



BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

June 2023
Volume 41, Issue 6

Crossroads

Mark your calendars:

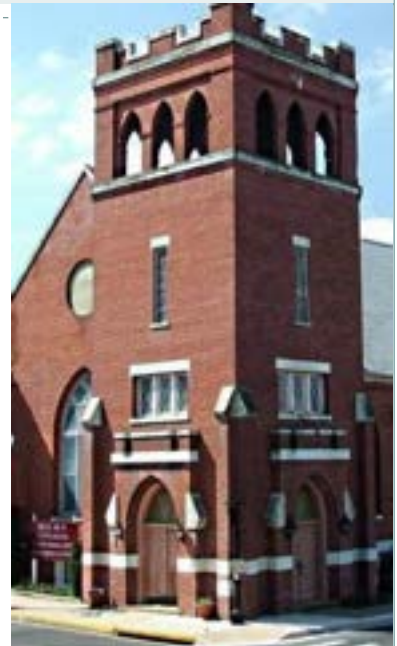
It's time again for the annual congregational meeting scheduled for June 4, 2023!

All documents and reports are currently being collected at this time and will be accessible on BRUUnet by May 19. Future details about proxy information in the event that you cannot attend and/or wish to attend the meeting virtually will be given in the weeks leading up to the meeting, so please watch this space.

On behalf of the board of directors, I welcome your input as we gather together in the spirit of our principles, and the work of our congregation will only move forward with your voices.

Chris Sexton

BRUU Board Secretary



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The monthly BRUU Newsletter



BULL RUN

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

JUNE SERMON DESCRIPTIONS

June 4: *Equity – Annual Flower Communion Service (Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)*

June 4, 2023 is the 100th anniversary of the very first Flower Ceremony, which was held in Prague and led by Rev. Norbert Čapek. Each year we celebrate our BRUU community during this service which honors the beautiful and unique individuality of us all through the exchange of flowers. Please bring a flower representing each member of your household; at the close of the service everyone in attendance takes home a different flower.

Note: We will try to deliver flowers to those who are worshipping with us via ZOOM.

Also note that the BRUU Annual Meeting will take place this morning starting at 11:30 a.m.

June 11: *Music Service (David Maley and Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)*

This year's June Music Service will celebrate in word and song, the proposed language for Article II of the UUA's Bylaws. This language will be voted on – in the first of two votes – by the delegates to the UUA's 2023 General Assembly. Come hear how the values and covenantal language are reflected in the music that our Adult Choir has shared with us this year.

The **2nd Sunday Share-the-Plate** benefit **P-Flag Prince William**, which supports LGBTQIA+ people and their families.

June 18: *Who's Your Daddy? Who's Your Daddy Now?*

(Bruce Roemmelt & Eric Trumbull)

A brief introduction to NPEs by two of us who have experienced quite different relationships with our fathers and then how we feel after learning that we are NPEs. Don't know what an NPE is? Come to the service and find out!

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

June 25: *UUA General Assembly Sunday Worship Service (Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)*

Live-streamed from Pittsburgh where the UUA's General Assembly is being held this year; this service will be held in the BRUU sanctuary starting at 11 a.m. Come at 10 a.m. for a pre-service social and fellowship hour. The Reverend Manish Mishra-Marzetti from Ann Arbor, Michigan is preaching.

FMI – <https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/sunday-morning-worship>.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Fellow BRUUers!

Well, I guess this will be my last submission as your president. It has been an honor to take my turn as president. It had been a growth experience and I encourage others to take their turn at the helm. You will be amazed with what you learn! It gives you a whole other appreciation for BRUU. This is a terrific, caring community with a great ideal of working together in harmony towards a better world. How can you beat that?

It was an interesting two-year term to serve on the Board. Covid was still in full swing when I started, and services were happening only via Zoom. I am proud to say that we survived Covid and have recovered considerably. This year's pledge drive was a success, many people have returned to services in the sanctuary, we have renewed energy in our mission, and we have visitors checking us out and new members joining.

Within the past 2 years we re-opened the sanctuary, completed the first phase of the Audio-Visual Operation and Networking project (AVION), Revised our Bylaws as they pertained to "friends", updated the Personnel Manual, added greatly to the Knowledge Base, accomplished giving Rev. Charlotte a sabbatical, revised the Letter of Agreement with Rev. Charlotte, established a new process for assessing the minister, celebrated the retirement of our beloved Music Director, Annease Hastings, and hired a new Interim Music Director, reorganized the Building & Grounds Committee, established board job descriptions and developed an orientation manual for new Board Members, passed a plan for funding our infrastructure needs, had a reorganization study done by GMU students, revitalized our Stewardship Drive, supported Outreach activities, and signed a contract to have our stained glass windows repaired and covered. Phew, and that's not all that occurred!

