

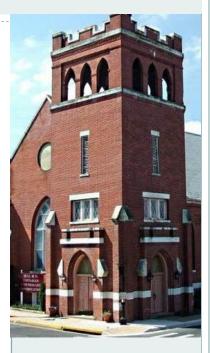
September 2022 Volume 40, Issue 9

# Crossroads



President Rita Romano at the Prince William County Fair... with her Bee Hive....and some fancy headgear

The monthly BRUU Newsletter



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## SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN THIS ISSUE

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#### Rev. Kimberley Debus BRUU Sabbatical Minister

Office Hours at BRUU until 1pm on the Sundays I am in the pulpit

Zoom Open Office Hours most Tuesdays noon-3pm, most Thursdays 4-7pm



#### September 4: What Do We Know for Certain about Life After Death?

(Kathy Sobrio ) Worship Associate- Randy Earl

"Why am I here? Where am I going after this?" Age-old questions. Compelling. You will be surprised to learn what we know for certain about our after-life, based on hypnotherapy research. It will broaden your perspective about the meaning of your life.

#### September 11: Where the River Will Never Run Dry

(Rev. Kimberley Debus ) Worship Associate- Mike Cleary

As we celebrate our Ingathering, we will consider the many kinds of journeys we have taken in the past year and what we bring to the year ahead.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Split-the-Plate recipient is Faith Action Climate Solutions (FACS)

#### September 18: Autumn Returns Again

(Annease Hastings ) Worship Associate- Faye Sledge

This week marks the fall equinox and start of autumn. Cultures have long celebrated this time of balance and transition. In this mostly music service, we'll explore these themes and how they impact our daily lives.

Regular RE program resumes with "singing the children out" or other ushering process.

The  $3^{rd}$  Sunday Split-the-Plate benefits

**BRUU's Community Assistance Fund.** 

September 25: The Wisdom of Broken Things

(Rev. Kimberley Debus ) Worship Associate – Pat Malarkey

Where do we find wisdom when times are hard, nerves are frayed, and conflict breaks our relationships? We will turn to the sages as we ponder the lessons broken things can teach us about vulnerability, nurturing, and forgiveness.

# September Fellowship

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

Second Sunday Sep 11, Young Adult Lunch POC Michelle Fegeas 11:30 Fellowship Hall (rescheduled from 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)

Yard Sale Sep 10 9-3 POC Christine Sunda

Ingathering Pot Luck Sep 11 (Last chance Yard Sale)

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

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

Saturday Concerts at the Harris Pavilion Sep 3, 10, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm

Sunday Concerts 3:00 pm Sept 4, 11, 18, 25



### **Greetings BRUUers!**

Well, the summer is winding down and kids are heading back to school. The summer never seems to last as long as it is supposed to anymore. But the best season is yet to come here in Virginia, the Fall!

My August has consisted mostly of travel. I had the pleasure of traveling to Spain with my niece and her 17 year old daughter. We started in Barcelona, then traveled by train to San Sebastian, then rented a car and drove to Biarritz, France; and then returned to Spain, to a city called Bilbao. The area around San Sebastian and Biarritz is known as the Basque country. If up to them, they would be their own country and even have their own language.

I was a bit nervous not knowing what to expect when we drove across the border because I thought there might be a chance I would need to show my international driver's license in addition to my passport. And alas, I did not have an international driver's license. But our crossing from one country into another was like driving from one state into another here in the USA.

As always, travel allows you to see a different slice of life. Different food, different customs, different cars. Spain and France are experiencing the effects of climate change as well. Just before we arrived, they were having a heat wave and temperatures soared into 100 degrees and above. This is problematic because most places do not have air conditioning. Thank goodness temperatures were back to normal when we arrived, but we still had days that were extremely hot in Barcelona where we had an air-conditioned hotel room, and much cooler in San Sebastian where the temperatures were not as high, and we did not have air conditioning. With these hot and humid days, you would think that water would be served at restaurants. But, alas, you had to specifically ask for water and then they would bring you bottled water. They think Americans are obsessed with bottled water and that we are nuts for buying it. They have a point there, but geez, I had to wonder if dehydration was a common condition there.

