

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

October 27, 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

Come on in for Halloween!

We're excited to begin gathering in person this coming Sunday, October 31.



Thanks to your generosity, we've been able to complete the installation of a ventilation system that exchanges the air of the entire sanctuary every twenty minutes.

Air filtration has also been improved in other parts of the building. Still, there are precautions that we will be taking so that, together, we can help stop the spread of covid.

- Everyone who attends in person Sunday services must be vaccinated.
- Unfortunately, our vaccine requirement means that children under 12 will not yet be able to attend. We are holding outdoor and online activities for children on some weekdays and Saturdays. Please contact Genia Allen-Schmid, our Director of Lifelong Learning, for more info: genia@buf.org
- Everyone must wear a mask inside the building at all times. *(If you forget to bring a mask, we can provide one).*
- The Sanctuary is set up for social distancing. The original capacity of the sanctuary is 250 and with distancing, we can accommodate 50-100, depending on how people arrange themselves and how many sit in family pods. There is also "overflow" seating in the social hall, if we aren't able to seat everyone in the sanctuary. there will be more (distanced) seating (and a large TV livestreaming on Zoom, with subtitles).
- Please sign-in when you enter, should contact tracing become necessary. All we need is your name, phone or email.
- Singing this coming Sunday will be limited to the (masked) choir, except we'll all (masked) sing Circle 'Round. For now, let's plan to not hold hands during Circle 'Round.
- We hope to resume coffee hour after services in the coming weeks. For now, there be no gathering inside the building after the service.

Cowabunga!!

Paul

SUNDAY SERVICES – OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

All services will be live streamed on Zoom

Sunday October 31 **What is Normal Anyway?** **Rev Paul Beckel**

Creep, creep, creep, weeeeeee're baaack! On Halloween at BUF we normally see people in masks. And robes, face paint, feather boas. So, in many ways, things will look pretty normal. Even our new ventilation system—which completely exchanges the old air for new every twenty minutes, will look the same (that is: invisible...spooky, huh?) But seriously (gravely), too often we trick or confuse ourselves and each other when we reminisce about our past lives (ah, the sins of memory) or speculate in fear about what lies ahead.

COVID protocols for October 31

We will require masks (in addition to any Halloween masks), social distancing, and vaccination for all who attend. The Phoenix Ensemble will sing, but congregational singing will be limited to Circle Round at the end of the service (let's plan not to hold hands except within families). There will be no food or gathering after the service. The sanctuary is set up with chairs and pews for individuals/couples/family groups to select as they see fit. Depending on how many are sitting in groups, we'll have space for 50-100 in the sanctuary, and we'll have overflow seating in the social hall—where the livestreamed service will be shown on a large TV. Please follow the MWU for weekly updates.

Let it Shine

We are celebrating our BUF re-opening with a chalice lighting ceremony on **Sunday, October 31st**. We invite everyone to bring their homemade clay chalice back to BUF that morning for a Sharing the Light Ritual. If you haven't made a chalice yet you are welcome to pick up a bag of clay and instructions from the BUF foyer so you can join in this unique-to-the-times rite. The Youth Group made some extra chalices for folks to use, so if you don't have a chalice to bring don't let that stop you from participating!

Sunday November 7

From Puritans to Transcendentalists
Rev Paul Beckel

As we remember, this month, that mythic Thanksgiving of old, let's also reflect on those ancestors of the Unitarians, the Puritans, who were known for seeking religious freedom. Their sense of congregational governance was revolutionary, but then it got out of control as independent congregations started to make their own unorthodox decisions. How did things evolve from there to give us Emerson and Thoreau?



Hybrid Taize - Monday, November 1st, via Zoom & Sanctuary

We invite you to join us for our monthly Taizé service via zoom or in the sanctuary. If you join us in person, we require that you wear a firm-fitting mask, keep physical distance, and be vaccinated.



At this month's service we'll celebrate Samhain (SAH-win) which means "Summer's End". It is a celebration of the end of the harvest and the start of the coldest half of the year. For many practitioners, Samhain also is the beginning of the spiritual new year.

Samhain falls halfway between the Autumn Equinox and the Winter Solstice. In the northern hemisphere, many Pagans and Wiccans celebrate Samhain from sundown on October 31 through November 1.

Samhain shares the ancient spiritual practice of remembering and paying respects to the dead. You're invited to bring a picture of some of your ancestors to place on the altar, or to have them nearby you on your home altar.

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

Meeting ID: 753 181 200

Passcode: BUF

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

Tessie@BUF.org

Music and Partner Church News
Kevin Allen-Schmid, Music
Director,
Kevin@buf.org

On **Sunday, October 31**, the Phoenix Ensemble will bring you the theme from "Phantom of the Opera." Since everyone is required to be masked for the service, we encourage you to have some fun and **add a full-blown Halloween costume to your mask** to celebrate our return to in-person services!

