



**BULL RUN**  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

June 2024  
Volume 42, Issue 6

# Crossroads



*June 2 is our Annual Congregational Meeting!*

*More information on page 8.*

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The monthly BRUU Newsletter



# June Sermon Descriptions

**June 2 – Flower Communion (Worship Committee)** – *“Give and Take”* Our annual Flower Communion is a multigenerational annual ritual of our faith that celebrates our community. Please bring a flower to share, one for each member of your family. Those joining us virtually can share a picture of a flower.

*The congregation’s Annual Meeting takes place immediately following the service. All members are encouraged to attend either on-line or in-person.*

**June 9 – June Music Service (David Maley, Music Director)** - The June 9th music service, titled, “The Forms of Love,” will be a service of songs related to the greek words for love: agape (universal love), philuatiia (love of self), philia (friendship), eros (passion/romance), pragma (committed love), and storge (love of family). Where are the different forms of love present in our community?

*The 2nd Sunday Share-the-Plate is for the Prince William County Chapter of PFLAG.*

**June 16 - Huzzah! It's the Summer Solstice! (Annaliess Trommatter / CUUPS)** - Summer Solstice service by CUUPS.

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



# June Sermons, Continued

**June 23 - Weaving our Lives (Rev. Molly Housh Gordon)** - We are all tangled up together in a great web of life that is woven with beauty and hardship, love and loss, thriving and struggle. How do we tend well to the weaving so that all of us are held in care? [Provided by UUA General Assembly]

**June 30 - 5th Sunday Service Project (MG) (Kristin Worthington, DLRE)**  
– Join us in Service supporting the important works of Casa BruMar Foundation, a non-profit that bridges the gap that leaves the LGBTQ+ community behind when it comes to education, social services, and human dignity. All activities will occur on site, with an optional tour of Casa BruMar’s new office following our worship time.

# From the President's Desk

*Angie Carrera, President, Board of Directors*

Dear Congregants,

Over the past several months, I have reached out to a good number of congregants to get a sense of our organizational health at a deeper level. Some have been very engaged in BRUU and others are folks who have dropped off the radar for one reason or another. What I've been hearing is that, unless they've been impacted by life's most severe challenges, most want to be here, want to be engaged and empowered to help this congregation grow and thrive. Some of these conversations have been eye opening and made me aware of some gaps in how we communicate roles and processes, but most of all gave me hope for better days ahead.

There is no denying that this past month was certainly full of challenges and changes. The board and the congregation was faced with a budget shortfall, the minister's resignation, and sudden demand on several committees impacted by that resignation. And all this was amid preparation for BRUU's annual congregational meeting that asks our members to vote on what matters most to us.

The May Town Hall proved to be fertile ground for candid discussion and ideas for tackling some of the hard issues before us. Several members, who've already lived through similar times, are bringing their wisdom and solution options to the table. Newer members are bringing their knowledge and expertise with ideas for solutions and growth. We plan on keeping these conversations going, listen and act on as many as are feasible, and keep moving forward.

It's most important for all of us to remember that because we are all beneficiaries of what BRUU has to offer, we rely on an interdependent and democratic system of working collaboratively with each other and staff. We're surrounded by intelligent, interested, and interesting people, caring people who are here to learn, and make change in the world. Every success depends on the

# From the President's Desk, Continued

diligence, talents, and integrity of each of these individuals.

Upon membership, you agreed to share your time, talent, and treasure to the care of our people, our programs, and our building. By doing this, we become the beloved community that is BRUU, a safe community for seeking and service. On June 2nd, I am looking forward to scanning the sanctuary to see our members ready to give voice to issues that matters most and to what we hope to accomplish this coming year.

As always, you are encouraged to text or email me any questions at [President@BRUU.org](mailto:President@BRUU.org) and I will respond as soon as possible.

Together for BRUU

Angie Carrera, BRUU Board President

# Board Matters

**May 2024 Board Meeting**—*This rescheduled meeting was held on May 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the BRUU Conference Room and is available on Zoom, except for a Closed Executive Session.*

At this meeting, the Board approved the Consent Agenda (with an addition item related to the Ministerial Assessment) and reports from the President, Program Council Chair, Treasurer, Minister, and Membership Chair. The general meeting held discussion on these agenda items.

