

# Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

*Community, Compassion, Commitment*

May 17, 2023

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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

## Words from Paul

### Caring at BUF

It's not the sermons; not our spoken promises. It's our culture of caring—seen and felt firsthand. An unconscious goodwill, perhaps, but definitely a consciousness of how others are experiencing our welcome and support.



Culture is informal—formed by innumerable words and acts over time. So when we overlook an opportunity to include, another opportunity will appear. Formal structures, tho, are important reinforcements. I hear stories all the time about the mutual aid offered within BUF Chalice Circles. I want to make sure you know, too about our BUF Caring Network, which consists of our Pastoral Care Team, Phone Ministry Team, and Meal Train.

In times of personal loss, grief, or change, the Pastoral Care Team offers a confidential listening presence thru one-on-one conversations in person, on the phone, or on Zoom. Pastoral Care Team members are Rev Paul Beckel, Leslie McFee, Jan Krouskop, David Curley, and Joan Mackay. You can reach us via email ([caring@buf.org](mailto:caring@buf.org)), or call the BUF office at (360) 733-3837, or use this [contact form](#).

The BUF Phone Ministry Team makes periodic calls—monthly, quarterly, whatever you feel is most helpful—to BUFsters who have difficulty getting to in-person activities ... or to anyone feeling disconnected or wanting someone to check in on them on a regular basis. If you'd like to receive calls, or make calls (or both) contact our phone ministry coordinator, Carola Tossetti, via the BUF office ([admin@buf.org](mailto:admin@buf.org)) or via this [contact form](#) on buf.org.

Meal Trains: When you're laid up, or for any other reason need short-term assistance with meals, we can recruit and coordinate volunteers

to bring you food suitable to your diet. This might be just a couple of meals. Or, if it's for an extended period, we'll set you up with an online Meal Train scheduling page where we'll send BUF volunteers, and you too can send family and friends to sign up for their preferred times and dates. If you'd like to receive meals, or if you'd like to prepare and/or deliver meals (or all of the above) contact our meal train coordinator, Annie Sorich, via the BUF office or the [contact form](#) on buf.org.

Of course there are limits to formal structures (for example, the Caring Network is unable to coordinate rides; please post requests to [buf-news@buf.org](mailto:buf-news@buf.org)). So I want to thank all of you for your awareness and willingness to help one another, especially those who are just getting to know who we are.

Peace,  
Paul

## SUNDAY SERVICES - May and June, 2023

### May 21 Celebrating the Bellingham- Honolulu Connection thru Music

Kevin Allen-Schmid, Beth Beyers  
There are a surprising number of links between BUF and First Unitarian Church of Honolulu. Today we'll call attention to our relatives over the sea, our relatives

under the sea, and our journeys across the sea through music and story.

### May 21

**BUF Annual Congregational Meeting.** Noon.  
1207 Ellsworth Street, Bellingham and on Zoom

After the service, BUF will hold its annual Congregational Meeting in person and on Zoom. Meeting link: <https://zoom.us/j/99721055665?pwd=ODBJM2szZnVBaCtGb2hq%20Y2lwTUx4dz09>

Complete Meeting Announcement:  
<https://wp.buf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-ann-mtng-packet.pdf>

### May 28

#### **Our Liberating Message for an Increasingly Fascist Culture**

Rev Paul Beckel

In order to recognize and resist fascism, it's essential to understand how its religious underpinning (bad faith) is used to justify and perpetuate systems of division and oppression.

### June 4 What I thought I Knew Then

Thoughts for our graduating high schoolers from those who have learned a few things since graduating themselves.

### June 11 Choir Finale

### June 18 The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Flower Communion

### June 25 UUA General Assembly Worship Service Streamed live from Pittsburgh

### Art in the Narthex

In May, BUF is featuring an exhibit by Brian Drake, a local painter born and raised in Bellingham. From a young age, Brian has found many outlets for creative expression, including painting, crafts, and Graphic Design. In addition to paintings on the narthex walls, Brian has provided a folio of prints to review.

## SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

### Indigenous Studies Symposium

May 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

This event will be held at the Northwest Indian College Main Campus. Vine Deloria Jr. was a Standing Rock Sioux and an author, theologian, historian, and activist for Native American rights. His books *Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto* and *God is Red* are the theme of this annual symposium held on the Lummi Nation reservation. For more information and to register, go to: <https://www.nwic.edu/about-nwic/nwic-vine-deloria-jr-symposium>

### Anti-Racism Jubilee 3 Training

May 23-25, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Online

The Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Liberal Religious Educators Association invites you to attend this online event with trainers Paula Cole Jones, Lutricia Callair, and Dr. Leon Spencer!