I look forward to orienting the new board members and passing the baton to the new president and will stay on the board for the next year to offer "words of wisdom". I will also continue to work on establishing a Right Relations Team for our congregation and work on finding some grant funding to help us with infrastructure costs and resources to better accomplish our BRUU missions. There is still lots that needs to be done!

Rita Romano

Current BRUU President



BULL RUN

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

MINISTER'S REPORT



Kudos and Gratitudes

Rev. Charlotte

Each year during the annual Flower Communion worship service, the annual meeting, and the June Music Service, we make a point of recognizing all of the many people who have contributed to the life of this congregation through their volunteerism and their leadership. There are so many hands – and feet, and backs, and brains, and hearts – that join together in making lighter work of the ministries we do within and beyond our walls.

Whether you serve in an elected position or jump in to help out during a fellowship event; represent the congregation at our denominational gatherings or engage in outreach to the larger community in and around Manassas; provide your voice or other musical talent through our music program or teach in our lifespan religious education program; chip in on building upkeep during a work day or keep our audio-visual, communications and social media running smoothly; participate in worship services or serve on a committee or team of one sort or another, you are the life-blood of this congregation. We can't do it without you!

We are so very grateful for all of the ways that our members and friends get involved and participate. We are dependent on your contributions of time, talent and treasure to keep Bull Run Unitarian Universalists thriving, growing and visible in Old Town Manassas.

While we especially lift up the names of award winners and those completing leadership service alongside this year's religious education teachers and choir members reaching notable milestones of

MINISTER'S REPORT

participation, please know that I, for one, am ever so grateful to every single person who has given of themselves to sustain our community. From the 8 year-old to the 88 year-old, your selflessness is seen and appreciated. Each of you sets an example for the rest of the congregation.

This has been a very full and important year for Bull Run UU. We have continued to do good work and lay the groundwork for a solid and successful future as a safe, progressive, liberal faith community in this part of Virginia. We have much of which to be proud. We have much to celebrate. We have much for which to be grateful.

Bull Run UU strikes me as being a wonderful example of the faithful optimism for which Unitarian Universalists are known.

Kudos to each and every one of you.

I can't thank you enough,
Rev. Charlotte

June Fellowship

June 2- 1st 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

Saturday June 3 Victorian Afternoon 2-6 pm

Join Mark & Ann Hempen at Manassas Junction Bed and Breakfast. An afternoon of artists painting both the lovely grounds of Manassas Junction Bed and Breakfast and the men and women who will be strolling the grounds in period clothing from the 1800s.

Sunday June 4 Annual Meeting

Following Service- Informational meeting regarding the upcoming Annual Meeting, budget, elections, and more! If you need a proxy they can be found in the May 25 Bruu Blast.



Sunday June 4th 4:30 pm Chrysalis Concert Series Michelle Malone

Michelle Malone's musical roots run deep and wide like the mighty Mississippi river, twisting and turning through southern rock, folk and country territories. "Malone is a master at mixing blues & Americana music" (GUITAR PLAYER MAGAZINE) Michelle "has the soul of a blues man, the heart of a folk singer, and the guts of a rock and roll star wrapped up in one fiery bad ass

Tickets \$25/person! POC contact Betsy McGrath

<https://auctria.events/ChrysalisConcertSeriesAtBruu>



Second Sunday June 11

Younger Adults Meetup Contact Michelle Fegeas 540.219.9058 for details

Second Sunday Hike On June 11, we will explore the northern side of Powell's Creek, west of Leesylvania State Park. *[Did you know there was even a trail there?]* Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/e27h4m8s> to get details. Registration will allow us to notify you if the hike is postponed or cancelled because of weather conditions. Questions? Meet in the fellowship hall after service. Contact Charlie Grymes at cgrymes@gmail.com Contact Charlie Grymes cgrymes@gmail.com for details

Saturday June 17 BRUU Picnic 3-10 pm



Bruu Picnic Bruu provides the main course, Veggie burger, hot dogs & hamburgers. Bring a potluck dish to share, chairs and swimsuit. 15400 Compton Road Centreville, VA Contact Christine Sunda Sundas3@aol.com

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



**First Friday
marshmallow
roast and
s'more treats
offering in the
courtyard**





**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**

[<https://www.gpwtrails.org/>]

offer a hike to explore places in Prince William, Manassas, and Manassas
Park. BRUU's Green Team is one of those organizations...

On **June 11**, we will explore the northern side of **Powell's Creek, west
of Leesylvania State Park**.

[Did you know there was even a trail there? Hey, come check it out.]

Please **register** at <https://tinyurl.com/e27h4m8s> to get details, including
the location of the starting point.

Registration will allow us to notify you if the hike is postponed or cancelled
because of weather conditions.





The DMV UU Climate Convocation

Rev Charlotte and members went to River
Road UU



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)!

