Services on Sundays at 10:30 AM*
offline? email worshiponline@bfuu.org for links

July 4: Spirit of Life: a Vocabulary of Reverence
Doug Chambers (he/him) and Kathy Riehle (she/her)
The word “spirit” derives from the Latin word for breath and for inspiration. The “spirit of life” can be understood as inspiration for life, or the very breath of life. It can be felt as a loving force, a life force, or as (in the words of Rev. Howard Thurman) a growing edge, “the upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavor.” The spirit of life can be experienced as god or goddess, as deity unfolding, as divine comforter. It can be felt as the collective human spirit, the power of nature, or innate wisdom. We will explore a vocabulary of reverence drawn from the Unitarian Universalist hymnbook Singing the Living Tradition and its supplement, Singing the Journey.

July 11: Dragged Kicking and Screaming into Heaven
Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed (recorded)
Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed, preeminent scholar of the African-American Unitarian Universalist experience, reflects on the implications on our theological heritage of Universal Salvation.

July 18: Until the Wind Sings in Both Ears
Pakea Melcher (she/her)
What stories have shaped your life? A gentle wind, attentive listening, a curious mind, and our wise traditions can help us in our search for truth and meaning. Can they help us find direction in life? An exploration of the UU Religious Education movement.

July 25: The Heart of National Parents Day
Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her)
Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles reflects on our “renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life,” as we consider parenting.

August 1: The UU Quest for Social Justice – It’s Complicated
Doug Chambers (he/him) and Kathy Riehle (she/her)
The Rev. Theodore Parker, famous Unitarian, Transcendentalist, and abolitionist who kept a pistol in his sermon writing desk. His two congregants, William and Ellen Craft, courageous husband and wife activists living in Boston, chosen as targets under the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. The Unitarian president, Millard Fillmore, who signed that deadly Act into law. What can we learn today from their experiences and their choices? What might each of us have done, in their place?

Please see page 7 for more August Services
Cleric's Corner

One-Fifth of My Reasons to Be Optimistic

By profession, the most intelligent people in the world are not, generally speaking, world leaders. We hope they’re not dumb, but neither do they need to be physicists and mathematicians (who are the most brilliant people by profession.) The US military needs as much “manpower” as possible to perform every kind of job imaginable. Yet, below a certain IQ, the lower 10% of people in the range cannot be assigned in any way, despite every effort to find ways to engage them. Thus far, the fact is, we have never seen a way to employ this 10% of our (world’s) population. Now you may argue (and wrongly so) that IQ testing is without value and is grossly inaccurate in its findings. The simplicity of IQ determination is that the examinees are confronted with a wide range of abstract problems, in many formats, to determine how far one can go in solving these problems. It is the most accurate identifier of appropriate vocational placement humans have ever developed. One may argue that the experiments of CERN should not be. We know that as we fill those posts, we do not want the fate of the world to rest on my ability to direct the creation of a black hole in a laboratory in Switzerland.

We find this range of distinction in almost every area of human life. I watched a young boy grow to be a young man who was, for a moment, considered for professional football. One day I gave him one of those congratulatory slaps on the back. I found that he’d grown from a somewhat pudgy youngster (always very physical) into what my hand (and ears) interpreted as a granite boulder. I asked this six-foot-two superhero how I could get a body like that, and he quietly responded, “You can’t. You don't have the genes.” And he was right.

This story plays out in every area of human beings and behavior. We are Not created equal. That idea would have us be anything but a part of Nature. Gaia dictates the necessity for our unique distinctions. These distinctions are what have gotten us this far. When we look at forests, we hope to find great diversity. We know that finding only one tree species in a forest means that the forest is in grave danger, yet we want everyone to be equal. We need to think this through carefully. We must be more specific in the use of language, which directs and guides our thought.

What do we mean when we seek equality? Is it equality of outcome or equality of opportunity? And, let's say we tackle that...
query and identify equality of opportunity as our real target. What do we do with the results when they
don’t match our expectations? Do we fudge the results? Or might there be other levels upon levels of
meaning in what we are seeing and experiencing?

Hierarchies are a part of Nature herself and human nature as well. I’ve watched midsized and larger birds,
al sorts of canids, and felines, and they all have distinct hierarchies. None of us wants to hold
responsibility for all jobs. Each of us can identify jobs we don’t wish to engage in and hope someone else
will have those. We are not suited to do any work or even play.

So, as to the questions of equality, we must get clear about what we mean by this. To err in our parameters
of measurement could throw our advancements right out the window. And it wouldn’t be the first time
we’ve gone hunting in the wrong area.

