

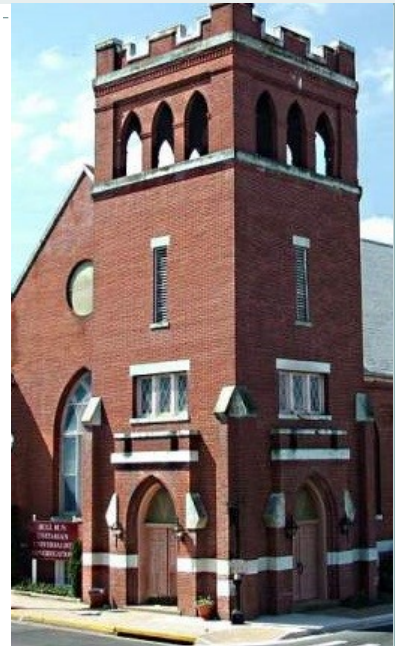
# Crossroads

## The BRUU Auction is ON!

**The Silent Auction:** Closes  
for bidding on closes on 10  
Dec.

**The Live Auction:** Held at  
BRUU on 3 Dec. Door open  
at 4:45 PM.

The monthly BRUU Newsletter



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**BULL RUN**  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS  
**DECEMBER SERMON DESCRIPTIONS**

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**December 4: *Love, An Enduring Force***

***(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)***

Love is at the core of our Unitarian Universalist theology. It is an enduring force that holds us together. Love inspires and powers the passion with which we embody our values. We will dedicate several of our community's children this morning as part of the worship service.

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**December 11: *Reflections on Winter***

***(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)***

What are the gifts that the winter season brings to us each year? In anticipation of the Winter Solstice, and drawing from earth-centered traditions, we explore various aspects of the upcoming season.

This month, the **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Split-the-Plate** recipient is **Beacon Adult Literacy**

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**December 18: *A Season for Singing***

***(Annease Hastings)***

This is the annual holiday music service and our longtime Music Director's last hurrah. Please join us for what is sure to be a very special morning of worship and song.

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

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**December 24: *Christmas Eve Worship Service***

***(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)***

Our celebration this year will include singing beloved holiday songs, hearing a few holiday inspired readings, and a short message for the season.

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**December 25**

No worship service this Sunday morning; please join us again on January 1st with a special New Year's Day worship service lead by Star and Janette Muir.

# December Fellowship

First Fridays Dec 2 Manassas opens up for walking the downtown. Meet up at Bruu for popcorn and bubbles POC Cathy Ring ringcw@gmail.com

## Saturday Dec 3

**Manassas Holiday Parade** 10am-Noon! Meet up at Bruu for popcorn and bubbles POC Mary Kadlubowski kadlubowskim@gmail.com



**BRUU Live Auction** 4:45-9pm Sanctuary with snacks downstairs in the fellowship hall. Lively Auction Fun! POC Scott Maille auction@bruu.org

## Second Sunday Dec 11

**Young Adult Lunch** 11:30 Fellowship Hall POC Michelle Fegeas 540.219.9058

**Second Sunday Hike** Meet up in the Fellowship hall to hike in Doves Landing POC Charlie Grymes cgrymes@gmail.com



**Holiday Celebration** Grab a coffee and join us for holiday crafts and conversation in the fellowship hall after Service. POC Mary Kadlubowski Fellowshipa@bruu.org



**Holiday Cookie Exchange** Bring a dozen homemade cookies and exchange for a mixed Dozen. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4DAAAF28AB9-holiday> POC Mary Kadlubowski Fellowship@bruu.org

## Third Sunday Dec 18



**Music Service Sunday Dec 18**  
Annual Music Service 10:00-11:00 am  
Sanctuary POC Office@bruu.org

## *GRATITUDE AND GIVING*

Let me begin this newsletter column – my first since July – by simply expressing my gratitude for this UU community. Your gift to me at the start of my fifth year of ministry in service to BRUU was a 4-month sabbatical for which I am extremely grateful! I definitely feel more rested. The jagged energy that I had been feeling in my body has gone away. I feel refreshed. I was definitely able to renew and rejuvenate my spirit. Thank you from the depths of my being.

