



Upcoming Sunday Services

All services are currently held live on Facebook & Zoom

September 6, 2020 • “The Dignity of Labor” • Lay Presenters: Sandra Oldendorf & Paul Stouffer

Sandra Oldendorf and Paul Stouffer will share ideas from UU minister Rev. David Breeden’s sermon “Putting ‘Labor’ Back in Labor Day,” stories from Butte’s labor history, and stories from the congregation. They will connect to the UU first and second principles: the inherent worth and dignity of every person and justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

September 13, 2020 • “Renewing a Sense of Wonder” • Rev. Duffy Peet

This time of tumult and uncertainty can lead any of us into feelings of anxiety, fear, frustration, anger or even depression. How are we to cope when so much of what we previously took for granted is being challenged and changing? One answer might just be to find wonder in the most basic aspects of everyday life.

September 20, 2020 • “Renewal Through Making Amends” • Rev. Duffy Peet

Sometimes our words or actions cause hurt or harm to another. At such times a wound maybe created in our relationship with the person or people who are impacted. The process of reaching out to make amends offers an opportunity to renew the relationship bonds between ourselves and the person or persons affected. Engaging in making amends can also renew our relationship with ourselves.

September 27, 2020 • “What Do We Plant?” • Lay Presenter: Katie Michael-Sanchez, M. Div.

September 26th is Johnny Appleseed Day. How does what we plant live on beyond us, and what can we learn from the story of Johnny Appleseed?



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.

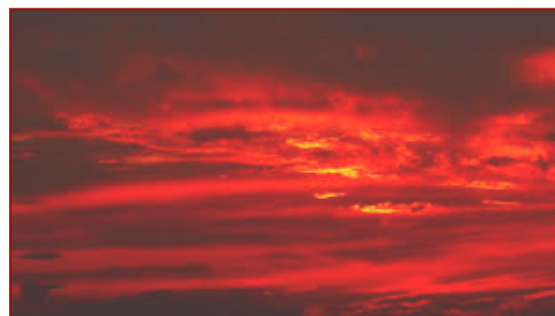
Bozeman, MT 59718-2688





Minister Musings

~ Rev. Duffy Peet
minister@uufbozeman.org



As September approaches I would typically be thinking about what many ministers refer to as the beginning of the new church year. I would be planning for the “in-gathering service,” a service that has been a tradition at UUFB for many years. But this year my thoughts are not as focused as usual and the images I have of the year to come aren’t as clear as in the past. It is as if the smoke from distant wildfires which fills the air as I write has clouded not just my vision but my thoughts as well.

I am still thinking about what the coming year will bring for the Fellowship but it is significantly more difficult for me to imagine what the year ahead might be like. Since we won’t be holding in-person services for the indefinite future it seems to me that holding an “in-gathering service” this year, as has been our practice for many years, would be inappropriate or even a disservice to the purpose of such a service. Instead of meeting in-person, our services will continue to be virtual, streamed live on-line via Zoom and Facebook Live. To honor the purpose that underpins such a service I have come to the decision that waiting until we are able to be together in our building again would be a much more appropriate time to have an in-gathering service.

This year as September begins my mind is also swirling with thoughts about issues that are impacting people across our country and around the world. I am thinking about the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts. I am thinking about the lives this illness has taken, the jobs it has impacted and the changes it has required of so many people. And I am thinking about the civil unrest that has erupted across our country, unrest that has been bubbling to the surface periodically for many years but is now more prevalent and more persistent than at any time since the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950’s and 60’s. The Black Lives Matter movement of today is making it clear that black lives do and must matter. The civil unrest that has come about as a result of far too many black people being killed at the hands or by the knees of the police is demanding that this country live up to what is written in U.S. Declaration of Independence, that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” And I am thinking about the impacts of global climate change which is very likely at play in the devastating wildfires that are currently burning in California, the pair of tropical storms that made landfall in Louisiana just days apart in late August and in the severe storms that racked the midwest earlier the same month. As Rev. Fred Small pointed out in his sermon on August 23, global warming and COVID-19 impact communities of color to a significantly higher degree than communities of people such as myself, people whose skin color is referred to as white.

I am thinking about all of this as the new church year begins and I am wondering how I can make a positive difference. I am wondering how I can adequately care for the members and friends of this Fellowship as COVID-19 continues to take its toll. I am wondering what I can do to promote justice for all people in our community and our country. I am wondering what steps I can take to reduce the likelihood of a global climate disaster. And I am wondering how I, as just one person, can make a positive difference regarding any, let alone all, of these issues. While my thoughts aren’t as clear as in years past, my heart knows what I need to attend to. And as this new church year begins my determination to be of service to the highest good is as strong as ever.

Religious Exploration Corner



I hope this newsletter finds you well. For me, this has always been a wonderful time of year. I enjoy soaking up the last few days of summer with swimming, camping, and barbecues before the new school year begins. I have a love for school supplies and relish the opportunity to buy new (color coordinated) pencils, notebooks and folders. This year is undoubtedly different with new uncertainties and anxieties, but I still feel a tinge of excitement as I wonder what the new year will bring. It's been a long few months but my hope is that the new school year will offer us a fresh start and sense of renewal even amidst the challenging circumstances.

