

FEBRUARY 2026

UUF B NEWS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

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

February 1, 2026 • "We Must Never Forget: What We Do Truly Matters" with Dr. Bruce Gourley

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*.

February 8, 2026 • "Embodying Resilience—UUs doing it well!" with Rev. Roxy Klingensmith

See the theme of "embodying resilience" through the lens of UUs specifically practicing the 7 principles of Unitarian Universalism, principles that guide our quest for justice, greater empathy and spiritual growth. Despite experiencing adversity and uncertainty, we stand together in unity and compassion to create a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

February 15, 2026 • To Be Announced with Dr. Jelani Mahiri

More information about this service will be announced soon. Dr. Mahiri is a Visiting Professor in Anthropology at MSU since 2009, who has a wide range of life experiences. He speaks from the heart with empathy, broad perspectives, and humor in his narratives. He is also a photographer and engages in Afro-Cuban percussion and dance. In the summers he works in landscaping, which has led to his planting of at least 1,000 trees in Bozeman and throughout the Gallatin Valley. Don't miss this special service.

February 22, 2026 • "mUUSIC and Art Service — Resilience & Resistance" with Megan Makeever

Join Megan Makeever, Jeanne Moe, and various UU congregants and friends for a service that is filled with meaningful songs, art, and reflections related to the topics of resilience and resistance!

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!

As we move into February, our new theme is “Embodying Resilience.” This month is all about exploring how we can notice, grow, and strengthen our ability to bounce back when life feels challenging. Resilience isn’t just about enduring; it’s about finding ways to move forward with courage, creativity, and joy.

First, we will learn about how to embody resilience through a connection to nature as we celebrate the holiday, Imbolc, which is the mid-point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox.

Then, we will explore building resilience through our community. In honor of black history month, we will be teaching about the resiliency of the black communities, as together they have endured through much hardship and come out victorious in their fight for freedom. We all have much to learn from them.

The following Sunday is Nirvana day and so we will practice embodying resilience through mindfulness. When life feels challenging and overwhelming, having breathing exercises and meditation techniques can soothe the mind and strengthen our resilience enough to move forwards through tough times.

To close out the month, we will look to comedy as a source of resilience, or rather, re-silly-ence. Expect lots of laughter coming from our classroom as we fight the scaries with humor. There is nothing like contagious cackling to warm our spirits on long, cold nights.



Blessings everyone, Asherah



The Peace Candle

We invite you to honor those people you are aware of who are in need of prayers or kind wishes. The Peace Candle altar is for congregation to silently offer names of those who are struggling or have died. We ask that you write the name(s) on a card and also place the date on the back of the card. After 30 days the card will be removed.



BOARD REPORT

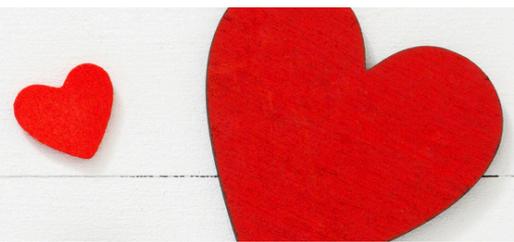


On January 11th, the board was happy to welcome the congregation to our semi-annual meeting. In this meeting, Kaylin Greene presented information and led discussion related to various 2026 budget items. The congregation voted in favor of passing the 2026 budget. In addition, Sandra Oldendorf relayed some financial information from 2025. She noted that because of excess funds (primarily due to not having a full-time minister), the board was able to allocate \$50,000 toward the principal of our building mortgage. As such, our mortgage balance was reduced from ~\$234,000 to about \$184,000.

Another focus of the board has been UUFB's insurance policy. Barbara T. has been communicating with the agency to better understand our policy and what is/is not covered. This information will help the board decide if we need to adjust any of our existing UUFB policies to align with guidance from the insurance agency.

The board also wants to remind everyone that the nursery is not to be used for storage. Of course, the congregation should still feel free to use the space! It can be used as a space for meetings as well as a space for infants/parents and really anyone who needs a break or a quiet space :)

Kaylin and the UUFB Board of Directors



Rising Stars – the daycare preschool program run by Family Promise for its clients and their children is now FOUR years old.

