



BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

November 2025
Volume 43, Issue 11

Crossroads



With fall and winter approaching, come in to the warmth of community at BRUU as we seek and serve together.

The monthly BRUU Newsletter



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November Services

November 2: Gratitude (BRUU Players) - After an exciting Auction evening, the BRUU Players present poetry, prose and three sketches to invite conversation to explore the depths and hidden challenges of gratitude. Where have you struggled with gratitude, and what are you most grateful for in our community?

November 9: Spiritual Journeys (Sandra Fox, Colin Credle, Janette Muir) - Join us as three members of our community share their spiritual journeys that have brought them to BRUU. How interesting to discover how people have journeyed and what they have found in our community.

November 16: From You I Receive (Rev. Kimberley Debus) - What does our Shared Value of generosity call us toward? How do we freely and compassionately share our faith, our presence, and our resources - with the world and with each other?

November 23: Feeding Our Values (Kaylee Rachford and Nina Lomax) - Join Nina Lomax and Kaylee Rachford for a service exploring how our relationship with food reflects and nourishes our deepest values. From growing and harvesting to preparing, eating, and sharing meals together, each step offers an opportunity to live our principles with intention. At BRUU, breaking bread builds beloved community, supports families in need, and creates rituals of gratitude. This service invites us to examine our spiritual connection with what we consume: How do our food choices align with our Unitarian Universalist values of justice, sustainability, and interdependence?

November 30: Warmth and Safety (DLRE Kristin Worthington) - Warmth and Safety, two essential needs of every person, frequently leaned into as we gather with loved ones during the holidays. Please join us as we explore the warmth of love. Please join us to create much needed blankets which will be provided to the unhoused community in Manassas. 5th Sunday Service Sundays are always a time of multigenerational gathering. If you can tie a knot, you can help!

From the President's Desk

Josh Rachford, President, BRUU Board of Directors

As a kid, Christmas was my favorite holiday. I know that isn't everyone's experience, but for me, growing up with the luxury of a safe, healthy family, a holiday involving sanctioned cookie eating, catchy songs, and a consumerist bonanza of toys is a strong contender for best holiday. (Note: I am aware getting presents is not the point of the holiday.)

Now I appreciate Thanksgiving much more. Whether I was celebrating a Friendsgiving in Los Angeles, with family here, or scraping together Thanksgiving in Amsterdam with Kaylee, I'm glad to have the opportunity to ignore the culture of more more for a bit and appreciate the cornucopia we already have.

At Thanksgiving, we come together to celebrate abundance and, by coming together, to *create* that abundance. It's an opportunity to live our values of interdependence and generosity. We cannot do it alone – BRUU literally stands for Bull Run Unitarian Universalists – like one of my favorite stories, Stone Soup, if everyone gives of what they do have we can create something transformed and transformative.

Community Spotlight

And what a great Stone Soup we've got here! As I write, the auction has not yet taken place, but I'm sure when you read this it will have. THANK YOU to Scott Maile and the Auction Committee for producing another fun and successful auction. The live auction is one night, but auction events take place year-round, so I look forward to seeing some of you at the events Kaylee and I are hosting or at the events I hope we won!

Speaking of great events in the company of BRUU-folk, I went to the VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith and Community Engagement) assembly "Homes for All" with BRUUers Angie Carrera-Earl, Len Clark, Eileen Connolky, Martin Crim, Randy Earl, Michelle Feagas-Foster, Sandy Fox, Mike Freeland, Charlie Grymes, Dianne Lane, Cathy Ring, and Laura Tripp. Dexter Fox of Trinity Episcopal came with us as well and also wrote an article promoting the event to his congregation.

It was energizing and inspiring. To be around so many other people from other churches, mosques, temples, and secular organizations unified and engaging with an important issue filled my heart. Even if the housing crisis and lack of affordable homes is

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relatively low on your list of issues (and that's fine! There's a lot of problems in the world to solve), I highly encourage you to attend a VOICE event.

