

AUGUST 2025

UUF B NEWS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

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

August 3, 2025 • "Letting Love Lessen Fear" with Rev. Duffy Peet

In our country and around the world, increased public focus and attention is being directed toward those who are perceived as "the other." Much of this focus and attention of late seems to be fanning the embers of fear toward anyone who looks, believes, speaks or acts differently than what certain groups of people perceive to be acceptable. Writings & teachings from Unitarian Universalism's Judeo-Christian heritage as well as other religious traditions suggest an alternative to fear. That alternative is love. It is possible for love to guide us to a better way of being.

August 10, 2025 • "The fundamental weakness of western civilization is empathy—" with Rev. Roxanne Klingensmith

"The fundamental weakness of western civilization is empathy—" Really?? A Quote from Elon Musk in an article, "Loathe Thy Neighbor," which appeared in THE GUARDIAN by Julian Carrie Wong, April 8, 2025.....

August 17, 2025 • "Recognizing the Sacred Feminine" with Julie Wester

Every person has a unique balance of feminine and masculine energy and wisdom. These sacred energies live in each of us in personal, human and quite ordinary ways— whatever our gender identity may be. But we now live in a world in which the energy and wisdom of the feminine is not equally seen, valued or reflected. We are all impacted by this imbalance, as is absolutely everything in our world. When we consciously recognize and honor the sacred feminine energies in ourselves and in each other, we become part of the healing and rebalancing of our world.

Julie Wester is a Spirit Rock Meditation Center Teacher Emerita. Her book, *Recognizing the Sacred Feminine: Stories and Meditations for the Rebalancing of Our World*, is available from Country Bookshelf in Bozeman and Amazon.com.

August 24, 2025 • "Church-State Separation Is Under Siege: What You Can Do" with Bruce Gourley

Constitutional church-state separation teeters on a tipping point, with the US Supreme Court and many politicians largely in opposition. Now more than ever, it falls to us as ordinary citizens to engage in dialogue with, and educate neighbors and friends (hence voters) about, the freedom that church-state separation provides for all Americans.

Bruce Gourley is Editor of *Church & State* magazine, the publication of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. He is a historian (PhD Auburn) and public speaker whose career has long focused on educating about and defending church-state separation. He is also an MSU Osher Lifelong Learning Instructor and the author of nine books. His latest book is *Historic Yellowstone National Park: The Stories Behind the World's First National Park*.

August Sunday Services continued on page 3...

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF BOZEMAN



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

As I began thinking about my focus for this article, yet another troubling news report made it clear to me what I needed to address. Here is a quote from an Associated Press news article written by Tiffany Li and dated July 15th. "President Donald Trump is praising the Internal Revenue Service's court filing, which effectively clears the way for churches to endorse political candidates – a reversal of decades of legal precedent." The legal precedent is based on what is often referred to as the Johnson Amendment which was established in 1954.

A "Statement on Political Speech" was adopted by the UUFB Board in 2016. The first sentence of the second paragraph states; "Because of our 501(c)3 status as a tax exempt nonprofit organization, there is a complete ban on what the IRS calls "political campaign intervention." This ban by the IRS is just one of the reasons the Board adopted the "Statement on Political Speech." A second and quite possibly even more important reason is contained in the last paragraph, which I include here.

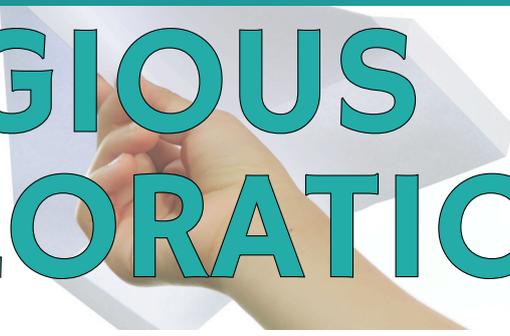
Perhaps more importantly, we should remind ourselves that just as UU's have no religious creed, we also have no political creed. Our First Principle calls for us to recognize the inherent worth and dignity of all people, even those with whom we disagree politically. We want everyone who supports our Principles to feel welcome in our congregation, regardless of their political persuasion.

Irrespective of what the courts decide regarding this issue, I believe it would be wise for us to continue to abide by the 2016 "Statement on Political Speech." I want you to know that I will not, as your minister, publicly endorse any candidate for political office. What I will do, however, is speak clearly and directly to the issues that are being raised, as well as the actions that are being taken, by our political office holders which are either in alignment with or in contrast to the values we share as Unitarian Universalists and the Mission Statement that the members of UUFB adopted in 2018. This is particularly true now as many of the actions as well as inactions originating from the White House are diametrically opposed to the Mission Statement of UUFB.

