

FEBRUARY 2022

# UUFB NEWS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

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

### **February 6, 2022 • "Universalism's Role in Widening the Circle" • Rev. Duffy Peet**

In the first half of the 3rd century CE a line of theological thought emerged that eventually led to the word "universalism" being connected to a branch of the Christian faith tradition. That theological thought dramatically expanded the number of people who were considered to be loved and accepted by God. Over the centuries Universalism has continued to widen the circle of inclusion in other areas. How does our Universalist faith tradition call us to widen the circle of inclusion today?

### **February 13, 2022 • "Side with Love" • UU Leaders**

Side With Love is a worship service featuring stirring music, deep-hearted reflection, and moving testimonies from a range of UU leaders.

### **February 20, 2022 • "Admired but Flawed: A UU Look at U.S. Presidents" • UUFB Members**

What purpose does President's Day serve? On this Sunday, members of our fellowship will talk about some of our past Presidents through the lens of "Widening the Circle". In what ways have some of these men moved our country toward being more inclusive and more diverse? And while we can laud some of their accomplishments, we will acknowledge that these men were flawed, vulnerable and human.

### **February 27, 2022 • "Gracious Space in a Divided Country" • Lay Presenter: Peg Wherry**

"Gracious Space" is a spirit and a setting where we invite the stranger and embrace learning in public. Put that way, it sounds simple, but the concepts are hard to live out, especially in our polarized, contested, and difficult times. Gracious space can be an individual spiritual practice, or it may—just maybe—provide a way to start lowering the temperature and bridging differences.



## 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





# MINISTER MUSINGS

## REV. DUFFY PEET

The 2022 pledge drive is now complete with a total amount pledged at just over \$195,000. That is the highest pledge amount in UUFB's 60+ year history. That total is quite an accomplishment. What makes it even more amazing is that it has occurred in the midst of a pandemic when we haven't been able to meet in person for most of the past 22 months. Along with the amount pledged, the number of pledge units was noteworthy as well. This year we had just under 100 pledge units, which was more than last year and second only to 2019 when we passed the 100 mark for the first time. These numbers indicate that the members and friends of UUFB are committed to this Fellowship through good times and hard times, and are incredibly generous. It is common to use the words "thank you" to express gratitude and appreciation. In this situation, the expression "thank you" seems quite inadequate. You are an amazing group of people and I want you to know that I feel privileged to be your minister.

On Sunday, January 23, I attended the UUFB town hall meeting on Zoom where the 2022 budget was presented and discussed. About 45 people attended the meeting. A number of questions were asked and most of them were answered. I appreciated the interest and involvement of those who attended in looking at the financial spreadsheets that had been sent out. While I recognize that UU's in general tend to be avid readers, reading spreadsheets isn't high on most people's "favorite things to read" list. Thank you for taking the time to review the spreadsheets and to inquire about issues or items you found confusing or unsettling.

The next step in the Annual Meeting process is voting on the budget. In order to be counted, all ballots will need to have been mailed or delivered to the Fellowship prior to the time this article comes out in the newsletter. As Unitarian Universalists, we place a high value on the democratic method. We value it so highly that it is included in the Fifth of our Seven Principles. We believe that providing people with opportunities to participate in the decision making process is an important and very beneficial endeavor.

Sadly, there is currently a movement in the State of Montana as well as other states in the U.S to restrict people's ability to vote in public elections. As I stated in my sermon on January 16th, four such laws were passed and signed by the Governor during the last Montana legislative session. These laws will make it more difficult for some people to vote. Those who are most likely to be impacted include people of color and those who are physically and/or financially challenged. Those who voted for these laws claim that they will make our elections more secure. In reality, security was not an issue prior to these laws being written and enacted. That makes the stated intention behind these laws suspect. When we consider the impact of these laws it is apparent that certain people will have significantly more difficulty casting a ballot than others. And it is clear that a high proportion of those who will have difficulty casting a ballot will be Native Americans and other people of color. The question then becomes what is meant by "secure" elections. It would seem that just as was the case with "Jim Crow" laws in the South during the last century, Montana is taking steps to limit the ability of a specific portion of our citizens, those who are native to this land, to vote. As a faith tradition that values the democratic process, we have work to do to correct the social injustice created by these laws.

