

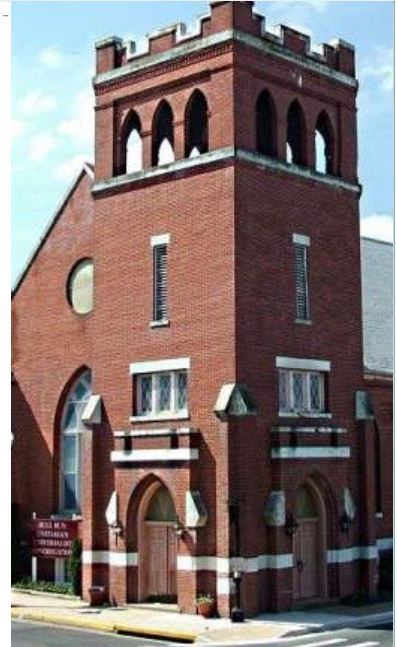


BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

May 2022
Volume 40, Issue 5

Crossroads

The monthly BRUU Newsletter



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Words from Rev Charlotte2
- May Sermon Descriptions4
- COVID Policy Update.....5
- President's Report6

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN THIS ISSUE

- Green Team Hike.....9
- Puzzler.....23

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BUILDING BRIDGES WITH OUR NEIGHBORING FAITHS

Unitarian Universalism (and our U & U forerunners) have a long tradition of drawing upon the wisdom of the worlds religious and philosophical systems for inspiration. This religious pluralism is incorporated into the third and fourth of the enumerated six sources, which are part of the UUA's Article II and are currently under consideration for revision and-or updating. Following the listing of the six sources, there is this sentence: "Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision." Typically, our children and youth are exposed to these sources of wisdom. I remember, in a general way, being taught in RE (during my grade school years) about other religions and their rituals. In fact, there has been a very particular curriculum, which my older siblings were taught, that is centered on experiential learning by visiting a variety of faith communities. The title of the curriculum has evolved over the many decades since it was introduced, from "The Church Across the Street" to "Neighboring Faiths" to "Building Bridges."

During the month of April, I've had a few opportunities to engage in experiences of a few of our neighboring faiths.

I attended an interfaith iftar event at the Masroor mosque where I learned about the justice implications of the daily fasting that our Muslim neighbors do during the holy month of Ramadan. By fasting each day from sun-up to sun-down, Muslims get a personal sense of what it is like for people who don't have enough to eat or access to unlimited resources.

Unlike an event Lisa and I had attended there in 2019 (the building dedication) and the Muslim women's events that I have attended in the past, I noted that this event was led by and attended almost exclusively by the Muslim men (with the women out of sight in the background providing support). Only a handful of women from other faith traditions were there as guests, including myself. If you can, either before the end of Ramadan this year, or sometime during this holy month next year, do go to an iftar dinner and learn about this particular aspect of Islam.

The following week, Lisa and I attended the pesach seder that Nina Lomax organized at BRUU for the second night of Passover. This was the first seder held at BRUU since before I came to Manassas. It was a good turn out and a nice mix of people familiar with Passover traditions and those who were not; it was also a nice mix of familiar BRUU members/friends and those whose relationship with the congregation is newer. It was, for me, a bit of a trip down memory lane since in my early years, my family would be invited to our neighbor's home for the seder, and I have attended seders throughout the years, including one during the pandemic that was held virtually.

I am a member of a Prince William County interfaith clergy group that meets for lunch – ideally once a month, which we also did virtually during the pandemic – and we were able to meet in-person for a restaurant lunch early in April. Two weeks later some of us gathered again for a group tour of the newly renovated Washington D.C. Temple in Kensington, Maryland, the soaring presence of which you can see from the I-495 beltway.

This is the first time since the original dedication of the Temple in 1974 that the public is able to see the interior spaces; it is a very special time-limited opportunity that likely won't happen again in our lifetimes. I urge everyone to get free tickets and go!

