



BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

January 2023
Volume 41, Issue 1

Crossroads

**BRUU members use these words to describe
Winter as a season in the cycle of the year**



**BRUU members consider these as gifts of the
Winter season**



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The monthly BRUU Newsletter



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JANUARY SERMON DESCRIPTIONS

January 1: *Starting New*

(*Star and Janette Muir*)

*“Write down the vision; **write it clearly on clay tablets so whoever reads it can run to tell others.** It is not yet time for the message to come true, but that time is coming soon...”*

The prophet Habakkuk wrote this message, providing a compelling set of lessons in response to the crises of his time. This interactive service explores Habakkuk’s wisdom for modern times. Come prepared for an interactive and engaging morning of framing the new year with joy and positivity.

January 8: *Fire Communion*

(*Rev. Charlotte Lehmann*)

We celebrate the start of a new calendar year with a fire communion. This ritual will help us embody the letting go we may need to move forward with hope, curiosity and faith for the journey ahead.

The **2nd Sunday Split-the-Plate** recipient is **Trillium Center**

January 15: *Religious Freedom*

(*Rev. Charlotte Lehmann*)

The Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom was passed into law on 1/16/1786.

As free religionists, what is its significance today?

The **3rd Sunday Split-the-Plate** benefits **BRUU’s Community Assistance Fund.**

January 22: *Connection Through Handwriting*

(*Dianne Lane*)

In recognition of National Handwriting Day on January 23, the sermon will reflect on why handwritten letters, memorabilia, etc., matter and end with a call for engagement with local leaders through writing a postcard.

January 29: *Justice*

(*Rev. Charlotte Lehmann*)

Part of the draft language for the UUA’s Article II bylaws revision, “Justice” is one of the values that we Unitarian Universalists hold close to our hearts. We covenant to work for a free and fair world and hold each other accountable for this work.

² The Special **5th Sunday Split-the-Plate** benefits **Beacon House DC.**

JANUARY SERMON DESCRIPTIONS ADDITIONAL DETAILS

The **2nd Sunday Split-the-Plate** recipient is **Trillium Center**

<https://trilliumcenterinc.org/>

ABOUT TRILLIUM SERVICES:

Trillium Center is a peer-led, private non-profit center for adults, that promotes, encourages and facilitates recovery from serious mental illness. Our facility gives mental and behavioral health support that includes educational, recreational, and supportive activities scheduled for each month.

The Special **5th Sunday Split-the-Plate** benefits **Beacon House DC**

<https://beaconhousedc.org/>

ABOUT BEACON HOUSE DC:

The Beacon House DC focuses on “closing the education achievement gap – and thus improving the economic trajectories – of children in Ward 5 for whom generational poverty is most persistent.”



The logo features a stylized flame or flower shape in the center, composed of overlapping loops in shades of purple, blue, green, and yellow. To the right of this symbol, the words "BULL RUN" are written in a large, dark purple serif font. Below "BULL RUN", the words "UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS" are written in a smaller, red, sans-serif font.

BULL RUN

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well, here we are the day before Christmas and the weather is freezing! I always think that if it is going to be cold then we should have snow. But then it might be cloudy and at least today the sun is out as bright as can be.

What a beautiful sendoff we had for Annease! The group who planned the Appreciation Celebration did such a wonderful job. And as always, there were several hands working the program. It was a very fitting celebration for someone who has contributed so much to the mission of this congregation. We have been very fortunate to have had such a top-notch professional as our Music Director and for as long as we have had her. She is a very talented pianist, singer, and director. She has also been an excellent employee...dependable, well-organized, thoughtful, hardworking and creative. Her departure in many ways marks the end of an era for BRUU. She is very desiring of a rest, or at least a break from her music director responsibilities. I am sure she felt the love that this congregation has for her. We all wish her well and hope she will grow into her retirement.

And very soon we will have a new Interim Music Director. His name is David Maley and he starts on January 8th. I have only talked briefly with him on the phone, but he is very excited for this opportunity and is looking forward to working with us. I am sure the congregation is also eager to meet him and welcome him to our beloved community. The board is very appreciative of the work that the Interim Music Director Search Team did in finding David. Who was on the team? Kelly Muzzin, Chris Sexton, Bill Stejskal, Dorothy Greenhouse and Michelle Luman. This Interim period of time will last 18-month and will give us some time to experiment and explore what direction we would like the music program to take.

We are getting closer to making a decision regarding the repair work that is needed on our stained-glass windows. We have had several setbacks. But the assessment has been completed by Scottish Stained Glass and the board has had an opportunity to have a Zoom meeting with the head of the company to go over this assessment. There are 2 other companies we are looking at to complete the final work. This may be a project that will take several years to fully complete. Once again Christine and John Sunda's contribution to this project has been invaluable.

