

Volume 36

Edition 5

May 2018



# CROSSROADS



## Bull Run Unitarian Universalists

### ***In the Interim....***

The time has come, my beloved ones, to say goodbye. While I had originally planned to be with you in the pulpit into June, as things are turning out, there is a good chance that I will be saying goodbye to you at the end of May.

It has been my absolute honor and pleasure to serve you these last two years. I will always keep you in my heart.

As I write this, you and I are both in the second round of search. I know we're all hoping that we'll all find the right match in this round, and I also know that your search committee won't settle for any minister who isn't the right minister for you. So when you read this, we'll still have some uncertainties about the coming year.

Even with the uncertainties, I have faith in you, and in the process. I don't know where I'll be, either. The one thing I do know is that my work with you is done.

(Continued on page 2)

*In the Interim, continued from page 1*

What does that mean for us? Well, it means that I'll be moving out of the minister's study over the next few weeks. And it means that, once I'm no longer serving as your interim minister, I'll be staying clear of BRUU. Many of you have become my Facebook friends. In August, when I leave BRUU's employ, I will unfollow you. I can no longer be involved in what you're doing.

I hope I will run into some of you from time to time – at denominational events, or social action/social witness events. And when we see each other, it will be a delight to greet you.

I'll still be around for a bit yet. I'll be working from home a lot in May due to foot surgery, but I'm still available. And I'll still be available for pastoral emergencies through August 14. And we'll have a chance to celebrate together before I leave.

I don't know what awaits you. But I do know it will be good, because you are so good. I hope you're so proud of the work you've done.

In shalom,  
Rev. Madelyn



## Liturgical Calendar

May 2018

- 1 Beltane (Wiccan/Euro-Pagan)
- 1 Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)
- 3 Lag B'Omer (Jewish)
- 15 Ramadan begins (sundown) (Islam)
- 19 Shavuot begins (sundown) (Jewish)
- 20 Pentecost (Christian)
- 23 Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
- 29 Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)



## June 17 Music Service & Celebration of 30 years

This is the 30<sup>th</sup> year that Annease Hastings has led the music program at BRUU! As BRUU grew and her valuable skills became clear, her position very gradually evolved from part time accompanist to ¼ time to now full time Director of Music. Please join us after the music service on Sunday, July 17 to honor Annease for all that she has done over the years to inspire, coach, encourage, teach and perform. Her contribution to Sunday morning worship services, Evensong, children, youth and adult choirs, UupBeats and pastoral care are well worthy of celebration by all! If you would like to help with the event, please contact Gretchen Almstead at 703.772.6814 or [galmstead@gmail.com](mailto:galmstead@gmail.com).



### Evensong Cancellation

Regrettably, the Evensong service originally scheduled for May 11 has been cancelled. If you are one of those who plan far in advance and intended to come or participate, please make that change on your calendars! Thanks.



Pastoral care is looking for a few good church attenders to do the Sunday Caring Cards. Pastoral Care members would provide direction and all supplies, not that it is difficult, but it would be an easy way to volunteer within the church. Please send an email [kmaitland20@gmail.com](mailto:kmaitland20@gmail.com) or contact Kelly Maitland 571-334-3806 if interested.

## Memorial Service Attendance & Reception Assistance

**The Pastoral Care Team will be assisting with two memorial service receptions in May.**

**The service for Sharon Bauer will be held on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. The service for Jerry Sherman will be on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Both families will be hosting receptions in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the services. The Pastoral Care Team would welcome offers to help before, during and after these social opportunities to interact with the family of our beloved former congregation members. Please contact Kelly Maitland ([kMaitland20@comcast.net](mailto:kMaitland20@comcast.net)), Randy Earl ([TREarl0607@gmail.com](mailto:TREarl0607@gmail.com)), Catherine Ring ([ring.cw@gmail.com](mailto:ring.cw@gmail.com)), or Rich Bensinger ([Richard@RichardBensinger.com](mailto:Richard@RichardBensinger.com)) if you would like to help with refreshments, set up, and/or clean up.**

