

APRIL 2021

# UUFB NEWS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

## UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

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

### April 4, 2021 • "Becoming Alive Anew" • Rev. Duffy Peet

Today is Easter, the oldest and one of the most important holidays in the Christian tradition. The Easter holiday celebrates the story, as told in the Gospels, of how Jesus came to life again three days after having died on the cross. With the recent vernal equinox on March 20, spring began in Montana. Spring is a time when much around us comes to life from that which appears to be dead. We will celebrate life and what it might mean to become alive anew.

### April 11, 2021 • "Continually Becoming" • Rev. Duffy Peet

Our culture places a high value on achievement, on attaining some goal that has been set. Because of this, it is easy to get into the habit of striving and more specifically striving to arrive. But this striving can soon become a never-ending race to get to a place of more happiness, more well-being, or just some contentment. Maybe we can find the happiness, well-being, and contentment we would want by letting go of the striving to arrive approach and appreciating the process of continually becoming. The Billings UU Fellowship will be joining us for this service.

### April 18, 2021 • 10:30 a.m. (note time change) • "Writing Stories of Justice & Compassion" •

#### Guest Speaker: Rev. Wanda Daniel

For the 4/18/2021 service, we will be watching the live stream from the Billings UU Fellowship! Join on April 18th at 10:30 a.m. (\*note the time change!) where Rev. Wanda Daniel will present the Sunday Service. The time change applies to this service only.

Before writing - a story, a poem, anything - I ask: WHY? Why am I taking this time, this energy, and this risk, to put upon paper words that reveal me in the words I write for others. I challenge us to ask this morning: WHY do Justice & Compassion belong together? Why bother with the risks? As we question, so we write our stories.

### April 25, 2021 • "Coming Home to Our Bodies" • Guest Speaker: Reverend Dr. Emily Melcher

When and how have you experienced being fully at home in your body? What experiences or ideas have caused you to leave your body, or to see it as something other than you? How might we come home to our bodies, and why might we want to? Rev. Melcher invites us to journey with these questions through readings, songs, and reflections.

The Reverend Dr. Emily Melcher is a Unitarian Universalist Accredited Interim Minister and a singer and songwriter, and a seminary classmate of Rev. Duffy. She currently serves part-time in a shared ministry with the UU Congregation of Whidbey Island, Washington. In addition to her congregational ministry, she participates in community organizing to counter the white nationalist militia on the island, mentors several new ministers, and serves her colleagues as a Good Officer. She lives with her spouse and a marvelous Old English Sheepdog pup named Teddy.



## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF BOZEMAN

[uufbozeman.org](http://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



The arrival of spring typically engenders both anticipation and enthusiasm in people who live in Montana and other northern tier states. The increasing length of daylight, the warming temperatures that melt the icy sidewalks and streets, the growing buds on trees, and the first signs of new green shoots emerging from the earth let us know that the long winter is coming to an end. In Montana, this is a time of year when people who don't consider winter to be their favorite season get excited about the opportunities and possibilities that accompany spring's arrival.

For many people this year, it seems there is more anticipation and enthusiasm for spring than usual. Since the arrival of the COVID virus to Montana very near the beginning of spring last year, many people, including me, have felt like we have been in an extended period of hibernation. Significant numbers of people I know have been "holed-up" much of the past year in an effort to protect themselves as well as others from the threat posed by the COVID virus. Because of the efforts people took to reduce the spread of the virus last year's spring seemed less vibrant and delightful than prior years.

But this spring is considerably different than a year ago. While the COVID virus is still with us, there are vaccines available that are highly effective in preventing the illness and/or severe effects from the illness. The number of people who are receiving the vaccines is growing daily. By the end of March over 400,000 vaccinations had been given in the state and more than 15% of Montana's were fully vaccinated. There are now more people fully vaccinated than the number of Montanan's who contracted the virus over the course of the past year. This is very good news.

And yet just as the arrival of the vernal equinox doesn't insure that winter weather is finished for the next several months, we have not yet reached the point where we can feel free to do as we please and throw caution to the spring wind. The Board decided several months ago to keep the building closed to general use through the end of May and it is clear now that decision was a wise one. The Board along with other committees of the Fellowship are currently engaged in discussions about how and when to begin holding in-person services and/or to reopen the building. It is clear that the process of returning to in-person services will be much more involved and complex than shifting to online service was a year ago. And there is so much that needs to be considered to insure that returning to in-person meetings of all kinds will be safe.

I know there is a significant amount of enthusiasm about the arrival of spring and the return to meeting in person again in the not-too-distant future. I believe it would be wise, however, for us to apply the lessons that can be learned from watching the progression of winter to spring as we prepare for returning to meeting in-person again. May we learn that just as one sunny and warm spring day doesn't mean that winter is over, being vaccinated or wearing a mask doesn't mean the threat of the COVID virus is a thing of the past. May we also look to how spring tends to go through progressions. Just like the progressions of spring, our return to meeting in the building will go one step at a time, sometimes it will be a step backward or sideways. But just as spring eventually wins the day over winter, eventually we will win the day over the COVID virus and again be together in our building. What a joyous day that will be.



# RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION CORNER

In Religious Exploration (RE) this month our theme is Becoming. This month we will explore the challenges and joys of growing up and looking to a future full of possibilities. Ever wonder about whom you will become? Join us this month!

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](mailto:cre@uufbozeman.org) for the Zoom link.

## **Sunday, April 4 - Easter Sunday Deliveries**

Easter is about the miracle of Jesus overcoming death and coming back to life. But we also honor Jesus' life by remembering the many ways he offered kindness and love to those who society treated as unwanted and unlovable. In this spirit, we will focus on kindness today and spread sunshine to others.



## **Sunday, April 11 - Finding Your True Self**

Growing to like what is special and unique about us can be hard. Others often have opinions about how we should be. Today we will honor our true selves.

## **Sunday, April 18 - Becoming People of the Earth**

Today we celebrate Earth Day. Especially as we face the climate crisis, we are called to become people of the earth rather than people over the earth. Our 7th UU principle inspires us towards this with its call to "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."



## **Sunday, April 25 - Hopeful Predictions**

It's normal for human beings to want to control and know their future, and yet we can only control so much. Sometimes the answer will be hazy, and we have to trust.



## **From Soul Matters: Continuing the Conversation**

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

- Whose example helped you know who you want to become, or maybe what kind of person you wanted to be?
- If you stopped growing right at this minute, what would you be happiest to keep exactly as it is? What would you regret not being able to become?
- Some people believe that when they die, they become another living thing (reincarnation). What would you most want to become?

# BOARD REPORT



The Board has begun preparing for the resumption of in-person activities. Unlike the sudden shut-down of March 2020, the next steps will be more gradual and tentative—and perhaps even reversible as circumstances change. Even if you don't like email, please pay attention to the listserv, which is currently our most efficient communications channel.

The UUFB Board is fully committed to the safety and health of the Fellowship and the wider community, but we recognize that a return to in-person Sunday services beginning in June of 2021 seems both feasible and desirable. In planning this re-opening during a pandemic, we are in uncharted territory. Therefore, we will strive to be patient, to adapt and adjust to changing circumstances, and to learn from our mistakes as we proceed. We ask the Fellowship for your patience and flexibility as we go.

Our decision to resume in-person Sunday services is predicated on the following initial conditions:

- In-person services meet or exceed COVID-19 safety recommendations on gathering size issued by the CDC and Gallatin County Health Department at the time of re-opening;
- Each service will be simultaneously streamed on the internet for those who are unable or prefer not to attend in person;
- In-person attendees will use hand sanitizer upon entering and wear face masks covering mouth and nose while in the building;
- Seating is set up to create six-foot distancing between household groups;
- Windows and doors will remain open throughout the service for maximum ventilation;
- The Minister, lay leaders, and all speakers involved in the Sunday service will be fully vaccinated;
- Participants will be strongly encouraged to become fully vaccinated before attending in person;
- The service will include recorded hymns but not congregational singing, to prevent spreading the virus;
- There will be no social time or coffee hour in the building after the service;
- Posted safety protocols for bathroom use will be followed by all using the facilities;
- A reservation system will be created for accommodating in-person attendance on Sundays;
- If interest exceeds available seating, a second service on Sunday mornings may be added.

Beth Witte and Rev. Duffy will recommend whether religious education programming for children and youth on Sundays will remain virtual and/or include in-person programming after May 30.

There are of course many other decisions yet to be made about the use of the building for other purposes, and not all of the details of implementing this plan have been worked out. Please be patient. If you have questions, please let me know ([pegwherry@bresnan.net](mailto:pegwherry@bresnan.net), 406-600-1238).

The Board has also considered **other matters**: approving the location of a flagpole, creating a volunteer sign-up space on the website, and purchase of equipment to stream services from the Sanctuary.

Finally, the **May Annual Meeting** is planned to take place under the pavilion at the Bozeman Pond shortly after the service on **May 23**. We will ask those attending to maintain health precautions even outdoors; remember that, if you are uncomfortable attending in person, you can identify a proxy to vote for you. The main business, as known at this time, will be electing officers and recognizing volunteers. Official notice of the meeting will be sent by postal mail in early May. Those who wish to bring their own picnic are welcome to stay after the meeting and safely socialize.

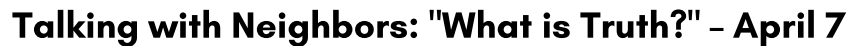
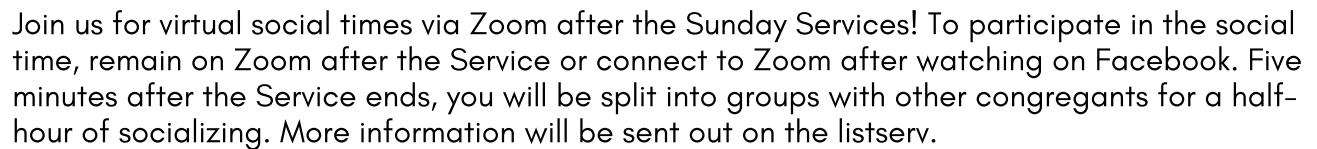
The one thing we've learned from this year of pandemic is that change is constant. We hope the rate of change will slow a bit as the vaccines take hold. We won't be going back to normal—whatever "normal" was—but we will be moving forward. Together.

