FEBRUARY 2021

UUFB NEWS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

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

February 7, 2021 • "Choosing Beloved Community Over Individualism" • Rev. Duffy Peet

Throughout the history of this nation, significant tension has existed between individual rights and the responsibilities that are needed or required for the benefit of the community as a whole. Recent developments, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, have brought this tension to the forefront of public attention. Will we choose community, beloved community, over individualism?

February 14, 2021 • "How Can We Keep from Singing?" • Guest Speakers: Linda Larson and Bill Pelto

Linda Larson and Bill Pelto will discuss the roles music has played in our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentation will include readings, pre-recorded and live music (including virtual-choir performances of UU favorites), and their own words about music and music making during the past year.

Linda and Bill are active members of the Boone, NC UU Fellowship. Linda now works primarily as a choral conductor and private voice teacher, after many years singing opera and classical concert music throughout the country while teaching at various universities. Bill has enjoyed a 30-year career in higher education as a music theory faculty member and associate dean.

February 21, 2021 • "The Takeaways: Reflections on two decades of Prison Ministry" • Guest Speaker: Rev. Melissa Mummert

Rev. Melissa Mummert is the Minister of the UU Church of Catawba Valley, NC and a founding member of Reentry Housing Alliance. She is the director of two documentary films about the impact of incarceration on families and has created multiple programs serving incarcerated people and their children. She found her calling to work in prison ministry 20 years ago while still in seminary, and has never stopped doing what she can to disrupt mass incarceration. She will share some of what she has learned (mostly from making mistakes) about how to skillfully engage in sustainable, and even joyful, anti-racist justice work.

February 28, 2021 • "Beloved Community Requires Justice for All" • Rev. Duffy Peet

Our Sixth Principle sets "the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all." It is all too clear that this goal is far from being realized in the world, in our country, in our state, and in our community. The goal can seem so large we may not know what we can do to work toward it. What are steps we can take as individuals and as a religious community to support the cause of justice for all as we strive to create the beloved community that is hoped for by so many?



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



Again and again, I am hearing the word unprecedented being used to describe one or another aspect of the current time we find ourselves in. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused more illness and death in a shorter period of time than any other pandemic in the last 100 years. In this country alone the pandemic has caused of more deaths in one year than the number of U.S. armed services personnel who were killed in World War II. The COVID-19 vaccines that are currently being administered were developed more rapidly than any prior vaccines in history. And the effectiveness of two of the vaccines is near 95%, which is exceptionally high. On January 6, for only the second time in our nation's history, the Capital Building was violently attacked. This attack wasn't by a foreign adversary as the first one was. Instead, the attack involved U.S. citizens who were intent on over-turning the results of the recent free and fair national election. One week after that attack the 45th President of the United States was impeached for a second time, which made him the only U.S. President to be impeached twice. These are only some of the latest significant events and occurrences for which the word unprecedented has been used in recent days.

The unprecedented events and occurrences I just mentioned have impacted all of our lives. We are having to find ways to deal with situations we never imagined, let alone prepared ourselves for. Many of us have dramatically reduced our in-person contacts with those we feel close to. Many of us have known or been someone who has contracted the COVID virus. We have felt deep concern for those we knew who had the virus while being powerless to help them. Many of us were shocked and appalled that our Capital Building could so easily be over-run. And many of us felt saddened and sickened that blood was shed and lives were lost as a result of false claims asserted by some of our elected officials.

These unprecedented events and occurrences have taken a toll on all of us. They have taken a toll both individually and collectively. What we have been going through for the last year and more has strained us on many levels including mentally, emotionally, physically, financially and relationally. I know that I am stating the obvious here. Yet I believe it is sometimes important to state the obvious, so we don't allow ourselves to minimize what is actually the case. From my many years working in the counseling field, I learned that in the midst of a highly stressful situation it is not uncommon for a person to minimize the significance of the situation they find themselves in. This is especially the case when the person has little or no control over the situation. Minimizing can be an attempt to protect oneself from the reality that is too much for us to handle.

But there are other, more beneficial, approaches that we can utilize to assist us in coping with very challenging and upsetting times—times such as what we are living in today. In times like these it is important for us to know that there are people who care about us and want to be there with and for us—if not physically then at least verbally and emotionally. That is a significant aspect of what our religious community is here for. It is my hope that all of us know that what I say at the end of Joys and Concerns each week is true. "To all of you who have a joy, a concern or a sorrow, know that you don't carry them alone. The members and friends of this Fellowship carry them with you." We are here for one another in this unprecedented time of trial and difficulty.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION CORNER

Thanks to all of the RE Kids that created ice lanterns for the New Years event. We enjoyed a few days in late December when it was cold enough to facilitate frozen art projects. It was fun to be able to gather together outside and add a little light to break up the winter darkness.



