



# Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

Mid-Week Update: **January 15, 2025**

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

1. [Upcoming Services](#)
2. [Children's Religious Education](#)
3. [Adult Religious Education](#)
4. [Weekly Choir Update](#)
5. [Community Night Dinner](#) - January 15
6. [Sunday Community Potluck](#) - January 19; volunteers needed
7. [Vacuuming Volunteers Needed](#)
8. [SEJC Special Collections Recipient for January: Bellingham Food Bank](#)
9. [Humanitas Update](#)
10. [Sunday Justice Groupthinks](#) - starting January 26
11. [Lunch with Paul](#) - most Tuesdays
12. [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, January 19, 10:30am - Toward Justice: A Reflection on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Inauguration Day** - Rupert Ayton and Rev. Paul Beckel

How is recognizing MLK Day different from national holidays honoring other people and events? What values, and what other people, can inspire us to nudge the arc of the moral universe toward justice?

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## Children's Religious Education



This Sunday, 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.

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# Adult Religious Education

## **Beloved Community** - Rev. Dr. Rose Edington, Rev. Mel Hoover, Lucy Kesterson

**4 sessions** - Sundays, February 2–23, 12:00–1:30 pm

In 2020, BUF adopted our Covenant of Beloved Community. The [Black Lives Matter Action Team](#) invites you to join us in exploring what living the promise of our covenant means in practice. Participation in all four sessions is encouraged but not required.

- **February 2** - Mixing and huddling: the importance of racial identity spaces within Unitarian Universalism - facilitated by Rev. Dr. Rose Edington (Library)
- **February 9** - What is the history of racism and anti-Blackness in Unitarian Universalism? - facilitated by Rev. Mel Hoover (Flex Room)
- **February 16** - What would we need to change about ourselves to co-create an explicitly anti-racist Unitarian Universalism? - facilitated by Lucy Kesterson (Flex Room)
- **February 23** - How do we as Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship grow together in Beloved Community? - facilitated by Lucy Kesterson (Flex Room)

***Registration link available in next week's Mid-Week Update.***

## **Unitarian Universalist Theology II** - Natalie Johnson

**5 sessions** - Sundays, March 2–30, 12:15–1:45 pm, BUF Flex Room (top floor)

UU Theology II examines the development of Unitarian Universalism during the late 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. Among other topics, we will explore the move away from Christianity and toward humanism, the merger of the two denominations, and such UU theologies as earth-centered, humanist, process, and social gospel. While picking up where UU Theology I ended, the course is stand-alone and intended for anyone interested in understanding our Unitarian Universalist dynamic, ever-developing beliefs.

[Register](#)

## **Before the Scramble: A Scottish Missionary's Story** - Rod Haynes

**4 sessions** - Sundays, April 6–27, 12:15–1:15 pm, BUF Flex Room (top floor)

Before the Scramble: A Scottish Missionary's Story by Rod Haynes tells the untold tale of James Sutherland, an ordinary man in the late 19th century, caught between two

worlds, who was dedicated to serving God in a time and place rife with danger. Contemporary Unitarian theology will be presented to compare and contrast the evangelistic efforts of missionaries like Sutherland. Participants will receive a copy of the book free of charge before the first class.

[Register](#)

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## Weekly Choir Update

Each week, a link to the weekly Choir Gazette can be found here as well as in the footer of this email.

[Read Choir Gazette](#)

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## Community Night Dinner

**Wednesdays, 6:00pm**

### Menu for Wednesday, January 15

This week's menu is chili, cornbread, salad, and simple dessert. Suggested donation is \$5.00 per/person; children 12 and under are free. Come and enjoy!

### More Volunteers Needed

In order to sustain our weekly dinners, we need kitchen helpers, folks to set-up and set the tables, and folks to help reset the social hall. You can sign up for a single night or all of them, depending on what your schedule will allow. You can [sign up for a role using Sign-Up Genius](#).

[Sign Up for a Role](#)

Any questions regarding volunteering can be sent to Jennifer Villalva at [jennifermvillalva@hotmail.com](mailto:jennifermvillalva@hotmail.com).

You can now pay with Text to Give through Breeze (see instructions below). Simply text to the number **360-345-3933** the amount you'd like to donate along with the keyword

“CND” (e.g. - \$5 CND) - remember to put the “space” between the dollar amount and the keyword.

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## Sunday Community Potlucks

### Third Sundays of the month

#### Next Potluck - Sunday, January 19

Our next Community Potluck will be Sunday, January 19. We'll gather to enjoy some nourishing food and conversation right after the service. Please bring a dish to share and don't forget to take your serving dish home when you depart! If you can lend a hand wiping and putting away the tables and chairs after eating, it will be appreciated.

#### Volunteers Needed

I love our Sunday after-service potlucks! To keep them going monthly in 2025, we need a group of six to eight people willing to come in early to set out tables and chairs and set up the serving line or, after eating, clean and put away tables, fold and put away chairs, and assist the building steward with kitchen clean up as needed.

