



Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

Mid-Week Update: **July 2, 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, July 6, 10:30am - A Crazy Quilt Religion: Exploring UU Theology through a Creative Lens - Revs. Barbara Wells ten Hove and Jaco ten Hove

UU theology can sometimes be challenging to explain. This sermon, using a rich metaphor, will provide some ways to easily talk about our faith. Marsha Vollkommer, celebrant, Walt Ellis and Melanie Reick, keyboard artist.

Monday, July 7, 7:00pm - Taizé

The July Taizé will focus on Rest. Join us for a meditative service either in the sanctuary or on Zoom.

Sunday, July 13, 10:30am - Let's Talk About It! - Rebecca and Erika Crichton

This presentation by mother-daughter duo, Rebecca and Erika Crichton, will provide guidance and insights for how we can openly talk about issues related to aging and end of life. Steffany Raynes, celebrant and Melanie Reick, keyboard artist

Sunday, July 20 10:30am - Holy as Mud - Rev. Barbara ten Hove and Tom Nicholas

Sometimes the work of the church can be muddy and it doesn't always feel spiritual. But, church work is holy and matters deeply to our spirits. Karen Fitzgerald, keyboard artist. SEJC collection for the Restorative CommUnity Coalition.

Sunday, September 7, 10:30am - Water Communion Service - Rev. Dr. Barbara Wells ten Hove

Please bring some special water from your summer to share in our annual service. More info about the service will follow in August.

Words from Rev. Barbara W. ten Hove - Transitional Support Minister

We gave Paul and Jane a wonderful send-off last month and they're now well and truly retired. We'll miss them but hope the many good wishes and love received will carry them joyfully into their new adventure.

I want to thank everyone who participated in the Goodbye Celebration. When it was over, we determined at least 50 folks volunteered in some way! It was deeply meaningful and though I can't thank everyone in this column I do want to acknowledge the Planning Team: Jeff Copeland, Genia Allen-Schmid, David Curley and me. We worked hard for many months to create a wonderful



weekend of celebration. Thanks to everyone who helped and who came!

Now we turn a corner toward the unknown. As your leadership continues to look for a minister to serve BUF, they have hired me in a part-time and temporary capacity to keep the ship afloat as we navigate next steps. Through September, I'll be managing the Sunday services (along with the excellent Celebrant team) and supervising the staff while providing a ministerial eye on the congregation. I will only be working quarter time, which means I will need a lot of support. Thanks in advance for saying yes when asked by me or your lay leaders to help in some way.

Finally, I want to acknowledge both the benefit and the (modest) challenge I face as a retired minister serving (even short term) a congregation for which I am a member. It helps that I know BUF pretty well and am deeply committed to its health and wellbeing. Similar to when I served BUF as sabbatical minister in 2021, in my professional role, I'll move through BUF in a different way, which might have moments of challenge. But, I trust us all to be respectful and caring as we move through this season of change.

Hope to see you at Summer Services!

All the best,
Rev. Barbara W. ten Hove
Transitional Support Minister

Religious Education

Children's Religious Education

Summer Childcare

Summer Childcare, led by Lucy Major, began on June 29 and is similar to the regular school year, with all ages together in the Flex Room. They will begin in the service and will be prompted to go upstairs when it is time.

- **K-8** - Children who will be in K-8 in the Fall will read stories and do arts and crafts with Lucy and their team
- **Pre-K (2-4y)** - Children 2-4 years of age can go to the Pre-K room, also upstairs, where we have two adults supervising.

Parents are also welcome to stay with their children if they wish, or stay to enjoy the rest of the service. Pick-up is upstairs at 11:45am (enjoy some coffee first if you have time).

At BUF, families sit anywhere in the sanctuary that meets their needs and many sit near the children's rug in the front. The Wiggle Room is also available if you need it (The Wiggle Room is at the back of the sanctuary and has toys for younger children, chairs and hymnals for adults, and a large window and speaker to hear the service).

Lis Epperson, RE Coordinator, is available this summer, supporting Lucy and the summer team and preparing for the upcoming year, which starts on September 7. You can reach her at RE@BUF.org.

Events

Garden Party: Oh – To Be Young Again!

Saturday, July 12, 2:00-5:00pm

At the home of Barbara Ellis-Quinn and Ron Quinn, 518 Willow Rd, Bellingham

Here's your chance to be young again at "The Barbara's" – to have an afternoon where you can let your inner child emerge. We encourage participants to dress and act like the child you were (or could have been).

