

# JANUARY HAPPENINGS

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 1



## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to support and promote the principles of Unitarian Universalism. By nurturing spirituality, intellectual growth, diversity of belief, and our ties to one another, we seek to inspire lives of passion, compassion, and community. We do this for ourselves and for the larger world.

## 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

Back issues of the BUUC newsletter are on our website at [www.buuc.org/newsletters](http://www.buuc.org/newsletters)

1778 (1/18) Joseph Tuckerman, the first Unitarian minister-at-large (community minister) to assist the needy, was born in Boston, Massachusetts. Tuckerman founded the Benevolent Fraternity of Unitarian Churches in Boston, which influenced the development of professional social work and those seeking to address urban poverty.

1839 (1/5) Olympia Brown, the first woman minister whose ordination was recognized by a denomination (Universalist) was born in Prairie Ronde, Michigan. After ordination, Brown served Universalist congregations in Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa. Dedicated to the cause of women's suffrage, Brown was one of the few original suffragists still alive to vote in 1919.

1861 (1/29) Florida Yates Ruffin Ripley, African-American teacher, writer and activist was born in Boston, Massachusetts. Ripley became the second African-American teacher in the Boston public schools and was a founder of several organizations including the Society for the Collection of Negro Folklore, the Society of Descendants, Early New England Negroes, the League of Women for Community Service and Second Unitarian Church in Brookline, Massachusetts.



### Rev. Craig's Contact Info

Phone and Email  
860-916-9261,  
[revcraignowak@comcast.net](mailto:revcraignowak@comcast.net)

Office Hours  
Wednesdays 9:15–10 am and 1–3 pm  
Other times by appointment

BUUC Cares: If you or someone you know at BUUC might need pastoral support, please contact Rev. Craig (contact information above).

## SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES ARE HELD AT 10:30AM.

**January 1** "Holiday Contemplative Service: A Quaker Meeting at BUUC" –Wendy Newhall

**January 8** "Suck it up" – Roxann Smith; Music – Choir

**January 15** "The Impossible Will Take A Little While" – Rev. Craig M. Nowak; Music – Megan Frisella, piano and Jared and Jessica Adams, singing

**January 22** "Taking Sides: Journey to the Center of the Universe" –Rev. Craig M. Nowak; Music – Choir

**January 29** "If not now, when?" – Margo Chevers; Music – Linda Friedmann, harp

## January Calendar

See page numbers for more detail and/or page 4

January 4	12:00 pm	Stone Soup Luncheon
January 10	7:00 pm	Book Club (pg3)
January 11	7:00 pm	Women's Alliance Meeting
January 15	12:00pm	New (and Not So New) to UU (pg2)
January 22	12:00pm	Committee on Ecology and Social Action (CESA) meeting
January 29	2:00pm	Farrar Music Studio Recital
January 31	6:30 pm	SMOC dinner, Gilbertville, MA
Sundays	10:30 am	Worship Services (pg1 above)



*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*

HERE: *We unite in an atmos-  
phere of care and support to  
foster spiritual health and  
growth.*

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

HERE: *We nurture stability for  
our daily lives and seek moti-  
vation to reach out to the larger  
community.*

  
**JANUARY HAPPENINGS**

***FOOD FOR FAITH: Conversations to Feed Your Soul***

Based on the small group ministry or covenant group model, this series will feature short readings to stimulate reflection and conversation in a small group setting. Topics will be drawn from our monthly worship theme offering opportunities to further explore or deepen one's engagement with the theme.

**Meeting Dates**

Sunday Groups: 2/5; 3/19; 4/2 @ 12:15pm

Wednesday Group: 2/1; 3/1; 4/5 @ 1:30pm

Where: BUUC program space or Rev. Craig's office (both downstairs)

NOTE: The group is open. No preparation or reading is required ahead of time. All participants are asked to abide by the group covenant which will be established at the first session. While you may come to one or all of the sessions, the more you attend, the more all participants will benefit.

**Who's Who at  
BUUC**

**Staff**

**Minister**

Rev. Craig M. Nowak

**Religious Education Director**

Laurel Burdon

**Music Director**

Lila M. Farrar

**Office Assistant**

Angie Ellison

**Executive Committee**

**Ex-Officio member**

Rev. Craig M. Nowak

**President**

Amy Frisella

**Treasurer**

Doug Smith

**Clerk**

Colleen Groner

**Members-at-Large**

Robyn Vincent, Donna

Boyea, Kevin Snyder, Mary

Ann Adams

**Committees and Groups**

**Committee on Ministry**

Mary Frisella Roxann Smith,

Donna Sullivan

**Ecology and Social Action**

**(CESA)**

Mary Ann Adams, Chair

**Flower Committee**

Lila Farrar, Chair

**Membership Committee**

Debbie Ennis, Chair

**Nominating Committee**

Barbara Hale, Laurie Mag-

nuson, Donna Sullivan

**Trustees**

Carla Schirm, Doug Smith,

Roxann Smith

**Women's Alliance**

Laurie Magnuson, President

**Worship Committee**

Wendy Newhall, Chair

**Ultimate Team**

Ruth King, Diane Mossa,

Judy Trifone

***ADULT RE Offering Winter/Spring 2017***

**New (and Not So New) to UU Class**

Are you a newcomer who likes what you see and hear at BUUC but want to know more about Unitarian Universalism? Or are you a long time member seeking to deepen your understanding of your chosen faith for your own benefit or to share it with others? Then this class is for you. Join Rev. Craig to learn about some of the basics of Unitarian Universalism and a chance to explore questions like, "Can UU's really believe whatever they want?", "What does the minister do Monday through Saturday?", "What does membership in a UU congregation mean?" and more.

