



September 2024  
Volume 42, Issue 9

# Crossroads



*Our Ingathering Water Service will take place  
on Sunday, September 8.*

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- September Services.....2
- From the President's Desk.....4
- Board Matters.....6
- ALE Announcements.....8

#### SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN THIS ISSUE

- Ingathering/Water Communion....11
- BRUU Work Day.....12
- 2024 Auction.....13
- BRUU at Oak Grove.....14
- Events At & Around BRUU.....15



The monthly BRUU Newsletter



# August Sermon Descriptions

## **September 1—Still a Mystery (Worship Committee)**

*Dogbert (gazing at night sky): No matter how bad the day is, the stars are always there.*

*Dilbert: Actually, many of them burned out years ago, but their light is just now reaching earth.*

*Dogbert: Thank you for shattering my comfortable misconception.*

*Dilbert: It's the miracle of science. — Scott Adams*

Spend our Miracles conclusion exploring some phenomena that remain mysterious and awe-inspiring, even under scientific examination.

## **September 8—Water Communion (Worship Committee)**

Each year as we gather in the fall, it is our custom to offer water as a symbol of our connection to each other. Bring a sample of water to represent your life experiences that will be gathered together in a vessel of our Unitarian Universalist Values. May all our cups spill over!

*The 2nd Sunday Share-the-Plate benefits Legacy Impact.*

## **September 15—Ethos, Logos, and Pathos (Star Muir & Martin Crim)**

*Ethos, Pathos, Logos...Really?*

What do classical forms of proof thousands of years old have to tell us about managing our selves during a fraught campaign season? Issues of credibility, emotion and argument are on display across our media, and this service will address insights from before the electronic age to help understand modern fallacies, shifting qualities



# August Sermon Descriptions

of character and trust, and the pitfalls of emotion. How can we better understand and respond to the issues of our time?

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

## **September 22—The Autumnal Equinox: Harvest and the Creative Fire (Annaliess Trommatter & CUUPS of the Crossroads)**

Travel from Persephone and Demeter's fields up through the Celtic lands to Ireland. In this celebration of the balance between light and dark, we will break bread, learn about Awen, and come together around the Cauldron of Transformation. A light ritual will be included. All are welcome to attend and participate as they are comfortable with.

## **September 29—UU Climate Justice Revival**

*When **LOVE** is at the center of our climate movements, love **GROUNDS**, love **CONNECTS**, love **BUILDS**. Love **TRANSFORMS**, love **NOURISHES**, love **REIMAGINES**. Let's reimagine together, friends, a world where all communities thrive.*

Join us for a two-day Climate Justice Revival: Education and Celebration will be held Saturday, Sept 28, Worship and Action takes place Sunday, Sept 29. For more information and how to participate, watch for announcements in Round-Up, Crossroads or email [dre@bruu.org](mailto:dre@bruu.org)

# From the President's Desk

*Angie Carrera, President, Board of Directors*

Dear Congregants,

As you may have heard by now, Randy and I are excited by our new home purchase and all this wonderful activity at BRUU, including a wonderful slate of music events and auction items to attend! I am very pleased to share the following BRUU updates:

First, I ask you to welcome two new BRUU members Len Clark and Ginger Doetsch bringing our total membership to 207!

And as we go to press, it was so nice to be able to greet George Monroe on August 19, his first day at work as our newly hired Sexton. Mike Freeland joined us to start George's site orientation and onboarding and to introduce him to our wonderful staff at the Tuesday morning staff meeting. You may not see a lot of him as his hours will be varied (10 to 12 hours per week) but let me tell you, you will like him!

August has been a very busy month and my communications with various members has been very fruitful and encouraging as we move on this year's theme: "Connecting and Communicating with Consistency!"

- Right Relations Team - Mike Cleary has begun convening a team and will be submitting a Charter to the Board next month. THANK YOU, Mike and Team!
- Pantry Team – New member Len Clark has met with our wonderful Pantry Manager Laura Crowne to help her with the administrative work necessary for USDA /TEPAC registration process for shoppers, replacing Terri McClure in this role. As Registration Administrator, Len will be assisted by Ed Stewart who serves as Data Entry volunteer so that BRUU can ensure our compliance with USDA requirements for administration and food storage. These are great additions to the already awesome team of pantry volunteers. THANK YOU ALL!

