

THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

October 2021

BFUU
zoom
Worship Service

Donate to BFUU

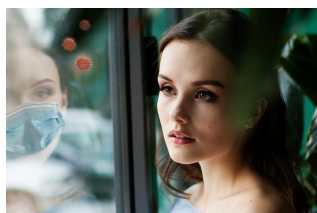


Sundays at 10:30 AM*

offline? email worshiponline@bfuu.org for links

October 3: Who Do We Want to Be When We Come Through This?

Rev. Marsh Agobert (he/him)



Let's open a strictly positive conversation about who we want to be as a community. Today let us look at the smaller picture and, for a moment, release the planet's broad concerns and "Straighten our room." Who do We want to be coming out the other side of the Pandemic?

October 10: Our Spiritual Ground - A BFUU Poetry Service

Frances Hillyard (she/her), Worship Coordinator

Today some BFUU poets explore what affirming and promoting the worth and dignity of every person looks like or share expressions of or about gratitude. The two nourish each other in creating the spiritual ground we inhabit.



October 17: All the Stirrings of Compassion: Caring For One Another

Paikea Melcher (she/her), Worship Coordinator

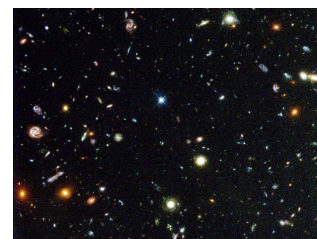


How can we grow to experience hope and healing in the midst of life's challenges? We'll create a blessing of our hands, our minds, our hearts, our spirits, and a blessing of our community. May our time together renew our spirits, deepen our community, and inspire us to lead lives of compassion and care to build the common good.

October 24: The Big Bang—and Seeing When the Universe Was Young

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her)

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles reminds us of the origin of time, space, and matter as our scientists dispatch a new telescope to go into orbit 1.5 million kilometers from planet earth. The telescope will send us images that capture light that has been traveling for about 13.8 billion years.



October 31: Blow In the Wind, Rise In The Sea: Nature And Spirit

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



How do we relate our experiences of Nature with our religious values or beliefs? Can our spiritual connections with the Earth help us work to protect our world? What cycles and seasons are we experiencing now, and how do they shape our spirituality? We will explore ritual acts in praise of Creation.



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 to Stay Out of Trouble and Then Some Good News

The Good News: You can skip my words below and cut straight to the suggestions of this month's wise women and men in the links below. The first tells us what to look for should we face the next stage of the January 6th Insurrection. The Second will return and maybe even raise your faith in our life here on our "Blue Boat Home." The first is a cautionary tale (including remedies). The second is some very upbeat **Facts** regarding how we're progressing as a species and how an adjustment in perspective might help us keep improving our odds.

One of the specters that we face that has a chance to derail all of the excellent work that people have striven for recently would be the outbreak of a second Civil War in the US. I know that most of us find this possibility to be extremely low. We quickly forget that this was our thinking from the holocaust through the blood-baths of the Communist revolutions into the genocides of the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and the conflicts in Syria, Afghanistan, and Yemen. People in these areas misjudged the certainty of the arrival of these conflicts. Had they understood the levels of suffering they were facing, they might have been motivated to deter what would come. But the sad truth is that people tend to remain in denial until it's too late. Here's the observation of a highly respected and experienced journalist who's watched this process repeat itself several times over the years of her reporting: [Journalist, Janine di Giovanni, tells us what she's seen before the significant outbreaks](#)¹

Cleric's Corner (continued)

The Trouble with the pursuit of truth lies in all the work required for that pursuit. Pursuing most anything requires effort and authenticity. Reality and honest self-evaluation are certainly no different. For example, how do you know the world is heading to Hell in a handbasket?

Yes! I'm suggesting we face our most compelling targets; let's take population growth, for example, our familiar nemesis, and see how we're doing. If you wish to uncover some **facts** for this goal, the exciting and even entertaining expose (in the link below) will take about one hour. So you may wish to break this investigation into a few viewings. This expenditure in time is the price we pay for leaving sound bites and conjecture.

The following link will lead you on a journey through time AND space to show you the **facts** regarding how we are moving through health (IE., infant mortality, life expectancy, and their impact on our movement from poverty to well-being) to income and quality of life.

Hans Rosling on "[The Population Bomb](#)²." This latter is the long one, but it's fun and Real!

