



BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

April 2024
Volume 42, Issue #4

Crossroads



April 22 is Earth Day, but we can “Go Green!” year round!

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The monthly BRUU Newsletter



April Sermon Descriptions

April 7: Can't Buy Me Love (Anthony Jenkins) – As we enter April's tax season (and exit BRUU's Canvass Campaign), Chaplain Anthony Jenkins will lead a service exploring the concept of money as a currency of love – or lack thereof.

April 14: Blue Zones (Rev. Charlotte Lehmann) – What are Blue Zones? How do "blue zones" impact health and longevity? How can we create and-or foster "blue zones"? This is the 2023 Auction Sermon.

The 2nd Sunday Share-the-Plate is for Prince William Conservation Alliance.

April 21: Nature as Spiritual Practice (Rev. Charlotte Lehmann & BRUU Green Team) – In this service we'll explore how "being with nature" can be a spiritual practice that is deeply enriching. A 2013 study from the U.S. National Institutes of Health shows that nature can give us a physical and mental sense of being away from the monotonous urban environment. Whether images or the real deal, nature scenes give us visually-rich stimuli that nourish our sense of well-being.

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

April 28: Coming of Age Service (Kristin Worthington, DLRE) – Our faith is formed by people and institutions of diverse beliefs. Therefore, we have placed high value on the development of individualized beliefs among our young people. In this final step for our Coming of Age youth, they will share what they value and have faith in. Come support the youth on this special moment of the journey.



Minister's Column

The Many Ways that the UUA Supports Congregations

Rev. Charlotte Lehmann

I've recently returned from a week of study leave offered to ministers by the UUA's Office of Church Staff Finances (OCSF) with support from the Office of Ministries and Faith Development (MFD). It was delightful to spend a week at a beautiful Catholic retreat center with colleagues some of whom I had met in seminary or at other points along my ministerial journey and others who are familiar because of collegial social media spaces.

It was an intense week and there was a lot of information imparted during our time together.

One thing that I have come away with from this full-to-overflowing workshop experience is how deep and broad is the support that UUA member congregations receive from our denominational headquarters. Both Kristin and I take advantage of worship and religious education resources that the UUA offers through its webpages. And I know that our Bookkeeper, Robin Fegeas, doesn't hesitate to check with the appropriate subgroup of the OCSF when questions arise regarding staff benefits and compensation. I also make sure that our BRUU Personnel and Finance Committees know about various pertinent resources such as the Benefits Tune-Up Workbook (<https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/benefits-tuneup>) and the compensation guidelines (<https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/congregational-salary>), both of which are updated on a regular basis. The people working in the OCSF have answers to our questions, have valuable resources, and, if they can't answer a question, they can either find out or point us in the right direction.

For example, as part of the FY24-25 budget proposal, the Board wants to offer Long-Term Disability (LTD) Insurance to our professional staff. I learned an important piece of information from Jan Gartner, the Compensation and Staffing

Minister's Column, Continued

Practices Manager, that this insurance benefit cannot be offered on its own; the Life Insurance benefit must be offered along with it. However, even if BRUU offers the LTD as an employer-paid benefit, it doesn't have to pay for the accompanying Life Insurance benefit – staff opting to enroll in the Life Insurance program would pay their own premiums. (Note: the minister already receives these benefits through their letter of agreement [LOA].)

The support of the OCSF and the MFD are just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what we get in return for our BRUU Annual Program Fund (APF) payment. The APF is the primary source of funding for the UUA (<https://www.uua.org/finance/apf>). BRUU was not able to pay the full ask, which is based on our operating expenses, in 2023. We lost our long-cherished Honor Congregation status. This year we were only able to pay one quarter of what we should have. The Board is recommending paying one-half of the APF amount determined as our contribution in FY24-25. I hope we can regain our status as an Honor Congregation by paying our full APF amount again before too many more years pass by. Being an Honor Congregation was a huge source of pride for the members of BRUU for so many, many years.

I hope that every BRUU member and friend will take into account the resources and support that come to us as a member congregation of the UUA when determining their stewardship pledge for FY24-25.

Your generosity of heart is the life-blood of this wonderful UU community and all that it provides to Manassas and the surrounding communities.

Yours in service,

Rev. Charlotte

From the President's Desk

Angie Carrera, President, Board of Directors

On March 24, the congregation enjoyed a fun-filled Canvass Sunday Service with a fantastic cast featuring the Wizard of Oz as the basis of the annual pledge drive. This was followed by a wonderful luncheon in the Fellowship Hall to meet cast members and ask questions about the Canvass and pledge process.