As I am reading and hearing about the November 26th shooting at Q nightclub in Colorado Springs, which left several people dead and many, many more injured, I am aware of the role that the Colorado Springs All Souls UU congregation and clergy are living out to care for the people there in the wake of this terrible trauma. Our UU congregations serve people in the times of their greatest need both visible and invisible.

Sharing about our experiences during the sabbatical during the November 13th worship service, we heard from Liesl Main and from Heather Berthold about the myriad ways that BRUU members and friends cared for each other, for our UU congregation, and for the people who live in Prince William County while I was away on sabbatical. Thank you for caring for each other and for the people in our Northern Virginia community when they are in need. You own this congregational community and you do your best to care for it in ways that ensure that it thrives.

Giving – giving back and engaging in the ritual of the give-away – is a healing practice for the giver and the receiver. I spoke about this as a lesson worth learning and living during the worship service on the Sunday before Thanksgiving weekend as we re-think the meaning of this harvest festival.

The winter holiday season is now upon us. The Christmas Advent count down has begun. Hanukkah will be here starting December 18th, followed by the Winter Solstice (12/21), and Kwanzaa takes place beginning on the 26th. It is easy to get caught up in the rush and exuberance of this time of year and forget to take care of ourselves. For some of us, this time of year is not at all a time of joy. The shorter daylight hours, the cold weather, and perhaps the memories of loved ones no longer with us or the challenges of being depressed, isolated and alone can prove to be extremely challenging.

Let us be aware of how this season can be filled both with blessings as well as with struggles and with grieving. Let us be mindful of one another and continue to offer the gift of compassion and love in equal measure. Let us show that this holiday time, this winter season has gifts to offer each of us whether those gifts are in the form of family togetherness or quiet solitude and rest.

Let us make sure to care for ourselves in the midst of all the holiday celebrations.

May our days and nights be blessed,  
Rev. Charlotte



Bull Run Unitarian Universalists

## Holiday Cookie Exchange

Enjoy a **Holiday** mix of **Cookies!**

For every dozen of homemade cookies you bring, exchange them for a mixed dozen brought by others!

Masks and gloves will be required. Bring a box or container for your selection

Bring them to exchange at 11:30 am after service in the Fellowship Hall on December 11th.

Point of Contact Mary Kadlubowski Fellowship@bruu.org

**[Click Here](#) to sign up!**

**Or copy and paste the URL below to your browser**

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4DAAAF28AB9-holiday>**

The logo features a stylized flame or torch in the center, surrounded by three curved lines in purple, green, and yellow, all enclosed within a circular border.

**BULL RUN**  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS  
**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. As I write this, Bill and I are in Charleston, South Carolina with my daughter and her family (husband, son (age 7) & daughter (age 4)). I feel very blessed to be treated as an important and honored part of their family. And yes, I have a wonderful relationship with my son-in-law! I am so pleased that BRUU holds a Thanksgiving celebration for members who don't have families to gather with or who for whatever reason cannot be with family during this time. It is an important tradition to spend with family and friends.

One of the Board's focuses at this time is to assemble a team of passionate BRUU members to be involved in our Stewardship Campaign this year. If we are going to be able to sustain our BRUU community, we need to make sure that members understand the importance of this year's campaign. As members have continued to come back in person to BRUU following COVID restrictions, we have a number of vacancies in our committees that need to be filled. Some members who have been particularly taxed during this time (like our AV team) are sorely in need of reinforcements. Due to giving staff in total a \$11,000 COLA increases last year, our operating budget will now include this increase, which means we need members to increase their financial contributions. As with any family, we have several needs, and we need all members to contribute some of their time, talents, and money to our community for it to thrive.

The Board has realized that we have not acted on all of Mark Ewart recommendations to ready ourselves for a Capital Campaign. One of our goals this year will be to consider how we can best reorganize in a way that maximizes our ability to reach our mission and vision. Stewardship will need to play a more central role and some other important changes are in order as well.