Meanwhile, we have pretty recently gained the capacity to measure the shift in poverty. This measuring
has taken so long primarily because of a lack of data. We needed to both collect and then share what data
there was. But now, we are both acquiring and sharing data much more. And what we are finding may
irritate some.

If we seek an end to poverty, we are well on the way, given what we are now doing. There are direct
correlations between well-being and the number of children born in a given year. The more impoverished
regions find more children born per woman. In turn, it decreases in proportion to the infant mortality in
those regions. More affluent areas have lower infant mortality rates than more impoverished regions.
Women have to more children for a few to survive—two things lower the infant mortality rate; better
healthcare and women’s education. Today the infant mortality rate in Sub-Saharan Africa is the same as
the European infant mortality rate in the 1950s. These factors show a stunningly rapid pace of change.

In keeping with these measurements, which we are getting more often as world leaders choose to share
their nation’s data, we have identified relationships between the factors of prosperity. Healthcare and the
education of women have been significant factors in raising planetary wealth. Better healthcare and
education lead us to higher incomes, per capita, across the world. We now know that as households
become healthier, women have fewer children. As that happens, income levels rise around the globe. Then
we show an increase in our concern for the planet’s wellbeing and our environment. These factors
contribute to the current projection that the planet’s human population will capitate circa nine billion
humans.

Now, for all that we say we want to change can we feel it as it happens? Do we see the value in open
communication about what is genuinely happening, the value of truth? Are we willing to use our tentative
grip on reality and communication to make accurate the phrase “A rising tide lifts all boats?”

Here are some places to begin your conscientious research:

New Insights on Poverty: https://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_new_insights_on_poverty

Get the Data Right: Hans Rosling: Let my dataset change your mindset | TED Talk

Gapminder’s Dollar Street https://www.gapminder.org/dollar-street/matrix

Rev. Marsh

Please note that Rev. Marsh will be on summer sabbatical for July and August.
BFUU’s Annual Meeting and Board election on June 13, 2021
Congratulations to our new and returning Board Members!

David Makofsky • Jean Marie Stine • Phoebe Sorgen (Alternate) • Stephanie Doucette (Alternate)
Paieka Melcher (non-voting Youth Member)

We thank you in advance for the good work you are willing and able to do to keep BFUU true to our mission and vision!

View From Rooms@bfuu.org

As of July 1st BFUU is beginning to reopen for some of our ongoing renters. Some of these faithful groups have even paid rent during the pandemic and are so grateful for being able to meet in person, again. At our recent congregational meeting, the limitations of this partial reopening were discussed and agreed upon.

Room use will be limited to: Previous ongoing groups that do not involve dance or singing, 3 weeknights only per week (tbd), masked, meeting between 6 & 9pm for 2 hours or less @50% room capacity with no food or drink service. Our Sexton, Shae Jewell, will be there each night monitoring attendance and making sure the hand-sanitizer stations are well stocked. There will be groups in both the Hall and the upstairs function rooms at 1606 Bonita.

This is a big step for BFUU and will offer us some insight in the reopening process. While Worship Services, Building & Grounds, and the Reopening Task Force work together on best practices to fully reopen, this summer’s room users will give us some practical experience on what reopening means.

Of course, flexibility is the byword as the public health situation may remain fluid. We will try to be ready for whatever comes our way, keeping each other safe as we move forward.

All the best,
Deborah (DJ) Hamouris
Event Space Coordinator

Regular Committee Meetings (currently via Zoom)

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 Steve Ogden

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 (SJIC)
3rd Sunday noonish - after service
contact Phoebe, Gene, and David

Social Justice Ministry (SIM)
1st Sunday 12:30 PM
contact Jeff Palmer

Worship Services
1st Friday at 1:30 PM
contact Sharon Colligan
BFUU Committees

Buildings & Grounds Committee (B&G)
Ben Burch, Co-Chair
Abbot Foote, Co-Chair
Ed Keating
  Aesthetics Subcommittee
    Doug Chambers
    Kathy Riehle
    Syl Scherzer
    Phoebe Sorgen
Caring Committee
Doug Chambers
Karen Dewald
Virginia Hollins-Davidson
Margaret Hurlbert
Wyndy Knox Carr
Kathy Riehle, Chair
Elinor Roberts
Committee on Ministry (COM)
Doug Chambers
Jinky Gardner
Steve Ogden, Convener
Kathy Riehle
Finance Committee
Ben Burch, Co-Chair
Abbot Foote, Co-Chair
Judith Granada-Dewey
Hospitality Committee
Doug Chambers
Michelle Laasi
Kathy Riehle, Chair
Elinor Roberts
Membership Committee
Doug Chambers, Chair
Rev. Marsh Agobert
Music Committee
James Blanchard
Francis Hillyard
Margaret Hurlbert, Chair
David Makofsky
Melissa R
Tom Rudderow