Do you also love our Sunday potlucks? Will you **volunteer your time once a month** so they can continue?

If so, contact me at [Kasper.jm828@gmail.com](mailto:Kasper.jm828@gmail.com) or Michelle at [admin@buf.org](mailto:admin@buf.org) to get your name on a list starting this Sunday, January 19 and every third Sunday. I'll get in touch with the volunteer group ahead for planning.

– Judy Kasper

[Email to Volunteer](#)

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## Social Environmental Justice Committee Winter Meeting

All are welcome to attend the Social Environmental Justice Committee's winter meeting on January 26th downstairs in the library, following the worship service.

The SEJC supports programs to advance justice, human rights and environmental sustainability through the work of issue-focused Action Teams. The committee also interviews and selects organizations for the monthly Justice Collections that are taken one Sunday each month. It sponsors groups that use our building for events and programs, and we also sell Fair Trade products each Sunday during the coffee hour following the Sunday services. You can learn more about SEJC action teams at <https://wp.buf.org/justice/social-environmental-justice-committee/>

New members are always welcome, so bring your ideas and concerns, and join us January 26.

Contact Todd Jones with any questions - [toddjones57@hotmail.com](mailto:toddjones57@hotmail.com)

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## Vacuuming Volunteers Needed

**BUF needs three individuals willing to vacuum.** Each person would vacuum areas on one floor, once per month, for six months. There is a vacuum on every floor. All of them are lightweight, recently cleaned, and work very well. No one will be expected to move heavy furniture. The Janitor vacuums the main areas on each floor; volunteers are needed to vacuum the smaller areas.

On the Social Hall level, one volunteer would vacuum the hallway and small side rooms. On the Office floor level, one volunteer would vacuum the small offices. On the 3rd floor classroom level, one volunteer would vacuum the flex room and hallways.

If interested, please contact Ahwren Ayers 360-312-1244; [ahwrenayers@gmail.com](mailto:ahwrenayers@gmail.com)

[Email to Volunteer](#)

# SEJC's January Special Collections Recipient

## *Bellingham Food Bank*

The [Bellingham Food Bank](#) serves over 5,000 households a week in Whatcom County. Rev. Peter Luton and a number of other BUFsters volunteer at the food bank. Peter shares that there is a wide diversity of people who are served including many elderly residents, students, the unhoused, working people, and non-English speakers from many countries.

Your donation will **support your neighbors who are struggling to feed their families**. Donations can be sent to BUF throughout the month with the designation to the "Bellingham Food Bank." Thank you for your generosity.

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## Humanitas Update



One morning, a young man walked in, clearly distressed. He struggled to express what was wrong. His words were fragmented, his thoughts scattered—each attempt to communicate only added to his frustration.

However, we understood that he needed something crucial: to return home to Alabama. As we spent time with him, patiently narrowing down his request, it became clear that he needed a bus ticket. We learned that he had already gathered three pledges for the ticket from individuals in our network. We decided to match their pledges. Together, we raised enough funds to send him back home—back to the place where he would feel safe again. It wasn't just the ticket that mattered; it was the kindness of our community, and the network of churches and individuals who came together to meet a need in the most compassionate way possible. We are incredibly grateful for the community partnerships that make stories like these possible, and for the reminder that even the smallest act of kindness can make a world of difference.

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## Upcoming Sunday Justice Groupthinks

**2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, 9:15-10:15am**

This next four years is going to be very difficult and social and environmental justice issues will be requiring more attention from all of us. People and the planet are going to be devastatingly impacted from health care to fossil fuels, from endangered species to

food insecurity, from pollution to LGBTQAI+, from racial and ethnic inequity to climate chaos and everything else in between.

On the second and fourth Sundays, Deb Cruz will be in the BUF conference room from 9:15-10:15am for folks who want to gather and express their concerns, share wisdom and maybe find ways to prevent, mitigate, or undo the damage that is to come. All are welcome regardless of expertise and experience.

Bring your concerns, questions, knowledge, ideas and experience to share. Come speak, or come listen, or both. If you have phones, computers or iPads, you might want to bring them so we can explore resources together.

The sessions are as follows:

- **January 26** - Justice and the Environment
- **February 9** - Justice and Racism and Oppression
- **February 23** - Justice and LGBTQAI+ Communities
- **March 9** - Justice and Indigenous Communities
- **March 23** - Justice and Immigration
- **April 13** - Justice and the Economy
- **April 27** - Justice and Democracy

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## 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

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## BUF 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, no word doc attachment needed. Avoid any formatting, including bullets. Limit: 200 words. Submissions may be edited for space and clarity. Submit your content to [MWU@buf.org](mailto:MWU@buf.org)

## Find the BUF Calendar Online

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

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### **Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship**

Office phone: 360-733-3887

[buf.org](http://buf.org) | [admin@buf.org](mailto:admin@buf.org)

*Handy Links:* [Calendar](#) | [Choir Updates](#)

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