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CROSSROADS



Bull Run Unitarian Universalists

Rev. Charlotte's Word-Weavings

For those of you who weren't able to attend the Start-Up Workshop on Sept. 15th facilitated by Revs. Megan Foley and Paula Cole Jones, I thought I would use this month's column primarily to communicate about my "work habits."

Ministry is not a job that can be easily confined to boxes on a calendar or hourly slots in a day, so flexibility is necessary for all of us. Within reason. Ministers are all too human and have personal as well as professional needs.

Generally speaking, my weekly schedule looks like this:

- ◆ Tuesday – Thursday, ~10 am – 6 pm, you can find me in the minister's office. If the door is open, feel free to interrupt me to say hello, sit down for a minute or two to chat, or bring something to my attention. I attend evening meetings on these days, preferably not 2-3 in one night as I did on Thursday!
- ◆ Friday is usually my writing day and I work from home. I do check e-mail, but not as frequently and I prefer not to be interrupted, but if it is urgent, you may e-mail, call or text.
- ◆ Saturdays are a wild card in the schedule; sometimes I find myself busy with church-related activities and events like workshops, rites of passage or church social events. It's also a day that I try to take care of things around the house or spend quality time with Lisa.

(continued on next pages)

Word Weavings, continued...

- ◆ Sundays my focus is obviously on the worship service. If my presence is needed, I can spend a short time in meetings. I do want to be able to make the rounds during coffee-hour, so please try to start post-service meetings and classes after 11:30 am. Ideally, Sunday afternoons and evenings are downtime.
- ◆ Monday is my day off and I do protect that strongly. I do *not* check e-mail.

Each month, I have one Sunday free of all ministerial duties. For this church-year, I have chosen the 4th Sunday of each month. On those weekends, I refrain from involvement in church activities and will probably not look at e-mail. Lisa and I like to get away for a day or two if possible. I may or may not schedule vacation or study leave to coincide with my Sunday off.

Speaking of study leave, this is work time not a vacation, although it may involve travel and be a lot of fun at the same time. My first week of study leave will be at the end of this month, October 22-29. I am going to creativity workshop called “Spark of Creation.” During the week, I will be working with a variety of creative professionals to enhance my creative potential. The program is an offering at a spiritual retreat center in Scotland where I go for spiritual and growth and personally transformative experiences.

I plan to attend the following meetings on a regular basis: Board, Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM), Pastoral Care Team (PCT), and Worship Committee. I will try to attend Program Council meetings. Especially in these early months, I will be happy to attend other meetings, as time and schedule permit, so please invite me – an email is the best way to get on my calendar.

I have set the date for our installation service – it is March 23rd, a Saturday and will take place in the afternoon and be followed by a reception. We need an Installation Planning Team to work on the logistics of invitations, reception, etc. I am responsible for planning the installation service itself. If you’re good at party planning and interested in this time-limited task, please let me know as soon as you can! Installations are an excellent way to strengthen denominational connections and show off the church. Colleagues from near and far will attend as well as some of my family and friends.

I value the support of my ministerial colleagues and make every effort to attend meetings of a local UU clergy cluster and the Chesapeake UUMA Chapter. I have monthly meetings with a Peer Discernment Group and my mentor for Preliminary Fellowship. I usually attend denominational meetings such as the annual UUMA Ministry Days, LREDA Professional Day and UUA General Assembly.

I am learning about the local interfaith networks, a little at a time. I participated in the International Day of Prayers for Peace on 9/23 and attended the VOICE Clergy lunch on 9/27. I’ve met with Pastor Will Klotz of New City and hope to attend one of their services before long. These relationships with neighboring faith communities are an important part of BRUU’s history.

My self-care includes time with family and friends, spiritual practice and regular attention to healthcare needs. Lisa and I enjoy many kinds of outdoor activities, going to movies, music and theater performances, trying new restaurants, and much more. (continued page 3)

Word Weavings, continued...

I/we do not “hang out” with members of the congregation. When I am interacting with BRUUsers, I am working and no matter how fun the event is, it is not time off for me. Lisa is very clear about what constitutes my work. She frames it this way: she hang out where I work, just as she wouldn't have me showing up at her workplace. Lisa may or may not choose to attend congregational events; she will show up occasionally for Sunday worship. I let her make the decisions about how often she comes to church.

