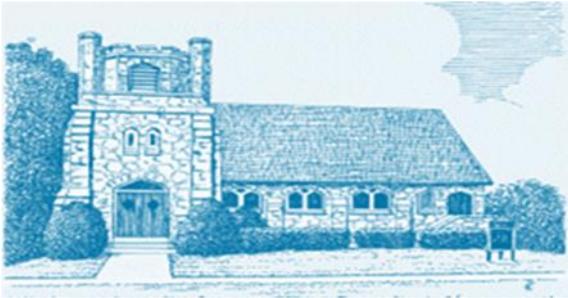


BUUC NEWS



“The Little Stone Church That Rocks”

Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church
 9 Upper River Street, P.O. Box 386,
 Brookfield, MA 01506
buuc01506@gmail.com,
www.buuc.org, 508-867-5145



Dear Friends,

Another Thanksgiving has come and gone, but for me, gratitude remains. By now most (hopefully all) of you know that beginning Christmas Day I will begin a five month sabbatical which means I will be away from the daily routine (and less routine aspects) of ministry, with all its rewards and challenges, until June 1, 2020. A professional break rare in the 21st century and for which I am grateful. With the help and through the effort of many, arrangements have been made to ensure BUUC continues to be, “The little stone church that rocks” while I’m away. Help and effort for which I am grateful. Our stellar Sabbatical Committee has prepared both a Sabbatical Brochure and Handbook where members, friends and visitors to BUUC can find information about sabbatical, BUUC and who to contact about everything from pastoral care to church policies to Sunday worship and beyond. A committee for whom I am grateful.

But gratitude is more than a feeling I feel and direct toward others. It is a purposeful act of observation and relating to the world. Or in religious terms, a spiritual practice. Sometimes it’s a practice expressed in very overt ways such as when I say at the start of worship on Sundays, “It is my pleasure and privilege to serve as minister to this congregation.” or when I introduce the morning offering with a story of your generosity. Other times, it is less obvious, such as when I change a reading, edit my sermon or reference a choir piece extemporaneously while preaching. Or when I set aside a moment to think about...and yes, pray...for someone after reading an email or getting off the phone with them.

Gratitude is a spiritual practice that, for me, often makes good times great and difficult times less injurious to my wellbeing. It is a practice I intend to carry with me into sabbatical and to exercise throughout my time away, including time set aside for writing and travel as well as unstructured time.

And gratitude is a spiritual practice I hope all of you will continue and build upon while I’m away; not for me, but for each other. For ultimately it is the practice of gratitude which builds, grows and sustains religious communities like BUUC in both good and challenging times. A practice which will not only, as the 13th century mystic Meister Eckart, said, “suffice”, but salve our heart, mind and body. Thank you!

Peace, love and blessings,
 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

HERE: We unite in an atmosphere 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 motivation to reach out to the larger community.

Generosity Abounds

Thank you to the Chesson Family Fund of Greater Worcester Community Foundation for their generous donation of \$860 in support of BUUC’s mission.

Thank you to members of the Sabbatical Committee: Donna Sullivan, Fritzi Foster and Dave Yutzler for giving of their time and talents to prepare and support BUUC through the coming ministerial sabbatical.

Rev. Craig’s Office Hours
Wednesdays 9:30am - 10:00am; 1:00pm -3:00pm.
Other times by appointment.
*Please note there will be no ministerial office hours during Rev. Craig’s sabbatical (Dec. 25, 2019 - May 31, 2020). For emergency pastoral support please contact Rev. John Pastor at: 508-277-6113 (voice or text)

Worship Schedule
(Services are at 10:30am unless otherwise noted)

December 1: “O Holy Light”--Craig M. Nowak, Music—Choir

December 8: “It’s All About Us” --Maryann Adams with Donna Sullivan, Music— Bridget Azarowski, piano

December 15: “Season’s Greetings”--Craig M. Nowak, Music—Choir

December 22: “Holiday Stories” --Roxann Smith — Congregation

December 24 Christmas Eve Service, No Rehearsal Intergenerational Christmas Pageant, 4:00pm --Craig M. Nowak, Music—Choir

December 29: Quaker Style

There Are Allergies Among Us Please limit your use of scents and chemicals, and leave as much latex as possible at home.



