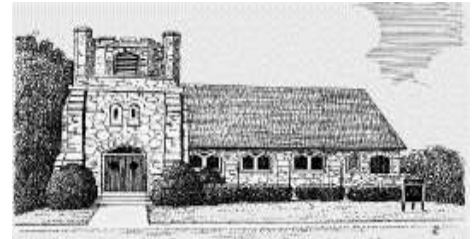


September 2024

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"



Letter from the President September 1, 2024

In one week we will join together for our first in person service of the 2024-2025 church year. It will be novel for us in that we won't have a minister this year. However, please rest assured that many of us have been busy trying to make arrangements so that this upcoming year runs very smoothly. Cara Wales, our wonderful Director of Religious Exploration, is going to be providing us with eight extra services this year. Of course she will still be in charge of our usual intergenerational services. Cara's services are always thoughtful and creative. We are very lucky to have her doing this for us.

Our Worship Committee has been working hard to fill the pulpit with people who will be interesting, informative, and inspirational. They will soon be asking BUUC members if they'd like to give a sermon. If you are even just considering doing this, please give it some thought. Some of the best sermons I have ever heard were given by lay people. Each one of you has something valuable to say. And nowhere else will you find such a warm and loving audience.

The Executive Committee has been very concerned about having pastoral care available for everyone. I am so pleased to tell you that Rev. John Pastor has agreed to pastoral care for us. His name should be familiar, as he was the minister who covered for Rev. Craig when he was off on one of his grand trips. Rev. Pastor is also going to be giving two sermons this year, so many of us will be able to put a face to his name. Rev. Pastor told me any contact he has had with BUUC has always been very positive. I will be sharing his contact information with you shortly. And, as an adjunct to Rev. Pastor's pastoral care, we have created a lay pastoral care committee. It is still being developed, but progress is being made. I am very excited about it. I hope that each one of you feels supported by our community already. This committee will be a natural extension of the community we have all helped create and nurture.

*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.



My heartache is that although we now have money in our budget to pay for a nursery school caregiver, we haven't found one yet. If anyone has any thoughts or ideas about filling this position, please either text me or call me immediately! My number is 774-230-6623. You may also email me at robynbuuc@yahoo.com.

I am looking forward to seeing each one of you!

Robyn

Music Notes



In August I attended the conference of the Association for UU Music Ministries in person for the first time since 2019. I met new composers and colleagues, reconnected with longtime friends, and learned new songs. You will get the benefit of this as the year unfolds, but today I want to share a bit from the opening worship, July 31 in Albuquerque.

Donald Milton III, (UU Congregation of Atlanta) said one of his favorite hymns is "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (SLT 126), especially the phrase, "tune our hearts to sing thy grace." Yes, we musicians believe in tuning. As Donald said, "If I didn't believe that tuning could change lives I would be in a different profession. I know in my core that the extra effort it takes to listen deeply, to lock that chord, to blend that timbre, to match that vowel, all of that effort is always worth it. That space where we create beauty is sacred and it is a spirit of grace for those making the music and those experiencing it. And the listener doesn't have to understand why it's good, they just feel it, they just know."

However, the song says "tune our *hearts*" and that is about something else that happens, or *can* happen when we ALL sing together in church. This is not about performance. It may even be by some standards "bad" singing, but it is what fosters joy. Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, the current UUA president and also a member of AUUMM, spoke of growing up in a highly musical family where performance was sometimes more important than the "messy glory of music making." She found her voice while doing the hated chore of vacuuming where she could sing to distract her from the job, but also not be heard, and thus experiment with sound. Until one day she sang louder than the vacuum and truly made a joyful noise.

As she said, "It can be anything that invites us right back to our own joy and our love for what yet may come."

In a workshop on the aging voice (our BUUC Choir has been hearing a lot about this since choir practice resumed Aug 15), Donald Milton talked about how all voices do change over time, and that every voice is different, but in order to keep singing, one must sing. He recommends five minutes a day.

As Dr. Betancourt put it: "Let us find our way back to joy in these coming days, Beloveds. Let us be ready for joy's return."

Amen, and may it be so.

Lila Farrar,

Music Director

Notes from the Director of Religious Exploration



Welcome to a new church year and, with it, the opportunity to connect and explore our spirituality more deeply!

In the first half of the church year, I will lead an adult religious exploration class called "The New UU." The curriculum comes from the Unitarian Universalist Association, but as is my way, I will alter it to fit those who plan to participate in this class. Other congregations offer it at least annually, but it has been a

few years since we have offered anything like it.

This class is great for a variety of people. Have you started coming to our church in the last couple of years? Would you like a refresher on basic Unitarian Universalist concepts? Do you enjoy learning and being in fellowship with others? Any one of these is an excellent reason to attend, although long-time attendees may get less out of this experience.

I will offer another adult RE class in the second half of the church year for a broader range of adult explorers. Information about this class will be available around the turn of the year.

Tentatively, the first New UU class will be held toward the end of September. There will be two classes in both October and November. Our final class will be in early December. If you are interested, please email me at c.l.c.wales@gmail.com. You can also call or text me at 774-230-1398. Once I know who is interested, I will ask for feedback regarding times, days, and location (in-person or on Zoom).

I look forward to being together again soon!

Cara Wales

Director of Religious Exploration



RE Calendar

- Intergenerational Stone Communion: *September 8*
- RE Family Walk: *September 15*

Stone Communion

Please bring a stone to church on *September 8* for our annual Stone Communion. It may be a stone found on your travels, a stone from your driveway, a stone from the end-of-church-year Stone Communion...any stone will do.