While our Mission Statement is printed on the back of our Order of Service every Sunday, I am aware that it isn't something most of us refer to or review regularly. I believe that both the UUFB Mission Statement and Vision Statement are important documents that offer us clear purpose, guidance and direction. I encourage all of us to become familiar with both. As a start in that direction, I include the Mission Statement here. "We: Welcome diversity, Act for justice, Foster spiritual growth, Inspire compassion, Nurture community, Sustain our living planet."

During these challenging times, I believe it would benefit us as individuals, us as a religious community, us as a Gallatin Valley community, us as a nation and us as a world community if each of us were to take actions that embody what is written in our Mission Statement. It is my hope that each of us may seek and find ways to make our Mission Statement not simply words on paper but also actions that demonstrate the life affirming power that its words contain.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Our theme of a "Can Do Summer" continues in August. The program's aim is to instill in our children the "can do spirit" and the ability to face challenges that occur in life with an open mind and flexibility. The anchor of each of our sessions is in our UU practices of curiosity and imagination, two skills that are key to feeling empowered and excited to try and make new things. In July we engaged with making and flying Paper Airplanes. We also challenged ourselves on an Obstacle Course, doing it solo and with a partner. So in August, we will be exploring Bubbles, Toothpick Architecture, Junk Sculptures and more. Along with these, we will be engaging in Cooperative Games, Adventure Games, and Initiative Problems. Each of our weeks during the summer will help to develop an individual as well as a community "can do spirit". Our first 3 Sundays, August 3rd, 10th, & 17th are at UUFB, and the fourth Sunday, August 24th will be at the Bozeman Pond Park. Then on the fifth Sunday, August 31st we will be back at UUFB.

May the remainder of your summer be filled with whatever nourishes you and the gift of wonder.

Sandy K., Interim CRE

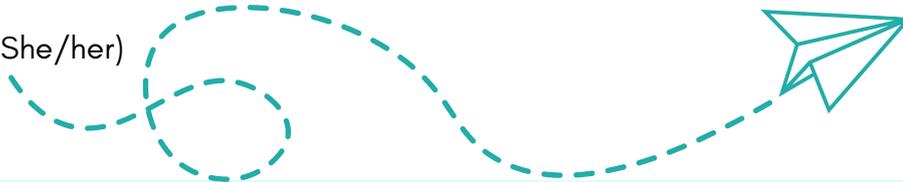


Hello everyone!

I am incredibly excited to be the new CRE at UUFB. Working with children to cultivate meaningful and fun experiences has been a lifelong passion of mine. I've served as a camp counselor, game director, and youth leader working with kids of all ages. Recently, I graduated from MSU with a degree in sociology, with a focus on religion and rituals. One major takeaway that I had was the importance of cultivating fellowship with others through shared spiritual time together. In an era of great change and uncertainty, the need to foster a sense of community and belonging is most important. As the CRE, I am honored to get to develop such precious things with our children. I am looking forward to creating memories and moments filled with all things sacred and silly as we explore and expand our spiritual experiences.



Blessings, Asherah (She/her)



UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES *continued...*

August 31, 2025 • "Open Your Heart: A Service of Song and Spirit" with Judy Fjell

Join us for a joyful service led by singer-songwriter Judy Fjell. Through original music, stories, and reflection, Judy will guide us into the healing and hopeful power of song—with humor, heart, and a call to compassion. This multigenerational service offers inspiration, connection, and spirit-filled community.

Judy Fjell is a Montana-based singer-songwriter, teacher, and musical activist. With 20 albums and decades of performing, teaching, and leading worship, her music blends joy, justice, and reverence. She draws from her *Open Your Heart Songbook* to create moving, inclusive UU services.

BOARD REPORT

It has been a busy month for your UUFB board. The transition between the past and current board members officially took place during the June 2025 meeting. Since then, we have had one meeting (in July) with our new board. We won't bother you with all of the nitty-gritty details about what we have been up to, but we will provide some of the important updates. As a reminder, anyone is welcome to request board meeting minutes at any time.

One important update is that we hired a new Coordinator for Religious Exploration. Asherah Bauquier (she/her) started on July 24th. We are grateful to the CRE search committee (Warren Knipfer [chair], Susan Backer, Sara Howard, and Kaylin Greene) for their dedicated work screening and interviewing applicants. Likewise, we are grateful to Sandy Kindt, Interim CRE, who has led RE this summer and will be helping Asherah get up to speed. When you see Asherah at the fellowship, make sure to say hello!