Religious Exploration (RE) Class

This month's theme is Beloved Community. RE class will continue to meet on zoom Sundays at 11:00 a.m. If your kids would like to join in, contact Beth at creœuufbozeman.org for the zoom link or watch the listserv for weekly announcements.

Sunday, February 7th - Where Black Leaders Are Honored Sunday, February 14th - Where Love Grows Beyond Boundaries Sunday, February 21st - Where Wounds Are Healed Sunday, February 28th - Where We Don't Run Away When Things Get Hard



Youth Group Sign-Up

Youth Group meets online twice a month on Sundays at 4 p.m. Any youth in 6th-9th grades interested in joining can sign-up at <u>https://rb.gy/xbuvao</u>. We will email you the zoom link and make arrangements to get you an activity supply bag.





BOARD REPORT

Annual Meeting/Zoom Town Hall: On January 17, we held a Town Hall via Zoom for the discussion part of our usual January Annual Meeting. This was another advance in our use of technology, since we used the "hand raise" tool in Zoom for asking questions and making comments. Over 50 people attended and there were quite a few questions/ comments. This level of engagement is a sign of the health of our community, and it was certainly good to be together again, even through computer screens. We did achieve a quorum: we needed 72 ballots for a quorum and 91 were received with a January 25 postmark by this newsletter deadline. That is excellent voter turnout, as the pundits would say. (Given the inconsistencies of the postal service these days, a few more with a good postmark may yet arrive.)

Results: The first vote was to approve the 2021 budget. That vote was 91 in favor, none opposed; the other vote, on revising the bylaws to allow for meeting and voting by other than in-person means, passed with 90 in favor and 1 abstention. Minutes of the Annual Meeting Town Hall will be approved by the UUFB Board and then posted on the website. To see them, go to Members & Friends, then look for Governance.

Pacific Western Region (PWR), Mountain Desert District (MDD) Upcoming Meetings: We can have up to three voting delegates for online meetings of the Pacific West Region (PWR) and Mountain Desert District (MDD) meetings to be held on February 13 by Zoom. We've identified one or two, but another slot is open. All members are welcome to attend these events. If you would be interested in this, please let me know at once.

Meetings with other UU congregational leaders: In early January Neil Schwarzwalder (Vice President/Presidentelect) and I attended Zoom meetings of UU presidents in Montana and Wyoming. One set was convened by Mary Wellemeyer (a retired UU minister who lives in the Flathead) and Mary Nordhagen of Missoula who are on the Board of the MDD. Another was a regular monthly meeting convened by Sarah Schurr, our PWR Congregational Life Consultant. It's interesting to hear how other congregations are faring. The former meeting was more heavily attended by Montanans who reported on their congregations' struggles and successes in dealing with COVID restrictions in 2020. Common themes were lowered attendance and volunteerism, fair use of music at streamed services, more meetings and social events conducted by Zoom, and experimentation with hybrid vs. 100% virtual Sunday services. There was some talk of reviving a state-wide UU organization now that we can convene without time-consuming travel.

The second group had representatives of most of the Wyoming congregations. We learned more about them. Laramie and Casper are now sharing a minister. Laramie has had a congregation for 70 years but lost members over the Mathew Shepard case years ago. They are "OK with each other" after the events of January 6. The Sheridan group has about 40 members, and the Cheyenne fellowship includes about 120 people. A main topic of discussion for this meeting was whether and how congregations respond to the January 6 violence at the US Capitol.

Our program year is only half over, but given how turbulent the times have been, I think we're entitled to reflect a bit on the state of the Fellowship. We have been incredibly generous with our second and fifth Sunday offerings and are still serving Family Promise, which is needed now even more urgently than ever. We ended 2020 with 98% pledge fulfillment and in a strong financial position, and we have continued to reach out to support each other in times of isolation through our programs and events, as members of committees and spontaneously as individuals.

Now, let's all get online and bid early and often on our <u>Valentine Fundraising Extravaganza, our fine art and service</u> <u>auction</u>. Better times ARE coming!

In Fellowship, Peg Wherry, UUFB President





Building Access

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 Race" – February 3

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!

Continuing our discussion of "Religion and Black Lives Matter," the panel will address how the social construct of race plays a part in our religions, historically and now. The guest speaker for this session is Rev. Heidi Jones-Magee, Episcopal Deacon and MT Racial Equity Project board chairperson. Additional religious panelists: Rachel Allen and Karen DeCotis.

For more information, please visit: gvinterfaith.org



2021 UU Online Auction Fine Art & Service - Ends February 7th!

Spoil a loved one or yourself on Valentine's Day with food, gifts, experiences and service courtesy of your fellow UUs. This year's auction takes place from the comfort of your own home with plenty of great items! Get in your bids before the auction closes on February 7th at 5 p.m. mountain time! Bid and purchase items online at <u>charityauction.bid/UUFB.</u>



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 <u>uufbozeman.org/qacc</u>. The Committee on Ministry reviews submissions at their monthly meetings.





