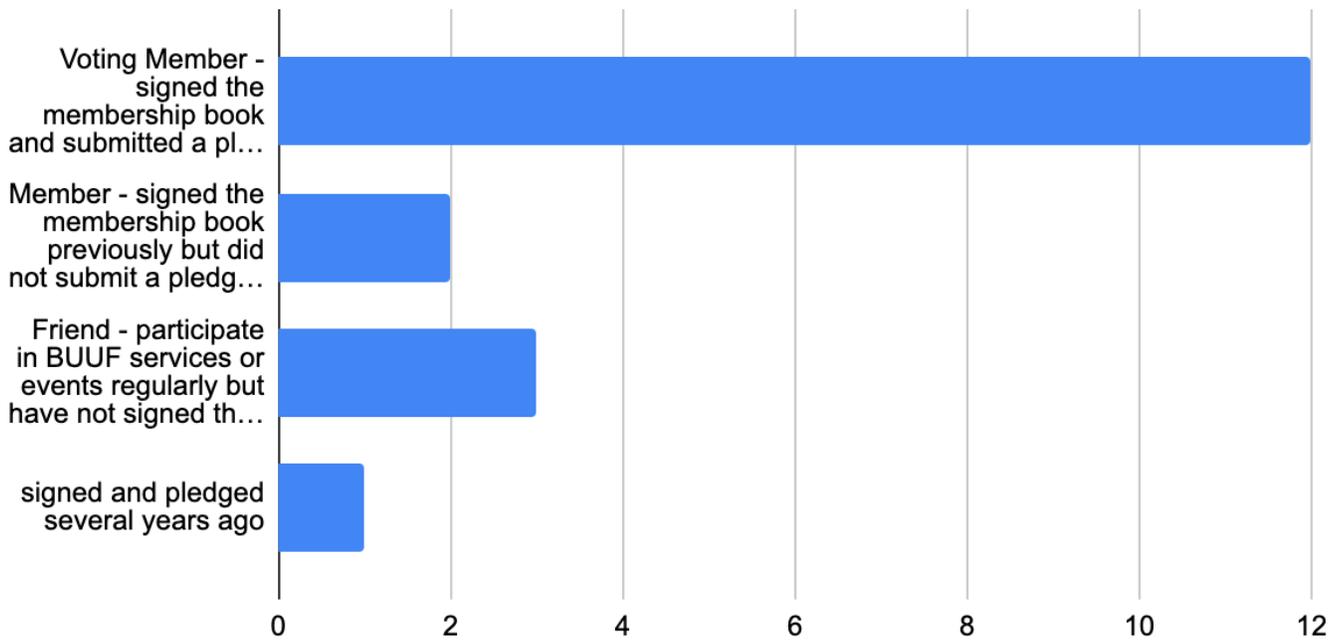


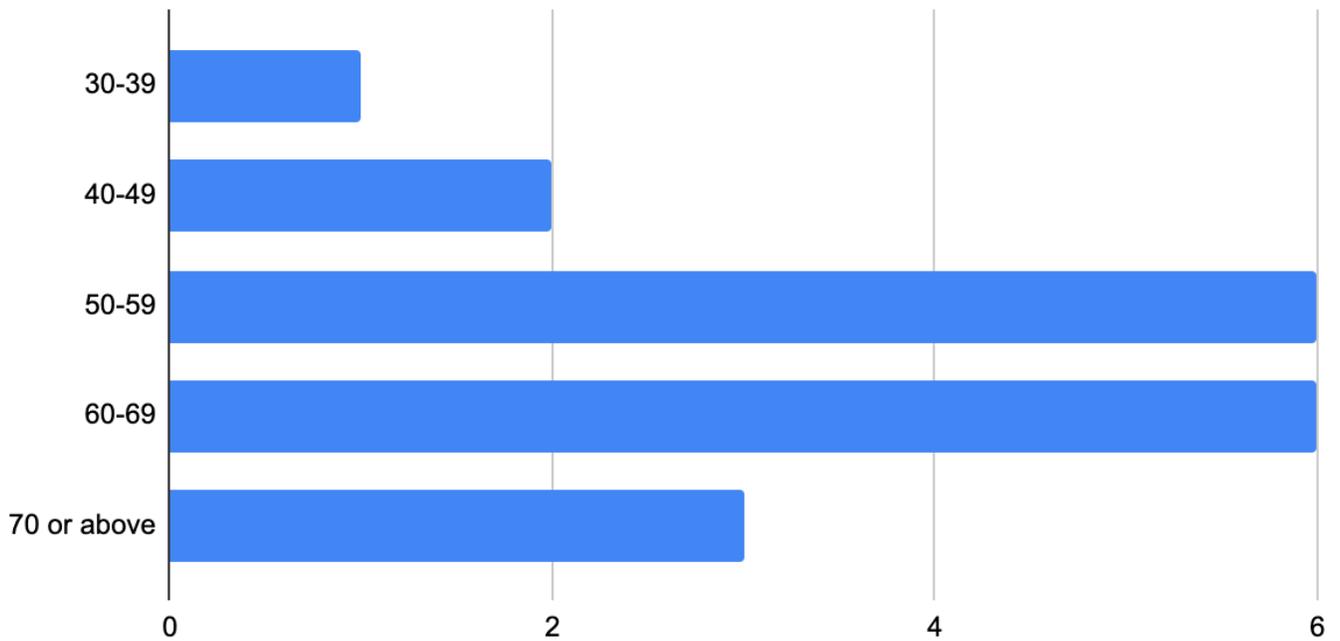
# 2020 BUUF Member & Friend Survey Results