Nominating Committee
Karen Dewald
Virginia Hollins-Davidson, Chair
Jeff Palmer
Melissa R
Marge Turngren
Personnel Committee
Ben Burch
Mike Gardner
Virginia Hollins-Davidson
Kathy Riehle, Chair
Poetry Committee
Doug Chambers
Gene Herman, Poet Laureate
Frances Hillyard, Chair
Kathy Riehle
Religious Education/Exploration Committee (RE)
Doug Chambers
Sharon Colligan, Convener
Stephanie Doucette
Kathy Riehle
Social Justice Committee
Ben Burch
Ardys DeLu
Karen Dewald
Judith Granada-Dewey
Gene Herman, Co-Chair
Cynthia Johnson, Co-Chair
Tom Luce
David Makofsky, Co-Chair
Syl Scherzer
Phoebe Sorgen, Co-Chair
  Social Justice Ministry Subcommittee
    Jeff Palmer, Convener
Worship Services Committee
Doug Chambers
Sharon Colligan, Chair
Eva Doucette
Frances Hillyard
Virginia Hollins-Davidson
Andy Jamieson
Paikia Melcher
Steve Ogden
Melissa R
Kathy Riehle
Worship Teams!

▲ Worship Service Team June 20
  top: Melissa, Eva Doucette & Paikea, Lawrance, Elinor; 2nd row: Andy, Ben, Barbara, Margaret; 3rd row: Frances, Mike & Jinky, Ardys, Virginia; 4th row: Joanna, Lynn, Doug, Sharon; 5th row: Cal, James

▲ Worship Service Team June 13
  top: Andy, Eva & Paikea, Margaret; 2nd row: Barbara, Elinor, Frances; 3rd row: Lawrance, Ardys, Kathy; 4th row: Melissa, Doug Chambers, Virginia

▲ Worship Service Team June 6
  top: Virginia, Eva & Paikea, Frances; 2nd row: Lawrance, Andy, Kathy & Doug; 3rd row: Barbara, Melissa, Lynn; 4th row: Rev. Marsh Agobert

▲ Worship Service Team May 30
  top: Andy, Eva & Paikea, Joanna, Toni Battle; 2nd row: Elinor & Steve, Lawrane, Kathy & Doug, Virginia; 3rd row: Lynn, Ardys, Barbara, Frances; 4th row: Margaret, Melissa

▲ Worship Service Team May 23
  top: Elinor & Steve, Eva & Paikea, Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles, Frances; 2nd row: Ardys, Margaret, Kathy & Doug, Barbara; 3rd row: Andy, Melissa, James, Lawrance; 4th row: Lynn
Upcoming Worship Services

Services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

August 8: The Free Church Tradition of Community Decision-Making
BFUU Worship Team
In 1637, a community of neighbors in Dedham, MA began to figure out how to form a church together. An exploration of congregational polity and decision-making in the free church tradition.

August 15: The Meaning of Membership
Doug Chambers (he/him) and Kathy Riehle (she/her)
We will hear stories of how some people come to join a UU congregation. What factors influenced her decision? What has it meant to him since? How has their spiritual journey been shaped by their congregational membership? How have our lives been changed? Has membership met your expectations? How has it fallen short? How has it risen above?

August 22: Living Longer: the Joys and Sorrows of Adding Years to Our Lives
Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her)
Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles reviews the vital practices of increasing our lifespan and the emotional significance of living through new eras of our lives, as we embrace the sacred circle of life.

August 29: Toni Battle on Hymns and History
Toni R. Battle (she/her)
Our guest speaker, Toni Renee Battle, an Equal Employment Opportunity Programs Senior Specialist with the City and County of San Francisco, spoke to us in May about reparations. This week Toni will tell us about the power of spirituals and hymns as healing components for Black people descended from the historical harm and trauma of slavery and jim crow. Spirituals were essential to the Civil Rights movement. Toni will lead us into a deeper understanding of this powerful, healing musical tradition.

Community Voices

What’s Up?
Are you ready for another planet conjunction? Well, on July 13th, Venus and Mars will dazzle us with a close encounter. That evening, the two will be less than the apparent diameter of the moon apart. They will be fairly close together for several days before and after that.

BFUU Garden
Joanna shares this great pic of bee-friendly plants in the BFUU garden.

The waxing crescent moon joins the pair beginning July 11th, so you can witness the trio all moving relative to one another for at least a fist full of nights. Grab your binoculars, telescope, camera or just your eyes and enjoy this celestial wonder. Good viewing.

by Mike Gardner

https://www.flickr.com/photos/pbulsink/
Community Voices

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

from Joanna Foley:

\[ \text{Seen on Solano} \]
Words from Pete Seeger,
Unitarian Universalist singer-songwriter and environmentalist activist.

