



HIGHLIGHTS from the BRUU PICNIC PAGE 6

The monthly BRUU Newsletter DONATE @ www.uusc.org



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SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN THIS ISSUE

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Let me begin by saying that I have found this GA especially meaningful. And I hope that Sandra Fox, our only registered BRUU delegate, and I will bring you a worship service sometime after the winter holidays.

With the multiplatform format, overall GA has a more spacious feel. As always, there has been compelling programming and nourishing worship. The Service of the Living Tradition sermon Radicals Rise Up - NOW Is A Moment, preached by Pastor Jacqueline Duhart, and the conversational Ware Lecture with Ibram X. Kendi were both powerful in the own ways. On Friday evening, we joined local organizers in protesting the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. You can hear Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, our UUA President, in her powerful witness at the rally on the Side With Love Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/SideofLove/

or use <u>this link</u> to go directly to the Vimeo recording

It will be important for UUs everywhere to sign up with Side With Love, get involved in UU the Vote 2022, join UPLIFT Action and more for organizing and action beginning now and extending into the months ahead.

Our UUA leadership has been very responsive to the recent as well as the immediate events happening in our country. The three Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs) which were adopted are 1) "We Do Not Consent: Rejecting Legal Challenges to Abortion", 2) "Anti-Racism and Reparations" and 3) "Stop Privatization of Medicare." If, in attending the BRUU worship service on June 19th, BRUUers are considering further the question raised during that service "how do we make repair?" then I encourage forming a studyaction group that uses AIW #2 as its guiding challenge to engage in this issue. Any BRUU Social Justice response to the overturning of Roe v. Wade would do well to consult AIW #1. All three will be available in their final form on the UUA's website, look for them on the Commission on Social Witness page.

Once the recordings of GA are made available, I encourage you to listen/watch the General Sessions as well as the programs that are made publicly available. Among what I appreciated most about this year's GA were the inclusion of two items each day during the General Sessions – when the delegates do the business of the Association – a daily theological reflection and a report-out from the Article II Commission, which engaged attendees in the ongoing process of reviewing and revising this portion of our UUA By-laws. I encourage all y'all to watch the sessions especially for these portions of them. Let me remind us that next year at GA, delegates will be voting on whether to adopt new Article II language. You can find out more at www.uua.org/a2sc.

I look forward to exploring the lessons I learned during the 2022 GA with you after I return from my sabbatical.

May you summer and fall seasons be blessed!

Yours in faith, *Rev. Charlotte*



Dear Fellow BRUUers,

I was blessed this week by a visit from my daughter, Renee, and her family, her husband Lane and their two children, (my grandchildren), Braeden and Teagan (ages 6 and 4). This is the first visit they have made to my house since the beginning of the pandemic. It was a bit of a challenge keeping up with the activity level of these very active children, but it was a constant joy to see their carefree and whole-hearted engagement with life. Their amazing imagination, their desire to be loved, their drive to face challenges and master tasks were just some of what was enjoyable to witness.

Though not as vibrant, it has been a joy to see the engagement of people to our beloved community. Being the President of the Board has allowed me to witness the inner workings of our congregation...the dedication and care with which fellow Board members have demonstrated in overseeing BRUU business; the time, effort and skill with which members contribute to the numerous tasks that we have identified as being important; and the hard work of the staff in providing quality Sunday services and Religious Education.

As a Board we have some major achievements this year: the relocation of the food pantry, the replacement of a major HVAC system, the reopening of the sanctuary, the revision of the Ministerial Agreement, the completion of the Ministerial Assessment, and the creation of job descriptions for some of the Board positions. As a congregation we have also had some major achievements: the revised process for the food pantry, the replenishment of our Community Emergency Fund, the Avion Project (the updating of our AV systems), the virtual auction, the accomplishment of our fist outdoor service on Easter Sunday. And let's not forget that BRUU was recognized this year by the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions with the Sustainability Champion Award in the Faith Community Category! As important as it is to recognize and celebrate our accomplishments, it is also important to identify areas that need improvement. One area the Board needs to address is the identification of a team of people to accomplish our Stewardship drive. This year our pledges to BRUU fell a bit short and one reason for this was the Finance Committee stepped up to the plate to do double duty because no one else stepped forward to accomplish this task. While most of our membership made their pledges and many increased the amount they pledged, many of our new members were not contacted directly and some of our established members did not pledge. The Membership Committee is in the process of contacting members who have not pledged. As demonstrated by the congregation in the Annual Congregational meeting, it is important to our congregation to take care of our staff by providing COLA raises. At the same time, it is important that we have a balance budget and that we continue to follow our fiscal guidelines, like not reaching into our reserve funds unless we are faced with an unplanned expense. So, if you have not made your pledge yet for next year or you would like to increase your pledge, I invite you to send an email to finance@bruu.org or go into BRUUnet and fill out a pledge form.

Also, if you are not participating on a committee or two, we have several vacancies that need to be filled. In addition to the Stewardship Committee, we are looking for people to work on the following committees: Kitchen Krew, Pastoral Care, Communications, Leadership Development, and Worship. We also need someone to head up the Yard Sale and Auction for this year. Please be proactive and reach out to Cathy Ring, who is our current Program Council Chair or Nina Lomax who is our head recruiter, or any Board member.

