

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

July 17, 2024



All BUF services are accessible in-person or on Zoom.

Use this link: <https://zoom.us/j/738363620>

Passcode = BUF / Meeting ID 738 363 620

Summer Sunday Services 10:30 am

Similar to last year, our summer services (July 7-September 1) are being coordinated by affiliated minister Rev. Barbara W. ten Hove. There is a simple but fun program for kids each Sunday. Join your BUF community for these meaningful services throughout the summer.

July 21 – Take Time Back, Su Livingston and Annie Sorich

Presence creates a sense of home. How do we create pockets of “rest” in which to be, in one place only, and resist nonstop calls to connect and do?

Su Livingston and Annie Sorich are musicians, friends and BUF members.

July 28 – Religion Matters, Rev. Barbara ten Hove—with Tom Nicholas and Jaco ten Hove
Liberal religious folk are often marginalized or trivialized by more traditional religious people. Can we move through the world remembering that our religion matters, too?

TAIZE Monday, August 5, 7 PM

A candle-lit Contemplative Service (held on the 1st Monday of each month)

August 4 – Lessons from Laughter, Jeff Copeland with Carrie Koehline

What can you learn from a laugh? Can it give you a life lesson? Can it ease your burden? Help you roll with the punches? Stop anxiety or anger? Join us for a service which will include both lessons AND laughter.

Jeff Copeland is a retired software nerd who splits his time between a lot of volunteer projects; at BUF that means organizing the A/V team and the men’s group.

August 11 – Who Do You Think You Are?, Rev. Barbara Gilday with Pam Graham

Do you ever ask yourself the question: "Who am I?" A busy life or a transition in our lives, can shake things up and make us ponder such a question. Prompted by Robert Fulghum, we’ll consider four questions to help clarify the answer and perhaps re-center ourselves as we continue to grow on our life journeys.

Rev. Barbara Gilday, a member of BUF for 24 years, came to professional ministry in mid-life, but her life has been full of inquiry, diversity, social justice, connecting, creating and sharing with others. Currently, she is exploring how we continue to give value to life as our capacities change.

August 18 – Questionable Language: Words Matter, Rose Edington with Pam Graham

Does our everyday language subconsciously reinforce white primacy? Do negative connotations of "dark" and "black" and positives of "light" and "white" affect how we see one another? Is there a difference between being racist and having racism? Will placing Love at the center of UUism in the new Article 2 bylaws of the UUA affect our language choices? Let's ask questions together!

The Rev. Dr. Rose Edington retired from active UU ministry after serving many years. Her Doctor of Ministry is in Feminist Liberation Theology, and she is committed to the liberation and love found in the practice of Beloved Community.

August 25 – Holy Change, Rev. Barbara ten Hove with Steffany Raynes

In Octavia Butler's prescient sci-fi novels, *The Parable of the Sower* and *The Parable of the Talents*, she creates a religion that believes "God is Change." Whatever our beliefs about God, we certainly know that change is as hard as it is inevitable. What can we learn together about how to navigate change with grace?

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Wells ten Hove is an affiliated minister at BUF who retired with her husband Jaco after nearly 35 years in the UU ministry.

September 1 – Loving the Natural World

What might we learn from the plant and animal creatures who live alongside us? This will be a restful service, focused on practices easily available to help us live more simply in our often chaotic lives.

Led by Steffany Raynes & Carolyn Koehline

Long-time BUF members, Carrie and Steffany coordinate the monthly Taize service here at BUF. They both love poetry, singing, journaling and other meditative practices that provide solace and connection with wild nature.

Big Changes for the Unitarian Universalist Association

Article II is approved at GA

At General Assembly last month, delegates from UU congregations across the country voted overwhelmingly to change Article II of the UUA Bylaws. "Article II" is better known as the covenant among UU congregations to support seven principles and to recognize six sources that have contributed to the essence of Unitarian Universalism. This part of the bylaws has been re-articulated, now, as a statement of our shared values, along with covenants to embody each of these values. You can [read the new Article II here](#).



