

THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

Summer 2020

Until we can safely meet together in Fellowship Hall, our Worship Services and meetings are on [Zoom](#). Please check your ENews or email worshiponline@bfuu.org (for Worship Service) or Committee Chair (for other meetings; see page 3) for zoom links, Meeting IDs, passwords, and updates.

Upcoming Worship Services

Services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

July 5: InterBeing | Interdependence | Interrelatedness

Evelie Delfino Sâles Posch (she/her/siya), Worship Facilitator

Come to a Ritual to celebrate InterBeing | Interdependence | Interrelatedness. We'll create a sacred space for inspiration to take action supporting humanity's needs for environmental and social justice. Let's weave a journey of singing, healing, guided meditation/ vision quest, indigenous shamanic blessing & wisdom, poetry, readings, and more. If you wish, you may prepare your altar at home with correlating symbols of the Directions & Elemental Spirits: North/Mother Earth; East/Air; South/Fire; West/ Water; Center/Spirit (Alchemy/Change; Ultimate Mystery). Pinagpala na/ Blessed Be.



July 12: There's Something Wrong With the Village; reflections on being the parent of a trans-gender teen

Rev. Ben Meyers (he/him), Guest Worship Leader

There's a famous African proverb often quoted by white liberals: "It takes a village to raise a child." And yet...if we're unable to raise ALL of our children, including our trans-, gender non-binary children, then there must be something wrong with the village. The sermon looks at what that might be, based on direct experience.



photo: [Tim Evanson Flickr](#)

July 19: The Great Transition Part One *Rev. Marsh Agobert (he/him), Worship Leader*



We, at BFUU, have an open conversation regarding the current "great revealing."* There are areas of interest for most everyone. How the two most recent entries (the surge in Black Lives Matter and the viral pandemic) will come to impact our movement forward in time has yet to be determined. Yet we have been graced with a momentary pause to consider such questions. Where

do we want to come out on the other side of this moment, and how can we make the most of it? What role can our small community play in this event? Part one: Identifying the (potential) changes on the table.

*Apocalypse: Greek apokálypsis revelation, equivalent to apokalýp(tein) to uncover, reveal.

July 26: The Puzzle of Sudoku: If It's Mind, Does It Matter?

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her), Worship Leader

In this time of stress and isolation, when the future remains uncertain in so many spheres of our lives, we do well to seek refuge in solo activities that can give us pleasure and a sense of accomplishment. Rev. Dr. Carrie considers the evidence that mastering puzzles like Sudoku has promise not only of escape from stress but also of strengthening our cognitive skills that support us beyond the challenges of today.



photo: [Annie Mole Flickr](#)

Please see page 5 for August Services



Clergy & Staff

Reverend Marsh Agobert, *Minister*
 Reverend Dr. Carrie Knowles, *Minister*
 Reverend Tom McAninley, *Community Minister*
 Deborah Hamouris, *Event Space Coordinator*
 Susan Macke, *Office Coordinator*
 Ed Keating, *Facilities Manager*
 Michael Simpkins, Jr., *IT Consultant*

Board of Trustees

Ira Armstrong, *President*
 Jeff Palmer
 Michael Gardner
 Joanna Foley
 Ben Burch
 Judith Granada-Dewey (*Alternate*)
 David Makofsky (*Alternate*)

Committees

Aesthetics (Subcommittee of B&G)
 Joanna Foley, *Chair*
 Building & Grounds Committee
 Abbot Foote, *Co-Chair*
 Ben Burch, *Co-Chair*
 Caring Community
 Kathy Riehle, *Chair*
 Committee on Ministry
 Laura Knipmeyer, *Convener*
 Finance Committee
 Ben Burch, *Co-Chair*
 Abbot Foote, *Co-Chair*
 Hospitality Committee
 Kathy Riehle, *Chair*
 Membership Committee
 Doug Chambers, *Chair*
 Music Committee
 Margaret Hurlbert, *Chair*
 Personnel Committee
 Kathy Riehle, *Chair*
 Poetry Committee
 Frances Hillyard, *Chair*
 Gene Herman, *Poet Laureate*
 Religious Education (RE) Committee
 Sharon Colligan, *Convener*
 Social Justice Committee (SJC)
 Phoebe Sorgen, Cynthia Johnson,
 Gene Herman, and David Makofsky,
Co-Chairs
 SJM Task Force (Subcom of SJC)
 Jeff Palmer, *Convener*
 Worship Services Committee
 Joanna Foley, *Chair*

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in The Communicator are those of individuals and are not necessarily those of BFUU, its officers, or its trustees.