Traveling is fun, but it has its challenges. So many decisions to make, so many things to learn and figure out. But, we survived. Nothing went majorly wrong. We were not pick pocketed and we did not have an accident with the car.

Hurray!

I am glad to be home. Back with Bill (my husband) and Max (my cat). Back to playing tennis, throwing pots on the wheel and working some. Back to eating a normal diet with plenty of vegetables instead of tapas and pintxos. And back to attending BRUU services and board meetings.

We held our board retreat on the 20th at the home of TJ and Scott Maile's home. They were amazing hosts and had enough food prepared for the whole congregations! We had a very productive day learning about budgets and church finances, Democratic Rules of Order (which we are considering adopting for our board meetings and may suggest adopting for our Congregational meetings), board structures and responsibilities, and the importance of maintaining good board-congregant relations.

Most gratifying was the task of reviewing the goals that we set at the beginning of the year. I am happy to report progress was made in each of the 5 goals that we set: continue work on goals that were initiated by previous board, review and update congregational documents, ensure smooth ministerial operations and staff transitions over the next 24 months, improve the building management process and prepare for Widening the Circle (increasing the diversity of our members). The board will be continuing to work on some of these goals and will be establishing some others. More information will be forthcoming.

So long for now!

Warm Regards, Rita Romano BRUU President



# Thoughts on What It Means to Be Human

Rev. Kimberley Debus

How wondrous is the human mind and its infinite capacity! That we are able to learn and explore and think new things, that we are adaptive and adaptable, that we can imagine not only all manner of things beyond ourselves – that is wondrous indeed.

I identify as a Universalist theist, finding myself fascinated by and informed by what I perceive as God's love and our capacity for goodness. And part of that fascination draws me to a fascination about how our minds work – these minds can both ponder Mystery and build our human future.

I have these moments every now and then when I am taken completely aback by something a human has created or thought. Sometimes it's amazement at the spectacle of skyscrapers on Fifth Avenue. Sometimes it's awe as I video chat real-time with a colleague in England. Sometimes it's realizing that an operation that once caused 8-inch scars and weeks in the hospital is now an outpatient procedure with a one-inch incision.

I was listening to a podcast about Charles Darwin recently and it was noted that Darwin was definitely a man of his age – like many upper class Victorians of the time, he was interested in art, nature, and science. But in 1859, Darwin made a rather simple observation that has absolutely changed how we perceive the world. That observation, of course, is evolution by natural selection. What struck me, however, was not the awesomeness of the theory that has since been proved as fact by biology, anthropology, paleontology, and other

sciences. No, it was the fact that the human brain is so amazing that it can incorporate positively new ideas and actually adapt to new technologies.

In fact, our minds are so adaptive that how we learn, how we use new tools, how we process even more and more information is evidence of a mind that is constantly seeking to extend itself, to grab on to new tools it has never experienced before and merge with them. We wonder with horror at how easily people become glued to their smart phones, but it would be surprising to biologists if we didn't – as we are, in some ways, natural-born cyborgs.

It is stunning when you think that we constantly incorporate life-shaping ideas such as evolution and heliocentrism... we take space travel as fact, not fantasy... we have spent centuries developing cars and combines and phones and lasers ... we construct buildings that scrape the sky ... we come up with ingenious ways to adapt to our changing climate... we know thousands more words and absorb more information in a year than we did in a lifetime just 100 years ago... and yet we are still human, in human communities, in human relationships, propagating the species and adapting to the world.

We humans, in human communities, also have room in our fabulous brains to create art and worship together, to be social and committed together. We naturally form in groups of like-minded people so that we can not only learn from one another but also strengthen our empathy and compassion, which helps us survive and helps us do the work of justice.

