



BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

April 2023
Volume 41, Issue 4

Crossroads

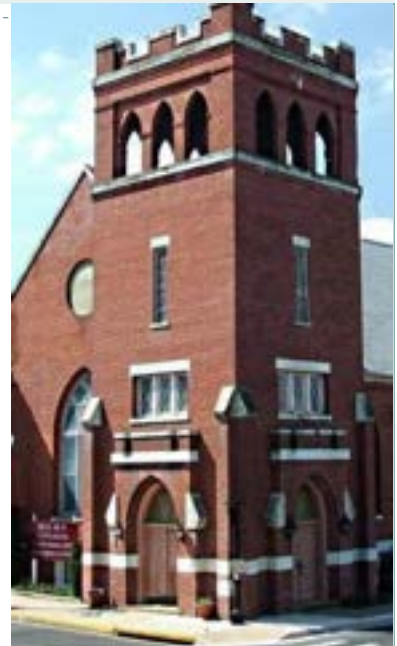
Maiden Voyage for New AV Team



**Congrats
on a job
well done**



The torch was passed successfully on March 26. Dan Cota ran the cameras for the Worship service, while Mike Freeland handled sound until going to teach RE class. It was the first time that neither Lisa Goodell Stewart nor Tony Main were in the AV booth.



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The monthly BRUU Newsletter



BULL RUN

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

APRIL SERMON DESCRIPTIONS

April 9: *Easter Earth Communion*

(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)

Earth is one of the four elements of matter we are celebrating through worship this year: Fire, Earth, Air and Water. Earth can be an element of beginnings and endings, or death and rebirth, as life comes from the ground and then decomposes back into the earth after death. Our multigenerational Easter service will celebrate through story, song and ritual the qualities of this physical element.

This month's **2nd Sunday Share-the-Plate** recipient is **Prince William Conservation Alliance**, which "works to establish equitable, sustainable communities, promote environmental stewardship, and create opportunities for residents to engage in decisions that affect the quality of their lives and the future of their communities."

April 16: *Toolbox of Faith: Compass and Mirror*

(RE Council)

In the second of our series, the Lifespan Religious Education Committee will explore two more tools of our faith and the values involved in serving our community. Our Unitarian Universalist faith asks us to firmly root our personal integrity and listen to our true voice inside. Enjoy a contemplative morning which will guide us each to right decision making.

The **3rd Sunday Share-the-Plate** benefits **BRUU's Community Assistance Fund**.

April 23: *Interdependence – A UU Value*

(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann and Larry Underwood)

Among the six values enumerated in the UUA By-laws Article II revised language is "Interdependence." The text reads: "We honor the interdependent web of all existence. We covenant to cherish Earth and all beings by creating and nurturing relationships of care and respect. With humility and reverence, we acknowledge our place in the great web of life, and we work to repair harm and damaged relationships."

April 30: *Everybody Wants to Get to Heaven But Nobody Wants to Die: A Universalist Bluegrass Sunday*

(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)

During this morning's worship service, we will enjoy bluegrass music and explore our Universalist eschatology, the part of theology concerned with death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind.

The **5th Sunday Special Collection** this month benefits **Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth** (<https://www.uumfe.org/>), which "seeks environmental justice, beloved community and the flourishing of all life."

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I hope by now everyone has talked with their canvassers and submitted their pledge forms. As you know, to do some of the things that are needed at this point in time, we need to increase pledges considerably over what was pledged last year. We need to take better care of our aging build, take care of our staff, and enhance our stewardship and finances. I have increased my pledge amount by 20% and I hope you are in a position to be able to Increase your pledge as well.

Although we budgeted \$25,000 to be spent on infrastructure, this by no means will address our infrastructure needs. You may recall that at our last Congregational meeting an Infrastructure budget was accepted by the congregation. However, we did not have the means to pay for all that needs to be done. The Finance Committee recently made a recommendation to use some money from our building and operating reserves, some money that is in the Byer Library account, apply for some money from Endowment, and hold a special or capital campaign a year from now (where the bulk of the money would come from). The Board accepted this recommendation with the adjustment of increasing the money from Endowment and not taking any money from the operating reserves.

We have been in consultation with Mark Ewert, who we have used in the past for advice, and we are following his current recommendation to see how the pledge drive goes this year before deciding to proceed with a capital campaign, which generally is a two year process.

