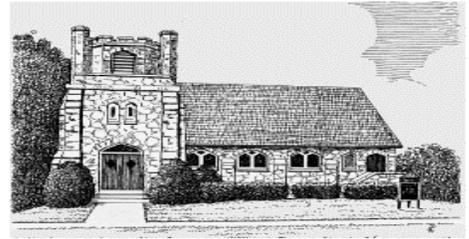


March 2022

BUUC Newsletter

Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church
9 Upper River Street, P.O. Box 386, Brookfield, MA 01506
buuc01506@gmail.com, www.buuc.org, 508-867-5145



"The Little Stone Church That Rocks"



Dear Friends,

Three times a week I get up earlier than the other four mornings of the week. Often still half asleep, I manage to dress, have a bit to eat, and style my hair into some form other than that of a half flattened porcupine. Within twenty to thirty minutes I'm out the door and en route to the gym, where I join a half dozen others for a fifty minute aquatics workout in the pool. By the time I arrive back home, my husband and our cat are still sleeping and I usually have about two hours before my first meeting of the day.

Now, in case you're wondering, no, this thrice weekly ritual is not some court ordered punishment. Nor is it a New Year's resolution to which I stubbornly cling or have money riding on to motivate my sticking to it. Rather, the time at the pool benefits me physically and mentally in ways that vastly outweigh the fleeting pleasure of staying in bed imagined in a state of groggy resistance upon waking. In other words, I do it not because I have to, but because I value its impact on my life.



And isn't that the same reason most of us go to church?

I mean, UU's gave up the um, advantage, of the threat of hell to compel church attendance, and modernity has removed the social pressure, so anyone showing up nowadays is doing so freely. And when you think about it, that's pretty amazing. It's amazing because it means you have not only found for yourself, but are co-creating with and for others, something of value. And the really remarkable thing about that is whatever that something of value is may differ from person to person.

When I ask, I'm always awed and inspired to hear what it is people value about this faith and, more specifically, BUUC (Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church). But there's no need to wait for me to ask. As a memorable Saturday Night Live character used to say, "Talk amongst yourselves." Indeed, take time to reflect and then share what it is you value about this faith and faith community. Share it with each other. Share it with your friends and neighbors.

And if you do, you'll be well prepared for our annual canvass which begins this month. As a self-funded community, we rely on pledges from members and friends who value BUUC and the values it represents in the wider world to support and sustain this faith community and advance its mission. Your pledge is

*A Welcoming Congregation
and a Green Sanctuary*
*We are a fellowship of seekers
after truth, bound by no dogma,
restricted by no creed.*

Our Affirmation

TOGETHER: We unite in an atmosphere of care and support to foster spiritual health and growth.

TOGETHER: We focus on sharing our ideas and histories, with warmth, hope, loving friendship and an open mind.

TOGETHER: We nurture stability for our daily lives and seek motivation to reach out to the larger community.

part of the “time, talent and treasure” we ask of people who value BUUC and which we receive with gratitude in whatever proportion people are able to give.

So, please, join with me and others who value this faith community in making a pledge to support BUUC. The opportunity to pledge, ask questions, and share your thoughts will be available throughout the month of March from our canvass team and is available all year long by contacting myself or a member of the church's Executive Committee. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Blessings and peace,

Rev. Craig

Notes from the President



One time when I was out shopping, I came across a rock that was carved with one word: PATIENCE. For those of you who knew my husband Greg, you know that patience wasn't his strong suit. So I picked up the rock, paid for it, and took it home to him as a “gift.” He wasn't amused. But I put the rock on our mantle, and it sat there for years as a reminder. It is now a fixture in my house because now and then *I* need to be reminded that patience is indeed a virtue.

Out of curiosity, I Googled “patience” and found that it was defined as “a complex of virtues including self-control, humility, tolerance, generosity, and mercy, and is itself an important aspect of other virtues such as hope, faith, and love.”

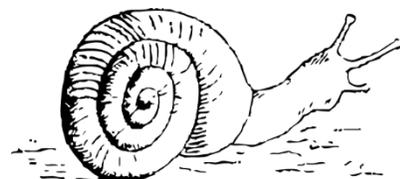
These days, it occurs to me regularly that we have needed to rely on patience a lot through the last couple of years in dealing with the Covid crisis. As a society, we are not good at waiting. We want things done yesterday. We equate success with speed. But doing things right often means taking time.

