



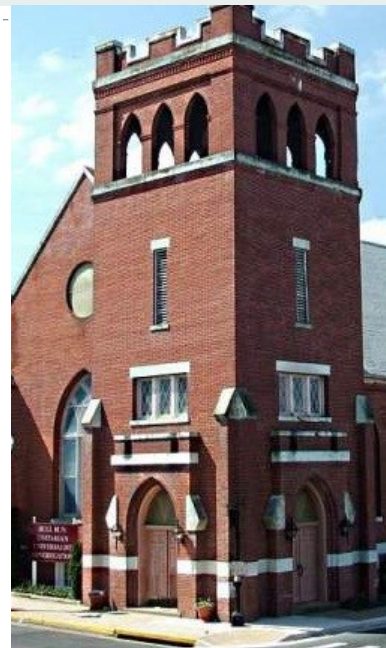
BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

January 2022
Volume 40, Issue 1

Crossroads

The monthly BRUU Newsletter

Remembering January 6



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BULL RUN

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

JANUARY SERMON DESCRIPTIONS

January 2 : Hysterical Women

(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)

This worship service features content from the delightful people at Mirth and Dignity with a message about the importance of being true to our authentic selves even in our “reverence for weird things.” Not only does the light get in through the cracks in us, but it is also how the light gets out.

January 9: Teachings of the Tipi Poles: Kinship

(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)

Mary Lee, a Cree Elder enumerates the teachings of the 15 poles used to construct a Cree tipi. According to the Cree, the seventh pole symbolizes Kinship. This teaching is all about the value and importance of belonging to a community; as Unitarian Universalists, we speak of the Beloved Community.

January 16: Conflict Resolution, Covenant, and the Practice of Right Relationship

(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)

The Auction Sermon as requested by winner Sandra Fox. How do we live in and as a Beloved Community?

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

January 23: Tempered with Love

(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)

Tempering is a process that involves bringing something into the required condition by mixing it with something else. This process may improve some characteristics and-or counterbalance others. This service will explore all the losses, myriad feelings, and limitations associated with the bittersweet steps forward into what will be our “new normal.”

January 30: Wintering, or I Got Nothing

(Pat Malarkey)

Sometimes, “I Got Nothing” is the best we can do. Pat will share her thoughts on wintering based on Katherine May’s book, *Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times*, along with Krista Tippett’s interview with May, and Pat’s personal experience during this pandemic.

The **5th Sunday Special Collection** benefits **Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU)**.

MINISTER'S REPORT DECEMBER 2021

AREA OF MINISTRY

Worship and Rites of Passage

The annual December Music service was terrific and, including 17 choir members in the sanctuary, the total attendance was 74. Average worship attendance is still holding near 50.

Worship leadership for all Sundays through mid-March 2022 are set up. We are looking for lay-leaders or pulpit guests for 3/27, 5/29 and the second half of June.

I have made adjustments in the planned worship calendar to meet the needs of the scheduled restart of in-person worship services. We will need to continue being flexible around worship practices as we get comfortable with fully multi-platform worship services. I certainly don't have all the answers yet.

I am considering the idea of holding our Easter Sunday service outdoors and will explore this further in January.

Preparing for and officiating the 12/18 marriage of Ally Turner and Joe Hamilton was truly delightful. I posted a link to the lovely photos taken that day on the BRUU Members and Friends FB Group.

Pastoral Care and Presence

The Pastoral Care Team (PCT) and I provide pastoral support in-person, over the phone, through e-mails and caring cards. I meet with members, at their request, either in-person or over Zoom.

PCT still needs more official members; there is currently no chairperson.

Seasoned Souls and Grief Support Zoom meetings continue on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at lunchtime, respectively. The Grief Support Group remains on Zoom, while Seasoned Souls is multiplatform.

Spiritual Development for Self and Others

Local collegial meetings and gatherings are held via Zoom. I continue in my roles as treasurer for two UU collegial groups, which involves additional leadership team meetings.

My UU peer discernment group continues its monthly meetings via Zoom.

I am now meeting monthly with a mentee assigned to me through the Ministerial Formation Network (MFN).

The Harper's Ferry Ministerial Study Group (HFMSG) is moving ahead with its retreat plans for May 8-11. Our theme is "Wonder."

I continue working on plans for sabbatical coverage and my sabbatical renewal (July 1-October 31, 2022).

Social Justice in the Public Square

I participated in the 12/10 vigil and walk honoring two WWI veterans buried in the African - and Native-American cemeteries in Thoroughfare. It was a diverse gathered with representatives from AIM and the Native American Community, the Oakrum Baptist Church, a Buddhist group, Unity-In-The-Community, PW Conservation Alliance, and many more. BRUU was represented by Charlie Grymes and Cathy Ring as well as myself.

