



## Upcoming Sunday Services

*All services are currently held live on Facebook & Zoom*

### **October 4, 2020 • “Exploring a Deeper Truth” • Rev. Duffy Peet**

Our Fourth Principle advises “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” There are multiple approaches to finding truth. One approach involves listening deeply. In her book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Robin Wall Kimmerer writes about learning to listen deeply. And in the book, *To Know As We Are Known*, Parker Palmer writes about deep truth. We will consider what these two authors tell us as we consider how to explore a deeper truth.

### **October 11, 2020 • “The Doctrine of Christian Discovery: Legacy of Conquest” • Guest Speaker: Walter C. Fleming, PhD**

"In fourteen hundred and ninety-two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue." We all know the song (or parts of it anyway), but the consequence of "title by discovery" was quietly adopted in a little-known Supreme Court case in 1823, *Johnson v. McIntosh*. Since that time, religious organizations such as the Unitarian Universalist Association have called for a study of the doctrine and the elimination of its reference. Is that enough?

### **October 18, 2020 • “Listening to the Future” • Rev. Duffy Peet**

Years in the future members of the UUFB will look back to the year 2020 and talk about what a year it was. Since we can't know the future, we can't know for sure what will be said. Part of the talk will likely be about how this congregation worked together to make it possible for the Fellowship to survive and/or thrive during this challenging time. How might we seek to listen to the future in order to sustain this Fellowship?

### **October 25, 2020 • “Song as Scripture” • Guest Speaker: Judy Fjell**

More information on this service will be announced soon.



### **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman**

406-586-1368

[www.uufbozeman.org](http://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](mailto:minister@uufbozeman.org)



With September now over and October underway there is only 1/4 of the year 2020 remaining. As I reflect on the past nine months it seems like a much longer time than what it actually was. So much has occurred, and changed, in the past nine months that January 2020 seems like it was at least two or three years ago. Maybe this time distortion is a function of my advancing age. While that is a distinct possibility, I think it is more likely that people across a wide age span are feeling like this has been a very long year so far.

As October begins I think about the remaining months of this year and wonder if they will seem as long, or possibly even longer, than the ones already gone by. The next three months contain significant holidays, times when people gather with family, friends and even strangers (Halloween & New Year's Eve) to engage in traditions and to celebrate. It is quite probable that the holidays in the next few months will be considerably different than in the past. There will likely be fewer get-togethers with less people in attendance at many or even most gatherings. Some of the upcoming holidays are times for families to gather. There is a good chance that some family members won't be getting together with family during the holidays this year. I know that I won't be traveling to visit my family in Michigan this holiday season. Even if I made the trip I wouldn't be able to visit my mother or my oldest sister who are both in nursing homes that are not allowing visitors.

All of this is to say what is obvious to all of us. We are living during very challenging times. There is uncertainty and upheaval in many parts of our lives. This is a time when we look for stability and familiarity wherever we can find it. It is my hope that one of the places you find stability and familiarity is here at UUFB. Yes, there have been significant changes since January. We aren't meeting in the building and our Sunday services are all online. We don't get to see each other in person but members and friends are still here for one another. And the Board and committees of the Fellowship are still working hard and planning for the future. At some point we will be meeting in person again, we just don't know when that time will arrive.

Part of the planning for next year involves putting together a budget and holding the annual pledge drive. As those of you who have been involved with the Fellowship for a while know, the pledges that members and friends make are the largest part of our operating budget every year. The pledges made in the last months of 2020 will give us a sense of how much money we will have to cover the expenses the Fellowship will have in 2021. This year the pledge drive will be very different than years past. We don't yet know what the pledge drive will involve but it is doubtful that we will hold in-person get-togethers. It is my hope that as we enter the last 1/4 of 2020 you will begin thinking about what 2021 will hold, for you and your family and for our Fellowship community as well. I look forward to the day when we can gather together in-person again to share well-wishes and smiles, joys and sorrows, and stories of how we, as individuals, families and a community, made it through possibly the most challenging periods in decades. Until then, may you be well.



## Religious Exploration Corner

### NEW CLASS OPTION! SPIRIT PLAY!

This fall we will continue with our online RE classes but will also offer a new option for kids 3-6 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 regular 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 for staffing.

### MOVIE NIGHT AGAIN!

Thanks to everyone who came to our first movie night!!

