



Upcoming Sunday Services

May 3, 2020 • “Democracy on the Threshold of...” • Rev. Duffy Peet • Held via Facebook Livestream and Zoom

Democratic governments in countries around the world have been facing significant challenges over the past few years. In this country important questions are being raised regarding both the process and the security related to the upcoming general election on November 3. It seems that democracy may be at a threshold. The question is, what lies beyond the threshold.

May 10, 2020 • “Mother’s Day: The Gifts Received” • Rev. Duffy Peet • Held via Facebook Livestream and Zoom

On this Mother’s Day holiday our service will focus on the most meaningful gifts we have received from our mothers as well as the gifts that being a mother has given us. Members and friends of the congregation are invited and encouraged to assist in creating this service. Send Rev. Duffy a short description of a gift, not a present, you received from your mother, or, if you are a mother, a significant gift being a mother has given you.

May 17, 2020 • “This Threshold Time • Rev. Duffy Peet • Held via Facebook Livestream and Zoom

The lives of people around the world have been changing significantly over the past several months. We are currently living in a time of tremendous transition. Are we prepared to cross the threshold of a new way of living and being in the world?

May 24, 2020 • “‘Never Forget’: Legacy of World War II and the Quest for World Peace” • Lay Presenters: Bruce Swarny & Sandra Oldendorf • Held via Facebook Livestream and Zoom

The phrase “never forget” applies to Nazi Germany whose vision of an Aryan super race led to war and the death of millions. This August commemorates the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. Sandra and Paul will address the question of why it is so important for Unitarian Universalists to remember the past as we work for a “world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.”

May 31, 2020 • To be announced • Held via Facebook Livestream and Zoom

More information about this service will be announced soon.



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

406-586-1368

www.uufbozeman.org

Rev. Duffy Peet, Minister

Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m.

325 N. 25th Ave.

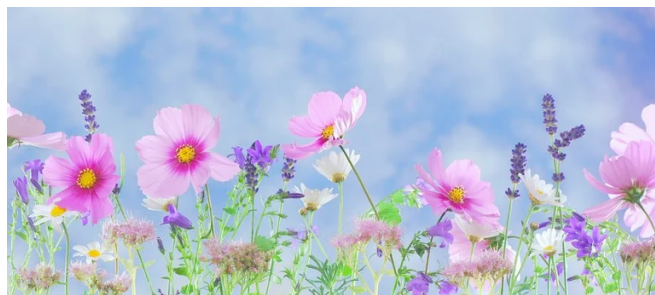
Bozeman, MT 59718-2688





Minister Musings

~ Rev. Duffy Peet
minister@uufbozeman.org



I am writing this May newsletter article on Sunday, April 26. Last night at midnight the Governor's stay at home order expired. Today, Montana has entered "phase one" of a three-phase process—a process that the title of the Governor's plan refers to as "reopening the Big Sky." The people of Montana have been significantly restricting their movements and activities since the stay at home order went into effect on Saturday, March 28. Now, after four weeks, the Governor and his advisors believe the worst of the threat posed by COVID-19 is behind us. It is my hope that assessment is correct and the worst is behind us.

As I think about what lies ahead in May, I wonder whether we will have learned some things from this month of restricting our movements and activities. I wonder if we will make changes to our former usual and routine way of going through our day and life. Will we maintain a heightened awareness related to practices that reduce the likelihood of contracting or spreading disease? Will we consciously and voluntarily reduce our activities and travels, whether those activities and travels be for pleasure, for work or for necessities? Will we continue to diligently seek out ways that we can help others who are in need or who are less fortunate than we are? My hope is that each of us will find it within ourselves to do each of these.

