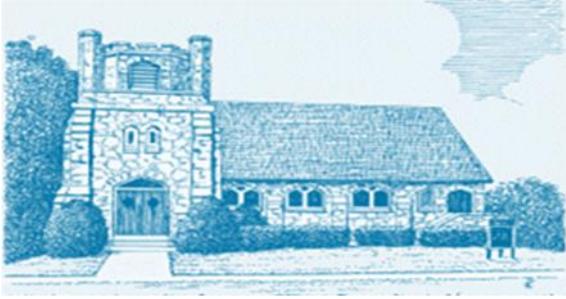


BUUC NEWS



“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,

Each June I spend some time reflecting on the church year about to end. What I've come to realize over the past six years is that we're never the same community at the end of the year that we were at the beginning. This is perhaps most obvious in the make-up of the church, that is, our members and friends. Inevitably, most years some people move away, leave, visit and never return. And some years, people die. And nearly every year, new people visit, return, and even join the church. Some years we're blessed to welcome a newborn child into our church family. Then there are people who don't leave or aren't new, but change how they engage with the church. Some, adults and children alike, attend less often, while others become more deeply or broadly involved. The make-up and size of the choir changes too.

Our ministries and other church activities change too. Some ministries or traditions, having run their course, fizzle out. And others are started in response to a need or burst of inspiration and may or may not last. Sometimes there's a lull between the end of one ministry or activity and the start of another. Other times there's no gap between new and old.

If you're starting to feel a sense of nostalgia or even melancholy reading this, I'm not surprised. When we reflect on change, we often think in terms of loss. We focus on who or what's missing that we once had. It is tempting therefore to try to shift our thoughts to what we consider positive change or the things that haven't changed, at least this year.

Yet, the Buddha taught that attachment or clinging to people, ideas, material things, or circumstances that change (are impermanent) whether good or bad, desirable or undesirable is the cause of suffering. To end suffering the Buddha advised the practice of detachment, which is neither as easy nor as callous as it may sound. Indeed, it has nothing to do with ignoring or denying the painful or unpleasant feelings associated with change and everything to do with deepening our understanding and acknowledgement of change as life's one constant. Indeed, as even the Greek philosopher Heraclitus observed, “Change alone is unchanging.”

With that in mind, enjoy the summer. For its arrival is made possible by the change of seasons and it too will eventually yield to autumn, and likely before we're ready. And when the new church year begins on September 8th, change won't be far behind. There will be faces familiar and new, continuing work on the

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.

building and, in the second half of the church year, I'll be on sabbatical. This change in our routine as a community will offer us much opportunity to nurture current relationships and build new ones as well as time to reflect on and reinvigorate our shared ministry in this ever changing life.

With love and gratitude for all of you and our ministry together,

Rev. Craig

Rev. Craig's Office Hours Through June 17th

Wednesdays 9:30am - 10:00am; 1:00pm - 3:00pm.

Other times by appointment.

Rev. Craig's Summer Schedule

June 17th - July 16th: Rev. Craig will be on study leave but available for pastoral emergencies.

July 17th- July 31st: Rev. Craig will be on vacation. Coverage information for pastoral emergencies will be provided by Rev. Aaron Payson who may be reached at 508-963-5959.

Regular office hours will resume in August.

If you know at BUUC might need pastoral support, please contact Rev. Craig, 860-916-9261
revcraignowak@comcast.net.

Worship Schedule

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

June 2: "A Matter of Life and Depth" – Rev. Craig M. Nowak, Music – Choir

June 9: "Transitions" – Mary Ann Adams, Music—Bridget Azarowski, voice; Kim Burdon, voice

June 16: "Pass/Fail" – Intergenerational Service with Stone Communion – Rev. Craig M. Nowak, Music –Choir

Generosity Abounds!

Thank you to all who volunteered in some capacity at BUUC over the course of the church year. There is no better way to build or deepen our relationship to the church, its people, ministries, and mission than by direct engagement in what can sometimes seem like routine tasks, but can in fact become the basis of deeply satisfying spiritual practice and service.

There will be no newsletters in July or August, however, the office assistant may still be reached at buuc01506@gmail.com.

