



A Welcoming Congregation
and a Green Sanctuary

9 Upper River St.
P.O. Box 386
Brookfield, MA 01506
buuc01506@gmail.com
www.buuc.org

We are a fellowship of seekers
after truth, bound by no dog-
ma, restricted by no creed.

Our Affirmation

HERE: We unite in an at-
mosphere of care and support
to foster spiritual health and
growth.

HERE: We focus on sharing
our ideas and histories, with
warmth, hope, loving friend-
ship and an open mind.

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

MARCH

Worship Schedule

Sunday morning services are
held at 10:30 am.

March 5: "The Third Con-
version" –Rev. Craig Nowak; -
Music – Choir

March 12: "Good People" –
Laurel Hemmer, Kirk and
Jefferson Upton; Music –
Celtic Music

March 19*: "No Thanks, I'll
Walk" –Rev. Craig Nowak;
Music – Intergenerational
Choir

March 26 "Be the Change" –
Gary Blanchard; Music –
Flutes

*Intergenerational Service



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to support and
promote the principles of Uni-
tarian Universalism. By nurtur-
ing 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.

HUUMP Day Reflections

HUUMP Day Reflections, a weekly
invitation to pause and practice your
faith launched in February 2016. The
reflections are sent out from BUUC
each Wednesday via email and Twitter
and are also posted to the BUUC
Facebook page.

Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church

BUUC NEWS



Volume 22, Issue 3

March 2017

From the Minister



Dear Friends,

"What's it worth?" That's the
question on everyone's mind when
the Antiques Roadshow appraiser
finishes talking about the origin,
date, and maker of an object
brought in by a collector, heir or flea
market enthusiast. To come up
with that number, and let's face it,
it's a dollar amount people most
want to know, appraisers are con-
fined to a fairly narrow set of stand-
ards including: condition, rarity,
desirability, provenance, and current
prices for comparable objects in the
same market. Often, the object's
owner, whether delighted or disap-
pointed, will respond by saying
something like, "Well, it's priceless
to me; I would never sell it." or "It
has more meaning to me than that."

Such responses remind us the
question of worth often draws
upon much broader and deeper
considerations than the appraiser is
permitted by the standards of the
profession. Considerations I hope
you will take into account as we
begin our annual canvass this year.

You've likely heard me refer to
the Brookfield Unitarian Univers-
alist Church (BUUC) as a self-funded,
self-sustaining congregation. Simply
put, that means we, the members
and friends of the church, raise the
money necessary to operate the
church, pay salaries and pursue our
congregational mission. We don't
receive funding from any outside
sources or denominational authori-
ty.

Each year we hold an annual
canvass where members and
friends are asked to consider
"What's it worth?" in relation to
the church. Which is more than,
What does it cost to run the
church? and includes, What does
this church, its mission, this com-
munity mean to me...to my family?
How much does it mean to me to
have a community that shares and
speaks to my values...to my spiri-
tual longings/questions? How im-

Reverend Craig M. Nowak

portant is it to me to have such a
community present in the world,
not just for myself but for others?
What would be missing from my
life if BUUC wasn't there? The
answer to these and others ques-
tions of worth concerning the
church will vary from person to
person and I know for some, the
worth you assign to the church is
greater than you give or are able to
give financially. Most people give
some combination of what we call,
"time, talent, and treasure."

As I never tire of saying, I'm
continually amazed by the generos-
ity and commitment of our mem-
bers and friends and grateful for all
the gifts, in whatever form they are
given, to BUUC. As we enter our
300th year, an anniversary we
share with three other area con-
gregations, I hope you will join me
again or for the first time, in mak-
ing a pledge to support BUUC.

Opportunities to pledge, ask
questions, and share your thoughts
will be available throughout the
month of March and by contacting
myself or a member of the church's
Executive Committee. Thank you.

Peace and blessings,
†Rev. Craig

Thinking about joining BUUC? Wondering if you should?