## 1. What is your relationship to BUUF?



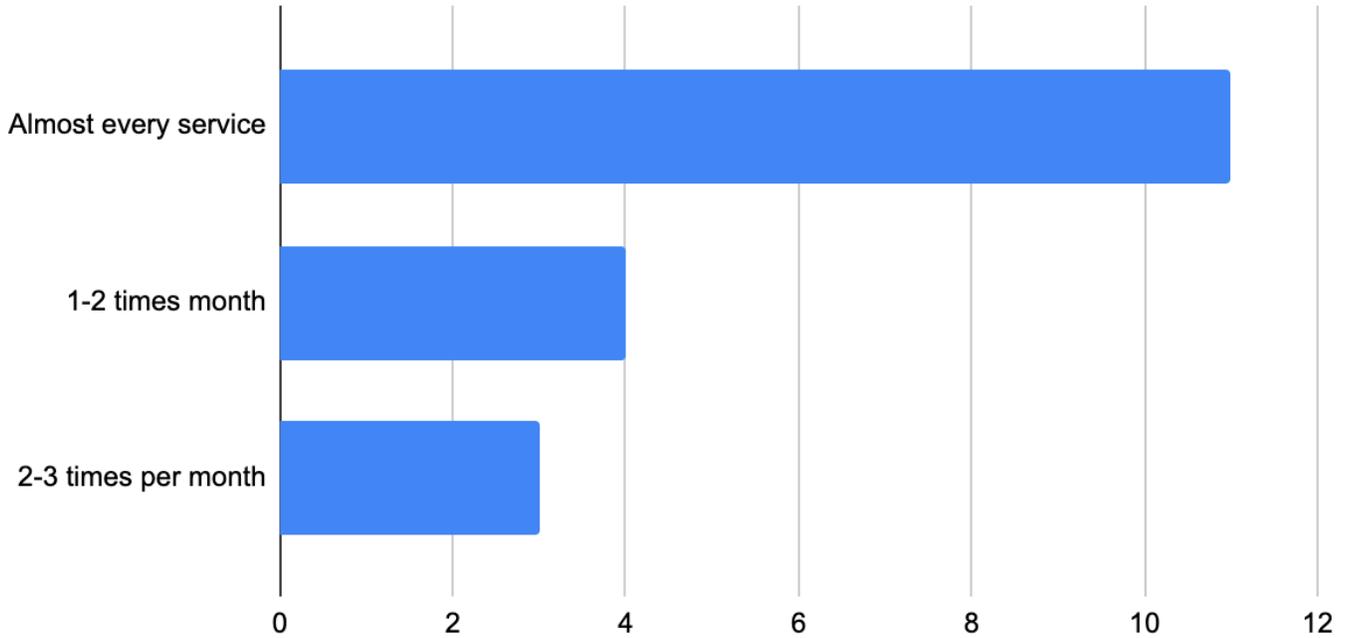
Count of 1. What is your relationship to BUUF?

