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Sunday's Service

December 20, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
Twelve Days of Winter
Multi-generational Holiday Pageant
Rev. Sara LaWall & Emmie Schlobohm, Director of Religious Exploration
Carrie Bastian, Music
#UUHolidayPageant

Engage with our worship service themes in conversation over social media, we'll give you a hashtag to use each week on any platform:
(Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, etc).
Don't forget to turn your phone to worship mode on Sunday mornings!

Upcoming Services

What's Coming Up

December 21, 6:30 p.m.
Winter Solstice Celebration Blessed Darkness
Join us for a time of reflection and respite on the longest night of the year, Monday, December 21, 6:30 p.m. Before we turn back to the light, let us sit in the dark together, accepting the blessings and the lessons that darkness offers. What shall we let go of with the passing year? What will we invite to re-enter the light with us?

Come celebrate an earth-centered service as we welcome the dark and the return of the light. While the Solstice service for adults and older children is going on in the sanctuary and the north wing classrooms, your Religious Exploration Team will have a celebration for younger children in the south wing classrooms. We'll have Solstice
December 24, 7 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service "Preparing Room"
Rev Sara LaWall
We will celebrate Christmas Eve with stories of Christmas that renew our sense of mystery and wonder at this time of the year. We will sing carols, light candles and welcome magic and mystery once more into our lives at this darkest time of the year.

December 27, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
Quaker Service
A silent service with Nancy Harms
"Soon silence will have passed into legend. Man has turned his back on silence. Day after day he invents machines and devices that increase noise and distract humanity from the essence of life, contemplation, meditation." (Jean Arp)
Amid the busyness of the season, take time to slow down and listen to the heart within.

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From Your Minister

The Holiday Season
Rev. Sara LaWall

Every morning my children wake up and tell me how many days we have until Christmas. I feel a mix of both excitement and panic at all that will happen in this final week. Of course, no matter what, I will find the joy of the season all around me, including right here at BUUF. I hope you will join us for one or more of our holiday worship services. We have a fun and festive multigenerational holiday pageant this Sunday, December 20th, celebrating many different traditions from around the world. On Monday we'll honor the Winter Solstice with our much anticipated, annual Pagan service complete with sage smudging, chanting, and a spiral dance. And Thursday, December 24th we will gather for a more traditional Christmas Eve worship service celebrating the Christian origins of this holiday and its timeless message that speaks to us today. We will end this service with a traditional candle lighting and the singing of "Silent Night".

Last Sunday's #LightTheDark interfaith candlelight vigil in support of refugees was a success given the downpour. Thank you all who came out in spite of the rain and cold, it really was beautiful and humbling. The issue of welcoming refugees is one that will be with us for a while and I'm told there is state legislation afoot opposing resettlement. While it may not have any legal teeth, it will make a political statement in this election year and calls us to counter it with our faith-based messages of love, hospitality and welcome. My colleagues and I are exploring several different options to gather gain as communities of faith and share some of the beautiful pieces of our program we had to cut in light of the weather. Stay-tuned for more information on this front. In the meantime we are pulling together a list of folks interested in forming a Refugee Justice Ministry Team who will help BUUF stay connected to the issue and mobilize as needs form our community partners arise. If you are interested in serving on this Ministry Team, please send me an email. (minister@boiseuu.org)

Speaking of social justice, our Social Justice Council is planning a Social Justice Summit on Saturday, January 30th. Open to the whole congregation, they will share their vision for how the council can support justice issues and ministries as they arise within the congregation with your enthusiastic leadership. In addition, we will invite our Plate Partners and other non-profit organizations to join us and share their good work and volunteer/coalition building needs with all of you. Imagine non-profit speed-dating of sorts where you will get to choose four, fifteen minute slots to hear about the top four issues of
There is so much energy and excitement happening in the fellowship, what a gift it is to serve!
I wish all of you a very Happy Holiday season and Happy New Year!

Rev. Sara

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**Social Justice December Plate Partner**

**ACLU Idaho**

*Debra Smith*

December's Plate Partner is the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in support of their efforts to reform the criminal justice system. The ACLU has recently convened a task force comprised of many faith traditions and interested individuals to look at ways to leverage the current bi-partisan efforts aimed at reducing the numbers of individuals caught in the justice system. This task force is investigating ways to educate the public about a variety of criminal justice issues: body cameras and police practices, "policing for profit," decriminalization and misdemeanor reform, "Ban the Box" initiatives, solitary confinement reform, mental illness and the courts, death penalty abolition, and public defender funding reform.