The 3-day training includes presentations, discussions, videos, exercises, and small group work. It's open to anyone, church members, non-church members, church leaders of any faith. The goals are

- To develop a shared analysis of racism and its individual, institutional, and cultural manifestations
- To begin applying this common understanding to the history, culture, and institutional structure of society, and acting on it.

Agenda topics include:

- The history and definition of racism in the Americas
- The effects of racism on people of color and on white people
- Dismantling racism
- Claiming and shaping an anti-racist identity

Jubilee 3 workshops have an excellent reputation, and I encourage BUF members to attend, as I will do myself. Flier with testimonials and more information about the trainers: Flyer May 2023 Jubilee 3 at PNW LREDA.docx

**Registration:** [tinyurl.com/PNW-Jubilee-3](https://tinyurl.com/PNW-Jubilee-3)

If you have questions or need help registering, contact me at [genia@BUF.org](mailto:genia@BUF.org)

**May 25.** 6:15 p.m. BUF

BLM will host a George Floyd memorial celebration and fundraiser in the Sanctuary. It will begin with a film screening of Remy Styrk's Juneteenth video followed by a conversation with some of the participants. We will then walk over to Fouts Park for a candle light vigil by the George Floyd memorial bench. City Councilwoman Kristina Michelle Martin will emcee. A \$5 donation at the door is recommended. Funds are for support of a follow-up Juneteenth video. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Naomi Gary for details: [naomiwwgary@gmail.com](mailto:naomiwwgary@gmail.com)

## SEJC Special Collections - May 2023

### Special collections Recipient, Blue Skies for Children



Blue Skies for Children strives to raise hope and self-esteem of homeless, low-income, and foster children, aged 6-18 years. Their many Enrichment Programs offer children the opportunity to participate in meaningful extracurricular activities such as martial arts and team sports, and in individual activities in the arts and music. These activities give the children outlets to express themselves, release tension, and create meaningful social circles.

An average cost for the enrichment opportunities is \$80 per child. The Team is building their capacity to serve a greater number of children. The organization has affirmed its committed to justice, equality, diversity and inclusion to end systemic inequality and racism. Please contribute to fulfill BUF's own Beloved Community Covenant. Blue Skies' representative will speak at BUF's service on May 21, the collection Sunday. But contribution can be made throughout this month. For more information check their website: [www.blueskiesforchildren.org](http://www.blueskiesforchildren.org).



### Humanitas Ministry

Jack and Samantha, having just started their family, were ready for a new life. He had been offered a job at a refinery. So they decided to drive from the East to the West Coast. They said goodbye to family and hit the road. It wasn't an easy journey with a young baby, but they made the best of it. Finally, they arrived at the refinery where Jack was supposed to start work the following day. He walked into the building with high hopes, but was told that the position was no longer available, and they had no job for him.

They were devastated. They were stuck. They went to the Opportunity Council who put them in a hotel for a week while they tried to figure out what to do next. Realizing that their only choice was to return home, they started searching for a way to get gas money to make the trip. That's when they learned about our network of churches. Saint Paul was the first to help and they sent them on to us. We helped with gas and sent them along to the next church on the list. Hopefully by now they're back home in Louisiana.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS



Join our weekly supper in the Social Hall at 6:00 - everyone is welcome! The soup this week will be vegetarian Moroccan lentil soup, salad, bread and gluten free rolls, and dessert- all for just \$5 a person, and kids under 12 free! After dinner stick around for some board games! We have childcare until 8:00.

## BUF Women's Spring Retreat

May 20. 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Semiahmoo

Come make new friends and deepen your relationship with others at Beautiful Semiahmoo. The theme is "Seeds of Intention." We will have a mix of whole-group and small-group activities surrounding our theme, along with time for self-reflection and unscheduled fun! Prepare to be inspired, connect, and rejuvenate! BUF will provide childcare for children 15 months to 11 years at BUF, from 8:30 until 12:30 p.m. For any questions ask Claire Lending, [Claire.lending@gmail.com](mailto:Claire.lending@gmail.com)



## BUF Annual Congregational Meeting

May 21. Noon. 1207 Ellsworth Street, Bellingham and on Zoom

After the service, BUF will hold its Annual Congregational meeting in person and on Zoom.