## 2. What is your age group?



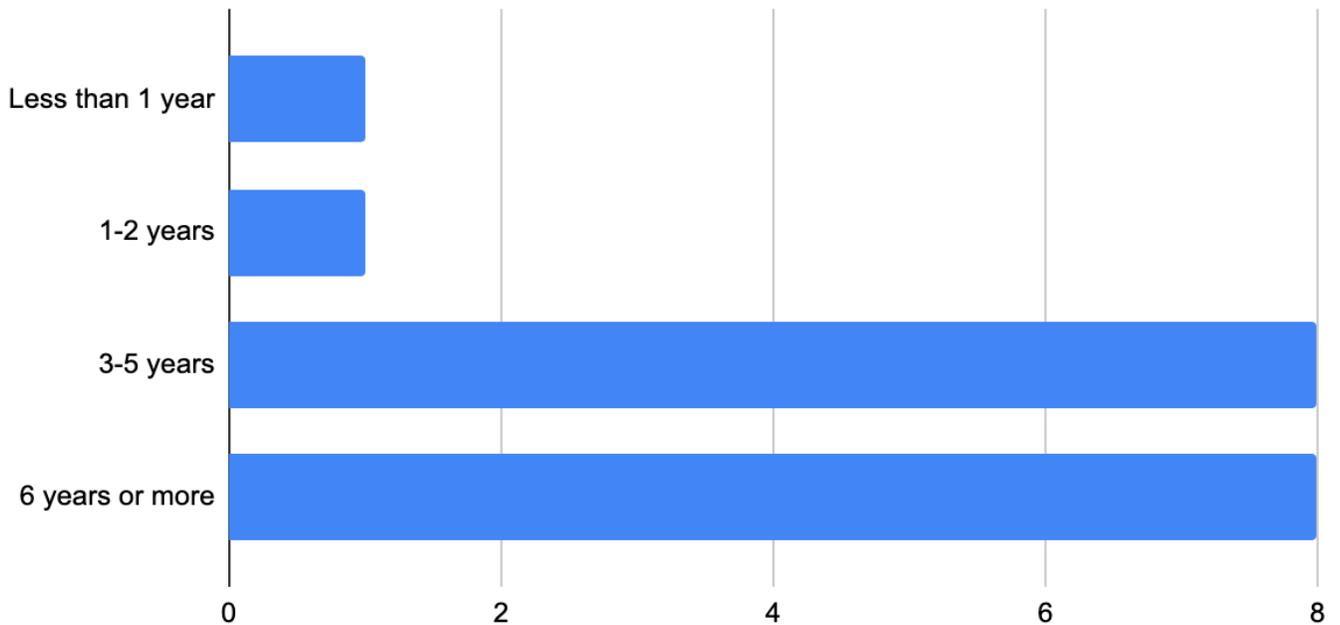
Count of 2. What is your age group?

### 3. How frequently do you attend Sunday services at BUUF?



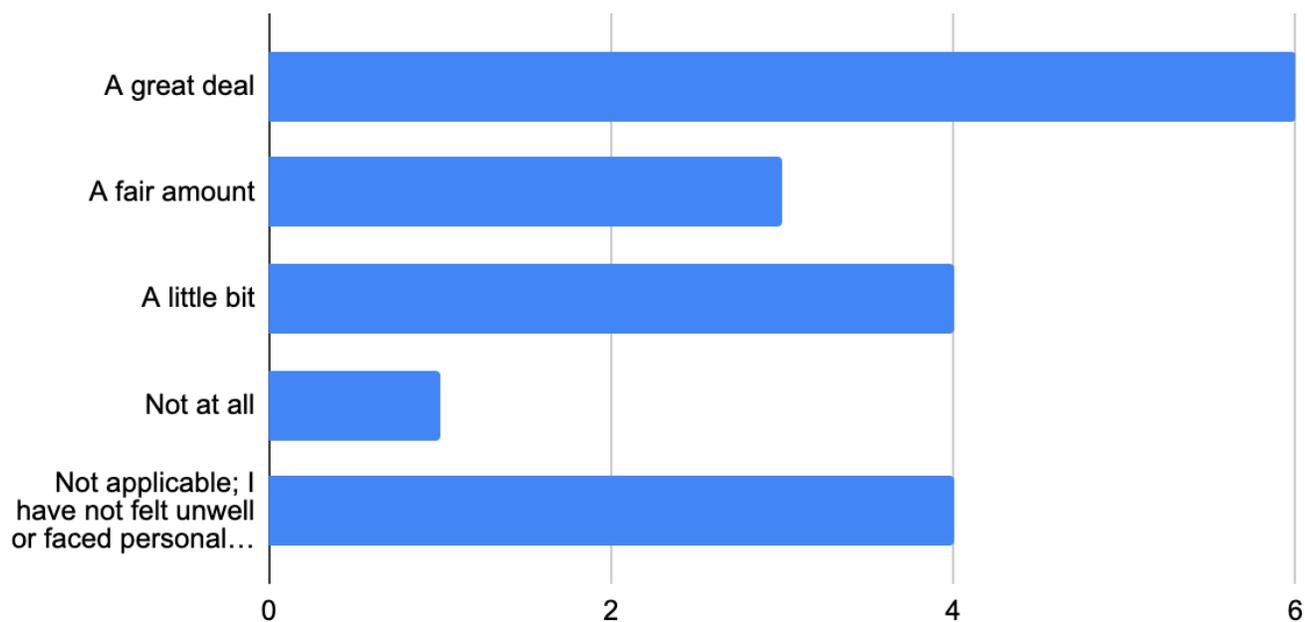
Count of 3. How frequently do you attend Sunday services at BUUF?