In the meantime, Gwen Talbot has found a most interesting grant that looks like it was designed for BRUU. It is called the National Trust for Sacred Spaces and the grants they offer can be as much as \$250,000. The catch though, is that we would need to raise matching funds of \$500,000 to receive this amount. That is where a capital campaign would come in. We will not be able to submit a letter of intent to apply until February next year and we will be told in June of next year if we are eligible to submit a full application.

So, it appears things are falling nicely into place.

But the reality is we still need to address some immediate infrastructure needs between now and when we might start receiving the grant or money from the campaign.

So, please get those pledges in and be as generous as you can!

May it be so.

Rita Romano
BRUU President



BULL RUN

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

MINISTER'S REPORT



Stewardship and Our Blue Boat Home

Rev. Charlotte

Here at Bull Run Unitarian Universalist (BRUU), the month of April has become nearly synonymous with the Earth stewardship efforts of our BRUU Green Team.

While the financial stewardship of our annual budget drive wraps up, our stewardship of the environment gains the spotlight this month. There will be three worship services that feature earth-related themes. On Easter Sunday, we'll celebrate an Earth Communion. Then on April 23rd (the day after Earth Day), Larry Underwood and I will reflect on our UU value of Interdependence; this is the one of the seven values proposed in the new UUA By-laws Article II language which most obviously references the current 7th Principle, but our interconnectedness is woven throughout the values and covenant subsection. During the Bluegrass Sunday, taking place on the 5th Sunday, we will ask for your donations in a special collection to benefit the UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE, www.uumfe.org), whose mission is seeking "environmental justice, beloved community, and the flourishing of all life."

The BRUU Green Team is always working on something. For example, they are involved in doing background research on green alternatives for our infrastructure replacements and upgrades. They are also participating in events or advising on initiatives here in Northern VA that address climate change and environmental justice issues. When I can, I also lend my voice and expertise. I will be participating in a clergy panel as part of the May 6th UU Climate Convening being held at River Road UU in Bethesda, MD. At least a few of the Green Team are planning to attend this event.

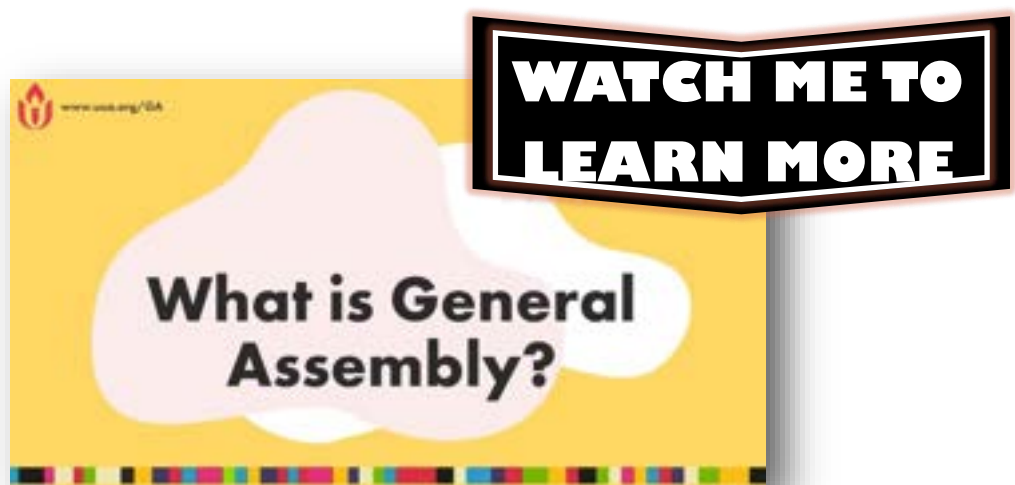
Last year, BRUU was a Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) Sustainability Champion Award winner. Larry Underwood and I went to accept the award on behalf of BRUU. As past awardees, we were asked if we would be able and willing to serve on the review panel to select this year's award winners. I have agreed to do this. The award event will take place on June 8th.

Taking care of our planet and reducing my personal carbon footprint is part of how I embody and live our UU values. I have recently invested in sealing and insulating the attic of my home as a tangible way that I am doing so. I am looking forward to the cost savings, of course, but more importantly, I feel good about doing my part as an Earth Steward.

May our days and nights be blessed by web of all existence that sustains life on our blue boat home,

Blessings,

Rev. Charlotte



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles.

Passover Seder

Friday April 7 @ 5 PM sharp

Setup/heat food 3:30

The Jewish holiday Seder features reading the story of the ancient Hebrews' exodus from Egypt. It is a deeply universal holiday as there has been no end to the struggle for freedom. New additions will be added to the Seder plate to recognize social justice themes such as LGBTQ+ Equality, women, fair trade, and current refugees. Songs and jokes lighten the celebration in hope for a more just and peaceful world.