If the nice weather holds, we will try to have another on Saturday, October 3rd at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend, just RSVP to Beth at [cre@uufbozeman.org](mailto:cre@uufbozeman.org) so we can make sure we have enough space for everyone



### RE in October - Theme: Deep Listening

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

Sunday, October 4th - Listening to your heart  
Sunday, October 11th - Listening to BIPOC Voices  
Sunday, October 18th - Listening to nature  
Sunday, October 25th - Listening to our Ancestors





## Board Report

~ Peg Wherry, UUFB Board President

The Board has been busy, and our committees have also. Here are some recent developments our UUFB members and friends should know about.

- We determined to continue withholding payroll taxes for our employees.
- As the Personnel Committee finalized a Personnel Handbook for us, we discovered that all employees over age 18, regardless of the number of hours they work, may make their own elective contributions to the UUA retirement plan.
- We voted to extend our agreement with Erin Henke for her to sing hymns for (or with) us during our streamed services through March.
- There is a new section for our COVID-19 information under the Members/Friends tab on our website, [www.uufbozeman.org](http://www.uufbozeman.org).

The Board has also spent a fair amount of time on two more significant issues recently. First, we have adopted our goals for the year. A condensed statement of them will be found at the end of this column.

Next, after much discussion and some advice from UUA consultants, we have determined that it is time for us to move toward having a full-time minister (and then to move to the salary range appropriate to our size congregation). Whether this transition happens in one year or two or three or more will depend on the success of our stewardship campaigns. The important point is that the Board is committed to starting in that direction and moving steadily forward as our stewardship campaigns will support.

As campaign season moves into high gear, it is time to review our policies on social witness and political speech. As a tax-exempt religious institution, we may not use UUFB resources to endorse or oppose individual candidates or political parties. See the Political Speech guidelines here:

<https://uufbozeman.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Policy-Political-Speech.pdf>

We can, however, address *issues*. According to our Social Witness Policy, the UUFB Board of Directors may take public positions and/or support activities that align with official UUA statements or resolutions. See that policy here: <https://uufbozeman.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Policy-Social-Witness.pdf>. Our Social Justice Action Committee makes recommendations to the Board, but only the Board may act in the name of the Fellowship.

As we continue social distancing, I remain open to any and all suggestions for ways we can stay connected and care for one another in these very difficult times. Please let me hear from you!

In fellowship,  
Peg Wherry, UUFB President

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## UUFB Board Goals for 2020-21 Adopted August 31, 2020

### **Maintain Organizational Stability**

The past "Covid-19" year has been one of intense and often jarring challenges for the Fellowship and the Board, and the transition into a new year does not offer a sense of near-term relief and amelioration of constraints. Thus, the Board commits itself to providing effective and efficient oversight and management that will ensure the financial health and safeguard the organizational effectiveness of the UUFB via sound policies, procedures and practices.

### **Increase Community Growth & Visibility**

The Board commits itself to increasing community growth and the visibility of the UUFB Mission by connecting with millennials and diversifying membership by means of an improved social media presence, a refined self-narrative, and collaboration with outside community groups.

### **Support, Caring and Connection**

The Board commits to supporting the spiritual growth of UUFB congregants as a group and as individuals through connection, engagement, and care.

### **Anti-Racism/Social Justice**

The Board will work to strengthen UUFB's capacity to support BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) social justice efforts, with emphasis on anti-racism efforts.



### **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](http://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](mailto:mcveypw@aol.com)).

**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](mailto:sawilliams6@gmail.com)).

## VOTER INFORMATION



With Election Day just over a month away, it is important to have good information to make sound decisions. We hope the following voter information for Gallatin County is helpful. In general Gallatin County is mail-in only, with a few exceptions:

- Starting October 2nd, people can vote in-person at the county courthouse;
- Mail-in ballots will be mailed October 9th. If you have not received yours by October 16th, call the Election Office at 406.582.3060;
- Online registration (still need a personal signature) can be done through the website [sosmt.gov](https://sosmt.gov) until October 26th. Starting October 27th, voters can register in person at the Gallatin County Courthouse. You can check to see if you are registered to vote in Montana on this website: <https://app.mt.gov/voterinfo/>;
- October 26th (8 business days) is the last *recommended* date to mail in ballots. Mail-in ballots should ideally be received by October 29th;
- On November 3rd (Election Day), there will be a one-time registration and in-person voting opportunity at the Fairgrounds;
- As of now, people can bring in other people's ballots (this is unlimited);
- The Election Office plans to have a Press Conference, as well as place something in the Bozeman Chronicle (Date to be determined);
- See below for a list of mail-in ballot drop boxes for Gallatin County;
- For more information contact the Gallatin County Courthouse at 406.582.3060 or visit their website at [sosmt.gov](https://sosmt.gov).

