



# The Journey

The Newsletter of the  
Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church  
 *A Welcoming Congregation*



April 2018

## April 2018 Worship Services

Regular Services are held on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m.



### April 1 Multigenerational Service: Easter Sunday "Flower Communion Service"

**Worship Leader: Dani Slader**  
**Accompanist: Gary Smart**

#### *About our Service:*

The Flower Ceremony, sometimes referred to as Flower Communion or Flower Festival, is an annual ritual that celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community.

Originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, the Flower Ceremony was introduced to the United States by Rev. Maya Capek, Norbert's widow.

In this ceremony, everyone in the congregation brings a flower. Each person places a flower on the altar or in a shared vase. The congregation blesses the flowers, and they're redistributed. Each person brings home a different flower than the one they brought.

And don't forget the best part of our Easter / Flower Communion service — the delicious potluck afterwards!



### Pennies from Heaven is April 1

Each quarter we alternate donations between Mandarin and Clay County Meals on Wheels. Please save all your coins for the first Sunday of every month, and remember bills are welcome too! :)

### April 8 Rev. Elizabeth Teal Accompanist: Eileen Morrison

#### *About our Speaker:*

Reverend Elizabeth Teal is an ordained interfaith minister, an animal behavior specialist and an artist. She is honored to be present in spiritual counseling, chaplaincy and in creating ceremonies and celebrations for one and all.

She deeply believes in our healing connections with each other and other species. She actively tours as a speaker and storyteller, as well as appearing on local and national television and radio discussing pets, pet-related issues and our human bonds with them. She has taken the vows and is a member of The Community of the Mystic Heart. Her ordination is



from and held by One Spirit Interfaith Seminary. She is a third-generation Unitarian Universalist. Reverend Teal believes in the inherent worth and dignity of everyone, knowing that the Light of Love shines into every heart thru many windows.

**April 15**

**Dr. Mark Yount**  
**"The Church That Does  
All the Cool Stuff With  
Kids"**



**Accompanist: Gary Smart**

*About our Service:*

What are we about, and where would we like to go? Molly posed the question this way at a recent listening circle that began as part of a vision-building process: You're at a party, you tell someone where you go to church, and they respond, "Oh - the church that \_\_\_\_." What fills in the blank for us? Looking to our home-grown tradition, BBUU Society was founded to have as much emphasis on children as adults. Looking to the future, what could be a better guide than our children's flourishing? And some fun for the adults in the getting there, perhaps?

*About our Speaker:*

Since joining BBUUC in 1997, Dr. Mark Yount has given over 100 sermons, chaired committees, served on the Board, and served as Youth Adviser. Mark taught philosophy at Trinity College (Hartford), St. Joseph's (Philadelphia), and Jacksonville University. He has degrees in Philosophy from William and Mary (BA), Villanova (MA), and the University of Colorado at Boulder (Ph.D.). Mark works with Mental Health America of NE FL, helping homeless/at-risk people apply for disability benefits.



**April 22**  
**Earth Day Service**

**Accompanist: Gary Smart**

Closer to this date, visit our website [www.bbuuc.org](http://www.bbuuc.org) for more information on this service.

**April 29**  
**Dr. Julie Ingersoll**  
**"Martyrdom and  
Persecution in  
Evangelical  
Christian Popular  
Culture"**



**Accompanist: Gary Smart**

*About our Service:*

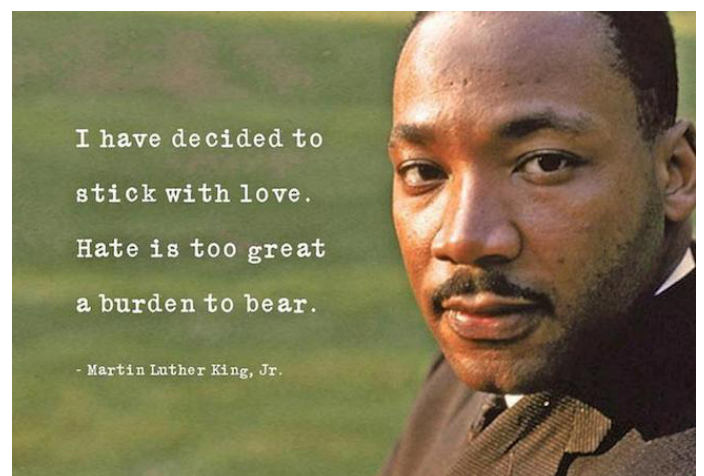
Dr. Ingersoll will explore examples from novels, film, and popular music videos to look at how martyrdom and persecution have become a key frame for social conflict.