THANK YOU!!!

Thank you all for the surprise celebration of my 50th birthday in November. Thank you for the balloons, cards from all ages, the beautiful stole and especially for managing to get pre-approval from our dear departed Ruth King for me to have a piece of each of the two wonderful homemade cakes :) My love and appreciation to you all!- Rev. Craig



Remembrance Wreath

With so much emphasis on the joy of the season, the holidays can be an especially difficult time of year for people who are grieving or simply reminded of a loved one or dear friend who is not able to be, or is no longer, with us. To honor and create refuge for those whom this season brings difficult or mixed feelings and memories, a remembrance wreath will be placed in the sanctuary beginning December 1st along with white ribbons that can be tied onto the wreath in remembrance of a loss you’re grieving or someone you’re missing this season.

BUUC CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

In this the season of giving, please consider making a contribution to the BUUC Capital Campaign. This important project includes stabilizing our exterior stone structure and building accessibility improvements that would allow access to both levels of our building by installing a wheelchair lift and building a handicapped accessible bathroom. Needless to say, these improvements are costly and can't be done by a small few. Your contribution will help us to preserve our stunning historic structure while meeting the needs of every member of our community and beyond. Thank you for your support!



Aging as a Spiritual Practice

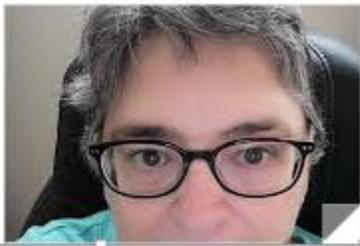
Final meeting of the year on December 8th



Community Supper

December 28, 2019.

Contact Robyn Vincent and Julie Boon for more information.



Notes from the President

I don't have Seasonal Affective Disorder or SAD as it is called, so I have to admit that I don't really understand it. I don't dismiss it, but I don't understand it. You see, I have always liked winter. I find a blue winter sky dazzling, new fallen snow beautiful, the cold refreshing and the darkness comforting.

This month in the northern hemisphere we celebrate the Winter Solstice on December 21. It will be the shortest day of sunlight of our year, but the next day on schedule, the earth will begin its steady tilt toward the sun and the days will begin to get longer. It's as it should be. It makes me think of one of my favorite hymns, which was written by the late Unitarian Universalist Shelley Jackson Denham. This hymn is called Dark of Winter. It is number 55 in the grey hymnal. It has a lovely meditative melody that I can actually sing in my way, but it is the text that I really love. It was written to portray a positive image of night and darkness, which, after all, is as necessary and natural as the light of day.

Dark of winter, soft and still, your quiet calm surrounds me.
Let my thoughts go where they will, ease my mind profoundly
And then my soul will sing a song, a blessed song of love eternal.
Gentle darkness, soft and still, bring your quiet to me.

Darkness, soothe my weary eyes, that I may see more clearly.
When my heart with sorrow cries, comfort and caress me.
And then my soul may hear a voice, a still, small voice of love eternal.
Darkness, when my fears arise, let your peace flow through me.

Live Long and Prosper,
Barbara Hale



Music Notes

"Tis the season for lots of music. Here at BUUC we have the usual twice a month choir offerings in morning worship as well as the Christmas Eve service. There is also the Quaker style service where silence is featured instead of music. But the month also offers extra opportunities for singing by all.

