

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

May 31, 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

Welcome our newest Affiliated Minister

Rev Barbara ten Hove is now an official BUF Affiliated Minister. This designation is a form of covenant, endorsed by the BUF Board of Trustees, between me and Rev Tessie Mandeville, Rev Barbara Gilday, and now Rev Barbara ten Hove. In each case these are people with particular qualifications with whom we have established substantial volunteer (and sometimes paid) roles that support my ministry.



Rev Tessie, who is in full fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association, became an Affiliated Minister at BUF in 2015. At that time, she was a full-time Chaplain at St Joseph Hospital. Since then, Tessie has blessed us by leading several Sunday services, and the weekly Taize service, and assisted with pastoral care. Tessie has just this month been installed as the part time Minister at our nearest neighboring UU Congregation: Free Church, in Blaine.

Rev Barbara Gilday was ordained by the BUF congregation over 20 years ago. Over the years she has preached, officiated at memorial services, done pastoral care, and is often the one behind the scenes when there's extra TLC being provided within and beyond our walls.

Rev Barbara ten Hove is in full fellowship with the UUMA and now retired after decades of service to congregations around the country. I was so fortunate (as were you) to have Barbara's support as part time Sabbatical Minister when I was away in the spring of 2022. This coming summer, Barbara will be coordinating speakers, musicians, and all other aspects of Sunday services.

Some of you will remember Jeff Packer. Jeff was a Chaplain at St Joseph Hospital until recently. When he retired, he decided to give up his official role at BUF as well.

I've run out of space, now to describe more deeply the nature of ministry as I'm referring to it here. I'll take an opportunity to do this this coming Sunday during a simple ceremony of recognition to Rev Barbara ten Hove.

With thanks to all of you who share in the informal ministry of this congregation - that is: everything any of us do toward fulfilling our mission.

Peace,
Paul

PS: This coming Sunday we'll be celebrating our high school graduates. I'm planning to weave into the service one or two sentence statements from you all on what "I Thought I Knew Then" (when you were graduating). Such "knowings" might be deeply emotional, factual, or ethical. They might be profound or naïve. Send your brief thoughts to me: minister@buf.org by Friday.

SUNDAY SERVICES - May and June, 2023

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.

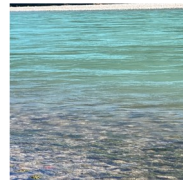
Sunday June 11 BUF Choir Finale

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.

June 18 The 100th Anniversary of Flower Communion

June 25 UUA General Assembly Worship Service Streamed live from Pittsburgh

The Landscapes of Our Lives: River Taizé Service June 5th at 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.



At this month's service we'll begin a series on *The Landscapes of Our Lives*, and each month we'll create the altar and choose the chants that help us deepen into a particular landscape. On June 5th, our focus will be on *River* and we'll call to mind these words:

Fluent

*I would love to live
Like a river flows,
Carried by the surprise
Of its own unfolding.*

— John O'Donohue

We'd love to have you join us either in person or via zoom for our monthly service.

Here's the Taizé link:

<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

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Help Senators Murray and Cantwell Oppose Pipeline Expansion

TC Energy (the same company behind the Keystone XL pipeline) has proposed to expand the capacity of the existing, 1354-mile-long, Gas Transmission NW (GTN) Xpress Fracked Gas Pipeline, by 150 million cubic feet of fracked methane gas per day.

The GTN pipeline starts in British Columbia and runs through Idaho, Washington, and Oregon before ending in California. In Washington, the pipeline runs under the Spokane and Snake Rivers and through populated areas of Liberty Lake and Spokane Valley, including near a high school, preschool, and underneath a church playground.

