

Volume 37
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2019



CROSSROADS



Bull Run Unitarian Universalists

Rev. Charlotte's Word-Weavings

Into a New Year

How do you mark the New Year holiday? Is it a big party on New Year's Eve? Celebrating "Watch Night"? Or watching football games on New Year's Day? Is it a special day for getting together with family and friends? Or is it just a quiet day to enjoy the aftermath of the December holidays?

To my mind, there is something artificial to New Year's Day. The calendar got set this way in a particular place in a particular culture in the world and it's what we all have to align ourselves to in one way or another.

Truth be told, there are new cycles beginning throughout the wheel of the year. There are anniversaries – another year older, another year in relationship, another year of health, another year of survival, another year... , another anniversary...

So what makes these "beginning of a new year in my life" days important or useful or meaningful? I think that it is the opportunity to begin again, begin anew, start over – if need be. And each has more power if we are able to point to that day – in hindsight – as transformational.

If you can take things one day at a time, then every day is the beginning of a new year ahead.

Continued on page 2

Word Weavings, continued...

On this New Year's Day, I encourage you to write a short meditation on the topic of "each day a new beginning". What wisdom do you want to remind yourself of or pass along – to a family member, a friend, a stranger – about living in the eternal now? Is it abundance? Noticing blessings even in difficult times? How to cultivate an optimistic outlook?

If you do write a New Year's Day meditation, I hope you will share it with the BRUU through one of our many forms of communication with the congregation.

With a grateful heart for each new day and every trip around the Sun,

Rev. Charlotte

January Worship Service Descriptions

January 6 – *Saints By Calling: UU Epiphanies* (Rev Charlotte Lehmann)

As stipulated in the Cambridge Platform (1648) our Puritan forebears originally required that church members attest to a conversion experience. It quickly became untenable to require confession of conversion as part of our congregational polity. This morning we consider the role of conversion experiences or awakenings in our lives in general and as Unitarian Universalists. How has your spirit been transformed? What changes have occurred in your life as you have matured and grown?

January 13 – *For the Time Being* (Ellen Badgley)

Using a section of W. H. Auden's poem by the same name, Ellen Badgley reflects on the post-holiday letdown, and what it means in a spiritual sense.

January 20 – *Extremists for the Extension of Justice* (Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)

Martin Luther King, Jr. was influenced by the methods of non-violent protest utilized by Mahatma Gandhi and our own Henry David Thoreau, whose treatise "Civil Disobedience" is a classic on the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process, our 5th UU principle.

January 27 – *Pilgrimage* (Pat Malarkey)

When we think of pilgrimage, we usually think of a spiritual journey involving physical travel. While pilgrimage can involve a trek, it is just as likely to involve no movement at all. Pat Malarkey leads the congregation this morning in an exploration of this time-honored spiritual practice

January 2019

1/03	Gerryrigged Speaker, 7:30 P
1/06	Social Justice Ctme, 9 A Fellowship Ctme, 11:15 A Personnel Committee, 11:30 A
1/08	Food Pantry, 9:30 A Board Meeting, 6:30 P
1/12	Ethics ALE, 12 P Games Night, 5:30 P
1/13	Membership Ctme, 11 A Finance Ctme, 11:15 A BRIC Investment, 11:30 A RE Senior Youth Parents, 11:30 A
1/14	SASS, 1:30 P
1/15	UuPBeats, 12:45 P
1/17	Pastoral Care Team, 5:30 P Master Naturalists, 6:30 P
1/18	USDA Food Pantry, 9:30 A "GerryRigged" movie, 7:30 P
1/20	Program Council, 11:30 A
1/21	NuNers, noon
1/22	Food Pantry, 9:30 A Worship Committee, 7:30 P
1/24	Crafting for Calm ALE, 12:30
1/25	Evensong, 7:30 P
1/26	Finance Committee, 10 A
1/27	Men's Meeting, 9 A Soup for ACTS, 11 A RE Committee, 11:30 A
1/31	Crafting for Calm, ALE 12:30 P

