



**BULL RUN**  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

October 2022  
Volume 40, Issue 10

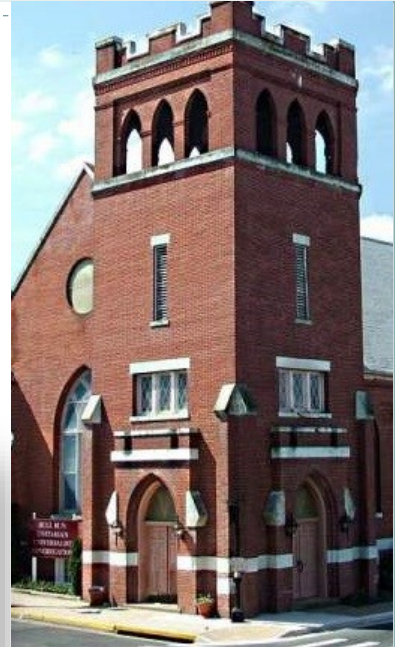
# Crossroads



## BRUU 2022-23 Board

Sabbatical minister, Rev Kimberly Debus (upper left) was in attendance, but the Bd Sec, Chris Sexton, was not included.

(Full Board list on last page)



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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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



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**OCTOBER SERMON DESCRIPTIONS**

**October 2: *Plastic on the Furniture***

**(Rev. Kimberley Debus )** Worship Associate- Randy Earl

How do we preserve the past and still lean into the future? What do we do with our traditions and histories as we turn toward what lies ahead?

**October 9: *Recognizing Our Fears and Vulnerability***

**(John Sunda & others)** Worship Associate– Mike Cleary

Fear is important for our survival. But our reflexive response also makes us vulnerable to manipulation. There are those who use fear to prey on people and it is sometimes difficult to fully recognize our own response, culpability, or how it affects others. This morning we will reflect upon this dynamic and hopefully develop a healthier relationship with fear and a more nuanced understanding of its effect on us and those around us.”

The **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Split-the-Plate** recipient is **VOICE** or **Beacon Adult Literacy Program**

**October 16: *Listening the Circle Wide***

**(Rev. Kimberley Debus )** Worship Associate- Faye Sledge

Deep listening is a key to drawing the circle of love wide. How do we make space for the truths of another’s experience?

The **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Split-the-Plate** benefits

**BRUU’s Community Assistance Fund.**

**October 23: *Censorship, Freedom of Information and the Right of Choice***

**(Kristin Worthington–DRE )** Worship Associate– Pat Malarkey

Banning (and burning) books has occurred for centuries, however, the last two years have brought on a dramatic rise in challenges to books allowed in our libraries and schools. Why is this? What content is being objected to and why? What does this mean for our culture? We’ll explore all of this and how to support our librarians and teachers.

**October 30: *Censorship, Freedom of Information and the Right of Choice***

**(Rev. Kimberley Debus )** Worship Associate– Kathy Sobrio or Michelle Luman


: In Memory. (Rev. Kimberley Debus) – How do we create and honor a legacy? Why are we driven to leave a lasting impression, and why do we memorialize the memories and legacies of those who have been gone before? We will consider these questions and honor our own ancestors.

**UUSJ** is recipient for **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday** special collection, which is NOT a **Split-the-Plate Collection**.


# October Fellowship

Oct 1, Check out Bruu's Jubilee table POC Randy Earl  
trearl0607@gmail.com

~~5pm Octoberfest Fellowship Hall Potluck Dinner POC Christine~~



First Fridays Oct 7 Manassas opens up for walking the downtown.  
Meet up at Bruu for popcorn and bubbles POC Cathy Ring  
ringcw@gmail.com



Oct 7 Chrysalis Concert Series: Music Transforming Community  
7:30 pm Bruu Sanctuary Tret Fure Tickets  
<https://auctria.events/ChrysalisConcertSeriesAtBRUU>



Second Sunday Oct 9, Young Adult Lunch 11:30 Fellowship Hall POC  
Michelle Fegeas 540.219.9058