- Budget revisions for FY25 – The Board reviewed the budget based on pledges of \$310k received by that point. Because we anticipated more pledges, we agreed that a BRUU Blast would be sent out asking congregants who'd withheld pledges or who'd not pledged this year to reconsider. With a deadline of May 25 and additional pledge amounts, the Board could revise the Budget one final time. In the meantime, the Board would make additional revisions to honor the priorities by the members for ensuring support for staff, programs, and the building.
- Program Council and Annual Reports - Reports were coming in and the Secretary will compile them for distribution.
- Annual Congregational Meeting - Board (Action Required). Discussion about two proposals that will be submitted, BRUU delegates to General Assembly and changes to Article II (UU by-laws). This year, the GA will be virtual and registering for the business portion only requires a donation. BRUU offers a stipend to delegates to help with expenses.
- Committee on Shared Ministry (CoSM) appointments – CoSM's charter/purpose needs to be clarified. Rita Romano will research what other area congregations are doing.
- Board Retreat – Angie discussed plans for a Board Retreat on Saturday, July 13 as well as a dinner on Friday July 12 to help members get to know each other in

# Board Matters, Continued

preparation for the next day. Theme will be “Making Connections!” as we move forward into the new fiscal year.

- Organizational Team during Interim – Angie agreed that head of staff responsibilities would be hers until such time as Worship Committee Chair or member could routinely attend meetings. Formation of a Hiring Team will begin so that the Sexton position can be posted soon after July 1. The Hiring team arranges for the posting, does initial sorting through LinkedIn applications, etc. and sets up interviews but the board has the final say.
- New Business: Board thanked the President with a gift card! This was very appreciated!
- Closed Session: Review of Town Hall – A discussion about the results of the Q&A and Angie’s plans for a Minister’s Departure Toolkit so the board and congregation can be better prepared for these events.

*After approval by the Board, the full minutes of each meeting are available in the BRUUnet KnowledgeBase. Anyone interested in further information about the meeting may contact the President at [President@BRUU.org](mailto:President@BRUU.org).*



# Annual Meeting

## **BRUU Annual Congregational Meeting**

**Sunday, June 2, 11:30am**

BRUU's annual meeting will take place on June 2, 2024, at 11:30 am in the Sanctuary. In order to conduct business, it is necessary to obtain a quorum (defined in the Bylaws as 30%) of voting members at this meeting. Members not attending in person may provide a completed and signed proxy in lieu of attendance. Please be prompt so a quorum can be counted and established. Child care will be provided. Attendees are asked to print their own materials; a link to the documents will be provided on the BRUUnet home page. Copies are also available at the BRUU office. Annual Reports are not included in these materials, but will be communicated separately and will be available in advance of the Annual Meeting. Members are requested to share this notice with family members who are also BRUU members.





# Events At & Around BRUU

**It's Time Again for the BRUU Annual Picnic!**

**June 15th, 3:00pm**



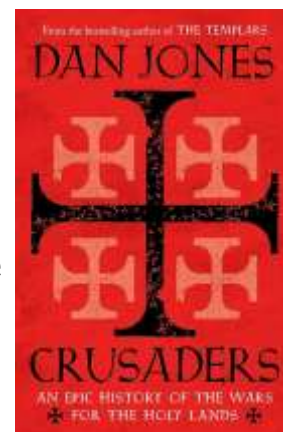
The annual picnic will be held again at the Sunda's on Saturday, June 15th starting at 3pm. Come enjoy music, camaraderie, a picnic, volleyball, pool, and a bonfire after dark. BRUU will provide non alcoholic beverages (byob), burgers, dogs, vegan options, and condiments. Please bring a dish to share. Rain date is Sunday, June 16th. Please RSVP so we know how much food to buy:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CABA923A7F4C07-49903697-bruu>

## **Join the BRUU Book Group!**

Our next book club meeting will be on June 24th at 3:30. We will be discussing "Crusaders" by Dan Jones.

New members welcome, including people who are not members of BRUU. To get the Zoom invitation, contact us at [bookgroup@bruu.org](mailto:bookgroup@bruu.org).



# Eco Justice Week



\*Monday, July 29- Friday, August 2 \*9:00 am–3:00 pm \*Ages 6-10

\$185/child; \$150 each additional child \*Scholarships available

For More info contact [dre@bruu.org](mailto:dre@bruu.org)

Register online



- \*Home Made Paper \*Sun Prints \*Group Sculpture \*Recycled Art
- \*Found object Wind Chime \*Collaborative games \*Free play Bee Hotels
- Bug Homes \* Solar Distillation \* Worm Composter \* Plant Based Plastics
- \* Water Health \* Solar Ovens \* Environmental Heroes



