

Volume 36

Edition 2

February 2018



CROSSROADS



Bull Run Unitarian Universalists

In the Interim....

What's your story? We all have one. We have individual stories, and stories that weave in and out of the lives of others, and we have the stories of our cultures, the collective memories of time. Joseph Campbell said, "The collective unconscious consists of mythological motifs or primordial (pre-dating mankind) images, for which reason the myths of all nations are its exponents. The whole of mythology could be taken as a sort of projection of the collective unconscious." (*The Portable Jung*).

Ever since the Universalist Church of America and the American Unitarian Association merged in 1961, the congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association have been exploring more and more the stories and faith traditions beyond the bounds of American Christianity. But what does that mean for us today?

Far too often, I've heard people ask if we're the church of "do as you please." What does it mean to truly learn from the six sources of faith, to live in a multi-cultural world, perhaps to have a theology that calls us deeply down one path, but still to learn from the stories of others, even as we tell and grow our own stories?

In February, we'll be exploring stories from around the world and around various faith traditions. What's a faith tradition you'd like to know more about?

(Continued on page 2)

In the Interim, continued from page 1

When I was in seminary, we had to take a class at another seminary in the Washington, DC area, just to be out in the mix a bit. I chose to study at a Roman Catholic (Dominican) seminary. I'm no Catholic, but it was a wonderful experience for me. If the whole world were opened up to you, to take a class with some folks who don't believe what you believe, where do you think you'd want to go?

We aren't going to become experts at multiculturalism in a month. We won't become authorities on Islam if I tell you a story from Islam in church one Sunday. We won't be leading experts on Taoism from watching Star Wars (Jedi is largely Taoism with light sabers). But perhaps we'll gain a little more understanding and some more appreciation. And I know I'm looking forward to hearing your stories.

In shalom,

Rev. Madelyn



Worship Workshop
Rescheduled for Saturday,
March 17
9 AM – 3 PM

Liturgical Calendar

February 2018

- 2 Imbolc (Wiccan/Euro-Pagan)
- 3 Setsebun Sai (Shinto)
- 4 Four Chaplains Sunday (Interfaith)
- 8 Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
- 13 Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras)
(Christian)
- 14 St. Valentine's Day (Christian)
Ash Wednesday (Christian)
Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
- 15 Nirvana Day (Buddhist, Jain)
- 16 New Year (Confucian, Daoist,
Buddhist)

Notes from Annease



BRUU's annual variety show is Saturday night, February 10 from 7-9 in 7-9 PM in the fellowship hall. Come enjoy a fun, family-friendly, talent-filled evening.

Annease Hastings, Director of Music

ADULT LIFE ENRICHMENT COURSES & WORKSHIPS

Winter 2018 Schedule

February

Understanding the World's Religions: A UUA Lifespan Series Offering

Shake Your Family Tree

Crafting for Calm Workshop (Winter Edition)

Winter Movie Night: Forks Over Knives

HOW TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES:

1. COMPLETE A PAPER REGISTRATION FORM & LEAVE IT AT THE BRUU OFFICE OR PUT IT IN THE BOX IN THE FRONT HALL.

2. ONLINE: http://www.bruu.org/?page_id=5858

Catalog and Registration Form are at this webpage.

The Way I See It

In case you don't already know, I'll let you in on a little secret. It can be very gratifying serving on the BRUU Board. You get to hang out with a bunch of people who want to do what's right for BRUU, you find out what's going on throughout our community, and very often there's some pretty decent snacks. If you haven't had a chance to be a member of the Board just yet, give it a thought the next time there's an opportunity.

One of the really interesting things we have going on at the Board is the Journal Club. Every month we do a reading together – a chapter from a book or an article from a publication – and spend a few minutes discussing it at the monthly meeting. I want to give a couple of shout-outs related to the Journal Club: first to Rev. Madelyn for suggesting this practice shortly after her arrival at BRUU; and Kathy Sobrio, for sharing a thought-provoking article at the January Board meeting.

