

**Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship**  
*Community, Compassion, Commitment*  
January 3, 2023

**THANKSUARY**

Shortly after the 2020 election, at my own initiative, I had a cardiac stress test. Everything was fine. So fine, in fact, that I got the impression from the techs monitoring the test that it had been frivolous. You remember 2020 though, maybe.

A couple of weeks ago, the BUF Celebrant Team met to plan for the new year. We brainstorm together every month about what's working or not in Sunday services, and what themes and service elements might be appropriate for the weeks ahead. These conversations are *soooo* helpful for me. Here's what came up at our December meeting: Like 2020, 2024 could be a tough year emotionally, spiritually, and who knows in what other ways. So we decided "Sanctuary" would be a good theme for the calendar year. I'll say more about this in the coming weeks.

But, first, in my limited space here: I was telling someone else last week about our idea for a theme. Somehow the words came out wrong. Or maybe not. I said, *Our theme for 2024 is going to be Thanksuary*. I don't know where that came from, but it felt so right that I almost made myself cry right there at Lettered Streets Coffeeshouse. I mean, 'Sanctuary' will be great, not just to talk about, but as a shared aspiration: to conspire as a congregation to provide sanctuary, in so many forms, to one another and to the wider community. But it does feel a little guarded. Whereas 'thanksuary,' well, it's corny but feels to me so open-hearted. Maybe it was just what I needed at that moment. A blundering prayer.

Thanks, *Paul*

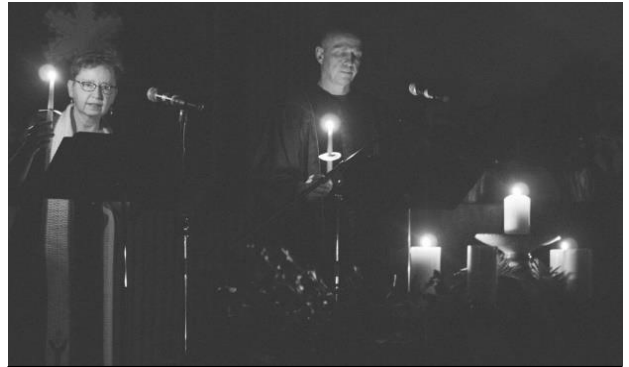
**NEW OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday thru Friday | 10 am – 3 pm

Your existing door codes still work, so feel free to access the building outside of office hours for regular volunteer activities and programs. Please do not use your door codes, however, in the early morning or late evening, as an alarm will sound and someone you love will have to get out of bed. If you do not have a code, please make arrangements with Michelle Fox, our new Administrator: [admin@buf.org](mailto:admin@buf.org) | 360-733-3837

**KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE**

Please join us for a spirited evening devoted to honoring Dr. King and his vision for a beloved community. Monday, January 15, 7 pm at BUF. Special musical guest Checo Tomomaso to share soul music. Key presenters will be Ed Bereal, Ferndale resident and artist, known for exhibitions that display, twist, and resist political, racial, and gendered stereotypes, and Vernon Damani Johnson, retired WWU professor and long-time champion of non-violence and civic engagement. TeeJay Morris will EmCee. Free. All are welcome! From the BUF BLM team.



Photos from Christmas Eve, here and below,  
thanks to Alan Friedlob

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**CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Liberating Love is this month's theme. This coming Sunday we will explore the differences between comforting love, the type of love that feels good and allows us to feel safe, and liberating love, the kind of love that pulls us to take action or make choices.



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](mailto:genia@BUF.org).

**COMMUNITY NIGHT DINNER**

*Not tonight (January 3) but beginning again next Wednesday*



Join us at 6:00 in the social hall for soup (vegan and otherwise), chips, salad and dessert. Cost is \$5 per adult and children under 12 are free!

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!

**INTRODUCING SECOND FRIDAY FUN (SFF) NITE!!**

Starting Friday, January 12, BUF will host a variety of fun activities every second Friday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00. Activities will rotate each month between a game night, movie night, and a TED Talk with discussion. Our goal is to connect people through fun!

Our first SFF Nite, on January 12, will be a game night. A variety of adult board and card games will be provided, and we'll have a couple of childcare providers hosting a childrens' table so parents can play an adult game should they wish. Please bring a snack to share. People are invited to start socializing in the Social Hall at 6:30; games will start in earnest at 7:00.



**WINTER QUARTER ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

DATE/TIME	COURSE TITLE / DESCRIPTION
January 21, 28, February 4 12:00 – 1:30 Facilitators: Tom Nicholas Patricia Conover	GRATITUDE Recall those moments when you may have said, “Thanks to the universe, I got a parking place right in front.” This facilitated conversation will explore the role of gratitude not just when life “goes our way,” but for those inevitable times when it does not. We’ll explore to whom and for what we’re grateful. (3 sessions)
February	BLACK LIVES MATTER SPECIAL PROGRAMMING
March 2 10:00 – 2:00 Facilitator: Felice Davis	*NEWCOMERS PATHWAYS: 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.
March 3, 10, 17, 24 12:00-1:30 Facilitators: Natalie Johnson	UU THEOLOGY: How did Unitarian Universalism evolve into the liberal faith we know? What fundamental Issues and individuals shaped our understanding of UUism from our earliest beginnings onward? Why do we not have a creed or dogma, but instead embrace our Principles and Sources? These and other questions are explored in this course. (4 sessions)

We ask that folks register at the links below. A maximum \$10 donation is suggested towards the cost of materials each semester, but Pathways classes are free. If you need help registering, contact Genia and she will happily register for you!