Celebration of Life Service

A service in memory and celebration of the life of longtime friend of BUUC, Margo Chevers will be held at BUUC on Tuesday, June 11th at 10:00am. Members and friends of BUUC are invited to attend.

Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church Summer Services

June 23rd-August 25th, 9:30am. No Children's Religious Education.

No Service September 1st (Labor Day Weekend).

Regular Services and Children's Religious Education resume September 8th, 10:30am

Upcoming Events

BUUC Annual Meeting: Monday, June 10, 7:00pm. All are invited to attend.

The BUUC Book Group will be meeting for the final time for the current church year on Tuesday, June 11 at 7 pm. We will be discussing the book Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 10 at 7 pm. At our September meeting we will come up with a list of books that we want to read and discuss for the 2019-2020 church year. We will continue to alternate our choices between fiction and non-fiction. So please come along in September with your suggestions or email me at b.lambert.hale@gmail.com if you know of a book you think we should read. Our Book Group is open to all. Keep reading!

Potluck Coffee Hour: Sunday, June 16, 12:00pm. The Membership Committee cordially invites all members and friends to celebrate our church year after service on June 16th. We will be holding a potluck coffee hour for all to enjoy. Please feel free to bring a dish to share or just join in the fun. Coffee and drinks will be provided.

Farrar Music Studio Student Recital: Sunday, June 16, 4:00pm. All are invited to attend.

Publick House Fundraiser: Monday, June 24, at the Publick House, 277 Main St., Sturbridge, MA. Enjoy a tasty barbeque dinner while contributing to our church. On June 24th the BUUC will be one of the recipients of the proceeds from the Publick House's Fundraising Dinner. Tickets are \$14.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children twelve or under. Dinner seatings are at 4:30 or 6:30 "under the tent". See members of the Executive Committee or Women's Alliance for tickets in advance or pay at the door. See you there!

Planning an Event or Meeting at BUUC?

If you or your committee is planning an event at BUUC, please be sure to notify BUUC's Office Assistant Betsy Azarowski at buuc01506@gmail.com. She can check if the date, space, and time you want is available and promote your event or meeting through the appropriate outlets used at BUUC (email, print, calendar, Facebook, Twitter).

If you are the event/meeting host/chairperson, please arrive at the church before other attendees to ensure the space is ready (including lights and heat as needed).



Notes from the President

Some of you might be interested in what the Executive Committee does on a regular basis. Well, in simple terms, we meet and discuss the day to day workings of the BUUC and we make decisions and policies that have to do with the life of the church. We keep track of the work going on regarding our Capital Campaign and physical problems having to do with our building and do our best to come up with remedies for those problems. We review the church finances monthly and approve the yearly budget for adoption at the Annual Meeting. This year our Annual Meeting is on Monday, June 10 at 7 p.m. Please make an effort to come.

Each ExecCom meeting begins with a chalice lighting to remind us why we are there and Rev. Craig comes up with something for a “check-in” to keep us humble. It is a standing joke that the check-in is the most difficult part of the meeting, even harder than talking about the budget. Many of us feel outside our comfort zone having to come up with esoteric ideas about the spiritual life of the church. At one meeting when I said it was time for check-in, Doug Smith just shook his head and muttered, “Death, taxes and check-in.” I think you get his drift. Of course, we laughed because we laugh a lot, but we did our check in and took it seriously.

I think it is indeed important for us to remember why we are getting together once a month for two plus hours, besides just making sure that the church is running smoothly and people get heard when they have requests or complaints. We are doing this work for a church, after all, not a business. Our goal ultimately is as it says in our affirmation: We want to foster spiritual health and growth; we want to share our ideas and histories with open and accepting minds; we want to work together to reach out to the larger community.

As we are starting to wind down our current church year, please take a little time to think about and thank the members and friends of the BUUC who work so hard to keep us going month after month. These include, but are by no means limited to, the members of this year’s Executive Committee: Donna Boyea, Amy Frisella, Colleen Groner, Laurie Magnuson, Doug Smith, Robyn Vincent and, of course, Rev. Craig.

Live long and prosper!

Barb

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!

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

Lost and Found

There are some jackets on the clothes tree in the parlor. Please claim them if they are yours. Any items remaining after June 16 will be donated.

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

Betsy Azarowski

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

Wendy Newhall, Chair

Ultimate Team

Ruth King, Diane Mossa, Judy Trifone

What's Going On In RE?