### 4. How long have you been associated with the fellowship?



Count of 4. How long have you been associated with the fellowship?

7. Thinking back to a time when you have been unwell or faced personal challenges, to what extent did the fellowship reach out and offer support to you?



Count of 7. Thinking back to a time when you have been unwell or faced person...

8. Why do you attend Sunday services (if applicable)? Please rate the importance of each of the following:

- Sense of belonging: 4.3
- Celebration of common values: 4.2
- Support and encouragement for social action: 3.9
- Uplifting emotional experience: 3.8
- Intellectual stimulation: 3.8
- Hearing, playing or singing music: 3.6
- Fellowship period after services: 3.6
- Personal reflection and meditation: 3.5
- Mystical, spiritual experience: 2.9

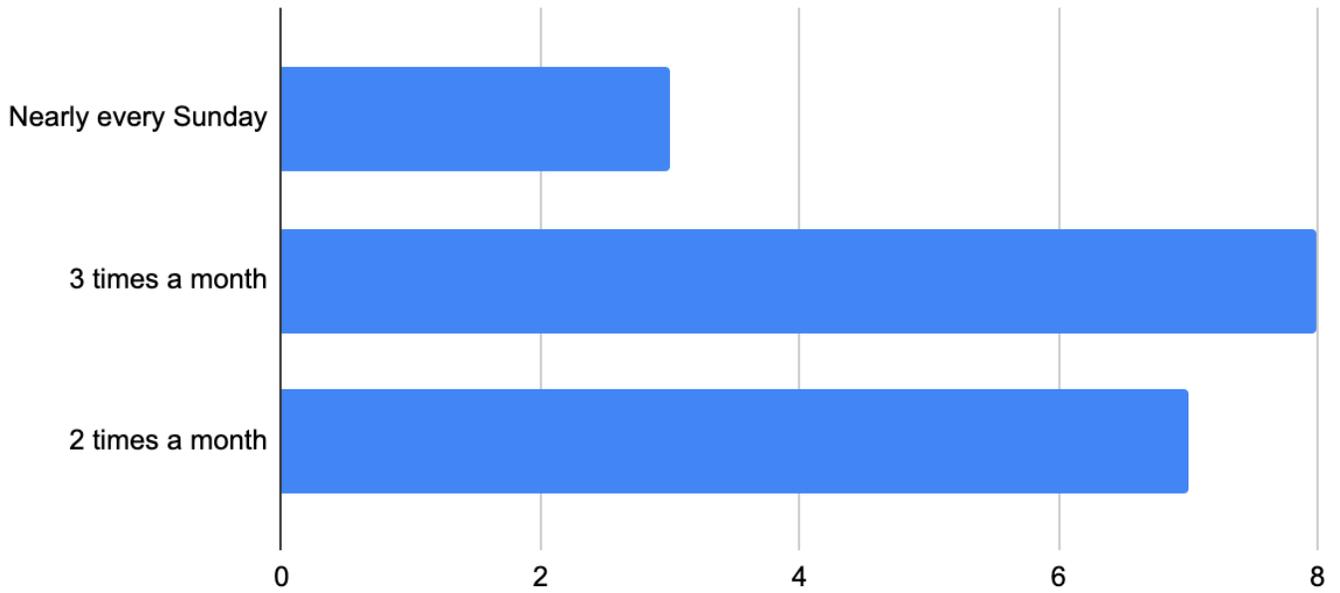
9. Each service is made up of several different elements, which can be incorporated weekly or only occasionally. Please rate the importance of each of the following service components:

- Children’s participation: 4.5
- Sermon: 4.3
- Readings: 4.2
- Listening to special music by BUUF Musicians or other special guest: 4.1
- Sharing of Joys & Concerns: 3.8
- Meditation: 3.7
- Announcements: 3.7
- Singing of Hymns: 3.6
- Celebrating world or national events like MLK Day, Labor Day, International Women's Day, etc.: 3.6
- Story for All Ages: 3.5
- Fabric of Life Ceremony: 3.2
- Poetry: 2.8
- Celebrating religious holidays: 2.6
- Other (please describe below)
  - *“All of these elements are good in theory but having too many in one service eliminates finding a deeper meaning in each. If a poem is to be read, then it needs to be thought about, discussed, and pursued further to provide more complete understanding and give it purpose. If a reading is going to be read then it needs to ask a question that pertains to the theme of the sermon and be given extended time to fully understand and appreciate the impact of the reading itself. Currently the service is composed of many pieces without a coherence that could leave one with an overall feeling of a deeper understanding, awareness or appreciation of the main topic of that Sunday. Without the Christian liturgical calendar providing themes BUUF has been creative in selecting its own themes and this could be enhanced. A service could have one reading or one poem, but not both. The reading/poem could be distributed in the newsletter a few days in advance and several people could volunteer to respond, which would again, provide a more thought-provoking experience.”*
  - *“You asked us to “rate” the above elements. The format doesn't enable that. I guess if everything (above) is extremely important (i.e. a priority), as I answered, then nothing is a priority. Hope my answers above are (still) useful.”*
  - *“The best services are the ones that give me lots to think about and discuss with my spouse after the service.”*

10. How important are the following Sunday sermon topics? Please rate each one.

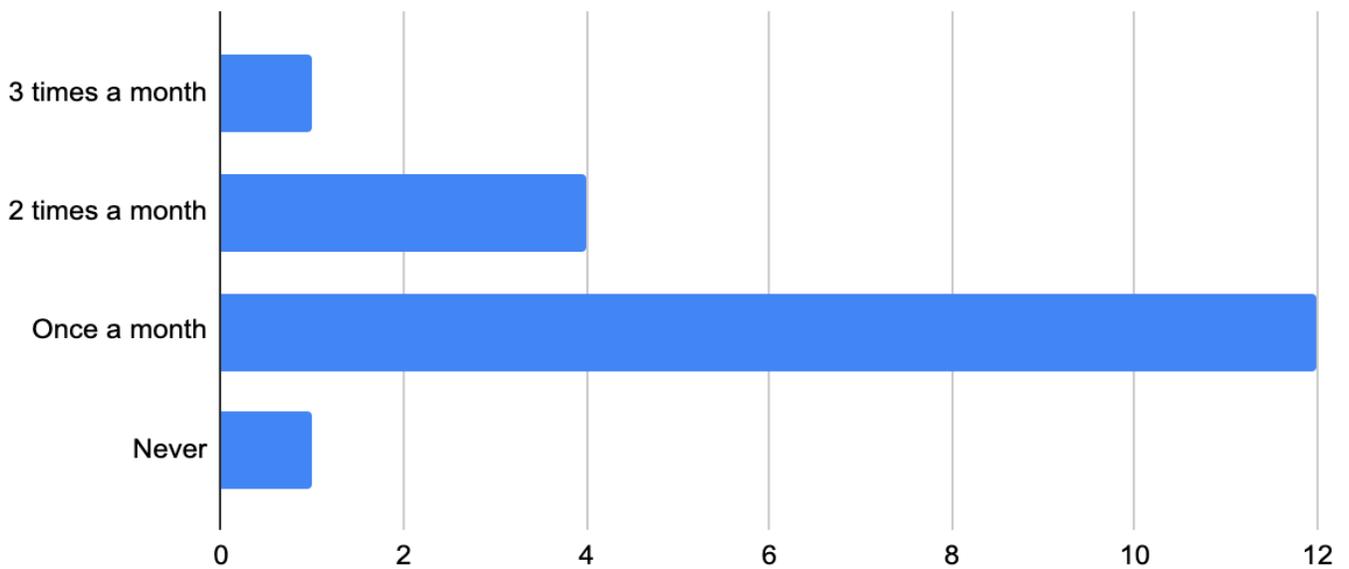
- Personal growth: 4.3
- Coping with life: 4.3
- Values and perspectives on social issues: 4.2
- Spiritual growth: 4.0
- Philosophical ideas: 3.9
- Psychological perspectives on life's issues: 3.9
- Call to act on my convictions: 3.9
- Defining Unitarian Universalism: 3.8
- Family relationships and values: 3.7
- Non-western religions: 3.6
- Religious implications of science and modern technology: 3.6
- Earth-centered traditions: 3.6
- Current political events: 3.5
- Creative and artistic abilities: 3.4
- UU history: 3.4
- UU denominational issues (e.g., General Assembly): 3.2
- Christian traditions: 2.2
- Other (please specify below):
  - *“It is difficult to evaluate these choices on their own; they are interwoven. For instance, it would be interesting to learn about a creative perspective on social issues that was raised at the UU General Assembly. Or, how have different religious traditions inspired artistic creativity? In other words, these topics have more potential if they are interlinked.”*
  - *“There are many issues that personally impact several members of our fellowship and could serve as sermon topics. For example, illness, aging (in oneself or one's family members), disability, addiction, poverty, isolation (living alone), job loss. Each of these has a spiritual aspect as well as a community aspect. How do we come to accept and grow from these experiences and how do we help others?”*