**When:** Sunday, January 15th at 12:00pm

**Where:** BUUC conference room adjacent to Rev. Craig's office.

**How to Sign Up:** Use the sign up sheet in the church parlor (on the table next to the tall cabinet) or email Rev. Craig directly at [revcraignowak@comcast.net](mailto:revcraignowak@comcast.net) Approximately one week prior to the course, participants will receive a short article to read ahead of the class.



**BUUC UNO's Dough Rai\$er!**

Every meal purchased with special UNO's ticket at UNO's in Sturbridge on Friday 2/24/16 will benefit the BUUC. Get your special tickets at church!

**Community Resources Page**

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 [www.buuc.org](http://www.buuc.org) and click on the "Community Resources" tab on the side menu.

**GENEROSITY ABOUNDS!**

Thank you to Debbie Ennis, BUUC Collector and chair of the Membership Committee, for the dedication, energy and vision she brings to all she does at BUUC.

Thank you to Susan Schirm, who sent BUUC a donation in honor of her brother and sister-in-law Geoff and Carla Schirm, as part of her family's tradition of holiday giving.

***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.

***RE and MORE! We ARE One (Congregation)!!***

Mystery Mentors is a guided, multigenerational pen-pal project that will kick off in mid January.

And, Save The Date for the exciting finale on Youth Sunday, February 19th. Details will be coming soon!!

***BOOK CLUB***

The next meeting of the BUUC Book Club is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10th, 7pm at the church. This group is open to anyone who would like to attend. Our book for January is *The Girls* by Emma Cline. If you would like to read ahead, our February book is *Nutshell* by Ian McEwan. If you can't make it to the meeting, but would like to suggest a book for the group, please email Barb Hale at [b.lambert.hale@gmail.com](mailto:b.lambert.hale@gmail.com)

**THERE ARE ALLERGIES AMONG US:**

Please limit your use of scents and chemicals, and leave as much latex as possible at home.



**THANK YOU**  
from Rev. Craig

Thank you to everyone who planned, set up, cooked, cleaned and attended in body and/or spirit the celebration December 4th of my attainment of Final Fellowship. Thank you for the beautiful chalice, hand illustrated chalice book from the children, lovely cards and other thoughtful gifts. I'm deeply touched by and grateful for the spirit of love and hospitality that each of you brings to BUUC and to our shared ministry.



**WELCOME  
NEW MEMBER**

*Joanne Hamerly*

**BROOKFIELD UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

P. O. Box 386  
9 Upper River Street  
Brookfield, MA 1506

Phone: 508-867-5145  
Email: [buuc01506@gmail.com](mailto:buuc01506@gmail.com)

We're on the web

[www.buuc.org](http://www.buuc.org)

Follow us on Facebook and  
Twitter @BrookfieldUU



---

## ONGOING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### **Book Club**

*Second Tuesday of the Month – 7pm*  
JOIN US for an all inclusive (men and women of BUUC and beyond welcome), exhilarating (maybe a little strong but we're really excited) BUUC BOOK CLUB. We hope to create a group that will generate meaningful conversations about a variety of books, authors and topics. Contact Amy Frisella at [amyfrisella@hotmail.com](mailto:amyfrisella@hotmail.com) or Barb Hale [b.lambert.hale@gmail.com](mailto:b.lambert.hale@gmail.com) for more info.

### **Choir Practice**

*Every Thursday at 7 pm*

### **Committee for Ecology and Social Action (CESA)**

*Third Wednesday of the month, 7pm*  
For information, contact Mary Ann Adams at [maryannbuuc@gmail.com](mailto:maryannbuuc@gmail.com)

### **Executive Committee**

*First Monday of the month at 6:30 pm*

### **Food For Faith: Adult RE**

*Sunday Group at 12:15pm and Wednesday Groups at 1:30pm*  
Based on the small group ministry or covenant group model, this series will feature short readings to stimulate reflection and conversation in a small group setting. Topics will be drawn from our monthly worship theme offering opportunities to further explore or deepen one's engagement with the theme.

### **SMOC Dinner**

*Last Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm*  
Come join us as we provide a monthly meal for residents of the SMOC sober house in Gilbertville. Contact Wendy Newhall, [circle\\_dancers@yahoo.com](mailto:circle_dancers@yahoo.com) or Christine Holbrook, [holbrookchristine1@gmail.com](mailto:holbrookchristine1@gmail.com) for details.

### **Stone Soup Luncheons**

*Oct – June, first Wednesday of the month, 12pm*  
All are invited for Stone Soup, where your presence is the secret (and most important) ingredient. We provide the soup and coffee/tea; you bring something to share (bread, juice, appetizer/dessert).

### **Women's Alliance**

*Second Wednesday of the month, 7pm.*  
Contact Laurie Magnuson (508-867-3763)

☛  
For specific dates, see  
Calendar on page 1  
☛