A 5 year old child says, "I have passion for compassion!"

Our Ministry Theme for May was Compassion and we were having a conversation about being a compassionate person. We were drawing slips of paper with scenarios; lost pet, favorite item broken, someone looking sad, someone struggling to shovel snow. We talked about

what we felt and what we could do in each of these situations and concluded that first we need to recognize that someone was in need of compassion. We then decided what we, as compassionate people, could do.

Our conversation was so illuminating and animated I made the decision to skip the planned story, so to continue our discussion. The children and youth told stories of making their parents laugh, of caring for pets (some pets were stuffed animals) Pearl, and Fezick and Bella and of caring for the forest and the land they live on.

The 5 year old was obviously thinking about something. I could see the wheels turning. "I have passion for compassion!" they said. Passion was the Ministry Theme for February.

In February, discussing Passion, our group felt passionate about many things; helping others, my dad, my family, my toys, my lake, my pets, etc., but concluded that they were all passionate about caring for the earth. I made a quick line sketch and our group ripped paper and with glue, created the beginnings of a spirit board with a tree and sky and grass and a cat and flowers and a rainbow. The board was finished in April (Principles). On May 5th, I placed this spirit board on our Chalice table for Earth Day worship and was approached by visiting friend Keith asking what was special about this poster. No one else had asked me that! It's so special because children of a wide span of ages, discussed and reached consensus and worked together on this project. Two teens, TWO, at different times, commented that this project was relaxing and soothing for them.

Our RE-ers have the opportunity to respect all ages, to offer kindness, to accept and support the spiritual journeys of others, to think and ask questions, to be strong in their ideas, to help to build a fair and peaceful world and to understand that people are a part of nature. They have the opportunity to create, have fun and laugh, be silly, be sad and to establish relationships together.

If you'd like further information about what's happening in RE, please ask!

See you in church!

Laurel

Laurel A. Burdon, DRE



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 June 11. For more information, contact Barb Hale b.lambert.hale@gmail.com.

Choir Practice

Every Thursday, 7pm. Final choir practice for the season is June 13. See Lila for more information.

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, June 5.

Women's Alliance

Second Wednesday of the month, 7pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 12. 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.

Community Meal: Sunday, June 9, 5:00-6:30pm. All are welcome.

Music Notes



As I review the music for this church year I am struck by the number of times people stepped up and sometimes stepped out of their comfort zones to contribute music to our services. Kudos to each person who said yes to learning new music, sometimes in an unfamiliar genre, to each person performing here or in public for the first time, or solo for the first time. Kudos to all who had to get up early, stay late and or practice extra on their own.

I recently had a conversation with someone from another UU church, with a significantly bigger regular attendance than we have. Our choir is quite a bit bigger and sings more often. Of course every circumstance is different, and it is probably unfair to make comparisons but the quality and quantity of the music here is one of the things newcomers admire. Notwithstanding that newcomers may arrive with low expectations because of our size, there is much to be proud of with a choir our size and quality as well as all the other musical contributors to BUUC worship.

Why do we have an impressive choir? Why are people willing to take risks to do new things, and to put in the rehearsal time to make that happen? The biggest reason is you, the congregation. Our singers and other musicians all know that their efforts will be accepted and not judged and will be fully appreciated for the gift and the contribution it is. And that makes all the difference. Thank you. Everyone.

One of the pieces the choir will be singing soon is titled "Everyone Suddenly Burst Out Singing". It ends with the line: "...and the singing will never be done." Of course "singing" here is understood, at least in part, as a metaphor and that is why we're singing this particular piece. But I think, in another way, we can also think of it quite literally. May it be so.

Lila M Farrar
Music Director
lilamfarrar@gmail.com
508-867-8806



Thank you to everyone who contributed flowers for worship this year. Beauty is a wonderful part of our worship experience.

The flower donation sign-up sheet for the 2019-2020 season is in the parlor, so feel free to sign up now. Don't worry about remembering--we always send reminders.

If anyone would like a cutting from the geraniums to try rooting at home, please talk to Lila Farrar.

BROOKFIELD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
9 UPPER CHURCH ST., P.O. BOX 386
Brookfield, MA 01506

www.buuc.org

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