

JANUARY 2022

# UUFB NEWS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

## UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

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

### January 2, 2022 • "Intent vs. Impact: Resolutions for a New Year" • Guest Speaker: Rev. David A. Miller

Many of our actions in life are motivated by intentions. As January begins, it is a common practice to set intentions for the year ahead by making New Year's resolutions. But our intentions don't always result in the outcome we hope for or desire. Do we, should we, attend to the difference between our intentions and the impact our behavior actually has?

Rev. David A. Miller is the senior minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax Virginia. He is the congregation's lead minister and is responsible for the programs and staff related to worship, social justice, and stewardship. David was raised Jewish in the Skokie/Evanston area just north of Chicago. He has a B.S. degree in political science from the University of Utah and received his Master of Divinity degree from the Claremont School of Theology in 2008 with an emphasis in social transformation.

### January 9, 2022 • "Living with Intention by Honor Our Life's Purpose" • Rev. Duffy Peet

"A free and responsible search for truth and meaning" is the Fourth Principle of Unitarian Universalism. In the course of a search for truth and meaning it is quite probable that we will gain a sense of our life's purpose. As we gain clarity, we may discover that certain aspects of how we are living or what we are doing may not align with our life's purpose. A question may then arise. Will we decide to live with intention by honoring our life's purpose or will we continue to live in the way that is familiar to us?

### January 16, 2022 • "Considering MLK's Life of Intention" • Rev. Duffy Peet

Throughout human history there have been people whose lives, motivated by profound intention, have made such an impact that they are remembered and honored long after their death. Martin Luther King, Jr. was one such person. On this Sunday prior to the holiday that bears his name, we will consider the intention that propelled MLK to the forefront of leadership in the Civil Rights Movement.

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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

## **January 23, 2022 • "Insights from the 'Capability Approach' to Human Welfare for Living With Intention" • Lay Presenter: Andrea Hamre**

What is the measure of a good life, and a good society? In this time of reflection and resolution with the new calendar year, our guest presenter will draw connections between the evolution of the concept of human welfare and our living UU tradition. Development used to be measured by how much 'stuff' we have – but with the introduction of their 'capability approach', moral philosophers Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum expanded our understanding of wellbeing to include so much more – measures of health, happiness, education, political rights, and more. In creating a framework for understanding the multi-faceted nature of wellbeing, they centered the lived experience of substantive freedoms.

Dr. Andrea Hamre is a researcher at Montana State University who focuses on sustainable transportation policy and planning, and her dissertation focused on the theory of transport justice developed by Karel Martens, which was rooted in the 'capability approach'. In this presentation, she will share insights that the 'capability approach' to human welfare might offer for our resolution to live with intention in the new year and manifest the Principles we share as individuals and members of a greater local and global community.

## **January 30, 2022 • "Living with Intention Now, and Now..." • Rev. Duffy Peet**

The Buddha's life offers an example of living with intention. In particular, the story of his enlightenment demonstrates the way he dedicated his life to a definite and clear intention. Two important teachings of the Buddha include focusing one's attention and being fully present in each moment of now. How might practicing these two teachings affect our lives, and possibly our world, for the better?



## **January 2022 Events**

- 1/2 Sunday Service with Rev. David A. Miller
- 1/5 Gallatin Valley Interfaith Forum
- 1/9 Sunday Service with Rev. Duffy Peet
- 1/9 2nd Sunday Offering to AU
- 1/16 Sunday Service with Rev. Duffy Peet
- 1/23 Sunday Service with Andrea Hamre
- 1/23 Town Hall Meeting via Zoom
- 1/27 Fork & Spoon Volunteers Needed
- 1/30 Sunday Service with Rev. Duffy Peet
- 1/30 5th Sunday Offering TBD





# MINISTER MUSINGS

## REV. DUFFY PEET

It is common as one year ends and a new one begins for people to have hopes and dreams for the year ahead. As January begins, many people establish New Year's resolutions. The intention underlying such resolutions is to make changes for the better in some aspect or aspects of our lives in the year to come. Living with intention, which is our January theme for services and religious exploration this month, fits well with this practice of setting resolutions for the new year.