John Wolf, the Minister Emeritus of a church in Tulsa, once wrote: "There is only one reason for joining a Unitarian Universalist church and that is: to support it."

"You want to support it because it stands against superstition and fear. Because this church points to what is noblest and best in human life. Because it is open to women and men of whatever race, creed, color, place of origin, or sexual orientation."

"You want to support a Unitarian Universalist church because it has a free pulpit. Because you can hear ideas expressed there which would cost any other minister his or her job. You want to support it because it is a place where children come without being saddled with guilt or terrified of some celestial Peeping Tom, where they can learn that religion is for joy, for comfort, for gratitude and love.

"You want to support it because it is a place where walls between people are torn down rather than built-up. Because it is a place for the religious displaced persons of our time, the refugees from mixed marriages, the unwanted free-thinkers and those who insist against orthodoxy that they must work out their own beliefs.

"You want to support a UU church because it is more concerned with human beings than with dogmas. Because it searches for the holy, rather than dwelling upon the depraved. Because it calls no one a sinner, yet knows how deep is the struggle in each person's breast and how great is the hunger for what is good.

"You want to support a UU church because it can laugh. Because it stands for something in a day when religion is still more concerned with platitudes than with prejudice and war. You want to support it not because it buys you some insurance policy towards your funeral service, but because it insults neither your intelligence nor your conscience, and because it calls you to worship what is truly worthy of your sacrifice."

"There is only one reason for joining a Unitarian Universalist church: to support it!"

If you're ready to support the values and principles of this faith by joining BUUC or would like to learn more about membership at BUUC, please contact Rev. Craig at revcraignowak@comcast.net

Rev. Craig's Contact Info

Phone and Email
860-916-9261
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

Back issues of the BUUC newsletter are on our website at www.buuc.org/newsletters.html



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

Committees and Groups

Committee on Ministry

MaryAnn Adams, 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



From the President



MARCH MEANS CANVASS! For those who don't know, canvass is our annual Stewardship Campaign. This is

the time of year to make an annual pledge to the church and more ...

Our stewardship campaign could entail simply turning in our annual pledges on paper. This would simplify our process but simple isn't always best. Canvass is an invitation to have important conversations about church finances and contributions each of us can make to the church with our time, talents and money. It's a time to ask questions about the financial health of the church and time to

discuss our collective vision for the future. It's a time to think about all the work we do and people and groups we support. This is your time to evaluate what this community brings to your life, your family, your community and what effect the church has on your well-being. It's a time to reflect on those UU's who have passed and all they contributed to keep this place thriving for the past 300 years. For these reasons, we don't use the impersonal pledging paper system. We prefer to canvass each other. Our personal, one-to-one canvass meetings create the space to have vital conversations about the future of our church community. One could argue the process is as important as the funding. And, in order for our canvass process to work it requires one important thing - open communication.

Amy Frisella

You can help make this the best canvass ever. You can become a volunteer canvasser. Canvassing gives you the opportunity to get to know someone on a deeper level and to get to know a little more about your church. Many hands helps make canvassing lighter. This year you can become more involved. Ask about work committees are doing, join our book club, volunteer for a simple task around the church, teach something to youth in RE, sing in choir, play an instrument, write a sermon, share a meal at SMOC House, get involved in social action, or attend your first party or fundraising event. And, of course, show your support and express your gratitude by making a pledge to the church. Let's talk, dream, support, share, reflect and acknowledge all we have in each other.