One of those opportunities is looking ahead to the first Sunday in the New Year. On January 5, we once again offer the BUUC Inter-generational Choir. This is an opportunity for singers of ALL ages to come together to sing in worship. We will be singing "Give Us Hope" by Jim Papoulis, which we have sung each of the past three years. If you already know it, I would ask you to attend at least one of the following rehearsals. If you haven't sung it before, I'd ask you to attend more.

Rehearsal dates: After church Dec 8, 15, 22, and/or Thursday choir practice any Thursday in December but particularly Dec 26 (which will be during school break). I need for you to let me know (sign up) if you are interested, so I can be prepared with music for you. Any questions or concerns, feel free to see me at church, or contact me by email: lilamfarrar@gmail.com or phone: 508 867 8806 or cell phone or text: 508 864 5978.

"Tis ALWAYS the season for music, so this is a good time to remind you that if you have music skills you can share, we have many opportunities in the new year. Please talk to me. And be sure to put Celtic Music Sunday, March 15) on your calendar now, when everyone who can play even one note is invited to participate. You can speak to me anytime about this.

And one last note about the Holiday Season. At this time, when we are bombarded with recorded music at every turn, I encourage you to seek out a live music performance. At this season when we focus on peace and joy, I feel certain attending a live concert will give you both. Remember that the area of the Parlor Organ is where you can find information about local concerts.

Peace and joy to you,
Lila M Farrar, Music Director



Church Happenings

Book Club

Second Tuesday of the month, 7pm. JOIN US for an all-inclusive (men and women of BUUC and beyond welcome) BUUC BOOK CLUB. The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 10: Book Club, 7:00pm, discussing Cold Comfort Farm by Stella Gibbons.

Choir Practice

Every Thursday, 7pm.

Stone Soup Luncheon

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). Our next Stone Soup will be Wednesday, December 11, 2019. *Please note this is the second Wednesday in December

Women's Alliance

Second Wednesday of the month, 7pm. All are welcome. For information, contact Laurie Magnuson (508-867-3763).

Membership Committee

Once a month at 9:30am before Sunday service. For more info, contact Deb Ennis, Debbie@DebbieEnnis.com.

Executive Committee

First Monday of the month at 6:30pm.

Quiet Gathering in the Spirit of the Quakers

Meets the first Wednesday of the month from 7:00-8:00pm. For more information, contact Cruger Johnson Phillips, cruger.johnson@gmail.com.

Aging as a Spiritual Practice meetings
This continuation of the Adult RE class will meet next on Sunday, December 8, following services. For more information, contact Cruger Johnson Phillips (cruger.johnson@gmail.com)!

A Note from Your Office Assistant

If you are planning an event at the BUUC, an email will ensure the event gets on the calendar and the time slot is reserved! Once your event is on the calendar, it will automatically appear in the newsletter, Order of Service, Upcoming Events e-blast, and Facebook. The calendar is online on our website, <http://www.buuc.org/church-calendar.html>.

Remember deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of the month previous. Email buuc01506@gmail.com with any questions!



BUUC Send-off Sabbatical Party

As you all know by now, Rev. Craig is leaving on sabbatical in December. His last Sunday sermon will be on Dec. 15. Join the congregation at a "Send Off Party" following the service that Sunday so we can all say our goodbyes and wish him well. Everyone is welcome to come and say goodbye with hugs and well wishes. If you want, you can drop a card in the going away basket or add a small item of your choice to help him remember us in the months ahead.



Decorating the BUUC for the Holidays



Please join the BUUC holiday elves on Friday December 6 at 6:00 pm to help decorate the church for the season. It's always a fun time getting the church ready for the season. Contact Donna Sullivan at (508) 867-7036 or sully-3@charter.net if you would like to help or have any questions.

Being a Green Sanctuary

This includes recycling. This is something that we all share. There is no one who comes around to clean up after us; that is to say there is no "they" only "we". If you don't want to take the Order of Service home, you can put it in the blue recycling container at the back of the sanctuary. There is a larger blue tub for recycling paper downstairs. Any paper that had food in or on it must go in the trash. Thanks for keeping BUUC green!



