

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

November 8, 2023

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Sunday Service Zoom Link:

Meeting ID 738 363 620

Worship starts at 10:20am

<https://zoom.us/j/73836362>

Passcode is BUF Phone: (669)

900-6833

Lunch with Paul at BUF

Please join Paul for a bring-your-own lunch and conversation every Tuesday noon.

Words From Paul

A Change in Taize Leadership, and Endless Thanks to Rev Tessie Mandeville

Rev Tessie Mandeville initiated the Monday evening Taize service at BUF five years ago. She is now passing along leadership to the volunteer team* who she has mentored all these years as they have supported this unique style of ministry. We will continue to offer Taize services on the first Monday of each month at 7 pm. Services are held in the sanctuary and are accessible via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/97456974163> (this link is always on buf.org wherever you see info about Taize).



If you have not attended a Taize service, I urge you to do so. Taizé offers an opportunity for quiet reflection—with candlelight, simple music sung in a chant-like manner, poetry/readings, and silence.

We are thankful to Rev Tessie for the way she has always created an uplifting soulful atmosphere. We're thankful for how she conveys her deep love and brings that spirit among us. And we're thankful to her for leaving us with a treasure trove of resources to help us evolve even as we continue with this ministry.

With Appreciation,
Paul

*The Taize volunteer team shares in the singing, planning, AV tech, set up, creating visual art, leading meditations, engaging with visitors on Zoom, etc, with additional music and AV tech provided by staff. If you're interested in sharing in this ministry, please contact Carrie Koehline Carolyn.Koehline@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Sunday Services

Sunday, November 12

"...To Nurture the Spark of your Precious Life" - Rev Paul Beckel & Steffany Raynes

What's on your heart as you sing these words to our BUF kids leaving for their classrooms? These particular

kids in these particular times and circumstances? And how about nurturing the spark of your own precious life? How do you day by day fan that spark into flame?

Sunday Nov 19

Connections and Legacy in Tanzania - Kevin Allen-Schmid

Stories of beautiful people who have made a difference in Africa. These are people Kevin knew in Tanzania, some related to BUFster Carl Nyblade. The Phoenix Ensemble will sing African songs of protest and praise.

Pre-Holiday Re-Gifting & Re-Purposing Treasures Sale- Sat Nov 11th 9am-3pm at BUF

Come and find treasures to be re-gifted or re-purposed for holiday gifts or as a treat or project for yourself.

The bargains have been rolling in to BUF all week, including kitchen, household items, children's clothes and toys, games, puzzles, jewelry and much more.

The doors will open at 9am. Accepting cash and checks only.

Please join the Bellingham Unitarian Universalist community in creating a gentle consumer footprint for the coming holidays.

Update on Chair Listening Sessions

The BUF Board recently hosted three listening sessions to gather member and friend comments about the planned purchase of padded sanctuary chairs. Their purchase will be funded by donations gathered in the auction paddle call last February. In all, 26 people participated and shared their support, questions, and concerns.