Kathy's recent selection was from the UU website, and was a synopsis of a keynote address on "The Marks of a Healthy Congregation," given in 2006 by Dr. Peter L. Steinke to congregational leaders participating in the UU University. It's most assuredly worth your time going to www.uua.org/leadership/uuu/2006/13113.shtml so you can read this three-page article, but I want to share the short version of it here – the core ideas are clear, convincing, and worth reflecting on.

Steinke's basic premise is that congregations, like other living organisms, need to have their "immune systems" activated in order to maintain health. Health is enhanced when the congregational community functions well; "poorly functioning congregations don't attract people." He outlines the characteristics of health congregations:

Healthy congregations focus on mission. And they use their mission statement to organize their activities. Mission helps mobilize the energy of the community; if the congregation isn't focused on mission, it will focus on potential impediments – its past, its budget, problems or something else.

Healthy congregations focus on challenge. Most congregations go under-challenged, but are like people who feel better when they exercise. Congregations sometimes need to create small challenges, and meet them with successes and good outcomes.

Healthy congregations focus on strengths. Congregations need to stop trying to recover old strengths they no longer have, but to focus on those they *do* have. This means building up options; feeling trapped without options builds anxiety.

Healthy congregations manage conflict. In a study of successful congregations, those that were able to change had strong leadership, a willingness to learn, and were willing to bear conflict. Where change did not occur, there was always an aversion to conflict.

Healthy congregations see clarity. These congregations have clear boundaries, have defined what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior, and are willing to confront when needed.

If these are the characteristics of a healthy congregation, what can we say about BRUU? Are we robust? A little out of shape? Do we let our mission inspire us, or are focused on just holding on? Have we challenged ourselves lately? Do we acknowledge conflict, and deal with it head-on? Give it some thought, I'd like to start a conversation on how we see ourselves, so as I always say,

... let me know what you think.

Art Muirhead, President, BRUU Board of Directors, president@bruu.org, 703-266-194

BRUU will be quite busy this spring! In addition to all the events for Adult Life Enrichment, below you'll find a list of some of the other activities going on at BRUU.



BRUU Activities Spring 2018

- Variety Show (Feb. 10th 7pm to 9pm – organized by Music Liaison Committee NOT by Fellowship–Activities)
- Science Fair Share – Feb. 25th to coincide with Soup 4 Social Justice (POC Liesl Main)
- March 4th UU in a Nutshell
- Canvas Gala – Saturday, March 10th (Not organized by Fellowship–Activities)
- Games Night March 24th 5–8pm (POC Margo Davies, Lori Connolly, Liesl Main)
- Friday, March 30th, 4–8pm – Seder Dinner (POC Nina Lomax, Rev. Madelyn) – Fellowship Hall
- April 29th: BRUU BBQ–Potluck (to coincide with visit from the ministerial candidate) – Sunday right after service to meet our Ministerial candidate in a social setting (POC Liesl Main)
- Spring Children's Party May 5th (POC Lisa Stewart, Margo Davies)
- June End of Year Party -- June 9th 3pm til 10pm (swimming, bonfire and more!) (POC Christine Sunda)

The **science fair share** is coming up in February. Think about what science–related display/slide show/collection/skill you might like to share. The last time we had this event, someone brought in their bone collection, another had a giant Popsicle–stick bridge they had made, someone brought their astronomy equipment and had a slide show... we had science experiments, activities and more. This happens on the same day as Soup for Social Justice right after service.

We have a date for the **spring BRUU BBQ Potluck... April 29th**. It will be similar to the BBQ Potluck this past fall... hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, desserts, etc. Liesl Main is the POC, but she would love for a couple of volunteers to assist in the organization of this event and in set-up, etc. Remember, this event is a **social event to get to meet our Ministerial Candidate!**

Remember that if you have a BRUU event that you want to publicize, you can add it to the rolling bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Cards and markers are there on the board in the top right corner!