New Congress, New Opportunities for Climate Change Advocacy

Start the new year by letting our Senators know you want them to stem climate change by integrating new energy technologies into infrastructure projects. On December 30 and January 6, come to our "Write Here! Write Now!" table to write your personal letters. Fact sheets and supplies will be available. Or write your letter in advance and drop it off. UUs for Social Justice's Capitol Hill Advocacy Corps will hand-deliver letters in Washington, DC on January 8. Contact **Larry Underwood** at Larry.underwood362@gmail.com. To learn more about the UUSJ Capitol Hill Advocacy Corps check [UUSJ's advocacy page](#). [<http://uusj.net/wp1/advocacy/uusj-capitol-hill-advocacy-corps/>]

Treasurer's Office

Donation Statements for 2018 will be coming out In January

In January you will be receiving a statement that covers all of your tax-deductible donations to BRUU for 2018. This statement will not only include your pledge payments but any other donations you made during 2018. The statement will also include a section at the bottom showing the amount you pledged for the current pledge year and the balance left on that pledge. You should receive this statement by email before January 25. If you haven't received it by then, please check all the inboxes and SPAM folders associated with every email address listed in the membership database for your household. If that fails, 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 membership database, then your tax donation statement will be mailed to you.

Perhaps this is a good time to review some of the tax-deductible causes that you can contribute to through BRUU:

- Split-the-Plate Sundays provides financial support to non-profit groups in the PWC area.
- There is a matching Capital Improvement Plan campaign going on right now that is trying to raise money to replenish our building fund, contact Gwen Talbot for more information.
- The BRUU Food Pantry supplies food twice a month to families in PWC, contact Martha Muirhead for more information.
- The Community Assistance Fund provides financial support to PWC families and BRUU members and friends, contact Tina Cox or Rev. Charlotte for more information.

Please remember when donating to any of these worthwhile causes to make your check out to: **BRUU** and identify the cause you are supporting in the check's memo field.



Want to Reduce Partisan Bickering? Three Chances to Learn About Redistricting at BRUU in January

On January 3, 7:30pm, Brian Cannon is coming to speak at BRUU. He is the head of OneVirginia2021, the leading organization in Virginia advocating for redistricting reform. His talk is sponsored by the Social Justice Committee.

The politicians in Virginia picked their voters when redrawing voting district boundaries after the 2010 Census. In Virginia's General Assembly, Democrats controlled the State Senate and Republicans controlled the House of Delegates in 2011. They created new boundaries that protected incumbents and benefitted each political party, helping to entrench partisan behavior. Ugh.

Right now, neither party knows who will be in control in 2021. The opportunity is ripe for creating a neutral redistricting process that creates compact and contiguous districts, rather than weird "gerrymandered" shapes that benefit one party and encourage hyper-partisan candidates. OneVirginia2021 has worked with Democrats, Republicans, and a mix of smart people and crafted a better redistricting process to use after the 2020 Census. The proposed commission won't be created unless the General Assembly approves it in 2019 and 2020, and voters approve an amendment to the state constitution in November, 2020.

That's where you get to play in this game. Politicians respond to citizen pressure, especially if presented in a constructive way. The General Assembly needs to act during the session that starts on January 9. Come learn from Brian how you can influence the process so partisanship is minimized. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors. Older children who recognize they will start voting are welcome (*but sorry, gotta leave the dogs, cats, and goldfish at home*). The program is free and open to the general public, of course. Doors of the Fellowship Hall open at 7:00pm, Brian Cannon's program will be 7:30-9:00pm on Thursday, January 3.

On January 6, we will follow up with a Write Here/Write Now initiative, working with the UU congregation at Accotink. Stop by the table in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service and quickly generate effective letters to your Delegate and State Senator in the General Assembly.

On January 18, we will show the 56-minute documentary "GerryRIGGED – Turning Democracy on Its Head" produced by OneVirginia2021. That will be followed by a short discussion and question/answer period on how we can take construction action. (See <https://www.onevirginia2021.org/events/redistricting-2021-can-impact/> for more details.) In January, BRUU's Social Justice Committee is offering three ways to be part of the solution to the sour partisan behavior we see today. Yes, whining and complaining is possible at all times, but right now we can shape the future. Join us, get educated, and do good deeds. Our service has just begun...

Charlie Grymes



NOTES FROM ANNEASE

Evensong service on January 25 at 7:30 - Thoreau said he went to the woods to live deliberately and see what it had to teach him. Through music and poetry we'll reflect on what we gain by walking in the woods.

Piano celebratory recital on January 27 at 12:30.

