

UUFB

# Annual Report

2022-2023 Program Year



UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
FELLOWSHIP  
*of* BOZEMAN

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# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

## Annual Report: 2022-2023 Program Year

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# Minister's Annual Report

May 19, 2023

This first year of Interim Ministry has flown by as UUFB has flourished during the reopening of in-person services and continuing to add on ministries, affinity groups, and other programming. My contract for a second year of Interim Ministry was signed in April, which formalized my staying through June of 2024. I am thrilled to serve a second year with you, as you are such a dedicated congregation who care deeply for one another and the welfare of the community at large.

Time here has been a balancing act between regular parish ministry and the work of an Interim Minister. Parish ministry goals have included: preaching, providing pastoral care, community outreach, tending social justice, supporting staff, and offering adult religious education. Interim Ministry goals have steered toward aiding congregational/ leadership discernment regarding: what programming and community outreach to add during this reopening year, whether small changes in governance were needed, and looking at successful Fellowship life as being much more than Sunday morning attendance.

Worship. On average, I have preached 2.5 Sundays a month and facilitated the additional services of Christmas Eve and Day of the Dead. It is a joy to work with such a dedicated, creative, and thoughtful Sunday Services Committee. Laurel Yost continues to uphold us with wonderful music. In planning services and sermons, I try to shift between themes of community and self-care; racial, social and eco justice; and Unitarian Universalism. One service provided history and inspiration for the potential changes to the UUA Article Two Bylaws, and another service highlighted whether the congregation should consider Renewal of their Welcoming Congregation status. Three of the services have been intergenerational. As we are together in an Interim Ministry time, some Sunday worship has focused on all of the changes happening over the past year. What a joy to return to being together in person, but also concern for the needs of those who have not come back through our doors on a Sunday morning.

Pastoral Care. The Caring Team at UUFB is very active in touching base with people about physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Sometimes a pastoral care need comes to my attention first, but other times to a team member first. As we share responsibility for this ministry, information quickly passed on to one another to help ensure needs are met. As some members of UUFB have not returned to in-person attendance, over the past year, I have seen many congregants in their homes. When there was a need for a monthly Grief Group, I started one in December of 2022. Over time attendance at the group has waned and we are taking a break over the summer and will reassess needs in the fall. Some of our members and friends, and the Fellowship as a whole have experienced significant, deep losses over the past year. There have been four memorial services in the past nine months. It has been a deep privilege for me to serve as their and your minister during that time. You have been present to support one another.

Transition Team. The Transition Team has met at least monthly, and often twice a month, to assess the need for changes, changes that can hopefully begin occurring before the arrival of the next called minister. As the Team is submitting its own report, I will only comment briefly. The team has been a continual think tank of what is working well and what needs fine tuning, rebuilding, or is yet to be created. I wish to thank Dave, Diane, Linda, Peg and Cami for their constant support of my Interim Ministry and their thoughtfulness in meeting the needs of the entire congregation. The workshop we gave on May 7<sup>th</sup> added to the depth of our knowledge and I appreciate all of you who attended or provided feedback before and after the event. As the Team regroups for the next year, we will be designing how to put ideas into action. We need your help with the implementation of the suggestions gathered – stay tuned!

Staff. As most of you are aware, we have incredibly competent, pleasant, caring, and hard-working staff. This year we added Faila Bianchini to our Children's Religious Exploration staff. We have communicated well, although not flawlessly, about what has been needed during the re-opening of in-person services, meetings, and affinity groups. Christy is always intentional, caring, and efficient. Beth continues in her dedication to our families. Faila and Christine's loving hands provide nurturing experiences for our children. And I will share that a good sense of humor appears to be enjoyed by all of us. It would be lovely to have the staff feel more of a team, but this is difficult given that they are in the building on different days. Nevertheless, I notice staff taking delight in observing how so many contributions come together for amazing programming, care, and worship.