## *WILL YOU BE A BRUU DELEGATE IN JUNE 2023?*

### **Represent Our Congregation at 2023 UUA General Assembly!**

One of our current 7 Principles is this: “The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at larger;” it is the 5<sup>th</sup> Principle. We value democracy and democratically run institutions.

Each year our congregation holds an annual meeting to elect its leadership, to approve the budget and to vote on other matters that come before it such as by-laws changes.

Each year the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (the UUA), of which we are a member congregation, gathers to do the work of the Association during General Assembly (GA) in June. At that meeting delegates representing their congregation may be asked to weigh in on matters that require a vote. Some these are electing the President of the UUA, approving the budget, and making changes to the UUA by-laws ([https://www.uua.org/files/2022-10/uua\\_bylaws\\_10312022.pdf](https://www.uua.org/files/2022-10/uua_bylaws_10312022.pdf)). In addition, there are lots of wonderful programs and a social justice action or project.

The number of congregational delegates is determined by the size of the congregation, with a minimum of 2 delegates for the smallest congregations. At this time, BRUU is entitled to 5 delegates.

The 2023 GA (June 21-25), which is being held in Pittsburgh, PA (less than 6 hours away) – and also on-line – is going to be an especially important one for the UUA. Two prominent agenda items are:

-Election of the next UUA President: the presidential search committee has nominated Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt (<https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/psc-nominee-president>);

-First vote on changes to UUA By-laws Article II (<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>): “The final version of Article II, as amended by the by Board of Trustees and/or the 2023 General Assembly, must receive a simple majority vote to move forward for a final vote at the 2024 General Assembly. It will take a 3/4th majority vote at the 2024 General Assembly, to be adopted as the new Article II of the UUA bylaws. If either vote fails, a similar proposal cannot be considered for two years.”

There will be plenty of other important actions and interesting programming to take part in, but I cannot stress enough how critical the above votes will be and BRUU needs to have its voice represented at GA.

It is also critically important that we identify those who will serve BRUU early. The draft language for Article II is being considered now and at the end of January the Article II Study Commission will make its recommendation to the UUA Board of Trustees. Further revisions will occur during the spring, including mini-assemblies in May that congregational delegates can participate in before the revisions are posted to the GA Final Agenda.

**By the end of January**, the BRUU Board would like to know who will represent BRUU at GA in June 2023. Then Rev. Charlotte would support the delegates in providing education and listening sessions to BRUU members (and friends). These activities will better inform our delegates in how they can represent the feelings of the congregation alongside their own consciences.

Please contact either Rev. Charlotte ([minister@bruu.org](mailto:minister@bruu.org)) or the BRUU Board of Directors ([director@bruu.org](mailto:director@bruu.org)) to express your interest or for further information. Spots are open until filled and being an alternate is an option.

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# OUR "CHOSEN" FAMILY THANKSGIVING

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You don't have to go "over the river and through the woods to grandmothers house" to participate in a truly warm and bountiful Thanksgiving dinner, ever.

For years BRUU has held a multigenerational Thanksgiving feast in our Fellowship Hall for any of our congregation (even the vegetarians) who want to share a communal meal.

Did the travel wear you down this year, or there just weren't enough sweet potatoes to go around for everyone? Well, be sure to remember there's no place like your home town congregation for the holidays next year.

When it comes to turkey (thanks John), ham (thanks Mary), sides & desserts (thanks everyone) it was all



yummy, and we were all satiated, the kitchen cleaned up, sent home with leftovers, AND home just about 7pm!





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

**December 11**  
Come explore the **Cockpit Point**  
from **1:00-3:00pm**

We will scramble on a rough trail, cross the CSX tracks,  
and see the historic Civil War fortifications at Cockpit  
Point Park.

Vista of Potomac River...guaranteed.  
Bald eagles...likely.

