



Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

Mid-Week Update: May 7, 2025

Upcoming Services

Religious Education

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Building & Grounds

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Stewardship

- [Auction Team Meeting](#) - May 9

Social and Environmental Justice

- [SEJC's May Special Collections Recipient](#): Bellingham Queer Collective

Engagement & Support

- [Lunch with Paul](#) most Tuesdays
- [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, May 11, 10:30am - BUF and Spirituality – Tom Nicholas and Carrie Koehnl

What is spirituality? What does spirituality mean to members and friends of the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship? To what extent do they experience Sunday services

at BUF as spiritual? Please join us as we explore these questions and share various responses to them.

Religious Education

Children's Religious Education



Children who wish to attend Sunday School start in the Sanctuary with their families then 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

Transgender Inclusion in Congregations - Constance and Hank Ohana

6 sessions - Sundays, May 4-June 8, 3:00-5:00 pm, BUF Sanctuary

Designed specifically for UU congregations, this discussion-focused course counters mainstream narratives about who trans people are, supports understanding of non-binary identities (such as genderqueer, agender, and Two-Spirit), and employs a deeply intersectional approach. Among other topics, we will explore congregational welcome, relationship-building, and skills-building. Congregational teams (e.g., Board, Staff, Hospitality, Choir, Worship Arts, RE) are particularly encouraged to participate. Individuals welcomed!

[Register](#)

Pathways for Newcomers - Felice Davis

1 session - Saturday, May 17, 10:00am-2:00pm

Hosted by the Hospitality Committee and open to all those new to BUF. Pathways is a Unitarian Universalist tradition for adults to get to know others in a small group setting and to learn about our church and UUism. The session features a Q&A with our minister, Rev. Paul. Fun and Informative! Sign up with Felice Davis: text 253-307-8981, or email fdavis1944@gmail.com.

[Register](#)

Events

Where Do We Go from Here? Chaos or Beloved Community?

Friday, May 9, 6:30pm (doors 6:00pm), First Congregational Church of Bellingham



Noted speaker Rev. Adam Taylor from [Sojourners](#) presents and answers questions, followed by a reception and opportunity to give.

How do we resist the dangers of authoritarianism while casting a bold alternative vision of a healthy democracy that enables everyone to thrive?

Supporting churches: First Congregational Church of Bellingham, Garden Street United Methodist, Christ the Servant Lutheran, St. Paul's Episcopal



Rev. Adam Russell Taylor is president of Sojourners, an author and speaker. Among many roles, he led the Faith Initiative at the World Bank Group and served in the White House Office of Cabinet Affairs and Public Engagement.

[RSVP](#) requested but not required.

[RSVP](#)

UPLIFT Updates & Pride Events

LGBTQIA+ Voices at BUF and Beyond

We encourage everyone to participate in some of the many upcoming Pride events:

- May 31 - [Youth Pride in Bellingham](#)
- July 12-13 - [Bellingham Pride](#)
- July 19-20 - Ferndale Pride
 - July 19 - Educational event and happy hour
 - July 20 - Whatcom Library Pride in the Park at Pioneer Park

Also, all are welcome to join the UPLIFT Committee. How can you be involved?

- Attend team meetings: **first** Sunday of every month at noon. Email Grace Nyblade at gnyblade@gmail.com if you want to be added to the email list for meetings. All events are announced here in the MWU and other communications from BUF.
- Volunteer! We would love to include you. Email committee co-chairs Grace (see email address above) or Natalie at NatalieLJohnson53@gmail.com.

UPLIFT UPDATES

LGBTQIA+ VOICES AT BUF AND BEYOND

WHAT ARE THE PRIDE EVENTS:

- May 31 is Youth Pride in Bellingham
 - <https://www.whatcomyouthpride.com/pride-week-events>
- July 12 and 13 is Bellingham Pride
 - TBD where the BUF group will meet for the Parade
 - Look for t-shirt ordering in MWU
- July 19 and 20 is Ferndale Pride
 - 19th is an educational event and then a happy hour
 - 20th is Whatcom Library Pride in the Park at Pioneer Park

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

- Email Grace if you want to be added to the email list for meetings. All events are announced in MWU and other communications from BUF
- Attend our team meetings on the first Sunday of every month 12 noon
- Volunteer - we would love to include you
- Email Grace or Natalie Co-Chairs (gnyblade@gmail.com or NatalieLJohnson53@gmail.com)



Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship
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1207 Ellsworth Street
Bellingham WA 98225
www.BUF.org

Sunday Potlucks Return in June

Sunday, June 15

Due to an important Congregational Meeting after the service on May 18, there will not be a Third Sunday Potluck this month. Our next gathering will take place on June 15.

