

JANUARY 2021

UUFB NEWS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY • 10:00 A.M. MST • LIVE ON FACEBOOK & ZOOM

January 3, 2021 • "Imagining a Post-Pandemic Church" • Guest Speaker Rev. Sarah Schurr

Everyone talks about what it will be like when we "get back to normal". Maybe we need to look forward to a new normal in the post-pandemic world of church. What is our vision for a new and better future? How can we have the faith to keep moving forward? Keeping with our monthly theme of Imagination, Rev. Sarah Schurr will help us imagine our church community in the time after Covid 19.

January 10, 2021 • "Imagination: Creating the Future Reality" • Rev. Duffy Peet

At this time last year we had no idea how dramatically different today would be than last January 10th. Likewise, today we don't know how things will have changed a year from now. We hope that by this time next year significant positive changes will have occurred in many areas of life. Those changes will only occur if people use their imaginations to create a new future reality. How might we use our imaginations to be part of the change we want to see?

January 17, 2021 • "Democracy; A Dream Deferred" • Guest Speaker Rev. Anthony Mtuswa Johnson

Is it true that the word Democracy is nowhere to be found in our Constitution or in the Declaration of Independence? Yes, it is so. Yet we refer to our government as a Democracy! As it turns out, our Founding Fathers actually feared democratic rule. The Founders preferred the word "Republic." This sermon will share insights about the differences between the two and an offering for our present post-election world.

January 24, 2021 • "Imagination's Importance in Unitarian Universalism" • Rev. Duffy Peet

Throughout the histories of Unitarianism and Universalism, our forebears used their imaginations to arrive at religious perspectives that differed from what was considered to be "proper" or even acceptable for the time. Some of those forebears were labeled as heretics and some paid the ultimate price for the perspectives they held. Because of those who came before, today Unitarian Universalism encourages people to use their imagination to explore and expand our religious and spiritual understandings.

January 31, 2021 • "Imagination or Delusion" • Rev. Duffy Peet

The word "imagination" is often used to describe an important positive attribute of a person. The word "delusion" on the other hand is typically used to refer to a negative attribute. Both words point to a mental process that allows a person to consider something that may not be real or actual at the time. Where is the line between imagination and delusion? Might we all have some of both?



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF BOZEMAN

uufbozeman.org
406.586.1368

Rev. Duffy Peet, Minister

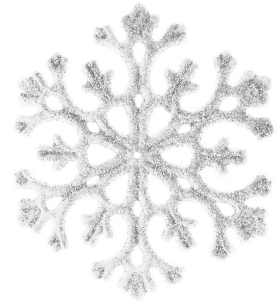
Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m.
325 N. 25th Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59718-2688





MINISTER MUSINGS

REV. DUFFY PEET



As a new year begins, it is common for me to look forward to what lies ahead. That is especially true this year. The year just passed posed more challenges than any prior year of my life. I imagine that is true for many of you as well. In some ways I wish I could simply forget the year just passed and focus all of my attention on the year ahead. I hope 2021 will be quite a bit different and considerably better than 2020.

Yet while one part of me would like to put the memories of 2020 in a mental lockbox and leave it that way for a significant period of time, there is another part of me, a wiser part of me, that knows doing so would be a grave mistake. For if I locked 2020 away in my mind, there would be little chance for me to learn what the challenges of this past year have to teach. Over the course of my life, I have discovered that often my most difficult and painful experiences have held some of the most important life lessons for me. So as much as I would like to focus all of my attention on the future, I am making it a point to look back at this past year for the gems that it holds. Here are a few of the valuable gems I have already recognized from 2020.

The past several months have made me look at some things that I have taken for granted most of my life. I offer the following example. I have spent most of my adult life working in careers, namely social work and ministry, that are very people-focused. My career choices are good indications that being with people is important to me. What the past several months have helped me realize is that I took being able to be with people for granted. With the experience of having limited direct, person-to-person contact for several months, I now have a heightened appreciation for each moment I am able to be with others, especially others who are important in my life.

This past year has also taught me a great deal about both the ability of the Fellowship to adapt to change as well as to provide care and support to those in need. In a matter of just three weeks, we went from in-person services to exclusively holding services online. And when we became aware of needs in the community and beyond, the Fellowship stepped up in incredible ways. For example, when we learned that Fork and Spoon Café was in financial trouble the members and friends of the Fellowship donated over \$5,000 to keep this important pay-as-you-can restaurant open.

