

JUNE 2021

UUFB NEWS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

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

June 6, 2021 • "Plays Well with Others" • Rev. Duffy Peet

Many early elementary school report cards throughout the years have included the statement "plays well with others" as one criteria in evaluating a child's performance at school. What does it mean to "play well with others?" Is it really that important that a child, or for that matter any person, be able to "play well with others?" Might it be helpful for us to consider whether we "play well with others" as we go through life?

June 13, 2021 • "Let's Play" • Rev. Duffy Peet

All of us have engaged in play many times and in many ways during the course of our lives. Generally, when we think of the word "play" we think of something that is enjoyable and/or fun. But play is so much more. Play can offer opportunities for creativity and spontaneity. Play can allow us to do things and go places we might not have otherwise considered. Is it possible that we don't say "let's play" or engage in play enough?

June 20, 2021 • Father's Day Service • UUFB Speakers

Celebrate Father's Day as Bruce DePriester, Paul Stouffer, and James Watson share their experiences as fathers.

June 27, 2021 • General Assembly Worship Service

Join us as we watch the live stream of the UU General Assembly Sunday Service! More details 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

Two days after the UUFB Annual Meeting at Bozeman Pond pavilion I awoke feeling very “under the weather.” I had a fever, muscle & body aches, gastro-intestinal distress, a runny nose and an overall sense of fatigue. In years past my first thought would have been that I had come down with the flu. All of the symptoms I just mentioned are typical when a person has the flu. But as I awoke that Tuesday morning my first thought wasn’t about the flu. The symptoms I had were also consistent with having COVID. So my first thought, and my initial fear, was that I had somehow contracted COVID. This was my first thought even though I had received my second COVID vaccination almost 2 months earlier. I had managed to avoid contracting COVID for more than a year but I now feared that the virus had finally found me.

At 8:00 a.m. that Tuesday morning I was on the phone getting information about how to be tested for a COVID infection. By 8:30 a.m. I was at a local urgent care facility having a “rapid” response test done. I received the results of that test by 9:00 a.m. The results came back negative for COVID, Influenza A and Influenza B. Getting the result offered me some reassurance. I knew, however, that I was ill and I knew the accuracy rate of the “rapid” test was lower than the “molecular” test that requires 24 hours or more before results are available. Considering the potential consequences to others and to the Fellowship as a whole if I were to have COVID, I went in for a “molecular” test later that afternoon. Other than those two very brief outings, I spent most of that day in bed and ate nothing.

By the next morning, Wednesday, my fever was down considerably, and I had a bit more energy. I could actually sit up in a chair for a period of time. I even took in some nourishment, a bowl of oatmeal in the morning and another bowl in the afternoon. Soon after eating the afternoon bowl of oatmeal my stomach began letting me know, it wasn’t ready for that much food. For the remainder of the day, I paid the price for over-indulging. Just before 6:00 p.m. that day I received the results of my second COVID test. Again, the results came back negative. At this I felt a sense of mental and emotional relief. The relief came from knowing that I hadn’t possibly infected someone at the Annual Meeting and that I would be able to remain “on the job” as the Fellowship begins to make the transition back to in-person services.

While I don’t know for sure what was causing my symptoms, there is a distinct possibility that I had eaten something which resulted in what is often referred to as “food poisoning.” Any of you who have had food poisoning know that it is an unpleasant experience. Yet once I had two test results that indicated I didn’t have COVID, I felt relief. And with that relief I began to consider how much I have to be thankful for. I never imagined that I would say that I was thankful to have food poisoning. But compared to having COVID, food poisoning, at least in my case, is definitely the less problematic illness to have. Even as I write this newsletter article, I am feeling the effects of whatever illness I have. And yet in spite of my symptoms I feel thankful. Thankfulness is a spiritual practice for me. I feel thankful for my overall good health. I feel thankful for the supportive people of the UUFB community I am a part of. And I feel thankful for that I will quite probably be able to gather together in-person with many of you again in the UUFB sanctuary beginning June 6. May you all be well until I see you person-to-person again.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION CORNER

We're back! I am super excited that we are restarting in-person Religious Exploration (RE) classes again. It's hard to believe we've been online for over a year. Classes won't be exactly the same as they were when we left so I want to take this time to explain some of the changes.

First, for the time being, we will be outside! This allows for more social distancing and helps protect our kids that are not yet vaccinated. 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 is dressed accordingly. If there is severe weather, we will cancel RE for that day.

