

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

February 28, 2024

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:25 AM

In person and on Zoom:

Meeting ID 738 363 620 | Passcode BUF

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

THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 3

Perfect Humility – Rev Paul Beckel

It would be oxymoronic to strive for *perfect* humility.

So how high, or low, should we aim?



Thank You Early Pledgers!

Greetings fellow canvassers and pledgers! I wanted to let you all know that we have three weeks remaining to our desired end of the pledge canvass - March 17th. If you have heard from your canvasser, please respond soon so that we can gather the amounts to provide to the board. Canvassers, if you haven't contacted all of your pledgers, please do so this week.

As of Friday we have received 25% of the pledges we expect to receive. We have a ways to go, but we are doing well. Thanks for your help! Now, back to counting...

— Vlad D Improver

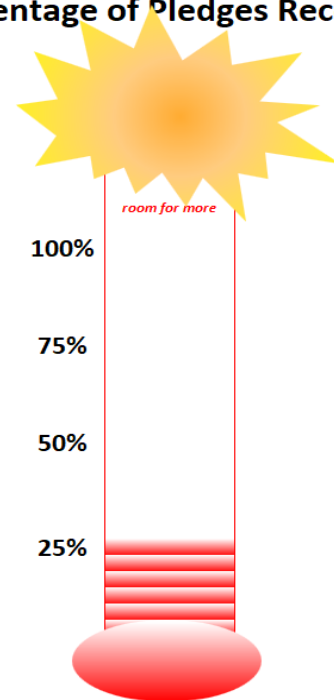
Thank You New Volunteers

At our listening sessions we noted that in order to implement some of your cost-saving and income-producing suggestions, we need volunteers to make it happen. Several responded, including:

	<u>new volunteers</u>	<u>contact person</u>
Rental Management	8	John Stewart - jkstewart44@msn.com
AV tech	1	Jeff Copeland - jeff.copeland@gmail.com
Cleaning and Maintenance	3	Michelle Fox - admin@buf.org
Children's RE/Childcare	1	Genia Allen-Schmid - genia@buf.org

We thank you and we urge others to join in by emailing the contact person above.

Percentage of Pledges Received



Changes Coming to the MidWeek Update

Over the next few weeks we will be shifting our publication schedule from weekly to monthly. We'll continue to do our best to keep BUFsters informed and interconnected. In March, you'll receive the newsletter on the 7th and 20th. After that, it will be published at the beginning of each month. Publication dates and deadlines for submissions are still to come. In the meantime, if you're not on our email list-serv, go here to subscribe:

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

A New Name?

So what should we call it? Go to the link below by March 15 to suggest names. In the March 20 edition, we'll publish your suggestions and another link where you can vote for your preference.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf2n6uNx-RpEnSZ076xti9BYK3IX27bVi260odJsDT8FX-w/viewform?usp=sf_link

WHAT I APPRECIATE ABOUT BUF

Hi, this is Sharon McCarty. My husband Joseph and I have been attending BUF since we moved here from northern California in November 2020. After becoming a member, I co-facilitated a Chalice Circle group for two years, did a brief stint on the Finance Committee, helped launch the Adult RE program, and currently serve on the Endowment Committee.

One of the things I really appreciate about BUF is our monthly Taize service, a highly thoughtful meditative service that we've attended since we came to BUF. The quiet, reflective time definitely feeds my soul.

Being part of a lively community of good-hearted people is also very important to me, especially as a newcomer to Bellingham. Here at BUF we've met, and continue to meet, articulate passionate people who care about each other and the world we share. That is a gift.

A third aspect of BUF that I appreciate is the broad sharing of ministry in this community. So many good people assume responsibility for different aspects of our fellowship. That warms my heart, and reminds me that we are all in this wild, wonderful, challenging life together.



CHILDREN’S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



This month our theme is Transformation. We describe ourselves as a “living tradition,” which means we expect changes as we learn and grow. Just as our bodies grow and change, so do our likes and our ideas. But we also acknowledge that change can be hard. We can celebrate change and also be gentle with each other during the difficulties that come about with change.