We will be conducting a series of book talks to discuss the critically acclaimed book, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption.* This is the UUA "common read" book for 2015-16. Read more about that here: [http://www.uua.org/re/adults/read](http://www.uua.org/re/adults/read)

25% of the offertory for December will go the ACLU and our partnership to bring sensible reform to a vexing problem, one that the *Lewiston Tribune* described in this manner: "Idaho locks up more of its people than all but seven states. You have to travel to the Deep South or Arizona to find a higher incarceration rate. Having one of every 18 adults caught up in the corrections system - probation, incarceration or parole - puts Idaho ahead of every state except Georgia."

Don't miss the colorful "tarpestry" hanging in the South entryway. Melissa Chambers has graciously agreed to make and donate a unique banner for each month’s Plate Partner. Watch that space every month for her inventive interpretations of all our non-profit partners.

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**The 12 Items of Christmas!**

*Debra Smith*

On Monday evening 12/7, I dropped off our week's collection for Corpus Christi House day shelter. It was closing time, and
our homeless neighbors were starting to settle into lines at the nearby Interfaith Sanctuary. It was drizzling. Across the street, the tents and belongings left over after Cooper Court was shut down, were blocked off by a temporary chain-link fencing. In front of the day shelter, two police officers were trying to calm a distraught woman: the Humane Society was coming to take her "companion dog" temporarily because the shelter she was going to does not accept dogs. She was arguing about someone else's dog being allowed. "The whole thing" was unfair--rigged--she said. The dog sported a cute little quilted jacket, and he was on a leash. Down the street, where the remodel of the skate park under the overpass had blocked off the place where the homeless folks used to set up tents, homeless men and women were once again laying out sleeping bags there for the night.

Here is what we collected last week. We could use more of the same for the next four weeks.

6 jars peanut butter
2 jars jelly
1 can coffee
2 jackets
2 pairs women's gloves
15 pairs socks

Corpus Christi House staff jumped with joy at receiving the gifts. They wanted to thank you. Thank you all.

From Your Board

From the President

Sue Langley

Today was a good day to be a Unitarian Universalist!

I just returned from standing with many of you on the Capital steps in the pouring rain to show our elected officials in a worshipful way that we are welcoming to all refugees. The service was lead by our own Rev. Lawall. It was heartening to stand with people from other faiths and to hear from two Syrian refugees. The rain prevented us from hearing their entire stories of how they ended up in Boise - I hope to hear from them again because knowing each others' stories is how we connect and empathize when we come from different backgrounds. Watch for other ways from our minister and Social Justice Council to get involved in supporting and welcoming refugees.

Earlier today I was part of the magical holiday music service with music coordinated by Carrie Bastion. I have worked with Carrie for about 9 years as her accompanist, and am always amazed at her creativity, her striving for perfection, her respect for the many levels of musicianship in the choir, and the way she can find music and readings that tie a service together. Thank you Carrie for continuing to inspire us with your musical leadership!

Ministerial Start-up Workshop

A group of lay leaders including Board, PMC, Committee on Ministry and others met for a workshop earlier in December facilitated by Rev. Linda Hart. We looked at all the responsibilities of minister, congregation, staff, and shared responsibilities. There was quite a bit of discussion on some of the tasks - such as "who supervises employees and who supervises contract laborers?"; "is Pastoral Care (Congregational Care Team) the responsibility of the minister or is it shared between minister and congregation"?; "Who controls the budget?". Lots of good discussion with a group of diverse leaders with 1 to 49 years of service to BUUF! We then voted on our top 3 areas on which we want to focus this year. For this letter I want to focus on one of those: welcoming/creating pathways to participation/leadership development. Those three were combined as being on one continuum. How do we create a welcoming culture where new friends and members want to get involved? Then, how can we plan for succession of leaders in key roles who have served this place for many years? Many leaders would like to step aside, but on some committees new leaders haven't emerged yet to fill those roles. For the last two years, the Board has created Ministry Visions. One of those is that BUUF will strive to become a more welcoming, transparent and inspiring congregation that creates easily discoverable pathways to participation. Now that this larger group of leaders has also identified this as an area of focus, let's put our efforts into making this true. If you are a new member or a
not-so-new member who hasn’t yet become involved, we need you! I believe that BUUF is full of untapped talent and leadership skills. Take a look at that bright green directory and read through the many opportunities available for connection and volunteering. Thank you to all who are already doing so much for BUUF.