These brains and bodies are marvels – we celebrate them every time we say 'hello' or offer a seat or ask 'how are you' and care to know the answer. We celebrate them when we show care and kindness. We celebrate them when we share our joys and sorrows, when we share meals and hearts.

Oh what a piece of work are we, so marvelously wrought.

# **BRUU Outreach at Community Events**

Please contact Randy Earl

As things seems to be returning to a "new normal", BRUU will go back to having a presence at some community events. BRUU has much to offer the greater community. So, our presence at these events is to introduce BRUU to the community and help people find an intentional community that meets their spiritual needs.

Listed below are the community events BRUU is working to have a presence at soon:

## September 24th Latino Festival –

Spanish speakers from our congregation will be needed to work at the BRUU event table.

### October 1st Manassas Fall Festival –

We want families and young adults to work this event for many of the hours.

## October 2nd Equality Prince William Pride Event –

BRUU has supported previous Pride events in the DMV area.

We will need members of the congregation to help staff the tables. We are looking for people to staff tables for 1-hour intervals. Materials and supplies will be provided. No setup or taken required by volunteers. No meeting to attend.

Please contact Randy Earl [TREarleo607@gmail.com OR 571.393.0131] if you would like to help with one of these BRUU Outreach event efforts.

# **Repairs need Reporting!**

See something that needs fixing at BRUU?

That door that keeps sticking, the light that doesn't turn on, the toilet that won't well..., flush?

Now there is a way you can report it – using BRUUNet.org

https://www.bruu.org/www2/building-repair-request-form/

The "Repair Request" you complete will go directly to our maintenance volunteer, as well as to Tina Cox, our Office Assistant, to keep the staff updated about building & grounds related issues.

### 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

# 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

## News from the Interim Music Director Team



Your friendly neighborhood iMDT (Interim Music Director Team) is hard at work! They created and sent out a music survey to the congregation to find out BRUU's music priorities and preferences. The survey responses were super helpful to the team! (We definitely agree with the suggestion of more cowbell!)

The iMDT discussed the pros and cons of hiring one part-time Interim Music Director vs. two part-time positions of Choir Director/Accompanist. Best case scenario, we hope we can find a single Music Director candidate to do both, but understand realistically that might be a difficult ask.

The team collected information about music director, choir director and accompanist salaries in the DMV and the recommended salaries for those positions according to our "Geo-Index" from the UUA. They also evaluated the budget to make sure we can offer a comparative salary.

The team drafted a vacancy announcement and are determining the best places to post the job announcement. They plan to post the job announcement by the end of September, and hopefully we will get some great applicants!

If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to the iMDT's chair, **Kelly Muzzin** *kelly.muzzin@gmail.com*, or find any of rest of the team (**Dorothy Greenhouse**, **Michelle Luman**, **Chris Sexton**, **Bill Stejskal**).



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

Second Sunday Hikes return on September 11, when we explore the trail network at Blooms Park in Manassas Park. (If you go to SUUSI in 2023, you can see the vista in this picture when hiking on Whiteside Mountain...)

# **BRUU YARD SALE COMING SOON**

# Saturday, September 10th from 8:30am to 3pm in the Fellowship Hall.

We will begin to accept donations on Sunday, September 4th.

Please share this with as many people as you can! The yard sale is a fundraiser for BRUU. This is your opportunity to clear out your closets and garage and donate your unwanted stuff to BRUU.

We will need help setting up and pricing the items for sale the during the week and people to help with sales on Saturday. If you can't make a long term volunteer commitment, then this one-and-done event is the event for you!