Bellingham Ukulele Orchestra Spring Concert

Monday, May 19, 7:00pm, BUF

The Bellingham Ukulele Orchestra invites our community to their spring concert on Monday, May 19 at BUF. The event is free and will be a colorful expression of music and song.



Rev. Paul's Farewell Party

Saturday, June 21, 6:00-8:30pm & Sunday, June 22, 10:25am

Rev. Paul Beckel is retiring at the end of June and moving with Jane to Minneapolis

In honor of his long ministry, we're bidding him a fond farewell with a party and a Sunday service, both at BUF.

We want as many people as possible to be a part of giving Paul a wonderful farewell. We have many ways you can contribute – and if you think of something we haven't listed, please let us know.

For the Saturday night party, we need help with:

- Dinner prep
- Room prep
- Clean up
- Desserts for our dessert potluck
- Flowers from your garden
- "Florists" to put together bouquets

If you can help with any of these tasks, please contact Genia at geniaas@gmail.com.

There will also be a wonderful final service followed by a festive coffee hour. Mark your calendars to attend both meaningful events in honor of Paul's long ministry at BUF and his retirement from 30 years of active UU ministry.

Questions? Please contact Jeff Copeland at jeff.copeland@gmail.com or Barbara ten Hove at revbabs10@gmail.com.

Alohas: Hellos and Goodbyes

Celebration of Life: Leslie McFee

Friday, May 30, 2:00pm, BUF

Beloved, long time BUF member Leslie McFee passed away recently. She had moved to the Yukon only days before. Join us for an informal celebration of her life.

Please note this correction; the date was listed incorrectly in last week's MWU.

Building & Grounds

Stained Glass Project Complete

Thanks to Jim Reimer and Karen FitzGerald



Wonderful sunshine is complimenting our beautiful windows in the sanctuary!

These windows were generously donated by Karen FitzGerald. Jim Reimer's vision to upcycle these pieces of artwork into such a complimentary showcase is amazing.

Thank you to both Karen and Jim for your generosity, ingenuity, time, and efforts in adding to the beauty of this wonderful space.

Stewardship

Auction Team Meeting

Friday, May 9, 9:30am, Bellingham Food Co-op

The Auction Team will hold its organizing meeting at 9:30am on Friday, May 9 at the downtown Food Co-op, gathering upstairs above the deli. Please come if you are interested in helping to shape this year's event!

Questions? Email Drew Betz at drewlenore@me.com or text 360-930-0015.

Social and Environmental Justice

SEJC's May Special Collections Recipient Bellingham Queer Collective



The [Bellingham Queer Collective \(BQC\)](#) connects, celebrates, unites, and advocates for the LGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities. The BQC started in 2022 and grew into a nonprofit organization, supporting over 3,000 people in Bellingham and beyond. The BQC is improving the Social Health of the queer community through arts, movement, nature, service, and belonging.

The BQC, partnering with Northwest Youth Services, opened the first LGBTQ+ community center, between Seattle and Canada, last year. The BQC is growing and just obtained their own long term lease and moved into a new space in March.

The BQC Community Center space is a free, queer, 3rd Space for the 18+ community. Hosting peer-led groups including identity, recovery, social, and interest groups. They hold wellness and educational workshops, including fentanyl overdose awareness.

This all-volunteer organization relies on community contributions only. All funds collected support rent and operations. Immediate needs include purchasing basic furniture, equipment, and safety features including security cameras, window film, and new door hardware. Donations today will significantly impact the BQC June Pride Fundraiser Campaign titled "Unite and Thrive in 2025; Let's Raise \$30,000 in 30 Days"

[Learn More](#)

Engagement & Support

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.](#)