

THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

September 2021

BFUU
zoom
Worship Service

Donate to BFUU



Sundays at 10:30 AM*

offline? email worshiponline@bfuu.org for links



September 5: Kith and Kin:

How we Become We and they Become They

Rev. Marsh Agobert (he/him)

In Chicago, I live in a vast neighborhood that is largely populated, with some increasing diversity, by conservative African-Americans. In Oakland, I live in a community that is mildly racially diverse and AND made up of both conservative and liberal people. What do we

mean by diversity? Is it something we really want or is it the idea that we find attractive?

September 12: Side With Love

Douglas Chambers (he/him) & Kathy Riehle (she/her), Worship Coordinators

Ours is a theology of engagement. We draw inspiration and truth from experiencing each other and the world around us. In doing so, we witness both the beauty and the brokenness of our larger community and environment. Today, we will explore the creation of the UU Side With Love public witness campaign (with its famous golden yellow t-shirts), the twists and turns and controversies of history, and our own personal relationships to activism.



September 19: Sing In My Heart: Celebrations and Rituals

Eva Doucette (she/her), Worship Coordinator

One way Unitarian Universalist spirituality can be expressed is in the liturgies, ceremonies, and worship services we create. Rituals and celebrations are ways to appreciate life, face grief and sorrow, share joy and gratitude, and deepen relationships and core commitments. They add meaning and purpose to major life events, help us embrace change, help us express important emotions, including love and grief. They can help build community. And they can enhance personal connections with the sacred, with the Spirit of Life. Join us as we explore creating our ritual life together.

September 26: Chocolate! Sacred, Sinful or Salubrious?

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her)

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles shares the history of cocoa as the gift of the gods, as the temptation to sinful addiction, and what we know today of its contribution to mental health.





Cleric's Corner

Clergy & Staff

Reverend Marsh Agobert, *Minister*
 Reverend Dr. Carrie Knowles, *Minister*
 Reverend Tom McAninley, *Community Minister*
 Deborah Hamouris, *Event Space Coordinator*
 Susan Macke, *Office Administrator*
 Ed Keating, *Facilities Manager*
 Shae Jewell, *Sexton*

Board of Trustees

Michael Gardner, *President*
 Margaret Hurlbert, *Vice President*
 Ben Burch, *Treasurer & Secretary*
 Judith Granada-Dewey
 Jean Marie Stine
 David Makofsky (Alternate)
 Phoebe Sorgen (Alternate)

Committees

Aesthetics (Subcommittee of B&G)
 Chair currently vacant
 Building & Grounds Committee
 Abbot Foote, Co-Chair
 Ben Burch, Co-Chair
 Caring Community
 Kathy Riehle, Chair
 Committee on Ministry
 Jinky Gardner, Steve Ogden, Kathy Riehle
 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
 Nominating Committee
 Virginia Hollins-Davidson, 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
 Sharon Colligan, 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.



How Are We Doing?

Last (church) year, I strongly suggested that we would do well to find a way to avoid the civil war that is growing beneath the surface of our collective thin skin. Like an abscess, it continues to fester. I haven't found a way to

raise this prospect without sounding like a conspiracy theorist, which is a negative way of saying, well, a conspiracy theorist.

We talked about some of the events that preceded our first such conflict that brewed roughly 160 years ago, our Civil War. That may seem like a long time, but it's just long enough to rally forces to see if this might be an age, once again ripe for planting a new flag on a revised nation. A more recent effort rolled out of California when we sent Governor Reagan to the White House. Not long before that, in 1964, Goldwater had changed the last name of that movement from "Confederates" to "Conservatives." That simple change was a deadly movement toward dismantling FDR's New Deal and Eisenhower's Middle Way. These national movements were, at the time, positioned as Communist plots, and the great divide was again alive and well.

This year the Confederate battle flag advanced to the U.S. Capitol. The insurrectionists planted it there for the first time in U.S. history, and this is how wars are designed and won, with careful planning and infinite patience. At some level, we must see the striking correlation between what has been and what is attempting to become. But, of course, some of these steps are executed in reverse. Voter suppression of "mudsill" people is currently the critical step necessary to get those pesky lessers 'back in their place.'