I know that you are looking forward to being able to welcome Lisa to BRUU and Manassas. She will be settling-in beginning the first week of October. It will be good to have her home from an amazing experience in Peru.

Blessings,

Rev. Charlotte
minister@bruu.org



Personal stories of success, lessons learned, and hopes for BRUU's shared ministry were shared. Rev. Charlotte told her own story of what led her to the ministry, what attracted her to BRUU, and what we can expect from her. At the conclusion of the workshop, the hopes and promises of the 40 workshop attendees are reviewed by workshop facilitator Rev. Megan Foley, of the East Central District of the UUA.

If You Are Coming to Sunday Services.....

... why not consider being an Usher? BRUU Ushers volunteer just one Sunday each month, or substitute when a regularly scheduled Usher is ill or out of town. Usher duties include: welcoming folks at the door to the Sanctuary, handing out the Order of Service, assisting folks in finding open seats, passing the collection baskets during the Offertory, and some minor tidying up right after the service is over. No training or committee meetings required (how great is that?!) AND you don't miss the service. Previous experience is not necessary, but a big smile is a real plus. If you would be willing to “Ush,” even if just occasionally, please email Cathy at ring.cw@gmail.com to discuss this great opportunity.

OCTOBER 2018

- 10/02 UupBeats, 12:45 PM
- 10/04 Immigration ALE, 7 P
- 10/6 Ethics ALE, 10 A
Crafting ALE, 9 A
- 10/7 Men's Group, 9 A
Social Justice Ctme, 9 A
Fellowship Ctme, 11:15 A
New UU AIE, 11:30 A
Covenant ALE, 1 P
- 10/8 SASS, 1:30 P
- 10/9 Food Pantry, 9:30 A
Board Meeting, 6:30 P
Biochemistry ALE
- 10/10 Master Naturalists, 6:30 P
- 10/11 Immigration ALE, 7 P
- 10/13 Work Day, 9:30 A
- 10/14 Membership Ctme, 11 A
Finance Ctme, 11:15 A
BRIC Investment, 11:30 A
New UU ALE, 11:30 A
Covenant ALE, 1 P
- 10/15 NuuNers,
- 10/16 UupBeats, 12:45 P
- 10/18 Master Naturalists, 7P
- 10/19 Food Pantry, 9:30 A
Evensong, 7:30 P
- 10/20 Ethics ALE, 10 A
- 10/21 Town Hall Meeting, 11 A
New UU ALE, 11:30 A
Program Council, 12 P
Covenant ALE, 1 P
- 10/23 Food Pantry, 9:30 A
"The Post" ALE, 7 P
Worship Committee, 7 P
- 10/24 Master Naturalists, 6:30 P
- 10/26-7 Adult Retreat
- 10/27 BRUU Boo, 4 P
Adult Halloween Party, 8 P
- 10/28 Men's Meeting, 9 A
RE Committee, 11:30 A
New UU ALE, 11:30 A

The Jerry and Mary Sherman Adult Retreat –
October 26-28, Berkeley Springs, West Virginia

There are still some spaces available for the Sherman Retreat. This is our second annual adult retreat, and we're looking forward to another weekend of community building and spiritual renewal. Thanks to Jerry and Mary Sherman we are trying to make this a wonderful BRUU tradition.

Adulting is hard and pretty serious stuff. But, sometimes we can take ourselves too seriously. Thanks to Monty Python, this year we are going to experience "The Ministry of Silly Walks". Our adult retreat theme is laughter: what it does and how you find it. If you'd like to join us for the weekend, contact Janette Muir (jmuir@gmu.edu), to see if space is still available.

SASS

SASS is an open, social subset of our congregation for women 65 and older. This "fluid" group meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 1:30pm in the lower level Lounge at BRUU. IF, however, you would like to do lunch with others beforehand, meet on the BRUU front steps at the corner of Church & Main no later than 12 Noon. We walk to a nearby restaurant for a quick meal and then head back to BRUU for the gathering. We generally have a topic for discussion(s), that does not require pre-planning or homework. We choose topics of interest for women of a mature age. We have also been known to plan a group trip to a museum, special event, or activity, and have made a train trip and overnight to Staunton, VA, for the past two years. In addition, we hold a Coffee on the last Friday of each month at someone's home. It's a great way to get to know each other on another level of connection. If you are interested in being put on the group email list to know what is coming up (no commitment), contact Gwen Talbot at GETalbot1@comcast.net.

