

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

July 26, 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



Young and Old Together

I love sitting in the pews when someone else has planned and is leading the Sunday service. I see things, hear things, and feel things I don't when encountering these moments from a different location and mindset.

A couple of Sundays ago, I was sitting in the back of the sanctuary. Consciously or not consciously anticipating that my infant grandchild was about to arrive in Bellingham. The congregation began: "*We are a gentle, angry people...and we are singing, singing for our li-iiives.*" I joined enthusiastically. Then out of the blue, a line I've sung countless times grabbed at my throat: "*We are young and old together....*" What struck me, though, was not the usual amalgam of wonder, joy, terror, and helplessness of grandparenthood—which I've felt a lot lately. Rather, I was suddenly conscious that in the equation, "young + old = us," I belonged on the old side.

Is there such a thing as intense but neutral emotional experience? I mean, I was seriously choking up...but not sad, not happy. I wasn't worried or self-pitying or self-congratulatory. Only—aware—knowing something to be true.

I hope BUF provides a sanctuary in which you too can cry and sing and feel—without shame—whatever it is you need to feel. And I hope too that BUF may be a place for self-awareness for all of us.

Peace,
Paul

**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. One service remains in July:

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. Jaco ten Hove will provide special music.

**Summer Services at
Bellingham Unitarian
Fellowship - Second Half
Aug. 6 - Sept. 3**

There are five more wonderful services this summer at BUF, with diverse speakers, creative elements and fabulous music. Services start at 10:30AM at BUF with a Zoom option. Below are descriptions of the second five services (Aug. 6-Sept. 3). Questions? Please contact BUF Summer Service Coordinator, Rev. Barbara W. ten Hove at revbabs10@gmail.com.

**Aug. 6 - The Journey from
Uncertainty to Hope: A Poetry
and Music Service—**Led by Drew

Betz & Carrie Koehnline with special music by Lizz Roberts

Join Drew and other BUFsters for a morning of poetry and music. We will celebrate the following four themes in both music and spoken word: Doubt and Uncertainty, Anger and Clarity, Connection and Hope. You will hear from a variety of voices reading a carefully curated set of poems and be able to raise your voice in singing some classic hymns.

Aug. 13 - How Our Rights Matter - A service led by David Curley with the Black Lives Matter Task Force and Pam Graham. Special guest speaker will be Brian Womack - a human rights leader and justice advocate in our community. With special music by Joel Johnson.

Aug. 20 - Partner Church Celebration - Led by Rev. Paul Beckel & Kevin Allen-Schmid. Special Guest the Rev. Tamas Balasz

Join us as we celebrate the many years of friendship with Magyarszovat Unitarian Church, our partner congregation in Romania. Rev. Balasz is retiring and he and his wife will join us for this special recognition of our many years of relationship.

Aug. 27- Spiritual Play - Exploring the Body's Wisdom - Led by Rev. Barbara ten Hove with Steffany Raynes & Anna Matheson with special music by Lisa Kusick

On this last Sunday of August, we'll have the opportunity to play together, finding joy and wisdom in our words, in movement and in reflection. Using "Interplay" techniques, this experiential service will work best if you attend in person. For those who choose to participate (always a choice), this offers a fun and meaningful experience for all ages, so bring your whole family!

Sept. 3 -Planting Something New – Led by Rev. Racael Weasley and Pam Graham

When someone first suggested to Pastor Rachael that she start a new church from scratch, she laughed off the comment with a firm decline. Four and a half years later, her new queer activist church held its first event. Hear the story of how she said yes to God, and join in wondering about the mystical invitations in your own life! Joining us from Community of Hope, Pastor Rachael is honored to preach at BUF after several years of collaboration with BUF on Indigenous solidarity work, other social justice efforts, and interfaith services.



*Connecting with the Landscapes of Our Lives:
The Moon, The Stars, and All Things Celestial*

Taizé Service August 7 at 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Photo taken by Tessie, June 2022

It is helpful to look up at times and allow ourselves to gain some perspective. In William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Juliet said, "O, swear not by the moon, th' inconstant moon." Robert Frost asked for guidance from a star in his writing, "Take Something Like a Star."

At this month's service we'll turn our attention to the heavens and connect with all things celestial through music, meditation, and poetry.

We'd love to have you join us either in person or via zoom for our monthly service. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/97456974163?
pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz
09](https://zoom.us/j/97456974163?pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09)

Meeting ID: 974 5697 4163

Passcode: BET

In Loving Memory of Rick Dudley

With sadness we share news of the death of Rick Dudley, a member of BUF for 28 years who lived simply, spoke plainly, and gave freely. Rick lived an extraordinarily minimalist lifestyle with a do-no-harm ethic. He had no illusions that he was going to fix the world; he just couldn't grasp the concept of not living according to one's stated values. A memorial service will be held later this summer, on Friday August Aug 25th.

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

UUs condemns Supreme Court Decision

"Unitarian Universalists believe the full expression of the diversity of gender and sexuality is a gift. Our LGBTQIA+ siblings are sacred, whole, and divine as they are," said the Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray, the UUA's outgoing president.

The Unitarian Universalist Association Condemns U.S. Supreme Court's Decision on the 303 Creative LLC vs. Elenis Case June 30, 2023. As UUs, we are committed to supporting them as we see forces working to diminish their rights. Read the rest of the press release here: <https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/condemning-303-creative-case>

Update on UUA Article II Changes

This year's UUA General Assembly concluded on June 25. The gathering was of particular importance as delegates were asked to vote on a substantial update to the UUA Article II. BUF delegates, Lew Phinney, Henry Ohana, Rick Steele, and Stephanie Sarver, participated by Zoom.

