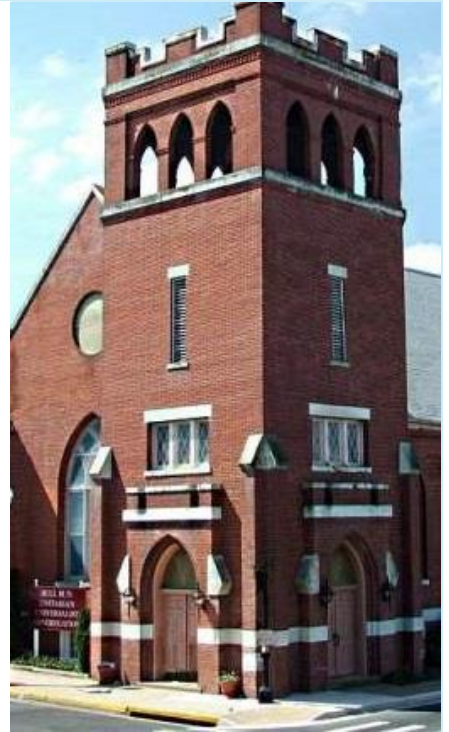




BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

January 2026
Volume 44, Issue 1

Crossroads



BRUUs on our float in the Manassas Christmas Parade on December 6, 2025

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The monthly BRUU Newsletter



January Services

January 4, 2026: Honor the Dark: Resting in Winter's Wisdom (Rev. Caitlin Cotter Coillberg) - What do anti racism activists, Antarctic janitors, and eco-feminists have to teach us about this winter season? Rev. Caitlin Cotter Coillberg for this service exploring what we can celebrate in the long dark time before spring.

January 11: What We Are Handed (And What We Do With It) (Greg Greenway) - What does it take to change someone's heart, to change one's own heart, and to change how we see? Early foundational beliefs are often deeply and emotionally held. What does it take to truly feel and see things differently? Greg Greenway is an award-winning folk artist who will share his experiences and perspectives, and his own changes of heart, through words and song.

January 18: Dreaming Into the Future (Rev. Kimberley Debus) - Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream, grounded in the simple idea that black people exist in the future. We will examine this assertion through the cultural touchstone of Afrofuturism: What can we learn from this movement and what is our role in imagining this future for all people?

January 25: This is Not the End (Rev. David Brown) - Endings can have powerful meanings and emotions, and yet endings are also just concepts within our own mind. When is an ending not an ending? Come explore.



Pluralism

is characterized by respect for diverse identities and ideologies, mutually inspiring relationships, and cooperation across lines of deep difference on matters of shared concern.[2] Meeting these challenges takes more than goodwill; it requires intentional strategies. Come explore how to embrace this UU Value.

with DLRE Kristin Worthington

Recycle, Reuse and keep Warm!

Make your own wonderful **Mittens** out of worn sweaters. Keep them for yourself, or donate them to the unhoused with our no-sew blankets.

Bring with you a sweater that is ready for a new life.

with Laurie Walther



ALE MONDAY

January 19

6:00 pm Dinner

7:00 pm Workshops



Warm Up with Hearty Soups & Stews



Medicare For All

Hear an overview of one possibility for universal healthcare in the US.

Dive into how it works, and how you can help gain support for this crucial proposal.

with Bob Barracca



Religious Education Update

This Fall's Religious Education program for children and youth is bringing new opportunities for growth. Well considered changes are intended to build community, meet each of our young people's needs where they are on their individual journey, and support our adult volunteers.

We meet almost once a month in All Ages Chapels, exploring the larger themes of Unitarian Universalism. September started with "You Are Special," and learned our joyous hymn "Enter, Rejoice and Come In." November explored Generosity and "From You I Receive," and we explored Speaking up for yourself and Others with "Click, Clack, Moo and "Circle Round for Freedom."



Youth 8 and above are now meeting in Multi-age Class Groups!