As you may know, the Canvass season opened a bit late this year as no one was available to serve as Stewardship Chair. However, a group of volunteers stepped up to help with Canvass Sunday and some of the follow-up necessary to complete the canvass. I am grateful for their sense of creativity as they worked diligently to make the service special.

I want to thank the Canvass Team, the Cast of our Wizard of Oz performance, the staff and volunteers who assisted with the Service and the luncheon, including Jessie Thompson, Nelly Avila and Jan Mosso.

By now, you should have in your possession the BRUU pledge packets (handed out at Town Hall and Canvass Sunday and provided via a BRUU Blast and Roundup). In reading it, please note that the base income goal (\$375,000) approved by the Board of Directors remains in effect.

However, as other recommendations have emerged in response to the reduction recommended at last week's Town Hall, the board will be revisiting the budget line items at the next board meeting, which was rescheduled from March 21 to March 28 to secure better attendance. This change means that Board Matters article of this edition of Crossroads will only list agenda items as none will be decided until after the Crossroads deadline.

Soon after the March 28 board meeting, we will communicate our revised budget deliberations so that you will have a better idea of what will be covered. The revised budget will be reviewed once more after all pledges have been received by the April 13 deadline and finalized by your vote at the Congregational Meeting on June 2nd.

From the President's Desk, Continued

In the meantime, please keep an eye out for ROUNDUP notices about how pledges are coming in and what you can do to keep supporting staff and programming that you care about. Like me, you may decide to add to your initial pledge. If, after our next report on the budget, you want to get more information, please contact me at President@BRUU.org and I will respond as soon as possible.

Finally, I must to extend my thanks for the patience and forbearance of staff and volunteers whose scheduling was upended to provide us the space and time to implement the March 24 activities. They all understood the importance of this kickoff for the coming year's budget. With a Stewardship Team in charge next year, our scheduling should improve, so as not to interfere with important activities normally scheduled.

While some of this information may seem repetitive, I want to make sure you are aware of what is happening here at BRUU. The pledge drive continues in hopes that all members understand that the way to support BRUU and vital programming comes from your pledges. The Board continues its work on several fronts, and we are glad to answer any questions.

Together for BRUU,

Angie Carrera, President, Board of Directors

Board Matters

While The Board usually meets on the third Thursday of each month, the meeting was re-scheduled to March 28 in order to achieve a fuller attendance. This meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the BRUU Conference Room and is available on Zoom, except for a Closed or Executive Session.

On March 28, the Board will review the Consent Agenda with reports from the President, Program Council Chair, Treasurer, Minister, Membership Chair. Anyone interested in further information about the meeting may contact the President at President@BRUU.org.

- GA Delegates and financial support for attendees – Minister (Action Required)
- FY24 Income Goals and Budget considerations – Board (Action Required)
- Social Media Report - Maia Malos (Info only)
- Executive Session: Ministerial Assessment Summary

After approval by the Board, the full minutes of each meeting are available in the BRUUnet KnowledgeBase. Determinations about pledge income goals and budget recommendations by the Board will be communicated to the congregation by way of Roundup as soon as possible.



Obituary for Paul William Galvin

From <https://www.piercefh.com/obituaries/Paul-Galvin-2/#!/Obituary> :

Paul Galvin, 90, of Manassas, Virginia and devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather died on March 1, 2024. He is survived by his four children and their spouses (Suzanne and Ken; Shelley and Michael; Kai and Skip; and Kent and Sheila) along with 10 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, a niece and three nephews. He was preceded in death by Doris, his loving wife of over 67 years.



Paul had a gentle soul and an infectious smile. He had an innate ability to disarm discord and find common ground. His strong moral compass steered him toward finding consensus and peaceful resolution amid strife and turmoil.

Paul loved and enjoyed his family above all else. He and Doris would organize annual Christmas gatherings for all their children and their families to attend. Paul continued this almost 40-year tradition this past December, carefully taking in each moment of the family gathering. This past January he celebrated his 90th birthday down on Kerr Lake, with all his children in attendance. His many friends report how he often spoke of how proud he was of his children.

Paul loved to read, sitting for hours engrossed in mystery novels or delving into the daily paper. He was a jigsaw puzzle enthusiast, loving the many hours he'd spend with his children putting together multiple hundreds of pieces to make a whole. He enjoyed playing basketball with his colleagues, sailing with friends, hiking and camping with his children, and traveling to exotic places with his wife.

