



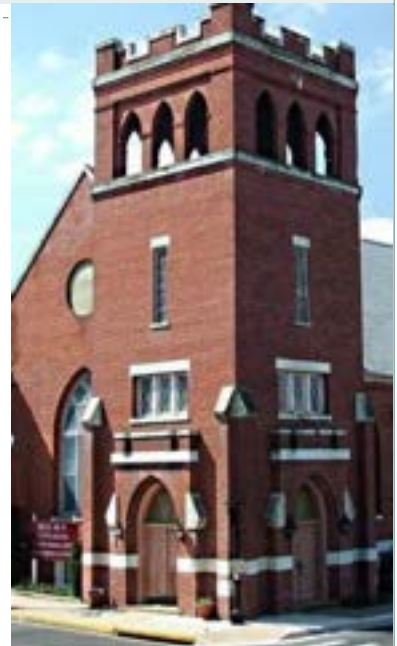
**BULL RUN**  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

August 2023  
Volume 41, Issue 8

# Crossroads



Gov. Youngkin pledges to transform behavioral health system during Northern Virginia inter-faith forum - VOICE



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The monthly BRUU Newsletter



**BULL RUN**  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS  
**AUGUST SERMON DESCRIPTIONS**

**August 6: *Equity – The Sheltering Tree of Friendship***

**(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)**

Samuel Taylor Coleridge once wrote “Friendship is a sheltering tree.” In this worship service, we will explore the challenges and benefits of friendship and the friends who enrich our lives

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**August 13: *Missing in America Project***

**(Forrest Lingenfelter )**

Join us for an interview-style discussion with Forrest about his involvement with the non-profit Missing in America Project. The project’s intention is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremains of American veterans.

The **2nd Sunday Share-the-Plate** recipient is **Habitat for Humanity Prince William County** (<https://habitatpwc.org/>).

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**August 20: *Do Down, Moses***

**(Chaplain Anthony Jenkins )**

UU Military Chaplain Anthony Jenkins will lead a service exploring the life and legacy of Harriet Tubman. Together we’ll consider the many lives that were entrusted to her care over the years as abolitionist, activist, faith leader, freedom-fighter, and U.S. Army Special Forces.

The **3rd Sunday Share the Plate** benefits the **BRUU Community Assistance Fund**

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**August 27: *The Contemplative Life* (Rev. Robert Moore )**

Sister Joan Chittister says, “Contemplation, you see, is a very dangerous activity.” Contemplation is nothing more than engaging in at least one spiritual practice over an extended period of time with intention, regularity, and depth in order to meet reality as it is. So, how can that be dangerous? Well, join us on Sunday to find out!



# BULL RUN

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

## MINISTER'S REPORT



### *Dog Days of Summer*

Rev. Charlotte

Traditionally, the “Dog Days of Summer” run from early July through about mid-August and are so-called because of the Dog Star Sirius, the brightest star in the sky besides our own Sun. While the Ancient Egyptians welcomed this precursor of the annual flooding of the Nile River during this time of year, according to Wikipedia, “Hellenistic [Greek] astrology connected [this time of year] with heat, drought, sudden thunderstorms, lethargy, fever, mad dogs, and bad luck. They are now taken to be the hottest, most uncomfortable part of summer in the Northern Hemisphere.” We are certainly experiencing the first four of those characteristics this summer, but I don’t know about the “fever, mad dogs, and bad luck” part of the list. And as far as I know, this year’s dog days look like they may last beyond the middle of August. Who knows? And are these dog days a harbinger of something yet to come? And what might that be?

While I was growing up, my family always scheduled time up at my grandparents “summer house” for the last week or two of August, and inevitably we had more rain during those weeks than at any other time of the summer. The weather starts to shift as we get closer to the start of autumn.

That is just how it is. But with climate changes accelerating it is hard to predict how things will be despite the efforts of scientists to model how the changes will reverberate around the globe. I certainly wouldn’t have imagined that the great northern forests of the Canadian provinces would begin to burn in late spring and continue to burn throughout the summer.

# MINISTER'S REPORT cont'd

And I suspect that despite my heading to the Upper Midwest for two weeks in August that I won't get much of a break from the sweltering heat and humidity that we have been experiencing here in the Mid-Atlantic.

I am excited about going to Chicago for the 130<sup>th</sup> Parliament of World Religions (8/13-8/19) (and then getting to visit my family in the Twin Cities for a week). The very first Parliament (abbreviated PoWR) was held in Chicago during the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Prominent Unitarians and Universalists attended, were inspired by religious leaders from around the world, and also were among the speakers. In addition, I am excited that I am going to Poland on a Unitarian Heritage Pilgrimage in September (9/13-9/19).

