



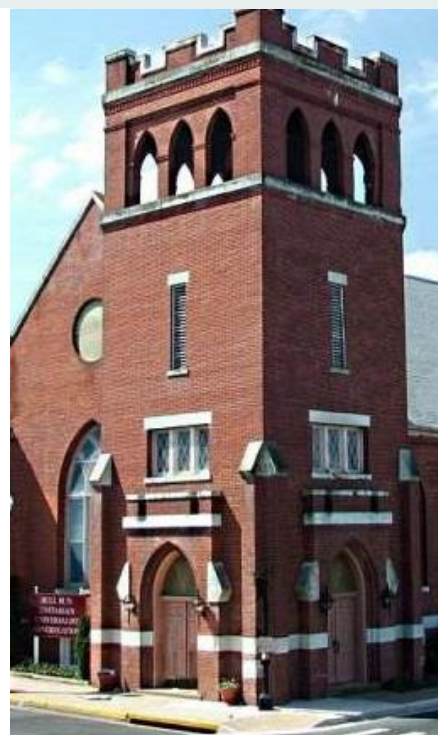
BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

October 2025
Volume 43, Issue 10

Crossroads



BRUU welcomed many new members at the Ingathering Service on September 7th



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October Services

October 5: “Affordable Housing in Our Community” (Charlie Grymes and Dianne Lane) -

Affordable housing for average income households is rare in Prince William County. BRUU is actively engaged with other faith communities through VOICE to tackle the challenge and is making progress at the local level – but what is the problem, what are the solutions, and what are the ethical/religious drivers for us in BRUU to try to solve the affordable housing problem?

October 12: “Many Windows” (Rev. Kimberley Debus)

How do we hold diversity of belief and thought both inside our walls and out in the world? We will examine our shared value of pluralism and consider what it means to celebrate diversity in culture, experience, and theology.

October 19: “Our Immigration System: Humanity v. Law – Can We Have Both?” (Lisa Shea) - An overview of US law and policy around immigration and the effect of the same on the immigrants and US citizens.

October 26: Monster Love: Pluralism, Accessibility, and Making Room on the Broom (Rev. Caitlin Cotter Coillberg) - Unitarian Universalists know that centering love means centering those who are often marginalized or who face oppression because they are "different". But what does it mean to celebrate difference and otherness in October of 2025? This Sunday join Rev. Caitlin Cotter Coillberg for a Joyously Spooky service focused on love, queerness, accessibility, pluralism, and monsters.

From the President's Desk

Josh Rachford, President, Board of Directors

You might know I used to be an actor, which means I worked in a ton of restaurants. Common across them was that to-go cups and lids were locked up. If you wanted to give them to a customer, you had to find a manager and wait for them to unlock the cabinet. The reason was that staff might drink out of them, which costs money. But by not trusting servers and disempowering them, guests got worse service. And the people who wanted to give guests the best service were the most frustrated by it!

I've been thinking about this as I watch some of our own decision-making processes at BRUU. Recently, someone brought an idea to me that would have minimal costs. It affected three committees, but it seemed like those committees were all on board. But somehow this straightforward project ended up on the Board agenda.

This happens when we don't have clear guidelines about who has authority to make which decisions. The result is that good ideas get bottlenecked and volunteers feel disempowered. And the people who most want to serve BRUU are the most frustrated by it!

Community Spotlight

Speaking of those who serve BRUU, Nina Lomax has brought so much vitality and so many fresh ideas to her role as Membership Chair. I'm grateful for the work her predecessor Randy Earl accomplished in this position, and it's exciting to see Nina's energy and innovations building on it.

I'm also seeing new members get plugged into our community in meaningful ways - joining committees, participating in services, showing up for workdays. This engagement happens when people understand how they can contribute and feel empowered to act. I want you to know that whether you've been at BRUU for 20 years or 20 minutes, there are opportunities for you to share your talents here.

Charter Fest '25

Here's my proposal: Charter Fest. An event where every committee comes together for one (part of a) day to create or update their committee charters. These documents spell out each committee's purpose, authority, and boundaries with other committees. Some committees have a recent charter, some have an ancient one, and some have none at all.