Benefit Dinner Fundraiser

Join us for a benefit dinner on Thursday, December 5th at Uno's Restaurant in Sturbridge. Give your server the ticket (included in this newsletter) and Uno's will donate up to 20% of your check to our church.



EST. 1943
UNO
PIZZERIA & GRILL

EAT, DRINK & RAISE MONEY!

COME SUPPORT A DOUGH RAISER TO BENEFIT

Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church

DATE:
12-05-2019

VALID AT:
**100 Charlton Road
Sturbridge
508-347-6420**

UNO® will donate up to 20% of your check

DINE-IN or TAKEOUT!

Please present this certificate at the time of payment to have up to 20% of your check's value, excluding tax and tip, donated to the organization above. Not to be used with other coupons or discounts. Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking area. Valid only for the date listed above.

unodoughraisers.com

PRESENT THIS TO YOUR SERVER

Photo: JTC Cooper © 2014

EST. 1943
UNO
PIZZERIA & GRILL

EAT, DRINK & RAISE MONEY!

COME SUPPORT A DOUGH RAISER TO BENEFIT

Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church

DATE:
12-05-2019

VALID AT:
**100 Charlton Road
Sturbridge
508-347-6420**

UNO® will donate up to 20% of your check

DINE-IN or TAKEOUT!

Please present this certificate at the time of payment to have up to 20% of your check's value, excluding tax and tip, donated to the organization above. Not to be used with other coupons or discounts. Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking area. Valid only for the date listed above.

unodoughraisers.com

PRESENT THIS TO YOUR SERVER

Photo: JTC Cooper © 2014

EST. 1943
UNO
PIZZERIA & GRILL

EAT, DRINK & RAISE MONEY!

COME SUPPORT A DOUGH RAISER TO BENEFIT

Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church

DATE:
12-05-2019

VALID AT:
**100 Charlton Road
Sturbridge
508-347-6420**

UNO® will donate up to 20% of your check

DINE-IN or TAKEOUT!

Please present this certificate at the time of payment to have up to 20% of your check's value, excluding tax and tip, donated to the organization above. Not to be used with other coupons or discounts. Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking area. Valid only for the date listed above.

unodoughraisers.com

PRESENT THIS TO YOUR SERVER

Photo: JTC Cooper © 2014

EST. 1943
UNO
PIZZERIA & GRILL

EAT, DRINK & RAISE MONEY!

COME SUPPORT A DOUGH RAISER TO BENEFIT

Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church

DATE:
12-05-2019

VALID AT:
**100 Charlton Road
Sturbridge
508-347-6420**

UNO® will donate up to 20% of your check

DINE-IN or TAKEOUT!

Please present this certificate at the time of payment to have up to 20% of your check's value, excluding tax and tip, donated to the organization above. Not to be used with other coupons or discounts. Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking area. Valid only for the date listed above.

unodoughraisers.com

PRESENT THIS TO YOUR SERVER

Photo: JTC Cooper © 2014

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

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.

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 side menu.

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. Go to www.buuc.org and click the tab "Community Resources" on the side menu.

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

Barbara Hale

Treasurer

Doug Smith

Clerk

Colleen Groner

Members-at-Large

Robyn Vincent, Laurie Magnuson, Donna Boyea, Amy Frisella

Collector

Christine Holbrook

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

Mary Frisella, Laurie Magnuson, Roxann Smith

Trustees

Carla Schirm, Roxann Smith, Kirk Upton

Women's Alliance

Laurie Magnuson, President

Worship Committee

Roxann Smith, Chair

Sabbatical Committee

Donna Sullivan, Chair
Fritzi Foster, Dave Yutzler

BROOKFIELD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

9 UPPER CHURCH ST., P.O. BOX 386

Brookfield, MA 01506

www.buuc.org

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter:

www.buuc.org

@BrookfieldUU