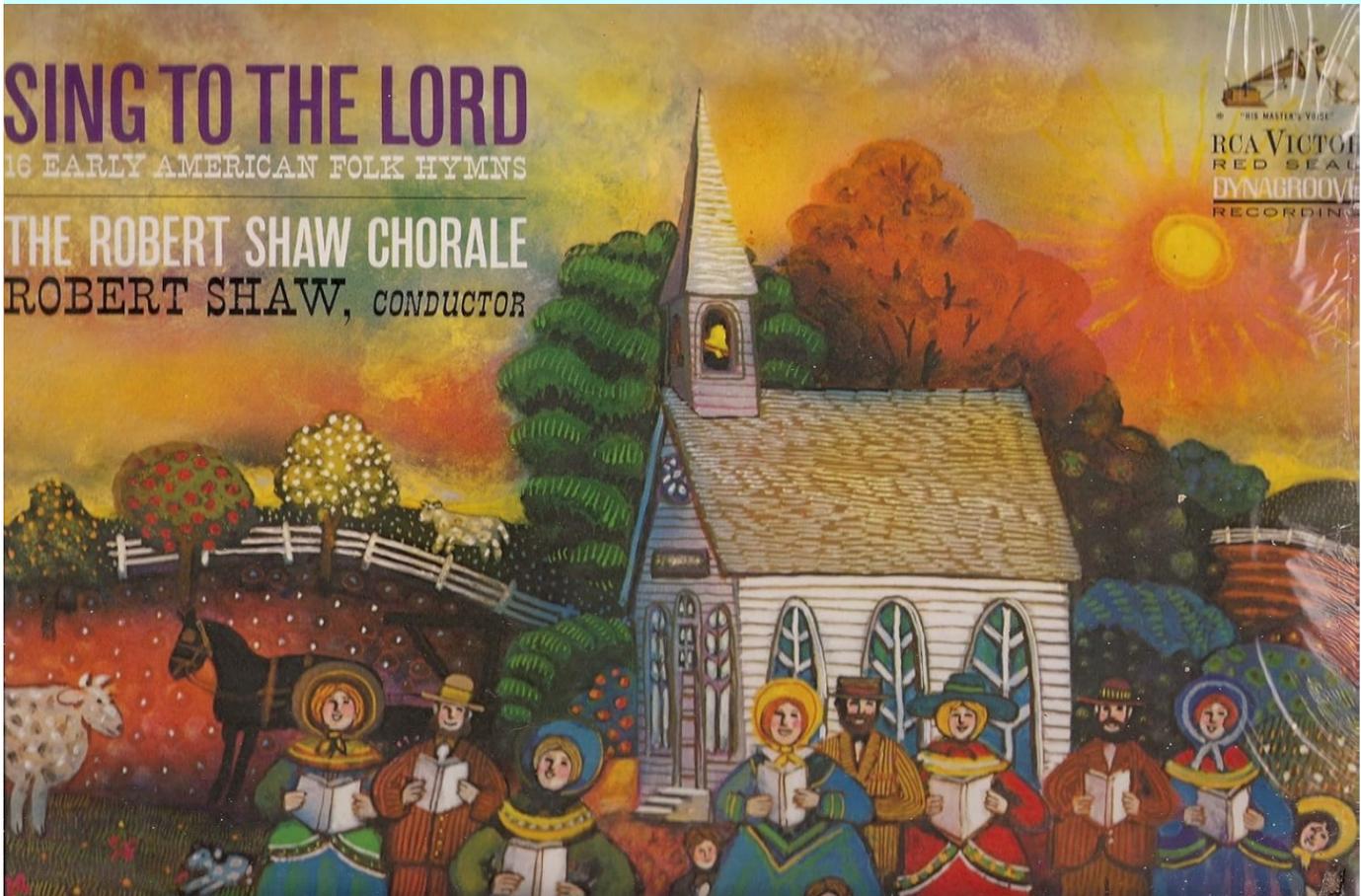
We heard that members are generally supportive of adding some chairs to the sanctuary to increase accessibility and comfort for those with pain or mobility issues. Others expressed concern about aesthetics, the mix of chairs with and without arms, communications issues, and transparency about the process leading to this change.

The Board's next steps will be to compile a plan detailing costs and logistics, including exploring padded wooden chairs as an alternative. The plan will address pew removal, and recruiting volunteers to install the chairs when they are delivered.

We also heard questions about the process by which this change is being managed. To respond to the many questions we heard at the sessions, we have assembled a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). It can be found at the BUF web site under News (<https://wp.buf.org/sanctuary-chairs-faqs/>).

MUSIC NEWS -

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



Thrilling Choir Anthem this Sunday, November 12

This Sunday the Chalice Choir will perform a thrilling anthem called "Hark I Hear the Harps Eternal," arranged by Alice Parker, from a traditional southern American hymn.

I chose this piece for 4 reasons: 1) it's one of my favorite choir pieces of all time, 2) to support the annual collection for our partner church in Magyarszovat, Transylvania, 3) because it's thrilling to sing, being the embodiment of ENTHUSIASM, ENCOURAGEMENT and OPTIMISM, and 4) because of these text references:

- Hark I hear the harps eternal ringing *on the farther shore* . . . (Transylvania is a FARTHER SHORE)
- And my soul, tho' stain'd with sorrow fading as the light of day, passes swiftly o'er those waters,
to the city far away. (Magyarszovat is a CITY FAR AWAY)

You might enjoy listening to this performance by The Robert Shaw Chorale on YouTube in advance, to get yourself psyched to hear our own choir sing it on Sunday:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbCGk1QrFhg>

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Interweave Organizing Meeting, November 12, 12:00-1:30

On Sunday, November 12, 12:00 - 1:30, there will be an organizing meeting for Interweave, the UU program to fight the oppression of LGBTQIA2S+ people. Interweave has been dormant for some years, and this meeting is intended to help us identify actions and projects for the remainder of the 2023-2024 church year. All those interested are encouraged to attend. You do not need to be LGBTQIA2S+ to participate. Allies are welcome! The meeting will be in the library, off the social hall.