This format allows for more individualized learning and instruction, as opposed to age level groupings which tend to assume all participants are holding the same skill and ability level. Participants may work at their own pace when the goal is to discover something new and express it, rather than asking for all participants to learn the same thing.

Multi-age groups contribute positively to the individuals' social and emotional development. Younger children learn valuable social skills from their older peers, and other students develop empathy and leadership qualities.

And multi-age groups are more inclusive. Participating in a setting where diverse abilities, learning styles and interests can be accommodated promotes a sense of belonging and well being for all.

Art Path

led by Mary Kadlubowski, Greenley Stobo, Luca Cave & Michelle Luman, our artists are pondering deep questions about themselves and the world, expressing their responses through creative process.



First diving inward to understand Empathy, Community, Identity, the Service Path is doing its work outside our walls. Led by Heather Berthold, Dean Luman, John Bamford and Maia Malos, the group has made several visits to Hope & Serentiy Farm, an animal rescue; has prepared educational materials for families at NVFS Emergency shelter. January begins the Heifer Challenge, Senior Tea and Environmental Stewardship.



Explorers

The 3-7 year olds gather with Megan Adair Casteel, Richard Firth, Becks Sosa and Alice Nguyen, learning about the rituals of our faith, UU identity and more. Each week they participate in interactive storytelling, and self driven discovery in a montessori inspired format.



And don't forget our Nursery! Jack and Julia, our childcare employees give great care to all our little ones.



January 2026
4th NO RE
11th All Ages Chapel
18th RE in groups
25th RE in groups

Weds, Jan 28 8pm
Service Path
Volunteering with PIT Count Set up

Alt:History - BRUU Building Without Loving Care

100 years ago, the Methodists in Manassas started to build a church. They moved to a newer facility in Wellington and BRUU acquired the now-historic building in 1999. Old church buildings require constant upkeep and upgrades. BRUU's Buildings and Grounds team, including its Building Engineer, is always working on a project. The percentage of our budget invested in the building over the last decade reflects our commitment to maintain/improve what the congregation owns at the corner of Church and Main streets.

Otherwise, the building might end up like the City Methodist Church in Gary, Indiana...



Membership News

Sunday, January 18—New Member Recognition

Please allow us to introduce you to the congregation during the service
We will invite forward new members who have signed the membership book and
attended the New to BRUU class since Sept. 2025

Sunday January 18—New to BRUU class

11:30 am -1pm conference room

a little BRUU history and covenant, organization, volunteer ops, a little UU introduction-
values and principles, path to membership

RSVP to membership@bruu.org limited seating

Huge thanks to the Greater Manassas Christmas Parade outreach participants and helpers!

- Betsi McGrath for pulling our trailer together
- Bruce Tripp for your truck
- Colin Butler for being our Grinch
- John Sunda for your magical bubbles and Baldur
- BRUU band: Kelly Muzzin, Mike Freeland, Bill Stejskal, Dave Hamilton
- walkers/riders/decorators: Cynthia Wisheart, Luther Saylor and Great Pyrenees dog, Gary Thornton, Laura Tripp, Violet Duffy, the Rachford first family, Amanda Larson
- donations: Annalisa Derryberry, Davies family, Greenley Stobo, Mary Kadlubowski, John Calvin and Mike Freeland for construction

If you are hosting an auction event and you have an open slot OR if you are unable to attend one you purchased, please email membership@bruu.org or call Nina to let us pick a visitor/newbie to take your spot.