Next Board meeting is December 17th at 6:45. There is an ingathering at 6:30 of personal story and gratitude circle - official meeting starts at 6:45.

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**Spiritual Growth and Learning**

**Partner Church Update**

*By Gwyn Reid*

Since 1993, BUUF has partnered with the Unitarian congregation in Mészők, Transylvania. The Partner Church committee coordinates activities that help to sustain this relationship.

Please note some upcoming events planned by the Partner Church Committee.

**Sunday Service, January 17 - Partners in Community**

- Five BUUF members who traveled to Mészők to participate in the dedication of the new Community House will share insights from their travels and visit in our partner village.

**Travel Bugs - February 19**

The five BUUF members who traveled to Transylvania in July will share slides and insights from their travels to our partner village and a tour of Unitarian heritage sites.

"*Food for Thought*" --- A Series of three classes honoring our Unitarian Partners in Transylvania

- Thursday, March 31 (7 pm) --- Unitarian History in Transylvania
- April 7 (7 pm) --- Our Partnership --- Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow
- April 23 (10 am through lunch) --- The Transylvanian Kitchen ($15)

More details will be provided in future newsletter articles.

**Contemplative Practice Group Has Begun**

Contemplative practice (commonly called centering prayer) is a meditative practice which originated within the 4th Century monastic tradition of the Desert Fathers. While it has become widespread recently due to the efforts of the Cistercian monks, Fathers Thomas Keating and Basil Pennington, there is no reason it must be exclusively Christian. This group will draw from all of our UU sources for our practice.

Outwardly, centering prayer looks similar to mindful meditation, but varies in that it provides a word, phrase, or short reading for contemplation during a period of restful silence. The health benefits of centering prayer are similar to other forms of meditation. If you would like to learn more about centering prayer and/or participate in a weekly group, meet in the Balazs (senior high) room on Tuesday mornings, at 9 - 9:30 a.m.

**Mindful Meditation**

Join Mike Philley and Rick Groff for an hour of Mindful Meditation, Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Please note: They will not be meeting December 21.

**Become Better at Being Human**

*Louise Jacobsen*

If you long for a connection with your fellow humans that is deeper than that usually found in discussion groups, a Creating Compassionate Community covenant group may be for you. We are learning and practicing Compassionate Communication - the language of the heart - and how to truly listen to each other based on the teachings of Marshall Rosenberg and his book
Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life.

"I'm learning how to understand my own emotional needs and responses and that I am responsible for my own well-being and happiness. I'm also learning how to understand and respond to others and their unmet needs. I'm eager to continue with this group because I have so much more to learn," said Val Cobbs.

There is space available in the afternoon group for a four-month session that begins Feb. 4. This group meets every other Thursday from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m at BUUF. For more information or to sign up, contact Louise Jacobsen, louisej9630@gmail.com or 208-891-8062.

Fellowship Connections

"BUUF Beach Bash"
DINNER and AUCTION - February 6, 6 pm
APPETIZERS & BUFFET DINNER
Live & Silent Auctions

Join us for a Beach Party on February 6, and chase away the winter blues. We'll provide the umbrellas and the palm trees. Beat the winter chill and enjoy a tropical escape, complete with appetizers, dinner, music and more! In addition to our usual dinner and auction, are you ready to dance, dance, dance? Our own Julian Jenkins will DJ for us after the auction.

Donate an item or service, such as a meal in your home, a cake or pie for a special occasion, use of your cabin for a weekend, a gardening basket, your original artwork, babysitting services, housecleaning, garden maintenance or anything else you can come up with. Ask yourself what talents or resources you could offer to help BUUF raise funds and build bonds among its members and friends.

Volunteers will be needed to help with tasks such as set-up, decorations, ticket-taking, and clean-up.

This is the major fundraising event for the fellowship.
Look for future newsletter articles and announcements.

Community Office Hours with Rev. Sara
1st & 3rd Wednesdays #BUUFbreak
Join Rev. Sara for drop-in office hours out in the community. Come by for a quick chat and beverage. Give yourself a #BUUFbreak. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month, times vary. Children and youth are always welcome.
January 6, 8 - 10 a.m. at
The District Coffee House, 219 N 10th St (See Map)

January 20th 2 - 4 p.m. at Rembrants Café in Eagle, 93 South Eagle Road (See Map)
with Emmie Schlobohm, Director of Religious Exploration
Join us for a chat about Family Ministry.

**UU for Newcomers Class**
Newcomers and others interested in learning about the basics of UU - history, the seven principles, and the concept of the free pulpit and free pew, -- are invited to attend "UU for Newcomers" Saturday, January 23. 9 to noon. Contact Jay Wechselberger if you have any questions, 208-871-3765.