See you in the pews,
✠Amy

Music Notes



On February 19 the choir sang a piece called "Just a Single Voice." The chorus begins, "The power of music, the power of song, when voices come together, the message can be strong". It reminds me of both the literal truth and the metaphorical truth. Of course the literal truth comes through when the choir sings. Sometimes the sound of the choir is really impressively powerful, and when in the last line of the piece they sing "...won't you sing along?" it could be viewed in a literal way, as won't you come join the choir. And if you are interested or even curious about that, I invite you to speak to me. I think most of the choir members will tell you it is a great thing to be part of the powerful music. But of course that is not the metaphorical point, and not the reason the piece is chosen over and over again

by our worship leaders, to remind us that we all strengthen the whole when we come together. Part of that is being in blessed community as we are being reminded during our annual canvass drive. Part of it is being effective in social justice actions, as we are reminded by the February 12 service, and the action group formed following the Feb 5 and Feb 12 services.

As I look at the music at BUUC in the months ahead, I am inviting you to be part of it in both/or either the literal and/or figurative way. With the belief that the whole is strengthened by each "voice", I hope you will find your "voice" in the music program.

Already underway are rehearsals for kids to sing with the choir on March 19. Besides the actual singing, there is the adult involvement of getting the kids to church and to rehearsals and enabling practice at home---no small thing!

We also may have another opportunity for a similar Intergenerational Choir in May when adults (think parents of kids who will be attending rehearsals) may also participate. Stay tuned on that one.

Even sooner, is Celtic Music Sunday, Mar 12 when everyone who can play even one note on a melody instrument, or one chord on a guitar is invited to join. We will be playing the same tunes for the Prelude and the Postlude as we have for the past many years. Because of the above mentioned singing rehearsals after church, the only scheduled rehearsal will have to be at 9:30 AM that morning, Mar 12. If you want more, see me and we'll work something out. But please join in!

We also have several concerts coming up. Besides attending---and I sincerely hope you will---there are several ways to help out. We need people to provide cookies, make coffee, sell tickets at the door, and help with clean up. Please see Lila to volunteer a lot or a little.

March 19 (Sunday) at 3:00 Eric Eid-Reiner (piano) with guest Autumn Rose Lester (fiddle): Concert of Traditional and Contemporary Music from Ireland, New England, Cape Breton, and beyond!

May 13 (Sat.) 7:00 PM Lucy Colwell, French Horn returns by popular demand, with guest musicians.

May 20 (Sat.) 7:30 PM Some singers from BUUC will be involved in a performance of the Bill of Rights at the Unitarian Society of Hartford. All you have to do is attend!

Please add your voice now!

Thank you for the joy.

✠Lila

Lila M. Farrar, Music Director

RE Notes



RE March

RE will finish up February with a planning session...planning for the rest of the year. Lots of thinking and imagining and some voting too. Unbirthday? Easter Hunt? Contribute to which group? Shall we plan for a year ending event? Or a major RE project?

Laurel Burdon, Religious Education Director

RE March will include 'back to basics,' the basics of Buddhism. Where's Tibet? And we'll work on meditation and try some Tibetan food.

And most of all, we'll have fun while we do the work of RE!!

Big Blessings,
‡Laurel

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

CESA (Committee on Ecology and Social Action)

CESA Update: CESA is working on several fronts and invites your participation. Here are some of our action areas:

-Working with our state representatives . We have copies of a list of all state representatives in the parlor for those of you whom want to get in touch. With so many opportunities for improvement and progress, we are happy to provide this information to our church goers. This is not a church-sanctioned event, as that is outside of church and state policy, but as thinking concerned individuals, we need to make our individual voices heard.

-We had a very successful service in February, with a cloth bag sale to help people to cut down on their use of disposable plastics. The sermon that Barb Hale and Mary Ann Adams spoke to is now up on the BUUC website. It includes a list of ways to cut down on plastic use.

-Food and Hunger awareness. We realize that the church as a whole works to feed those in need by working with SMOC in Gilbertville on their once a month dinner with residents, to our weekly food offering, which supports the Brookfield Food Pantry. Now, we are taking one more step. With a wonderful grant of \$300 from the Brookfield Community Grant Fund, we are going to have monthly free community meals. Dates are being scheduled and posters are going up at the Food Pantry and area public buildings. Watch for the first one and contact Mary Ann Adams if you'd like to volunteer to help !