Sign up sheet coming out soon or **contact Christine Sunda.** 

# Food Pantry Updates and Thanks

Gretchen Almstead

BRUU has been operating a Food Pantry for a couple decades, in partnership with the Capital Area Food Bank, Prince William Food Rescue, and donors from within and beyond the BRUU community. Over the years, Marilyn Truxal-Hamburg, Liz Alcauskas, Terry Lopez, Lois Montgomery, Martha Muirhead, Kathy Nichols, Osk Huneycutt, and now Laura Crowne have spearheaded a large group of volunteers to pull this effort together twice a month

At the present all of these helpful volunteers, mostly retired BRUUers, assist with unloading the delivery truck, stocking shelves, setting up and cleaning up for pantry days, assisting shoppers, restocking shelves: Gretchen Almstead, Patrick Campbell, Angie Carerra, Lori Connolly, Mimi Costley, Dave Covin, Randy Earl, Helen Elkin, Mike Freeland, Ralph Giffen, Ann Hempen, the Hruska family, Trace Jenkins, Sterling Rush, Susan Sinclair, Eric Trumbull, and a couple additional folks who are not affiliated with BRUU. In the past couple years since Covid we have also benefited from produce raised at Fauquier Education Farm, friends, and neighbors of Sandy Dixon, an energetic dynamo. Dave Jenkins is another dedicated volunteer who is not a BRUU member, has been invaluable in helping to unload and coordinate truck deliveries. A crew of Didlake volunteers has also been quite helpful in our unloading operation.

We currently dispense food on the second and fourth Tuesday, from 9:30-11:30 AM to approximately 40 families. This is significantly less than during the initial COVID peak, but still a significant number, ranging from a couple individuals who fill their backpack to families of seven or more. We try to provide

every family healthful food such as fresh produce, eggs, and chicken when they are available, as well as pasta, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, dried and canned beans, peanut butter, oil, flour or masa, raisins, boxed milk, and bagged cereal. Our Food Pantry is well funded for the foreseeable future because of your many donations, so thank you for your generosity! You'll see a collection box for donated cloth or brown bags near the Green Team's coffee sales cabinet on Sundays in the Fellowship Hall.

# Food Pantry Requests

Gretchen Almstead

We've really been trying to encourage the customers at BRUU's Food Pantry to get into the habit of using fabric shopping bags.

While many folks are remembering, we still go through a lot of extra bags each time.

Please bring cloth bags, heavy duty paper bags or double bagged plastic bags and put them in the labeled plastic bin near the coffee sales setup in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you from the Food Pantry team.



We are having a fun no-obligation drumming circle!

# Every **third Sunday** at **11:30** in the **Flamingo Lounge (room 107).**

If you want to participate but don't have a drum, let me know in advance so I can bring one for you.

CONTACT—Martin Crim



Free Oktoberfest potluck dinner/dance on Saturday, October 1st (POC Christine Sunda),

Workday (first in a couple years!) on Saturday, October 8th.

These and all our many events for August and September need volunteers to make them happen. We will especially need lots of people to pull off a successful yard sale. So if there is an event you would like to help with, please reach out to the point of contact.

--Mary Kadlubowski and Christine Sunda



https://wisconsinpollinators.com

# The Chrysalis Concert Series

# Music Transforming Community

Sponsored by the Bull Run Unitarian Universalist Congregation At the Corner of Church and Main, Manassas, VA



Tret Fure - October 7th, 7:30 pm, BRUU Sanctuary

A prolific artist in the contemporary singer-songwriter arena, Tret Fure has released 17 albums and CDs over the course of her 51-year career. In addition to being a gifted songwriter, Tret has engineered and produced countless recordings by a variety of artists, including her own work.

Advance Tickets: \$20/person At the Door: \$25/person

Go to BRUU.org for more information.

# Casa BruMar Foundation LGBTQ+ Symposium

September 24

We are so excited that after two years we are finally hosting our signature event. The pandemic may have slowed us down but it did not stop us. Come be part of our inaugural symposium. Learn and connect and help our community succeed.