Check out the details here: <https://dctemple.org/open-house/>

Having gone to the “mother church” of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) in Salt Lake City in 2009 and taken a guided tour there, I actually didn't expect to be shown the inner sanctums at the Washington DC Temple. I knew that those spaces are off-limits to anyone other than card-carrying Mormons (literally, they have a card that they show to be allowed beyond the “confrontation” desk and cross the bridge into the building). The only time that the rest of us may enter is prior to dedication – or now re-dedication – of the building. Some of you, like people I know from the DMV, may have taken a tour in 1974 before the original dedication of the building. At the time, the Washington D.C. Temple was the only one east of Salt Lake City.

Our group's tour was extra-special because we had in our group an LDS couple; the woman attends our PWC interfaith clergy lunches. They added to the information that our tour-guide provided by sharing both additional perspectives and personal stories of their own. I knew from my experience in Salt Lake City that Mormons are curious and eager to learn about our faiths; they seemed to me to be better acquainted with other traditions than most people of faith. While I wasn't as struck by this during our tour of the Washington D.C. Temple, I did note that the tour-guide was open to receiving better, more complete information from the group he was leading. Even this UU was able to provide a fuller understanding of the difference between Protestants and Catholics, and what Martin Luther and the 16th century (Christian) reformationists were protesting about with regards to the Catholic Church of the day.

I hope more of our congregation's members and friends reach out and build bridges with our neighboring faith communities of all kinds; not just the church across the street, but the mosques, the temples and the ashrams. And despite our differences, may we be blessed with the wisdom of understanding and compassion

Yours in faith,
Rev. Charlotte



BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS
MAY SERMON DESCRIPTIONS

May 1: *People of Hope and Change*

(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann & Rev. Kimberley Debus)

We are people of hope who can be instrumental in turning the world around when change is needed. However, unless we practice flexibility and adaptability, we all run the risk of getting stuck in old patterns and unhealthy behaviors.

May 8: *Teachings of the Tipi Poles: Ultimate Protection*

(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)

Mary Lee, a Cree Elder enumerates the teachings of the 15 poles used to construct a Cree tipi. The fourteenth pole teaching is Ultimate Protection, which she describes as “the ultimate responsibility to achieve balance and well-being of the body, mind, emotions and spirit for the individual, the family, the community and the nation.”

This month, the **2nd Sunday Split-the-Plate** recipient is **Mom’s Demand Action**

May 15: *Coming of Age Service*

(Kristin Worthington, DLRE)

This annual service celebrates the youth in our Coming-of-Age program. Come to hear their thoughts and beliefs about what is important in their lives. Music will be provided by youth choir and musicians.

The **3rd Sunday Split-the-Plate** benefits

BRUU’s Community Assistance Fund.

May 22: *Teachings of the Tipi Poles: Control Flaps*

(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann & Kathy Sobrio)

Mary Lee, a Cree Elder enumerates the teachings of the 15 poles used to construct a Cree tipi. According to the Cree, the final teaching is about the Control Flaps. “The control flaps on a tipi teach that we are all connected by relationship and that we depend on each other.” The concluding teaching describes how all of the poles/teachings are bound together; they are interconnected. How does our being a covenantal community relate to the control flaps and the way that the binding of all of the teachings?

May 29: *Sacred Trees*

(Michelle Luman)

In ancient and modern cultures the world over, trees have been considered sacred – worthy of spiritual respect and reverence. Trees are symbolic of the cycle of life and death; for example, “the tree of life.” Tree worship is often seen as a core spiritual practice.

Our **5th Sunday Special Collection** is for the work of Unitarian Universalists for **Social Justice** (UUSJ), an advocacy group which advances equitable national policies and actions, aligned with UU values, through engagement, education, and advocacy, in pursuit of a just, compassionate, and sustainable world community.

COVID Policy Changes

On March 24, the BRUU Board received a report from its reopening task force.

After discussion, the Board adopted the following changes in the rules applicable to Sunday services and coffee hours.

As before, these rules are a policy decision, balancing numerous considerations, with the goal of keeping BRUU members safe while opening up to in-person events.

BRUU will continue to provide online services for those who find that in-person services do not meet their assessment of the risks and benefits.