Yet I am well aware that it would be very easy to go back to the way we have done things in the past. We humans are, as the saying goes, creatures of habit. Once the threat associated with COVID-19 passes, we are very likely to revert to our familiar ways of living and acting in the world. While doing so would not be "bad," it would be a missed opportunity. It would be a missed opportunity because whenever a significant change occurs in our life, whether for a long time or a short time, that change provides us an opportunity or numerous opportunities to learn. The recent shelter at home period offered us the opportunity to discover what we really need to survive and what we could do without. It offered us the opportunity to find new ways of reaching out to and connecting with people. It offered us the opportunity to feel gratitude for things we might have been taking for granted, things such as our health, having shelter and food to eat, and even life itself. These are just a very few of the opportunities this past month has offered us. I hope you can think of many other opportunities for learning this time has given you.

I don't know what May will hold for me or for us. If we continue to be conscious about our activities, cautious in the ways we gather with others, consistent in such practices as hand washing, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, and staying home if we begin to feel ill or if we have been around someone who was ill, I believe we will emerge from this pandemic more considerate of others, wiser in life, and better able to handle whatever challenge will come at us next.

I add that last item, better able to handle whatever challenge will come next, because I know there will be more challenges ahead. We have weathered a month of significant change and challenge and more change and challenges are before us. It is my hope that we will face those changes and challenges with the same level of dedication, compassion and fortitude that we have exhibited related to the COVID-19 threat. And I hope we stay committed to one another. Together, we can make it through the changes and the challenges that still lie ahead.

Religious Exploration Corner



Well, I can't believe it's almost May already. I feel like April flew by and dragged on. I am grateful to have enjoyed the safety and comfort of my own home the last few weeks but I am also missing my community.

As we approach the end of the school year, this one is going to feel different than years past. Typically, the end of an academic year is filled with celebrations, recognitions and parties. Kids across the country participate in milestone markers like award assemblies, prom, field days and graduations. Each activity offers time to celebrate and mark a moment of transition. However, this year, we're being challenged to find new ways to honor accomplishments and celebrate together. This month's theme is Thresholds and we will use time in RE class to reflect on and recognize the accomplishments of our own UUFB kids.

RE Classes in May



May 3rd - The Door of Shelter

May nothing evil cross this door. How do we find shelter and safety in our homes?

May 10th - The Door of Welcome

All of us are welcome here. We welcome growth, love and change. Plus, we celebrate Mother's Day!

May 17th - The Door of Growing Up

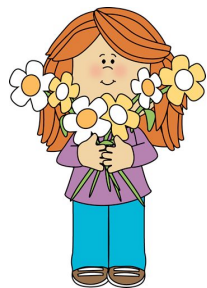
Oh, the places you'll go. Thinking about accomplishments and transitions of the past year.

May 24th - The Door of Courage

Exploring the unknown. Looking for courage as we travel to new places.

May 31st - The Door of Imagination

Embark on a journey into our minds and to fantasy lands only we can dream of.



Unless you hear otherwise, RE class will continue to meet on Sundays at 11 a.m. on Zoom. If you need the link to join, please email Beth at cre@uufbozeman.org.

Soulful Home

Currently, there is lots of learning going on at home. If you would like ideas for ways to incorporate the church theme, check out this month's Soulful Home guide: <https://tinyurl.com/soulful-home>.

Youth Group News

The UUFB Youth Group has been meeting weekly by zoom during this time of patience with COVID-19. Christine Wilcox and Ita Killeen have hosted the 1 hour online get together with Chalice Lighting, Games, discussion of various themes. It's been a lot of fun to see each other and connect!

The Truth About Chocolate?

"Search engines find the information, not necessarily the truth."

— Amit Kalantri

by Katie Romano Griffin

"How do you make the best vegan chocolate?" This simple question started a three-hour journey down an internet rabbit hole. One video led to another: Coconut oil or cacao butter as a base? Raw cacao or cocoa powder? Sugar or maple syrup?

Before I knew it, hours had passed and ads began to show up on my social media and search feeds pushing me towards purchasing raw cacao, cacao butter, other chocolate making products, and even towards people who are vegan chocolate artisans.



Everywhere I looked online, my reality began to shift and morph to my new interest while also pushing me toward more intricate and complex versions of homemade vegan chocolate making. On the surface this seemed inane or benign—yet a larger truth revealed itself to me: instead of my world expanding to include a new hobby, it was becoming narrower.