# 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).

## Join Us for Kindness Conversation - Sunday, February 13th at 1 p.m.

This month's theme is Widening the Circle and in RE we are focused on kindness to ourselves and others. I'd like to offer an opportunity for us to gather online and invite you to participate in an intergenerational conversation on kindness.

**All ages are welcome. We will meet Sunday, February 13th at 1 p.m. on Zoom.** I will have a reading to get us started and depending on how many people join, we'll discuss in a large group or in breakout rooms.

Review the **kindness calendar**. Our goal is to do a few (or many) acts of kindness before our conversation and then discuss how it felt and what we noticed.

### Some questions to ponder before our meeting:

- What's the kindest thing someone has done for you?
- How do you feel when you are kind to someone else?
- Is it easier to be kind in some situations than others?
- Can an action be kind to one person and unkind to another?

Watch the listserv or email Beth for the Zoom link to attend!

## Kindness Calendar

*"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted"*  
- Aseop

<b>M</b> Give a friend a complement	<b>T</b> Send a card or package to someone brave	<b>W</b> Donate a book to the library	<b>Th</b> Leave a happy note for a stranger to find	<b>F</b> Make someone laugh
<b>M</b> Thank someone for their service	<b>T</b> Do a favor for a neighbor	<b>W</b> Share with someone what gives you hope	<b>Th</b> Find something in your house you can give away	<b>F</b> Donate to the local food bank
<b>M</b> Make some treats for someone you appreciate	<b>T</b> Volunteer in the community	<b>W</b> Do something nice for yourself	<b>Th</b> Give a gift to the earth. (Pick up trash or walk instead of drive)	<b>F</b> Write a letter to an official about something you care about
<b>M</b> Call a family member you haven't seen in awhile	<b>T</b> Give someone a hug	<b>W</b> Feed the birds or send love to a pet	<b>Th</b> Write a thank you note	<b>F</b> Introduce yourself to someone new



# February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 •12:00 Gallatin Valley Interfaith Forum: "Religion and Ethnicity"	3 •Last day to fill out Interim Minister Search Survey	4	5
6 •10:00 service with Rev. Duffy	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 •10:00 service "Side with Love" •2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Offering to Family Promise •11:45 Program Council •1:00 Kindness Conversation	14	15	16	17	18	19 •9:00-4:00 Refugee Welcome Kit donations due at Pilgrim
20 •10:00 service with UUFB Members	21	22 •4:30 Fork & Spoon Volunteers Needed	23	24	25	26
27 •10:00 service with lay presenter Peg Wherry	28 •Y'UU'R 7 Principles in Practice Slide Show – 1st principle photos due					

## February 2022 Events

- 2/2 Gallatin Valley Interfaith Forum
- 2/3 Last day to submit Interim Minister Search survey
- 2/6 Sunday Service with Rev. Duffy Peet
- 2/13 Sunday Service "Side with Love"
- 2/13 2nd Sunday to Family Promise
- 2/13 Program Council
- 2/13 Kindness Conversation
- 2/19 Refugee Welcome Kit donations due at Pigrim
- 2/20 Sunday Service with UUFB Members
- 2/22 Fork & Spoon volunteers needed
- 2/27 Sunday Service with lay presenter Peg Wherry
- 2/28 1st principle photos due

# BOARD REPORT

**2022 Budget** – The Board has been consumed the past month with discussions of the budget. Our Treasurer Janine Roberts, Finance Committee chair Bruce DePriester, and committee members Paula Milano-Nielsen and Sharon DePriester have done wonderful service in preparing and sending the budget for review. There have been several rounds of revision, largely devoted to addressing budget shortfalls. We were quite pleased with end-of-year additions to the stewardship drive which allowed more flexibility in the budget and added significantly to our confidence that we can achieve our goals in 2022.

