

MAY 2021

# UUFB NEWS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

## UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

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

### **May 2, 2021 • "A Story from Different Perspectives" • Rev. Duffy Peet**

Every day of our lives we have experiences that our brains save as memories. In recalling such memories with another we tell a story of what we remember of the experience. As we tell the story we believe what we are saying is what actually occurred. Do we typically consider that the story we tell is only one perspective?

### **May 9, 2021 • "Mother's Day: Personal Perspectives and a Unitarian Connection" • UUFB Speakers**

Our experiences with our mothers are unique to each of us. Some are cherished; some are challenging; and some are humorous. We will celebrate these relationships by hearing personal stories from UUFB members Kathryn Hohmann, Cami Armijo-Grover, and Sally Russell. Sandra Oldendorf will share a bit of history that connects this day to Julia Ward Howe, a 19th Century Unitarian.

### **May 16, 2021 • "Stories, Messes and All" • Rev. Duffy Peet**

As human beings we strive to find the meaning of our lives, of other's lives and of the world we live in. In our efforts to find meaning we create stories as a way of putting the pieces of the jigsaw puzzle of life together as we seek to see the big picture. Sometimes the stories we create contain elements that we consider to be terrible messes. How we perceive and address the messy parts of the stories we create or learn can make all the difference in our lives.

### **May 23, 2021 • "Changing Stories One Word at a Time" • Rev. Duffy Peet**

We live in a world filled with stories. Each story has some element of truth and some element of fiction. Every story has the ability to empower as well as to limit and stifle. Even a single word can be a story. The single words "Unitarian" and "gay" at one time told stories that were challenged and, as a result, the story changed. What might occur by changing the story that has been connected to a single word? What words need to have the stories connected to them changed today?

### **May 30, 2021 • "The Wit and Wisdom of Robert Fulghum" • UUFB Fellowship Readers**

Robert Fulghum has been a Unitarian Universalist minister since the early 1960s serving in Bellingham and Edmonds, Washington. He is best known for his books, beginning with *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, a collection of stories that stayed on The New York Times bestseller list for nearly two years. We have chosen four of his stories from *It Was On Fire When I Lay Down On It* and *Uh-Oh* to highlight his wit and wisdom and to illustrate his commitment to our Seven Principles.



## 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



Since early last year a tremendous amount of attention has been focused on the COVID pandemic and its impacts on people's lives the world over. The level of attention paid to the pandemic has been and continues to be for good reason. The virus in its multiple mutations poses a serious threat to people's health, wellbeing and even our very lives. Governments and individuals have taken extraordinary actions since the pandemic began in order to address the threats the COVID virus posed and continues to pose. Feeling that our lives were at significant risk, many of us engaged in behavior that we quite likely had never imaged doing previously. Many of us limited our travel and contacts with other. People began wearing masks in public. And millions of people got vaccinated as soon as they possibly could. All of this was done to reduce the level of risk to ourselves and to others. I am grateful for the attention this virus has been given and the efforts that have been made by so many people to address the threat this virus represents.

But the COVID virus isn't the only significant threat to the health, wellbeing and even the lives of a large portion of the U.S. population. In this country people of color experience threats from the institutions that are supposed to protect us all from harm. One of those institutions is the justice system, which includes federal, state, county and local law enforcement agencies. The deaths of people such as Breonna Taylor and George Floyd caused by police actions have focused a spotlight and our attention on this threat that is very real for people of color. This threat is not new. It has been known about, talked about and legislated about for many, many years. Yet in spite of all of the knowledge, talk and legislation, people of color continue to be at higher risk of experiencing unwarranted questioning and searches, arrests, incarceration and even death when encountering the members of law enforcement organizations than people who identify as or appear to be white.

