



BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

May 2023
Volume 41, Issue 5

Crossroads

First Friday—May 5

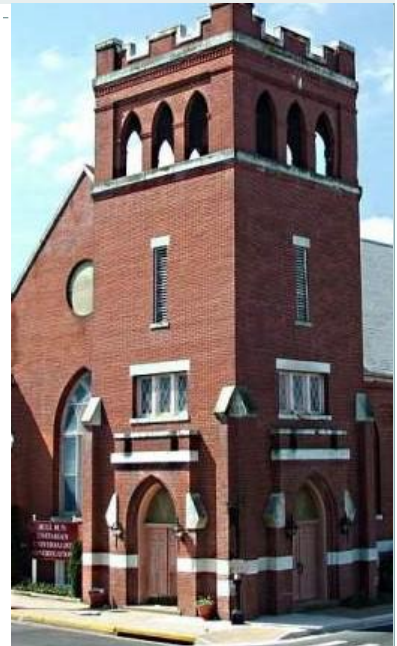
6:00—7:00pm



Stop by and schmooze at the front door of BRUU on the corner of Church and Main streets, then take advantage of the city's Cinco de Mayo "Tacos and Tequila" programming.

Streets will be closed so everyone can enjoy the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area.

Look for the bubbles at BRUU!



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The monthly BRUU Newsletter



BULL RUN

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

APRIL SERMON DESCRIPTIONS

May 7: *Equity – A UU Value (Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)*

Among the values enumerated in the UUA By-laws Article II revised language is “Equity.” The text reads: “We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness. We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.”

May 14: *Bridging Service (Kristin Worthington, DLRE)*

A public celebration is a rope bridge of knotted symbols strung across an abyss. We make our crossings hoping the chasm will echo our festive sounds for a moment, and the bridge begins to sway to the rhythms of our dance” (*Roland Grimes*). This annual service celebrates the graduating Senior Youth. Not only do we recognize their growth and accomplishments, we as a congregation confirm our continued support of these amazing young people as they journey forward, and possibly back.

The **2nd Sunday Share-the-Plate** benefits **Mom’s Demand Action for Gun Sense in America**, which is a “grassroots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures that can protect people from gun violence.”

May 21: *Tool box of Faith (RE Council)*

In the final service of this series, the Lifespan Religious Education Committee will explore two more tools of our faith and the values involved in serving our community. We will take opportunities to reflect on the power each of us has to seek truth, the power to question the status quo, the power to speak out against injustice, and the power to band together with others who share our values and goals to make a difference for what is good and just. To use that power in an impactful way, we must listen, a quality of our Unitarian Universalist faith that takes practice to master.

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

May 28: *Air Communion (Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)*

Air is one of the four elements of matter we are celebrating through worship this calendar year: Fire, Earth, Air and Water. Among other things, Air signifies connectedness, mobilization, breath, spirit, exploring who is impacted by our energy sources, and reconnecting with hope through relationship.

During this worship service, we will engage in spiritual practices that focus on the breath.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

First, let me say how appreciative I am for each of you who pledged this year during our annual drive. Pledging helps us plan for the year, which in turn helps us to not spend money we do not have! Even though we did not receive enough pledges to allow us to do all that thought was necessary to do in the aspirational budget, we saw a good increase in the amount that was pledged (\$30,000). Several members increased their pledges, and we had some new pledges as well. This is a sign that we are well on our way in our recovery from COVID. Not all UU congregations are experiencing this, so, we need to recognize how significant this is and be thankful for the strength of our community.

Another sign that we are recovering from the COVID haze is the participation we are seeing in the Strategic/Long Range Planning exercise that Art Muirhead is leading. I was very pleased to see so many people in the session that I attended and loved the input that people gave. It is clear to me that we care deeply about the direction we will be taking in the future.

There are many other signs of recovery. Another one that I would like to highlight is the energy that is going into the Chrysalis Concerts. This outreach to the community is important and exciting. It has the potential of attracting new visitors to BRUU. Make sure you are not only attending these concerts, but also inviting others to attend.

I also want to let the congregation know that we have finally signed a contract with a vender to repair our stained-glass windows. In case you do not know, the money for the windows was donated by the Kostik Family in memory of Jon Kostik, a devoted member of BRUU who died two years ago. We hope this project will be able to get started soon. Please thank John and Christine Sunda for the work they have done on finding the best people for the job.

