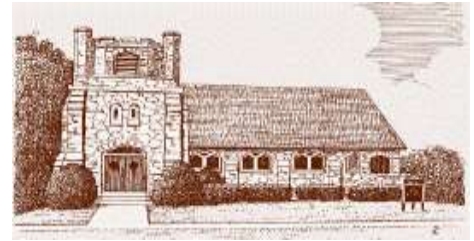


# BUUC Newsletter

Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church  
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"The Little Stone Church That Rocks"



## "On Beginnings"

This is a season of beginnings for many of us: the beginning of the church year, the start of a school year for many families, and the beginning of our journey together. I am looking forward to embarking on this path with all of you, but I am also mindful that a

new beginning often brings with it the grief of a previous goodbye.

My family, who are new to Massachusetts after moving here two years ago from Oklahoma City, are still in a time of transition. There is the excitement of any new endeavor but also the sadness of what was left behind. While we enjoy living closer to the beach, access to the wonderful museums and historical sites in this area, and the beautiful scenery (particularly in the fall), we still feel the grief of friends and other loved ones left behind.

Though I understand many of you are looking forward to the church year, I also appreciate and respect that the loss of your relationships with Rev. Craig may also be lingering over the beginning of your church year. I am here for any and all processing of these sometimes complicated feelings. I am here for your dreaming about what we can do together as a community, but also for your grief about what the church was. Perhaps your grief is about the loss of Rev. Craig or even about what the congregation may have been before COVID, or even still what it might have been well before that. I would love to chat with you to hear stories of how you began your relationship with this community and what ties you to it still to this day.

You may be interested in hearing what brought me to this community? As some of you may know, ministry is a second career for me. I spent most of my professional life working as an attorney for the state of Oklahoma primarily working on civil rights and employment issues. I was also highly involved with my home congregation in Oklahoma City, where I was a member of the Board of Trustees for many years as well as the chair of the city-wide, non-partisan community organizing group that our congregation participated in. Though I believed I was working for the public good as an attorney, I still wanted the opportunity to work hands-on with people, and to engage in social justice actions while also walking side-by-side with members of the congregation as they experience the great joys and losses that life can sometimes bring. It has been a big transition from working in an office everyday as an attorney to ministry, and I am still feeling my way through it. Have you had any similar big moves in your life? I would love to hear about it.

*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.

My family, which includes my husband, my 7 year-old son, and my 5 year-old dog, moved to Massachusetts in August 2021. We moved here, primarily for my ministerial internship at the First Parish in Wayland, but also for greater educational opportunities for my son. We have loved our time in New England and are constantly exploring our new home and welcome any suggestions for sites you think we should visit.

Perhaps though, you are wondering how I ended up at Brookfield UU? I was impressed by the kindness and warmth that seemed to radiate from this congregation, both in the packet the search committee prepared, our conversations together, and in my conversation with Rev. Craig. In the short time I have been working with some of the congregation members and the staff thus far, I can say you all are as advertised. I am excited to work with you on issues in your communities but also provide support for you in any way you need.

I plan on having regular office hours once I get a better feel for when that would be best for congregation members' schedules. I also would love to have a virtual tea/coffee with you over Zoom and get to know you better. Please do not feel you need a reason to visit with me, other than you just wanting to. I cannot wait to get to know all of you and I am looking forward to the worship and good works in the community that we will do together.

Alyssa Lee,  
Minister to BUUC



### Notes from the President



Welcome back, everyone! I hope your summer included lots of corn on the cob, tomatoes straight from the garden, and some time for rest, relaxation, and rejuvenation.

We are now well past the uncertain period of time when we didn't know what the future held for us—would we have a minister for the upcoming church year? Speaking just for myself, I was dreading having to even consider not having a minister, as it felt as if I had barely figured out what I was doing in this role. When Alyssa signed her contract I know the greatest sense of relief was mine. And, after having had the good fortune of getting to know Alyssa a bit more over the summer, I am very sure you will find getting to know Alyssa as pleasurable as I have.

Yes, things will be a bit different this year. Change can be difficult, but change can also be good for our community. It can propel us toward new thoughts, ideas, and new ways of thinking. I am looking forward to a church year with a few more changes than usual, knowing that I am safe and secure in our church community. These changes may bring about personal growth and new knowledge, things I would appreciate coming my way. I hope for you, also, that any changes are positive experiences.