Article II currently consists of seven principles, a purpose, and sources. The revision melds the seven principles with six values integral to UU faith: interdependence, pluralism, justice, transformation, generosity, and equity. A newly added diagram illustrates the relationships among these values, which are unified by love at the center. The original proposed changes are here: <https://discuss.uua.org/t/proposed-revision-to-article-ii/842>

This version is the result of two-year study process, during which the changes were hotly debated. This past spring congregations sent more than 800 suggested amendments of which 300 were considered at GA. Of those 13 were discussed on the floor, and three accepted. The revised Article II was approved.

At next year's GA, members will accept (or not) the final changes to Article II. It's possible to further revise the draft, but the by-laws make further changes more difficult. These changes will, no doubt, be a topic of ongoing discussion here at BUF.

Understand how Immigration and Migration Policies Overlap

July 26. 2:00pm ET • 1:00pm CT • 12:00n MT • 11:00am PT

Seeking to help advocates and activists understand this dynamic, our Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) friends, Migration and Refugee Service, are offering the third and final session to help faith advocates more fully appreciate how these issues connect.

Why Migrate? Throughout history, economically ambitious migrants who wanted more opportunities for themselves and their families left a country with limited opportunities. From the last quarter of the 19th Century to just before WWI, almost one million people from Norway immigrated abroad, mainly to the U.S. Unskilled Norwegian immigrants took the lowest-paying jobs, mostly manual labor. This reality repeats in American history.

Immigration and migration policy issues are increasingly recognized as intertwined and intersectional. Seeking to help advocates and activists understand this dynamic, our (UUs for Social Justice) Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) friends, Migration and Refugee Service, offers a final session on this subject.

Register Here:

https://usccb.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XfFgHiYaQPOhonIV3wZJvg#/registration?eType=EmailBlastContent&eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=86985f2b-5c07-4509-8730-c09b3b7ac40a&eId=b2de1d69-9e23-4c85-8906-c8345f3ab0a3

Immigration Action Support Needed

The Immigration Act Team of UUs for Social Justice submitted to this year's General Assembly an Action of Immediate Witness entitled "Protect the Dreamers, the Recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA), with a Pathway to Permanent Residence" (<https://discuss.uua.org/t/protect-the-dreamers-the-recipients-of-deferred-action-for-childhood-arrival-daca-with-a-pathway-to-permanent-residence/949?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=b2de1d69-9e23-4c85-8906-c8345f3ab0a3>).

Since the U.S. district court heard oral arguments on the legality of the current DACA policy on June 1, 2023, DACA may soon be ruled unlawful. This AIW calls on the UUA to urge Congress to provide permanent protection for Dreamers. We are pleased that 2043 of those delegates voting, or 98%, approved our Action of Immediate Witness in the final round, with similarly strong showings in the prior rounds.

Take our new Action Alert to support Dreamers and DACA here:

<https://uusj.salsalabs.org/dreamact2023/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=b2de1d69-9e23-4c85-8906-c8345f3ab0a3>

Special Collections - July 2023

BUF Special Collections Recipient for July, 2023: Northwest Youth Services

Please remember our youth in crisis this month. The Northwest Youth Services (NWYS) provides emergency shelter and other services for youngsters of 13-17 years old in Whatcom County, to reduce the likelihood of their homelessness. Their developmental program has a 24-hour access to supplies and support for housing, to return to their families and to fulfill their other goals.

Your donation this month will help to get basic supplies for over 500 youngsters, and for housing services. If you wish to volunteer, they could use help in organizing a closet and in preparation for events.

If you have not already given, you can do so the rest of this month.

For more information please contact: Kenzi Murphy, Advancement Coordinator at Kenzim@nwys.org website: <https://www.nwys.org>

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Congregational Administrator Job Opening

BUF is recruiting for a Congregational Administrator. Please see the job posting on the BUF website <https://wp.buf.org/congregational-administrator-opening/>. If you know of someone who may be interested in this position please have them submit their information as soon as possible. **No phone calls please!**

Board Update:

September 29-30th Rummage Sale at BUF

Greetings BUFsters! We are planning a Fall Rummage Sale at BUF. This sale is one of our Board approved fundraisers for the coming year.

I have agreed to convene a working group of eager and helpful planners. It will take a number of helping hands to pull this off. Let's meet up to start the planning soon.

Please contact Drew Betz via e-mail by **Friday July 15** if you are interested in being on the team. My hope is to have an initial meeting before the end of July. We will gather at BUF with Kathy Wahto who is a key to our successful planning. Please RSVP to me by this Friday. I will be contacting those interested with a scheduling poll as early as the **27th of July**.

Thanks in advance for considering this.

Drew Betz, Board member, drewlenore@me.com

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.

Sept 5. Lunch with Paul at BUF

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

BUF Creativity Exhibition

Oct 7-8 *(Please note date change)* 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 October 7/8 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

The MWU is published every other week until September 6 as follows:

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

VOLUNTEERS - MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Sept 16-17. BUF Social Hall. Volunteers and planners needed for BUF Creativity Exhibition.

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

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 2023-2024

Alex Gilman, President - Daria Haynes , Vice President - Drew Betz, Secretary - John Stewart,
Treasurer, - Jim Reimer, Trustee - Beth Nyblade, Trustee - Stephanie Sarver, Trustee - Lew
Phinney, Trustee - Lin Skavdahl- Trustee, Rev. Paul Beckel, ex officio

BUF CALENDAR		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
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