Annease Hastings, Music Director

Party Planners Needed for Rev. Charlotte's March 23rd Installation Service

Do you like to plan events and celebrations? Do you have talent for putting on a BIG party? Rev. Charlotte needs your help with planning the Installation Service and Reception, which is set for the afternoon of Saturday, March 23, 2019 (time to be determined by planning team).

An installation service is the recognition that a minister has been called or entered into covenant and is settled in a particular congregation. The service of installation nowadays often takes place several months after the minister has begun their actual ministry and may seem to be mainly ceremonial, however it has important roots in our history of congregational polity. The installation highlights and reaffirms the covenant between the minister and the congregation. Holding the installation some months after the minister's arrival allows for the inclusion of representatives of the wider community and the denomination, highlighting the connection of the congregation and minister to these larger affiliations.

This is BRUU's chance to shine as a progressive congregation in Manassas and Prince William County.

The focus of Rev. Charlotte's installation service will be on our vision of shared ministry. There will be a role in the service for the children and youth of BRUU. And the service will, of course, include celebratory music.

Rev. Charlotte will handle planning of the installation service itself, but needs a team to handle invitations, publicity, printing, photographer, hospitality arrangements for out of town guests, the reception and clean-up, and follow-up.

If you are interested in being involved in any way, please contact Rev. Charlotte (minister@BRUU.org). A first meeting of the team needs to happen in early January to get plans moving ahead.

The Way I See It

Now is the time of year we put a lot of thought into trying to decide what is the perfect gift we can bestow upon those near and dear to us. I have always felt somewhat gift-choice impaired, so I was happy to see a newspaper article a few days ago dealing with how to come up with ideas for a present that the recipient won't immediately return to the store or put on a shelf. Boiled down to its essence, the article suggests focusing on items or experiences that will provide a long-term benefit (a book; a special serving bowl; cooking classes) rather than something that is chosen to provoke an immediate reaction (a huge basket full of gooey holiday treats). And a little more obviously, don't try to make guesses about what someone really needs when you have their wish list staring you in the face.

This article got me to thinking about gifts I've given and received over the years. I don't mean to sound jaded, but it seems like this can be a very gratifying experience as an adult, but it's truly exciting when you're a kid. I can remember being jazzed about the medieval castle my older brother and I got when we were around seven and nine. It was made of really thin sheet metal complete with towers and gates and turrets, and a bunch of knights and horses and infantry made of not very durable plastic. You can probably see where this is going to end – shortly after the New Year we had bent up the castle walls, and most of the action figures were missing limbs or decapitated. Alas, joy can be fleeting.

The gifts I should have appreciated back then but have only come value with the perspective of years are the life skills and support I've received along the way. A mother who when we wanted help with our homework would never just tell us the answer, but always let us know where "you could look it up." (I don't know how many times I heard that between the ages of six and eighteen.) A father who taught us how to work and live on the land. Family and friends who were willing to come together to celebrate the good times and bring comfort to each other in the bad.

One of the things I love about BRUU is our spirit of giving, and of providing gifts that will stand the test of time. We have a vibrant RE program that is providing our youth with inspiration, and critical thinking skills that will last a lifetime. We have wonderful worship and music programs that amaze us and nourish our souls. We have fellowship and pastoral care activities that unite us in camaraderie and console us in time of need. We have a food pantry and many other social justice programs that constitute a force for bringing all peoples together in a world that too often tends to push us apart.

The BRUU community should be proud of the gifts we've given. And as I am often wont to observe, the best is yet to come.

May your days be merry and bright in 2019,
Art Muirhead, President, BRUU Board of Directors, president@bruu.org, 703-266-1949



Winter Course Offerings:

“What we Choose: Ethics for Unitarian Universalists” Saturday, January 12, 12-4 PM
Kristin Worthington and Kelly Maitland

Winter Movie Night “Wonder” Friday, February 22, 7-9:30 PM, Kathy Sobrio

“Winds – the Breath of Earth” Monday, February 18, 7-9 PM,

“Psychological Issues of Aging”, Tuesdays, February 26 and March 5, 7:30 – 9 PM, Dr. Deanna Brown

“Living with Bipolar Disorder One Act Play” Sunday, March 31, noon to 1 pm, Jennifer and Kate Ives

