



BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

February 2022
Volume 40, Issue 3

Crossroads

The monthly BRUU Newsletter



The youth of BRUU led the service on February 27th and the accolades were widespread.

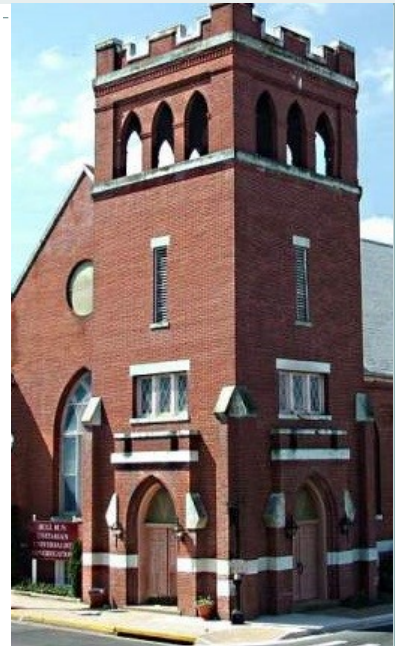
As always the youth of BRUU never cease to amaze with their wisdom, passion and open minded approach to life.

If you missed it...
check out the BRRU Facebook page

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@brru.org



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IS THAT POT O' GOLD FULL TO OVERFLOWING?

You may have noted in “Round-Up”, our weekly email communication, or elsewhere in this newsletter that plans are afoot to hold a Saint Patrick’s Day potluck dinner and stewardship event on Saturday, March 19th. I don’t know any more of the details than this, but I am wondering about whether there will be a magical pot o’ gold at the end of the rainbow?



I’ve read that leprechaun’s have in their pocket(s), one piece of gold for every year of their life. Assuming that those gold pieces weigh in at an ounce each, then – at today’s gold prices (near \$2000/ounce) – a 50-year-old leprechaun would be easily worth \$100,000, and most are much older than that! Will we catch any leprechauns at the fellowship event? Can we induce them to share their wealth with the congregation?



Yes, it’s that time of the year when we regale all y’all with talk of contributing a financial pledge for the next fiscal year. The finance committee drafted and refined an aspirational budget over the past two months and gave it to the BRUU Board of Directors for approval.

Now, it is your turn to participate in our annual endeavor to support the congregation’s mission and vision. BRUU has been a success for

over 40 years now, and it has been so because the people who have been and are its members – the people who make up this beloved BRUU family – have given of themselves by volunteering and by supporting the budget through financial contributions. You make a difference in the life and ministry of this congregation.

BRUU has actually fared remarkably well during the past two years of COVID-time. Good stewardship and careful financial management have been a key to this. We were able to cut facilities costs... We had a very successful auction in November 2021... Some contributions actually exceeded the amount pledged. All this and more, means that income has exceeded expenses more months than not.

As you no doubt are aware, costs have increased over the last year. We've also committed to providing multi-platform worship services in order to reach the greatest number of people and meet the wide range of needs brought on by helping people at greater risk to stay safe and healthy. BRUU has been striving to provide fair compensation to all staff, and we recognize that we may be better served by hiring additional staff or replacing contract services with employees. Deferred maintenance and replacement costs for building systems such as boiler and HVAC upgrades, stained glass window renovations and protection and a lot more, some of which we can no longer put off, are catching up to us.

It's up to this generation of BRUU Members and Friends to support the congregation so it will be around for another 40 or more years. We are responsible for making sure that there is a safe community for seeking and service here in Manassas seven generations into the future.

I wonder how many leprechauns we've got in the congregation who might share a portion of their wealth with us for fiscal year 2022-2023? Let's all make that pot o' gold overflow with generosity!

Yours in faith,

Rev. Charlotte



BULL RUN

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

MARCH SERMON DESCRIPTIONS

March 6: Stewardship Sunday

(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)

This worship service is the kick-off for our annual budget drive.

March 13: *Teachings of the Tipi Poles: Sharing*

(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 tenth pole teaching, Sharing, is about being in community, sharing responsibilities, working and celebrating together.

This month, the **2nd Sunday Split-the-Plate** donation will be collected for the **Prince William Conservation Alliance**

March 20: *Teachings of the Tipi Poles: Thankfulness*

(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 eleventh pole symbolizes Strength. This teaching is about spiritual strength.

This Sunday is the 2-year anniversary of our pivot to on-line worship in 2020. After two full years of resilience in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, we certainly know something about what it takes to endure hardships and tragedies.

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

March 27: *What, Me Worry?*

(Charlie Grymes)

BRUU has evolved in Manassas since its founding in 1981, and there's a secret to our success. We can thrive for another 40 years, but it won't happen auto-magically. We just need to keep applying the secret sauce...