I am planning to share about these two, very different study-leave experiences during worship services – one in October and the other in early December – and I look forward to doing so.

On a different note, don't forget to collect a little water sometime between now and September 10<sup>th</sup>, if you haven't already done so, to use during our annual ingathering/water communion service. I hope to secret away some water from either the City of Lakes or a river special to me and my family, the St. Croix River which marks part of the border between Minnesota and Wisconsin, and bring it back with me in my suitcase, but don't tell TSA about that, okay?

May you pass through these dog days without encountering, at the very least, any fever, mad dogs or bad luck!

Blessings,

Rev. Charlotte

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear fellow-congregants,

I am excited that the Board and I are meeting this weekend (July 29) for our annual Board Retreat. This is an important day as we prepare to tackle important BRUU business and set measurable goals for the coming year, including:

- GMU's organizational recommendations to help make BRUU's many moving parts move more effectively;

- The Strategic Plan process to help us move forward in fulfilling our vision and mission statements; and

- Our Budget, Finance process and Stewardship.

This retreat will include a brief session on Volunteer Management to empower BRUU leaders to solidify our engagement when working with the many BRUU members and community members who give their time to BRUU activities and programs. We will also cover tools necessary for forward movement, such as technology for ease in communications, and use of the BRUU perpetual calendar.

Additionally, there are a few items from our July Board Meeting you'll want to know about:

- A "Hiring Team" began the process of prescreening applicants for the front desk position. Finalists' resumes were forwarded to Rev. Charlotte and interviews were held between July 14 and 21 with the minister and two members of the hiring team. Tonight the process will move forward as the team determines that final candidate. Once, their references are checked and the candidate is approved by the Board of Directors, we expect that the position to be filled by mid-August. We'll keep you updated. (More details below)

- Safety and security in the church building has become a serious concern after recent incidents involving uninvited visitors and unsecured doors. Following some initial conversations about possible options, Safety Committee Chair Bruce Roemmelt researched the possibility of cameras. However, we still have some important questions needing answers and must also look for options to pay for it. In the meantime, we thank you, Bruce, for your diligence and service in researching this information for us.

- While we were pleased to see workers repairing our stained-glass windows this past month, we're still dealing with billing and some follow-up service in question. John Sunda deserves kudos for dealing with the many issues and obstacles to implementing this contract and the work involved.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont'd

A Confidentiality Agreement has been added to essential documents for the safety and protection of our members and the individuals who come to us for help. Volunteers will be asked to complete and submit a completed form to the office.

I am particularly excited to soon be working with Rita Romano on establishing a review of the BRUU Covenant which should clarify and better define our work toward Right Relations.

I believe plans are in the works for the congregation to hear from our delegates who attended the UUA's General Assembly in June so please stay tuned to take advantage of this learning opportunity! And we should hear soon from the planning group for Tina Cox's Farewell Gathering to acknowledge her time as Administrative Assistant. Of course, we will communicate these occasions as soon as we know further details.

I especially want to acknowledge the efforts of a few BRUU members working this month behind the scenes.

As I reported above, the Hiring Team worked diligently to work through the process of posting the job announcement, pre-screening resumes, and interviewing the best applicants. Thank you, Rita, Heather and Cathy, for your time and attention to this time-consuming effort.

Special thanks this month to Terrie McClure who has agreed to coordinate operations of the USDA/TEPAC in addition to her other roles and responsibilities. Terry has already attended training in civil rights and will implement safe food handling rules, as well as perform the record keeping required by the CAFB. Thank you, Terrie!

A special shout out to all our wonderful congregant and community volunteers who help us with all our programs and activities that matter to us all. Thank you in advance for your time and attention.

Angie Carrera-Earl

Board President

*"Holding each other in care, power and love."*



## Thank Your Board members!

After a productive retreat, the new and returning Board members are helping us forge a path into the future. Please thank them for their time and energy spent doing important Board things.

Pictured L-R): John Sunda, Jessica Hruska, Art Muirhead, Terrie McClure, Chris Sexton, Angie Carrera , Dianne Lane, Rev. Charlotte Lehman, and Chris McClure.



## HUGE WORK DAY — Including Painting the Choir Room on Saturday, August 26th

Have you ever been in the choir or even listened to the choir? Then you should come on Saturday, August 26th between 9:30 and 3 pm to help paint the choir room. It's been over 20 years since it was last painted! In addition, we will have many other projects from painting to light carpentry throughout the building. As usual, come for as long as you can, dress to get dirty and enjoy a pizza lunch! Children are welcome, but need adult supervision. (4T08)



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

On the **Second Sunday** of every month, the organizations which created the **Greater Prince William Trails Coalition** [GWTC](#) offer a hike to explore places in Prince William, Manassas, and Manassas Park. BRUU's Green Team is one of those organizations...