# From the President's Desk, Continued

- Personnel Committee – I am pleased to announce that Rebecca Link has joined the Personnel Committee, which is led by the amazing Jim Amaral. Rebecca proved an enormous help to me in managing the steps necessary for the Hiring Team to process for our Sexton position applicants. THANK YOU!
- Communications – A special THANK YOU to Charlie Grymes and our office administrator Taylor Johnson who are constantly and consistently wrestling with various tasks to improve our communications vehicles and processes.
- Auction Committee – Scott Maile continues to amaze me with his commitment to making each auction better than the preceding one! I cannot wait for November this year! THANK YOU!

I am planning to meet with three committees that are our external invitations to the public: RE/ALE, Social Justice, and Fellowship, so we can discuss how to bring them to the forefront in our messaging, I would love to hear your ideas!

Now, don't forget to read BOARD MATTERS to be in the know about Board decisions and activities and don't be shy about asking questions. You are invited to email me at [President@BRUU.org](mailto:President@BRUU.org).

I remain at your service,

Angie

# Board Matters

*The August 2024 Board Meeting was held on August 15 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 including reports from the President, Vice President, Program Council, Membership and Staff (via Staff Coordinator). Attachments to support agenda items were: Finance Committee Charter, Sexton Offer Letter, and Memorandum of Understanding draft for ACTS.

The general meeting held discussion on these agenda items:

- **Vacancies and Assignments:** The Board approved Allen Curlee's assignment to serve as liaison to the Endowment Committee; DRE Kristin Worthington has agreed to be the lead on this year's fire drills in coordination with Mike Freeland; The Board suggested that our new Sexton be asked to consider working with current volunteers on the Safety Camera and Internet Cabling project proposed last year but delayed due to leadership bandwidth limitations; and Michelle Fegeas-Foster will work with Angie to update the general and board Perpetual Calendars.
- **Town Hall follow up:** The Board agrees on priorities set by the Retreat in July and discussed challenges to adequately survey the congregation. Vice President Annaliess Trommatter will serve as lead on this project, exploring various ways to engage the congregation in providing input for BRUU's next steps, including the possibility of a future Ministerial Search, with the goal of reporting her progress to the Board by the next board meeting.
- **Finance:** Committee Chair Dave Hamilton reviewed BRUU's budget process and received Board approval of the updated Finance Committee Charter; and board member Allan Curlee will take on the task of finding a new CPA and reporting back to Terrie and David Hamilton, with whom the CPA will be connected for a meeting to gain access to our financial records; and Finance Committee has agreed that a Contracts Team is needed to research comparative



# Board Matters, Continued

rental fees for space use of our Fellowship Hall, Flamingo Lounge, etc. and then make a recommendation to the Board for an increase for these spaces.

- **Pantry and USDA/TEPAC Requirements:** New member Len Clark has worked with Laura Crowne and has agreed to serve as USDA Administrator (replacing Terrie McClure) with assistance from Ed Stewart who serves as Data Entry volunteer so that all USDA requirements on data management and food storage are met; and
- **Review and Revisions of Board Roles and Responsibilities:** Each member is reminded to revise their Board job description (with a suggestion to fit it on one page). The Vice President has sent the revised draft to the President. Angie will write a Youth Representative position (job) description and discuss it with Sashka.

**New Business:** The Board accepts David's recommendation that we agree to provide feedback on the use of the UUA Virtual Hymnal; Terrie will be POC to review the updated UUA Retirement Plan 2025 Restatement with personnel and report back to the Board before the next meeting; and the Board questions a hardship element in the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a BRUU partnership with ACTS regarding our Community Assistance Funds. Issues will be addressed by Angie once she is updated by Michelle Fegeas-Foster who will check with Mt Olive Baptist on how they manage their hardship fund.

