

DECEMBER 2023

UUFB NEWS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES SUNDAY AT 10:00 A.M. MDT IN PERSON & LIVE ON YOUTUBE

December 3, 2023 • "Mystery as the Antidote to Worry and Fear" • Rev. Margo Rinehart

We will explore the relationship between mystery and science and how the ability to live in the unknown reduces anxiety and fear.

December 10, 2023 • "Limitless Light: Two Miracles" • Rev. Margo Rinehart

The greatest miracle is the courage to begin. We will also welcome our new UUFB members.

December 7, 2023 • "Into the Mystery" • Rev. Katie Michael-Sanchez

Exploring our cosmic history, why are we drawn to certainty, and what can mystery teach us?

Rev. Katie Michael-Sanchez has lived in Bozeman for almost 12 years. She is an Interfaith Minister and works as a chaplain for the Spiritual Health department at Bozeman Health, where she also serves as the co-chair of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging committee. Katie grew up in a UU congregation in western Massachusetts and still identifies with the UU faith. She enjoys hiking and traveling, as well as crocheting and curling up to read a cozy paranormal mystery.

December 24, 2023 • 5:00 p.m. • "Christmas Eve: A Time of Merriment, Singing and a Message from Angels" • Rev. Margo Rinehart

Join in the fun and message from carols, short stories, poetry, and music. Family friendly but no childcare provided. *NOTE: This service will be held at 5:00 p.m., there will be no 10 a.m. service.*

December 31, 2023 • "The Mystery of Consciousness" • Rev. Duffy Peet

Consciousness is something we all experience and utilize almost every day of our lives. It is almost impossible to imagine what life would be like without consciousness. And yet, people who seriously delve into the issue of consciousness can't definitively answer basic questions such as what is consciousness, how does it work, and where, specifically, is it located. We will consider the mystery of consciousness and explore our own understandings of and perspectives about it.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF BOZEMAN

uufbozeman.org
406.586.1368

Rev. Margo Rinehart, Minister

Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m.
325 N. 25th Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59718-2688





REVEREND REFLECTIONS

REV. MARGO RINEHART



The days grow dark, and the news channels flood us with stories of suffering from around the world. Thanksgiving through the New Year brings us into contact with family or brings forth our deep yearning for family that is not available. Most of us, probably all of us, are filled with a multitude of emotions over these experiences. Some days I experience peace, gratitude, worry, hopelessness, restlessness, and a final amen. Often there is the experience of deep human connection and at others, the pain of connection missed, misinterpreted, or guarded against.

A few weeks ago, while at the Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association sponsored Prayers for Peace for Israel and Gaza, I experienced the overpowering connection of an entire community gathering with grief but also, hope for peace. By the time it was my turn to pray, I was almost speechless, overcome with emotion – feeling the power of being held by the vastness of something outside, inside, and in between ourselves that surrounded the globe. Right there, in that moment, experiencing the deep connection that is possible for Israel, Gaza, and our entire world. It was the antidote to all consuming fear so cold that it lays down dark, brutal sheets of ice. Later, Dr. Ruhul Amin of the Islamic Center shared a verse from the Qu’ran (94.6) “Every hardship is followed by much ease.” He gifted to us the belief that war and suffering will eventually pass and what we must fear the most is a lack of hope. He encourages us to be optimistic, otherwise, “we will be paralyzed and frozen in time.”



When we hold vigil in our hearts and in our homes for Gaza, Israel and so many other people around the world, we keep them from being frozen in time. When we see their struggle and voice their pain, hope is released into the world. In the words of Unitarian Universalist poet, Atena Danner “It takes faith to hold out for the storm to run out of rain.” Let us be that shelter for those around the world seeking solace and rest.



“The Moment of Magic” by Victoria Safford

Now is the moment of magic, when the whole, round earth turns again toward the sun, and here’s a blessing: the days will be longer and brighter now, even before the winter settles in to chill us.

Now is the moment of magic, when people beaten down and broken, with nothing left but misery and candles and their own clear voices, kindle tiny lights and whisper secret music, and here’s a blessing: the dark universe is suddenly illuminated by the lights of the menorah, suddenly ablaze with the lights of kinara, and the whole world is glad and loud with winter singing.

