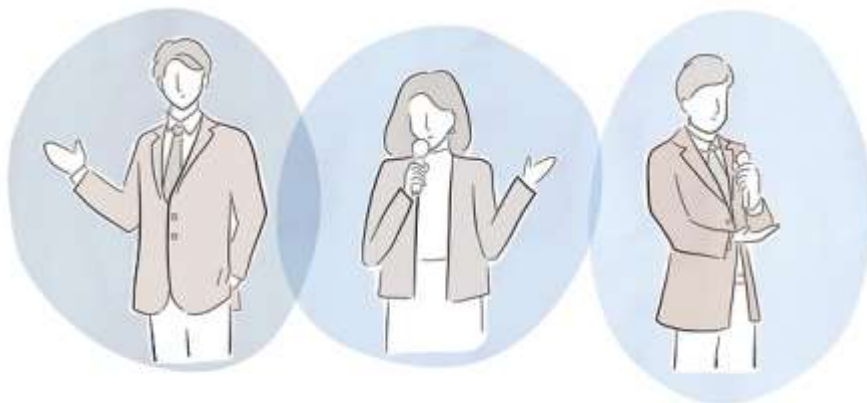




BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

September 2025
Volume 43, Issue 9

Crossroads



*Share your vision for the future of BRUU's ministry—
check out From the President's Desk for more.*



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The monthly BRUU Newsletter

September Services

September 7: Ingathering & Water Communion officiated by Annaliess Trommatter & Jennifer Malos. The service will include a new member recognition. Congregants are encouraged to bring water samples from their life experiences since our last gathering of waters.

September 14: A Profane History of Earth and Humanity presented by Dr. Ian Fitzsimmons.

September 21: Cosmic Symbolism of the Autumnal Equinox led by Gigi LaRosa. The Autumnal Equinox is a powerful time of balance between light and darkness filled with rich symbolism. Using an astrological lens and archetypal imagery from the tarot, this service will share the story of The Fools Journey and invite a time for pausing, reflecting, and releasing what no longer serves us.

September 28: Kindle the Light led by Star & Janette Muir.

From the President's Desk

Josh Rachford, President, Board of Directors

From the President's Desk

Soon the church year will start. Starting in the fall – it feels sometimes like we are always starting. We start the calendar year in January. In spring, new plants arriving feel like a start to the natural year. In fall, the church and school years start. Start, start, start, start...when will it end?

Starting is often the easy part. Getting dropped off at college? Easy. The weeks of homesickness that follow? Not as much. First day training for a triathlon? Exciting. Driving to the gym to swim in February? Less so.

If we are to transform – and not merely mark time – starting and then persevering are still not enough. Transformation also means letting go of what no longer serves us: practices, processes, habits, behaviors, attitudes, beliefs, you name it.

The UUA's Article II wording on transformation begins “we adapt to the changing world. We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically.” Transformation is what makes our living tradition truly living. It's what enables us to survive or even thrive in a changing environment.

As we start – and sustain – important efforts like our ministerial search, strengthening our leadership pipeline, or assessing options for our building's future, we should also consider what habits of mind and action no longer help us.

For example, I once heard a story that in an annual event's *second ever year* someone objected to an idea because “that's not how we've always done it.” We should absolutely learn from experience and continue what works, but “how we've always done it” holds no weight on its own, and definitely should not be an automatic reflex.

Or consider your approach to interpersonal conflict and whether it aligns with our covenant. Consider whether your reaction leans more to “someone

President's Desk, continued

Josh Rachford, President, Board of Directors

should fix this” or to “how can I help fix this?” Consider whether you think of BRUU as a collection of individuals or as one community.

Community Spotlight

Jennifer Malos, our representative to the UUA’s General Assembly this year, shared ideas for growth and transformation coming out of GA with the Board. We plan to share her report with you in the coming weeks.

Thank you to Star Muir for agreeing to help lead the Worship Committee. As many of you know, he previously held this role for nine years. When a new leader for Worship emerges over the coming year, Star can serve as an experienced mentor.

Looking Ahead

Opportunities for growth and transformation are coming. Stewardship season is just around the corner. We do need one individual to be a Stewardship Convener and take on running the campaign this year. But this is also an opportunity to transform our mentality from scarcity to collective abundance. Let’s ask ourselves how we want to grow in generosity, what change we want to make in ourselves and in the community, and what it will take to get there. If we want a full-time minister, we will need to provide for one. If we want our building to last and to serve us well, we need to provide funds to care for it.

Call to Action

Thank you to everyone who attended the August Town Hall. I’m glad we started the conversation on our shared vision for ministry – as we transform ourselves and adapt to the changing world, so must our ministry adapt. Especially with a search for a minister underway, knowing what our congregation aspires to achieve in ministry is an important guide. Please consider the questions raised at the Town Hall and share your [input via this online form](#).

