

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

June 14, 2023

In this issue

(CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW TO JUMP
TO THAT CONTENT, OR
CONTINUE SCROLLING)

[Sunday Look Ahead](#)

[Social & Environmental
Justice](#)

[Community Events](#)

[Religious Education](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[Music News](#)

[Calendar](#)

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



Rev Petr Samojký, current minister of the Unitarian Church of Prague in the Czech Republic (the church where the Flower Communion began 100 years ago), shares this blessing:

(Czech Unitarian Symbol)

In the name of what is holy; in the name of what is good; in the name of that which gives life, we have gathered here today. We have been given life to live under the aspect of eternity, for that is the source of happiness; to work on ourselves and bring happiness into our lives; to be as useful as possible to others with whom we are connected by invisible relationships.

You, the flowers, remind us of the wonderful simplicity of the natural order and that we too are a part of it. You remind us of the beauty and harmony of diversity. You remind us that one can feel and perceive and live unity in diversity, and diversity in unity. Let the spirit of creative life unite us, as it reigns among us.

Peace,
Paul

SUNDAY SERVICES - June-September, 2023

June 18 See MWU column from Paul, for more information about the service.

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

July 2-Sept. 3
Summer Services at
Bellingham Unitarian
Fellowship

There will be ten wonderful services this summer at BUF, with diverse speakers, creative elements and fabulous music. Services will start at 10:30AM at BUF with a Zoom option.

Below are descriptions of the first five services (July 2-30). Watch this space for the August services, which will be posted in mid-July.

Questions? Please contact BUF Summer Service Coordinator, Rev. Barbara W. ten Hove at revbabs10@gmail.com.

July 2 - Finding Connection
with Nature in the Summer
Carrie Koehnlne, Steffany Raynes
and Su Livingston

Even though summer invites us to be outdoors, really connecting with the natural world can be unexpectedly challenging. In this experiential service Carrie and Steffany invite you to consider simple communing practices wherever you find yourself, even in your back yard or a tiny pocket park. Su will share her improvised piano music.

July 9 - Islam Inquiry: Why
Muhammad?

Rev. Jaco B. ten Hove with Rev.
Barbara ten Hove

The founding figure of Islam and his life's context are worth considering as we try to grasp why he inspires such dedication among his followers, then and now.

July 16 - Gospel of UUism through Hymns
Rev. Barbara ten Hove with Su Livingston and
Melanie Rieck

Music plays an important part of religion and our UU faith is no exception. This service will explore some of our favorite hymns and the story they tell us about our theology and beliefs.

July 23 - Finding Home:
Rev. Barbara Gilday & Steffany Raynes

Looking at 3 people: a refugee, a prisoner on death row and an adoptee, we'll reflect on what drives their particular passions for home, what stands in their way and what solutions may be found. Considering other seekers may help us to reflect on what home is for each of us.

July 30 - Wounded Words
Rev. Barbara W. ten Hove & Rod Haynes

Religious language can be challenging for UUs. Is it OK to use the word God? Am I allowed to pray? This service challenges our preconceptions about religious words and invites us to engage with them in new and meaningful ways.

Art in the Narthex

Christopher Remmers' artwork appears in the BUF narthex in June. Christopher is a classically-trained oil painter, who has exhibited and been collected widely. His body of work explores myth and story in large-scale narrative paintings that are technically dazzling and imbued with depth and insight into archetypal motifs.

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Juneteenth Celebration

June 17. 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Maritime Heritage Park



The Black Lives Matter Action Ministry Team invites you to join us at Maritime Heritage Park to celebrate Juneteenth Freedom Day. There will be entertainment, food, and community tables. Please come out in support of this important event that BUF is sponsoring. For details contact Rupert at rupertayton@yahoo.com

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>

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

Special Collections - June 2023

Special Collections Recipient: Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center (WDRC)

Mission: To provide and promote constructive and collaborative approaches to conflict.

Focus: The plan is to offer training to 35 residents of Gardenview Village (Road2Home), housing for the homeless. They are 55 years old or over, possibly with chronic health

conditions. The skills assist the residents to deal with their personal trauma, develop sustainable life skills, and maintain their housing status.

Use of SEJC grant: Provide workshops on conflict resolution and relationship management skills at alternate months from June through December, 2023. Staff time for training costs \$225 per hour. Feedback on the utility of workshops will be obtained through a brief survey of participants.

June 11. Sunday morning at BUF Executive Director of WDRC, Moonwater, will speak at the BUF service next Sunday. Please attend and contribute as you can to the efforts of this organization that serves homeless people.

Volunteer opportunities: Volunteers are needed in a variety of tasks. In the past, BUF members served on their Board of Directors and volunteered as trained mediators. If interested, and for more information, please refer to their website or contact their office at: Website: <https://www.whatcomdrc.org> Phone: 360-676-0122 Ext.110

Rev. Paul Beckel, "Where there is community, there is conflict. But conflict doesn't have to end in bitterness and enmity. In fact, conflict worked through in good faith can make us stronger."

Humanitas Ministry



A man named Joe came in recently, looking for help with gas. Living in a van full time would be hard for anyone. It's especially hard for Joe who is on disability for congestive heart failure. He needs to go to inpatient care at a hospital quite often because of swelling in his legs. Each time he goes he knows it'll be for a week or more. He explained that he's aware of when it gets bad enough and he'll need treatment.