As promised, the Board is working on ways to fund the infrastructure budget so that this can be decided on at our Annual Congregational meeting. This is no small dilemma and indeed is proving to be very challenging. I recently had the pleasure of talking with Mark Ewert, the UUA stewardship consultant we worked with a couple of years when considering the possibility of starting a Capital Campaign. I am thinking this very well may be the time to initiate this process, which takes two years. I was very impressed with Mark's knowledge and his commonsense approach. We have planned for the Board to meet with Mark mid-January. So, stay tuned.

By the time this newsletter is released Christmas and New Year's Eve will be behind us.

So, I hope that everyone had a wonderful and safe end to 2022.
Now on to the new year, 2023!

Warm Regards,
Rita Romano



Liminal Time

Rev. Charlotte

With the official retirement at the end of December of our beloved music director of 35 years, our congregation is moving further into what is known as a liminal time. This is an in-between time; a transitional time. It began when we learned when Annease would retire, but it will continue as we begin our relationship with the new part-time interim music director, David Maley.

So, we find ourselves on the threshold of something new, something different. Consultant and author Susan Beaumont describes liminality as “a place of extreme disorientation that people have a tremendous longing to get out of, and there is always a tremendous yearning in liminality to either go backwards to something that felt more stable or to leap forward to something that feels more resolved.”

We’ve all had some practice with living in liminal times and embracing liminal space over the past two-and-a-half years thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic! Liminal space is not “problem solving space.” There is untapped potential lying in wait; we are “between [our] old comfort zone and any possible new answer” according to Richard Rohr.

Rest assured that this is a rich time that will allow us to “rediscover a lot about [ourselves] and to become highly creative.” In this time of unknowing, in our specific situation, we need to be open to a new kind of music program. We will be engaging in intentional discern-

ment and listening together as we explore new possibilities for BRUU's music program.

The following chalice lighting words by Summer Albayati paint a picture in words about how we can embrace this season in the life of our congregation.

“A Chalice Lighting for Liminal Times” (Summer Albayati)

*In betwixt and in between
We move in the liminal spaces
that show shades of
what can become
what can be
We light this chalice
as a symbol of courage
to move into that time of
this and that
and not this
and not that
With patience and faith
and love
and hope
that this time will pass
Like the sun that moves
in between
rising
and setting
Reminding us that
beauty resounds
In betwixt
and
In between*

Let us be present to this liminal time; let us be adopt an orientation of openness, awe and wonder,

Rev. Charlotte

**The Interim Music Director Search Team is pleased to announce
David Maley will be joining us on January 8**

David Maley is a pianist, accompanist, piano instructor, and board-certified music therapist. He completed his Bachelor of Arts in Music, with minors in psychology and exercise science, at George Mason University in 2009. He acquired his board-certification in music therapy from Shenandoah University in 2013.

For the past 10 years, David has been a choral and instrumental accompanist for a church in Alexandria, VA.

He is grateful for the call to interim music director and the opportunity to share his musical abilities with everyone at Bull Run Unitarian Universalists.



In addition to his work as a church musician, David maintains a piano teaching studio of about 40 piano students, and works as a music therapist with several retirement communities. In his free time, David enjoys learning about spirituality, studying philosophy and psychology, meditating, gardening, kayaking, sailing, hiking, composing music, singing, reading, playing pipe organ, and spending time with his friends, boyfriend, and extended family. He is looking forward to being part of the team and community at 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)!

Courtyard is sleeping for now

However **Amy Hamilton** and the **gardening team** are planning for **2023**



ITteam = HIPPP = Jan 22nd

Directly after the Sunday service Coffee Hour the Info Tech Team will be holding the very first Hardware Inventory Process Party – and **you** are invited to participate.

Please let the IT Team (IT@BRUU.org) know you will be coming because **lunch will be provided** to all those who help. Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome.

The plan is to access EVERY ROOM in our 22,000 square foot building before 2:00 pm – you will probably see places you didn't even know existed!

Volunteers will be paired-up and sent to a specific room with an Inventory check list. In the room the volunteers will locate all the tech equipment and record the data needed for each item (computers, telephones, AV equipment, etc).

The volunteers will also place a “BRUU property” label on each item. Volunteers will then turn in the completed checklist, and, depending on time and rooms remaining, be given another checklist and room assignment.

Does this sound like fun exercise for a possible cold winter afternoon?

Will you join in?!

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS @ BRUU



December 4

Love, An Enduring Force

Love is at the core of our Unitarian Universalist theology.

We dedicated several of our community's children as part of the worship service.