Board in Action

Your Board's role, as defined in our bylaws, is to serve BRUU by guiding our vision and direction, supporting our operational assets including staff, monitoring our institutional assets like our building and endowments, and establishing policies that further our mission. This month's meeting focused on several key areas where we're moving from planning into concrete action.

Key Decisions This Month

Safety Task Force Officially Formed

The Board unanimously approved the creation of our Safety Task Force, comprised of Miles Foster, John Calvin, and Jennifer Malos. Their mission is comprehensive: reviewing our Safe Congregation Manual, evaluating our security systems, identifying immediate safety concerns through conversations with staff and congregation members, and proposing solutions with associated costs. They'll report back to the Board by November 20th. This represents our commitment to creating a safe space for all who enter our doors.

Staff Support Structure Strengthened

We welcomed Rebecca Link as our new Personnel Chair, who will also serve as Staff Coordinator. Rebecca will function as a vital liaison between our staff and Board, oversee personnel documentation, provide training support, and ensure proper document storage. This new position demonstrates our commitment to supporting the people who make BRUU's daily operations possible.

Building Projects Moving Forward

Our roof replacement project is proceeding - papers will be signed in early September and work will begin. We're also gathering data for longer-term building decisions: HVAC replacement for the Education Wing would cost approximately \$150-160K, while comparable space elsewhere might cost \$3-10M. These numbers help inform the building assessment conversation underway.

Board in Action, Continued

Looking Ahead

The Board continues working on several fronts that will shape BRUU's future. We would like all committees to have clear, up-to-date charters to clarify each group's rights and responsibilities - essential infrastructure for the leadership development we've been discussing. We're also beginning to identify leadership for our upcoming stewardship campaign.

Get Involved

Contact Nina Lomax or Josh Rachford with ideas for Stewardship Campaign leadership.

Your Board meets monthly to handle both immediate needs and long-term planning. Every decision we make is guided by our mantra: a safe community for seeking and service.

Our Commitment to the Congregation for BRUU's Ministerial Search

BRUU Search Committee

It is required for all searching congregations, searching ministers, and those who assist congregations and ministers in the search process to covenant with one another for a fair and responsible search process. This centers a key component of our Unitarian Universalist faith, the sacred promises we make to one another, in the vital work of ministry search.

As your **Search Committee representing the congregation** and searching for a minister we **covenant** to:

Serve our congregation to the best of our ability, realizing, both as a group and individually, we represent the face of our congregation and community in the ministerial search process, and the collected input of this community. We will represent our congregation with forthright honesty, care, compassion, and respect.

Honor a minister's needs to follow the guidelines for the UUMA (regardless of membership), if applicable.

Inform and work with the UUA Transitions Office and regional staff throughout the transitional process, as needed.

Provide appropriate support to prospective candidates as they visit BRUU.

Understand the need for fairness in the candidacy process and the importance of confidentiality in how we work as a committee and with specific candidates.

Focus on transparency with the congregation with regular communication updates as appropriate.

Our Commitment to the Congregation for BRUU's Ministerial Search, Continued

BRUU Search Committee

In our **work together as a committee**, we also **covenant with each other**. As we seek our next shared ministry partner, the following principles guide our work:

Respectful Communication: We commit to compassionate and radical transparency and candor with one another, assuming good intentions always.

Decision-Making & Consensus: We will establish an inclusive decision-making process and commit to presenting our decisions with a single, unified voice. Our goal is consensus, and we will not put forward a final candidate decision unless at least five members support it.

Accountability & Responsibility: We will share our work equitably, recognizing and appreciating the unique perspective and gifts each person brings to the process. We are committed to supporting one another by respecting the need for rest and boundaries, and by creating an environment where we can both offer grace and ask for help.

Confidentiality & Transparency: To ensure a fair and confidential search process, we will speak only as a group and share only official updates. We commit to protecting all candidate information while they are under consideration, and no individual updates will be given without the group's approval.

Handling Conflict: We will treat one another with respect, viewing any conflict as an opportunity for growth and deeper relationship. We are committed to deep listening and to the work of repair when we cause

Our Commitment to the Congregation for BRUU's Ministerial Search, Continued

BRUU Search Committee

harm, setting aside defensiveness and denial to focus on restoration.

Spiritual Grounding: We will begin our meetings with a chalice lighting and a relevant reading to frame our work. We will approach this work with humility and grace relishing our time together, and honoring the trust the congregation has placed in us. As we consider various candidates, we will look for the spiritual essence that grounds each prospective leader, and strive to respect the spiritual path they embrace.

We value the trust the congregation has placed in us and we welcome your input and comments throughout the search process. Please reach out to any member of the Search Committee if you have any questions or comments you'd like to share. You can reach our committee at: search@bruu.org.

