

JULY 2021

UUFB NEWS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY • 10:00 A.M. MDT • IN-PERSON & LIVE ON YOUTUBE

July 4, 2021 • "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness: The Journey Continues" •

Lay Presenters: Sandra Oldendorf & Paul Stouffer

On the 245th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, UUFB members Paul Stouffer and Sandra Oldendorf will reflect on the ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Today these basic rights have a broader reach and are more inclusive. However, reaching these lofty goals is a journey that continues and is at the heart of many challenges that face us today.

July 11, 2021 • "Laughing at Ourselves" • Lay Presenters: Lisa Trankley & Peg Wherry

This service will look at humor among UU's and look at UU's through humor. Using jokes and songs, we will explore the value of humor, why it's good for us, how humor helps us see the difference between the serious and the solemn. What do we learn from UU jokes and humor?

July 18, 2021 • "Confessions of a Carnivore" • Rev. Duffy Peet

Inordinate numbers of people throughout the world go hungry every day. At the same time vast amounts of grain are fed to livestock that will eventually be consumed by a small percentage of the world's people. As one of those who have the resources necessary to get the food I need to survive and thrive, I consider the ethics of a diet that includes meat.

July 25, 2021 • To Be Announced • Guest Speaker: Rabbi Ed Stafman • Held at Bozeman Pond

This service will be held outside at Bozeman Pond! More information will be announced soon.



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP OF BOZEMAN**

uufbozeman.org
406.586.1368

Rev. Duffy Peet, Minister

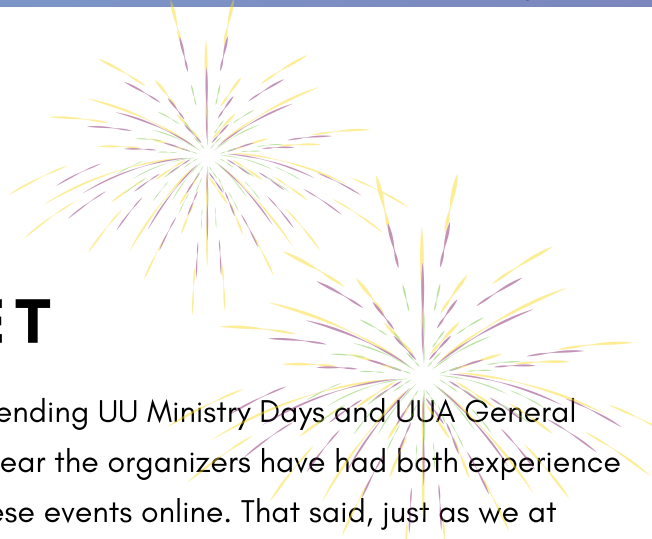
Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m.
325 N. 25th Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59718-2688





MINISTER MUSINGS

REV. DUFFY PEET



I am writing this newsletter article while in the midst of attending UU Ministry Days and UUA General Assembly (GA). Since both were also held exclusively online last year the organizers have had both experience with, as well as considerable practice time related to, holding these events online. That said, just as we at UUFB have found with our online worship services, sometimes the technology doesn't always work as we expect or want it to. Even though there have been technological issues, both events have provided me the opportunity to learn, to share with others, and to be involved in the decision-making process of the larger UU community.

Because UU congregations are few and far between in Montana and surrounding states, I find it both personally and professionally important to connect with others in the larger UU community. Attending UU Ministry Days and GA gives me opportunities both to connect and to get a sense of the size and the diversity within Unitarian Universalism. There were nearly 600 UU ministers who attended UU Ministry Days. And as I write this article over 3,500 UU's from across the country and around the world are registered for GA. Attending these two events allows me to get a broader perspective of the concerns and issues UU's are focused on and dealing with.