# The Way I See It

If you checked out this space last month, you found within it a guide to “Spectacular Things Coming Up at BRUU!!!,” along with a calendar listing events that would take place as the Settled Minister Search process came to fruition. I hope not too many of you clipped this out and taped it on your refrigerator, because it means that now you just have one more thing to clean off that fridge when you finish your spring cleaning (probably next week; if your spring cleaning is like mine, it’s eternally scheduled for next week). So as we say in the prediction business, that calendar is OBE, i.e., Overcome By Events. But the bright side of the coin is that our Search Committee is still hard at work looking at options in the second round and beyond, and I remain confident that they will get us to a good resolution, come what may.

Instead of making more predictions, I’d like to focus on the fact that it’s spring. With the warm weather interspersed with a little rain, I would swear that things look greener every time I look out the window. Spring makes me happy. Growing up on the farm, it was the beginning of the busy phase of the year, planting fields so that in a few months we would be filling up corn cribs and oat bins and silos and hay mows with crops. And we planted gardens, knowing that later on we would be canning, freezing and storing in the cold cellar the produce we grew to sustain ourselves.

Spring is a time of expectation and promise, and I know that’s true for BRUU. No predictions here on specific outcomes, but there are good things in store for us. Just you wait and see.

And I want to close with one of the oldest and most famous selections in verse about spring, the beginning of the Prologue to the Canterbury Tales, rendered in modern language in case your Middle English is a bit rusty.

When April with its sweet-smelling showers  
Has pierced the drought of March to the root,  
And bathed every vein of the plants in such liquid  
By which power the flower is created;  
When the West Wind also with its sweet breath,  
In every wood and field has breathed life into  
The tender new leaves, and the young sun  
Has run half its course in Aries,  
And small fowls make melody,  
Those that sleep all the night with open eyes  
(So Nature incites them in their hearts),  
Then folk long to go on pilgrimages.

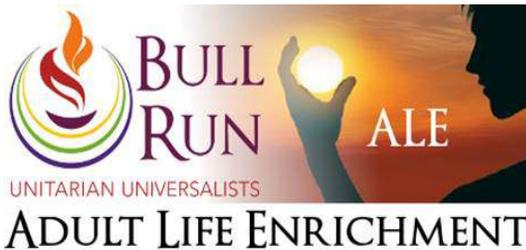
The last thing I want to say about spring is that it’s also when UU’s thoughts go to pilgrimages, in our case the General Assembly, being held this year in Kansas City, June 20 to 24. Martha and I have made reservations, and Bev Reusser also plans to attend. I hope there are other members of BRUU who can join us there – let me know if you are able, and let’s make our presence felt!

Art Muirhead, President, BRUU Board of Directors, [president@bruu.org](mailto:president@bruu.org), 703-266-1949  
April 25, 2018

# RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR OWN SPIRITUAL GROWTH

by Kathy Sobrio, ALE Enthusiast

Are you like 60% of BRUU's congregation? You didn't start out as a UU. You visited BRUU, liked what you saw, and stayed even though perhaps you'd come from another faith tradition. And the longer you stay, the more you like what you're experiencing. Welcome to the majority!



Let us guess why you've stayed: Is it because you find it refreshing that UU offers people religious breathing room to choose what they see as "truth?" You like the fact that you don't have to believe everything in a creed? And you like it when Rev. Madelyn says, "Let us pray, however you understand prayer to be?"

So you've joined a UU community where each person carries his/her own treasure chest of "truths" even though they might not match yours, and everybody's comfortable with that. While we each have our treasure chest of beliefs, it's also true that none of us feels like it's full and we're done. We know we'll always be discovering more truths. But where and how do we discover our truths? Does our treasure chest just fill naturally as we live our lives? Or do we have some sort of obligation to seed, water, and nourish our spiritual understanding with infusions of food-for-thought?

