



Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

Mid-Week Update: **November 20, 2024**

In this edition of the BUF Mid-Week Update, read about:

1. [Upcoming Services](#) - November 24
2. [Children's Religious Education](#)
3. [Adult Religious Education](#) - December 8
4. [Hosted Events from Auction: Space Still Available](#)
5. [Monday Morning Book Group](#) - second Mondays of the month
6. [Community Night Dinner](#) - Wednesdays
7. [Congregation Potluck Dinner](#) - November 24
8. [Thanksgiving & Christmas Potluck Dinners](#) - November 28, December 25
9. [Native American Heritage Concert](#) - November 29
10. [International Human Rights Day Event](#) - December 10
11. [Special Collection for Transylvanian Partner Church](#) - through November
12. [Lunch with Paul](#) - most Tuesdays
13. [BUF Text to Give](#)

Upcoming Services

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

Sunday, November 24, 10:30am - Native American Heritage Here and Now, Lummi Tribal Member Freddie Lane

Children's Religious Education



This Sunday, November 24, Children's Religious Explorers will be exploring how telling the truth repairs lies, how hard it can be to do, and how important it is to try. We will listen to Native voices on the Thanksgiving experience as a major example of how lies

can hurt other people for a long time, and what we as UU's can do about it, using the tools of honesty and truth telling.

Children who wish to attend Sunday School start in the Sanctuary with their families, then will go up together to their classes. Caregivers pick them up at 11:45am. Classes are most closely geared to children K-7th grade. Preschool-aged supervised care is also available. Contact Lis at RE@buf.org.

Adult Religious Education

Grief Group, Tom Nicholas

1 session - Sunday, December 8, noon-2:00pm

Tom Nicholas will lead this discussion-format workshop 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.

[Register](#)

Hosted Events from Auction: Space Still Available

Sign up now for several hosted events this winter that raise funds for BUF. Check the [auction website](#) to view the full list and purchase your seats.

- **Sound of Music Sing-a-long** - December 28
- **Tea and Tarot for the New Year** - Jan 4
- **An Evening with Pretty Little Feet** (in-home concert) - Jan 11
- **Do the Fondue: Party Like it's 1968** - January 18

[Purchase Seats](#)

Monday Morning Book Group

Second Mondays of the month, 10:00-11:30am, BUF Conference Room

Next Meeting & Book - December 9, "The Boys in the Boat"

The Monday Morning Book Group has **room for a few more book lovers** at our monthly meetings. We meet the second Monday of the month from 10:00 to 11:30 in the BUF Conference room. The Bellingham Public Library has an extensive collection of Book Club Kits with 10 books each, so individuals do not have to purchase the books. In anticipation of a potentially challenging year, our choices for 2025 include humor, books with uplifting themes, and nonfiction.

We'd love to have you join us on December 9 to discuss "The Boys in the Boat." Contact Ellen or Jean if you have any questions or to arrange to pick up a copy of the book.

Ellen - 808-325-1246, ellenberning@gmail.com
Jean - 509-453-3984, hurlburt@aol.com

Community Night Dinner

Wednesday, November 20, 6:00pm
FYI - NO CND on November 27th!

Community Night Dinner will be serving up soup, salad, bread, and a simple dessert at 6:00 pm on Wednesday.

Suggested donation: \$5
Free for children under 12 years old.

Congregation Potluck Dinner

November 24, after the service

The Hospitality Team has coordinated this month's congregation potluck for the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Here's your opportunity to try out a new dish before your gathering with friends/family! We hope you will join the congregation in the Social Hall for a pre-Thanksgiving gathering to spend time with all those we are thankful for and maybe share recipes or traditions with your BUF family.

Please remember to take home your leftovers and dishes, as we will not be storing the leftover food.

Thanksgiving & Christmas Potluck Dinners

November 28, 2:00pm

December 25, 2:00pm

Mark Allyn will be hosting Thanksgiving and Christmas potluck dinners at BUF. On November 28, turkey will be provided, with potluck for the remaining dishes. There will be an at-will donation for the Thanksgiving turkey. The Christmas Day dinner will be entirely potluck.