I know that I am anxious for our construction project to be done. It seems like we've lived with the mess for long enough. But when I was in the church the other day, I was astounded at the progress and I realized that although it seems like it has taken a long time, the work is just amazing and soon we will be able to accommodate people of all abilities in our sanctuary. We have waited a long time. We have waited years in fact. But there is light at the end of the elevator shaft.

So, let's be patient for just a little while longer and treat each other with tolerance, generosity and mercy and understand that in just a couple of months, if we need to, we will be able to take the elevator down to our lower level and enjoy a new, roomy rest room and our patience will be rewarded.

Live Long & Prosper.

Barb Hale,
President



Music Notes



Celtic Music Sunday March 13, 2021

This year we happily resume making live music for Celtic Music Sunday, but still can't have the "Everyone Can Play If You Know One Note on Your Recorder" band we have celebrated in the past. Anyone playing will need to have a mask, so that probably leaves out most recorders, penny whistles, and flutes, unless you have a musician's mask for your instrument. We will still hope for as many musicians as possible for our traditional postlude, "Spring Will Come Again". If I know you play an instrument, I may have contacted you by the time you read this, but if not, and you are interested, or even just curious, please contact me: lilamfarrar@gmail.com or 508-864-5978.

New Spanish Hymnal Supplement

I am excited to have this new resource for congregational singing, generously donated by Robyn Vincent!

When *Las Voces del Camino* (*Voices on the Journey*) came out in 2009, I thought, "That is nice for congregations in southern California, but has no relevance for me or BUUC". I now see it very differently.

Why do we sing hymns, anyway? Hymn singing is the one thing we do aloud together as a faith community. It is not about putting your religious belief into a melodious expression, though it sometimes can be. It is about being in community with those around you in a concrete physical way. As I have written here before, you don't have to believe everything you sing, in a literal way; but know that for someone, it has spiritual meaning, and for that reason you are next to them, singing *with* them. If Spanish is your first language, it is a comfort to sing at least some of the time in your native language, and if it is not, it is a welcoming gesture. There is another aspect that I have recently been thinking about.

Pietro Bembo (1470-1547), in studying the sonnets of Petrarch (1304-1374), Italian Renaissance humanist, developed a theory of the relationships in verse between sound, rhythm and meaning, arguing that the meaning of poetry was derived at least in part from its sonic qualities. (The poetry of Amanda Gorman [*The Hill We Climb* read at the Biden-Harris inauguration] comes immediately to mind.) I think this sonic aspect of song may be part of what we react to when we are moved by a piece of music but are not sure why. Some of the songs in *Los Voces del Camino* are Spanish songs to begin with. Some of them are poetic translations of familiar hymns in our gray hymnal, *Singing the Living Tradition*. As I have been studying this new book for use in BUUC worship, I have found the sonic quality to be very moving, in and of itself. In other words, I have found meaning in the sound of the beautiful Spanish language, without being focused on the exact translation. I offer this for your consideration as we begin exploring this music.

On a practical note, when the previous hymnal supplement, *Singing the Journey* (a.k.a. "the Teal Book") came out, they numbered the songs beginning with 1000 so it is always easy to tell at a glance that a posted song is in that book. I am sorry they didn't do something similar, like begin the Spanish book with 2000. Unfortunately, the numbers begin with 1, so it could be confusing and annoying, though I suppose the Spanish titles will help. Just the same, to make it clear, I am instituting the practice of listing the songs in the Spanish book starting with "0," so they will be 01, 02, etc. through 076 when listed in the OOS.

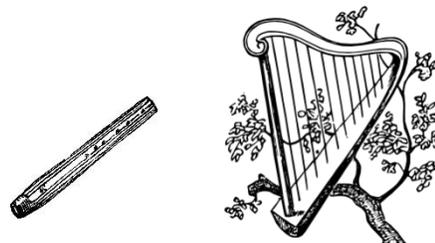
In the forward to this new hymnal, Rev. William G. Sinkford writes: "As Unitarian Universalists, we often speak of extending a welcome to newcomers, yet too frequently, we fall short on honoring the traditions of our newcomers. With the publication of *Las Voces del Camino*, we hope that the door will open a bit wider, the welcome be made a bit more genuine, as we all grow in the process." (*Con la publicació de Las Voces del Camino, esperamos que la puerta se abra un poco más para que la bienvenida sea un poca más genuina, mientras todos crecemos en el proceso.*)

May it be so!

Thank you, Robyn!

