

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

February 14, 2024



SUNDAY SERVICE ZOOM LINK

Meeting ID 738 363 620

Worship starts at 10:25 AM

<https://zoom.us/j/738363620> Passcode BUF

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Reverent Humanism – Rev Paul Beckel

Humanism is generally thought of as non-theistic and down-to earth. At our worst, UU Humanists can be as sanctimonious and out of touch as any other strain of fundamentalism. At our best, we immerse ourselves in relationships, art, and our connections with the earth and, yes, even the unearthly.

2024-25 Budgeting Updates

We had good turnouts for our Listening Session #2 in-person this past Sunday, and on Zoom Tuesday evening. Here are some updates:

Assumptions

<https://wp.buf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/advance-info-for-listening-session-2-updated-2-12-24.pdf>

An editable Excel spreadsheet you can use to consider various budget options

<https://wp.buf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/listening-session-2-worksheet-updated-2-12-24.xlsx>

Thank you for being part of these conversations.

Peace,

Paul

WHAT I APPRECIATE ABOUT BUF



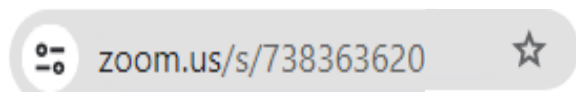
Hello! I'm Angie Lindquist. I've been a Unitarian Universalist since 1992, so upon moving to Bellingham in 2016, I quickly went to BUF and was delighted to discover the wonderful community here! I was warmly welcomed by Carrie Koehline, Jane DeBrock, Sky Hedman, and so many more. BUF is full of friendly people!

Also great is that there are so many things to do at BUF. I've served on the Board, been in a Chalice Circle, in the Writers Group, Lunch with Paul, other groups, plus many concerts, workshops, trainings, presentations, and special events. BUF is an active place, a real plus. I appreciate our minister, guest ministers, congregants who step up to the plate (er, podium), and all the volunteers who keep this place humming. The music program is particularly fantastic, and we all know who to thank for that! I'm grateful for the friends I've met here, and all that they do. I love that BUF is full of caring, thoughtful people, who believe in diversity, inclusion, open minds, and who strive to make the world a better place in whatever way they can.

I love BUF and all you beautiful people! **Happy Valentine's Day!**

Make it Easy to find BUF Stuff on your Computer

- [Sunday and Taize Services Zoom Link](#)



Enter this link into your browser, click the star to make it a favorite, then one click brings you straight to all Taize and Sunday Services

or go to Meeting Number 738 363 620 | Passcode BUF

Follow the same directions for any of the following:

- [Website - buf.org](#)
- [BUF Calendar](#)
- [Subscribe to the MidWeek Update or the buf-news listserv](#)
- [Schedule a meeting or event](#) (Please don't take it for granted a room will be open)
- [Building Rental](#)
- [Visiting for the first time](#)
- [Videos of Recent Sunday and Taize Services](#)
- [Link to Board Meetings on Zoom](#)

(Usually 7 pm on the fourth Thursday of each month. These are open meetings—anyone can attend—but since the Zoom link is new, we're not in a habit of setting it up every time. For now, if you plan to attend, it would be best to contact Paul or a Board member to make sure it gets set up.

- [Directory of Members and Friends Login \(Breeze\)](#)

Once logged in, you can

- Look up contact information for others
- Make a contribution
- Update your profile (please do!)
- Mark contact information private

If you are an active BUF Member, Friend, or Participant you are probably already in the directory. To get credentials to access the directory please write to directory@buf.org. Instructions will be sent to your email address.

