



BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

September 2026
Volume 44, Issue 9

Crossroads



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Message from the President

Falling into Place

Recognizing your ignorance is the starting point of wisdom. " *All I know is I know nothing.*" - attributed to Greek philosopher Socrates. **How I felt in June..**

I have watched the Mr. Rogers movie twice and watch Ted Lasso for inspiration on how to listen and be. Thanks to all who have communicated with me. I am learning so much.

Can you feel the excitement?

This past year, I have served as membership chair. We have a strong committee, a great group of greeters, we participated in four outreach events with approximately **20** friends/members volunteers at each event. We held **5** New to BRUU classes, **2** New Member Recognitions, **5** New to BRUU classes, updated the directory, printed in color, signed **23** members.

The Search Committee hired David Brown. Who can make UU history funny? **David Brown**. Who can connect Batman to philosophy and physics? David Brown. So fun. So refreshing. So thought provoking.

Now, **Jimmy Edwards** for Director of Learning and Education. Visionary, thespian, heretic, musician, educator, community engager, enthusiast for our values. No shortage of energy. Twelve teachers taking the new UUA Woven Faith curriculum training embracing the UU values for all ages: Justice, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Interdependence, Generosity.

Ten new parents with babies and toddlers connecting for a new playgroup.

Young adults connecting for community and activities.

Nine already signed up for the next New to BRUU class.

Building & Grounds want to freshen up our **signs**. Ideas to be presented at the Town Hall in November.

New **Bells Task Force** want a bell in the tower for call to worship and celebrations.

Committees eager for a prize for most creative table and vying for you to join **Sept. 27th for the Committee Fair** after service.

Hey, how about new BRUU t-shirts? Ideas?

Outreach **Fall Jubilee, October 3rd** right in front of our building!

Trailer already acquired for the Christmas Parade on Dec. 5th! Creative POC needed.

Kate, administrative assistant, posting highlights, getting us **publicity** in local papers and journals and updating materials.

New **Committee of Shared Ministry** for Rev. David Brown.

New Auction Chair, **Mona Tisler**, already organizing. Start thinking of your offerings!

Whew! Call or text me anytime. I'm listening.



A Fresh BRUU of Hope



By Rev. David Brown

New things are beginning all around us - new school year - new staff - new NFL season!
I found these words by **Ralph Waldo Emerson** to be relevant for us today:

“Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm. Live in the sunshine, swim the sea, drink the wild air. Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year. Own the day. Do your best. Cultivate gratitude, give thanks continuously. Finish the day and be done with it. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and serenely, with too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense.”



The great modern day philosopher Ted Lasso (can you believe there is a NEW season!) said, “Be a goldfish.” He goes on to explain that goldfish are the happiest animals because they have a short, ten-second memory.

This fall, may we let go of the past and live **fully** in this moment (the only moment we really have).

Rev. David Brown

Cell: 540-360-8128

Schedule an appointment: <https://calendly.com/minister-bruu/>

Office hours: 9-4 p.m. Wed. & Thurs.



September Services

September 6: Bodies of Water Ingathering for a Water Celebration

Sunday Services Committee

We invite you to bring waters from travels or from precious places to gather ourselves for a year of community, wonder and exploration. There will be some waters to share if you forget, and some waters to take with us in a different way. From puddles to raindrops to rivers and oceans and BRUUsers, we are bodies of water, coming together again in joy.

September 13: Forgive Jesus

Rev. David Brown

Do you find it hard to forgive certain people? How about yourself? There are lots of clever quips about forgiveness - we'll share some of those. But we'll also consider actions and thoughts that will enable us to loosen our grip on the past and find a better, happier way to live!

September 20: Changing of the Leaves and Our Lives: An Autumnal Equinox Service

CUUPS

How are generosity, pluralism, and interdependence related to gratitude? The Fall Equinox offers us a chance for reflection on the changing of our lives and the importance of living gratefully as we face our challenges.

September 27: Lord of the Rings

Rev. David Brown

In today's world it is easy to hide from the things we don't want to face. How do you avoid difficult situations and conversations? Avoidance and procrastination seldom end well, but we keep slipping that ring on our finger to disappear for a time. Let's talk about more effective ways to face our fears.