Please join us in the BRUU fellowship hall for a sharing of specifically designated traditional foods such as brisket, charoset, kugel, tzimmes, matzah.

There are a few rules such as no unleavened bread and 4 mandatory glasses of wine (or grape juice).

RSVP is a must as we set a fancy table per person.

Call/text or email Nina Lomax at 571-247-2811

or ***ninalomax@comcast.net*** for questions and to pick your food assignment.

Options for non-cooks as well.

April Fellowship

Manassas 150th Celebration 4/1



April 1 2:00-8:00 pm Festival! Jennie Dean Park-rides, food, and fun. Ceremony at 3 and fireworks later. Looking for historic walk meetup and festival meeting point. POC Mary Kadlubowski Fellowship@bruu.org Look for the BRUU Chair

April 7- 1st Friday is back

Bubbles & Popcorn 5-7pm Stop by to meet up with other Bruuers, have a little popcorn and maybe ice tea.

Seder Dinner 5-7pm POC Nina Lomax ninalomax@comcast.net 571.247.2811



Saturday April 8th 7:30 pm Chrysalis Concert Series Greg Greenway International artist out of the Boston Folk music scene, singer/ songwriter multi-instrumentalist. Greg is capable of addressing sensitive topics like Race in a way that connects audiences to their humanity while entertaining them at the same time.



Tickets \$25/person! POC contact Randy Earl TREARL0607@gmail.com
<https://tinyurl.com/Chrysalis-Greenway>

Second Sunday April 9 Easter Sunday

Younger Adults Meetup rescheduled Contact Michelle Fegeas 540.219.9058 for details

Second Sunday Hike rescheduled Contact Charlie Grymes cgrymes@gmail.com for details

DRUMMING Sunday April 16

Drumming Third Sunday We are having a drumming circle every third Sunday at 11:30 in the Flamingo Lounge (room 107). If you don't have a drum, let me know in advance so I can bring one for you. POC Martin Crim martin.crim@gmail.com

Sunday April 30 Walking Tour

Faith History Walking Tour 11:30 am Contact DRE Kristen Worthington dre@bruu.org for details

Coming in May

5/5 Marshmallow Roast

5/6 Shenandoah Run



We are having a fun
no-obligation drumming circle!

Every **third Sunday** at **11:30** in the **Flamingo Lounge (room 107)**.

If you want to participate but don't have a drum, let me know in advance so I can bring one for you.

CONTACT—Martin Crim



Open to all readers, that meets the **3rd Monday** of almost every month – by Zoom – at 3:30pm.

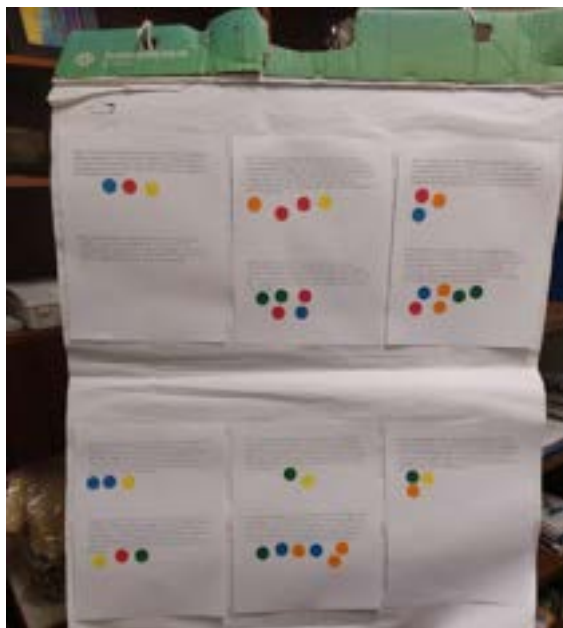
Book selections are eclectic and made by the democratic process, with consideration to availability at the public library, download, and/or local bookstores (particularly McKay's Used Books!). The group is not limited to BRUU members – one of our participants joins us from Portland, ME.

If you are interested in joining the discussions of an unconventional group of readers then contact Susan Gregorio
[SusanG100@comcast.net]

Be a Part of Designing BRUU's Future

BRUU is drafting a Strategic/Long-Range Plan to focus our volunteer/staff energy and resources. Developing a Strategic Plan will help us to make sure that we have a consensus on what we want to achieve as a congregation, and will allow us to assess our progress in getting results.