Outreach. This past year I have been attending the Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association (GVIA) monthly meetings and joined in their efforts of creating a public statement of support for the transgender members of our Bozeman community. I also serve as a Board member, Interfaith Power & Light (MIPL). Participation with both of these groups helps me remain aware social justice efforts by other churches/mosque/Dharma Center in an effort to identify where effective partnerships might be created. Five members of UUFB joined MIPL, traveling and participating together in Climate Action Day at the State Legislature. At Cami Armijo-Grover's invitation, I met with leaders from the MSU Queer Straight Alliance to hear how UUFB can support LGBTQ people in the community at large. Attended Transgender Visibility Day at the State Capitol. With the LRE Committee, promoted UUFB participation in the Pride Stroll. Spoke at a Bridger Care Peer Support training group. After regularly attending Bozeman Tenants United semi-monthly meetings, I invited BTU leadership to speak at a UUFB Sunday service.

Conclusion. There was relief and joy on all sides when the Board and I signed a new contract for me to serve as your minister in the 2023-24 programming year. Week after week I experience your deep care for one another and celebration of how Unitarian Universalist values are made present in your lives. Not only do you serve UUFB in varied ways, but also the community at large – making our world a better place. Blessed be.

## Board of Directors Report

As there was no annual report prepared covering 2021-2022, this summary includes notes from two program years.

### **Board Members 2021-2022**

Neil Schwarzwaldner – President

Jeanne Moe – Vice President

Peg Wherry – Past President

Sally Russell – Secretary

Janine Roberts – Treasurer

Valley Peters – Member-At-Large

Mary Maifeld – Member-At-Large

### **Board Members 2022-2023**

Neil Schwarzwaldner – President

Jeanne Moe – Vice President

Richard Young – Past President

Rose Toth – Secretary

Bruce DePriester – Treasurer

Valley Peters – Member-At-Large

Mary Maifeld – Member-At-Large

**2021-22.** The Board developed goals for the coming program year in our August retreat and set processes for our work. Our goals focused on maintaining our community in the midst of the continuing pandemic: supporting caring and connection, continuing justice and antiracism activities, and maintaining the organization through volunteer and financial support.

It was inevitable that closing for in-person services would have a negative effect on UUFB's membership and finances. Back in late 2019, high attendance prompted plans for adding a second Sunday service. The RE staff also expressed concerns about space limitations, especially the difficulty of having children of a wide range of ages together in the Large Classroom. With the pandemic, talk of growth was replaced with concerns for maintaining community.

We instead focused on livestreaming services and holding meetings on-line. We were saddened to lose members and friends through relocation and deaths. We saw a few new faces gained through livestreaming, but these did not match our losses in numbers.

Recognizing the financial pinch experienced by many members and friends, the Board set a pledge goal for 2022 with a modest increase. The congregation responded positively, and the goal was nearly reached. Our financial situation for the following budget year was quite positive considering the challenges.

After reopening for in-person services in June 2021, rising rates of infection compelled the Board to cancel again in August, reverting to live streaming services followed by social time via Zoom. Fortunately, we were able to hold one last in-person service and retreat for the year at Bozeman Pond in September, boosting our spirits and strengthening our connections.

The Board developed a policy to address the pandemic based on Gallatin County data on infections and hospitalizations. This was approved in October 2021 and helped guide decisions on when to reopen the building. The Board also developed a Covid Covenant to guide personal decisions by the congregation, mostly to encourage respect for the concerns of each individual on masking and distancing. This covenant was shared by email and posted in the building when in-person services were ultimately renewed.

The Board approved purchase of air filtration units in February 2022 to offer protection against infection, with the longer-term benefit of cleaning our air of smoke from wildfires. After soliciting feedback on attitudes and

concerns, the Board voted to open the building for in-person services in March 2022. Restrictions on singing and food and drink were eased as the pandemic receded and the “new normal” became familiar.

Another great challenge arose in September 2021, when Rev. Duffy Peet announced his plan to retire in June 2022. His early notice gave us an opportunity to prepare for the coming search for an interim minister. Following UUA practice, the Board appointed an Interim Minister Search Committee which got busy assessing the Fellowship’s needs and preparing the information needed.

A major Board decision was to use the change of minister as an opportunity to move our minister position to full time to meet our growing needs. This move allowed UUFB a better opportunity to attract a capable minister able to serve our Fellowship for many years. At our June 2021 Fellowship Meeting, the congregation decided to pursue a two-year transition to a settled minister rather than fast tracking in one year.