The Committee for Ecology & Social Action (CESA)

Helpsy Textile Drive

CESA sponsored our second annual textile collection the week of July 15th in collaboration with Helpsy, a "Public Benefit Corporation with a mission to keep clothes out of the trash and to create honorable work." This year's drive was even more successful than last year's. We collected 6,519 pounds of textiles and made \$782.28 for the church. Thanks to everyone who helped with the drive and everyone who contributed.



Vote Forward

A friendly reminder from CESA to join us in our Vote Forward letter-writing campaign to urge voters in key states and districts to get to the polls on November 5 and vote. You will need access to a computer, printer, stamps and envelopes. This is a project for doing at home. No travel required. We are keeping track of how many letters our community send so please let Laurel know how many you've written. (laurelsquilts@msn.com)

If you don't want to write letters but would still like to help, please consider donating stamps (or money to buy them) for others to use. There is a box for them on the CESA bulletin board.

Instructional handouts are on the CESA table in the parlor. You can also go to votefwd.org for details. As always, if in doubt ask a CESA member. Our names are listed on the board.



Chaubunagungamaug Band of Nipmuck Indians 42nd Annual Nipmuck Pow Wow

September 7th-8th from 11:00am – 5:00pm

Lake Siog Park
Dug Hill Rd., Holland, MA
Contact: Ken White 508-347-7829
<https://www.nipmuck.org/>



- Traditional and contemporary foods
- Drumming and dancing
- Crafts and jewelry
- Walking Bear Singers
- Blackstone Valley Singers

Nonnatives are welcome but we should remember to be respectful which means staying out of the circle, don't take pictures without permission, stand for certain parts. If you have any question about what is appropriate, common sense prevails; observe those around you, or ask. Here is one guide: <https://www.travelawaits.com/2492754/powwow-etiquette/>



YOU ARE INVITED TO

the Ordination of
Alyssa Lee

to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 - 3:00 PM

First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City
600 NW 13th Street
OKC, OK 73103
www.1uc.org

Reception to follow.

Our former minister Alyssa Lee invites us all to join her as she celebrates her official ordination as a UU Minister!

The ceremony will take place at her childhood church in Oklahoma City, but anyone may watch it live at one of the following links:

<https://www.youtube.com/@1UCOKC>

<https://youtube.com/live/QTvBcXOWMbc>



Alyssa's church has also begun a fundraiser to help cover the expenses of the event. If you would like to contribute, visit:

<https://www.faithify.org/campaign/369/Help-1UC-ordain-Alyssa-Lee>

September Services*

Sunday morning services are held at 10:30 am.

September 8: Intergenerational service with Stone Communion
"Shared Abundance"

Worship Leader: *Cara Wales, DRE*
Music: *BUUC Choir*

September 15: "An Invitation to Develop a Personal Religion"

Worship Leader: *John Kennison*
Music: *Rick Condee and Lila Farrar, Telemann Flute Duets*

September 22: "Have a Seat...No, Not There!"

Worship Leader: *Dave Yutzler*
Music: *BUUC Choir*

September 29: "Is the Universe Friendly? Yes!"

Worship Leader: *Rev. Elaine Bomford*
Music: *Gary Blanchard, guitar & vocals; Emily Foster, piano*

*A Note About Worship

Currently we are holding hybrid services (in-person and streaming) as often as tech volunteers are available. For those who wish to stream the service (attend online) a link will be provided via email. If you'd like to volunteer to be one of our ZOOM Geeks, email Barb Hale at b.lambert.hale@gmail.com.



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

Book Club

The BUUC Book Discussion Group will be meeting via ZOOM on *Tuesday, September 10th at 7:00pm* to decide on the reading list for this year. Please feel free to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Hale at b.lambert.hale@gmail.com.

CESA

The Committee for Ecology and Social Action will hold its next meeting *Wednesday, September 11th at 7:00pm on ZOOM*. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Penny Blum at quabbinquilter@gmail.com

Choir Practice

6:55-8:30pm each Thursday.

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

Executive Committee

Monday, September 9th at 6:30pm.

(Resumes the first Monday of each month beginning in October.)

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 the office at buuc01506@gmail.com.

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

Director of Religious Exploration
Cara Wales

Music Director
Lila M. Farrar

Office Assistant
Emily Foster

Executive Committee

President
Robyn Vincent

Treasurer
Roxann Smith

Clerk
Amy Frisella

Members-at-Large
Fritzi Foster, Christine Holbrook,
Sharon Smith, Cruger Johnson Phillips

Collector
Dave Yutzler

Committees and Groups

Worship Committee
Barb Hale (chair), Roxann Smith,
John Kennison, David Yutzler,
Amy Frisella, Linda Friedmann

Flower Committee
Lila Farrar (chair), Judy Trifone,
Donna Sullivan

Membership Committee
Joanne Hamerly, Donna Boyea,
Penny Blum, Alix McNitt,
Robyn Vincent, Karen Goudey

Nominating Committee
Joanne Hamerly, Donna Boyea

Women's Alliance
Donna Sullivan (chair), Donna
Boyea, Barb Hale, Joanne Hamerly,
Laurel Hemmer, Laurie Magnuson,
Sharon Smith, , Judy Trifone,
Diane Mossa

Committee for Ecology and Social
Action (CESA)
Penny Blum (chair), Joanne Hamerly,
Donna Boyea, Laurel Hemmer,
Sarah Swift, Barb Hale, Lila Farrar,
Emily Foster, Alix McNitt,
Kathleen Walker

Trustees
Doug Smith, Roxann Smith,
Kirk Upton, Linda Friedmann

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>.

**BROOKFIELD
UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

P. O. Box 386
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Brookfield, MA 01506

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We're on the web

www.buuc.org

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