President's Desk, continued

Josh Rachford, President, Board of Directors

Think charters are the most boring thing imaginable? They're not! (The most boring thing imaginable is The Silmarillion. Come at me.) If you've ever wondered "who is responsible for that?" or "who is in charge here?" or "can our committee do that?" then a charter is for you. As charters get older, they lose touch with reality, eventually becoming relics deep within BRUUnet.

Charter Fest would be a community event - one day together at BRUU with food and fellowship. We'd provide templates to make the work manageable and consistent. Committees with existing charters would bring them for updating; others would create new ones. Dare I say it might even be fun?

Planning for Charter Fest has only barely begun, so please stay tuned for more! If you have an idea about how to make this more effective, please let me know.

Your Role

If you serve on a committee or team, start thinking about what authority your committee or team needs to do its work effectively. What decisions currently get delayed by unclear processes? What boundaries with other committees need clarification? Review any existing charter documents and think about what updates are needed.

If you don't currently serve on a committee, consider this an opportunity to understand how BRUU operates and where you might want to contribute.

In service and solidarity,

Josh Rachford

President, BRUU Board of Directors

THE BIBLE IS A SLIPPERY SLOPE

Kathy Sobrio

The Bible is revered by millions as a “Holy Book”, proven wisdom and, to some, infallible. If you are not one of those millions, then why would you be interested in joining BRUUsers who fill the Flamingo Lounge every first Sunday at 9:00AM for BRUU’s Biblical Discussion Group? (BDG)

Here’s why: They know that the Bible is filled with strange stories and they know it’s impossible to unravel the meaning of all of its passages without help from somebody who’s studied its contents as well as the history of its development. In BDG, Martin Crim does just that. Over time, class attendees have come to understand that if you don’t know how the Bible was developed over the centuries and what certain passages mean in the context of their time, then you are on a slippery slope in trying to understand the Bible.

Martin is well read in Biblical history. His Dad, Dr. Keith Crim, was a Biblical scholar who took advantage of his son’s “free kid labor” in helping him organize his research notes for his next book. As a result, Martin’s fascination with Biblical history never waned and he continued to read about Biblical history. Today we BRUUsers are the lucky inheritors of his knowledge. In BDG we learn the context in which the Bible was developed – the traditional thinking of the time, the myths and legends familiar to Middle Easterners, and insights into interpreting the Bible’s strange stories, such as the Garden of Eden and Jonah and the Whale.

If you are thinking that the purpose of BDG is to sell Christianity, you will find that’s not the case. BDG’s group study is a way for BRUUsers to look at the Bible’s passages and stories and make sense of them. In the process, you will also learn that understanding the Bible can be a slippery slope, no matter how sincere you may be in considering Judaism or Christianity as religious thinking that you might decide to adopt for yourself. If the

THE BIBLE IS A SLIPPERY SLOPE

Kathy Sobrio

purpose of BDG is of interest to you, feel free to join us on the first Sunday of each month in the Flamingo Lounge an hour before the regular Sunday service. You'll find the topic of the next meeting in Round Up online and the Order of Service announcements at Sunday services. October's topic: What was Jesus' message?

WANT TO CATCH UP ON WHAT BDG ATTENDEES HAVE LEARNED SO FAR?

Go to BRUUnet, type Bible into the search box, click on the first selection. The list below is growing monthly as Martin teaches and posts his most recent presentation:

The Bible Never Said There's Only One God

Who Is Satan – Lucifer – Devil ?

Prophets & Prophecies – What about Modern Times?

What Makes Something or Someone "Divine"?

Membership News

Nina Lomax

Fall Jubilee Outreach volunteers needed **OCTOBER 4 Saturday**

face painters, extroverts, setter-uppers and put-awayers, hand out kindness buttons, stickers, and pinwheels. We have giant bubbles and chair massage.

Pick a shift: 9:30-12, 12-2:30, 2:30-5

RSVP to membership@bruu.org or find sign up sheet at coffee hour this Sunday

We will provide elevator speeches for you to articulate your faith.