**2022-23.** Acting on the Interim Search Committee’s recommendation, the new Board extended an offer to Rev. Margo Reinhart to a one-year contract as our interim minister with an option to renew. She accepted and began her work with UUFB in August 2022. Rev. Margo has become a stimulating spirit in UUFB, helping to bring back our energy and rebuilding connections. In late spring of 2023, the Board gladly renewed her contract for a second year.

The Pledge goal set by the Board for 2023-24 was considerably higher than the previous year, reflecting the decision to seek a full-time minister and to compensate UUFB staff in line with our values. We fell a bit short of this goal but were able to adjust the 2022 budget to meet urgent needs. Again, UUFB has remained financially sound during this time of challenges.

Due to concerns of financial shortfall, the Board decided to make 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offerings potentially available for UUFB programs. Under this revised policy, the April 30 offering was collected to reimburse members and friends who decided to attend the UUA General Assembly. Other 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offerings this year have so far been delegated to SJAC for emergency program donations under previous practice.

The Board solicited nominations from members and friends for the Settled Minister Search Committee and identified five willing members with the needed perspectives, time, and talents. The Fellowship approved this committee in the June 4, 2023, meeting.

Other notable decisions from the Board include,

- Approving a proposal for funding facilitator training for the *Our Whole Lives* (OWL) sexuality education program, recognizing its heightened value with the current attacks on reproductive rights.
- Making masking optional in the building, except for a designated “masking only section” in the sanctuary.
- Authorizing the Legacy Giving Task Force and approving its proposal to strengthen the long-term financial security of UUFB.
- Opening the building to more uses by members and friends, but we delayed allowing rentals by outside groups that lack a UUFB connection.

Neil Schwarzwaldner  
President Board of Directors

# Building and Grounds Committee

## Members

- Tonya Stevens
- Mike Clark
- Randy Babbitt
- Joy LaClaire

## Mission

This committee is responsible for general building and grounds upkeep, repairs, and additions.

## Activities/Accomplishments

- KITCHEN: Rene K. went through and cleared out some items/dishes in the kitchen cabinets.
- MOWING: Above Ground was hired as the new mowing company in May 2023.
- SHED UPDATE: The new shed was installed in 2021.
- BULLETIN BOARD: Neil Schwarzwald built a new 4-sided bulletin board during Covid. 2 sides contain community information, 1 side for volunteers, and 1 side for upcoming UUFB events.
- LIVESTREAM: Carsyn O. stepped down from livestream volunteering and Kitty D. stepped up. Each Sunday livestream is run by one of our 3 volunteers: Anna J., Joy L., Kitty D. Mike worked with Poindexters to troubleshoot the buzzing sound we were getting on the livestream and new equipment was installed and to fix the issue.
- AIR PURIFIERS: The Board recently decided that having the Office Admin turn on the air purifiers before she leaves on Friday for the Sunday Service was not needed. Instead, a member will turn the air purifiers on for the services only and turn them off after. Other groups may turn the air purifiers on/off as needed.
- LANDSCAPING: Joy LaClaire continues to plant, monitor, and water our outdoor and indoor plants.
- RENTALS: The Board opened rentals to UUFB committees and groups affiliated with UUFB members. Bozeman Tenants United (BTU) in conjunction with Bill G. and SJAC uses UUFB weekly on Sunday for their meetings.

**Report submitted by Christy H.**

# Caring Committee

## Members

- Mary Maifeld – Chair
- Bill Goold
- Marie Lynn
- Rev. Margo Rinehart, ex-officio

## Mission

The Caring Committee works in close coordination with the minister to respond to pastoral needs in times of grief and loss, illness, changes in relationship or employment and other transitions. Among its activities, the committee:

1. Visits the ill.
2. Sends cards and prayer flags.
3. Maintains supportive contact with those who are unable to attend services.
4. Arranges for meals and/or transportation as necessary
5. Functions as the clearinghouse of community assistance resources.
6. May coordinate support groups if needed.
7. Responds to any other requests for help on an ad hoc basis.

## Activities/Accomplishments

- The Caring Committee with help from Rene K. gave out cards, cookies, and/or easy to make soup for some members in fall 2022.
- The Caring Committee updated their brochure.

