



THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

510-841-4824 office@bfuu.org www.bfuu.org

November 2025



Worship Service Sundays at 10:30 AM

BFUU Fellowship Hall 1924 Cedar St, Berkeley CA & on Zoom

except as noted

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

November 2: Make Them Hear Us Nell Myhand (she/her)

The California Poor People's Campaign is organizing statewide to demand that our Senator's Padilla and Schiff hear the voices of their constituents who are bearing the brunt of Public Law 119-21, the Big Brutal Budget that took effect on 10/1/2025. Three components, building power through telling our stories and survival projects will lead to meetings with both California senators with our observations and demands.



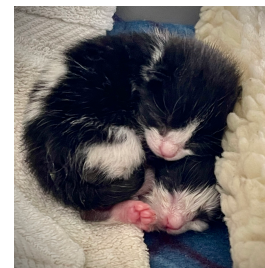
November 9: Blessing the World Rev. Bonnie Dlott (she/her)

"Blessing is the art of harvesting the wisdom of the invisible world."

These words were written by Irish teacher and poet John O'Donohue, whose blessings are loved by people all over the world. Today we will hear some of Rev. Bonnie's favorite John O'Donohue's blessings, explore his life-affirming philosophy, and consider how the act of blessing can change our lives.

November 16: The Smallest Among Us Sharon Knight (she/her)

Sometimes the greatest teachings come from the tiniest beings. In this service, Sharon shares what she has learned about love, service, and connection from two tiny kittens and rescuing feral cats. We'll explore how our relationship with animals shifts when we view them through an animistic lens rather than a mechanistic lens, and how that can deepen the already special bond we have with our pets. To help a vulnerable being is to choose life.



November 23: Feeding the Greater Hunger Rev. Ben Meyers (he/him)

There is an ancient teaching, found in many cultures, of the 'two hungers.' The lesser is for the 'stuff' that sustains daily life. The greater hunger is for expressing gratitude that life exists at all...the sermon reflects on how to feed this greater hunger. Thanksgiving Communion will be celebrated with bread and cider. Special music for the occasion.

November 30: Wear This Body With Loving Kindness

Mary MacKay (she/her)

In a culture both obsessed with, and disgusted by, our bodies, what does it mean to be an embodied being? From our first breath to our last we are sustained and sometimes entrapped in our specific unique remarkable body. We experience the world through our senses and are shaped by the perceptions we and others have of our bodies. Race, gender, beauty, ability and disability, health and age may define us in ways over which we have little control. Join us in celebration of the joys and burdens our bodies share.



Please see [page 2](#) for our shared plate partner information and [page 3](#) for Minister/Speaker bios.



Office: 1606 Bonita Ave Berkeley CA 94709
510-841-4824 office@bfuu.org www.bfuu.org

Clergy & Staff

Reverend Jojo Gabuya, *Pastoral Care Minister*
Reverend Tom McAninley, *Community Minister*
Lynn/Luna Orlando, *Recording Secretary*
Anders Renee, *Office Coordinator*
Sharon Knight, *Event Space Coordinator*
Ed Keating, *Facilities Manager*
Shae Jewell, *Sexton*

Board of Trustees

Margaret Hurlbert, President
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Committees

Aesthetics (Subcommittee of B&G)
Chair currently vacant
Building & Grounds Committee
Abbot Foote, Co-Chair
Ben Burch, Co-Chair
Caring Community
Karen Dewald, Chair
Committee on Ministry
Jinky Gardner, Chair
Finance Committee
Ben Burch, Co-Chair
Abbot Foote, Co-Chair
Hospitality Committee
Chair currently vacant
Membership Committee
Jeff Palmer, Convener/Chair
Music Committee
Margaret Hurlbert, Chair
Nominating Committee
Virginia Hollins-Davidson, Chair
Personnel Committee
Ben Burch, Convener/Chair
Poetry Committee
Frances Hillyard, Chair
Religious Education (RE) Committee
Chair currently vacant
Social Justice Committee (SJC)
Chair Phoebe Sorgen
SJM Task Force (Subcom of SJC)
Margaret Hurlbert, Convener
Worship Services Committee
Jeff Palmer, 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.