**Executive Session:** Exit Interview feedback and Healing Session. No votes made.

*After approval by the Board, the full minutes of each board meeting (not the closed sessions) 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).*

# Adult Life Enrichment (ALE) Programs

**ALE Mondays:** Third Monday of each month, gather for a nourishing meal and conversation. Followed by stimulating choices of workshops including arts, spiritual practices, the science connection, local issues and more! Bring the family—offerings for all ages! [ Dinner 6pm, Workshops 7 pm]

**Begins September 16th!**

## Ongoing Groups

**Buddhist Meditation Practice:** A meditation practice group gathers every Thursday at 7:00 PM in the BRUU Library. Contact Randy at [trearlo607@gmail.com](mailto:trearlo607@gmail.com)



## ***CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) at the Crossroads***

For nature-based and pagan-curious persons, all who come to the crossroads with open hearts and open minds are welcome. No experience necessary. Facilitated by Analiess Trommatter and Michelle Luman, CUUPS at the Crossroads offers learning experiences during the Monday night ALE sessions, and is forming a monthly meeting group as well as seasonal celebrations.

## ***UU Wellspring***

Spiritual deepening courses for Unitarian Universalists. A sustaining joy emerges while deepening commitment to making change in ourselves and in our world. Private groups form each Fall and meet twice a month, in person or on zoom.

Choose From: **Sources:** are inspired by the Sources for religious knowledge and and spiritual growth: direct experience, prophetic women and men, world religions, Jewish and Christian teachings, humanist teachings, and Earth-centered traditions. Be challenged, comforted and inspired by each of the six Sources, reflecting on how to integrate faith more fully into daily life.



Embrace UU Values and Covenants with **Love at the Center**, an in-depth exploration of our shared faith, within the context of our personal identities and experiences, diverse communities and the world. This new engaging program will provide a core foundation of spiritual deepening through deep listening, spiritual practice, study of UU theology and transformational self-awareness. Additionally, participants will experience personal storytelling and varied activities to deepen spiritual life.



# Active Bystander Training



Coming Saturday, September 21

1:00—4:00 pm

Sliding Scale Donation towards costs

**Must register by September 12**

## INCREASE PERSONAL SAFETY WITH EMPOWERMENT SELF-DEFENSE

- \* be ready to respond with confidence if you ever face an uncomfortable or unsafe situation
- \* learn skills to protect yourself in the face of harassment, abuse, and assault.

## LEARN TO STAND UP FOR OTHERS AND INTERRUPT HATE WITH ACTIVE BYSTANDER SKILLS

- \* learn how to create safer and more respectful groups and activities
- \* learn when and how to safely intervene when witnessing harassment and micro-aggressions

## GAIN SKILLS FOR BRINGING THE TEMPERATURE DOWN WITH A DE-ESCALATION

- \* learn skills for dealing with people who are angry, escalated, refuse to wear a mask, unpredictable, or otherwise creating problems for public-facing staff or volunteers.

Presented by the compassionate and experienced team at **defend yourself**.

<https://defendyourself.org/>



Register Now  
Space is Limited



# RE for Children and Youth Begins Sept. 15th!

BRUU's Religious Education for children and youth begins September 15th! Children and Youth will gather in the Sanctuary each Sunday morning to Light the Chalice and open our Worship. Age groups will be led by their teachers to explore together....

## **Room 302/4: "Explorers" Ages 5-7**

Our youngest group will spend their year learning about the Values & Traditions that make us Unitarian Universalists, with activities ranging from studying creatures and systems of our Environment; hearing folk tales to encourage Stewardship of our planet; and Cooking up special dishes celebrated by the cultures of various faiths.

## **Room 305: "Questers" Ages 8-10**

Our older elementary group will be up and moving in a treasure hunt like process exploring the "New" Values: Justice, Plurality, Equity, Transformation, Interdependence, and Generosity, centered in Love. When not on a team challenge, the Questers will dive into the Music of Social Justice.

## **Room 208: "Seekers" Ages 11-13**

Our Middle School youth will dive into the cultures, traditions and history of faiths from Christianity to Sikhism. All faiths discussed include a visit to a local worship. Discussion will encourage developing one's place in a community as well as exploring what their own souls call for.

## **Room 304: "Senior Youth" Ages 14-17**

Our Senior High group is Youth Led! Activities may include Service Work, Senior Teas, current topics; Congregational stewardship & involvement; all while creating a Community of Care and Support.

Welcome letters and details will be sent soon—

Register Here to receive all the details!