## Recommendations for Next Program Year

Additional members need to be added to the group.

**Report submitted by Christy H.**



# Finance Committee

## Committee Members

- Bruce DePriester – Chair
- Peg Wherry
- Janine Roberts
- Paula Milano Nielsen
- Sharon DePriester
- Neil Schwarzwald
- David Andes

## Committee's Mission

The UUFB Finance Committee assists the UUFB Board in managing the financial resources of the Fellowship and overseeing the general financial health of the congregation. Working with the Office Administrator in the preparation and review of monthly financial reports, the annual Budget and reviewing UUFB's financial health with the Board at least twice annually. The committee also makes recommendations to the UUFB Board on key financial issues and policies including internal controls.

## Activities/Accomplishments

1. The Finance Committee has solidified UUFB's financial position with prudent monitoring of expenditures and managing resources to enable establishment of significant reserves set aside for future needs.
2. The Finance Committee works with the UUFB Investment Committee in managing the Fellowship's assets and investments.
3. The Finance Committee meets monthly if necessary but at a minimum meets quarterly to ensure sufficient oversight for UUFB's financial assets.
4. At the Finance Committee's suggestion, UUFB purchased \$45,000 in 4 month CDs at an interest rate of 4% in May, 2023. The committee will continue to examine opportunities to use cash assets to yield interest income when beneficial interest rates are present.

## 2023/24 Plans

1. Continue to monitor monthly financials and to assist in the preparation of the annual budget.
2. Continue to search for additional committee members to plan for the future.

**Report Submitted by Bruce DePriester**

**May 24, 2023**

# Fundraising

## Team Members

- Cathy Cooper
- Janet Lewis
- Leona Poritz
- Tonya Stevens
- Jan Young & many volunteers

## Activities/Accomplishments

A group of interested folks got together in the Fall 2022 and brainstormed fundraising ideas. Book sales, bake sales, a Treasure Sale and bingo parties were the events that occurred during the 2022-2023 year. Each event was chaired by a different person. The combined bake/book sale are very popular and there will be a third sale in June 2023.

Fundraisers were:

Book/bake sales (2x)	\$1,484.25
Ongoing used book sales	\$366.00
Bingo nights (2x)	\$255.00
Treasure Sale	\$922.00

These events are community building, engaging events.

## Recommendation for next fiscal year:

Historically, our biggest fundraiser which requires many volunteer hours is the Arts/Services Auction. I suggest that a Chairperson or two be identified in September to spearhead this event which has been very successful and profitable.

## Report Submitted by Leona Poritz

May 23, 2023

## Governance & Leadership Committee

### **Committee Members**

- Susan Backer
- Larry Carucci
- Jack Fisher, Chair
- Bill Goold
- Ex Officio: Rev. Margo Rinehart

### **Committee's Mission**

The G&L Committee's mission is to identify, recruit and propose candidates for vacant Board positions, and to provide leadership training for Board, committees, task forces and other volunteers as needed. The Committee may also complete other tasks related to governance and leadership at the request of the Board.

### **Activities/Accomplishments**

In the 2022-23 Fellowship year, the G&L Committee:

- Assisted the Board with candidates for Vice-President, At-Large Board members and Stewardship Chair
- Began the process of identifying and recruiting additional members for the G&L Committee

### **Recommendations for Next Program Year**

- Continue efforts to identify Board members

**Report submitted by Christy H.**

# Hospitality & Membership Committee

Members:

- Robyn Lauster – left committee in April 2023
- Darla Timmons
- Jeanie Badenoch
- Tonya Stevens

## **H&M Mission**

We welcome and help orient members, friends, and guests. We connect with newcomers and guide them on a path to membership if they so choose. We keep tabs on membership numbers.

## **Activities and Accomplishments**

Attendance: It was with great happiness that we resumed attendance in-person in March of 2022. We saw our initial attendance at around 35 folks per Sunday. As the population at large became more vaccinated and the Covid-19 virus became less virulent, our numbers have grown to an average of 55. We have had many Sundays during which we have seen over 60 attendees, but our numbers are much smaller than the average of 80+ attendance prior to the pandemic. We usually have around 10 viewers of our online services as we stream and many more views later in the week. We received 16 official Guest cards this program year from new attendees who wanted more information.