Recently, 300-plus faith-leaders in WA, OR, and ID sent a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) asking them to deny the GTN Xpress project. Oregon US Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, Washington Governor Jay Inslee, and the Attorneys General of Washington, Oregon, and California have all expressed opposition to the project for a variety of reasons. Support their efforts by signing the petition at:

<https://secure.everyaction.com/zgQEixBrXkGxGYAVqT--Hw2>

UUSJ To Meet with WA Congress on Agricultural Issues

UUSJ is looking for people to speak to the WA Congress, or to their staff, on farm bill issues. UUSJ also wants names of people to use to schedule meetings with Congress folks and staff. Meetings have not been scheduled yet pending getting these names.

Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez sits on the House Committee for Small Business as well as Agriculture.

Sen. Murray's word carries sway on the big funding, deal-making decisions. She sits on both the Senate Budget Committee and is Chair of the Senate Appropriations.

Sen. Cantwell sits on several Senate Committees that can offer important opinions about the agriculture sector and USDA programs or policies: Small Business and entrepreneurship, Indian Affairs, Finance, Energy and Natural Resources. She is Chair of Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

While Sens. Murray and Cantwell are not on the Agriculture Committee, their posture on SNAP (food stamps) and disposition for climate-smart agriculture matters, especially within their party. Let's urge them to invest in a climate-smart Farm Bill, and defend anti-hunger programs. Please consider helping UUSJ get these meetings. Sign up here if you're willing to speak to our Congress, their staffers, or allow UUSJ to use your name and constituency to set up

meetings: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSewYbXBoZTZMqIQ4iSgoQ67eoE_cyeA_0hH5HVYfMLZ7JNuPMw/viewform

Support Needed to Rebuild Immigrant Lives

Now is the time to call on our national leaders to reject anti-immigrant, anti-asylum, and anti-family legislation, and instead invest in concrete solutions that expand our capacity to welcome. It's time to urge Congress towards welcoming policies for asylum seekers at:

https://uusj.salsalabs.org/iat_welcoming-asylum_after-title42/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=1745a05e-b4c4-4da1-bea7-f88b61345f19

Congress must also reintroduce and pass this bill so that Afghans who only have temporary protection gain the security and stability they need to rebuild lives that thrive. Tell Congress to reintroduce and pass the Afghan Adjustment Act:

https://uusj.salsalabs.org/iat_re-introduce_aaa2023/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=1745a05e-b4c4-4da1-bea7-f88b61345f19

June is Orca Month

(<https://www.orcamonth.com/about>). There will be activities and events happening all month long, supporting our Southern Resident Orcas. Look for events here: <https://www.orcamonth.com/event>

If you feel so moved, here is a petition to sign and share, encouraging the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County to issue Proclamations recognizing the natural rights of killer whales, specifically our Southern Resident Orcas.

Full text of the petition here: <https://bufsejc.blogspot.com/2023/05/whatcom-lummi-nooksack-bellingham-area.html>

Please Sign here: https://www.change.org/p/encourage-whatcom-co-bellingham-proclamations-recognizing-the-natural-rights-of-orcas?utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=custom_url&recruited_by_id=067fea90-b4b8-11ea-8f59-41e78f83d9f6

UU Climate Justice Meet-Up at General Assembly Jun 21-25

Rev. Daniel of the UU Ministry for Earth will host an informal get-together at General Assembly this year. UUs in his meet-up will chat and deepen their connections with the Climate Justice Coalition within our Unitarian Universalist faith. If interested in this informal session, please use the attached link, with its proposed meeting times, and express your preference:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdVov5xRNTXLIcN54Av9kwGm9bx64N0FDcmk9ydaM7reY5heA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

SEJC Special Collections - May 2023

SEJC Special Collections Recipient, Blue Skies for Children, May 2023



Mission: Offer support and enrichment programs (individual and group activities) to raise hope and self-esteem of marginalized (low income, homeless and foster) children, age 6-18 years.

Programs: Enrichment activities, Little Wishes, Instrument Loaner, Shoes, Winter clothes and school supplies, Driver Education grant.

Accomplishment: Fulfilled goals in all above areas and activities; helped children of the Syrian refugee family whom we, at BUF, sponsored, and again expected in Fall.