NEW CLASS OPTION!

This fall we will continue with our online Religious Exploration (RE) classes but will also offer a **new option for kids 4-7 years old called Spirit Play from 9:30-9:50 a.m.** This will be an opportunity for the younger children to connect, wonder and play online with activities designed specifically for them. Our current RE Class will continue to meet at 11:00-11:30 a.m. for 7-12 year olds. If you are interested in learning more or would like to have your child attend a class, please sign up here, <https://bit.ly/3b5X1Af>. There is no required commitment, but it helps us gauge interest and plan.

MOVIE NIGHT

You're invited to an Outdoor Movie at UUFB! Come join us to watch "The Lorax" in the backyard. Feel free to bring chairs, blankets and snacks. Please RSVP to cre@uufbozeman.org, as we have limited space and want to make sure there is enough room for everyone to socially distance.



RE Classes in September - Theme: Renewal

RE Class will continue to meet on zoom at 11:00 a.m. Watch the listserve or contact Beth at cre@uufbozeman.org for the link.

- Sunday, September 6th - Renewed by Loving Our Unique Selves (UU 1st Principle)
- Sunday, September 13th - Renewed by Differences (Anti-Racism)
- Sunday, September 20th - Renewed by Wonder (Our UU First Source)
- Sunday, September 27th - Renewing Our Relationships with "I'm Sorry" (Yom Kippur)

Exuberance

by Jake Morrill



About the Author

Since 2003, Jake Morrill has served as Lead Minister of the Oak Ridge UU Church. From 2013-16, he served as a Chaplain in the U.S. Army Reserve, and was a Trustee on the UUA Board from 2009-13.

Once, I worked in an aluminum building, scoring the standardized tests that they make children take. That year, fourth graders across North Carolina were asked to answer, in an essay, "What is your favorite kind of weather, and why?"

You might imagine there would be any number of ways a child could answer that question. But you would be wrong. There was a right way, a wrong way, and a rubric to grade it.

My cubicle-mates were all victims of the latest recession—middle-aged people with nothing left to lose. We nursed frequent headaches. Under fluorescent lights, we applied the prescribed rubric to the children's answers: Was there a thesis statement? Supporting rationale? Did they stay on topic? Some wrote in tiny, neat letters. Others had looping scrawls wandered all over. I liked the exuberant answers, the ones with explanatory diagrams. There were wild tales of tornadoes or ice storms, a vivid picture of lightning. One child simply filled the box with black scribbles.

All these, of course, got the lowest possible score.

Every hour, the boss gathered up the team to calibrate us. "Now," she would say, holding up an essay, "Can someone please tell me why this is a 'four?'" You weren't supposed to argue it should be a "three." Calibration was meant to make us all think the same, to ensure uniform scoring. There was only one answer, only one way to see things.

One day, during mid-morning break, I walked out and left. I had no idea how I'd make rent that month. My friend Sam found me walking down the shoulder of the highway, and gathered me into his ancient convertible.

So, what's my favorite weather? When the wind whips your face, you're alive, and you can think what you will.



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 (mcvey@uufbozeman.org).

UU Humanist Group - The UU Humanist Group explores Humanism and its role in Unitarian Universalism. Monthly meetings are held via Zoom. For more information, please contact Sara Williams (sawilliams6@gmail.com).



Board Report

~ Peg Wherry, UUFB Board President

The Board spent nearly all of its August 17 meeting on the question of **building use** at this point in the COVID-19 pandemic. The first—and easiest—decision we made was to continue **streaming Sunday services permanently**. Streaming has proven to have advantages that go beyond the demands of social distancing and other public health considerations.

We divided our discussion to focus on Sunday services separately from small group meetings and from outdoor events. In addition to our Seven Principles and our UUFB Mission and Vision, we kept these priorities in mind:

- *Health and safety of the congregation and community as a whole*
- *Financial health of the congregation*
- *Social needs of the members/friends of our congregation*
- *The health and wellbeing of the UUFB community as a community*
- *How we are helping the wider community*

We voted to follow “UUA Guidance on Gathering In-Person When COVID-19 Subsides” (<https://www.uua.org/safe/pandemics/gathering-guidance>), using the principles therein to guide re-opening decisions, and to **refrain from holding in-person Sunday services** until further notice, while formally reevaluating our decision every two months. This decision would not necessarily preclude a small group consisting of minister, lay leader, musicians, and technology manager using the building to stream a service from the sanctuary, without other members in attendance.

We adopted the same principles and position stated above in regard to opening the building for **small group meetings**, but this decision will be evaluated every month instead of every two months. Board members were comfortable with allowing certain **outdoor gatherings**, given that recommendations have already been developed and implemented for a couple of outdoor events, including the Sunday service on August 16 at Bozeman Ponds. Until final guidelines have been adopted, plans for such gatherings should be sent to the Board. Though this is not easy work, your Board is taking it very seriously. Please feel free to share your thoughts and concerns.