A quorum is needed to approve the budget. Only members can vote. A packet of meeting materials can be found here:

<https://wp.buf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-ann-mtng-packet.pdf>

Meeting link:

<https://zoom.us/j/99721055665?pwd=ODBJM2szZnVBaCtGb2hq%20Y2lwTUx4dz09>

**Save the Date for Summer Outside Work Party at BUF:** Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> 9:30am more details to come in upcoming MWUs.

## BUF All-Church BBQ

June 11. Sunday at BUF

Stay after the Choir Finale service for our end-of-the-year BBQ! BUF will provide beef and veggie burgers, hotdogs and all the fix'ins, along with some lemonade. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to add to the feast. We will have the bouncy house up (assuming the weather is good) for the kids. Corn hole anyone? Got that too!

## Travel to a Cradle of Jewish History

December 16-31. Spain and Morocco

Have you considered traveling back in time to the cradle of Sephardic Jewry? Why not consider joining Congregation Beth Israel's Traveling Group as we head for Spain and Morocco on a CBI-coordinated interfaith trip? The tour is designed to embrace the Jewish, Moorish, and Catholic communities in Spain and the indigenous and Jewish cultures in Morocco. We will visit the central medieval cities where Jewish communities and Jewish culture flourished prior to 1492, cities such as Toledo, Cordoba, and Seville, among others.

Following the route of Jews expelled from Spain, the tour will continue to Morocco, where Jews fled and settled in cities such as Fes, Casablanca, and Marrakech.

Click [here](#) for complete details, courtesy of trip organizers, Victoria Mayers, [teachingteam@gmail.com](mailto:teachingteam@gmail.com), and Katie Edelstein, [kedelstein49@comcast.net](mailto:kedelstein49@comcast.net). We welcome friends and family to join our Traveling Havurah group for this exciting trip.

Please feel free to share this [web link](#) with anyone you know who loves to travel with organized groups.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Genia Allen-Schmid, RE Director, [genia@buf.org](mailto:genia@buf.org)

## CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Sunday Morning



This Sunday is our intergenerational service celebrating the Bellingham-Honolulu connection. We've got an engaging, child-friendly service prepared on the theme of the ocean, indigenous people, sea creatures, and canoes.

We encourage children to stay in the sanctuary during this multi-sensory service, where we will learn a hula, hear a story about Tokitae, the orca, and listen to *Under the Sea* and the sound of whales, among other things. Those with wiggles will be entertained in the nursery in the back of the sanctuary by our childcare providers as needed at any time during the service.

## VOLUNTEERS - MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteers are needed May 25 for the Black Lives Matter George Floyd Memorial event, starting in the BUF sanctuary at 6:15 p.m. and moving to Fouts Park. For details contact Naomi Gary at [naomiwwgary@gmail.com](mailto:naomiwwgary@gmail.com).

## MUSIC NEWS -

KEVIN ALLEN-SCHMID, Music Director - [kevin@buf.org](mailto:kevin@buf.org)

**Galbraith Mountain** - Choir of the Salish Sea Season Finale  
May 20, 3pm, Saturday, Fairhaven Village Green



This rousing performance blends deep, rich harmonies on familiar pop songs that guarantee you will be humming along and tapping *your toes*. Songs include *Bicycle Race* (Queen), *White Winter Hymnal* (Pentatonix), *Here Comes the Sun* (Beatles), *Seven Bridges Road* (The Eagles) and songs from CHARIOTS OF FIRE,

LION KING, TARZAN and THE HOBBIT.

The Village Green in Fairhaven is a wonderful place to hear these voices, sit in the open air and savor spring. Bring a folding chair or blanket to sit on the grass. Raffle items supplied by local bike and running stores. Ticket holders are automatically entered in the raffle. You must be present to win.

**Order tickets at.** <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5824994>  
(note: the Friday concert at BUF has been cancelled)

**BUF Choir Finale**  
**June 11, 10:25am**

Chalice Choir and Phoenix Ensemble present their greatest hits from the 2023-2024 season in this Sunday morning grand finale service at BUF. The choirs have been focusing on developing vocal technique and expression this year and they are creating a joyful, vibrant and loving sound. Come immerse yourself in a morning of beauty and meaning with your fellow BUFsters in this spiritually engaging service.



**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](mailto:MWU@buf.org)

**Streamline your Monthly Charitable Contributions through  
Electronic Funds Transfer**

Would you like to make sure that you do not miss any of your monthly contributions? Set up an automatic electronic funds transfer (EFT) of your regular charitable donations. Kathy Wahto BUF administrator can assist you. If you would like to give more for a select organization, you can send an additional check just for those organizations. This system ensures that every organization gets the funds. Thank you so much for your generous gifts.

**Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship**

BUF's website is BUF.org. Contact us by email at [admin@buf.org](mailto: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/>

**BUF Board of Trustees and Officers 2022-2023**

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

<b>BUF CALENDAR</b>		
<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
May 18, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at <a href="mailto:cynauman@gmail.com">cynauman@gmail.com</a>
May 20, 2023	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Spring BUF Women's Retreat. Saturday at the Cannery Lodge at Semiahmoo in Blaine.
May 21, 2023	Noon	BUF Annual Congregational Meeting at BUF and on Zoom. Find meeting materials at: <a href="https://wp.buf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-ann-mtng-packet.pdf">https://wp.buf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-ann-mtng-packet.pdf</a> Meeting link: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/99721055665?pwd=ODBJM2szZnVBaCtGb2hq%20Y2lwTUx4dz09">https://zoom.us/j/99721055665?pwd=ODBJM2szZnVBaCtGb2hq%20Y2lwTUx4dz09</a>
May 25, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at <a href="mailto:cynauman@gmail.com">cynauman@gmail.com</a>
May 25, 2023	6:15 pm	Black Lives Matter George Floyd Memorial event starting with a film screening and discussion in the Sanctuary. This to be followed by a candlelight vigil at the George Floyd/Black Lives Matter memorial bench at Fouts Park. Volunteers needed. For more details contact Naomi Gary <a href="mailto:naomiwwgary@gmail.com">naomiwwgary@gmail.com</a>
June 1, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at <a href="mailto:cynauman@gmail.com">cynauman@gmail.com</a>
June 5, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé <a href="https://zoom.us/j/753181200https://zoom.us/j/753181200">https://zoom.us/j/753181200https://zoom.us/j/753181200</a> Meeting ID: 753 181 200 Passcode: BUF If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at <a href="mailto:Tessie@BUF.org">Tessie@BUF.org</a>
June 8, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at <a href="mailto:cynauman@gmail.com">cynauman@gmail.com</a>
June 15, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at <a href="mailto:cynauman@gmail.com">cynauman@gmail.com</a>
June 22, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at <a href="mailto:cynauman@gmail.com">cynauman@gmail.com</a>
June 29, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at <a href="mailto:cynauman@gmail.com">cynauman@gmail.com</a>
July 3, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé <a href="https://zoom.us/j/753181200https://zoom.us/j/753181200">https://zoom.us/j/753181200https://zoom.us/j/753181200</a> Meeting ID: 753 181 200 Passcode: BUF If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at <a href="mailto:Tessie@BUF.org">Tessie@BUF.org</a>



**Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship ~ BUF.org**  
**Community, Compassion, Commitment**  
**May 17, 2023**

August 7, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé <a href="https://zoom.us/j/753181200">https://zoom.us/j/753181200</a> <a href="https://zoom.us/j/753181200">https://zoom.us/j/753181200</a> Meeting ID: 753 181 200 Passcode: BUF If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at <a href="mailto:Tessie@BUF.org">Tessie@BUF.org</a>
September 4, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé <a href="https://zoom.us/j/753181200">https://zoom.us/j/753181200</a> <a href="https://zoom.us/j/753181200">https://zoom.us/j/753181200</a> Meeting ID: 753 181 200 Passcode: BUF If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at <a href="mailto:Tessie@BUF.org">Tessie@BUF.org</a>
October 2, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé <a href="https://zoom.us/j/753181200">https://zoom.us/j/753181200</a> <a href="https://zoom.us/j/753181200">https://zoom.us/j/753181200</a> Meeting ID: 753 181 200 Passcode: BUF If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at <a href="mailto:Tessie@BUF.org">Tessie@BUF.org</a>
November 6, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé <a href="https://zoom.us/j/753181200">https://zoom.us/j/753181200</a> <a href="https://zoom.us/j/753181200">https://zoom.us/j/753181200</a> Meeting ID: 753 181 200 Passcode: BUF If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at <a href="mailto:Tessie@BUF.org">Tessie@BUF.org</a>
December 4, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé <a href="https://zoom.us/j/753181200">https://zoom.us/j/753181200</a> <a href="https://zoom.us/j/753181200">https://zoom.us/j/753181200</a> Meeting ID: 753 181 200 Passcode: BUF If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at <a href="mailto:Tessie@BUF.org">Tessie@BUF.org</a>