Our location is right at our church! Easy peasy

Next **New to BRUU** class **10/19** Sunday 11:30 in the conference room. A little BRUU history and covenant, organization and volunteer ops, a little UU introduction- values and principles, path to membership RSVP to membership@bruu.org limited seating

Christmas Parade 12/6 Saturday update

music/BRUU band, trailer, Grinch, Cindy Lou Who, elf ears secured

Need creative lead!! to pull together, recruit walkers, order love balloons, decorate

and details. Current contact: membership@bruu.org

Please visit the Directory of Members online at bruunet.org to help us keep up with your listing and to update/submit your photo

A Hilariously Human Ingathering Luncheon

Mary Kadlubowski

Well, that was a ride! Our Ingathering / Water Communion Luncheon was a testament to the idea that some of the best events are the ones with the most "spontaneous" moments. A few last-minute challenges turned our perfectly planned affair into a wonderfully chaotic one.

For starters, we had a dramatic, last-minute pivot to a stuffed potato bar. I also want to confess that I made not one, but two pots of delicious vegan chili—and promptly forgot one of them in the refrigerator, leading me to heat an empty Instant Pot. It was an exciting moment, to say the least! And as for dessert? The leftover ice cream from the social was meant to be our sweet finale, but my brain—being what it is—forgot that, too. Thankfully, that forgetfulness was a gift to the ALE dinner, where it was beautifully reborn as apple pie a la mode.

A huge thank you to Jennifer Malos for encouraging me to lean into the fun and make it a festive event. I'm also deeply grateful to everyone who jumped in to help with the tables and chairs. And a special shout-out to Mike Freeland, who heroically washed dishes until 1 p.m. You are a true champion! Further thanks to John Sunda for the fantastic cornbread and Dodson Produce for their generous donation of a half-bushel of potatoes—we ate so well that only nine were left!

With about 60 hungry folks, our lunch came out to around \$3.50 per person, costing the fellowship just over \$210 (a few receipts are still out there!). It turns out a little chaos and a lot of community make for a truly memorable meal.

Mary Kadlubowski Fellowship Chair Fellowship@bruu.org

Practicing Compassion For Yourself and Others

Randy Earl

Compassion is the second of the four boundless qualities of the heart in Buddhist practice. For the month of October, we will focus on the topic and practice of Compassion. We'll learn how to cultivate Compassion, the deep, heartfelt response to suffering. This practice invites us to stay present with



pain, both our own and others', while nurturing the wish for relief and healing. What does this look like in real life? We will explore the different ways to show Compassion, not only to others but also to ourselves.

The class & meditations led by Ann Deschamps will be 7:00 PM – 8:30 on October 2nd. Anna Penna will teach on October 23rd, 7:00 PM till 8:00 PM. Anna will approach Compassion using both breath work and very gentle yoga.

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 Zell using bookkeeper@bruu.org or Paypal using the following link <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/BullRunUU>. In the memo lines note BRUU Sangha.

If you want additional information, send an email to Sangha@BRUU.ORG.

BRUU Sangha,
Randy Earl

Come for the Fellowship, Stay for the service!

Mary Kadlubowski

Wait, doesn't fellowship come after the service?

I've been a part of the BRUU community since 1997, drawn in by the worship, the music, and the simple joy of coffee fellowship afterward. While I love the opportunities for deep thinking and spiritual growth, my personal spiritual goal—what truly fuels me—is fellowship.

I love to collaborate, build things together, and bond more deeply with others. Seeing people enjoy an event is great, but my favorite part is the chance to connect with you.

Lately, though, fellowship has felt a little lonely, and to keep things going, I need your help.

If your spiritual goal is to connect more deeply with BRUU, the best way to do that is through service! There are plenty of ways to pitch in, whether it's setting up for an event, helping with cleanup, or something else entirely.

I even have a secret fantasy of having a dance party cleanup with a great anthem to signal the start of our celebratory clean up. What song would you choose? Is there an event you'd love to host?

If you're ready to jump in and connect, please contact us at Fellowship@Bruu.org.

Ice Cream Social

Mary Kadlubowski

August 31st was the ice cream social. Fellowship spent \$115.64 and we had over 46 people participate (not counting seconds!) with a per person price of around \$2.50 a person and less per serving. We had 4 ice creams donated along with an apple cake and some delicious pumpkin cookies. Do we have pictures? Sadly, no, my camera is broken. Thank you to Dee Jaye for keeping count!

