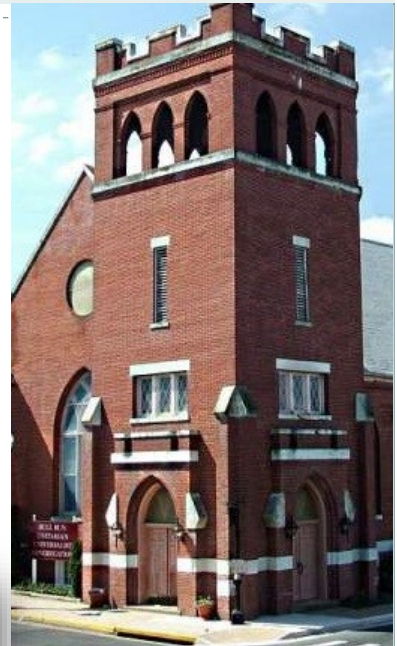


Crossroads



Rev. Kimberly, leading the first worship service at the Southeast UU Summer Institute (SUUSI)

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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

The monthly BRUU Newsletter



BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS
AUGUST SERMON DESCRIPTIONS

August 7: *A Sense of Beauty*

(Rev. Kimberley Debus) Worship Associate- Randy Earl

What does it mean to have a sense of beauty in a time when all feels ugly? How does this help us strengthen our spiritual selves and our sense of call in the world? The annual meeting followed immediately after the service.

August 14: *Touch the Spirit*

(Star Muir) Worship Associate- Mike Cleary

While the pandemic has created fear and concern about physical touch, our isolation and protocols have separated us from each other in ways that continue to diminish our personal contact. This service is about the importance and the role of touch as a key element of the path to the spirit, including both positive and negative aspects of touch that may shape our behavior moving forward together toward wholeness. Thinking several moves ahead, chess master Bobby Fischer once observed that “Nothing eases suffering like human touch.”

Join us to explore this wonderful sense...there will be (appropriate) massage!

This month, the **2nd Sunday Split-the-Plate** recipient is **Rainbow Therapeutic Riding Center**

August 21: *The Best Medicine*

(Rev. Kimberley Debus) Worship Associate- Faye Sledge

Amidst the pains, sorrows, and struggles, we need the wisdom and healing humor brings to help us heal our spirits and bear the crudeness of reality. We'll consider ways to make space for joy and find the funny.

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

August 28: *Fire and Ice!*

(Pat Malarkey) Worship Associate- Kathy Sobrio or Michelle Luman

Iceland is a place of opposites: fire and ice, rock and water, day and night. What stories has this land inspired? What can we learn from them?

C'mon, Join the BRUU Housing Study Group

BRUU Housing Study Group Starts August 15

Members of BRUU's Social Justice Committee at the June 28 meeting of Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement endorsed the decision to make affordable housing one of VOICE's top three priorities. It's a complex topic, so VOICE decided to establish a study group before recommending solutions in 2023.

At BRUU, "ditto." Social Justice Committee is creating our own housing study group, so we understand the choices plus the pros/cons of different options. Being better prepared will help us speak out with more confidence at VOICE and other public meetings. As we understand the housing problems better, we may discover that the easy/simple solutions will not be adequate. Because 2023 is an election year, now is the time to push for more than token action.

What are the realistic options for addressing the housing challenge in our area vs. what would be a waste of time to propose? Where should we focus? The answer for most of us is "ugh, don't know yet – but know how to get there from here. Get together with others and share the homework."

BRUU is starting a study group to research and discuss the options for creating more-affordable housing in NOVA. This is in parallel with VOICE, so we can contribute and discuss the issue more effectively. Study group will meet on the third Monday of the month from 7:00-8:00pm, starting August 15.

Interested? Sign up for participating in one or more meetings by sending an e-mail to housing@bruu.org

We'll gather on Zoom in August, and perhaps go hybrid in September..