Poetry Corner

Let’s make a revolution;
circle round for freedom,
doing a deep change in
what we do together.
Love is the revolution,
circle together. Together
we bring ourselves around.
Frances Hillyard
BFUU Poet Laureate Emerita

The Other Six Million

Six million refugees, battered, scarred
and betrayed by indifference and injustice.
The other six million, not thosestarved to death or gassed and burned in ovens,
but buried by 60 years of deception and denial.
These are the six million displaced by war and occupation.
Are these Palestinians the forgotten six million?
The other six million,
forever frustrated in their striving for international justice.
Dispersed and dispossessed
The other six million.
Israel is a homeland for those brutalized by bigotry and war
When will Palestine become a safe haven and homeland
for the other six million,
brutalized by diaspora, occupation and apartheid.
Where is justice for this other six million?

Gene B. Herman, BFUU Poet Laureate
Berkeley CA 11/20/07
A walk in the woods

Coastal redwoods
   old growth forest

giants way way way up there
   the fallen all the way down here

pine leaf carpet
   big ole ferns
   sprouting right up from the floor

padding softly
   through the greens and the browns

mystical
   magical
   majestic
   mature

serene
   silent
   strong
   to their very core

ah redwood forest
   so secure
   yet so scarce

may you be kept safe

for all grandchildren
   to last

Gene B. Herman, BFUU Poet Laureate
Avenue of the Giants
June 23, 2013
### Fellowship Calendar July 2021

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2:00 pm <strong>COM Meeting</strong>*</td>
<td>12:15 pm Transforming Hearts Chat <em>4</em></td>
<td>1:30 pm <strong>Worship Svcs Committee Mtg</strong>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10:30 am <strong>Worship Service</strong>*</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2:00 pm <strong>MusCom Meeting</strong>*</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11:00 am <strong>Elders Circle</strong>*</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
<td></td>
<td>Independence Day Holiday Observed</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Reflection &amp; Connection</strong>*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:30 pm <strong>SJM Mtg</strong>*</td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm <strong>Choir Practice</strong>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Independence Day</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>10:30 am <strong>Worship Service</strong>*</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13 <strong>Reflection &amp; Connection</strong>*</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2:30 pm <strong>Personnel Committee</strong>*</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Noonish - after service <strong>SJC Meeting</strong>*</td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm <strong>Choir Practice</strong>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>10:30 am <strong>Worship Service</strong>*</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20 <strong>Reflection &amp; Connection</strong>*</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Noonish - after service <strong>SJC Meeting</strong>*</td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm <strong>Choir Practice</strong>*</td>
<td></td>
<td>7 pm <strong>BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg</strong>*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>10:30 am <strong>Worship Service</strong>*</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 <strong>Reflection &amp; Connection</strong>*</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:30 pm <strong>HMC-Hospitality, Membership and Caring-Cttees Mtgs</strong>*</td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm <strong>Choir Practice</strong>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Sat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 10:30 am  
Worship Service*1  
12:30 pm  
SJM Mtg*1 | 2:00 pm  
MusCom Meeting* | 11:00 am  
Elders Circle*1  
Reflection & Connection*  
7:00 pm  
Choir Practice*1 | 2:00 pm  
COM Meeting* | 1:30 pm  
Worship Svcs Committee Mtg* | |
| 8    | 9    | 10   | 11   | 12   | 13   | 14   |
| 10:30 am  
Worship Service*1  
Noonish - after service  
SJC Meeting*1 | | Reflection & Connection*  
7:00 pm  
Choir Practice*1 | 7 pm  
BFUU Men's Group* | | |
| 15   | 16   | 17   | 18   | 19   | 20   | 21   |
| 10:30 am  
Worship Service*1 | | Reflection & Connection*  
7:00 pm  
Choir Practice*1 | | (Note: no Personnel Committee mtg in August) | Communicator Deadline | |
| 22   | 23   | 24   | 25   | 26   | 27   | 28   |
| 10:30 am  
Worship Service*1  
12:30 pm  
HMC-Hospitality, Membership and Caring-Cttees Mtgs*1 | | Reflection & Connection*  
7:00 pm  
Choir Practice*1 | | 7 pm  
BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg*1 | | |
| 29   | 30   | 31   | 31   | 31   | 31   | 31   |
| 10:30 am  
Worship Service*1 | | Reflection & Connection*  
7:00 pm  
Choir Practice*1 | | | | |

* denotes Fellowship event  
1 denotes meeting link  
2 denotes meeting registration  
* denotes meetings are full - no new registrations are being accepted
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