**Plan Now For BUUF's Campout**
Save the date - BUUF Camping 2016
We want you to get the jump on planning for next summer and BUUF camping. If you want to join the fun save August 5-6, 2016 for BUUF camping at Ponderosa State Park in McCall. While you are at it, go ahead and let Julia Pope (julia.t.pope@gmail.com) or Mary Stell (mstellmstell@gmail.com) know that you want to reserve a spot. Contact one of us for more details.

**Classics Book Club**
The Honorable BUUF Classics Club hereby solicits participation in its hearty literary discussions. Said gatherings shall commence at 7:00 on the following dates:

Feb 24  Tristram Shandy at the abode of Marcia Lyons
April 27  Nana at Lorel Case's cottage
Speaketh with Lorel Case (376-3188) for additional particulars.

**The Other Book Club**
Come join us for lively discussion on books and other topics. We meet on the second Sunday of the month from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

However please note dates in January/February

**January 31, 2016** we will be reading the [Invention of Wings](http://boiseuu.org/newsletters/news20151217.html) by Sue Monk Kidd. We will meet at the home of Carol Wilke,
5186 E. Trail Wind Dr. Boise, ID 83716
761.1769

No meeting Scheduled for February.
March 13th we will be reading **Being Mortal, Medicine and What Matters in the End** by Atul Gawande. We will meet at BUUF in the Channing Room.

This is a nonfiction selection. Consider what are our responsibilities to our families, communities as ageing Unitarians.

We will select a few more books at our January meeting. Bring your ideas.

If you would like to receive our emails contact me at erins4960@msn.com

**Religious Exploration**

**Chalice Lighters**

Would you like your child to light our chalice?

Every Sunday morning, children from our beloved community are a part of our worship tradition. A big part of that involvement is to be a chalice lighter. Our chalice lighters are 5 years old or older and registered in Religious Exploration. (Registration forms are available in the classrooms, in the information center in the north vestibule, and from Emmie.) The sign-up sheet for chalice lighters can be found on the table in the hospitality area by the coffee after services. One of our Worship Service Coordinators will contact you to confirm your participation.

Pick a special day like a birthday or pick a day when the whole family can be a part of the worship service. Sign-ups for all worship tasks are organized by date and located in the hospitality/coffee area.

Lighting the chalice for the first time is a very special event in a child's life. Rev. Sara and Emmie cherish their time with new chalice lighters and love to get to know them better and introduce them to the congregation. First time chalice lighters are recognized and introduced to the congregation on Sundays when Rev Sara and Emmie are here in the fellowship. Questions? Please contact Emmie Schlobohm, your Director of Religious Exploration at 658-1710

**Joyful Celebration of the Returning Sun - Children's Solstice Celebration!**

On Monday, December 21, while the adults and older children 10 and above are celebrating Winter Solstice in the sanctuary, our younger children, preschool through 4th grade, are invited to join in their own celebration just for them. Your RE Team will be telling stories, playing games, and making crafts in honor of Sun's return. Everyone starts together in the north wing after being smudged and then younger children will be invited to go to the classrooms in the south wing with members of the RE Team. More information can be found on our "Religious Exploration at BUUF" Facebook page.

**Guest at Your Table Will be Wrapping Up Soon**

There are just a few jars still available and three weeks left to fill them before the last day to turn them in arrives. We'll be collecting and counting the jars and their contents starting Sunday, January 3rd and ending on Sunday, January 10th. Please take this time to remember and support the UUSC and the good works they do out in the greater world. To learn more about those good works, watch this [video on YouTube](http://boiseuu.org/newsletters/news20151217.html).
History Keepers Need Help

Scrapbooking Opportunity

- History Keepers needs experienced and inexperienced scrapbookers to bring to completion a scrapbook record of Dana Worsnop's two years with BUUF. This is a short term commitment. People who would like to be a part of History Keepers would be welcomed, but scrapbookers would be treated as independent consultants, given full credit for their work on the title page.


District & Regional Connections

March 5, 2016
Hosted by University Unitarian Church, Seattle, WA

Pacific Northwest District (PNWD)
District Assembly & Annual General Meeting

9 a.m. - Noon
Where Do We Come From? Who Are We?
Rev. Jon Luopa, Theme Speaker

1:30 - 4 p.m.
Where Are We Going?
Pacific Northwest District Board, Facilitating Conversations on Regionalization and Beyond