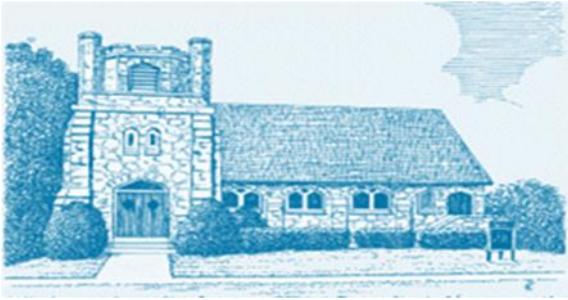


BUUC NEWS



“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,

As I write this, it is early afternoon, mid-August, and I've just returned to my study from lunch, during which, perhaps against my better judgement, I perused the day's headlines. There were stories about the protests in Hong Kong, the Epstein suicide, the Trump Administration's roll back of the Endangered Species Act, and a few about a top immigration official offering his own, exclusionary version of the Emma Lazarus poem, "The New Colossus," at the Statue of Liberty. There were no inspiring headlines. No stories to elicit hope. Nothing that suggested human beings are capable of anything but competition, conflict, and cruelty. It is hard not to feel deflated, or to imagine that anyone with a heart that beats, could read such news and not be seized by anger, sadness, fear, hopelessness, or worse, apathy. And so we shrug and wonder, "What can you do?"

Might I suggest, come to church?

The news may be devoid of inspiring headlines, but how many times have you left BUUC feeling inspired by a reading, prayer, story, or sermon or uplifted by the music? Hope may seem in short supply during the week, but how many times have you left BUUC hopeful, filled by the presence and laughter of children or warmed by the experience of community in the flesh rather than on a screen? And how many times have you found relief here at BUUC from encroaching cynicism or had your faith in humanity restored?

I know it happens because you tell me. "I needed this today."; "Now I can face another week."; "I have hope again."; "You gave me something to think about."; "That song spoke to me."; "I feel welcome here." and perhaps my favorite from one of the children, "I love this church."

To be clear, BUUC is not an escape from the world. It is a place we come to learn and practice a different way of seeing and engaging the world and one another. A place we come to be with other like-hearted people. A place where we can go beyond small talk and tired platitudes and discuss things that matter to us deeply. A place we can hear and participate in live music every week. A place where we, adults and children, can put down our phones and tablets, step away from our screens and be with and learn from

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.

people of all ages. A place where you and I can still be human. Something few other places can claim or offer us as they reduce us to consumers and our engagement to a business transaction.

And so, let us reclaim our humanity and join together with friends, people familiar and new, on September 8th at 10:30am as we mark the start of another church year with our traditional intergenerational service and stone communion (don't forget to bring a small stone). I can't wait to see you then!

Peace, blessings, and love,

Rev. Craig

Rev. Craig's Office Hours

Wednesdays 9:30am - 10:00am;
1:00pm - 3:00pm. Other times by appointment.

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)

September 1: No services

September 8: "Holy Homophones" (Intergenerational Service)--Craig M. Nowak, Music--Choir; Opening Sunday with Stone Communion (Remember to bring a small stone)

September 15: "Going on a Journey"—John Kennison, Music—Dave Yutzler, Singing, Jefferson Upton and Rick Condee, Flutes

September 22: "Home"—Rev. Craig M. Nowak, Music--Choir

September 29: "What About Now?"—Rev. Craig M. Nowak, Music—Lucy Colwell, French Horn



Resilient BUUC Spider Plant

You may recall the story reported in the newsletter last year. After the frozen pipes episode last winter, we lost most of the plants in the basement, but some of the geraniums were only half dead and made a fine comeback. A spider plant that was abandoned as dead was found months later to have a couple of tiny leaves no bigger than a quarter of an inch long. After resuming watering and re-potting, it came back to church in a new pot with five inch leaves, a fitting metaphor for the resilience of this congregation. It returns to the basement window this fall, having continued to grow and thrive. It will be in the sanctuary for homecoming Sunday (Blue Pot), then it will live in one of the north windows in the basement. Please check it out!