One of UU's Seven Principles states that we agree to uphold the principle of "pursuing a free and responsible search for truth and meaning." We see it mentioned again in our new congregational covenant which reminds us to "Take responsibility for our own spiritual growth." The words "take responsibility" and "growth" imply a tone of intentionality in pursuing a search for truth and meaning. But it's a big world out there! How on Earth can we *intentionally* pursue a search for truth and meaning?

Actually there are many roads for that. But for starters, BRUU does a good job of helping us, not only in Sunday morning's inspirational and enlightening services but during the week through learning opportunities offered by BRUU's Adult Life Enrichment program (also known as A.L.E.).

Three seasons of the year, the A.L.E. Committee presents a new catalog of growth classes in various colors. The current Spring Session, which began in March, is still in full bloom with a garden of opportunities in May and June for exploring the world around us, seen and unseen. Here are a few:

- For those who believe **SCIENCE** is where truth lies, A.L.E. will be offering two one-session science classes in May: one on bacteria, the other on viruses. Both will be presented in Frank Gregorio's amazing multi-media format that keeps participants spellbound.
- For others who feel that **SELF-STUDY** leads to truth, A.L.E. is offering "Meditation: Finding the Teacher Within," "Spiritual Laws: Flexibility, Responsibility, and Reflection," "Crafting for Calm," and "The Strength of Our Ancestors" that focuses on our inherited ancestral trait for survival.
- Still others are sure that **NATURE** shows us all we need to know. In May, A.L.E. will be showing a beautiful film called "The Coral Reefs of Our Blue Planet," and in June you are invited to a "Summer Solstice Eve Celebration."
- Finally, how about seeking truth by learning from **OTHER FAITHS**? In May, Muslim Ayesha Noor will be speaking on "Understanding True Islam."



## BRUU Board of Directors: April 2018 Meeting Highlights

Under announcements, it was noted that 393 people had attended the Manassas March for Our Lives event organized by BRUU's Social Justice Committee; and that registration is now underway for the annual UUA General Assembly, being held this year in Kansas City, June 20 to 24.

We discussed the Board Journal Club reading of a selection made by Amy Hamilton entitled "The Politics of Every Major U.S. Religion in One Chart." The article has some interesting insights about how membership in different denominations correlates with views about the role of government in the economy and the need for the government to protect "morality." The article is available at: <https://thinkprogress.org/the-politics-of-every-major-u-s-religion-in-one-chart-d34728206971/>.

Wade Stephenson reported that five new members had joined during the month: Dianne Lane, James Healy, Janice Hill, and Allen Curlee. The current membership count is 250.

Mike Cleary provided an update on Covenant work. 108 members have signed the Covenant. The first of three ALE class sessions was held with nine attendees.

Rev. Madelyn reported that staff evaluations have been completed.

The Board discussed the Policies and Procedures draft presented by the Safe Congregation Committee, and noted that some edits might be required to prior to finalizing the document and making it available for dissemination. Beth Roemmelt will coordinate compiling suggested changes, and the consensus document will be reviewed at next months' meeting.

Kathy Sobrio reviewed developments in updating the MAC charter. Board members suggested some minor edits, and the revised document will be reviewed at next months' meeting.

Martin Crim briefed the Board on upcoming Settled Minister Search Committee plans and expectations. A new list with second round candidates was expected by April 13. If the Committee identified a desirable prospect, one neutral pulpit event could be scheduled. If this went well and a candidating week were scheduled, this would likely take place in June. Martin also reviewed the consequences of not selecting a minister in the second round, along with the mechanics of other alternatives – hiring an interim, contract or temporary minister, and/or participating in the fall search round, with far fewer candidates participating.

Amy reviewed the history and operation of food pantries at BRUU. She noted the rewarding connections with our local community. Potential issues for follow up include storage limitations, better assessment of the impact on community members being served, and the possibility of multi-congregational community service coordination. Amy will consult further with the pantry coordinators.