*About our Speaker:*

Dr. Julie Ingersoll is Professor of Religious Studies, Religious Studies Program Coordinator at the University of North Florida. She is the author of three books: "Baptists and Methodists in America," "Evangelical Christian Women: War Stories on the Gender Battles" and "Building God's Kingdom: Inside the World of Christian Reconstruction."

“Unitarian Universalists have said for centuries that there is room in our religion for all seekers. Skeptics and poets and scientists are welcome here, as are nonconformists and shy and uncertain folk. We believe that restlessness and doubts are a sign of grace, that the love of truth is the holiest of gifts.”

—Rev. Barbara Merritt





## COLUMNS

### LRE Chair, Marilyn Smart

As chair of the LRE Committee, I'd like to add the copy of a 3 minute speech that Brenda Patterson (our first ever Director of Religious Education) gave in response to the shooting at Parkland Florida.

She teaches at Yulee High School and exemplifies "living our religion" with these comments, even though the administration told her to make it "not political." Yulee High School was the only school in Nassau County to do anything on the "walk-out" in Nassau County. One of her juniors went to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School as a freshman, and she lost 5 friends in this tragedy.



March 14, 2018

Welcome everyone. My name is Brenda Patterson.

We come here today to mark a moment in our lives, to stand in sorrow at the loss of these 17 lives at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. We come to use our presence to soundlessly say that although these lives were cut short and their voices quieted forever, that their lives mattered in the intertwined web that is all of our lives. Like humans have done for eons, we vow to use tragedy to spur us to make the world a better place.

When awful things happen to people outside of our daily lives, to people miles away from Yulee who we don't know personally, it's important to remember the ways we are connected to them, to those people who at first thought seem like strangers. The truth is, we have so much in common. Today we recognize and honor the human connections we all share - regardless of difference and distance. What happened in Parkland has not stayed in Parkland, but has instead become part of our life experience, imbedded in our minds and hearts.

We are Yulee Hornets, a family of individuals whose

lives are shaped in this place, among these people. We take pride in our school and we care about each other. Today, however, I'm asking us to take on the role of eagles to honor Stoneman Douglas High School, our sister Florida school. As Hornets, we are fierce but small, but we pack a powerful sting. Like the mighty Stoneman Douglas Eagles, we don't stay down - low - on the ground. Like Eagles, we must be airborne. And so today,

Yulee Hornets are on the wing for the Douglas Eagles, for those who lost their lives, for those who survived to live with the pain. Today we soar - we soar with them all, and in our spirits, together, we RISE!!! (all rise)

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



### Upcoming Listening Circle on Mission and Vision Survey

On April 22, 2018, at noon, the BBUUC Board will host a presentation and listening circle related to the recent results of the Mission and Vision survey. This will serve as a follow-up to the listening circle that was conducted by the Mission and Vision Task force in February 2018. We will answer questions from the congregation and listen to your thoughts on how to carry out our mission to exist to nourish a loving community that seeks justice and respect for all. The Board thanks everyone that put in their time and made a commitment to the Mission and Vision Task force. The Board is most appreciative of your service. We also thank the many congregants and friends that completed Mission and Vision surveys because without you, there is no BBUUC. Didn't get the chance to serve on the Task force? No worries... Please stay tuned as we take the results of the Mission and Vision survey and gear up for the Long-Range Planning Coalition.



## Ample Angst in Concert at BBUUC!

**Friday, April 20 at 7pm**

**Tickets \$15 (a portion goes to BBUUC)**

Ample Angst is the most recent musical project of songwriter, Mike Bernos (BBUUC Member), who after the successful creation of the blues-rock driven band, Spice and the Po Boys, reconnects with his introspective folk roots. To best express his lyrically influenced songs, he brought together vocalist, Olivia Chernyshev, the velvet-voiced veteran of Jacksonville's musical theater scene, young violinist Joseph Henderson, and multi-instrumentalist and co-collaborator of several years, Cyrus Quaranta. The chemistry has produced rich musical textures and compelling harmonies between the crystal-clear mezzo-soprano of Chernyshev and the John-Legend tinged voice of Quaranta.

