



BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

February 2022
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Crossroads

The monthly BRUU Newsletter



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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@brru.org

A CALENDAR NEW YEAR: WHAT LIES AHEAD?

Minister's note: this column was supposed to run in the January 2022 Crossroads, but I sent the wrong attachment. (So, if you've been wondering about all the things that I do each month, be sure to read that issue of the newsletter!) I've decided to edit slightly what I had intended to submit for January. In Ireland, St. Brigid's Day or Imbolc, marks the beginning of Spring, which we might consider the start of a new year. We have re-started in-person worship attendance and are embarking on whatever this "new normal" will become.

A new [calendar] year has begun, what will it bring us?

Forecasting the future really isn't a gift that I have, but I have – at least in the past – been good at planning ahead.

This new year – 2022 – has a number of plans in the works for me personally and professionally. Some of the professional conferences I'm planning to attend were postponed for six months or a year; one of them I had paid for in advance back when we still thought we could conquer the pandemic in relatively short order. They are being held in places I have never visited and want very much to see; so I will be attending in-person.

And, like our beloved BRUU community, these gatherings will be multi-platform with both in-person and on-line engagement. How that will work remains to be seen because it hasn't been done this way before. Despite all of our experience over the past two years, it is still new territory.

Now that the winter holidays are behind us, we have a number of items to attend to here at BRUU that are related to planning ahead. We need to not only re-fill various volunteer positions and build back (build back better?) the various committees and teams (worship, pastoral care, social justice, fellowship, buildings & grounds, and more), but we also need to identify individuals who would be excellent in leadership roles. Of course, we'll need to fill the usual Board and other term-limited positions, including needing three new members for the Committee on Shared Ministry (two 3-year terms, and one person to fill the remaining 2 years of Tom Cooke's spot).

Another matter that the Board has been considering this fall is the form and function of a Right Relations Team. In order for our congregational covenant to be a living and breathing aspect of who we are in community, we have to use it to call each other back in when the impact of our words or actions are perceived as hurtful by another in our community. A Right Relations Team (RRT) takes a role in conflict management or conflict resolution when the parties involved are unable on their own to come to understanding and a path forward – we expect others to call us back in if we have crossed a line; we expect ourselves to take ownership of and responsibility for errors in behavior. *Sandra Fox, the winning bidder, asked for this to be the topic of the “auction sermon.” I preached this on the Sunday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day weekend; you can find the recording in the sermon archive of our website.* We’ll be looking for a group of people to serve on our RRT. And there will be a training opportunity starting this month and continuing into the spring through the UUA’s Leadership Institute. Please let me know if this is something you would like to be involved in.

In addition, we’ll be identifying several well-differentiated individuals to serve on a Sabbatical Team alongside the person we contract with for the sabbatical ministry period. This effort is in process. The Sabbatical Team starts before the sabbatical period and functions in large part in making sure that communication is clear between congregation as a whole, program areas, and minister. I will be coordinating with the chosen sabbatical minister during the spring months, and we’ll debrief when I get back, but this person will also hold the boundary so that I am truly away for this period of rest and rejuvenation.

Speaking of planning, I’m still finding it hard to be definite about how I will spend my time and what I will be doing (or not doing) during my sabbatical. Many of my ideas involve travel overseas, and I’m not comfortable yet with committing myself financially to these pilgrimages given the current state of our pandemic-endemic world.

My current plan is to be open and flexible. Flexible and open this winter and spring here in my ministry to and for BRUU. Flexible and open regarding my plans for the second half of 2022. Regardless, I am committed to always striving to do my best in living my faith whether the guidelines are smooth stones or jagged rocks.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Charlotte



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FEBRUARY SERMON DESCRIPTIONS

February 6: *Brigid's Well (Imbolc)*

(Rev. Amy Beltaine)

February 2nd is celebrated as Candlemas and Dia de la Candelaria, starting on the Eve of the 2nd; it is celebrated as St. Brigid's Day, and Imbolc, and for the non-religious there is Groundhog Day!

Wells are particularly sacred to Brigid, a goddess of transformations, and wells and springs are lifegiving places. How do we fill our buckets from the well? And how do we fill others buckets?

(Find out more about Rev. Amy on the next page)

February 13: *Teachings of the Tipi Poles: Cleanliness*

(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)

Mary Lee, a Cree Elder enumerates the teachings of the 15 poles used to construct a Cree tipi. According to the Cree, the eighth pole teaching is about more than hygiene, it is about "spiritual cleanliness."