The next Board meeting will be held on May 8, 2018 (second Tuesday) at 7 pm. Contact me if you have questions or concerns at [president@bruu.org](mailto:president@bruu.org) or 703-266-1949 (home).

Art Muirhead, President, BRUU Board of Directors

# FROM OUR DRE

This is the time of the year we get to celebrate life outdoors with sun and color, scents and breezes. Earth Day and May Day usher in a new season, and soon those kiddos will be bursting off the school bus for the final time of this grade.

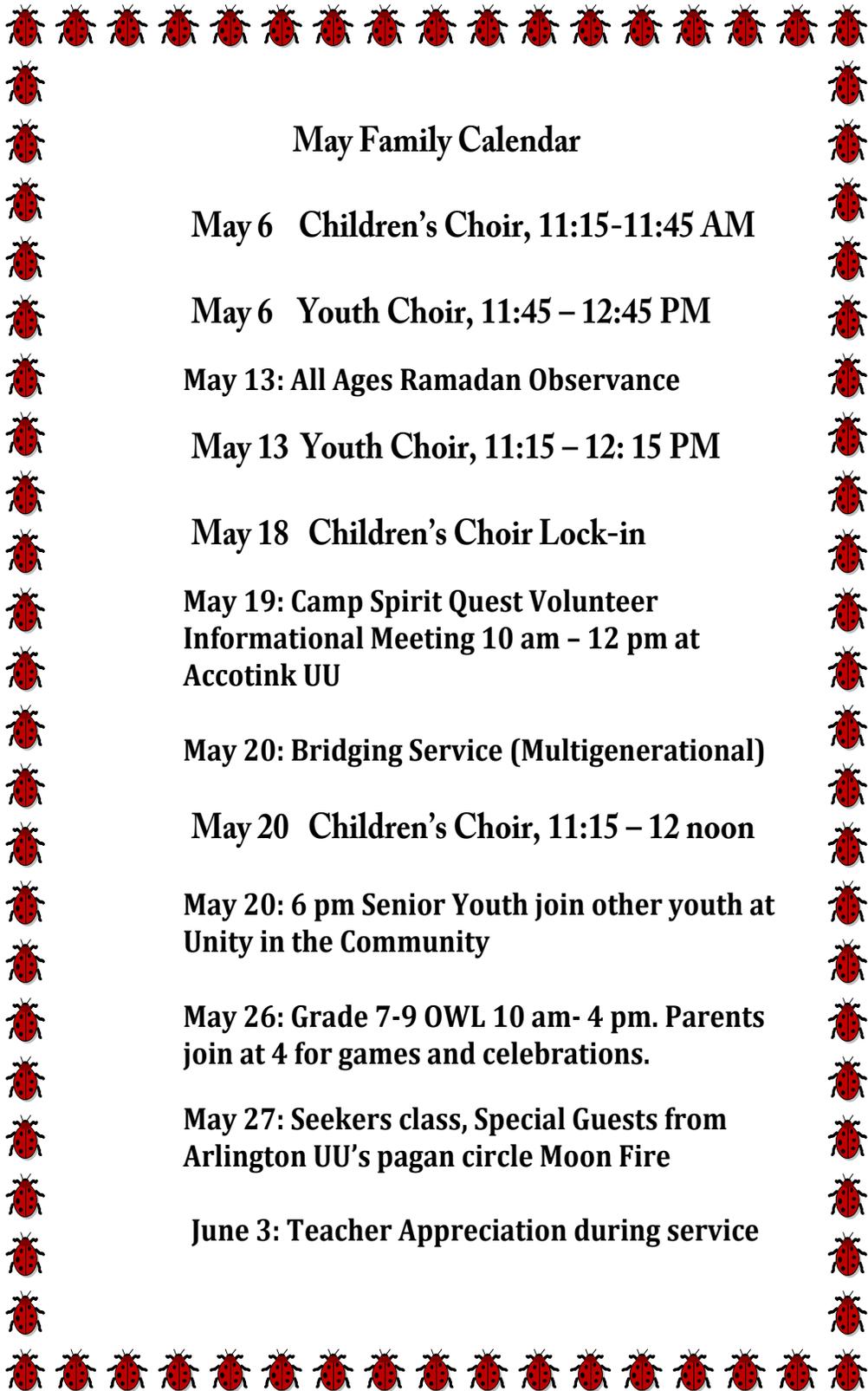
Register now for Camp Spirit Quest, to be held July 23 – 28 in partnership with Accotink UU. See details on BRUU's website. There will no Sunday morning RE classes July and August; children through elementary school are welcomed in the Flamingo Lounge for an active and meaningful Dr. Seuss summer program. More details to come. Senior Youth will continue to meet for adventures in the area, and to continue community projects.