Now is the moment of magic, when the eastern star beckons the ignorant toward an unknown goal, and here’s a blessing: They find nothing in the end but an ordinary baby, born at midnight, born in poverty, and the baby’s cry, like bells ringing, makes people wonder as they wander through their lives, what human love might really look like, feel like.

Now is the moment of magic and here’s a blessing: We already possess all the gifts we need; we’ve already received our presents: ears to hear music, eyes to behold lights, hands to build true peace on earth and to hold each other tight in love.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Religious Exploration (RE) December: Our theme in RE this month is **Mystery**.

In RE this month, we will explore Mystery as a source of wonder. We'll encourage questions, exploration, and curiosity about our experiences and the world. Rather than providing rigid answers, Unitarian Universalism encourages a continual journey of discovery, where each person is free to form their own beliefs and interpretations. Embracing mystery helps us foster a sense of humility and stand in awe of the aspects of life and the cosmos we don't yet understand. In class, we'll encourage children to be open to diverse viewpoints and experiences and explore mindfulness activities.

December RE Classes:

Sunday, December 3 – The Mystery of Our Amazing World

Sunday, December 10 – The Mystery in the Ordinary

Sunday, December 17 – The Mystery of Light

Sunday, December 24 – **Christmas Eve Service at 5 p.m.** – No morning RE Class

Sunday, December 31 – The Mystery of Beginnings



December Family Event – Cookies and Connection

Back by popular demand, on Sunday, December 10th after service, we will have cookie decorating and an intergenerational craft activity. Everyone is invited to stay and enjoy cookies, crafts, and connection. More details will be posted on the listserv soon!



World Religion Holidays for December

In RE Class this month we will talk about holidays from other religious traditions. *From Holidays around the World for Children:*

- **Saint Nicholas Day (December 6):** Celebrated in various European countries, Saint Nicholas Day honors the Christian saint known for his generosity.
- **Bodhi Day (December 8):** Celebrated by Buddhists, Bodhi Day commemorates the day when Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree.
- **Hanukkah (December 7-15):** Also known as the Festival of Lights, Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish celebration that commemorates the miracle of the oil in the Temple in Jerusalem.
- **Winter Solstice (around December 21):** The Winter Solstice marks the shortest day and the longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.
- **Christmas (December 25):** Celebrated by Christians worldwide, Christmas commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ.
- **Kwanzaa (December 26 - January 1):** This African-American and Pan-African holiday celebrates family, community, and culture. It involves lighting seven candles on a kinara and reflecting on seven principles, known as the Nguzo Saba.
- **Boxing Day (December 26):** Observed in various countries, including the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia, Boxing Day traditionally involves giving to the less fortunate.

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 •10:00 service with Rev. Margo Rinehart •11:00 Monthly Birthday/Anniversary Party	4	5	6 •11:30 Over 80's Christmas High Tea	7	8	9
10 •10:00 service with Rev. Margo Rinehart •2 nd Sunday to the BSD Homeless Assistance Fund •11:00 RE Cookies & Connection	11	12 •4:30 Board Meeting	13	14	15 •6:30 Family Game Night	16
17 •10:00 service with Rev. Katie Michael-Sanchez •Food Bank Sunday	18	19 •Solstice service at Pilgrim (time TBD)	20 •7:00 Men's Group	21	22	23
24 •5:00 Christmas Eve Service (no 10 a.m. service)	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 •10:00 service with Rev. Duffy Peet •5 th Sunday Offering saved for a future disaster						

Upcoming Events

- 12/3 Sunday Service with Rev. Rinehart
- 12/3 Monthly Birthday/Anniversary Party
- 12/6 Over 80's Christmas High Tea
- 12/10 Sunday Service with Rev. Rinehart
- 12/10 2nd Sunday to BSD Homeless Assistance Fund
- 12/10 RE Cookies & Connection
- 12/12 Board Meeting
- 12/15 Family Game Night
- 12/17 Service with Rev. Michael-Sanchez
- 12/17 Food Bank Sunday
- 12/19 Solstice Service at Pilgrim
- 12/20 Men's Group
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Service at 5 p.m.
- 12/31 Sunday Service with Rev. Duffy Peet
- 12/31 5th Sunday Offering saved for a future disaster

BOARD REPORT

The Board held our November meeting on the 14th and made progress on a number of topics.