-Energized by the Women's March on Washington and in many other cities, we have members in the church who want to work toward an important social action goal. We are currently focused on the refugee problem, and are reaching out to our fellow UU churches in Worcester and the ACE program, to which we gave holiday gift boxes to distribute to children in December. Stay tuned.



Generosity Abounds

Thank you to the following members, friends and church committees who generously volunteered to lead Sunday worship over the course of this church year: Jared Adams; Mary Ann Adams; Gary Blanchard; BUUC Youth and Laurel Burdon; CESA (Committee on Ecology and Social Action); Margo Chevers; Debbie Ennis; Barb Hale; Laurel Hemmer and Kirk and Jefferson Upton; John Kenison; Carol Mays; Wendy Newhall; Rita Schiano; Roxann Smith; Women's Alliance; Robyn Vincent.



Annual Silent Auction

The BUUC Women's Alliance will be holding their 21ST Annual Goods & Services Silent Auction on Saturday, March 18, 2017 at the BUUC (located at 9 Upper River St, Brookfield, MA 01506) from 6:30 – 9 PM. We will also have raffle baskets, a 50/50 raffle, and a bake-off!

We are looking for donations of goods and services to be auctioned. Here are some suggestions: craft or music lessons, tutoring, babysitting services, companion or respite services, jewelry, tickets to local shows or events, food items (such as lasagna or a pie), unique items, domestic chores, nifty gadgets, gift certificates for local restaurants, handmade crafts. The possibilities are endless. Please be creative!

The Women's Alliance of the Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church has met since 1859. The Alliance provides support to the church and service to the community. It also serves the social and spiritual needs of women through fellowship, group expression, and programs of education, service and community.

THERE ARE ALLERGIES AMONG US:

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

Concert

Concert of Traditional and Contemporary Music from Ireland, New England, Cape Breton, and beyond! featuring Eric Eid-Reiner (piano) with guest Autumn Rose Lester (fiddle)

Sunday, March 19, 2017
3:00-4:15 p.m.
refreshments to follow

Admission is \$10 at the door-
kids under 12 free

Book Club

Tuesday, March 14, 7 pm
at the church

Nutshell by Ian McEwan

There is still a need for two more books to complete the year. Any suggestions, please forward them to Barb Hale at b.lambert.hale@gmail.com



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 and click on the "Community Resources" tab on the side menu.

Membership info

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.

ADULT RE Offering Winter/Spring 2017

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: 3/19; 4/2 @ 12:15pm

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

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

NOTE: The group is open, but each session requires a minimum of 3 participants. 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.

Regular Meetings & 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 or Barb Hale b.lambert.hale@gmail.com for more info.

Choir Practice

Every Thursday at 7 pm

Committee for Ecology and Social Action (CESA)

Once a Month, Date and Time TBD

For information, contact Mary Ann Adams at maryannbuuc@gmail.com

Food For Faith: Adult RE

Sunday Group at 12:15pm and Wednesday Groups at 1:15pm

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 fur-

ther explore or deepen one's engagement with the theme. (See above for more information including meeting times and how to sign up)

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 or Christine Holbrook, 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)

"The Little Stone Church that Rocks"

**BROOKFIELD
UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH**

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We're on the web
www.buuc.org
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"The Little Stone Church That Rocks"

March Calendar

*Unless stated, see pages 3- 4 for more detail
All events take place at BUUC, unless specified otherwise*

March 1	12:00 pm	Stone Soup Luncheon
	1:30 pm	Wednesdays Food for Faith
March 8	7:00 pm	Women's Alliance Meeting
March 14	7:00 pm	Book Club
March 18	6:30 pm	Women's Alliance Silent Auction
March 19	12:15 pm	Sunday's Food for Faith
	3:00 pm	Concert:
March 28	7:00 pm	SMOC dinner: Gilbertville, MA