



THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

May 2022

Worship Service Sundays at 10:30 AM

reading this offline? please email worshiponline@bfuu.org for link



May 1: UU Talking Circle on Pandemic Reopening

Sharon Hwang Colligan (she/her/any), Facilitator

What are your hopes, fears, dreams, and questions for BFUU in 2022? We will pass the Zoom microphone around our circle, and engage in the spiritual practice of speaking from the heart, listening to each other's voices. Bring your personal truth, your listening heart, and your evolving quest for a wise & holy path.

May 8: Gathered Here in the Mystery of the Hour

Douglas Chambers(he/him), Coordinator

Our UUA Tapestry of Faith: Spirit in Practice series continues with the second of the eight Spheres: "Communal Worship Practices." What are we practicing together, as we gather each week for UU worship? We will share reflections on our community experiences, and on BFUU liturgical practices.



May 15: Why Gather? Ceremony and the Practice of Community

Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb (she/her)

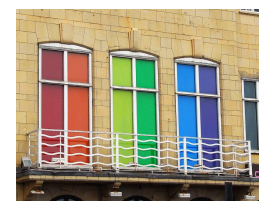
Rabbi Lynn is a storyteller, teacher, ceremonialist, lifelong activist, and one of the first women to become a rabbi in Jewish history. She sits on the Rabbinic Council of Jewish Voice for Peace, is co-founder of Shomer Shalom Network for Jewish Nonviolence, and member of the Grassroots Reparations Campaign. She is also the author of several books, including *She Who Dwells Within: A Feminist Vision of Renewed Judaism*. She will teach today from a lifetime of building Jewish and interfaith spiritual communities of love and justice.



May 22: When Women Are Drawn to God

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her)

Will the Vatican ever let women join the priesthood? Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles surveys the opening of faiths to women as ministers and priests, looking backward over the past and observing present practices of religions.



May 29: Being Free and Safe to Live as Who We are

Rev. Jojo V. Gabuya (they/them)

In 1778, Lady Eleanor Butler and Sarah Ponsonby eloped from Ireland to Wales to liberate themselves from the pressures of conventional marriage.

Today we will reflect on LGBTQIA+ human rights as we prepare to celebrate

Pride Month in June. Rev. Jojo V. Gabuya is a proud non-binary transgender, Filipinx, interfaith pastor, and a newly ordained minister in the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples.



Clergy & Staff

Reverend Dr. Carrie Knowles, *Minister*
Reverend Tom McAninley, *Community Minister*
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*
David Makofsky
Jean Marie Stine
Phoebe Sorgen (Alternate)
Stephanie Doucette (Alternate)
Paikea Melcher, *Youth Member*
Lynn (Luna) Orlando, *Recording Secretary*

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)
Co-Chairs Phoebe Sorgen, Cynthia Johnson,
Gene Herman, and David Makofsky
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.

Thank You and Farewell Rev. Marsh!

To the BFUU Community,

The Board of Trustees would like to announce that Reverend Marsh Agobert concluded his ministerial role with BFUU as of March 31, 2022. We appreciate all of the care and inspiration that he has given our community: the pastoral care he has provided; giving assistance to the office staff; offering guidance to the Elders Group; his small groups sessions which were informative and very popular; and of course, his sermons which were thought-provoking and challenging.

Some parishioners might wish to continue receiving pastoral care from Rev. Marsh. He has offered to continue this practice privately, and you can contact him at his BFUU email and phone: revmarsh@bfuu.org 510-841-4824 ext. 2. This won't be an official part of BFUU.

Once again, we thank Rev. Marsh for all of his dedicated work, and we wish him well in the future.

Sincerely,

BFUU Board of Trustees

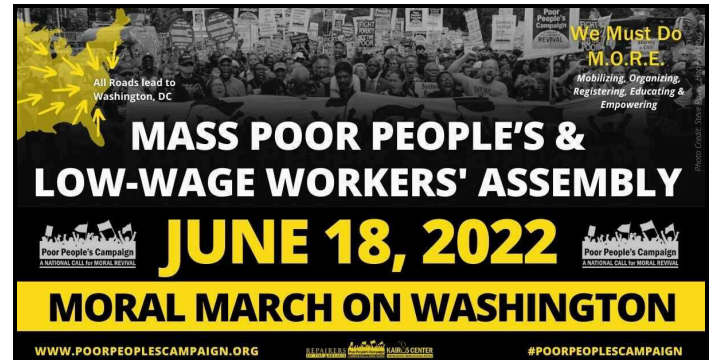
Shared Plate Partner for May 2022: Poor People's Campaign

In 1968, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and many others called for a "revolution of values" in America. They sought to build a broad, fusion movement that could unite poor and impacted communities across the country. Their name was a direct cry from the underside of history: The Poor People's Campaign. Today, the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival has picked up this unfinished work. From Alaska to Arkansas, the Bronx to the border, people are coming together to confront the interlocking evils of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and the war economy, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism. We understand that as a nation we are at a critical juncture — that we need a movement that will shift the moral narrative, impact policies and elections at every level of government, and build lasting power for poor and impacted people. If you believe it's time to rise, join us!