**RESCHEDULED** from July, **AUGUST 13** we will explore the **Broad Run Trail**.

**Total** distance will be about **3.5 miles**. The hike will include some side-walk sections, but the majority will be on trail sections in wooded areas with a variety of surfaces (blacktop path, stone dust, natural surface).

Please **register** at <https://tinyurl.com/e27h4m8s> so we can notify you if the hike is postponed or cancelled because of weather conditions. Meet in the parking lot of **Victory Elementary School**, 12001 Tygart Lake



## Summer Religious Education

Outside in the tent, weather permitting. Just a few Sundays left with our Bear Friends!

August 6th : The Harvest: Learn about the earth based Lammas tradition and make your own magical bath bubbles

August 13th: Rainbows: Can you catch a rainbow? Do colors have feelings? Find out! And paint your own rainbow

August 20th: Block Party: Our block party emphasizes community and group play. Participants will work together to build a neighborhood!

RE for all ages will take a break August 27 – September 10. Join us for the multigenerational Water Ritual on September 10th. Fall Religious Education for ages 4 – 17 begins September 17th.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Sunday, September 10th: Coming of Age Open House following service. Join us in the Flamingo Lounge to learn about the Coming of Age Program. This event is for youth in 9th-10th grades, their parents, and anyone interested in becoming a mentor! Past participants - youth and mentors are encouraged to attend and share your experiences.

### **Saturday, September 16th: First session Coming of Age**

### **Monday, September 18th: ALE Monday!**

Gather for a meal/snacks and fellowship. We will then break into interest groups for an evening of enrichment. Slated for this month are: a dive into the Article 11 changes; CUUPS ritual and educational event; process for spiritual decision making; pumpkin crafts suitable for all ages.

## What's Happening with the Olde Towne Motel?

Manassas has compiled the public's suggestions on how to redevelop the site – see The report here: [CLICK HERE](#)



According to InsideNOVA ([CLICK HERE](#) FOR ARTICLE), there is a high probability that a new hotel will be constructed across the street from BRUU.



### BRUU Rental Space Available Immediately

Do you have a small business or studio need? What about your friend or neighbor? BRUU has an immediate availability of an office space on the 3rd floor off of the chapel space.

Formerly used as instructional space for piano lessons, the space can be used for many passive uses. Rent is \$275/month, and year-long leases are preferred. Credit check and security deposit are required. Please have interested parties contact [vicepresident@bruu.org](mailto:vicepresident@bruu.org).



For more info  
on the artist  
**SCAN ME**

Already being hailed as “the next Woody Guthrie,” Crys Matthews is among the brightest stars of the new generation of social justice music-makers. A powerful lyricist whose songs of compassionate dissent reflect her lived experience as what she lightheartedly calls “the poster-child for intersectionality,”

**The Crys Matthews concert is August 25th 7:30 PM at  
BRUU**

Cost is \$20 when purchased online in advance, at the door \$25.  
Children 16 and under may attend the concert for free.



**GET  
TICKETS  
HERE**

## 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](http://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)!

### BOOK GROUP

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]

## COVID 19 Policy Update

The BRUU Board has been watching the COVID19 community transmission levels and based on current rates on <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>, we have achieved a low risk level in our community for an extended period of time.

We still strongly recommend COVID19 Vaccinations and Boosters stay up to date according to the CDC recommendations on <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>.

**We are no longer checking vaccinations at the door.**

Any changes to this policy will be determined based on the above CDC data, and we will revisit policies on a Biannual schedule or as needed.

### 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](mailto: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

## What Has BRUU's Housing Task Force Done Lately?

The BRUU Housing Task Force met with Manassas City Council members Pam Sebesky and Tom Osina, plus Manassas Director of Community Development Matt Arcieri, on July 13.

They were responding to our suggestion that the city was "not doing anything" regarding affordable housing, after rejecting the Manassas Arms proposal ([LINK HERE](#)) to extend 12 of the 24 existing Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) units and the proposal by Van Metre to build affordable housing near the VRE station ([LINK HERE](#)).

City Council started talking about affordable housing in 2021, and is now updating the zoning ordinance ([LINK](#)) to authorize "cottage courts." Parking requirement is 1.5 spaces per unit. Any reduction in that requirement is unlikely, so developers won't be able to trade parking spaces for more units.