BRUU will therefore:

- * Drop the mask mandate effective April 24, while encouraging continued mask wearing in the building to increase confidence;
- * Invite in-person attendance by members of the broader community as of April 3;
- * Retain vaccination card verification (except for outdoor services, such as April 17) until further notice;
- * Coffee hour with food continues, recognizing that people in Fellowship Hall will drop masks but encouraging those gathering in Sanctuary to wear them;
- * Singing: The congregation will not sing but performers will sing; up to two performers or podded groups may sing together but larger ensembles will wear masks when singing.

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 green, yellow, and purple.

BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I was not home more than 15 minutes when I got the call from Dianne Lane, our Vice President, informing me that she was at Nina's house working out and learned that Jon Kostik had died. At this point we do not know the details of his death, but the news was shocking and unsettling. I never really knew Jon that well until these last 2 years. He was a board member, but also 1 of 3 other people that made up a pod that we shared dinner and fellowship with on occasion during confinement for Covid. Jon was a kind-hearted man, soft spoken, and very generous with his time. He was always willing to help in whatever way he could. He accomplished or assisted with many tasks at BRUU. One of the most recent was the renovation of Room 103 to make it more habitable for the food pantry. He also helped during the crisis we had with the air-conditioning on the 3rd level where we have renters. He was also heading up the Kitchen Krew once we began offering drinks and snacks once they were allowed during fellowship after service. I know he also helped individual BRUU members who needed assistance with household projects. I am sure he did much more than I was aware of. I was lucky enough to have purchased the handyman services he offered for the auction. Together we installed wainscoting in my dining room. During this time, I was able to meet his new dog, Sky, a gentle and loving adult golden retriever he had just adopted. Sky was quite a gem, and I was so happy for Jon that he had such a lovely companion. It is said that dogs and owners grow to resemble each other. In this case it was an instant match between the two.

I will miss Jon's presence on the board. He was an independent thinker and a voice of reason. I look forward to grieving his death in fellowship with other BRUU members. Jon knew the true meaning of stewardship. I have no doubt we will give homage to his life. We will miss him. I will miss him.

I was planning on writing more about stewardship and my joy at hearing that 37 pledge units increased the amount of their pledges this year. But I am not able to focus on much at this point. May Jon's life encourage all of us to be kind and to take care of one another. It is what our beloved community is all about.

CALL FOR 2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

Bull Run UU (BRUU) is a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA). We are in covenant with the UUA and all of the other UU congregations around the U.S. As a member congregation we contribute to the Annual Program Fund (APF) and we benefit from the resources of the UUA (curricula, support, trainings, etc.). The UUA has staff and a Board of Trustees who work on behalf of the UUA in much the same ways as BRUU's own staff and Board of Directors.

As it is with BRUU, the UUA has an annual meeting during which specific business is conducted such as approving the annual budget, hearing reports, and voting on business and responsive resolutions. The voting is done by representatives from each UU congregation who serve as delegates to the General Assembly (GA), the annual meeting held every year in June.

BRUU is entitled to five (5) delegates to the General Assembly and we are looking for individual BRUU members who would like to attend as our congregation's delegates. In addition to congregation delegates, UU ministers and religious educators have delegate status.

In addition to the business of the Association, GA is an opportunity to meet, learn and have fun with UUs not just from across the country, but from all over the world! During the program slots, there are workshops, lectures, worship services, and much more to take in.

This year GA will be held both on-line (virtually) and in-person in Portland, OR from June 22-26.

Information about GA may be found at www.uua.org/ga and you can register to attend. The cost of registration whether in-person or on-line depends on when you register. Save money by registering now; prices increase on May 1st. All delegates must be registered in advance. There is a costless "business-only virtual registrant" option for delegates, but they do not have access to all of the wonderful programming available to other registrants.

Please Note: There may be funds available for interested individuals to help pay for the cost of registration.

Please contact **Rev. Charlotte** (minister@bruu.org) or BRUU **President Rita Romano** (president@bruu.org) if you are interested in being one of our 5 delegates in June.