The January Annual Meeting was announced early in the month as a combination of a Town Hall by Zoom and voting on the budget by mail. Ballots are to be postmarked by January 31, and results will be announced early in February.

**Town Hall** – I want to thank everyone for the great questions during our Town Hall on January 23. I also am impressed that so many of us have learned to use Zoom functionality so well, raising our hands electronically and typing in the chat box. By the time the pandemic has eased up, we might all be Zoom experts.

**Pandemic** – Aside from the budget, the most important action coming from the Board was the decision to remain closed for in-person services until Gallatin County Covid numbers come down to the level given in our Pandemic Protection Policy. That is no more than 25 new cases per day per 100k population. We are currently a long way from that point, although the Omicron spike gives signs of subsiding.

**February Board Meeting** – One of my personal goals when I took the job of Board President, was to prepare Board agendas and distribute them to the congregation earlier than had been the custom. The congregation should be aware of what the Board is doing, of what activities are to be planned and discussed, and you should have a heads up on topics you might want to sit in on.

Many of you know that Board meetings are open to the congregation. Anyone who wants to attend a Board meeting can do so as an observer, with the opportunity to speak (within boundaries so we can complete the work). Simply let me know if you plan to attend and I can provide Zoom instructions.

With all that's been going on in 2021 and the new year, putting together agendas has unfortunately been a last-minute exercise. While I don't have a definitive agenda, I can tell you that the topics below are tentatively planned for our February 14 meeting. This is, of course, subject to change, as is everything in this wonderful new year of 2022.

- Establish a task force for a Planned Giving program
- Evaluate board goals 2021-22
- Flag policy
- Building security policy (door and security system codes)
- Pandemic issues – in-person services and building uses

Yours in Fellowship,  
Neil Schwarzwald, UUFB Board President



# Y'UU'R 7 Principles in Practice Slideshow

Welcome to a new year and a congregational photo collection. Our fellowship has not been together in person over the past year and we continue to live out our principles in our lives. We'd like to assemble a photo show of how you incorporate each principle in your life on a daily basis. Where do you see examples of the principle playing out in our community, your family, or in our world? Take a photo of that moment and send it to Rene K. (contact the Office Admin at [admin@uufbozeman.org](mailto:admin@uufbozeman.org) for her email address). The photos will be collected and made into a slideshow to be shared.

Let's begin February with our first principle! How does this principle resonate in your life? Start looking around – the photo can be abstract or realistic. It's your interpretation.

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. We live out these Principles within a "living tradition" of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

As Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove explains, "The Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in Unitarian Universalist religious communities."

- **February - 1st Principle:** The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- **March - 2nd Principle:** Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- **April - 3rd Principle:** Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- **May - 4th Principle:** A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- **June - 5th Principle:** The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- **July - 6th Principle:** The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- **August - 7th Principle:** Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are part.



This is a way to share our thoughts, actions, and values! Start taking pictures!

Looking forward to your photos: Social Activities Committee, Rene K. & Leona P.



# Help Out! with Refugee Welcome Kits!

**This February**, Gallatin Refugee Connections, in cooperation with Soft Landing Missoula and International Rescue Committee, Missoula (IRC Missoula), is sponsoring a collection drive to help refugee families start their new lives in Missoula.

**Most refugees arrive with next to nothing**—sometimes just the clothes on their backs. Soft Landing and IRC give them a start, and we mean to help! We are collecting household goods to set up newly-arrived families. These items will help get them started in their new lives and speed their integration into the community.

**You can help!** Team up with friends to donate an entire room kit, or just donate an item or two. (Pick a shopping list!) All donations are tax deductible.