The Hospitality and Membership Committee shrunk in 2022-23. We said goodbye to longtime member Robyn Lauster in April. Health issues and house issues for the remaining members prevented the committee from being fully engaged this past program year.

We held our first Fall Orientation since 2019 with 4 participants and new interim minister, Rev. Margo. One of these participants became a member.

## **Keeping In Touch**

Linda Clark helped us complete our annual drive to connect with friends and members. Christy keeps our Directory database constantly up to date in the software Breeze. Our membership number has dropped to 110. We sustained loss due to deaths and moves out of town this past year in addition to those who have decided to no longer be active at the Fellowship. We maintain several members who make limited appearances in-person due to health concerns.

## **Miscellaneous:**

We are officially out of coffee-making duties! Linda Clark helped us form coffee teams who have successfully taken over the job.

We moved the name tags to a more useful location in the north hallway by the bookshelves.

## **Recommendations:**

We would welcome more members to the committee. They can help us with our renewed resolve to hold more and better Orientation sessions this fall. We hope to publish a picture Directory sometime this fall as well. As a result of our breakout sessions with the Transition Team, we have decided to develop a mentoring program for new attendees.

Submitted by Tonya Stevens

## Lifespan Religious Exploration Committee

### Mission

The Lifespan Religious Exploration Committee is dedicated to providing learning opportunities for all ages, both structured and non-structured, within an inquiring religious community. These opportunities are designed to foster spiritual growth while developing and strengthening healthy values in a safe, nurturing environment. created 2/27/17 - revised 10/3/18

### Committee Members

- Heather Watson – Chair
- Cami Armijo-Grover
- Beth Witte ex officio - RE Staff
- Neil Schwarzwald ex-officio - Board President
- Rev. Margo Rinehart ex-officio - Minister

### 2023 Activities and Accomplishments

**LRE - Children's Programming:** This past year, LRE found itself still shaking off the Covid cobwebs as we reopened LRE (but not nursery care). Over the year we have experimented with a variety of activities to bring our young families back to UU and have settled on a formula of scheduling one family/kid-friendly activity to coincide with Sunday service each month. These days often see triple or even quadruple the attendance of other Sundays. We submitted a Chalice Lighter grant to help support this. We also hired Faila again after a COVID hiatus. This allows RE staff to have more flexibility with scheduling and sick days.

**Adult Religious Education:** The LREC committee is still working to organize (or see how it can best support other committees) in the task of Adult RE. That said, we saw the running of a Connection and Meaning group this spring and a book club to discuss Caste last fall.

**Our Whole Lives (OWL):** We have been working extra hard to get OWL up and running as most of our trained volunteers have moved on. We currently have 2 trained facilitators ready to offer classes and have collected over \$4,000 in special offerings to support additional training. We are collecting names of interested families and will begin offering OWL programming once we meet a critical mass of participants.

**Family Game Nights:** Neil has been coordinating and hosting family game nights on the third Friday of the month. Simple dinners have been provided and attendance has been steadily increasing.

Month	Special Activities	RE Attendance for month
June 2022	Rev. Duffy & Sandy's going away party	2
July 2022	N/A	11
August 2022	Beth W. & Cami A. got OWL training	11
September 2022	Parent Meet & Greet after service, Welcoming Children Blessing Neil started game nights Family UUF B Postering effort	26
October 2022	OWL Parent meeting and Service Crop Walk kids play at service Pumpkin Carving Event	19

<b>November 2022</b>	Caste Adult Book Club	<b>24</b>
<b>December 2022</b>	Cookies and Community Event Youth Solstice Event	<b>26</b>
<b>January 2023</b>	OWL Second Sunday offering	<b>16</b>
<b>February 2023</b>	Soup and Bread Secret Valentines Connection & Meaning adult group	<b>24</b>
<b>March 2023</b>	Books & Bingo Family Event	<b>20</b>
<b>April 2023</b>	Egg Hunt	<b>27</b>
<b>May 2023</b>	All Ages Bowling Party Flower Service w/kids Pride Stroll	<b>31</b>