Make it Easy to Find BUF Stuff on your Phone

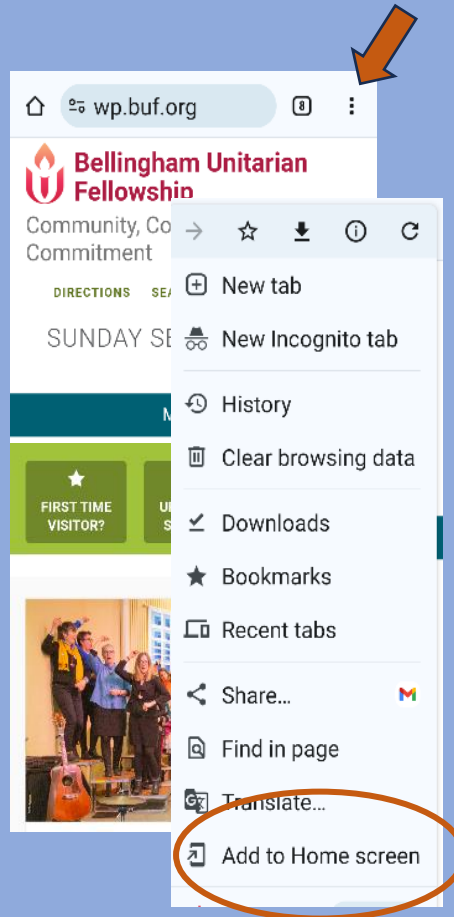
Download the Breeze app



Download the Zoom app



Go to buf.org—or any of the links above—click the three dots, tap “Add to Home screen”



Drag the Icons into a Group, Label the group “BUF”



The Wider UU Scene

- [The Unitarian Universalist Association](#)
- [UUA Pacific Western Region](#)
- [Final Proposed Revision to “Article 2” \(currently known as our Principles and Sources\) to be voted on at the June 2024 General Assembly](#)

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



This Sunday we are focusing on how African-Americans have led the way in bringing justice and equity to our country. Through some stories, a video and games we will learn about some specific contributions and innovations Black Americans have made, and the barriers they had to overcome to do so.

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 DINNER

It's Taco Tuesday! Well, it's Taco Soup Wednesday actually, but pretty close! Come join us at 6:00 this Wednesday night in the social hall for taco soup (with all the toppings!), chips with salsa and guacamole, green salad – and ice cream and fruit for dessert!

If you are interested in being a part of the dinner planning and leadership team, please let Genia or Jennifer Villalva know. We need more volunteers if our weekly dinners are going to continue next year. This is a worthwhile community endeavor, and a great way to meet people too!



UU SEXUALITY EDUCATION



There is still time to register for our 9- to 11-year-old Our Whole Lives (OWL), sexuality education class! Classes start Sunday mornings on February 25, and the mandatory parent/child orientation is Thursday, February 22. OWL is based on the philosophy that parents or guardians hold primary responsibility for the sexuality education of their children. Our Whole Lives is a positive, comprehensive, and age-appropriate educational program that supports those beliefs. For more information on OWL, please visit the UUA website to learn more:

<https://www.uua.org/re/owl>

Class sizes are limited, and registration ends February 22. Register now to guarantee a spot for your child. To register, you can copy and paste the following into your browser <https://buf.breezechms.com/form/15156a1852> . Contact Genia for questions or help with registration. Scholarships are available!!

WINTER QUARTER ADULT RE PROGRAMS

DATE/TIME	COURSE TITLE/DESCRIPTION
February 11, 25 10:30-11:45 Facilitator: James Addington	Raising Children in a Race Conscious Society This class is designed for parents/guardians who want to be prepared for The Talk that every family needs about race. We will learn some new tools to help navigate this challenging topic. The class is led by James Addington, author, antiracism training consultant, and part of a multiracial family.
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 Facilitator: 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: [Pathways](#)
 UU Theology: [UU Theology](#)
 Raising Children in a Race Conscious Society: [Raising Children](#)

Register here <https://wp.buf.org/learning/adult-programs/>
 Register early! Space is limited. Questions, please contact Director of Life Long Learning, Genia Allen-Schmid. email: Genia@buf.org.

BUF WOMEN'S RETREAT SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Save the date for the BUF Women's Retreat. It will be held Saturday, March 23, at The Cannery Lodge at Semiahmoo in Blaine. More information will be coming soon.