Ample Angst's new CD, Thunder and Rain, a collection of folk, country, bluesy shuffles and Americana, features legendary studio and performance cellist, Dave Eggar.

One of the highlights of an Ample Angst Concert is their rendition of the Leonard Cohn's classic, Hallelujah.

### Our Mission:

Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church exists to create and nourish a loving community that seeks justice and respect for all.

## Upcoming workshop from Leadership Development

**Sunday, April 29, 2018 from 12:00 - 2:00 pm  
in Pete Seeger Room @ BBUUC**

Leadership Development will be conducting their second upcoming workshop on Sunday, April 29. This workshop has been designed to help new and established members enrich their experiences at BBUUC.

If you have never been a leader - this workshop is for you. If you would like to be a committee member - this workshop is for you. If you are a committee member but are interested in being a chair - this workshop is for you. If you have been a leader but are experiencing burnout - this workshop is for you. If you would like to serve on the BBUUC Board - this workshop is for you. If you want to enhance the time you spend at BBUUC - this workshop is for you.

Since this workshop has been designed for new and established members, any member is welcome to attend.

Childcare is available so let us know asap if needed.

Please respond to us if you are interested in being part of this workshop at: [ld@bbuuc.org](mailto:ld@bbuuc.org)

Joann, Peg, Grace

Your BBUUC Leadership Development Committee





# *Evensong 1 is Coming!*

## **8-week series of gatherings Wednesday Evenings at BBUUC, May 9 through June 27, 7-9pm**

Explore individual life journeys through sharing thoughts, experiences, doubts, and beliefs about traditional religious concepts.

Group will follow an order of service with the central event being a sharing time.

Spend time with a small group of people within the larger congregation meet, get to know, and welcome newcomers.

Listening is at the core of Evensong. Listening solidifies relationships and is a foundation for community.

**Sign-up sheet is at the back of the church**

In the beginning was the hearing. Although we have been told that in the beginning was the word, theologian Nelle Morton states that there was a priority to the word. She imagines "a great ear at the heart of the universe hearing people to humanness and wholeness."

- Evensong is an 8-week series of gatherings in which participants explore individual life journeys through sharing thoughts, experiences, doubts and beliefs about traditional religious concepts.
- At each meeting, the group follows an order of service with the central event being a sharing time.
- Evensong gives long-term congregational members a chance to spend time with a small group of people within the larger congregation and to meet, get to know, and welcome newcomers.
- Evensong gives newcomers a chance to get acquainted, speak of their experiences and beliefs, and hear members of the congregation speak as well.
- Listening is at the core of Evensong. It focuses on paying attention to people, "hearing" them into a deeper sense of their own humanness and wholeness and into the community.
- Listening solidifies relationships and is a foundation for community.

Anything that brings us together — inspiring us to open our hearts, hands, or minds, to forget our differences for a moment and remember we are one — is a sacrament.

— Forrest Church, Unitarian Universalist Minister

"You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late."

— RALPH WALDO EMERSON



# MEMBER NEWS

## Welcome New Member Kirsten Williams!



New member Kirsten Williams is originally from New Brunswick, New Jersey, and has lived in New Hampshire, New York State, Pennsylvania, and now Saint Johns, Florida. She and daughter Veronica, age 8, are living with Kirsten's father, soon to be joined by her step-mother in a new home built for their retirement. Multiple generations living together is a common occurrence in all sides of Kirsten's complicated, but loving, family.

Kirsten discovered UUism in 1997 when looking for a place in which to be married, and joined a fellowship in 1998. After losing her home to flooding following Hurricane Katrina, she joined a UU Church in Bethlehem, PA where she was at times the chair of the Social Action committee and co-leader of the CUUPS group. In 2010 Veronica was blessed in that same church.

Kirsten's love for Unitarianism outlived her marriage, and before packing the first box for the move to Florida, Kirsten knew she would be looking for another UU church. There she could find community, strength, growth, friends, spiritual family, and of course the OWL program for Veronica when she's old enough. Arriving in Saint Johns in 2017, she Googled local UU churches and found the BBUUC website. The next day she attended her first service. It was love at first site and she decided almost immediately to become a member as soon as possible. And did.