The zoning update is sailing through City Council now. The next stage will deal with Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's). Authorizing ADU's is expected to generate significant public discussion...

Manassas has few parcels where new affordable housing could be constructed, other than through redevelopment along the Mathis Avenue corridor. City officials might be willing to partner with Prince William County and Manassas Park to create more units on land outside the city boundaries – though getting the county and cities to partner on anything is always a tough challenge.



The city has recently won an award for increasing "bikeability" ([LINK](#)), and is interested in having affordable transportation near new affordable housing units.

The city put \$2 million into its housing trust fund, but has no longer has a staff person dedicated to housing.

There is apparently a majority of City Council members who want to tackle the shortage of affordable housing in the city. The next two action steps we are likely to see are the ADU ordinance and deciding how to use the housing trust fund.

Interested in joining BRUU's Housing Task Force and its Zoom call once a month, and get up to speed on the housing issues?

We'd welcome more members – contact us at [housing@bruu.org](mailto:housing@bruu.org)



# CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

All 24 jurisdictions in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) [agreed in 2020 to cut greenhouse](#) gas emissions by 2030 to 50% of the 2005 level.

MWCOG has completed inventories for each of those jurisdictions. Now, any advocate of sustainability can measure progress - or lack of progress - by looking at numbers.

But where are the numbers? Prince William County is preparing a Community Energy and Sustainability Master Plan ([CESMP](#)), and the [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scenario](#) is available for review. Randy Freed chairs the county's Sustainability Commission, and he can add more details - just ask..

Manassas has a task force working to draft a climate action plan. Mike Freeland is on that task force, and you can see about its activities [online](#).

At the moment, Manassas Park has not started to draft an action plan to meet the 2030 target.

[Manassas Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Summary](#)

[Manassas Park Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Summary](#)

[Prince William County Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Summary](#)

**Write Here! Write Now!**

# Action Alert

**Tell Congress to Advance a Climate-Smart Farm Bill In 2023**



We have a critical opportunity to advocate for a climate-smart agricultural sector that advances justice. The five-year proposal now being drafted offers the chance to reduce hunger, promote environmental stewardship and promote fairness to all farmers and farmworkers. Our UU values call on us to advocate for a Farm Bill that brings about fairness, especially to farmers and farm workers of color who have been left out of earlier bills, and that encourages production of sustainably grown, healthful food rather than commodity crops grown in ways that deplete soil and pollute our waterways.

The current Farm Bill expires on September 30, 2023, so both the House and Senate are actively working on drafting a new five-year Farm Bill. Our Representatives and Senators need to hear from us now so that the Farm Bill as enacted reflects our UU values. Informational handout: <https://bit.ly/FarmBillHandout>

**Take action! Scan QR code or go to link below:**

**Online Action Alert**



[https://bit.ly/UUSJ\\_FarmBill](https://bit.ly/UUSJ_FarmBill)

**Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice**  
7750 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20012  
202-600-9132 • [info@uusj.org](mailto:info@uusj.org)

**Info Handout**



# THE PUZZLER

## July's Puzzler

This puzzler is mathematical -- and it's also nice, easy and short.

Get out a pencil and write down the following equation: **76 = 24**

It's obviously incorrect.

Try to correct this equation, by moving the four digits around. There are four digits here, 7, 6, 2, and 4, but you cannot introduce any new signs -- plus sign, minus, division, so on.

You can only use the equal sign and that's it.

HINT: Imagine that the **four** digits are written on **four** slips of paper. Move them in any order, to any side. You can even flip them!

ANSWER

FLIP the 6 and make a 9, then rearrange the numbers  $72 = 49$

if you slide that two up, then you get seven squared, and seven squared equals 49

## CONGRATS TO???

No one tried this one, so this month's  
Puzzler is a word based question...

Next month will be math again, give it a try!

## BRUU

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### **Minister**

Rev. Charlotte Lehmann  
minister@bruu.org

### **BRUU Board of Directors**

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#### **Secretary (2022-24)**

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#### **Treasurer (2021-23)**

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#### **Directors at Large**

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Sophia Kadlubowski (2021-23)  
Chris McClure (2022-24)  
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#### **Youth Director**

Freya Davies (2022-23)  
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#### **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

## August's Puzzler

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Here's a list of words.

What do they have in common?

"Deft," as in he made a deft move.

"First," he came in first.

"Calmness," he was overcome by calmness.

"Canopy," a canopy covered the boat so he wouldn't get wet.

"Laughing," it was no laughing matter.

"Stupid," needs no further explanation.

"Crab cake," as in, "crab cakes for dinner."

The question is, what do these words have in common?

GOOD LUCK!

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*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!