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83655721391?pwd=QoJWYm9pVjZNc09RZ1Zqb1FLOXNjdz09>

Meeting ID: 836 5572 1391

Passcode: 269485



BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Fellow BRUUsers,

I hope everyone is staying safe and cool in this brutal weather! We are in the thick of summer now with temperatures rising to possibly 100 degrees tomorrow! At least we are expecting and have been getting a fair amount of rain. Lately I have been feeling like we live in the tropics! I'm half expecting to hear monkeys hooting in the trees!

Bill and I decided to go to the Farmer's Market as early this Saturday morning to beat the heat. As usual we saw Mary Kadlubowski working at one of farmer's booth. I hope she is going to be OK being out for the remainder of the market. We also ran into Randy and Trish Freed who were shopping and were delighted to hear Jen Deavers sing *Let's Stay Together* with the band that was playing at the market. I love going out into our community and running into BRUU members! It makes me feel more a part of my community.

Top of the list of things to accomplish is weekend is getting ready for my trip to Spain. I will be joining my niece and grandniece at Reagan International Airport (they are coming from California) and we will be flying into Barcelona at the end of July. After spending 4 nights there we will be traveling via train to San Sebastian. Traveling via train is so cheap in Spain! It cost only \$225 for the 3 of us to travel to San Sebastian, which is an almost 5-hour trip. And that's for first class! Temperatures have been reaching record highs In Spain, as is happening across Europe. However, it looks like they will be back to normal temperatures for the time we will be spending there.

The courtyard doors are finally in place and have been newly painted again and the windows de-taped! Many thanks to John and Christian Sunda and Margaret and Carl McCulla for their work on this project! Check them out, they look pretty fine!

We had another HVAC system fail, this time the one that cools the upstairs of the commercial building. Window units have been used as a temporary fix until we can replace the system. We have Mike Freeland to thank for getting the window units installed in the commercial building. And again, we have John Sunda to thank for getting estimates from 3 different vendors to replace this system and giving us his expert advice on which vendor to choose. The board is in the process of an email vote as I write this report. I trust that everything will be in order soon. The cost of this unit is much less than the one we recently replaced in the BRUU building, it will cost around \$7,000.

The Board approved of Michelle Luman, Chris Sexton, Dorothy Greenhouse, Bill Stejskal, and Kelly Muzzin to be on committee for the search team for the interim Music Director. It will be a difficult to replace our wonderful Music Director, Annease Hastings, but it is good to know we have people interested in devoting their time and energy into making good decisions regarding how to attract and choose an interim Director. Music is an important part of our congregation, so this is kind of a big deal.

Efforts have been made to reach out to members who have not contributed to BRUU, but the amount of incoming pledges from the time of our Annual Meeting have not moved the bar much. We had several people who spoke passionately about the importance of paying for cost of living raises for staff, so I hope that some members will be increasing the pledges they have already made. We will also be looking for a group of people to work on how to fund the Infrastructure Budget. Please look for the information that will be coming out in RoundUp and Crossroads soon and apply for this ad hoc committee if you think you have ideas or the skills that needed for this committee.

Warm Regards,
Rita Romano
BRUU President

You are in luck! I know many of you missed my report in the last Crossroads. I'm not exactly sure what happened with the failure for it to be sent, but I have decided to resubmit it for the August newsletter. PAGE 12

SUUSI 2022

Mike Freeland will tell you that SUUSI is really a music festival disguised as "church camp" for UU's. He is right.



The Muir family helps run Nightlife, with a range of professional and volunteer performers. This year, Jeanette recruited Star to showcase his musical talents.

Rev. Kimberly, leading the first worship service at the Southeast UU Summer Institute (SUUSI)



Thoughts on Gratitude

Along with several members of BRUU, I spent a glorious week last month in the mountains of North Carolina at SUUSI (the Southeast UU Summer Institute). Our theme this year was Gratitude, and that spirit of gratitude was present everywhere – from folks helping each other move in and out of the dorms we stay in, to holding doors, to exploring the ideas in worship and workshops, to the applause and praise we heaped upon performers.