October Worship Services

10/7/18 – *The Tangled Web of Emigration and Immigration: From the Doctrine of Discovery to Emma Lazarus and the Statue of Liberty*

How do the related issues of emigration and immigration inform our response to 21st century concerns of social justice?

10/14/18 – *Yes is a World: the poetry of E.E. Cummings*

This morning we will celebrate the poetry of E.E. Cummings on his birthday. As part of the service, Rev. Charlotte and the congregation will covenant together, making promises to be in right relationship in our shared ministry.

10/21/18 – *Mass Incarceration & Prison Reformation*

Issues related to mass incarceration and prison reform may very well be *the* civil rights issues of our day. Ohio and Florida have important referenda on their ballots this November, Virginia is also engaging with these issues.

10/28/18 – *Afraid of the Dark?*

Multigenerational worship service will be lead by Kristin Worthington, Director of Religious Education. It will explore our relationship to fears.

Adult Life Enrichment (ALE) Classes for October

Immigration – the Good, Bad and Ugly – Thursdays, October 4 and 11 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM – Fellowship Hall.
Facilitator, Lisa Johnson-Firth

Crafting for Calm Workshop (Autumn Delights) – Saturday, October 6 – 9:00 am to Noon – Room 304.
Facilitator, Michelle Cole Luman

BRUU Congregational Covenant – Sundays – 1:00 to 2:30 PM – Lounge – Facilitator, Mike Cleay
Acceptance – October 7, Integrity – October 14, and Conflict Resolution – October 21

What We Choose: Ethics for Unitarian Universalists – Saturdays – 10:00 am to Noon – Conference Room.
3 Sessions – October 6, October 20, November 3. Facilitators, Kristin Worthington and Kelly Maitland

The New UU – Sundays – October 7, 14, 21, 28; November 4, 11
11:30 am to 1:30 PM – Room 304 – Facilitators, Kristin Worthington & Friends

You Are Amazing – Discover Why! – Part 2 The Biochemistry of Life – Tuesday, October 9
7:00 to 9:00 PM – Fellowship Hall. Facilitator, Frank Gregorio

“The Post” Movie – Tuesday, October 23 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM – Fellowship Hall. Facilitator Frank Gregorio

ELAINE PHILLIPS FETED AT HER 91ST BIRTHDAY

On Monday, September 10, at 1:30 PM, Elaine Phillips stepped into the Flamingo Lounge for the monthly BRUU SASS meeting, and instead of the usual “buzz”, she heard “happy birthday” sung with all levels and volumes of SASSy voices. The SASS group threw an old-fashioned surprise birthday party for her!

Lois Montgomery made a game-board sized birthday card (and guess where the game board came from?); she made the bow on the gift box out of a tie (and guess where the tie came from?); and she filled the box full with candy from the time period of Elaine’s birth. Susan Sinclair made the classic carrot cake ; Faye Sledge put up decorations; Cathy Ring brought home made trail mix (M&Ms with one peanut in the bowl); and Gwen Talbot and Bev Reusser brought ice cream. Besides the above mentioned women, SASS members in attendance were Martha Walsh, Cherie Romanek, Carol Covin, Victoria Gannon, Kathy Sobrio, Helen Elkin, and Mimi Costley at her first SASS meeting.

After Elaine opened the numerous birthday cards and the big box of candy, the SASSy gals were – finally – successful at getting Elaine to talk about her cats, and everyone wanted to know more. “Why don’t you present a nUUners program?”, we wanted to know.

Elaine is a cherished and loyal member of our SASS women’s group at BRUU. If Elaine says she will be there, you can take that to the bank. If Elaine says “this is what I think”, you know that she isn’t fooling with you. You may know her from her long-standing work with the USDA Food Pantry, but we SASS women know Elaine from her wonderfully quiet but deadly sense of humor, her wisdom, her uncommonly good sense, her graciousness and elegance, and the twinkle in her eye. We are the lucky ones. VIVA ELAINE! #vivaelaine #belikeelaine (Note: It’s not too late to send cards. Elaine’s 91st birthday is September 19th.)

submitted by Bev Reusser with photos by Cathy Ring and Bev Reusser



What Happened to the G's

The auction is fast approaching, **November 17**, so I hope everyone has marked that date on their calendar. The biggest change this year to the auction format is how the G category items, "Merchandise/Misc" will be handled.