Let's make this next year a success in reaching not only the goals we have previously set, but those that we have yet to bring to the forefront. Let's move closer to our vision "to make the world a better place, for ourselves, our planet, and for generations to come...to create a place of safety, acceptance, and personal growth".

BRUU Annual Picnic at the Sunda's Saturday, June 11th A LOOK BACK

The Sunda's hosted the annual picnic at their home this past month. Fellowship, food, volleyball, pool, and a bonfire after dark were enjoyed by all.





DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL SHOUT OUT?

If you see something GREAT, say something Great Make sure to send your BRUU KUUDOS to newsletter@bruu.org & communications@bruu.org

Stained Glass Window Project

Your help is needed to round out the funds needed to repair, restore and protect our sanctuary's stained-glass windows.

The generous gift from the Kostik family plus the funds from the insurance claim are about \$7000 short of the total amount needed to complete the project. This figure is based on the proposal from one very reputable company, Willet-Hauser. Please rest assured, we are seeking additional proposals from other companies that will match the aforementioned one in scope, as required by Board fiduciary policies.

At the end of the June 5th Annual Congregational Meeting, Gwen Talbot generously put up a \$3500 matching grant and has already remitted her check. The mission, should all y'all choose to accept it, is to match her gift, thereby raising the balance of the funds needed for the project to be completed in full. The scope of the project includes all the windows in the sanctuary building above ground level whether they have colored or clear glass. All needed repairs will be completed. The exterior wood frames will be prepped and painted (this is an item also on the Proposed Infrastructure Budget which the congregation adopted at the annual meeting). An acrylic protective outer covering will be added to all windows. These coverings not only provide protection against damage and vandalism, they also add a layer of insulation and reduce our carbon footprint.

Given that the windows are nearly 100 years old, this project will add significantly to their life-span and ensure the beauty of our historic building for years to come.

Once a company is chosen and the deposit is paid, we'll be put on the schedule. It is likely that this project will commence in 2023. We'll keep everyone posted on the progress of the matching funds campaign and the project itself.

With gratitude, in advance, to all who participate and to Gwen Talbot and the Kostik family for their gifts to.

Interim Music Director Search Selection



Are you interested in being part of the process?

The BRUU Board endorsed the Personnel Committee recommendation to seek & hire an Interim Music Director when our beloved Annease retires as our Music Director this coming December.

The congregation approved the 2022-23 Budget to include funding an Interim Choir Director and possibly an Accompanist beginning in January 2023. This means we need a short-term Search Task Force of 3 to 5 members to:

~ cooperatively create the criteria and position description for what BRUU needs/wants

~ draft the recruitment job description(s), and

 \sim research candidate sources & widely publicize the opening(s), starting September 1st.

First Step: Assess your interest, energy, and availability over the next two to five months to assist with this project.

Second Step: Send an email to the Personnel Committee (<u>Personnel@bruu.org</u>) by midnight on July 10th to make your interest known.

In your email please summarize what you can bring to the task group in the way of talent, knowledge/skills, and enthusiasm!



JULY 8 and JULY 10 Bonus Hike and Main Hike

Description: Available on a Friday morning?

We will check out the trail on **Friday**, **July 8** for the upcoming "Second Sunday" hike on **Sunday July 10**

Both will be on Bull Run Mountain Natural Area Preserve. **Friday's** hike will be **9:30-11:30am.** Contact Charlie Grymes at cgrymes@gmail.com for details

GREEN TEAM WINS

BRUU Wins Sustainability Champion

Award!

The BRUU Green Team just won the "Sustainability Champion Award" in the Faith Community Category, chosen by Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions. BRUU has been on a sustained journey of reducing our environmental footprint and advocating for greening up our community. Award ceremony will be June 16 at at Rock Spring United Church of Christ in Arlington. Contact Larry Underwood, chair of the Green Team, at greenteam@bruu.org for more details.

Lifespan Religious Education Committee

An Introduction

The Lifespan Religious Education Committee (LREC) is the umbrella organization composed of the Religious Education Council (REC) and Adult Life Enrichment (ALE) which assists the Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE) in guiding the instruction of the BRUU congregation through the intricate tapestry of the UU faith and values. The REC concentrates on the education of BRUU's children (ages 0-18) while ALE coordinates course offerings for Young Adults and beyond.

At the core of its charter, the REC is a support organization for the DLRE. We collaborate on new curriculum options with an emphasis on subject matter that will nurture the spirituality of our blossoming UUers to help them establish the basis of their chosen path. This includes topics from the Judeo-Christian roots of UUism and predominant faith surrounding our youth's everyday lives, introductions to the faiths of the increasingly diverse population with whom our youth attend school, and an appreciation for our six sources. Additionally, the REC helps to recruit teachers and fills in on DLRE off days. Our youth can greatly benefit from the experience and knowledge of all our members. The REC invites everyone to participate in our youth's education by becoming a member of one of our teaching teams.