We also explored what it meant to be in community – especially a multiplatform community – and how gratitude helps us connect and stay in covenant. By shifting our attitude toward gratitude, we were able to let go of some of the hurts and anxieties that keep us from connecting with each other. It made for a careful, caring, more gentle experience than I've ever felt at a gathering of that size.

And honestly, it made everything a little easier. As Zach Griffin writes,

"Gratefulness pulls us back to the present moment. Instead of focusing on what is missing or our feelings of discontent, practicing gratefulness causes us to be present to the here and now by thinking and meditating on things that we already partake in. So many times we get lost in our heads thinking about the past and the future and in doing so, we betray the gift of the present period gratefulness that ties us together, the only moment that really matters."

This August, as we explore in worship ways to bring life back to our tired spirits, I invite you to consider gratitude in the every day. Maybe you are grateful for the cucumbers growing in your garden, or the existence of grocery delivery services. Maybe it's the gathering of folks to play music, or play games. Maybe it's air conditioning and your latest Netflix binge watch. Maybe it's the kindness of a stranger or a beloved. Maybe it's the sunny days or the rolling thunderstorms. Maybe it's a comfortable chair or a purring cat or the giggles of a child. Maybe it's just getting through another day.

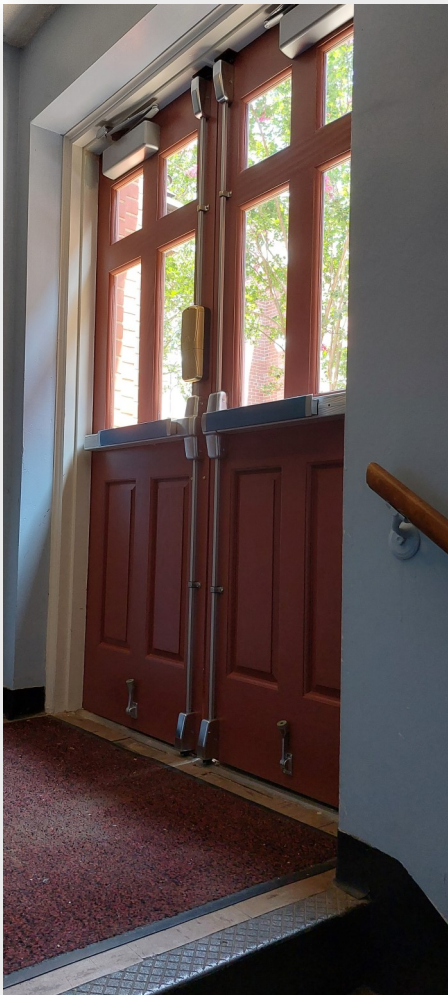
What are you grateful for?

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

A NEW SECURE DOOR TO THE COURTYARD

We have new, secure doors leading into the building from the courtyard. Between supply chain issues and contractor unavailability, John Sunda has been working on this project for a year.

Thanks to his persistence and professionalism, it is now completed.



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.

Organization Name

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

**Meet the Members of the
Interim Music Director Team**



The Board of Directors has approved the make-up of the group that will guide the search for an Interim Music Director who will lead our music program after Annease Hastings retires at the end of the year.

This will be the first step in the process of selecting a permanent Music Director at a later date.

The members of the Interim Music Director Team (iMDT) are:

Dorothy Greenhouse

Michelle Luman

Kelly Muzzin (chair),

Chris Sexton

Bill Stejskal

Look for further information soon in Round-Up and/or Crossroads on how the committee will organize its work.



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

TAKING A BREAK FOR AUGUST

No hike in August; all the trip leaders are traveling elsewhere on vacation.

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...)

Stop by BRUU sometime between 6:00-7:00pm on August 5 for popcorn and a beverage.

Schmooze before heading off to hear First Friday music, and perhaps having drinks/dinner at a local restaurant.

BRUU is beginning to develop a reputation as "that church in downtown Manassas with the bubbles"

We have fun, as well as deal with social justice and other issues.