Search Committee Members:

Joshua LaRosa, Chair

Owen Davies

Helen Elkin

TJ Maile

Janette Muir

Chris McClure

Rita Romano

Y'all Come – Make a Difference on October 19

BRUU is an active member of VOICE (<https://voice-va.org/>), along with about 40 other faith groups in Northern Virginia, because organized people and organized money is necessary if we want to enhance social justice. BRUUsers can engage in many different ways – and the next opportunity is really simple. On October 19, VOICE is packing people into a large church sanctuary so we impress the invited candidates for election, including the next governor, that action is needed to address the shortage of affordable housing. Our role is easy – show up and help fill the space, so the politicians know that a critical mass of people really care. The VOICE Team of BRUU's Social Justice Committee committed to bring 30 people.



Mark your calendar. The "Homes for All Assembly" will be on October 19, 3:30-5:00pm at Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Rd, Herndon, VA 20171.

(For more info, contact the VOICE Team at voice@bruu.org)

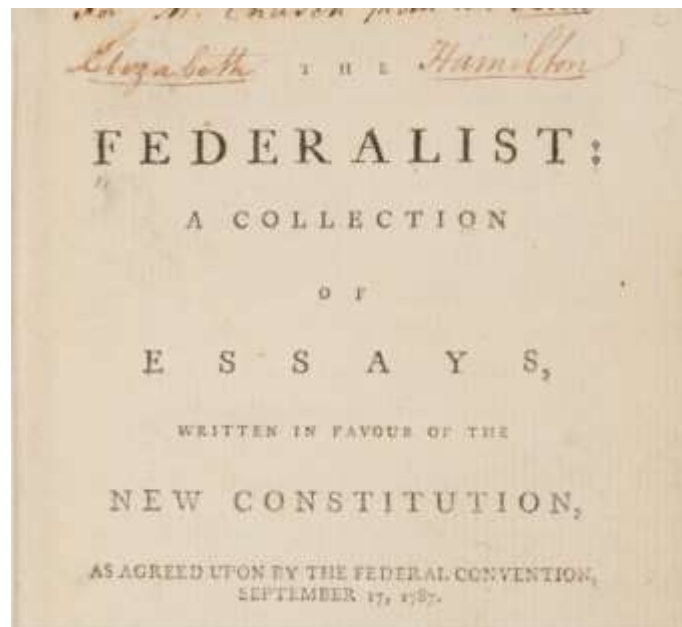
Book Group is Reading Federalist #10

We are reading Federalist Paper #10 (<https://guides.loc.gov/federalist-papers/text-1-10>) for our meeting on September 15.

We gather by Zoom from 3:00-4:30pm. New book group members are welcome – contact Susan Gregorio at bookgroup@bruu.org to get Zoom link. This month the discussion will focus more on the content of the reading, rather than the writer's style or ability to craft characters and advance the plot. It's a short read, but a deep topic.

The folks who created a new form of government in 1787 – "a democracy, if you can keep it" – could not anticipate all the challenges. We'll talk about their foresight, how the system has adapted to different stresses over 237 years, and what's the context for today's challenges.

Thomas Paine wrote (in language that does not reflect gender equality) a decade before Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison produced the Federalist Papers: "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman..."



BRUU Auction News



SAVE THE DATE! **BRUU's 2025 Annual Auction:** ***It Takes A Village***



The theme for the 2025 Auction is *It Takes A Village*..... This year's theme celebrates the collective spirit that defines BRUU. Just as our community thrives through shared talents and collaboration, so too does the Auction—it takes a *Village* to plan, donate, and participate. Together, we create something truly special.

Key Dates:

- 22 September: Auction web page opens & we start accepting donations
- 12 October: Last day to donate auction items
- 20 October: Online Auction is open for bidding
- 1 November: Live Auction at BRUU (doors open at 4:30 PM)
- 9 November: Last day to bid for Online Auction items
- 30 November (NLT): Please pay you auction bill

There are many reasons why the auction is such a great event. The auction is an opportunity to strengthen & build connections within our community, an opportunity to generate resources for our congregation, and the auction reflects what can be achieved when our *Village* works together.

So many questions to answer, things to do and things and things to think about:

- Who will be offering dinners, activities or vacay lodgings?
- When will the Sign-Up sheets get posted?
- What items will be available (jewelry?, instruments?, LEMON CURD?)

Details for this fun and exciting event will be posted in Crossroads & Round Up!

Stop by the Auction Q&A Table during coffee hour to discuss ideas for auction items, review catalogs from previous auctions or get assistance with registration.

Please contact Scott Maile if you are interested in being part of the Auction Planning Team.

Membership News

We welcomed 9 participants to the New To BRUU class on 8/17. Lots of love and sharing all around.

Next class will be 9/21 in the conference room 11:30. Email membership@bruu.org to reserve your spot.