Helping Low Income Kids get a Good Start

by Kathy Sobrio

Every August when back-to-school ads suddenly fill the airwaves, BRUUsers get busy organizing a treasured community service: the **BRUU Backpack Project** in which we donate **50 backpacks** and school supplies to fill them.

On Sunday, **August 9th** after the service, we all migrated downstairs to the Fellowship Hall to fill **50 plastic bags** with the school supplies required for grades K - 5. On Monday BRUUsers Dan and Kathy Sobrio and Becks Sosa delivered it all to Sinclair Elementary School, a local Title I school near Lomond Drive in Manassas where **80 percent** of the student body is from low income families. We even took two big boxes of school supplies for older kids who are using last year's backpack.



A **big thanks** goes to all of you who helped stuff plastic bags with school supplies on Sunday, and an extra big thanks goes to all of you who donated toward the funds it took to buy the bookbags and school supplies. Your enthusiasm was overwhelming! On Monday the donation site went up online. By Wednesday we had **over \$2,000!** By the weekend the online total and checks mailed in had pushed the total to a few hundred more. We now have **twice** what we needed to buy this year's backpacks and school supplies. We are keeping the remainder in an earmarked account. Who knows, maybe we can help two schools next year!



Welcome Jimmy Edwards!

BRUU's Director of Learning & Education!

Jimmy Edwards, Ed.S., is an educator, school leader, and community builder with experience in public, private, alternative, adult, and international education, specializing in teaching, curriculum development, and educator coaching.



In addition to serving as BRUU's Director of Learning and Education, he leads CAREducation Foundation and CAREvolution, organizations that expand caring, community-centered alternatives in education.

At BRUU, Jimmy works alongside children, families, and the congregation to cultivate meaningful, values-centered learning rooted in love, curiosity, compassion, and belonging.

Fun fact: Jimmy grew up in Manassas Park, Virginia and as a MPCS student, he enjoyed many extracurricular activities such as baseball, taekwondo, choir, theater, football, academic team, volunteering, and even cheerleading! You can reach Jimmy at dle@bruu.org.



IT Department News

IT TEAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two upgrades are here — and we need **two quick actions from you!**

NEW: Zoho Email Service

BRUU has moved all bruu.org email to **Zoho Mail**. This includes **11 staff email accounts** and **120+ group email lists**, such as board@bruu.org, socialjustice@bruu.org, playgroup@bruu.org, and sass@bruu.org.

The change should be mostly seamless — with **one important exception**:

ACTION NEEDED: ACCEPT YOUR GROUP INVITATIONS

When you are added to a BRUU email group, **Zoho sends you an invitation by email. You must click “Accept” to join the group.**

 **Only members who have accepted will receive emails sent to that group.**

Not sure you accepted them all?

Email communications@bruu.org and we'll check for you.

NEW: BRUUnet 2.0

BRUUnet has a brand-new home! Our members-and-friends website has moved from Ning to WordPress.

 www.bruunet.org

BRUUnet is our **private online home for BRUU members and friends**, where we keep internal information and resources. It also serves as our **online members and friends directory**.

ACTION NEEDED: UPDATE YOUR PROFILE

Request access if you haven't already. If you have an account, please make sure your profile includes:

 **A current photo**  **Current contact information**

Need help? Email communications@bruu.org.

Thank You from Your BRUU IT Team!

These upgrades help keep BRUU connected, organized, and easier to navigate. **Thanks for taking a few minutes to complete these two important steps!**

 IT@bruu.org



Membership/Outreach News

Nina Lomax, Membership Chair

Sept 27th—COMMITTEE FAIR in the Fellowship Hall after service.

All committees set up a table in the Fellowship Hall to win you over to join in their service!

Stop by and check it out!

ARE YOU...

Handy? Artistic?

Want to work with kids? IT savvy?

Want to save the world? Want to care for our staff?

Help with the auction? Provide a meal or ride?