BULL RUN

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY REPOSTING

Dear Fellow BRUUers,

I was blessed this week by a visit from my daughter, Renee, and her family, her husband Lane and their two children, (my grandchildren), Braeden and Teagan (ages 6 and 4). This is the first visit they have made to my house since the beginning of the pandemic. It was a bit of a challenge keeping up with the activity level of these very active children, but it was a constant joy to see their carefree and whole-hearted engagement with life. Their amazing imagination, their desire to be loved, their drive to face challenges and master tasks were just some of what was enjoyable to witness.

Though not as vibrant, it has been a joy to see the engagement of people to our beloved community. Being the President of the Board has allowed me to witness the inner workings of our congregation...the dedication and care with which fellow Board members have demonstrated in overseeing BRUU business; the time, effort and skill with which members contribute to the numerous tasks that we have identified as being important; and the hard work of the staff in providing quality Sunday services and Religious Education.

As a Board we have some major achievements this year: the relocation of the food pantry, the replacement of a major HVAC system, the reopening of the sanctuary, the revision of the Ministerial Agreement, the completion of the Ministerial Assessment, and the creation of job descriptions for some of the Board positions. As a congregation we have also had some major achievements: the revised process for the food pantry, the replenishment of our Community Emergency Fund, the Avion Project (the updating of our AV systems), the virtual auction, the accomplishment of our first outdoor service on Easter Sunday. And let's not forget that BRUU was recognized this year by the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions with the Sustainability Champion Award in the Faith Community Category!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY REPOSTING

As important as it is to recognize and celebrate our accomplishments, it is also important to identify areas that need improvement. One area the Board needs to address is the identification of a team of people to accomplish our Stewardship drive. This year our pledges to BRUU fell a bit short and one reason for this was the Finance Committee stepped up to the plate to do double duty because no one else stepped forward to accomplish this task. While most of our membership made their pledges and many increased the amount they pledged, many of our new members were not contacted directly and some of our established members did not pledge. The Membership Committee is in the process of contacting members who have not pledged. As demonstrated by the congregation in the Annual Congregational meeting, it is important to our congregation to take care of our staff by providing COLA raises.

At the same time, it is important that we have a balance budget and that we continue to follow our fiscal guidelines, like not reaching into our reserve funds unless we are faced with an unplanned expense. So, if you have not made your pledge yet for next year or you would like to increase your pledge, I invite you to send an email to finance@bruu.org or go into BRUUnet and fill out a pledge form.

Warm regards,

Rita Romano
BRUU President

THE PUZZLER

JULY'S PUZZLER

In 1993, a book was published about methods to make industrial production ecologically friendly. In it the author mentions an auto prototype proposed by a leading automobile executive.

If the proposed car were actually put into production its body would be made of soybean plastic, it would be powered by ethanol, and would run on tires made from goldenrod. The car would in fact be biodegradable. We would, said the executive, be growing our own cars.

The question is, name this innovative automobile executive.

The Answer

Henry Ford. Back in 1941, he unveiled a prototype of an ecologically friendly car, complete with tires made from goldenrod. Can you imagine that? Cars made from plants?

BRUU

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minister@bruu.org

BRUU Board of Directors

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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)
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Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Kristin Worthington
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Director of Music

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Office Assistant

Tina Cox, office@bruu.org

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?



GOOD LUCK!

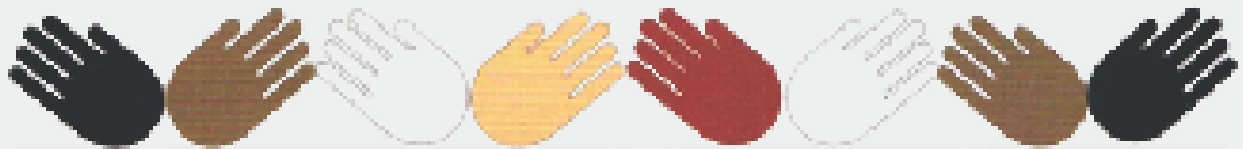
Please email your answer to -

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!

SAVE THE DATE



UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

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..."