Cleric's Corner



A Question is Worth a Thousand Pictures

Two things make change; creative vision and curiosity. And of these two, curiosity is the mother.

Curiosity grows us from being newborn babies to being young adults. Babies start with what is that (mom's face or whatever she presents of herself to the infant) and progress to how does it taste and what's that super strong odor. As the vision, including depth perception, improves, we learn 'how do I get that (over there),' and real problem solving begins. "If I can't get that because I'm stuck in here (crib?), how do I get out of here." Generally, boys excel at the escape arts. "How do I social engineer?" is usually mastered by girls. Yet, right in through here, hybrid skills develop.

Curiosity drives all of the above. In our earliest days, our minds grow at exponential rates that would or sometimes do frighten parents and other adult observers. Because we identify with our children or because they are so much smaller than their adults, we avoid outright fearing them.

As we grow, we age; and that starts somewhere between infancy and toddlerhood. As we age, we become more dependent on what we already know, as opposed to what we need to find out. Eventually, we tell ourselves that we know what is right and what is terrible, and those things boil down to a few salient talking points in our codified areas of attention—the list of things that deserve our focus narrows. I hold as a miracle class event the migration of the majority of the BFUU community to embrace the digital video technology. That lightning-fast shift has buoyed the survival of our community. And yes, you did get some tutoring in this...but the fact remains that YOU did it; each one of you here on Sunday mornings. Not to mention Board and other committee meetings, along with one-on-one and small group ministries as well. It's become a part of daily life and stands as a testament to your facility for youthful capability. You deny it. You complain about what you DON'T know and CAN'T do with Zoom, FaceTime, and Social Media, yet you continue to learn.

Cleric's Corner (continued)

So, I encourage you to Knock It Off. Get over your beloved attachments to what you don't know and what you can't learn. You've already made a liar of yourself in this regard. Embrace your humanity with its adaptability. At the same time, be patient with yourself and side with your nose, ears, tongue, and other parts of our bodies that continue to grow throughout our lifetime.

The key to this is curiosity. Don't require being forced to learn something new. When you see something for the first (or fortieth) time, be interested, anyway. Become curious about the previous and the next generations. In both directions, they will be different than ourselves. The only reason to not be curious is fear, remember? What killed the cat? The only reason we came up with this business of cats having nine lives is to justify why they're still here after all that curiosity. My little 19-year-old cat is still curious. She wants to know what's going on in that closet, and I'll bet she eventually catches an uninvited guest. She's still learning more every day. Now she insists on using the bathroom (in the actual bathroom) and lively conversation. That's for another day.

Rev. Marsh

Please note that Rev. Marsh will be on summer sabbatical for July and August,
but WILL be leading services on July 19 and August 16.



Regular Committee Meetings (via Zoom through Shelter In Place)

Aesthetics (subcom. of B&G)

Meets as needed

contact [Joanna Foley](#)

Buildings & Grounds (B&G)

Meets once per month,

contact [Ben Burch or Abbot Foote](#)

Caring

4th Sunday at 12:30 PM

contact [Kathy Riehle](#)

Committee on Ministry

meets as needed

contact [Laura Knipmeyer](#)

Finance

Meets as needed

contact [Ben Burch or Abbot Foote](#)

Hospitality

4th Sunday at 12:30 PM

contact [Kathy Riehle](#)

Membership

4th Sunday at 12:30 PM

contact [Doug Chambers](#)

Music

2nd Monday 2:00 PM

contact [Margaret Hurlbert](#)

Personnel

3rd Thursdays 2:30 PM

Contact [Kathy Riehle](#)

Poetry

Meets as needed

contact [Frances Hillyard](#)

Religious Education

Meets as needed

contact [Sharon Colligan](#)

Social Justice Ministry

1st Sunday 12:30 PM

contact [Jeff Palmer](#)

Social Justice (SJC)

3rd Sunday 12:30 PM

contact [Phoebe Sorgen](#)

Worship Services

2nd Tuesday at 10:00 AM

contact [Joanna Foley](#)

President's Corner



Song of the month: [We Shall Be Known](#)

Reading of the month: [Pacific Western Region Newsletter](#)

Meditation of the Month: [Meditation for Black Lives](#)

Dear Beloved BFUU,

We are in one of the most sacred times I can imagine.

As I write this, it is the beginning of the summer solstice. Black folks and Indigenous folks and trans folks and disabled folks, folks who have been left out and told to wait for their liberation until the mainstream folks have gotten what they need, are demanding time, space, safety and reparations.