### **Recommendations for Next Program Year**

The LREC committee has its eyes on the following goals for next year:

1. Increase interested in the *Our Whole Lives* program
2. Keep families engaged during Sunday services once a month with special programming - hopefully with financial support from our chalice lighter grant
3. Experiment with ways to engage youth/families outside of Sunday services
4. Plan and implement a small group adult RE helping adults build connections via smaller groups

### **Report Submitted by Heather P Watson**

#### [Humanist Spiritual Pluralism Group](#)

##### **Members**

- Sara Williams - Convener

##### **Activities/Accomplishments**

The Humanist group met once a month and was well attended.

**Report submitted by Christy H.**

## Social Activities

### Committee Members

- Rene Keating – Chair
- Bonnie Andes
- Leona Poritz
- Rachel Rockafellow
- Laura Mentch
- Char Appelwick (seasonal)

### Mission

The Social Activities Committee encourages and provides opportunities for social interaction among the members and friends of the UUFB Fellowship.

Just a year ago we were still proceeding with an abundance of caution with regard to gathering and social events.

In the last 12 months SAC has sponsored

- Birthday Party Sunday every first Sunday of the month
- Rev. Duffy's retirement party
- Rev. Margo's welcome party
- McVey, Julian, Berg memorials
- Candlelit labyrinth walk
- International Day of the Woman gifts
- Soup and Bread x's 2
- Circle Suppers x's 2
- Over 80's Brunch

Coming up, help with the service at the pond in August. Santa's workshop in November, over 80's Christmas luncheon and more soup and bread luncheons.

None of the above mentioned events could happen w/o a tremendous amount of volunteers, it usually takes 30 or more helpers from start to finish.

Report submitted by Rene Keating

## Social Justice Action Committee

### Committee Members

- Randy Babbitt – Chair
- Larry Carucci
- Kitty Donich
- Norm Eggert
- Robyn Lauster
- Janet Lewis
- Peg Wherry

### Committee's Mission

The role of the Social Justice Action Committee (SJAC) is to implement the Fellowship's social justice commitments. The SJAC provides the Fellowship with opportunities to participate in and witness social justice activities, and educate ourselves about social justice issues. SJAC oversees UUFB's on-going commitment to programs that align with our UUFB mission: Gallatin Valley Food Bank, Fork and Spoon, and Family Promise of Gallatin Valley. SJAC chooses the organizations that receive the special offerings collected on the 2nd Sundays and sometimes the 5th Sundays of each month and coordinates the outside speakers that come to inform the congregation about their purpose and needs. SJAC is responsible for coordinating several ways the congregation participates in social justice initiatives, such as discussion groups, film series, marches, and affiliations with local groups for social, economic, and environmental justice. SJAC concerns include both global and local issues.

### Activities/Accomplishments in 2022-2023

- SJAC developed a Sunday service for June 4, 2023 inviting two guests to speak on and suggest actions we as a congregation can do to help fight anti-semitism and anti-LGBTQ+ in our community.
- Joined Facebook Group Queer Bozeman. Queer Bozeman is a queer-led project to connect, strengthen, and grow the LGBTQ+ community in Bozeman, Montana.
- Ally of Bozeman Tenants United (BTU). BTU is building a multi-racial, intergenerational mass membership of tenants, to win safe, dignified, and affordable housing for all. SJAC oversees BTU's use of UUFB social hall for their meetings and several members are active in BTU meetings.
- Re-started and are coordinating glass recycling. On 4th Sundays, glass is picked up by an individual and taken to a local glass recycling company.
- Lodge Grass Clean-up Days celebratory meal (May 12-13, 2023). SJAC coordinate UUFB providing the meal for the Saturday crew (over 200 burgers and 100 hotdogs, among other items, were served).
- Began review and revision of relevant UUFB policies on social justice. These include reviews of Social Witness Policy, Special Offerings Policy, and the charge for SJAC.
- Sponsored 6 seats on bus to Helena for Climate Advocacy Day (1/20/2023)
- Revised Speaker Guidelines for 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Speakers.
- **Trans Inclusion discussion group:** SJAC coordinated and held Trans Inclusion discussion group meetings from October to December 2022.