Spend/save our \$? Set up Adult Education Enrichment?

Meet the new visitors? Help with outreach events?

Sing? Play an instrument? Help with Sunday services?



There will be a **PRIZE** for the most creative table!!

October 3rd—Historic Manassas FALL JUBILEE 10 a.m.—5 p.m. phew!

Right outside our building:

Information table, John's Giant bubbles, Face painters & Spin for prizes!

We need **20 volunteers** for shifts plus set up at 9:30 a.m. and take down at 4:45 p.m.

Have an idea that would bring traffic?

Email membership@bruu.org to enlist.



Care to join the membership committee?

We would love a liaison to parents and young adults!

Meetings via Zoom on the 4th Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Email membership@bruu.org for more information and the Zoom link!



Christine Sunda, Chair

Work Day & Decorating Schedule for This Upcoming Year (2026-27)

Building & Grounds is planning to have four Work Days this year. Many people have expressed that they would like to know the dates in advance so they can add them to their calendars.

All Work Days be on a **Saturday** from 9:30 am to 3 pm.



September 19, 2026

November 14, 2026

January 16, 2027

April 10, 2027

Sanctuary Holiday Decorating

December 5, 2026 (time TBA)

Remember you don't have to come to a Work Day for the whole day, just what time you can spare. Always plan to get dirty.

Often the help we need is with cleaning and painting and some repairs. However unskilled workers are always welcome.

Work Days are important to our building. Our sweat equity keeps our repair budget low. And it's another way to **fellowship** with other BRUUsers, **learn** new skills, take pride in the work done and laugh over lunch together.

We will continue to provide food goodies and a pizza lunch.

Youth are welcome with adult supervision.

You can send questions to me, **Christine Sunda** at workday@bruu.com.



Green Up Prince William and Manassas

Charlie Grymes, BRUU Green Team



Second Sunday Hike

BRUU's Green Team is a member of the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition, which organizes a hike each month to get people outdoors. We explore a nearby trail from 1:00-3:00pm on the Second Sunday.

The **September 13** location is tentative at the Crossroads publication deadline. Could go to Blooms Park in Manassas Park, where Dominion Power just has upgraded a trail. If so... there will be a few hills. Well-behaved dogs on a leash are welcome at Blooms Park.

Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/e27h4m8s> to get up-to-date details, and in case weather forces a cancellation.

Hike begins at **1:00 p.m.** Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/e27h4m8s> Location of trail may change after Crossroads deadline, and weather may force us to reschedule.

Hike Questions? Contact Charlie Grymes at cgrymes@gmail.com

Green Team members have lots of suggestions on how to enhance habitat at your home and reduce energy use. Want to get involved? Contact us at greenteam@bruu.org



BRUU in the Media

The power of a photo goes a long way!

Did you know that nearly **87% of consumers** state that “image authenticity” is important as it builds trust and drives higher audience connections than generic visuals. Images make people want to read more and in BRUU’s case, see more and possibly attend a service on Sunday.

So what does BRUU needs from you?



Photos. Videos. Candid. Events. Services. Outings with BRUU folks.

Send them all to office@bruu.org !!

Let’s share with the world all the great things BRUUers are up to!

With BRUUs image in mind,

Kate, BRUU OA

Adult Life Experience Classes this Fall

Mark your calendars for

October 6

October 27

December 1

We'll have ALE classes on those Tuesday evenings, with a potluck dinner between **6:00-7:00 pm** and programs from **7:00-8:00/8:30 pm**.



Childcare is provided; ALE is a family opportunity.

Adults get their brains and souls stimulated while kids have fun.

For the **6:00-7:00 pm** potluck, bring one of your favorite food items and hear everyone ooh and ahh about your cheffie expertise.

Don't cook? No problem. Bring chips/veggies, or oh-so-healthy desserts from the bakery. A bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken, blessed with the special BRUU incantation to replace saturated fats with vitamins, is always a welcome addiction – ugh, addition.

Scheduling is in flux at the moment for synchronizing Sangha sessions, yoga, Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) meetings, and spiritual/meditation opportunities on those Tuesday nights – more to come.