RE class will be mixed ages. We ask that all children participating be potty trained and walking. There is no nursery staffing available at this time however the nursery room will be open if a calming space is needed.

In order to maintain social distancing, we are going to limit the number of children in class. Please register for each Sunday you would like your children to attend. You can register at this link: tinyurl.com/uufb-rsyp. This helps us plan and respond to staffing needs appropriately.

I am looking forward to SEEING everyone again soon!



After being stuck inside for much of the last year, it's fitting that June's theme is Come out and play! This month we are going to explore, try new things and have fun!

Sunday, June 6th - Playing With Rainbows

Sunday, June 13th - Playing Pretend

Sunday, June 20th - Word Play

Sunday, June 27th - Playing with Jokes



HOLD THE DATE - Family Fun RE and Youth Group event is in the works for the afternoon of Sunday, June 20th. More details coming soon!

BOARD REPORT

The Board met twice in May to conduct a great deal of year-end business. In addition to finalizing details of the Fellowship's Annual Meeting on May 23, we reviewed the goals we set for the year. A summary of our progress toward them is in the Annual Report. The most prominent topic was **whether, when, and how to resume holding in-person Sunday services.**

We adopted the four criteria below, all of which must be met in order for us to gather in person safely. Statistics from healthygallatin.org will be used to apply the criteria.

1. New cases in the county have a seven-day average below 25/100,000 and a downward trend over several weeks;
2. The number of cases among school children in the county is less than 35;
3. Local hospitals are not being overwhelmed due to COVID cases;
4. Rates of fully vaccinated eligible adults in the county have reached 35%.

Since all these requirements were met as of May 17, we voted to hold our first in-person service on June 6, providing that the service can also be live-streamed for members who cannot attend in person.

We also discussed how to fill the **regular two-year term as Board Member at large position.** The Governance and Leadership Committee has been asked to identify a candidate as soon as possible, and we will hold a special election when the candidate is identified. This special election will be a resumption of the recessed May 23 Annual Meeting and will be held either electronically or in person after a Sunday service.

Our Whole Lives Schedule for 2021-22: The *Our Whole Lives* program (OWL, chairperson Laura Mentch) will hold 27 sessions of their education program for eighth and ninth graders beginning September 2021 and running through May 2022, in the UUFB building. All OWL programming was cancelled for the past year due to COVID. They expect a group of 10-12 youth for this class and plan sessions from 3:15 to 6:30 p.m. on Sundays. Sunday use of the building for UUFB-sponsored Religious Education is consistent with UUFB policy; the OWL program is jointly sponsored by UUFB and Pilgrim UCC.

Proposals from the Safety Committee

Building Monitoring System: The Safety Committee proposed installation and maintenance of a SimplySafe Intruder/Fire/Water Detection/Monitoring System with an estimated initial cost of \$750-\$1,000 and an ongoing monthly monitoring fee of \$25/month. This system would provide early detection of intruders and fire or water emergencies to protect the building. It would save an estimated \$225/year on our building insurance, according to the insurance agent. The Board approved using funds from the Capital Improvement Special Fund for initial purchase and ongoing monthly expenses from the Operating Budget, and authorized Mike Clark to do the installation.

Parking Lot Signs: Neighbors have been using our parking lot, particularly during the COVID period when UUFB was not holding services in the building. This is cause for concern as we resume regular building use. The Board accepted the committee's proposal to post signs at the two parking lot entrances to the effect of "UUFB Parking Only or With Permission," authorizing funding up to \$1,000 from the Capital Improvement Special Fund

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BOARD REPORT CONTINUED

Music Task Force Report: Sara Williams, chair, and Logan Henke, Elizabeth Rose, and Jan Young have completed their report and suggested a job description for a Music Coordinator. Their process included reviewing a UU handbook for music programs from 2008, reviewing Logan's current job description as Music Coordinator for a New England UU congregation, and discussing the history of music coordination at UUFB.

The Board also approved a new **Cleaning Service Contract** with It's Clean, starting before the June 6 service.

Probably many of you are wondering "when will we all be back together?" Well, it will take all of us to be back together (according to our individual risk assessments)—all of us stepping forward and jumping up. Our committees did some great work in the past year, but there is still some rebuilding to do. So, join a committee, volunteer as a greeter, lay leader, kitchen crew or other role that needs filling. Take part in a discussion group. Make up for that year of distance and isolation by deepening your involvement.

