

DECEMBER 2025

UUF B NEWS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

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

December 7, 2025 • "The Ambassador, the MOST 'at large' Montanan" with Steve Held

Steve Held was voted class clown in high school and went on to spend years performing with Second City and at the Improv. He believes life is serious, but not something we should take too seriously ourselves—there's always room to laugh. In his 20s, he became the youngest member of the Screen Actors Guild National Board of Directors. A fourth-generation Montanan, Steve is a rancher and businessman who has worked with a thousand horses, owned the #1 bull in the Angus industry, and raised a dog that won the Denver Stock Show. His life has included multiple marriages, his extraordinary twin children Rikki and Jaeger, and the great honor of living in a small town with a long main street under the big sky. Learn more about him at www.lastbestvoice.com.

December 14, 2025 • "Hope Is a Thing With Feathers" with Rev. Katie Michael

We will look at ideas of hope and how they could help us fly. Rev. Katie Michael has lived in Bozeman for 14 years. She is an Interfaith Minister, Spiritual Director, and works as a chaplain at Bozeman Health, where she is on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging committee. Katie also serves on the Board of Directors for Queer Bozeman. Katie grew up in a UU congregation in western Massachusetts and still identifies with the UU faith. She enjoys weight lifting and traveling, as well as crocheting and curling up to read a cozy paranormal mystery.

December 21, 2025 • Sunday Service

More information about this service will be announced soon

December 24, 2025 (Wednesday) • Christmas Eve Service • at 5:00 p.m.

Join us for a warm and uplifting Christmas Eve filled with music, candlelight, and quiet joy. This special service blends familiar carols, gentle readings, and moments of reflection that invite peace into the heart of a winter night. Come celebrate hope, wonder, and the simple beauty of gathering together as we welcome Christmas with song and light.

December 28, 2025 • "Lessons Learned from a UU Montana Retreat" with Cami Armijo-Grover

This service highlights reflections and insights from participants in the recent UU Montana Retreat—a weekend of learning, connection, and spiritual renewal. Through shared stories, music, and thoughtful moments, we explore how retreat experiences can deepen our values, strengthen community, and inspire everyday living. Expect meaningful takeaways and a glimpse into the spirit that shaped this statewide gathering. The service will also feature special music by a string quartet provided by the very talented Guggenheim family!

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF BOZEMAN



uufbozeman.org
406.586.1368

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



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Hello kindred spirits and happy holidays!

At the end of this very long year we've had, there is no more fitting theme than, "Choosing Hope." As we approach the longest night, many holiday traditions look for and manifest their own light in the darkness. In the classroom, we will be exploring the spiritual practice of choosing hope.

We will begin small, with just a spark of hope. This is all that Lewis Latimer, one of the first African American inventors, had to hold onto before inventing the filament. Because he held onto just a spark of hope, the incandescent lightbulb has brought light to homes ever since.

After that, we will explore the concept of hope as it is celebrated for Hanukkah. Hope is trusting that it will work out, despite resources being thin.

The following week lands on the Winter Solstice, which is a day near and dear to my heart. On the longest of nights, many practice choosing hope by staying up all night burning a Yule Log and holding onto the light even after the Sun has gone.

To end the month of hope, we will get ready for a new year by choosing to begin again. When it feels like we have lost everything, it is hope that empowers us to start over.

May all your holidays be bright as we hold onto the light of hope to last through the longest of nights.

Blessings, Asherah





Volunteers needed!!

LOVE WORKING WITH KIDS?

We are looking for people who want to contribute to the sacred exploration of spirituality with our young ones.

Volunteers will assist the CRE in the classroom, Sundays 9:30~11:30am

Requirements

- Be at least 18 years old
- Active with UUFb for 6 months
- Pass a background check

INTERESTED?

Talk to Asherah B. (She/her)
or email: uufbcle@gmail.com

BOARD REPORT

As we enter into December, the board would like to give thanks for the work of this congregation and share some updates. First, based on discussion at the October town hall, the board voted in November to authorize the Ministerial Search Committee to consider non-UU applicants. The committee will expand their search while continuing to search for UU ministers within the UUA system. In addition, at the November board meeting, we approved a policy on the Minister's Discretionary Fund that was drafted by the finance committee.

Another important update is that the board signed a covenant with Retired Minister Duffy Peet and Retired Interim Coordinator of Religious Exploration Sandy Kindt. The covenant affirms our mutual interest in the long-term health of the UUFB and describes Sandy and Duffy's involvement during our lay-led period. We are happy to welcome them back into our community during this time. Thus, you may see them at Sunday Services or social activities. However, if and when we hire a new minister, Duffy will step back from involvement in the UUFB to comply with the recommendations of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association.

