

Volume 35

Edition 6

June 2017



CROSSROADS



Bull Run Unitarian Universalists

In the Interim....

The Bigger Picture

As I sit in my hotel room in New Jersey, contemplating my colleague's ordination in just a few days, and my upcoming travel for ministry in the next couple of months, I'm reminded of how we all fit together in the bigger picture of Unitarian Universalism, and how Unitarian Universalism fits into the bigger picture of the world of people of faith. In just a couple of days, I'll be heading to my friend's ordination, riding along with one of the UUA Presidential candidates, and I'm reminded of how much change we're experiencing at the moment. We're facing so much opportunity.

In the midst of all the shake-ups at UUA headquarters, we have received news that our Moderator, Jim Key, has had to step down due to his diagnosis of cancer. We are heading into General Assembly, for the first time ever, without our two highest elected officers. Two other high-ranking staff members will be stepping down shortly after G.A. For some, this is an uncomfortable time. Others are looking forward to the possibilities of the future. Many others feel the burdens of uncertainty, but also the hope of the future. There is no right way to feel.

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In the Interim, continued from page 1

Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) will be offering training prior to G.A., and there will be a focus on anti-racism/white supremacy at this justice G.A. in New Orleans. And we'll be electing a new President (we won't elect a new Moderator this year – there is no time to organize this election).

Even if you aren't going to G.A. this year, you can watch many things on the live stream. Everyone will have a chance to join in the Sunday G.A. worship, as we will join in the same worship service with the live stream on Sunday morning. I encourage you to view as much of the events as you are able.

What we choose to do in New Orleans will determine many things for our future.

In shalom,

Rev. Madelyn



Liturgical Calendar June 2017

4 Pentecost (Christianity)

16 Guru Arjan martyrdom (Sikh)

21 Solstice/Litha (Wicca/Europagan)

First Nations Day (Canadian Native People)

22 Laylat al Kadr (Islam)

26 Eid al Fitr begins (Islam)

♪ Notes from Annease ♪

June 11 "Answering the Call of Hope" - music service

Do you hear the voices crying out - the voices of those marginalized and oppressed calling for hope? How do we answer that call? David Orr said "Hope is a verb with its sleeves rolled up." Let's join together to offer hope that transforms and creates justice.

Annease Hastings, Director of Music



BRUU Annual Picnic

June 10, 2017 starting at 3pm at Christine and John Sunda's house

15400 Compton Road, Centerville 20121 (703.631.3291)

Come for a cookout, music, pool, volleyball, and a bonfire after dark, complete with s'mores. Bring a dish to share, BYOB, swimsuit and towel for the pool, and chair. If you want to play music, bring your instrument and touch base with Dave Hamilton. Burgers (including veggie option) and hotdogs, condiments, water and soda will be provided

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: MAY 2017 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- BOARD BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION
 - *Governance & Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership* (2nd ed.) by Dan Hotchkiss
- **BEV REUSSER SELECTED AS AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF BRUU TO THE UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NEW ORLEANS, JUNE 21-25**
Off site participation info here <http://www.uua.org/ga/off-site>
- APPROVED GIFT ACCEPTANCE POLICY
- APPROVED MAKING KRISTIN WORTHINGTON, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (FORMERLY ACTING DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION)
- APPROVED CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN TO BE SUBMITTED FOR CONGREGATIONAL VOTE AT JUNE 4TH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
- DISCUSSION RE: ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING PLANNING
Info here: http://www.bruunet.org/forum/topics/annual-meeting-notice?xg_source=activity
- ENDORSED ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE DECISION TO ALLOW THE USE OF THE SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING GRANT FUNDS BEYOND JUNE 30, 2017, UNTIL EXPENDED
- DISCUSSION RE: PERSONNEL TASK FORCE REPORT
- ENDORSED LISTING BRUU IN THE AMAZON SMILES PROGRAM
- NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 13, 2017 (2ND Tuesday AT 7 PM)
Incoming Board will be invited to attend

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns – president@bruu.org // 703/894-8067 (cell)

Beth Roemmelt
President, BRUU Board of Director

From the DRE.....

Children in Worship? But our services hold content that is completely inappropriate for children. Maybe over 14, you say. They are probably mature enough to absorb the content.

To be completely honest, I don't know what content is in our services. My position requires me to leave service with the children and youth. So I can't speak to the content of our sermons.

I *can* speak to the issues that our children and youth are dealing with in their lives. It might come up in RE, it may come up in a social conversation, it definitely comes up in my own interactions as a parent; but this is what I know for a FACT children ages 5 – 18 are dealing with, thinking about, struggle with and would really appreciate hearing some illuminated speaking about. After reading the list, please let me know if they are on your list of things kids don't need to have their bubble burst with.

Immigration: Many of our families are blessed to live in multicultural areas, and our children in multicultural schools. My third grader's lunch table has had an ongoing conversation about how to protect "friend's" grandmother from being detected and taken away. I agree, this is a topic no 8 year old should *have* to deal with, but they do. The underlying sentiment is caring for those in their community, and they take it very seriously.

Violence: As confusing as this is for adults, you better believe our children and youth are witnessing it too. Are police good guys or bad guys? 22 Dead at a pop concert. Can we get gas on Route 234? Along with the fire drills, our elementary school practices active shooter drills. In each one of the classrooms, a student is assigned to break the window, in case they cannot exit through the hallways.