December 11

Stories of Preservation and Progress

The Manassas Museum led **Rev. Rodgers GUMC** and **Rev. Charlotte BRUU** in a discussion regarding the gorgeous **Albert Speiden** designed building at the corner of **Church and Main** that has been in continuous use as a church since the 1920's



December
late into a winter night

Here is **Terrie McClure**,
prepping for the 2022 Auction

It took a village to make the
BRUU Auction such a success



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]

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.

WANT TO AVOID BEING ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEXT YEAR?

One way to accomplish this is to be a part of the Nominating Committee!

We are looking for a few good men and women to find qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

President, Program Council Chair, Treasurer and Member at Large.

Around March the current Board needs to appoint at least 3 members to serve as the Nominating Committee.

Please let me know if you are interested or willing to serve on this important, very time limited task.

Rita Romano, Board President

GREEN TEAM

The Green Team is organizing a SPECIAL FIRST DAY HIKE

Start the New Year with a hike guided by Prince William County historians around Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park.

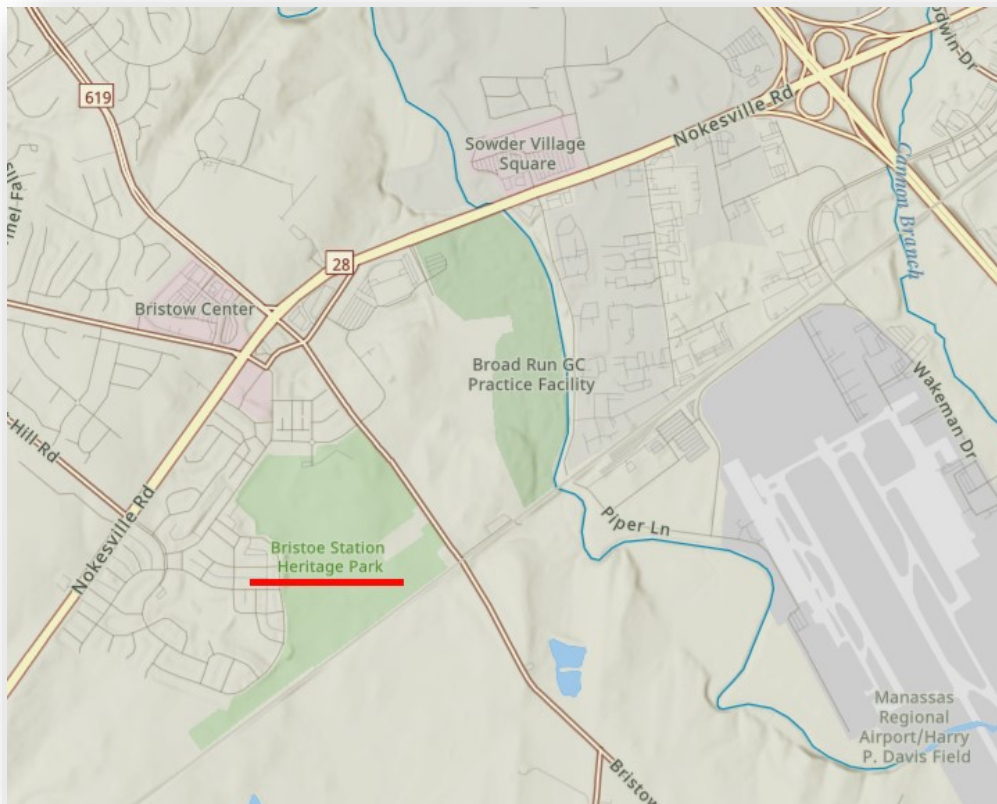
Meet at the parking lot on Iron Brigade Avenue.

We will walk 3 miles on flat ground around a Civil War battlefield.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

Point of Contact:

Charlie Grymes, cgrymes@gmail.com





**The Green Team is organizing
monthly hikes on the
Second Sundays of each month in
2022**

The Prince William County Department of Parks,
Recreation and Tourism will lead the Second Sunday
Hike to a vista at Cockpit Point Park
overlooking the Potomac River.
We will see remnants of Civil War fortifications - and
maybe bald eagles as well.

We will park at the end of Cherry Hill Road in the
Potomac Shore community.
County vans will shuttle us down to Cockpit Point -
that's the safe way to cross the active CSX railroad
tracks, and why we rescheduled the hike planned in
December.
This month, there is little walking involved in our
hike... No dogs, please.