Call to Action

Stewardship season is coming. In truth, it's year-round. This does not mean BRUU is asking you for money over and over, though I understand that is how it can feel.

It means regularly considering how we care for and contribute to BRUU and what of our time, talent, and treasure we can contribute. To use the Stone Soup metaphor again, maybe you have brought carrots to the soup for years, but now you also grow potatoes. Could you bring a potato too? Or maybe you have brought carrots for years and your carrot harvest this year was ruined – can you bring an herb? Salt? A song to sing over the soup? There will be those in our congregation who can only bring the stone and an appetite, and we are grateful to have your presence.

For me, going to VOICE for the first time was a new gift of time. Auction item donors give time, talent, *and* treasure to make those events and items happen. Our pledges enable the work we do to continue. Express your gratitude this Thanksgiving through generosity, giving of whatever you have in abundance.

Your seeker servant,

Josh Rachford

President, BRUU Board of Directors

November Town Hall

Town Hall

November 9, 2025 at 11:40 AM



Updates from:

Stewardship

Ministerial Search Committee

Buildings and Grounds

and

Q & A Time

Membership News

Nina Lomax

The latest directory is out and available in the fellowship hall after services.

Free to members \$5 for friends

Special thanks to Robin Fegeas and Terrie McClure for this tireless job!

Send your updates to membership@bruu.org

New to BRUU class

Nov. 16 Sunday 11:30-1 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

Outreach: Greater Manassas Christmas Parade

12/6 Saturday walking 12/5 decorating

Our theme: Love is at the Center

Yes! We are participating!

See Betsi's submission as POC for what is needed

And thanks to the rest of the membership team- Kaylee, Bridgett, and Gary- for calls to promote auction participation and check ins

Manassas Christmas Parade

Betsi McGrath

BRUU is participating in the Manassas Christmas parade this year being held on Saturday December 6th. We are looking for volunteers to help build the float and walk in the parade the towns theme is Elfin around old town and so children are welcome to walk with their parents and wear little elf ears or hats and hand out fruit gummies. Mary Kadlubowski is organizing the elf ear making project. Betsi McGrath is putting the float together contact her if you want to be part of the float creation team. Contact: membership@bruu.org . The BRUU band will be playing on the float. There will be limited seating on the float itself.



Last Chance to Plan Prince William County Trails

Charlie Grymes

Prince William County Department of Parks and Recreation will finish drafting a Countywide Trails Master Plan [<https://www.pwcva.gov/department/parks-recreation-tourism/countywide-trails-master-plan/>] by the end of 2025. Last in-person meeting to gather public input is November 5, 7:00-8:30pm at the Pat White Center, 10501 Copeland Dr, Manassas, VA 20109.



Got ideas about where to build a trail, and what type of trail, over next 10 years? You can also respond to a survey at <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8438669/web> and/or submit comments directly to trails@pwcgov.org by November 5. Get more info from the BRUU Green Team at greenteam@bruu.org

Enjoying Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall?

Cathy Ring

Enjoying Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall... but can't see yourself arriving early or able to stay until the end of the Fellowship Coffee Hour to help?

There are still ways to contribute to our community time IF:

- YOU COULD bring some healthy snacks, to help keep the kids content while the parents get an opportunity to connect with other adults.
- YOU COULD bring some flavored creamers, or non-dairy, like oat or almond milk.
- YOU COULD provide a jug of cider, or those packets that make cocoa.
- YOU COULD volunteer to take home the towels &/or tablecloths to launder & bring back.
- YOU COULD have other ideas, suggestions, and offerings to enhance our weekly social.

IF SO, contact the Kitchen Krewe Kaptain thru Kitchen@BRUU.org



Events At & Around BRUU

BRUU's Biblical Discussion Group:

NOVEMBER 2, SUNDAY, 9:00 AM in the Flamingo Lounge



What Is “The Law” For?