On a much larger scale, I think about what 2020 had to teach us about our ability to address the pollution when we take decisive and collective action. In the early stages of the pandemic, many local, state and national governments imposed restrictions that significantly reduced the number of cars and trucks on the road and airplanes in the air. As a direct result of this reduction in travel powered by internal combustion engines, air quality improved dramatically in places across this country and around the world. Much of our attention of late has been on the pandemic. Before the pandemic arrived, global climate change was an issue that was demanding our attention and our action. When the pandemic is behind us, global climate change will still need our attention and action. The pandemic has given us a chance to see that we have the ability to make the lifestyle changes which will be needed.

These are just three of the many areas where 2020 has offered opportunities for me to learn important lessons. It is my hope that we can all look back on the year gone by and learn what it has had to teach us both individually and collectively.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION CORNER

Well, the time has come to start a new year. 2020 was one for the books and I for one, am ready to start fresh. Our January theme this year is Imagination. I find that fitting as it will allow us to imagine what kind of new future we would like to create post-COVID, ideally. In RE, we'll reimagine how we relate to ourselves, our communities and the larger world.

RE January Theme: Imagination

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

- Sunday, January 3rd** - Imagine a new you
- Sunday, January 10th** - Imagine a world after COVID
- Sunday, January 17th** - Imagine a better world
- Sunday, January 24th** - Thinking outside the box
- Sunday, January 31st** - Visit other worlds

Hope to see you there!



Cookie Galore!

Thanks to all who came, contributed cookies, and helped plan our Cookie Exchange and Cookie Decorating events. So many delicious treats! This way a sweet way to kick off the holiday week!



BOARD REPORT

Well, we made it! The horrible year of 2020 is behind us. The year ahead will be similar to 2020 in one respect: we know there will be lots of changes—we just don't know what all they will be. But surely they can't be as exhausting or confusing as 2020 has been!

It's looking somewhat more possible that we may be able to hold services in our building at some point in 2021. We will continue to **stream the service from the sanctuary**, however, and Paul McVey is leading a task force looking into what equipment will be necessary, how much it will cost, how it will work, etc. We are also looking at the budget implications for holding **two services**, should it be necessary to meet social distancing guidelines likely to be with us for several months even as the vaccine works.

The Board and the Finance Committee (and especially our treasurer, Janine Roberts) have been working on the **budget for 2021**. Early in January, as soon as year-end info is complete, a final version will be set, and the congregation will vote on adopting it in January. As of December 29, we have received 94 pledges totaling \$179,265, or 93% of our **Stewardship** goal. We knew the goal of \$192,000 would be a stretch, but, as the poet Robert Browning said, in the gendered language of his time, "a man's reach should exceed his grasp/Or what's a heaven for?" Stretching is good for us, even when we fall a bit short. The Fellowship is still in good financial shape, and we should have a budget that lets us continue moving forward.

Two other pieces of financial news are more positive. We were notified of a **bequest** from an anonymous donor included in a will created via the online service FreeWill.com for creating and updating wills. Since we don't know the donor, we don't know when the bequest will mature or how much it will be worth then, but it's lovely to know we are supported in that way. (FreeWill might be a good free and easy source for those who attended Marsha Goetting's workshop last spring but haven't yet acted on any good intentions developed then.) We also received a generous **anonymous donation to our capital campaign**, which has, of course, ended. The person who received the donation contacted the donor, who agree that the gift could be transferred to another UUFB fund.

In other **staff news**, the Board approved modest bonuses for all staff in recognition of their patience, flexibility, and hard work as they adapted our services and programs for online delivery. It has been a challenging year for them, and we thought it was important to provide this extra recognition. We also took steps to bring professional leadership to our Youth Group. Beth Witte will be responsible for leadership of the program, and we added a few hours to Christine Wilcox's time for more staff involvement. We thank Ita Killeen for her work and commitment that got our Youth Group to its present status. We also, with regret, accepted Laurel Yost's resignation as music coordinator. She will continue to be our Sunday morning pianist.

We typically have an **annual membership meeting** in January to approve the budget for the coming year. We will also, this year, need to approve bylaw changes that allow us to have such meetings electronically. We improvised with the annual meeting to elect officers last spring by having a Town Hall session on Zoom for questions and answers, general discussion, etc. and then conducting the vote by postal mail. We will follow that plan again this winter. Notice of the meeting will be sent by email to as many as possible at the very end of December, and the notice will be sent by mail to members not using email. Then ballots will be mailed in early January. This time the Town Hall will be held on January 17, and ballots must be returned by January 25. Please watch for the meeting notice to come via the listserv/Google group on December 30 or 31 and for ballots in your postal mail in the first ten days of January.

As we hope for better days ahead, let us keep our virtual chalices lighted for the warmth of love, the light of truth, and the energy of action.