Art Muirhead will be leading planning exercises after Sunday services in April, so BRUU members can identify their priorities – you can demonstrate your commitment to building BRUU's future by attending one of these sessions. You will be asked to rank a group of possible scenarios depicting positive outcomes that we might expect to see if the members of BRUU were to make a priority of activities in different areas over the next several years. Discussion of the group's rankings will follow the exercise. Current plans call for a draft of a Strategic Plan to be circulated for review in May and if approved by the board, the Congregation would be able to vote on June 4 to define our path forward.



Planning focus sessions will take place at **11:30 in Room 307 after each of the first four services in April**. We expect each session to last 30 to 45 minutes. Please send an email to muirheadab@yahoo.com indicating whether you intend to participate on the 9th, 16th or 23rd. It will be a big help to know in advance how many people to expect, but walk-ins will also be accepted, as long as there is space in the room.

Thanks in advance for taking part in defining BRUU's future path!

Near the end of the long project to repair the ceiling in Kristin Worthington's office, the floor got waxed.

Finally, the material stockpiled temporarily in the Byer Library could be restored to its appropriate places.



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.

It takes a village (aka congregation)!



YOU & YOU & You!

Due to Government cuts to Snap (Food Stamps) your help is needed to help those of us at the USDA Food Pantry prepare for our monthly distribution on the third Friday of each month.

Help is needed:

- preparing the distribution bags, (anytime that works for you)
- loading and unloading on distribution day

Contact Tina Cox at BRUU, 703-361-6269, Ext. 1

For more information.

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

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing Study Group Zoom on Monday night

Affordable Housing is one of the top issues at VOICE, but the "what to do" choices are not clear. VOICE is still studying the complex issue, so it is timely for doing our homework at BRUU before making recommendations for the "action" that will be organized.

We'd welcome new faces and ideas at our share-the-ignorance, what-did-you-learn sessions. We focus on local issues and opportunities, but are learning the bureaucratic/legal jargon ("just what is Section 8 housing...") and what worked/failed in other places (including the Missing Middle in Arlington).



Join us for an hour of discussion on the third Monday of each month. Get Zoom link at housing@bruu.org

NEW BRUU MEMBERS!

Great news, we have nine new members to welcome!

Andrea and John Calvin

Alexandra Davies

Trude Blomso Lawson

Robert Luong

Doug and Renata McLaughlin

Jan Mosso

Susan Scott

They are in the online BRUU Directory – look them up!
And be sure to let them know how happy you are to have them!

COSM hears you!

After the success of our in-person listening session on February 26th, the Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) will be holding a second in person session on April 23rd at 11:30 am, following the Sunday service in the 2nd floor conference room.

There will also be an online listening session held via Zoom on Thursday, April 13th at 7pm until 8:30 pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 990 8135 6381

Passcode: 903405

The last session was very lively and we look forward to you attending one of the future sessions. You may also email COSM (cosm@bruu.org) your responses to our survey questions, listed below, or if you prefer to respond anonymously, you may use our online [survey](#) which will be open through Sunday, April 9th.

1. [PRESENT – Focus] Consider how BRUU is currently functioning . In your opinion, what is working; what are our wins?
2. [FUTURE – Focus] What are your hopes for the next year (or longer)?
3. [ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK] Do you have any ideas and other feedback you'd like to share?
4. Thinking about newcomers and those unfamiliar with the congregation, what information is most needed to be conveyed; e.g., on the back of the order of service? to help them engage and come back to BRUU.

Thank you,

Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM)

OUR BELOVED BRUU BUILDING UPDATE

On Saturday, March 18, we had an amazing workday! At least 25 people attended, and many projects were completed. Most projects we do on workdays tend to be easy, one day projects we can do ourselves.

Last fall the Building and Grounds team worked on restructuring the various related committees. Under the umbrella of Building and Grounds we have Property Maintenance (with Theo Abramovich as lead), Infrastructure (with myself as lead) and Building Use that currently is looking for someone to lead. We are pleased to announce that Kathy Sobrio is now head of a new team under Property Maintenance, called Aesthetics. For the time being, I am also the interim Building and Grounds lead. For at least 16 years Amy Hamilton has been the primary gardener/groundskeeper. She is now looking for a team to take over these responsibilities. If you are interested in participating, please get in touch with her.