I participated in the Poor People's Campaign Moral Monday action on 12/13 at the Capitol along with 100+ other UUs from across the country. Some arrived on buses from as far away as ME, or came in a motorcade from WV.

I attended the Manassas City Council meeting on 12/13 when the Manassas City Equity and Inclusion Task Force (MC-EITF) delivered its final report, BRUU's other task force members were also there. Now, the City Council needs to digest our recommendations and determine next steps.

Administration

In addition to weekly staff meetings, I attended monthly Finance and Worship Committee meetings as well as COSM and Board meetings.

Rita and I finalized a new Letter of Agreement (LOA). The Board adopted a Vaccine Policy for paid employees.

I attended some additional UUMA meetings of interest.

I went to the PWC interfaith clergy lunch on 12/21.

Serves the Larger Unitarian Universalist Faith

I met with Cathy Ring and Gretchen Almstead to discuss denominational affairs.

I am registered for and planning to attend in-person both the UUMA's Center Institute (which was postponed from last year) in San Diego at the beginning of February and the LREDA "Fall Con in the Spring" in Birmingham, AL in late April. These are part of my study leave for this FY.

I have already registered for UUA General Assembly (GA) which will be held in Portland, OR (as well as virtually) at the end of June 2022. Ministry Days precedes GA and I will be registering as soon as information is posted. I will attend in-person.

I continue my service as Treasurer for the Chesapeake UUMA Chapter (CUUMA) and for the Harper's Ferry Ministers Study Group (HFMSG) leadership teams.

I am now a Ministerial Formation Network (MFN) mentor (see above).

Leads Faith into the Future

Kristin has asked me to take part again in the Coming of Age (COA) retreat in January (1/14-1/16) and I am looking forward to doing this. I hear it's an amazing group of youth.

I will be facilitating an ALE class – "Reconnection Small Group Ministry" – with Sandra Fox starting on February 13.

Other:

I am taking a break between 12/25/21 and 1/3/22.

I will be away from 1/26-2/7/22 for Center Institute in San Diego; therefore, I will not be attending the January 27th Board meeting.

In the past we have had a super bowl party at a member's home.



There has been a pick up football game, potluck food and the big game on television. Is anyone interested in hosting the game this year?

This is of course with the Covid Situation being under control.
The Super Bowl is Sunday February 13, 2022.

Please contact the fellowship Committee Fellowship@Bruu.org
Mary Kadlubowski

**BRUU DIRECTORIES ARE HERE
IN THE BRUU CONFERENCE ROOM**

Find the one labeled for your family. Feel free to contact someone living nearby and arrange to pick up their copy for hand-delivery. You can meet another BRUUser in person, save someone a trip through traffic, and "be green" by reducing emissions from car trips.

If your contact information is correct: Place a check mark by your entry in the Directory Copy on the Conference Room desk. If the contact information is incorrect: Make corrections by your entry in the Directory Copy on the Conference Room desk.

The logo features a stylized flame or 'S' shape in orange and yellow, enclosed within a circular emblem with green and blue curved lines.

BULL RUN

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear BRUU Members and Friends,

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all have had a wonderful holiday celebration. I am writing this article on Christmas Eve, anticipating Santa's visit tonight with my grandchildren down in South Carolina. Bill and I are planning to fly to San Diego next Wednesday and are keeping our fingers crossed hoping that our flights do not get cancelled!

Well, the most exciting news was shared by me last week in a BRUU blast. In case you missed the blast, we are opening the sanctuary to a limited number of members starting on January 23.

We are in a different world now with Covid-19 than we were in the beginning of this pandemic. We have highly protective vaccinations and boosters for all (except those under 5 years of age) and effective treatment for those who do contract Covid. Hospitalization and death rates have dropped dramatically. We have heard from more than one official that we now have "a pandemic of the unvaccinated", because it is they who have largely been getting seriously ill and dying if they contract Covid.

However, most people in our congregation are vaccinated and boosted. Some have resumed entering stores and restaurants and gathering with family and friends. Many members would like to be able to be in the sanctuary for services if we were able to do so.

So, the Board has decided it is time to move forward in starting to open the sanctuary for those who are vaccinated and boosted (when called for). More details regarding protective/mitigating measures will be published in the January 9th Round Up email. In this manner, people can make the decision for themselves if they want to join services in person

or on-line. For those who prefer to gather virtually, we will of course continue live streaming services. RE classes will also be in person or live streamed.

Thanks to everyone for your continued patients during these trying times. I have been so impressed with the dedication of our members. Clearly, we all appreciate what we have in BRUU. I have also been impressed with the creativity and flexibility of the staff and worship committee. And, of course, we will be forever indebted to our AV team.