*Coming of Age will be held for 9th and 10th graders in 2025-2026.*

*Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education may be held if adults train to be facilitators. For more info, contact Kristin at [dre@bruu.org](mailto:dre@bruu.org)*

# Ingathering / Water Communion



September 8, 2024  
10:00 AM Sunday Service

Each year as we gather in the fall, it is our custom to offer water as a symbol of our connection to each other.

Bring a sample of water to represent your life experiences, or your travels this summer, that will be gathered together in a vessel of our Unitarian Universalist Values.

May all our cups spill over!

# BRUU Work Day

On Saturday, September 7th, from 9:30-3pm, we will have our fall -get the building looking great-BRUU work day! There will be plenty of jobs, including painting, so dress accordingly. Come when and for as long as you can. Children accompanied by adults welcome. Pizza lunch provided.

Point of contact is Christine Sunda.

Text who & how many coming to 703-801-3819.



# BRUU's 2024 Annual Auction:

## "The Power of Showing Up"

*Scott Maile, Auction Chair*

Get ready for some "Deja Vu" moments because the 2024 Auction will look and feel the same as last year. Auctria is the 1-Stop-Shop for the 2024 Auction; it is the web-based tool that enables you to submit items, bid, RSVP and more. We are planning to release & publish the link for the 2024 Auction NLT 10 September. The power of Auctria combined with the Power of Showing Up (which BRUU is REALLY good at!) are the keys to a successful 2024 Auction.

### **Auctria is the "1-Stop-Shop" for the 2024 BRUU Auction**

- Please RSVP if you are attending the Live Auction (This helps with planning for Food & Beverages)
- Submit you donated Auction Items
- Sign-Up Sheet to volunteer
- How To Guides
- Updates
- On Line Bidding
- Review Live Auction Items

#### Notes & Key Dates:

- 10 September: Auctria Opens
- RSVP to Attend the Live Event
- Submit your Auction Items via Auctria
- 15 October: Start bidding for On-Line Auction Items
- 2 November: Live Auction at BRUU
- 10 November: Close Online Bidding

#### Ideas for Auction Items:

- Offer time at a vacation property
- Provide a Service (Handyman)
- Host a Dinner or Themed Party
- Activities for Kids
- Arts & Crafts (For Sale or Host a "How To" Class)
- Provide transportation / tickets to an event

**Please contact [auction@bruu.org](mailto:auction@bruu.org) if you have questions.**



## *BRUU at Oak Grove*

*Charlie Grymes*

Eight BRUUsers attended the Oak Grove Folk Music Festival (<https://oakgrovefestival.com/>) outside of Staunton on the second weekend in August. There was music – fiddles, guitars, bass, drums, harmonicas – and yes, even a banjo or two – from Friday night through Sunday afternoon.

Six shared an Air BnB, talking far beyond the 11:00pm "be quiet" time. No neighbors were disturbed, fortunately. The other two BRUUsers discovered their hotel option was less-than-desirable (none of the flies were harmed, apparently) , and may join the BRUU cluster in 2025.



Susan Sinclair and Dave Feser participated in the gospel sing on Sunday morning, while the rest joined the annual breakfast with other UU's attending the festival. NOTE: Nellie and Jan are in the back, on the right.

Wanna join the migration to Staunton for the 47th annual festival on August 22-24, 2025? Contact Cathy Ring at [oakgrove@bruu.org](mailto:oakgrove@bruu.org)



# Events At & Around BRUU

## *Second Sunday Hike—September 8th*

*Charlie Grymes*

This month we'll explore Doves Landing on the edge of Lake Jackson. Hike starts 1:00pm, and we'll go for about 2 hours. Trail is pretty flat, with a natural hard dirt surface. If it's just rained, there will be mud.



Register at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2xqIVXGb-E1UUouqGINOAnh3dtyOFJMn\\_FLYDkwLIwk3-tQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2xqIVXGb-E1UUouqGINOAnh3dtyOFJMn_FLYDkwLIwk3-tQ/viewform) for driving directions, and so we can alert you if weather (or a landing by aliens, plague of locusts, whatever...) forces a rescheduling.

We can't manifest what we haven't imagined.