Paul dedicated his professional life to the service of others in the ministry and education. He was a teacher and counselor who listened and provided guidance and wisdom to young teens and adults as they wrestled with the difficulties and joys of life. Paul spent his volunteer life organizing and leading numerous organizations. He served lengthy terms as the treasurer of Bull Run

Unitarian Universalist church, the Virginia School Counselors Association, and the Sudley Home Owners Association. Additionally, he spent time participating in statewide political processes, protesting civil injustices, supporting likeminded organizations, and protecting vulnerable people. Throughout his life he was generous in his financial support of charities and numerous families in need.

A celebration of Paul Galvin will be held at 1 P.M. on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at the Bull Run Unitarian Universalists, 9350 Main Street, Manassas, Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a contribution in the name of Paul Galvin to the Contingency Fund for Family Needs (Community Assistance Fund) at the Bull Run Unitarian Universalists, 9350 Main Street, Manassas, Virginia, 20110.

Volunteers needed to support Paul Galvin's Memorial Service

Volunteers needed for:

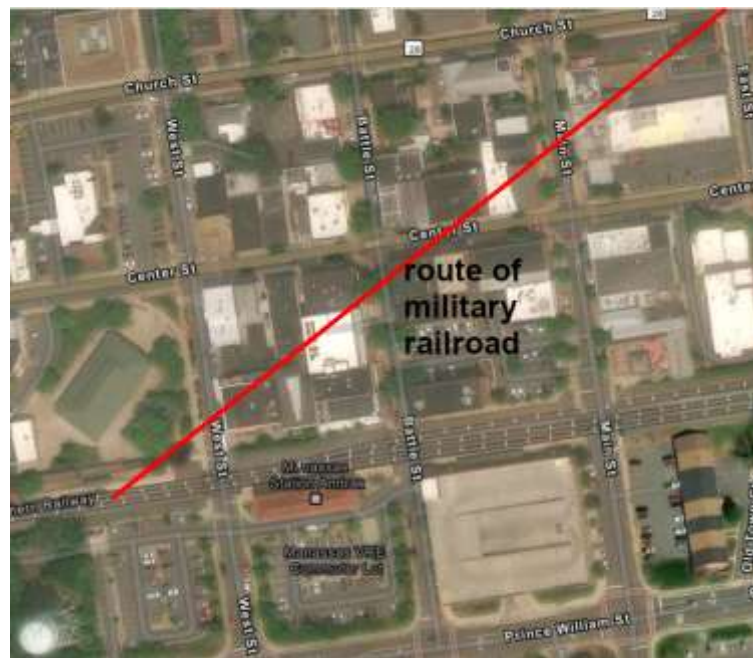
- **Finger Foods** – small sandwiches, savories, nuts, cheese & crackers, vegetables & cut up fruit, desserts, etc.. Please label vegetarian dishes. Also, label your special dish (on the bottom) for easy return.
- **Soft drinks or juices**
- **Clean up Assistance** in the kitchen & Fellowship Hall following the reception.

Contact us: email pastoralcare@bruu.org

Across the Street...

Charlie Grymes

Change is constant, as reflected by development of the lot across Main Street from BRUU. It was a farm field in July 1861, when Confederate forces won the Battle of Manassas nearby. They then established a base at Centreville. Food, hay, and ammunition was brought by railroad to the junction of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad and the Manassas Gap Railroad.



Wagons struggled to carry the supplies to Centreville, so the Confederates built a six-mile military railroad from the junction across Bull Run. That innovative railroad operated only briefly in February-March 1862. Trains passed south of the current BRUU building, which was constructed 65 years later.

The Prince William Hotel was constructed in 1912, and replaced by the Pitts Theater (with a segregated balcony) in 1935. The theater was torched in 1950 by a projectionist who stole a Shirley Temple film and set the fire to cover up the crime.

Across the Street, continued



The Jackson Hotel replaced the Pitts Theater. It was replaced in the 1960's by the Manassas Downtowner, renamed the Olde Towne Inn in 1973. The coffee shop there had a corner known as the Roundtable, where the movers and shakers in Prince William County gathered daily to network.

The Old Towne Inn survived a fire in 1994. As reported in the Washington Post [<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1994/02/03/the-embers-of-an-era/efdcdba1-dda1-4e05-be22-c3f29ed96e38/>], the fire received national coverage because the media had congregated in Manassas to cover the Bobbitt trial. In 2023, the City of Manassas purchased the parcel and tore down the motel.