Planning has already begun for Fall Religious Education. We'll be in our Judeo-Christian Heritage year, adding mindfulness practices, social justice & community service, leadership and community building activities in more prominent ways. We plan to offer Our Whole Lives for Grades 1-12, Coming of Age for 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and will continue building our Spirit Play classroom for the younger ones.

Please join our team. There are opportunities to lead children and youth in the classroom, create family activities, be a resource in your specialty, or support teachers behind the scenes. We are looking for a few youth group advisors to guide our high school youth on their journeys. And we are seeking additional voices and perspectives on the RE Committee, whose purpose is to shape the direction and goals of BRUU's Youth Ministry.

Kristin Worthington, Director of Religious Education





## May Family Calendar

**May 6 Children's Choir, 11:15-11:45 AM**

**May 6 Youth Choir, 11:45 – 12:45 PM**

**May 13: All Ages Ramadan Observance**

**May 13 Youth Choir, 11:15 – 12: 15 PM**

**May 18 Children's Choir Lock-in**

**May 19: Camp Spirit Quest Volunteer  
Informational Meeting 10 am – 12 pm at  
Accotink UU**

**May 20: Bridging Service (Multigenerational)**

**May 20 Children's Choir, 11:15 – 12 noon**

**May 20: 6 pm Senior Youth join other youth at  
Unity in the Community**

**May 26: Grade 7-9 OWL 10 am- 4 pm. Parents  
join at 4 for games and celebrations.**

**May 27: Seekers class, Special Guests from  
Arlington UU's pagan circle Moon Fire**

**June 3: Teacher Appreciation during service**

# MAY 2018

		5/13	Pine Ridge Support, 11:30 A
5/01	UuP Beats, 12:45 P		BRIC, 11:30 A
	City Nature Challenge, 1 P	5/14	SASS, 1:30 P
5/02	Understanding Islam ALE11	5/15	UuP Beats, 12:45 P
5/03	Communications Mtg, 7 P		Bacteria ALE, 7 P
	Transition Team, 7 P		PFLAG, 7 P
5/06	Social Justice, 9 A	5/17	Master Naturalists, 6:30 P
	Fellowship Ctme, 11:15 A	5/18	USDA Food Pantry, 9:30 A
	LGBTQ Mtg, 11:30 A	5/20	Program Council, 11:15 A
5/08	Food Pantry, 9:30 A		LGBTQ, 11:30
	Board meeting, 6:30 P	5/21	NuuNers, 11:30 A
5/10	Sharon Bauer memorial 11A	5/22	Food Pantry, 9:30 A
	Coral Reefs ALE, 7 P		Viruses ALE, 7 P
5/12	Crafting for Calm ALE, 9 A	5/27	RE Committee, 11:30 A
	Jerry Sherman Memorial2 P	5/29	Ancestors ALE, 7 P
5/13	Membership Ctme, 11 A		
	Finance Ctme, 11:15 A		

# Why nUUners?

Well, it meets at Noon. For about a year, on the third Monday of (almost) each month folks have been gathering at BRUU for socializing, lunching, and edu-tainment. We bring our own lunch (or not) at 11:30am and meet in the Lower Level Lounge or the Fellowship Hall. After chewing & chatting we enjoy a presentation on a topic of interest. Some of the programs have included: Native Americans of PrWmCo - 1492 to Today; a Bird Watching Tour of Northern India DVD; a slide show on Doctoring in Rural SW VA; a talk on Owl Power, just to list a few. Primarily these programs have been presented by members and friends of BRUU, but are not limited to our "in-house" experts. This activity is open to all ages, who are interested and available to attend at mid-day on a weekday. Watch your weekly BRUU RoundUp electronic newsletter for reminder notice & presentation topic.