New Member Recognition will be part of the 9/7 Ingathering Service. It's been a while so please contact membership to be formally introduced to your chosen community if you have not have the opportunity.

Look out for an updated paper DIRECTORY soon!!!! Very soon!!!!

We had a great time at our OUTREACH tables recently. Our next events are 10/4 Saturday at the Manassas Fall Jubilee. Looking for vibrant energetic volunteers to staff/ face paint/ elevator pitch for a couple of hours.

AND...12/6 the Greater Manassas Christmas Parade. We have a flat bed, musicians, a Grinch. Theme is Elfin' Around Town. Need creative leads! And lots of participants

Membership meetings via Zoom 4th Wednesdays at 7. Join us?

Nina, Terrie, Cathy R, Robin, Kaylee, Bridgett, Gary

An Adult Fall Retreat for the Soul



Join us for a weekend of **spiritual renewal and community** at the beautiful Cacapon Resort State Park in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. From Friday, November 7 to Sunday, November 9, 2025, we'll reconnect with ourselves, each other, and the natural world as the vibrant colors of autumn give

way to the quiet beauty of late fall.

Our retreat will focus on the theme of **"Light our Chalice through the dark."** We'll explore how we can restore and fortify our light and how we can use it as a foundation for reaching out to create a



practices, and shared meals, we'll build a deeper understanding of ourselves, our faith and our call to action.

Cacapon Resort State Park <https://wvstateparks.com/cacapon-resort-state-park/> provides a peaceful and scenic setting for our weekend. Situated at the base of Cacapon Mountain, the park features an expansive lodge, cozy cabins, and breathtaking views. It's an ideal spot to hike, relax, and reflect. You can enjoy the crisp mountain air on many trails, find a quiet place by a fireplace to read, or simply enjoy the fellowship of fellow UUs.

We will build a worship together to share on Sunday and with the BRUU community later in the year. This retreat is a chance to **step away from the everyday bustle** and immerse yourself in a supportive, mindful community with an intentional purpose. We'll have opportunities for both structured discussion and unstructured personal time, allowing you to



Adult Fall Retreat, continued

tailor the weekend to your own needs for rest and rejuvenation.

Registration Details:

<https://event.auctria.com/o3foe888-ae73-40af-a829-582241aa5fed/>

Estimated cost for the weekend \$550.00

Cost and What's Included:

Meals \$135

Friday Dinner

Saturday Lunch and Dinner

Breakfast not included restaurant available

Accommodations:

Double Queen Room \$159/night x 2 nights= \$318

King Room \$189/night x 2 nights= \$378

Queen Room \$120/night x 2 nights= \$240

4 person cabin \$190/night x 2 nights= \$380

There is some financial assistance available

Consider donating to the financial assistance fund when you register.



Schedule:

• Friday:

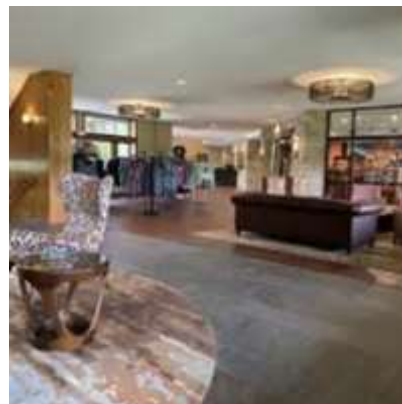
- Check-in (As early as 3:30)
- Welcome dinner, followed by an opening circle and program description. Free time for socializing and open fire pit.

○ Saturday:

- Breakfast on your own
- Morning workshop 1

Adult Fall Retreat, continued

- o Morning Workshop 2
- o break for lunch and Chalice Building
- o Afternoon workshop Music
- o Chalice Building
- o Free time
- o Dinner
- o Socializing a singing at the fire pit.



Sunday: A final worship service or closing circle, followed by breakfast and check-out.

What to Bring:

- comfortable clothes for workshops,
- layers for the November mountain weather,
- hiking shoes if you wish to hike

About the Park:

- Independent activities are available during free time. Additional fees may apply,
- Spa appointments fill up fast and usually require scheduling a month ahead of time.

There is a pool and fitness room.

Deadlines and informational meetings:

- September 14 Informational meeting.
- September 28th Final and full payment due.

BRUU Sangha

New Meditation Classes & Additional Teacher This Fall

The BRUU Sangha has planned a path of learning for the fall and has some significant changes ahead. This fall the Sangha will learn about, the four boundless qualities of the heart In Buddhist practice. The four practices we will explore in four sessions are listed below. In these sessions we'll learn emotional resilience, deepen our connection with others, and bring steadiness to life's joys and challenges. Through guided meditations, reflection, and group discussion, you'll have the opportunity to experience each heart quality directly and consider how to weave them into your daily life.