Its goal is to provide childcare for every family in the Family Promise community. Rising Stars ELC - named for dedication to offering a Safe, Trusting, Accepting, Respectful, and Secure learning environment - is a community based early learning center that provides developmentally appropriate childcare and early learning opportunities for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

In 2024-2025, 136 children attended Rising Stars. The availability of safe childcare with learning opportunities made it possible for 95 different families to work. Tuition for Rising Stars ranges from \$1,500 per month for children from four weeks to 2 years of age, \$1,400 per month for 2 to 3-year-olds and \$1,250 per month for 4 to 5-year-olds. Most of the children who attend Rising Stars are supported with scholarships based on family income. In 2024-25, \$166,549 was provided in scholarships.

The money for scholarships is largely money donated by community members. If you would like to help, you can donate using this link.
<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/mily.promise.of.gallatin.valley>

As a weekly volunteer in a Rising Stars classroom, I can attest to its quality and to the fun children have as they learn.

Carolyn B.





February 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 •10:00 Service with Dr. Bruce Gourley •11:00 Monthly Birthday Party Social Time •1:00 Inter-religious Peace Vigil at St. James Episcopal Church	2	3	4	5 •7:00 Men's Group	6	7
8 •10:00 Service with Rev. Roxy Klingensmith •2 nd Sunday Offering to the Food Bank •11:00 Valentine's Craft Event •11:30 Board Meeting	9	10	11 •5:30 Choir Practice	12	13 •11:30 GVIA Panel - LEAVING A LEGACY: THE END OF LIFE at Hope Lutheran	14
15 •10:00 Service with Jelani Mahiri •Food Bank Sunday	16	17	18 •3:00 Banned Book Club •5:30 Choir Practice	19	20	21 •9:30 Estate Planning 101 with Marsha Goetting, MSU Extension Service •5:30 Hot Cider at the Lantern Parade
22 •10:00 mUUSIC Service with Megan Makeever •Glass Recycling	23	24	25	26 •4:30 Fork & Spoon Volunteers Needed	27	28 •4:00 UUFb Auction!

Upcoming Events

- 2/1 Sunday Service with Dr. Bruce Gourley
- 2/1 Monthly Birthday/Anniversary Social Time
- 2/1 Interreligious Peace Vigil at St. James
- 2/5 Men's Group
- 2/8 Sunday Service with Rev. Roxy Klingensmith
- 2/8 2nd Sunday Offering to the Gallatin Valley Food Bank
- 2/8 Valentine's Craft Event
- 2/8 Board Meeting
- 2/11 Choir Practice
- 2/13 GVIA Panel - Leaving a Legacy: The End of Life at Hope Lutheran
- 2/15 Sunday Service with Jelani Mahiri
- 2/15 Food Bank Sunday
- 2/18 Banned Book Club
- 2/18 Choir Practice
- 2/21 Estate Planning 101 with Marsha Goetting
- 2/21 Hot Cider at the Lantern Parade
- 2/22 mUUSIC Service with Megan Makeever
- 2/22 Glass Recycling
- 2/26 Fork & Spoon Volunteers Needed
- 2/28 UUFb Auction!

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:

- February 1: Hospitality & Membership
- February 15: Social Activities



Learn More about UUFB!

If you are new or someone who has been coming for a while and would like to learn more about UUFB and Unitarian Universalism there are some opportunities ahead. These would be particularly helpful if you are considering membership in UUFB or just inspired to learn more.

In early March there will be an orientation to UUFB and UU after the service. We will share the journeys that brought us to UUFB, some of the history of UUFB and UU (do you know the difference between Unitarianism and Universalism?) and the principles and sources that we use on our individual paths.

On April 12 before the service, we will have a breakfast where we talk more about UU and UUFB and particularly the ways one can become involved in the UUFB community.

Hope to see you at one or both events. Both will have time for your questions.

For more information stop one of us at a service. We are the people wearing the “Ask Me About UUFB” buttons.

Hospitality and Membership Committee
Tonya, Darla, James, Jeanine, Rachel and Carolyn

Families and Legacies: Challenging Decisions

February 21, and March 7, 2026, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., UUFb Social Hall

Do you know who will receive your property if you pass away without an estate plan? Do you know how the title on your property impacts who receives it upon your death? Do you know what your estate is? (Everyone has one, whether you know it or not.) Dr. Marsha Goetting, Montana State University Extension Family Economics Specialist, will answer these and other questions in two workshops hosted by UUFb.