The next Fellowship-Activities Meeting is Sunday, March 4th in the conference room. We will begin brainstorming about BRUU events for next Fall/Winter (2018-2019). Join us with your fabulous & fun ideas!!



Wonderful Work Day - February 3rd

We are having a Wonderful Work Day on this Saturday, February 3rd, from 9:30AM until 3:00PM. Our goal is to make the building shine as prospective minister tour our building in the next few weeks. All help is welcome including children with adult supervision. Even a few hours is helpful. Lunch is provided. Also note the following Work Day will be on March 24th as we continue to get our building ready to welcome our new minister. For more information contact Christine Sunda.

We now have a congregational covenant.

Some 70 members and friends have signed it. During our last congregational meeting, we agreed on the language for the covenant, to live it out. This leaves the door open to changing it in the future, but for now, we have consensus on how we interact with each other, what we aspire to, and even a way of reaching out to the world beyond. Its three themes are about accepting one other, integrity – or seeking the truth in love – and resolving conflicts constructively.

Having adopted the language, our task now is to live it out, to adopt the covenant into our lives, to begin a journey.

This is the harder part. The committee work is done, the drafting and rewrites have been set aside, the formalities of the congregational meeting are accomplished. The external work is done. The task now is to take the covenant *in*. Remember the covenant, apply its principles, live up to it when dealing with others, thread it into daily life.

Change is hard, even change you want to take place. It's like New Year's resolutions. Whether it's big things like losing weight or changing jobs, or small things like keeping that one small corner of the house clean, change doesn't come easy. It requires commitment. It can involve failing, again and again, and recommitting again and again.

Fortunately, we don't have to do it alone. We have each other to help us along. There was a timely article in the New York Times talking about New Year's resolutions, but it applies to the covenant as well. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/29/opinion/sunday/the-only-way-to-keep-your-resolutions.html>).

In the article, David DeSteno point out willpower is not a reliable tool for maintaining resolutions over the long run. It causes stress, and wears a person out. It goes against our natural inclination to value short-term pleasures over future satisfaction. Willpower puts us in conflict with ourselves.

But the social emotions – like compassion and gratitude – don't work like that. "Unlike reason and willpower they naturally incline us to be patient and persevere," he writes. They operate "by increasing how much we value the future."

The covenant aims to promote some of the same social emotions that DeSteno is talking about. It runs on the same social emotions.

We are entering a journey of acceptance, integrity and, yes, conflict resolution. Let us go together.

Mike Cleary

Link to the covenant: http://www.bruu.org/?page_id=4926

What is Canvass?

The BRUU Canvass is our annual pledge drive, or stewardship campaign. We take this important time to connect with one another, to celebrate each other, and to renew our commitment to take care of our beloved BRUU home.

Each year, in March, we kick off the stewardship campaign by holding our annual BRUU Canvass Gala. The gala is our biggest celebration of the year – a night of fabulous food, drinks, decorations, conversing and dancing – and entertainment by the talented BRUU players.

Our volunteer canvassers spend the next 3 weeks meeting face to face with fellow members and friends. It is a chance to connect, share stories, and learn more about the inner workings of BRUU.

How well we do during the campaign will directly affect our Operating Budget for the upcoming fiscal year that begins in July.

Our theme this year is 'Count Me In! – Prepare, Provide, Participate' As we prepare to bring in a new settled minister, one of our many budget considerations will be our commitment to being a fair compensation employer for all of our staff. Our budget, or how we spend our money, reflects our values. And our shared values are something to celebrate!

So mark your calendars for March 10 for the Annual BRUU Canvass Gala. Come celebrate stewardship at BRUU!

Terrie McClure, 2018–19 Canvass Committee Chair

Newsletter Submission Guidelines:

- ✓ Send to newsletter@bruu.org
- ✓ Due by 25th of month
- ✓ Articles of 400 words or less
- ✓ No children's last names since the newsletter is publicly accessible
- ✓ BRUU and denominational announcements only
- ✓ Subject to editorial review



From your Search Committee!