No more conservative trickle down economics. No more liberal trickle down justice. Folks are demanding liberation, and will not settle for less.

What do we, as UUs, have to do with all this? Where do we stand? Where do we fall?

UUs have always been divided. Just like any group of folks who are associated by religion or practice or belief, we are not immune to the fallacies and pitfalls of the world we live in. When UUs were working on the Underground Railroad to get escaped African captives to freedom, there were other UUs who were arguing for the preservation of the lifestyle that slavery allowed. Still others wanted to abolish slave capitalism, but wanted a gradual change that wouldn't start too much turmoil.

So. Where do we stand? Which side are we on, at BFUU? In the midst of conflict many of us have turned to racist tropes; many of those who didn't believe the tropes fell into fears of confrontation rather than justice-seeking.

So. We are at a period of reconstruction. Beginning this summer, we will get some time to analyze which side BFUU is on. We will look at the issues of our day, and learn new skills to

be ready for the changes that are happening. And we will support young people who are doing liberation work so that no matter where we start, we end up bending the arc towards justice.

I want BFUU to be here in a hundred years. To be full of principled and loving and magical and musical people.

We will be launching The Future Church to talk more about what we want to do and who will lead us there. We will support Gen X, Millennials and Zoomers and listen to what they think should be next. They will be building the new world, and we will be using our resources and time and talent and treasures to provide the structure within which they can build. Paikea and Frida and Arlo and Annabelle and Tallulah and Eva will, in 50 years, tell our stories. I hope I'm still here in the flesh to hear those stories; if not, I hope to be an ancestor who listens to and guides them.

Let's live in covenant together. Let's study together our sources and principles. Let's all learn about our bodies and how they are connected to our spirits through the practice of the Our Whole Lives (OWL) curriculum. Let's continue our Social Justice Ministry with our community and national partnerships that allow for the creation of economic justice.

I love you, BFUU. And I am in this with you.

In community,

Ira X Armstrong

BFUU Board President

Upcoming Worship Services

Services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.



August 2: Youth Leaders Stepping Forward

MameDiarra AbdurRahman (she/her), Reginald Gentry (he/him), and Eli Streiff (he/him or they/them), Guest Speakers

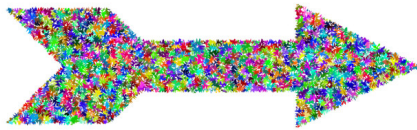
Recent headlines bring news about young people stepping up to organize large protests about anti-Black police violence. Young voices speaking truth to power! Meanwhile, although not as visible to the world at large, Youth Spirit Artworks

is empowering its own group of youth leaders. Several of its talented artists will report on their work to serve unhoused and housing-insecure young people. Building tiny homes together, their vision is to create Tiny Home villages where young people can thrive through mutual support.

August 9: The Color-Blind Society and Other Myths: Dismantling Racism in America

Clovice Lewis (he/him), Guest Worship Leader

Through his many careers as music composer and performer, entrepreneur/software designer, and professor of computer music, the unifying life theme for Clovice Lewis has been his personal mission to break down racial, gender, class and ethnic barriers. Through his spoken and musical messages, Clovice urgently reminds the world of the madness of human self-extinction.



August 16: The Great Transition Part Two

Rev. Marsh Agobert (he/him), Worship Leader

We, at BFUU, have an open conversation regarding the current “great revealing.”* There are areas of interest for most everyone. How the two

most recent entries (the surge in Black Lives Matter and the viral pandemic) will come to impact our movement forward in time has yet to be determined. Yet we have been graced with a momentary pause to consider such questions. Where do we want to come out on the other side of this moment, and how can we make the most of it? What role can our small community play in this event? Part two: Given we don’t need to know how to do something before setting out to create or do it, what can we do to get where we want to be?

*Apocalypse: Greek apokálypsis revelation, equivalent to apokalýp(tein) to uncover, reveal.

August 23: From Sojourner Truth to Stacy Abrams: Women’s Equality Day and the Right To Vote

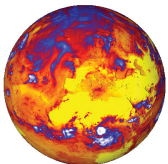
Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her), Worship Leader

On this 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment that gave women the right to vote, Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles traces the history of voting rights for African American women and other women of color, and the fight for equality in all walks of life.



August 30: Rising to the Climate Emergency: What Can We Count On?

Joanna Macy (she/her), Guest Speaker



Joanna Macy encourages us to identify our strengths and tools for change as we face the challenge of the global climate crisis. Young activists will also join us to report how they are building a mass movement of young people to stop climate change and create millions of good-paying jobs in the process.