A Reason to keep a Resolution

Do you constantly regret not coming to Sunday services – although it might have been one of your 2025 Resolutions? Here are two options to help you:



ONE: Consider helping just one or two

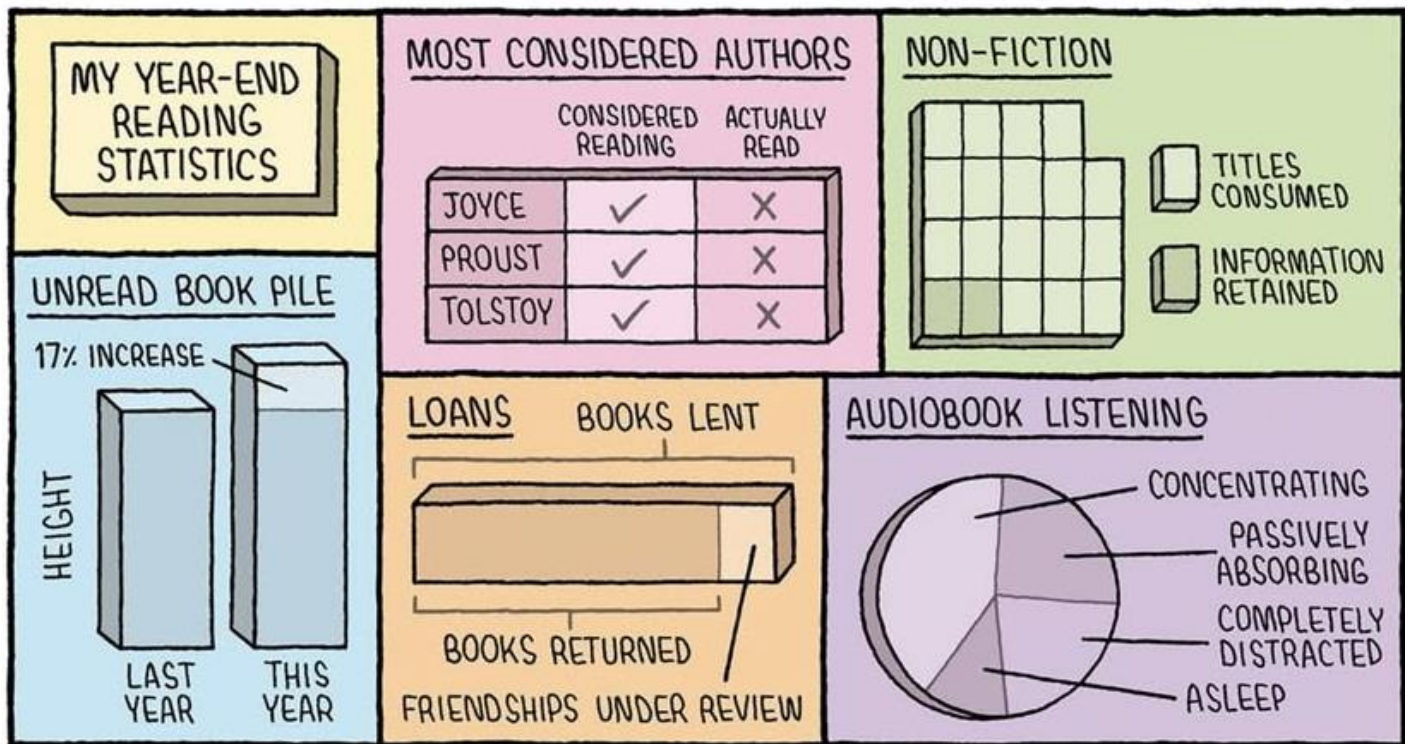
Sundays a month as an Usher at the main

doors to the sanctuary. You only need to arrive 20 minutes prior to the service to greet folks with a copy of the Order of Service. You might also assist them with headphones, LARGE print hymnals, and/or seating arrangements. The only other regular responsibility is to collect the offering baskets and make sure the collection counted & turned in to the Treasurer's office. Apply to Worship@BRUU.org.

TWO: Become a Koffee & Kitchen Krewe member one Sunday a month. Arrive about 15 minutes before the service to start the coffee brewing, and/or watch the service on the Fellowship Hall flatscreen while you set out on the table the cups, sugars & creamers, napkins, etc. Not an early arriver? Attend the service, stay for the coffee & socializing, then stay a little longer to wash up the cups and put away the supplies.