[Pathways](#)

[Gratitude](#)

[UU Theology](#)

**TAIZE**

*NOTE the NEW ZOOM LINK – it’s now the same link and passcode as Sunday services*

Taize is an evening of candlelight, prayer, meditation, and singing. Walt Ellis is taking the leadership for Taize services starting in January. **The January date for Taize has been changed to January 8.** Please join us at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary or on Zoom.

Join by Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/738363620?pwd=TmdwVjYyOXMrNU4ydFhaZXpEV1Urdz09>

Meeting ID: 738 363 620

Passcode: BUF

**HAPPY NEW YEAR BUF MUSIC LOVERS!**

You are cordially invited to join the BUF Chalice Choir this semester. We rehearse from 6:45 to 8pm every Wednesday, after “BUF Night In” dinner. If you’re just curious about choir but unsure, you are welcome to just come once to check us out with no obligations to continue.



Performance dates and what we’ll be singing:

- 1/14 Dream Keeper
- 2/11 Soon I Will Be Done
- 3/10 Man in the Mirror, Canada in the Springtime
- 3/24 *Chalice Choir trip to Unitarian Church Vancouver*
- 3/31 Pilgrim Spring (Easter Sunday)
- 4/14 For the Beauty of the Earth
- 4/28 *BUF hosts choir from North Shore Unitarian in a full music service*
- 5/5 All Too Soon
- 6/9 I Love You/Wonderful, I Have Had Singing (*Choir Finale*)

For more information click [HERE](#)

Love,  
Kevin Allen-Schmid  
[kevin@buf.org](mailto:kevin@buf.org) cell: (406) 858-0142

**PNW PLATEFUL IS THE SEJC COLLECTION RECIPIENT FOR JANUARY**

PNW Plateful’s mission is to promote and enable healthy lives, by stressing the importance of, and providing nutritious food for all, through education, selection, production and delivery of wholesome and delicious food. Our contributions will be used to purchase materials to prepare food made from scratch, for the vulnerable population in our community. Over the past three years Plateful partnered with other local organizations to reach people in desperate need of nourishment. They supplied an average of 250 meals per week. Later, they increased the number to 500 meals, 250 for the Bellingham Food Bank and the remaining to other local organizations, such as the YMCA.

At the beginning of the project Plateful’s main goal was to prevent wastage of food at a small local catering business. However, the need for food quickly outgrew the surplus, and they had to find resources in order to fill the growing need. Sarah Chan, Executive Director, will speak at the BUF service on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. Please hear her and offer your contribution at the service or drop off at the BUF office. Contributions can be made throughout January. Learn more at [www.pnwplateful.com](http://www.pnwplateful.com) or phone 347-413-3983.

## **COFFEE HOUR SNACKS**

It is lovely to find a bite of cake, a cookie, fruit or cracker on the treats table to have with coffee or tea after the Sunday service. But sometimes there is not enough for everyone to enjoy. The coffee hour snacks are provided by the community, for the community. Please consider occasionally bringing a snack to share. Simply deliver your ready-to-serve contribution to the kitchen before the service. It will be greatly appreciated!

~Judy Kasper, Hospitality Team

## **PROPOSED CHANGES TO ARTICLE II FROM THE UUA**

The UUA Article II Commission just released the latest version of the Proposed changes to Article II of the UUA By-Laws. Please have a look.

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/final-proposed-revision-article-ii>

As you might expect, a lot of work has gone on by the Commission, people/groups who proposed amendments to the version presented at the last General Assembly. Much of the process is described [in this post](#)

The proposed Article II will be presented at GA in June. Note that this GA will be entirely virtual, which will make it very possible for more of us to be present and involved in the discussion.

Christmas Eve photo credit: Alan Friedlob



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**BUF Calendar**

Date and Event	Time	Location
<b>Wednesday, January 3, 2023</b>		
<u>BUF Night In/Community Night Dinner</u>	6:00 PM	Social Hall
<b>Thursday, January 4, 2023</b>		
<u>Mindfulness Meditation Group</u>	9:45 AM	Library
<u>Flowering Cherry Meditation</u>	12:30 PM	Sanctuary
<b>Sunday, January 7 2023</b>		
<u>Children's Religious Education</u>	10:00 AM	contact genia@buf.org
<u>Sunday Service, in person and Zoom</u>	10:20 AM	Sanctuary/Zoom
<u>Coffee Hour after Service</u>	11:30 AM	Social Hall
<u>YRUU</u>	4:00 PM	Social Hall, back patio
<b>Monday, January 8, 2023</b>		
<u>BUF Book Club</u>	9:30 AM	Conference
<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Chalice Circle</u>	2:00 PM	Conference
<u>Black Lives Matter Business Meeting</u>	7:00 PM	Zoom
<u>Taize</u>	7:00 PM	Sanctuary and zoom
<b>Tuesday, January 9, 2023</b>		
<u>Buddhist study group via Zoom</u>	12:00 PM	via Zoom
<u>Auction</u>	4:30 PM	Conference
<b>Wednesday, January 10, 2023</b>		
<u>Humanitas In Person</u>	9:30 AM	Sanctuary
<u>BUF Night In/Community Night Dinner</u>	6:00 PM	Social Hall
<u>Choir Rehearsals</u>	6:45 PM	Sanctuary

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360-733-3887 [Buf.org](http://Buf.org) | [admin@buf.org](mailto:admin@buf.org)

Sign up for the Mid-Week Update and/or the BUF News Digest at

<https://wp.buf.org/news/communication-sign-ups/>