We all know this is an important election, not only on the national level, but for the state of Montana (as many as 8 different positions are up for vote in Montana). We encourage each person to remind 3 friends and family members to get out and vote. Can we count on you?

Social Justice Action Committee

## PLACES OF DEPOSIT – 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

The following locations will serve as places of deposit **beginning October 9 during regular business hours and on Election Day** from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

- **Gallatin County Election Office**  
311 W. Main St., Bozeman
- **Belgrade City Clerk's Office**  
91 E. Central Ave., Belgrade
- **Manhattan City Clerk's Office**  
207 S. 6th St., Manhattan
- **Three Forks City Clerk's Office**  
206 N. Main St., Three Forks
- **West Yellowstone City Clerk's Office**  
440 Yellowstone Ave., West Yellowstone
- **Big Sky Water & Sewer District Office**  
561 Little Coyote Rd., Big Sky
- **Office of Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU)**

The following locations will serve as places of deposit **on Election Day only** from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

- **Gallatin County Fairgrounds**  
901 N. Black Ave., Bozeman
- **Hope Lutheran Church**  
2152 W. Graf St., Bozeman
- **Belgrade Special Events Center**  
220 Spooner Rd, Belgrade
- **River Rock Community Center**  
101 River Rock Rd., Belgrade
- **Gallatin Gateway Community Center**  
145 Mill St., Gallatin Gateway
- **Manhattan Christian High School**  
8000 Churchill Rd., Manhattan
- **Bridger Canyon Fire Station**  
8081 Bridger Canyon Rd., Bozeman

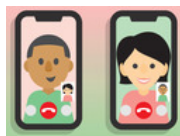


## Upcoming Events



### Information on Upcoming Events

The Board has voted to keep the UUFB building closed for Sunday services and other meetings **until further notice**. They will continue to monitor state and local COVID conditions and recommendations in considering opening the UUFB building again. Sunday services will continue to be delivered via Zoom and Facebook.



### 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.



### Minister Out-of-Town – October 9 through October 12

Our minister, Rev. Duffy, will be out of town beginning on Friday, October 9, through Monday, October 12. He will be back at work on Tuesday, October 13. He can be reached via text or call for pastoral emergencies at his cell phone number which can be found in the UUFB directory.



### Talking with Neighbors: "Religion and Black Lives Matter" - October 7

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 "How are we opening our hearts and minds to the presence of privilege and oppression in our religious traditions?" Joined by Rev. Duffy Peet and special guests: The Rev. Heidi Jones-Magee, Episcopal Deacon and Board Chairperson of the Montana Racial Equity Project.

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



### Winter Clothing Drive for Local Families – October 10

Instead of the annual Welcome Kit Drive for refugee families in Missoula, Gallatin Refugee Connections and Pilgrim church are sponsoring a winter clothing drive for local families, newly settled here. The drive will be held on **Saturday, Oct. 10 from 9-4 in the Pilgrim parking lot**. A bad weather option at the church is also available. They need jackets, snow suits, boots, hats, and mittens for children and adults. If you'd like to support a specific family, Marty has a list of their needs.

If you can volunteer several hours on Saturday for the collection or on Sunday, Oct. 11 for sorting and packaging for local families, please contact Marty Albini (her contact information can be found in the email sent to the listserv).

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## Upcoming Events

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### 2nd Sunday of the Month Offering to HRDC General Homeless Fund – October 11

The Social Justice Action Committee has specified that the October 11, 2020 offering will go to the HRDC General Homeless Fund. You can donate to this fund by giving online ([uufbozeman.org/donate](http://uufbozeman.org/donate)) and selecting “Give to 2nd Sunday charitable donation” or you can mail in a check made out to UUFB, and write “HRDC” in the memo line. Mail your contributions to UUFB, 325 N. 25th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

The Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) is dedicated to strengthening the community and advancing the quality of people’s lives. They serve our community in these seven areas: Food and Nutrition, Housing and Homelessness, Child and Youth Development, Senior Empowerment, Community Transportation, Home Heating, Efficiency, and Safety, and Community and Economic Development.



### Program Council – October 11

Program Council will meet via Zoom on Sunday, October 11th at 11:45 a.m. All committees, task forces, and working groups should send a representative to this meeting. Questions? Contact Neil Schwarzwald.