Mary Kadlubowski Fellowship chair Fellowship@bruu.org

BRUU's 2025 Annual Auction: "It Takes A Village"

Scott Maile, Auction Chair

The Auction web-page is open for business. It is time to get your auction donations entered into Auctria. Our goal is to have all of the Auction Items entered and categorized by 12 October (Rapidly Approaching) so that we can open the Online Auction for bidding on the 20 October!

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.

Click on the link to participate and get involved: <https://auctria.events/BRUUAuction2025>

Now is a great time to get your items entered and secure a day on the calendar for hosted events. Please review the calendar tab to pick your date and avoid scheduling conflicts. If you are hosting an event for a group of people, it is strongly recommended to specify a date when you enter your event ... everyone has busy schedules and coordinating a date with 5 or 6 people after the Auction can be challenging.

Please contact auction@bruu.org or stop by the Auction table during coffee hour if you have questions.

Key Dates:

- 22 September: Auction opens – Register-RSVP-Donate-Volunteer
- 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





Submitted for Crossroads by the BRUU VOICE Team

Our Homes for All Assembly is less than a month away!

We've secured commitments from over 1,000 people for the October 19th Homes for All Assembly—but commitments only count if they turn into registrations. Right now, only 232 are officially signed up. We've got a long way to go. In this election year, with the Governor's race and General Assembly on the line, we have a once-in-a-generation chance to make housing a defining issue in Virginia politics. But only if we show up.

Homes for All Assembly

Oct. 19, 3:30 PM - 5 PM

Floris United Methodist Church

13600 Frying Pan Rd. Herndon, VA

[Sign Up](#)

When you register, please:

- Sign up for the Floor Team if you want to help bring the energy and power in the room on October 19th. [Sign up here](#)
- Flag if you need child care so we can plan ahead.
- Let us know if you need a bus ride to the event! We have 10+ buses picking people up at our congregations around NoVa. Check on the sign up form if you want a slot on one of these buses!

Reach out to your VOICE organizer or secretary@bruu.org if you need support or have any questions.



ASSEMBLY Homes for All

Half of Virginians can't afford where they live. Our ever-growing housing shortage is driving more and more families out of the state, into hours-long commutes, and unsafe housing conditions. **This statewide problem needs a statewide response, and state leadership.**

This assembly will include Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, and Sikh faith leaders, nonprofit and business partners, and elected officials from across the region. **Together, we will call for bold, bipartisan action to address Virginia's growing housing shortage and rising costs—starting at the state level.**



Sunday October 19
3:30 - 5:00 PM



Floris United Methodist Church
13600 Frying Pan Rd, Herndon, VA



VOICE

**COMMONWEALTH
HOUSING
COALITION**

Events At & Around BRUU

BRUU's Biblical Discussion Group:

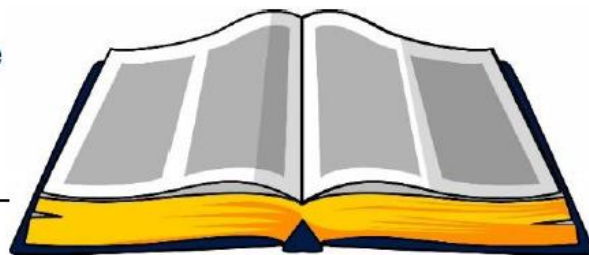
OCTOBER 5, SUNDAY, 9:00 AM in the Flamingo Lounge



What was Jesus' message?

A lot of sayings were attributed to Jesus in ancient times. But what did he *actually* say and how would we know that? Scholars have spent entire careers thinking about these questions and have created methods for answering them without bias or assumptions.

**Come join the
discussion!**



**And bring
your questions!**



The BRUU songwriter working group is being reimagined.....

STANZA is a creative collective that will meet at BRUU every month. Stanza is for songwriters, poets, and storytellers who believe in the power of words to connect, heal, inspire and entertain.