Learn more at <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/>

Offerings are split 50/50 by BFUU and our shared plate partner. Pledge payments aren't a part of the plate collection.

Poor People's Campaign



We Who Believe in Freedom Cannot Rest Until it Comes

BFUU SUPPORTS THE POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN DRIVE TO MOBILIZE TO TRANSFORM AMERICA IN THE IMAGE OF JUSTICE, TO CHALLENGE AND TO OVERCOME THE INTERLOCKING INJUSTICES OF SYSTEMIC POVERTY, SYSTEMIC RACISM, ECOLOGICAL DEVASTATION, THE WAR ECONOMY, AND THE FALSE MORAL NARRATIVE OF RELIGIOUS NATIONALISM. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. declared, "When profit motives are considered more important than people, it's time for the nation to undergo a radical revolution of values."

Rev. Barber has said that the United States' politics overwhelmingly focus on the needs of the middle class and the wealthy while ignoring the needs of the poor. We continue to hear the lies of scarcity, but there is no scarcity in a country where you have a \$22 Trillion gross domestic product.

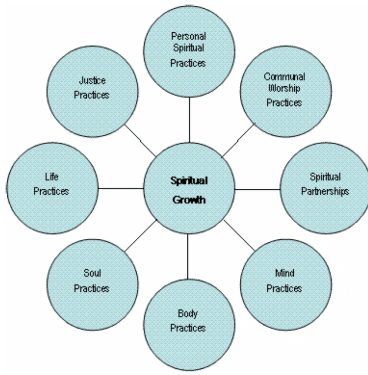
The PPC has spent the last four years growing a campaign to be a movement that marches, that lobbies, that engages in civil disobedience, and that takes bus tours to impacted communities to converse directly with the poor and low-wealth people of America. By talking with those affected, hearing their stories, and helping to amplify their voices the message has been refined and shared throughout the world.

Workers are now busy preparing for the Mobilization Tour's Los Angeles stop on May 16. On that day, PPC National Co-chairs Reverend William Barber and Reverend Liz Theoharis will be with us in downtown Los Angeles for an highly anticipated, energizing, not to be missed transformative event. This gathering leads to the June 18, 2022, Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls.

As The Rev. Clark Olsen, BFUU's pastor at the time of the Selma civil rights march in 1965, when he survived the attack that fatally injured the Rev. James J. Reeb, urged, "Whenever you see injustice, speak up, take a stand, be in solidarity. You never know what may be the outcome."

Please let your presence speak for you against injustice by joining us in Los Angeles on May 16th and in Washington on June 18th.

UUA Tapestry of Faith



BFUU 2022 Worship Theme:

“Exploring BFUU as a Community of Spiritual Practice.”

In 2022 we are engaging with the UUA Tapestry of Faith [Spirit in Practice](#) workshop series developed by [Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom](#), which focuses on eight “Spheres” of spiritual practice (inspired by the Eight Gates of Zen model developed by the [Zen Mountain Monastery](#) in Mount Tremper, New York.)

Our theme for May is the second Sphere: Communal Worship Practices.

Although Unitarian Universalists affirm the uniqueness and individual nature of a person’s spiritual path, our UU movement is also founded on a belief that community is essential to that journey. Regular engagement with communal worship—the ongoing and collective search for truth and meaning—is one way of supporting this belief.

Try This at Home

Choose a special time to be fully present with a community worship service, at BFUU or elsewhere—any group or organized ritual where your spirituality might be nourished. If you are a regular attendee, be extra focused for this one. Remove or release distractions. Allow the words, music, arts, and community of a worship service to reach you, ministering to your deepest self in all its joys and sorrows.

Journal about the experience afterwards, describing the ways that worship has nourished your spirituality, in this instance or in other instances.

Reflect in your journal on these questions:

"How does participation in communal worship enhance my spiritual journey?"

"How does the participation of my spirit affect the experience of the group?"

Talk with friends, family, co-workers, or housemates about significant spiritual experiences they have had (or have longed for) in community worship or ritual. Tell them about your experiences and longings.

The Unitarian Universalist Association hosts its own [WorshipWeb](#) site.

<https://www.uua.org/worship>

Use it to plan a worship with friends, family, housemates, or congregation members.

Learning More

The [Congregation of Abraxas](#), “a Unitarian Universalist Liturgical and Missionary Order, 1975 - 1985,” offers essays on worship theory.