Need: Urgent need is for shoes—can be donated via the Amazon link. Also, funds to assist with high school graduation related expenses.

Future plans: Expand enrichment programs that raise hope and self-esteem. Estimated average cost is \$80 per child.

Affirmation: Committed to justice, equality, diversity and inclusion to end systemic inequality and racism.

Please contribute to fulfill BUF's own Beloved Community Covenant. Contribution can be made through the end of this month.

Phone: 360-756-6710 Website: www.blueskiesforcildren.org.

Humanitas Ministry



Joe came in recently with his partner and young son. He was an older man who seemed to have seen a lot over the years. Looking for help with gas to get to his therapy appointments, he'd heard that we might be able to help. Joe had served several tours in Iraq and had severe PTSD. Years after the fact, he's found he's still dealing with the trauma from years of war. He explained how he'd left Chicago behind because of the gun violence. The chaos there made his symptoms much worse. He came to Bellingham to find peace and a place to heal. Because of your continued support, we were able to support this man.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

BUF Night In and Game Night Tonight!



Please join us in the Social Hall for supper, every Wednesday night at 6:00. We only have two more dinners left before our summer hiatus, so we'll be serving up our tasty Moroccan lentil soup (vegan) from the freezer this week. This will be accompanied by a Moroccan salad, flatbread, GF bread, 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.

Work Party at BUF

June 10. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. BUF grounds

We're having a work party on Saturday at the church and need your help. Please join in and help us keep our campus landscape looking attractive and clean. All the work is out of doors. There are many tasks available: trimming, pruning, weeding, sweeping, and general clean up. Choose the task that suits you, and bring your favorite gardening tools, gloves, etc. We'll also have some tools on hand.

Stay an hour, stay all morning, anything you do will be welcome. Bring the kids and make it a family outing. The BUF upstairs restrooms will be available. We'll supply the coffee and snacks. For more information contact Kathy Wahto (admin@buf.org), Ron Quinn (ronaldquinn@me.com), or Jim Reimer (jd.reimer@comcast.net).

June 11. All-Church BBQ Potluck, Sunday after the Service

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! We need folks to help us with the BBQing. Please let Kathy Wahto or Genia know if you're willing to help!

Next Board Meeting and Update on Sanctuary Chairs

June 14. Next Board meeting on Wednesday (instead of the fourth Thursday)

At the congregational meeting on May 21st we discussed replacing pews with chairs. Background: approximately \$14,100 was raised via this year's auction paddle-call for the purpose of buying chairs for the sanctuary. More than expected was raised (62 total people donated to the call), so it has become possible to purchase more chairs than originally envisioned. To get input from the congregation, the ballot asked the following questions and received the following results:

Should we eventually replace all of the pews with chairs?

o Yes 23

o No 52

Would you prefer a chair with arms?

o Yes 34

o No 21

o NA 20

At the Board Meeting on May 25th, the Board discussed the oral and written input received. A subcommittee was selected and charged with making a recommendation to the Board regarding next steps; these include ways the congregation will be involved in decisions; how to solicit input from the congregation; and the timeline proposed. They will bring their recommendation to the June or July Board meeting.

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/99721055665?pwd=ODBJM2szZnVBaCtGb2hqY2IwTUx4dz09>

Passcode BUF. Submitted by BUF Board.

BUF Creativity Exhibition Sept 16-17

Plans are afoot for holding a celebration of our unseen artforms. What are your creative outlets? Do you keep them mostly to yourself? Let's bring them together in an exhibition to be held September 16/17 in the Social Hall. Artistic works might include samples of paintings, poems, drawing, textiles, sculptures, photos, ceramics, or - what do you create?

If you're interested in volunteering to plan and organize this event, please step up now. We need you—and your creativity!

Email Jan Cavitt at jadacad@gmail.com or Pam Graham at pam.graham1@icloud.com or pamg6986@gmail.com <pam6986@gmail.com>.

