



Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

Mid-Week Update: **February 19, 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](#) - February 19
6. [Sunday Front Door Sitters Needed](#)
7. [2025-2026 Sunday Justice Collection Application](#)
8. [Sunday Justice Brainstorming](#) - February 23
9. [Women's Retreat](#) - April 25-27
10. [Lunch with Paul](#) - most Tuesdays
11. [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, February 23, 10:30am - Rev. Paul Beckel

Taizé - Monday, March 3, 7:00pm - Steffany Raynes and Carrie Koehline

Taizé is a meditative restful service (that we can all appreciate right now), available in the sanctuary or on zoom. Please join us. There will be candles and a loving community. "Staying Whole-hearted" is this month's theme.

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.

Adult Religious Education

Unitarian Universalist Theology II - Natalie Johnson

5 sessions - Sundays, March 2–30, 12:15–1:45 pm, 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](#)

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](#)

Community Night Dinner

Wednesdays, 6:00pm

Wednesday, February 19

We'll be serving soup, salad, and 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.

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.

Sunday Front Door Sitters Needed

For safety, our front doors are unlocked only a short time before Sunday services begin... then locked up at 10:30am. Several years ago, Felice Davis volunteered to sit at the front door during Sunday services to assist latecomers (she attends the service via Zoom). Felice has had a substitute a few times but has been remarkably dedicated to this work. At this point, she's on the lookout for more substitutes and invites anyone interested to contact her by text or email: fdavis1944@gmail.com or 253-307-8981. Thank you so very much!

[Email to Sign Up](#)

2025-2026 Sunday Justice Collection Application Now Posted on Our Website

We encourage all in the BUF community to invite organizations to apply to receive a collection during the next church year. Please let them know that the firm deadline for applications is April 11th, 2025. Here is the direct link to the application on buf's website:

<https://wp.buf.org/justice/social-environmental-justice-committee/sejc-collection-guide-lines-and-application/>

We particularly encourage organizations to apply who serve a diverse and/or underserved population. Grassroots and small organizations are welcome to apply. Social change organizations are welcome to apply. We prefer to select organizations where BUF's contribution will make a significant difference for the organization and its work.

Thank you for your help in creating a diverse, effective and meaningful pool of applicants.

Upcoming Sunday Justice Brainstorming

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

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.

Upcoming sessions:

- **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

Women's Retreat

April 25-27, Lutherwood Camp

Save the date for the Women's Retreat at Lutherwood Camp this April! Registration and more information will be out soon.

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

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

There are a few different options for designating your gift:

- Text **"\$5"** to donate \$5 to the collection basket
- Text **"\$5 SEJC"** to send your contribution to this month's SEJC recipient
- Text **"\$5 Taize"** to support BUF's Taizé ministry
- Text **"\$5 CND"** for Community Night Dinners
- Text **"\$5 Fair"** for purchases of fair trade products at the church (coffee, chocolate bars, etc.)



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

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

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

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