No experience necessary. Training provided. Teammates are the best!! Apply or Inquire for more info by Kitchen@BRUU.org OR Walk-In to the kitchen during Fellowship Hour!

BRUU Book Club End-of-Year Report



TOM GAULD

Credit: UU Hysterical Society

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1C5Q8NnVJ7/>

BRUUsers Gathered at Celebration of Life Ceremony



15 members of BRUU honored the life of one of our founding members, Gwen Talbot, on December 16 at Ashby Ponds.



Events At & Around BRUU



The BRUU songwriter working group is being reimagined.....

STANZA is a creative collective that will meet at BRUU every month. Stanza is for songwriters, poets, and storytellers who believe in the power of words to connect, heal, inspire and entertain.

Whether you're scribbling lyrics on napkins, crafting poems in the margins of your journal, or spinning tales that deserve to be heard, this is your space.

We're not here to impress—we're here to express. We celebrate raw creativity, honest emotion, and the courage to share. This is an opportunity to share your work, get feedback and help others hone their writing skills.

Join us on the 1st Sunday of every month in the Music Room (11:30-1:00).

WINTER WORKDAY AND CLEANUP!

Hear ye, hear ye! Come to our fantastical winter workday on January 17th from 9:30am to 3pm. Join us to either paint, clean, or repair our lovely old building. One of our many projects is to get some of our bathrooms painted. So come, have fun, and put your skills to work (or learn new ones)! Come when and for as long as you are able. Children welcome but bring your adult! Pizza lunch provided. POC is Christine Sunda at workday@bruu.org.



THE CONVERSATION LAB



Volunteer Training

- To help manage anti-LGBTQ+ activity targeting this year's **Pride** celebration in **Manassas** on **May 16, 2026 (12-4pm)**, Equality Prince William has agreed to implement **The Conversation Lab**, a booth where event attendees (including the anti-LGBTQ+ activists) will be invited to unpack their viewpoints without debate or ridicule through one-on-one conversations with trained volunteers.
- If you are interested in serving a shift at **The Conversation Lab**, the volunteer training orientation will occur here at **BRUU** in **Room 304** on **January 4, 2026, (12-1pm)**.
- Further training and additional practice sessions will be made available each Sunday (12-1pm) at BRUU leading up to the **Pride** event with the expectation that interested volunteers will commit to attend at least one session per month. (Contact: John Calvin or Luther Saylor)

BRUU Midweek Coffee Hour - 10am Wednesdays

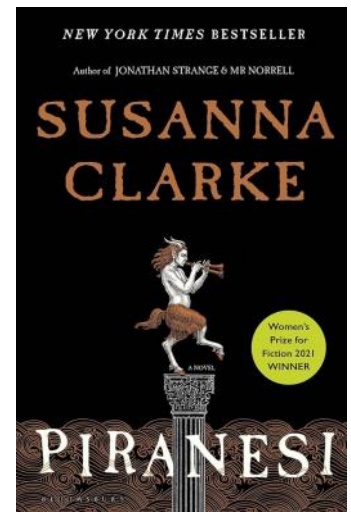


- Visit with old friends and make new ones
- Share your joys, concerns and insights
- Discuss serious topics and not so serious ones.
- Start your day off with a smile and a laugh or two!

10am-11:30am every Wednesday on Zoom. Feel free to drop in at any time. Contact Gordon Ward for links at midweekcoffee@bruu.org.

Join the BRUU Book Group!

On January 26th at 3:30, we will be discussing the book "Piranesi" by Susanna Clarke. New members are welcome. Discussion can still be stimulating even if life got in the way and someone has not read much of the book. To get the Zoom link, contact us at bookgroup@bruu.org



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.



Chrysalis Concert Series at BRUU

October 2025-September 2026 season



Sam Robbins - 10/17/2025

Transport yourself back to the golden era of singer-songwriters with the soulful tunes of Sam Robbins. Hailing from Boston, Sam's music draws inspiration from legends like James Taylor and Neil Young, blending timeless melodies with a contemporary twist that will captivate your heart.