**On Saturday, February 19, 2022** volunteers will meet at Pilgrim Church to assemble kits. Drop off your donations at Pilgrim (2118 S. 3rd, Bozeman) 9am-4pm Feb. 19 or BEFORE that date at collection points around the valley—see list at [gallatinrefugeeconnections.org/collection-points](https://gallatinrefugeeconnections.org/collection-points)

If your church or organization is not a collection point, contact us to find out how to become one. For more info visit Gallatin Refugee Connections at [gallatinrefugeeconnections.org](https://gallatinrefugeeconnections.org) or Facebook or call (406) 209-0971.



**KIT PACKING DAY IS  
FEBRUARY 19, 2022**

or earlier, at collection points around the area: See the collection point list at [gallatinrefugeeconnections.org/collection-points](https://gallatinrefugeeconnections.org/collection-points)

## How to Create a Welcome Kit

- 1 Select a welcome kit checklist or print one from [gallatinrefugeeconnections.org/kit-lists](https://gallatinrefugeeconnections.org/kit-lists)
- 2 Place items in a CLEAR plastic tub that can close (except oversized items. Just set them on top).
- 3 Label the top and sides of the container with the Welcome Kit Checklist, checking off items enclosed. **Please DO NOT tape the tub closed.**
- 4 Please purchase **NEW ITEMS** unless indicated. (If the kit list indicates that used items are OK, please be sure they are CLEAN, and only GENTLY used.)
- 5 We also encourage you to include a hand-written, unsealed note welcoming the family.

or Donate  
Online at



[gallatinrefugeeconnections.org/donate](https://gallatinrefugeeconnections.org/donate)

Thank you

for welcoming a family  
to a new life in Montana!

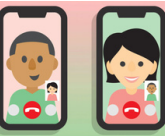


# Upcoming Events



## 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. 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: "Religion and Ethnicity" – February 2

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 2/2 forum is titled "Religion and Ethnicity" with guest panelist Sally Loble. What are the particularities of ethnicity in each of our traditions? 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.



## Interim Minister Search Survey – Complete by February 3

UUFb members and friends are invited to complete a survey to help with the interim minister search. This survey will provide us with data to describe the congregation to potential minister candidates and develop criteria for the search. There are also a few questions concerning attitudes about the pandemic and our comfort level in meeting in person. The survey is anonymous. An invitation and reminders have been sent to the listserv. Please complete the survey by this Thursday, February 3.



## 2nd Sunday Offering to Family Promise of Gallatin Valley – February 13

The Social Justice Action Committee (SJAC) has specified that the February 13th offering will go to Family Promise of Gallatin Valley. 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 "Family Promise" in the memo line. Mail your contributions to UUFb, 325 N. 25th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

Family Promise of Gallatin Valley in Montana is a non-profit organization working with our community to develop comprehensive, holistic solutions for families facing homelessness. They provide prevention services before families reach crisis, shelter, and case management when they become homeless, and stabilization programs once they have secured housing to ensure they remain independent.



# Upcoming Events

continued...



## Program Council – February 13

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



## Fork & Spoon Volunteers Needed - February 22

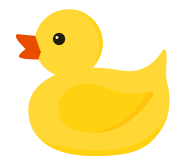
2-3 Volunteers from UUFb are needed at Fork & Spoon on Tuesday, February 22nd from 4:30-7:30 p.m. To sign up, send an email to [admin@uufbozeman.org](mailto:admin@uufbozeman.org) with your name and phone number. If you have questions about volunteering for Fork & Spoon, please contact Randy Babbitt.



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



## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 2022

General Assembly 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. That remains true even when we cannot gather physically. In 2021, GA had more than 4,000 registered attendees participate from remote locations around the world. Although we give up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in-person, we retain our dedication to community and make our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable.

In 2022, we will have the option of meeting online or in-person! Join us June 22 - 26, 2022 online or in-person in Portland, Oregon! For more details visit [uua.org/ga](http://uua.org/ga).



## 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