BULL RUN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

9350 MAIN STREET MANASSAS, VA

OPEN TO ALL

# *Hike Leesylvania State Park & Neabsco Regional*

*Charlie Grymes*



Our planned expedition in May was postponed to June 15 due to rain. Starting near Rippon Lodge, we will cross the spectacular Neabsco Creek Boardwalk and continue through the Julie Metz Wetlands before entering Leesylvania State Park. Reaching Powell's Creek, we will look out over the future site of the future Powell's Creek Boardwalk that will soon provide another critical link of the rapidly expanding Potomac Heritage Trail. Highlights include hardwood forests, open marshes, bald eagle populations, and distant views of the Potomac River. This hike is led by the Great Falls Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Hiking distance: 7 miles over flat to rolling terrain. Capacity limited to 25 people – register at <https://www.meetup.com/sierrapotomac/events/301087936/>

## **Fair Trade Organic Coffee, Tea and Chocolate**

The Social Justice Green Team sells Equal Exchange (fair trade & organic) products during the coffee hour after the church service. Proceeds from our sales will benefit not only the small farm coops and families around the world, but also help negate BRUU's carbon footprint impact through the TerraPass program. Look for the rolling cabinet and the smiling team member who will be delighted to help you with your selection. For information on volunteering or to place a special order let Susie Eastridge know via her email: [susanneastridge@gmail.com](mailto:susanneastridge@gmail.com)

# *Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SUUSI)*

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SUUSI returns to Radford University on July 21-27, 2024! SUUSI is "church camp" for families, UU-style. Lot of music, outdoor activities, conversations, and opportunities for personal growth as well as fun.

Join about 500 other UU's for a incredibly rewarding week of making new friends, building connections, learning, discovering new perspective at various workshops and worship services, and exploring the outdoors in a wide variety of nature trips.

The Youth program is powerful. SUUSI is a memorable intergenerational fun time together. It's that rare family time that families remember forever, with joy. Oh, and the music! SUUSI is 24-7 with acoustic roots music and song. There are experienced touring artists, emerging wannabes, and lots of "I play for fun, You're a pro, I'm not – let's play together anyway" musicians.

You want to party with barbecue at 2:00am? Want to play games and do puzzles quietly over coffee? Hey, come to SUUSI. We celebrate diversity.

BRUU alumni include the Muirs, Mike Freeland, Cathy Ring, and many others. Ask 'em why SUUSI is such a special place...

## *CER Summer Institute (CERSI)*



Have you thought about attending CERSI (Central East Region Summer Institute) July 7-13? Registration is open!

The 2024 theme speaker is Rev. Julian Soto, a UU minister and activist, presenting "Unlikely Superheroes: Skills for Practicing Faith and Ethics in Tough Times." Rev. Soto brings a remarkably loving presence and a depth of spiritual leadership. Prior to being a minister, they were also a teacher and a lawyer. Each of these has been a way for them to engage with people, with transformation, and with the goal of making the world a better place. UUMAC, the UU Mid-Atlantic Community will once again be joining CERSI at PennWest for the annual gathering.

Join us for a time of community, fellowship, networking, fun, music and so much more. There is programming for children, youth, young adults and adults - you will need to choose what you want to do (or not) each day! Learn more about this year's adult morning seminars and afternoon workshops at the CERSI website. You can still apply for a job at CERSI to underwrite part of the cost of attending and be part of the team that makes the magic happen. Scholarship applications are open with a deadline of May 31. Do note that registration rates go up June 1, so you want to register soon! Register here: <https://www.cersiuu.org/register/>

This once-a-year gathering of like-minded individuals can be life changing. CERSI has been described as an all-inclusive vacation for the family where children can grow, and everyone can be nurtured. Please join us.

## See Something?

### Report It!

Notice anything in or around the BRUU building that needs maintenance or repair?

Please report it by using this link:

[www.bruu.org/www2/building-repair-request-form](http://www.bruu.org/www2/building-repair-request-form)

This will provide a quick opportunity for you to contact the Building & Grounds folks and alert them to the situation that needs attention.

It takes a village (aka congregation)!



## 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.

## BRUU

9350 Main Street  
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### BRUU Board of Directors

#### *President*

Angie Carrera-Earl  
president@bruu.org

#### *Vice President*

Dianne Lane  
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#### *Secretary*

Chris Sexton  
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#### *Treasurer*

Terrie McClure  
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#### *Directors at Large*

Jessica Hruska  
Sophia Kadlubowski  
Chris McClure  
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#### *Youth Director*

Maia Malos  
director@bruu.org

#### *Immediate Past President*

Rita Romano

#### *Program Council*

Art Muirhead  
programcouncil@bruu.org

#### *Director of Lifespan Religious Education*

Kristin Worthington  
dre@bruu.org

#### *Director of Music*

David Maley  
music@bruu.org

#### *Office Administrator*

Taylor Johnson  
office@bruu.org

### BRUU OFFICE HOURS

M-F 10:00 am – 2:00 pm