

MARCH 2021

UUFB NEWS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

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

March 7, 2021 • "Chair at the Table" • Guest Speaker: Tara Humphries

How are we, as Unitarian Universalists, committed to the practice of radical hospitality in our faith communities? Today, guest speaker Tara Humphries shares her story of finding radical welcome at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman seven years ago, and how it inspired her call to Unitarian Universalist ministry and grounds her commitment to working toward a faith tradition that truly welcomes all.

Tara Humphries is a third-year seminary student in the Andover Newton program at Yale Divinity School and a Candidate for UU ministry. She currently serves as Intern Minister at the Eliot Church in Natick, MA. Before seminary, Tara lived in Maine and worked with homeless youth. In addition to her ministry passions which include deep listening, anti-oppression work, & community building, Tara is a yoga teacher & distance runner.

March 14, 2021 • "Commitment to an Uncharted Path" • Rev. Duffy Peet

Throughout the course of this Fellowship's history, there have been numerous times when the members committed to move forward on a path that was new and uncharted. Sometimes the new and uncharted path led to exciting and beneficial outcomes. Sometimes the new and uncharted path didn't work out as well. In March of 2020, the UUFB had to shift from holding Sunday services and meetings in-person to online. The Board recently committed to continue our on-line presence once we are able to gather in-person again. We wonder where this new, uncharted path will take us and what changes it will bring.

March 28, 2021 • "From Commitment to Captivity" • Rev. Duffy Peet

Commitment is an essential element of a healthy and stable personal relationship. When we make a commitment to another person, and then honor that commitment, trust is built that enables the relationship to grow deeper and stronger. But sometimes the commitment one person in the relationship makes is met with behavior by the other person that is controlling or even violent. When this occurs, domestic abuse may be present. In a relationship where domestic abuse exists, commitment can turn into captivity while family and friends may not have a clue. What can we do to recognize and address domestic abuse?

March 28, 2021 • "Women Elders Speak" • UUFB Women

The presentation today will focus on part of book *Women Elders Speak*. Join us as five UUFB women (Susan Backer, Joy LaClaire, Jo Anne Troxel, Mattie Whitehouse, & Sara Williams) share their experiences from the beginning of the pandemic, reflecting on an extraordinary moment in time. Their talks will also combat the subtle, and not so subtle, forces that tell women, especially older women, that their value and experiences are without value.



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



This month marks one year since our Fellowship last held an in-person Sunday service in our building. The first case of the COVID virus in Montana was confirmed on March 11 of last year and within just a few weeks significant changes were required in many aspects of our lives. Our Fellowship responded quickly and began live-streaming our services on March 15, just four days after the first case was documented in the state. Yet even with our rapid shift to offering on-line services we were unable to hold our service on March 29 after the Governor issued a “shelter in place” order on March 26. At that point, we didn’t yet have the technological capabilities to live-stream a service in which the service leaders were in separate locations. While we didn’t have a service that last Sunday in March, we did have a virtual “coffer hour” via Zoom. Since then we have had services every Sunday, mostly utilizing Zoom and Facebook live.

As I reflect on all that has transpired since last March a wide range of emotions come up for me. When I think about how the staff and volunteers of the Fellowship have worked together to find ways to continue the essential aspects of what we offer as a religious community I am amazed, inspired, and thankful. I am grateful that the members and friends of the Fellowship have been understanding and patient as we have sought to find our way through the many challenges of this past year. I think back on the number of people of color who died at the hands of police and feel both deep sadness as well as outrage. The approval and subsequent mass distribution of the COVID vaccines have offered me hope. When I recall the events of January 6, the emotions that arise are astonishment, anger, and anxiety. The subsequent actions by the U.S. House and Senate to ratify the Presidential election results have given me reassurance in our form of government. When I think of the 500,000-plus people whose lives were cut short by the COVID virus, I feel intense sorrow and grief. And as I think about all of the people I know and care about that I have been unable to be together and spend time with over the past year the emotions that arise are loss and loneliness.

These are just a few of this past year’s significant occurrences and the emotions that have come up for me as I reflect on the last 12 months. I imagine each one of us has other occurrences that come to mind and emotions that arise as we reflect on all that has transpired since last March. I will venture to say that this past year has been an extremely challenging year for all of us. If I had the opportunity to relive any year of my life, I can say with certainty that this past year wouldn’t be the one I would choose.

That said, if I had to erase one year of my life, I would not select this past year to delete. The year just passed has had its ups and downs as well as its challenges and accomplishments. It has made me reflect on what is most important in my life. It has helped me recognize the many blessings I have to be thankful for and the level of privilege I have that I have not earned and quite possibly don’t deserve. It has reminded me of the values I hold dear, values that have been tested and tried mightily by many of the occurrences I mentioned above. And it has let me know, yet again, that when a community of people unite in a common purpose, even that which seems impossible can be achieved. Thank you, UUFB, for what you offer one another and for what you do to make a positive difference in the lives of people far and wide.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION CORNER

In Religious Exploration (RE) this month our theme is Commitment. We will be exploring why we make commitments and what challenges we can face along the way. We will reflect as a group about what projects or groups we would like to commit to and what changes we'd like to see as a result of our efforts.