We will explore this rich theme with a story, and an outing to look for the changes in nature that come with Spring. We’ll create some compost, and see that new growth comes out of decay.

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 WEDNESDAYS AT 6:00

Want a break from the rain and cold? Get a shot of the tropics, and join us for some Thai pumpkin-coconut soup (with chicken and without). Our dinner starts at 6:00, and is every Wednesday night in the BUF Social Hall. It includes soup bread, salad and dessert—all for just \$5 per person and children under 12 free!



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!

REST, REJUVENATE, RESTORE AT THE BUF WOMEN’S RETREAT

Come join us at our annual Women’s Retreat at the day lodge at Semiahmoo on Saturday, March 23. Our theme is Rest, and we will explore and experience rest in myriad ways throughout the day. We will make meaningful connections with others, as well as have time for ourselves, in a beautiful beach setting. Registration details to come soon.

All who identify as women are welcome!



WINTER QUARTER ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



UU THEOLOGY CLASS—STARTS MARCH 3

It's not too late to register for our BUF UU Theology class! This class is facilitated by Natalie Johnson. She has put a great deal of thought and time into the class, and it will be engaging and collaborative. We haven't had this offering for years—if you want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, or already know a lot, but are eager for a deeper dive, this class is for you! Registration details below.

NEWCOMERS PATHWAYS (with Lunch) — MARCH 2, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Pathway sessions welcome new members, visitors, and 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. Facilitator: Felice Davis

Adult Programs Registration

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!

UU Theology: [UU Theology](#)
Pathways: [Pathways](#)

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.

TAIZE SERVICE MONDAY, MARCH 4, AT 7:00 PM

This month's Taize Service is Monday, March 4, 2024, at 7:00 PM (Pacific time) in person or on Zoom. The theme is Embodied Holiness. Please join us for singing, candles, meditation, and centering in community.

If you are joining us on Zoom for Taize, we've moved to the same Zoom link as BUF's regular Sunday services:

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

Meeting ID: 974 5697 4163

Passcode: BUF

MARCH IS DONATE TO THE AUCTION MONTH

If we are to raise \$22,000 on May 4, We need your donations of

Events, Experiences, Services and Treasures!

Need Ideas?

**Parties, Movie tickets,
Hikes, Handyperson skills,
Fine Jewelry, Gift Certificates
Other?**

We are particularly in need of High-End Items for the Live Auction:

**Vacation Getaways, Theatre Tickets with Dinner,
Framed Local Art**

Auction Team Members will be on site during Coffee Hour to help you donate. Find forms and info through this link: <https://fundraiser.bid/BUF>

Questions about the auction can be sent to Auction@buf.org.



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



The BUF Choir invites BUFsters, family and friends to join them in traveling to the Unitarian Church of Vancouver (UCV) on Sunday, March 24, 2024, to take part in their service at 11:00 AM, and then go out for Chinese dim sum lunch at 12:30 PM.

UCV, 6450 OAK STREET, VANCOUVER

A BUF Trip to Our Unitarian Neighbors Across the Border

BUF members, family and friends will enjoy a road trip to meet our closest Canadian Unitarian neighbours 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. (To clarify, BUF will still hold a regular service in Bellingham that Sunday for those staying home.)



For information about the schedule, carpooling and lunch get a flyer from the bulletin board in the BUF narthex, or click

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cDcEI6LNAcfnFKeg8atsEYgVssnaYgwD/view?usp=sharing>

Questions?

Contact choir president Carol Smith
or music director Kevin Allen-Schmid

smithcaroldavid@gmail.com
kevin@buf.org

360-592-5720
406-858-0142

FIND THE BUF CALENDAR ONLINE

The complete calendar of BUF events and building uses is available on our website under the News tab or by following this link

<https://73940468.view-events.com/calendar/73940468/month>

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

BELLINGHAM UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP

360-733-3887 Buf.org. 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/>