The board members (especially us "newbies") have also been learning about the church finances. We welcomed Finance Committee chair Bruce DePriester to our July Board meeting to discuss the financial organization and processes of the UUFB. We agreed that financial updates at board meetings will occur quarterly.

In addition, we are organizing our minister search for 2025–2026. Like last year, we will seek a full-time contract minister. Four members of the 2024–2025 search committee have agreed to continue as part of this year's Ministerial Search Committee (Laura Mentch, Anna Jacobs, Lisa Baker, and Kaylin Greene), and two have cycled off (Amanda Cater and Jeanie Badenoch). We appreciate Amanda and Jeanie's hard work this past year. Furthermore, Dick Corbin and Carolyn Boyd (who were members of the 2023–2024 ministerial search committee) have agreed to join the search committee for this year. We are excited that Carolyn and Dick are stepping up and know that they will bring unique perspectives and expertise to the committee!

We also discussed the results from the UUFB retreat on June 29. We sent a summary of the results to the fellowship. We will address a number of the recommendations that were made. We will be addressing the need for more people to join our committees to help sustain our work together, especially as we continue to look for a full-time minister.

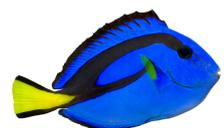
Another important fellowship update relates to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity and related signs at the fellowship. "In January of 2025, the Trump Administration rescinded a Biden-era policy that protected certain areas—such as churches, schools, and hospitals—from immigration enforcement. While the larger moral implications of this order remain in the forefront of our minds, solid information and forward-looking planning are also essential for our UU congregations." Please refer to this link for more information from the Unitarian Universalist Association: <https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/ice-agents>

Due to reports of ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents (or masked, armed persons without uniforms and refusing to identify themselves who claim to be ICE agents) entering houses of worship, it is possible that UUFB may need to respond to such situations.

In light of this situation, the Board has designated The Minister's Office, the Administrator's Office, the RE room, and the Nursery as private spaces, which neither ICE nor any other agents may enter without a warrant. Signs indicating this will be posted on the doors of these rooms. These signs do not apply to members and friends of the fellowship!! You can keep conducting business as usual. At this point in time, ICE agents are legally allowed to enter our public spaces, including the sanctuary.

Should we experience such interactions, individuals present are encouraged to record what transpires to document the event.

In peace,
Kaylin (co-President) and the UUFB Board



MAKE-A-WILL MONTH

What is an estate?

According to a 2021 Gallup poll, 46% of Americans have a will. If you are an adult and living independent from your birth family, when you die, you will leave behind an estate. August is "Make a Will Month," so we want to explain a little. A will, as well as other documents, tells how your estate will be distributed.

Those of us on the Legacy Giving Committee often answer questions about legacy giving, that is, donating to the UUFB after one's death. The LG Committee members will be contributing occasional articles to the Newsletter to help UUFB members and friends understand some basic terminology about legacy giving. Someone mentioned to us recently that they didn't think they had an estate. But everyone does.

What is an *estate*?

An estate is like a basket that contains all of a deceased person's possessions, assets and debts.

What are *assets*?

A person's assets are items of value, and they are all contained in the estate basket. Examples of assets include real estate, businesses, valuable personal property like cars or jewelry, stocks and bonds, life insurance proceeds, savings accounts, retirement accounts and investments.

What are *debts*?

A person's debts are amounts owed to another person or institution. Examples of debts include loans, mortgages, and credit card balances.

As was pointed out in a recent article in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, everyone has an estate plan. If you have created one, good for you! If you have not actively done this, the state will do it after you die.

In summary, if you wish to identify something in your estate that you would like to leave to our UUFB community after you die, contact Pam Poon, Peg Wherry or Dave Rockafellow from your Legacy Giving Committee. We will show you how to make sure your wishes are carried out.

