

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

May 24, 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

When newcomers ask, “What is Unitarian Universalism?” I share a bit about the principles that guide all of our congregations, and our mission here at BUF. And I say: “Ultimately, though, what I say isn’t going to matter unless you observe us working—however imperfectly—toward these ideals. And if you feel welcome.” I say this knowing that, unless visitors experience us that way, they won’t be back.



When I speak this coming Sunday about “Our Liberating Message for an Increasingly Fascist Culture,” what I say isn’t going to matter if we are unable to recognize inconsistencies within our own culture. And then reflect, and progress.

Consider some characteristics of liberal religious traditions, below. (Note that these take many forms, so we have lots of allies among Christian denominations and other global traditions). Think of examples you’ve witnessed at BUF:

1. *Liberal religions affirm the individual’s freedom of choice in religions matters.*
2. *They require individual responsibility in such choice.*
3. *Liberal religions affirm the value of religious and social diversity.*
4. *They affirm that new religious ideas will arise.*
5. *They affirm the importance of reason.*
6. *And finally, liberal religions must be practiced in relationship with one’s community.*

That’s a lot to do all at once. Fortunately, we have developed a congregational culture to support us as we practice, and change, and grow (see #6, above). This coming Sunday, I encourage you to take some very small steps toward practicing your values in the context of your larger community. Intentionally sit by

someone you don't know. Go out of your way to talk with someone you have not met. As you get to know new people, introduce them to those you already know.

Sometimes it can be hard even to sit somewhere other than we usually sit. It's natural to seek the comfort of a little consistency—a little familiarity—in our lives. So let's, all together, in the spirit of our liberating message, break out into a wider familiarity.

Peace,
Paul

SUNDAY SERVICES - May and June, 2023

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 100th Anniversary of Flower Communion

June 25 UUA General Assembly Worship Service Streamed live from Pittsburgh

Art in the Narthex

There is still time to enjoy art by Brian Drake, a local painter born and raised in Bellingham. This Sunday morning, Brian proposes to do an 'artist at work' painting demonstration in the BUF narthex, on the theme of the sermon "Our Liberating Message for an Increasingly Fascist Culture."

His work will remain in our narthex till the end of the month.

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

George Floyd Celebration

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

Invitation to the Public for a Potlatch

May 21-29. 'Gathering of the Eagles' Esqalph etse Kwelengsen. A canoe trip through the islands.

We are honored to be part of the Gathering of the Eagles, a mini-canoe journey, potlatch and strategy session with the Alliance of Earth, Sky & Water Protectors as follows:

May 26th: Leave Orcus Island. Lummi Landing, estimated 4:00 p.m. at the Stommish Grounds

May 27th: Honoring Day, many intertribal guest presenters and honoring of Women Warriors and evening Coastal Jam. Lummi reservation

May 28th: Alliance of Earth, Sky & Water Protectors Strategy Sessions. Lummi reservation

May 29th: Alliance of Earth, Sky & Water Protectors Strategy Talks. Lummi reservation

Meals will be provided each day. We are in need of folks to bring in potluck offerings. Please consider offering a potluck dish for sharing or offers of needed food staples (eggs, cereal, bread, fruits, vegetables, etc.). Also, we'll gladly accept any volunteer help with food prep, clean up, etc. throughout the weekend.

Event details can be found here:

<https://www.blogger.com/blog/posts/497419981247342970> and follow on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/348680987204571>

If you want to offer up your time as a volunteer or with food items, contact Deb Cruz @ dwcruz@comcast.net

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/1FAIpQLSewYbXBoZTZMqIQ4iSgoQ67eoEcyA_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



Blue Skies for Children (BSFC) offers several programs to support underserved children and youth, which enhance their skills and self-esteem. These include group as well as individually targeted activities.

BSFC does not receive any government funding. It serves 1,000 children with a small staff of three. They seek both financial and in-kind contributions (such as postage stamps, new toys, or gently used musical instruments for their Loaner Program).

The impact of BSFC in 2022:

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

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

The representative of BSFC informed us at last Sunday's service that they have a **great need for children's shoes**, and that anyone who could do a shoe drive for new shoes should contact them. Please contribute via BUF to Blue Skies throughout this month. Mail in or drop off your check or cash at the BUF office. If you have set up an electronic transfer, that is great.

Phone: 360-756-6710; Website, www.blueskiesforchildren.org.

Humanitas Ministry



Joe came in this week 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. Our freezer runneth over, and this week we'll be serving our delicious reheated tortellini soup (vegan and with meat), a green 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.

June 10. Save the Date for Summer Outside Work Party at BUF: Saturday, June 10th 9:30am. More details to come in upcoming MWUs.

June 11. All-Church BBQ, 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! Genia at genia@BUF.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday Morning



Our theme this month is creativity and this Sunday we are collaborating on a mural after reading a true story about a neighborhood that created beauty and belonging with a community mural. We will explore how creativity helps us see the world in new and surprising ways, and can lead us to unique solutions.

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. The only qualification needed is a love of children!

VOLUNTEERS - MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteers 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.

Volunteers needed to help with food prep, clean up, etc. throughout the weekend of the "Gathering of the Eagles" potlatch on Lummi **May 27-28**. For help, contact Deb Cruz @ dwacruz@comcast.net

Volunteers needed to help with the All-Church, After-Service BBC **June 11**. Contact Kathy, admin@BUF.org or Genia at genia@BUF.org

MUSIC NEWS -

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

Thanks to all participants in our incredible service *Celebrating the Bellingham-Honolulu Connection Part 2*:

- Beth Beyers, who spoke, showed photos, taught hula, sang, directed and played flute.
- Tallie Jones (Ro Donelson's daughter) for playing cello
- Lisa Kusick for playing ukelele
- TJ Anderson and Jessica Cartwright for singing "Under the Sea"
- Beth Beyers, Karen FitzGerald, Barbara Gilday, Lisa Heezen, Lizz Roberts and Ann Stevenson for singing "The Seal Lullaby."
- Michael Cox for playing the conch and the musical saw
- Lizz Roberts for singing, telling a story and delivering an impactful poem
- Ron Quinn and Barbara Ellis-Quinn for teaching and leading sign language
- The Chalice Choir, for singing Hawai'i Aloha fluently and confidently, like true Hawai'ians
- Genia Allen-Schmid for creating opportunities and support for kids to be in the service
- Walt Ellis and Jeff Copland for incredible AV Tech
- RuthAnn Hanlin for the beautiful rainbow quilt
- Rev. Paul Beckel for wrapping it all up in a bow.

Aloha,
Kevin Allen-Schmid
BUF Music Director

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 office

BUF CALENDAR		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
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 naomiwwwgary@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

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May 24, 2023

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
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