President's Corner

Hello everyone!

I want to give a HUGE thanks to Virginia for her twelve years as the chair of the Nominating Committee, which is a very important job for our Fellowship. Thanks for your kind, intelligent work all of these years!!! We also appreciate all of the hard work that all of the volunteers at BFUU put into our Fellowship.

I am so happy that our Fellowship has been growing, and about all of the great events that are coming up in November. We will be sponsoring two concerts, one by Betsy Rose and friends on November 6th, and Emma's Revolution, who will be putting on a benefit concert for the Middle East Children's Alliance on Saturday, November 22nd. There will also be a peace event on November 15th. All of these are going to be great events!

Happy fall,

Margaret

November Shared Plate Partner

Berkeley Food Pantry

Donate: <https://www.berkeleyfoodpantry.org/donate>

The Berkeley Food Pantry is a non-profit organization providing emergency groceries to Berkeley and Albany residents in need. Through the combined efforts of three paid part-time staff, over 100 dedicated volunteers, the Alameda County Community Food Bank, community members, local businesses, and the USDA Emergency Food Assistance Program, we provide emergency groceries for 3 days or 9 meals to over 2,000 Berkeley and Albany residents monthly. We are proud that we provide over 70,000 pounds of nutritious food each month to Berkeley and Albany households in crisis. For each \$1.00 donated, we are able to purchase \$7.00 worth of food!

Worship Service Leaders

Nell Myhand (she/her)

Nell Myhand is an Oakland based organizer, She is a member of the Bay Area Poor People's Campaign Coordinating (PPC) Committee and serves as Co Chair. California PPC works locally and statewide to amplify the voices of low/no wealth people and our demands for resources to meet our basic needs for housing, education, healthcare, and a livable climate. She also organizes with Women of Color in the Global Women's Strike, an international organization calling on all governments to recognize unwaged caregiving as work deserving of a wage, and pay them and serves on the Advisory Board of the Wood Street Commons.

Rev. Bonnie Dlott (she/her)

Since retiring after 11 years of ministry with the Napa congregation, Rev. Bonnie Dlott had the privilege of serving the UU congregations in Santa Rosa and Petaluma as a contract minister. Rev. Bonnie is a Bay Area native and spends her time communing with nature, cooking, traveling, and playing with her two grand babies.

Sharon Knight (she/her)

Sharon Knight is a musician, artist, animist, and cat butler who is deeply in love with this beautiful jewel of a planet. She is a graduate of Al Gore's Climate Reality leadership training, and is actively exploring ways to help regenerate the ocean. She also happens to be the Event Space Coordinator here at BFUU.

Rev. Ben Meyers (he/him)

The Rev. Ben Meyers loves living near Lake Merritt in Oakland, CA. His ministry spans 28 years: half of that time as a parish minister and half as a social justice/community minister. He is the proud father of two sons and loves spending as much time as possible with his two-year old grandson. His passion is working with individuals and faith-based communities throughout the country as a Solar and Clean Energy consultant. His mission is to accelerate the adoption of clean energy as a moral and spiritual imperative. As a proud parent of a transgender child, he is also a vocal ally and avid advocate for LGBTQ+ rights.

Mary MacKay (she/her)

Mary MacKay is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist and longtime member of Live Oak UU in Alameda and First UU in Honolulu. She has preached regularly at both for many years. Mary is a retired Geologist and an amused observer and grateful participant in being human.

Social Justice Committee Photo and Events



L to R: Marjorie, Betsy, Yoko, Phoebe, and Barbara at the last Sing 4 Justice event

You've Cast Your Vote- Now Raise Your Voice!