This month, the **2nd Sunday Split-the-Plate** donation will be collected for the **Trillium Drop-In Center**

February 20: *Teachings of the Tipi Poles: Thankfulness*

(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)

Mary Lee, a Cree Elder enumerates the teachings of the 15 poles used to construct a Cree tipi. According to the Cree, the ninth pole symbolizes Thankfulness. Expressing gratitude for all that is available to us is a valuable daily practice.

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

February 27: Youth Group Service

(Kristin Worthington DRS)



Reverend Amy Beltaine Guest Minister February 6

Reverend Amy Beltaine provides a UU ministry of spiritual mentoring through individual and group appointments, Sunday services, rites, and rituals. Helping friends and family of the oppressed to break open instead of being broken by the pain in the world. When (spouse) Hawthorne and Amy are not pulling their little home behind them, they are at home in Portugal or in Portland, Oregon. A graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School (MLTS), Amy is on the coordinating committee of the UU Spiritual Directors' Network and chair of the Spiritual Direction program at Cherry Hill Seminary. Amy is a nearly life-long earth-honoring Process Pan-en-theist... and... aspires to become a Love-Ninja.
Connect with Amy @ <http://amybeltaine.info>

Earth-Relating/Deities-Honoring Dialog:

Anyone who is curious about earth-relating or deities-honoring spirituality, or about the Covenant of UU Pagans...

...is invited to meet with Rev Amy in the designated coffee hour breakout room on ZOOM after the service

(approx. 11 am to 12 pm)

Reverend Amy is offering a spiritual "type" assessment.

Go to her website at:

<http://amybeltaine.info>

...to take the quiz and to explore
your spiritual direction.



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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings Members and Friends!

It was so wonderful to be back in the sanctuary on January 23rd. I found that being there allowed me to be more fully present in the service. At home in front of the computer I have too many other distractions and the temptation to multi-task is hard to resist. I thought the service was well thought out and executed. The smudging ceremony was a great way to cleanse the sanctuary and ourselves and it was fun to boot! I kept waiting for the fire alarm to go off, but it didn't! Come to find out, we don't have any fire alarms in the sanctuary! (Need to make a mental note to remedy this.) Rev. Charlotte's sermon was beautiful, but well measured to the occasion. We all understood that not everyone is comfortable returning to the sanctuary and that we still have the highly contagious Omicron variant among us. Fortunately, the number of new daily cases is going down as quickly as it increased, reaching its peak on January 14. But this clearly is no indication we will be done with Covid. It is looking like it will be with us in one form or another from here on out. But, for those of us in the sanctuary, it was hard to curb our enthusiasm for being together with our beloved community in the flesh!

I have not identified by name the team that is advising the board on re-opening the sanctuary. They are, Dianne Lane (our current Vice President), Martin Crim (our past President), Sophie Kadlubowski (current Board member), and Charlie Grimes (past member of initial Re-opening Task Force). As you know, we are continuing to open in stages. We hope to resume coffee and snacks in late February. Inviting the broader community will most likely not happen until the beginning of April. Masks and social distancing and other safety measures will need to still be in place.

I want to let everyone know that we will be holding a special Congregational Meeting on February 13. We need the congregation's approval to spend \$14, 245.56 for the new HVAC system for the third floor. It died on us last summer, greatly inconveniencing our renters and making their spaces unbearable in which to operate. We have received estimates from 3 different companies and have chosen Woody's Sudden Service to do the work. The Board relied heavily upon John Sunda who interacted with the various companies and offered us his technical advice and recommendations. Thanks again John!

Please make arrangements to attend the special Congregational meeting following the service on February 13. If you cannot attend, please make sure you give your proxy to vote to another member who will be present in person or via zoom. Notification should be sent via email to secretary@bruu.org. It is imperative that we have a quorum on February 13 to take care of this desperately needed HVAC system. Installation is scheduled to commence on February 15th. There is a lot going on in our congregation. Board members will make themselves available following this meeting to answer any questions members might have.

Something else the congregation needs to be aware of is that Rev. Charlotte will be taking a sabbatical from July 1- October 31 of this year. The Board has approved a MOA with Rev. Kimberly Debus to provide half-time sabbatical ministry during this time. Rev. Kimberly has much experience in sabbatical ministry, (it is her thing!), so it will be a pleasure to have her with us during this time. We will be developing a sabbatical team to help educate and prepare the congregation, and, also to help Rev. Kimberly understand and traverse our mysterious ways. We will be developing a brochure that will be chocked full of information. So, stay tuned.

Colin Credle has resigned from the secretary position on the Board effective January 27. Michelle Luman has agreed to finish out his term which ends in 6 months. So, many thanks go out to Colin for the service he has provided for this past 1 ½ year and thanks also to Michelle for being so willing to step forward. You may remember that Michelle was our past secretary, so she will be able to hit the ground running!

