



WUFB
fellowship of Bozeman
January 2012

Calendar of Services & Events

Services

January 1st, 2012 - Rev. Dr. Nina D. Grey
"Seeing - A New Year Multigenerational Celebration"

January 8th - Peg Wherry "A Ritual to Read to Each Other"

January 15th - Rev. Dr. Nina D. Grey "What Would Dr. King Do? Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

January 22nd - Rev. Dr. Nina D. Grey
"Choices and Choices"

January 29th - Stephanie Kroner "Immigration"

January 2012 Services

All services are held at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

Sunday service topics may change without notice at the discretion of the speaker or because of other circumstances. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

January 1: "Seeing~ A New Year Multigenerational Celebration" Rev. Dr. Nina D. Grey

Annie Dillard's first chapter in *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* is titled "Seeing". She reflects on the "far-seeing" we can do when the trees are bare in the middle of winter. January and the New Year allows us a momentarily less busy time, an oasis of time when we can reflect on our past and "see" into the future, imagining new possibilities. In this January 1st multigenerational celebration, we will take some time for a ritual of letting go of the old and imagining the new. We'll tell stories, sing, hear surprising accounts of how others around the world celebrate the New Year, and bring in the New Year together. Lay Leader: Edy Harrington, Music: Dee Mast, SFAA: Laura Mentch

January 8: "A Ritual to Read to Each Other" Peg Wherry

As we did last year in early January, in this service we will once again create a ritual in poetry. Please bring a short poem to read aloud. Poems about winter or new beginnings are seasonally appropriate, but any poem that speaks to you will be illuminating to all. (Robert Frost's "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" is already spoken for.) A few collections of poems will be available to provide inspiration after the service on Sundays leading up to this date. Lay Leader: Peg Wherry, Music: Edy Harrington, SFAA: Children's Chapel

January 15: "What Would Dr. King Do? ~Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." Rev. Dr. Nina D. Grey

We have seen bracelets with the initials WWJD, What Would Jesus Do. Today we reflect on what this prophetic follower of Jesus did and what he might do today in response to the justice challenges our nation and world face. We ask what he might inspire us to think about and do. What sup-

Services held August to June at
Bozeman Senior Center
807 N. Tracy,
Sundays 10:00am to 11:00am

ported and sustained Dr. King in his prophetic scholarship and witnessing? What supports and sustains us in living our values? Music: Laurel Yost and Choir

January 22: “Choice and Choices” Rev. Dr. Nina D. Grey

January 22 is our Annual Meeting. After our service voting members of the Fellowship will meet in Democratic process and consider and vote on our budget for 2012. In doing so, we are exercising our fifth UU principle, to affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process in our congregations and in society at large. We are embodying part of what it means to be a “free church” which places its power and decision-making in the membership. We remember that we are the church, and we make the choices which shape the life of the congregation. Today during our service we reflect on heretic history of our faith, the role of making choices in our faith’s progress, and the importance of choice in the religious life. In reflecting on Choice and Choices this morning, we also commemorate the passage of Roe v. Wade in January of 1973 and our denomination’s historic support of Women’s Right to Choose. Music: Edy Harrington and Trio

January 29: “Immigration” Stephanie Kroner

In 2012 the General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association will be held in Phoenix, Arizona. The topic is Immigration Justice. In preparation for GA, many churches (including the UUFB) are studying immigration. Currently there is a reading group in our fellowship studying immigration and in early March a group led by Rev. Nina will begin to study the UUA curriculum on Immigration Justice. On this Sunday, Stephanie Kroner will reflect on some immigration stories and perspectives. Music: Barry Pyle, SFAA: Edy Harrington

Ripples for January 2012

Any day is open at the beginning, with opportunities throughout the minutes and hours to make a difference in the lives of others. The New Year reminds us of that. Symbols found in stories of the birth of a baby, or like the pictures of the “old one” of the old year and the “baby” of the new, invite us to contemplate our lives as they have been, and imagine what they can be. Rituals of letting go and making room for the new invite us to believe in the possibility of change and growth. In the winter months, the darkest and coldest time of year here in our climate zone, we humans light candles that spell the promise of hope, we tell stories about new birth, we join in rituals of human warmth and sharing that remind us we are capable of more than we sometimes imagine.

There are moments in history also that remind us of the possibility of change, even of transformation. There are incidents of individual or group action that show us that we are not yet done with our growing, that we can think in a new way or do something differently that will make a positive impact on our own lives and the lives of others. I think of the article in the Bozeman Chronicle this fall about the enormous influence that, through her courage and persistence, Dorothy Eck has had on our state and on the lives of so many in Montana. People of every age can take up a new interest or a new cause.