So, on to a new church year. I am excited about it. Let's see what we can do together.

Robyn Vincent,  
President

## Music Notes



The Parlor Organ, or reed organ, sits in the corner of the parlor, nearest the front of the sanctuary. The sound is produced by forcing air through metal "reeds" and thus it is related to the accordion, concertina and harmonica, as well as harmonium and Renaissance regal. (Ask Dave Yutzler about hearing a regal this past June!) Instruments such as ours were popular in small churches but especially in homes in the US in the latter half of the 19th century into the early 20th. Ours belonged to a former minister. Seldom used today, it is still (after recent repairs which should last "another 100 years") in playable condition and we have fun using it on Celtic Music Sunday. In the meantime, it also serves us as the location of information about the music in our services, as well as a place to find flyers for local music concerts and other arts, especially those involving members of our BUUC community. Please check it out!

As we resume music making for a new church year, we look for ways to make participating easier. Although we do count on our small core of committed choir members, it is also possible to sing in choir for part of the year. We think of Fall, Winter, and Spring terms where you can sign on for part of the year. Another option is the occasional "IG Choir," which happens just a few times a year when we welcome singers of all ages to augment the choir. If none of these options are for you, then you are in the most important singing group of all, the congregation! If you formerly identified as a "non-singer," I ask you to put that aside. If you haven't sung since some bad experience with a school music teacher, please don't let her (or him or they) have that power any longer. Please Sing! As Rev Bill Sinkford states in the foreword to *Singing the Journey* (the teal book): "For many of us it is hard to say simply what Unitarian Universalism is. But the elements of worship that we share help tell us who we are as a religious people. Our songs let us know that we are one religious people despite the many spiritual paths we follow. ...And we know that a congregation that loves to sing is almost always a vital and strong religious community."

May it be so.

Lila M Farrar,  
Music Director



## Poetry Night

Is there a poem you have always loved? Maybe you had a favorite poem as a child or perhaps you shared a poem at your wedding or other major life event? Let's hear about it! Join BUUC Minister Alyssa Lee to share a poem you love or even one that you wrote. Or, come to listen! We'll be meeting on Zoom on *Monday, October 9th at 7 p.m.* Zoom link is to follow.

## Notes from the Director of Religious Exploration and host of the BUUC Journaling Group



The journaling group began a couple of years ago as a way for people interested in keeping a journal to have a designated time to work on it. I offer suggested prompts, mute myself, and set a timer for us to answer the question quietly. At first, I posed general questions to the small group. It was a challenge to find or create prompts that seemed meaningful without being overly self-centered. With time, I began asking questions related to the monthly theme used to guide our church's efforts for cohesive services and programs. It felt much better to all of us!

Sometimes, I include a short reading before asking related questions; other times, I ask a series of connected questions. Otherwise, the format has remained the same. We get together on Zoom at the end of the month, chat as people filter in, and then mute ourselves as we do some warmup writing activities before quietly diving into the prompts. We break about halfway through (after 30m or so) so that people can rest their hands and chat for a few minutes before we head back to our writing. My goal has shifted from providing prompts and time for people interested in journaling to also providing an avenue for adult religious exploration.

We welcome you, whether you have attended before or not, whether you can make it to one session or all of them, and whether you think you are a good writer or not. Occasionally, discussions arise from the questions during the chat, but your writing is for you alone - we never ask you to share. You can explore the questions on your preferred digital writing tool, in a nice journal, or on scrap paper from your recycling bin. All exploration is valid.

Our next get-together is on *September 27th at 7pm* on Zoom. The link will be emailed on the day of the gathering. We hope you can make it!

Cara Wales,

Director of Religious Exploration

## BUUC Book Discussion Group

The BUUC Book Group will be meeting at 7:00 p.m. on *Tuesday, September 5th* at the church where we will put together our reading list for the coming church year and share some ice cream with one another. You are welcome to join us if you are interested in participating in the book group. It has been our practice to alternate between fiction and non-fiction throughout the year. If you know of books that you think we might like to add to our list, please join us; or if you would like to add your ideas for books, but can't make it to the meeting, please contact me at [b.lambert.hale@gmail.com](mailto:b.lambert.hale@gmail.com).



## CESA News

The Committee for Ecology and Social Action (CESA) held a collection at church in May and June and collected \$463 for World Central Kitchen to go to support Ukraine.