Please register at  
<https://tinyurl.com/msxuy2uj>



# First Friday at BRUU

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December 2, 6:00-7:00pm

BRUU'ers gather at the corner of **Church and Main streets** on the First Friday of each month as part of the downtown Manassas celebration of **First Friday**.

**December**, Santa arrives on the Christmas Train at **6:00pm**.

Come join us, as you explore restaurants and shopping...

...and Santa.

*(Look for the bubbles...)*



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](mailto:newsletter@bruu.org) & [communications@bruu.org](mailto:communications@bruu.org)

# Stories of Preservation and Progress

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Join us at  
Bull Run Unitarian Universalists

Join Rev. Charlotte Lehmann of Bull Run Unitarian Universalist Congregation and Rev. Milton Rodgers of Grace United Methodist Church to learn about this Albert Speiden designed building that has been in continuous use as a church since its construction in the 1920's.

December 11  
at 2 pm

9350 Main Street



Parks, Culture & Recreation  
Manassas, VA

Contact us at  
703-368-1873  
or visit [www.manassasva.gov](http://www.manassasva.gov)

# VOICE 2022 VOICE ASSEMBLY



**JOIN OVER 375+ VOICE LEADERS**

## DECEMBER 4TH

3:45 PM – 5:30 PM

Join 375+ VOICE leaders plus key state and local officials to address VOICE members key issues of affordable housing, pay parity for the Prince William Public Defenders Office, and the Decriminalization of Mental Illness and Addiction. Music will start at 3:45PM. The Assembly will begin promptly at 4PM & end promptly by 5:30PM.

### **LOCATION:**

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
651 Dranesville Rd,  
Herndon, VA 20170



VISIT: [WWW.VOICE-IAF.ORG](http://WWW.VOICE-IAF.ORG) SCAN. SIGN-UP. ATTEND.

# Voice Action for Social Justice

## December 4th

VOICE is assembling 375+ people to demonstrate to local elected leaders our commitment to social justice.  
**SEE BELOW FOR MORE**

We will gather at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Rd, Herndon, VA 20170.

BRUU's Social Justice Committee indicated 15 of us would make the trip, in order to make the point to elected officials that action is needed to complete the mental health Crisis Receiving Center facility which we are fighting to build in Prince William County.

Please sign [HERE](#)

First Baptist Church Manassas	75
Dar Al-Noor	50
NoVA Baptist Assoc./Olive Branch Baptist Church	7
Little Union Baptist Church	25
First AME Church of Manassas	20
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church	30
St. Paul UMC	14
Bull Run UU	15
Manassas Church of the Brethren	15
NAMI/St. Matthews Lutheran Church	6
Woodbridge Church of the Brethren	5

TOTAL = 262

# Society of Audacious Silverhaired Sisters

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The Society of Audacious Silverhaired Sisters is NOT out to pasture!

However we did have a splendid time visiting a farm in Catharpin that is home to two Tarpan horses, a breed that is facing the possibility of extinction.

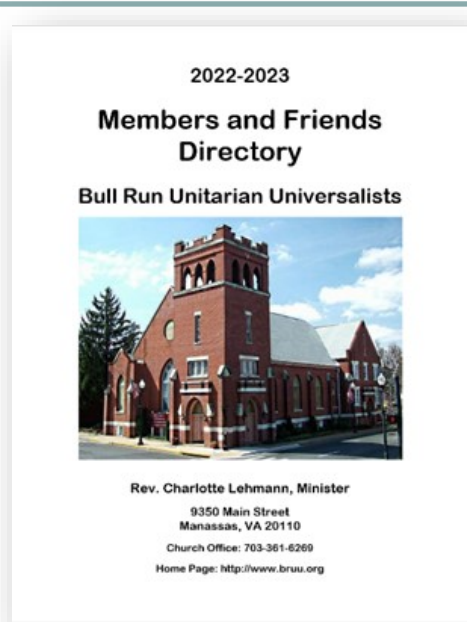
Our hostess and horsewoman owner gave a presentation to about a dozen SASS gals on the history of the breed and the efforts to preserve them. The horses are about the size of a standard pony and quite friendly!