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

Religious Education



Welcome back!!!

*Make us strong in spirit, Gentle of heart. Let us act in wisdom, Discover our hidden gifts.
Meet others with compassion And face each day with hope and joy.*

---Abby Willowroot, adapted

RE 2019-2020 continues to follow All Church Ministry Themes, providing continuity between “upstairs” and “downstairs” programming. RE-ers attend the beginning of worship, participate in Chalice Lighting and Candles of Joys and Concerns, and hear readings, hymns, and musical offerings related to our

monthly theme.

In RE we discuss the main theme, expand on it, and make a vision board to display in the parlor. We apply the monthly theme to our UU Principles, have a “thinking” activity, and sometimes do further art projects. While we do art, we often continue our discussions. This year, we will be talking about Unitarian, Universalist, and UU famous figures in history, especially local people! Thinking, speaking our thoughts, and listening to others are competencies toward which we work.

The BUUC Children’s Program provides a unique opportunity within a safe, spiritual community to agree heartily and disagree respectfully. I believe that when kids come, they enjoy RE.

On June 2, our attendees developed a list of 13 things they’d like to do this year in RE. They are looking forward to the year. I hope for several Multigenerational Choir experiences and RE-ers participating further in our Sunday service; perhaps a field trip or two...

Respectfully,
Laurel Burdon, DRE
See you in church!



Capital Campaign

The Capital Campaign Committee is happy to report that the planned mortar repair project (Phases I and II) is nearly complete and will likely be completed before the regular church year begins. The work was completed on budget! We would like to thank all of the early pledgers who made completion of this initial phase of mortar repairs possible.

The Capital Campaign Committee is now focused on the indoor handicapped accessibility portion of the Capital Campaign. We continue to work with the architect to find interested bidders for our bathroom renovation and handicapped lift installation. If you feel you can be of any assistance in our search for an interested contractor, please see any member of the committee. Our financial goal to raise \$300K in 3 years is so close. We hope to raise the final \$50K this year in pledges and / or direct donations. If you have not yet made a pledge to the campaign, please considering doing so. This project is vitally important to our community and no donation or pledge is too small. Thank you for your ongoing support as we share in another church year.

– The Capital Campaign Committee, Amy Frisella, Kim Burdon, & Tim Boon

Notes from the President



Summers always go by faster than we think they should. Mine was very busy and seems to have flown. My daughter Carrie, preparing to move to Tucson to finish her degree in theoretical math at The University of Arizona, has consumed a lot of my thoughts, time, and energies. I spent a very nice week and a half driving to Nebraska and attending a family reunion with my sister Susan. I attended a wedding of one of my husband Greg's cousin's kids in Pennsylvania and my brother came out to visit to cross something off his bucket list – hearing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in person. Yes, it has been an unusually busy summer for me.

When you come to our first service on September 8th, you will see that I haven't been the only one who has been busy. Our sanctuary floors are completely refinished, the rugs have been cleaned and rebound, and the velvet hanging behind the altar has been freshly cleaned. One of the pews at the back of the church has been replaced with a shorter pew in order to make room for wheelchair access when necessary. I would like to take credit for all of this, but I can't. I was far too busy with my "outside of church" life to have done anything in this regard. Please thank Amy Frisella for overseeing all of this work. While I'm at it, I also want to thank the Worship Committee for making sure the Summer Services kept going through all the construction/remodeling disruptions and the Sundays with excessive heat. Thank Wendy Newhall and John Kennison in particular, who have been steadfast in keeping the Summer Services going through the years.

So we begin another "regular" church year at the BUUC. This year will be challenging for us as Rev. Craig takes his much deserved sabbatical starting in January. I know we can get through his absence though we will miss him a lot, because although we have busy and complicated lives, we will all chip in to keep the Little Stone Church That Rocks going no matter what and I am thankful for that.