Mid Week Update Summer Schedule

June 14. Wednesday. Online

Our BUF newsletter begins its summer schedule in June. The last weekly edition is Wednesday **June 14**. Summer dates are as follows:

June 14 MWU is published

June 21 No MWU

June 28 MWU is published

July 05 No MWU
July 12 MWU is published
July 19 No MWU
July 26 MWU is published
Aug 02 No MWU
Aug 09 MWU is published
Aug 16 No MWU
Aug 23 MWU is published
Aug 30 No MWU
Sept 06 Weekly MWU resumes

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Genia Allen-Schmid, RE Director, genia@buf.org

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday Morning



Our theme for June is Delight! In this busy, messy world, we all need to remember to make room for delight, and what could be a better reminder of that than bubbles? After reading a story, we will have fun with bubbles (inside and outside), and have a follow up activity centering on how we can delight in the wonders of the world all around us - and how we can bring delight to others!

Children will start in the sanctuary where we have a child-friendly space with pillows, drawing supplies, fidget boxes, and a front row seat for the Story of All Ages. After the Story, we will head upstairs to a one-room classroom for 1st graders on up. We'll share our joys and concerns followed by activities surrounding a weekly theme. Preschoolers will be in a separate room for fun, supervised playtime.

If you have any questions or concerns about our children's programming or want to volunteer, please contact me at genia@BUF.org.

Adult Volunteers needed for Children's RE 2024

Our children's program is in full swing and we need adult volunteers to help out on Sunday mornings next year during the service. No need to commit to every Sunday, we are flexible - even just one Sunday a month is fine. If you are interested, intrigued, or want to know more, please contact Genia at genia@BUF.org.

VOLUNTEERS - MAKE A DIFFERENCE

-Volunteers needed to help with the All-Church, After-Service BBQ Potluck on **June 11**. Contact Kathy, admin@BUF.org or Genia at genia@BUF.org
-Volunteers needed for Children's RE **2024**. Please contact Genia at genia@BUF.org.

-BUF Work Party needs volunteers on June 10, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., with outdoor work at church. To find out what you can do, contact: Kathy Wahto (admin@buf.org), Ron Quinn (ronaldquinn@me.com), or Jim Reimer (jd.reimer@comcast.net)

MUSIC NEWS -

KEVIN ALLEN-SCHMID, Music Director - kevin@buf.org

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

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 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 officio

BUF CALENDAR		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
June 1, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
June 5, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé https://zoom.us/j/753181200 https://zoom.us/j/753181200 Meeting ID: 753 181 200 Passcode: BUF If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org
June 8, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
June 14, 2023	---	BUF Mid Week Update summer publication schedule begins. Fall schedule resumes Sept. 6
June 15, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
June 22, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
June 29, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
July 3, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé https://zoom.us/j/753181200 https://zoom.us/j/753181200 Meeting ID: 753 181 200 Passcode: BUF If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org
August 7, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé https://zoom.us/j/753181200 https://zoom.us/j/753181200 Meeting ID: 753 181 200 Passcode: BUF If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org
September 4, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé https://zoom.us/j/753181200 https://zoom.us/j/753181200 Meeting ID: 753 181 200 Passcode: BUF If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org
October 2, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé https://zoom.us/j/753181200 https://zoom.us/j/753181200 Meeting ID: 753 181 200 Passcode: BUF If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship ~ BUF.org
Community, Compassion, Commitment
May 31, 2023

November 6, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé https://zoom.us/j/753181200 https://zoom.us/j/753181200 Meeting ID: 753 181 200 Passcode: BUF If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org
December 4, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé https://zoom.us/j/753181200 https://zoom.us/j/753181200 Meeting ID: 753 181 200 Passcode: BUF If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org
December 16-31, 2023	---	Spain and Morocco. Travel back in time to the cradle of Sephardic Jewry and visit cities where Jewish culture flourished prior to 1492. Click here for details from trip organizers Victoria Mayers, teachingteam@gmail.com and Katie Edelstein, kedelstein49@comcast.net