<https://samrobbinsmusic.com/>

Nothin' Fancy - 12/6/2025

Experience the magic of a live performance by Nothin' Fancy in the heart of Manassas! Join us for an unforgettable evening filled with soul-warming Bluegrass music that will leave you feeling uplifted and inspired. This is an opportunity to witness the phenomenal talent of a beloved band that has captured the hearts of audiences everywhere. Don't miss your chance to be swept away by the incredible sounds of Nothin' Fancy - it's an experience you'll remember long after the final note fades away.



<https://www.nothinfancybluegrass.com/>



Greg Greenway - 1/10/2026

Greg is a cherished performer in many UU communities, and especially at BRUU. His talents defy categorization as he seamlessly blends musical genres and shares poignant insights on global events. Greg's performances serve as a reminder that we are all interconnected as citizens of the world. Come be inspired to embrace our ability to effect change. Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to experience his artistry once again.

<https://www.greggreenway.com/>

Amy Space - 2/27/2026

Get ready for an enchanting musical experience with the talented Amy Space. Known for her soul-stirring lyrics and captivating performances, Amy's music has the power to take you on a transformative journey. With heartfelt songs that resonate deeply, Amy Space's live performance promises an unforgettable evening filled with beauty and emotion.



<https://www.amyspace.com/>

Joe Jencks - 4/10/2026

Spend an evening with award-winning musician Joe Jencks, a favorite performer in many UU communities. Joe was the opening performer for the Chrysalis Concert Series back in April 2023 and we're delighted he's coming back to see us again. Joe's profound music is sure to leave a lasting impact offering a night filled with beautiful melodies, social consciousness, and spiritual exploration.



<https://joejencks.com/>

Billy Jonas - 5/23/2026

Join Billy Jonas on a musical journey that began around a campfire in 1972 and has since blossomed into a profound experience of connectedness and musical camaraderie. Through his soul-stirring vocals, mesmerizing guitar skills, and innovative use of industrial re-percussion, he creates an unforgettable performance that resonates with audiences of all ages. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the Bucket Brigade and immerse yourself in the beauty of live music that touches the soul and brings people together in harmony.



<https://www.billyjonas.com/>



Circle of Toads - 8/15/2026

Embark on a fun musical ride with Circle of Toads - a favorite BRUU band that brings together a unique and diverse mix of talents. Dave, Bill, Kel, and Mike have been playing together since 2023, combining their individual musical backgrounds to create a one-of-a-kind sound that resonates with audiences all around Manassas. Experience an eclectic blend of folk, rock, and original pieces that are sure to captivate your senses. A great way to wrap up the summer.

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Circle-of-Toads-61565700088114/>



Chris Haddox - 9/15/2026

Help us welcome this talented artist from West Virginia. With heartfelt lyrics and soulful melodies, his performances are a blend of tradition and contemporary flair that captivate audiences of all ages. Prepare to be taken on a rollercoaster of emotions as each song is a testament to Haddox's ability to weave intricate yet relatable stories that resonate deep within the soul. Join in on the experience and let the music speak to you in ways you never imagined.

<https://www.chrishaddoxmusic.com/>

Get your tickets here:



**From the
Treasurer's Office**

Links for donating to BRUU



BRUU can receive online charitable donations via Zelle, Stripe or Paypal. You can use these services for your pledge payment (supporting our operational expenses), food pantry or community assistance donations, capital fund contributions, Sunday and split-the-plate, or any of our special collections and fundraisers. When donating online, you may use the comments section to specify your designation.

If you have questions or concerns just send us a note. Thanks!

Heather Berthold, Treasurer,

treasurer@bruu.org

Robin Fegeas et al, Bookkeepers,

bookkeeper@bruu.org

BRUU

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BRUU Board of Directors

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John Sunda (2025-27)
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Program Council

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Building Engineer

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BRUU OFFICE HOURS

M-F 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
2nd and 4th Tuesdays 12:00 pm-2:00 pm