We are excited by the quality of the candidates that have applied to be our settled minister. By the time you read this, we will have narrowed the list down from eighteen to the three or four whom we will interview in person. We have read over 450 pages of resumes, checked out 18 extensive websites, and conducted nine interviews by Zoom (like Skype, only better), with each lasting between an hour and 90 minutes. We have spent many, many hours in discussion about various candidates. Now we are in the process of interviewing, in person, the final three or four.

It is a wonderful experience for your search committee members and we only hope, in the end, that we are able to present to the congregation someone to be our settled minister that you will love and who will love us. That is what we strive and long for.

Some may ask why we can't be open about who these prospective ministers are. There are several reasons for this.

- Confidentiality protects the committee (from questions like, "Why didn't you select _____?!")
 - Confidentiality protects the ministers (from questions like, "We heard you were looking! Don't you love us?!")
 - Confidentiality protects the local congregation (embarrassment of being turned down by a pre-candidate, infighting about candidates, full church split)
- and
- Confidentiality protects other churches (panic and confusion based on incomplete information that they may lose a minister)

We ask that you respect this confidentiality for the common good.

Lovingly,
Your Search Committee





BRUU Board of Directors: January 2018 Meeting Highlights

We discussed four new committee charters, identified minor amendments and endorsed them as amended.

We discussed the Board Journal Club reading of a selection made by Kathy Sobrio from the UUA website entitled "The Marks of a Healthy Congregation." This article is available at <https://www.uua.org/leadership/uuu/2006/13113.shtml>.

The Secretary reported a net increase of one member since the previous month.

Board members discussed efforts to promote and gain acceptance of the BRUU Covenant. Options suggested included: presenting the Covenant in different venues; including it with new member materials; bringing it to large gatherings; displaying multiple framed copies; providing wallet cards.

Michelle Luman led a discussion on BRUU's religious education program. Some of the significant observations were that: there have been many positive changes with the introduction of Kristin as full-time DRE, and the respect for the long-term planning and orderly structure that she brings to the program; changes in the program (many new faces, teacher turnover) have led to recruitment challenges; the program is also dealing with the challenge posed by students receiving instruction from multiple religious organizations and how this can be integrated; there is a perceived need for more opportunities for teacher training. The Board will monitor the potential for providing after-RE childcare, and the support needed for teacher recruitment/training.

Within the context of the upcoming preparation of next year's canvass budget, Art Muirhead made note of his dialogue with the Finance Committee on what it would take to move toward meeting UUA fair compensation standards. The consensus of the Board was that the Finance Committee should evaluate compensation for BRUU's full-time personnel during the upcoming budget cycle, and propose changes for consistency and fair practice. In the longer term, the reconstituted Personnel Committee should review how compensation policies at BRUU can be improved.

The Board discussed distribution options for the recent gift by a congregant of \$40,000. The Finance Committee's recommendation was to immediately provide \$5,000 each to the Food Pantry and Community Assistance Funds; and \$30,000 to the Endowment, with any appreciation over time to be distributed to the above two funds. Art moved that the Board accept this recommendation but with the proviso that \$20,000 be withheld from immediate admittance to Endowment to reserve funds to address potential needs for search and installation of a settled minister, with all funds not required for this purpose being transferred to the Endowment at a later date. The motion passed.

The next Board meeting will be held on February 13, 2018 (second Tuesday) at 7 pm. Contact me if you have questions or concerns at president@bruu.org or 703-266-1949 (home).