1. G items with a minimum bid of **\$25 or more** will appear in the auction booklet, but all bidding for these items will take place using an online auction site. The donor will keep these items at home until the winning bidder has paid for the item. **These items will not be available the night of the auction.**
2. G items with a value of **less than \$25** will be placed on a fixed price table. The donor will place their item(s) on the table with a marked fixed price for each item. The purchaser can pay by cash or check at the table, or they can have the item added to their auction bill by filling out a simple form.

One reason for this change is to encourage BRUU members and friends to hold onto those G items for the next BRUU yard sale. We raised over \$2,000 at the last yard sale, so please hold onto those items for the BRUU yard sale in 2019.

Another change to the auction this year is a convenient payment option for the people who are currently making their pledge payments by automatic bank draft (ABD) through BB&T. They can simply indicate on their check out sheet that they want to pay by BB&T ABD. They can also specify if they would like the payment to occur on the 5th or 20th of December or some other month. Payments can also be spread out over several months.

See you at the auction.

Henry Hastings, Treasurer

Shenandoah Run at BRUU on 11/3/18!

Shenandoah Run's performances pay tribute to both vintage Americana and contemporary folk music, while their top-notch musicianship and soaring harmonies lure you in for that irresistible sing-along. Come spend some time with Shenandoah Run and experience "folk music with a kick."

Saturday, November 3
8:00pm at BRUU. Ticketing information forthcoming!

The Auction is Coming.... The Auction is Coming.... OMG... The Auction is Coming!!!

Still trying to get in that last hike or wine tour? Better hurry - time's passing fast! November 17th will be here before we know it!

Now is the time to be thinking about our annual BRUU Auction and the wonderful items you plan to submit. The online submission form is now accessible so please start thinking about great ideas for events, dinners, services, etc.



NEW THIS YEAR....

This is mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter with more detail, but in sum, we are trying something different this year with miscellaneous items (the G category). G items with a minimum bid of \$25 or more will appear in the auction booklet, but all bidding for these items will take place using an online auction site. G items with a value of less than \$25 will be placed on a fixed price table. Anything left over that evening will be donated to the BRUU Yard Sale.

Here's the time-line for getting your items in:

Oct 1-Oct 28 – Submit items for inclusion in Auction Booklet

Oct 21-Nov 17 – Online auction open – miscellaneous items

Nov 11 – Auction Booklet available for review

Nov 17 – Online auction closes 4:00

Nov 17 – Auction doors open at 5:00

And...we can't do this without your help! We need people to help set up/clean up, help with data collection, help manage food and drink, bring food to share, and those who can be helpers to newbies trying to figure this whole thing out. If you're able to help, please email Janette Muir, Auction Czarina, to sign up (jmuir@gmu.edu).



FROM ANNEASE

“To Live with an Open Heart” Evensong service October 19 at 7:30

Roger Housden said “When the heart opens, we forget ourselves and the world pours in.” How can we learn to live with an open heart? What will you allow to pour into yours? Join us for this contemplative service of music and personal reflections.

Piano Update – After much research and trying out different instruments, a new sanctuary piano has been purchased!! Hopefully it will be delivered sometime this month. We will have a recital to celebrate our new instrument, but date hasn’t been determined yet, so stay tuned.

Annease Hastings, Music Director

Annual Craft Fair will be held again at BRUU!

Saturday, December 1 (10-2pm) and Sunday December 2 (11-2pm) we are again having the annual Craft Fair.

Sign up for a 6ft. table now! It’s free if the profits are going to a legitimate BRUU fundraising cause.

Are you a crafter or vendor? Reserve your 6 ft. table space now! The cost for a 6 ft. table for both days is \$30/day or \$50 for both days.

In order to reserve a spot, email me your name, company or committee if applicable, dates signing up for and table sizes (1/2 tables are also available), what your craft or sales items are, and a contact phone number.

Reservations are on a first come basis. If you had a spot in past years that you liked, let me know so I can save it for you. Also let me know if you need access to an outlet. I will collect the monies the day of.