The recent conviction of the police officer who knelt on George Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes while ignoring Mr. Floyd's statements that he couldn't breathe has been lifted up by some as a breakthrough moment. It seems to me that while this conviction may be momentous in its implications, at this point we should not view it as a significant breakthrough. This conviction is a single event, an event that may at some point down the road mark a milestone along a path to change. We will only know the importance of this conviction months, years or even decades from now. I assert that it is not a breakthrough moment because since the conviction was handed down on April 20, numerous people of color have died at the hands of law enforcement officers in various states across our country. Each of those deaths will be investigated and there is a possibility that charges against some of the law enforcement officers will be filed. There may even be convictions obtained. But convictions don't bring the dead back to life and they don't reduce the threat people of color experience when they encounter those in law enforcement. There are clearly significant and systematic problems with our justice system when a particular set of people regularly and excessively bear the brunt of the system that is supposed to protect all of us. It is time for this nation to do what is needed to ensure that the color of a person's skin doesn't increase their level of risk when they encounter a member of our justice system.

# RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION CORNER

Our lives are enriched, defined and held together by the stories we tell. Information about who we are as a community and individually is often passed down through generations by stories told. But stories also inspire us to think about who and what we'd like to be in the future. This month we'll explore the stories that shape us.

Religious Exploration (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, May 2nd - Who We Are as UU's**

This week we will look at who we are as UUFB. Who came before us? What significant events have shaped church life in this congregation? What stories would other members like to tell us?

## **Sunday, May 9th - Who We Are As Family**

Families come in all shapes and sizes. This week we will look at what makes our family unique!

## **Sunday, May 16th - Who We Are As Anti-Racists**

The stories of anti-racist leaders remind us that great work has been done but also that work is ongoing. Their stories can teach us about how to move forward.

## **Sunday, May 23rd - Who We Are As Living Beings**

This week we honor our human story. One of evolution, change, and interconnectedness.

## **Sunday, May 30th - Who We Are As Courageous People**

This week we honor the stories of courageous people who have protected and served our country.

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

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

- What happens in your mind when you hear a story? (Examples might be picturing the characters, imagining yourself sitting in the setting and watching what happens, smelling smells and hearing sounds, trying to figure out how the story will end, imagining yourself as one of the characters, etc.)
- If your experiences last month had a title, what would that title be?
- How would you describe the story of Unitarian Universalism? A hero story? Detective story? Love story?
- Where do you think stories came from?
- Who's usually the storyteller in your family? Who's most likely to add embellishments and exaggerations to make the story really memorable?
- What makes a really good story?

# BOARD REPORT



The Board is working hard to prepare for the eventual return to in-person services as the Covid virus comes under control, appointing a couple of task forces to address technical issues. We decided last fall to continue **streaming the Sunday service from the sanctuary** even after return to “normal” and appointed a task force to identify the necessary equipment and implementation. There will be two cameras on the wall at the back of the sanctuary capturing what’s happening at the front. The signal will go to a switcher and a laptop operated by someone at a workstation in the office. The live video stream will go to the internet via Facebook and to a monitor in the social hall for those seated there as we observe social distancing. The cost of the equipment will be covered by funds remaining from the capital campaign as well as another recent anonymous gift for building improvements.

To maintain social distancing, our seating capacity will be reduced, even with seats in the social hall, so we will implement a **reservation system**. Another task force was appointed to identify a system and plan how to implement it, using research done by Heather Watson. The system is relatively inexpensive (only about \$100 for the rest of 2021) and easy to use; there will be an option for phone reservations as well. This system will also be used to sign up for Religious Education each Sunday. Instructions are being developed and will be published via the listserv/Google group and elsewhere.

We finally have a **hearing assistance** system for those who need it. This has been on a wish list since our days at the Senior Center and was finally ready to go last June. The simplest method would be to use your own smart phone (and your own earphones or earbuds, if you have them), but we also have receivers (small black boxes) and earpieces. Mike Clark prepared instructions for using the system and our Sunday morning greeters will be on hand to help.

