### NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2020

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman



### Upcoming Sunday Services All services are currently held live on Facebook & Zoom

#### August 2, 2020 • "Better Together" • Guest Speaker: Rev. Dawn Cooley

The opposite of "divide and conquer" is that we are better together: stronger, smarter, more creative, more impactful, even more compassionate. No matter what the issue, from climate change to poverty, from racial justice to reproductive justice, we are better when we work in coalitions and networks. The Rev. Dawn Cooley comes to us from Louisville, KY, where she is the Executive Director of Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light and the coordinator of a new UU state action network that is just getting started.

#### August 9, 2020 • "Women's Suffrage: The 19th Amendment and Voter Rights for All" • Guest Speaker: Jan Strout

Why does the right to vote matter? And because our right to vote is so powerful to a Democracy, why has it has been suppressed for Centuries? Today in the Centennial anniversary year of the U.S. women's right to vote, I'll be exploring the long path to enfranchising most women's right to vote through the persistence and resistance of women and male allies of many diversities, including the role that Montana played as an early voting state in 1914. It's also important to understand which women – mostly of color and Indigenous - were excluded from the victory of women's suffrage by the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution and why? And how that has impacted women's movements for our full human rights and the ERA today? Lastly, what is the status of and challenges to every woman's Right to Vote and All Voter Rights today, and what we can do defend and expand them in this crucial 2020 Election?

Jan is an educator and organizer for human rights of all women and girls as well as racial and economic justice – both locally and globally - to advance peace and human dignity for all. Because of her lived experience to end all forms of violence and discrimination, Jan has worked to create and institutionalize equity, inclusion, and diversity in many community sectors. Her most recent is co-leader of the new Bozeman Task Force to Advance the Status and Safety of All Women and Girls. Prior to this, she co-founded in 2017 the Bozeman for CEDAW women's human rights Initiative, co-led the successful City of Bozeman's Equal Pay for Equal Work Resolution campaign, and is currently President of Montana National Organization for Women (NOW). Recently retired from MSU teaching her 1st-year seminar, Engaged Knowledge and Community, Jan was named in 2018 one of MSU's 125 Extraordinary Ordinary Women. Some of her other contributions include the founding director of MSU's and Princeton University's Women's Centers, organizer for Montana Women Vote, Co-President of the Bozeman Film Festival and Co-Founder of HAVEN. She is passionate about defending and expanding voter rights and women's rights in our Democracy and is pleased to share her thinking and experiences with both!

Continued on the next page....



#### 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





### August Sunday Services continued

#### August 16, 2020 • "Come Hear a Song with Me"

This service is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Bozeman Pond. More information on this service will be announced soon.

#### August 23, 2020 • "Journey to Environmental Justice" • Guest Speaker: Rev. Fred Small

For decades, too many of us have viewed the struggles against pollution and systemic racism as unrelated or even at odds. In this time of pandemic and antiracist uprising, more and more people are coming to understand the inescapable connections between these movements. Rev. Small will tell his own story and invite us all into more powerful activism.

Cited by Bill McKibben as "one of the key figures in the religious environmental surge," Rev. Fred Small is Executive Director of Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light and Minister for Climate Justice at Arlington Street Church. A Unitarian Universalist parish minister for nearly two decades, Fred is also a singer-songwriter and environmental lawyer.

#### August 30, 2020 • "Finding the Way Forward" • Rev. Duffy Peet

We are living in a time of tumult and uncertainty. The convergence of the threats posed by COVID-19 and global climate change, combined with the civil unrest related to racial injustice, have disrupted significant aspects of life for all of us. How will we find our way forward as we face and address each of these challenging and important issues?





#### QACC is for you!

Do you have Questions, Appreciations, Comments, or Concerns (QACCs)? The Committee on Ministry welcomes it all! You can submit your QACCS online at uufbozeman.org/qacc or look for the box (with the duck on top) on the table in the Social Hall. The Committee on Ministry reviews submissions at their monthly meetings.

#### 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 will be held Monday, August 10, 2020, 7 p.m. via Zoom. For more information, please contact Sara Williams (sawilliams6@gmail.com).