On August 26, Sally Russell (secretary) and I participated in a Zoom UUA Committee Orientation. It was originally conceived for new members of UUA-level committees but congregational leaders were invited as well. It was quite informative. Here is the **UUA Mission: Equip Congregations** for vital ministry; **Train Leaders**, both lay and professional; **Advance UU Values** in the world. The UUA currently has 203 staff, with 110 of them in Boston. The five regions are roughly equal in number of members. Our new PWR Regional Lead, Carlton E. Smith, who was in this meeting, attended our August 2 Sunday service.

There are currently 1,027 congregations in the UUA, with 152,921 adult members. Adult membership has been going down by about one per cent per year, except for a nice boost around 2003; RE membership has dropped more rapidly. My minister sister reported reading in a Methodist news source that UUs were the exception to the significant decline in membership in mainline denominations. Our presenter said that even though we’re losing slightly, we are doing better than others; he described it as “treading water against the current.” Let’s keep our chins up!

Peg Wherry, UUFB President

FAITH, SCIENCE & CLIMATE ACTION

Cultivating Soil, Soul & Health

Friday & Saturday, September 25 & 26, 2020

Worldwide via  zoom



“Tools for collaboration between faith leaders and scientists in Montana on behalf of our climate.”

Announcing the second Faith, Science & Climate Conference (FSCA) to empower faith- and science-oriented individuals and communities to learn how to collaborate on climate change and environmental justice issues. We're building interactivity into this virtual conference with smaller, moderated breakout sessions to give participants the opportunity to be involved in the conversation.

The urgency of addressing our climate problems cannot be overstated. The recently-released *United Nations Intergovernmental Panel Special Report*, with over 6,000 cited references from hundreds of scientists, calls for immediate worldwide attention to this global problem. The welfare of coming generations depends on our courage now.

Plan on joining us for the FSCA Conference 2020!

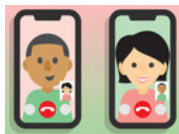
Find out more at fscaconference.org and facebook.com/fscaconference.

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 listserv.



Talking with Neighbors: "Meaningful Interfaith Moments" - September 2

Talking with Neighbors is an interfaith forum for people of Gallatin Valley held the first Wednesday of each month from 12-1. All are welcome!

This month's topic is "Meaningful Interfaith Moments." Was it a conversation, a relationship, or an event? Panelists will each share 3 memorable steps on their interfaith journey. How did we get to this place? Where are we going? Guest panelists for this meeting are Florence Guest and Rachel Allen.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.gvinterfaith.org/>



2nd Sunday of the Month Offering to the Navajo Nation COVID-19 Relief Fund – September 13

The Social Justice Action Committee has specified that the September 13, 2020 offering will go to the Navajo Nation COVID-19 Emergency Fund. 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 "Navajo Nation" in the memo line. Mail your contributions to UUFB, 325 N. 25th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

The Navajo Nation COVID-19 Emergency Fund has been established to help the Navajo respond to their medical and community needs. We have all been affected by the pandemic, but it has hit the Navajo especially hard. Their reservation has the highest COVID infection rate in the country, higher than any state. For many reasons, they are a particularly vulnerable population.

They also welcome donations-in-kind and have recently put out a request for cloth face masks. If we have any UU mask makers left, please get in touch with Kitty Donich for info.



**Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Bozeman**
325 N. 25th Ave.
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uufbozeman.org

Staff

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

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.

2020-2021 Board Members

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

Committees/Task Force Leaders

- Adult Religious Exploration: Neil Schwarzwald, Contact
- Building & Grounds Committee: Carolyn Boyd, Contact
- Building Use Committee: Tonya Stevens, Contact
- Caring Committee, Meals, Rides: Open
- Committee on Ministry: Dave Rockafellow, Chair
- Communications Committee: Open
- Finance Committee: Bruce DePriester, Chair
- Fundraising: Leona Poritz, Contact
- Governance/Leadership: Pam Poon, Contact
- 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
- Lifespan Religious Exploration: Dana Murray, Chair
- Personnel Committee: Dick Young, Contact
- Program Council: Neil Schwarzwald, Contact
- Safety Task Force Committee: Ita Killeen, Contact
- Social Activities: Bonnie Andes, Chair
- Social Justice Action Committee: Randy Babbitt, Contact
- Stewardship: Open
- Sunday Services Committee: Lisa Trankley, Chair

Contact Points

- Caregivers Support Group: Carolyn Boyd
- Family Promise Task Force: Tonya Stevens
- Food Bank: Norm Eggert
- Fork & Spoon: Randy Babbitt
- Historian: Susan Backer
- Kitchen/Bath Supplier: Suzy Sterling
- Librarian: Open
- Men's Group: Jack Day
- Women's Group: Open
- Youth Group: Ita Killeen

Spiritual Pluralism Group Leaders

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