

DECEMBER 2021

# UUFB NEWS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

## UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

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

### **December 5, 2021 • "Choosing Joy" • Guest Speaker: Rev. Tandi Rogers**

Our guest preacher is known for her high energy and apparently innate joy. However, she's here to tell us that joy is actually one of her spiritual practices, something she chooses over and over. And these days, that can be really hard. And quite necessary.

Rev. Tandi Rogers is a multi-vocational minister: professor at Meadville Lombard Theological School, a Learning Strategist for the Unitarian Universalist Association's Congregational Life Conflict Engagement Team, and a Spiritual Director in private practice. Tandi is married to Rev. Sue Phillips, and they have five children (one 13 year old and four young adults.) Tacoma, WA is her home.

### **December 12, 2021 • "Re-opening to Joy" • Rev. Duffy Peet**

The challenges we have faced and continue to face related to the ongoing pandemic are enormous. One of those challenges is finding ways to be emotionally open as we struggle to cope with the long-term assault the virus poses on our lives. It is likely that many of us have unconsciously shielded ourselves emotionally to protect from the ongoing onslaught posed by the virus. Such shielding, however, may reduce our ability to find and feel joy, an emotion that brings meaning and gives purpose to life. Can we, will we, re-open to joy?

### **December 19, 2021 • "The Longest Night" • Guest Speaker: Rev. Kristina Spaude**

We are almost to the winter Solstice, the longest night of the year, and the day the light begins to return. December can be a month when we open to joy, but for some it is also a time of difficulty and challenges. Together in this service we will reflect on the joys and difficulties of this time of year and in our lives.

The Rev. Kristina Spaude currently serves as the contract minister for the UU Church of Tarpon Springs, FL. She is a clinically-trained chaplain, and left hospital chaplaincy at the end of July to answer her heart's call to return to work with our congregations during this turbulent time. Rev. Kristina is passionate about many things, especially making the way for more justice in this world.

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### **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



UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
FELLOWSHIP  
of BOZEMAN

# UPCOMING SERVICES CONTINUED

**December 24, 2021 • "Celebrating Christmas Eve 2021" • Rev. Duffy Peet • 6:30 p.m.**

Christmas is celebrated by hundreds of billions of people the world over. This year, through the wondrous gift of technology, we hold our annual Christmas Eve service that will include readings, meditation, and music. This service will lift up our hopes and wishes for joy and peace on earth.

**December 26, 2021 • "Spreading Joy" • Rev. Duffy Peet**

This time of year probably has more holidays than any other similar period on the calendar. Holidays are typically experienced as a joyful time. As the end of this holiday season approaches it would be beneficial for all of us to find ways to maintain or, better yet, increase the joy in our lives and in the lives of others we encounter. How might we engage in spreading joy in the year ahead?



## News flash!

We now have a flagpole at UUFB, thanks to the Social Justice Action Committee and Friends. Randy Babbitt has done the heavy lifting of research, ordering, organizing a work party, and GETTIN' IT DONE! Thanks go out to Larry Carucci, Richard Noonan, Mary Maifeld, Rev. Duffy, and Tonya Stevens for the hole digging, the concrete work, and the raising of the pole. Thanks to Christy for dealing with issues with the vendor. It takes a village! A few tweaks need to be done and the committee is still mulling over a draft of Flag Policy, but we soon hope to be flying the Inclusive Flag (which started this whole project), stating our welcome to all interested in UUFB.







# MINISTER MUSINGS

## REV. DUFFY PEET

During this holiday season, I am thinking about the multiple holidays it includes. The holidays my family celebrated each year during this season included Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve and Day. But there are numerous other holidays I wasn't aware of in my youth, holidays from religious traditions that few if any people in my small hometown observed. Three of these holidays include the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, the Buddhist holiday of Bodhi Day, and the Pagan and Wiccan holiday of Yule. And today, there are holidays that hadn't even been established when I was a youth. Two of these are Kwanzaa, which honors African heritage, and Chalice, which is a UU holiday that focuses on our Seven Principles.

So this year I am thinking about each of these holidays. I am thinking about each of these holidays in an effort to attend to gem or gems that each one has to offer us. During this cold and dark time of year, we may benefit from focusing our attention on those gems these holidays hold that provide us with hope and inspiration.

The gem of the first holiday of the season, namely Thanksgiving, is evident in this holiday's name. The gem is giving thanks. But in order to genuinely give thanks we must first recognize what it is we have to be thankful for. This holiday invites us to explore all aspects of our lives to first discover the gems that are present and then to acknowledge our gratitude for the gems we find.

The holiday of Christmas holds numerous gems, depending on one's perspective about Jesus and what his life means for our own. For me, I look to one of the teachings he is reported to have shared. That teaching is stated twice in the Gospel of John. In both verses Jesus tells his disciples that he is giving them a new commandment. The commandment he gives is to "love one another." If we could find it within ourselves to love one another the world would be changed into a place of sparkling diamonds everywhere we look.