Whether you're scribbling lyrics on napkins, crafting poems in the margins of your journal, or spinning tales that deserve to be heard, this is your space.

We're not here to impress—we're here to express. We celebrate raw creativity, honest emotion, and the courage to share. This is an opportunity to share your work, get feedback and help other hone their writing skills.

Join us on the 1st Sunday of every month in the Flamingo Lounge (11:30-1:00).

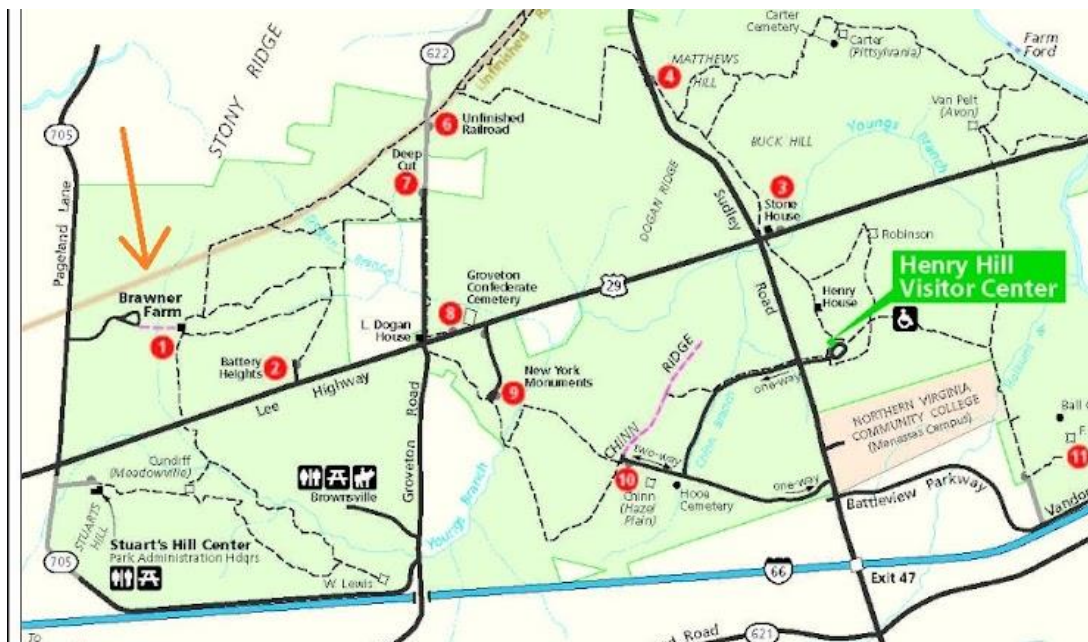
Soup Sunday—October 5th

Join us after the service on Sunday, October 5th, for Soup Sunday. Sign up here to contribute soups, sides, or help with setting up! <https://tinyurl.com/BRUUSOUPSUNDAYOCTOBER>



Second Sunday Hike on October 12

We will explore trails in Manassas National Battlefield Park, from Brawner Farm to Deep Cut. Look for hickory trees turning yellow as we walk about 3 miles on mostly flat ground, 1:00-3:00pm. Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/e27h4m8s>



