



THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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

December 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

December 7: Awakening

Rev. Bonnie Dlott (she/her)

What does it mean to experience an awakening as a Unitarian Universalist? What does it feel like? Does it happen suddenly, or gradually? Join Rev. Bonnie today in an exploration of our potential to experience transformative awakenings, as well as the ways we may actively avoid them in an effort to escape from painful truths.



December 14: Blessed Are The Queer: Answering the Call of Love

Rev. Kevin Alan Mann (he/him/siyá)

In honor of November 20th as Trans Day of Remembrance, this service celebrates Queer and Trans resilience, LGBTQ ancestral wisdom, and the liberating power of Love. Through story, song, and blessing, we reclaim the sacredness of Queer and Trans bodies and our intersecting identities of race, gender, and sexuality. All are welcome to show up as your full, authentic selves. With Guest Preacher Rev Kev, Worship Associate Robbie Edge, and Music from Meylinda Rodriguez.



December 21: TBA

Rev. Ben Meyers (he/him)

December 28: Embracing Apocalypse

Gregory Stevens (he/they)

The unraveling of our age is also a great unveiling, revealing thresholds to a different future. In this pregnant pause between worlds, our purpose is clear: to midwife the new world by cultivating communities of care, justice, and collective flourishing from the seeds of the old.





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*
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Margaret Hurlbert, President
Gillian Fynn, Vice President
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Phoebe Thomas Sorgen
Sumi Hoshiko
Betsy Nachman (Alternate)
Ben Burch, Treasurer/Secretary

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

Hi everyone,

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

I want to let you know that I have termed out of being the President of the Board, since I have completed the maximum 3 years, and that it has been an honor to serve in that role.

Gillian Fynn has agreed to serve as our temporary President. We will soon have a Congregational Meeting to decide how we want to structure the Board. Phoebe Sorgen agreed to be our Vice President.

I hope you are enjoying our great variety of speakers. The Worship Services Committee is doing a great job

Cheers,

Margaret

December Shared Plate Partner

Season of Sharing Fund

Donate: <https://seasonofsharing.org/ways-to-give/donate/>

Preventing homelessness is the most effective way to keep our communities thriving. When you contribute to Season of Sharing Fund, your neighborly support provides housing and food assistance. You are joining a community that represents the best of the Bay Area, honoring the personal dignity of all our neighbors with practical support. Your gift today brings relief, restores wellbeing and eases anxiety for your neighbors.

Worship Service Leaders

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.

Rev. Kevin Alan Mann (he/him/siyá)

REV KEV was ordained by the First Unitarian Church of Oakland on October 1st, 2023, the first day of both Filipino American and LGBTQ History Months. He serves as a Chaplain at Sequoia Hospice, Faculty Advisor at Starr King School for the Ministry, and Consultant for Partnership with the UU Church of the Philippines. Rev Kev founded the California statewide chapter of DRUUMM (Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries), hosting quarterly retreats for BIPOC UUs. His ministry is rooted in Collective Liberation, where none of us is free until all of us are free.

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 LGTBQ+ rights.

Gregory Stevens (they/he)

Gregory is a former Baptist preacher, long time labor organizer, and interfaith community activist. They're the lead organizer for the Unitarian Universalist EcoSocialist Network, but by day sell their labor power to California Interfaith Power & Light. Gregory has an MDiv from Claremont School of Theology and an MA in Activist Anthropology from California Institute of Integral Studies.

BFUU Sponsored Events

No Open Mic in December! Enjoy the holidays and we'll see you again on 1/16.

Safety Training 101 by Indivisible East Bay

Sunday December 14 2pm-4:30pm in Connie Barbour Room

BFUU members who are interested in joining a protest safety team are welcome to attend our "Safety Training 101". Protest Safety Teams, sometimes known as "Peace Ambassadors," "Peacekeepers," or "Marshalls," play an important role in maintaining nonviolence, keeping protestors safe, and ensuring the success of actions. This training is intended for new Safety Team members or existing members who want to develop their skills. It is also open to anyone in our sister organizations who would like to join a Safety Team.

At this in-person training we will cover goals, roles and responsibilities, communications, de-escalation skills, and an introduction to traffic management at protests. Much of the training will be devoted to role plays of de-escalation scenarios.

Indivisible East Bay is committed to nonviolent social change, and we believe our power comes from courage, organization, community and discipline.

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

December 5th, 12th, 19th 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 December 10th, 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

December 7th 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.