### 11. How often would you like our minister Rev. Jim McConnell to preach?



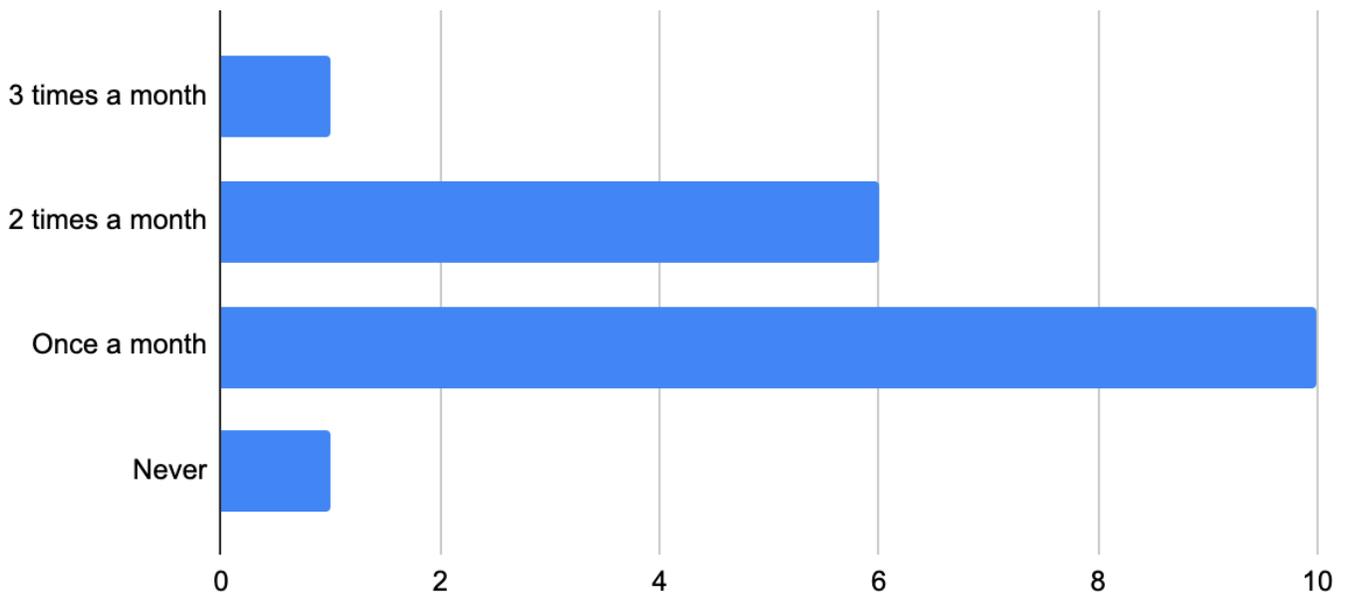
Count of 11. How often would you like our minister Rev. Jim McConnell to preach?