In December we celebrated Winter Festivals of Light. Before the service I talked with the three Bianchini children who would process in the commemoration of Kwanzaa. I told them about Kwanzaa, how it was created in a time of



credit: John Eatinger

intense activity in the struggle for civil rights. At the time I was talking with them, I was also thinking, "This too is a time when we are called to pay attention to the struggle for civil and human rights. Freedom, equality and justice are always at risk. Our faith calls us to be alert to what is happening in our nation and in our world, to raise our voices and take action on behalf of our values."

January is named after the God Janus, who is pictured looking both backward and forward. The turning of the year is a time of assessing the recent past, and imagining new possibilities. In reflecting back and looking ahead, we can ask ourselves, "How in these days of new beginnings, can we work with others to create new possibilities." As individuals and as a community we can ask "What are we called toward?"

Our second principle reminds us that we can be inspired by the prophetic words and deeds of women and men. I am inspired by the activism of Dorothy Eck and others who have persisted through difficult times always looking for openings to create brighter days. I think of the decision made recently by our nation's president to emphasize the rights of GLBT people all over the world and include in our foreign policy and our diplomacy concerns about the legalization of oppression and violence against GLBT people, and I think of how our nation announced in December that we are also taking a more active approach to honoring Native American rights and supporting access to education for American Indians and Native Alaskans. Our nation does not always take what you or I might consider the ethical stance, we need to acknowledge that, but when it is prophetic, we can note the new possibilities that open up. Every day is a chance to live our faith, to express and embody our belief that we humans are capable of beginning again.

Our January 1st multigenerational service will include a ritual of letting go and beginning again. We'll hear stories for all ages of people who made a difference with what poet Mary Oliver calls our one wild and precious life. We'll hear surprising accounts of how others celebrate the New Year. We'll recall those who live far away and those who have gone before and we will sing and/or hear songs of memory and joy. We hope you can be with us as we enter into a New Year, in the words of Langston Hughes, holding fast to dreams.

Happy New Year!

With love, in faith, Nina

Sometimes our fate resembles a fruit tree in winter. Who would think that those branches would turn green again and blossom, but we hope it, we know it.
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

2011 A Very Successful Family Promise Year

Family Promise is an organization very important to the social justice life of the UUFB. Family Promise and the churches of the Gallatin Valley provide housing, meals, life issues counseling to homeless families in the area.

Many thanks to those in UUFB who served as meal preparers, evening hosts and overnight hosts in 2011. Everyone responded so generously when the call went out for volunteers. THANKS TO ALL!

Our next week of hosting with St. James Episcopal will be the week of January 22, 2012.

To serve as an evening host or an overnight host, one has to participate in a short Family Promise training. The next training session is January 11, 2012, from 6:00-8:00pm at the Bozeman Public Library meeting room. Please RSVP to the Family Promise office 582-7388. A light evening meal is provided.

If you have any questions about Family Promise, please give me a call.

Sara Williams (587-9636)

Social Activities

Circle Suppers – Sign up sheets will be available beginning January 1st for Circle Suppers to be held in January, February and March. There will be two Circle Suppers in January. Linda and Ken Pierce and Paul Kleihauer will be hosting these suppers on January 21st and January 28th. In February, Janet Lewis and Merle and Karl Johnson will be hosting suppers on February 4th and February 18th. Suppers are open to members and friends, and we especially encourage newcomers to UUFB to sign up to attend.

Board and Card Game Night – On Saturday, January 14th, Jane Taylor will host a board and card game night. A sign up sheet for this event will be available on January 1st. Space is limited to seven guests so make sure you sign up right away.

Movie Video Night – On Sunday, January 15th Diana Blank will host a movie video night. The movie title has not been determined but will be advertised before the event. A sign up sheet for this event will be available on January 1st. Space is limited to seven guests so don't delay in signing up.

Soup, Salad and Bread Sunday – On Sunday, January 22nd a Soup, Salad and Bread Sunday will be held after the service. Participants are asked to sign up to bring either a soup, salad or bread. Sign up sheets will be available on January 8th.

Women's Group – The January Women's Group will be held at a TBD location on Wednesday, January 18th. Information regarding the location will be available soon.

Men's Group – The Men's Group will be held on Wednesday, January 18th. Information regarding the host and location will be available soon.

From the Caring Committee:

Wanted. (The Cart) Would you please look in your garage and see if you might have space for an ambulance? The UUFB Caring Committee might be considering the use of such a vehicle to help enhance the presence of UUFB in the Bozeman Community. The desired stall would have an automatic door which is high enough to allow entry of a vehicle with flashy lights on top. A heated space would be nice but not mandatory.