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 and let us know if there is a need within our community, so that we may coordinate with caring volunteers within BRUU



David Hamilton
bought and put
together a
replacement
bench for BRUU

THANKS DAVID

BRUU volunteered
at the Manassas
Pride Festival

Promoting our safe
place for worship
for all



Jessica Hruska (BRUU Board) and Julia (BRUU Youth member)



Join us this **June** in collecting **Hair Care products** for all hair types.

Bring your item donation to the bin at the back of the Sanctuary. Thank You

FOOD PANTRY THANKS

The USDA Food Pantry at BRUU would like to thank the following organizations for there recent donations to help the USDA qualified families.

17th Black Bears OSG Scout Troop

Homeschoolers of Bealeton

Saint Nicholas Academic Community

Wegmans - Lake Manassas

And our regular donors;

Northern Virginia Food Rescue

Fauquier Education Farm

MORE on NEXT PAGE

FOOD PANTRY THANKS



Saint Nicholas Academic Community



17th Black Bears of OSG Scout Group



Homeschoolers of Bealeton



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

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
7750 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20012
202-600-9132 • info@uusj.org

Info Handout



BRUU ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Congregational Meeting to be held in the sanctuary following services. For those attending online, please join us at our regular BRUU Service link to make decisions as a congregation about our future. Democracy and religion are a rare mix, and BRUU Members who signed the book before May 5, 2023 should consider the importance and joy of that rarity and show up to provide your democratic input into congregational matters, with the grace of spiritual practice.

If you are unable to go to the Annual Meeting, please fill out a proxy form below and find someone to vote for you. A person may only serve as a proxy for one individual. Submitting a proxy form to the secretary in advance of the meeting will save us some time in determining if we have a quorum. Please submit the proxy form to secretary@bruu.org.

AGENDA

Agenda for the Annual Congregational Meeting, 6-4-2023

Call to Order, 11:30 am (Rita Romano, President)

Certification of Membership - Michelle Luman - Acting Secretary

Membership Verification of Quorum (Michelle Luman - Count members present + proxies, determine if we have a quorum. Quorum is 30% of members which is 224.)

Chalice Lighting and Opening Words - Rev. Charlotte

State of the Congregation - Rita Romano, President

Awards

Nomination of Incoming Board Members & Endowment Committee Members (Romano)

Motion to Elect Slates for Incoming Board and Endowment Committee Slots

FY 22-23 Operational Budget (Heather Berthold)

Green Team Resolution on Climate Action Plans

Five Year Strategic Plan

Delegates to UUA 2023 General Assembly (Rita Romano)

Remarks from Incoming President (Angie Carrera)

Congregational Comments (Rita to moderate)

Closing Words (Rev. Charlotte)

Adjournment (Rita)

PROXY VOTING

This is the official proxy form template for members unable to personally attend the Bull Run Unitarian Universalists annual congregational meeting for June 4, 2023. Only official members of the congregation may proxy or cast votes in the meeting. While printing the image below, filling out and directly conveying the hard copy proxy is an option, you may also simply copy and paste this text template into an email, fill in the correct information, type your signature, and send it to a BRUU member who has agreed to serve as your proxy. Proxies must be clearly conveyed to the Secretary (secretary@bruu.org) prior to or at the beginning of the congregational meeting.

If the secretary receives the proxies at least a day before the meeting, our annual meeting will start earlier and end earlier.

I, _____, (Name of member granting proxy) being a member in good standing of Bull Run Unitarian Universalists, grant my proxy to _____, (Name of member proxy holder) being also a member in good standing of Bull Run Unitarian Universalists, to vote in the upcoming congregational meeting Sunday, June 4, 2023.

_____ (Signature) _____ (Date)

BRUU ANNUAL PICNIC JUNE 17

Join us on **Saturday, June 17th** starting at **3 pm** for the
BRUU annual picnic

Join us for a cookout, music, friends, volleyball, swimming and a bonfire after dark. BRUU is providing burgers (vegan option too) & dogs, condiments and non alcoholic drinks (BYOB). Please bring a dish to share, towel for pool, and a folding chair. We need people to help so sign up through this

link <HTTPS://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CABA923A7F4C07-BRUU>.

The picnic will again be at **John & Christine Sunda's:**
15400 Compton Road, Centreville.

Please **RSVP** at **sundas3@aol.com** as otherwise we'll have no clue how much food to get!

Rain date Sunday only if necessary.

THE PUZZLER

April's Puzzler

What five-letter word becomes shorter when you
add two letters to it?

— — — — —

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

The Answer: SHORT, becomes SHORTER

CONGRATS TO:

Kelly Muzzin—James Amaral—Nina
Lomax—Mary Kadlubowski

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

May's Puzzler

Here are **five** words. What would the **sixth** word in the series be?

Bugles

Unrest

Grotto

Letter

Esteem

This one will take some close examination of the words.

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!