Kirsten has a background in writing and art, although she has been creatively blocked for a while.

She has had poetry and essays published and is currently vaguely working on a manuscript of memoir free-prose style poetry (based on being a mother) as well as a fantasy novel for young adults, narrated by a cat! She also has experience in the theatrical, photography, legal, veterinary, and banking fields and picks up various skills as needed. She loves special effects makeup, cooking, wine, black coffee, and her dog Angel Heart Henry Williams. She sometimes serves as a coloring book for Veronica, who uses washable markers on her Mom's body. And she's obviously heavily tattooed with a lot of her life story cryptically illustrated on her skin. Welcome to new member Kirsten Williams!

### Happy Birthday!

Lauren Spade .....	4/3
Madeline Sims .....	4/6
Valerie Bouffard.....	4/7
Jay Gardner .....	4/8
Dani Slader.....	4/13
Joann Carollo .....	4/20
Merric King.....	4/28
Jonnie Long.....	4/28
Daryl LoTempio.....	4/28
Sarah Johnson .....	4/30



### Wedding Anniversaries

David & Suzanna Siebert.....	4/13
Ev & Michelle Corum.....	4/14
Michael Bernos & Annabelle Gallois-Bernos .....	4/16
Dale & Linda Crawford .....	4/18
Don & Judy Culpepper .....	4/27



### BBUUC Membership Anniversaries

Billie-Anne Lentz-Lester .....	4/12/15
Jimmy Lester.....	4/12/15
Mark Yount .....	4/13/97
Dani Slader.....	4/17/05
Ron Nowack.....	4/17/05
John & Leslie Sheffield.....	4/18/93
Neilly Edwards.....	4/20/14
Lauren Spade .....	4/20/14
Kris Kines .....	4/29/01



Help us keep our records up-to-date! If you see birthday, anniversary, or membership anniversary that needs to be corrected or added to our list, please send it to [membership@bbuuc.org](mailto:membership@bbuuc.org).

## An invitation from Tara Crisp, co-chair of the Caring Committee

How can we extend our spiritual practice from principles on paper to action in the world? Church work! Can church work be a frustrating maze of challenges? Yes! Is it worth it? Always! When we all contribute our time and talents we are living our 5th Principle - Democracy. Our 5th principle states that we believe in the use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large. BBUUC members can vote at our annual meeting and we all have a vote when we choose how to serve. Can I help with the coffee on Sunday mornings? Can I teach Religious Education on Sunday mornings? I invite you to put your faith into action with church work!

—Thank you! Tara Crisp

## Joys and Concerns

Our thoughts are with Barry Heath, Member Emeritus, who had a heart attack and surgery a few weeks ago. He is at home in Georgia recovering and we send him our love.

A concern from Kirsten and Veronica Williams for their dog Angel who is having a toe amputated from her hind foot due to a tumor. This is her fourth cancer related surgery.

Congratulations to Thalia Dunkle who has sold over 1200 boxes of girl scout cookies and is her troop's top seller!

## BBUUC NEWS

### NEW Admin Office Hours

**Wednesday 6:00pm – 9:00 pm**

**Friday Noon – 3:00 pm**

**Sunday 9:00am – 10:30am**

Call or email our wonderful office staff during these times for immediate assistance.

**Phone: (904) 276-3739**

**Email: [admin@bbuuc.org](mailto:admin@bbuuc.org)**

## ICARE (Interfaith Coalition for Action, Reconciliation & Empowerment)



The ICARE Nehemiah Assembly is April 23, 6:30 PM, at Abyssinia Baptist Church, 10325 Interstate Center Drive, 32218. Last year 61 BBUUC members and friends attended. This year we are hoping for 70.

Round trip bus transportation will be provided from BBUUC leaving at 5:30 PM and returning at 9:15. If driving, carpooling is encouraged to best utilize the available parking. Free tickets will be distributed at April worship services and by ICARE Justice Ministry Network members. Tickets are for keeping track of who attends and can also be filled out upon arrival at the Assembly.

