



**BULL RUN**  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

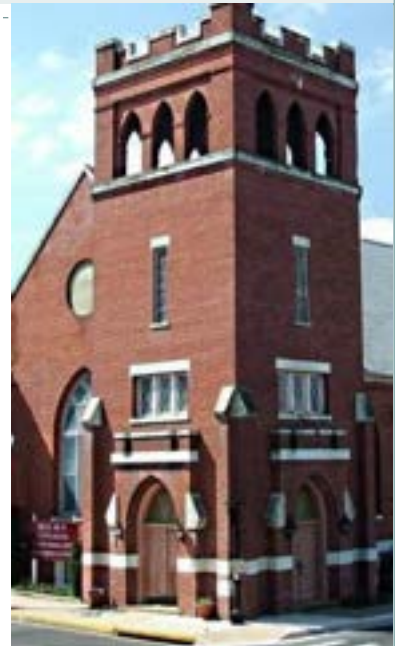
July 2023  
Volume 41, Issue 7

# Crossroads

Our beautiful building is getting it's window's repaired. It will look even better than before.

But what would a computer see? Take a look at what ChatGPT produced....

As imagined by AI (Artificial Intelligence)



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The monthly BRUU Newsletter



# BULL RUN

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

## JULY SERMON DESCRIPTIONS

### **July 2: *Equity – An Introduction to Quakerism (Worship Committee )***

Members of the Alexandria Society of Friends will be sharing with us this morning about the practice of their faith.

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### **July 9: *Play as Spiritual Practice (Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)***

Join us for a fun and interactive worship service exploring play as spiritual practice.

The **2nd Sunday Share-the-Plate** benefit the **Georgetown South Community Council Foundation** (<https://georgetownssouth.org/gtsccf/>).

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### **July 16: *Facing our Fears (Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)***

This morning's worship service will explore the role that fear inhabits in our lives and some of the ways that we can cope with or address fear when we experience it.

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

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### **July 23: *Parenting (Rev. Charlotte Lehmann )***

On this “**National Parents Day**,” our morning worship will look at parenting from several angles. Who do you look to as parental figures? How have you learned to be a parent (in the broadest sense of the word)? What makes us healthy parents?

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### **July 30 : *Social Justice Sunday***

**(DRE Kristin Worthington & Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)**

This is the first of our new **Social Justice Sundays** being held on the **5th Sunday** of the month. After some opening rituals, we will engage in a project-based activity to benefit our larger community. Today we will be putting together backpacks filled with school supplies for Sinclair Elementary School to distribute to those in need.

The **5th Sunday Special Collection** will benefit **Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism** (BLUU) - <https://blacklivesuu.org/>

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear fellow-congregants,

I want to begin this first letter by thanking Rita Romano, not only for her work as President but also for her generosity of time and spirit in ensuring that I have a good start in my own term as Board President as of July 1, 2023.

It will be interesting to recall July 2021, when Rita's term began with several daunting challenges, including COVID's continued implications on our community and congregation, grieving the loss of our beloved Bev Reusser, and other issues to deal with in the years ahead. At the BRUU annual meetings, Rita has shared our accomplishments and events during her term in office. Included among these was Rev. Charlotte's leave for a well-deserved sabbatical which provided her with an important renewal of spirit and growth, which in turn continues to benefit the congregation. But there were also some severe losses, including the passing of BRUUs co-founding mother Doris Galvin and dear Jon Kostik. I would certainly consider Rita's term a journey of Roses and Thorns. Thank you, Rita!

I also want to take this opportunity to thank you, our member-volunteers and staff who are helping BRUU during this period of transition. This includes Heather Berthold and Cathy Ring, who've been working with Rita and me as we review applicants for our front desk position. A big shout out to Terrie McClure, who's been a huge help to me in the BRUU office.

BRUU has much to celebrate. Our Religious Education (RE) and Adult Lifelong Education (ALE) classes continue to be filled with vibrant and curious minds [Thank you, DLRE Kristin Worthington, Jen Malos, and the RE/ALE Committees]. Our services continue to offer vital spiritual food for thought [Thank you, Rev. Charlotte, DLRE Kristin Worthington and our fantastic Lay Leaders]. We can also look forward to hearing more on plans for the Farewell Gathering in celebration of Tina Cox's time as Administrative Assistant [Thank you, Lois Montgomery, Sally Gibbs, Mike Freeland, and the Fellowship Committee!].

We continue to move ahead.