If you plan to come, please email Mark Allyn at allyn@well.com with how many are coming and what you plan to bring.

RSVP via Email

Native American Heritage Concert

Friday, November 29, 6:00-8:00pm

Native American Heritage Concert
Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Andrew Johnson
T'Sow-Mei is a gifted flute player from the Lummi Nation, known for his soulful, evocative music that honors his Native heritage. His melodies draw from the deep cultural roots of the Lummi people, capturing the essence of the land, spirit, and stories passed down through generations. With each note, T'Sow-Mei invites listeners on a journey of connection, healing, and respect for the natural world, sharing the enduring legacy of his ancestors through the power of the flute.

Mark Nichols
aka "Nickels" grew up in Ferndale, and recently finished the epic fiction, *Big Jane Stories*, about the life of Little Boy, a settler making a claim on the massive Woodlark claim near Big Jane before 1877. He has made at least fifty films for children of the setting area, including "Land acknowledgement", which inspired a creative dive into the natural world, and the question "How did we get here?" He has written and produced many pieces of contemporary music theater and over one hundred films of varying lengths. He lives deep in the woods in Lummi.

Ben Workman-Smith
Ben's musical background is extensive and diverse, half of his life has been spent in the concert hall with the cello and voice, and the other half has been spent in cultural contexts including Powwows, the Lummi Blackhawk Singers, Ecumenical settings, and a lengthy collaboration with the Bellingham chapter of the Pacific Coast Norwegian Singers. Even as a child, Ben showed devotion to enhancing every space he played music in one way or another. As a result, Ben has shown disciplined collaborative musicianship and staunch commitment to a proper cultural celebration. These were primary motivators through his Performance Degree work at WWU, completing Graduate Study in Music Education, and a planned doctorate study at Edinboro.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 29TH 6-8 PM

SPONSORED BY BUF'S NATIVE AMERICAN CONNECTION COMMITTEE

FREEWILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN TO SUPPORT OUR PERFORMERS

Swil Kanim
Swil Kanim is a US Army veteran, storyteller, actor, and classically trained violinist who grew up in Washington State. He currently serves on the board of the Seattle Symphony. Swil Kanim performs and community events and schools around the country where he plays his compositions which are infused with his own life and musical influences. He has been a featured performer at the American Indian Film Awards in San Francisco since 2003. The recipient of many awards and honors, Swil Kanim performed at the West Coast American Indian Music Awards in 2008, where he was presented with both the classical and traditional instrument awards. That same year, he was invited to perform for the Datsi Lama at Key Arena in Seattle for the Seeds of Compassion event. He passionately encourages and inspires people of all walks of life to honor their vision and follow their passion.

JP Falcon Grady
Falcon is a Native American singer/songwriter originally from Browning, Montana, and a proud member of the Blackfeet Nation, who currently resides in the Pacific Northwest. He performs both as a solo artist and with his band, JP Falcon Band. JP Falcon Grady has graced many stages in his 20+ years as a professional musician. He performs all over the Pacific Northwest, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Hawaii, B.C. Canada, and the Netherlands. JP musically weaves stories with profound lyrics and melody and coupled with his stunning smooth voice often moves his fans to tears. He's a self-taught acoustic guitarist, singer, and songwriter he is credited with numerous musical achievements, including performing a title track in a motion picture. Acoustic rock is the foundation, with Native American, Reggae, Javalian, Latin, and Country influences.

1207 Ellsworth St, Bellingham, WA 98225

It has been an annual event to host a Native American Heritage Concert on the Friday after Thanksgiving. This year's concert features four Indigenous musicians (JP Falcon Grady, Swil Kanim, Ben Workman Smith, Andrew Johnson) and one settler (Mark Nichols). Instruments include flute, piano, cello, violin and piano.