Art Muirhead, President, BRUU Board of Directors

Update on the BRUU Food Pantry

It's been a great two months for the food pantry. Jerry and Mary Sherman donated \$3500 for a matching grant challenge. The Congregation stepped up and more than met the challenge. Before the end of the year the entire \$3500 had been matched. Then, in the first week of the new year another \$1000 donation came in. This \$8000 will go far to maintain the pantry and feed the 50 families who have been showing up twice a month for staples and needed supplies donated by the generous food pantry patrons. You know who you are, and you are greatly appreciated!! Another BRUU member donated a full-size freezer for the pantry's use. We've filled it with meat and cookies twice now. Today volunteers restocked it with 70 pounds of meat purchased from the National Capital Area Food Bank. We only had to pay \$32 for all this frozen meat. Now we're able to offer more protein at lower costs. Available frozen foods have included chicken, turkey, bacon, lunch meats and the occasional tray of tilapia or scallops.



If all this bounty were not enough, early this year an anonymous donor dropped off a large check with the BRUU treasurer. From this generous donation, \$5000 has been allocated to the Food Pantry.



Pantry Help Wanted

The only way we can provide an array of fresh fruit and vegetables and most of the frozen meat is to pick it up in Lorton at the Virginia branch of the National Capital Area Food Bank. We're looking for someone who can drive to Lorton, meet Martha at the food bank and fill her pickup with 700-1000 pounds of food most 2nd and 4th Mondays between 8 and 9 am. You don't even need to accompany the load over to BRUU as we always have a great team waiting to unload and

stock the pantry. Even half an hour's help once a month would be great. If this sounds like a service opportunity you'd enjoy let Nina Lomax or Martha Muirhead know.

Town Hall Meeting in February

Please join us for the next Town Hall meeting, which will convene immediately after service (5-10 min break) on February 25th. Childcare will be available. There will be presentations/discussions on some of the important initiatives going on right now at BRUU, as well as time for open forum Q&A. Hope to see you there!

Art Muirhead
President, Board of Directors



!!Congratulations to our DRE – Kristin Worthington!!

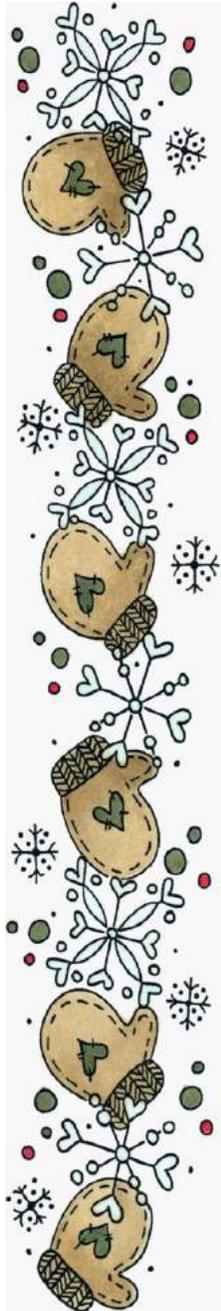
Kristen completed 75 hours of Renaissance training in UU Religious Education Leadership, and has been awarded a certificate and pin for completing this milestone. Jessica York, Faith Development Director of the UUA, sent a letter to the congregation to alert us of this achievement. She says: "The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations greatly appreciates the support congregations provide for the continuing education of religious educators. Thank you for your commitment to strong religious education programming and for nurturing Kristin's leadership." Kudos to Ms. Kristin and thanks to all who support her and the RE ministry at BRUU!



Presentation of certificate of completion during the worship service on Sunday, January 28

Members of the Religious Education Committee - Jennifer Malos, Owen Davies and Randy Earl, shared in the celebration.

(Photo by Gretchen Almstead)



February Family Calendar

Feb 1 - children's choir 6:30-7:30

Feb 4 - youth choir 11:15-12:15

Feb 10 - variety show 7-9

Feb 11 - children's choir 11:15-12:15 (lunch to follow)

Feb 18 - youth choir 11:15-12:15

From the Treasurer's Office

Split-the-Plate Sundays

On Split-the-Plate Sundays (STPS) always make your check out to BRUU or Bull Run UU. This way we can deposit your check and it will show up as a tax deductible contribution on your tax donation statement. In the memo field of your check you can do one of three things:

1. If you put the STPS organization's name in the memo field, 100% of your contribution will go to the STPS organization.
2. If you put "Donation", "Plate Collection" or nothing in the memo field; 50% of your contribution will go to the STPS organization and 50% to the BRUU operating fund.
3. If you put "Pledge" in the memo field, 100% of your contribution will go to your current BRUU pledge.