For numerous reasons, I have not made a practice through the course of my life of setting New Year's resolutions. This year, however, seems to be an exception. As I began preparing to write this article, I realized that I have a specific intention for 2022 that is important to me. With my time as your minister and my ministerial career coming to an end on June 30, I want to do all I can to have the final months of my ministry be the best they can be for me, for all of you, and for the larger community our Fellowship serves. As I consider that intention, it is clear to me that I can currently recognize only portions of what it might entail. It is clear to me because I can't possibly be aware of all that living into this intention will involve. Having such awareness would require my being able to know the future. I find being aware of the past and the present challenging enough. Knowing the future is beyond my capability.

I believe I can safely and accurately say that there will be significant challenges ahead. The time leading up to, during and after the ending of a relationship often involves challenges as our life changes. Whether the ending of the relationship is intentional, foreseeable and planned, or unintentional, unexpected and sudden, we have to find ways to address the loss that has occurred and come to terms with the changes that the end of the relationship presents. Dealing with a relationship ending is challenging even when life is going smoothly and well. That is certainly not the case now. For many months now, the continuing spread of the COVID virus has created a level of uncertainty and difficulty that is unprecedented in my lifetime.

So as I begin the last six months of my ministry here at UUFB as well as my ministerial career, I am thinking deeply and hard about my intention, my resolution if you will, for 2022. I know that in the coming months I will continue to give my best effort to the tasks of ministry. Doing the tasks of ministry, however, is considerably easier than sustaining or increasing the health of a relationship as its end approaches. And sustaining or increasing the health of a relationship as its end approaches is made significantly more difficult by the limitations created by the pandemic.

I share all of this with you because I want you to know that in my every action involving UUFB, and in my every interaction with members and friends of the Fellowship, my intention will be to have the ending of my relationship with you as your minister be the best it can possibly be. My intention is based on the hope that the benefits of my time as your minister will far outweigh the rough spots we have experienced together. And I am confident that by bringing an end to a relationship in a healthy manner creates fertile ground for healthy relationships to spring forth and flourish in the future. Healthy and vibrant relationships are what I wish for all of us in the year ahead.



# 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).

## Thank You - Gift Card Collection for Homeless Youth

Thank you to everyone who donated money, gift cards, and candy for youth that are homeless in Bozeman this winter. We collected 13 gift cards and many other items that were delivered to Anna Edwards, the Bozeman Schools Family-Schools Liaison, and gifted to high school youth that do not have permanent housing this year. Your generosity in supporting our local teens is deeply appreciated.

## Cookie Decorating, Cookie Exchange, and Solstice Celebration Events

There was much to celebrate in December as we wrapped up the year and started looking forward to 2022! Thanks to all who participated in the Cookie Decorating, Cookie Exchange, and Solstice Events. These were welcome opportunities to gather, connect, and enjoy the unexpectedly pleasant weather.



# BOARD REPORT

It feels good to get 2021 behind us and face a new year with new opportunities. The UUFB Board has been very active this past month, and we have a lot coming up quickly. Please remember that this is YOUR Board. We are here to serve the congregation, so keep letting us know your concerns and ideas. And we definitely appreciate the occasional compliment to keep us going.

## **Stewardship Campaign/Budget**

The Board set as key goals for 2022 to raise our minister to full-time and raising pay for hourly staff. A third goal is to improve safety in our building to better accommodate in-person activities. Concerns over the poor ventilation in the classroom and nursery are particularly important to address, since many children are still unable to get vaccinated. We are still considering options and expenses for these improvements.

At the time of this writing, our stewardship campaign reached 92% of our goal, which means that something will have to be dropped to stay within our resources. There isn't a lot of flex in these needs. We need to live up to our values by compensating staff fairly. And making the building safe for RE and in-person services is a priority. So the question becomes, will we raise the minister position to full time?

The Board voted to raise the minister position to full time to make our Fellowship attractive to capable candidates for minister searches. UUFB has grown over the years, and so have the responsibilities of our minister. In terms of our size and needs, we seem to be ready for a full time minister. Additional fundraising to meet this need seems in order.

## **Annual Meeting**

Notices for the Annual Meeting will be arriving by email and US mail soon to decide on our budget for 2022. As was done last year, the Annual Meeting will be held by a combination of a Town Hall by Zoom with a vote-by-mail using paper ballots. This Zoom/vote-by-mail approach will allow discussion and accommodate all members safely. Because of the lateness of the stewardship drive, the budget will be distributed by email following the Board's January 10, 2022 meeting.