Sexual orientation/Gender identity? Children as young as preschool are defining their own gender. My sixth grader reports same –sex relationships at her middle school. Acceptance may be improving for adults, but children are constantly being told how they "should" be. Being different puts a target on your head for bullies.

Peer Relationships: Growing up is an incredibly difficult thing to do. Our children and youth are still trying to figure out the rules. That results in what that applied last week does not necessarily function this week. Our young people are also deeply concerned about their friend's emotional and physical health. Secrets among friends often have to do with another threatening suicide, violence, or other self- destructive behavior. Even if the "problem" is not their own, the "burden" of caring for a friend without any apparent resources is a big heavy deal to a young person.

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From the DRE, continued from page 5

There are more, I promise.

In a recent blog on the Huffington Post, Rabbi Menachem Creditor, responding to complaints about children being in the synagogue wrote "Our sanctuaries are not sanctuaries from children. They are sanctuaries for children."

Children need adults in their lives who are not their parents. They need other places to be to learn, to feel free to be themselves, to feel safe.

In an ideal situation, no parent has all the answers or the magic pill that makes it all better. In less desirable situations, the home life could be the struggle.

You model what we, as adults gathering in a place with a commonly agreed upon standard for being human. You – the big people – can show our young people how to treat other people. You can share a space to talk about it.

You, of course deserve a quiet place for contemplation. And our children do too.

Blessed be,

Kristin Worthington,

Director of Religious Education



Annual Meeting, June 4 11:15 AM

Please come on time to be counted so that a quorum of 30% of the membership can be established. Agenda includes election of officers, proposed budget, proposed capital plan and bylaws amendment. Please print documents or pick-up at Church Office. Documents available through BRUUnet and Round-Up.

June 2017

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|----|--------------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Transition Team, 6 P | | |
| 4 | Social Justice, 9 A | | |
| | Fellowship Com, 11:15 A | 14 | LGBTQ Meeting, 6 P |
| | Annual Meeting, 11:00 A | 16 | USDA Food Pantry, 9:30 A |
| 6 | UupBeats, 12:45 P | 18 | Program Council, 11:15 A |
| 7 | LGBTQ Meeting, 6 P | 20 | UupBeats, 12:45 P |
| 10 | BRUU Picnic, 2 P | 21 | LGBTQ Meeting, 6 P |
| 11 | Membership Comm, 11 A | 24 | LGBTQ Prom, 6 P |
| | Pine Ridge, 11:15 A | 25 | Soup for Serve, 11 A |
| | Finance Committee, 11:15 | | Citizens Climate Lobby, 2 P |
| | BRIC, 11:30 A | 27 | Food Pantry, 9:30 A |
| | Pastoral Care Team, 7 P | | Worship Committee, 7:30 P |
| 12 | SASS, 1:30 P | 28 | LGBTQ Meeting, 6 P |
| 13 | Food Pantry, 9:30 A | | |
| | Primary Watch Party, 6 P | | |
| | Board Meeting, 6:30 P | | |

June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

View from My Corner of the World: Gratitude

I've had gratitude on my mind. Perhaps it's because last week I received a letter from a student that I taught 30 years ago, thanking me for my influence on his career and his life. I was deeply touched and humbled. Perhaps it's because I've been reading about cancer patients who began gratitude journals the day of diagnosis. I marvel at their grace under pressure and wonder what my reaction to such news might be. Why I'm thinking about gratitude is probably less important than what has happened in just the short time that gratitude has been on my mind.

I've always been pretty good about saying thank you and writing thank you notes but since I started thinking about gratitude, I've made a conscious effort to sincerely thank everyone who helps me in large ways or small throughout the day. From the guard at the security desk who buzzed me through the door to the man juggling multiple packages holding the elevator for me. You get the picture. As a result, there has been more smiling (from me and the recipient), more conversation and slightly less fatigue throughout the day. I realize correlation is not causation but it does seem to be having a positive effect on me and others.

William James said that the "deepest principle of human nature is the need to be appreciated." My challenge to you is to make your appreciation known to those around you. Let me know how it goes. I believe that kindness begets kindness and I'm finding that expressing gratitude seems to have additive effect too.

Thank you for all you do for BRUU. Stay safe and continue to take good care. Questions and/or concerns should be sent to president@bruu.org

Beth Roemmelt
President, BRUU Board of Directors

Upcoming Denominational UU Events

(more detail for all provided in Round-Up)

June 10 10 AM -3 PM	River Road – Board Basics Workshop
June 13 7:30 – 9 PM	General Assembly Orientation Webinar
June 21-25	General Assembly, New Orleans
July 9-15	UUMAC Retreat, DeSales University, PA
July 26-30	Thrive East 2017 Annapolis Leadership School for Youth and Young Adults of Color

This month's Crossroads is short on content, so your newsletter editors are taking the liberty to share a few photos from our recent holiday in Greece. Perhaps these scenes from booming cultural and political centers of long ago will also help you to keep such seemingly important issues as lost wallets, ferry boatmen strikes, broken appliances, days of rain, political maelstrom, and personal gaffes, in better perspective.



Submissions to Newsletter (Photos, articles, upcoming events, etc)

- ✓ Send to newsletter@bruu.org
- ✓ Due by 25th of month
- ✓ Articles of 300 words or less
- ✓ No children's last names since newsletter is publicly accessible

- ✓ BRUU announcements only
- ✓ Subject to editorial review