In other board action, the board approved of a policy mandating vaccinations and boosters (when called for) for all BRUU employees. This may result in some changes in the staff who have been providing nursery services. We might be asking for volunteers to provide this coverage for a period of time.

The board has voted to move forward with Woody's Sudden Service to replace our HVAC system. Due to the amount of the cost, a little over \$14,000, we may be asking the congregation to approve of this expenditure. This is only one of the realities of owning an old building. This expenditure is necessary. It will provide air conditioning to the 3rd floor and more efficient heat to this floor and other areas of the building. Please keep your ears open for a possible notice regarding a special congregational meeting. Once ordered, it will take 5 weeks or more for the equipment to arrive. Payment is not due until it is installed. In other words, we have time if we need it to hold a special meeting. Many thanks to John Sunda for his involvement and consultation regarding this project!

Rita Romano



BRUU
SOCIAL
JUSTICE
COMMITTEE

BRUU Social Justice Committee (SJC) Activities

Social Justice through Social Action and Charitable Giving

UU Social Justice and Capitol Hill Advocacy Corp

BRUU financially and through action participate with Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ), an organization representing 19 UU Congregations in the Virginia, Maryland, and DC area. Our mission is to “mobilize and amplify the voices of Unitarian Universalists as we seek to change the world through acts of love and justice.”

Member congregations, including BRUU, conduct regular WriteHereWriteNow campaigns to encourage constituents to contact their federal representatives on key issues of concern. BRUU members participate with the UUSJ Capitol Hill Advocacy Corps hand delivering these letters to Congressional offices in Washington, DC, and regularly meet and discusses these issues with Members of Congress and/or their staffs.

The UUSJ is the only faith group that regularly conducts such lobbying visits to the Hill advancing UU values on priority issues such as Environmental and Climate Justice, Immigration Reform, Economic Justice, and Defending Our Democracy.

Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE)

BRUU financially and through action participate in VOICE, a non-partisan coalition of almost 50 faith communities and civic organizations in Prince William, Fairfax, Arlington counties and the city of Alexandria. VOICE unites people across lines of race, class, religion, political party and geography to act on key issues like housing, health care, education and criminal justice.

Much has been accomplished through VOICE including the establishment of a Public Defenders Office in PWC; the restoration of VA driver's licenses for those with unpaid court debt; funding for after school programs and more social workers in county schools; and tackling numerous Northern Virginia affordable housing and criminal justice issues since the founding of VOICE in 2008 with BRUU as a charter member.

Food Pantry

Begun in 2006 to meet a growing emergency need in the Manassas downtown area, our pantry is available to any person who needs food. Because there are other food sources in our community, our mission is to serve people who are homeless, underemployed, unemployed or who live nearby and lack transportation to receive food at other locations. We try to give a minimum of 3 days food, three meals each day, based on family size. We provide translators for Spanish-speaking people.

Our regular distribution days are the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 9:30 am-1:00 pm. There are no forms to fill out, and food is available on a first-come basis. Because of the COVID-19 crisis, the need for food assistance and therefore the BRUU Food Pantry activities have increased at least four-fold in the past year.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Green Team

The Green Team focuses on making BRUU “greener”. We seek ways to increase our energy efficiency and encourage members to consciously reduce their and our carbon footprints. The Green Team receives a mere \$150/year from the BRUU budget, yet

BRUU was one of the first congregations, nation-wide, to receive Green Sanctuary status from the UUA.

The Green Team sells fair trade, shade grown coffee, tea, and chocolate after services on Sunday and uses those funds to support worthwhile local organizations including the Interfaith Power and Light and the Prince William Conservation Alliance.

The Green Team funded an energy audit of BRUU’s buildings to determine recommendations on how to reduce BRUU’s carbon footprint and increase our building’s energy efficiencies. Many of the audit’s recommendations have been and are being implemented.

We are working with the City of Manassas on ways to further increase our building’s energy efficiencies and further reduce our monthly energy bills.

The Green Team recently purchased an infrared camera that will allow us to identify and hopefully reduce energy losses from our buildings. The camera will be available to church members determine similar losses in their houses.

Split the Plate

The 2nd Sunday of each month, we share the non-pledge monies of our collection plate with a deserving local non-profit. These are a small sampling of the groups we have contributed to in this way:

Independence Empowerment Center

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Greater Prince William (CASA)

Prince William Drop-In Center

Project Mend-A-House

Virginia Organizing Project

Virginians Against Payday Loans

Churches for Middle East Peace

Equality Virginia

Prince William Habitat for Humanity

The Trevor Project

Action in the Community Through Service (ACTS)

Prince William Professional Fire Fighters – Operation Warm

Trillium Center – drop in center for those with mental illness

Matthew Center

PWCA

Moms Demand Action

PFLAG

Re-build Baptist Church

Black Lives Matter

Back to School Drive

Beacon

Climate Lobby

The ARC

On the 3rd Sunday of the month, we split the plate with our **Emergency Food Pantry**.