Today’s UUA WorshipWeb site also offers a [Worship Theory](#) section.

The [UUA Bookstore](#) offers books about UU worship planning, such as:

[Worship That Works](#). *Theory and Practice for Unitarian Universalists, Second Edition*. By Revs. Wayne B. Arnason, Kathleen Rolenz, Nancy McDonald Ladd. Practical, specific advice to improve the key elements of the service and increase the spiritual resonance of worship through symbols, music, cultural sensitivity, inclusion, and more.

[Story, Song and Spirit](#) by Rev. Erika Hewitt. Ready-to-use multigenerational UU worship services to celebrate the beginning of the church year, Christmas, coming of age and Earth Day, as well as services for any time, to engage children through elders.

BFUU Survey May 2022

As BFUU enters the transitions and unknowns of 2022, I have heard a variety of hopes & fears expressed by our members. “When can we go back to ‘normal’?” “I miss hugging on Sundays!” “But what about the good parts of ‘Zoom church’ – are we going to lose those?” “Maybe we can put the chairs in a big circle?” “I don’t want to go back to the hall; can we just meet on Zoom forever?” “Our leaders are bone tired – maybe it’s time to just close down the church for good, while we still have the power to do it gracefully?” “How can we return to the joy of singing together, to hearing the healing music of our blended voices?” “What’s the best way, now, to express our love for our BFUU community?” So many hopes & fears, ideas & questions. May we continue to listen deeply, to each other and to the Greater Wisdom, as we discern our pathway and next steps for our beloved BFUU.

Many BFUUers have wondered about how we can sustain and deepen our connections with one another, whether our Sunday worship stays on Zoom or not. And our 2022 worship theme is “Spirit in Practice,” a Tapestry series designed to guide UUs in an exploration of spiritual practices together. We are considering the creation of a Small Group Ministry (“UU Talking Circles”) program, where each BFUU member would be invited to join a facilitated small group. One hour a week of spiritually connecting with other BFUUers, outside Sunday morning.

The envisioned Talking Circles would meet over Zoom, share a common structure and topics, and focus on a different spiritual theme from Tapestry each week. Members would be encouraged to commit to attending for a period of four weeks before leaving or switching groups for the next round.

We ask all BFUU members, attenders, and interested folks to fill out this survey to help us in the planning of our 2022 worship programs, large or small.

Life is an ongoing conversation! Please share your wisdom, your experience, your questions.

With Gratitude,
Sharon Hwang Colligan
BFUU Worship Chair (and survey creator)

TAKE THE SURVEY HERE: <https://tinyurl.com/BFUU-5-22>

Poetry Corner

Let me write
a poem
about words

without words.
Nothing said
heals before

begun, looks
through truth's hard
surfaces

Frances Hillyard
BFUU Poet Laureate Emerita

Community Voices



Happy Birthday!

Tom Luce

David Makofsky

Gail Penso

David Yandle

Overwhelmed?

UUCB and Good Grief Network are providing social and emotional support through drop-in groups Wednesdays 10am-noon or 6-8pm. Find out more and register here:
www.goodgriefnetwork.org/uu

Elaine Miller
elau.usher@gmail.com

Help Wanted!

BFUU is beginning the search for two very part-time positions:

IT Consultant: We need someone to help keep our computers and printers updated and our networks networking, help with website structural issues, phones, and hopefully have some experience managing conferencing platforms (i.e. Zoom.) This will be a contract position for just a few hours a week/as needed/as available.

Please direct interested folks to the BFUU office: office@bfuu.org
510-841-4824 ext. 1

Custodial support: We need someone to help with custodial duties two days per week - very late Friday and Saturday nights or very early Saturday and Sunday mornings. We are considering either part time employees or highly recommended, affordable contractors/services.

Regular Committee Meetings (via Zoom through Shelter In Place)

Aesthetics (subcom. of B&G)
Meets as needed

contact [Aesthetics Committee](#)

Buildings & Grounds (B&G)

Meets once per month,
contact [Ben and Abbot](#)

Caring

4th Sunday at 12:30 PM
contact [Kathy Riehle](#)

Committee on Ministry

meets as needed
contact [Kathy, Jinky, and Steve](#)

Finance

Meets as needed
contact [Ben and Abbot](#)

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](#)

Nominating

meets as needed
contact [Virginia Hollins-Davidson](#)

Personnel

odd months 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 noonish - after service
contact [Phoebe, Gene, and David](#)

Worship Services

1st Friday at 1:30 PM
contact [Sharon Colligan](#)

Worship Service Teams!