He's distrustful of our local hospital and will only go to a hospital in Olympia. This will be his 5th admission this year. We asked him about the possibility of getting housing. But his check wouldn't even cover rent much less leave anything extra to live on. This is a common theme we hear from many of those living in their cars/vans or on the street. It means so much to us knowing that we can help, even if it's a tank of gas allowing Joe to get the medical care he so badly needs. Thank you for your continued support.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cooks Needed for next year's Wednesday Night Dinners



Our weekly Wednesday Night dinners are over for the summer, but we're already planning for next year. If you are craving a way to meet other people and have even moderate kitchen skills (or want to learn!), we encourage you to sign up to join our cooking team. It only requires 2 or 3 hours once a month. Contact Genia Allen-Schmid at genia@BUF.org if you want to learn more.

Thank You BUF Night In Volunteers

The Choir is so grateful to the BUF Night In Team for providing food and a gathering for them and everyone on Wednesday nights. Coming off the pandemic, where we were all separated by masks and social distance, the dinners provided a welcoming place with delicious meals. Thank you so much for the generous donation of your time to make BUF Night In a success.

People who helped cook a BUF Night In meal more than once throughout 22-23 include: Genia Allen-Schmid, Kathryn Allen, Beth Beyers, Debbie Boots, Kathy Forrest, Sean Foster, Alan Friedlob, Judy Fruhbauer, Daria Haynes, Erica Mallin, Sharon McCarty, Sean Foster, Tom McCarty, Kjerstie Nelson, Tom Nicholas, Ann Stevenson, Jennifer Villalva.

Next Board Meeting and Update on Sanctuary Chairs

June 14. 7:00 p.m. 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.

July 3. New Taizé Zoom link

BUF hosts a Taizé service on the first Monday of the month at 7pm. We are pleased to be able to host this both in our sanctuary and on Zoom. Due to some recent online challenges, we have changed the login of the Zoom service. To join us please use the following link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97456974163?pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09>
Meeting ID: 974 5697 4163
Passcode: BET

Sept 5. Lunch with Paul at BUF

Lunch with Paul resumes at **Noon** on Tuesday, **September 5.**

BUF Creativity Exhibition

Sept 16-17. BUF Social Hall

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! For more details: Email Jan Cavitt at jadacad@gmail.com or Pam Graham at pam.graham1@icloud.com or pamg6986@gmail.com.

Mid Week Update Summer Schedule

June 14 will be the last Wednesday the MWU is published every week until September 6. Summer publication is 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 formal Sunday morning Religious Education program is on hiatus over the summer, but two of our wonderful teenage childcare providers will be here each week to lead a variety of fun indoor and outdoor activities during the service.

Children will start in the sanctuary, as usual, where we have a child-friendly space with pillows, drawing supplies, fidget boxes, and a front row seat for the Story of All Ages or interactive song. Afterward, the children's focus we will head upstairs where older children will be in the flex room and preschoolers 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'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2023-24

FALL

Newcomer Pathways to BUF - 3 sessions

Pathway sessions welcome new members, visitors, or anyone interested in knowing more about the UU tradition and BUF. These fun and informative sessions introduce participants to each other and to Unitarian Universalism.

Pathways for Young Parents - 3 sessions

This Pathways will be held during church so parents of young children can attend while their children are taken care of. Learn about the UU tradition in relationship with your peers!

UU History - 4 sessions

The first in a series, this 4-week course explores the people, ideas, and movements that have shaped our UU principle of Freedom of Belief. Together we will explore pivotal moments in Unitarian Universalism through compelling stories that offer lessons for how to live the UU faith, not only today, but into the future.

Spirit in Practice - 4 sessions

Spirit in Practice will be an opportunity to explore and cultivate regular practices that connect us with the sacred ground of our being, however we understand it. Whichever path we follow in this diverse congregation, the Spirit in Practice workshop will offer a forum for learning, sharing, and growth that can enrich our faith journey.

WINTER

Newcomer Pathways to BUF - 3 sessions

Gratitude - 3 sessions

UU Theology - 4 sessions

Beloved Community Offerings - February (TBD)

SPRING

Newcomer Pathways to BUF - 3 sessions

UU 101- 4 sessions

Social and Environmental Justice Programming (TBD)

VOLUNTEERS - MAKE A DIFFERENCE

July 9. Volunteers are needed to help with the Bellingham Pride Parade, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Waypoint Park to Downtown. Return to BUF after the parade. Call Cathy Campbell 360-224-1005 or cathyc1808@gmail.com for more details.

July 9. Volunteers also needed to host the BUF table at the Pride festival, Depot Market Square. 12:00-4:00 p.m. Call Cathy Campbell 360-224-1005 or cathyc1808@gmail.com for more details

MUSIC NEWS -

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

Music news will resume August 9.

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 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 17, 2023	2:00 to 6:00 pm	Juneteenth Celebration Maritime Heritage Park with the Black Lives Matter Action Ministry Team. Contact Rupert at rupertayton@yahoo.com for details.
June 19, 2023	7:00 pm	Black Lives Matter program meeting, subject or speaker TBA. Contact Rupert at rupertayton@yahoo.com for details. https://zoom.us/j/96292952504 Meeting ID: 962 9295 2504 Passcode: BUF
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 (note new Zoom link) https://zoom.us/j/97456974163?pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09 Meeting ID: 974 5697 4163 Passcode: BET If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org
July 8-9, 2023	Hours vary	Bellingham Pride Days. Saturday activities include a picnic and dance. Sunday activities include a Pride parade and festival. For times of specific activities contact Cathy Campbell 360-224-1005 or cathyc1808@gmail.com for more details.
August 7, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé https://zoom.us/j/97456974163?pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09 Meeting ID: 974 5697 4163 Passcode: BET 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/97456974163?pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09 Meeting ID: 974 5697 4163 Passcode: BET 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/97456974163?pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09 Meeting ID: 974 5697 4163 Passcode: BET 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/97456974163? pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09 Meeting ID: 974 5697 4163 Passcode: BET 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/97456974163? pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09 Meeting ID: 974 5697 4163 Passcode: BET If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org