Finally, now that cold and flu season is upon us, the board would like to remind everyone of our Healthy Congregations Covenant that describes the actions that we agree to take (like staying home when ill) to protect the health of our congregation and the broader community.

In peace,
Kaylin and the UUFB Board of Directors



Day Glow Quilt - brought in by Lynn Flaming

This quilt is offered to bring color and brightness and curiosity into your world. What era are these fabrics even from? What memories do they invoke? The 60's? The 70's? The textured fabrics are typical of Hawaiian Tapa Cloth. Can you find fabrics from former clothing you once wore?

It is a machine sewn, hand knotted "rail fence" pattern. Thank you to Bonnie Andes for helping me identify the pattern.

I've only used this quilt as a music festival stage backdrop with blacklights. I inherited it from my Mennonite family but have never settled on a story as to it's origins. It is unique. An outlier. I hope you will enjoy the color and curiosity it brings to your day.

Our nooks this month feature art by Rose Toth



PATHWAYS TO PARTICIPATION

At UUFB, our committees keep the Fellowship thriving—from worship and social justice to caring for our building, grounds, and one another. From November to March, selected committees will be featured with a brief announcement during a Sunday service, followed by a chance to meet committee members at their table during coffee hour. Some will offer handouts, displays, or small activities to help you learn how they support our shared ministry.

Stopping by a table, saying thank you, or asking a question is a simple way to discover how UUFB works—and to explore your own next step in getting involved. This month, look for these committees:

- December 7: Building & Grounds and Interior Design
- December 14: Social Justice Action
- December 21: Lifespan Religious Exploration



Love Our Building? Help Take Care of It!



Our Fellowship's building and grounds support our worship, gatherings, and community activities—and we need a strong team to help guide their future. Since we moved into our building eight years ago, our facilities have been stewarded by a few dedicated people. It's time for us to build a team that can share the load, the decision-making, and the vision for our facilities.

We're seeking 3-4 committed folks to rebuild the Building & Grounds Committee and care for our property with intention. This team will meet **every two months** and will be responsible for shaping decisions about:

- Maintenance schedules and repair needs
- Use of the building, including policies on renters
- Working with vendors—cleaning, lawn care, snow removal, handyman services, and more
- Helping determine improvements to our grounds (yes, even where to plant new trees!)

No special skills are required—just a willingness to learn, to collaborate, and occasionally to stop by the building at odd hours when something needs attention. If you're handy, great. If you can climb a ladder or use a caulk gun, wonderful. But there's room for everyone who's willing to pitch in and support the health and future of our shared home.

If you feel called to help care for the place that holds our community, we'd love to have you join us.

Interested? Have questions? Visit us at the Building & Grounds table after the December 7 service or talk to Lisa B. or Tonya S. [ask our Office Admin for contact info].

Treasure Sale

December 7

You too can be this shiny! Plan to shop the UUFB Treasure Sale on Sunday, December 7th, and bling yourself out to your heart's content! There will be a pre-sale for children only (with assistance from amazing UUFB volunteers) from 9:20 - 9:45. No parents allowed at the pre-sale! People of all ages are welcome to shop at the Treasure Sale from 11 - 12. Cash, check and Venmo will be accepted.



I'll never hide; I can't, I'm too shiny!

But in order to sell treasure, we must first collect treasure! So arm yourself with your trusty treasure maps and go digging for any new or gently used buried treasures you may have in your house, attic, garage, storage unit, office, neighbor's lawn, etc. Treasures can take the form of sparkly jewels (real or fake), kitchen appliances and gadgets, home goods, handmade items, toys looking for a new friend, art or hobby supplies, or pretty much anything you can think of (except electronics and clothing - we won't be taking those, sorry)! Donations can be dropped off at UUFB December 2-5 between 8-11 a.m. If you will not be in town on these dates, but want to donate, please contact Cami.

Want to volunteer to make the Treasure Sale successful? We'd abso-LOOT-ley love to have your help! And as a bonus, all volunteers get to choose one item to buy before the Treasure Sale opens. **To volunteer, visit uufbozeman.org/treasure-sale or call Cami.**

Because more booty makes life better!

Break Barriers, Build Beliefs (B4) Workshop

Saturday, December 13, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

As you know, our congregation is currently searching for our next full-time minister. Although the minister will be hired by the board, all of us have a role to play in preparing to welcome them.