The Stained Glass repair will have been completed by the time you read this [Thank you, John Sunda!];

We'll be sharing with others what we learned from the General Assembly service on June 25 via zoom [Thank you, Tony Main and AV crew!];

We'll be learning more about the GMU recommendations provided to the Board [Thank you, Dianne Lane and members who worked with GMU team!]; and

We'll begin taking deeper dives into the Strategic Plan process [Thank you, Art Muirhead and team!].

At June's Annual Congregational Meeting via Zoom (from Ireland), I shared my belief that a vibrant church organization depends on a well-communicated mission, an actualized vision for our future, and a culture of inclusivity and right relations. All of this is predicated on a strong and trusted leadership that seeks to empower its members through learning opportunities for personal growth and leadership development, candid discourse, and caring collaborative connections. With that in mind, I pledged to model my best leadership skills, to listen, and to fully communicate our steps forward.

Knowing I can count on the support of our staff and volunteers, I ask each of you to be fully engaged partners with your Board during this new season of change. I look forward to working with you. In this way we can learn from our stumbles, explore options, and best practices, and celebrate our successes together. So, now borrowing from Janice Maria Johnson's request of participants at the June 25 General Assembly, I ask you, as we continue to do the good work of BRUU, "to hold each other in care, power and love."

Together for BRUU,

Angie Carrera - Board President



# BULL RUN

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

## MINISTER'S REPORT



### *Faithfully Becoming*

Rev. Charlotte

I am writing this newsletter column on the morning of my last full day in Pittsburgh, PA at the Unitarian Universalist Association's 2023 General Assembly; before I offer some reflections on this week, I want to express some gratitude.

First, thank you for your care and concern of me when I fell during a volleyball game at the annual BRUU picnic and afterwards, too.

Second, I am – and *yinz* (that's a Pittsburgh expression that is equivalent to y'all) are too whether you are aware of it or not – extremely grateful to a handful of people who have moved into the gap left by the resignation of Tina Cox: primarily Rita Romano, Terrie McClure, Angie Carrera, and Mike Freeland. Cathy Ring, Heather Berthold, Robin Fegeas, and others have also responded quickly and efficiently to the changes that occurred. I could not handle all of what needed attending to on my own during the first two weeks of June and I was not in the office the second half of the month. Please, make it a priority to thank these BRUU leaders for their commitment and care of the congregation during this time of transition. We are stronger together and it's showing up as we navigate the liminality brought about by the changes.

Faithfully becoming. That is the theme of this year's GA. And it is a theme that we at BRUU will carry forward into and through the 2023-24 church-year.

I, of course, have been in Pittsburgh for the UU Ministers Association annual professional meeting called Ministry Days. I arrived on Sunday afternoon because I had enrolled in a continuing education course offering: Healthy Boundaries 201 – Beyond Basics. Boundaries are a gift; they are “what allow us to love each other at the same time.” While this course is designed for clergy and spiritual leaders, we all need to maintain healthy boundaries as part of our commitment to being (becoming) a **safer** congregation for everyone who participates in our community whether through seeking or service.

At the end of Ministry Days is a 200+ year-old tradition called “The Berry Street Lecture.” Open to all, it is delivered by a respected UU minister and the topic typically offers a critique or a wake-up call. This, I feel, is especially true of this year's lecture delivered by Rev. Cecilia Kingman reflecting on “...Facisms Without and Within.” I expect us to screen the Berry Street as an ALE offering sometime in the next several months, so that we might all be aware of the dangers in and around us.

# MINISTER'S REPORT

And then there is the 2023 General Assembly, which has required the attendees to embody “faithfully becoming” throughout the week as we have done the business of our Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. As you know from the sermon series I led, starting last December and culminating in the June Music Service, the UUA has been engaged in a required bylaws review process. In this case, it has entailed extensive proposed revisions to the whole of Article II of the UUA’s bylaws where the Principles and Purposes – including the 7 Principles and the 6 Source – are found. So, this week, much of the work of the delegates has been around the proposal from the Article II Commission. As of this writing, I am pleased to report that the GA delegates voted to adopt the proposal with some amendments for a year of study. The Article II issue will come before the 2024 GA for a stipulated 2<sup>nd</sup> vote which requires a supermajority to faithfully become part of our denomination’s bylaws for the next 15 years (or less).