What happens at a Nehemiah Assembly? This is the moment where public officials are asked to make commitments related to issues ICARE has been researching. The most prominent issue heard in House Meetings last fall was Crime and Policing. Three specific goals can be heard in the following summary statement:

*“We want people to feel protected by the police, not afraid of them. Likewise, we want officers to have strong relationships with the community. Therefore, Jacksonville’s Sheriff Office must take responsibility for building trust with the public. Sheriff Williams can do this by releasing important data to the public, stop fining citizens for jaywalking and restore funding for the Jacksonville Reentry Center.”*

The specific goals include building a robust website that shares all the data that can be made public; ending the practice of fining people for jaywalking (see the YouTube video Walking While Black <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJFqvRwOiis>); and restoring the annual budget of the Jacksonville Reentry Center to \$1,500,000 as Sheriff Williams promised at the 2016 Nehemiah Assembly.

Network Members from all 38 ICARE congregations including at least 3 BBUUC members have participated in research meetings with public officials and leaders of local and national non-profit organizations dedicated to building better police-community



relations. Nonetheless, asking any public body to implement necessary adjustments in policy or practice can be a hard sell. We are hoping for 1,750 people in attendance at the Nehemiah Assembly to maximize our people power.

ICARE is the Interfaith Coalition for Action, Reconciliation and Empowerment, a coalition of 38 religious congregations in Jacksonville including Catholic, Baptist, United Methodist, African Methodist Episcopal, Lutheran, Episcopal, Jewish, Unitarian-Universalist, Muslim, Bhai, United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian fellowships.



## **BBUUC Vision Task Force Final Report and Recommendations**

*“Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.”  
—Martin Luther King Jr.*

***You’ve heard what your congregation wants, now what should we do about it?***

Following a super successful Vision Survey to learn BBUUC’s deepest wishes for the future, the Vision Task Force in March submitted its recommendations on next steps to the Board. Those recommendations are included in the Final Report of the Vision Task Force.

Read them and let us all know what you think! Here are some highlights, but do check out the full report for the details:

The Vision Task Force advises the Board to create a Research Team to:

1. Develop a process and a budget plan to hire a minister.
2. Propose steps to move BBUUC towards five high-level goals, apart from hiring a minister.
3. Follow a communications plan that updates the Board and congregation on its progress.

The Research Team should recommend actions, identify who is responsible for taking those actions and create timetables for completion of actions.

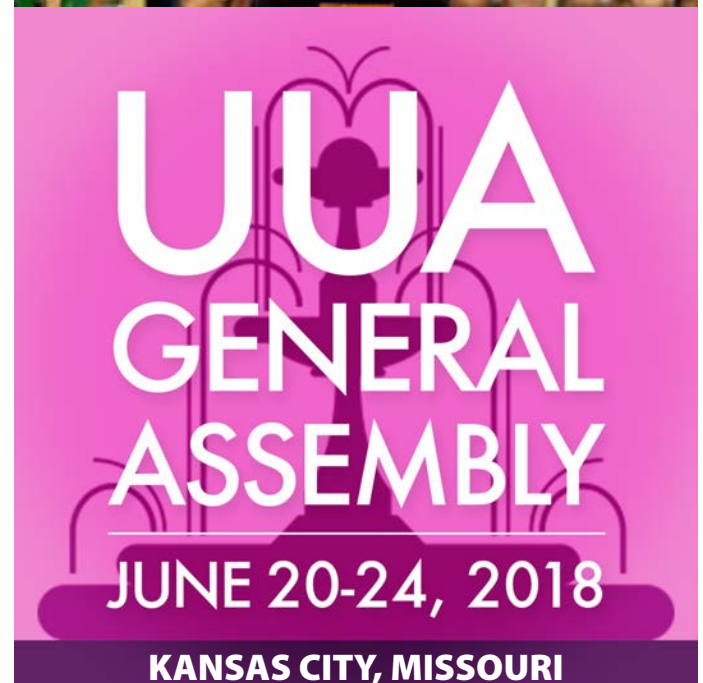
BBUUC’s High Level Goals:

### **Three Primary Goals:**

- Strengthen Leadership to provide better cohesion, coordination, integration and activation of members, with less volunteer burnout.
- Build the quality of core programs, with Worship as the overwhelming priority, followed by Religious Education and chaplain services.
- Bring more inspiration and spirituality to Sunday sermons.

### **Two Secondary Goals:**

- Increase outreach between BBUUC and larger community.
- Maintain ICARE, but expand Social Action to include LGBTQIA and Mercy initiatives.