On **Sunday, November 21**, we will celebrate our partnership with Magyarszovat Unitarian Church in Transylvania, Romania by filming our service as a video message to them. The choir will sing Finlandia



(This Is My Song) with a verse in Hungarian.

Refugee Action Team in Development

A new BUF Refugee Action Team is being formalized with an application to the Social and Environmental Justice Committee. This week, Genia Allen-Schmid met with the local World Relief Director, Steven Shetterly, to begin planning for our BUF team's involvement. Approximately fifteen Afghan refugees will arrive in November and sixty after the new year. We have 20 BUFsters who have signed on to help. If you are interested in being involved, please contact either Genia (genia@buf.org) or Ann Stevenson (ammab81@gmail.com) to get on the list. We will be meeting next week Wednesday, October 27th at 4:30 pm

NEW Members and Friends Directory – Photos due Nov 5

The Directory Team would like to bring our BUF Members and Friends Directory up to date so you can receive a new print version before Christmas. You may have received an email from Sue to verify or correct your profile information. In addition, we're asking every member, friend, and active participant to include a photo with their data. If you already have a picture in the Directory, you're covered. If there is no photo, or you want to change it, please upload a digital photo you like to your profile. Submitting a clear "head shot" is ideal. Once you've logged onto your profile page, uploading a picture is as easy as clicking on the picture box and following the instructions.

Our goal is to have a photo for each person or family unit in the Directory. Questions about getting into the data base and your profile can be directed to Brian (directory@buf.org). Problems uploading a picture can be resolved by forwarding it to Sue (suesayegh@yahoo.com). If you need to have a picture taken, please contact me (kasper.jm828@gmail.com) and together we'll get it done. The target date for completion of photos is November 5th. Please don't hesitate to ask for help. Finally - if you'd like to be in the directory and you didn't get a recent email from Sue, mail suesayegh@yahoo.com with a picture and complete contact information.

**Religious Education Events this Fall –
Genia Allen-Schmid RE Director, genia@buf.org**

**CHILDREN’S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION –
From Seattle, Boise, Bend and Alaska**



Come meet fellow UU’s on zoom!
Several UU Congregations in the Pacific Northwest, are joining together on Sundays for RE, or Wednesday nights for YRUU.

If you would like to have your child join in a zoom RE class, you must register [here](#). Once registered, you will receive a

zoom link for the class. Zoom Schedule, is:

Sundays, 9:45 to 10:30, separate classes for K-2 and 3-4th graders

Sundays, 1:00 to 2:00, 5th-8th graders

Wednesdays, 7:00 to 8:00, 9th-12th graders

Let me know if you have any further questions about our fall RE programming.



YRUU –

All 9-12 graders are invited to join our weekly YRUU meetings on Sundays, from 4:00 to 5:30. We will **celebrate Halloween with a party** at the Goggin’s house! There will be hot food and cider. Please dress warmly and bring a spooky story to share around the fire ring. The Goggin’s address is 1285 Roy Road, along Samish



Lake, near Lutherwood Camp.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Chalice Circles are off and running. If you aren’t already in a Chalice Circle and long for regular, more intimate interaction with other BUFsters and develop deeper relationships, a new group will start in November. we invite you to join a group. Let me know if you wish to participate, and we’ll get you placed in this new Circle.

**Socinian Story – Evening Service –
Tuesday November 9, 7 – 8 pm**



All are welcome, either in person or via zoom when Rev. Dr. Rose Edington presents the Socinian story of our Unitarian ancestors who lived throughout pre-Catholic Poland. The Socinians' way of living in peaceful communities, based on teachings from the Sermon on the Mount, while living during religious and political controversy can inspire us, as we, today, seek to create Beloved Community. The evening will include a sample of the catechism questions that defined their beliefs and will conclude with an adaptation of the Socinian communion Service of Thanksgiving from the year 1646. Like the Socinians, we will gather around tables, with provided bread and unfermented grape juice. If you attend via zoom, ask a family member or friend to join you and bring bread and your choice of unfermented or fermented grape juice to your table. For questions or to RSVP, text or call Rose at 304-415-3126. (RSVPs are helpful for set up but not required.)

**BUF SEJC Special Collection – October 2021: Community to Community
– Jane Ronca Washburn**

Community to Community Development (C2C) is a women-led organization dedicated to food sovereignty and immigrant rights. Since I wasn't sure, I looked it up: *"Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agricultural systems. It puts the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations."*

Many ways to help: Consider writing to city council (cob.org/gov/council) to support creation of an Immigrant Resource Center. Send your check to BUF with C2C on the memo line to provide funds for children's masks and more fans for ventilation next summer. Show up at the corner of Pacific Highway and Admiral Way on Mondays from 12 to 1 pm for the Dignity Vigil (<https://www.facebook.com/C2CdignityVigilsandActions>). Thank you from the strangers among us.