Barbara Tylka is our new Vice President! The most exciting news is that we filled our vacancy for Vice President, as Barbara Tylka has volunteered. We approved Barbara joining the Board immediately, per the bylaws. In her first year as VP she will gain experience with Board practices to prepare for her second year when she advances to become Board President, and will then transition to become Past President in her third year. Filling the VP position gives us confidence that UUFB will have a smooth transition in 2024-25 and beyond.

Settled Minister Search - Lisa Trankley presented requests from the Settled Minister Search Committee for a draft contract and minimum salary to be included in our UUA position post. The Board approved the committee's request.

Finance Committee - The Board has previously approved transferring funds from our checking account to short term CDs to take advantage of rising interest rates. Bruce DePriester, Board Treasurer, presented a proposal to delegate authority to the Finance Committee to invest these funds in CDs of 6 months or less without separate Board approvals. After discussing the details, the Board approved the request.

We also tentatively discussed needs for the 2024 budget. This will be the key topic in our Dec. Board meeting.

Safety Committee Approvals - Neil Schwarzwaldner presented the work from our newly formed Safety Committee (Dennis Dempsey, Barbara Tylka, and Neil). The Board approved 3 documents below.

- Safety Policy for Children & Youth - revised from the 2016 version, prepared jointly with the Lifespan Religious Education Committee.
- Healthy Congregation Covenant - revised from our Covid Covenant to reflect continuing challenges with the spread of infectious diseases, not exclusive to Covid.
- Safety Committee Charge - "Address the safety and security of our congregation, including child protection, health threats, building security, and other potential risks..."

The committee plans additional policies on Disruptive Visitors, Emergency Management, and Active shooter, as well as fire drills and emergency training for the congregation.

Montana UU Congregations Retreat - We received a request from the Missoula UU congregation to help plan a statewide UU retreat in 2024. The Board enthusiastically endorsed this idea and wishes us to participate.

Neil Schwarzwaldner, Board Secretary



Send in your Photos!

The Hospitality and Membership Committee's somewhat-annual drive to update our records and, of course, keep in touch with all our friends and members, is continuing Sunday 12/3 before and after service. The H&M Committee will have the records-keepers at a table in the Social Hall to go over your contact information AND to receive a PHOTO from you for our UUFB Photo Directory. Stop by our table to check out your current photo or get one snapped of yourself. Or send us your own best photo! We hope to get this directory out in time for the UUFB Annual Meeting TBD in January.



SETTLED MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Ministerial Search team is pleased to let you know that we have sent our Congregational Record documents to the Transitions Program Manager at UUA in Boston! It was first reviewed by Rev. Margo and Sarah Schurr, our Pacific Northwest consultant. It is 60 pages long. It has been approved by the UUA and will be made available to potential candidates on Dec. 1. It contains results of the survey, summaries and impressions from the Cottage Meeting and Focus Groups, our proposed contract approved by the Board at their November meeting, a slide show of fellowship activities and an overview of Bozeman and the surrounding community. It reflects our strong and vibrant UUFB community!

Next steps? After our Packet is approved it will be published. Then our team will have a Zoom consultation with the Transitions Program Manager at UUA in mid-December and obtain approval to receive applicants. In early Jan. we will begin to receive applications, and we will make decisions on which applicants we would like to interview via Zoom. So we are working now on the questions we want to ask them. Stay tuned... exciting times!

Susan Backer, Carolyn Boyd, Dick Corbin, Cami Armijo Grover, Lisa Trankley

Altar for Grief, Peace, and Hope

Given the amount of grief, loss and worry that we often experience, we are creating an altar space in the UUFB sanctuary. The space is directly left of the dias, where the silk flowers are currently displayed and just beyond where the Stewardship thermometer was standing in October and November. The altar will have a tall white candle and there will be small cards to be used to write the name of a loved one you are concerned or grieve for. Wishes for peace may also be included or any worry you are carrying that you want to lay down. Please date your card, as they will be removed every two-weeks or so to allow room for those coming after.