### Ongoing Activities

Coordinating 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offerings (see "Relevant Numbers" below)

Family Promise – An UUFB member coordinates with partner St. James to provide meals 4-5 weeks a year for family members in Family Promise. 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.



We 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.

### Fork & Spoon

A SJAC member leads the coordination of UUFB, Temple Beth Shalom, and Pilgrim Congregational in providing volunteers for dinner service the 4th Thursday of each month. Fork & Spoon is Montana’s first pay-what-you-can restaurant. We focus on creating homegrown, scratch-made cooking using locally sourced ingredients whenever possible. Everyone is invited to join us for a delicious evening meal at a price you can afford.

### Gallatin Valley Food Bank Collection

The 3rd Sunday of each month we collect food for the Gallatin Valley Food Bank. The food bank allows those in need (no criteria required) to shop for groceries free of charge and confidentially Monday – Friday.

### Recommendations for Next Program Year

Continue review of policies

### Relevant numbers:

- **Fork and Spoon:** 7-8 volunteers from UUFB, Temple Beth Shalom, and Pilgrim Congregational each month. The volunteering of the three organizations varies, but balances out over the year.
- **Family Promise:** UUFB and St. James coordinate providing meals and/or groceries 4-5 weeks a year for families in the Family Promise program.
- **Food Bank:** Several members of the fellowship regularly donate food on the 3rd Sunday of each month.
- **2nd and 5th Sunday offerings:** On the 2nd Sunday of each month, and sometimes on 5th Sundays, collections are made to support organizations that meet our vision of social, economic, and environmental justice. 5th Sunday collections are typically to support disaster relief, if the Board doesn’t use the collection for internal fundraising. The table below shows the amounts collected during the past year.

Date	Type	Charity/Organization	Amount	Notes
		<b>2022</b>		
6/12/2022	2nd	KIND	\$541.00	
7/10/2022	2nd	Faith, Hope and Love Ministries Inc. (Lodge Grass food bank)	\$523.00	
8/14/2022	2nd	Susan Wicklund Fund	\$1,313.00	
9/11/2022	2nd	Bienvenidos of Gallatin Valley	\$752.00	
10/9/2022	2nd	Gallatin Valley CROP Walk	\$1,012.00	25% to Gallatin Valley Food Bank & 75% to UUSC
11/13/2022	2nd	Warming Center	\$1,963.00	
12/11/2022	2nd	Military Religious Freedom Foundation	\$569.00	
12/24/2022	special	Minister Discretionary Fund	\$483.00	
		<b>2023</b>		

1/8/2023	2nd	Our Whole Lives (OWL)	\$4,334.10	Two anonymous \$1,000 matches
2/12/2023	2nd	Montana Free Press (MTFP)	\$933.00	
3/12/2023	2nd	Fork & Spoon	\$947.00	
4/9/2023	2nd	Mountain Shadow Association (MSA) (Crow Nation)	\$756.00	
5/14/2023	2nd	Bridgercare		
		5th Sundays		
5/29/2022	5th	World Central Kitchen (WCK)	\$10,405.95	<i>Anonymous match up to \$5,000</i>
7/31/2022	5th	SW Montana Flood Relief Fund	\$566.56	
10/30/2022	5th	Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)	\$664.00	
1/29/2023	5th	Alaska Community Foundation (Western Alaska Disaster Recovery Fund)	\$605.00	

**Report Submitted by Randy Babbitt.**

## Family Promise of Gallatin Valley

**Volunteer Coordinator for UUFB:** Tonya Stevens, ceding to Carolyn Boyd in January 2023

- Volunteers are recruited as needed for each hosting opportunity.

### **Mission**

Family Promise of Gallatin Valley in Montana (<https://www.familypromisegv.org>) is a non-profit organization working with diverse faith organizations helping Gallatin Valley's homeless families.

### **Activities/Accomplishments - Big Changes this year**

FPGV changed the schedule and location of providing meals for families. For this reason, we no longer partner with St. James Episcopal Church in this endeavor, as we now provide a meal for only two nights in the week that is our turn 5 times a year. We deliver those meals to the new FPGV facility on Tschache Drive. The St. James Rectory, now known as "Roxy's House" remains the permanent housing facility for families in the program.