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/4hz6hjuh> Point of
Contact: Charlie Grymes (hike@bruu.org)



BRUU Folks on a Cold Winter Night

Strolling the Holiday Lights along the Neabsco Creek Boardwalk

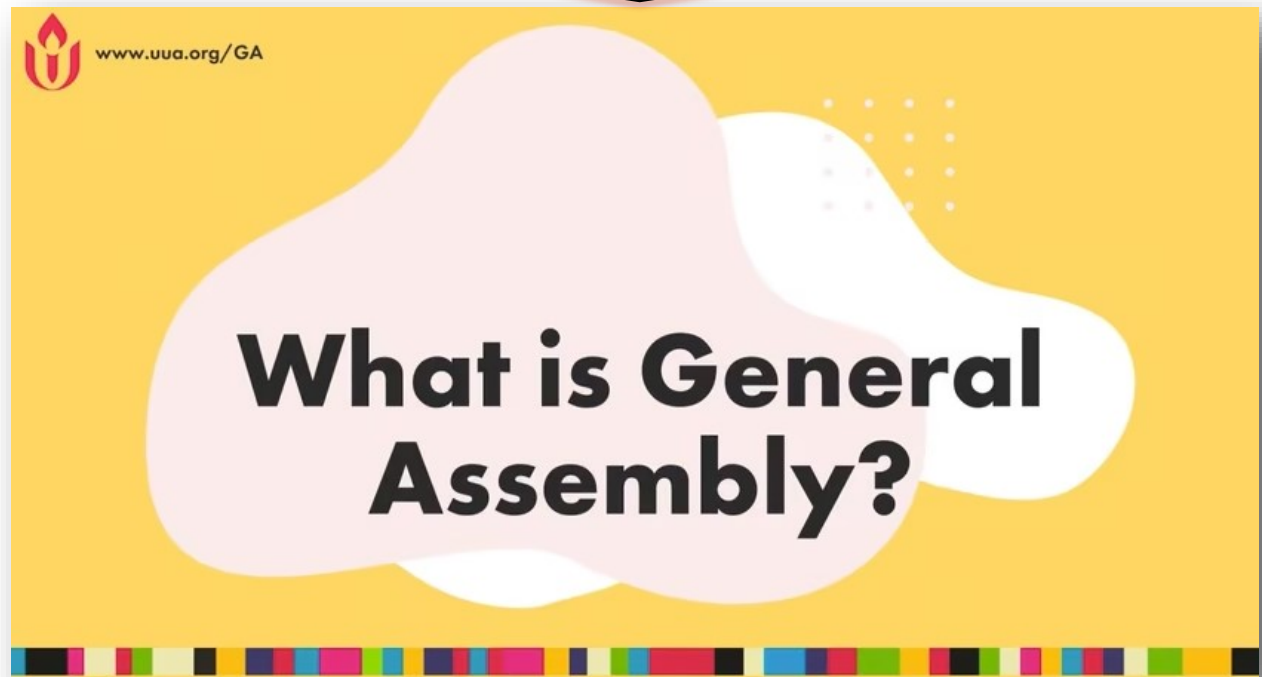


PASTORAL CARE

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

**WATCH ME
TO LEARN
MORE**



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.

Call for Building Stewardship

Angie Carrera, Leadership Development Committee

Change is in the air!

We are blessed with a beautiful, but old, church and now have an opportunity to improve how we can more effectively and efficiently take care of our historic building (s)* - and our lovely gardens.

The BRUU Board has approved a plan for change that will more equitably distribute and accomplish specific elements of routine care of our building and grounds. Teams, under the direction of a Building and Grounds Coordinator, will work together to ensure that our church home is not just beautiful, but well maintained, safe and accessible.

If you're a hands-on person who likes to see the results of the contribution of volunteer time and talent, you're invited to join any of these teams: **Property Maintenance, Building Use, Garden, Infrastructure, and Aesthetics.**

Want to know more?

Contact Building & Grounds via **Bldg-Grds@BRUU.org**, with questions and/or for the Zoom link to participate at the upcoming meeting on **Wednesday, January 4th at 7:30pm.**

*Our property includes the historic commercial building adjacent to the courtyard.

THE PUZZLER

December's Puzzler

Engineers were contemplating building a suspension bridge across the gorge at Niagara Falls. The engineers and builders figured out how to do it, and they staged a contest on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. The contest was open to the public, and the purpose was to help get these massive cables across the gorge.

The contest was won by a young boy.

What was the contest?

The Answer

A **kite flying contest**. The first kid to be able to get his kite to land on the other side of the gorge, won.

The engineers then took that kite string and attached to it a rope that was slightly heavier than the kite string. They pulled that rope across and they attached successively stronger ropes, until they finally had one strong enough to pull, what? The cable!

Congrats to....A lost email!

Someone did submit the correct answer however it was lost by the editor Apologies and Congrats to you!

BRUU

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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

THE PUZZLER

January's Puzzler

An old...
dilapidated or
unpretentious
automobile.



We have all heard of a **jalopy** or been lucky enough to have one in their front yard, but what is a **jalopy** and why is it called a **jalopy**?"

Just a humble little question.

In other words, what is the derivation of that old expression "jalopy"?

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!