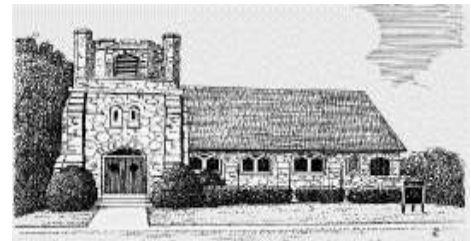




May 2024

The Happenings

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



"The Little Stone Church That Rocks"

Memorial Day Parade

BUUC is marching in the Brookfield Memorial Day Parade!

We would love to have a good showing for the parade, so please consider joining your BUUC friends as we walk in the parade on *Monday, May 27th*.

We will meet at Brookfield Elementary School at 9 a.m. and walk behind a banner artfully designed by our Explorers. We hope you'll join us!

If you have any questions, please contact Alyssa Lee.

*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 5: "Climate Justice and Leaning into Possibility"

*Worship Leader: Claire Karl B.W. Müller
Music: BUUC Choir*

May 12: "Interdependence: Humans, Animals, and Everything Else"

*Worship Leader: Allie Sayre
Music: Gary Blanchard; BUUC Flute Trio (Rick Condee, Kite Upton & Lila Farrar)*

May 19: Intergenerational Flower Communion

*"Honoring Our Diversity" Worship Leaders: Cara Wales, Lila M. Farrar, Barb Hale
Music: BUUC Choir*

May 26: "Learning About the First People of Quaboag/Brookfield"

*Guest Speaker: Donald Duffy, author of The Quaboag and Nipmuc Indians
Music: Gary Blanchard*

*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.



Notes from the Director of Religious Exploration



Cara Wales,
DRE

On Easter Sunday, the Explorers had fun searching the grounds for the 53 items collected during the previous weeks' food collection. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed!

The following week, we loaded a wagon (thank you, Lila) and brought everything to the Ecumenical Food Pantry. After conversation and questions, we put away our donations and restocked the "store." Thank you to Chris and Karen Keough-Huff for leading this memorable event.

Please check the list posted in the entry for an updated list of what is needed for the food pantry.

May Events in Religious Exploration

May 12: RE Family Walk

May 19: Intergenerational Flower Communion

May 29: Adult RE - Journaling Group on Zoom, 7p

Flowers for the Altar

May 19 will be our annual Flower Communion Sunday when we each are asked to bring one flower or green twig. It is the most beautiful bouquet of the year, emphasizing that the BUUC community is made up of so many differences but together what we make is beautiful.

On all of the other Sundays of the year anyone is invited to provide flowers. There is a sign-up sheet in the parlor. You are asked to remove the flowers at the end of the service. You can take them home to enjoy, or give them to someone else. The church has an assortment of vases or you may use your own. If you have any questions you can ask any member of the Flower Committee which is committed to seeing that there is something on the altar every week.

If you do sign up, you will get a reminder during the week before your commitment. Thank you for considering.

The Flower Committee; Judy Trifone, Donna Sullivan and Lila Farrar, chair (lilamfarrar@gmail.com or 508 864 5978).





CESA News

CESA will be sponsoring a textile collection with Helpsy again this summer. It was a great success last year. It will run from July 15 to July 21. More information will be coming as we get closer to the date. It's a great way to clear out clothing and other textiles you no longer need and ensure they won't end up in a land fill.

The organization Vote Forward is ramping up campaigns to reach under-represented populations and encourage them to vote on important issues. Information on these campaigns will be posted on the CESA bulletin board in the parlor. Please check it out.

If you have any questions, please contact Penny Blum at quabbinquilter@gmail.com or anyone on the CESA committee.

"Rough Seas, Safe Harbor"

On three dates this month, seven members of our own BUUC choir will perform in a concert of sea-faring songs by Wings of Song, a 50-voice community chorus directed by Nym Cooke.

"Rough Seas, Safe Harbor" will take audiences on a huge sea voyage, much of it aboard a whaling ship that might have left New Bedford, Mass. in, say, the 1850's, and sailed practically around the world, separating crew members from their families for as long as four years.

Admission to all three concerts is free, with a freewill offering collected at intermission. All venues are handicap-accessible. Audience members will be invited to sing along on seven songs, and to join the chorus for tasty (and free!) refreshments after each concert.

Saturday, May 11 at 7:30pm

*Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Church
16 East Main Street, Webster*

Saturday, May 18 at 7:30pm

*First Church of Monson, Congregational
5 High Street, Monson*

Sunday, May 19 at 2:30pm

*St. Anne-St. Patrick Parish
16 Church Street, Fiskdale (Sturbridge)*



BUUC Website

Do you or your committee have a section on our website? Please review it and let me know if you have any changes for me to work on this Summer. Please email changes to c.l.c.wales@gmail.com.

Welcoming Congregation Renewal

One of the assets of our community here at BUUC is that we have been a great source of welcome and acceptance for people of all ages. However, it has been awhile since we have renewed our Welcoming Congregation designation with the UUA. If you are interested in helping with these efforts for the next church year, please contact Lila Farrar or Alyssa Lee.

Minister's Office Hours

In lieu of regular office hours at the church, Alyssa has set up a Calendly link. Simply visit <https://calendly.com/buuc-alyssa> and you should be able to set up a phone or Zoom call. If you have any issues, give Alyssa a call at (978) 310-1303. You can also call or email buuc.alyssa@gmail.com to set up a meeting. She would love to chat with you.

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 menu at the left side of the page.

Announcements

Stone Soup

Wednesday, May 1st at 11:30am. Come catch up with friends and have lunch together. Attendees are invited to bring their lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Poetry Night

Join Alyssa Lee for her last Poetry Night with BUUC! She'd love to have you come and share a poem you have written or just really love — or just hang out and chat. We'll meet over Zoom on *Wednesday, May 1st at 7 p.m.*

Book Club

The BUUC Book Discussion Group will be meeting via ZOOM on *Tuesday, May 7th at 7:00pm* to discuss *Monster: A Fan's Dilemma* by Clair Dederer. Please feel free to attend. A complete list of this year's books can be found on our website at www.buuc.org/events. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Hale at b.lambert.hale@gmail.com.

CESA

The next meeting of the Committee for Ecology and Social Action will be *Wednesday, May 8th, at 7:00pm* on ZOOM. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Penny Blum at quabbinquilter@gmail.com

Journaling Group

The BUUC Journaling group is open to anyone interested in keeping a journal. While we usually chat a little, we do not discuss our writings. Please feel free to join us! We will meet for the last time this church year on *Wednesday, May 29th at 7:00pm*. If you have any questions, email Cara Wales at c.l.c.wales@gmail.com.

Choir Practice

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

Executive Committee

First Monday of the month at 6:30pm.

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 our minister Alyssa Lee at 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, 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, Karen Goudey

Nominating Committee

Joanne Hamerly, Donna Boyea, Karen Keough-Huff

Women's Alliance

Donna Boyea, Barb Hale, Joanne Hamerly, Laurel Hemmer, Laurie Magnuson, Sharon Smith, Donna Sullivan, Judy Trifone, Diane Mossa

Committee for Ecology and Social Action (CESA)

Penny Blum (chair), Joanne Hamerly, Donna Boyea, Laurel Hemmer, Sarah Swift, Barb Hale, Lila Farrar, Emily Foster, Alix McNitt, Rita Schiano, Kathleen Walker

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 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**

P. O. Box 386
9 Upper River Street
Brookfield, MA 01506

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We're on the web

www.buuc.org

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

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Brookfield Unitarian
Universalist Church