2nd Sunday of the Month Offering to Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) – Feb. 14

The Social Justice Action Committee has specified that the Feb. 14, 2021 offering will go to Kids in Need of Defense (KIND). You can donate to this fund by giving online (<u>uufbozeman.org/donate</u>) and selecting "Give to 2nd Sunday charitable donation" or you can mail in a check made out to UUFB and write "KIND" in the memo line. Mail your contributions to UUFB, 325 N. 25th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) is the leading national organization advocating for the rights of unaccompanied migrant and refugee children in the U.S. Through strategic partnerships, they provide pro bono legal representation for refugee and migrant children across the country. Over the past decade, they have expanded services to develop a holistic strategy for addressing the needs of these children and the systemic causes of forced migration. This includes mental and social services for our clients, advocating for new law and policy in the U.S. and countries of origin, and educating policymakers and the broader public about these issues. For more information visit <u>supportkind.org</u>.



Program Council - February 14

Program Council will meet via Zoom on Sunday, February 14 at 11:45 a.m. All committees, task forces, and working groups should send a representative to this meeting. Questions? Contact Neil Schwarzwalder.



Women's Group via Zoom – February 18

Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 18, 2021, 7–8:30 p.m. for an evening of shared thoughts and opinions. Sandra Oldendorf, who will facilitate the discussion, describes the topic as follows: "The inauguration of the first female vice president put in place many "firsts". Let's meet and discuss some of our own personal, social or political awakenings/milestones as women. We will discuss questions such as: "When did you first realize that men were paid more than women for the same work?" "Did you ever feel that certain careers were off limits because you were a woman?"

At least one day before the meeting, please email Pam Poon (pgracep@gmail.com) to let her know that you wish to attend. She will send each participant an email with the Zoom link.



Upcoming Book Discussion Groups

Rev. Duffy and Sandy Kindt will be offering to UUFB friends and members the opportunity to read and discuss the books An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (Beacon Press, 2015) and An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People adapted by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese (Beacon Press, 2019). The group will meet for three 90-minute sessions via Zoom. The dates will be February 21st, 28th and March 7th, 2021 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. You may read either book and be able to participate in these discussions. The entire book needs to be read by the first session. The books may be purchased at local bookstores or the UUA bookstore. A limit of the first 14 people to sign up is necessary to facilitate greater participation. If you are interested in signing up, please email Sandy Kindt.



Making Connections – Orientation to UUFB

Are you a newcomer investigating this community? Or an established member with a yearn to learn more about UUFB? All are welcome to the Spring 2021 Orientation to UUFB Series, sponsored by the UUFB Hospitality and Membership Committee along with Rev. Duffy Peet. We invite you to attend our three Tuesday evening one-hour Zoom gatherings at 7:00 p.m. on Feb 9th, 23rd, and March 9th. These meetings are your opportunity to get to know more about Unitarian Universalism and this particular congregation, its history, and what it means to be a Friend or Member. Meet other newcomers, discuss your spiritual journey and learn more about the spirituality and commitment of our community. Participate or be a quiet observer. If you would like to attend, please sign up with Tonya Stevens, stevens_tonya@msn.com so we can send you the Zoom link.



Fourteen years ago, February 2007, Montana UU's were getting ready to gather in Yellowstone Park for the Eighth Annual Presidents' Weekend MAUUA (Montana Area UU's) Ski Trip. This was a great family friendly weekend with UU folks coming to the Park from Bozeman, Helena, Missoula, and sometimes Billings and Kalispell. Four condos were rented at the Above the Rest facility in Gardiner. We shared potluck suppers Saturday and Sunday evening, and were our own for breakfast and lunches. There were all levels of trails available from Gardiner and folks formed their own groups for daily skiing, hiking, and community building. In the evenings we sang, played board games and visited.

Bill Mallory was the genius behind this wonderful event. Sometimes, if we were lucky, Ken Pierce gave us an introduction to the geology of Yellowstone Park as we gazed out over the Gardiner Valley. Great memories! Think of how we've grown – UUFB alone would now more than fill up those four condos!

Susan Backer, UUFB Historian



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 will be announced soon.



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

325 N. 25th Ave. Bozeman, MT 59718-2688 406.586.1368 uufbozeman.org

Staff

• **Minister**: Rev. Duffy Peet E-mail: minister@uufbozeman.org Office Hours: Tue. 1:30–5:30 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., 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 admineuufbozeman.org.

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

Committees/Task Force Leaders

- Adult Religious Exploration: Neil Schwarzwalder, 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 Schwarzwalder, 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