



BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

September 2023
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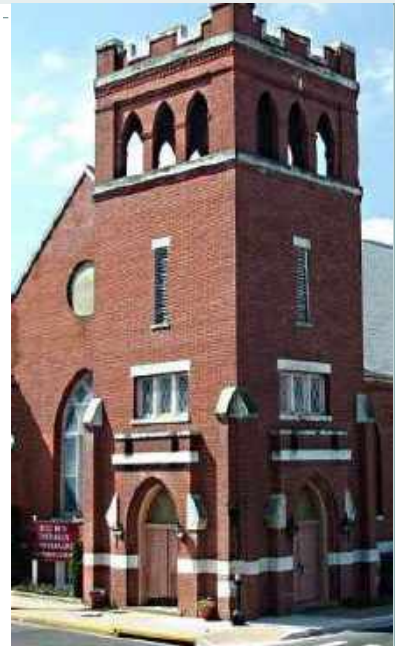
Crossroads

Water Communion and Ingathering Service September 10th

Our annual water communion and ingathering worship service is coming up on September 10th .

Please remember to bring a little water to the service that morning for each member of your family or household to contribute to the ritual of healing in which we will engage.

In an ancient and ubiquitous tradition, we will pour libations to honor and heal Mother Earth and all of her children.



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The monthly BRUU Newsletter



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SEPTEMBER SERMON DESCRIPTIONS

September 10: *Water Communion and Ingathering*

(Worship Committee)

We celebrate our ingathering after the dog days of summer by exploring the element of Water: its role in life on this planet and its healing powers. Please remember to bring some water with you for each member of your household to use in participating in the water communion ritual.

The **2nd Sunday Share-the-Plate** recipient is **Legacy Impact** (<https://thelegacyimpact.org>)

Legacy Impact is a nonprofit that holistically empowers families to rewrite their narratives from poverty to possibility. We consider the areas of housing, employment, education, and health as we collaborate with other organizations to invest in our neighborhoods.

September 17: *Faithfully Becoming*

(BRUU General Assembly Delegate Team)

The BRUU General Assembly delegate team will share their experiences with congregation and discuss the year ahead as Unitarian Universalists engage in the 2023 GA theme of “faithfully becoming.”

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

September 14: *Celebrating the transformation of Autumn*

(Annaliess Trommatter)

Persephone is usually associated with the coming of Spring, but she is also the Queen of the Underworld. She embodies a stark duality: the new growth of spring, and the uncertainty and finality of death. Come learn a little of her story, and participate in a brief pagan ritual of transformation and balance in her honor.

All who come to the crossroads with open hearts and open minds are welcome. No previous experience is necessary.



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MINISTER'S REPORT



Faithfully Becoming an Aspiring, Inspiring and Conspiring Community

Rev. Charlotte

Historically, our faith tradition has been characterized by the trappings of academia. Although we worship and serve together year-round, we still function, at least nominally, on an academic calendar. With September, we celebrate coming back together after our summer forays; our **Water Communion (on 9/10)** invites us to bring a little water to contribute in a ritual of ingathering and community. This water symbolizes our being fully a part of nature and the cycles thereof. It also symbolizes our being integrally part of this UU congregational community. Everyone is invited to participate and I will make sure there is some water that those who forget their water or didn't know about this ritual will use to be fully involved in the worship experience.

With the start of September, you will notice that we have a lot in the works for this year. The Board has a full plate of projects that we are continuing to move forward on. I urge each and every one of BRUU's members and friends to be actively involved and contributing to the development of our strategic planning and potential organizational restructuring. (*Please see announcements elsewhere in this newsletter.*) Being informed and sharing your own thoughts and perspectives are critical to the ultimate success of these initiatives which were launched last year.

During my visit to Minneapolis to see my mother, my siblings and some of our extended family, Mom and I made a habit of playing Scrabble. She couldn't find her Scrabble set, which she had put in the Community Room where she lives, and so she brought the one she was able to find there back to her apartment for us to play with. After our second game, we realized that there weren't the requisite number of one of the letters; so, we decided to go through and figure out what was missing. It turned out to be quite a few different vowels and one "W." This reality caused our wondering about the impact of not having all of the letters available for play.

MINISTER'S REPORT cont'd

This wondering has led me to the analogy that if we are missing *your voice* as we move ahead towards, through and into new ways of being – of faithfully becoming a new and improved “community of seeking and service” in this changed world in which we are now living – we will not be as successful as we intend to be. Oh, it is clear that we can function well enough without your contributions – both Mom and I played the game well, as well as we could with what we had in hand – but we won’t be able to achieve our full potential at this time in history if you aren’t part of the mix.

After attending a wonderful outdoor worship service in Minneapolis, I am intentionally recommitting to being actively involved in communities that aspire, inspire, and conspire to change the world. Those three words all have as part of their roots, the Latin word for breath – *spir* – and can also refer to “having a longing for” as well as “soul.” It is my hope to see, accompany and participate in our BRUU community making a similar commitment to faithfully becoming an aspirational, inspirational and conspiratorial community that leads – locally and more expansively – in defending freedom and human rights for all people.

To this end, please be sure to attend the September 17th worship service being lead by our General Assembly Delegate Team which will share how UUs across the country and throughout the world are “Faithfully Becoming,” including how the UUA’s by-laws Article II language may change with the future 2nd vote on this section of the document, **and** the BRUU Town Hall meeting immediately following the service to begin the congregation’s discernment processes relative to creating beneficial organizational restructuring, implementing our strategic plan and living our vision.