By Pamela Poon, Legacy Giving Committee Member



Montana Statewide UU Retreat

September 12-14, 2025 in Helena, MT

For more info & to register: uufbozeman.org/mt-retreat

DON'T FALL FOR SCAMS



MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF
CONSUMER PROTECTION
AT PILGRIM UCC
2118 S THIRD AVE
& ON ZOOM

WEDS. AUGUST 6TH 12 PM
CONTACT US TO REGISTER FOR ZOOM

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 •8:30 walk with us in the Sweet Pea Parade!
3 •10:00 service with Rev. Duffy Peet • 11:00 Monthly Birthday Party Social Time	4	5	6 •12:00 Fraud Prevention Workshop at Pilgrim Church	7	8	9
10 •10:00 service with Rev. Roxanne Klingensmith • 2 nd Sunday Offering to WCK •11:30 Board Meeting	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 •10:00 service with Julie Wester •Food Bank Sunday	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 •10:00 service at Bozeman Pond with Bruce Gourley	25	26	27	28 •4:30 Fork & Spoon volunteers needed	29	30
31 •10:00 service with Judy Fjell • 5 th Sunday Offering saved for future disaster						

Upcoming Events

- 8/2 Walk with us in the Sweet Pea Parade!
- 8/3 Sunday Service with Rev. Duffy Peet
- 8/3 Monthly Birthday/Anniversary Social Time
- 8/6 Fraud Prevention Workshop at Pilgrim Church
- 8/10 Sunday Service with Rev. Roxanne Klingensmith
- 8/10 2nd Sunday offering to World Central Kitchen (WCK)
- 8/10 Board Meeting
- 8/17 Sunday Service with Julie Wester
- 8/17 Food Bank Sunday
- 8/24 Sunday Service at Bozeman Pond with Bruce Gourley
- 8/28 Fork & Spoon Volunteers Needed
- 8/31 Sunday Service with Judy Fjell
- 8/31 5th Sunday offering saved for future disaster



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 W.

Upcoming Events



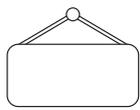
Come join us as we walk and participate in the Sweet Pea Parade on Saturday, August 2nd

We will be gathering with other congregations from the Bozeman Community that want to share positive messages about religion and being kind and nonjudgmental toward others. This multigenerational event is open to all UUFB members and friends, plus their friends who embrace our values. We are meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 2nd, outside of the west main Co-Op. We encourage everyone to bring their own signs. The messages on the signs should align with our UU principles. Here are some examples: Respect Our Earth, Be Kind in All You Do, All People Need a Voice, Each and Every Person is Important. Also wear T-shirts that reflect our principles if you have one. I will be buying bags of candy for distribution along the parade route, but you must hand it out and not throw it. Please RSVP if you know ahead of time that you will be attending. RSVP's may be made by contacting our Coordinator of Religious Exploration. You may also join us spontaneously on Saturday. See you there! If you'd like further information, please contact Sandy K.



Monthly Birthday/Anniversary Party Social Time - August 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. We need people to bring cupcakes to this event! Sign up at uufbozeman.org/birthday.



Building Sign Update from UUFB Board

Following suggestions from the Unitarian Universalist Association, the UUFB Board decided that signs should be posted designating certain areas in our building as "Private" rather than "Public." The distinction is to prevent ICE or other law enforcement agents from entering without a judicial warrant. These include Rev. Duffy's and Christy's offices, the RE room and nursery. If you are not a law enforcement agent, the sign does not apply to you.



Help Protect Our Perennials

If you park on the west side of the parking lot, please ensure that no part of your car extends over the garden bed. Some of our newly planted perennials have recently been damaged, and we appreciate your help in keeping them safe and thriving!

2nd Sunday Offering to World Central Kitchen (WCK) - July 13

The Social Justice Action Committee (SJAC) has specified that this offering will go to World Central Kitchen (WCK). Donate online (uufbozeman.org/donate) and select "Give to 2nd Sunday charitable donation" or write a check payable to UUFB with "WCK" in the memo line.

WCK organization is often first on the ground in a disaster or war situation where people need to be fed NOW. I read on their website that while food was not getting through to Gaza for 7 weeks, they switched to purifying water and handing it out -- they are creative, committed, and flexible enough to switch focus when needed.

Board Meeting - August 10

The UUFB Board meets at UUFB and on Zoom monthly on the second Sunday of the month at 11:30 a.m. Please let a Board member or Rev. Duffy know if you are interested in attending.

Food Bank Sunday - August 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 member will bring them to the food bank.



Upcoming Events



No Glass Recycling in August

Due to the 4th Sunday of the month being a service at Bozeman Pond, there will be no glass recycling in August.



August 24 Service at Bozeman Pond - In Person Only

Please note that the Sunday, August 24 service will be held in person only at Bozeman Pond Park Pavilion (700 S. Fowler Ave, Bozeman, MT 59718); there will be no livestream. The service will feature guest speaker Bruce Gourley, who will discuss "Church-State Separation Is Under Siege: What You Can Do." Hope to see you there!