The altar will be available for the month of December. If it is a meaningful ritual for us, we will continue the practice into 2024.



Next time you are at UUFB, check out the nooks in the entry featuring art by Rose Toth!



Winter Solstice
Perhaps for a moment
the keyboards will stop clicking,
the wheels stop rolling, the
computers desist from computing,
and a hush will fall over the city.
For an instant, in the stillness,
the chiming of celestial spheres will
be heard as earth hangs poised
in the crystalline darkness and
then gracefully tilts.



Let there be a season when holiness
is heard, and the splendor of living
is revealed. Stunned to stillness by
beauty, we remember who we are
and why we are here.
There are inexplicable mysteries.
We are not alone.
In the universe there moves a
Wild One
whose gestures alter
earth's axis
toward love.
Rebecca Parker

Artwork and calligraphy by Rose Toth



Upcoming Events



Monthly Birthday/Anniversary Party Social Time - December 3

Join us for the monthly birthday and anniversary social time after service! Everyone celebrating a birthday or anniversary this month will be the guests of honor. Thank you to Leona P., Rachel R., and Theresa N.S. for bringing cupcakes!



Over 80's High Tea - December 6

If you signed up to help for the Over 80's High Tea, it is coming up on Wednesday, December 6th! Check your email for details. View your sign up at uufbozeman.org/high-tea.



2nd Sunday Offering to the Bozeman School District Homeless Assistance Fund - Dec. 10

The Social Justice Action Committee (SJAC) has specified that the 2nd Sunday offering will go to the Bozeman School District (BSD) Homeless Assistance Fund. Donate to this fund online (uufbozeman.org/donate) and select "Give to 2nd Sunday charitable donation" or make a check made out to UUFB & write "BSD" in the memo.

The Homeless Assistance Fund helps to support families (those who are in transition with their living circumstances and those who are struggling financially or otherwise at risk) with basic needs such as food and transportation.



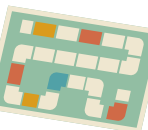
RE Cookies & Connection - December 10

Back by popular demand, on Sunday, December 10th after service, we will have cookie decorating and an intergenerational craft activity. Everyone is invited to stay and enjoy cookies, crafts, and connection. More details will be posted on the listserv soon!



UUFB Board Meeting - December 12

The UUFB Board meets at UUFB and on Zoom monthly on the second Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. If you are interested in attending a Board meeting, please let a Board member or Rev. Margo know.



Family Game Night - December 15

Do you enjoy board games or card games? Family Game Night is held the third Friday of each month at 6:30p.m. at UUFB! Bring your favorites or try popular strategy games like Ticket to Ride, Azul, and Dominion. We'll have family games like Clue and Aggravation, and classics like backgammon, Boggle, and Scrabble. All ages are welcome, and feel free to bring a friend. If you have questions, please contact Neil S.



Food Bank Sunday - December 17

Non-perishable food donations and toiletries for the Gallatin Valley Food Bank will be collected at this UUFB service. Please bring your items and a UUFB member will bring them to the food bank.



Evening Solstice Service - December 19

Save the date for a Solstice service held the evening of December 19th at Pilgrim Congregational (2118 S 3rd Ave, Bozeman, MT 59715). This event will be hosted by Stormi Oshun and Shaun Phoenix. More information will be announced soon.



Men's Group - December 20

UUFB Men's Group will meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the UUFB Social Hall. All men are encouraged and invited to attend. If you would like to be added to the Men's Group email list, please send a message to the Office Admin



Upcoming Events

continued...



December 24 Sunday Service at 5 p.m.

There will be no 10 a.m. service on December 24th. Instead, we invite you to join us for a special Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m., featuring songs, music, and stories.



Glass Recycling for December - Canceled

Due to the 4th Sunday falling on Christmas Eve, glass recycling for December is canceled.



5th Sunday Offering Saved for a Future Disaster - December 31

The Social Justice Action Committee (SJAC) has specified that the 5th Sunday offering will go be saved for a future disaster. Donate to this fund online (uufbozeman.org/donate) and select "Give to 5th Sunday special offering" or make a check made out to UUFB & write "5th" in the memo.

