

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

May 10, 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

Chairs in the Sanctuary

In case you skimmed over the Annual Congregational Meeting notice, you should know that the agenda includes a discussion and vote re chairs in the sanctuary.

(If you did not receive materials for the Annual Meeting [May 21 at noon in person and on Zoom] you can find everything here: <https://wp.buf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-ann-mtng-packet.pdf>)

At the recent BUF Auction, paddle-call donations were taken to purchase chairs for the sanctuary. Typically a paddle-call raises about \$5,000, so in choosing this project the Board expected to be able to purchase 20-30 chairs. But because a donor offered to match the first \$5,000, and the paddle-call brought in another \$9,000 in donations, the number of chairs we will be able to purchase exceeds expectations. This has led to the question of whether we should, at some point in the future, replace all of the sanctuary pews with chairs.

More immediately, we need to determine how many of the chairs we purchase should have arms. We will have a discussion on this topic and the ballot will include the following questions:

1. Should we eventually replace all of the pews with chairs? (This vote is for advisory purposes for Boards of Trustees in the years to come.)
2. With funds from the 2023 paddle-call we will buy, mostly, chairs without arms, and some (for about \$20 more per chair) with arms. In order to determine what proportion we should buy with arms, please tell us (speaking only for yourself): if you plan to sit in a chair, would you prefer it to have arms? Yes/No/Not Applicable.
3. Other questions/comments

The rest of the agenda is more routine, but no less vital: elections to the Board of Trustees and presentation of the 2023-24 budget for congregational approval. Regarding the latter, the Board and I say: many thanks for your additional/increased pledges that will keep our programs thriving and our facilities in shape.

Peace,
Paul

SUNDAY SERVICES – May and June, 2023

May 14

Asking for help as a spiritual practice
Steffany Raynes and Carrie Koehnline
In this service we will be exploring the
topic of asking for help. Why is it hard to
do? What can happen when we don't
just care for others but also receive
caring? How is receiving related to
Beloved Community? Steffany Raynes
will lead the service and will include
many perspectives.

May 21

The B'ham/Honolulu Connection Music
Service
Beth Beyers, Kevin Allen-Schmidt

May 28

Our Liberating Message for an
increasingly Fascist Culture
Rev Paul Beckel

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 100th 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, even when challenged by academic work. He
came to painting last. But arts and crafts were his escape,
and he took classes after High School in Graphic Design.

*"Using the theme of nature and surrealism combined
with vibrant, emotional colors, I make art with the
attempt to immerse the viewer in another world. Each
of my artworks is an original idea from my mind and
heart, and I'm honored to share it with you."*

In addition to paintings on the narthex walls, Brian
has provided a folio of prints to review.

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Municipal Courts in Whatcom County

May 15 7:00pm, BUF

BLM will host guest speakers Barbara Miller and Adeline Calderone of Friendship Diversion
Services, who will tell us about the diversion and monitoring programs they administer for municipal
courts in Whatcom County. They will bring sample equipment. The meeting will be in the Flex Room
with Zoom access by Owl. For more information, visit <https://www.friendshipdiversion.org/>

Indigenous Studies Symposium

May 18th-19th 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 book *Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto* and *God is Red* is 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

If you have questions or need help registering, contact me at 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: naomiwwwgary@gmail.com

SEJC Special Collections – May 2023

SEJC Special collections Recipient, Blue Skies for Children, May, 2023.



BSFC provides support and enrichment programs to marginalized children to give hope and self-esteem. Their programs are: Little Wishes; Instrument Loaner; Shoe Distribution; Enrichment Sessions; Back-to-School Backpack; Winter Warm-up and Driver Education Scholarship; Sponsor-A-Child/Foster Grad—new program awaiting sufficient funds to assist with graduation-related expenses for the student.

Blue Skies is a small non-profit, not receiving any local, state, or Federal funding. It serves 1,000 children a year, with only three staff members. Blue Skies seeks financial or in-kind contributions, such as postage stamps or new toys, and gently used musical instruments for their Loaner Program (saving \$360-720 in rental costs per year). Their impact in 2022 is shown below.

Distributed: 793 new shoes, 3,965 new socks, 965 school backpacks, and 1,679 winter clothes.

Sponsored: 3,234 enrichment sessions, 104 little wishes, 29 loaned musical instruments, and five driver education scholarships.

Blue Skies for Children has specifically committed to justice, equality, diversity and inclusion to end systemic inequality and racism. Please donate consistent with BUF's own Beloved Community Covenant. Blue Skies' representative will speak at the BUF service May 21. Contributions accepted throughout the month.

Website 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

BUF Night In and Game Night Tonight!