Thursday, November 6 7:00 PM

Join Song Leaders Betsy Rose and Sheniqua Trotman for a post-election, community evening of singing and solidarity, with songs that renew courage, hope, and connection — reminding us that we are not alone, and that together, we are strong.

With Special Guest Song Leaders Evelie Posch, Terry Garthwaite, and Occupella

All are welcome — no experience needed, just your voice and your heart. Suggested donation: \$20-40 Sliding Scale. No one turned away for lack of funds

For more info:

betsy@betsyrosemusic.org

UNITED NATIONAL ANTIWAR COALITION Teach-In - Educational Conference

Saturday November 15th 11am-3pm in Fellowship Hall

Speakers include: Pierre La Bossiere, Chair., Haiti Action Comm., Judith Mirkinson, Bay Area National Lawyers Guild, Rick Sterling, Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Cntr, Paul Cox, Nat. Pres. Vets For Peace, Jeff Mackler, UNAC Admin. Comm. • Kevin Cooper, Innocent death row political prisoner • Jack Fleck, International Comm., 350.org

**AN EVENING OF
COMMUNITY SONG
AND SOLIDARITY**

Thursday, November 6th at 7pm

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, (www.bfuu.org)
1924 Cedar St Berkeley, CA 94709. Wheelchair ramp on Bonita St.

LED BY: Betsy Rose and Sheniqua Trotman
with special guests: Evelie Posch, Terry Garthwaite,
Renee Benmeleh and Occupella

Rejoice, Resonate, Resist!

You Cast Your Vote
📣 **- Now Raise Your Voice**

Join us for an uplifting night of shared song and community connection.
No experience needed - just your voice and your heart.

DONATION AT THE DOOR: \$20 - \$40
For more info email: betsy@betsyrosemusic.org

Music Events at BFUU



Song Medicine

Saturday November 15th 7:30-9:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Pollyanna Bush & Bay Area luminaires, Dave Worm, Bryan, Dyer, Renée Benmeleh, Stephen Iverson, Ann Speyer & Becca Burrington, offer an evening of Pollyanna's original songs, & magical "in the moment" circle song creations that nourish and lift the spirit, inviting the audience to melt into a deep sense of wholeness. This evening of song medicine will include opportunities for the audience to sing, as well, to bathe in the sound of voices weaving a fabric of harmony and beauty.

Women Composer's Collective

Saturday November 8th 7pm in Fellowship Hall

Original music for violin, cello and piano with and by Irene Sazer, Rebecca Hass and Lillian Lee special guest Jessica Ivry. <https://www.womencomposerscollective.org>

Tickets Sliding Scale at door \$25-\$40

WCC is a dynamic community dedicated to amplifying voices of women composers. We foster artistic collaboration, provide professional development opportunities, and champion new works that push creative boundaries. Founded on the belief that representation in composition matters, our collective serves as a platform for women to share their music, connect with like-minded artists, and engage with audiences in meaningful ways.

Emma's Revolution Benefit Concert for MECA

Saturday November 22nd 7pm in Fellowship Hall

We are excited to announce that the singer/songwriters Pat Humphries and Sandy O of Emma's Revolution will be coming to BFUU for a benefit concert for the Middle East Children's Alliance.

Spirit Songs with California Revels

Sunday November 2nd 6-7:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Samhain singing circle, all voices welcome!

FMI: www.californiarevels.org/samhain



BFUU Sponsored Events



BFUU OPEN MIC



Berkeley Fellowship Monthly Open Mic 3rd Fridays

Friday November 21 at 7:00 PM

Musicians, Poets, Magicians, Comedians, Storytellers, etc.

Sign-ups begin 6:30. Perform or just come to enjoy! Show time 7pm

BYO potluck refreshments (optional) Suggested donation \$10-\$20 No one turned away.

Sponsored by BFUU Social Justice Committee

To get low volume Social Justice announcements/alerts, email: bffusjev-subscribe@lists.riseup.net

Host: **Lady Driftwood** (she/her) from Art on the Spot and Her 2 Sense!