## The Muscle of Our Collective Spirit



### About the Author

Aram Mitchell (he/him/his) is a Registered Maine Guide and Wilderness First Responder with a Master of Arts degree in Religious Studies from Chicago Theological Seminary.

I have a muscular intimacy with my bathroom door. What I mean is that when I close the door, I sort of fling it shut behind me as I walk in. I realized the other day that the amount that I push the door is fine-tuned to the precise amount of push needed for the door to latch without slamming.

If the window is open, the pressure in the room is different and the door shuts with much less push. I know this in my muscles: I know how to interact with the weight of the door, with the friction of the hinges, and with the pressure of the room. It’s an instinctual, muscular knowledge. (With regular visits to my bathroom, over time, I’ve gotten amazing at it.)

It’s comforting to experience this familiarity with my home and with what’s required of me, because most of the rest of life feels pretty off.

The weight of the world right now is not familiar. The pressure in the room is unprecedented; it’s hard to know what’s required. For many, the abundance of stillness and spaciousness is disorienting. There’s a new variety of overwhelm as, for some, the nature of work shifts and risks increase. Others are losing opportunities to work. The landscape of home life is terranova. And waves of uncertainty lap and recede, lap and recede, leaving blank the etchings of our plans previously drawn in the sand.

I don’t know how each of us ought to reorient to our new, shifting realities. But I’m confident in our human ability—our propensity, even—to gradually, day-by-day, together muscle our way into knowing... and being in... and renewing our world.

Confidence means “to be with faith.” That’s what I’ve got right now: faith in the muscle of our collective spirit, and a sturdy hope that we’ll keep on figuring out how to put it to use.



# Honesty Over Comfort

by Rachel Lonberg



In the early days of COVID-19, my older child started to fear venomous snakes. While walking through our neighborhood, he asked if rattlesnakes would bite him. When I assured him that there are no rattlesnakes in Michigan, he asked about vipers. Then cobras. Then boa constrictors. Then anacondas. We had read a book about snakes a few days before; he remembered all their names. I offered reassurance after reassurance: They don't live in Michigan. They don't live in Kalamazoo. They don't live in our neighborhood. They can't bite you. I won't let them. I will keep you safe.

It was as though in his four-year-old wisdom, he recognized the uncertainty of everything right now by asking questions that had reassuring answers—even if they're not the real questions of the moment. When he asked about snakes, I could tell him, Nothing bad can happen. You're safe with me.

I was relieved when he asked about snakes, because I can't offer nearly as much reassurance about "the big bad germ"—the name we've given COVID-19. The big bad germ is why everything is closed and cancelled, why we socialize through the computer screen, why his parents are acting differently.

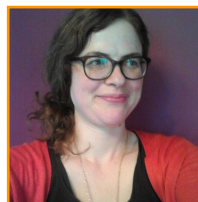
The herpetologists among you might know my mistake: there's a rattlesnake that lives near me—the eastern massasauga rattlesnake. (I Googled this later.) While it sticks to wetlands and avoids sidewalks, my reassurances were not as true as I thought they were. When my child started talking about snakes again, I apologized for my earlier mistake. I told him that there are snakes who live nearby, but I would still do everything I can to keep him safe. It wasn't as reassuring, but it was more honest.

In these days, when "I don't know" is the only true answer to many of my child's questions—When will the big bad germ be over? When can I see my Nana? Will I get to keep going to kindergarten?—I'm grateful for a question with an answer, even if it's not the answer I want it to be.

*"Surely we are safer behind  
some sort of a wall, protected  
from the grief of belonging.  
But all along your heart knew  
it was a lie, the polite fiction  
that you tell a child.*

*Nothing bad can happen.  
You're safe with me.*

—Rev. Lynn Ungar, in "Distance"



## About the Author

Rev. Rachel Lonberg (she/her) has served as the minister of People's Church of Kalamazoo, MI since 2015. In the rare times that she is not ministering, mothering, or sleeping, she enjoys reading, playing sudoku, watching reality TV competition shows, and eating delicious food cooked by her husband, Brian.



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

- **Minister:** Rev. Duffy Peet  
E-mail: [minister@uufbozeman.org](mailto:minister@uufbozeman.org)  
Office Hours: Tue., 1:30-5:30 p.m. Thurs., 9:00 a.m. - noon, also by appointment
- **Office Administrator:** Christy Huddleston  
E-mail: [admin@uufbozeman.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@uufbozeman.org) requesting to join.

To unsubscribe: [uufb+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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