The UUA General Assembly will be all virtual again this year. See lots of information here: [uua.org/ga](http://uua.org/ga). UUFB gets to appoint three voting delegates, so let me know if you would like to do that. Registration is required to participate as a delegate as well as to stream the annual Ware Lecture, this year featuring Stacy Abrams.

Looking ahead to next year, **volunteers are needed** for a couple of key roles. We are planning to hold another **fall retreat** at the beginning of our program year. We have a provisional reservation at Hyalite Youth Camp for a less than ideal date but are exploring other options. Several volunteers have come forward to help plan the retreat, but more are always welcome. We are particularly short on people who have been involved in retreat planning in the past. If you would like to help, please contact Neil Schwarzwald, president-elect (neil.nas@att.net or 406-580-8964).

We also need someone to step up to lead next year’s **Stewardship** campaign. Unlike most committees, this one’s work is time limited—from early fall to mid-December. Sometimes people say, “Oh, I don’t want to have to ask people for money.” But, as someone who has led this effort for many years, I can say that I’ve never asked anyone for money. Most of our members pledge every year anyway, so the pledge drive outlines the process and purposes and creates a time for us to think about how UUFB is important to us. I cannot do this again—there’s nothing left in the tank. And others who have been stalwart in the past need to step back. There is a good file of material from past campaigns as well as UU resources. If you care deeply about the Fellowship, if you are a good organizer and communicator, this is your chance to play a big part in the life and well-being of our community. Please contact me or Neil.

That’s all the business this month. The weather is improving (in fits and starts) and more of us are getting vaccinated with every week. Things are looking up! Be well.

In fellowship,  
Peg Wherry, UUFB President



# Upcoming Events



## 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: "Reflections on the Pandemic" – May 5

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!

After 14 months of an officially declared global pandemic, what have we learned? What does the future hold? The guest panelist for this forum is David Quammen, author of *Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic* and *The Tangled Tree: A Radical New History of Life*. Additional religious panelist: Karen DeCotis. For more information, please visit: [gyinterfaith.org](http://gyinterfaith.org)



## 2nd Sunday Offering to Housing First Village – May 9

The Social Justice Action Committee has specified that the May 9th offering will go to Housing First Village. UUFB, in collaboration with the Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association (GVIA), is seeking to fund the building of one tiny home. You can donate to this fund by giving online ([uufbozeman.org/donate](http://uufbozeman.org/donate)) and selecting "Give to 2nd Sunday charitable donation" or you can mail in a check made out to UUFB and write "Housing First Village" in the memo line. Mail your contributions to UUFB, 325 N. 25th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

Housing First Village aims to provide transformative housing to Bozeman's chronically homeless. Both the number of people experiencing homelessness and the duration of homelessness have been increasing in our community. The Warming Center, which provides seasonal, temporary shelter, is reaching capacity. Several consistent years of a virtually zero percent vacancy rate in rental housing make it more challenging for our chronically homeless Warming Center guests to use existing rapid re-housing resources to support permanent housing transition. For more information, please visit [thehrdc.org/projects/housing-first](http://thehrdc.org/projects/housing-first).



## Women's Group via Zoom – May 20

All UUFB women are invited to the UUFB Women's Group Thursday, May 20, 2021 from 7-8:30 p.m. The women who participated in the April group decided to not have a specific topic for the May group. The name of the person to contact for the Zoom link will be published closer to the event.

# Upcoming Events

## Fellowship Annual Meeting - May 23

Sunday, May 23, 2021, 11:30 a.m. at the Bozeman Ponds Pavilion

### Agenda

Election of officers, Building Update, Recognition of Volunteers

**All are welcome and encouraged to attend and speak**, although only those who have been members for 30 days or more can vote. On May 23 we will gather to celebrate the end of a challenging year for UUFB and to take the necessary actions needed to move us into our next program year. Feel free to stay for a "Bring Your Own Everything" picnic afterwards.