1. Loving-kindness: September

- o The wish for others to be happy and well.
- o It is unconditional goodwill, offered equally to oneself, loved ones, strangers, and even difficult people.
- o It counters ill-will, anger, and hatred.

2. Compassion: October

- o The wish for others to be free from suffering.
- o Compassion arises when one sees suffering and responds with care and a desire to help.
- o It counters cruelty and indifference.

3. Sympathetic Joy: November

- o The capacity to rejoice in the happiness, success, and virtues of others.
- o Instead of envy or jealousy, it cultivates delight in the good fortune of others.
- o It counters resentment and competitiveness.

BRUU Sangha, continued

4. Equanimity: December

- o A balanced, calm, and even-minded acceptance of life's ups and downs.
- o It does not mean indifference, but rather wisdom that recognizes all beings are owners of their actions (karma).
- o It counters attachment and aversion, creating steadiness of mind

The significant change that we will have is the addition of a second teacher, Anna Penna, on the third Thursday of each month. She will add to the teachings that Ann Deschamps does on the first Thursdays of each month. Anna has been a practitioner of mindfulness meditation for close to 10 years, having found her teachers in Joseph Goldstein, Sharon Salzberg, and Shell Fisher. She has also used her RYT500 certification in yoga to combine mindful movement and meditation, teaching free offerings in Hatha yoga and Chair yoga through Fauquier County Parks and Rec. Anna is an anesthesiologist in private practice.

Also, starting in September we plan to make the first & third Thursdays available by Zoom again. Special thanks to Mike Freeland for helping to resolve the technical problem that we had with our current Zoom configuration. In the future we would like to upgrade our AV configuration.

The classes & meditations led by Ann and Anna will start at 7:00 PM and will be in the **Flamingo Lounge**. Please arrive several minutes before the start time of 7:00 PM. If you have not attended a prior BRUU Sangha gathering, please send an email to Sangha@BRUU.ORG to express your interest in attending and to get necessary information for access to the building.

A dana basket will be there for generosity to the Sangha. Online generosity can be expressed at Zelle using bookkeeper@bruu.org or Paypal using the following link <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/BullRunUU> . In the memo lines note BRUU Sangha.

Summary of General Assembly 2025

The 63rd Unitarian Universalist General Assembly 2025 was held at the Baltimore Convention Center 18-22 June. There were inspirational services demonstrating the vibrancy of UUism, adoption of calls to social action, and a wealth of information on many topics affecting UUs today. This is a summary of my experiences at GA 2025 following a Worship-centric discussion path to provided guidance during BRUU's search for a new minister.

General Assembly 2025 had its first contested election for the Moderator position in several years. Co-moderators Rev Kimberly Quinn Johnson and Bill Young were elected for a two-year term. Board of Trustee, Commission on Appraisal, and Nominating Committee members were confirmed in uncontested elections.

The collective social witness process of the UUA adopted statements to pursue over the coming years in two categories: Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs) and Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs). The purpose of the CSAI is to provide congregations with an opportunity to mobilize energy, ideas, and resources around a common issue. After a three-year period for study, reflection, and action, the UUA should gain a deeper understanding of the UU religious position on the issue, a clear statement of UUA policy expressed in a Statement of Conscience (SOC), and a greater capacity for congregations to take effective action. AIWs are used by congregations in local efforts and empower them to take action and recommend action through other departments of the UUA and other UU groups.

Over the next three years, BRUU will need to determine how it will answer the call of the CSAI: Abolition, Transformation, and Faith Formation – focusing on transformative change to the industrial prison complex and promotion of reformation over retribution. Additionally, how will BRUU take action in accordance with the three adopted AIWs:

GA 2025, Continued

We Declare and Affirm: Immigrants Are People Who Have Inherent Worth and Inalienable Rights

Faithful Defiance of Authoritarianism: Reaffirming Our Covenants for Democracy and Freedom

Defending LGBTIQ Freedom Amid Funding Crisis: A Call for Global Solidarity

Kicking off BRUU's discussion of these topics and offering suggestions on how to get involved, a class at the September ALE session will be offered.

Over the next few years, the UUA Bylaws will be revised using a wave process: Study (Year 1) -> Develop (Year 2) -> Vote -> Implement (Year 3). This process is also applied within cohorts on multiple topics. Wave Cohorts were designed to bring thought leaders together to discuss challenges facing the UU faith today and find opportunities for betterment through analysis, plan development, and plan implementation.

One Wave Cohort was focused on Worship— The Collective Practice of Meaning Making. Through small group discussion over several proposed questions, commonalities were realized between large and small congregations. The following conclusions came out of these discussions:

Our services must fortify our congregants to take on the challenges of life, to battle loneliness and isolationism, and provide a community to act.

