

NOVEMBER 2021

UUFb NEWS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY • 10:00 A.M. MDT
LIVE ON YOUTUBE

November 7, 2021 • "Holding History While Looking to the Future" • Rev. Duffy Peet

As this year's annual pledge drive begins, all of us are encouraged to ask ourselves some questions—questions that have been asked and answered many times over the years—before deciding about making a pledge. As we consider these questions, we may find our answer to whether we will pledge and how much our pledge might be. The answers we arrive at will determine how we will continue to build for the future of this Fellowship and all who are a part of it.

November 14, 2021 • "Telling Our Stories" • Guest Speaker: Rev. Darrick Jackson

We are a people of story. Holding history reminds us that the stories we tell shape how we see ourselves and the world. So what happens if we change our stories? The Rev. Darrick Jackson (he/him) is the Director of Ministries for Lifelong Learning of UU Ministers Association and an Affiliated Community Minister with Second Unitarian Church of Chicago. He is one of the authors in the book "Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity and Power in Ministry." Rev. Darrick is active in DRUUMM (the UU ministry for people of color, and is the treasurer for Healing Moments (a ministry for caregivers of people with Alzheimer's). He is also Co-Associate Director of the Chicago Playback Theatre Ensemble and is an avid knitter. Rev. Darrick and his husband, Rev. James Olson, live with their two cats, Merlin and Morgana.

November 21, 2021 • "Holding History, But Which History" • Rev. Duffy Peet

Our theme for November is holding history. As we seek to hold history it would be beneficial for us to consider what history, or who's history, we are holding. The more we learn about the histories that aren't commonly recognized, the better we will be able to honor those histories and the people whose experience has been, and continues to be, ignored and/or denied.

November 28, 2021 • "History Matters: Progressive, Religious Ideas Come the Gallatin Valley" • Fellowship Members

Some of the early people who settled in the Gallatin Valley introduced religion that was based on compassion, justice, and the worth and dignity of every person. Learn some of their stories and why they might be important to us today.



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

As I write this article at the end of October, I am thinking about the holiday that comes near the end of November, Thanksgiving. I am thinking about Thanksgiving a month early for a reason. With all of the challenges and struggles I and we are facing, I sometimes find it difficult to focus on what I am thankful for. From conversations I have had with some of you, I am reasonably sure I am not the only person having trouble focusing on what I have to be thankful for.

As I have mentioned in sermons I have given as well as previous articles I have written, giving thanks is a spiritual practice that I have engaged in for many years. The spiritual practice of giving thanks can be relatively easy when life is going smoothly. When life becomes less stable or certain, however, such as over the past year and a half, giving thanks tends to require more attention, concentration, and commitment. It is during times like these when giving thanks becomes more than just something that is a polite or good thing to do. It becomes a full-fledged spiritual practice that has deeper meaning and value.

When we are in the midst of challenges and struggles, we tend to focus what we perceive to be problems or even possibly threats. Focusing attention and energy on problems and threats is a built in survival mechanism—a survival mechanism that has served our species well over the course of time. While this survival mechanism has benefits, it also has deficits. When problems or threats persist for an extended period of time, as has been the case since early last year, the continual focus on problems and threats can deplete us. Over time, we become physically, emotionally, spiritually, and psychologically drained. It can seem like we are trying to fight our way out of quicksand. The more we work to get out, the deeper we sink. We can become so drained that we may find ourselves unable to function well or adequately in any number of situations. We may feel fatigued, generally pessimistic, or much more doubtful or uncertain than is typical for us. All of these are signs not only of stress but of distress, which can have significant negative impacts on our lives.

The survival mechanism of focusing on problems and threats, while beneficial in short-term situations, can become destructive in ongoing, long-term situations such as we are in now. None of us can solve the problem or eliminate the threat of the COVID virus. In order to replenish ourselves, we need to find ways to shift our focus. This is where the spiritual practice of giving thanks can be of benefit.

When we set aside time every day to give thanks, we interrupt the survival mechanism tendency to focus on the problem and/or the threat. Instead, we focus on what it is that makes our lives possible, sustainable, and even enjoyable. The spiritual practice of giving thanks is like a rest stop during a long and grueling hike. Taking time each day, or even several times a day, to give thanks can allow us to catch our breath, cool our overheated body or emotions, and prepare for the next leg of the journey.

So as we enter the month that contains the Thanksgiving holiday, I would invite you to consider giving thanks more than on a single day of the year. I would ask you to take time, even if it is only a few moments each day, to think about what it is you have to be thankful for. Engaging in a practice of giving thanks won't solve all of your problems. It will, however, allow you to have more energy and more stamina than you would have if your focus is continually on the problems and threats in your life.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Now that church is back online, Religious Exploration (RE) will look a little different this fall. There is a combination of in-person outside services, some kid-friendly elements worked into the online service, and special events. I will be emailing parents directly with changes and updates. If you would like to receive emails and haven't been, please email cre@uufbozeman.org.