Want to know more – ask a SASS gal, or come to our next gathering we are happy to share what we learned.

[SASS@BRUU.org](mailto:SASS@BRUU.org)







## **BRUU DIRECTORY WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE ONLINE**

### **IS THE ONLINE DIRECTORY GOING TO BE SAFE?**

The online Directory will be available at [www.bruunet.org](http://www.bruunet.org) which is password protected.

The PDF file will also require an additional password to open.

### **MAY I OPT-OUT OF BEING LISTED IN THE ONLINE DIRECTORY?**

Yes. If you do not want your listing to be included in the online PDF directory on BRUUnet, please let us know by emailing the membership committee at [membership@bruu.org](mailto:membership@bruu.org) by December 15, 2022.

### **PROCEDURES**

To update your contact information, please fill out the online connections card at <https://www.bruu.org/www2/make-contact/connections-card/>

To update your family photo, please send it to [membership@bruu.org](mailto:membership@bruu.org)

Please send your updates by December 15, 2022.

Online, we will update contact information three times a year.

If you need a printed copy of the directory, you may order one here:

<https://auctria.events/BRUUMembersAndFriendsDirectory>



# ITteam = HIPPP!

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Do you enjoy:

-going into rooms & spaces you didn't even know existed at BRUU?

-Crawling around on the floor?

-Unplugging & plugging in equipment? Exploring shelves & cupboards?

-Picking up stuff & turning it over to read tiny...tiny printed numbers & letters?

-And even more fun than that – slapping stickers on all kinds of stuff?!?

If so, the recently re-constituted Internet Technology Team (ITT) has decided to hold an after-Sunday-service **Hardware Inventory Process Party (HIPPP)** on **January 22nd**, and the team members would love your help.

This is an open-to-all-who-want-to-play from **11:45am to 1pm**.

When the party is over BRUU will have identified and listed all our tech equipment, something we have never had before!

Did we mention there will be food for all the participants?

Watch for the details in the January newsletter, but put the date on your new 2023 calendar NOW!

# THE PUZZLER

## NOVEMBER'S PUZZLER

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Back when I was doing my radio show, listeners would sometimes ask how much preparation we did in advance of every show.



As a joke, I would reply “**we are wingin’ it!**”

This trip down memory lane prompted a pretty puzzlin’ puzzler question:

Where does the term “**wingin’ it**” come from and what does it mean?

*CONGRATULATIONS TO :*

***Erika Vesely***

*According to her middle school drama teacher, Ms. Godding, “winging it” was originally a theater term for when people don’t know their lines & are learning them just before their entrance on the stage because the sides of the stage are called wings*

## BRUU

9350 Main Street  
Manassas, VA 20110-5150  
703-361-6269

### **Minister**

Rev. Charlotte Lehmann  
minister@bruu.org

### **BRUU Board of Directors**

#### **President 2021-2023**

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#### **Vice President**

Diane Lane  
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#### **Secretary**

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#### **Treasurer**

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treasurer@bruu.org

#### **Directors at Large**

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Sophia Kadlubowski (2021-23)  
Chris McClure (2022-24)  
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#### **Youth Director**

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#### **Immediate Past President**

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#### **Director of Lifespan Religious Education**

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#### **Director of Music**

Annease Hastings,  
music@bruu.org

#### **Office Assistant**

Tina Cox, office@bruu.org

# THE PUZZLER

## JANUARY'S PUZZLER

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I use this in Engineering class!

Engineers were contemplating building a suspension bridge across the gorge at Niagara Falls. So, you've got a raging river below, and you've got to get cables for the suspension bridge from one side to the other. But, there was no way to get the cables across, because there was no boat that could fight that current.

The engineers and builders figured out how to do it, and they staged a contest on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. The contest was open to the public, and the purpose was to help get these massive cables across the gorge.

The contest was won by a young boy. And shortly after the contest was completed, they were able to run the cables from one side of the gorge to the other.

## What was the contest?

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*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!