Over the past 200 years, Unitarians and Universalists—and now UUs—have found it difficult to create collective statements of identity while also insisting upon freedom of conscience for both individuals and congregations. What we’ve known since 1985 as “the principles and sources” was developed through an extensive democratic process, and has been updated since then. This recent re-articulation was developed over four years, multiple commissions and revisions, and widespread (good-willed) debate. This year, before the final consideration of amendments, and then the final vote, the General Assembly first agreed upon a seven-page “Rules of Procedure”!

The revised Article II enumerates six of the many values we share: Interdependence, Pluralism, Justice, Transformation, Generosity, and Equity. This is expressed visually by placing these words in a circle—surrounding “Love” at the center. Our previous statement of “Sources” has been re-articulated as “Inspirations” that acknowledge the breadth of religious and philosophical streams that continue to flow through us in our programs and in our daily lives.

Inevitably, some long-time congregations and members will not be happy with these changes. UUA leaders emphasize that, like previous versions, the new Article II affirms every person’s freedom of belief and every congregation’s right to establish its own statements of purpose, covenants, etc—“so long as they do not require that members adhere to a particular creed.” So the words and the spirit of the principles and sources—just like all of our songs and prayers and readings and rituals—remain with us in whatever forms we choose to express them.

Why is all of this important? Consider this updated portion of Article II:

Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have traditionally created barriers for persons and groups with particular identities, ages, abilities, and histories. We pledge to replace such barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect. We strive to be an Association of congregations that truly welcome all persons who share our values. We commit to being an Association of congregations that empowers and enhances everyone’s participation, especially those with historically marginalized identities.

As a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association, let’s continue this process of re-discovering who we are: engaging with and embodying these words with open hearts and minds.

Peace,
Paul

BUF is switching from Vanco to Breeze CMS as our means for on line BUF pledge payments and that your recurring monthly Vanco pledge payments ended in June. This transition is being made to consolidate our church database functions and to streamline data collection for incoming pledge payments, which will save the church money.

To make recurring monthly pledge payments via Breeze CMS for your BUF 2024/2025 pledge for the church year that started on 1 July, please take one of the following three actions:

1. *Fill out the attached form and provide it to Michelle Fox at the church*
2. *Download the Breeze CMS app to your smart phone and set the payments up yourself*
 - a. *Our church ID is BUF*
 - b. *The fund to choose is: PLEDGES: 24/25*
 - c. *Michelle can help if you have issues logging in*
3. *Use the Breeze CMS website to log in and set the payments up yourself*

a.
https://www.breezechms.com/all-features?utm_campaign=Breeze+%7C+Search+%7C+Brand&utm_source=adwords&utm_medium=ppc&utm_term=breeze%20cms&hsa_kw=breeze%20cms&hsa_net=adwords&hsa_grp=130458384143&hsa_cam=15773901832&hsa_acc=7896236112&hsa_tgt=kwd-429819029444&hsa_ver=3&hsa_ad=572898947012&hsa_mt=e&hsa_src=g&ad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjws560BhCuARIsAHMqE0FrDCcXQJsTIFN_e07cR9wI7JpV_y-DqZZfS6Q7lstoLRC2o4ny0LYaAnINEALw_wcB

- b. *Our church ID is BUF*
- c. *The fund to choose is: PLEDGES: 24/25*
- d. *Michelle can help if you have issues logging in*

Summer Potluck

Sunday, July 21

There will be a potluck lunch after the service on Sunday, July 21 in the Social Hall. Come and catch up with friends and meet some new ones over a shared meal. Following up on the theme of the July 14 service, you might want to tell a bit of your story and listen while someone tells theirs. Please bring a dish to share, if you can. All are welcome!

Children's Religious Education



During the summer months our teenage childcare providers will lead fun activities and games, along with our usual joys and concerns, plus stories for children two and up. We will include plenty of movement and outdoor time to get warm-weather wiggles out!

Children will start in the sanctuary, where we have 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 for supervised fun and time to make friends.

Adult Religious Education

Calendar 2024-25



Fall

September – Newcomer Pathways to BUF with Lunch, Felice Davis

1 session - Saturday, September 28, 10 am - 2 pm

Pathway sessions welcome new members or visitors in knowing more about the UU tradition and BUF. These fun and informative sessions introduce participants to each other, and to Unitarian Universalism.