The same options are available if you use the white cash donation envelopes located on the back of each pew.



Tax Donation Statements

You should have received your tax donation statement for 2017 via email by now. If you haven't received your statement please check all the inboxes and SPAM folders associated with every email address listed in the directory for your household. If that fails please contact the treasurer at treasurer@bruu.org and another statement will be sent to you. If you don't have an email address listed in the directory for your household, then you should have received your tax donation statement by the US mail.

Giving to BRUU in the New Tax Law Age : Legal Tax Evasion for Seniors

Will you be one of the estimated 21 million taxpayers who will stop taking charitable deductions under the new tax law? (see <https://www.forbes.com/sites/beltway/2018/01/11/21-million-taxpayers-will-stop-taking-charitable-deductions-under-the-new-tax-law/#7c63180e238f>) If so, don't despair--you might still have options that reduce your taxes through charitable giving.

One such option is available now to those 70½ or older who must take required minimum distributions (RMDs) from their IRA accounts: **qualified charitable distributions (QCDs)**. Per the IRS (<https://www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/retirement-plans-faqs-regarding-iras-distributions-withdrawals>), "a qualified charitable distribution is an otherwise taxable distribution from an IRA ... owned by an individual who is age 70½ or over that is paid directly from the IRA to a qualified charity" [a 501(c)(3) organization, such as BRUU, eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions]. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your RMD requirement for the year AND are excluded from taxable income (note that if you do itemize, a QCD cannot be claimed as an itemized deduction).

For tax purposes, a QCD (from a non-Inherited IRA account) is reported as a normal distribution on IRS Form 1099-R, but it is not subject to withholding. Also, you must receive the same type of acknowledgement of the donation that you would need if you were to claim a deduction.

For more information, see (a) the IRS page cited above, (b) Fidelity at <https://www.fidelity.com/building-savings/learn-about-iras/required-minimum-distributions/qcds>, and (c) Allan Sloan's January 5, 2018 column in the Washington Post, "A column I never thought I'd write: Ideas to trim your income tax bill" https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/a-column-i-never-thought-id-write-ideas-to-trim-your-income-tax-bill/2018/01/05/6255bc32-f1a1-11e7-b390-a36dc3fa2842_story.html?utm_term=.1ce58337adeb. As Allan Sloan says in his column, "But what if you're not old enough — or fortunate enough — to get required retirement distributions?" He continues with a brief discussion of "donor-advised funds"-- a simple, extremely flexible and tax-efficient way to give to charities; see <https://www.fidelitycharitable.org/giving-strategies/give/donor-advised.shtml>. Another strategy I've come across is called "bunching" where every other year, two years of charitable giving are "bunched" into one, thereby increasing the likelihood of exceeding the new increased standard deduction threshold for that year (see <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/01/04/bunching-charitable-donations-could-help-you-save-on-taxes-this-year.html>).

There are, of course, more details and rules with which to be concerned involving these charitable giving tools and strategies. Here is where, until I do more research, I'll stop. The articles cited above do have more detail. But since this is the first year that I myself will be making QCDs (after I turn 70½ in March), I still have other questions to get answered—(a) how do I actually tell Fidelity to send a QCD to a charity, (b) what State tax rules apply, (c) what communications with the charity will be necessary, etc etc.

Hopefully this will be of help to some now, and together we can figure out the details. Look for a possible update to this article as I learn more over the next few months.

