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**

**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.

**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 apokalýptō (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.

*Please see page 5 for August Services*
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)

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<tr>
<th>Aesthetics (subcom. of B&amp;G)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Buildings &amp; Grounds (B&amp;G)</td>
<td>Meets once per month</td>
<td>contact Ben Burch or Abbot Foote</td>
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<td>Caring</td>
<td>4th Sunday at 12:30 PM</td>
<td>contact Kathy Riehle</td>
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<td>Committee on Ministry</td>
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<td>contact Kathy Riehle</td>
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<td>contact Margaret Hurlbert</td>
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<td>contact Kathy Riehle</td>
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<td>Religious Education</td>
<td>Meets as needed</td>
<td>contact Sharon Colligan</td>
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<td>Social Justice Ministry</td>
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<td>contact Jeff Palmer</td>
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<td>Social Justice (SJC)</td>
<td>3rd Sunday 12:30 PM</td>
<td>contact Phoebe Sorgen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worship Services</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday at 10:00 AM</td>
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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?
UU’s 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, Millenials 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 Abdur-Rahman (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’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](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

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**Worship Teams!**

**Worship Service Team May 24:** top: Margaret, Paikea, 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, Paikea, 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, Paikea & 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, Paikea & 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!

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

BFUU’s Garden

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
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* 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
1606 Bonita Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94709