Cascadia Online Bioregional Summit

Ends November 12

For details, registration and to sign up to give a workshop, [click here](#).

NOTE: You are welcome to attend the Summit whether you attended the Activation Tour events or not. If you did not attend Joe Brewer's talk on Saturday evening at BUF, we recommend watching the recording on YouTube by [clicking here](#). After David MacLeod's tribute to the recently deceased Michael Dowd and introduction to Joe, Joe's talk begins at 14:47 and ends at 1:46:32. Apologies for the poor sound, but stick with it - the sound is fine for Joe's presentation.

Summit Overview This three-part event is a capstone to the activation tour to take place over two weekends and each weekday evening in-between. Its purpose will be to give participants an opportunity to talk about the vision of this project, share your experience of the tour, report successes and lessons learned and to further connect and plan our future work together. Your participation, whether you attended any of the activation tour events or not, is vital to the success of this Summit. Through your participation, this movement will pick up momentum and continue building on the successes of the tour.

Humanitas Ministry

We had an unusual situation this week. A woman came in who was working with the Northwest justice project. Her landlord had illegally tried to evict her. The agency was able to help her go to court to fight the eviction. When the judge referred the case to a jury, the landlord backed down knowing that he would not prevail.

To retaliate he put all the utilities in her name without notifying her that he had done so. Because she never received a bill for any of these utilities, she had no idea until her water had been turned off.

Thankfully Energy Assistance through Opportunity Council could help her with her electric and heating bills. They referred her to us for her water bill. We along with the other churches in the network were able to pay the back amount allowing her water to be turned back on.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Thanksgiving Day Potluck Is Back!

Thanksgiving Day - Thursday November 23 - 1 PM Set Up and Socializing and 3 PM Dinner

We will provide turkey, you all will provide the trimmings!

RSVP Mark Allyn allyn@well.com. Please indicate how many people and what you plan to bring.



Thank you quilt presented to Kathy Wahto

One of our BUF Chalice Circles presented a quilt this week to our Administrator, as a retirement gift.

The quilting was done by Nancy Braun, Liz Copeland, Sharon McCarty, and Drew Betz.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



This Sunday's story, games and art revolve around Connection, and all the ways we can give and receive. We'll explore how when we act generously towards others, we build a strong, sturdy web of connections that helps sustain all of us. This will be a very active lesson with several games based on cooperation.

This Photo by Unknown
Author is licensed under [CC BY](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) 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. After the Children's Focus we will head upstairs where we will explore our theme through stories, activities, games and art.

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

Community Night Dinners and Game Night this Wednesday at 6:00



This week it's a veritable smorgasbord of soups from the freezer - there is something for everyone! We will fill out the menu with salad, garlic and gluten free bread, and dessert for just \$5 per

person, and kids under 12 free! Our community dinner is every Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 6:45 in the Social Hall at BUF and everyone, of all ages, is welcome!!

Stay after dinner to play card-oriented games- Fluxx or Sea, Salt, and Paper or Gubs. Or bring your own card game or board game to play!

Women's Retreat

Are you interested in help planning this year's Women's retreat in March? It's lots of fun choosing and developing a theme, helping plan the day's flow and working with a small group of enthusiastic women. If this sounds like it would be up your alley, please contact me at genia@BUF.org - we'd love to have you be a part of the team!

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**

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 CALENDAR | | |
|---------------------|-------------|--|
| DATE | TIME | EVENT |
| November 11 | 9am-3pm | Pre-Holiday Re-Gifting & Re-Purposing Treasures Sale- Sat Nov 11th 9am-3pm at BUF |
| November 12 | Noon-1:30pm | Men's Group in the Conference Room Contact Jeff.copeland@gmail.com with questions. |
| November 12 | Noon | Interweave Organizing Meeting, in BUF library |
| November 13 | 4pm-5:30pm | Financial Oversight Committee, Conference Room |
| November 23 | 1pm-5pm | Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner, set up starts at 1pm, with dinner planned for 3pm. We will bring the turkey if you supply the fixings! For more info, please contact Mark Allyn at allyn@well.com |