CHRYSLIS CONCERT SERIES

SAM ROBBINS

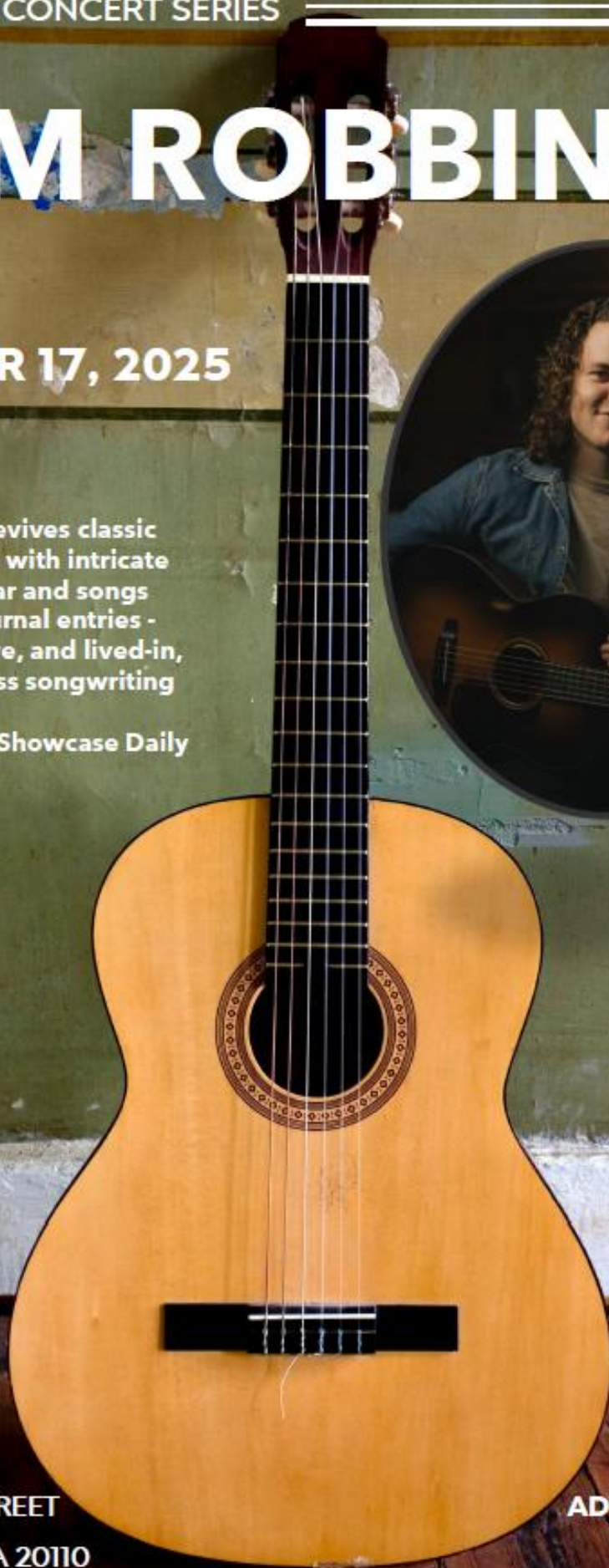
FRIDAY

OCTOBER 17, 2025

7:30 PM

"Sam Robbins revives classic folk storytelling with intricate fingerstyle guitar and songs that feel like journal entries - honest, reflective, and lived-in, bringing timeless songwriting into a new era."

– Showcase Daily



BULL RUN UU

9350 MAIN STREET

MANASSAS, VA 20110

ADVANCE TICKETS:

\$20.00



Chrysalis Concert Series at BRUU

October 2025-September 2026 season



Sam Robbins - 10/17/2025

Transport yourself back to the golden era of singer-songwriters with the soulful tunes of Sam Robbins. Hailing from Boston, Sam's music draws inspiration from legends like James Taylor and Neil Young, blending timeless melodies with a contemporary twist that will captivate your heart.

<https://samrobbinsmusic.com/>



Nothin' Fancy - 12/6/2025

Experience the magic of a live performance by Nothin' Fancy in the heart of Manassas! Join us for an unforgettable evening filled with soul-warming Bluegrass music that will leave you feeling uplifted and inspired. This is an opportunity to witness the phenomenal talent of a beloved band that has captured the hearts of audiences everywhere. Don't miss your chance to be swept away by the incredible sounds of Nothin' Fancy - it's an experience you'll remember long after the final note fades away.

<https://www.nothinfancybluegrass.com/>



Greg Greenway - 1/10/2026

Greg is a cherished performer in many UU communities, and especially at BRUU. His talents defy categorization as he seamlessly blends musical genres and shares poignant insights on global events. Greg's performances serve as a reminder that we are all interconnected as citizens of the world. Come be inspired to embrace our ability to effect change. Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to experience his artistry once again.

<https://www.greggreenway.com/>

Amy Speace - 2/27/2026

Get ready for an enchanting musical experience with the talented Amy Speace. Known for her soul-stirring lyrics and captivating performances, Amy's music has the power to take you on a transformative journey. With heartfelt songs that resonate deeply, Amy Speace's live performance promises an unforgettable evening filled with beauty and emotion.