### 12. How often would you like a guest minister or other speaker?



Count of 12. How often would you like a guest minister or other speaker?

### 13. How often would you like the Sunday service to be designed or presented by one or more church members?



Count of 13. How often would you like the Sunday service to be designed or presente...

### 14. How important are the following budget priorities to you over the next 3-5 years? Please check the top THREE. Note: Large special projects (like building repairs) are not included here.

- Maintaining our Music Director position: 11
- Providing pay raises and/or employee benefits to our staff members: 9
- Expanding resources available to the RE program: 9
- Ongoing training and development for BUUF’s leaders and staff: 5
- Funding leadership training for one or more members annually or biannually: 4
- Enlarging the sanctuary space and providing more seating for visitors: 3
- Attracting and compensating more guest speakers: 2
- Making our annual Fair Share contribution to the UUA: 2
- Participation in the UUA General Assembly and/or Midwest District activities: 1
- Creating a membership care fund and/or volunteer appreciation fund: 0
- Other: *“Compensation/Music, Training, Speakers,” “Small committee budgets to support fundraising, marketing and member development”*

15. What is the one main thing you would like to see Berrien UU Fellowship achieve in the next 3-5 years?

- A car charger
- Just keep the progress going and growing
- Increasing membership
- A means by which people can donate directly from their financial accounts to BUUF, and more (once a month?) reminder on how to do that. It's never been seamless or simple to donate, in my view. PS I confess I don't know if most people do donate their pledges reliably so my suggestion may be moot.
- Improving the environmental use of our 5 acres for wildlife and fellowship use
- Decide if we want to be strictly lay led, or employ a PT/FT minister when Rev Jim retires
- Youth group - child involvement
- Financial Fluidity to match the ideas that members/employees have for growth
- Membership growth
- More active involvement of new members, we have many members who would benefit from some relief. This would help provide new perspectives and help avoid burn out and getting in a rut.
- Abundant, consistent funding so we can focus on our mission rather than where to cut costs in order to balance our budget
- survive the pandemic \\_:(\\_/
- Paid staff to increase in hours and pay to at least half-time positions.
- Sustain our number of members by being responsive to their wants. This survey is an excellent start.
- Maintaining our Music Director position, Providing pay raises and/or employee benefits to our staff members, Expanding resources available to the RE program
- Fair Share - full participation

16. How would you be willing to help achieve the above long-term objectives (in addition to what you are already doing today)?

- Provide additional in-kind support to reduce BUUF's expenses: 7
- Increase my annual pledge (if a current voting member): 5
- Become a voting member and make an annual pledge of financial support: 3
- Serve on the Fundraising team: 3
- Other:
  - *“Consider voting membership in future with more secure personal budget, I give as I can now in basket”*
  - *“Serve on social justice committees, volunteer as needed, including financial support”*
  - *“Provide volunteer labor for projects such as parking lot repair, Although my own financial situation precludes me from increasing my pledge, I could give volunteer hours”*
  - *“serve on the board”*
  - *“increasing UU faith knowledge/complete training online offered by UUA”*
  - *“Help with Pledge Campaign”*

17. What current strengths does our fellowship possess that you would like to see maintained or developed?

- Our covenant to help each other is amazing!
- BUUFers themselves!
- Intellectual, spiritual and life enhancing services, friendly kind people-fellowship, involvement and standing up for social justice. It is a place that makes me happy and I believe many others.
- Community, friendships, care, working together
- Green Sanctuary
- People can take ownership of projects and can get involved without being shut down by leadership or the board.
- Intergenerational fellowship
- Members
- Lay speakers; whole congregation worship
- Community. Opportunities for personal & spiritual growth
- R/E program
- Some (young) folks would like to develop their leadership capacities.
- Brilliant, dedicated, compassionate hardworking people
- A free-thinking friendly fellowship centered on justice for all people and the planet.
- Continue to develop the music and preteen/teen programs.
- Engagement in creating worship services.
- We have an amazing group of intelligent, caring members and friends. Rev. Jim McConnell is in many ways the glue that holds us together. Not a penny goes to waste in our fellowship.