Because the 5th Sunday offering for disaster relief is intended to respond to urgency, the recipient organization is identified close to the date of the offering.



Spiritual Pluralism Project Group

Our Fellowship has a Spiritual Pluralism group that has 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 W.



Ways to Help

First, thanks to those who have donated needed items to Family Promise. The blue tub in the social hall is the place to put your donations. Current needs are laundry detergent, shampoo and conditioner, disinfectant, TP, garbage bags, and dish soap.

Another way to support Family Promise guests this giving season is by gifting a Home for the Holidays supply package from their virtual giving tree. The items on the giving tree consist of personal care items and other day-to-day necessities. Please follow the link below to review the available options and choose which package(s) you'd like to gift. Ignore the dates, just choose a package. They all need to get to Family Promise by January 10. You can deliver to the Family Promise office, located at 1603 Tschache Lane in Bozeman by January 10, 2024 or leave at UUFB, let me know you have left it, and I will deliver them. <https://signup.com/go/GfDYTgh>

Volunteers are also needed for many tasks. The link below will lead you to a Volunteer Interest and Availability Form which lists needs: from helping with the Rising Stars day care, construction and repair, to data entry and administrative support, with lots of others in between. <https://www.familypromisegv.org/volunteer-internship>

Everyone should have a home. Thanks for whatever you can do to help.

Carolyn Boyd , UUFB Liaison to Family Promise



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP of BOZEMAN

Staff

- **Minister:** Rev. Margo Rinehart
Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Thursday 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- **Office Administrator:** Christy Huddleston
Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- **Coordinator of Religious Exploration:** Beth Witte
- **Childcare Lead:** Christine Wilcox
- **Childcare Assistant:** Faila Bianchini
- **Pianist:** Laurel Yost

Contact us!

uufbozeman.org/about-us/contact-us

UUFB News & Events

Calendar of Events

See our calendar of upcoming events at:
uufbozeman.org/news/events-page.

Friday E-News

Our weekly emails include details about upcoming events, announcements, and Sunday services. To join, please visit
uufbozeman.org/news/e-news.

Email Discussion List

An email discussion list (listserv) has been established in order to communicate announcements and events of interest to the UUFB. To subscribe, send an email to our Office Administrator requesting to join.

Newsletter

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.

Submit a QACC!

Do you have Questions, Appreciations, Comments, or Concerns (QACCs)? The Transitions Team welcomes it all! To submit your QACC look for the box with the yellow rubber duck on top in the social hall or submit online at uufbozeman.org/qacc. The Transitions Team reviews submissions at their monthly meetings.



2023-2024 Board Members

- President: Jeanne Moe
- Vice President: Barbara Tylka
- Past President: Elizabeth Rose
- Secretary: Neil Schwarzwald
- Treasurer: Bruce DePriester
- Member-at-Large: Barb Lantz
- Member-at-Large: Mary Maifeld

Committees/Task Force Leaders

- Building & Grounds Committee: Tonya Stevens, Contact
- Building Coordinator: Tonya Stevens, Contact
- Caring Committee, Meals, Rides: Mary Maifeld, Contact
- Communications Committee: Open
- Finance Committee: Bruce DePriester, Chair
- Fundraising: Leona Poritz, Contact
- Governance/Leadership: Susan Backer, Contact
- Hospitality/Membership: Tonya Stevens, Chair
- Interfaith *Our Whole Lives*: Beth Witte, Contact
- Interior Design: Diane Knipfer & Jan Young, Contacts
- Investment Committee: Paul Stouffer, Chair
- Legacy Giving: Peg Wherry, Contact
- Lifespan Religious Exploration: Heather Watson, Chair
- Leadership Council: Jeanne Moe, Contact
- Safety Task Force: Neil Schwarzwald, Contact
- Social Activities: Rene Keating, Chair
- Social Justice Action Committee: Randy Babbitt, Contact
- Stewardship: Paula Nielsen-Milano, Contact
- Sunday Services Committee: Paul Stouffer, Contact
- Transition Team: Dave Rockafellow, Contact

Contact Points

- Book Sales/Little Library: Leona Poritz
- Family Promise Task Force: Carolyn Boyd
- 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