The proposed budget for next fiscal year, includes a proposed new paid part time custodian position. This means we should more often see a cleaner better building. In addition, this person would do light repairs which would ease the demand on volunteers who now do some of these tasks. For example, Sterling Rush may not need to take out the trash. There are many other examples.

We have created a new system for informing the maintenance team when you see something that needs repairing or addressing in the building. Simply click on the link below and it will bring you to a form called 'Building Repair Request'. An email including the submitted form is sent to the entire team.

Building Repair Request Form:

<https://www.bruu.org/www2/building-repair-request-form/>

In other good news, the keyless entry on the new doors to the courtyard is operational. Entry codes must be entered manually. If you need access through them (we can use the same code as for the office door), let John Sunda know and he'll add yours.

Last year there was a leak in the radiator above the DRE office which has been repaired. The water damaged a small portion of the office ceiling. We remediated, repaired, and replastered the ceiling. The room is now all fixed and painted – painting was one of the tasks completed during work day.

Not only do we need to maintain our building, we also must maintain the commercial building (that we own) next door. As part of that effort, we recently installed a tankless water heater upstairs and a new AC unit.

As we all know, a 90-year-old building has constant needs. Thanks to the donations from some of you and the Kostik family, we are close to choosing a company to repair our stained glass windows. This is a costly project among many other costly projects in the queue.

The HVAC unit in the Fellowship Hall includes an old, inefficient, and slowly leaking expensive coolant and oil heat. We are getting bids to replace it with a high efficiency heat pump eliminating the need for fuel oil heat in this area. The first bid for a high efficiency unit was for \$36,000! In addition, the boilers in our building are very, very old, well over 50 years. To replace them, we plan to install ductless mini-split heat pumps in the educational wings. These are next in line in the HVAC queue, and we plan to start the process when funds become available.

We have been told by the roofer that the roof over the sanctuary section of the building (pitched part of the roof both sides) needs replacing soon. The expected cost for this may be \$30,000 or more.

Please keep all these needed repairs in mind as you contemplate this year's Canvas. As of now, there is only \$25,000 in next year's budget for these and other Infrastructure projects. Should there be an overall budget shortfall, even this insufficient amount could end up being cut back. The board and finance committee are working on this but there is only so much you can do if resources are limited. Some of the larger repairs (e.g., the roof), may need to wait until we have a Capital Campaign.

Meanwhile, we are working hard and can always use your help and support.

—Christine Sunda



**The Green Team is organizing
monthly hikes on the
Second Sunday of each month**

Every Second Sunday, BRUU is invited to join the **Greater Prince William Trails Coalition** on a local hike.

(Green Team is a member of the Coalition.)

In February, we explored the Discovery Trail at the landfill - and yes, it snowed. **Next time**, we'll explore Bull Run between I-66 and Ben Lomond Park.

Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/e27h4m8s> to get details, including the location of the starting point.



BRUU Board Election June 4

BRUU is an incorporated organization, managed by an elected nine-member Board of Directors based on our Bylaws. The current 223 official members of BRUU are the equivalent of shareholders with stock in our corporation.

Members will elect a President, Treasurer, Program Council Chair, one Director, and the Youth Member on June 4 at the annual Congregational Meeting.

Board members serve a two-year term, except the Youth Member is elected for a one-year term. (In 2025, we will elect the other half of the Board: the Vice-President, Secretary, two Directors, plus a Youth Member.)

Interested in serving?

Contact the **Nominating Committee** at nominating@bruu.org or talk to Martin Crim, Janette Muir, Nina Lomax, or Charlie Grymes.

NOTE: the Youth Member position is nominated by the RE Council and is filled only if there is a candidate. If interested, please contact **Jennifer Malos** at re.council@bruu.org

PLEASE PASS THE BASKET!

...as it is an act of BRUU support each Sunday that can be demonstrated by everyone - whether you contribute treasure, or not, but you will be giving time & talent!

This will require some assistance from both our volunteer Ushers and the congregants in the pews. We could use another one or two folks as Ushers to arrive a bit early to assist with welcoming new and returning attendees, passing the Collection baskets during the service, and ensuring the contributions are directed to the correct, responsible financial folks following the service.

If you would be willing to help one Sunday a month with this effort, please contact Worship@BRUU.org or stop and speak with one of the Ushers at the main doors to the Sanctuary.