REOPENING UPDATE

Description:

Establishing BRUU's "new normal" on Sunday mornings is still a work-in-progress. There are 35 or so members sitting in the pews while others continue to join online. Live streaming services will continue to allow BRUU to continue its outreach to members, friends, and new connections.

New cameras, computers, and other upgrades are being installed in the building. Lots of lessons are being learned; something new goes wrong every week. If you can, the volunteers on the AV Team would welcome you as a volunteer to troubleshoot problems in advance. No experience is required — just a willingness to learn and serve BRUU.

There is now coffee in the Fellowship Hall after Sunday Services. Jon Kostik is Brewmeister, and searching for members to serve on *Kitchen Krew* so we can expand to add snacks. Soup Sundays are on the horizon — or is that just a mirage? It's hard to tell with COVID.

One possible date for welcoming general public back into Sanctuary is April 7, depending upon reopening metrics, which include ICU capacity, death rate, and other oh-so-pleasant statistics. Choir is beginning to practice in-person again and performers are performing live on stage, but the time for the congregation to sing again from the pews is still unclear.

Got questions?

Ask the Reopening Task Force at reopening@bruu.org

The logo features a stylized flame or torch in the center, surrounded by a circular border with a rainbow gradient. The text "BULL RUN" is in a large, purple, serif font, and "UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS" is in a smaller, red, sans-serif font below it.

BULL RUN

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you again for all of you who attended or sent in proxies for the Special Congregational Meeting on 2/13! It was heartwarming to know that our membership is invested in our beloved community. We easily met our quorum, even though it took a long time to determine this. Obviously, it was one of those lessons learned from providing a dual platform meeting.

Work has begun and is almost completed on the HVAC replacement the congregation voted to fund and our Finance Committee is investigating options for how to fund the next HVAC system that needs replacement. In addition to the Proposed Operating budget for next year, the Finance Committee has also created an Infrastructure Projects and Repair budget that prioritizes projects and budgets for costs out to 2026. We are close to paying off the mortgage for the building and refinancing or taking out an Equity Line of credit might be a good way for us to go to take care of our old building. We will be presenting both budgets during the Stewardship Drive and will be seeking approval for the final budget and the decision on how to move forward to address our infrastructure needs at our Annual Congregational Meeting that will occur on June 5.

The kickoff activity for our Stewardship campaign will occur on Saturday, March 19. It will be held in combination with a celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Not only will we be looking for that pot of money, but we will also be looking for people to fill the vacancies we have in our valuable committees. RE is also looking for additional volunteers. Now that we are experiencing a reprieve from Covid, now is the time for all our committees to blossom in the Springtime! Please consider where you would like to offer your participation. Pastoral Care? Audiovisual Team? Communications Committee? Building & Grounds? All are looking for new members. It is a great way to get to know people in our community better.


The Board is also in the process of completing an assessment of Rev. Charlotte. The Assessment Team is comprised of Cathy Ring, Dianne Lane, Martha

Muirhead and Randy Earl. Please make a point of giving them your feedback.

As I finish up this report, I have to say that with the new information given by the CDC regarding community metrics (that are based on the number of new daily cases and the percentage of hospital admissions), Prince William County's Covid risk level is LOW. New daily cases dropped to 2.6 per 100,000 people. This is terrific news! We will most likely be making some changes in our re-opening plans, so stay tuned.

If you would like to see the results for yourself, look at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Warm Regards,
Rita Romano



COVID-19 County Check

Find community levels and prevention steps by county.

Select a Location (all fields required)