In this light, the search committee invites you to participate in the Break Barriers, Build Beliefs (B4) Workshop offered by the UUA. This engaging, 2.5-hour experience will help us reflect on how our personal experiences and assumptions can shape how we perceive others—especially those in leadership roles. We'll explore unconscious bias, the subtle and often unrecognized attitudes or expectations we all carry that can shape our reactions and relationships, even when we intend to be fair and welcoming.

By participating, we'll deepen our shared commitment to inclusion and equity—creating a community where all people are valued for who they are and where our new minister, whatever their background or identity, will be received with open minds and open hearts. This is an opportunity for all of us to strengthen the culture of welcome and belonging that defines our fellowship and to embody our UU values as we prepare to support our next minister's ministry among us.

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us on Saturday, December 13, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm. You can join the search team and board live at the Fellowship, where we will participate in the workshop by Zoom along with other UU congregations in search. If it's more convenient, you can register yourself separately and participate remotely by Zoom.

Your participation will help us welcome our new minister with understanding, warmth, and shared purpose.

Lisa B. on behalf of the board and ministerial search committee



December 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 •6:00 Women's Group Cookie Exchange	2	3	4 •7:00 Men's Group	5 •6:30 Celebrating Community: Shabbat at UUFB	6
7 •10:00 Service with Steve Held •11:00 Monthly Birthday Party Social Time •11:00 Treasure Sale	8	9	10 •5:30 Choir Rehearsal	11	12	13 •10:00 Break Barriers, Build Beliefs (B4) Workshop
14 •10:00 Service with Rev. Katie Michael •2 nd Sunday Offering •11:30 Board Meeting	15	16	17 •3:00 Banned Book Club •5:30 Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20
21 •10:00 Sunday Service •Food Bank Sunday •4:00 Christmas Caroling for a Cause •6:00 Winter Solstice & Yule Celebration	22	23	24 •5:00 Christmas Eve Service	25	26	27
28 •10:00 Sunday Service with Cami Armijo-Grover and Special Music! •Glass Recycling	29	30	31			

Upcoming Events

- 12/1 Women's Group
- 12/4 Men's Group
- 12/5 Celebrating Community: Shabbat at UUFB
- 12/7 Sunday Service with Steve Held
- 12/7 Monthly Birthday/Anniversary Social Time
- 12/7 Treasure Sale
- 12/10 Choir Rehearsal
- 12/13 Break Barriers, Build Beliefs (B4) Workshop
- 12/14 Sunday Service with Rev. Katie Michael
- 12/14 2nd Sunday Offering
- 12/14 Board Meeting
- 12/17 Banned Book Club
- 12/17 Choir Rehearsal
- 12/21 Food Bank Sunday
- 12/21 Sunday Service
- 12/21 Christmas Caroling for a Cause
- 12/21 Winter Solstice & Yule Celebration
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m.
- 12/28 Sunday Service with Cami Armijo-Grover
- 12/28 Glass Recycling

Soul Matters



Small group gatherings: Soul Matters provides many options for diving into our monthly themes and deeply LISTENING to one another. One group meets 1 time on the first Tuesday of each month at church from 4:30 to 6; another group meets 2 times a month on the 2nd & 4th Mondays from 4:30 to 6. Topics: December: Choosing Hope; January: Practicing Resistance; February: Embodying Resilience; March: Pay Attention; April: Embracing Possibility; May: Awakening Curiosity; & June: Flourishing Together. If you would like more information about either of these groups, please contact Rachel R.

Upcoming Events



Pastoral Care in December

Throughout the month of December, Mattie W. and Beth D. will be available to provide pastoral care. Please contact the Office Administrator if you need their contact information. Rev. Roxy will be on sabbatical during this time.

Women's Group Cookie Exchange - December 1

Since many of us love having a variety of holiday cookies ready but don't have time for all that baking, this month we will have a Cookie Exchange on December 1st, 6:00 p.m. at UUFb. So just bake or buy your favorite kind of cookie. Bring several dozen of those cookies to exchange with others. You can take home the same number of cookies as you bring and you end up with a great variety. So we don't eat all the cookies that night, you can also bring a non-cookie snack to share. Hope you can join us.

UUFb Men's Group - December 4

All men are invited to join the UUFb Men's Group for their monthly meeting 7 p.m. at UUFb. This is a great opportunity to connect with other men in the community, engage in meaningful discussions, and explore topics of shared interest. Whether you're a long-time member or new to the group, your presence and participation are valued. If you would like to be added to the Men's Group email list to stay informed about upcoming gatherings, please [contact our Office Admin](#).