Lila M Farrar,

Music Director



Notes from the Director of Religious Exploration



Before this church year began, we made the hard choice to minimize movement within the sanctuary. As a result, the kids are not beginning church upstairs and then being sung out for Religious Exploration as we would normally do.

However, there are important aspects of our shared time together that we don't want to miss. Here's a look at how we maintain those traditions.

Once we are gathered together, we begin with a variation on Joys and Concerns. Each person chooses a stone from a basket and, if they wish, places it in a dish of water as they share joys and concerns. Sometimes this is brief, and sometimes it takes half of our time together. It all depends on what is needed that day.

After that, things generally flow as they would if the children were upstairs. We have announcements related to RE: happy birthday to this person, our next RE Family Walk is a week away, etc. Then we ring the "Singing Bowl," which right now is a triangle. Sometimes everyone wants a turn doing this.

Then it's time for our Chalice Lighting. We are using the same one for the whole year, which means that at this point the words are fairly familiar. Someone is asked to light the (battery-powered) chalice. From there, we speak our affirmation. Great pride is taken in being able to recite it from memory.

After our affirmation, we begin the Religious Exploration Program until it's time to extinguish the chalice.

It's not the same as sitting with multiple generations in the sanctuary and sharing in the traditions that open our time together on Sunday mornings, but it's still fun. You may not see the children participating in the chalice lighting or saying our affirmation with you right now, but downstairs we continue to honor these traditions.

Cara Wales,

DRE

March resources for "Nature" can be found at <https://padlet.com/buucree/March>.



Generosity Abounds!

Thank you to all who give of their time, talent,
and treasure in support of BUUC and its mission.
You are what makes our little stone church rock!

March Services*

Sunday morning services are held at 10:30 am.

March 6: "If We Choose"

*Worship Leader: Rev. Craig M. Nowak
Music: BUUC Choir*

March 13: "John O'Donohue's Celtic Spirituality"

*Lay Speaker: Cruger Johnson Phillips
Worship Leader: Roxann Smith
Music: Celtic Music; BUUC Celtic Band 2022 edition*

March 20: "A Most Human Season"

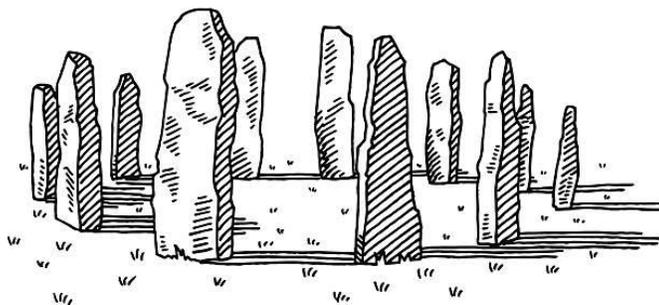
*Worship Leader: Rev. Craig M. Nowak
Music: BUUC choir*

March 27: "Lazy Busy"

*Worship Leader: Rev. Craig M. Nowak
Music: Lucy Colwell, French horn*

*A Note About Worship

Currently we are holding hybrid services (in-person and streaming). For those who wish to stream the service (attend online) a link will be provided weekly via email.



Announcements

Food for Faith: Adult Religious Exploration

"Picture This: Bible Study Through Art"

Evening Group*: Tuesday, 3/1 at 6:30pm on Zoom

Afternoon Group*: Wednesday, 3/2 at 1:15pm on Zoom

*A minimum of 3 participants is required

Zoom Stone Soup

With our traditional Stone Soup off the table, so to speak, for a while, consider dropping in for Zoom Stone Soup, Wednesday, March 2nd at 12pm. Gather your lunch, log on and spend some time catching up with friends. We'd love to see you. The Zoom link to attend will be emailed March 2nd.

Virtual Social Hour

Third Wednesday of every month on Zoom. Contact Barb Hale at b.lambert.hale@gmail.com

Book Club

The BUUC Book Discussion Group will be meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, March 8th, at 7:00pm to discuss *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson. Please feel free to attend. A complete list of the books we will be discussing this year appear online on our website at buuc.org/events. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Hale at b.lambert.hale@gmail.com.

BUUC Journaling Group

The next meeting of the BUUC Journaling Group will be Monday, March 28th, at 7:00pm. Contact Cara Wales at c.l.c.wales@gmail.com for more information.

Choir Practice

7:00-8:30pm each Thursday.

Contact Music Director Lila M. Farrar at lilamfarrar@gmail.com or 508-864-5978.