“Gerryrigged” speaker on Thursday January 3, 7:30 – 9 PM, letter writing campaign on Sunday, January 6 after 11 AM, Friday, film on January 18 7-9 PM

“Getting to Know ET (Eckhart Tolle) Tuesdays, beginning January 15, 12- 1:30 PM, Marti Giese

“A Course in Miracles Introduction to Transformation” Wednesdays, beginning January 16, 10-11:30 AM, Marti Giese

“A Course in Miracles – Continuing to Experience the Transformation” Tuesdays, beginning January 15, 10-11:30 AM, Marti Giese

“Crafting for Calm Workshop (Winter Wonders) Thursdays, January 24 and 31, February 7, 1:30 – 3 pm, Lois Montgomery

The catalog is active and online. Some paper copies will be available in the Library for us to give out to those who do not use computers. Here’s the link to the catalog. Registration information is near the end of that document.

<http://www.bruu.org/about-us/education-programs/religious-education-adult/adult-life-enrichment-courses-workshops-winter-2019/>

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From our DRE

Our first few months of this year's Religious Education small groups have been fruitful and joyous. We currently have 43 registered children and youth. The regular weekly attendance is 40. Since September, BRUU has had a steady stream of visitors. As a result, RE has gained four new families participating regularly (10 children and youth). Two of these families were invited to attend by friends in the congregation, and two came seeking a faith home; however they all described a safe liberal religious education for their children as the motivator for seeing if BRUU is a right fit. In addition, the nursery saw a surge in attendance. Welcome to the world Jack Firth, Quinn North-Rose and Raphael Simon!

The small groups are continuing to practice mindfulness activities such as deep relaxation and breath awareness exercises. A mindfulness practice not only brings the individual greater focus and decreased anxiety; it allows them to bring thoughtfulness and compassion to their interactions with others. The groups also are continuing bonding games that deepens relationship with each other and allows them to welcome visitors in a relaxed and inviting way.

Looking ahead, Grade 10-12 OWL continues, a Grade 4-6 OWL will begin. We're moving social fellowship activities for the Senior and Junior YoUUth higher up on the to-do list, with a Laser Tag outing on January 26th; as well as launching our Young Adults group later this month.

The Winter ALE catalog has just been released. Be sure to visit the BRUU website for the complete catalog that features science, politics and personal discovery – register now for the offerings in January!

Blessed be,
Kristin Worthington, Director of Religious Education

January 2019 Family Calendar

6 - children's choir 11:15-11:45

6 - youth choir 11:45-12:15
(followed by lunch and ice skating)

13 - children's choir 11:15-12:15
(followed by lunch)

13 - Grade 10-12 OWL

20 - youth choir 11:15-12:15

26- Laser Tag - Junior and Senior
YoUUth outing



Save these
February dates



Deeper Than the Skin - Greg Greenway and Reggie Harris

Saturday, February 2 Concert Experience

“Deeper Than the Skin” is a experience of singing and listening... of experiencing a connection so deep that it makes you laugh, smile, cry and reconsider what you know about our history. It’s an invitation to open your heart and mind to a story of shared humanity that resonates with your own.

Two friends... one Black, one White... one from the North... one from the South! Musicians, storytellers, students of history and world travelers... born 3 day apart! Two separate narratives forged into one powerful friendship aimed at finding common ground and helping others to do the same.

Deeper Than the Skin brings together a remarkable journey that started 30 years ago and is now offering hope to people all over the nation. It’s a presentation that ends with an open dialogue that moves the audience from emotion into action...that gives voice and direction to the question “What can I do?”

Sunday, February 3 Worship

Here's a description of our service for Sunday Feb 3, which will be preceded by a Saturday evening concert / experience.

“Deeper Than the Skin” is an experience of singing and listening... of experiencing a connection so deep that it makes you laugh, smile, cry and reconsider what you know about our history. It’s an invitation to open your heart and mind to a story of shared humanity that resonates with your own. Two friends... one Black, one White... one from the North... one from the South! Musicians, storytellers, students of history and world travelers... born 3 day apart! Two separate narratives forged into one powerful friendship aimed at finding common ground and helping others to do the same.