UUFB News August 2020





## Minister Musings ~ Rev. Duffy Peet

~ Rev. Duffy Peet minister@uufbozeman.org



Through the course of my life I have typically experienced summer a time to be out and about along with, as well as around, many other people. Summer weather makes it easy to get outdoors to enjoy a walk or hike, time on the water or time with friends and family having a barbecue or sitting by a campfire. But this summer is unlike any summer I have experienced before. My forays away from home are more calculated and more thought out. While I am getting out into nature as much as I can the experience is significantly different than years past. During past summers I would notice the people around me but their presence wouldn't be something I would dwell on. This year I find myself paying close attention to the people I am sharing an area with. And I am observing whether the people who are nearby are attending to the social distancing and mask wearing recommendations that have been instituted in an attempt to reduce the likelihood of spreading COVID-19. Even a trip to the grocery store involves time to consider whether the trip is important enough to warrant the risk.

I know I am not alone in the time I take to consider where I am going, who and how many people I might encounter, and whether the trip is warranted and appropriate. I have heard from UUFB members and friends I connect with during Zoom meetings that they are more cautious about where they go and who they have contact with. Concerns about contracting and/or spreading the COVID-19 virus is something that is at the forefront of awareness for many people these days, and rightly so.

After more than four months of taking the kinds of precautions mentioned above as well as others, however, I am feeling a definite and significant sense of loss. The loss isn't about summer in specific but it seems that summer, and my memories of what summer was like in the past, has increased my awareness of the loss I have been feeling for months now. The sense of loss that is most pronounced involves the distance from others I am experiencing—distance that isn't limited to just the physical level. Many, if not all of us are feeling such a loss as we keep our distance from others to protect them and to protect ourselves. I am certain that all of us would like the COVID-19 pandemic to be a thing of the past. We would like to be able to go about our daily lives again without having to focus so much time and attention on taking precautions. That is what we would all like. None of us however, has the power to make that happen. It appears that we will need to stay vigilant and take precautions for at least several more months.

As I feel my own sense of loss and think about all of you and the loss you are experiencing and feeling, I want to say that I am missing seeing all of you and having the ability to talk with you in person. I miss hearing your voices in the chatter before and after Sunday services and as we sing hymns together. I miss hearing about what is happening in your life during Joys and Concerns or during a chat at social hour. And I miss seeing your face close up instead of on a computer screen or not at all.

I know that I am not alone in any of what I have mentioned above. Many of you are having similar experiences and feelings. Knowing that we share such things alike, even though we are not able to be together, helps me continue to feel connected to you. I hope that you are finding ways to stay connected with one another as well. This will be a summer that will be remembered for many years. May you stay well and stay connected during this challenging time.



## Religious Exploration Corner



I hope you all are enjoying these beautiful summer days. Thanks to everyone who supported "Chalk the Lot." We had a few chalkers come out early in the weekend but then got rained out late Saturday and Sunday. So goes outside events. But, like always, I am impressed with the talent, skill and creativity of our youth. They inspired this month's theme Creativity and Curiosity. In this month's classes, we'll explore how limitations can paradoxically encourage us to grow and expand in new ways.









Also, stay tuned to your email as we will be planning more socially distanced events in the future and will send out invites via the listserv. Hoping to see you all from a distance soon!

#### **RE Classes in August - Creativity and Curiosity**

#### Sunday, August 2nd - Thinking Outside the Box

What do we do when we encounter challenges and limitations? How limits can sometimes lead us to creating new things!

#### Sunday, August 9th - Experiments

Explore how things work and make predictions about what's going to happen.

#### Sunday, August 16th - Nature Art

Drawing on inspiration from Andy Goldsworthy, we'll create art in nature.

#### Sunday, August 23rd - Improv

Try out improv for some spontaneous, entertaining fun.

#### Sunday, August 30th - Stars and Planets

Wondering about worlds beyond.

We will continue to meet online on Sundays at 11 a.m. on Zoom. If you know kids that would like to join us, please email Beth at cre@uufbozeman.org.