We need to combat hyper-individualism to enact communal transformation

We need to integrate the under-34 congregants better

Music is important

Congregants are looking for practices and rituals embodied throughout the church

As a final investigation into updated Worship practices, Rev Crestwell from

GA 2025, Continued

UUC-Annapolis provided a service/seminar on philosophy he employs in his services that have helped to grow his congregation by 150 people in the last two years. He provided the following guidance:

New UUism is vibrant and expressive

UUism is astrotheological meaning we must incorporate those roots to Earth wherever possible

Service must start and end with joy, even when tackling serious subjects

People are fundamentally changed when the Right brain is engaged

Music is half of the service and should act as its soundtrack throughout

Integrate the under-34 congregants wherever possible

In Search Of...

Can you take pictures? BRUU Communications Team is seeking people to provide images for the Crossroads newsletter and to populate our Flickr account (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/bullrunuu/>).



We're also searching for folks to submit short articles highlighting BRUU events that are coming up, or reporting on events that we just experienced. If you went to an Auction event, a BRUU committee meeting, a rally, a hike, an ALE class, etc., it would be great to share the experience in 1-3 paragraphs (or more...).

Help illuminate what we do a BRUU, and provide context for BRUUers who might choose to participate the next time a similar event is scheduled. You can contact us at communications@bruu.org

Events At & Around BRUU

Fall Fun Fix the Building Day!

On Saturday, September 6th, we're having our humongous fun fall work day. Come between 9:30 & 3 pm to make our sacred building all spiffy for the new church year—and also for the in-gathering and water ceremony the next day! We'll have jobs for all skill levels from cleaning to carpentry, but our biggest project is to paint the office. This is a great way to give back to BRUU with only a few hour commitment and get to bond with people too! Come for as long as you can, supervised kids welcome & pizza lunch provided. Questions or RSVP send to Christine Sunda at workday@bruu.org.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sunday, August 31, 2025 11:30 am

Join us for ice cream and mingling

Bring your favorite ice cream and toppings

POC Mary Kadlubowski

Fellowship@Bruu.org



REGISTER NOW!



SAT, SEPT 20
1-4 PM

**ACTIVE BYSTANDER
TRAINING**

**LEARN HOW TO RECOGNIZE WHEN AN
UNCOMFORTABLE OR DANGEROUS SITUATION
IS TAKING PLACE. GAIN SIMPLE, EFFECTIVE
TECHNIQUES TO RESPOND.**

dre@bruu.org

THIS YEAR OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
RE PROGRAM TRANSFORMS INTO

DISCOVERY PATHS

FOR AGES
8-17

**PLAYFUL, CREATIVE, DEEPLY
ROOTED SPACES FOR FAITH EXPLORATION.**

YOUNG PEOPLE WILL ENGAGE THROUGH OUR DISCOVERY PATHS,
CHOOSING HOW THEY WANT TO EXPLORE BIG QUESTIONS, CONNECT
WITH COMMUNITY, AND GROW IN THEIR OWN UNIQUE WAYS.
EACH CHILD IS INVITED TO DISCOVER AND NUTURE THE SPARK
WITHIN - AND TO SEE THAT SPARK REFLECTED IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

ART:

**EXPLORE YOURSELF
AND THE WORLD
AROUND YOU WITH
VISUAL ART**

**EACH WEEK YOU WILL
LEARN ABOUT AN ARTIST,
WORK OF ART, AND A
TECHNIQUE - WHILE
CONSIDERING BIG
QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT
MATTERS**

SERVICE:

**EXPERIENTIAL
COMMUNITY
SERVICE**

**YOU WILL VISIT WITH
COMMUNITY EXPERTS,
AND WORK FOR GOOD**

FAITHS:

**AN INVITATION TO
RITUAL, ACTIVITIES,
SENSORY
EXPERIENCES**

**LEARN ABOUT AND VISIT
THE WORSHIP OF FAITHS
IN OUR COMMUNITY. DIVE
INTO WHAT YOUR OWN
FAITH BELIEFS ARE.**

SEPT 14

**SEPT 14
10-11:30**

**FIRST DAY OF RE
ALL AGES HELD IN CHAPEL**

**SEPT 21
11:30-12:30**

**PARENT CHILD OPEN HOUSE
LEARN ABOUT THE ACTIVITY
CHOICES, FULL SCHEDULE AND
MORE!**

WANTED:

ADULT VOLUNTEERS

**TO HELP GUIDE OUR YOUTH
ON THEIR PATHS**

**PERKS INCLUDE SUPPORTIVE
TEAMMATES, ENGAGING
ACTIVITIES
PERSONAL GROWTH & FUN!**

Contact: dre@bruu.org

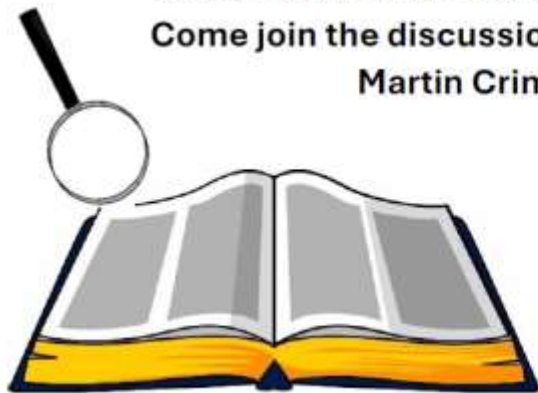
**BRUU's Biblical Discussion Group:
SEPTEMBER 7, SUNDAY, 9:00 AM in the Flamingo Lounge**

IS JESUS DIVINE? HOW DO WE DECIDE?