Other important matters that came before the GA were voting for new leadership. I can report, as of this writing, that Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt has been elected to a 6-year term as UUA President. The GA delegates did not affirm the business resolution brought forth by the Young Adults, which asked that the UU Common Endowment Fund divest of fossil fuel stocks/bonds and make reparations for environmental impacts and injustices. It was not that we don’t care about these problems, but rather that the proposed resolution’s stipulations were not felt to be the most responsible way to address them. And, finally, GA delegates admitted and approved the adoption of three Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs); these ask us to speak out and take action on the following matters of concern: halting the building of “Cop City” in Atlanta, organizing for health equity, and protecting Dreamers (DACA recipients and others) with a real path to citizenship.

BRUU’s 5 delegates (Martin Crim, Margo Davies, DeeJaye DeJaye, Michelle Foster-Fegeas and Cathy Ring) along with Kristin and myself plan to actively engage the congregation in faithfully becoming informed about all of what we learned as well as living into the provisionary Article II bylaws language.

I would be remiss if I didn’t make note to you of another way that BRUU’s delegate team participated in and embodied “faithfully becoming” this week. Along with the above-mentioned delegates, Alex Davies came to GA and participated in the Youth caucus. Alex “bridged” at GA from Youth to Young Adult during the annual Synergy Bridging service. And Michelle Foster Fegeas was among the Young Adults receiving the newly-bridged young adults on the other side of the stage. This, as far as I know, was a first for our BRUU congregation!

I am so pleased to serve as your minister.

With love and appreciation,

*Rev. Charlotte*



# July Fellowship

## July 7- 1<sup>st</sup> Friday

**Bubbles & Popcorn** 5-7pm Stop by to meet up with other Bruuers, have a little popcorn and maybe iced tea. The theme is Jazzy June!

**Marshmallow Roast** 6-8 pm Stop by to meet up with other Bruuers, bring marshmallows, roasting sticks and a chair. Musical instruments also welcome

## Second Sunday July 9

**Younger Adults Meetup** Contact Michelle Fegeas 540.219.9058 for details

**Second Sunday Hike** PWTSC.org Meet in the fellowship hall after service. Questions? Contact Charlie Grymes [cgrymes@gmail.com](mailto:cgrymes@gmail.com) for details

## Harris Pavillion events

Looking for a Point of contact Do you enjoy the Friday and/or Saturday concerts at the Harris Pavillion. Would you be willing to be a point of gathering for BRUU Members? If so please contact Mary Kadlubowski [fellowship@bruu.org](mailto:fellowship@bruu.org)

## Fellowship Potluck Sunday July 30th



The "stuffed and filled" Potluck After the congregation service, we will have a potluck. The theme is stuffed and filled. Burritos, cream puffs or anything that fills your heart with joy. Please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/Stuffed-Potluck> Point of Contact Mary Kadlubowski [fellowship@bruu.org](mailto:fellowship@bruu.org)



## Coming Up

**First Friday Popcorn and Bubbles** August 4th

**Marshmallow Roast** August 4th

**Wednesday Potluck & Game Night**

**Ice Cream Social** August 20<sup>th</sup>

**Ingathering BBQ** September 10th



## **Policy of No-Contact for one year for departing employees**

The BRUU Board requested a yearlong no contact period with Tina Cox because we thought it was important to treat the Administrative Assistant position as a professional position that was on par with the other professionals we employ. The minister, DRE and Music Director and related positions do call for a one-year period of no-contact. However, upon close consideration of the Association of UU Administrators Code of Professional Practices, it appears that there are different recommended guidelines for these administrative positions. We have also received guidance from Megan Foley at the UUA regarding this matter.

Based on our review and discussion with Megan, we have decided to withdraw our requested period of no contact with Tina Cox. We are instead requesting that the Personnel Committee create a policy to address staff departures for each of the positions that exist here at BRUU. The Personnel Committee may seek input from congregational stakeholders regarding the content of this policy.

## **Yellow signs**

Don't be alarmed , but there will be some **yellow signs** posted around BRUU

These are reminders and alerts for the public hearings that will occur on **August 2** and **August 28**



**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...

On **July 9**, 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 Drive, Bristow, VA 20136





## A Special Opportunity in July

Workshops that engage your mind. Music that delights and entertains. Outdoor field trips that connect to nature and build strong bodies 12 ways. Youth programming 24/7 that leads to personal accountability and defining personal boundaries.

Yes, we are talking "church camp" with 500+ fellow UU's at the Southeast UU Summer Institute (**SUUSI**).