A quote that's always stuck with me—I've heard it in various places, including from some of my colleagues—goes: "The quality of our life is determined by the quality of the questions we ask." While there's truth in this statement, whom we question and how well we listen also matters.

A responsible search for truth and meaning is an important part of my spiritual life. If I ask questions on a search engine that's designed to narrow and conform to my private world, that's one thing. But in the real world, our privilege does this, too: if we aren't willing to ask the important, uncomfortable, and even scary questions, we won't get to larger and deeper truths.

Prayer

Spirit of Truth and Love, reveal your self to this troubled world. Soften the lenses of those with more privilege so that we may reshape the world into one of justice and freedom for all.



About the Author

Rev. Katie Romano Griffin serves as an Associate Minister at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in the DC Metro area. She has a grandparent who came to the U.S. from Argentina and dreams of traveling there to visit family and to study the connection between past President Domingo Sarmiento and the Transcendental Unitarians.



Board Report

~ Tonya Stevens, UUFB Board President
stevens_tonya@msn.com

BOARD REPORT FOR APRIL 2020 –

Please look elsewhere in this Newsletter for Board announcements in response to Stay-At-Home Directives.

After a hectic month of many meetings in March, the Board met via the online meeting software Zoom only 3 times (!) in April. That allowed us to remain flexible and able to react to the ever-changing social fabric of our congregation, state, and nation during this time of CoVID-19 pandemic.

FINANCE

Early in April, we learned UUFB was eligible for the Small Business Administration's new "Paycheck Protection Program" which would have provided up to 2-1/2 months' worth of paychecks for our staff in this time of pandemic and stay-at-home orders. The Finance Committee scrutinized our financial situation and recommended that UUFB need not apply as we are fortunate to have money in reserves and our pledges being paid (thank you!). They felt (and the Board agreed) that UUFB should not receive funds at the expense of small businesses/churches who very much need the protection.

MORE RESPONSES TO COVID-19

- The Board received a concise and useful report from the Two Services Task Force prior to the changes the pandemic has brought to us. We asked the Task Force to re-think the institution of two services at UUFB in light of the requirements of physical distancing at this time.
- The Personnel Committee continues work on updating our Personnel Manual, recently submitting a new Benefits Section for review. This pandemic will cause us to include language regarding how emergency situations affect our personnel management, something we would never have thought of in the past.
- The Caring Cluster overseen by Cami Armijo-Grover has been successful at contacting nearly all of the members and friends of UUFB to ensure we maintain our connections. The Board is grateful to our many callers for their care and loving attention to others.
- We are lucky to have the expertise of Tam Miller, Member-At-Large on the Board, who continues to investigate and advise on copyright issues pertaining to the broadcasting of music and other written material on a livestreamed service. Thank you, Tam and Laurel, for identifying what is legal for us to put out to the public.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ONLINE THIS YEAR!

Last year, 11 members and friends from UUFB attended the General Assembly of the UUA in Spokane, Washington. This year, the GA was to be held in Providence, Rhode Island, June 24-28. We didn't think we would be able to send anyone to it due to the travel costs.

But the UUA has recently announced it will hold its first time ever all-online General Assembly. The cost now is only \$150 for access to the entire assembly. The UUFB Board encourages anyone interested to register and enjoy attending virtually the many different types of assemblies that will be going on for five days: <https://www.uua.org/ga>. If you are interested in serving as a Voting Delegate at the General Assembly (UUFB is allowed 3), please contact Tonya Stevens (stevens_tonya@msn.com) or Peg Wherry (pegwherry@bresnan.net) so we can discuss what that entails.

Respectfully submitted by Tonya Stevens, UUFB Board President, April 29, 2020

UUFB BOARD RESPONSE TO STAY-AT-HOME DIRECTIVES

Since the beginning of this pandemic inside the state of Montana, the UUFB Board has been closely following the advice of both Governor Bullock and the Gallatin County Health Dept. in order to safeguard our congregation.