If you would like to purchase tickets to attend, please click below:

## **General Admission**

If you would like to have a table at, or sponsor our event, or sponsor a ticket for an LGBTQIA+ youth (18-25) who may not be able to afford tickets, please click below:

## Tabling/Sponsoring

For more information, visit our website <u>Casa BruMar Foundation</u> to keep up to date on breakout session hosts, panel participants, and members of our community who support LGBTQIA+ people.

If you would like to volunteer, or if you are an LGBTQIA+ youth (18-25), email us at secretary@casabrumarfoundation.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!

As we progress to full Sunday services and programming in our Sanctuary, the plan is to again pass the Collection Plate during our worship time together.

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 <a href="Worship@BRUU.org">Worship@BRUU.org</a> or stop and speak with one of the Ushers at the main doors to the Sanctuary.

# PASTORAL CARE

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# SAVE THE DATE



Unity in the Community of Prince William County, the City of Manassas, and Manassas Park Present:

# International Day of Prayer for Peace Sunday, Sept. 18 @ 3:00 pm A.J. Ferlazzo Bldg, Woodbridge

2022 Theme: Healing Racism, Building Peace

An interfaith celebration Hosted by the Baha'is of Prince William County

Meatless potluck to follow

"O Friend! In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love..."

# Stop WW3 The Pathway to Peace

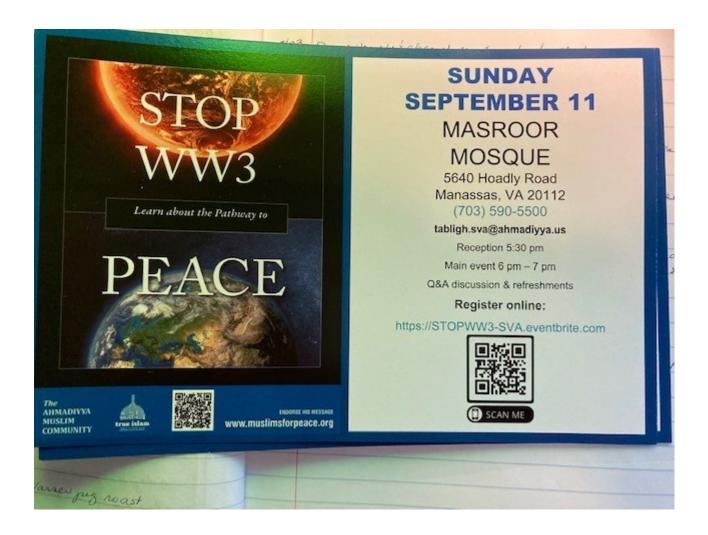
September 11 5:30pm

Stop WW3 Learn about the Pathway to Peace at Masroor Mosque on Sunday, September 11

5:30 Reception, main event 6-7 PM.

5640 Hoadly Road, Manassas, VA 20112

Register online <a href="https://STOPWW3-SVA.eventbrite.com">https://STOPWW3-SVA.eventbrite.com</a>



# THE PUZZLER August's puzzler

There's an expression that we've all used in our lives and I want to know from whence it came:

"I'm stumped."

What do you think is the origin or derivation of that expression?

## The Answer

Back in the early days of the Republic, when we were pushing westward, there arose a need to make areas that were passable for horses and wagons so people that settled there could get goods to market and whatever. These states were heavily forested and people, mostly the government, went through and cut down trees in order to make roads. By necessity they left the stumps because they were so difficult to move.

In some areas, there were so many stumps, and because the roads got washed with rains and became muddy, it was possible to get into an area where you couldn't move at all. Between the ruts in the road and the stumps all around your travel was impeded, and when that happened you were stumped.

#### **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

#### ${\it Director\ of\ Lifespan\ Religious}$ Education

Kristin Worthington dre@bruu.org

#### Director of Music

**Annease Hastings** music@bruu.org

#### Office Assistant

Tina Cox, office@bruu.org

# THE PUZZLER September's puzzler

Your neighbor says to you one day, "I have five children and half of them are boys!

That's impossible......RIGHT?

Can you explain that?

HINT: %



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!