BFUU Congregational Meeting - Board Elections! - and Part 2 July 12th

BFUU's Annual Meeting and Board election on June 14, 2020 was widely attended and featured a lively discussion about the budget for the coming year. Mike Gardner, Ben Burch, and Joanna Foley were elected to the Board of Trustees, and Judith Granada Dewey and David Makofsky were elected as Board Alternates. Tom Rudderow, who ran by petition, gathered quite a few votes, and was commended for his involvement.

BFUU's Annual **Congregational Meeting** will continue on July 12 at 12:30 PM. Please join us!

Time: Jul 12, 2020 12:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/92304639163>

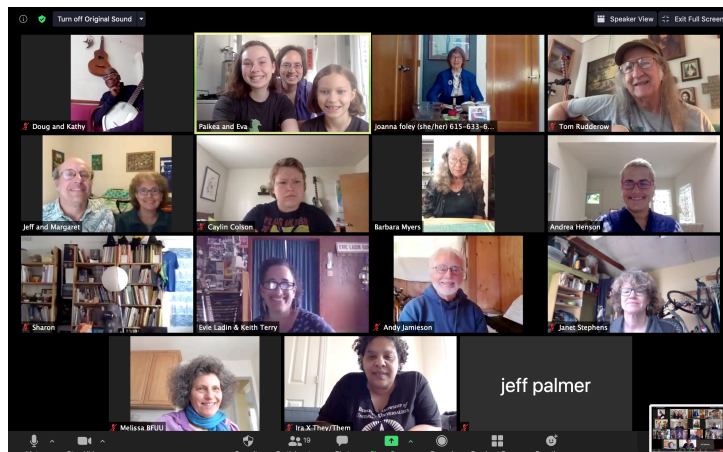
Meeting ID: 923 0463 9163 9486 Password: 028660

To join by telephone: Dial: 669 900 6833, enter the Meeting ID when prompted, then enter # twice

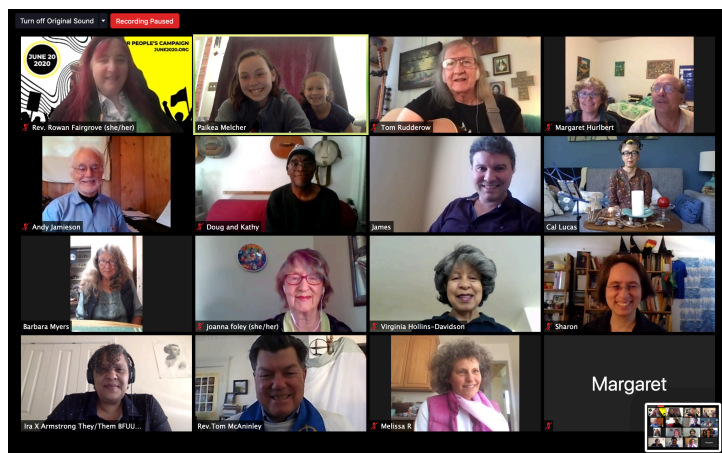
Worship Teams!



Worship Service Team May 24: top: Margaret, Paieka, Sharon, & Eva, Doug, Rev. Carrie; 2nd row: Joanna, Tom, Barbara, Andy; 3rd row: Lawrance, Melissa, Graham, Ira X; bottom: Jeff, June, Sharon



Worship Service Team May 31: top: Doug, Paieka, Sharon, & Eva, Joanna, Tom; 2nd row: Jeff & Margaret, Caylin, Barbara, Andrea Henson; 3rd row: Sharon, Evie, Andy, Janet; bottom: Melissa, Ira X, Jeff

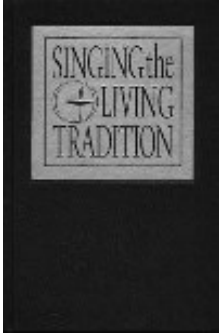


Worship Service Team June 7: top: Rev. Rowan Fairgrove, Paieka & Eva, Tom, Margaret & Jeff; 2nd row: Andy, Doug, James, Cal; 3rd row: Barbara, Joanna, Virginia, Sharon; bottom: Ira, Rev. Tom, Melissa, Margaret



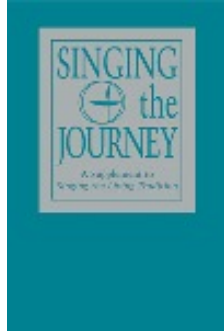
Worship Service Team June 14: top: Rev. Carrie, Paieka & Eva, Andy; 2nd row: Joanna, Sharon, Barbara; 3rd row: James, Margaret, Tom; bottom: Melissa, Jeff, Lawrance