Join us for a friendly discussion of the issues of the day. All are welcome!

**Every Sunday @ 9:30am**

JACKSONVILLE  
COVENANT  
OF  
UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
PAGANS



<https://www.facebook.com/JacksonvilleFICuups/>

**April 4th & 18th @ 7pm**



## PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

<http://www.bbuuc.org/connection/affinity-groups/prayer-shawl-affinity-group-2/>

**FIRST FRIDAY @ 12pm**



## Lunch Bunch @ Pengree's

RSVP: Call or Text  
John Sheffield  
at 904.728.3565

**SECOND WEDNESDAY @ 11:30am**



<http://www.bbuuc.org/connection/affinity-groups/bbuucf/>

**Monthly on the 4th Sunday @ 9am**



## First Coast Freethought Society

<http://firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org/cms/>

**THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH  
6:30 - 8:30pm (doors open at 6pm)**

BBUUC's Full Calendar can be  
found on line at:

<http://www.bbuuc.org/activities>



**Childcare is available for many church activities, but must be requested in advance when you sign up for an activity. Please contact the activity sponsor listed in the announcement for more information.**



## Lunch Bunch @ GiGi's

inside the Ramada Inn  
(in Mandarin)  
RSVP to Ron Nowack  
[ronow@yahoo.com](mailto:ronow@yahoo.com)

**LAST FRIDAY @ 12pm**

## Are You Shopping on Amazon?

*This a great way to support BBUUC with no cost or effort!*

Revenue we have received from Amazon purchases made through our BBUUC link:

- \$118 for purchases made in May, received in July
- \$118 for purchases made in June, received in August
- \$144 for purchases made in July, received in September
- \$118 for purchases made in August, received in October
- \$176 for purchases made in September, received in November
- \$100 for purchases made in October, received in December
- \$131 for purchases made in November, received in January, 2018
- \$300 for purchases made in December, received in February
- \$93 from purchases made in January, received in March
- \$112 from purchases made in February, to be received in April

Remember to use the BBUUC link to Amazon every time you make a purchase, and ask your family and friends to do the same – you don't need to be a Member of our church to contribute.

Just use this link (also found at the bottom of our webpage [www.bbuuc.org](http://www.bbuuc.org))

**<http://amzn.to/1LcEwFZ>**

No special login or code is needed. How easy is that!

## Introduce Yourself!

If you are a recent member and we have not run an introduction article about you for the Journey yet, please feel free to contact [publishing@bbuuc.org](mailto:publishing@bbuuc.org). We're interested in how you found BBUUC, what you like here, and what you would like other members of the BBUUC community to know about you. We can help you write the article or you can write a 400 word or less article about yourself. We would also like a photo so that people know who you are and can introduce themselves to you during Fellowship Time after the service.

## Church Directory

If you would like online and quick/easy access to the BBUUC directory on your computer, tablet, or smart phone (always up to date and with photos), contact [membership@bbuuc.org](mailto:membership@bbuuc.org) or see

Pam Richards or Peg Christenson for login instructions.

If you would like the PDF directory and separate Picture directory emailed to you so you can access the file on your computer, tablet, or smart phone without an internet connection (or so you can print a hard copy), contact [admin@bbuuc.org](mailto:admin@bbuuc.org) or see Stacy Asimos in the church office.

If you don't use a computer and need a hard copy, see Stacy Asimos in the church office.



## Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church

Mail: P.O. Box 844, Orange Park, FL 32067

8447 Manresa Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32244

Church Phone: (904) 276-3739 • [www.BBUUC.org](http://www.BBUUC.org)

The Journey is the official newsletter of the Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church. It is distributed monthly by electronic means to members and friends of the BBUUC community.

If you would like to subscribe, please send an email to [publishing@bbuuc.org](mailto:publishing@bbuuc.org).

Physical printouts of the Journey are also available at the Membership Table in the Sanctuary.

(If a pledging member of the community does not have home Internet or computer access, a mailed printout can be requested from [admin@bbuuc.org](mailto:admin@bbuuc.org), or by contacting the church administrator at 904-276-3739.)

If you have comments or suggestions about the format or content of the Journey, please contact the editorial team at [publishing@bbuuc.org](mailto:publishing@bbuuc.org).

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