In Fellowship,  
Peg Wherry, UUFB President  
With help from Sally Russell, UUFB Secretary





## Virtual Social Time



Religions provide foundations for understanding the world. In an atmosphere where people speak of “alternative facts” and “information silos,” how do we know what to believe? Is all truth relative, or is there absolute truth? Danny Johnson, Assistant Pastor of Grace Bible Church, and Rachel Allen join as guest panelists. For more information, please visit: [gvinterfaith.org](http://gvinterfaith.org)



Utah Diné Bikéyah (UDB) is a Native American-led, values-driven organization that recognizes the deep and ongoing spiritual connection between indigenous people and the land. UDB operates at the intersection between culture and conservation, by promoting land protection that honors and includes human societies that have existed in ecosystems since time immemorial. UDB seeks to heal people and the Earth by ensuring that sacred ancestral lands remain intact for future generations of all people. For more information visit [utahdinebikeyah.org](http://utahdinebikeyah.org).



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



Mark your calendar for the next Women's Group which will be held on Thursday, April 15th from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. All women are invited to join us via Zoom. More information will be forthcoming as the topic of discussion is determined.

## See You Outdoors!

The Sunday Services Committee has reserved outdoor space at Bozeman Pond on June 27, July 25, and August 22. We'll see you there for either a service, social time, or both! More details to follow as we get closer to the dates.

# HISTORY CORNER

Just recently I ran across a document from the 1979 business meeting of the Fellowship. One of the main topics of discussion was whether or not to continue or to disband. "There was enough interest to make it appear worthwhile to continue meeting for another year – during which time we will try some new ideas."

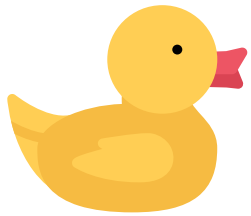
The minutes continued, stating "The Fellowship has been in existence for over twenty years and during that period has filled a real need in the lives of many persons in the Bozeman area – however, times have changed and there are now several liberally oriented groups in the community where people can express their political and intellectual ideas. Perhaps the thing missing from the Fellowship has been a "spiritual dimension" – hard to define (especially for Unitarians) and even harder to implement – but this coming year the Fellowship will try to "incorporate a short period of 'celebration' (as opposed to worship) into each meeting."

The notes went on to explain that they were hoping to incorporate a short celebration at each meeting to create a mood conducive to increasing the sense of "fellowship" and togetherness.

Reading about these deliberate, thoughtful steps in the early days of our evolution reminds us that we are always a work in progress, listening and learning from each other, from the times and this place in which we live.

–Susan Backer, UUFb Historian

## 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). 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.
- **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.

# Continuing the Story

By Rachel Lonberg

In the church that raised me, there was a woman named Gussie. Gussie was eighty-one years older than me. I considered her a special friend. Gussie was the kind of person who just about everyone considered a special friend. One of the wonderful things about Gussie was that she dressed for church. She emerged from the struggles of her life with a commitment to beauty and elegance. Her formal suit, hat, and gloves stood out in the congregation. Most people in this suburban Seattle congregation dressed in Polar fleece and sensible shoes, as if a hike might break out at any moment. On Easter, Gussie always outdid herself, wearing an Easter bonnet tastefully done up with flowers. Everyone looked forward to seeing the beauty and joy she embodied on Easter mornings.

Gussie died when she was in her late 90s after a long, meaningful life and a brief illness. She died in the early spring, a few weeks before Easter. We all mourned. People shared how sad they would be sad to not see Gussie in her beautiful Easter bonnet that year. It felt like the end of Gussie's story.



Outdoors, and seen from behind, a person with short gray hair wears a colorful hat with tulle and pink flowers. Then someone had an idea: What if we wore Easter bonnets like Gussie did? The word spread. That Easter morning, the sanctuary was filled with Easter bonnets and other hats on the heads of dozens of people of all genders. It was beautiful.

The church has continued that tradition. People wear Easter bonnets and other hats every Easter morning. People who loved Gussie, people who never knew Gussie, and people who weren't even born before her death have all been invited into Gussie's story. Her commitment to beauty and joy lives on. While this Easter bonnet tradition has faded some over the years, it has continued.

This is my favorite resurrection story: people of all ages and all genders wearing Easter bonnets, year after year, in memory of someone that not all of them remember. It's a triumph of love over death, which is the core of the Easter message. Death is never the end of the story. Gussie's story continues on in the hearts—and on the heads—of the congregation that loved her.



## 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  
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