Community Voices



*Thank You to
Barbara M. for
donating new hymnals
to BFUU!*

*We appreciate your
gift!*



Ira Armstrong
Karen Dewald
Frances Hillyard
Virginia Hollins-
Davidson
Josephine Jaszczuk
Jeffrey Melcher

*Thanks to Joanna and Christine for
minding the BFUU garden. The
summer squashes look delicious!*



BFUU's
**G
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Poetry Corner



*Congratulations to Gene
Herman, our new Poet
Laureate! His term is from July
2020 to July 2022. Thank you
Gene, for your wonderful
poetry and service to BFUU.*

*Through leaf blower's cacophony
and gas fumes
come peaceful bird;
Not a vessel of song but song;
Not contained but expanding
a kinetic radiance of wings.*

Frances Hillyard
BFUU Poet Laureate Emerita

Fellowship Calendar July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7 pm Choir Practice *	2	3	4 2 pm Worship Service Rehearsal*
5 10:30 am Worship Service* 12 noon Newcomer Orientation* 12:30 pm Congregational Meeting Part 2	6 2 pm MusCom Meeting	7 11 am Elders Circle * 2 pm Rev. Carrie office hours*	8 7 pm Choir Practice *	9 7 pm BFUU Men's Group*	10	11 2 pm Worship Service Rehearsal*
12 10:30 am Worship Service*	13	14 10 am Worship Svcs Cttee Mtg* 1:30 pm BOT Pres. Ira X Armstrong office hours* 2 pm Rev. Carrie office hours*	15 7 pm Choir Practice *	16 2:30 pm Personnel Committee*	17 7 pm Uke Jam!*	18 2 pm Worship Service Rehearsal*
19 10:30 am Worship Service* 12:30 pm SJC Meeting*	20	21 2 pm Rev. Carrie office hours*	22 7 pm Choir Practice *	23 7 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg*	24	25 2 pm Worship Service Rehearsal*
26 10:30 am Worship Service* 12 noon Artists' Reception* 12:30 pm HMC- Hospitality, Membership and Caring-Cttees Mtgs*	27	28 1:30 pm BOT Pres. Ira X Armstrong office hours* 2 pm Rev. Carrie office hours*	29 7 pm Choir Practice *	30	31	

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Fellowship Calendar August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 2 pm Worship Service Rehearsal*
2 10:30 am Worship Service* 12 noon Newcomer Orientation* 12:30 pm SJM Mtg*	3	4 11 am Elders Circle* 2 pm Rev. Carrie office hours*	5 7 pm Choir Practice *	6	7	8 2 pm Worship Service Rehearsal*
9 10:30 am Worship Service*	10 2 pm MusCom Meeting	11 10 am Worship Svcs Cttee Mtg* 1:30 pm BOT Pres. Ira Armstrong office hours* 2 pm Rev. Carrie office hours*	12 7 pm Choir Practice *	13 7 pm BFUU Men's Group*	14	15 2 pm Worship Service Rehearsal*
16 10:30 am Worship Service* 12:30 pm SJC Meeting*	17	18 2 pm Rev. Carrie office hours*	19 7 pm Choir Practice *	20 2:30 pm Personnel Committee* Communicator Deadline	21 7 pm Uke Jam!*	22 2 pm Worship Service Rehearsal*
23 10:30 am Worship Service* 12 noon Artists' Reception* 12:30 pm HMC-Hospitality, Membership and Caring-Cttees Mtgs*	24	25 1:30 pm BOT Pres. Ira Armstrong office hours* 2 pm Rev. Carrie office hours*	26 7 pm Choir Practice *	27 7 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg*	28	29 2 pm Worship Service Rehearsal*
30 10:30 am Worship Service*	31	* denotes Fellowship event				

Spiritual Growth and Social Justice in the Heart of Berkeley

Building character, enriching spirits, promoting community, and serving humankind through spiritual growth and social action.

BFUU OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

BFUU OFFICE STAFF

Deborah Hamouris - Event Space Coordinator
Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 3
Office Days: Tue, Wed & Fri
Email: rooms@bfuu.org

Susan Macke - Office Coordinator
Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 1
Office Days: Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri
Email: office@bfuu.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR September *COMMUNICATOR*: August 20
Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

Address Correction Requested

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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Berkeley, CA 94709