Wanted. (The Horse) The Caring Committee might like to have the donation or loan of a 1990's or newer ambulance that has all the exterior lights, bells and whistles in place. A decal stating UUFB with the flaming chalice on each door would also be nice (this could be a removable magnetic sign). A gurney inside would be useful but other medical equipment would be extraneous. We would be mostly using the vehicle to establish our presence and to home deliver prayer flags, cards, and the occasional meal to members of the Fellowship. (Neighbors could not help but notice). Notice that we actually did put the cart before the horse. We did this because the Caring Committee will not take animals from the shelter nor buy bunnies and chicks at Easter unless we have a home established for them.

Wanted. We need an ambulance driver--young or old, male or female. A driver's license is required but the applicant does not necessarily need to have a firm grip on reality. The driver will be expected to bring the vehicle for display at the senior center each Sunday as well as above mentioned uses. We anticipate that this will serve to attract a large number of new members to the Caring Committee and will not be surprised (think intergenerational activity) if the children are excited to help with the occasional wash and polish (maybe in exchange for an after service ride). Thinking ahead and hoping to work with the Social Services Committee---we envision an annual social function patterned after the British Fox Hunt. You, the driver, and your vehicle will be the Fox. The event will be called "Be a lawyer for a day" or "Ambulance Chase".

Jim Dolezilek

Notes for the Sunday Services Committee

Music is an important part of our Sunday Services. It is what calls us to worship. It brings us together as a community as we sing together. It often sets the mood and helps us focus on the messages of the morning. And it serves as a benediction with our closing circle. A big thanks goes out to all our musicians: our four talented pianists - Edy Harrington, Dee Mast, Laurel Yost, and Barry Pyle, the string trio - Stephen Guggenheim, Sara Williams, and Nancy Equall, choir led by Elizabeth Rose, and all those who have provided special music. And who says UU's can't sing? The congregational singing sounds great! So much for the old joke. "Why can't UU's sing?" Answer - "Because they're always reading ahead to see if they agree with the words."

And speaking of special music, we're always looking for people who play an instrument or sing and would like to have the opportunity to share their talents with us. If this is you or one of your friends or family, please let me know. (dlknipfer@gmail.com or 599-9225) I'll try to work you or them into one of our upcoming services.

Rev. Nina's Schedule in January 2012

I will be away from January 2-13, returning January 13 late, and offering the sermon on January 15 when we commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This time away includes vacation and study leave. I will be available on January 1st and between January 14 and 31.

Adult Religious Education Sub-Committee is Forming

I am so pleased that we are moving forward to create an Adult Religious Education Sub-Committee of the Lifespan Religious Education Committee. We will benefit from a focused attention on Adult RE in order to be very intentional as we support people in their lifelong learning and growing.

Two members of the LRE Committee have indicated an interest in helping and we are looking for at least one more member who wants to join in creating a new approach to Adult RE. We will evolve a plan for two or three years out, beginning this coming fall.

Non-Violent Communication/Compassionate Communication

Adult RE Class Coming Up in January

I will be leading an 8 to 10 week series of classes as we join together to explore Non-Violent or Compassionate Communication. Seven people have indicated an interest already, after our service on "Creating Peace". Would you like to join? Please let me know by email, ninadgrey@gmail.com or minister@uufbozeman.org. The classes will begin in the second half of January and we will meet twice a month, date and time to be announced after we check with the schedules of those interested. We can take up to 12 people.

Adult RE Class Immigration as an Ethical Issue

Coming Up in March

A Co-leader and I will facilitate the UU curriculum which explores the ethical issues related to immigration, beginning in March. The class will meet once a month. Those who are in the Social Justice Book Group are already exploring concerns of immigration. They and others may wish to join in the class. This class is part of the preparation that the UUA is making as we approach the 2012 Justice General Assembly in June in Arizona. Please let me know if you are interested in joining with the group studying this curriculum. Time and dates to be announced depending on the schedules of those who wish to participate.

Some Friday UU Coffee Klatches with the Minister

Some have expressed an interest in group conversations that may cover a wide range of topics and will also be a chance for us to get to know each other better. Will you join me on the second floor of the Coop at 9th Street and Main? The UU Coffee Klatches will happen on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. beginning January 18th and continuing each Wednesday unless I am out of town. Let me know if you would like to be on an email list to stay up to date on when the UU Coffee Klatches will happen, by emailing me at ninadgrey@gmail.com, and I will also post the schedule in the newsletter and the e-news.

UU Coffee Klatches this month will take place on January 18 and January 25.