**The meeting will be cancelled only for *extremely* bad weather. Cancellation will be announced via the listserv/Google group.** So dress appropriately and bring a cushion or blanket to sit on the park benches. In the unlikely event of cancellation, the election of officers will take place by mail.

**Proxies:** If you are a member, please make every effort to attend. If you absolutely cannot make it, please use the form that will be included with the official notice to appoint someone to act as your proxy. There must be a quorum for legally valid decisions.

## 5th Sunday Offering to Red Cross - May 30 & June 1

When there is a fifth Sunday in a month, we take a special offering dedicated to emergency response. This month we have the opportunity for ***both cash and in-kind contributions***, and both will go to the Red Cross. All designated **cash** (and checks) will go to local Red Cross disaster relief. You can donate to this fund by giving online ([uufbozeman.org/donate](http://uufbozeman.org/donate)) and selecting "Give to 5th Sunday disaster relief fund" or you can mail in a check made out to UUFB and write "Red Cross" in the memo line. Mail your contributions to UUFB, 325 N. 25th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

The "**in-kind**" donation will be participating in a Blood Drive, the first time UUFB has held its own blood drive. Those who want to donate blood can schedule an appointment as described in the ad. The actual drive will use the Red Cross office on N Willson, not our building. This month, you have an opportunity to help in two ways—another way we can reach out to our local community.



### Blood Drive Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

Blood Donation Center  
300 N Willson Ave

**Tuesday, June 1, 2021  
10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

To make your appointment or for more information, call 1-800-RED-CROSS (733-2767), or download the Free Red Cross Blood Donor App, or you can also go online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

Share the vibe. Give blood to help save lives.

Download the Blood Donor App | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) | Call 1-800-RED CROSS

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## COVID-19 Vaccine Information



### Help Fight COVID-19 Get the Vaccine!

If you know anyone 16 years or older who has not received their vaccine, please encourage them to do so!



There are lots of places to get your COVID-19 vaccine! Scan the code below to find vaccine appointments throughout the county on our website, or go to [healthygallatin.org/coronavirus-covid-19](https://healthygallatin.org/coronavirus-covid-19).

Find more information on what to expect at your COVID-19 vaccine appointment! Vaccine appointments typically take 30 minutes, including a 15-minute observation time.



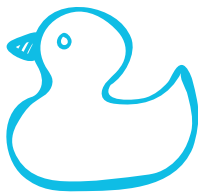
If you need help registering for an appointment, please call the Gallatin County COVID-19 Call Center:

- Monday - Friday
- 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- 406-548-0123 OR
- [callcenter@readygallatin.com](mailto:callcenter@readygallatin.com)



To scan a QR code, open your camera app on your phone and hold it up to the QR image, then open the link that pops up.

## 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](https://uufbozeman.org/qacc). The Committee on Ministry reviews submissions at their monthly meetings.

# HISTORY CORNER

In the early 1960's the fellowship bought a lot on Sourdough Road with the idea of building a church. However, this caused a rift in the fellowship and enough people left that there were no longer enough dues paying members to build a church. The fellowship limped along with around twenty members meeting in various venues around Bozeman through the late 1960's and through the 1970's.

Taxes were kept up on the land, however, and by the late 1980's membership was growing. There were many discussions about whether or not we should hire a minister or build our own space. When a congregational task force assessed the land we owned, however, it was clear that the lot was not well suited for a public building. So the land was sold in 1988. The profits were well invested through wise counsel and allowed the fellowship to finally have some capital. This enabled us to bring in visiting UU ministers who, along with programming assistance, counseled us on financial and long-term planning.

Today, we owe many thanks to those far-sighted investing members and friends of the fellowship who so long ago had a dream of our own building with our own minister and who provided the initial financial seed money to bring us to this place - our beautiful building at 325 N. 25th, and our 7/8 x minister, Rev. Duffy Peet.

-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 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