Robin Fegeas

February 2018

2/01	Search Committee, 7 P		Board Meeting, 6:30 P
	Transition Team, 7 P	2/15	Search Committee, 7 P
	Geneology ALE, 7:30 P*		Geneology,ALE, 7:30 P*
2/03	Work Day 9:30 A – 3 P	2/16	USDA Food Pantry, 12
	World Religions ALE, 10 A*	2/17	World Religions ALE, 10 A*
	ALE Film, 7 P	2/18	Program Council, 11:15 A
2/04	Social Justice, 9 A		LGBTQ Meeting, 11:30 A
	Fellowship Ctme, 11:15 A	2/19	NuuNeers, 11:30 A
2/06	UupBeats, 12:45 P	2/20	UupBeats, 12:45 P
2/08	Search Committee, 7 P		PFLAG, 7 P
	Geneology ALE, 7 P*	2/22	Search Committee
2/10	Variety Show	2/24	Crafting for Calm, 1 P*
2/11	Membership Ctme, 11 A	1/18	Search Committee, 7 P
	Finance Ctme, 11:15 A	2/25	Town Hall, 11 A
	Pine Ridge Support, 11:30 A		RE Committee, 12 P
	BRIC Investment, 11:30 A	2/27	Food Pantry, 9:30 A
2/12	SASS, 1:30 P		Apology ALE, 1 P*
2/13	Food Pantry, 9:30 A		Consider Middle East, 7:30 P*

*Adult Life Enrichment Classes (ALE) in February

- **Understanding World’s Religions, Sat. Feb 3, 17 & March 3, 17, 31 10-2**
- **Five Languages of Apology, Feb 27 and March 6, 1:30 P**
- **Shake Your Family Tree, Feb 1, 8, 17, 7:30 P**
- **Let’s Consider the Middle East, Feb 27, 7:30 P**
- **Crafting for Calm, Saturday, Feb 24, 9 A**
- **“Forks Over Knives” film, Saturday, Feb 3, 7:30 P**

Denominational Affairs

The Rev. Megan Foley (mfoley@uua.org), who was in our pulpit recently, is the primary contact for the **Northern Virginia cluster** of UU churches. The congregations in this cluster include:

- Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, Alexandria
- Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church of Arlington
- Accotink UU Church, Burke
- UU Church of Loudon, Leesburg
- **Bull Run UUs, Manassas**
- UU Congregation of Fairfax, Oakton
- UU Church in Reston
- UU Church of Shenandoah Valley, Stephens City
- UUs of Sterling
- UUs of the Blue Ridge, Washington

In our region, the CER staff assists congregations to strengthen their ties with other congregations in clusters. These clusters are based on geography. Congregations may choose which cluster they are in and may change if they wish. We are creating networks based on interest areas (large churches, partnerships, etc. Those networks will be listed on our networks page as they are created. A list of our current clusters is below:

Appalachian Cluster West Virginia, Western Maryland, Southern Ohio
Capital Cluster Greater Washington, DC
Central New York State
Central Ohio/Columbus
Central Pennsylvania
Cleveland Cluster OMD
Delmarva
Genesee Valley UU Societies Together GUUSTO
Greater Baltimore
Greater Philly
Hudson Mohawk
Long Island Area Council
MetroNorth north of New York City
Mohawk Valley, New York
New Jersey Cluster
New York City Cluster

February 2018 Crossroads

North Country Northern New York
Northeast Pennsylvania
Northern Virginia
Northwest Pennsylvania
Southern New York State
Toledo and Northwest Ohio
UUs of Greater Pittsburgh OMD
WACKY between Cleveland and Columbus in Ohio
Western New York

For full information on all of the webinars, conferences and training opportunities in our region, go to the Knowledgebase Forum at <http://www.bruunet.org/forum/topics/february-2018-area-uu-events>



Hopefully you've recently had the opportunity to see our building by night . After many years of interest, BRUU is participating in the beautiful seasonal lighting in downtown City of Manassas. Thanks to Mike Freeland for the lighting design. (Photo above and on cover by Gretchen Almstead)