Your voice, your participation, your “Scrabble letter” is a critical contribution to the mix of our whole community and its ministries.

Thank you for being part of our aspirational, inspirational and conspiratorial community!

Blessings,

Rev. Charlotte

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear fellow-congregants,

Summer is almost at an end and so much has been happening at BRUU!

Our annual Board Retreat was a success, as was our August Board Meeting, with many important initiatives being discussed and evaluated. At both, we focused on the BRUU Strategic Plan that will help prioritize our work, the recommendations in the BRUU Organizational Consulting Technical Report from George Mason University, and how we plan to take care of our infrastructure needs. You will hear more about all these considerations and be invited to share your thoughts on BRUU's work ahead.

By now, I hope you've had time to meet our wonderful new Office Administrator Ashley Iraheta whose first day in the BRUU Office was August 15. You'll find her sweet, professional, organized, and welcoming. On top of that she is bilingual, fluent in both English and Spanish.

As you know, safety and security in the church building continues to be discussed with our growing concern about uninvited visitors and unsecured doors. Special thanks to John Sunda, Bruce Roemmelt (Safety Committee Chair), and others who collaborated on getting safety bars on our doors, but we still depend on members and visitors to close them securely behind them. We are also thankful to have John Sunda continuing to negotiate with the stain glass window repair company over the work and invoicing. And of course, huge kudos to Mike Freeland and John who continue to help us deal with a troublesome HVAC system that refused to work on Ashley's first few days in the office. We are moving ahead with improving how we take care of our building.

I'm pleased to announce that Tina Cox's Farewell Party will be held here on Sunday, October 1, after the service, to acknowledge her time as Administrative Assistant. More news will follow as plans continue to develop.

Amid "everything everywhere all at once" activity at and for BRUU (like the movie title), I must mention some of my personal heroes, volunteers who do so much for BRUU often behind the scenes.

(continued on next page)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont'd

Thank you to the wonderful volunteer-members who have contributed to some of Ashley's onboarding by orienting/training her in specialized skills, such as Power Church (Faye Sledge), Roundup (Chris McClure), KnowledgeBase and Bookkeeping duties (Terrie McClure). And there is more to come!

A special shout out to volunteers who jumped in to help get the office ready for Ashley's arrival. They include Randy Earl who helped me move furniture around the office, Mike Freeland, together with Randy Earl, moved unwanted equipment out of the office, and Becks Sosa who helped with some important office tasks that just needed getting done for the good of the order.

Fellowship Hall would not be the same without the contributions of the Kitchen Krew volunteers who consistently make sure our gatherings during coffee hour extra-welcoming with hot/cold beverages and treats, as well as ensuring that our kitchen is clean and complies with health department standards.

And where would we be without the amazing energy of Chair Kathy Sobrio and the wonderful members of the Aesthetics Team. Every service is graced by their artistic eyes and creativity, and they are the folks that ensure that the building in general is made more pleasing for congregants and visitors.

Finally, a warrior award to Christine Sunda, who each year organizes WORKDAY so we can all share in the activities (painting, sanding, scrubbing, moving, etc.) that make our building better, cleaner, prettier!

We look forward to welcoming Reverend Charlotte as she returns to the office and shares her learning experiences from her trip to the Parliament of World Religions Conference. Special thanks to her and the Worship Committee for preparing such awesome speakers this past month.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention.

Angie Carrera-Earl

Board President

"Holding each other in care, power and love."



COME CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF
GEORGE EDWARD GLADY

Saturday September 16th - 6-8pm
The Gladly Home

Thursday September 21st - 6-9pm
Unitarian Universalist Church in Reston
1625 Wiehle Ave, Reston, Virginia 20190

Saturday September 23rd - 6-9pm
Palmer's Last Stop
1 N. Main St., Wayland, New York 14572

Please join us to share your favorite memories & stories
(and maybe a dram of Scotch whisky too) as we fondly
remember George.

RSVP by text or email by September 13th:
(703) 915-2963 or lvglady@gmail.com

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

August Marshmallow Roast

This month's marshmallow roast was way more successful. The Sunda's brought a fire pit, so much better than last month when I forgot.

There were marshmallows, chocolate and graham crackers for s'mores. Vegan marshmallows were available as well as vegan hot dogs. Over the evening about 20 people stopped by and enjoyed the fellowship.



BRUU Rental Space Available Immediately

Do you have a small business or studio need? What about your friend or neighbor? BRUU has an immediate availability of an office space on the 3rd floor off of the chapel space.

Formerly used as instructional space for piano lessons, the space can be used for many passive uses. Rent is \$275/month, and year-long leases are preferred. Credit check and security deposit are required. Please have interested parties contact vicepresident@bruu.org.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Dianne Lane's Mexican Vanilla ice cream beat out the competition this year. Congratulations. The Ice Cream Social of 2023 was a resounding success. The competition was fierce and extremely close this year. There were 5 homemade entries. Several vegan recipes were entered again this year and were close competition.





The Food Pantry would like to thank some of our recent donors that helped BRUU feed Manassas City Public School children and their families this summer.

Giant Foods, Wellington Station
Jeanette Lehner, Bankers Life Agent
Knotts Findings, Fredericksburg VA
Schenck Foods, Winchester VA
The Kopnisky Family
The Betz Family



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.

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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