## Board Report

~ Peg Wherry, UUFB Board President

Even though we are not using our building, much is happening there. After many months of planning (and years of intending) we now have **assistive hearing devices** in the sanctuary! There are two options: one that works through a smart phone and another that uses a separate receiver. Our greeters will have instructions for use once we are back in the sanctuary.

Now is an excellent time for **cleaning the carpet** throughout the building. High use areas were cleaned in 2018, but the rest of it has not been cleaned since it was installed in 2017. Carolyn Boyd and John Berg will do the furniture moving, and the cost will be covered with the money saved by not using our regular weekly cleaning service.

Speaking of "not since 2017," something that has not changed since we first occupied the building is the **access code** for the back door. So we are changing it effective Tuesday, August 4. The Safety Committee and the Board are developing a policy for all aspects of building access—who should have the code, how often it should be changed, how to record who knows the code, etc. For the present, these people will have the new code: staff (including Rev. Duffy), Board officers (president, VP, treasurer, secretary), and essential building volunteers (Mike Clark, Tonya Stevens, Randy Babbitt, Carolyn Boyd, and Suzy Sterling). As the policy is developed and adopted, additional building users, such as chairs of key committees, will have the access code. This is just one of the responsibilities of building ownership we are growing into.

MSU's **Catapalooza** event welcoming students back to campus is virtual this year. We had signed up for a booth as usual, so we will be included in the virtual presentation. Valley Peters has recorded and uploaded a video, and we will send a link once the Catapalooza website is live starting August 3.

As was reported via the listserv/googlegroup, Erin Henke (sometimes joined by her husband Logan) is making recordings while **singing hymns** for our virtual Sunday services. Several of you have commented on how much this adds to our Sunday morning experience.

The Board held its annual **planning retreat** on July 18. We were fortunate to be able to meet outdoors on a covered patio—the first time this year's Board has been able to meet in person—at a careful social distance. While we did not complete development of the Board's goals for the coming year, we made a very good start. Once they are complete and have been adopted, we will publish them to the Fellowship. We are staying with our plan of not using the building through September 30 but will begin thinking about and planning for the next phase in just a couple of weeks. Of course, the COVID virus has its own ways and wanderings, so any plan we make will be subject to change.

I hope you are all well. These are such stressful times in so many areas of our shared living. I know that many of us miss opportunities to be together. If you have any ideas for how we can deepen our connections, please let me know. *Together* we share and by this we live.

Peg Wherry, President





## **Upcoming Events**





#### Information on Upcoming Events

The Board has voted to keep the UUFB building closed for Sunday services and other meetings through the end of September. Staff may be in the building as it helps them carry out their responsibilities. The Board will continue to monitor state and local COVID conditions and recommendations in considering opening the UUFB building for activities other than Sunday services between now and October. Sunday services will continue to be delivered via Zoom and Facebook through the end of September.



#### Virtual Social Time

Join us for virtual social times via Zoom after the Sunday Services! To participate in the social time, remain on Zoom after the Service or connect to Zoom after watching on Facebook. Five minutes after the Service ends, you will be split into groups with other congregants for a half-hour of socializing. More information will be sent out on the listsery.

RACIAL EQUIT PROJECT

THE MONTANA 2nd Sunday of the Month Offering to the Montana Racial Equity Project – Aug. 9 The Social Justice Action Committee has specified that the August 9, 2020 offering will go to the Montana Racial Equity Project. You can donate to this fund by giving online (uufbozeman.org/ donate) and selecting "Give to 2nd Sunday charitable donation" or you can mail in a check made out to UUFB, and write "MT Racial Equity" in the memo line. Mail your contributions to UUFB, 325 N. 25th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

The Montana Racial Equity Project is a non-profit and non-partisan organization that works with individuals, groups, organizations, educational institutions, and businesses to promote and create opportunities to build equity and justice in Montana.



#### Program Council via Zoom - August 9

Program Council will meet via Zoom on Sunday, August 9th at 11:30 a.m. All committees, task forces, and working groups should send a representative to this meeting. Questions? Contact Neil Schwarzwalder.