Oct 2 First Sunday Hike- This Month only! Neabsco Boardwalk Hike  
Oct 9 Second Sunday Hike Meet up to hike in local areas POC  
Charlie Grymes cgrymes@gmail.com

Drumming Circle October 16 11:30 Flamingo Lounge (room 107)  
A fun, no-obligation drumming circle. Don't have a drum? let me  
know in advance so I can bring one for you. POC Martin Crim  
martin.crim@gmail.com

**We could add the following if you'd step up to be the point of contact (POC)**  
BRUU BOO! We need someone to coordinate this year's Halloween

The logo features a stylized flame or 'S' shape in purple and orange, enclosed within a circular emblem composed of multiple overlapping curved lines in shades of purple, blue, green, and yellow.

**BULL RUN**  
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**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Greetings Fellow BRUUers,

I'm going to get right to the point today. No meandering about personal current events. However, I would like to share with you a personal experience that I had a few years back. So, bear with me, it will all make sense (I hope) about how this relates to BRUU as you progress through this article.

As some of you know, my husband, Bill, and I own a practice that offers several psychological services. Bill started this company many years ago, and when we married in 2004, he made me co-owner. Bill has been kind of like a one-man band. In addition to being a clinician, he was also the IT guy, the web designer, the billing person, and the designer of our clinical record. It was difficult for me to bring my expertise to the table because this was a private practice, and I was a manager in a county department. Big difference! He did, however, want me to be involved in decisions regarding the hiring of new staff, something with which I had a lot of experience.

There was a joint interview that we did of an applicant. She was a delightful person and an experienced clinician. She appeared to be a good fit for our practice. The interview seemed to go well. Our practice is a desirable place to work when compared to other practices. So, I was a bit shocked when she chose not to join the practice. Thinking back on the interview, I realized there were several times when Bill and I disagreed. For example, I said that our electronic record was quirky. Being that Bill designed it he disagreed. I said, yes honey, it is quirky. As we walked through the office, I bent down and turned off the noise machine (I find them really irritating and did not see why it was necessary to have in the waiting room), and Bill bent down and turned it back on, saying it was important to keep on. Even though the disagreements were rather lighthearted, and none became nasty, I think that the applicant must have concluded that this would be a really crazy place to work if the owners had so many disagreements.

It was a valuable lesson to learn, one that I think we at BRUU need to keep in mind when we have visitors at BRUU. First impressions are important, and it is imperative that we walk the talk and honor our covenant and behave in a harmonious way if we are going to widen our circle. Too many times I have seen people at BRUU complaining to others (sometimes to me) instead of dealing directly with the person to whom they have some issue. This is very divisive and destructive, and it is against our covenant. Dealing with conflict is not easy, but it is easier when we assume good intentions, accept that none of us are perfect and that communication is a very tricky business, and when we take responsibility for unintended consequences.

As Rev. Kimberley said in her sermon today, things can get very messy. It is just the nature of human relationships. I believe the thing that sets us apart from other organizations or groups and makes the BRUU community so special is our intent to honor our covenant and be in right relationship with one another. The Board has not finalized our goals for this year, but one of them needs to be the creation of a Right Relations Team. Rev. Charlotte and some members of our community have received training regarding Right Relations Teams from the UUA and when Rev. Charlotte returns, I think we will be in good shape to proceed. If you are not sure what is meant when we say “being in covenant” or “being in right relationship”, I don’t think you are alone. Part of creating a team will be to education all BRUU members about what this means. Rev. Kimberley addressed these phrases in her sermon today, but sometimes it takes a bit more work to fully absorb. So, more to come.

Warm Regards,

Rita Romano  
BRUU President

Warm Regards,  
Rita Romano  
BRUU President



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

## Come Sing a Song with Me!

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Rev. Kimberley Debus

I am so excited that we will be able to start singing together on October 2nd! To sing, you must wear a mask that fits securely against your face. We'll start with one song, and as long as the COVID numbers stay in the green zone, we can continue to sing and probably add more.

And that's a good thing – because singing is such an integral part of how we deepen our faith and engage our spirits in community, and I know we've all missed that experience. We learn our theologies through the songs we sing. We become more in sync with each other as we breathe together and find harmonies together.