Like Christmas, Bodhi Day holds many gems. For the Buddhist devotee, the Noble Eightfold Path delineates what is required to end suffering. The end of suffering is something that all of us would wish for. Along with the Noble Eightfold Path, the four divine abodes hold gems for anyone who is willing to seek them. These divine abodes include loving kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy and equanimity. How much better would all of our lives be if we could live these gems in our daily lives.

Hanukkah celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem after it was overtaken and desecrated in the 2nd century BC. This holiday reminds me that it is important to attend to and properly care for those places in our lives where we seek and find spiritual sustenance. Without such places, we may find ourselves feeling disconnected from the guiding principles and values in our lives.

Which brings me to the holiday of Chalice. Chalice originated in 2005 and is a weeklong celebration of the Seven Principles as set forth in the UUA Bylaws. These Principles speak to the values that Unitarian Universalism holds dear. By living into these values as best we are able, we strive to make life for all people in the world more meaningful and more fair.

Whatever holiday or holidays you celebrate this time of year, I hope you find the gem or gems that are there and share the beauty and radiance of these gems with those you encounter.



# RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Now that church is back online, Religious Exploration (RE) will look a little different this winter. 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](mailto:cre@uufbozeman.org).

## Seeking Storytellers and Readers!

We are looking for volunteers young and old that would like to help read/illustrate our Story For All Ages or light the chalice/lead the covenant. If you or your child would be interested in pre-recording a story reading or attending a service live to light the chalice or lead the covenant, please sign up here: [tinyurl.com/RE-help](https://tinyurl.com/RE-help).

## Thanksgiving Gratitude

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Gratitude Gathering and for your additions to our gratitude wreath. We enjoyed treats, good company, and a warm fire. Happy Thanksgiving to all!



## RE UPCOMING EVENTS

## UU Youth Gift Card Collection for homeless youth

We will start collecting gift cards for the homeless youth gift card collection. Please drop off gift cards at UUFB on Tuesdays-Fridays between 10-3 p.m. or on Sunday, December 12th during the cookie exchange. Gift cards to the mall, grocery or gas gift cards, Downtown dollars, movie gift cards, Visa gift cards, etc. are appreciated. The last day for gift card collection will be Wednesday, December 15th. More information will be sent out via the listserv.

**Sunday, December 12th - Holiday Cookie Exchange and 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

## Annual Meeting

The Board set our Annual Meeting for Sunday, January 23 after services. We likely will meet by Zoom, although a final decision has not been made. At this meeting members will vote on a budget for 2022 and perhaps other issues to be announced. Stay tuned for details.

## Stewardship Campaign

The stewardship campaign is wrapping up. As of this writing, we are at 86% of the pledge goal with 83 forms returned. Board members will follow up to complete the canvas. We are hopeful the goal will be met to allow UUFB continue to meet the opportunities of 2022.

## Cottage Meetings

Many members and friends took part in the stewardship cottage meetings, which were as much about getting together and talking about the Fellowship as they were about pledging. Attendees shared experiences that attracted them to Unitarian Universalism and UUFB. Comments like “I stumbled into my home” and “I found my people!” were echoed by many. “The welcome was genuine, and people could speak their real selves,” spoke to a basic part of our community, what brings us together and keeps us here.

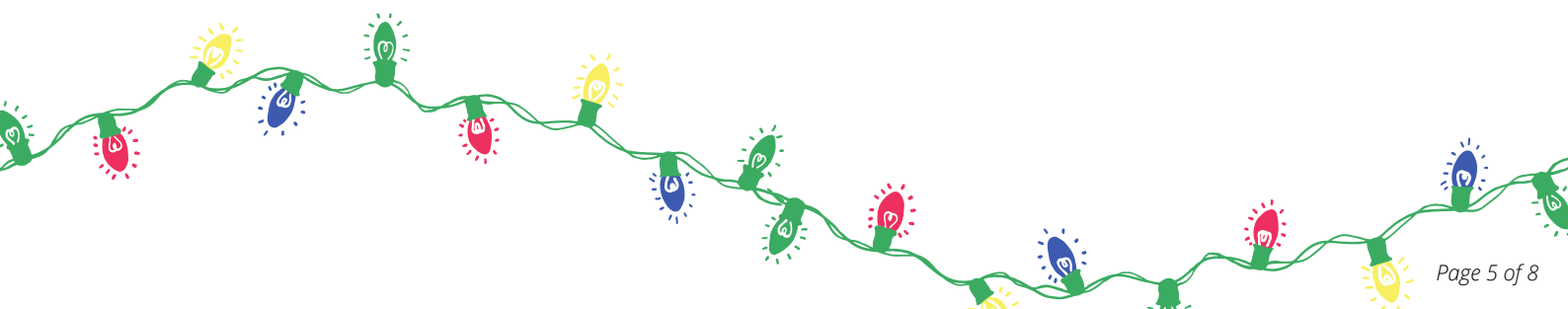
What can we do better? One person commented, “We don’t know the children or youth of the Fellowship,” and desires to see activities that will help bring the generations together. Several folks expressed a strong desire to bring RE back together with services soon, to attract and serve younger people and families with children. Several people commented on ways to reconnect with one another, perhaps adding pictures to the directory, getting together in small groups. People also commented that we could use the building better and that it should be an asset and not a burden.

