtney Wooten, an experienced anti-racism trainer and owner of Suburbia Rising. <https://www.suburbiarising.com>. Pacific Northwest Unitarian Universalist Growth Foundation supplied a grant to cover most of the cost.

WHO: With 30 openings, this is for ANYONE from all three UU fellowships, not just members of Black Lives Matter or Widening the Circle.

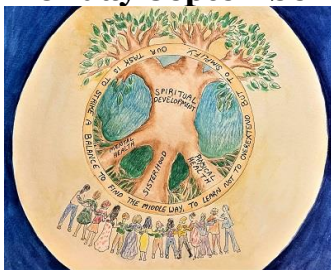
WHEN: Via Zoom, on three Saturday mornings, 9/25, 10/2, & 10/9. Each workshop will last 2-3 hrs. Plan to attend all 3 sessions.

COST: \$50 per person. Scholarships available. If you can't attend but want to support this workshop let us know!

SIGN ME UP! Interested? Have Questions? Email Naomi Gary naomiwwgary@gmail.com Deadline is 9/18/21

Women's Full Moon Circle – SAVE THE DATE

Monday September 20, 7:00 – 7:45 p.m.



Inviting all female-identified BUF members and friends of all ages to gather for this brief, outdoor, Full Harvest Moon/Fall Equinox gathering. Because we'd like this to be a safe event for those who are extra vulnerable we ask that you be fully vaccinated and wear a mask. This event is hosted by Lisa Moss, Rev. Tessie Mandeville, Anastacia Lundholm, Steffany Raynes, and Carrie Koehline. Details coming soon.

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**BUF SEJC Special Collection – September 2021: Humanitas Ministry
– Jane Ronca Washburn**



The mission of the Humanitas Ministry is to provide support to people in need, in a safe, warm and non-judgmental atmosphere. Since 2013, we have listened carefully to their stories, and offered financial assistance and referrals to other churches and community agencies as needed. In addition to BUF, as part of a faith community we work in partnership with St. Paul's Episcopal Church Alms Ministry, Assumption Catholic Church (Hope House), the Ministry of St. Vincent de Paul and

Hillcrest Church. We are an integral part of Bellingham's Community Resource Network.

When BUF closed its building in March 2020 because of Covid, Humanitas needed to think outside the box to keep the ministry functioning. We took a couple of weeks to organize to provide a telephone hotline, a specifically-designed website for aid applications, text/email for additional information, and distribution of vouchers/checks via the US mail. On Wednesday, September 15 2021 the masked ministry team plans to return to BUF to welcome people in need. We will describe more of our journey at the BUF Special Collection for the Humanitas Ministry on Sunday, September 19, 2021.

Call For Social & Environmental Justice (SEJC) Agenda Items

Those in the congregation who wish to discuss or share an item with SEJC, or who have a request for SEJC to consider, now is your chance! We have two zoom meetings coming up:
Program meeting Sept 12th 12-2pm and
Business meeting Sept 26th 12-2 pm (for all decisions plus management - administration of SEJC)

SEJC Mission
We affirm and promote peace, justice, and equality through action, education and raising awareness within our BUF community and the wider world.

Interested in SEJC? We especially welcome you to attend the Sept 12th meeting, which will include updates from all the SEJC Ministry Action Teams, and will include time for introduction of, and questions from, newcomers.

Agenda item requests are due by Sept 4th and should include; 1) Which meeting (program or business), 2) How much time/who is leading item, 3) Whether a decision and/or financial expenditure is required

Thank you everyone! :) Kara Black karab@treefrognight.com 360-676-2300

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers Wanted as Livestreaming Continues

We have a strong (mostly volunteer) crew working each week to ensure that BUF services are accessible to all regardless of their location and mobility. Some work on site at BUF, others far away. It's a rewarding opportunity to assist in BUF outreach from behind the scenes. To keep these volunteers' schedules manageable, we would be very grateful for more people to join us. Some of the work is technical and fast paced, but some is relatively straightforward and can be done in advance. In all cases, thorough training will be provided. Please contact minister@buf.org if you'd like to help.

BUF Caring Team

We are changing the name of BUF's Pastoral Care Team to **BUF's Caring Team** in order to clarify our mission and serve more members and friends. Collaborating with our Minister, the team works to provide a ministry of support, hope and caring so that no one in the congregation feels alone in difficult times in their life.

Our main areas of service include:

a) providing a listening PRESENCE: one to one conversations - in person, on the phone, and/or on zoom/FT. (examples: personal support in time of loss or times of family, health, or spiritual crisis) b) responding to NEEDS: short term assistance (examples: meals during illness or during recovery after surgery, assistance finding community resources). c) organizing MEMORIAL SERVICE receptions.