A beloved worker with C2C, Antonio Gonzalez, recently died, leaving many paintings, one of which had this written on the colors: *"The Pink rise of the sky – The Blue dew of the night. Sun brings Life and the morning, a warm blanket, a new day, covering our bent backs, kissing our weathered faces"*.

Do we still need an Eracism Minute? – Rose Edington

The short answer is -- Yes!

The longer answer is – Yes, but, we’re wondering if they need to be part of every Sunday service. It’s good to wonder. Meanwhile, I’ll share my experience as a relative newcomer to BUF. When you started sharing antiracism minutes, you didn’t know who would show up at BUF with ears thankful to hear them. You didn’t know me from Eve when I showed up and greatly appreciated this special minute of this service. You can’t tell from looking at me that I am part of a multicultural family, and that your minute immediately helped me feel more welcome and willing to be involved here.

One area that most easily involves everyone in mutual ministry is in welcoming those who come through the door—or these days onto the zoom screen. UU religious professional CC Beal captured what a lot of us feel when it comes to practicing the ministry of welcoming, especially as we work on living up to our first principle to respect the worth and dignity of every person, and the covenant to create beloved community. Beal said – assume who you want to welcome is here already. If you’re acting like they are, they’re more likely to feel welcome because you are ready for them.

I am delighted to know that the full name of the group responsible for this minute is the **Black Lives Matter Ministry Action Team**. It tells me that this is a congregation where ministry is not left only to the professionals, but that everyone is involved in mutual ministry.

With your antiracism minute I felt like you were committed to having a family like mine feel welcome before we ever showed up. Yet, as a retired UU minister, I am aware that congregational dynamics and emphases change over time. To my very affirming -- Yes, this minute is needed -- I also add:

We need to consider if other kinds of BUF ministries need a minute.

Yes, it is okay to designate a specific Sunday or two a month to the antiracism minute and to hear voices from other ministries going on in this vibrant, caring congregation. As the months unfold and I feel less of a newbie, I’m excited to see what happens as together, we widen the circle and deepen our commitment to beloved community – affirming one another on the journey and welcoming those yet to come.

A Month in Gratitude

As we move into the dark days of winter, we also move into the season of gratitude and giving. We would like to invite you to reflect on this past year and submit a few words of thanks to Organizations, Family, Friends and Volunteers who have been helpful to you in word or deed this past year. In November, the MWU will publish your submittals as part of a reflection on gratitude. No more than 40 words (For reference, the first two lines of this item equal 37 words), identify by name or organization and a brief description of how this person or organization was helpful or made a difference for you. Submit to Admin@buf.org with “Gratitude” in the subject line. You may make multiple submittals throughout the month.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Time to Beautify our BUF Landscape for Winter – Kathy Wahto

We're having a work party at BUF Saturday morning, November 13th from 9:00 AM until noon. We need your help. Please join in and help us keep our campus landscape looking attractive and tidy, as winter approaches. There are many tasks available for your choice: raking and bagging leaves, trimming, pruning, weeding, sweeping, and general clean up. Bring your favorite gardening tools, gloves, etc. We'll also have some tools on hand. Stay an hour, or all morning, anything you do will be welcome. Bring the kids and make it a family outing. The BUF admin level restrooms will be available and as usual we'll supply the coffee and snacks. For more information contact , Kathy Wahto (admin@buf.org) or Jim Reimer (jd.reimer@comcast.net). Thank You Ron Quinn, in absentia, who left us a list of fall cleanup ideas

Meal Train Volunteers – Heather Higgins

Frank and Sue McDonald are in home quarantine after testing positive for COVID 19. Frank has just returned from a hospital stay, cheerful but unable to do much. Please consider volunteering for a meal for them by clicking on the Meal Train link: <https://mealtrain.com/yv2mne> (Masked and no-contact deliveries).

NOVEMBER - Seeking Greeters and Ushers - Barbara Ellis-Quinn,

Opportunities include: Greeters to meet people at the front door, and Ushers to direct people to appropriate seating. The following protocols will be in place: masks required at all times, all must be vaccinated, and social distancing used in seating. If you want to be a part of helping to strengthen BUF's welcoming culture please email me at Dr_E_Q@me.com and I will send you an invitation to create an account and join our hospitality group.

Help with Sunday Services - from Rev. Paul

Behind the scenes, **preparation of slides** on which we display weekly announcements (both on Zoom and on the screen in the sanctuary). Announcements serve a vital purpose. Please consider helping with this.

Volunteers needed for **hosting Zoom services** providing the best possible experience in Sunday Zoom Services, Taize, and congregational meetings.