We will gather for a week, **July 16-22**, in the mountains of North Carolina on the campus of Western Carolina University. About 5-15 BRUU'ers attend each year 'cuz it is a blast, a great family experience, and a time to recharge our individual inner batteries.

**To join the fun, register**  
at [www.suusi.org](http://www.suusi.org)





Our Summer RE time will be held in the courtyard – weather permitting. If it is too hot or too rainy, we will meet in Room 108 (Explorers Room next to Nursery.) Children under 10 years old may gather at the tent beginning at 9:45 am, pick up at 11:15 am. We will supply water and healthy snacks. Please be sure to alert us to any allergies.

June 18 – Juneteenth – learning the heritage and celebrations of this important holiday

June 25 – Summer Solstice – exploring both the scientific and spiritual qualities the longest day of the year. (The adults will be viewing the General Assembly Worship and may run later than 11:15 am.

For the July sessions, participants are celebrating Teddy Bear Month! Children are invited to bring a small stuffed bear or other favorite cuddly stuffed animal each Sunday. The stuffed friends will go home with you each week. (But don't worry if they forget—we'll have extras on hand.)

July 2 - Teddy Bear Month — Friendship — making and keeping friends

July 9 - Teddy Bear Month — Sick! — helping others feel better

July 16 - Teddy Bear Month: Lost — feelings of fear

July 23 - Teddy Bear Party — Celebrating with our bear friends and our BRUU friends! Wear a fancy hat! On this day, we will also host social hour in the Fellowship Hall following service.

July 30 – A special "Service Service," held indoors.

ALL AGES will chip in to stuff back packs for a local school.

August 6 – Harvest – Celebrate the season and return home with magical bath oil

August 13 – Rainbows – Colors colors everywhere!

August 20 – an end of the summer "Block Party"

See you there!





# 5th Sundays “Service Services”

## Coming Soon!

**Worship will be in the form of Multigenerational Projects benefiting the local community and more. Stay tuned for all the details....**



### July 30th: Stuff a Back Pack

**Our friends at Sinclair Elementary School are in great need of school supplies. Please help us provide these families with the basics, so they can concentrate on wondering and learning.**

**Sign Up Form can be found here:**



**Most items are \$10 or less, so please sign up for as many as you like!**

**Once purchased, drop off the items in Room 304 BEFORE July 23.**

**Contact Kristin at [dre@bruu.org](mailto:dre@bruu.org) for more information.**

## 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



VIRGINIA HOSPITAL  
& HEALTHCARE  
ASSOCIATION  
An alliance of hospitals and health delivery systems



VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION  
of CHIEFS of POLICE  
& Foundation



## 2023 Youth Behavioral Health Assembly

JOIN VOICE & OUR COALITION PARTNERS

# JULY 9th 2023

## 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Join us for our Youth Behavioral Health Assembly with Gov. Glenn Youngkin at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. The coalition of VOICE, the VA Association of Chiefs of Police, and the VA Hospital and Healthcare Association will join hands to fully address the opioid and overdose crisis affecting youth in Virginia. Music will start at 2:45PM. The Assembly will begin promptly at 3PM & end promptly by 4:30PM.

### **LOCATION:**

Mt. Zion Baptist Church  
18410 Chapel Street,  
Triangle, Virginia 22172



VISIT: [WWW.VOICE-IAF.ORG](http://WWW.VOICE-IAF.ORG) SCAN. SIGN-UP. ATTEND.





Construction & glass craft workers will be in and around the Sanctuary repairing & restoring almost ALL of our stained glass windows. This will consist of noise, large equipment, & debris that may cause minor impact on some of the activities & spaces in the entire building.

Please be mindful and flexible that this is a huge undertaking, that will probably be completed by mid-July.

Your patience, understanding, and unbounded joy when it is completed are all expected!



# 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

## June's Puzzler

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Here are **five** words.

What would the **sixth** word in the series be?

Bugles

Unrest

Grotto

Letter

Esteem

### ANSWER:

The letter (when read vertically) make the words in the list. Try it. The first column makes the first word, the second column makes the second word, and so on. Therefore the sixth word must be STORM, right? Close. You still need to add the final letter.

**STORMY or STORMS**

## CONGRATS TO:

Sandra Fox—Martha Walsh—James  
Amaral—Bob Hamburg—Margo Davies—  
Barbara Perlik—Jan Mosso

## BRUU

9350 Main Street  
Manassas, VA 20110-5150  
703-361-6269

### **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

#### **BRUU OFFICE HOURS**

M-F 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

# 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!

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!