We need caring volunteers!!! Each of us will need support at some time and each of us can offer support. Training will be provided, expertise not required. You can designate what kind of assistance you wish to provide. Training and support will be provided.

Email caring@buf.org or call Steffany Raynes (206-465-6149) to respond to this invitation.

Welcome Culture – Barbara Ellis-Quinn

As the new church year begins we will be working toward creating a congregation-wide culture of welcoming and hospitality. We want everyone to join this effort. Two outdoor services are planned on Sept 5 and 12 and Greeters are needed to hand out Orders of Service and direct people to seating or standing areas in front of BUF's main entrance. Please join us by registering for the Sunday Hospitality Sign-up Genius volunteer list. If you are already registered you don't need to do anything. However, if you want to be a part of helping to strengthen BUF's welcoming culture please email me at Dr_E_Q@me.com. I will send you an invitation to create an account and join our hospitality group.

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Volunteers needed for Religious Education to help with pre-school, K-4 grade, and 5th-8th classes. If you enjoy children, being a part of a dedicated team, learning and teaching about what makes us Unitarian Universalists, art, drama or storytelling, then this is the place for you! Curriculum will be provided. Contact me at genia@BUF.org

Volunteers Appreciated – Workers and Painters Needed

With help from [Liam Reynolds](#), [Lew Phinney](#) and [Asko Hamalainen](#) we have transformed the Witter “closet” into a working meeting room. Thanks. We are **currently seeking volunteers to help paint** the conference room. As with any facility, there are also ongoing tasks like tidying and organizing storage areas. There are many other opportunities and projects that volunteers can help. E-mail Jim Reimer at jd.reimer@comcast.net for more information.

A Piece of Web Surfing

INSPIRATION –

Playing with the Moon submitted by RuthAnn Hanlin



Canada - Playing
with The Moon (1).mp

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UPCOMING EVENTS / CALENDAR		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
Aug 30	7:00 pm	Taize –Zoom Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/753181200 Meeting passcode: BUF
Sep 8	6:45 - 8:00 pm	BUF Chalice Choir Rehearsal – BUF Sanctuary – Masks and Full Vaccine Mandatory
Sep 8	8:15 pm- 9:00 pm	BUF Phoenix Ensemble Rehearsal – BUF Sanctuary – Masks and Full Vaccine Mandatory
Sep 12	12:00 - 2:00 pm	Social & Environmental Justice Program Meeting Contact Kara Black Kara Black karab@treefrognight.com 360-676-2300
Sep 13 NEW DATE	6:00 – 7:00 pm	BUF Black Lives Matters Monthly Business Meeting Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/96292952504
Sep 20	7:00- 7:45 pm	Women’s Full Moon Circle
Sep 20	7:00 pm	BUF Black Lives Matters – Program Meeting https://zoom.us/j/96292952504
Sep 25	Morning	Anti-Racism Training (3 parts) Contact Naomi Gary for questions or to register naomiwwgary@gmail.com Deadline is 9/18/21
Sep 26	12:00- 2:00 pm	Social & Environmental Justice Business Meeting Contact Kara Black Kara Black karab@treefrognight.com 360-676-2300
Oct 2	Morning	Anti-Racism Training (Part 2)
Oct 4	6:00 – 7:00 pm	BUF Black Lives Matters Monthly Business Meeting https://zoom.us/j/96292952504 Meeting ID: 962 9295 2504 Passcode: BUF
Oct 9	Morning	Anti-Racism Training (Part 3)

A Piece of Web Surfing

Just for Laughs - Submitted by RuthAnn Hanlin



Stairs vs. escalator
VID-20180421-WA00

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BUF Mission

We the members of the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship (BUF) are a liberal religious community which values the diversity of individuals and affirms Unitarian Universalist principles. As a community we aspire to provide a creative and nurturing environment where social, spiritual and personal development are encouraged and acknowledged. Therefore, we celebrate in ritual, music, art literature and humor; and we endeavor to teach, to learn, and to serve both our community and the world.



BUF's website is BUF.org. Contact us by email at admin@buf.org Phone 360-733-3837.

Sign up for our online newsletter, the Midweek Update at <https://wp.buf.org/news/communication-sign-ups/> Sign up for BUF News Digest at <https://wp.buf.org/news/communication-sign-ups/> (photo by Carol Sheppard Photography)

BUF Board of Trustees and Officers

Open, President - John Stewart, Secretary - Sky Hedman, Treasurer, ex officio, - Melissa E. Swift, Trustee - Daria Haynes, Trustee - Drew Betz, Vice President - Alex Gilman, Trustee - Sarah Pearson, Trustee - Lew Phinney, Trustee - Henry Ohana, Trustee - Rev. Paul Beckel, ex officio

Spring Office Hours at BUF

Building Closed till further notice due to Covid-19 Emergency

Phone messages and emails checked regularly

Minister's Schedule
Tuesday through Friday