In Fellowship,
Peg Wherry, UUFB President

New Year's Eve Dumpster Fire

UUFB will see this old year out with a "2020 Dumpster Fire" in our parking lot on New Year's Eve. Bring your calendars, year-in-review articles, etc. and throw them on the fire. No glitter, no plastic, no foil—just paper products. OR bring pieces of paper with your faults, worries, or mistakes written on them and let them go. **December 31, 2020, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.** Masks and social distancing required. Bring your own hot chocolate. High wind or heavy precipitation will cancel.



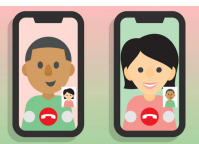


Upcoming Events



Information on Upcoming Events

The Board has voted to keep the UUFb building closed for Sunday services and other meetings through May 2021. 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.



Talking with Neighbors: "Religion and Public Monuments" - Jan. 6

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

This month's topic is "As statues and monuments are criticized and dismantled across our country, is there a religious critique to add to this movement? Are there religious monuments which have outlived their time?" Joined by Karen DeCotis.

For more information, please visit: gvinterfaith.org.

2nd Sunday of the Month Offering to Haven - January 10

The Social Justice Action Committee has specified that the January 10, 2021 offering will go to the Haven. 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 "Haven" in the memo line. Mail your contributions to UUFb, 325 N. 25th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

Haven provides confidential support, legal advocacy, counseling, and a safe place to stay for anyone and everyone impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and stalking. They work to empower survivors, elevate their voices, strengthen our community, hold abusers accountable, and stop the cycle of abuse.

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. The Committee on Ministry reviews submissions at their monthly meetings.



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Transforming the New Year



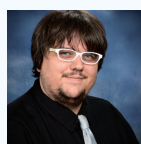
As a religious humanist, I've never quite found a winter holiday that speaks to me on a deep, spiritual level—that is, until I started transforming New Year's into my own, personal holiday and created a bunch of traditions. For example, every year I give my apartment (and now house) a deep cleaning, because I don't want to bring last year's trash (either literal or metaphorical) into the new year. Another tradition that I started was choosing a single word to be my theme for the upcoming year. Last year, I was fortunate enough to introduce many of you to this practice, and we heard back from many of you about the words you were choosing for the year. (My word for 2020: authenticity.)

Part of my New Year's tradition is also reflecting on the past year. And really, how much do any of us want to look back and reflect on the year that was 2020? It was a rough year for just about all of us. But when reflecting on the past year, I do it through the lens of my word of the year: Was I being authentically me? There were times during 2020, when faced with a tough decision, that I relied on asking myself, "Which choice is more authentically me?" Years down the road, when I reflect back on 2020, sure I'll remember the masks, but I'll also remember it through the lens of my word for that year.

But enough of the year that was 2020. I know I'm ready to move on and I bet you are too. So what's my word for 2021? Roots. I made a major move this year, to Oklahoma City, and assuming all goes well, just days into the new year I will officially close on a house and become a first-time home owner.

It's time for me to set down roots in my new neighborhood and my new town. But I can take roots further: I want to explore my own family's roots more, in order to better fully understand my own cultural story. I want to explore the roots of my beliefs more, and examine the sources that drive my actions. (Also, I want to garden. Now I've finally got the space to do it!)

What's your word for 2021? What's the one word you hope will define your upcoming year?



About the Author

Tim Atkins (he/him/his) serves as the Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration for the First Unitarian Church in Oklahoma City.

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.
- **UU Humanist Group** – The UU Humanist Group explores Humanism and its role in Unitarian Universalism. Monthly meetings are held via Zoom. The next meeting is Monday, January 4, 2021 at 7 p.m. on Zoom and all are welcome to attend! The topic for this meeting is "Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism."

You're Invited!

2021 UU Fine Art & Service Fundraiser

This year's auction will take place from the comfort of your own home with plenty of great things to bid on, just in time for Valentine's day!

Spoil a loved one or yourself with food, gifts, experiences and service courtesy of your fellow UUs.

Auction opens **January 31st at 11:30am**

Register now and preview items online at

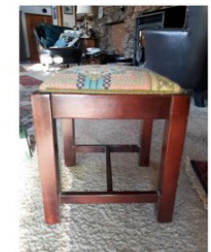
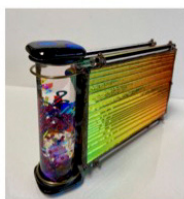
charityauction.bid/UUFB

Share the
UU*ve*

Auction Sneak Peek!

Check out these items and more at

charityauction.bid/UUFB Bidding opens Jan. 31st!





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325 N. 25th Ave.
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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, also 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 Coordinator: 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*: 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: Open
- 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: Beth Witte

Spiritual Pluralism Group Leaders

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