Other programs **topics will include** the local groundwater story, preparing wills so the kids don't inherit headaches when we transition to the next plane, history of Manassas, and what's next for local politics after the November elections.

Wanna help with food or programming? Contact **Cathy Ring** at ale@bruu.org

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.



Events At & Around BRUU

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.

BRUU's Biblical Discussion Group **SEPT. 6 —SUNDAY---9:00 AM---Flamingo Lounge**

Salvation



We'll be looking at salvation, which the Bible refers to in a variety of contexts. Let's see how salvation works, who is saved, and what from.

Come join



the discussion!

New to BRUU Class—September 13th

Join us from **11:30 to 1:00 p.m.** in the conference room to learn more about BRUU, including:

- * A little BRUU history and Covenant
- * Organization
- * Volunteer Opportunities
- * A little UU introduction to our Values and Principles and Path to Membership.

RSVP to membership@bruu.org for details.



CUUPS Meeting—Sept. 20th

Stop by the Flamingo Lounge after service at 11:30 a.m. for CUUPS' monthly meeting!

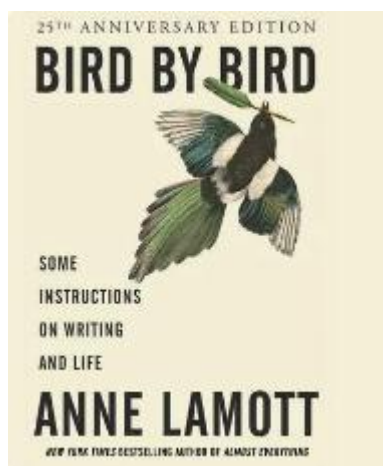
Contact cuups@bruu.org for details.



Join the BRUU Book Group!

On Monday, **September 21 at 3:30 p.m.**, we will be discussing "**Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life**" by Anne Lamott. 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



Looking for opportunities to serve the community at BRUU?

Stop by the Fellowship Hall on **September 27** after the service to chat with committee folks to see where your talents can be put to use! Email membership@bruu.org for details.



Song Circle –Sept. 27th, 3 p.m.

Bring your voices, instruments, or listening ears! Having a phone or iPad to follow along with lyrics/chords is helpful, but not required. Everyone is welcome!

We'll meet in the Studio!

Contact musicliason@bruu.org for more details.





Chrysalis Concert Series: Music, Community, and Connection



CHRYSLIS PROUDLY
PRESENTS

CHRIS HADDOX



With heartfelt lyrics and
soulful melodies,
Chris blends tradition with
contemporary flair, creating
performances that captivate
audiences of all ages. His
relatable storytelling takes
listeners on an emotional
journey, where the music
speaks straight to the soul.

SATURDAY
SEPT 19, 2026
7:30 PM



SCAN FOR
TICKETS
\$20 ADVANCE,
\$25 AT DOOR

BULL RUN UU
9350 MAIN ST
MANASSAS, VA 20110



The Final Concert in the Series is...

10/31—Friction Farm



**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

President

Nina Lomax (2026-28)
president@bruu.org

Vice President

Margo Davies (2026-28)
vicepresident@bruu.org

Secretary

Elizabeth Holden Mycko (2026-28)
secretary@bruu.org

Treasurer

Heather Berthold (2025-27)
treasurer@bruu.org

Directors at Large

Kathy Sanchez (2026-28)
Robin Walther (2026-28)
John Sunda (2025-27)
director@bruu.org

Youth Representative

TBD

Program Council

Mary Kadlubowski (2025-26)
programcouncil@bruu.org

Ex-Officio (Immediate Past President)

Josh Rachford
pastpresident@bruu.org

BRUU STAFF

Minister

Rev. David Brown
minister@bruu.org

Director of Learning and Education

Jimmy Edwards
dle@bruu.org

Director of Music

David Maley
music@bruu.org

Office Administrator

Kate Casey
office@bruu.org

Building Engineer

George Monroe
buildingengineer@bruu.org

BRUU OFFICE HOURS

M-F 10:00 am – 2:00 pm