▲ Worship Service Team April 17

top: Lawrance, Paikea & Eva, Tom; 2nd row: Andy, Margaret, Frances; 3rd row: Virginia, Melissa, Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb



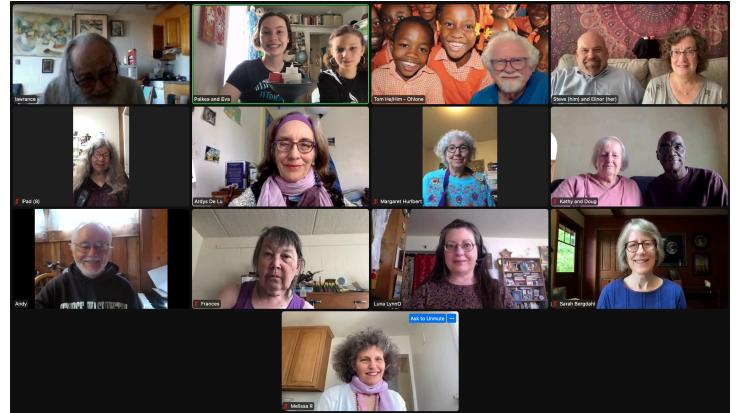
▲ Worship Service Team March 27

top: Lawrance, Paikea & Eva, Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles; 2nd row: Andy, Virginia, Barbara; 3rd row: Ardys



▲ Worship Service Team April 3

top: Tom, Frances, Rev. Jojo Gabuya; 2nd row: Barbara, Lawrance, Virginia; 3rd row: Margaret, Andy, Ardys; 4th row: Paikea & Eva



▲ Worship Service Team April 10

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



◀ Worship Service Team March 13

top: Kathy & Doug, Paikea & Eva, Andy, Steve; 2nd row: Frances, Derek, Virginia, Ardys; 3rd row: Sharon, Barbara, Lawrance's chair; 4th row: Luna, Melissa, Jennifer

BFUU Online Meetings (mostly alphabetical)

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 5/26 at 3:00 PM

BFUU BOT meetings are open to all!

Caring Committee Meeting with Ministers on 3rd Tuesday 5/17 at 11 AM

Please contact Rev. Carrie at revcarrie@bfuu.org

Note that Caring Committee also meets with Hospitality and Membership on 4th Sundays.

Committee on Ministry Meeting 1st Thursday 5/5 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 5/3 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 5/22 at 12:30 PM on odd months.

Please contact Kathy at caring@bfuu.org

Men's Group 2nd Thursday 5/12 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 5/2 at 2:00 PM

Questions? Please contact Margaret at muscom@bfuu.org

Personnel Committee Meeting

3rd Thursdays 5/19 on odd months 3/17 at 2:30 PM

Please contact Kathy at personnel@bfuu.org

Social Justice Committee Meeting 3rd Sunday 5/15 after service (noonish)

Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Social Justice Ministry Meeting *is on hiatus*

Worship Service Committee Meeting 1st Friday 5/6 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 May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹	2 2:00 pm MusCom Meeting *	3 11:00 am Elders Circle * ¹ Reflection & Connection * 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	4 See page 6 or click here for info on UUCB drop-in support groups	5 2:00 pm COM Meeting *	6 1:30 pm Worship Svcs Committee Mtg *	7 See below or click here for info on the Zach Norris event at Mt. Diablo UUC in Walnut Creek!
8 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹	9	10 Reflection & Connection * 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	11 See page 6 or click here for info on UUCB drop-in support groups	12 7 pm BFUU Men's Group *	13	14
15 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹ Noonish - after service SJC Meeting * ¹ Communicator Deadline	16	17 Caring meeting with ministers * Reflection & Connection * 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	18 See page 6 or click here for info on UUCB drop-in support groups	19 2:30 pm Personnel Committee *	20	21
22 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹ 12:30 pm HMC- Hospitality. Membership and Caring-Cttees Mtgs * ¹	23	24 Reflection & Connection * 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	25 See page 6 or click here for info on UUCB drop-in support groups	26 3 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg * ¹	27	28
29 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹	30 Memorial Day Holiday	31 Reflection & Connection * 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	Please Plan Ahead: Direct links to meetings/registration have ¹ after the link. The remaining links send an email to the meeting organizer – please allow a few days for a reply. If you have questions, please email office@bfuu.org or call the office at 510-841-4824 ext. 1.			
				* Fellowship event ¹meeting link		



Still Available!
Contact the office -
call 841-4824 ext 1 or

*email office@bfuu.org for information about
Transforming Hearts Collective training!*

Zach Norris - Saturday May 7 10 am - noon
Mt. Diablo UU Church will have activist and author **Zach Norris** present both on their campus AND virtually via zoom to speak on his work and his recent book *Defund Fear*.
Please use this link to register and donate:
<https://mymduuc.breezechms.com/form/defundfear>

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

Susan Macke - Office Administrator

Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 1

Working Days: Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri

Email: office@bfuu.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR JUNE COMMUNICATOR:

May 20, 2022 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