



# Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

Mid-Week Update: **June 4, 2025**

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## 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, June 8, 10:30am - Songs Celebrating the Sun – BUF Chalice Choir Finale**

**Sunday, June 15, 10:30am - Flower Communion/Mandala - Rev. Paul Beckel**

Our annual Flower Communion ceremony will remind us of the beauty earth gifts to us through its magnanimous variety of living shapes, colors, and purposes. Our ritual of creating a mandala with our flowers will remind us of the preciousness and transience of all that is. Please bring flowers to help with the creation of our mandala, which we will carry down to—and release in—Whatcom Creek.

**Sunday, June 22, 10:30am - To BUF: What brought me? What did I bring? What will I take with me? – Rev Paul Beckel**

I'll address these questions directly, but mostly all of this will be conveyed through a collaborative feast of music, others' reflections, and a ritual of leave-taking. It will mean so much to me to have you there!

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## Words from Paul

### *Retirement Plans*

I'm very excited in anticipation of the generous retirement celebration send-off you're planning for me on June 21st—and full of so many feelings regarding my final Sunday service, June 22nd.

What's next for Jane and I? We bought a house in Minneapolis near our 3 sons, and Jane's mom Mary Jane (until recently a BUFster) and her brother. Our grandson Arthur is scheduled to be joined by a sibling in July. (He talks excitedly about, "my sib-bil-ing.")

I have a few ideas about how to occupy my time when not with the grandkids: swimming, biking, writing, and mostly allowing space to see what calls to me. Before I went to seminary, I explored several of the UU congregations in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. I'll do that again, taking some time to see which of them feels right for me, and how, and when.

One thing I'll be very conscious of will be my relationships with ministerial colleagues in these congregations. My colleagues here at BUF have been a wonderful example to me of how to be available while at the same time keeping clear boundaries. I'll say more about this—and more specifically, the nature of my relationship with BUF and BUFsters—in next week's MWU.

Peace, Paul

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# 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.

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## Events

### Paul's Retirement Celebration

**Saturday, June 21, Dinner and Program, 5:50pm-8:30pm**

**Sunday Service, June 22, 10:20am-Noon**

Paul's retirement celebration is coming right up! The celebration to honor Paul's retirement from 30 years of UU ministry and 11 years at BUF is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and wish Jane and Paul an excellent next chapter in their lives. Please make it a priority to attend one or both of these meaningful events.

The Saturday Evening Event needs YOU!

We hope as many people as possible will be a part of giving Paul a wonderful farewell. We still need help making our lasagna dinner party a success. If you can help out with one of the items below, please contact Genia Allen-Schmid at [geniaas@gmail.com](mailto:geniaas@gmail.com) who will provide more details about when and where!

- **Lasagna** - Three more people to make and bake their favorite lasagna at home

- **Dessert** - Desserts for our dessert potluck – we need six more!
- **Flowers** - Flowers from your garden – we only have one person offering to bring flowers and we need armfuls!

Have memories or photos you wish to share? Jeff Copeland is collecting photos for a slideshow. Please email any you might have during Paul's ministry to [jeff.copeland@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.copeland@gmail.com) no later than June 14. Cards and gifts may be brought to BUF at the event. If you'd prefer to write an email message, they can be sent to Barbara ten Hove at [revbabs10@gmail.com](mailto:revbabs10@gmail.com).

### **Shhhh - Gift for Beckels at June 21 Party! (Don't tell them!)**

A special gift has been selected to bless Jane and Paul as they retire and move away from Bellingham. Donations to help cover the cost would be graciously accepted. You can donate any amount by check (memo Beckel Gift); cash (please put in envelope and give to Barbara ten Hove or Jeff Copeland); or through the donation button on the website (also memo Beckel Gift). Anything collected over the amount spent on the gift will go to help them with their move. Thanks for your generosity! (And if you want to know what it is, ask Barbara but don't tell!)

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## Garden Party: Oh – To Be Young Again! (But here's your chance)

**Saturday, July 12, 2:00-5:00pm, 518 Willow Rd. Bellingham**

"The Barbara's" have put their creative heads together and come up with this theme for this year's garden party. And you're invited. As entertainment, guests will share memorable stories from our school days, and dress in kind.

Nibbles: We've come up with a number of yummy things that we used to eat as kids, but if there is something delicious, outlandish, fun that was a favorite of yours, do let us know, and we'll welcome your offering.