This is an opportunity to get to know other BRUU folks, and some of their passions, in a non-committee, no regular attendance or responsibilities/, casual social setting! The group is also seeking folks with talents and interests they are willing to share with a group of eager listeners. Contact Larry Underwood (Larry.Underwood362@gmail.com) if you have questions and/or are interested in participating.

## Denominational Affairs



BIRTHRIGHT: A WAR STORY is a feature-length documentary that examines how women are being jailed, physically violated and even put at risk of dying as a radical movement tightens its grip across America.

You are invited to join the Accotink UU Church Social Justice Committee and NARAL for a documentary showing and discussion of "Birthright: A War Story" on **Saturday, May 19th from 7:30-10:00 pm** in the sanctuary. Light refreshments will be served. **Please RSVP for attendance and childcare by May 11th.** If you have any questions, please contact Erica Steele at [ericalsteele@gmail.com](mailto:ericalsteele@gmail.com). Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church is located at [10125 Lakehaven Court](https://www.google.com/maps/place/10125+Lakehaven+Court,+Burke,+VA) in Burke, VA. Parking is free.

# UU SUMMER CAMPS FOR ALL AGES

Unitarian Universalists have a plethora of UU summer camps to choose from. Some of our members at BRUU have attended some of the camps mentioned in this article. For some families, annual attendance is ‘inked’ on their calendars every year and now part of their DNA. Are you and your family interested in stating a tradition that the next generation can continue? Check out the possibilities!!

**CALIFORNIA: Camp de Benneville Pines,** Redlands, CA A MOUNTAIN RETREAT WHERE UU PRINCIPLES AND VALUES ARE LIVED AND CELEBRATED IN COMMUNITY. [uucamp.org/](http://uucamp.org/)

**CANADA – ONTARIO Unicamp,** Honeywood, ON. Unicamp has 50 beautiful, peaceful acres of meadows, coniferous and deciduous forests, marshes, streams, caves, and a spring fed pond. <https://unicampofontario.ca/>

**MAINE: Ferry Beach,** Saco ME. In 1901, a Universalist minister wandered into the wooded pine grove at Ferry Beach and knew it to be a magical place where people would gather together for centuries for rest, relaxation, reflection, and renewal. [ferrybeach.org](http://ferrybeach.org)

**MINNESOTA: Cass Lake,** MN. Camp UniStar is a place of natural beauty and serenity nestled on Star Island, surrounded by the clear waters of Cass Lake. Here amidst the Pine forests of northern Minnesota, UUs and like-minded friends gather to relax and regenerate. [campunistar.org](http://campunistar.org)

**MISSOURI: Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly,** Potosi, MO at Trout Lodge in the Ozarks An annual intergenerational UU retreat for fun, fellowship, and personal growth [Muusa.org](http://Muusa.org)

**NEW HAMPSHIRE: Star Island** Family Conference and Retreat Center, Isles of Shoals, NH. Enjoy rugged living six miles off the coast of New Hampshire - spirituality, world affairs, arts, ecology, yoga, history, and children’s activities. Kayak in the harbor, unwind in a porch rocker, or reflect during a candlelight service. [starisland.org](http://starisland.org)

**NEW JERSEY: Murray Grove** Retreat and Renewal Center, Lanoka Harbor, NJ, 20 peaceful acres where John Murray preached his first Universalist sermon in America in 1770; lodging for up to 66, meeting spaces, commercial kitchen and a (seasonal) salt water pool. [murraygrove.org](http://murraygrove.org)