Thanks also needs to go out to Charlie Grimes. Charlie was instrumental in getting the Board minutes up on BRUUnet. Many months if not years had gone by without this being done. So, for some riveting reading, check them out!



BRUU AS A COMMUNITY:

SURVIVING, RECOVERING AND THRIVING

Reflections from COSM on this year's theme

Martha Muirhead, Tony Main, Betsi McGrath, Wade Stephenson, Tom Cooke, Helena Tavares Kennedy

BRUU as a community, and each of us as individuals, have made it through almost two years of enforced physical distance, fear of the unknown, illness and loss. We see flexibility, creativity and commitment to our community and our principles. We celebrated a partial return to the sanctuary while continuing hybrid services via Zoom and Facebook. To the surprise of some, we met our financial obligations. The building stayed open continuously for 12-step programs, and our food pantries and community assistance programs expanded to meet increasing community needs. Thanks to everyone for your individual and combined efforts to help BRUU Survive, Recover, and Thrive through the Pandemic.

COSM is meeting with groups across BRUU to listen to your thoughts and feelings about how BRUU is doing. So far, we've gathered comments from participants at the Adult Retreat, on the Finance Committee and on the Board. We find heartening resilience in BRUU as a congregation. Following are representative comments across all groups surveyed:

1. *How have we survived?*

- Rapid pivot to zoom thanks to the flexibility of the staff and the hard work of the A/V team.
- Successful pledge drive, auction, PPP loan (and forgiveness) and management of costs kept us on firm footing financially. "This is a testament to the strength of connection our congregants feel and points to the pride we all hold in the specialness of BRUU."
- RE will go far in helping BRUU to survive.
- Food Pantry "boomed."

2. *How are we recovering?*

- Firm commitment to hybrid services! No half measures!
- Strengthening bonds and connections through more opportunities for fellowship. Small groups reactivated.
- A/V project will help us recover and move beyond where we were before.

3. *How can we thrive?*

- Engaged membership in RE, social outreach, interest groups.
- Quality hybrid services can bring in new members.
- Re-engaging our vision. Staying true to our principles and beliefs and holding to our covenant.
- Celebrate! Plan multi-generational outdoor service.

Soon we'll be meeting with SASS, the Saturday men's group, RE parents/families, Sr. Yuuth, Choir and others who opt to attend listening sessions with COSM. What are your thoughts about how BRUU is doing? COSM @ BRUU.org



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

Our next hike will be on February 13, when Larry Underwood will lead us in exploring trails at Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge, on the Potomac River in Woodbridge, from 1:00-3:00pm.

We start at the parking lot at the end of Dawson's Beach Road ([Occoquan tear sheet 2020 Final.pdf \(fws.gov\)](#)).

To register for the hike, so we can contact you if we need to cancel due to bad weather, or for further details, please register at [Second Sunday Hike - February 13 at Occoquan Bay NWR - Google Forms](#).

Seasoned Souls in February

The next meeting will be on March 2nd at 12 Noon. We use the same ZOOM login as Sunday worship services and other open BRUU meetings.

The meetings will continue on the 1st Wednesday of April (4/6), May (5/4) and June (6/1). Unless someone wishes to lead these sessions after June, Seasoned Souls will end.

THE PUZZLER

JANUARY'S PUZZLER

1. Logic Puzzle: There are two ducks in front of a duck, two ducks behind a duck and a duck in the middle. How many ducks are there?

Answer: Three. Two ducks are in front of the last duck; the first duck has two ducks behind; one duck is between the other two.

2. Logic Puzzle: Five people were eating apples, A finished before B, but behind C. D finished before E, but behind B. What was the finishing order?

Answer: CABDE. Putting the first three in order, A finished in front of B but behind C, so CAB. Then, we know D finished before B, so CABD. We know E finished after D, so CABDE.

3. Logic Puzzle: Jack is looking at Anne. Anne is looking at George. Jack is married, George is not, and we don't know if Anne is married. Is a married person looking at an unmarried person?

Answer: Yes. If Anne is married, then she is married and looking at George, who is unmarried. If Anne is unmarried, then Jack, who is married, is looking at her. Either way, the statement is correct.

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2021-2023

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THE PUZZLER

FEBRUARY'S PUZZLER

From the Sports world....



Your newsletter editor
is also the....

PA Announcer for the
Washington Nationals



With baseball right around the corner...hopefully...

Here's a baseball question:

**There are five ways a player can reach first
base without hitting the ball.**

Name them.

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!