Cleric's Corner (continued)

One mistake we make in understanding who is who in the larger picture is a result of not making a distinction between Republicans, Conservatives, Oligarchs, and extremist movements. As a result, we lump many people together, even though they represent various perspectives and positions. It is an intentional confusion established by “The Oligarchs” (or Plutocrats, if you prefer.) The Oligarchs have spent the past 40 years (the Reagan version of Movement Conservatism) perfecting the control of their “mudsills,” and they are good at it, though they may be losing some ground at this moment. Therefore, this IS a critical moment in the experiment of democracy.

An important point to remember here is that these long-running strategies and tactics divide us as a nation. These strategies provide a relatively small group of individuals a path to conquer us, as we choose to be divided by our good vs. evil news bureaus.

I suggest bringing our current circumstance into focus. For the last year I’ve been reading the highly engaging writing of historian Heather Cox Richardson¹ as well as her nightly letters and twice a week talks on politics and history. I have gained a very clear and living understanding of where we are today and how we got here. Please pay close attention to how the South moved into the West, which will reveal how Thomas Starr King’s work and ultimate sacrifice were so important, and why it is returning to us now.

I invite you to join me in becoming a part of a much needed innovative approach to being a part of the solution, the movement underway in our country, to claim democracy, and the right for all people to life, liberty, and our pursuit of happiness.

Rev. Marsh

¹The [Heather Cox Richardson Facebook Page](#) houses her nightly letters (“Letters From an American”) and her twice weekly live talks. These are recorded and available for later access. If you prefer her letters by email you may sign-up for these on [Substack](#).

Regular Committee Meetings (via Zoom through Shelter In Place)

<i>Aesthetics</i> (subcom. of B&G) <i>Meets as needed</i> contact Aesthetics Committee	<i>Finance</i> <i>Meets as needed</i> contact Ben and Abbot	<i>Nominating</i> <i>meets as needed</i> contact Virginia Hollins-Davidson	<i>Social Justice Ministry</i> <i>1st Sunday 12:30 PM</i> contact Jeff Palmer
<i>Buildings & Grounds (B&G)</i> <i>Meets once per month,</i> contact Ben and Abbot	<i>Hospitality</i> <i>4th Sunday at 12:30 PM</i> contact Kathy Riehle	<i>Personnel</i> <i>odd months 3rd Thursdays 2:30 PM</i> Contact Kathy Riehle	<i>Social Justice (SJC)</i> <i>3rd Sunday noonish - after service</i> contact Phoebe, Gene, and David
<i>Caring</i> <i>4th Sunday at 12:30 PM</i> contact Kathy Riehle	<i>Membership</i> <i>4th Sunday at 12:30 PM</i> contact Doug Chambers	<i>Poetry</i> <i>Meets as needed</i> contact Frances Hillyard	<i>Worship Services</i> <i>1st Friday at 1:30 PM</i> contact Sharon Colligan
<i>Committee on Ministry</i> <i>meets as needed</i> contact Kathy, Jinky, and Steve	<i>Music</i> <i>2nd Monday 2:00 PM</i> contact Margaret Hurlbert	<i>Religious Education</i> <i>Meets as needed</i> contact Sharon Colligan	

Worship Service



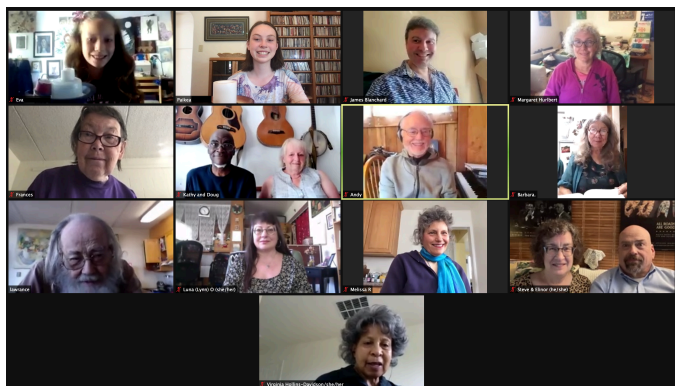
Worship Service Team August 1

top: Andy, Paikea, Lawrance, Kathy & Doug; 2nd row: Cheryl, Ardys, Steve, Margaret; 3rd row: Barbara, Mike, Eva, Luna; 4th row: Melissa