On April 22nd, Governor Bullock introduced the "Phased Re-Opening of Montana": In that directive, Phase I addressed the operation of churches. The UUFB Board has decided to remain cautious and not engage in all activities allowed in this directive.

On April 27th, Peg Wherry and I met via video teleconference with Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association (GVIA) ministers and leaders. A representative for Healthy Gallatin (county health dept.) gave us the county's perspective on reopening churches. During discussion, we learned most churches represented at the meeting were in no hurry to re-open, which helped inform our decision.



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE UUFB BUILDING NOW:

The UUFB Board met April 27th and decided that we would continue to proceed with an abundance of caution:

1. We do not have the circumstances that would allow for appropriate physical distancing were we to hold services in our Sanctuary; therefore, we will carry on with services **online only** until May 31st at the earliest. We will continue to re-evaluate this situation as we receive new information.
2. We voted to encourage groups and committees to meet through electronic means but **not** in the building through Phase 1 of Montana's reopening.
3. We voted to authorize our staff to use our building in the ways that best suit their needs during Phase 1, as long as they maintain physical distancing.

WHAT ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING THIS YEAR?

The election of new UUFB Board of Directors members and a vote on acceptance of a new Vision Statement were scheduled to take place at our Annual Meeting, May 17th. Because we are unable to hold that meeting in our Sanctuary, the Board reviewed the UUFB by-laws for options and concluded that the State of Montana and our rules do not prohibit voting by mail.

In lieu of our May 17th meeting, the Board is holding a **congregational Town Hall meeting via Zoom (online meeting software) on May 9th at 10:00 am**. Proposed new members for the Board will be introduced! The Vision Task Force will present their exciting Statement! Volunteers will be recognized and appreciated! Questions will be answered!

We will conduct the Annual Meeting's election business by mail. Thursday, April 30, we will send information packets to all UUFB Congregation **Members** (officially joined UUFB by April 17th). The packets will include **mail-in ballots** which must be received at the Fellowship postmarked no later than May 16th. Members should refer to packets and ask any questions they have at the Town Hall meeting on May 9th.

Details about how to attend the electronic Zoom Town Hall meeting will be sent out to the listserv in the coming days.

Upcoming Events



Information on Upcoming Events

All events held at UUFB have been canceled and/or postponed until further notice. Many committee meetings are still being held via teleconference or on Zoom. Please check with your committee for details regarding any meetings.



Virtual Town Hall Meeting via Zoom – May 9

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2nd Sunday of the Month Offering to ACLU – May 10

The Social Justice Action Committee has specified that the May 10th offering will go to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). You can donate to this fund by giving online (uufbozeman.org/donate/) and selecting "2nd Sunday charitable donation" or you can mail in a check made out to UUFB, and write "ACLU" in the memo line. Mail your contributions to UUFB, 325 N. 25th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

Your gift will fund ACLU's critical work to protect voting rights, demand that vulnerable people in prisons, jails and immigration detention centers be released, and fight to ensure reproductive health care remains open and accessible to all who need it. Now more than ever, we the people means all of us.



The QACC Box is for you!

Do you have Questions, Appreciations, Comments, or Concerns (QACCs)? The Committee on Ministry welcomes it all! Submit your QACCs! Look for the box with the duck on the table in the social hall. The Committee on Ministry reviews submissions at our monthly meetings.

At a Threshold

by Rita Capezzi



“At any time, you can ask yourself: at which threshold am I now?... At this time in my life, what am I leaving? Where am I about to enter?” —John O’Donohue

When I was a professor, I always stayed one move ahead of my students. Before an essay was due, the assignment was ready and last essay returned. Even though my students never wrote their essays two weeks in advance, I wanted them to have an advantage: to know both what was coming and their past performance. This is how I managed my life in the midst of overwhelm: a two-career marriage with children, pets, and a house. And an extended family in another state. And the expectation to publish as well as teach. And living as a supportive colleague, a good neighbor, a responsible citizen. And all the usual existential questions of life, all the usual fears.