One of the major issues UU congregations are focused on is how to cope with the impacts of the COVID pandemic. In my discussions with UU ministers, I have learned that trying to determine how and when it is safe and appropriate to return to in-person gatherings is a significant concern. From the conversations I have had it is clear that most UU congregations in this country continue to hold Sunday services exclusively online. On June 6 our Fellowship resumed in-person Sunday services and children's RE. In doing so, our Fellowship became part of the minority of UU congregations who are providing opportunities for congregants to physically gather together for services again after more than a year. The resumption of in-person services has not been and likely will not be for some time to come either simple or easy. There are many issues that need to be considered as we strive to ascertain what is safe and appropriate. And there are multiple changes that need to be made from how things were done in the past. Because most UU congregations have not yet resumed in-person services, we aren't able to learn from the experience of other congregations.

As our Fellowship continues on the path to resuming meeting in-person, we will be doing so the best way we figure out. I am sure there will be times when we don't take into account all of the variables we should. There will be times when we will make mistakes and have to change course. There will be times when some people will feel discouraged, disappointed or otherwise upset with some of the decisions that are made. All of this is to be expected because we don't have a clear or definitive map to follow as we move forward. We know where we want to go but we don't know for certain the route to take or the timing of when to take the next step. My hope is that as we continue along the path, we will all seek to share our thoughts and feelings with one another as we have compassion for each other. Together, with grace and humility, we can find our way along the uncharted route to where we want to be in the future.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION CORNER



This month our topic is Exploring! Summer traditionally kicks off travel season and this year many are feeling the urge to travel and explore. This month in RE, we will be doing some exploring of our own. With topics around bugs, colors, water, and space there is plenty to learn and discover.

Sunday, July 4th - Exploring Bugs

Sunday, July 11th - Exploring Colors

Sunday, July 18th - Exploring Water

Sunday, July 25th - Exploring Space (@ Bozeman Pond)

RE is back in-person and outside at 10 a.m. at the UUFb (unless noted otherwise). To help us plan and keep class sizes small, we do ask that you register ahead of time. Register at <https://uufbozeman.org/rvsp/>. When you arrive, please check-in your children outside at the back of the church. We will be outside for the entire service so make sure everyone dresses accordingly. If there is severe weather, we will cancel RE for that day.

RE class will be mixed ages. Any child 24 months and older is welcome to join us. Please know, due to limited staffing, we will not be able to change diapers. Masks and social distancing are encouraged. If you have any questions, please contact Beth at cre@uufbozeman.org.

Do you like to play? We're Looking for Volunteers!

If you have been attending services for at least 6 months, are willing to undergo a background check, and enjoy kids, please consider signing up! Our youth love to meet members of the congregation and enjoy sharing about what they are learning. For more information, you can contact Beth Witte at cre@uufbozeman.org. We appreciate the support!

PICNIC AT BOZEMAN POND



Thanks to Rene Keating for the photos!

BOARD REPORT



The new program year began on June 1. The 2020-21 Board has lead UUFB through the many challenges of this pandemic year. The Fellowship remains strong, standing for our principles, and we are now getting back together in some kind of normalcy. This is, as they say, “one for the books.”

The old and new Boards officially transitioned at the June 14 meeting. With the new year, Sara Williams and Paul McVey stepped down as at-large members, and Peg Wherry moved from Board President to Past President. Sally Russell remains Board Secretary, Janine Roberts continues as Treasurer, and Valley Peters is our remaining Member-at-Large. We welcome Jeanne Moe taking her place as Vice President.

The bylaws require that we have 6-8 Board members. With Jeanne as our only new Board member, we are now at the minimum. We are looking for at least one more at-large member to provide a fuller representation of the Fellowship.

The new Board will continue to address the challenge of resuming in-person services and children’s Religious Exploration. We know that covid is not yet vanquished. There is still risk, and the Board will continue to place the safety of members, friends, and the larger community as the highest priority. Thanks for your patience as we try new approaches and figure out how to proceed safely.

Fall Retreat. Several members and friends are working now to ensure that we have a fall retreat this year. Tentatively, the retreat will happen in early September with reconnecting as the basic goal. Planners include Carolyn Widman, Adrienne Wallace, Heather Watson, Sandra Oldendorf, Susan Backer, and Diane Knipfer. We will need many more hands to see this off. If you wish to be involved, please contact me or one of these folks.