Look for the city to sell the parcel so a new motel can be constructed there in the future, with perhaps three stories facing BRUU and five stories set back from the street.

Let's Go Green! Let's Go Electric!

Larry Underwood

Electrifying your house by transitioning to electric appliances and systems can have several environmental effects. Here are some of the key environmental considerations to keep in mind:

1. **Reduced Carbon Emissions:** One of the primary benefits of electrifying your house is the potential to reduce carbon emissions. By replacing natural gas or oil-based heating systems with electric heat pumps, or gas appliances with electric versions, you can lower your household's greenhouse gas emissions, especially if your electricity comes from renewable sources like solar or wind.
2. **Improved Air Quality:** Electric appliances produce fewer local air pollutants compared to those powered by fossil fuels. For example, electric stoves and water heaters eliminate indoor air pollutants like carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide, which can have health impacts.
3. **Energy Efficiency:** Electrifying your house can lead to overall energy efficiency gains, especially if you choose Energy Star-rated electric appliances that are designed to be more energy-efficient compared to their traditional counterparts. Energy efficiency reduces overall energy consumption and environmental impact.
4. **Promotion of Renewable Energy:** By electrifying your house, you have the opportunity to link your electricity consumption with renewable energy sources like solar panels or wind turbines. This can further reduce the environmental impact of your energy use.
5. **Impact on Grid Resilience:** As more households electrify, there may be an increased demand for electricity, which could impact the stability and reliability of the grid. However, with proper planning and integration of smart technologies, this challenge can be managed effectively.

Let's Go Green!, continued

6. **Embodied Carbon:** It's important to consider the embodied carbon emissions associated with manufacturing and disposing of electric appliances. While electric appliances may have lower operational emissions, their manufacturing process can still contribute to carbon emissions.
7. **Lifestyle Changes:** Electrifying your house may require changes in your lifestyle and habits, such as shifting energy consumption to off-peak hours, to maximize the environmental benefits and reduce strain on the grid.

Transitioning to electric vehicles also has several positive environmental effects compared to traditional internal combustion engine vehicles. Some of the key environmental benefits of going electric include:

1. **Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Electric vehicles produce zero tailpipe emissions, which helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. Even when accounting for the emissions from electricity generation, electric vehicles are generally cleaner than gasoline or diesel vehicles.
2. **Improved Air Quality:** Electric vehicles don't emit pollutants like nitrogen oxides (NOx), particulate matter, and volatile organic compounds that contribute to smog, poor air quality, and respiratory issues. Transitioning to electric vehicles can help improve air quality in urban areas.
3. **Decreased Noise Pollution:** Electric vehicles are quieter than traditional vehicles because they don't have an internal combustion engine. This reduction in noise pollution can benefit urban environments and residential areas.
4. **Resource Efficiency:** Electric vehicles are more energy-efficient than internal combustion engine vehicles. This means that they can travel further using the same amount of energy, reducing overall energy consumption and reliance on fossil fuels.

5. **Promotion of Renewable Energy:** The adoption of electric vehicles can help drive the demand for renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power. Charging electric vehicles with renewable energy sources can further reduce their environmental impact.
6. **Reduction in Oil Dependency:** Electric vehicles reduce the demand for fossil fuels, helping to decrease dependency on oil and improve energy security.
7. **Potential for Vehicle-to-Grid Integration:** Electric vehicles can be integrated into the grid as energy storage units, helping balance electricity supply and demand and increasing the flexibility of the grid.

In conclusion, electrifying your house can have several environmental benefits, such as reduced carbon emissions, improved air quality, and energy efficiency. However, it's important to consider the broader implications and take a holistic approach to ensure that the transition to electric systems aligns with sustainability goals.

Similarly, transitioning to electric vehicles can significantly contribute to reducing environmental impacts, mitigating climate change, improving air quality, and promoting sustainability in the transportation sector.

So, as we can LET'S GO GREEN!

Events At & Around BRUU

Spring Work Day coming soon!



Our next workday will be **Saturday, April 13th**, from 9:30-3pm. Spring workdays give us the chance to get outdoor projects done too. We will also have many indoor projects. Come for as long as you can and dress to get dirty! Pizza lunch and other yummys will be provided. Supervised children welcome. To sign up click on this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4DAAAD2BA31-47032305-work>

This is extremely helpful in planning projects and supplies! For more information contact Christine Sunda.