[Dollar Street - photos as data to kill country stereotypes \(gapminder.org\)](#)³

A link to the most persuasive statistical presentation tool on earth: [Gapminder Tools](#)⁴

Rev. Marsh

1 https://www.ted.com/talks/janine_di_giovanni_what_i_saw_in_the_war?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare

2 <https://youtu.be/FACK2knC08E>

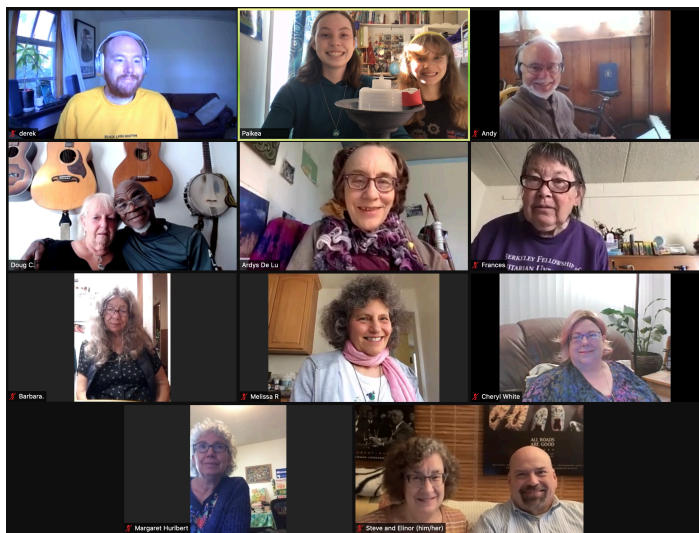
3 <http://www.gapminder.org/dollar-street>

4 <https://www.gapminder.org/tag/hans-rosling/>

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 9/12/2021

top: Derek, Paieka & Eva, Andy; 2nd row: Kathy & Doug, Ardys, Frances; 3rd row: Barbara, Melissa, Cheryl; 4th row: Margaret, Elinor & Steve



Worship Service Team 9/5/2021

top: Ardys, Paieka & Eva, Rev. Marsh Agobert, Frances; 2nd row: Andy, Barbara, Simone, Cheryl; 3rd row: Lawrance, Elinor & Steve, Margaret, Melissa; 4th row: Luna, Derek



Worship Service Team 8/29/21

top: Andy, Paieka, Lawrance, Margaret; 2nd row: Luna, Barbara, Christine, Virginia; 3rd row: Doug, Melissa, Elinor & Steve, Cheryl; 4th row: Toni Battle, Ardys, Frances



Worship Service Team 8/22/2021

top: Steve, Paieka & Eva, Barbara; 2nd row: Margaret, Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles, Frances; 3rd row: Ardys, Andy, Lawrance; 4th row: Luna, Melissa

Community Voices

Semi Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday October 10 at 12:30 PM

Come join your BFUU community for the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting! BFUU members will vote for the Nominating Committee members.

Per Bylaws, the order of business for the fall meeting:

ORDER OF BUSINESS: Unless otherwise voted by the members present, the order of business shall be as follows:

Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting

Reports of the officers

Nomination of members of the Nominating Committee



Frida Chambers
Stephanie Doucette
Abbot Foote
Gene Herman
Rev. Tom McAninley
Paikea Melcher
Betsy Nachman
Doertlis Schultz-Allen
Brett Torres

Election of Nominating committee

Reports of Committees and Task Force

Reports of various Fellowship organizations

Unfinished business

New business



YARDSALE & BAKESALE

Sat. Oct 16 from 10:00 AM (no earlybirds)

2022 Blake St. west of Shattuck,
backyard of the Grassroots House:

<https://grassrootshouse.org/>

Jewelry, gently used Books & Shoes (kids & adults,) Graco baby carrier, Exercise weight chair, Objets d'Art, Vases, Various & Sundry

Donated clean, sellable items (nothing big or heavy) may be dropped off at the Grassroots House back yard Fri 10/15 from 5 pm to 8:30 pm: 2022 Blake St.

It's a **BENEFIT** to pay the attorney who helped the grassroots organization, WiRED, get stronger telecom laws to protect Berkeley

DONATE: <http://www.tinyurl.com/FundWired>

INFO about Wireless Radiation Education & Defense: <http://www.GoWiRED.org>

GOOD NEWS! Our ally, the Environmental Health Trust sued the Federal Communications Commission re obsolete, inadequate wireless radiation limits and, after presenting 11,000 pages proving wireless harm to health, won! <http://www.EHTrust.org>

Poetry Corner



Trying to
contact my
inner self:

Water bird
Struggling to
walk on land,

aphid with
no green leaf,
gold finch gone.

Frances Hillyard
Poet Laureate Emerita

North Coast...

Roaring waves thunder upon wide sandy beaches
a mile north surf crashes endlessly against stone and rock still standing
High cliffs. eroded by the pounding Pacific...present splendid panoramas
far and near
an osprey screeches overhead
beyond the coast and a few hills lies the old growth
giant redwoods...sheltering the owl...and ancient tails
silent among the ferns
yet catching every nuance of breeze way way up the trunk and limbs.