If you have friends that are crafters too, please let them know of this opportunity! For more information, contact Christine Sunda sundas3@aol.com

Yoga at BRUU

This past summer BRUU began renting the top floor Studio of our building to a Wellness company to hold a yoga session every Thursday morning at 10:00 am. The first/introductory session is FREE, and there is a discount when classes are pre-purchased. This class is appropriate for anyone interested, and able to climb the stairs to the top floor. Drop-in, or contact the instructor at Rebecca@PerpetualWellness.net with questions or further information

The Way I See It

I'm going to go straight to the point and venture to say that the membership of BRUU is pretty darned happy to have Rev. Charlotte here as our settled minister. One hundred and seventy-nine people (!) attended her first service in the pulpit – our annual ingathering celebration and water communion. And we just enjoyed the privilege of having our Central East Regional Lead, Rev. Megan Foley, facilitate Rev. Charlotte's Ministerial Start Up Workshop. Forty BRUUers set aside half of their Saturday in order to participate in this event – it allowed Rev. Charlotte to hear us reflect on our past, present, and aspired-to future, and gave her the chance to tell us more about herself, her call to ministry, and how she foresees her role as our spiritual leader.

Rev. Charlotte, it's great to have you with us and among us!!!

Another important date for setting our future course with Rev. Charlotte will be when we hold our Board of Directors retreat on October 20. I have the sense that everyone at BRUU wants to do everything they can to make Rev. Charlotte feel welcome, and well-integrated into our community. And I'd like to have all of our members feel that they are an essential part of this process.

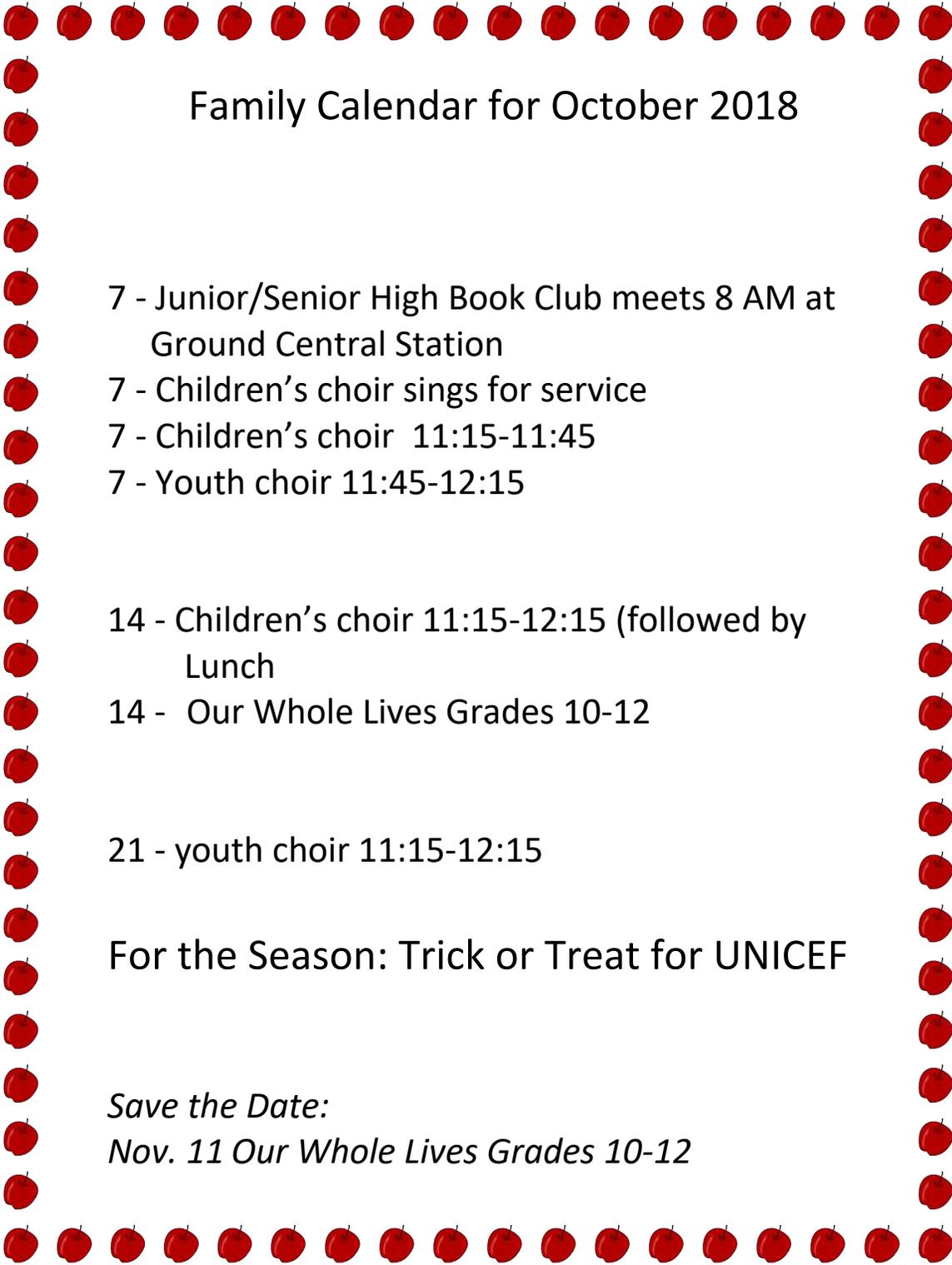
I believe that the main commitment that emerged from our Board retreat last year was to focus on fostering an environment for positive, open communications throughout BRUU. The Board set about to meet this obligation by dedicating ourselves to active conversations about important issues at BRUU, using a wide variety of methods. We carried out town hall meetings in October and February, encouraged efforts within the Program Council and elsewhere to update our websites, and highlighted ongoing dissemination of the Board's work on being intentional in translating our mission into effective programming.

