



The Journey

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



December 2017

December 2017 Worship Services

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

NOTE: Two special services will be held in December on Wednesday, Dec. 20th and Christmas Eve

December 3:

**Dr. Parvez Ahmed
presents**

"Religion in Public Life"

Worship Leader:

Sarah Johnson

Accompanist: Gary Smart



benefit our local Meals on Wheels program.

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 ☺ November collection-\$87.37 towards Clay County Meals on Wheels

Learn more about the program in the BBUUC News Section.

December 10:

**Rev. Liz Teal
presents**

***"Mary did you
know?"***

Worship Leader:

Dani Slader

Accompanist: Eileen Morrison



About our Speaker:

Dr. Parvez Ahmed is Associate Professor of Finance at the Coggin College of Business, University of North Florida (UNF). In addition, Dr. Ahmed writes editorials about Islam and the American Muslim experience. Dr. Ahmed also teaches a special 10-week course titled, "Islam-the faith, the people and their politics," at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in UNF.

Dr. Ahmed served as an at-large board member for the American Civil Liberties Union in Florida. He was also Chairman of the Council on American Islamic Relations. Currently, he serves as a board member for OneJax (formerly the National Conference on Community and Justice).

About our Service:

A sermon for this season of births and rebirths, for #notallmen and #metoo.

About our Speaker:

Reverend Teal specializes in eco-theology, the human-animal bond, and all their healing aspects. She is the Spiritual Director for The Ministry of Animals and the Educational Director for Giving Paws, specializing in animal assisted therapies and chaplaincies. She graduated Summa Cum Laude



**Pennies from
Heaven is
December 3**

Please bring your extra change for a special collection to

in Behavioral Science from Mercy College in New York, with additional concentration and studies in animal-assisted therapies. She holds a certificate in Interfaith, Inter-spiritual Counseling. Her ordination is from and held by One Spirit Interfaith Seminary. Rev. Teal has taken the vows and is a member of The Community of the Mystic Heart. She is a mystic, a minister, a chaplain, an artist and a storyteller as well as being a third-generation Unitarian Universalist.

**December 17:
Chalica**

**Accompanist:
Sydney Crisp**



About our Service:

The LRE youth will present a holiday pageant that will show the true meaning of the UU holiday, *Chalica*.

**WEDNESDAY, December 20:
Jax CUUPS
Winter Solstice service**



About our Service:

The Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist church congregation in cooperation with it's Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) chapter will host a full Yule/Winter Solstice service. The service will be followed by cider and cookies and the burning of the Yule log

**December 24 (10:30am):
"Tis the Season"**

**Worship Leader:
Vanessa Birchell
Accompanist:
Eileen Morrison**



About our Service:

Come join us for a Christmas Eve morning hymn - sing and make a joyful noise.

Christmas Eve Service

**December 24 (6:30pm):
"BBUUC's Annual Christmas Eve Service"**

**Worship Leader: Vanessa Birchell
Accompanist: Gary Smart**

About our Service:

A time honored BBUUC tradition, the Christmas Eve service is a perfect place to get in to the spirit of the holiday season. Songs, dances, and stories shape this service. This is not an event that you will want to miss. Feel free to bring the whole family.

Want to participate in the the Annual Christmas Eve service? Contact the worship leader Vanessa Birchell at vanessabirchell@gmail.com

December 31:



"Second Annual FESTIVUS Service"

**Worship Leader: Jennifer Stokes
Accompanist: Gary Smart**

About our Service:

Not inspired to celebrate the holidays in the traditional style? You can resist holiday commercialism and stresses by coming to BBUUC to celebrate Festivus. This "Festivus for the rest-of-us" was popularized on the TV show Seinfeld. Come be with your church family for an hour on Christmas morning to "air your grievances." Festivus is upon us—come one, come all!

PRESIDENT'S PEN



In this month's President's Pen, we focus on the fourth source of Unitarian Universalism: Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves.

This is the only source that I tend to have issues with, regarding the wording.