The Hebrew Bible has many laws covering nearly all aspects of daily life, which caused no end of problems for the Jews. Then Jesus came along and had a different message about The Law. What are we to do with the contradicting claims about God's Law?

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.

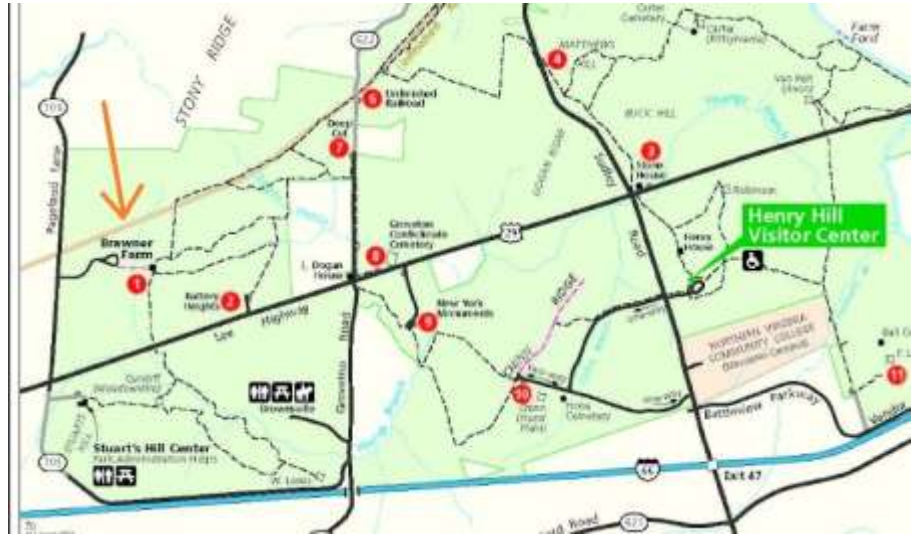
Whether you're scribbling lyrics on napkins, crafting poems in the margins of your journal, or spinning tales that deserve to be heard, this is your space.

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 others hone their writing skills.

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

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>



HOLIDAY SHOP

MT VERNON UNITARIAN CHURCH
1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria 22307

SATURDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER 9.30am - 4pm

**50 artisan vendors of many styles &
mediums * Plus - Baked and Canned Goods *
Jewelry * Household Collectibles * Lunch***

Parking

**FREE
ENTRY**

Quilt Raffle \$3 a ticket

"STARBURST"

MAKE A DAY OF IT!

WWW.MVUC.ORG



**TRANSGENDER
DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE
SERVICE
NOVEMBER 21**

**EQUALITY PRINCE WILLIAM
THE CONVERSATIONS TEAM
BULL RUN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS**

BRUU Midweek Coffee Hour - 10am Wednesdays



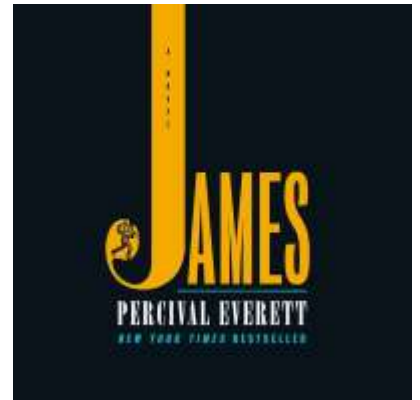
- Visit with old friends and make new ones
- Share your joys, concerns and insights
- Discuss serious topics and not so serious ones.
- Start your day off with a smile and a laugh or two!

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!

On November 17, 3:30-4:30pm, we will discuss "James" by Percival Everett. If you remember Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn... this book offers a different perspective. We are a relaxed, informal book group. New members are welcome. Discussion can still be stimulating even if life got in the way and someone has not read much of the book. To get the Zoom link, contact us at

bookgroup@bruu.org (Feel free to have your pet appear on the Zoom.)



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.



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://jojencks.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-61565700088114/>



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:



**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