

June 2022

BUUC Newsletter

Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church
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"The Little Stone Church That Rocks"



Dear Friends,

Of all I could have written in this last newsletter of the church year, the following blessing rose to the surface above all else. For in a world filled with constant strife and injustice it is important to remember joy is a powerful spiritual act of resistance. And so dear ones,

H allow the verdant season ahead
A waiting the blessing of your
P layful, loving attention.
P ray with hands and heart
Y our soul's delight at

S ummer's mention.
U p, down,
M errily go round.
M ake not haste but
E njoy, savor,
R ejoice and repeat.

With love,
Rev. Craig

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

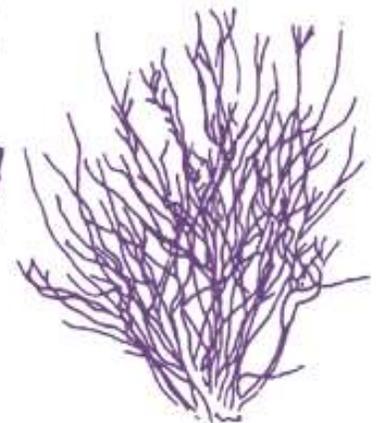
Our Affirmation

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.



Generosity Abounds!

Thank you to all who volunteered in some capacity at BUUC over the course of the church year.
You are the reason BUUC is the Little Stone Church That Rocks!



Notes from the President



This is my last time contributing to the BUUC News as the president of the congregation. And, boy, has it been an interesting four years or what? We have come through a pandemic and major construction on the church building. Successfully, I think, although the jury may still be out on the pandemic.

I certainly hope that I have done an adequate job. Rest assured that I am not fishing for compliments here. I know that the smooth running of any organization never rests on one person. And this is certainly the case here at the Little Stone Church that Rocks.

There are many members and friends of the church who pick up the slack in large and small ways. If help is needed, help is frequently on the way without complaint or fanfare. We're a lucky congregation in that regard. We have accomplished things that churches twice our size might find daunting.

I have thought for many years that the UUs I have met are among the best people I have ever known or ever will know. I think that lies in the simple fact that we tend to be people who do the right thing because it is the right thing and without expecting rewards. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was there for the church and for me in the last four years even though many of you did things that might not have been noticed and publicly called out. My gratitude and appreciation know no bounds. I consider myself very blessed to be a member of the Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church and honored to have been president.

In the immortal words of Kurt Vonnegut, "if this isn't nice, I don't know what is."

Live long and prosper,

Barb Hale

P.S. If you are a member of the BUUC, please set aside time to attend the Annual Meeting on *June 13th at 7:00pm*. Your voice is important.

Music Notes



It has been a challenging year but I am very proud of what we have been able to accomplish. A core of seven people kept the choir going. Please take time to express your appreciation for their work, which, beyond what is normally required, included wearing masks while singing; maintaining spacing; dividing practice time between two locations; and being responsible for bringing masks, music, hymnals and robes to practice and Sundays as needed.

For the final "choir Sundays" in June, we are excited to invite anyone who has sung in choir to come back to sing either or both weeks. Or if you have been thinking you would like to try singing in the choir, this would be a good time to get your feet wet. You do have to be able to match pitch and hold your own part when other sections are singing different notes, which often means spending time practicing at home, but I am always willing to spend extra time with anyone who needs it. The pieces are not necessarily easy if you haven't sung them before, but if you have been in choir in the past, you probably know all of them. By the time you are reading this, I may have already talked to you, but if not, and you are interested or have any questions, give me a call. 508-864-5978



Last church year when I contacted 91 year old hymn writer Alicia Carpenter for permission to record one of her hymns for ZOOM she denied us permission. We of course honored her wishes, which also made us very sad as she has written some of the favorite lyrics in our hymnal. After she passed away, I learned from the Association for Unitarian Universalist Music Ministry (AUUMM) that her son had declared we could now use any of her hymns for zoom without seeking further permission. With that knowledge we gratefully and confidently sang hymn #300 "With Heart and Mind" on May 1, without my checking the UUA copyright status

page because I thought I already knew. Since then I have discovered that we should have printed the following: Lyrics by Alicia S. Carpenter, © 1990; used with permission of the Estate of Alicia Carpenter. I very much regret the error and do tremendously thank the family for making all of her hymns available.



As mentioned in previous Newsletters, we will continue our observation of the 300th anniversary of the publication in 1722 of Christoph Graupner's "Monthly Fruits for Keyboard", hearing selections from the June and July Partitas during services in June. Look forward to hearing August and September selections in September.