Why did I volunteer? The Governance and Leadership Committee recently asked me why I volunteered, as part of their assessment of leadership. I had to think a little bit, because this certainly has been a challenging year. What possessed me to volunteer, anyway?? There were really two reasons: first, to serve the Fellowship, and second, to serve myself.

I want to contribute so this Fellowship survives and thrives. I value our faith community (even though as a humanist the word “faith” comes from my lips reluctantly), and I see the UU path as one that benefits our society in many ways. We have a lot to offer.

I also saw serving on the Board as a way of challenging myself, proving to myself that I was capable of doing this work. And I wanted to take my mind away from issues of the world that I increasingly found difficult to deal with. Over the last few years, I was getting too engrossed in politics, lost in the divisions that we now have in our country. I found myself following news reports too closely, getting angry about things outside of my control. I was responding to too many urgent requests for financial contributions. I decided this was bad for my health, mentally and physically, and wanted to get my mind off of all that. Getting more involved in the work of the Fellowship helps a lot.

And I also figured that by contributing my energies as a Fellowship volunteer I might release others for work in the outside community, those whose passions and energies are up to those challenges. This is my way of contributing to YOUR activism and work for justice.

As we reconnect in the Fellowship, I hope you too will consider volunteering. Serving on a committee or task force, or simply volunteering for a one-time opportunity will not only help the Fellowship but can help meet our personal need to serve.

Feel free to contact me any time to share your thoughts and ideas or to find a good fit for your talents.

Neil Schwarzwaldner, UUFB Board President

HOUSING FIRST VILLAGE

The celebration for the Housing First Village fundraising effort was held on Friday, June 25 in the parking lot at the Warming Shelter. About 30 people attended from many different congregations.

The highlight of the program was the presentation of a check for \$139,614 to Heather Grenier, director of HRDC. A small portion of this amount came from two second Sunday offerings at UUFb. There were gasps of surprise and then much applause as everyone realized what this means for the village. All of us were amazed and pleased at the amount of money raised by the faith community of Gallatin valley. A media video of the celebration can be viewed at the KGBK website.

Connie Campbell-Pearson, who spearheaded this effort and was the driving force behind this effort, spoke briefly of the importance of this project to protect the most vulnerable in our community. She read the names of the six homeless persons who died during the last year for lack of a safe, secure place to live.

By mid-summer, the first 12 houses will be completed and set on foundations. The remaining 19 homes will be finished by volunteers with the help of construction foremen from the community. Every congregation will be asked to help with this effort, likely to happen in September and October. The first occupants will be in their homes by Nov. 1, 2021.

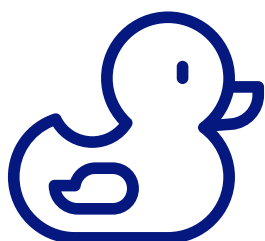
The occupants of these homes will be screened by HRDC and have to meet certain criteria. Plans for the whole site include a garden area, places for people to gather and chat, and access to services such as job training, peer counseling, and yoga at the Warming Shelter.

If you haven't seen the Village, please drive by 2015 Wheat Drive, off N. 7th. Contributions can still be made c/o Kristin Hamburg, HRDC, 32 S. Tracy. Please designate your check for Housing First Village.

Submitted by Amanda Cater



Submit a
QACC!



Do you have Questions, Appreciations, Comments, or Concerns (QACCs)? The Committee on Ministry welcomes it all! To submit your QACC look for the box with the yellow rubber duck on top in the social hall or submit online at uufbozeman.org/qacc. The Committee on Ministry reviews submissions at their monthly meetings.

Upcoming Events


 A graphic showing a piece of torn paper with the word "RSVP" written on it in a bold, serif font.

RSVP for Upcoming Services & Children's Religious Exploration (RE)

UUFB is now open for in-person services! To be responsible and not be part of yet another Covid wave, services in the building will continue to require masks, and there will be no singing but music will be provided, and you are certainly invited to hum along. We will maintain social distancing, which means we will have limited seating inside. **Registration for the limited seating is required.** Please visit tinyurl.com/uufb-rsvp to RSVP for service and Children's RE. The page will be updated each Sunday with a link to the upcoming service. We will also stream the service live through YouTube for those unable to attend, or if you aren't ready just yet. To view other special guidelines, please visit our website.