The Town Hall meeting will provide opportunity for questions and a discussion on the budget, so members may make an informed vote. After the budget discussion is completed, the Zoom meeting will be open for other questions.

This is an interesting time for UUFB. With so little opportunity for in-person interaction, this Zoom meeting can fill the need to question and comment.

## **Minister Transition**

The Board appointed a team to perform the search for the interim minister. Following the UUA recommendation, we selected three Board members, and also added a representative from the Committee on Ministry (CoM). The Interim Minister Search Team includes Diane Knipfer from CoM, and Mary Maifeld, Neil Schwarzwald, and Peg Wherry from the Board. Updates from this team can be found in the newsletter and other communications, coming soon.

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# BOARD REPORT

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## **Covid Good News**

The Covid rate in Gallatin County has dropped by quite a lot. In fact, as of this writing the number of new cases has dropped below the threshold given in the Pandemic Protection Policy for allowing the building to be reopened for most uses.

The not-as-good news: The Covid numbers are fluctuating quite a lot, and the omicron variant is just reaching us. The Policy also specifies that the reduced level "requires data being stable or trending downwards, towards less risk." We will see if this trend continues.

## **In-Person Services**

In our December meeting, the Board decided to keep holding Sunday services through livestream only (not in-person) until the end of January. We have heard much feedback from members and friends who want to meeting in person for services. Most of this concern is about the feeling of isolation and disconnection that many of us are feeling after nearly 2 years of Covid restrictions and the need for reconnection. There is also concern that the health of the Fellowship will suffer, including our financial health. The Board shares all of these concerns.

Early in the pandemic, many churches chose to continue to meet in person, disregarding public health professionals' appeals for isolation. At that time, the major reason for churches wanting to remain open seemed to be worry over the financial health of their churches. Most churches rely heavily on plate donations, and these will obviously suffer if there are no in-person services. I think this was the wrong reason for churches to remain open, and would still be wrong for UUFB today.

The right reason for resuming in-person activities will be to serve the members and friends of UUFB. The isolation many of us fell has become unacceptable, and many of us are ready to meet in person, even if there remains a definite risk of infection. The question is, how do we do that as safely as possible and respecting everyone, including those who are not ready to meet in person?

In particular, members say again and again that we need families and children engaged in the Fellowship. Unfortunately, the one group which is still unable to be vaccinated are the youngest among us. None of us wants to expose children to greater risk, but events which exclude families with children are also very undesirable.

The Board is still working on this. One idea that's been raised as to have a "covid covenant" for members. If you want to join in-person activities, including services, you would be expected to honor this covenant, which might include getting vaccinated if eligible, wearing a mask, reducing your exposure to Covid so you don't expose others, and other provisions to help make in-person gatherings safer. This is still under discussion.

As always, your ideas and feedback are appreciated.

Neil Schwarzwaldner, UUFB Board President



# Minister Transition Update

This is the first of many updates for UUFB members and friends about the initial steps the Board has taken to initiate the search for a new minister. The Board met in a mini-retreat on November 20 to discuss the various steps necessary and start assigning some tasks.

Mary Maifeld will head the planning of a farewell for Rev. Duffy (volunteers welcome!). There has been discussion but no decision yet as to when to begin the search for a settled minister. The Board did vote to **proceed with the selection of an interim minister for one or two years**. That process will be coordinated with the UUA's Transitions Office in Boston; the official timetable begins in February, but we've started our work.

At its December Board meeting, the Board adopted the UUA's **covenant for congregations** searching for interim ministers. This is primarily an agreement to follow the established procedures, including appraisals, to be fair and equitable in the search and compensation, etc. That covenant included this statement, which answers a question some members have asked: "We agree to not to ask the interim to be a candidate for a congregation's settled position and understand that that the interim may not apply to a position with our congregation that starts within 3 years of their last day as interim minister."

The Board named a subset of its members (Neil Schwarzwald, Mary Maifeld, Peg Wherry) plus one person from the Committee on Ministry (Diane Knipfer) to be the Interim Minister Search committee. That group has already met several times and has begun assembling the necessary information about UUFB, Bozeman and Montana.

Further communication with the Fellowship about transition matters will come through the listserv (Google group), newsletter, and eventually a dedicated portion (perhaps with a blog) on our website, [uufbozeman.org](http://uufbozeman.org). There will be time for discussion at the Annual Meeting/Town Hall on January 23 and perhaps other interactive forums early in the New Year. A short online survey of members and friends will be conducted to gather basic demographic information; please watch for it and do respond. (Another, more in-depth survey will be conducted later as part of the search for a settled minister.)