This past program year, we served meals in August, October, January, February, and April. We provided the fun and food for Valentine's Day and for a Halloween party and even had a popcorn maker on hand for the Family Promise Carnival at the end of the school year this year! Approximately 20 different volunteers from our Fellowship helped.

Family Promise has begun providing us a list of volunteer activities from which we can choose. Over this past year, we have had volunteers help with cleaning the Stepping Stone house and cleaning other rooms in the HRDC facility for move-in.

### **Recommendations for Next Program Year**

We hope to establish a routine for monthly notice of the drives that Family Promise will be holding for much-needed items. We will be using UUFB's Volunteer Challenge as a way to increase participation from the Fellowship.

**Report submitted by Tonya Stevens, (former) UUFB Volunteer Coordinator**

## Sunday Services Committee

### Committee Members

Rather than a designated chairperson, this committee rotates both the chair and minutes taker each month.

- Lisa Trankley – Co-Chair
- Sandra Oldendorf - Co-Chair
- Carolyn Widman – Co-Chair
- Jan Young – Co-Chair
- Bruce Swarny – Co-Chair
- Paul Stouffer – Co-Chair
- Rev. Margo Rinehart

### Committee's Mission

The committee's mission is to support our Minister in presenting services each and every Sunday that are consistent with UUFB's Vision and Mission, welcoming to the public and with consideration to the UUA's designated theme for each month. In preparation for Sunday's when our Minister is not presenting, the SSC is responsible for arranging guest speakers and/or members of the UUFB community in filling the dates.

### Activities/Accomplishments

In 2022, the SSC helped to finally transition UUFB from exclusively virtual services due to the pandemic, to hybrid services with the majority of attendees now being in-person. During the summer of 2022, one Sunday service during each of the months of June, July and August was held outside at the Bozeman Pond, with great success. That summer the SSC introduced our Interim Minister, Rev. Margo Rinehart to the practices of the committee prior to her arrival allowing a smooth transition for everyone as she transitioned to Bozeman. The committee had a lot of discussion in meetings regarding the handling of important components of the service, such as the Land Acknowledgement, Announcements, Joys & Concerns and the offering, especially special 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Service collections.

### Recommendations for Next Program Year

For the upcoming year the SSC hopes to expand the committee's membership both to replace Lisa, who will focus her attention for the next year as part of the transition team for a settled minister, and to build our team with new ideas (we have one commitment starting this summer). We also hope to continue to be innovative with the services while continuing to be sensitive to feedback provided by individual members and other UUFB committees. It is our hope that some of the components of the service mentioned above can be solidified in the coming year. We also hope to continue to expand the pool of persons available to be Lay Leaders, with SSC members acting as mentors for interested persons.

### **Relevant numbers: number of volunteers participating, number of events/activities held, individuals served, etc.—whatever is relevant to this committee.**

In addition to the committee, we have approximately 10 other persons that volunteer as Lay Leaders. We have been in discussion with about 5 other persons who have expressed an interest in Lay Leading.

### **Report Submitted by Paul Stouffer.**

## Other

### Hiking Group

#### Members

- Dick Corbin, Convener

Dick C. set up a Hiking Group in May 2023. He also set up a new listserv for those interested in going on hikes. Hikes are scheduled weekly during the summer months on Thursday mornings.

### Historian

#### Members

- Susan Backer

Susan Backer has continued the “Highlights of the UUFB” notebook which monthly briefly summarizes the activities of the fellowship and the board from the monthly newsletters. She has kept up the notebook with clippings from the Bozeman Chronicle of Letters to the Editor from members and friends of the congregation (with the exception of political endorsements of candidates), and articles about or by members and friends.

Christy H. (Office Admin) has started organizing UUFB even photos in the Photos app on the Office iMac and prints out photo collages to put on the bulletin board. Old photo collages are stored and archived in a binder.

Rev. Margo put up papers to extend the UUFB timeline.

### Men’s Group

#### Members

- Jack Day, Convener

Jack Day hosts Men’s Group at UUFB on the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. Christy H. set up a new Men’s Group email list for reminder emails that can be sent out.