Really, I was many moves ahead of my students. I had planned the whole course, after all. But I wanted to think that we were in the game together. That we could all win it, if we just played together, me just one move ahead.

In this time, I am no moves ahead of the people I serve. I am self-distanced and self-isolated, venturing out only for essentials and minimizing those trips to protect myself and my neighbors. I miss my adult children. I fear for my aged parents and in-laws. I don’t know what’s coming next.

Yet I am trying to serve the holy, with the congregation who called me as their own, with people I see as mine as I am theirs. I am learning to do a high-touch job in a no-touch environment; trying to make my empathy palpable to folk who are figuring out which part of a screen to look at while on a Zoom call; trying to recognize another person’s emotions when we’re not in the same room, when the quality of video and sound equipment pixelates eyes and distorts voices, when trembling hands are not even in my field of vision, though I feel the tremble of my own.

“Game” is no longer the proper metaphor to guide my thoughts and actions. We are—all of us—in liminal space, at a threshold confronting immediacy, shrouded in fog. May we move together to welcome the unknown.

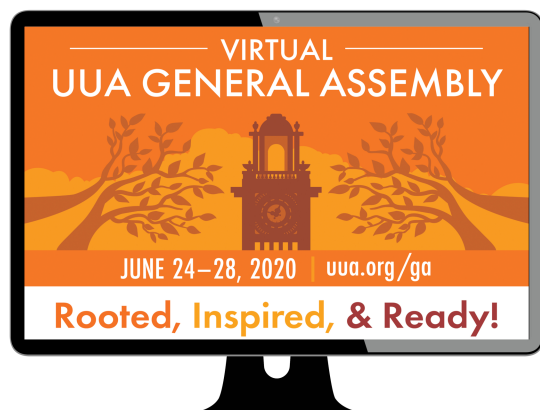
Prayer

Spirit of Life and Love, we realize that our particular vulnerability in this time is new for all of us, though vulnerability has always been the norm for too many of us. Our hands may not touch, so may our hearts vibrate with the clarity of reason and the vitality of compassion, sensing our interdependence now and in all times.



About the Author

A 2018 graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School, Rev. Dr. Rita Capezzi joyfully serves the holy with the people of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato (MN), where she is the first settled full-time minister.



UUA General Assembly Now a virtual event!

The UUA Board of Trustees has passed a resolution to make the 2020 General Assembly a 100% virtual event. This decision alleviates the anxiety and concern shared by many about how GA might proceed given the impact of COVID-19. It also gives the Association time to plan a more robust and rewarding virtual experience.

A virtual GA has many benefits, including a significant reduction in our carbon footprint and the possibility of higher attendance, since it is more accessible for delegates and anyone else burdened by travel costs or time.

For many years we have offered virtual attendance as an option and, this year, we will scale and enhance our technology so that we can accommodate a wider, ideally more global, audience. Across the country, UU congregations have embraced virtual meetings and Sunday services and we know that the number of screens that log in has grown each week. We are excited for what lies ahead! To find out more visit: uua.org/ga.



Mother's Day Stories Needed by May 6

Members and friends of the Fellowship are invited and encouraged to help create the Mother's Day service on May 10. The focus of the service will be on the most meaningful gifts we have received from our mothers as well as the gifts that being a mother has given us. You can help create this service by sending Rev. Duffy a brief—remember the entire service is only an hour long—description of or story about the meaningful gift you have received. These descriptions and stories will be the foundation the service will be built upon. Please email these to Rev. Duffy at minister@uufbozeman.org by Wednesday, May 6, at 5:00 p.m. Let Rev. Duffy know if you would be comfortable having your first name mentioned if he decides to quote what you have written. The depth and meaningfulness of this service will depend on what you share.



Spiritual Pluralism Project Groups

Our Fellowship currently has two Spiritual Pluralism groups. Each group usually has a chalice lighting, a time for check-in, a covenant for how they will be together, and time for sharing on a topic or theme. The existing groups are:

UU Buddhist Group - The Buddhist Study Group explores practices such as meditation and spiritual development. All are welcome! The next meeting is to be announced. For more information, contact Paul McVey (mcveypw@aol.com).