September's class will begin looking at the New Testament which seems more important in modern times than the Old Testament. But UU's have wrestled with the New Testament. For example, was Jesus divine?

Yes or no? What makes someone or something divine?

Come join the discussion of this intriguing topic under
Martin Crim's leadership.



Group Re-name: We've had requests to re-name this Biblical Discussion Group. Its purpose was never to "sell" Christianity, but to focus on sorting out myth and legend from real history and to ask questions that logically arise from the text. We want to hear *your* name change ideas.

BRUU Midweek Coffee Hour - 10am Wednesdays



- Visit with old friends and make new ones
- Share your joys, concerns and insights
- Discuss serious topics and not so serious ones.
- Start your day off with a smile and a laugh or two!

10am-11:30am every Wednesday on Zoom. Feel free to drop in at any time. Contact Gordon Ward for links at midweekcoffee@bruu.org.

Equal Exchange/Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate

Coffee, tea, chocolate and other items are available through the Green Team committee. You can buy items in the Fellowship Hall after Sunday worship services. Look for our Equal Exchange items in the booth. Contact Susie Eastridge at coffeechocolate@bruu.org for dates when the sale booth will be open during the coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall.



Pastoral Care



One of our strengths as a congregation is how we care for one another.

Please reach out to us at pastoralcare@bruu.org and let us know if there is a need within our community, so that we may coordinate with caring volunteers within BRUU.

20TH ANNIVERSARY
IFC UNITY WALK
WALK. LISTEN. CONNECT.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025
WASHINGTON HEBREW CONGREGATION
12:30 RESOURCE FAIR | 1:30 PROGRAM

VISIT SACRED SPACES, SHARE FOOD AND MUSIC, AND WALK TOGETHER IN
THE SPIRIT OF JOY AND CELEBRATION.

ALL ARE WELCOME. ALL BELONG.