Virtual Social Time

Join us for a virtual social time via Zoom after the Service! To participate in this social time, connect to Zoom at 11:15 a.m. MDT where you will be split into groups with other congregants for a half-hour of socializing. The link will be sent out on the listserv.

2nd Sunday Offering to Hopa Mountain - July 11

The Social Justice Action Committee has specified that the July 11th offering will go to the Montana Racial Equity Project (MREP). 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 "Hopa" in the memo line. Mail your contributions to UUFB, 325 N. 25th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

Hopa Mountain invests in rural and tribal citizen leaders who are improving education, ecological health, and economic development. For more information visit <https://www.hopamountain.org/>.

Women's Group - July 14

All UUFB women are invited to the UUFB Women's Group Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in Cathy Cooper's yard, and she asks everyone to please bring a lawn chair. For the address, please check the listserv. If you plan to attend, please let Cathy know.

Food Bank Sunday - July 18

Non-perishable food donations and toiletries for the Gallatin Valley Food Bank will be collected at this UUFB service. For more information about donating to the Food Bank, contact Norm Eggert.

Bring Your Own Everything Picnic - July 25

After the July 25, 2021 service at Bozeman Pond Park join us for a "Bring Your Own Everything" picnic. Childcare will be provided. More details will be announced soon.

HISTORY CORNER

Gay Pride Parade 1997 – A Proud Moment for UUFB

In a UUFB history from 1980 through the 1990s, Sara Williams wrote: “...Another highlight of the year was the Gay Pride parade in 1997. Under the direction of the gay community in Bozeman and the state of Montana, the Fellowship came together and was instrumental in the implementation of weekend events. UU minister, Rev. Amanda Aikman, from Everett, WA was in Bozeman and facilitated several of the weekend activities.”

Two active UUFB members, Donay Hansen and Shaun Phoenix, were very involved in planning the activities and reached out to UU minister Rev. Amanda Aikman to attend and lead some of the events. The social/political atmosphere in Bozeman was very intense leading up to the celebration and the parade with anti-gay letters to the editor and marches down Main street. Shaun Phoenix wrote a guest columnist piece published in the Chronicle, asking for civility during the parade and weekend.

Meanwhile, the more liberal churches in Bozeman sponsored an event, advertised and open to the public, to state each denomination’s stance on gay rights. Although it was sparsely attended, it was a great privilege to share the Unitarian Universalist position and actions. Here are a few of them:

- 1969, following the Stonewall Inn raid, the 1970 General Assembly of the national UUA passed a resolution affirming the rights of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals and calling for educational programs and nondiscriminatory hiring within the UUA
- 1975 the Office of Gay and Lesbian Concerns was established
- 1987, the General Assembly voted to initiate the Welcoming Congregation Program to help congregations examine personal conscious or unconscious homophobia, look at using inclusive language in our programming and worship services, and examine the special issues of gays, bisexuals, and lesbians within a congregation.

Thankfully, the weekend came off without any incidents. Many of us UU’s, along with Methodists, Congregationalists, Episcopalians, and others who had been trained by the Bozeman Police Dept. as “Security”, walked as a buffer between the sidewalk and the parade participants. Rev. Aikman held marriages and led our Sunday service, which was attended by many participating in the Gay Pride Weekend.

-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.
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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
- **Vocalist:** Erin Henke

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.

2021-2022 Board Members

- President: Neil Schwarzwald
- Vice President: Jeanne Moe
- Past President: Peg Wherry
- Secretary: Sally Russell
- Treasurer: Janine Roberts
- Member-at-Large: Valley Peters

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: Tonya Stevens, 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: Jeanne Moe, Contact
- Safety Task Force Committee: Beth Witte, Contact
- Social Activities: Rene Keating, Chair
- Social Justice Action Committee: Randy Babbitt, Contact
- Stewardship: Open
- Sunday Services Committee: Lisa Trankley, Chair

Contact Points

- Book Sales/Little Library: Leona Poritz
- 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
- 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