1st Leadership Development Team

offering of the year

1st 30 people to register **by 1/19/19**

1st Saturday of February

**MYERS BRIGGS TEMPERAMENT INDICATOR
workshop**

Presented by Inner Inspiration/Jean Porto

- Everyone has strengths
- What is your growing edge
- Improving relationships you care about
 - About perception and judgment
- How you move through life/how you look at life

“I’ve never seen it presented like this before!”

When: Feb. 2 Saturday

Where: BRUU fellowship hall

Time: 1-4 PM

Cost: \$25 per person for assessment
(assistance available)

**TO BE COMPLETED 2 WEEKS BEFORE!!
REGISTRATION NECESSARY!!**

Contact: Nina Lomax cell: 571-247-2811
ninalomax@comcast.net

BRUU Board of Directors: December 2018 Meeting Highlights

Rev. Charlotte noted that Cedar Lane UU in Bethesda was providing sanctuary to an undocumented migrant; an inter-faith press conference was to follow.

The Board discussed whether there was a need to reconcile BRUU's organizational structure regarding facilities, seeing that our existing org chart has three distinct groups that have roles related to our physical plant, i.e., MAC (Maintenance and Aesthetics), FAC (Facilities) and BUC (Building Use). Kathy Sobrio reported on her meeting with interested parties from each of these groups, noting that MAC and FAC are accustomed to working cooperatively as needed, and that both have enough volunteers to carry out their responsibilities. The committee chairs felt that they could function effectively if they were merged, but that they would need to be constituted as separate subcommittees or teams. It was noted that in the eventuality of a reorganization, there ought to be clarity on the need to approach facilities management in a strategic fashion, and to consider the impact this has on our capital requirements. Regarding the BUC, there was recognition that most of its functions had been taken over by BRUU staff; however, there was still concern that all the duties previously performed by BUC ought to be reassigned, especially regarding policies and responsibilities for lease and rental management. Based on this discussion, Kathy will create a proposal on modifying BRUU's organizational structure and designated responsibilities regarding facilities, to be voted on next Board meeting.

Heather Berthold led a dialogue on potential strategies for conducting a future capital campaign (CC). Her research had allowed her to prepare an information sheet on available assistance resources, as well as an indication of what the general framework could look like for a CC at BRUU. Highlights from the discussion included: recognition that a CC should involve an extensive planning phase, with a focus on articulating the major building-related issues to be addressed; the need to consider the pros and cons of working with a consultant (an independent UU in-house capability exists, and they have worked with several local congregations); and, the types of expertise that should be sought out in putting together a core team for leading a CC at BRUU. Board members agreed that by the January meeting, we would develop criteria for recruiting the team that would initiate preparations for the CC, with the objective of convening a group in early 2019.

The Board also discussed the communication we have received from New City Fellowship in which they request to expand the scope of their Sunday rentals of our building, with the objective of hosting two worship services. (Their current usage extends from 3:00 pm to 7:30 pm for the sanctuary, fellowship hall and certain classrooms; they wish to extend this to 1:45 pm until 8:30 pm.) As part of this proposal, NCF also informed us that they might have access to grant funds to help improve our facilities. The Board considered the significant limitations this new arrangement would place on our own use of BRUU's facilities on Sundays, as well as the potential implications for our finances. We agreed that a group composed of the Minister, President, Vice President, and Facilities Manager would meet with NCF representatives in the near future to explore in greater detail whether changes in NCF's access would be feasible for both parties.

The next Board meeting will be held on December 11, 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



NOW IS THE TIME

*TO SET GOOD PRIORITIES
FOR OUR COMMUNITY*

The turning of the year represents many things. It is a time of change, a time of new beginnings, a time to look back and look ahead.

It's the time of new year's resolutions, to step back, refocus, and reset priorities.

Which brings me to consider my pledge to BRUU. This is where the spiritual and the financial flows of my life come together. I have now pledged both my covenant and my financial support to BRUU. But this year, I'm looking at my pledges through new lenses.

Up to now, I have given to the church with the idea of supporting the congregation through the year. Keep the lights on, the programs running, the music playing, the minister preaching. But only for the year. Then do it again – maybe giving a bit more – the next year.

But now I'm thinking of supporting the congregation through the *years*, plural. I've been with BRUU for about a dozen years now, but never thought much to look back and see where we've been, rather than where we are right now. And think about how that affects where we are now and where we're going.