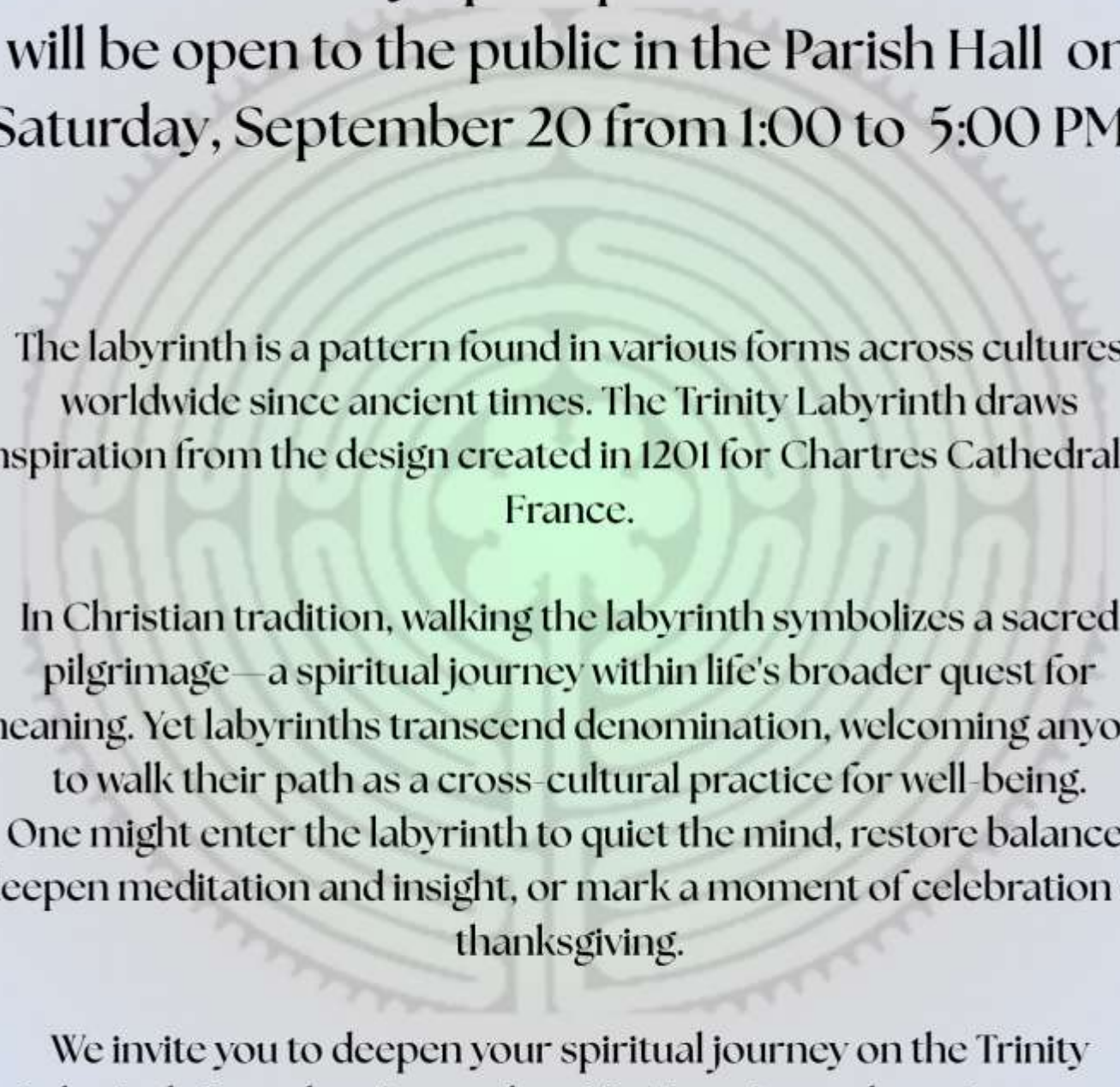


"THE UNITY WALK REMAINS ONE OF
THE MOST IMPACTFUL EXPERIENCES
OF MY PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL
CAREER. I LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT
OUR LARGER DC FAITH COMMUNITY,
AND CREATED A NEW BRIDGE FOR
DIALOGUE AND COMMON BONDS
BETWEEN MY FAITH COMMUNITY AND
MANY OTHERS."



WWW.IFCMW.ORG

The Interfaith Council of Washington DC will host the annual Unity Walk on Sunday, September 7 from 12:30pm-5:30pm. The Walk will begin at Washington Hebrew Congregation (3935 Macomb St NW, Washington, DC) and end at the Islamic Center of Washington, DC (2551 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC). Walk with participants of all ages to visit different houses of worship in upper Northwest DC to learn about and experience diverse faith traditions. Demonstrate love and support for all who live in our region. More details online at <https://ifcmw.org/2025-unity-walk/>



The Labyrinth

at

Trinity Episcopal Church

will be open to the public in the Parish Hall on
Saturday, September 20 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM.

The labyrinth is a pattern found in various forms across cultures worldwide since ancient times. The Trinity Labyrinth draws inspiration from the design created in 1201 for Chartres Cathedral in France.

In Christian tradition, walking the labyrinth symbolizes a sacred pilgrimage—a spiritual journey within life's broader quest for meaning. Yet labyrinths transcend denomination, welcoming anyone to walk their path as a cross-cultural practice for well-being.

One might enter the labyrinth to quiet the mind, restore balance, deepen meditation and insight, or mark a moment of celebration or thanksgiving.

We invite you to deepen your spiritual journey on the Trinity Labyrinth Saturday, September 20. Experience the quiet peace walking the Trinity Labyrinth provides. Step on to this sacred path.

See Something? Report It!

Notice anything in or around the BRUU building that needs maintenance or repair? Please report it by using this link:

www.bruu.org/www2/building-repair-request-form

This will provide a quick opportunity for you to contact the Building & Grounds folks and alert them to the situation that needs attention.

Deadlines



To better serve the BRUU community, late submissions for BRUU publications will not be accepted, except in extreme circumstances. Please note the following deadlines for BRUU publications:

Round-Up: 11:59pm on Tuesday night

Crossroads: 11:59pm on the 24th of the month

Order of Service items (incl. announcements on the back): 11:59pm on Wednesday night

Items received after these deadlines **will not be included**, except in extreme circumstances.

Please contact office@bruu.org or pastpresident@bruu.org with any concerns. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

From the Treasurer's Office

Links for donating to BRUU



BRUU can receive online charitable donations via Zelle, Stripe or Paypal. You can use these services for your pledge payment (supporting our operational expenses), food pantry or community assistance donations, capital fund contributions, Sunday and split-the-plate, or any of our special collections and fundraisers. When donating online, you may use the comments section to specify your designation.

If you have questions or concerns just send us a note. Thanks!

Heather Berthold, Treasurer,

treasurer@bruu.org

Robin Fegeas et al, Bookkeepers,

bookkeeper@bruu.org

BRUU

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BRUU OFFICE HOURS

M-F 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
2nd and 4th Tuesdays 12:00 pm-2:00 pm