I have always wondered why there is no mention of Islam, within this source. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are the Abrahamic faiths that all began in the Middle East. There are plenty of mentions in the Koran that speak to loving our neighbors as ourselves. I imagine that it's omission was unintentional, but this omission speaks volumes to me. In an act of spiritual defiance, and a nod to the winter holiday season, I will use this month's President's Pen to share with you the story of Maryam (Mary) and the birth of Isa (Jesus) as told in the Surat Maryam chapter of the Holy Koran.

She was alone, as she was wont to do, worshipping in the eastern section of the temple. Suddenly, she was startled by a strange presence: a man with whom she was not familiar. "I seek refuge from thee with the Most Gracious," she said, "(Approach me not) if you are conscious of Him!" He sought to calm her by saying, "I am but a messenger of your Lord, (who says,) 'I shall bestow upon thee the gift of a son endowed with purity.

This startled her most of all. She replied, in shock: "How can I have a son when no man has ever touched me? - for, never have I been an unchaste woman!" The presence replied: "Thus it is; (but) your Lord says, 'This is easy for Me; and (thou shalt have a son,) so that We might make him a symbol unto humanity and an act of grace from Us. And it was a thing decreed (by God)."

And so she conceived the child, withdrawing to a far-off place. And when the pangs of childbirth overtook her, she was driven to sit under the trunk of palm tree, and she exclaimed in anguish: "Oh, would that I had died before this, and had become a thing forgotten, utterly forgotten!" Yet, she had the child,

and she then came back to her people carrying him, who were clearly shocked.

They exclaimed, "Thou hast indeed done an amazing thing!" They continued: "O Sister of Aaron," an honorific title for this heretofore pious woman, "Your father was not a wicked man, nor was thy mother an unchaste woman!" She pointed to her newborn child, whereupon they said: "How can we talk to one who (as yet) is a little boy in the cradle?"

Behold, I am a servant of God. He has vouchsafed unto me revelation and made me a prophet, and made me blessed wherever I may be; and He has enjoined upon me prayer and charity as long as I live, and (has endowed me with) piety towards my mother; and He has not made me haughty or bereft of grace. Hence, peace was upon me on the day when I was born, and (will be upon me) on the day of my death, and on the day when I shall be raised to life (again)!

Amazing, isn't it? There is an uncanny resemblance to the Christian story of the birth of Christ. I always get little goosebumps when I read the story of Maryam and Isa. May you blessed this holiday season; no matter which (non)religious practice you choose.

Fi Amaan Allah,
Vanessa Sampson Birchell
BBUUC Board President

TREASURER'S CORNER

As we come up on the end of 2017, those of you in need of some tax relief may want to consider gifts to BBUUC. These gifts could take the form of stocks, bonds, as well as other assets. Please let finance chair Pam Richards or me know if you have any questions.

Dale M Crawford
Treasurer



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

2017 Holiday Giving Tree and Christmas Party

To Benefit Holiday Helpers

When: 6 – 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2

Where: BBUUC

The Welcoming Congregation Ministry, in partnership with the Social Action Committee, will host an old-fashioned Christmas party from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, December 2 at BBUUC. The event will benefit Holiday Helpers, a Jacksonville nonprofit that brings holiday cheer to children whose families are affected by HIV.

Come join us for games, food, gift wrapping and a community tree trimming. Bring your own Christ-

mas ornament so we can personalize our BBUUC family Christmas tree!

All are welcome. The suggested donation for attendance is \$5 per person 16 years and older. Donations will also be accepted for gift wrapping.

If you miss the party (and please don't!) we encourage you to support Holiday Helpers with a donation. We will be collecting donations in early December following Sunday services. Thanks for helping!

Holiday Helpers benefits children who have been infected with HIV or who have a family member affected by the disease. The children represent a population who are historically under served by better known toy donation organizations. Holiday Helpers provides children with toys, gift cards and food during the holidays. Proceeds from the BBUUC fundraiser will go directly towards the group's Christmas Children's Party. For more information, contact David Austin, or visit <http://www.holidayhelpersjax.org>.

COMMUNITY

CHRISTMAS

PARTY

GAMES

FEEL FREE TO BRING A
PLATE OF YOUR
FAVORITE SNACK TO
SHARE



FUN

GIFT
WRAPPING
(FOR A
DONATION)



Dec. 2, 6-9 PM

TREE TRIMMING

U R INVITED TO BRING
AN ORNAMENT YOU LIKE
TO ADORN THE TREE.