I've watched youth grow up and graduate into young adulthood. I think of all the great music that has seeped into the pews and keeps us coming back for more. I think back to all the sermons that resonated with me or surprised me. I remember the huge demonstration for common-sense gun control on Sudley Road that our members had a key role in organizing last winter, and how many of us participated.

These are only the things that I have witnessed; there is much more – the adult RE classes, the LGBTQ prom, the VOICE actions, the food bank, the pastoral care work, the private ministrations – that goes on beyond my sight, with ripples beyond my imagination.

We've touched a lot of lives, both within and beyond our congregation.

So it has become important to me that all of this continues, that we continue to reach out, that we continue to work, to sing, to teach, to protest, to listen and love. It's not just for one year – it's to strengthen the congregation for years and even generations to come.

The covenant calls us not only to accept one another but to help each other thrive. It calls us to treat others with compassion, to support and encourage the personal and spiritual growth of others. This is the experience I want others in our congregation to have – now and into the future. And making that possible is something I want to do in my life.

Financial contributions make it possible. It's one of the best ways I have to ensure that this congregation continues to grow and thrive.

Continued on page 11

(Now is the Time, continued from page 10)

And it brings me to my challenge. At the same time that I want to give, I want to hang on to what I have, to keep my money for myself, out of need or fear. This is my challenge, to strike the balance between what I need and what I can truly give. Yes, it's foolhardy to give away more than you can afford, but there is power in giving; there is life in giving.

The covenant advises us that conflict is an opportunity to grow. This is my opportunity to look at my life and decide what I want to do with it. I value this congregation, and it's up to me to live up to my values and support the congregation materially. Something less than what I can afford would only diminish me.

My new goal this year is to think honestly about how I can best support the congregation and live up to my values as best I can. I hope you will do the same. Submitted by Mike Cleary

"NOW IS THE TIME" IS A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SERIES DEDICATED TO RETHINKING STEWARDSHIP AND OFFERED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION; COMMENTS WELCOME – BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR STEWARDSHIP TEAM (STEWARDSHIP@BRUU.ORG)

Worship Service on Foster Care

Did you know that there are 5000 children in need of foster care in the State of Virginia?

Susan Sinclair and Rev. Charlotte recently met with Wendy Cohen, Foster Parent Recruiter for UMFS, a statewide private non-profit that specializes in therapeutic foster care for youth and sibling groups, to learn about their program needs. UMFS is looking for foster care parents. They have an excellent 2-hour information session followed by a 2.5-day training for interested adults.

One idea that came out of this meeting is to have a worship service sometime in 2019 that has foster care as its theme (date TBD). Are you a person who has prior experience with foster care? Were you a foster child? Were you in a family that provided foster care? Did you have foster siblings? Have you been a foster parent? Maybe someone in your extended family has been a foster family? Would you be willing to share something about your experience with the congregation?

Rev. Charlotte imagines a service is three parts with sharing by a small number of individuals from different perspectives plus sharing by Wendy Cohen about foster care from UMFS' perspective.

Please contact Rev. Charlotte (minister@bruu.org) if you are interested in participating in this worship service. Thank you!

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS AND EVENTS IN OUR AREA

Join with Central East Region staff and UU congregational leaders for this day of learning, growing and rising. Hear from each other about what has worked and why, assess your congregation's next fruitful and faithful step, and see some of the great resource options available. Send your congregational team! There is something for everyone when a New Day Rises!

Costs: Sliding Scale fee of \$20-\$30-\$40. You may request a waiver for a \$10 fee as needed on the registration form. Lunch is included. Child care is available at \$5 per child, but must be requested in advance. **Register now at:** <https://uua.wufoo.com/forms/zpjdl4k012sril/>

The program includes: Worship from The Sanctuaries DC, an intentionally multicultural artistic community using art to create social change! Morning Workshops run by UUA staff! *Experienced UU Antiracist Get-Together* with Paula Cole Jones. *Dedicated Time for Identity-Based Caucusing* - A chance to gather in identity-based groups for conversation, reflection and relationship building! *Stories of Struggle and Success* - Hear from 15 other congregations in a series of seven-minute TED-style type talks about what worked for them and their people (and what didn't!), with opportunities to connect and ask questions! *Resource Fair and Bookstore* - a room full of resources and materials to browse, and the opportunity to order helpful books right from the Conference