**One Valley** 

5th Sunday of the Month Offering to One Valley Community Foundation – Aug. 30 The Social Justice Action Committee has specified that the August 30th offering will go to the One Valley Community Foundation. Donate to this fund by giving online (uufbozeman.org/donate) and selecting "Give to 5th Sunday disaster relief fund" or mail a check made out to UUFB, & write "One Valley" in the memo line. Mail contributions to UUFB, 325 N. 25th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

A gift to One Valley Community Foundation is a gift for Gallatin Valley's future. As the only community foundation focused on the people and causes of Montana's Gallatin Valley, One Valley manages funds and strategically plans for the needs of this growing area. Your gift is an investment in the future of our community.



# *Our Whole Lives* coming soon to a congregation near you!



The Interfaith *Our Whole Lives* committee is delighted to let you know we'll offer *Our Whole Lives* for 8th graders next year. This comprehensive sexuality education program is developed around the values of self worth, sexual health, responsibility, and justice and inclusivity.

A team of 4 facilitators traveled to Grand Junction, Colorado in February for training. What a great team we have with Kassia Finn, *Our Whole Lives* parent and experienced *Our Whole Lives* facilitator, Anna Stone, *Our Whole Lives* alumna from the Glacier UU Fellowship, Tom Murray, UUFB, and Jill Ellison, *Our Whole Lives* parent. A nurse at the Gallatin City-County Health Department, Jill is bringing guidance to our planning about the safest way to bring this program to our youth. We are grateful for each of these volunteers sharing their time and talent to make this program possible.

Pilgrim UCC has been our host for more than 10 years. We're delighted to be offering the program at the UU Fellowship for the first time. We plan to meet late Sunday afternoon from the fall through the spring, beginning with parent meetings. Within current guidelines we'll plan for a group of 10 youth in 8th grade. Youth from our supporting congregations, Pilgrim UCC and UU Fellowship of Bozeman will have the earliest opportunity to sign up.

Parents, please let Laura Mentch know if you are interested in your child participating in *Our Whole Lives* this fall. <u>lauramentch@icloud.com</u>

The Interfaith Our Whole Lives Committee:

Megan MaKeever Ali, Pilgrim Connect Director, Pilgrim UCC Lauren Katz, Pilgrim UCC Sarah Orms, *Our Whole Lives* parent Ita Killeen, UUFB Dana Murray, UUFB Laura Mentch, UUFB







#### 2020-2021 Board Members

- President: Peg Wherry
- Vice President: Neil Schwarzwalder
- Secretary: Sally Russell
- Treasurer: Janine Roberts
- Member-at-Large: Paul McVey
- Member-at-Large: Valley Peters
- Member-at-Large: Sara Williams

#### **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: <u>uufb@googlegroups.com</u> (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 Schwarzwalder, Contact
- Building & Grounds Committee: Carolyn Boyd, Contact
- Building Use Committee: Tonya Stevens, Contact
- Caregivers Support Group: Carolyn Boyd, Contact
- Caring Committee, Meals, Rides: Open
- Committee on Ministry: Dave Rockafellow, Chair
- 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: Leona Poritz, Contact
- Governance/Leadership: Pam Poon, Contact
- Historian: Susan Backer, Chair
- Hospitality/Membership: Susan Backer, Contact
- Interfaith Our Whole Lives Committee: Laura Mentch, Chair
- Interior Design: Diane Knipfer & Jan Young, Contacts
- Investment Committee: Paul Stouffer, Chair
- Kitchen/Bath Supplier: Suzy Sterling, Contact
- Librarian: Open
- Lifespan Religious Exploration: Dana Murray, Chair
- Men's Group: Jack Day, Contact
- Personnel Committee: Dick Young, Contact
- Program Council: Neil Schwarzwalder, Contact
- Safety Task Force Committee: Ita Killeen, Contact
- Social Activities: Bonnie Andes, Chair
- Social Justice Action Committee: Open
- Stewardship: Peg Wherry, Chair
- Sunday Services Committee: Lisa Trankley, Chair
- Women's Group: Open
- 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