Finally, make sure you read about the yellow signs outside of BRUU that is in another section of this newsletter.

Rita Romano
BRUU President



A Question Box Newsletter Column

Rev. Charlotte

You may have noticed that since returning from my sabbatical last fall, I have been trying out some different kinds of worship services and different themes, such as the elemental communions of Fire, Earth, and (coming up at the end of May) Air, in addition to our traditional ingathering Water Communion.

As I mentioned on April 2nd, I had never led or participated in a “Question Box” worship service. It is a worship service model that I have seen my colleagues share about on social media. And it was something that sounded like it was worth a try. I think it turned out to be as fun for me as it was for those who shared a few words with me about their experience that morning.

There were a number of questions that were in the Question Box, which I did not address during that service. They tended to be worded as questions asking for responses that are very specific to an individual and better suited perhaps as conversation starters. My thought after the service was to pose them here in my newsletter column for each of you to reflect upon and maybe engage in a conversation, or two, or three with other members of this congregational community.

- What is your “UU elevator speech”? *For those who have discovered Unitarian Universalism more recently, an “elevator speech” is how you would introduce and describe your experience of UUism and the beliefs of our living tradition to someone who doesn’t know about our faith in the time it takes to ride an elevator to the floor you are heading for. It’s succinct and shares the most important aspects of our theology and organizational structures.*
- What one book (other than the Bible) has influenced your life and your faith the most?

- What are some rituals during services at other UU congregations that you have found fascinating that we don't do here at BRUU? *Share these with me and maybe we can incorporate them sometime...*
- What is the most beautiful UU congregation you have visited and why?
- Who is your spiritual role model, if you have one?
- Do you have any daily spiritual practices? If so, what are they and how do they help you?
- Is there anything you've wanted to share with the congregation but have never had the chance to?

In addition, there are two questions that are ones that I want to give responses to because they are more specific to my role and perspective as a minister.

One is in two parts and asks first whether I foresee a schism in the future of the UUA? And, do I foresee Unitarian Universalism even existing in 100-200 years from now? These questions are certainly pointed; I don't know how much the poster knows about Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist history, nor do I know to what extent they are aware of current issues being grappled with by the UUA as a whole and by members of UU congregations around the country. Perhaps the question is posited because we are simply in the midst of a potential major revision of the UUA's bylaws known as Article II. The review and revision of this section of the bylaws, which currently contains the beloved 7 Principles as well as the 6 Sources of inspirational wisdom upon which we draw, is mandated by the UUA's bylaws. It is part of who we are to engage in this kind of self-reflection. The results will be voted on by two consecutive General Assemblies of the UUA.

Historically-speaking, both Unitarianism and Universalism emerged, first in Europe, and later developed (in the United States) as radical reform movements within the Protestant Reformation. We are rooted in finding a different path or paths to spiritual truths.

And the reality is that not only have we faced internally divisive issues in our past such as the so-called Black Empowerment Controversy (or, in some accounts "[The Black Empowerment Tragedy](#)" -beginning in the 1960s after the merger of

Unitarianism and Universalism into one denominational body, but we have continued to encounter them and now seek to address these issues head-on, rather than sweeping under the rug our history as a predominately white denomination and our complicity in systems of racism and oppression.

How might these lessons within our history inform a response to the second half of these pointed questions? Unitarian Universalism has always been comparatively small when held up against the major religions of the world. We could let that depress us, but why? I do think UUism will be around in 100 or 200 years from now, and one of the reasons has to do with our embrace of being a living tradition, a faith that evolves as our understanding and participation in life on Earth evolves and changes. As we learn and grow, we adapt and change our theology to serve us in the best possible ways it can.