Just weeks before everything stopped for covid, UUFb provided one of Dr. Goetting's workshops on estate planning and decision-making. Those who attended felt it was very useful, so UUFb's Legacy Giving Committee is repeating that program and adding a second one, "Avoiding Probate," on March 7. You do not need to attend both sessions, but you must register for each separately. The first workshop, on February 21, is "Families and Legacies: Decisions, Decisions, Decisions"; the second, on March 7 is on "Avoiding Probate."

Childcare and refreshments will be provided. There is no charge to participate, but we ask you to register (especially for childcare) so our preparations will be adequate. Please sign up at uufbozeman.org/estate for the first workshop (February 21st) and uufbozeman.org/probate for the second (March 7th) to register. Registration deadlines are February 18 for the first workshop and by March 4 for the second.

Dr. Goetting provides valuable information to families and individuals of all ages and income levels. These informative presentations are designed for grandparents, parents, singles, and married couples. During interactive sessions, Dr. Goetting combines her appreciation of Montana wildflowers with her desire to help you understand strategies to make your legacy planning easier and less expensive. She will also explore how you can avoid probate with Payable on Death designations (PODs), Transfer on Death registrations (TODs), and other beneficiary designations.

Dr. Marsha Goetting is a Professor and Extension Family Economics Specialist at Montana State University in Bozeman. She has presented hundreds of financial and estate planning programs across Montana and has received state, regional and national awards for her programs. Dr. Goetting received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Kansas State University and a PhD from Iowa State University.

We hope to see you at these valuable programs!

Your Legacy Giving Committee
Jeanie B., Pam P., Dave R., Rose T., Peg W.



BID, EAT, REPEAT!

THE UUFNB AUCTION IS ON

The UUFNB Auction is this month! - February 28th, 4pm until, at the Fellowship. We've planned to have food, beverages, and some entertainment. Expect some serious competition for some great items!

And, auction item submission is ONLINE at this link:
<http://uufnbozeman.org/auction>

Not sure what to submit? The Auction folks are ready to help. Need ideas? We got lots and lots of ideas!

At upcoming Sundays during social hour, look for folks in funny hats to ask questions and get ideas. But you can send questions now to Carolyn W, Leona P, and/or Cami A.

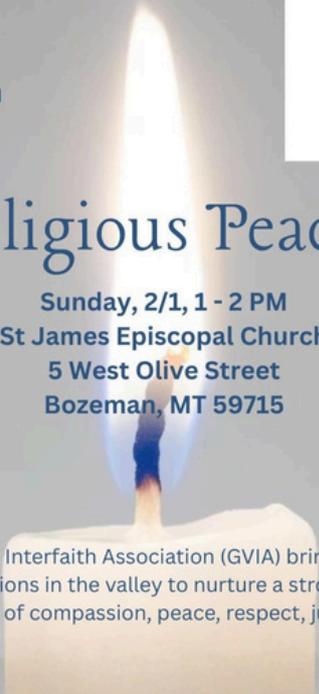


The Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association Invites:



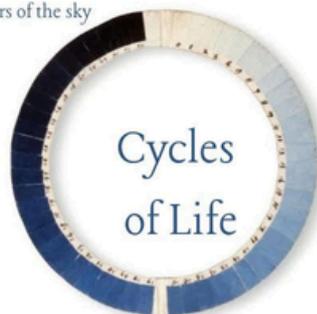
Interreligious Peace Vigil

Sunday, 2/1, 1 - 2 PM
St James Episcopal Church
5 West Olive Street
Bozeman, MT 59715



The Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association (GVIA) brings together people of all faith traditions in the valley to nurture a stronger community through efforts of compassion, peace, respect, justice, and love.

colors of the sky



The Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association Invites:

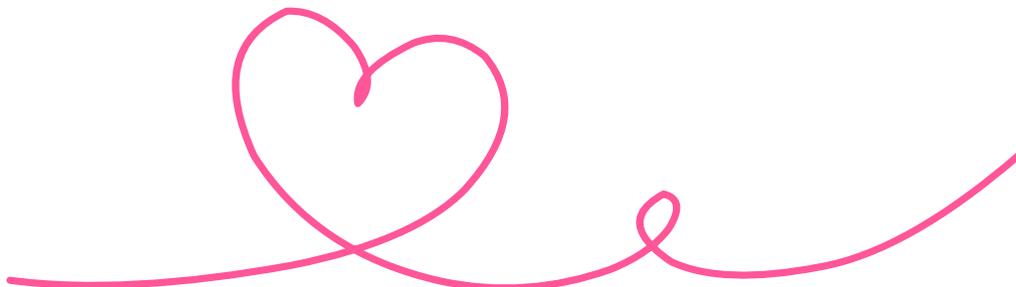


Interreligious Panels:

LEAVING A LEGACY: THE END OF LIFE
Friday, February 13
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM at Hope Lutheran

PASSING IT ON: EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION
Friday, April 17
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM at Hope Lutheran

The Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association (GVIA) brings together people of all faith traditions in the valley to nurture a stronger community through efforts of compassion, peace, respect, justice, and love. Our panels offer insights into our shared wisdom traditions on how to live well throughout all the seasons of our lives.

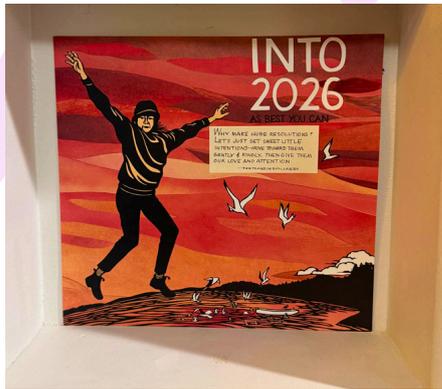


INSPIRATION NICHES

You may have noticed the three niches in the hallway to the right of the entrance has a rotation every two months of inspiring installations and quotes. These thoughtful displays are provided by members and friends who have a creative idea and are willing to put it together to share with you all. The intention is to have a visual and verbal inspiration for everyone to delight in. We are looking for people with ideas to offer for these niches. The concepts must include quotes or images that reflect UU principles and values. If you have an idea and need assistance in its execution just ask for assistance from the Interior Design Committee. Submit your idea/plan to Rose T. (contact the Office Admin for her email). Photos of past installations are here to inspire your creativity.



*And now let us believe in a long year that is given to us, new, untouched, full of things that have never been...
-Rainer Maria Rilke*



Artwork by Nikki McClure



“Trip Around the World”

Ohio, 1985, by Rose T.

Hand pieced and hand quilted In the Amish style of solid, jewel-toned cotton fabric, In simple geometrics.

Upcoming Events



Monthly Birthday & Anniversary Party Social Time - February 1

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.



UUFNB Men's Group - February 5

All men are invited to join the UUFNB Men's Group for their monthly meeting 7 p.m. at UUFNB. 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](#).



2nd Sunday Offering to the Gallatin Valley Food Bank - February 8

The Social Justice Action Committee (SJAC) has specified that this offering will go the Gallatin Valley Food Bank. Donate online (uufbozeman.org/donate) and select "Give to 2nd Sunday charitable donation" or write a check payable to UUFNB with "GVFB" in the memo line.

Gallatin Valley Food Bank's (GVFB) mission is to improve food security throughout Southwest Montana, and has been serving our community since 1982. Their vision is to create a healthier, more resilient, food-secure community in which all of the members are empowered and have the means to nourish themselves. They advocate and support our community through their work, partnerships, and commitment to improving food security.



Valentines Craft Event - February 8

On Sunday, Feb. 8th please join us after the Sunday Service to make Valentines for UUFNB members and friends who haven't been able to make it to the Fellowship recently. We will also make some Valentines for those who have moved away from Bozeman to let them know that we still think about them. We will have a couple of tables set up in the Social Hall with lots of supplies to create the Valentines. Kids of all ages (and that includes adults) are encouraged to participate.



Board Meeting - February 8

The UUFNB Board meets at UUFNB and on Zoom monthly at 11:30 a.m. the date listed above. Please let a Board member know if you are interested in attending.



Food Bank Sunday - February 15

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



Banned Book Group - February 18

The Banned Book Group will meet February 18th from 3:00 -4:30 p.m. Enjoy a thoughtful discussion of 1984 by George Orwell. All are welcome—whether you've read the whole book or just want to listen in!