Guests are encouraged to share memorable stories from their school days, and dress and act in kind. There may also be a sing-along near the end of the event.

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 (optional) offering.

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](#)

You can also sign up with Michelle in the office.

Contact either Barbara with questions Barbara Gilday - journeys333@comcast.net or Barbara Ellis-Quinn - dr_e_q@me.com. This will be light-hearted and fun!

– “The Barbara’s”

Free Presentation on Northern Thailand’s Hill Tribe People

Wednesday, July 16, 6:00pm, BUF Social Hall

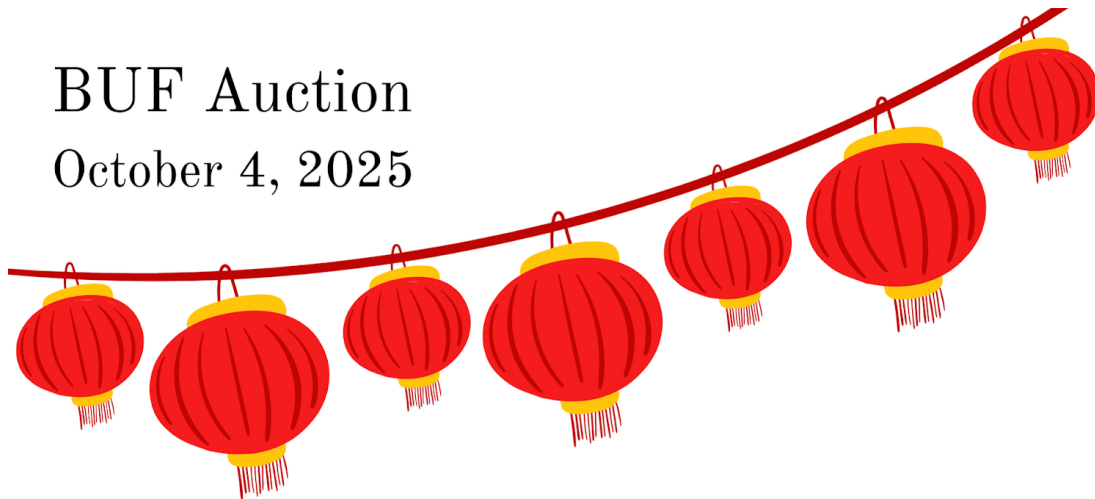
Delivered by Panda Stuart. With an introduction to [Bent, But Not Broken](#), a 501(c)(3) serving the needs of Orphans, who are often in hiding from sex and drug traffickers and murderers. Please enroll in advance by emailing anda@bentbutnotbroken.org. Co-sponsored by Bent, But Not Broken & SEJC.

[Email to Sign Up](#)

Auction Update: Save the Date & Donate

BUF Auction

October 4, 2025



Mark your calendars for October 4 and plan to attend this year’s BUF Auction. [Visit our](#)

[website to purchase your tickets](#); your \$35 per person admission includes a professionally catered dinner and childcare for those who need it!

We're seeking auction donations of Gatherings, Tours, Services, Meals, Gift Cards, Trips, and Fine Crafted Items. [Complete the form on the website to submit your donation](#), or talk to a member of the auction team in the social hall after a Sunday service. We've already had a few donations, including a huge spaghetti dinner, four hours of childcare, and a private in-home concert. What can you add to our growing list of auction items? There will be plenty of ways to get involved; more information on volunteering for the auction will be shared next month.

[Learn More](#)

News

Note from Andrea Rackl

I have some hard news - it is time for me to leave my position as a pianist at BUF. I am in a time of re-evaluating my professional life and having to make some tough choices. I have been considering this decision for a long time and was hoping to stay on through our minister transition, but some health issues have come up for me in the past few months. It is important for me to lower my stress level, so I'm choosing to give notice earlier than planned. I will be completing my work with BUF at the end of August.

I'm so sorry that this comes at a time when there has been so much turn-over in the BUF staff recently. I want to make it clear that nothing negative happened at BUF that made me want to leave - it is simply my making priorities about professional directions.

This is a hard letter for me to write. I care very much about BUF. It has been a wonderful job for me. I have felt incredibly appreciated and have grown so much, both as a person and as a musician, during my tenure with you. I started when my kid was a baby, 23 years ago! Thank you for all the great years.