Worship Service Team July 25

top: Melissa, Paikea, Lawrance, Elinor & Steve; 2nd row: Frances, Virginia, Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles, Cheryl; 3rd row: Barbara, Luna, Doug & Kathy, Margaret; 4th row: Eva, Andy, Ardys, Karen



Worship Service Team July 18

top: Eva, Paikea, James, Margaret; 2nd row: Frances, Doug & Kathy, Andy, Barbara; 3rd row: Lawrance, Luna, Melissa, Elinor & Steve; 4th row: Virginia

In recent months, our Worship Services Committee created and coordinated a series of worship services based on the UUA Tapestry of Faith adult religious education curricula, "The New UU" and "Spirit of Life." So many in our fellowship helped! Thanks to all who participated in these lively, inspiring, and fun Worship Services! There will be more to come!



Worship Service Team July 11

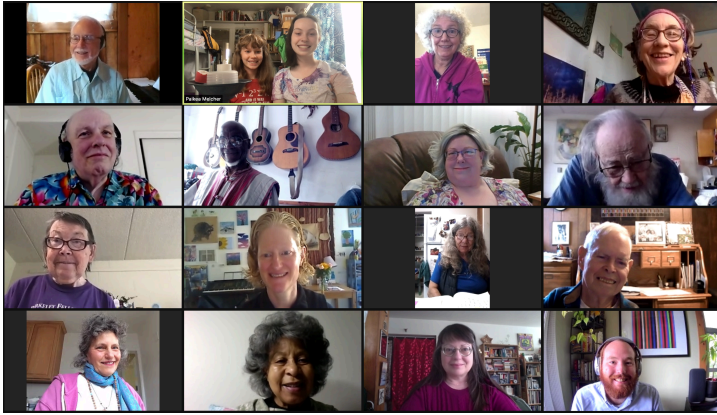
top: Andy, Eva & Paikea, Kathy & Doug; 2nd row: Elinor & Steve, Barbara, Virginia; 3rd row: Margaret, Lawrance, Melissa; 4th row: Ardys



Worship Service Team July 4

top: Lawrance, Paikea, Frances; 2nd row: Andy, Kathy & Doug, Luna; 3rd row: Barbara, Melissa, Virginia; 4th row: Eva

Worship Service



Worship Service Team August 8

top: Andy, Eva & Paikea, Margaret, Ardys; 2nd row: Ben, Doug, Cheryl, Lawrance; 3rd row: Frances, Stephanie, Barbara, Mike; 4th row: Melissa, Virginia, Luna, Derek



Worship Service Team August 15

top: Elinor & Steve, Paikea & Eva, Andy, David; 2nd row: Doug & Kathy, Barbara, Cheryl, Frances; 3rd row: Christine, Mike, Sarah, Doertlis; 4th row: Luna, Lawrance, Melissa, Margaret & Jeff

Community Voices



*Christine sent
in this pic of
green and
purple beans
from the
BFUU garden.
Yum!*



*Doug Chambers
Chris Macy
Betsy Nachman*

Coming Sunday October 10, 2021 - BFUU Poetry Service!

Themes: our first principle, gratitude or any UU theme. Send one poem with a maximum reading time of two minutes. Deadline **September 28** or when 7 people sign up, whichever comes first. Submit to Frances at franceshillyard4@gmail.com



Women & Religion VIRTUAL Retreat: New Beginnings

Saturday, September 25 - 10 am to 4 pm on Zoom

Cost: \$25. Discounts and scholarships available.

Workshops, affinity circles, keynote by Paula Cole Jones on the proposed 8th Principle. (www.8thprincipleuu.org)

Register before the September 20th deadline at <https://www.pcduuwr.org/>.