Reimagine Together  
From An Extractive  
Age To A New Era

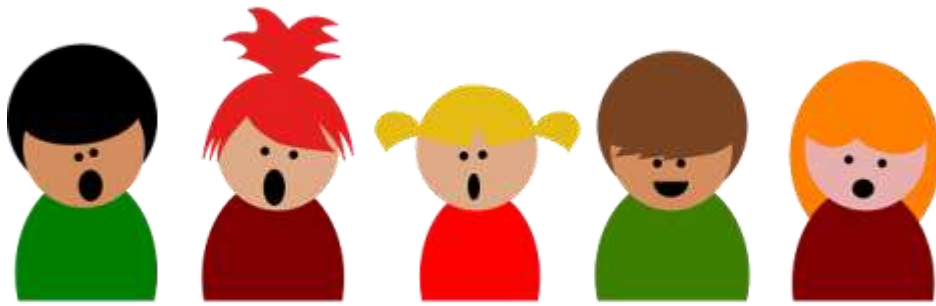
Gather at BRUU  
on September 28-29 to  
reimagine, renew, and revive.

A two-day multigenerational event  
featuring  
worship, conversation,  
celebration, and action  
for all UUs.

**PLUS  
Talent Show-  
Contact Dorothy  
Greenhouse  
to register**

RSVP to  
[dre@bruu.org](mailto:dre@bruu.org)

**And  
Potluck -  
Contact Mary  
Kadlubowski!**



# BRUU Youth Choir

BRUU's brand-new Children's and Youth Choir starts on  
**Wednesday, September 11th!**

The practice will run from 6:30-7pm on Wednesday nights.  
Parents are encouraged to stay and may attend the choir practice  
or be present in the building someplace.

For more information, contact  
David Maley, Director of Music,  
at [music@bruu.org](mailto:music@bruu.org).





## BRUU Midweek Coffee Hour - 10am Wednesdays

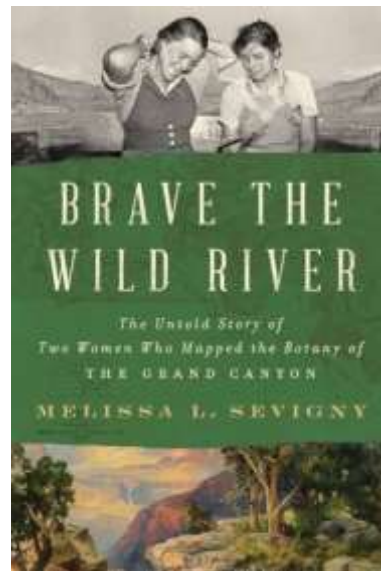
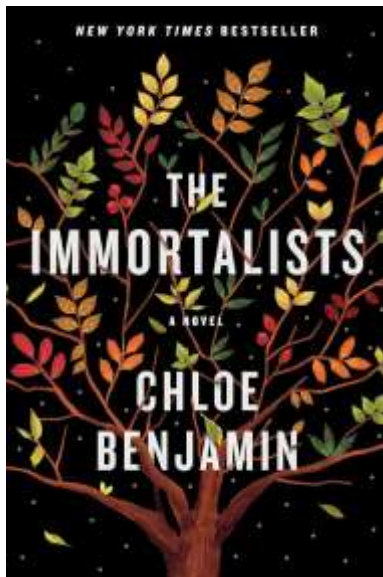
- Visit with old friends and make new ones
- Share your joys, concerns and insights
- Discuss serious topics and not so serious ones.
- Start your day off with a smile and a laugh or two!

10am-11:30am every Wednesday on Zoom. Feel free to drop in at any time. Contact Gordon Ward for links at [wardge@icloud.com](mailto:wardge@icloud.com).



## Join the BRUU Book Group!

Our next book club meeting will be on Monday, October 21 at 3:30 (no meeting in September). We will be discussing "The Immortalists" by Chloe Benjamin and "Brave the Wild River," the untold story of two women who mapped the botany of the Grand Canyon.



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).