Have a music filled summer. Please continue to support live music.

Lila Farrar,
Music Director

Notes from the Director of Religious Exploration



"Walks of many colors, a rainbow."

This was an example I gave on a recent RE Family walk of a six-word memoir of our walks.

The six-word memoir concept came to me during one of the continuing education classes offered by the UUA that I have taken in the last year. It originated from Larry Smith and it emphasizes telling a concise story. Many wonderful (and funny) six-word memoirs can be found at <https://www.sixwordmemoirs.com>.

During this church year, Explorers and their families have gathered monthly in a variety of locations to go for a walk, talk, have fun, and experience UU life outside of the church. Usually, there is a story, an art project, or some other activity. I asked participants to share six-word stories or memories of our walks recently. Here are a few:

"Sun warms the rock so nicely" — Isaac

"Kids run while parents are lingering" — David

"I see green leaves on rock" — Brigid

"New nature experiences together soothing thinking" — Zoey

"Treading worn paths, a fresh experience" — Jack

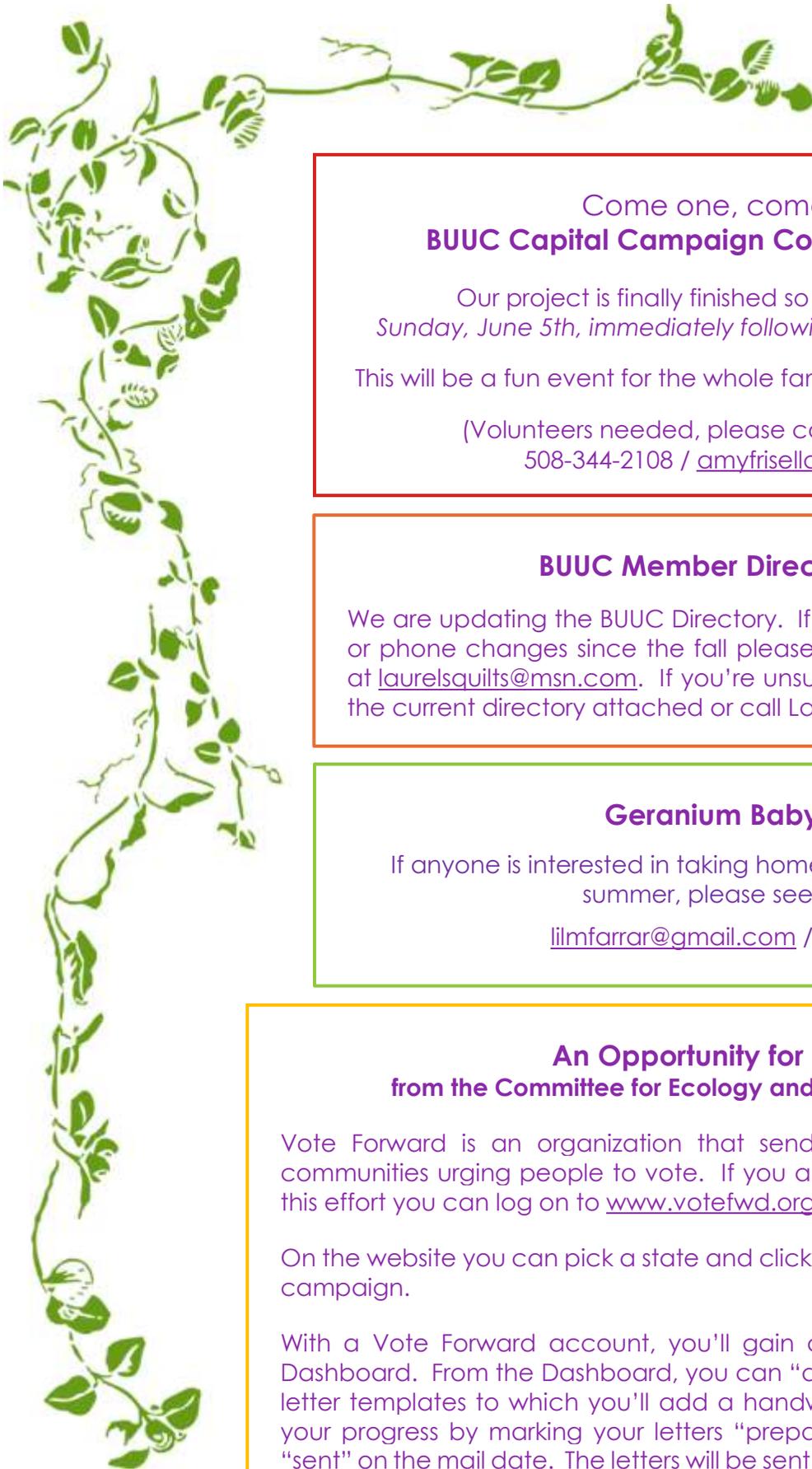
Back at church, Explorers have connected with and built intergenerational relationships with a wonderful group of volunteers. My thanks to Doug Smith, Amy Frisella, Laurie Magnuson, Colleen Groner, and Laurel Hemmer. This wonderful group has helped with crafts, acting, games, and a field trip to the Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry. They have also enhanced so many discussions by providing different viewpoints and ideas to share. I am so thankful for this group's work to help RE grow!