And on 5th Sundays, we split the plate with **other than local worthwhile organizations** addressing “Emerging Needs.”

Green Team is part of the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition

Green Team is organizing monthly hikes on the Second Sundays of each month in 2022. On January 9, Randy and Trish Freed will lead a walk through Dove's Landing, a county park at the upper end of Lake Jackson. Hike will be on existing dirt trails through woods; there are a few slightly-muddy spots. (In January, your feet will get cold if you wear just tennis shoes.)



We'll start at 1:00pm and finish at 3:00pm (OK, ideally at 3:00pm). We'll assemble at the parking lot at 9305 Doves Ln, Manassas, VA 20112.

For details, contact the Green Team at GreenTeam@bruu.org
Check out the dates at <https://www.gpwtrails.org/calendar> for
other opportunities to get some exercise by walking outside.



Also, if you want to add your voice to the local planning process for building transportation infrastructure over the next 20 years, speak up for trails. Prince William County is preparing the Mobility Chapter for the 2040 Compre-

hensive Plan.

Would you like to see a Powell's Creek Greenway stretching from the landfill to the Potomac River, or safe bike routes on roads around Brentsville, or bike/pedestrian bridges across Bull Run to link up with the trails network in Fairfax County? Send an e-mail to Pathwayto2040@pwcgov.org and identify where you think new trails should be proposed.



Pat Malarkey hiking the future Occoquan Greenway in Lake Ridge, January 17, 2021

on the beautiful campus of Western Carolina University

in-person from July 17-23

SUUSI 2022

OUR THEME THIS YEAR WILL BE “GRATITUDE.”

All attendees at SUUSI 2022 must be fully vaccinated in accordance with current CDC recommendations at the time SUUSI is held.

Interested in giving a workshop? Log in to SOLIS, the SUUSI Online Information System, at <https://solis.suusi.org> to propose a workshop or apply for staff positions.

LOOKING TO HELP THE AFGHAN REFUGEES? GIFT CARDS for GROCERIES

BRUU reached out to Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA) and asked how we BRUUers can help the poor Afghan refugees still scrambling to get resettled. Here's what LSSNCA told us:

We have a great *immediate* need for gift cards for groceries. Here are the highest priorities:

1. Unrestricted Visa (for halal meat purchase)
2. Giant
3. Safeway
4. Target
5. Uber



Please include a note with a point of contact with the gift cards and mail to LSSNCA @ 8922 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA 22031

PLEASE NOTE: If you would like to get your gift cards purchased and sent to LSSNCA thru a BRUUer, email Kathy Sobrio at dksobrio@verizon.net or Jennifer Porter at jprumtum@gmail.com to make arrangements.

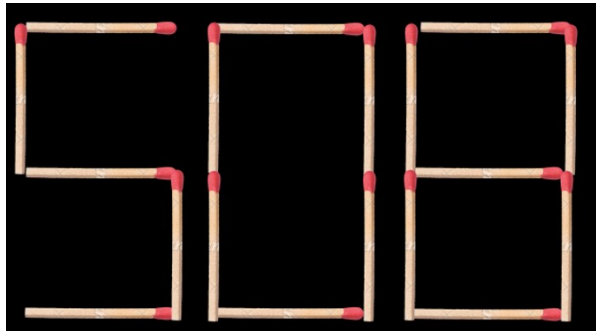
MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

THE PUZZLER

December's Puzzler

SUBMITTED BY NOVEMBER'S WINNER

Thanks Dee Brown and Glen Macdonald
for December's Puzzler



If you can only move two matches,
what is the biggest number you can make?

CONGRATULATIONS

OWEN DAVIES

FOR GETTING THE CLOSEST

The absolute BIGGEST number you could
make is 508^{11} crazy exponents

BRUU

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THE PUZZLER

January's puzzler

LOGIC PUZZLES

Try them ALL!!

Good luck!

1. Logic Puzzle: There are two ducks in front of a duck, two ducks behind a duck and a duck in the middle. How many ducks are there?

2. Logic Puzzle: Five people were eating apples, A finished before B, but behind C. D finished before E, but behind B. What was the finishing order?

3. Logic Puzzle: Jack is looking at Anne. Anne is looking at George. Jack is married, George is not, and we don't know if Anne is married. Is a married person looking at an unmarried person?

Please email your answer (s) to -

newsletter@bruu.org

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

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