The most common comment from members and friends was the need to get back together. Attendees were generally satisfied with live streaming – and certainly, it’s better than no services at all – but said that we need to get together sooner rather than later. There is concern that the longer we remain isolated, the weaker the Fellowship will become. Most importantly, we have a deep personal need to be together. Live streaming only goes so far. The pandemic has taken a toll on us.

## Pandemic, still

The building remains closed for in-person services until the end of this year. The Board has not yet made a decision beyond that point, although we are committed to give Sunday Services and other groups adequate advance time to plan services. As noted above, there is a strong desire in the Fellowship to meet in person for services and group activities. The Board is listening and continues to consider ways forward.

Neil Schwarzwald, UUFB Board President



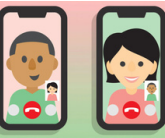


# Upcoming Events



## 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.



## 2nd Sunday Offering to Bozeman School Homeless Fund – December 12

The Social Justice Action Committee (SJAC) has specified that the December 12, 2021 offering will go to the Bozeman School District Homeless Fund. You can donate to this fund by giving online ([uufbozeman.org/donate](https://uufbozeman.org/donate)) and selecting “Give to 2nd Sunday charitable donation” or you can mail in a check made out to UUFB and write “school” in the memo line. Mail your contributions to UUFB, 325 N. 25th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program and the Homeless Assistance Funds are designed to assist students who are homeless or have families in transition. The services offered through these programs include automatic free and reduced lunch, transportation, and continued enrollment regardless of residence changes. Food supply shelves are located at both high schools where families and students can come for food, winter clothing, hygiene items such as toothbrushes, and school supplies. For more details by visit: [tinyurl.com/BSDhelp](https://tinyurl.com/BSDhelp).



## Program Council – December 12

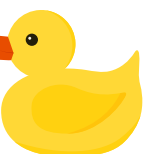
Program Council will meet via Zoom on Sunday, December 12 at 11:45 a.m. All committees, task forces, and working groups should send a representative to this meeting. Questions? Contact Jeanne Moe.



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

# Farewell to the Millers



Longtime UUFB members Mark and Tam Miller will be moving in a few short weeks to Illinois to be closer to their daughter and family. It's a great loss to our community as they have both served and given so much time to the UUFB - board positions, committee memberships, leading in early stages of Family Promise, stewardship leadership and so much more.

Come and participate in the great UUFB "Drive By Bye-Bye" on Dec 12 to honor them! On Sunday, Dec. 12 plan to meet in the Pilgrim Congregational Parking Lot where we'll line up cars to arrive at the Miller's home between 2 and 3:30. Bring whatever you'd like to for saying good-bye: a big sign on the

passenger side of your car, giving a blast of your horn with kids waving as you drive by, a bottle of wine, cowbells, notes, cards, balloons that you can drop off in their front yard where they'll be waiting. You get the idea - be creative! We'll have directions for you to their home and will space cars out so we don't all drive by at the same time. You can carpool if you'd like to.

Please let the organizers listed below know if you'll be participating so we can send you further instructions as we get closer to the event. Please contact any of us if you have questions.

Susan Backer, Peg Wherry, Leona Poritz, Janet Lewis



## Reflect, Rejoice, Renew: PWR Regional Assembly 2022



So much is uncertain right now as we enter the 21st month of a worldwide pandemic. But two things remain certain: we need Unitarian Universalist community more than ever, and the Pacific Western Region of the UUA is having a Regional Assembly to bring us together.

PWR Regional Assembly is that inspirational, radically inclusive, beyond-the-congregation UU community we've missed. February 4-6, we can engage fully, wherever

we are. Whether onsite at the Hyatt along the bay in San Diego, or online in the comfort of our own homes, we will have opportunities for connection in small groups, inspirational worship, transformative learning, and just plain community fun. Join in the community at <https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/blog/ra-2022>.



## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP of BOZEMAN

### Staff

- **Minister:** Rev. Duffy Peet

Office Hours: Tue. 1:30-5:30 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.,  
also by appointment

- **Office Administrator:** Christy Huddleston

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- **Coordinator of Religious Exploration:** Beth Witte

Office Hours: Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – noon

- **Nursery Caregiver:** Christine Wilcox

- **Pianist:** Laurel Yost

- **Vocalist:** Erin Henke

### Contact us!

[uufbozeman.org/about-us/contact-us/](http://uufbozeman.org/about-us/contact-us/)

### 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](mailto: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 our Office Administrator requesting to join.

To unsubscribe: [uufb+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto: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](http://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.

### 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 Leader

- UU Humanist Group: Sara Williams, Contact