And there's more.

It matters that we sing. Some cultures still do sing together all the time – perhaps most notably the Estonians, who boast just over a million people but also the largest collection of folk music and the largest choral festival in the world (with over 30,000 singers and over 100,000 attendees). Singing is grounded in their culture: they sing before they can talk, they sing in public places, they sing together – everywhere. Here in the US, we don't sing together much – as singer, songwriter, and educator Ysaye Barnwell says, we see music as an art form, not a tool for community building.

But at its best, that's what singing together is – a tool for building community. We used to sing together like the Estonians still do – at school, scouts, camp, union meetings, bars, and yes, church. We used to sing everywhere, with people we know and people we don't.

When we sing together, when we get close to one another to sing – in harmo-

nies intended and unintended – we start connecting. We vibrate sound and energy inside our bodies, but also those around us. We share our humanity with each other. And It's hard at first, because we're not used to being this kind of vulnerable. But soon we can get used to it, and as any choir member will tell you, it's easier to sing when you're singing with others.

It matters that we sing together.

And it matters what we sing together.

Barnwell talks about how important it was to sing together during the civil rights movement. She notes that not only do our songs speak of our issues and our intentions, singing together also bonds us – and protects us. And those who hear us singing are also changed. She notes in a TedX talk from 2015 that watching Selma reminded her of this power – that the cops waiting at the other side of the Edmund Pettus bridge didn't know how many people were crossing, because the sound of the singing reached them before the people did.

She also notes that we didn't sing during the Occupy movement. We don't sing at Black Lives Matter protests. We didn't sing at the Women's March; in fact, I remember some colleagues and I trying to get people to sing, but they didn't know the songs, they didn't know how to sing together.

I figured it was part and parcel of our commercialization of singing (and yes, I blame in part Mark Burnett and Simon Cowell for turning a love of singing into a competition). But also, technology, and cultural divides, and lately a virus that loves traveling on the breath, that have led us to push aside this part of our humanity. We are losing the tool that best carries our identities, our hopes and dreams, our fears and wounds, our culture, and our hearts: our voices, collected in song.

We have an incredibly powerful message that counteracts the hate we face every day. We must take advantage of every tool we have to be heard, and known, and seen. And if that means we start slowly, remembering what it is to sing our songs, together, in the sanctuary, imagine how strong we will feel again to raise our voices and claim the love and authority of our faith and draw that circle of love wide.

## *First Friday OCT 7*

Come schmooze with other BRUU'ers at the corner of Church and Main before the Tret Fure concert, or having more fun in downtown Manassas. Look for the bubbles!





## **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

## **Work Day coming next month!**

Mark you calendars for our first work day in a VERY long time!

On Saturday, October 8th we will have a workday.

This time we will use a signup link (coming soon) to sign up instead of a clipboard. Come from 9 am to 3 pm for as long as you're able. Pizza lunch provided. Children welcome with adult supervision. It's been so long there will be jobs for all skill sets from cleaning, to painting, to light repairs.

For more information contact Christine Sunda or Theo Abramovich.



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

**Hikes** are baaaack. We will explore Blooms Park in Manassas Park. **OCTOBER 9th** This used to be a golf course, but the territory has some surprisingly steep hills so we will wander slowly down to the railroad bridge over Bull Run.

Dogs on leash welcome. Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/3adrn9bp> Meet at 9701 Manassas Dr, Manassas Park, VA 20111



# BRUU AUCTION IS COMING SOON

**The BRUU Auction Team will hold a “Kick-Off” meeting this week.**

So many questions to answer, things to do and things and things to think about:

Who will be the Emcees?

Who will be offering dinners or activities or vacay lodgings?

What items will be available (jewelry, instruments, homemade jams)?

Please start thinking about how YOU will contribute to the success of the BRUU Auction. The Auction Planning Team will keep everyone informed by posting information on BRUUnet, Crossroads, and Round-Up.

Details for this fun and exciting event will be coming soon!