October – UU 101, Bonnie Phinney

4 sessions

Designed for people new to UUism or who want to understand their UU faith more fully.

UU 101 will include a little history and theology, discussions on how Unitarian Universalism differs from other religions, and how you can better articulate your chosen faith to others.

November – Revisiting History, Rod Haynes

1 session

When and where we are born and live, and our race, class, ethnicity, and gender provide each of us with a unique vantage point with which to view the world. This class will consist of discussions about prevailing concepts of the nature of history, and how a revisiting of popular concepts is called for.

December – Grief Group, Tom Nicholas

1 session

This discussion format workshop is primarily designed for people who have lost a loved one—recently or not. Participants will have opportunities to talk about their own experience of grief and what they found to be helpful in dealing with it.

Winter

January – Aging, Kathryn Allen

3-4 sessions

We will explore various concepts and expectations related to being an elder such as grace, wisdom/aging, dignity, losses, memory, acceptance and our own realities as we face the many changes of this chapter in life.

February/March – Pathways for Young Parents, Ellen Berning/Gayle Tilles

3-4 sessions

This Pathways workshop will be held during church, so parents of young children can attend while their children are taken care of. Learn about the UU tradition in relationship with your peers!

February – Black Lives Matter (BLM) Programming, TBA

Spring

March – UU Theology II, Natalie Johnson

4 weeks

UU Theology II continues the examination of the development of Unitarian Universalism during the late 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. The course is intended for anyone interested in understanding our Unitarian Universalist dynamic, ever-developing beliefs.

April – Newcomer Pathways to BUF, Felice Davis

1 day

Pathway sessions welcome new members or visitors in knowing more about the UU tradition and BUF. These fun and informative sessions introduce participants to each other, and to Unitarian Universalism.

Social Justice Collection For July 2024: Lydia Place

The mission of Lydia Place is to “disrupt the cycle of homelessness and promote sustained independence for current and future generations.” Read more at lydiaplace.org. The mission assists homeless families—providing stable housing, and offering nurturing environments for their children that will end the generational cycle of homelessness.

Within their Family Housing Program they have three sub-programs to utilize these services: Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-housing and Campus Housing. In addition to housing, BUF’s funds will help finance Lydia Place’s mental health and parenting support programs serving over 300 households in Whatcom County. These dollars provide flexibility, responsiveness and trauma-related support in their work with families. The money will also supplement other expenses, such as building a safe playground for the children who live at their Gladstone House campus. Every dollar will make a difference in providing holistic support that reduces trauma for the children.

From Tally Rabatin, Lydia Place: Our 35 years of experience at Lydia Place shows that, in addition to housing, wrap-around services to work through trauma resulted in better outcomes. As a result of this holistic approach, 89% of our families move on to stable and healthy housing. I had the chance to see this generational impact through a student who'd joined our team as an intern. They had once been a family in our programs. She shared with me how significant it was to feel safe and stabilized. How important it was to her mother that Lydia Place became her "village." She graduated from WWU this year and plans to pursue her Masters in Social Work. Her goal would be to join our staff team and "continue to help make a positive impact and be a ripple of good in our community."

With a waitlist of 207 families, and an average of 117 days for support, we must do better. We ask for your participation to fund these critical programs, volunteer with us, use your voice for advocacy and help us continue to invest in families.

You can contribute throughout July.

Midweek Update Summer Schedule

Over the summer, the MWU will be published and distributed every other week: July 17 and 31, and August 14 and 28. We will return to weekly issues on September 4.

How To Submit Content For The Mid-Week Update

Content must be received by *10:00 AM on the Monday before the distribution date*. Submit via email and include an attached Word doc, single spaced, Times New Roman 12 font. Avoid any formatting, including bullets. Limit: 200 words. Submittals may be edited for space and clarity. Submit your content to MWU@buf.org

Find the BUF Calendar Online

Visit buf.org for the [complete calendar of BUF events](#) (found on our website under the News tab).

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

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