The other one of the questions that is directed to me in my capacity as a minister asks if I have any advice that knowing what I know now (after being in settled ministry here at BRUU for 5 years), I would give my past self at the time that I embarked on my journey of ministerial formation. I think back to the very beginning when I announced (to the congregation that I was a part of in 2008) that I had decided to go to seminary and pursue ministry, and what I said in my sharing of that joy-filled decision: I didn't know how, I didn't know where, and I didn't know when, but I was going... In that declaration, I embraced the unknown and I stepped into and onto a path that I was and am called to do, and through thick and thin, through successes and setbacks, I have stayed the course. I'm not sure that at any of the bends, turns, crossroads or barriers, I could or would have done any differently. It was 10 full years from that declaration to my being called to a settled ministry position; most of my peers and classmates sailed through far more smoothly and those who did not either gave up or were forced off the path by external decision-makers. I hung onto my sense of self and the call I heard from inside, outside and beyond to do this work. I remain true to that Voice that asked to come into my heart.

May you hear your call and fulfill its urging in your life, and may your days and nights be blessed,

Blessings,
Rev. Charlotte

May Fellowship

May 5- 1st Friday

Bubbles & Popcorn 5-7pm Stop by to meet up with other Bruuers, have a little popcorn and maybe iced tea.

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



Saturday May 6th 7:30 pm Chrysalis Concert Series Shenendoah Run
With several Bruu members, Shenendoah Run is an eight-member folk ensemble from the Washington, DC area. Formed in 2011, the band performs traditional and contemporary folk music in a manner that delights a diverse mix of music lovers of all ages.



Tickets \$25/person! POC contact Randy Earl TREARL0607@gmail.com
<https://auctria.events/ChrysalisConcertSeriesAtBruu>

Second Sunday May 14

Younger Adults Meetup Contact Michelle Fegeas 540.219.9058 for details

Second Sunday Hike This month, we will explore Potomac Shores south of Powells Creek from 1:00-3:00pm on May 14. Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/e27h4m8s> External link. 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.

Questions? Contact Charlie Grymes at cgrymes@gmail.com Contact Charlie Grymes cgrymes@gmail.com for details

DRUMMING Sunday May 21

Drumming Third Sunday We are having a drumming circle every third Sunday at 11:30 in the Flamingo Lounge (room 107). If you don't have a drum, let me know in advance so I can bring one for you. POC Martin Crim martin.crim@gmail.com

Sunday May 21 Town Hall

Following Service- Informational meeting regarding the upcoming Annual Meeting, budget, elections, and more!

Coming in June

6/4 Annual Meeting Following Service

6/17 BRUU Picnic 3-10 pm at the Sundas POC

Christine Sunda (Sundas3@aol.com)

Manassas LGBTQ+ Pride Festival 5/21

The Manassas LGBTQ+ Pride Festival will be the afternoon of
Sunday, May 21st, at the **Harris Pavilion**.

BRUU has time reserved for a group of our musicians to perform
on the main stage.

Anyone who is interested in participating or helping with setup,
please contact **David Maley** or **Kelly Muzzin** for more info.



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.

Based on this data, and in consultation with our Staff, **we will be replacing the mandated Masking While Singing policy with optional masking based on individual comfort.**

The Director of Lifespan Religious Education will continue making decisions related to masking based on current risk levels for classes.

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.

Save The Dates! May 21 BRUU Town Hall, June 4 Annual Meeting

Town Hall Meeting Following Sunday Service **May 21, 2023**

BRUU Annual Meeting Following Sunday Service **June 4, 2023**

Agenda:

Election Of New Board Members/Endowment Members

Approval Of Budget

Approval Of Strategic Plan/Long Range Plan

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

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 situa-
tion that needs attention.

It takes a village (aka congregation)!



YOU & YOU & You!

Due to Government cuts to Snap (Food Stamps) your help is needed to help those of us at the USDA Food Pantry prepare for our monthly distribution on the third Friday of each month.

Help is needed:

- preparing the distribution bags, (anytime that works for you)
- loading and unloading on distribution day

Contact Tina Cox at BRUU, 703-361-6269, Ext. 1

Join us this month of **May** in collecting **Summer Care Items**. Insect repellent, sunscreen, and anti-perspirant are some of the items that will help the community members without a fixed address this summer.

Also, the Little Food Pantry could use bottled water, sports drinks, and easy to eat foods on the go in pop-top cans, pouches, and other easy to get into packaging.

Please bring the items to the bin at the back of the Sanctuary.



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





The Green Team is organizing
monthly hikes on the
Second Sunday of each month

This month, we will explore **Potomac Shores south of
Powells Creek** from **1:00-3:00pm on May 14.**

Please register [HERE](#) 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.