Virginia

Prince William County

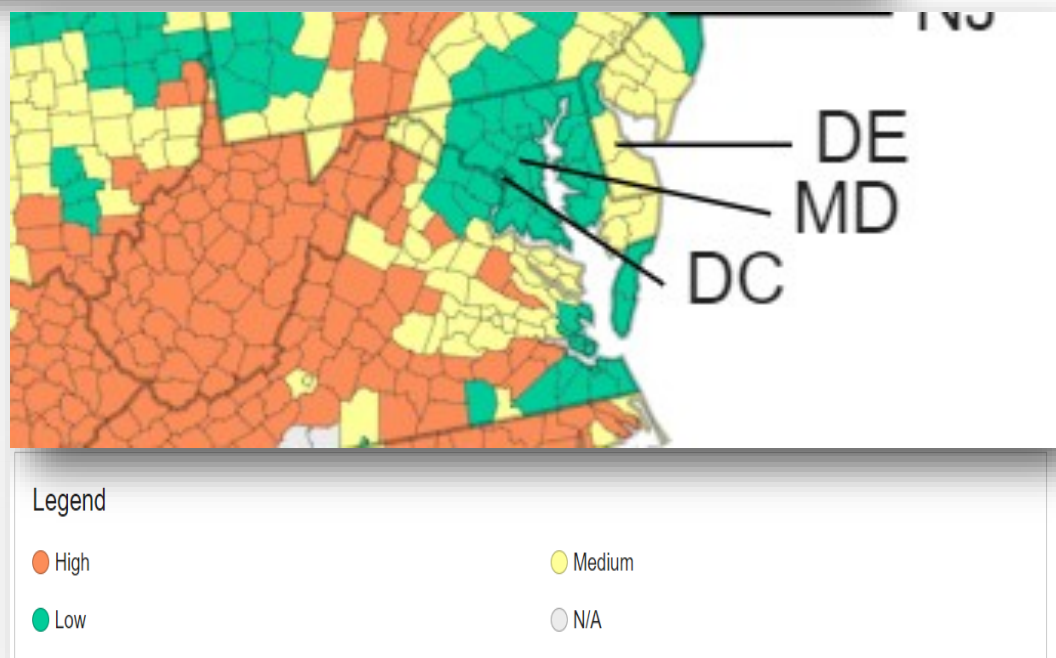
Go

[< Start Over](#)

Low

In **Prince William County, Virginia**, community level is **Low**.

- Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines
- [Get tested](#) if you have symptoms



SUPERBOWL SNAFU

The Superbowl party was a success, thanks to the generous good nature of the participants, a tremendous amount of help in setting and cleaning up, and special thanks to Terri McClure.

But the best laid plans of mice and men oft go awry. In January Henry Hastings helped me track down all the electronic hardware to run the television on the downstairs monitor. We got broadcast television up and running. On the big day, I re-checked and turned on the pregame show. We set up the small tables for a party café. Alas, 2 hours before kickoff the television quit. An hour and a half later, 3 phone “disconnections,” 2 box reboots, and the sad news, we had no access to cable television.

Attempts ensued to stream to the monitor, access apps, consideration to relocation, when Terri came to the rescue, using an app available in the conference room to get the game going. Everyone pitched in to move the entire affair upstairs and it was on. We missed the national anthem and the kickoff, but everyone was good natured.

Again, I want to thank all those who helped set up, and clean up, given all those stairs. So, thank you all, and especially the superhero of the day, Terri McClure!

Mary Kadlubowski- Chair Fellowship Committee

Seasoned Souls in February

The next meeting will be on March 2nd at 12 Noon. We use the same ZOOM login as Sunday worship services and other open BRUU meetings.

The meetings will continue on the 1st Wednesday of April (4/6), May (5/4) and June (6/1). Unless someone wishes to lead



**The Green Team is organizing
monthly hikes on the
Second Sundays of each month in
2022**

Randy Freed of the BRUU Green Team will lead
this month's Second Sunday hike.

We will explore Dove's Landing
March 13, 1:00-3:00pm.

Register and get directions using the Greater
Prince William Trails Coalition calendar at [https://
www.gpwtrails.org/calendar](https://www.gpwtrails.org/calendar)



Dove's Landing



If you can smile, count to 50, and attend BRUU in person, you qualify now to be a Greeter on Sunday mornings.

GREETERS NEEDED

To advance in the near future, you must demonstrate you can count to 150!

Contact membership@bruu.org

First Friday Social at BRUU

Come gather in person

Social time at BRUU in conjunction with the Manassas-sponsored First Friday of the Month activities (*March 4 theme is Hawaiian*).

Stop by BRUU between 6:00-7:00pm on Friday, March 4 for complimentary popcorn, cider, and jovial conversation (did someone suggest drumming?) on your way to shop &/or dine in Olde Town.

Watch for the bubbles at the front door.

THE PUZZLER

FEBRUARY'S PUZZLER

From the Sports world....

With baseball right around the corner...hopefully...

Here's a baseball question:

There are five ways a player can reach first base without hitting the ball.

Name them.

The CLOSEST to the correct answer was.....

Arthur Muirhead!!

- walk,
- hit batsman,
- dropped third strike,
- catcher interference,
- ~~-pitcher from the mound throws out of the field of play~~

ALMOST

WALK

DROPPED THIRD STRIKE

CATCHER INTERFERENCE

HIT BY PITCH

And the one everyone forgets about.....

A BENCH PLAYER CAN BE PUT IN AS A PINCH RUNNER

The question says "player". NOT batter.

BRUU

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THE PUZZLER

MARCH'S PUZZLER

I'm going to list nine states of union.

**Maine, Vermont, New York, Iowa,
Florida, Texas, Utah, Idaho, and
Wyoming.**

*What makes these states different from
all the others?*

I'll give a hint.

You don't have to think **twice** to know that
Mississippi and Alabama are not eligible to
be on this list.

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!