## Buddhist Meditation Practice



A meditation practice group gathers every Thursday at 7:00 PM in the BRUU Library. The focus is to practice meditation for longer periods of time in community. For addition information, contact Randy at [trearlo607@gmail.com](mailto:trearlo607@gmail.com)

## 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.





# 2024 SUMMER AT THE HARRIS PAVILION



[www.manassasva.gov/harris pavilion](http://www.manassasva.gov/harris pavilion)

## ACOUSTIC TUESDAY CONCERTS

@ 7 PM

- May 7 – Shane Gamble Duo
- May 14 – Jason Teach
- May 21 – Grayson Moon
- May 28 – Patty Reese
- June 4 – Chris Compton
- June 11 – Chesapeake Sons
- June 18 – Jason Masi
- June 25 – Shane Gamble
- July 2 – Joe Downer
- July 9 – Timmie Metz Duo
- July 16 – Travis Tucker
- July 23 – Scott Kurt
- July 30 – Shane Gamble
- August 6 – Garrett Mabe Duo
- August 13 – Kimberly Burke
- August 20 – Mackenzie Ryan Duo
- August 27 – Rook Richards
- September 3 – Shane Gamble

## FRESH MUSIC FRIDAYS

@ 7 PM

- June 21 – The Still Runners
- June 28 – The Twangtown Paramours
- July 12 – Jon Mitchem
- July 19 – Bad Press Band
- July 26 – Speakeasy
- August 9 – Nitehawks
- August 23 – Blue Bottleneck Band

*Current as of February 1*

*Scan the QR code for the most up to date schedule!*

*Dates are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.*



## SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERT SERIES

@ 7 PM

- June 8 – Earls of Kent
- June 22 – Beatlegacy
- August 3 – Special Occasions
- August 10 – Mike Parker
- September 14 – Silver Tones Swing Band

## SUMMER SOUNDS CONCERT SERIES

Brought to you by ARTfactory

@ 6:30 PM

- July 13 – TBA
- July 20 – TBA
- August 17 – TBA
- August 24 – TBA



## SUNDAY FUNDAY CONCERTS

@ 3 PM

- June 23 – Community Band Festival
- July 7 – Navy Band Country Currents
- July 14 – Carleigh Jane
- July 21 – Kings Park Concert Band
- July 28 – Navy Band Commodores
- August 4 – Prince William Community Band
- August 18 – Manassas Balalaika Society
- August 25 – Manassas Symphony Orchestra

## OTHER FUN EVENTS

- June 14 (Friday) – Fools! Improv Comedy 7 pm
- June 26 (Wednesday) – Reptile Show 1 pm
- July 10 (Wednesday) – 257th Army Band 7 pm

PARKS, CULTURE & RECREATION

703-368-1873



# From the Treasurer's Office

*Links for donating to BRUU*



BRUU can receive online charitable donations via Zelle, Stripe or Paypal. You can use these services for your pledge payment (supporting our operational expenses), food pantry or community assistance donations, capital fund contributions, Sunday and split-the-plate, or any of our special collections and fundraisers. When donating online, you may use the comments section to specify your designation.

If you have questions or concerns just send us a note. Thanks!

Terrie McClure, Treasurer,

[treasurer@bruu.org](mailto:treasurer@bruu.org)

Robin Fegeas et al, Bookkeepers,

[bookkeeper@bruu.org](mailto:bookkeeper@bruu.org)

## **BRUU**

9350 Main Street  
Manassas, VA 20110-5150  
703-361-6269

### **BRUU Board of Directors**

#### ***President***

Angie Carrera-Earl (2023-25)  
president@bruu.org

#### ***Vice President***

Annaliess Trommutter (2024-26)  
vicepresident@bruu.org

#### ***Secretary***

Sandra Fox (2024-26)  
secretary@bruu.org

#### ***Treasurer***

Terrie McClure  
treasurer@bruu.org

#### ***Directors at Large***

Allan Curlee (2024-26)  
Michelle Fegeas-Foster (2024-26)  
John Sunda (2023-25)  
director@bruu.org

#### ***Youth Director***

Sashka Visnevski (2025)  
director@bruu.org

#### ***Program Council***

Art Muirhead (2023-25)  
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

#### ***Sexton***

George Monroe  
sexton@bruu.org

### **BRUU OFFICE HOURS**

M-F 10:00 am – 2:00 pm