Location: Home of Barbara Ellis-Quinn and Ron Quinn, 518 Willow Rd, Bellingham  
This is an auction item from last fall but we have room for a few more guests if you would like to join us. The amount is \$30 per person and can be paid online.

[Sign up here](#) or with Michelle in the office.



[Sign Up](#)

Questions: Ask either of us. Email Barbara Gilday at [journeys333@comcast.net](mailto:journeys333@comcast.net) or Barbara Ellis-Quinn at [dr\\_e\\_q@me.com](mailto:dr_e_q@me.com).

This will be light-hearted and fun!  
“The Barbara’s”

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## News

### MWU Summer Schedule

MWU will move to an every other week schedule starting June 18 and resume the weekly schedule on August 27. The first Wednesday with NO distribution will be June 26. Submit by Monday at noon before a Wednesday distribution. Submit your content in the body of an email to [mwu@buf.org](mailto:mwu@buf.org).

Summer distribution dates and submission deadlines:

- **Wednesday, June 18** | Submit by Monday, June 17
- **Wednesday, July 2** | Submit by Monday, June 30
- **Wednesday, July 16** | Submit by Monday, July 14
- **Wednesday, July 30** | Submit by Monday, July 28
- **Wednesday, August 13** | Submit by Monday, August 11
- **Wednesday, August 27** | Submit by Monday, August 25

[Submit to MWU](#)

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# Alohas: Hellos and Goodbyes

## Highlighting BUF Members

*Meet, greet, and bid adieu to BUF Members in this recurring MWU section*

## Meet Jenny Harrington



I, along with my wife and our youngest son, moved to Bellingham from Spokane in 2019 to be near our older son and his partner. I am a professional gardener, a writer, and an avid volunteer with the Bellingham Parks/WNPS Stewardship work party program and with Humanitas here at BUF. The people at BUF are why I decided to join, and I am proud to be a member of a fellowship that is striving to do so much good in our world today!

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## Celebration of Life for Gill Baker

**Saturday, August 2, 2:00pm, BUF**

Long time member Gil Baker, 85, passed on Monday, May 12 surrounded by his loving family. He had “the most peaceful passing one could ask for,” as described by his compassionate wife Ginny. A celebration of his life will be held Saturday, August 2 at 2:00pm.

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## Recording of the Celebration of Life for Leslie McFee

Many friends, neighbors, hikers, and BUFsters gathered last week for Leslie’s memorial service. [Here’s a recording](#) for those who missed it.

[Watch the Recording](#)

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## Stewardship Update

Great news — we just reached our pledge drive goal of \$365,000! This is a huge accomplishment, and puts our fellowship in a stronger position as we support each other, reach out to the larger community around us, and search for our new minister. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this happen: canvassers, follow-up team, staff and volunteers who provided background support, and everyone who stepped up with their pledge, their encouragement, their support, and their commitment to our shared mission. Thank you so much!

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## Engagement & Support

### UPLIFT T-Shirts

Celebrate and support LGBTQIA+ people by purchasing an [UPLIFT t-shirt](#)! June is Pride month, and as we gear up to march and celebrate, let's show some love for the queer community. The shirts are 100% cotton in a deep purple, with the front featuring "Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship" and a flaming chalice, and the back displaying the UUA UPLIFT logo. Men's (pictured below, left), Women's (pictured below, right), and Children's shirts are available in many sizes.



The cost is \$25 per shirt, and the proceeds go to a queer-focused nonprofit. Orders will be taken through June 15, with delivery at BUF by Sunday, June 29. Stand with us!

[Place Order](#)

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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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## Auction Team Members Needed

The Auction Team needs 2-3 people to help solicit donations to the BUF Auction from local businesses and services. Brenda Goebel, our donations chair, has created a tracking system to make sure we are not making duplicate asks. We can also use help from all members and friends who are willing to make an ask of one or more businesses/providers - think of your favorite garden stores, restaurants, coffee shops, breweries, clothing stores (new and resale) and service providers. We are representing the mission and presence of our beloved community when we ask for support. If 2-3 people can join Brenda in tracking, encouraging and asking for support it will help enormously. The Auction Team will be present this Sunday after the service to sign you up. We need to have our donations wrapped up by Mid-September. Thanks for considering this. Contact Drew Betz, 2025 Auction Chair, with any questions.

# 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.

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## 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.](#)