



May 2023



# The Happenings

Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church  
9 Upper River Street, P.O. Box 386, Brookfield, MA 01506  
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"The Little Stone Church That Rocks"



## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST TRIVIA

What Unitarian congregation did Norbert Capek, creator of Flower Communion, and his wife Maja join in 1921?

- A. Liberal Religious Fellowship, Prague, Czechoslovakia
- B. King's Chapel, Boston, MA
- C. First Unitarian Church of Essex County, Orange, NJ
- D. Unitarian Church of All Souls, New York, NY

The answer is on page 4.

*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

TOGETHER: We unite in an atmosphere of care and support to foster spiritual health and growth.

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

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

## May Services\*

Sunday morning services are held at 10:30 am.

**May 7:** "The Problem with Heaven"

Worship Leader: Rev. Craig M. Nowak  
Music: BUUC Choir

**May 14:** "How Does Your Garden Grow?"

Worship Leader: Alix McNitt  
Music: Kurt Staven, trumpet

**May 21:** Intergenerational Flower Communion Service\*  
"Defiant Beauty"

Worship Leader: Rev. Craig M. Nowak  
Music: BUUC Choir

(\*All are invited to bring a flower to contribute to our community bouquet)

**May 28:** "Confronting the Inner Critic"

Worship Leader: Jared Adams  
Music: Linda Friedmann, hammered dulcimer

### \*A Note About Worship

We plan to hold hybrid services (in-person and streaming) each week, provided we have tech volunteers. We ask that if you feel ill at all, please stay home and take care of yourself. We want all of us to be in community, just not with communicable diseases. Thank you.

## Music Notes



June 18 will be the final regular Sunday service for this church year and of Rev. Craig's 10 year tenure with BUUC. The BUUC choir will sing "As Torrents in Summer," which has become almost, if not in fact, a tradition during this time. If you would like to sing this song with the choir on June 18, please be in touch with me. I am particularly thinking about singers who are not currently in choir but have sung it. However, this is a good time to get your feet wet if you are interested in choir. Either way, please be in touch to get music and discuss rehearsal times, or to answer any questions. [lilamfarrar@gmail.com](mailto:lilamfarrar@gmail.com); or 508-864-5978; or catch me in person at church.

Lila M Farrar,  
Music Director



## CESA News

CESA, Religious Exploration, and a representative from Kids in the Congo held a poster display during coffee hour at church on April 2nd. Eight posters on a variety of social justice topics were set up in the parlor for everyone to look at and discuss. It was a very successful event. Thank you to everyone who was involved! We will be evaluating feedback from the event and looking forward to new ideas and projects.

## Can and Bottle Drive

CESA will be collecting cans and bottles redeemable in either MA or CT to support Kids in the Congo. Bring them to church *any Sunday through May 28th*. For additional details, see the blurb in the weekly eblast ("This Week at the BUUC").

## A Note about Membership

Dear Friends,

Committee for Ecology and Social Action (CESA) is looking to update our member information. We are reaching out to see what your interest is in the committee. Is your interest casual and you would like to receive notices of the activities of the committee but not be actively involved? Are you interested in being an active member of the committee, and receive ZOOM invitations to meetings, and be listed in the newsletter as part of the committee?

We would love to have anyone interested participate at any time, and on any particular project, but we are trying to develop a list of people who could be contact people for the committee. Please let me know if you would like to be listed as an active committee member or if you would like to be part of an email list to receive informational emails on current activities of the committee so you can participate when interested and available.

Thank you!

Penny Blum  
[quabbinquilter@gmail.com](mailto:quabbinquilter@gmail.com)



## BUUC Directory

It is time again to make sure our BUUC directory is as up to date as possible. If you are new and would like to be listed, or if your information has changed this church year, please send your information to [laurelsquilts@msn.com](mailto:laurelsquilts@msn.com).

Any questions, just email Laurel or call her at 774-239-8969.

The directory includes addresses, phone numbers, and emails. THANK YOU!

## Potluck Celebration

On *Sunday, June 4*, please join our potluck lunch celebration of Rev. Craig's ten years of ministry.

We will also be saying goodbye and wishing him well in his next endeavors.

Come enjoy fine company, great food, and entertainment.

The potluck sign-up sheet is in the parlor.



## Trash Pickup

We have neither trash pickup nor recycling pickup at BUUC. We rely on the goodwill of church members to take trash and recycling home to dispose of them.

If people could share in these chores by checking the trash and recycling occasionally, it would be greatly appreciated.

## Supplies Corner

Each month this will be the place where you can see what supplies our church needs.

Donations may be placed in the first recycling bin in the kitchen.