Join our weekly supper in the Social Hall at 6:00 – everyone is welcome! The soup this week will be tortellini soup (both vegan and with sausage), chopped salad, garlic 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.

Newcomer Gathering

May 13. 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. BUF

This Saturday, make new friends and enjoy a pizza lunch while learning more about Unitarian Universalism and BUF. Join the fun and reserve your space with Felice Davis: (253) 307-8981 or fdavis1944@gmail.com.

May 15, 5:00 p.m. Electric Vehicles Update, on Zoom

Are you curious about the evolution of electric vehicles in our time? During my current participation on the City of Bellingham's EV Adoption Working Group, I have encountered umpteen inspirational concepts. These have been pioneered by other communities and companies at the forefront of accelerated EV adoption. I have six slides about these intriguing possibilities to share online with folks who might be interested in what's on the near horizon. Join me, Jaco ten Hove, on Zoom next Tuesday for this SHORT (30-minute max) presentation. It will expand your sense of how EVs are already shaping our future. Zoom Meeting ID: 790 7480 3146; Passcode: t7yt3M

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. Register by May 14 at

<https://buf.breezechms.com/form/buf.breezechms.com>

For any questions ask Claire Lending, Claire.lending@gmail.com



BUF Annual Congregational Meeting

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

After the service, BUF will hold its annual congregational meeting in person and on Zoom.

Members have been emailed a packet of meeting materials you can also find here:

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

Only members can vote at this meeting. A quorum is needed to approve the budget.

Sunday meeting number: 997 210 55665, Passcode: BUF, link:

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

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. You will have the opportunity to learn about bygone communities, while experiencing authentic and delicious Sephardic cuisine in traditional Jewish-Moroccan dishes.

Click [here](#) for complete details, courtesy of trip organizers, Victoria Mayers, teachingteam@gmail.com, and Katie Edelstein, 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



CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday Morning

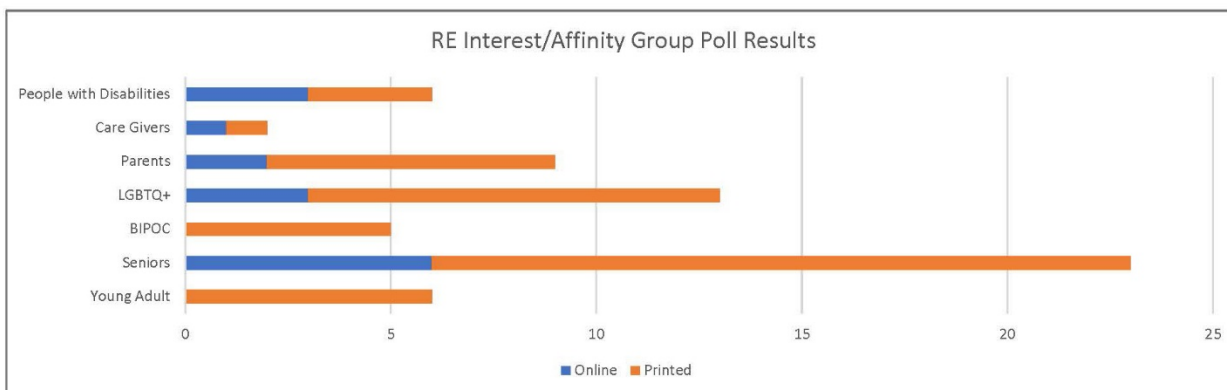
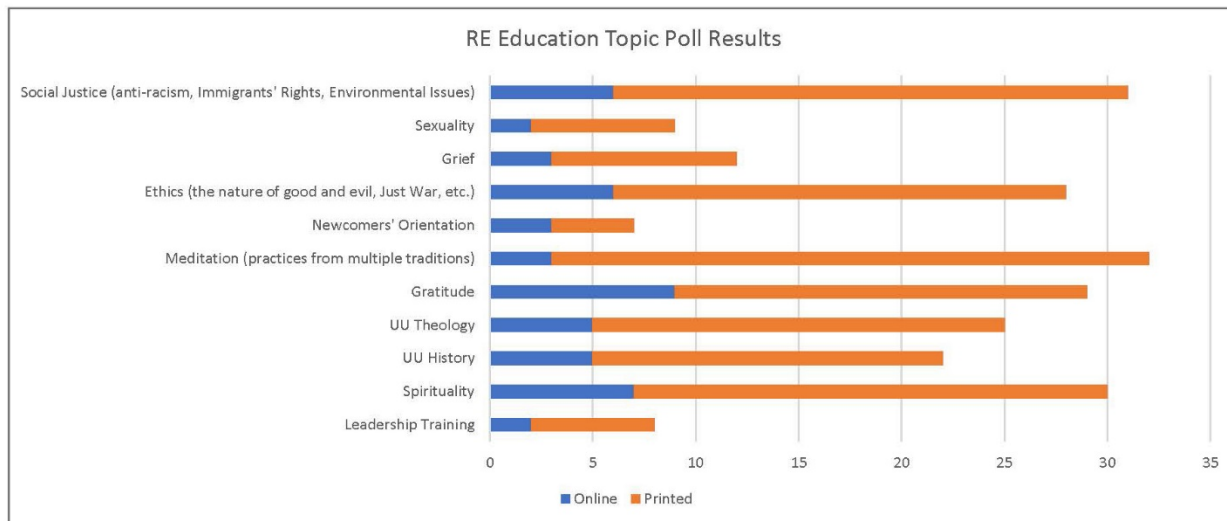
This week we are preparing for the Hawaii-Bellingham Connection service on May 21st, by reading a sensory book about the ocean, and writing poems and drawing pictures of things we love about the sea. These will be shared as a part of this intergenerational service focused on what connects Hawaii and Bellingham, such as the sea, canoes, and whales.