BUF-SEJC COLLECTIONS RECIPIENT FOR FEBRUARY: CAST

CAST (Coffee and Sandwiches Together) is a nondenominational all-volunteer service organization under the umbrella of the Interfaith Coalition. CAST is united by the common belief that NO ONE should go hungry. CAST has been providing free meals in Bellingham since 1999. BUF members volunteer regularly, making sandwiches, serving, and packing/delivering the supplies. In addition to sandwiches, other items are distributed: water, granola bars, hot-cocoa and apple-drink packets, cup of soup packs, basic toiletries, and hats/scarves/socks when available. The guests at CAST are always so thankful! CAST serves more than 11,000 meals annually at the city-sanctioned downtown serving site by the Arch of Reconciliation behind the Bellingham library. Meals are served four nights each week. This organization is in need of our support, and any amount you contribute will go directly to purchasing needed supplies for the guests. Your contributions can be given at BUF throughout February. And you can volunteer or donate to CAST through the Interfaith Coalition at interfaith-coalition.org. Also, we have a collection box in the BUF coat closet labeled CAST, where you can donate new hats, socks, razors, soap, and shampoo. You can talk with BUF volunteers if interested in more info: Beth Fuller, Hank Ohana, Connie Ohana, or Ann Stevenson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN WASHINGTON STATE

This month we are celebrating an anniversary. In February of 2012, Christine Gregoire, then Washington governor, signed legislation extending the rights and privileges of marriage to same sex couples. In the November elections that year, same sex marriage was upheld by a majority of Washington voters. Marriage equality became law in Washington on December 6, 2012.



Nine days later, my partner Lynne and I were finally married. We had lived through our time of hiding, using code words, lying, omitting, distancing, denying and worrying. For 35 years, we had altered our language and disguised our relationship to avoid losing our jobs, being harassed, and being rejected by families. We did not have rights to each other such as hospital visitation, health care decision-making, or inheritance. Finally, within Washington state, after 35 years together, we were granted the same rights and responsibilities as opposite-sex couples. Our relationship was recognized and protected.

In 2015, marriage equality, the fundamental right to same sex marriage, was upheld by the US Supreme Court. Our marriage became recognized and protected nationwide. **Laws can provide sanctuary.** Only 17% of the human beings on this planet live in a country that allows and recognizes marriage equality.

**BUF CHOIR TRIP TO UNITARIAN CHURCH AND DIM SUM RESTAURANT
VANCOUVER BC, SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024**



A BUF Trip to Our Unitarian Neighbors Across the Border

BUF members, family and friends can enjoy a road trip to meet our Canadian neighbors and attend a regular Sunday morning service, with special music by the combined BUF and UCV choirs. After the service and coffee social at the church, we will head to a dim sum restaurant together with UCV members, where for a set cost (to be announced soon) we will feast on delectable Chinese dishes.

Carpool Arrangements

Starting February 21, we will post carpool signup sheets in the BUF lobby with blank slots available for passengers. You can write your name and phone into any available slot, under the name of the volunteer driver. Some cars may be designated as Nexus only. Carpools may, if wanted, decide as a group to add another activity in Vancouver before heading home. Passengers should offer the driver \$5 or \$10 for gas. The signup sheets will stay posted in the lobby until being confirmed on Wednesday evening, March 20. Meet at BUF at 8 am on 3/24.

UCV is at **6450 OAK STREET, VANCOUVER**

Questions?

Contact choir president Carol Smith	smithcaroldavid@gmail.com	360-592-5720
or music director Kevin Allen-Schmid	kevin@buf.org	406-858-0142

The Sunday service at BUF will take place as usual at 10:25 am.

HOW TO SUBMIT CONTENT FOR THE MID-WEEK UPDATE

Content must be received on Monday by 10:00 AM. Submit via email and include an attached Word doc, single spaced, Times New Roman 12 font. Avoid any formatting, including bullets. 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