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

Sunday, March 7th - Commitment to Asking Questions

Understanding that doubting and questioning have a place in faith.

Sunday, March 14th - Commitment to Keeping an Open Mind

Everything is always changing. This week we explore how to keep an open mind.

Sunday, March 21st - Commitment to the Value of Each Person

Instead of turning to one person who we believe has all the answers, we explore sources of our own wisdom.

Sunday, March 28th - Commitment to Seeing the Needs of Others

Explore compassion for others and how to put love into action.



From Soul Matters: Continuing the Conversation

For those interested in continuing the conversation at home, here are some dinner conversation starters!

- What would you say are two of the core commitments of your family?
- What is your commitment to your pet(s)?
- How about your commitments to the wildlife in your neighborhood?
- What is one of the hardest commitments you've ever made?
- What is a family tradition you're committed to, that you make time for each day/week/month/season? What is your favorite thing about keeping that commitment over and over?
- If your family had an extra day or two every month to commit to being of service to others, what would you do with that time?

Who is the most reliable "commitment cheerleader" and "commitment encourager" in the family?

- Who in the family is the most stubborn and/or refuses to give up when commitments get hard?



BOARD REPORT



Here's what the Board has been working on lately.

At our February 15 meeting, we agreed to enter into a **partnership with Montana Interfaith Power and Light**. You can learn more about Montana Interfaith Power and Light here: www.montanaipl.org. This is a covenantal relationship. UUFB agrees to speak about climate action as a moral issue, use our resources wisely and take steps to reduce our consumption and carbon footprint, discern how to raise our moral voices to advocate for climate action, and support the work of Montana IPL. Montana IPL in turn will amplify our voices, equip us with information, connect us with experts and relevant programs, keep us informed, and provide opportunities to advocate for systemic change. Rev. Duffy Peet is President of the Board of Montana IPL. He will be our clergy point of contact, and the chair of our Social Justice Action Committee (currently Randy Babbitt) will be the other point of contact. UUFB will make a small annual contribution as a partner, and we have previously made contributions from 2nd Sunday offerings.

We also appointed a **Music Task Force** with the following charge: *Recommend to the Board a comprehensive plan for the UUFB music program including identifying needed staff, sketching position descriptions, and establishing lines of decision-making, communication and reporting.* Members are Sara Williams, Elizabeth Rose, Logan Henke, and Jan Young. This was necessitated by Laurel Yost's resignation as our music coordinator in December. A preliminary report to the Board is requested by May 1, 2021.

The Finance Committee is conducting its triennial **internal financial review** of our accounts, records, and procedures. As part of this effort, the Board will be reviewing policies and maybe adopting a few new ones. The Board has accepted Sharon DePriester's offer to be our liaison with our insurance agent. We have also (finally!) closed the construction checking account and moved remaining funds from the capital campaign to the Capital Improvement Special Fund. Speaking of finances, let us once again celebrate the success of our Valentine auction which raised \$8,000!

At a meeting on February 1, the Board reviewed progress toward our goals for the year. We were gratified to find that, despite all the challenges we've been living through this year, we are making progress on all of them. In brief, here are the goals we set ourselves:

Maintain Organizational Stability
Increase Community Growth & Visibility
Support, Caring and Connection
Anti-Racism/Social Justice

The February 15 meeting marked the conclusion of our discussion of the book *Serving with Grace: Lay Leadership as a Spiritual Practice*, by Erik Walker Wikstrom. The covenant we say together every Sunday recognizes that service is our prayer, or, as this book presents it, service is spirituality. The Fellowship owns several copies of this book that may be checked out.

Finally, Rev. Duffy, Neil Schwarzwald, Tonya Stevens, and I participated in the virtual Pacific West Regional (PWR) Assembly on February 13. This event included a Mountain Desert District (MDD) meeting as well. The overall program featured excellent musical performances and several workshops. It appears that PWR will be moving further into Regionalization, which makes the future of MDD level programs uncertain. You can read more about this event on the blog of PWR Regional Lead Carlton Elliott Smith here: <https://tinyurl.com/u8jbjahj>.

In Fellowship,
 Peg Wherry, UUFB President

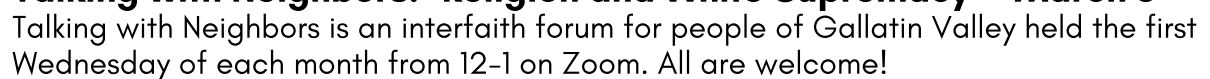
News +++ Information +++ News +++ Information +++ News



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 White Supremacy" - March 3



It's not just the extremists who subscribe to white supremacy. This ideology underlies many of our institutions and is embedded in our assumptions and habits. What can we do about this? The guest speaker is Dr. Shane Doyle, Apsaalooka, educational consultant and environmental advocate. Additional religious panelist includes Rev. Duffy Peet.