Lifespan Religious Education

This month I would like to thank everyone who helped with our UU Yule Treasure sale--Marvin Backer, Leona Poritz, Dee Mast, Jennifer Haukebo, Fritz Pease, Hope Lynn and everyone else who helped with set-up and clean-up, not to mention everyone who donated all those treasures! It truly takes a whole congregation to make these treasure sales so successful.

I would also like to thank those who participated in our multigenerational Festivals of Light service--parents, children, Rev. Nina, Laura Zeimer, Marvin Backer and Diane Knipfer. It was great to be part of this team effort, and I appreciate each and every one of you!

Giving IS the Greatest Gift We Give Ourselves!!

Reflections from Rev. Nina on our Pledge Campaign for 2012

So many of our members and friends offer talent, commitment, energy, and constancy to the ongoing life of the Fellowship. It shows! More and more children have come to the Fellowship as the fall progressed. Our Social Activities Committee has been very active facilitating fun and fellowship through a variety of events! We've supported Family Promise, the Food Bank, the Crop Walk, and the latest, supporting two Family Promise families during the holidays and providing clothing for children in Haiti. A new book group has formed to read about social justice issues and our Board is moving toward re-establishing a Social Justice Committee. The Lifespan Religious Education Committee has authorized an Adult Religious Education sub-committee. We've hired new staff to help us set up our worship space each week and to teach our older children. I sense a great energy in the congregation and it feels wonderful to be co-creating religious community with all of you!

It takes all of us to support the strength and growth of our congregation with our commitments including our financial commitment. As we approach our January 22nd Annual Meeting and decisions about our budget, we have learned that we still have a gap between what we have contributed and what we need. If we can make up that gap, we will be able to fund most or all that we have collectively hoped for in the coming year. I am intending to re-assess my contribution to see how much more I may be able to contribute. The Board has appointed a task force to meet at the end of December to evaluate how big a gap we still have and what steps we might take to encourage greater giving wherever it is possible. In the meantime, we are grateful for all the pledges we have made so far, and I want to join the leaders in inviting you to consider whether you can make a greater gift before January 22nd. Giving IS the Greatest Gift We Give Ourselves.

In faith, with love,

Nina

Notes from the President

Happy New Year to all from the UUFB Board. It has certainly been an eventful 2011 for the fellowship.

We moved to new administrative offices, hired a new minister, expanded teaching staff for our growing number of children and contracted for a "set-up" person (Jeff Gonzales) for our Sunday services. Our fellowship continues to excel at building a Welcoming and Beloved Community with many active social programs for adults and children. The membership committee took over the hospitality functions on Sunday to go with their greeter functions and membership training program. Our service to the community has continued with Family Promise, Food Bank, and supporting multiple interactions on social justice and "caring" projects. Many of you (too many to mention) continued to come up with creative ideas to expand services both within our fellowship and to our community.

I, a fairly recent convert to Unitarian Universalism, am amazed at the phenomenal ability of members and friends of UUFB to rise to the occasion. Where caring for each other, the community and the environment is the norm not the exception.

I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in the journey with all of you.

Dick Young

2011/2012 Board Members:

The UUFB Board generally meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6pm at UU Central

Dick Young, President
Sara Williams, Vice-President
Rose Toth, Past President
David Andes, Treasurer
Bunny Gaffney, Secretary
Marv Backer, Member-at-large
Jeanne Moe, Member-at-large
Susan Backer, Member-at-large

Committee Chairs:

Sunday Service: Edy Harrington and Neil Gregerson, Chairs
Membership: Jan Young
Caring: Donna Garber/Johanna Prindeville, Chairs
Family Promise: Sara Williams, Bill Platte, Coordinators
Committee on Ministry: Amanda Cater
Social Activities: Beth D'Atri
Historian: Maureen Vaughn
Lifespan Religious Education: Bar Turner

The UUFB newsletter is published monthly from September to June. Send articles to admin@uufbozeman.org

UUFB Online

The UUFB maintains several online resources. An email list has been established in order to communicate announcements and events of interest to the UUFB. To make an announcement to the group, please send email to "uufb@yahoogroups.com" (you must be subscribed to the list in order to send mail to the list). Mail sent to this address will be delivered to all members of the list, and will also be archived. This is not an appropriate forum for political commentary or jokes (see uufb-discuss below), so please use discretion when sending email to this address.

To Subscribe: uufb-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To Unsubscribe: uufb-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Email address: uufb@yahoogroups.com

Web page: <http://www.uufbozeman.org/>

In addition to the announcement list, we also run a discussion list in which all manner of concerns can be discussed:

To Subscribe: uufb-discuss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To Unsubscribe: uufb-discuss-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Questions or problems? Email cfaehl@mac.com

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