UU Humanist Group - The UU Humanist Group explores Humanism and its role in Unitarian Universalism. The next meeting is to be announced. For more information, please contact Sara Williams (sawilliams6@gmail.com).



2019-2020 Board Members

- President: Tonya Stevens
- Vice President: Peg Wherry
- Past President: n/a
- Secretary: Lee McGill
- Treasurer: Janine Roberts
- Member-at-Large: Paul McVey
- Member-at-Large: Tam Miller
- Member-at-Large: Leona Poritz

UUFB Online

The UUFB maintains several online resources. An email list has been established in order to communicate announcements and events of interest to the UUFB. To make an announcement to the group, please send an email to: uufb@googlegroups.com (you must be subscribed to the list in order to send mail to the list). Mail sent to this address will be delivered to all members of the list, and will also be archived. This is not an appropriate forum for political commentary or jokes, so please use discretion when sending email to this address.

To subscribe send an email to admin@uufbozeman.org requesting to join.

To unsubscribe: uufb+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

In addition to the email group, you can sign up to receive our weekly emails with announcements about upcoming services and UUFB related events by visiting our website at uufbozeman.org and filling out the subscription form at the bottom of the UUFB Home page.

The UUFB Newsletter is published monthly. The deadline to submit articles is the third Thursday of the month. Announcements & news for the Sunday Service bulletin and Friday e-news are due in by 9 a.m. every Tuesday. Articles, announcements & news can be submitted to our Office Administrator at admin@uufbozeman.org.

Committees/Task Force Leaders/Contacts

- Adult Religious Exploration: Neil Schwarzwald, Contact
- Building & Grounds Committee: Carolyn Boyd, Contact
- Building Use Committee: Open
- Caregivers Support Group: Carolyn Boyd, Contact
- Caring Committee, Meals, Rides: Open
- Committee on Ministry: Elizabeth Rose, Contact
- Communications Committee: Peg Wherry, Convener
- Environmental Action Group: Ita Killeen, Chair
- Family Promise Task Force: Tonya Stevens, Chair
- Finance Committee: Bruce DePriester, Chair
- Food Bank: Norm Eggert, Contact
- Fork & Spoon: Randy Babbitt, Chair
- Fundraising: Janet Lewis, Contact
- Governance/Leadership: Pam Poon, Contact
- Historian: Susan Backer, Chair
- Hospitality/Membership: Susan Backer, Contact
- Interior Design: Diane Knipfer & Jan Young, Contacts
- Investment Committee: Paul Stouffer, Chair
- Kitchen/Bath Supplier: Suzy Sterling, Contact
- Librarian: Open
- Lifespan Religious Exploration: Jack Day & Ita Killeen, Chairs
- Men's Group: Jack Day, Contact
- Our Whole Lives Interfaith Committee: Laura Mentch, Chair
- Personnel Committee: Open
- Program Council: Peg Wherry, Contact
- Safety Task Force Committee: Open
- Social Activities: Bonnie Andes, Chair
- Social Justice Action Committee: Open
- Stewardship: Peg Wherry, Chair
- Sunday Services Committee: Jan Young, Chair
- Women's Group: Darla Timmons, Contact
- Youth Group: Ita Killeen, Contact

Spiritual Pluralism Group Leaders

- UU Buddhist Group: Paul McVey, Contact
- UU Humanist Group: Sara Williams, Contact

**Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Bozeman**
325 N. 25th Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59718-2688
406.586.1368
uufbozeman.org

Minister: Rev. Duffy Peet minister@uufbozeman.org
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30-5:30 p.m. Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - noon and by appointment
Office Administrator: Christy Huddleston, admin@uufbozeman.org
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Coordinator of Religious Exploration: Beth Witte, cre@uufbozeman.org
Office Hours: Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - noon
Nursery Caregiver: Christine Wilcox, **Pianist:** Laurel Yost, **Choir Director:** Hannah Anderson