Currently needed:

- ❖ Dishwasher detergent pods



## Food Offerings

For the next 2 months we will continue to focus on 4 items that the food pantry is in need of. When you make a donation, please bring these items:

- ❖ Coffee (except decaf)
- ❖ Cereal (except corn flakes & rice crispies)
- ❖ Laundry detergent
- ❖ Dish soap

Monetary donations are also welcomed.

## Volunteers Needed for Hybrid Worship

Our ability to hold hybrid services (in-person and streaming) depends on having volunteers able to start and monitor the laptop at church during worship.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Robyn Vincent at [robynbuuc@yahoo.com](mailto:robynbuuc@yahoo.com).

## Legacy Giving

Over the years members and friends have included BUUC in their wills or estate plans to help ensure our faith and this church will be here for future generations. You can, too. Gifts to BUUC's Trust help secure a place for liberal religious values in an increasingly illiberal world.

Contact Rev. Craig at [revcraignowak@comcast.net](mailto:revcraignowak@comcast.net) for more info.

## 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](http://www.buuc.org) and click the tab "We Rise: Social Justice Resources" on the menu at the left side of the page.

## Announcements

### Stone Soup\*

Stone Soup is back at the church! *Wednesday, May 3rd at 12pm*. Come catch up with friends and have lunch together.

\*At this time attendees are invited to bring their lunch. Coffee, tea, and a dessert will be provided.

### Book Club

The BUUC Book Discussion Group will be meeting via ZOOM on *Tuesday, May 9th at 7:00pm* to discuss *Breakfast with Buddha* by Roland Merullo. Please feel free to attend. A complete list of this year's books can be found on our website at [www.buuc.org/events](http://www.buuc.org/events). If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Hale at [b.lambert.hale@gmail.com](mailto:b.lambert.hale@gmail.com).

### CESA

The next meeting of the Committee for Ecology and Social Action will be *Wednesday, May 17th, at 7:00pm* on ZOOM. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Penny Blum at [quabbinquilter@gmail.com](mailto:quabbinquilter@gmail.com)

### Journaling Group

The BUUC Journaling group is open to anyone interested in keeping a journal. We gather monthly on Zoom to journal quietly with some suggested prompts. While we usually chat a little, we do not discuss our writings. Please feel free to join us! Our next meeting is *May 29th at 7:00pm*. This will be the last meeting before our Summer break. If you have any questions, email Cara Wales at [c.l.c.wales@gmail.com](mailto:c.l.c.wales@gmail.com).

### Choir Practice

*7:00-8:30pm each Thursday*. Contact Music Director Lila M. Farrar at [lilamfarrar@gmail.com](mailto:lilamfarrar@gmail.com) or 508-864-5978.

### Executive Committee

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

## Rev. Craig's Office Hours

Sundays at the church when he's in the pulpit immediately following the service until 12:30pm.

Via Zoom, Facetime (for iphone users) and telephone:

Email him at [revcraignowak@comcast.net](mailto:revcraignowak@comcast.net), or call 860-916-9261, to schedule a time.



## 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 at [revcraignowak@comcast.net](mailto:revcraignowak@comcast.net)

## 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

## Who's Who at BUUC

### Staff

#### Minister

Rev. Craig M. Nowak

#### Director of Religious Exploration

Cara Wales

#### Music Director

Lila M. Farrar

#### Office Assistant

Emily Foster

### Executive Committee

#### Ex-Officio member

Rev. Craig M. Nowak

#### President

Robyn Vincent

#### Treasurer

Colleen Groner

#### Clerk

Gary Blanchard

#### Members-at-Large

Christine Keough-Huff, Fritz Foster,

Amy Frisella, Laurie Magnuson

#### Collector

Dave Yutzler

### Committees and Groups

#### Committee on Ministry

Mary Frisella, Roxann Smith,

Donna Sullivan

#### Flower Committee

Lila Farrar (chair), Judy Trifone,

Donna Sullivan

#### Membership Committee

Debbie Ennis, Joanne Hamerly,

Donna Boyea, Penny Blum, Alix

McNitt, Robyn Vincent

#### Nominating Committee

Joanne Hamerly, Donna Boyea,

Karen Keough-Huff

#### Trustees

Doug Smith, Roxann Smith,

Kirk Upton

#### Women's Alliance

Laurie Magnuson, President

#### Worship Committee

Barb Hale, Roxann Smith, John

Kennison, David Yutzler

#### Search Committee

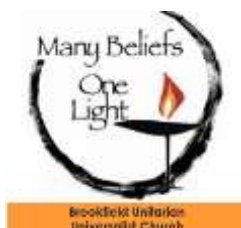
Amy Frisella, Laurie Magnuson,

Fritz Foster, Colleen Groner,

Robyn Vincent

## Community Resources

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 <http://www.buuc.org/community-resources.html>.



**BROOKFIELD  
UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

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9 Upper River Street  
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[www.buuc.org](http://www.buuc.org)  
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