Live long and prosper,

Barb



A Note from Your Office Assistant

Did you know? If you are planning an event at the BUUC, an email to me 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, Facebook, and Twitter. The calendar is online on our website, and regularly updated on the paper calendar hanging in the parlor. If you don't tell me, you are not guaranteed church space for your event.

SO...don't forget to take a minute to send me an email at buuc01506@gmail.com right away when you set a date for your event!!!

Also, deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of the month previous. Email me with any questions!

Looking forward to another church year,

Betsy Azarowski



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

Roxann Smith, Chair

Ultimate Team

Ruth King, Diane Mossa, Judy Trifone

Music Notes



Each year since 1998 I have maintained a membership in and attended the summer conference for UU musicians. Originally The Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (UUMN), it is now the Association for Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries (AUUMM). The title change came as a result of wanting to better articulate our goals and broaden our membership, but the conferences

are important to me and to our congregation, whatever the name. The vast majority of the music the choir sings has come directly from the conference, or from composers who are members of AUUMM. In fact this is true of all three pieces the choir is singing Sept. 8, for homecoming Sunday. Two of the pieces are from the first conference I attended in Providence, although one was difficult enough that we didn't do it for many years. One, "This House" we have done practically every year since 1999, and should sound familiar to anyone who has been attending BUUC for a while. The composer, who is in his 90's, is still delighted to know we are still singing his music. Check out the parlor organ each week, where we share information about the composers beyond what fits in the Order of Service.

This year many of the high points of the conference were in workshops and plenary sessions focusing on how be more welcoming to LGBTQ folks and folks with accessibility issues. I am excited to be sharing this timely information and insights as we move forward with our capital improvements. And the principal choir clinician, Mark Miller, was an inspiration if we hadn't sung a note. But we did! We already have one of his pieces, "Show Us How to Love", scheduled for October.

By the time you read this, the choir will have been already back to regular weekly rehearsals. I do enjoy having a summer break from weekly responsibilities, and a chance to attend other UU worship, but I am very happy to get back to working with choir regularly and I am excited about the music that we are preparing for worship.

Looking ahead in other ways, we have several series in the works. One is the Pachelbel organ fugues---some 94 of them; we have embarked on our third cycle through these pieces. Johann Pachelbel was a prolific, well known, and respected organist in southern Germany a generation before J.S. Bach, and in fact taught his older brother.

And I am excited to announce a different kind of cycle that we commence this fall. Many of you will remember Russell Killough-Miller playing Bach Cello Suites in the past. There are six of these suites, and we have heard parts or all of many of them in the past, but you will now get a chance to hear them all. Russell is going to play a

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, September 10. For more information, contact Barb Hale b.lambert.hale@gmail.com.

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, October 2, 2019.

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 will continue this fall. Details will be announced soon. Hope you will join us!!

complete Suite for a worship service: one each year over the course of the next six years. The first Suite will be this fall followed by each of the others in the next five years.

Lastly, if you are one of the many BUUC lay leaders who will be leading a service this year, be sure to be in touch with me early so that I can best help with the music choice and preparation. If you have any other interest in participating on music making at BUUC, or any questions about the music program, please catch me at church or email or call.

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



Book Club



The first meeting of the book club for this church year 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 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!

Flowers for BUUC Worship

Flowers on the altar add beauty to each worship service and are appreciated by many. You are invited to participate. There are many ways to do this. You can visit a favorite florist or grocery store and have them do it for you, you can bring flowers and arrange them yourself or have a member of the Flower Committee arrange them for you, or you can provide money for flowers. You then take the flowers home after the service, or arrange to give them to someone. Nursing homes always welcome flowers. Please find the sign-up sheet in the parlor and put your name on the Sunday you would like to provide the flowers. A reminder will be sent by email (or include your preferred method of contact on the sign-up sheet).

Let us know if you have any questions.

The Flower Committee: Lila Farrar, Donna Sullivan, and Judy Trifone

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!

BROOKFIELD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

Brookfield, MA 01506

www.buuc.org

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter:

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