Seeking Storytellers and Readers!

We are looking for volunteers young and old that would like to help read, illustrate, or act out our Story For All Ages. If you or your child would be interested in pre-recording a part of an online service, please email Beth at cre@uufbozeman.org to get more information!

Pumpkin Extravaganza! Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate Halloween this year! The weather was spectacular! We so enjoyed seeing your costumes, delighted in your creative pumpkin carving ideas, and enjoyed indulging with tasty treats!



RE UPCOMING EVENTS

- **UU Youth Gift Card Collection for homeless youth** - We will start collecting gift cards at the end of November thru early December. More information will be sent out via the listserve.
- **Saturday, December 11th - Holiday Cookie Exchange**
- **Sunday, December 12th - Virtual Cookie Decorating** - Time to be determined. Stay tuned for more information.
- **Sunday, December 19th - Solstice Celebration** - Time to be determined. Stay tuned for more information.



BOARD REPORT

The Board has been busy this past month. Here are some highlights you should know.

Minister Transition

The Board held a Town Hall by Zoom on October 24 to discuss the process for minister transition and to address questions from the congregation. Amanda Cater talked about the process for finding an interim minister, while Peg Wherry focused on the search process for a settled minister. An important takeaway is that finding a minister is unlike any other hiring process: congregations “call” the minister, we do not hire them. To attract qualified candidates, both for the interim and settled minister positions, the Board has authorized raising the minister to a full-time position. Notes on the town hall will be available on the website.

New Covid Policy

The Board approved a new Covid policy on October 20. When the pandemic began it was easy to imagine that we would soon be able to open the doors and have everything return to some kind of normal. Instead, we see the numbers going up and down, then up again, then down... To set a more definite standard for decision-making through these potential ups and downs, the Board approved a UUFB Pandemic Protection Policy, setting criteria under which we can open for Sunday services, how we can use the building for meetings and events, and how to address RE programs. The policy uses data and categories from CovidActNow, with minor modifications to suit our purposes.

Building Closure for In-Person Services

In keeping with the new policy, the Board has also decided to keep the building closed for in-person services until at least January 2022. It is the Board’s strong desire to give Sunday Services and RE committees and staff enough advance notice so they can plan the services. As I write this, Gallatin County Covid numbers seem to have hit a sort of plateau, bouncing up and down within a consistent range. The numbers are still well above where they need to be to resume in-person services safely, but vaccination is finally blunting the peaks.

Stewardship

Our Stewardship Pledge Drive was introduced at the October 17 service by Tonya Stevens, who gave a wonderful and personal account of why UUFB is worthy of our financial support. Janine Roberts, UUFB Treasurer, followed up with another great stewardship moment on October 24 describing our financial situation and the goals for 2021. Look for the announcement of stewardship cottage meetings coming soon to the listserve. The pledge packet will be in the US mail shortly.

If you have questions or comments about the issues above or any Fellowship matters, please contact me or another Board member.

Neil Schwarzwald, UUFB Board President



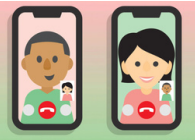
HAPPY
Thanksgiving

Upcoming Events



Building Access

Because of the recent rise in Covid cases, the Board has voted to keep the UUFB building closed for in-person Sunday services until at least December 31st. Sunday services will continue to be delivered via YouTube, with virtual social time following on Zoom. The Board will continue to monitor covid data and recommendations from the CDC, and state and local agencies.



Virtual Social Time

Join us for a virtual social time via Zoom after Sunday services! 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.



Gallatin Valley Interfaith Forum: "Spirituality and the Land" with Guest Panelist: Dr. Shane Doyle - Nov. 3

Gallatin Valley Interfaith Forum is an interfaith forum for people of Gallatin Valley (*formerly known as Talking with Neighbors*). All are welcome! It is held in person on the first Wednesday of the month from 12-1 at Resurrection University Catholic Parish (1725 S. 11th Ave, Bozeman). They ask all attendees to wear a mask. The 11/3 forum is titled "Spirituality and the Land" with guest panelist Dr. Shane Doyle. What significance does the harvest of crops and animals have in your tradition? Regular panel participants include Rabbi Ed Stafman, Dr. Ruhul & Shadmani Amin, Rev. Leo Proxell, & Rev. Lindean Barnett Christenson. For more information, please visit: gvinterfaith.org.



Daylight Savings Time Ends - November 7

Daylight Savings Time in 2021 ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 7. Remember to "fall back" by turning your clocks back one hour the night before.



Radical Welcome Discussion Group - Sign Up Now!

What does radical welcome mean to you? When our Fellowship became a "welcoming congregation" twenty years ago, the focus of our welcome was on lesbian and gay individuals. Since then our society has become aware that the gender/sexual identity spectrum is much more diverse. For UUFB to continue to call ourselves a welcome space for all genders, races, socio-economic and educational levels, we need to deepen and widen our concept of welcome. The webinar "Trans Inclusion in Congregation, Welcome as a Spiritual Practice," offers steps to move closer to that goal.