April 14: Second Sunday Hike (1:00-3:00pm)

This month, we'll explore some of the 150+ acres along Broad Run acquired by American Battlefield Trust. The land is part of the historic Bristoe Station battlefield. We'll view Broad Run from a 75' high bluff and see two beaver lodges. (Yeah, they subdivided without a rezoning permit.)

We'll see a property that is not normally open to the public. Hike will be about 1.5 miles on informal trails, slightly improved from "deer path." It's flat ground, but the natural surface will be bumpy with a few wet-ish spots.

Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/e27h4m8s> so we can notify you in case weather forces a postponement. Plan to park in a grass field at 11059 Bristow Road.



PASSOVER SEDER

Sunday, April 21

5PM Sharp, BRUU Fellowship Hall



The most celebrated and beloved of the Jewish rituals, the Seder will include reading from a Haggadah, stories, songs, and a fantastic dinner of **specifically designated** traditional Jewish foods. Passover marks the escape of the enslaved Israelites from Egypt to freedom and reminds us of the potential for a just and peaceful world.

Gefilte fish, tzimmes, kugel, charoset, and matzah ...a fancy table is set per person so **RSVP is a must**. There are a few rules such as no unleavened bread and 4 mandatory glasses of wine (grape juice for the kids)!

Call or email Nina Lomax for reservations, your food assignment, and Jewish questions at ninalomax@comcast.net. If you can cook, take a Jewish dish. If you don't cook, you can have an easy assignment like matzah or juice. If your dish needs heating, come by 4:30-4:45.

Tour the Woods Edge Lake Border Whimsical Native Plant Garden of Lois Montgomery

Date: April 28, 2024

Time: 1:30pm-5:30pm

Address: 8330 Geller Circle, Lake Jackson, Manassas, VA 20112

Please note: This garden is on uneven ground with loose stone pathways, stone steps, wooden steps, and concrete steps. Walking sticks are recommended, so please bring yours if you have them. I have several to loan.

Parking: Geller Circle is a horseshoe, and a gravel road at that. Enter Geller at the first sign which is immediately after Cecil Rd. It is a steep grade but doable even in a small car. At the bottom of the hill turn right and park as close to the green house with the purple shutters as you can. Each successive car should park behind the previous car. Yes, you will park in the middle of the street. Neighbors know not to use the street. When you are ready to leave, you will head out on Geller in the direction you are pointed. This is very important. Do not come in the opposite direction. You will booger up the place. As you leave, there is a significant dip in the road. To avoid scraping your undercarriage, stay to the LEFT side of the street.

Nestled between woods, house and Lake, this garden is an eclectic mix of native plants, found object d'Art and scavenged materials. Ferns figure prominently with a wide variety of them scattered throughout. Early blooming Hellebores in several colors begin the spring season, followed by the daffodils and other bulbs like grape hyacinths, snow stars, and Spanish bluebells. Next to the garden shed is a native witch hazel that blooms early also. A cultivar redbud in bush form sits at the corner of the parking area. Evergreen azaleas that were severely pruned four years ago are showing signs of flowering well later this year. These replaced the several Exbury azaleas that were over 60 years old and transplanted from the mountains in West Virginia to my mothers garden and then in my garden. Sadly borers got to them. Lily of the valley were brought in with the old azaleas and now fill the area between the porch and the road. A fall blooming camellia anchors the corner of the walkway. Recently added stone-filled wooden steps lead down to the walled area which is filling in with king fern, wood poppy, and as yet unseen peach colored perennial begonia. Many native plants are planted along the new steps. Trillium, dog tooth violet, dutchman's breeches, wild ginger and pinkster azalea on the other side of the house represent the very first wildflowers planted here over forty years ago.

Southeast UU Summer Institute (SUUSI) 2024



The Southeast UU Summer Institute has been an "intentional community" for 50 years. In 2024, we are returning to Radford, Virginia.

Join about 500 other UU's for a incredibly rewarding week of making new friends, building connections, learning, discovering new perspective at various workshops and worship services, and exploring the outdoors in a wide variety of nature trips. The Youth program is powerful. SUUSI is a memorable intergenerational fun time together. It's that rare family time that families remember forever, with joy.

Oh, and the music! SUUSI is 24-7 with acoustic roots music and song. There are experienced touring artists, emerging wannabes, and lots of "I play for fun, You're a pro, I'm not – let's play together anyway" musicians.

You want to party with barbecue at 2:00am? Want to play games and do puzzles quietly over coffee? Hey, come to SUUSI. We celebrate diversity.