Our Textile Collection project ran from July 9 – 15. We collected 5,182 pounds of clothing which was picked up by Helpsy to be either resold as clothing or recycled into other products such as floor mats for cars. The church received \$621.84 from Helpsy.

Many thanks to everyone who helped with either of these projects! If you have any questions, please contact Penny Blum at [quabbinquilter@gmail.com](mailto:quabbinquilter@gmail.com).



*Kirk Upton was one of our helpers during collection week.  
Can you spot him in this photo?*

*Tired and relieved loading crew!  
(L to R: Emily Foster, Cruger Johnson Phillips,  
Robyn Vincent, Fritzi Foster, Barb Hale, Lila Farrar)*





## September Services\*

Sunday morning services are held at 10:30 am.



**September 10:** "Welcome"

Intergenerational Service with Stone Communion  
(Remember to bring your stone from June's Stone Communion)

Worship Leader: Alyssa Lee

Music: BUUC Choir

**September 17:** "What Does the Bible Have to Offer?"

Worship Leader: John Kennison

Music: Kurt Staven, baritone

**September 24:** "Do Not Leave Your Cares at the Door"

Worship Leader: Alyssa Lee

Music: BUUC Choir

**\*A Note About Worship**

Currently we are holding hybrid services (in-person and streaming) as often as tech volunteers are available. For those who wish to stream the service (attend online) a link will be provided via email. If you'd like to volunteer to be one of our ZOOM Geeks, email Barb Hale at [b.lambert.hale@gmail.com](mailto:b.lambert.hale@gmail.com).

## Announcements

**Book Club**

The BUUC Book Discussion Group will meet at BUUC on *Tuesday, September 5th at 7:00pm* to share some ice cream and decide on the reading list for this year. Please feel free to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Hale at [b.lambert.hale@gmail.com](mailto:b.lambert.hale@gmail.com).

**Stone Soup**

*Wednesday, September 6th at 12:00pm* at the church. Come catch up with friends and have lunch together. Attendees are invited to bring their own lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided.

**Executive Committee**

*Monday, September 11th at 6:30pm* on ZOOM. (First-Monday meetings will resume October 2nd.)

**CESA**

The Committee for Ecology and Social Action will meet *Wednesday, September 20th, 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 *Wednesday, September 27th at 7:00pm*. If you have any questions, email Cara Wales at [c.l.c.wales@gmail.com](mailto:c.l.c.wales@gmail.com).

**Art Group**

There will be a small group visiting the Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Worcester on *Friday, September 29th at appx 10:45am*, to view an exhibit of contemporary sculpture titled "Chiaoza." Email the office at [buuc01506@gmail.com](mailto:buuc01506@gmail.com) if you'd like to coordinate a meeting place to join, or simply show up!

**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.



### 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.



## 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 Alyssa Lee at [buuc.alyssa@gmail.com](mailto:buuc.alyssa@gmail.com).

## 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

Alyssa Lee

#### Director of Religious Exploration

Cara Wales

#### Music Director

Lila M. Farrar

#### Office Assistant

Emily Foster

### Executive Committee

#### Ex-Officio member

Alyssa Lee

#### President

Robyn Vincent

#### Treasurer

Colleen Groner

#### Clerk

Amy Frisella

#### Members-at-Large

Fritzi Foster, Jared Adams, Christine Holbrook

#### Collector

Dave Yutzler

### Committees and Groups

#### Committee on Ministry

Mary Frisella, Roxann Smith, Donna Sullivan

#### Worship Committee

Barb Hale (chair), Roxann Smith, John Kennison, David Yutzler

#### Flower Committee

Lila Farrar (chair), Judy Trifone, Donna Sullivan

#### Membership Committee

Joanne Hamerly, Donna Boyea, Penny Blum, Alix McNitt, Robyn Vincent

#### Nominating Committee

Joanne Hamerly, Donna Boyea, Karen Keough-Huff

#### Women's Alliance

Laurie Magnuson, President

#### Committee for Ecology and Social Action (CESA)

Penny Blum (chair), Ellen Woodbury, Joanne Hamerly, Donna Boyea, Laurel Hemmer, Sarah Swift, Barb Hale, Lila Farrar, Emily Foster

#### Trustees

Doug Smith, Roxann Smith, Kirk Upton

## 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 live 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  
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UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

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