I am also, of course, thankful for the Explorers themselves. This group makes me laugh, wonder, and learn so much every week. I feel so lucky to work with so many wonderful people, from our volunteers to our Explorers, and also with the support of our staff. This was another six-word memoir I gave as an example for our walk, but I think it holds for our entire experience.

"Wonder at discovery, laughter, and awe."

Cara Wales,
Director of Religious Exploration





Come one, come all to the
BUUC Capital Campaign Completion Celebration!

Our project is finally finished so it's time to celebrate!
Sunday, June 5th, immediately following service. (Rain Date 6/12)
This will be a fun event for the whole family. Food and drinks provided!

(Volunteers needed, please contact Amy Frisella at
508-344-2108 / amyfrisella@hotmail.com)

BUUC Member Directory Update

We are updating the BUUC Directory. If you know you've had address or phone changes since the fall please email Laurel Hemmer directly at laurelsquilts@msn.com. If you're unsure look for the email blast with the current directory attached or call Laurel at 774-239-8969.

Geranium Babysitting

If anyone is interested in taking home a geranium or two for the summer, please see Lila Farrar.

lilmfarrar@gmail.com / 508-864-5978

**An Opportunity for Action
from the Committee for Ecology and Social Action (CESA)**

Vote Forward is an organization that sends letters to underrepresented communities urging people to vote. If you are interested in participating in this effort you can log on to www.votefwd.org.

On the website you can pick a state and click on "social" for their nonpartisan campaign.

With a Vote Forward account, you'll gain access to your own volunteer Dashboard. From the Dashboard, you can "adopt" voters, download typed letter templates to which you'll add a handwritten message, and manage your progress by marking your letters "prepared," and then marking them "sent" on the mail date. The letters will be sent in October prior to the midterm elections.

If you aren't able to write letters but would be interested in donating stamps, CESA will be holding a stamp collection.

Announcements

Zoom Stone Soup

With our traditional Stone Soup off the table, so to speak for a while, consider dropping in for Zoom Soup, *Wednesday, June 1st at 12:00pm*. Gather your lunch, log on and spend some time catching up with friends. We'd love to see you.

To attend email Rev. Craig for log in instructions/password at revcraignowak@comcast.net

CESA

Committee for Ecology and Social Action will meet *Wednesday, June 8th at 7:00pm on ZOOM*, before breaking for the summer. Meetings will resume in September. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Penny Blum at quabbinquilter@gmail.com.

Book Club

The BUUC Book Discussion Group will be meeting via Zoom on *Tuesday, June 14th, at 7:00pm* to read *Interior Chinatown* by Charles Yu. Please feel free to attend. We will be taking July and August off to read and will come back on *September 13th* to compile our book list for the next church year. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Hale at b.lambert.hale@gmail.com.

Choir Practice

7:00-8:30pm each Thursday through June 16th. Rehearsals for the fall church season resume *August 4th*. Contact Music Director Lila M. Farrar at lilamfarrar@gmail.com or 508-864-5978.

BUUC Journaling Group

This community offers the opportunity to get together with others that enjoy keeping a journal and provides accountability to keep journaling. We are taking the summer off but will resume meeting on the *last Monday of the month in September*. Contact Cara Wales at c.l.c.wales@gmail.com for more information.

Executive Committee

First Monday of the month at 6:45pm.

Women's Alliance

The Women's Alliance will be going out to dinner on *June 17th at 7:00 pm*. If interested, contact Laurie Magnuson (508-867-3763) by *June 10th*.

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.

Rev. Craig's Office Hours Through July 1st

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

Rev. Craig's Summer Schedule

Rev. Craig will be available for pastoral emergencies by phone or email except during vacation:

July 1-8 — Emergency pastoral coverage: Rev. Aaron R. Payson
Cell (textable): 508-963-5959 / Email: arpayson@charter.net

Aug 2-9 — Emergency pastoral coverage: TBD

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.

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, 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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