BRUU makes its space available for meetings of local groups

Our Green Team sponsors the public hybrid meetings of the Merrimac Farm Master Naturalist Chapter every two months





Prince William Public
Defender's Office

**LIVING
LIBRARY
INITIATIVE**

PAPERBACK
**BOOK
DRIVE**

**Our mission is to expand access to a diverse variety of books
for people incarcerated in Prince William County through
community collaboration**

BOOKS NEEDED:

- Books in Spanish
- Vocational & trade books
- General fiction (all literacy levels)
- Non-fiction
- Biographies
- Motivational & personal growth
- Resume & job interviewing
- Financial literacy
- Addiction & recovery
- Science fiction

RESTRICTIONS:

- Extreme graphic violence
- Explicit sexual content
- Gang-related materials
- Bomb/explosive making
- Drug manufacturing
- Any how-to guides on tool making, escapes, martial arts & fighting

HOW TO DONATE:



DROP BOXES
We have drop boxes throughout Prince William County. Check out our social media to find a drop box near you!



LOCAL PICKUP
We may be able to accommodate local pickups. Contact us for details!



AMAZON WISHLIST
Check out our Wishlist for ideas and order books directly from there!

 Accepting
paperback book
donations
through **May 15**

 **@pwdefenderslivinglibrary**

 **Living Library Initiative**

 **pwdefenderslivinglibrary@gmail.com**

The Prince William County Public Defender's Office has launched the Living Library Initiative to address a "quality of life" challenge at the Prince William Adult Detention Center - lack of reading material. Incarcerated individuals have lots of downtime, but can't walk through the library aisles and discover books which might be interesting.

The Living Library Initiative will be accepting paperback book donations through **May 15th**.

Chrysalis Concert Series – looking for volunteers

Our Vision: Music Transforming Community

Our Mission: Offering a concert series grounded in good music that opens the soul to transformation. The series features musical performances that will break through barriers and build community, serving as a catalyst for change in all of us. Funds are raised to support BRUU's ongoing outreach in the Manassas area and beyond.

Our Chrysalis Concert Series is gearing up for more great concerts like we had with Nothin' Fancy in January. We have concerts coming up in April and May, and great plans for the future. This on-going fundraiser is a great way to reach out to the community and also stay connected with our BRUU family.

In running this kind of series, there are many needs and the more help we have, the more we all enjoy the event. If you are interested in being involved – whether it be helping with set up, refreshments, av/sound, publicity, etc. – we welcome you. Please let Janette Muir (jkmuir99@gmail.com) know and she will send a link to the next zoom meeting.

Meanwhile – save the dates

4/8, Greg Greenway

5/6, Shenandoah Run.

Tickets available soon

THE PUZZLER

March's Puzzler

I walked into our kitchen the other day and just as I entered Jessica turned to me and said, “hang on just a second, I'm just calling Tyler. I need him to pick up Julia and I'm just reminding him.”

'Within a few seconds he must have answered the phone because I heard her say, “Hey Ty, it's me....”'

...Just Then...

she asked him a perfectly normal question. But if she'd asked that **same question 30 years ago** he might have thought she was joking...or losing it!

It is very likely that we are asked this same question several times every week.

What was the question that she asked him? THE ANSWER

The question she asked was "**Where are you?**" because she was calling him on his cell phone!

And you wouldn't have done that 20 or 30 years ago because you didn't have a cell phone back then.

Keep reading for this month's
puzzler

BRUU

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703-361-6269

Minister

Rev. Charlotte Lehmann
minister@bruu.org

BRUU Board of Directors

President (2021-23)

Rita Romano
president@bruu.org

Vice President (2022-24)

Dianne Lane
vicepresident@bruu.org

Secretary (2022-24)

Chris Sexton
secretary@bruu.org

Treasurer (2021-23)

Heather Berthold
treasurer@bruu.org

Directors at Large

Jessica Hruska (2022-24)
Sophia Kadlubowski (2021-23)
Chris McClure (2022-24)
director@bruu.org

Youth Director

Freya Davies (2022-23)
director@bruu.org

Immediate Past President

Martin Crim

Program Council

Catherine Ring (2021-23)
programcouncil@bruu.org

Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Kristin Worthington
dre@bruu.org

Interim Director of Music

David Maley
music@bruu.org

Office Assistant

Tina Cox, office@bruu.org

BRUU OFFICE HOURS

M-F 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

THE PUZZLER

April's Puzzler

What is special about these words?

JOB
POLISH
HERB

GOOD LUCK!

Please email your answer to -

newsletter@bruu.org

Use the *Subject Line* - **BRUU PUZZLER**

From the correct answers, one random winner may be chosen to be featured in the newsletter and awarded bragging rights of course. Good Luck!