**NEW MEXICO WUULF:** Western Unitarian Universalist Life Festival: Ghost Ranch, NM. The theme for this year is “Letting Go in the Desert”. WUULF offers opportunities to laugh, play, and appreciate our beautiful community and world. [Wuulf.org](http://Wuulf.org)

**NEW YORK Unirondack,** Lowville, NY. A welcoming Adirondacks community offering 7 week-long sessions for youth ages 9 through 18. Our program is rich in activities that are not only fun but encourage campers to become more confident and self-reflective. If your child is not yet comfortable with the idea of spending a week away at camp without you, our Family Week is a great way to introduce your child to Unirondack. [unirondack.org](http://unirondack.org)

**NORTH CAROLINA: Shelter Neck UU Camp,** Burgaw, NC or over a century. Located in rural southeastern North Carolina, Shelter Neck originated as a school for children who otherwise would not have had access to education with broad cultural experiences. [shelterneckuucamp.org/](http://shelterneckuucamp.org/)

**HIGHLANDS, NC: The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center**, Highlands, NC. Every summer, for one week in July, people travel from all over to gather in the Appalachian mountains. Together we play, learn, worship, laugh, rest, restore and commune at SUUSI. WCU has been SUUSI's home since 2016. WCU is located on Cullowhee Creek in the Tuckasegee River valley, between the Blue Ridge and the Smoky Mountains. The campus is surrounded by the Nantahala National Forest, and close to the Pisgah National Forest and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. [suusi.org/](http://suusi.org/)



**OHIO: Ohio-Meadville District Summer Institute**, Oberlin, OH. On the Oberlin College campus, Summer Institute is an intentional intergenerational community where we come together to grow, relax, play, and connect to experience workshops and new ideas. We create our own balance of activity and peace. [omdsi.org](http://omdsi.org)

**OKLAHOMA: The Point**, Tahlequah, OK. **The Point is a UU retreat for all ages.** Imagine five days of UU covenant and community in a resort-like setting on the shores of Lake Murray in Oklahoma. Each day begins with worship and ends with a sunset talk, with workshops in between. [Thepointuu.org](http://Thepointuu.org)

**PENNSYLVANIA: Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Community:** Center Valley, PA meets each July at DeSales University, near Allentown for one week. UUMAC is many things to many people: a spiritual retreat, a reunion with friends, a time to revel in a community of like-minded people of all ages. <http://www.uumac.org/wordpress/>

**TEXAS: UBarU:** An IDA designated Dark Sky Park, is a Unitarian Universalist Camp and Retreat Center located on 142 rugged acres in the storied Hill Country near Kerrville, Texas. Our mission is to provide a welcoming, peaceful place to gather for spiritual, educational, and recreational purposes in harmony with our Unitarian Universalist principles and the land. [Ubaru.org](http://Ubaru.org)

**WASHINGTON: Eliot Institute:**, Seabeck, WA. People young and old come to Eliot, from infants to seniors. Most are from Unitarian Universalist churches in British Columbia, Washington and Oregon. The camp is fully accessible to campers of all physical abilities. The summer conferences usually have around 250 participants and can be as high as 40% children and youth. [Eliotinstitute.org](http://Eliotinstitute.org)

#### CLOSE UP VIEW OF SUUSI

*Do the kids beg for more "family time" as they get older? They do, if that means "go to SUUSI time." The Southeast UU Summer Institute (SUUSI) is a week with 1,000 other UU's in the mountains of North Carolina. There are 100 or so workshops, 100 or so nature trips - but to many, it's a week of continuous "roots" music with everyone invited to participate. The teen program is especially strong, creating a sense of personal boundaries that are based on a teen's personal commitment to their UU values. BRUU'ers have been going to SUUSI since 1984, and they keep going back for a reason. Questions? Ask the Muirs or others who spend the third week of July making new friends, renewing ties, and celebrating. -Charlie Grymes*