Featured Artist: **TBA**

Breathe Move, Play! Interplay with Rev. Jojo

On Zoom: 1st and 3rd Sundays 1pm-2:30

In person: 2nd and 4th Sundays 2pm-3:30 in Fireside Room

Unmute your body. Bring in your creativity. Experience the Joy of Living in the Moment! Refresh your soul and find amusement. Retrieve the Wisdom of your body. Build Community and Strengthen your Connections! \$5-\$15 donations accepted, no one turned away for lack of funds. RSVP by email josefina.gabuya@cst.edu



Freestyle Dance

November 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th 7:30 - 10:00 PM in Fellowship Hall

There's no instruction. Our dancing DJs play a wide range of music to get you moving – world, funk, blues, pop, electronic, oldies, and more. Requested donation \$20, no one turned away for lack of funds.

Some work-exchange is available. **FREE for BFUU Members!**



Berkeley History Club

Wednesday November 12th, 7 - 9 PM, Potluck dinner at 6 PM in Fellowship Hall

Come build community with people who enjoy conversations around historical topics. For more information write eventpartner@bfuu.org

1st Sundays Writing Group

November 2nd at 12:30-2 PM in the Fellowship Hall Lobby

BFUU is sponsoring this free writing group open to word lovers from all levels of experience. Bring pen and paper for writing or a piece that you would like to receive supportive feedback on.

Community Voices and Events

Announcement from the Board:

Please watch Rev. Gregory Steven's sermon on [August 24th on BFUU's Youtube](#). We would like people to watch him as we consider our future relationship with him.

You can talk to a Board member about your thoughts or if you'd like to keep it anonymous, email Anders office@bfuu.org and he will compile feedback and send it to the Board.

Fellowship of the Spiral Path Events

Sunday November 30, 5 pm in Fellowship Hall

The Fellowship of the Spiral Path presents an oracular ritual in the Viking Age tradition. Bring your questions and we will seek answers.

The Joy of Singing with Tamsen Fynn

November 3rd - December 15th on Mondays 5:30-7:00 Connie Barbour Room

From Gillian Welch to Tom Petty, The Wailing Jennys to Adele, we will learn melodies, harmonies, and breathing basics while enjoying a range of beautiful songs. \$150 cash/check on first night, email tamsenfynn@yahoo.com

My Life as a Salmon by Ben Burch

While walking through a small crowd
 Going aggressively the other way
 I suddenly felt like laughing
 And shouting "I feel like a salmon!"
 Actually, these days I often feel that way
 Like I'm struggling against the current of events
 Dodging the claws of the bear market
 Searching desperately for the spawning ground of new ideas
 Before my brief life ends, alone, in some shallow backwater
 If only we could learn to swim together
 In struggling harmony, it might be different!



Dedicated to Bruce Cockburn

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

Worship Service on Sundays at 10:30 AM
Please contact worshipservices@bfuu.org for committee information.

Monthly Meetings

Board of Trustees Meeting 4th Thursday is Thanksgiving - Meeting date TBD

Social Justice Committee Meeting 3rd Sunday 11/16 after service (noonish)
Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Worship Service Committee Meeting 1st Wednesday 11/5 at 5:00 PM
Please contact worshipservices@bfuu.org

Regular Committee Meetings			
<i>Aesthetics (subcom. of B&G)</i> Meets as needed contact Aesthetics Committee	<i>Finance</i> Meets as needed contact Ben and Abbot	<i>Nominating</i> meets as needed contact Virginia Hollins-Davidson	<i>Social Justice Ministry</i> meets as needed contact Margaret Hurlbert
<i>Buildings & Grounds (B&G)</i> Meets once per month, contact Ben and Abbot	<i>Hospitality</i> meets as needed contact Hospitality	<i>Personnel</i> Meets as needed Contact Ben Burch	<i>Social Justice (SJC)</i> 3 rd Sunday noonish - after service contact SJC Chair Phoebe
<i>Caring</i> meets as needed contact Karen Dewald	<i>Membership</i> meets as needed contact Jeff Palmer	<i>Poetry</i> Meets as needed contact Frances Hillyard	<i>Worship Services</i> 1 st Wednesday at 5:00 PM contact WSC Chair Jeff Palmer
<i>Committee on Ministry</i> meets as needed contact Jinky Gardner	<i>Music</i> meets as needed contact Margaret Hurlbert	<i>Religious Education</i> Meets as needed contact RE Committee	