SEP 4 Lay-led service "What Do We Know for Certain about Life After Death?" - Kathy Sobrio



# Yard Sale Reflection

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Christine Sunda, Fundraising Co-chair

On Saturday, September, 10th BRUU had a well attended yard sale. This earned us a total of \$1,900. It was a lot of hard work and many people contributed.

I'd like to start my thanks with **Lois Montgomery**, who collected so many items that had been tossed out by a charity group. In addition, she also helped out all around. Dorothy Greenhouse was there every step of the planning and execution of the yard sale. Next there are all the people who helped sort and set everything up. I know I'll forget someone, but the list includes: **Regina Perry**, who came almost every day to work, **Rita Romano, John Sunda, Helen Elkins, Dorothy Greenhouse, Michelle Lumen, Malinda Abramovich, Amy Hamilton** and her mother **Marion, Dee Tamer, Ann Hempen, Tracy Ilaqua, and Sterling Rush. Jessie Thompson** was a huge help for me in pricing everything. Plus I can't forget all the people who carried the loads of items from the third floor to the Fellowship Hall.

On Saturday, the actual sale day, we had so many helpers, including many listed above as well as **Dorothy's** sister and her **husband**. On Sunday we needed to pack everything up and many of you helped us do that. The hero of the day was **Miles** and his trailer, that hauled away most everything left over from the sale. What a load of worry off my mind that was!

But this could not have happened without all who donated to the sale and all who bought items. And anyone my brain is forgetting to thank!

In addition to the money we earned for BRUU (it was a fundraiser), we also made a difference. For example, much of what Lois rescued was headed to the dump. In addition, someone told me there were college students buying jeans and some people were there who otherwise may not have afforded some of the items they were able to purchase. So I

feel that we lived up to our UU values. We reduced and reused and we helped others. Plus we made money for BRUU-yay!

As a point of interest, the biggest seller was the pots, pans, and bakeware. They all sold out! Jeans and coats sold well too, along with housewares, games and toys.

Again, on behalf of the Fundraising Committee, I want to thank everyone of you who made this happen! And I hope all of you had fun!

## BRUU Affordable Housing Study Group

Social Justice Committee has organized a study group to “get savvy” about the affordable housing challenge. Join us for one or more meetings of the BRUU Housing Study Group. Contact us at [housing@bruu.org](mailto:housing@bruu.org) for more details.

**Next meeting is 7:00pm October 17, via Zoom—[CLICK HERE](#)**

Meeting ID: 836 5572 1391

Passcode: 269485



**Drumming  
Circle**

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



**WORSHIP  
COMMITTEE**

**Come join us on the Worship Committee**

We organize Sunday Services, and have interesting discussions once a month as we consider how to change/retain what we are doing.

Interested? Become a member of the Worship Committee.

Next meeting is on **Zoom on October 13, 7:00-8:30pm**

contact us at [worship@bruu.org](mailto:worship@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!

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 [Worship@BRUU.org](mailto:Worship@BRUU.org) or stop and speak with one of the Ushers at the main doors to the Sanctuary.

## *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](mailto: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

# THE PUZZLER

## SEPTEMBER'S PUZZLER

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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: %*

### *The Answer*

Five children. I mean how can you have -- how can half -- how can you have five and then half, right? Does he have half a boy?

Well, he does. And it would be correct to say that ten percent of them are boys. Sixty percent of them are boys, and a hundred percent of them are boys.

Therefore...

They're all boys. Half of them are boys. Are they not?



## BRUU

9350 Main Street  
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703-361-6269

### **Minister**

Rev. Charlotte Lehmann  
minister@bruu.org

### **BRUU Board of Directors**

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vicepresident@bruu.org

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secretary@bruu.org

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treasurer@bruu.org

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Martin Crim

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dre@bruu.org

#### **Director of Music**

Annease Hastings  
music@bruu.org

#### **Office Assistant**

Tina Cox, office@bruu.org

# THE PUZZLER

## OCTOBER'S PUZZLER

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Here's a list of some car models from the past and present

AMC Eagle  
Ford Falcon  
Dodge Charger  
Ford Bronco  
Plymouth Colt

What is it that's unique to the names of these cars?

HINT

It's getting colder outside, it must be this season.



**GOOD LUCK!**

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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!