We want to continue this focus on ample and effective communications, all the more so now that Rev. Charlotte has joined us. And we want to emerge from the Board retreat with goals and priorities for the coming year, especially regarding the mutual obligations between Rev. Charlotte and the Board on how we will go about making our joint vision for the future of BRUU a reality. If you have the time and inclination in the next couple of weeks, please:

- write to me or call me at the contacts listed below, or
- contact another member of the Board of your choosing,

to let us know what our commitments should be for the year ahead. We want to hear from you.

Art Muirhead, President, BRUU Board of Directors, president@bruu.org, 703-266-1949



Family Calendar for October 2018

7 - Junior/Senior High Book Club meets 8 AM at
Ground Central Station

7 - Children's choir sings for service

7 - Children's choir 11:15-11:45

7 - Youth choir 11:45-12:15

14 - Children's choir 11:15-12:15 (followed by
Lunch

14 - Our Whole Lives Grades 10-12

21 - youth choir 11:15-12:15

For the Season: Trick or Treat for UNICEF

Save the Date:

Nov. 11 Our Whole Lives Grades 10-12

From our DRE

“The best way to capture moments is to pay attention. This is how we cultivate mindfulness. Mindfulness means being awake. It means knowing what you are doing.” ~Jon Kabat-Zinn

Mindfulness brings calm and clarity to our minds while navigating life’s difficulties and brings about an appreciation of the joys. Being mindful allows us to experience the current moment, without our emotional history coloring our perceptions. Mindfulness and compassion go hand in hand. The more aware we are, the easier it is to respond, rather than react. It encourages us to listen, instead of talk; to think & learn instead of assume. With this tool, our children and youth can be more compassionate to towards themselves, encouraging a happier community, and a healthier world.

Our children and youth began mindfulness practices this month in their RE Small Groups. To start, we are focusing on body awareness, leading “body scans” and breathing exercises written especially for each age group. There has been a little wiggly-ness – it’s tough to slow down all those thoughts all of a sudden! – but, for the most part, the activities have been well received by the kids and are a welcome pause. When I was a children’s yoga teacher, I found that the relaxation portion was looked forward to most. Our young ones have so much energy and are asked to pay attention to a lot of external information all day long. It was such a relief for them to have the opportunity to turn it all off and just simply breathe. Each of BRUU’s RE groups will practice one activity for a month or so in order to become more familiar and comfortable with the practice. We encourage practicing at home and are offering for the children to lead their peers in a relaxation once they feel ready.

This is one of my favorite ways to reset my day, every day. Do you ever find yourself standing in line? While there, don’t peek at which celebrity is secretly pregnant or tap your foot hoping it will get you out of there more quickly. Notice your feet touching the ground below you. Bring all your attention to your breath entering your body and exiting. Allow your belly to fill as you inhale, and slowly push the air out. Those couple of minutes suddenly transform into a well-deserved break. You might find yourself allowing others to jump in line in front of you!

Blessings,
Kristin Worthington
Director of Religious Education





Fellowship – Activities News

Liesl Main, chair

The BRUU BBQ was a great success even with the rain! Thanks to everyone who helped make this happen... all the delicious food that you brought, those who helped set up, clean up and most of all a HUGE thanks to Tony and Walt who cooked close to two hundred hamburgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers in the pouring rain!