Pastoral Care with Rev. Jojo

Pastoral/spiritual care provides soul companioning to any BFUU member/ guest care seeker, regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity, beliefs, status, and other divisive demographics. Soul companioning helps care seekers listen for the spiritual misery they may be experiencing, without changing or compromising their own faith convictions.

Rev. Jojo offers in-person pastoral/spiritual care, either at the care seeker’s home or, at the BFUU Minister’s Office at 1606 Bonita Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709. For appointments, please call +1(209)-693-8947, or email: revjojo@bfuu.org.

Rev. Jojo will be attending the UU Ministers of the East Bay’s Retreat on October 17-19, 2025 at Maria Villa Del Mar in Santa Cruz, CA. They will not be available for pastoral care while on retreat.



Fellowship Calendar November 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Christine Dickson

Nancy Reynolds

1

2 10:30 am - FH+Z
[Worship Service](#)*¹
12:30 pm - FH
Writing Club
2:00 pm - Z
Interplay
1:00 pm - FH
Indivisible
Training

3
5:00 pm - CB
Joy of Singing

4
7:00 pm [Choir Practice](#)*¹

5
5:00 PM - Z
WSC Meeting

6
7:00 pm - BR
Gurdjieff Group
6:30 pm - FH
Community
Singing w/
Betsy Rose

7
7:30pm
Freestyle
Friday

8
7:00 pm - FH
Irene Sazar
Ensemble

9
10:30 am - FH+Z
[Worship Service](#)*¹
1:00 pm - FR
Interplay

10
5:00 pm - CB
Joy of Singing

11
6:30 pm - FH
Improper
English Dance
7:00 pm [Choir Practice](#)*¹

12
7:00 pm - FH
Berkeley History
Club

13
7:00 pm - BR
Gurdjieff Group

14 6:30 pm - BR
Menopause
Wellness
7:30pm
Freestyle
Friday

15
11:00 am - FH
Anti-war event
7:00 pm - FH
Song
Medicine

16
10:30 am - FH+Z
[Worship Service](#)*¹
12:30 pm - FH
Social Justice
Committee
2:00 pm - Z
Interplay

17
5:00 pm - CB
Joy of Singing

18
7:00 pm [Choir Practice](#)*¹

19

20
3:00 pm [BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg](#)*
7:00 pm - BR
Gurdjieff Group

21
7:00 pm BFUU
Open Mic* - FH
**Communicator
Deadline**

22
7:00 pm - FH
Emma's
Revolution
Benefit
Concert

23
10:30 am - FH+Z
[Worship Service](#)*¹
1:00 pm - FR
Interplay

24

25
7:00 pm [Choir Practice](#)*¹

26

27
**Thanksgiving
Day - Office
Closed**

28
7:30pm
Freestyle
Friday

29
2:30 pm - FH
Ann Fagan
Ginger
Memorial

30
10:30 am - FH+Z
[Worship Service](#)*¹
2:00 pm - Z
Interplay

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

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 12pm-4pm or by appointment

BFUU OFFICE STAFF

Sharon Knight - Event Space Coordinator
Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 3
Email: rooms@bfuu.org

Anders Renee - Office Coordinator
Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 1
Email: office@bfuu.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER COMMUNICATOR:

November 21, 2025 at 11:00 AM

Please email office@bfuu.org with submissions.

Address Correction Requested

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

1606 Bonita Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94709