Sincerely,

Andrea Rackl

BUF Office Summer Hours

Monday - Closed

Tuesday-Thursday - 10:00am-2:00pm

Friday - Closed

If you would like to meet outside these hours, please schedule with Michelle at admin@buf.org.

Please note that BUF will be closed on July 4th, and September 1st, in recognition of the holidays.

Attention Choir Members

Attention current and former members of BUF Choir: It's the end of the choir season, which means it's time to gather and file our choir music. If you have music from this year (or any previous years), please return it to the marked box in the coatroom. —Kjerstie Nelson, Choir Librarian

MWU Summer Schedule

MWU is currently on an every-other-week schedule and will resume the weekly schedule on August 27. Submit by Monday at noon before a Wednesday distribution. Submit your content in the body of an email to mwu@buf.org.

Summer distribution dates and submission deadlines:

- **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](#)

Alohas: Hellos and Goodbyes

Highlighting BUF Members

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

Meet the Magic Behind the MWU - Clare Garvin



Hello to the Garvin family - Clare, Joe, and Ruby! They have been attending BUF since October 2023, having moved to Bellingham from Seattle earlier that summer. What drew them to BUF was its values, offering of community, and place for their child to learn and grow. They've come to love the children's RE program, music-rich services, and the congregation's focus on social justice, mindfulness, and... fun!

Clare has been co-editing the MWU with Heather Higgins for the past year and works as a marketer for a Seattle-based nonprofit film arts organization. Joe works as a copywriter and in his free time, facilitates the Recovery Dharma Bellingham group – a recovery group based in Buddhist principles that meets weekly on Wednesdays. He is also an active member of the Red Cedar Zen community. Their daughter Ruby is turning 3 later this month and loves playing on the playground, traveling on airplanes, and having tea parties.

Susie Walker

Susie is recovering from illness, and welcomes phone calls in the evening between 6:00-7:00pm on her home line at 360-922-7359.

Social and Environmental Justice

Restorative CommUnity Coalition - SEJC's July Special Collections Recipient



We envision a safe, resilient, and economically vibrant community where individuals impacted by incarceration and trauma are given the tools to heal, rebuild, and contribute. By advancing restorative justice and systemic change, we aim to reduce incarceration, strengthen families, and create pathways to meaningful

work and civic engagement—ensuring lasting value for individuals, families, and society as a whole.

Our successful programs and procedures produce a climate of nurturing, healing and guidance for our clients that allows rapid integration of our process.

It is our experience that Restorative Justice can be expanded to the majority of existing cases for it is the healing of the trauma caused from an incident that allows an understanding for healing to occur.

Our focus is to reduce the harm, lessen the trauma and when possible bypass the justice system, reducing the jail population and overcrowded court system, thereby creating a safer community. Diversion programs are shown to reduce incarceration, court appearances, chaos, trauma and fear, which leads to more harmonious relationships within families and community.

[Learn More](#)

Please contribute to [Restorative CommUnity Coalition](#) anytime during this month.

UPLIFT

UPLIFT T-Shirt Orders

Through Sunday, July 6 ONLY

By popular demand, we're accepting orders again for UPLIFT Pride t-shirts. Pride is Sunday, July 13, and as we gear up to march and celebrate, let's show some love. The shirts are 100% cotton in a deep purple. The front features "Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship" and a flaming chalice. The back displays 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 Sunday, July 6, ONLY - with pickup available at BUF Saturday, July 12, from 10:00 to 12:00. Orders not picked up then will be available at BUF, Sunday, July 20, after service. Stand with us!

[Order](#)

Engagement & Support

Lunch for All

Tuesdays, noon, Social Hall

Join fellow BUFsters **for a "Lunch for All"** hosted by Mark Allyn. Please join us at noon in the social hall for food and conversation. This will still be a bring-your-own lunch as it was with Lunch with Paul. We hope this will be the beginning of a new tradition.

Questions? Contact Mark Allyn at allyn@well.com.

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 **"\$10"** to donate \$10 to the collection basket
- Text **"\$10 SEJC"** to send your contribution to this month's SEJC recipient
- Text **"\$10 Taize"** to support BUF's Taizé ministry
- Text **"\$10 CND"** for Community Night Dinners
- Text **"\$10 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 account 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.](#)