NEWS FROM ANNEASE



Adult choir has restarted in-person rehearsals on Wednesday nights at 7:00 in the sanctuary. All participants must be vaccinated and masks are required. Contact me if you have questions or want to join us (music@bruu.org)

Many of you have probably heard through the grapevine about my retirement. I've come to realize that I'm ready for a new chapter in my life, one that holds more time for play and a relaxed pace of life. I just recently made the decision that December will be my last month at BRUU. It's a good time for me and for BRUU to make this transition. We've all had to adjust and restructure during the pandemic, and so we know how to live into new situations and embrace something different. My retirement will be a continuation of that learning.

In the meantime, I'm going to initiate some new opportunities for groups to make music together; last month a small string group got started and in April/May a junior and senior choir will meet. Most of these ensembles will meet for 2-3 months, as opposed to a year-round commitment. Stay tuned for what might be coming...

Western Carolina University on July 17-23

SUUSI Returns in Person This Summer!

Many BRUU'ers have attended this "church camp" in the mountains. It is an extraordinary, family-friendly festival of music, workshops, nature trips, and worship services. Great way to feel connected to others and make new friends, and the Youth program is especially powerful.

For details, see www.suusi.org or ask the Muirs, Mike Freeland, Cathy Ring...

The Southeast UU Summer Institute (SUUSI) will be held in-person again.



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

Every month on the second Sunday,
an organization belonging to the Coalition sponsors a
“get out and explore” experience.

MAY 8

Come explore the **Occoquan Greenway**
from **1:00-3:00pm**

Meet @ Lake Ridge Parks and Recreation Association
parking lot at 12350 Oakwood Drive, Lake Ridge, VA
22192

Please register (in case of weather cancellation) at
<https://tinyurl.com/y8ktuyc4>

Joe Jencks fundraising musical concert

Friday May 6th

Joe Jencks is an international touring performer, songwriter, entertainer, educator and fellow UU.

MORE INFO COMING SOON

Spring Cleaning & Claiming

AT BRUU

Now that the building is fully open for activities, AND outside rentals, there is a lot to do – and some of it involves finding the rightful owners of some items that have accumulated over the past two years!

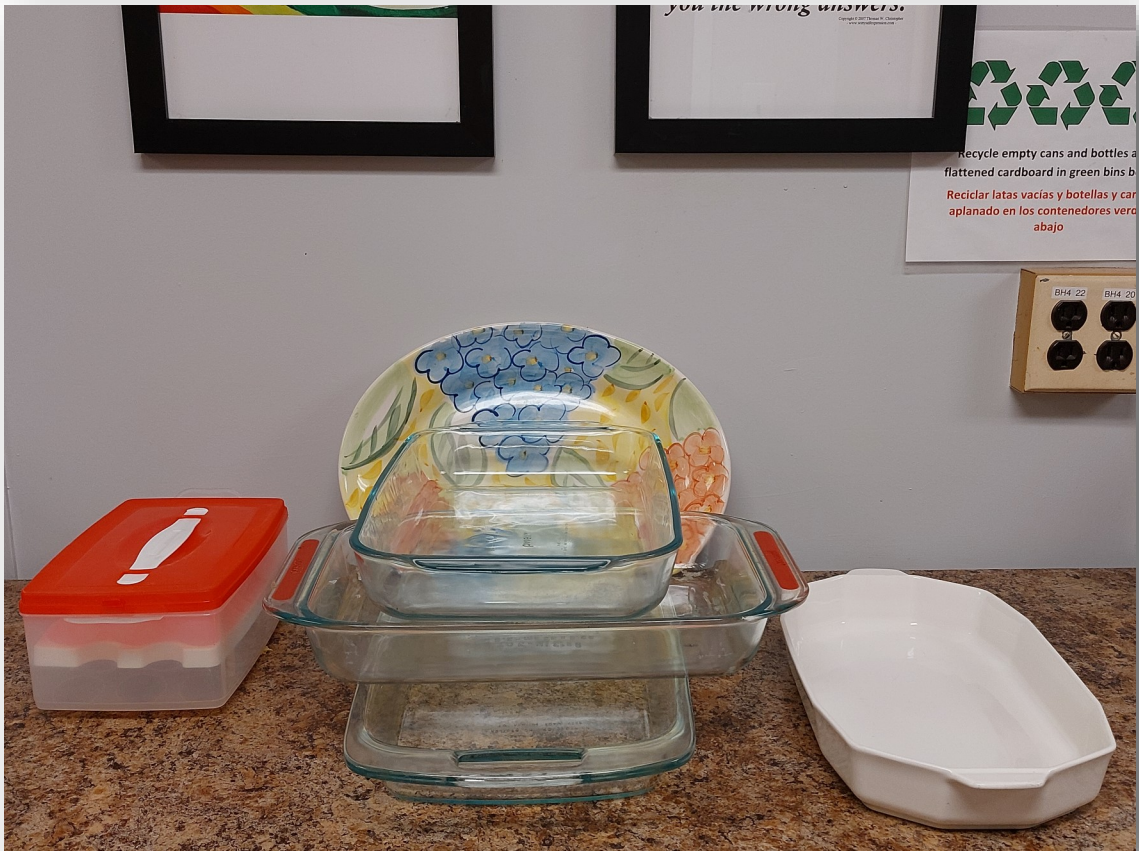
Several of the cupboards in and around the kitchen have an unsightly build-up of dishes and kitchen items that belong to BRUU folks who probably would like to have them back after all this time.