Executive Committee

First Monday of the month at 6:45pm.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is looking for new members. Our main objective is to support the member experience. We do this through planning social events, coordinating meals/visits, and reaching out to visitors, in addition to other tasks and events. We meet approx. 5 to 6 times per year. (New committee members comfortable with using Zoom would be an added plus.) If you are interested in being a part of this fun and valued committee, please contact one of our committee members: Debbie Ennis at 978-257-8073 or Debbie@DebbieEnnis.com, Joanne Hamerly at jmh2ndchapter@gmail.com, Fritz Foster at fritzifoster@yahoo.com, Penny Blum at quabbinquilter@gmail.com, or Donna Boyea at donboyea@yahoo.com.

Women's Alliance

To be resumed when able. Contact Laurie Magnuson (508-867-3763).

Quiet Gathering in the Spirit of the Quakers

To be resumed when able. Contact Cruger Johnson Phillips, cruger.johnson@gmail.com.

Sanctuary LGBTQ Coffee House

To be resumed when able.

Community Supper

To be resumed when able.

We Rise: Social Justice Resources Page

For those who feel called by our faith to take the side of human worth and dignity through social action. Go to www.buuc.org and click the tab "We Rise: Social Justice Resources" on the menu at the left side of the page.

Rev. Craig's Office Hours

Rev. Craig will be available for scheduled office and pastoral visits via Zoom, Facetime or telephone.

Please email or call for an appointment.
860-916-9261; revcraignowak@comcast.net

Interested In Membership At BUUC?

Unitarian Universalism is a covenantal faith making membership in our community both simple and challenging. It is simple in that to become a member all that is generally required is signing the membership book. It is challenging because that is not all that is asked of our members. In addition to honoring our congregational covenant, as a member you would be asked to:

- Worship in community regularly
- Work faithfully on your own spiritual development
- Be involved in a ministry of service to others
- Share your financial resources as stewards of the present and future of this religious community
- Continue to learn and connect to the wider movement of Unitarian Universalism
- Assume responsibility for offering the genuine hospitality of this community to all who come here.

Visitors and friends curious to know more or who are considering becoming a member of BUUC are invited to contact Rev. Craig at revcraignowak@comcast.net

Our Covenant

As we share our lives in this place of blessed community, we promise to unite in an atmosphere of care and support, provide a spiritual home for ourselves and our children, and work together in our search for truth and caring ways to be in community with each other, both within and beyond these walls.

We seek to embody a welcoming community of

CARING, SUPPORT, AND SERVICE

We therefore promise to:

- Treat each other with respect, trust, and compassion
- Actively listen to all points of view on important issues
- Create an open environment for nonjudgmental participation
- Honor dissenting views, agreeing to disagree
- Make decisions with as much participation as possible
- Accept that we will make mistakes, forgive each other, and move on
- Express gratitude for the efforts of others
- Work together to live by our Covenant; and
- Try to the best of our ability to live by our Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes, affirming our tradition of service and justice for all.

**Adopted by the members of
BUUC May 20, 2012**

Who's Who at BUUC

Staff

Minister

Rev. Craig M. Nowak

Director of Religious Exploration

Cara Wales

Music Director

Lila M. Farrar

Office Assistant

Emily Foster

Executive Committee

Ex-Officio member

Rev. Craig M. Nowak

President

Barbara Hale

Treasurer

Doug Smith

Clerk

Gary Blanchard

Members-at-Large

Helena Paez, Sarah Swift, Christine

Keough-Huff, Fritz Foster

Collector

Dave Yutzler

Committees and Groups

Committee on Ministry

Mary Frisella, Roxann Smith, Donna Sullivan

Capital Campaign Committee

Amy Frisella, Kim Burdon, Tim Boon

Flower Committee

Lila Farrar, Chair

Membership Committee

Debbie Ennis, Chair

Nominating Committee

Robyn Vincent, Joanne Hamerly, Donna Boyea

Trustees

Tim Boon, Roxann Smith, Kirk Upton

Women's Alliance

Laurie Magnuson, President

Worship Committee

Roxann Smith, John Kennison, Fritz Foster, Jo Ann Pierce, David Yutzler

Community Resources

At the heart of Unitarian Universalism is a deep recognition and respect for the interconnectedness of life. As a faith community, Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church seeks to foster spiritual health and growth, but we also recognize that it is equally important to encourage and empower one another to lives of physical, mental, and emotional health and well-being. To that end, we have launched our Community Resources page. To access the page visit <http://www.buuc.org/community-resources.html>.



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