<https://www.amyspeace.com/>



Joe Jencks - 4/10/2026

Spend an evening with award-winning musician Joe Jencks, a favorite performer in many UU communities. Joe was the opening performer for the Chrysalis Concert Series back in April 2023 and we're delighted he's coming back to see us again. Joe's profound music is sure to leave a lasting impact offering a night filled with beautiful melodies, social consciousness, and spiritual exploration.

<https://joejencks.com/>



Billy Jonas - 5/23/2026

Join Billy Jonas on a musical journey that began around a campfire in 1972 and has since blossomed into a profound experience of connectedness and musical camaraderie. Through his soul-stirring vocals, mesmerizing guitar skills, and innovative use of industrial re-percussion, he creates an unforgettable performance that resonates with audiences of all ages. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the Bucket Brigade and immerse yourself in the beauty of live music that touches the soul and brings people together in harmony.

<https://www.billyjonas.com/>



Circle of Toads - 8/15/2026

Embark on a fun musical ride with Circle of Toads - a favorite BRUU band that brings together a unique and diverse mix of talents. Dave, Bill, Kel, and Mike have been playing together since 2023, combining their individual musical backgrounds to create a one-of-a-kind sound that resonates with audiences all around Manassas. Experience an eclectic blend of folk, rock, and original pieces that are sure to captivate your senses. A great way to wrap up the summer.

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Circle-of-Toads-6156570008114/>



Chris Haddox - 9/15/2026

Help us welcome this talented artist from West Virginia. With heartfelt lyrics and soulful melodies, his performances are a blend of tradition and contemporary flair that captivate audiences of all ages. Prepare to be taken on a rollercoaster of emotions as each song is a testament to Haddox's ability to weave intricate yet relatable stories that resonate deep within the soul. Join in on the experience and let the music speak to you in ways you never imagined.

<https://www.chrishaddoxmusic.com/>

Get your tickets here:



Evensong

Join Us for a Candlelight Musical Evensong
Experience a peaceful and inspiring evening of music and
reflection at our candlelight Evensong service.

Friday, October 24 • 7:00 PM
Bull Run Unitarian Universalists (BRUU)

This special service will feature musicians from BRUU, Accotink
UU, and fellow congregations coming together in harmony. A
light reception will follow. All are welcome.

BRUU Midweek Coffee Hour - 10am Wednesdays

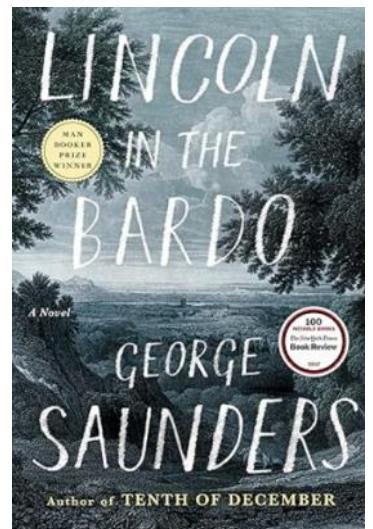


- Visit with old friends and make new ones
- Share your joys, concerns and insights
- Discuss serious topics and not so serious ones.
- Start your day off with a smile and a laugh or two!

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

Join the BRUU Book Group!

For our October 20 meeting (3:00-5:00pm), we're reading "Lincoln in the Bardo." It's a novel by George Saunders, complete with 160 ghosts. (Hey, we're getting close to Halloween...) Listening on audiobook is recommended; the actors who voice the characters are skilled. New members are welcome to join the BRUU Book Group. To get the Zoom link, contact Susan Gregorio at bookgroup@bruu.org



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.

**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

9350 Main Street
Manassas, VA 20110-5150
703-361-6269

BRUU Board of Directors

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president@bruu.org

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vicepresident@bruu.org

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secretary@bruu.org

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treasurer@bruu.org

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director@bruu.org

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pastpresident@bruu.org

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Kristin Worthington
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Director of Music

David Maley
music@bruu.org

Office Administrator

Taylor Johnson
office@bruu.org

Sexton

George Monroe
sexton@bruu.org

BRUU OFFICE HOURS

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