**An interim minister's success with us depends on how clearly we understand and articulate our expectations**, and the early part of the Interim Search process will focus on that. The UUA sees interim ministry as a time for the congregation to take the steps to move on—from one settled minister to another, of course. But our goal for 2022–23 goal is not just "find a settled minister." Because ministry is shared by the congregation and the minister, the interim allows us to start envisioning our next shared ministry. And ministry is not just what happens on Sunday morning! Although UUFB is not necessarily "broken," we need to understand our goals for the interim beyond the need for a settled minister.

There is a lot of work ahead—for the Board and the search committee(s)—and for all our active members and friends as well. We need to hear from you, so start thinking about our near future and what role our next ministers will play. If you felt that our previous interim minister experience was not ideal, think about what can make the next one more successful.

There are uncertainties ahead, but this Fellowship has a habit of rising to meet them. We look forward to a year of engagement and commitment in 2022. Despite the limitations imposed by a pandemic, we are well-positioned for the coming transitions, thanks to you.

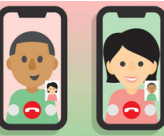
Peg Wherry, past president  
For the Interim Search Committee

# 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 January 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 five minutes after the service ends for a half-hour of socializing. The link will be sent out on the listserv.



## Gallatin Valley Interfaith Forum: "Scripture - What is It and How Does it Work?" - January 5

Gallatin Valley Interfaith Forum is an interfaith forum for the people of Gallatin Valley. 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 1/5 forum is titled "Scripture - What is It and How Does it Work?" with guest panelists Rachel Allen and Karen DeCotis. What are the authoritative texts in our traditions? How do they function? Regular panel participants include Rabbi Ed Stafman, Dr. Ruhul & Shadmani Amin, Rev. Leo Proxell, & Rev. Lindean Barnett Christenson.



## 2nd Sunday Offering to Americans United for Separation of Church and State - January 9

The Social Justice Action Committee (SJAC) has specified that the January 9, 2022 offering will go to the Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AU). 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 "AU" in the memo line. Mail your contributions to UUFb, 325 N. 25th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State is a nonpartisan educational and advocacy organization dedicated to advancing the separation of religion and government as the only way to ensure freedom of religion, including the right to believe or not believe, for all. For more details by visit: [au.org](http://au.org).

## TOWN HALL MEETING

## Town Hall Meeting - January 23

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held this year by a combination of a Town Hall meeting by Zoom and a vote-by-mail using paper ballots, as was done last year. A Town Hall meeting will be held by Zoom on Sunday, January 23, 2022, at 11:45 a.m. and the link will be sent out via the listserv. The budget will be presented and there will be opportunities for questions and discussion so that members may make an informed vote. All are welcome and encouraged to attend the Town Hall, though only members can vote. Paper ballots and proxies will be mailed to members in the next few weeks, to be completed and returned by US mail. To be counted, ballots must be postmarked by January 31. If you have questions, please contact Neil Schwarzwald.



# Upcoming Events

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**FORK & SPOON**  
HOMESTYLE KITCHEN

## Fork & Spoon Volunteers Needed - January 27

2-3 Volunteers from UUFB are needed at Fork & Spoon on Thursday, January 27th from 4:30-7:30 p.m. To sign up, send an email to [admin@uufbozeman.org](mailto:admin@uufbozeman.org) with your name and phone number. If you have questions about volunteering for Fork & Spoon, please contact Randy Babbitt.



## Climate Change 101 Films

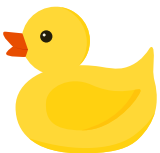
Are you interested in learning about Climate Change and what you can actually do to influence the future of our planet's health? Your Social Justice Action Committee recommends that everyone watch the 6 Climate Change 101 films as a start. Most of the units are 13-18 minutes long. Watch climate-solutions-101 by clicking on this link: <https://drawdown.org/climate-solutions-101>

The aim of this project is to come to positive action, so there will be hopeful information, not all gloom and doom. If enough people are interested, we could individually watch a unit and then Zoom together to discuss it as a UU community. Please contact Robyn at [robynkcl@gmail.com](mailto:robynkcl@gmail.com) if you would like to participate in a discussion Zoom group after the new year.

## 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.



# 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