Gene Herman
BFUU Poet Laureate

Social Justice Committee

The BFUU Social Justice Committee supports a Green New Deal, climate justice, and safety/peace for all people, whether in [Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq](#),¹ Cuba, or immigrants and citizens—of all genders and races—here at home.

We support Haiti! The FIAEB-FIAInternational Haiti promotes a “transition” effective government after many years of neglect, running by decree, allowing gangs to run whole neighborhoods with kidnappings and murders, and the recent earthquake pushed impoverished people further into the ground with lack of food, water etc.

The Biden Admin is still planning to fly asylum seekers who managed to reach U.S borders back to Haiti.

Please sign this [petition](#)².

A [good article](#)³ is on the UU Service Committee website.

We support local power! For health/safety here at home, asap please urge [Gov. Newsom](#)⁴ to veto SB 556, AB 537, AB 955 and SB 378. [Physicians For Safe Technology](#)⁵ explains why we must not let these bills end local control over wireless telecom equipment. With 11,000 pages of evidence proving harm, the [Environmental Health Trust](#)⁶ and [Children’s Health Defense](#)⁷ won a recent legal victory against the Federal Communications Commission whose wireless radiation limits are obsolete and ridiculously high. Wired municipal broadband is the only sensible way to end the digital divide. Fiber or copper networks are safer (no fire risk), more reliable, faster, healthier (no radiation), and an economic boon for cities.

We support the Poor Peoples Campaign! A big national March and Assembly for Poor People and Low Wage Workers is planned for June 19, 2022 in D.C. Please consider making the trip and/or supporting those of us who wish to go.

We support whistleblowers and reporters! With Alice Walker and Noam Chomsky, our friend Dan Ellsberg, who has often spoken at BFUU, co-authored an article supporting Julian Assange. The corporate media rarely publishes such truth-telling but [Newsweek](#)⁸ did! Indeed, why is Assange being prosecuted for telling the truth? **Freedom of Speech! Free Journalists! No to Endless U.S. Wars!** If you wish, get involved [here](#)⁹.

We support wimmin! Reproductive freedom hangs by a thread. Nationwide [marches](#)¹⁰ Sat. Oct 2.

Respectfully submitted by Phoebe Thomas Sorgen, SJC facilitator

Link URLs:

1 <https://mailchi.mp/uujme/actionalert092021?e=acf2054aa7>

2 <https://faithinactioninternational.salsalabs.org/tellpresidenttostandwithhaitiancivilsocietygroups/index.html>

3 <https://www.uusc.org/haiti-disasters-highlight-need-for-intersectional-solidarity-and-justice/>

4 <https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/>

5 <https://mdsafetech.org/2021/05/12/california-telecom-bills-crushing-local-government-control/>

6 <http://www.ehtrust.org/>

7 <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/seeking-justice/legal/chd-v-federal-communication-commission-fcc/>

8 <https://www.newsweek.com/why-biden-prosecuting-assange-telling-truth-about-afghanistan-opinion-1627963>

9 <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/journalism-is-under-attack-sign-up-to-defend-julian-assange>

10 https://womensmarch.com/mobilize?rd=1&source=em20210902&t=2&referring_akid=3580.1875611.vA_SPd

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 10/28 at 7:00 PM

BFUU BOT meetings are open to all!

Committee on Ministry Meeting 1st Thursday 10/7 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 10/5 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 10/24 at 12:30 PM

Please contact Kathy at caring@bfuu.org

Men's Group 2nd Thursday 10/14 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 10/4 at 2:00 PM

Questions? Please contact Margaret at muscom@bfuu.org

Personnel Committee Meeting 3rd Thursdays on odd months at 2:30 PM - No meeting this month

Please contact Kathy at personnel@bfuu.org

Social Justice Committee Meeting 3rd Sunday 10/17 after service (noonish)

Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Social Justice Ministry Meeting is on hiatus

Worship Service Committee Meeting 1st Friday 10/1 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 October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <i>Transforming Hearts Collective</i> Contact the office - call 841-4824 ext 1 or email office@bfuu.org for info re Transforming Hearts Collective training!					1 1:30 pm Worship Svcs Committee Mtg*	2
3 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹	4 2:00 pm MusCom Meeting *	5 11:00 am Elders Circle * ¹ Reflection & Connection * 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	6	7 2:00 pm COM Meeting *	8	9
10 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹ 12:30 am Congregational Meeting * ¹	11	12 Reflection & Connection * 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	13	14 7 pm BFUU Men's Group *	15	16
17 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹ Noonish - after service SJC Meeting * ¹	18	19 Reflection & Connection * 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	20 Communicator Deadline	21	22	23
24 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹ 12:30 pm HMC- Hospitality, Membership and Caring-Cttees Mtgs * ¹	25	26 Reflection & Connection * 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	27	28 7 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg * ¹	29	30
31 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹						

* 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 NOVEMBER COMMUNICATOR:

October 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

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