Fellowship – Activities Committee Meeting – Sunday, October 7th (and first Sundays of the month) Join us for our Fellowship Meeting in the Conference Room from 11:15am to noon. New members are welcome! We will be discussing next spring 2019's activities. Come help plan out the fun events at BRUU! If you'd like to run BRUU's Fall Movie night you get to pick the genre (drama, comedy or whatever!!), the date, and the time! Just let Liesl know!

(activities@BRUU.org) Finally, if you want to be on the Fellowship email list (we share upcoming events and send out calls for help... like setting something up, or bringing something that is needed for a BRUU event), just send an email to fellowship@BRUU.org and let Liesl know that you want to be added to the Fellowship email list. (We email about once every 3–4 weeks or so.)

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We have a lot of fun events coming up at BRUU this Fall and into next year! Be sure to save the date for these activities!

- **Circle Dinners** – Sign-ups in mid to late September with meals/get-togethers in October.
- **Evensong** – October 19th 7:30pm
- **BRUU Boo Sat.** Oct. 27th 4–7pm (Families) – (POC Lisa Stewart)
- **Sherman Adult Retreat** Oct. 26th –28 (POC Janette Muir) – Country Inn Berkeley Springs, WV
- **Shenadoah Run Concert** – Nov. 3rd 7:00 PM (POC Janette Muir)
- **BRUU Auction** – (POC Janette Muir) Saturday, Nov. 17th
- **BRUU Thanksgiving Meal**, Thurs. Nov. 22nd (POC Mary Kadlubowski)
- **Craft Fair** – Dec. 1st and 2nd, 2018 Fellowship Hall (POC Christine Sunda)
- **Children’s Christmas Party** Sat. Dec. 1st, 1pm–3pm (3rd Floor Rooms) (POC Lisa Stewart)
- **Holiday Service Sunday**, Dec. 16th
- **BRUU Games Night** – Sat. Jan. 12, 2019 5–8pm
- **Evensong** – Jan. 25, 7:30pm • **Variety Show** – Feb. 9th
- **Thank you for pledging dinner**, Feb. 23rd
- **History/Cultural Fair** -- Bring an ethnic dessert to add to Soup 4 Social Justice! (Probably 4th Sunday in February 2019)
- **Evensong** – March 8, 7:30pm
- **Rev. Charlotte’s Installation** – March 23
- **Stewardship Stew Lunch**, April 14th
- **Evensong** – April 26, 7:30pm

BRUU Board of Directors: September 2018 Meeting Highlights

Bev Reusser, this year's Stewardship Chair, briefed the Board on planned activities for the coming year. The overall goal for our annual campaign will be to use a variety of approaches to encourage year-round awareness about stewardship. This will extend to sermon topics, meetings with committees, articles in our newsletters, a "Thank You for Pledging Dinner" in February for everyone who contributed to the past year's campaign, and a "Stewardship Stew" luncheon to celebrate the end of the canvass. The Board expressed its appreciation to Bev and the Stewardship Team for their hard work on developing the calendar of activities for this year, and for taking a creative approach toward promoting stewardship.

In order to take advantage of the offer of a directed donation by Cathy Ring and Charlie Grymes, the Board discussed the formation of a Volunteer Leadership Training and Development Program, and the appointment of a Leadership Development Team (LDT) to be tasked with implementing this program. A working group of Board members met on September 4 to review a draft scope paper designed to outline steps needed to implement the program, a timeline for activities, and measures of effectiveness. The full Board commented on the draft scope paper and agreed to several refinements, in particular regarding timelines, potential membership of the LDT, and the process for assessing the effectiveness of the program in the long term. Board members agreed that the next step should be to convene a meeting of the donors, interested Board members, and a core group of stakeholders (to include the Nominating and Membership Committees). The anticipated outcome of this meeting will be constituting an LDT that will be able to carry this work forward.

Rev. Charlotte led a discussion of the process necessary for the formation of a new Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM). The Board reviewed the functioning of previous COSMs at BRUU, and lessons learned from this experience. Rev. Charlotte provided her views on the appropriate mandate and notional attributes of members of the COSM – this would incorporate some aspects of the model developed by Robert Latham (available on the UUA website). Board members agreed to provide Rev. Charlotte with input on potential membership of the COSM within the next few days, and further discussion on constituting this committee will take place at the next Board meeting.