There is also quite a collection of nice, reusable water bottles (some even have names on them) that ought not go in the trash.

Please closely look over these photos to claim your holiday dish, bowl, platter, crockpot, etc. The items are waiting for you on the kitchen hallway counters until after the service on Sunday, May 15th.



After that, the items will be “free-cycle/finders-keepers” until the end of that week when unclaimed items will be donated to a nearby thrift shop.



Thanks to **Mike Freeland** for installing new lights in the kitchen: Where appropriate, he replaced the fluorescent ballasts and used LED bulbs



HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

SUBMIT announcements using this form

<https://www.bruu.org/www2/announcement-form/>

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

A New Green Potluck Tradition

The Program Council would like to thank all those who brought the food and/or used your reusable takeout containers at the Soup & Salad Potluck & Committee Volunteer Fair on Sunday, April 24th.

It made for a much speedier clean up AND allowed folks to take home some of the delicious leftovers.

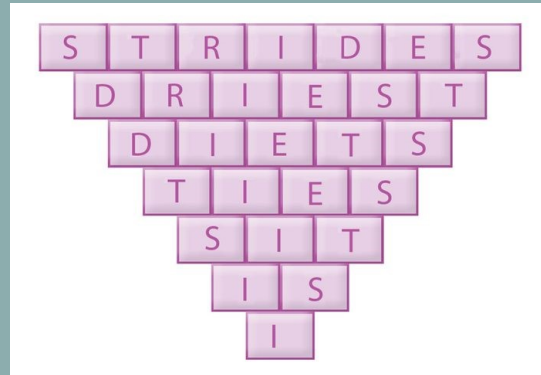
Lots of folks hung around after the bountiful meal to chat with the passionate & committed members of the Social Justice, Green Team, Membership, Finance, Fellowship, and Building & Grounds committees.

Let's plan to continue doing this takeout container method for future potlucks.



THE PUZZLER

APRIL'S PUZZLER



STEPDOWN

Beginning at the top of the upside down pyramid, remove one letter from the word “strides” and rearrange the remaining letters to build a new six-letter word beneath. Continue the same process to each word until you get to the bottom.

(There may be more than one solution.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO :

Glen MacDonald

There were a few solutions possible, NICE JOB!

BRUU

9350 Main Street
Manassas, VA 20110-5150

703-361-6269

Fax: 703-392-7995

Minister

Rev. Charlotte Lehmann
minister@bruu.org

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president@bruu.org

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dre@bruu.org

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music@bruu.org

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THE PUZZLER

MAY'S PUZZLER

I use this in Engineering class!

Engineers were contemplating building a suspension bridge across the gorge at Niagara Falls. So, you've got a raging river below, and you've got to get cables for the suspension bridge from one side to the other. But, there was no way to get the cables across, because there was no boat that could fight that current.

The engineers and builders figured out how to do it, and they staged a contest on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. The contest was open to the public, and the purpose was to help get these massive cables across the gorge.

The contest was won by a young boy. And shortly after the contest was completed, they were able to run the cables from one side of the gorge to the other.

What was the contest?

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!