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your president (but I promise this is absolutely the last time). UUFB is such a strong, healthy faith community. We have occasional little bits of conflicts, but we don't take sides or form factions in long-running feuds. I think this strength is not just luck. I think we have been blessed with founders and elders who always thought for the future—taking the long view. And somehow, we have a culture where most leaders think about what is best for the well-being of the Fellowship as a whole rather than their personal agendas. Let's keep it going! I look forward to actually seeing you in the weeks and months ahead.

In Fellowship,
Peg Wherry, UUFB President
(with assistance from Sally Russell, Secretary)



Virtual General Assembly

General Assembly (GA) is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. The UUA Board of Trustees has passed a resolution making the 2021 UUA General Assembly a 100% virtual event. All details can be found at the UUA GA website uua.org/ga.

Circle 'Round for Justice - Healing - Courage is the theme for General Assembly 2021. General Assembly is a time to circle 'round in community. We circle 'round in care and healing; for liberation and justice; and for love and courage. We share stories of the work happening at our Association, and in our congregations. We study ways to

implement and live into our mission. UUA GA 2021 will incorporate recommendations from the Commission on Institution Change report, "Widening the Circle of Concern" and dialogue with the Article II Commission about our Principles and Purposes.

- Registration is open! Registration for virtual GA 2021 is \$200 per person.
- Volunteer Applications are open for those who want to volunteer to lower their costs to attend. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Find out more here: uua.org/ga/registration/financialaid/volunteer.

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 Facebook 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 the Montana Racial Equity Project – June 13

The Social Justice Action Committee has specified that the June 13th 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 "MREP" in the memo line. Mail your contributions to UUFB, 325 N. 25th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

The Montana Racial Equity Project, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization, advocates equity and justice for historically marginalized, disenfranchised, and oppressed peoples in Montana. They educate, train, and activate organizers, individuals, groups, organizations, institutions, and businesses to invest in interrupting racism, bigotry, and prejudice whenever encountered. For more information visit themtrep.org.

Program Council – June 13

Program Council will meet via Zoom on Sunday, June 13 at 11:45 a.m. All committees, task forces, and working groups should send a representative to this meeting. Questions? Contact Neil Schwarzwald.

Women's Group via Zoom – June 17

All UUFB women are invited to the UUFB Women's Group Thursday, June 17, 2021, from 6:30–8:30 p.m. The topic of the meeting is "Zoom Meeting to discuss the Non-Zoom Future." Please contact Kitty Donich for the Zoom link, if you are interested in attending.

QACC IS
FOR YOU!



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.

EXHALING IN COMMUNITY

By
Christine
Slocum



Remember when we used to breathe all over each other? Pre-pandemic, we stood behind each other in the grocery line, chit-chatted before meetings, or sat next to each other in church. There was a clear line of sight to each other's noses, and the sounds of our voices were unobstructed by fabric. My unrestricted exhales didn't put me out of right relationship with those around me.

The virus changed how we understood the consequences of breathing. I used to breathe without thinking. If I was breathing mindfully, it was in the context of meditation or yoga. Breath was life force, or a tool of centering oneself. Now we know: the way we take up space includes where our breath goes.



But breath is also a vector of illness. With over a half a million people deceased, and many in my community, I could not ignore the potential power I had to spread illness. I didn't like how something so fundamental to my being could cause harm. I also couldn't deny it.

Masking up became so normal, I felt naked in public without it. I learned to cross the street whenever I saw anyone on the sidewalk. I chose to forego unneeded interpersonal interaction. It's been a lonely year. My own understanding of personal space aligned with the collective revision to six feet. Even after receiving the vaccine and the requisite time elapsing to immunity, my instincts to avoid other people are still very sharp. I could still harm.

I miss the innocence about how we existed in each other's presence. I miss the ease and lack of caution. What I understood to be true—the safety I perceived—was because I did not have the complete perspective.

Committing to right relationship means being willing to revise our practices when we learn that previously accepted habits might be harmful. It's true of the language we use and the ways we practice power. Now we know: the way we steward our breath matters. I will leave the pandemic with a better understanding of how to protect people around me from illness. May I recognize this awareness as a gift, and use it to express care for the people around me.



About the Author

Christine Slocum (she/her) is a UU whose work facilitates housing for people experiencing homelessness and severe mental illness. She lives in the city of Buffalo with her husband and two children.



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.



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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.

2021-2022 Board Members

- President: Neil Schwarzwald
- Vice President: Jeanne Moe
- Past President: Peg Wherry
- Secretary: Sally Russell
- Treasurer: Janine Roberts
- Member-at-Large: Open
- 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: Open
- Social Activities: Rene Keating, 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