BRUU Board Election June 4

BRUU is an incorporated organization, managed by an elected nine-member Board of Directors based on our Bylaws. The current 223 official members of BRUU are the equivalent of shareholders with stock in our corporation.

Members will elect a President, Treasurer, Program Council Chair, one Director, and the Youth Member on June 4 at the annual Congregational Meeting.

Board members serve a two-year term, except the Youth Member is elected for a one-year term. (In 2025, we will elect the other half of the Board: the Vice-President, Secretary, two Directors, plus a Youth Member.)

Interested in serving?

Contact the **Nominating Committee** at nominating@bruu.org or talk to Martin Crim, Janette Muir, Nina Lomax, or Charlie Grymes.

NOTE: the Youth Member position is nominated by the RE Council and is filled only if there is a candidate. If interested, please contact **Jennifer Malos** at re.council@bruu.org

PLEASE PASS THE BASKET!

...as it is an act of BRUU support each Sunday that can be demonstrated by everyone - whether you contribute treasure, or not, but you will be giving time & talent!

This will require some assistance from both our volunteer Ushers and the congregants in the pews. We could use another one or two folks as Ushers to arrive a bit early to assist with welcoming new and returning attendees, passing the Collection baskets during the service, and ensuring the contributions are directed to the correct, responsible financial folks following the service.

If you would be willing to help one Sunday a month with this effort, please contact Worship@BRUU.org or stop and speak with one of the Ushers at the main doors to the Sanctuary.

Nothing about Us Without Us!

Nothing about Us without Us! That is the rallying cry of the Disability Rights Movement and one we intend to honor. We are working with Skinner House to publish a book on the lived experience of disability in congregations.

We are seeking authors, named or anonymous, who would be willing to share their authentic story. If chosen, these candidates will receive an honorarium. We want the book to have a strong intersectional framework, so we are looking for stories in which authors bring their whole selves. We welcome you to reflect on how your other identities are part of your experience as a disabled person in a UU community.

This book is meant to give insight into how disabled people worship and experience life in their congregations; how disability impacts a person's faith, spiritual identity, and showing up with your authentic self. It will show the gifts that disabled people can bring to their congregations. It is also a book on moving from the Disability Rights Movement to the Disability Justice Movement. Please let us know if you would be able to write your story or be interviewed.

We hope that this message is viewed far and wide and realize that we may need additional permissions. If you are under 18, or sharing with someone under 18, we welcome your story! AND we ask that you let us know, so we may obtain the proper permissions.

To view the message online [CLICK HERE](#)

A rough draft of your submission is due on May 15, 2023

What are the yellow signs outside of BRUU all about?

The Board is interested in applying for a grant that we are eligible for that may give us up to \$250,000 in funding to make our building safer and ADA accessible. The fund is called the National Trust for Sacred Places and they focus on “buildings that have historic, cultural, or architectural significance”. While it is not necessary to be on a list of recognized historic landmarks, it would be “a good benchmark for National Fund eligibility”.

As a result, the BRUU Board has applied to have our building become a historic landmark in the City of Manassas. This will require a public hearing. And that, my friends is what the yellow signs are all about.

We have halted the process at this time to more carefully consider what additional restrictions this may put upon us. Being in the historic district of Manassas, we are already under very strict rules regarding the outside of our building. In being a historical landmark there will be less flexibility in our building materials (if we want to use synthetic materials to replace historic materials) or if we want to change the size of our building (for example, add an addition).

More discussion on this topic will occur at our Town Hall meeting.



Olde Towne Inn across Main Street

Interested in what might replace the Olde Towne Inn
across Main Street from BRUU?

Check out the Facebook page for Olde Towne Inn Re-
imagined at :

[THIS LINK](#)



THE PUZZLER

April's Puzzler

What is special about these words?

JOB

POLISH

HERB

They can ALL be either a proper noun or a verb,
meaning they are pronounced differently if you
capitalize the first letter

I am Polish or I will polish the piano

Try the others out, and you will see what I mean

CONGRATS TO:

Nina Lomax—Mary Kadlubowski
Art Muirhead—Kelly Muzzin

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

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

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!