

The Happenings

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"



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST TRIVIA

Who delivered the Ware Lecture, "Don't Sleep Through the Revolution" at the 1966 Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in Hollywood, FL?

- A. Mother Teresa
- B. Robert F. Kennedy
- C. Rosa Parks
- D. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- E. Anita Bryant

The answer is on page 4.

*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.

February Services*

Sunday morning services are held at 10:30 am.

February 5: "Finding Peace in Spiritual Practice"

*Worship Leader: Cruger Johnson Phillips
Music: Gary Blanchard*

February 12: "Why's Guys"

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

February 19: "Tao and Zen"

*Worship Leader: Gary Blanchard
Music: BUUC vocal quartet—Cara Wales, Jessica Adams,
Dave Yutzler, and Jared Adams*

February 26: "Peripheral Vision"

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

*A Note About Worship

With increasing rates of respiratory illnesses, we ask that if you feel ill at all, please stay home and take care of yourself. We want all of us to be in community, just not with communicable diseases. Thank you.

Notes from the Director of Religious Exploration



During a staff meeting, Rev. Craig, Lila and I started to brainstorm the annual Intergenerational Winter Solstice Service. We all thought it would be worthwhile to try something different, and Rev. Craig suggested that we read a variety of poems related to the Solstice.

Over the next few weeks, the following poems were chosen.

- ❖ "Choose Something Like a Star" by Robert Frost
- ❖ "Manna" by Joseph Stroud
- ❖ "Spin a Song: Celebrating Rumi" by Marjorie Wentworth

In preparation for Religious Exploration on December 4th, I printed the poems in large print. Brigid and I cut the poems up so that each word was on its own tiny piece of paper, and each tiny piece of paper was put into a box.

On the 4th, we listened to the poems, and then gathered around the box for a daunting task: to create a poem of our own for the Solstice using the words from the three poems chosen for the 18th.

It was challenging on many levels. Creating such a personal piece in a larger group that everyone was happy with was a tall order.

The following week, I handed out copies to each Explorer to provide edits. Many of the same edits appeared across several copies, some things were crossed out, and other things were added.

So much work went into this piece for the Winter Solstice. Many thanks to Jenny, Zoey, Avery, Teagan, Brigid, David, Isaac, Aaron, Abigail, Avery, and Kite. By request, here is their poem.

Spin Like a Star

By the BUUC Religious Explorers

A sky of elements
rising strangely certain.

The sun, our star
giving light.

Look to comprehend something
when morning light
shines through.

Dance brings your heart sight
something allowed everywhere.
Happiness becomes you.
You are grateful.
You are beautiful.



Music Notes



Planning ahead a little bit: Our annual traditional Celtic Music Sunday will be March 19 (a week later than usual). Unfortunately, our mask mandate will still be in effect, so we are inviting anyone who can play their instruments masked. As always, the Prelude and the Postlude are open to musicians of *all* skill levels, and I really mean that. If you are a beginning guitar player, who knows one chord, we welcome you. If you can play an open G or D string on your violin, we welcome you. We will provide some percussion instruments for willing pre-beginners. You may have heard our motto: "Some of the notes, some of the time." If you are more experienced and want to branch out (most of the notes, most of the time) there will be another tune for you to join in. I will work out a little practice time during Feb and early March as needed. Please, if you can, join us. This is fun. We hope to inspire dancing in the aisles during the postlude!

Let me know at what level you can participate. I hope to hear from everyone!

Lila Farrar,
Music Director



Generosity Abounds

Thank you to our children and youth who give generously of their time and imagination throughout the year to make our intergenerational services memorable and inspiring!

Trash Pickup

We have neither trash pickup nor recycling pickup at BUUC. We rely on the goodwill of church members to take trash and recycling home to dispose of them.

If people could share in these chores by checking the trash and recycling occasionally, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Supplies Corner

Each month this will be the place where you can see what supplies our church needs.

Donations may be placed in the first recycling bin in the kitchen.

- ❖ snow melt — 6 large containers
- ❖ sand
- ❖ paper towels — 2 rolls

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Nursery Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to work in the nursery. You will go downstairs after Joys and Concerns. A CORI must be completed ahead of time (BUUC will provide that service).

If you are interested, please see Robyn Vincent or email robynbuuc@yahoo.com.

Volunteers Needed for Hybrid Worship

Our ability to hold hybrid services (in-person and streaming) depends on having volunteers able to start and monitor the laptop at church during worship.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Robyn Vincent at robynbuuc@yahoo.com.

Legacy Giving

Over the years members and friends have included BUUC in their wills or estate plans to help ensure our faith and this church will be here for future generations. You can, too. Gifts to BUUC's Trust help secure a place for liberal religious values in an increasingly illiberal world.

Contact Rev. Craig at revcraignowak@comcast.net for more information.

Rev. Craig's Office Hours

First Wednesday of the month 1—2pm at the church.

Sundays at the church when he's in the pulpit immediately following the service until 12:30pm.

Via Zoom, Facetime (for iphone users) and telephone:
Email him at revcraignowak@comcast.net,
or call 860-916-9261, to schedule a time.

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.

Announcements

Food for Faith: Adult Religious Exploration "Creation as a Spiritual Practice"

Afternoon Group: Monday, 2/6 at 1:30pm

Evening Group: Tuesday, 2/7 at 6:30pm

Stone Soup*

Stone Soup is back at the church!

Wednesday, February 1st at 12pm. Come catch up with friends and have lunch together.

*At this time attendees are invited to bring their lunch. Coffee, tea, and a dessert will be provided.

Book Club

The BUUC Book Discussion Group will be meeting via ZOOM on Tuesday, February 14th at 7:00pm to discuss *Dirtbag Massachusetts* by Isaac Fitzgerald. Please feel free to attend. A complete list of this year's books can be found on our website at www.buuc.org/events. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Hale at b.lambert.hale@gmail.com.

CESA

The Committee for Ecology and Social Action is now meeting the third Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 15th, at 7:00pm on ZOOM. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Penny Blum at quabbinquilter@gmail.com

Women's Alliance

The next meeting will be held Sunday, February 26th at the church following the service.
Contact Laurie Magnuson (508-867-3763).

Journaling Group

The BUUC Journaling group is open to anyone interested in keeping a journal. We gather monthly on ZOOM to journal quietly with some suggested prompts. While we usually chat a little, we do not discuss our writings. Please feel free to join us! Our next meeting is Monday, February 27th at 7:00pm. If you have any questions, email Cara Wales at c.l.c.wales@gmail.com.

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 6:30pm.

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

Robyn Vincent

Treasurer

Colleen Groner

Clerk

Gary Blanchard

Members-at-Large

Christine Keough-Huff, Fritz Foster,

Amy Frisella, Laurie Magnuson

Collector

Dave Yutzler

Committees and Groups

Committee on Ministry

Mary Frisella, Roxann Smith,

Donna Sullivan

Flower Committee

Lila Farrar (chair), Judy Trifone,

Donna Sullivan

Membership Committee

Debbie Ennis, Joanne Hamerly,

Donna Boyea, Penny Blum, Christine

Holbrook, Alix McNitt, Robyn Vincent

Nominating Committee

Joanne Hamerly, Donna Boyea,

Karen Keough-Huff

Trustees

Doug Smith, Roxann Smith,

Kirk Upton

Women's Alliance

Laurie Magnuson, President

Worship Committee

Barb Hale, Jo Ann Pierce, Roxann

Smith, John Kennison, 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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Email: buuc01506@gmail.com

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www.buuc.org
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