Children will start in the sanctuary where we have a child-friendly space with pillows, low tables and chairs, 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 RE SURVEY RESULTS

Thanks to all of you who took the time to fill out the recent Adult RE survey. We had a great response and our team is planning next year's offerings based on your feedback. Here are the results of the survey. The data and visual were put together by Patricia Conover and Jen Baptist.



VOLUNTEERS – MAKE A DIFFERENCE

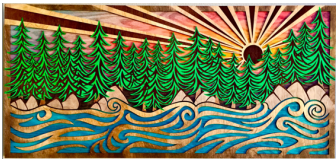
Volunteers are needed May 25 for the Black Lives Matter George Floyd Memorial event, starting in the BUF sanctuary at 6:15 p.m. and moving to Fouts Park. For details contact Naomi Gary at naomiwwwgary@gmail.com.

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

Galbraith Mountain

May 19, 7:30pm, Friday, at BUF

May 20, 3pm, Saturday, Fairhaven Village Green



Choir of the Salish Sea presents a musical montage to a mountain bike and trail-running mecca.

The driving rhythms and lofty harmonies of Bellingham's premiere tenor and bass choir reflect the energy and camaraderie of the mountain that brings the world to Bellingham. Songs include *Bicycle Race* by Queen, *White Winter Hymnal* (Pentatonix), *Here Comes the Sun* by the Beatles, and *Seven Bridges Road* by The Eagles. Also songs from *Braveheart*, *Chariots of Fire*, *Lion King*, *Tarzan*, and *The Hobbit*. A raffle at each concert will include prizes from local bike and running shops, and clubs. Ticket holders are automatically entered into the raffle. Must be present to win.

Order **tickets for Friday** concert at
<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5821392>

Order **tickets for Saturday** concert at
<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5824994>

For Fairhaven concert, bring a blanket and folding chair. In case of rain, the Fairhaven concert will move to BUF at 4:00 p.m. Saturday.

BUF Choice 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 office

BUF CALENDAR		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
May 11, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
May 13, 2023	10 am-2:00 pm	Pathways and Pizza. Get acquainted Saturday with everyone new to BUF and the church. Det details and to reserve your space with Felice Davis at 253 307-8981
May 15, 2023	5:00 pm	Latest developments in Electronic Vehicles. A slide pesentation with Jaco ten Hove. Zoom Meeting ID: 790 7480 3146; Passcode: t7yt3M
May 15, 2023	7:00 pm	Black Lives Matter guest speakers Barbara Miller and Adeline Calderone of Friendship Diversion Services. This is a hybrid meeting in-person in the Flex Room and on Zoom, https://zoom.us/j/96292952504 Meeting ID: 962 9295 2504 Passcode: BUF
May 18, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
May 20, 2023	9:00 am-4:00 pm	Spring BUF Women's Retreat. Saturday at the Cannery Lodge at Semiahmoo in Blaine. More details coming soon.
May 21, 2023	Noon	BUF Annual Congregational Meeting at BUF and on Zoom. A quorum of members needed to approve the budget. Sunday meeting number: 997 210 55665, Passcode: BUF, link: https://zoom.us/j/99721055665?pwd=ODBJM2szZnVBaCtGb2hqY2IwTUx4dz09
May 22, 2023	7:00 pm	Black Lives Matter program meeting topic subject or speaker TBA, contact rupertayton@yahoo.com for details, https://zoom.us/j/96292952504 Meeting ID: 962 9295 2504 Passcode: BUF
May 25, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
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 naomiwwgary@gmail.com
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 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
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