Poetry Corner

Brownland Browsing

by Anita Gail Jones

when you sit down
 you make a lap
 a place for something to happen

cradle your plate at a potluck where they didn't
 think enough
 —or have enough—to set up tables

rock a baby to sleep
 bounce a toddler on your knee
 pat out the rhythm for juba-this-and-juba-that

when you stand up
 your lap disappears
 but the notion is always there

Brownland is a place

only happens when Black folk gather
 sit down and make
 a collective lap
 a cultural meadow
 designed for browsing
 a hereditary mecca conjured up
 by and cropping up among
 kinfolk and friendfolk
 a stirring up of memories
 the past
 and the past of the past

grown folk argue about who's telling the truth

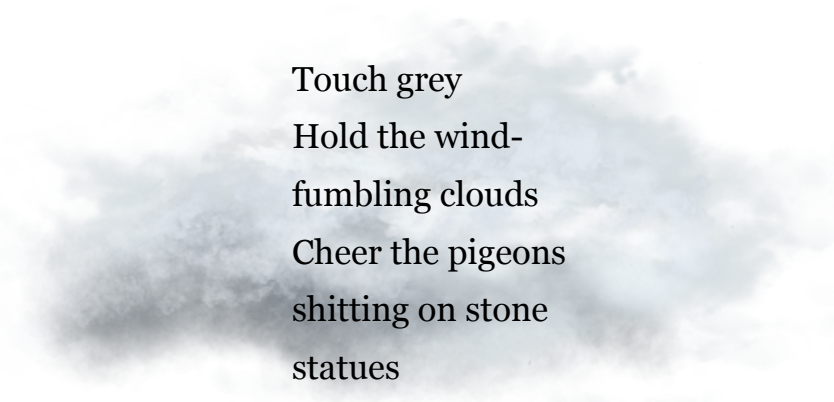
That was Wathcha-ma-callum's daughter
 lived over in the Pear Orchard

Naw, naw, you got it all wrong now
 That was so-an-so's sisters' baby girl
 she went off to New York

and children make new memories
 while basking in those they can only know
 through stories

rub them on
 like a balm

baptized in the blessings
 of their
 Brownland browsing



Touch grey
 Hold the wind-
 fumbling clouds
 Cheer the pigeons
 shitting on stone
 statues
 Touch the wind's release
 feather, pebble
 a passage of wings

-Frances Hillyard

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 Thursday 12/18 at 3:00pm on Zoom (normally on 4th Thursday)

Social Justice Committee Meeting 3rd Sunday 12/21 after service (noonish)

Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Worship Service Committee Meeting 1st Wednesday 12/3 at 5:00 PM

Please contact worshipservices@bfuu.org

Regular Committee Meetings

Aesthetics (subcom. of B&G)
Meets as needed

contact [Aesthetics Committee](#)

Buildings & Grounds (B&G)

Meets once per month,

contact [Ben and Abbot](#)

Caring

meets as needed

contact [Karen Dewald](#)

Committee on Ministry

meets as needed

contact [Jinky Gardner](#)

Finance

Meets as needed

contact [Ben and Abbot](#)

Hospitality

meets as needed

contact [Hospitality](#)

Membership

meets as needed

contact [Jeff Palmer](#)

Music

meets as needed

contact [Margaret Hurlbert](#)

Nominating

meets as needed

contact [Virginia Hollins-Davidson](#)

Personnel

Meets as needed

Contact [Ben Burch](#)

Poetry

Meets as needed

contact [Frances Hillyard](#)

Religious Education

Meets as needed

contact [RE Committee](#)

Social Justice Ministry

meets as needed

contact [Margaret Hurlbert](#)

Social Justice (SJC)

3rd Sunday noonish - after service

contact [SJC Chair Phoebe](#)

Worship Services

1st Wednesday at 5:00 PM

contact [WSC Chair Jeff Palmer](#)


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](tel:+1(209)-693-8947), or email: revjojo@bfuu.org.



Fellowship Calendar December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing	2 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	3 5:00 PM - Z WSC Meeting	4 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	5 <div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> 7:30pm Freestyle Friday </div>	6 10 am - 4 pm - FH Insight Meditation Offsite Retreat
7 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ 12:30 pm - FH Writing Club 2:00 pm - Z Interplay	8 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing	9 6:30 pm - FH Improper English Dance 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	10 7:00 pm - FH Berkeley History Club	11 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	12 <div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> 7:30pm Freestyle Friday </div>	13
14 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ 1:00 pm - FR Interplay 2:00 pm - CB Indivisible Safety Training	15 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing	16 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	17	18 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group 3:00 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg *	19 6:30 pm - BR Menopause Wellness <div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> 7:30pm Freestyle Friday </div>	20 7:00 pm - FH Reclaiming Winter Solstice Ritual
21 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ 12:30 pm - FH Social Justice Committee 2:00 pm - Z Interplay	22 <div style="color: red;">Communicator Deadline</div>	23 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	24	25 <div style="text-align: center; color: red;"> Christmas Day Office Closed </div>	26	27
28 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ 1:00 pm - FR Interplay 5:00 pm - FH Spiral Path Fellowship	29	30 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	31			

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Cynthia Johnson
Ardys Delu

Joady Guthrie
Gillian Fynn

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 JANUARY COMMUNICATOR:

December 22, 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