Estate Planning 101 with Marsha Goetting, MSU Extension Service - February 21

The Legacy Giving Committee is sponsoring Marsha Goetting, MSU Extension Agent, as she presents "Families and Legacies: Decisions, Decisions, Decisions," an interactive and lively two-hour workshop on basic estate planning. This will take place in our large meeting room 9:30 a.m., Saturday, February 21, 2026 and will be the first of two workshops on this topic. The second held in March, also in our meeting space. Snacks and drinks will be served. Please contact a member of the Legacy Giving Committee if you will need childcare for this event.

Upcoming Events



Hot Cider at the Lantern Parade - February 21

The Religious Education and Social Activities Committees will provide hot cider (nonalcoholic) for our groups and other faith groups at the Random Acts of Silliness Lantern parade. We will have a table somewhere in the parking lot at the Gallatin Valley Regional Park on Oak St. where the lantern parade will be held. Come and warm up before or after the parade.



Glass Recycling - February 22

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! Thank you to Neil S. for being our glass recycling volunteer this month. Please do not leave the glass on other Sundays at the fellowship, as we have no room to store it.



Fork & Spoon Volunteers Needed - February 26

2-3 Volunteers from UUFB are needed at Fork & Spoon from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Please sign up at least a week before the scheduled date by filling out the form located at uufbozeman.org/fork-spoon. If you have questions, please contact Randy B.



Estate Planning 201 "Avoiding Probate," Marsha Goetting, MSU Extension Service - March 7

The Legacy Giving Committee is sponsoring the second of two workshops on estate planning by Marsha Goetting, MSU Extension Service 9:30 a.m., Saturday, March 7, 2026 at UUFB. This interactive and engaging two-hour presentation will explain how to avoid probate of your estate in Montana. Please contact a member of the LG Committee if you will need childcare for this event.



Sunday Services Suggestions and Feedback

The Sunday Services Committee endeavors to present topics and speakers that are inspiring, informative, and stimulating—and we invite your feedback on past services and suggestions for future ones. You can share your ideas by filling out a card and placing it in the brown box in the social hall, or by completing the form at uufbozeman.org/3sf.



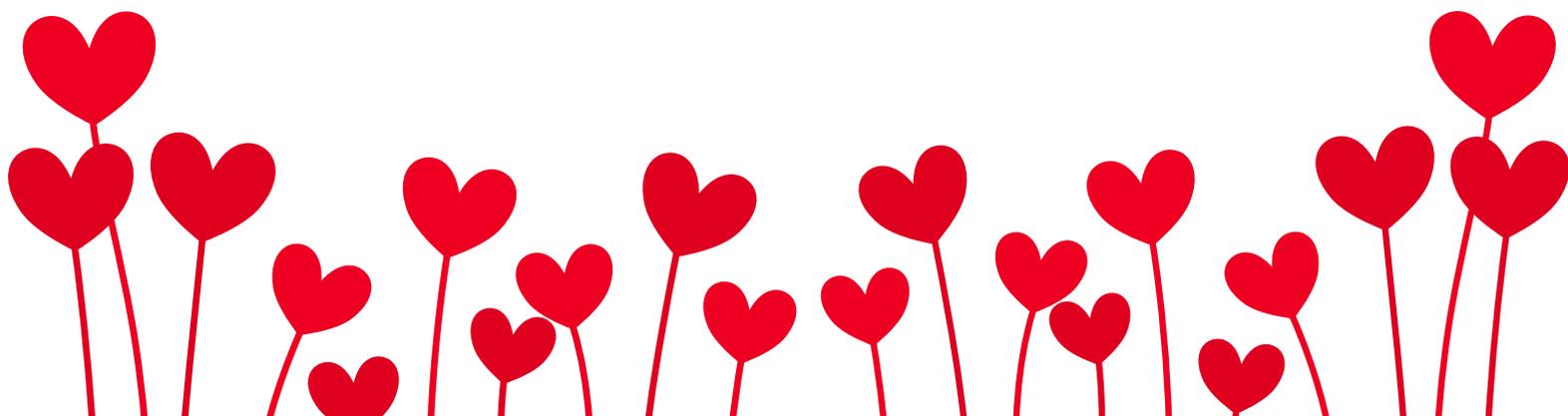
Join our choir led by Megan M!

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.





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