Free to attend; there will be a freewill offering. **Volunteers needed** to welcome guests, take the offering, and count the collection which will be shared with the participating musicians. Volunteers are also needed to take turns monitoring the front door during the performance.

Please contact Beth Brownfield at bethbrownf1@gmail.com to volunteer.

International Human Rights Day Event

Living in Palestine: A Personal Experience

Thursday, December 10, 6:30-8:00pm

BUF's [Social and Environmental Justice Committee](#) and [Write for Rights](#) has invited a man from the West Bank in Palestine to speak with us in honor of International Human Rights Day.

There may also be other speakers from Gaza participating. Opportunities to sign Write for Rights petitions will be available, and all information shared will be about the most effective organizations helping people in Gaza right now.

Free to attend, but a freewill offering will be accepted during the talk to benefit one of these organizations. All who come in the spirit of goodwill are welcome.

About the Speaker:

Adam (no last name for his family's safety) is a 26-year-old from the Palestinian village of Wadi Foquin located in the Bethlehem District of the West Bank. He is currently in the U.S. and speaking on behalf of the Friends of Wadi Foquin to educate audiences on the Palestinian reality now. Growing up under the Israeli military occupation, Adam also shares his personal experiences of West Bank life prior to the events of October 7, 2023. [Friends of Wadi Foquin](#) is an interfaith partnership created in 2009 between United Methodists in California and the Palestinian Muslim village of Wadi Foquin which supports community development projects in the village, organizes annual trips to the West Bank, and provides advocacy for the village against illegal settlement expansion and land confiscation. Adam holds a B.A. in Engineering from Polytechnic University in Hebron.

Special Collection for Transylvanian Partner Church



This month's special collection is for our Unitarian partner church in Magyarszovát, Romania, which BUF has supported for over 30 years. Unitarians in Romania, as ethnic Hungarians, have been systematically marginalized by the Bucharest government for over a century. Just now in America we might understand their feeling of alienation from their own government.

Please send your contribution to the BUF office before the end of November so that the money can be sent to arrive by Christmas.

This prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson prompts us to remain steadfast in our commitments and relationships throughout all changes of fortune. The BUF Partner Church Committee thanks you for your support.

Give Us The Grace

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Give us the grace and strength to forbear and to persevere.
Give us the courage and the gaiety, and the quiet mind.
Spare to us our friends, soften to us our enemies.
Bless us, if it may be, in our innocent endeavours.

If it may not, give us the strength to encounter that which is to come,
That we may be brave in peril, constant in tribulation, temperate in wrath,
And in all changes of fortune, even down to the gates of death,
Loyal and loving to one another.

Köszönöm (Thank You)

Members of the BUF Partner Church Committee, November 2024

Reka Zoltan, Barbara Ellis-Quinn, Jan Krouskop, Carl Nyblade, Ron Quinn, Jane Ronca-Washburn, Bev Smith, Allegra Ziffle, and Kevin Allen-Schmid (chair).

Lunch with Paul

Tuesdays, noon

Every Tuesday we gather at noon in the social hall to share about what's going on in our lives, questions on our minds, etc. We steer clear of politics for as long as we can. Drop in anytime; bring your own lunch.

BUF Text to Give

Contribute to BUF with Text to Give

You can donate to BUF from your phone by sending a text message to 360-345-3933.



If you want to donate \$5 to the collection basket, just text “\$5”.

Or you can text “\$5 SEJC” to send your contribution to this month’s SEJC recipient, or “\$5 Taize” to support BUF’s Taizé ministry. You’ll need to do a little setup and provide your credit card information the first time you do this, but after that, it’s just a text message. You can even scan the QR code to access the phone number.

How To Submit Content For The Mid-Week Update

Content must be received by *10:00am on the Monday before the distribution date*. Submit via an email single spaced. Avoid any formatting, including bullets. Limit: 200 words. Submissions 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

Office phone: 360-733-3887

buf.org | admin@buf.org

[Sign up for the Mid-Week Update and/or the BUF News Digest.](#)