The next Board meeting will be held on October 9, 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
president@bruu.org
703-266-1949



"Now is the Time" will be a monthly column dedicated to stewardship,
by various contributing authors



NOW IS THE TIME

TO RECONNECT, REGROUP, COALESCE AND COME TOGETHER

Transitions.

This time of year has always been melancholy for me. It's the end of summer which is a freer time for my family. Summer is filled with long days, vacations, lake visits, and lazy days for my kids. It's back to school and a routine. Early mornings, commuting, activities, homework and the faster pace of another school year. Another summer over, shorter days ahead. This fall has been a time of especially important transitions for my family. My older daughter, Emma is off to her freshman year of college and my younger daughter, Hannah is experiencing a taste of being the only child still at home without her sister. I am learning to let go (a process!) and trust that my kids have the foundation they need to be happy in their lives. We are all growing and learning in this season of change.

"Life is change, growth is optional. Choose wisely." – Karen Kaiser Clark

Amongst all this change there is also the comfort that the fall brings back a certain rhythm to our family's days. Where summer is a time for adventure and travel, fall is a time for homecoming, reflection and reconnection. I see it at church too. We are all returning to start another church year excited to welcome our new settled minister. We're bringing our individual energy and light to our church community. In our water communion, which serves as our ingathering for the beginning of our church season, we merge all our collected water into one. We're coming together to create something larger and shared out of the parts we each bring. We're creating a sacred community.

The first water ritual was part of a worship service in Lansing, MI in 1980. The worship was conducted by Lucile Shuck Longview and Carolyn MacDade. This is an excerpt of what they said the significance of the service was;

Celebrating now our connectedness, we choose water as our symbol of our empowerment. As rivers in cycle release their waters and regain new beginnings, so do we cycle... these beginnings are powerful, but not easy. But still we come to create and to celebrate and to live by the only spirituality worthy of our devotion—a spirituality that uplifts, empowers and connects.

What do you bring to our community? What element can you share? What can you add to the greater whole? I'm excited to find out together.

Heather Berthold

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS AND EVENTS IN OUR AREA

The world is experiencing the largest refugee crises on record, with more than 68.5 million displaced people. The current administration recently announced it will resettle the lowest number ever set by a U.S. president, 30,000 refugees. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) was founded in 1939 to aid refugees escaping Nazi persecution in Europe. That same year, the U.S. Congress voted down legislation that could have protected 20,000 Jewish refugee children, leaving many to perish in the Holocaust. Our responsibilities to one another, to affirm the dignity and worth of all human beings, do not stop at our borders; they encompass the whole human family. As Congress debates spending bills that would increase funds for detention and deportation, here's some advocacy tools courtesy of the UUSC.

1. Call your members of Congress Call 866-940-2439 and ask to be connected to your Representatives or Senators. Here is a sample script: *"Hello, my name is [first and last name], and I am your constituent from [city / town]. I'm calling to ask you to withhold funding for immigration detention, deportation, and "zero tolerance" prosecutions of immigrants in this year's spending bills. Instead, I urge you to direct these funds to community-based alternatives to detention, as well as refugee-related accounts that promote human rights. Detaining and separating families, and prosecuting asylum-seekers are violations of human rights, as well as of my principles as a person of faith and conscience. I ask you not to support these injustices."*

2. Write a letter to your Senator or Representative telling them why you oppose funding increases for detention and deportation. Here is a sample letter – please personalize:

"I'm deeply concerned that Congress is considering spending bills that would increase funding for agencies that detain, deport, and prosecute immigrants. Especially in the wake of Trump's family separation policy that traumatized thousands of children, it is unconscionable to think of using taxpayer resources—of which immigrant members of our communities contribute a substantial share—to tear apart more parents and children.

Recent news reports indicate that ICE is lobbying for a sharp funding increase in shorter-term spending measures—even after Congress allowed ICE to reprogram money from federal emergency management to expand detention last year. These policies reflect a pattern of recklessly overspending in order to justify future funding increases. As a result, new funding for immigration enforcement may be used in the near future to detain children and deport TPS holders—many of whom have been part of our communities for decades and have children who are U.S. citizens.

Children and their families belong together in freedom—not separated, deported, or caged. As your constituent, I ask you to bring this year's spending bills in line with our deeper values. Instead of funding detention and separation, I ask Congress to fund community-based alternatives to detention and refugee-related programs that protect human rights."