For details, check out <https://www.suusi.org/index> or talk to the Muirs, Mike Freeland, Cathy Ring, or the dozen other BRUUs who have gone regularly to SUUSI.



2024

SUMMER AT THE HARRIS PAVILION



www.manassasva.gov/harris pavilion

ACOUSTIC TUESDAY CONCERTS

@ 7 PM

- May 7 – Shane Gamble Duo
- May 14 – Jason Teach
- May 21 – Grayson Moon
- May 28 – Patty Reese
- June 4 – Chris Compton
- June 11 – Chesapeake Sons
- June 18 – Jason Masi
- June 25 – Shane Gamble
- July 2 – Joe Downer
- July 9 – Timmie Metz Duo
- July 16 – Travis Tucker
- July 23 – Scott Kurt
- July 30 – Shane Gamble
- August 6 – Garrett Mabe Duo
- August 13 – Kimberly Burke
- August 20 – Mackenzie Ryan Duo
- August 27 – Rook Richards
- September 3 – Shane Gamble

FRESH MUSIC FRIDAYS

@ 7 PM

- June 21 – The Still Runners
- June 28 – The Twangtown Paramours
- July 12 – Jon Mitchem
- July 19 – Bad Press Band
- July 26 – Speakeasy
- August 9 – Nitehawks
- August 23 – Blue Bottleneck Band



Current as of February 1

Scan the QR code for the most up to date schedule!

Dates are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.



SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERT SERIES

@ 7 PM

- June 8 – Earls of Kent
- June 22 – Beatlegacy
- August 3 – Special Occasions
- August 10 – Mike Parker
- September 14 – Silver Tones Swing Band

SUMMER SOUNDS CONCERT SERIES

Brought to you by ARTfactory

@ 6:30 PM

- July 13 – TBA
- July 20 – TBA
- August 17 – TBA
- August 24 – TBA



SUNDAY FUNDAY CONCERTS

@ 3 PM

- June 23 – Community Band Festival
- July 7 – Navy Band Country Currents
- July 14 – Carleigh Jane
- July 21 – Kings Park Concert Band
- July 28 – Navy Band Commodores
- August 4 – Prince William Community Band
- August 18 – Manassas Balalaika Society
- August 25 – Manassas Symphony Orchestra

OTHER FUN EVENTS

- June 14 (Friday) – Fools! Improv Comedy 7 pm
- June 26 (Wednesday) – Reptile Show 1 pm
- July 10 (Wednesday) – 257th Army Band 7 pm

PARKS, CULTURE & RECREATION

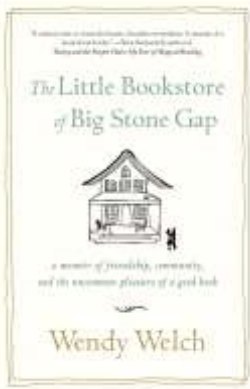
703-368-1873

Fair Trade Organic Coffee, Tea and Chocolate



The Social Justice Green Team sells Equal Exchange (fair trade & organic) products during the coffee hour after the church service. Proceeds from our sales will benefit not only the small farm coops and families around the world, but also help negate BRUU's carbon footprint impact through the TerraPass program.

Look for the rolling cabinet and the smiling team member who will be delighted to help you with your selection. For information on volunteering or to place a special order let Susie Eastridge know via her email: susanneastridge@gmail.com



Join the BRUU Book Group!

Our next book club meeting (via Zoom) will be at 3:30pm on Monday, March 18. We will discuss "The Little Bookshop of Big Stone Gap" by Wendy Welch.

New members welcome. To get the Zoom link, contact Susan Gregorio at susang100@comcast.net .

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.



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)!



BRUU

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

Minister

Rev. Charlotte Lehmann
minister@bruu.org

BRUU Board of Directors

President

Angie Carrera-Earl
president@bruu.org

Vice President

Dianne Lane
vicepresident@bruu.org

Secretary

Chris Sexton
secretary@bruu.org

Treasurer

Terrie McClure
treasurer@bruu.org

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Jessica Hruska
Sophia Kadlubowski
Chris McClure
director@bruu.org

Youth Director

Maia Malos
director@bruu.org

Immediate Past President

Rita Romano

Program Council

Art Muirhead
programcouncil@bruu.org

Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Kristin Worthington
dre@bruu.org

Director of Music

David Maley
music@bruu.org

Office Administrator

Taylor Johnson
office@bruu.org

BRUU OFFICE HOURS

M-F 10:00 am – 2:00 pm