Celebrating Community: Shabbat at UUFb - December 5

Congregation Beth Shalom wants to thank you (the UUFb community) for all for the hospitality over the last six months! Please join them for Shabbat services on Friday, December 5th, at 6:30 pm. No special attire required.

Monthly Birthday & Anniversary Party Social Time - December 7

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 finger foods to this event! Sign up at uufbozeman.org/birthday.

Pathways to Participation: Building & Grounds + Interior Design - December 7

UUFb runs on the energy and commitment of our volunteers! Our committees will be featured on upcoming Sundays—visit them during coffee hour, learn how they help our Fellowship thrive, thank them for their work, and discover ways you can get involved.

Board Meeting - December 14

The UUFb Board meets at UUFb and on Zoom monthly on the second Sunday at 11:30 a.m. Please let a Board member know if you are interested in attending.

Banned Book Group - December 17

The Banned Book Group will meet December 17th from 3:00 -4:30 p.m. Enjoy a thoughtful discussion of *Blubber* by Judy Bloom. All are welcome—whether you've read the whole book or just want to listen in!

Food Bank Sunday - December 21

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 deliver them to the food bank.



Upcoming Events



Christmas Caroling for a Cause - December 21

Christmas Caroling for a Cause is where groups of carolers meet up to carol to pre-determined neighborhoods as a fundraiser for HRDC and Haven. This event takes place on Sunday, December 21st, starting at 4:00 p.m. We'll meet at The AC Hotel by Marriot in Downtown Bozeman, in their First Floor Meeting Room. There's also an after-party with complimentary food and drinks back at the AC Hotel! This is a fun, free, family-friendly event! Kids of all ages truly improve the joyfulness of this event, so bring the whole family! Carolers do not need to have a good voice, they just need a good heart. If you are interested in joining, please email Cami (contact our Office Admin for her email) by December 14th so she can let the event organizer know. Also, we'd welcome anyone who doesn't attend UUFB so spread the word to friends and family.



Winter Solstice & Yule Celebration - December 21

You are cordially invited to an Eclectic Celtic Wiccan ceremony/ritual honoring the Goddess and the God for the Winter Solstice and Yule on December 21st from 6-9 p.m. at UUFB. You may participate in the circle as you wish or observe from the sidelines. Space is limited, so please RSVP at uufbozeman.org/solstice. All are welcome with open minds and hearts as we celebrate the turning of the wheel and the return of the light.



Glass Recycling - December 28

On the 4th Sunday of each month, UUFB has a glass recycling service for our members. There will be a volunteer in our parking lot accepting clean glass in boxes or bags to recycle. If you wish to offer a small payment for gas and time, feel free! We need a glass recycling volunteer! Sign up at uufbozeman.org/glass-recycling! Please do not leave glass at UUFB, we have no room to store it.



Join our choir led by Megan M!

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



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.

minister search *update*



The search committee is ready for this year's contract minister search. The team has created and updated materials for searching ministers to learn about us and our position at UUFB. Our congregational profile will be available next Monday on the UUA's Ministry Search and Jobs Board. It will soon be added to the Minister Search section on the home page of the UUFB website. Our efforts will extend beyond the UUA portal as we seek ministers who may not be in the search process with the UUA. We have experience with a non-UU minister. When Rev. Lois van Leer became our first minister in 2003, she had been a youth minister in the United Church of Christ. After much study and many trips to Boston to meet with the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee, Rev. Van Leer was approved for UU ministry and ordained by the UUFB. Rev. Lois was learning how to be a UU minister while we were learning how to support and work with a minister. It was a time of great growth for our congregation.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP of BOZEMAN

Staff

- **Pastoral Care:** Rev. Roxy K.
- **Office Administrator:** Christy H.

In-office hours: Tuesday–Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Remote hours: Tuesday–Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Out of the office on Monday

- **Coordinator of Religious Exploration:** Asherah B.
- **Religious Exploration Co-Teacher:** Sheldon W.
- **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.

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: Neil S., Contact
- Finance Committee: Bruce D., Chair
- Fundraising: Open
- Governance/Leadership: Tonya S., Contact
- Hospitality/Membership: Tonya S., Chair
- Interfaith *Our Whole Lives*: 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: Carolyn B., Contact
- Safety Task Force: Neil S., Contact
- Social Activities: Diane K., Contact
- Social Justice Action Committee: Randy B., Contact
- Stewardship: Open
- Sunday Services Committee: Jeanne M. Contact

Contact Points

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