*Have you enjoyed the
Transforming Hearts
Collective training? If you
haven't signed up yet,
please call the office at
841-4824 ext 1 or email
office@bfuu.org for info!*

Baxter

Ole mister sleepy head
 Especially anywhere on your bed
 Or flat out on your unfinished puzzle
 Never have to put on a muzzle
 True Baxter does go outside
 Lets try napping in the mint or thyme
 Oh wait there's a bird to catch
 My Boss thinks killing a bird is a crime
 But our feline design Is to catch something
 Plus the Boss is always catching fish
 Tossing me lots of bits and pieces
 Never me catching the big brass ring
 I know I'll bring it home upstairs to the Boss
 He'll be so happy
 To have a live bird on hand
 You still don't understand
 I'm a cat we catch things
 Ok all is forgiven
 I'll take the live thingy back outside
 Let him go
 My turn now
 I just hop up where
 I can have my head scratched
 And neck rubbed

Purr

Purr

Purr...

Gene B. Herman - Aug 3, 2021



Memo from the Office



RE: Update on BFUU Office Activities:

I've missed seeing you in person, but I'm glad we're all keeping as safe as possible. I'm feeling very thankful for what we still have and share.

What is your Office Admin doing these days? I still update the website, prepare and send the ENews and Worship Service reminder, process and track pledge and plate payments, pick up the mail, deposit checks, edit worship service videos for posting (when appropriate), prep and check the Order of Service (the Worship Service Coordinators generally update the Orders these days!), prepare and distribute the newsletter, and prep the check requests for shared plate partners.

In addition to these regular tasks, I have a few projects going on: I've started updating the BFUU Directory to distribute within the next few weeks. I'm working with Luna to make the Board Minutes available on line. I'm testing demos of church management systems for the Board, Rev. Marsh, and the Membership Committee. Power Church is great, but doesn't have the ability for members to directly access their contact info and contribution history - and we'd like that! I've also been working with Abbot to get our office computers updated. We are still hoping to hire an IT Consultant, but that's on back burner as our tech needs are few for the moment.

I'm very excited and grateful to have recently joined the Reopening Task Force with Deborah, Ben, Sharon, Mike, and Kathy. We are evaluating the ever-changing information and working together to help the Board determine what is best for the whole BFUU community.

Rentals: BFUU has lost most of its rental income, but we are grateful that we have been able to work with some of our renters to our mutual benefit. The Finance Committee worked with the New School to reduce their rent, so they can continue to provide the vital service of childcare at a reduced capacity and keep our buildings in use. Deborah worked with BFUU Sexton Shae to bring back three of our ongoing renter groups in July. These small groups have sit-down meetings only (no movement or singing), they meet at times when the rest of the building is empty and when Shae can be on site, and they agreed to 50% room capacity, self-screening, masks, distancing, and open windows. The fees they pay cover the costs, but not much more than that. They are glad that they can safely hold their supportive group meetings in the same space they have been using for many years. We are hoping that working with these groups gives us the experience to move forward with other groups when it's safe to do so. We expect that once it's safer (hopefully early 2022?), we can open to other small discussion groups, then larger groups, then movement/singing groups and large events.

BFUU Building Use: A few staff and committee Chairs venture on site as needed. We pick up the mail, print and sign checks, work on the buildings and grounds (yay to Abbot for keeping the solar project moving!), locate and file documents – whatever needs to happen on site to keep us running smoothly. We hope to open to BFUU groups in early/mid 2022 in the same rough order as the rentals described above, though the timing is still uncertain. We expect Worship Service to be one of the last events to resume on location, because it involves singing and is open to the public. We aren't sure if we'll have the capacity to manage hybrid events, but we're looking into what would be needed technologically and in terms of staff/volunteers because we'd really like to continue to share worship with congregants who can't join us in person.

Hope to see you all soon, even if only virtually for now,

Susan Macke

Weekly Meetings

BFUU Choir Practice on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM

Choir members practice songs for worship service and fun!

Please contact Margaret at muscom@bfuu.org

Rev. Dr. Carrie's Reflection and Connection on Tuesday afternoons

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles invites BFUU members and friends to join her in a series of small meetings on zoom. Participation is limited. Email Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles at revcarrie@bfuu.org and let her know of your interest.