DISASTER
RELIEF

5th Sunday Offering saved for future disaster relief - August 31

The Social Justice Action Committee (SJAC) has specified that the 5th Sunday offering will be saved for future disaster relief. Once SJAC chooses a recipient for the offering, the funds will be sent to the charity. Donate to this fund online (uufbozeman.org/donate) and select "Give to 5th Sunday special offering" or mail a check made out to UUFB & write "5th Sunday" in the memo line. Mail contributions to UUFB, 325 N. 25th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

Preparing for Our Fall Water Service

It is customary here at UUFB to hold a water service each fall. For that service, people are asked to bring water which has special meaning to them. Everyone is encouraged to be thinking about the water service during the coming months and to take something to put water in while you are out in nature or in your travels.

Join the UUFB Hiking Group

Would you like to be a part of our UUFB Hiking Group e-mail list? It's a great way to stay updated on our upcoming hikes and connect with fellow nature enthusiasts. If you're interested, reach out to Dick C. or email our Office Admin at admin@uufbozeman.org, and we'll make sure you're added to the list. Whether you're a seasoned hiker or just looking to enjoy the outdoors in good company, we welcome you to join us on our moderate hikes with a comfortable pace and fantastic camaraderie!

Join Our Choir!

Join our choir led by Megan M! All skill levels welcome. Connect, express, and spread joy through communal singing. Practices: 3rd and 4th Wednesdays of the month (*except June, July, and August*) from 5:30-6:30 p.m., with performances at the last Sunday of the month. No choir during the summer months. Email Megan to join (contact Office Admin for her email address)!



Thank you Joy for the beautiful flowers!



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP of BOZEMAN

Staff

- **Minister:** Rev. Duffy Peet
- **Pastoral Care:** Rev. Roxanne Klingensmith
- **Office Administrator:** Christy H.
Office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Out of the office on Monday
- **Coordinator of Religious Exploration:** Sandy K., Asherah
- **Pianist:** Laurel Y.
- **Choir Director:** Megan M.

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

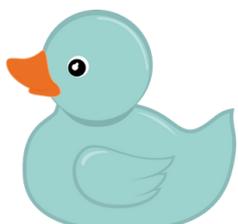
An email discussion list (listserv) has been established in order to communicate announcements and events of interest to the UUFB. To subscribe, send an email to our Office Administrator requesting to join.

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 Committee on Shared Ministry reviews submissions at their monthly meetings.



2025-2026 Board Members

- Presidents: Kaylin G. and Sandra O.
- Vice President: Lisa B.
- Past President: Barbara T.
- Secretary: Joy L.
- Treasurer: Janine R.
- Member-at-Large: May V.
- Member-at-Large: Rene K.

Committees/Task Force Leaders

- Building & Grounds Committee: Tonya S., Contact
- Building Coordinator: Tonya S., Contact
- Caring Committee, Meals, Rides: Mary M., Contact
- Communications Committee: Peg W., Contact
- Finance Committee: Bruce D., Chair
- Fundraising: Open
- Governance/Leadership: Tonya S., Contact
- Hospitality/Membership: Tonya S., Chair
- Interfaith *Our Whole Lives*: Sandy K., Asherah B., CRE
- Interior Design: Barbara L., Contact
- Investment Committee: Paul S., Chair
- Leadership Council: Lisa B., Contact
- Legacy Giving: Pam P., Contact
- Lifespan Religious Exploration: Warren K., Contact
- Minister Search: Lisa B., Contact
- Safety Task Force: Neil S., Contact
- Social Activities: Diane K., Contact
- Social Justice Action Committee: Randy B., Contact
- Stewardship: Peg W., Contact
- Sunday Services Committee: Lisa T., Contact

Contact Points

- Book Sales/Little Library: Leona P.
- Chalice Circles: Lynn F., Rachel R.
- Family Promise Task Force: Carolyn B.
- Food Bank: Susan A., Norm E., Sandy K.
- Fork & Spoon: Randy B.
- Hiking Group: Dick C.
- Historian: Susan B.
- Kitchen/Bath Supplier: Suzy S.
- Men's Group: Warren K.
- UUFB Choir: Megan M.
- Women's Group: Diane K., Contact
- Youth Group: Asherah B., Sandy K., CRE

Spiritual Pluralism Group Leader

- UU Humanist Group: Sara W., Contact