The webinar, created by two trans UU ministers, Alex Kapitan and Mykal Slack, is 6 sessions, each consisting of a 45-55 minute lecture, some reflection questions, and supplemental material (optional but really interesting). The discussion groups will be held on Zoom from 3:00-4:30 p.m. on the following Sundays: Nov. 14, Nov. 28, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Jan. 23, and Feb. 6. To sign up, please email admin@uufbozeman.org. All are welcome!

Upcoming Events

continued...



HRDC
BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY

2nd Sunday Offering to HRDC General Homeless Fund - 11/14/2021

The Social Justice Action Committee (SJAC) has specified that the November 14, 2021 offering will go to the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) General Homeless Fund. 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 UUFBo and write "HRDC" in the memo line. Mail your contributions to UUFBo, 325 N. 25th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

The funds raised by UUFBo will go toward supporting the greatest needs in HRDC's Homelessness Response Initiatives, which may include: HRDC's Warming Center, our Blueprint Campus and programs for youth experiencing homelessness, our COVID response shelter for high-risk individuals who are experiencing homelessness, and other efforts aimed at addressing or preventing homelessness.

Spiritual Pluralism Project Group

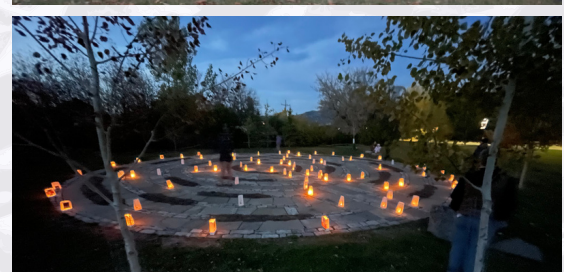
Our Fellowship has a Spiritual Pluralism group that has a chalice lighting, a time for check-in, a covenant for how they will be together, and time for sharing on a topic or theme.

- **UU Humanist Group** – This group explores Humanism and its role in Unitarian Universalism and usually meets monthly. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sara Williams.

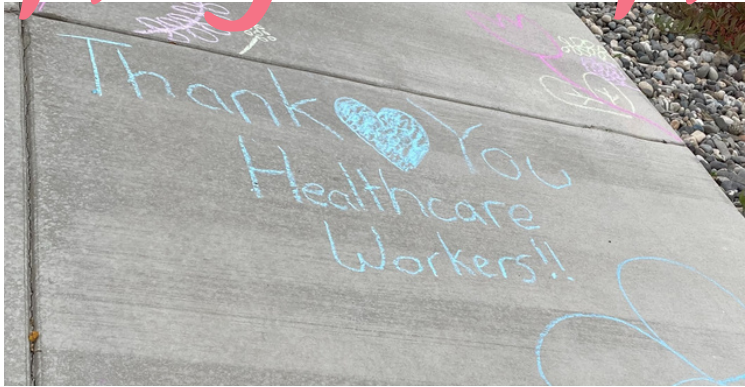
Submit a QACC!

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.

• • • Labyrinth Walk • • •



Hug the Hospital



A Thousand Voices

By Rev. Tania Márquez

Every year around this time, there is a distinctive smell in the air and the trees sway like the whisper of a thousand voices. That's how I know they are coming. At that point the perpetual altar in my heart begins taking place outside of me, for a few days, and it dances with joy at the thought of their coming.



The stub of a lit taper candle burns brightly on a bed of cempasúchil, or Mexican marigolds. First, the table that will be the altar. A few boxes on top to create different levels. I begin to think about the pictures I am adding to my altar today; the beloved friend who didn't get to say goodbye, the one I loved, my grandparents, the cousin who left too soon. I allow myself to think about the ones whose pictures won't be on my altar, but that I still remember.

The fragrance of the cemapsúchil fills the air; Grandfather Sun-made flower, a ray of light guiding them back, calling them home. It is a long way here. It is good to have some food and drinks ready, so they may quench their thirst, so they may eat and gain strength for the way back. I love adding chocolate and drinking chocolate caliente. I imagine a moment of communion that transcends the world of the living.

Once the altar is ready, I behold the sight of this place of encounter: they will come and will know they are missed. All of the times we spent together, all of the memories come rushing to us. Our elders told us, "To remember is to live again." And that's what we do when we allow ourselves to be surrounded by their presence and the stories of times we spent together.

My family and I gather. We tell stories, we laugh, we also cry a little, we rejoice in their company. Their stories come alive in our telling, and so does the love we still feel. I have learned to listen more often to things than to beings; to listen to my heart that knows a different way of knowing. My heart knows that the dead aren't really dead; their stories are perpetually being told by the world around us; like trees swaying, like the whisper of a thousand voices.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP of BOZEMAN

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: cree@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: Mary Maifeld
- 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