If you would like to learn more about any of these volunteer roles, please contact me: minister@buf.org. Many thanks!

Community Events and Happenings

19th. Annual Community Multifaith Summit
Sunday Oct 31, 2021 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm – Zoom venue
Climate Change - Extinction Level Threats& Hopeful Solutions

Pre-register:

[https://climatechange.bpt.me/#%5D.+?\)%5B'%22%5D\)&link_id=18691697853976&source_id=18691705681617&source_type=Contact](https://climatechange.bpt.me/#%5D.+?)%5B'%22%5D)&link_id=18691697853976&source_id=18691705681617&source_type=Contact)

Choir of the Salish Sea Announces - Saturday, November 13, 2021 3:00 and 7:30pm,

Combat Flip Flops: In and out of battle

This high-energy program marking Veteran's Day reframes the age-old imperative to "beat swords into plowshares" with a modern project of replacing combat boots with casual footwear. Venture with the choir into and out of battle with pieces honoring veterans (Hogan's *Battle of Jericho*, a setting of Kipling's *Boots*), pondering war and peace (*Gabriel's Oboe* from "The Mission," and Nichols' electrifying *Chalk Circle Songs*), and exuding joy (*Blue Suede Shoes*, Paul Simon's *Diamonds on The Soles of Her Shoes*).

All concerts at Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, 1207 Ellsworth St, Bellingham

\$20 general/\$5 students – buy tickets at [brownpapertickets](https://www.brownpapertickets.com)

For further information, see choirofthesalishsea.com

Covid Protocols

- *Audience members must show proof of vaccination to enter, and remain masked indoors
- *Seating in the concert hall is capped at 50%, and distanced so that attendees may remain six feet from others
- *New state-of-the-art air filtration system in our hall replaces all air every twenty minutes
- *Choir members are all fully vaccinated and must show negative Covid test results taken within 72 hours before the concert to perform
- *These protocols may be updated as safety conditions allow

Transgender Day of Remembrance Event
Saturday, November 20, 2021, 7 pm

Our PFLAG Whatcom chapter committed to spearhead a 2020 memorial event in Bellingham to honor transgender people who lost their lives to transphobic hate and violence during that year. Our online event last year was well received, and we've decided to do it again this year. We are pleased to welcome our co-sponsors this year—the PFLAG Skagit chapter.

We're reaching out to other LGBTQ organizations in our community to invite you to join us in this special event. We welcome your support by sharing this event with your circle of contacts—by email and online.

The Zoom webinar link is:

<https://pflag-org.zoom.us/j/94374663071?pwd=d1dydXhQLodicmZjRm1PbHJOK2l3UT09> Passcode: 119784.

UPCOMING EVENTS / CALENDAR		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
Nov 1	7:00-8:00pm	Taize Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/753181200 Meeting passcode: BUF
Nov 4	5:30 – 6:30 pm	Beloved Community Steering Committee https://zoom.us/j/96993920413?pwd=WjhoQjI4aFpwVE1vdkRtTnpFN3o5UTo9 Meeting ID: 969 9392 0413 Passcode: BUF
Nov 9	7:00-8:00pm	Socinian Story (In person at BUF or Zoom) For questions or to RSVP, text or call Rose at 304-415-3126.
Nov 13	3:00 pm or 7:30 pm	Choir of Salish Sea – Combat Flip Flops: In and out of battle All concerts at Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, 1207 Ellsworth St, Bellingham \$20 general/\$5 students – buy tickets at brownpapertickets
Dec 2	5:30 – 6:30 pm	Beloved Community Steering Committee https://zoom.us/j/96993920413?pwd=WjhoQjI4aFpwVE1vdkRtTnpFN3o5UTo9 Meeting ID: 969 9392 0413 Passcode: BUF
Jan 6	5:30 – 6:30 pm	Beloved Community Steering Committee https://zoom.us/j/96993920413?pwd=WjhoQjI4aFpwVE1vdkRtTnpFN3o5UTo9 Meeting ID: 969 9392 0413 Passcode: BUF

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

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

Fall/Winter hours at BUF

Small group meetings are being held, under Covid guidelines, contact the Administrator for details.
 Office Hours: Mon - Friday 10am to 3pm
 Minister's Schedule: Tues through Fri

How to submit content for the Mid Week Update:

Content must be received on Monday by 10:00 a.m. Submit via email and include an attached Word document, single spaced, Georgia 12 font. Avoid any formatting, bullets, etc. Limit **200 words**. If you have an item for the calendar please put “Calendar”; if you are seeking Volunteers, please put “Volunteer” in the subject line. Submittals may be edited for space and clarity. Submit your content to MWU@buf.org You may still submit your “Surfing the Web for Music and Inspiration” as before. You will find selections sprinkled throughout the MWU.