Worship Service on Sundays at 10:30 AM

All are welcome to attend Worship Service!

Please contact Sharon at worshipservices@bfuu.org

Monthly Meetings

Board of Trustees Meeting 4th Thursday 9/23 at 7:00 PM

BFUU BOT meetings are open to all!

Committee on Ministry Meeting 1st Thursday 9/2 at 2:00 PM

This committee is a communication channel between the ministers and the community.

Please contact Kathy, Jinky, and Steve at COM@bfuu.org

Elders Circle 1st Tuesday 9/7 at 11:00 AM

Come one, come all who are young at heart! Age does not matter! Join us for snacks and lively conversation. We may even solve some of the worlds problems... or not. We'll have fun trying. Please contact Rev. Marsh by text to 707-557-5707 (preferred) or email revmarsh@bfuu.org.

Hospitality, Membership, and Caring Committees Meetings 4th Sunday 9/26 at 12:30 PM

Please contact Kathy at caring@bfuu.org

Men's Group 2nd Thursday 9/9 at 7:00 PM

We invite all men to this group. Our goal is to encourage each other as we build community.

Please contact [Jeff Palmer](#).

Music Committee Meeting 1st Monday 9/6 at 2:00 PM

Questions? Please contact Margaret at muscom@bfuu.org

Personnel Committee Meeting 3rd Thursdays on odd months 9/16 at 2:30 PM

Please contact Kathy at personnel@bfuu.org

Social Justice Committee Meeting 3rd Sunday 9/19 after service (noonish)

Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Social Justice Ministry Meeting is on hiatus

Worship Service Committee Meeting 1st Friday 9/3 at 1:30 PM

Please contact Sharon at worshipservices@bfuu.org

some committees meet as needed - please see committee meeting list on page 3

Fellowship Calendar September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please Plan Ahead: Direct links to meetings/ registration have ¹ or ² after the link. The remaining links send an email to the meeting organizer. If you send an email, please allow a few days for them to reply. If you have questions, please email office@bfuu.org or call the office at 510-841-4824 ext. 1.			1	2 2:00 pm COM Meeting*	3 1:30 pm Worship Svcs Committee Mtg*	4
5 10:30 am Worship Service* ¹	6 2:00 pm MusCom Meeting* Labor Day Holiday	7 11:00 am Elders Circle* ¹ Reflection & Connection* 7:00 pm Choir Practice* ¹	8	9 7 pm BFUU Men's Group*	10	11
12 10:30 am Worship Service* ¹	13	14 Reflection & Connection* 7:00 pm Choir Practice* ¹	15	16 2:30 pm Personnel Committee*	17	18
19 10:30 am Worship Service* ¹ Noonish - after service SJC Meeting* ¹	20 Communicator Deadline	21 Reflection & Connection* 7:00 pm Choir Practice* ¹	22	23 7 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg* ¹	24	25
26 10:30 am Worship Service* ¹ 12:30 pm HMC-Hospitality, Membership and Caring-Cttees Mtgs* ¹	27	28 Reflection & Connection* 7:00 pm Choir Practice* ¹	29	30	 Call 841-4824 ext 1 or email office@bfuu.org for info re Transforming Hearts Collective training!	

* denotes Fellowship event ¹ denotes meeting link ² denotes meeting registration

^x denotes meetings are full - no new registrations are being accepted

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 CLOSED - We are working from home

BFUU OFFICE STAFF

Deborah Hamouris - Event Space Coordinator

Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 3

Working Days: Tue, Wed & Fri

Email: rooms@bfuu.org

Susan Macke - Office Coordinator

Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 1

Working Days: Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri

Email: office@bfuu.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER COMMUNICATOR:

September 20, 2021 at 11:00 AM

Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

Address Correction Requested

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

1606 Bonita Ave.

Berkeley, CA 94709

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

Office: 1606 Bonita Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709 | Fellowship Hall: 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley, CA 94709

T: 510-841-4824 | E: office@bfuu.org | www.bfuu.org