18. What current fellowship problems or issues concern you?

- Lack of enough helping hands on many committees.
- Lack of funding.
- The present Coronavirus crisis, and what will happen to us in future or what will happen in time of national crisis.
- lack of funding
- Nothing
- Would like to see sanctuary expanded, more (accessible) storage areas, improved AV
- financial and lack of volunteers
- Need for a caring committee. Make visitors and new people feel welcome.
- A more diverse (egalitarian?) approach to who helps out with chalice lighting, passing the donation basket, is visible in the service etc. It's easy to ask the same person to do this but that misses a chance to engage others, who probably are hoping to be asked, especially newer members. I think people are flattered to be asked to help. (I'm not asking for ME to be asked more; just others).
- Inadequate funds
- Maintaining our Fellowship during a time of no in-person gatherings.
- Funding/leadership burnout
- Excessive advocacy during joys/concerns and announcements
- We are good at caring about members, friends and the community, but not as good at managing the business aspects of the fellowship. We need to become more comfortable talking about and managing money. We need to think long-term and develop a new five-year strategy with stretch goals tied to our mission. There should be better communication between the board and the fellowship.

19. Which individuals at BUUF have had the greatest positive influence on your religious growth or experience and how? (Note: We may recognize one or more of these individuals publicly in the future. If you would like to be part of that recognition, please include your name below OR if you do not want to add your name to this survey, please email your answer to [Office@BerrienUU.org](mailto:Office@BerrienUU.org))

- June Blackwell, Linda Lobik, Joanne K.
- Too many to mention!
- There's so many. I can email individual names later if needed.
- Jim McConnell has been instrumental in my own personal healing journey, his sermons on welcoming the darkness specifically. Lisa Fuller has been a kind UU mentoring figure in my life.
- Jim McConnell
- Rev Jim--spiritual thought; Katharine--meditation, mindfulness; Gretchen--music
- Jim McConnell, Lisa Fuller, Gretchen Ohmann
- Jim McConnell, Lisa Fuller, Dave Sarra, Katharine Lion
- Lisa F (by making me a name tag quite early, she helped advance my understanding/concept of belonging in the world); Katharine L (her sessions that I've attended are always thoughtful, fruitful, deep and lovely. I value them more than much else that I get from services, etc.); Jim Mc (Jim is a gentle leader, funny, shares important insights and walks the talk, it seems, in his own life and actions).
- All of the lay speakers/readers have been so so moving. I love this above all other aspects of service. No one individual stands out above the others.
- Jim McConnell teaches us to accept ourselves, work hard and take care of each other.
- Joanne Kretterick, Julie Williams, June. All 3 consistently live their faith, encourage faith development and share insights into issue tactfully, always relying on knowledge and experience.
- Kim Myers. Sandy Walker. Oliver.
- Rev. Jim McConnell has taught me a lot about compassion, generosity, and dealing with loss. Gloria, Deej, Julie and June are an inspiration and role model for all of us. Gretchen, Lisa F., Nan, Charles, Dorothy and all our board members have shown leadership through service via their volunteer efforts. Dave Sarra has demonstrated unwavering commitment to BUUF, his family and his community, which I find inspiring.

20. What additional feedback, if any, would you like to offer to the BUUF Board?

- Thanks for your hard work.
- It's too hard to only pick 3 top priorities. I felt conflicted answering that question because so many of them are priorities to me. However, I feel the growth of our employees and leaders is especially important because they are the backbone of our fellowship & help us all move forward in our spiritual journey.
- You are an amazingly generous group with stimulating ideas!
- I love you so much <3 Thank you for all of the hard work you are doing :-)
- I am impressed by the growth I've seen in the past few years.
- I don't have enough awareness on what the staff do, so I can properly appreciate and thank them. Some names get mentioned more than others which seems odd. As for my involvement, when I get settled into my new (traveling) home, I will be in more of a position to take on regular things (committee work. board work, etc.). Have to get my first chakra in a more supported situation first (grin).
- I believe focus on the children's R.E. impacts everything else. Most of the members, old and new are, or once did, start to attend in large part to help influence their children's moral learning.
- Encourage leadership training for all members when possible.
- Thanks for all you do!