For more information, please visit: gvinterfaith.org



The Social Justice Action Committee has specified that the March 14, 2021 offering will go to the Faith, Hope and Love Ministries Inc. which serves as a clothing and food bank for Lodge Grass, MT. 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 "Faith, Hope" in the memo line. Mail your contributions to UUFB, 325 N. 25th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

Faith, Hope and Ministries Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that started in June 2006 in Waco, TX. They provided ministries in Lodge Grass, MT that include food and clothing drives, mission trips, and drug rehab ministries. Contributions to Faith, Hope and Ministries Inc. help provide clothing and food to Native Americans in distress.



All UUFB Women Invited! Mark your calendar for Thursday, March 18, 2021, 7-8:30 p.m. for an evening of sharing on a topic proposed by Lynn Flaming who will facilitate the discussion.

The proposed questions are: What unexpected consequences or gifts have you received as a result of the Covid pandemic? What have you added to your life to boost self-care or what old practices have you continued?

More information will be forthcoming on the listserv, Friday e-news and Sunday announcement regarding how to sign up to receive the Zoom link.

Making Connections – Orientation to UUFNB

Are you a newcomer investigating this community? Or an established member with a yearn to learn more about UUFNB? All are welcome to the Spring 2021 Orientation to UUFNB Series, sponsored by the UUFNB Hospitality and Membership Committee along with Rev. Duffy Peet. We invite you to attend our Tuesday evening one-hour Zoom gathering at 7:00 p.m. on March 9th. This meeting is 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.



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 uufnboman.org/qacc. The Committee on Ministry reviews submissions at their monthly meetings.



Daylight Savings Time Begins – March 14

Just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 14th at 2 a.m. Remember to “spring forward” and set your clocks forward one hour (i.e., losing one hour).



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.

Welcoming Congregation DISCUSSION GROUPS

Most of us are feeling overwhelmed right now with all we have to deal with: income, pandemic, children, politics. Now add on top of that being a trans person in a largely binary world which does not recognize your right to exist. Or a black person in a largely white country. Or an indigenous person in a European culture. Or a struggling person looking at a largely middle-class organization.

If we are to become a truly welcoming Fellowship, we need to take responsibility for educating ourselves about these barriers. This is part of our commitment and covenant as UUs. The webinar “Trans Inclusion in Congregations: Welcome as a Spiritual Practice” encourages all of us to recognize the unconscious assumptions that can convey unwelcome.

SJAC's hope is to have at least 50% of our congregation ultimately participate in the workshop. The webinar is divided into six sessions. Each session contains a 45–55 minute lecture by Alex Kapitan and Mykal Slack, two trans UU ministers, and supplemental resources. Please watch each session before that week's discussion.

Discussion groups will start Sunday, March 14th, 3–4:30 (note corrected time), and every other Sunday.

To get the log-in information, contact Kitty Donich (kdonich@gmail.com) or Neil Schwarzwaldner (neil.nas@att.net). The webinar is free to UUFNB members and friends.

Help Out! with Refugee Welcome Kits!

This March, Gallatin Refugee Connections, in cooperation with Soft Landing Missoula and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), is sponsoring a collection drive to help refugee families start their new lives in Missoula.

Most refugees arrive with next to nothing—sometimes just the clothes on their backs. Soft Landing and IRC give them a start, and we mean to help! We are collecting household goods to set up newly-arrived families. These items will help get them started in their new lives and speed their integration into the community.

You can help! Team up with friends to donate an entire room kit, or just donate an item or two. (Pick a shopping list!) All donations are tax deductible.

On Saturday, March, 27, 2021 volunteers will meet at Pilgrim Church to assemble kits. Drop off your donations at Pilgrim (2118 S. 3rd, Bozeman) 9am-4pm Mar. 27 or BEFORE that date at collection points around the valley—see list at gallatinrefugeeconnections.org/irckit

If your church or organization is not a collection point, contact us to find out how to become one. For more info visit Gallatin Refugee Connections at gallatinrefugeeconnections.org or Facebook or call (406) 209-0971.



**DROP-OFF DAY IS
MARCH 27, 2021**

or earlier, at your collection point.
See collection point list at gallatinrefugeeconnections.org/irckit

How to Create a Welcome Kit

- 1 Select a welcome kit checklist or print one from gallatinrefugeeconnections.org/irckit
- 2 Place items in a CLEAR plastic tub that can close (except oversized items. Just set them on top.)
- 3 Label the top and sides of the container with the Welcome Kit Checklist, checking off items enclosed. **Please DO NOT tape the tub closed.**
- 4 Please purchase **NEW ITEMS** unless indicated. (If the kit list indicates that used items are OK, please be sure they are CLEAN, and only GENTLY used.)
- 5 We also encourage you to include a hand-written, unsealed note welcoming the family.

or donate online at



Soft Landing Missoula
softlandingmissoula.org/donate



IRC Missoula
help.rescue.org/donate/us-missoula-mt



Gallatin Refugee Connections
gallatinrefugeeconnections.org

Thank you FOR WELCOMING A FAMILY TO A NEW LIFE IN MONTANA!





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 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