For new members just finding the UU faith or longtime BRUUers exploring new avenues of their spiritual path, ALE coordinates course offerings across broad subject matter. Assisted by our full-time DLRE, ALE assembles a series of courses for Fall and Spring semesters. A small dedicated group recruit instructors to teach courses based on the UU values and actions, UU Principles, and the Six Sources. Some instructors teach courses

HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

SUBMIT announcements using this form

https://www.bruu.org/www2/announcement-form/

they have developed on topics of their own interest and study. Other instructors follow an established curriculum provided by the DLRE. The LREC would like to invite anyone interested in developing a semester of stimulating courses to inspire BRUUers in their faith development to join ALE. And, if you have an idea for a course, please contact the DLRE for inclusion in ALE's next semester catalogue.

During the pandemic, the DLRE backed by the LREC was able to adapt the program's courses to the virtual platform. ALE courses have remained virtual making it easier for people to attend after work or after dark when it's more difficult to drive for some of our older members. REC classes were some of the first groups back in BRUU's building employing a well thought out return-to-the-building policy based on CDC guidance that were comprised of staggered start times and assignment of entrances and bathrooms so as to avoid attendees crossing in the BRUU hallways. Our youth courses also utilized the enhanced network with smart TVs and cameras built out by the BRUU Audio Visual Team to include all the youth no matter their health status or comfort level with in-person gatherings.

Many issues in recent times have called into question how UUs exercise their values and beliefs. Once acceptable phrases and actions are changing in the light of such movements as Black Lives Matter, #Me Too, and Go Green. LREC classes help give BRUUers a forum to discuss and put these new norms into an age-appropriate perspective.

"Open House" in the AV Studio

Check out how we make audio, video, and Zoom magic in the BRUU balcony any Sunday between now and July 1. Come upstairs on a Sunday between 10:00-11:00am to observe the show – even try your hand as a sound producer, camera operator, or "voice of Zoom." (We're always looking for people who want to be trained, but it's OK just to observe.)

Volleyball and Potluck – Monday Nights

Mark and Ann Hempen host a volleyball game and potluck supper every Monday evening (weather cooperating...). Game starts at 6:30pm, potluck follows. Come play, or just watch and eat. No need to make a reservation at the Manassas Junction Bed and Breakfast – just show up whenever you can at 9311 Prescott Ave.



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

When one of our fellow BRUU members or friends has a short term need for meals or transportation to an appointment, we quickly organize and provide the needed support. This practice of caring for each other will continue during Rev. Charlotte's sabbatical. As always, our caring for one another starts with a request for help.

Personal requests for pastoral care should be directed to the Pastoral Care Team, who will be coordinating requests during Rev. Charlotte's sabbatical.

We thank you for helping us to be of service! Susan Sinclair, Mary Sherman, and TJ Maile

LOOKING FOR FELLOWSHIP???

July Fellowship

A

First Fridays Manassas opens up for walking the downtown. Meet up at Bruu for popcorn and bubbles POC Cathy Ring

Monday Night Volleyball-Meet at the Hempens on Mondays for Volleyball and potluck dinner POC Ann & Mark Hempen 9311 Prescott Ave

Accoustic Tuesdays Meet at the Harris Pavillion to listen. Look for the Rainbow chair at the Left side. POC Cathy Ring

Second Sunday Hike Meet up to hike in local areas POC Charlie Grymes

July 3 & 10 @ 3pm Drumming Circle Bring your drum (some drums may be available) POC Martin Crim

July 10 Young Adult Brunch 11:30 am Meet in the Fellowship Hall. Restaurant to be determined. POC Michelle Fegeas

We could add the following if you'd step up to be the point of contact

Saturday Swing Concerts at the Harris Pavilion July 16 & 30th

Saturday Concert at the Harris Pavilion July 9 & 30th 6:30 pm

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TUE 28	5 7pm Accoustic Tuesday	12 Ppm Accoustic Tuesday	19 • 7pm Accoustic Tuesday	26 7pm Accountic Tuesday
MON 27	4 Independence Day	11 6/30pm Volleyball & Potlux	18 6.30pm Volleybell & Potlux	25 6.30pm Volleyball & Potlux
SUN 26	3 4 3pm Drumming in the San	10 11:30am Young Adait Brun 1 Tpm 2nd Sunday Hile 3pm Drumming in the San-	17	24

Key At Bruu Building Outside of Bruu

Needs Point of Contact to run



There are six words in the English language which have the letter combination of "UU".

One of the words is 'Vacuum', can you name the other six? ANSWER: continuum residuum menstruum triduum duumvir duumvirate

CONGRATULATIONS TO :

Susan Bardenhagen

BRUU

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Minister

Rev. Charlotte Lehmann minister@bruu.org

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THE PUZZLER

In 1993, a book was published about methods to make industrial production ecologically friendly. In it the author mentions an auto prototype proposed by a leading automobile executive.

If the proposed car were actually put into production its body would be made of soybean plastic, it would be powered by ethanol, and would run on tires made from goldenrod. The car would in fact be biodegradable. We would, said the executive, be growing our own cars.

The question is, name this innovative automobile executive.



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!