Help us help Holiday Helpers
(proceeds will go to help kids in families with AIDS)

suggested donation \$5 for folks over age 16

Where? Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church, 8447 Manressa Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32244



Choir for the Christmas Moment

"Meet new friends, and keep the old"! That's what we hope to do this season.

The Christmas Choir is your chance to have fun with new friends and make music at the same time. We generally sing 2 songs at the beautiful Christmas Eve service, which ends with candlelight.

The choir will meet Sunday, December 3 at noon, with more rehearsals to be announced.

Know that you do not have to have a glorious operatic voice to take part. All are welcome and appreciated, and child care is scheduled if needed.

If you have questions, please email Marilyn Smart at mssmart@bellsouth.net. She hopes to see you there!

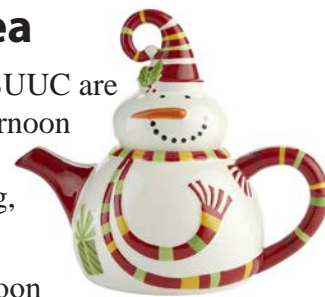
Snow Ball Sleep-Over and Chalica Pageant

The Snow Ball Sleep-Over is happening again this year! On December 16th at 6:30pm we will gather to engage in fun holiday crafts and games! Children 4 and older are invited to stay the night. Pick-up will be at 9:00am on Sunday, December 17th. During this event, we will also be rehearsing for the Chalica Pageant that will be performed December 17th. Even if you do not want to stay the night, you are welcome to come practice and enjoy the fun! For those staying the night, please RSVP to Erin Rogers at erinjrogers@gmail.com



Afternoon Tea

Members and friends of BBUUC are invited to our monthly Afternoon Tea. Please join us for a delightful interlude of chatting, munching, and sipping!



- What:** Saturday Afternoon Tea at the Knapik's home.
- When:** Saturday, December 16, 2017, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- Where:** John and Janice Knapik's home
- Dress:** Casual (or feel free to dress up if you'd like!)
- Goodies:** If you would like to bring something, great! If not, great also! Some of us love to bake, some of us don't have the time or desire. But we all like getting together. If you'd like to bring something not home-made, we welcome it.

RSVP to membership@bbuuc.org if you plan to attend.

Cookies and Caroling



On Friday, December 22nd, we will be meeting at the home of Annabelle Gallois-Bernos in Riverside at 7:00pm for cookie making fun and



neighborhood caroling! For more information, contact Erin Rogers at erinjrogers@gmail.com.

Kwanzaa Celebration

Idea Temple will have a Kwanzaa celebration on Dec 30, 1-3pm. Guests are welcomed.



BBUUC At Your Service Auction

The auction will be on Feb 18, 2018 after service.

A Personal Note to our BBUUC Congregation:

Thank You!

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to our BBUUC church community for the many condolences, expressions of

love, great compassion and care we received at the loss of our husband, father and grandfather, Orlis (Kenny) Kennicutt on November 2nd. The church has been so supportive of us during his illness, hospice stay, and after his death. The Caring Committee did a fantastic job of outreach and concern. It meant so much for us to see friends from our church family at the National Cemetery for the funeral, and especially for all that so many of you did to provide refreshments, hospitality and support for the visitation held at the Kennicutt home on the 18th. So many congregants came by to visit and pay their respects, not to mention all who brought food, set up, served and cleaned up at the end. It was a heartwarming day that brought much comfort to our family. We are so grateful for the cards, notes, flowers, memorial donations and visits from so many. Words cannot express how much these connections mean to us. We are thankful for this vital community and the spirit that makes it so very special.

With love and gratitude,
Frances Kennicutt, Linda Mowers
and Sarah Johnson

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. 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.

MEMBER NEWS



Meet Our New Members: Sev Johansson and Jackie Ogi

Sev Johansson and Jackie Ogi are pleased to join BBUUC as new members.

Sev grew up in Winston-Salem, NC; Jackie is from Seattle, WA. They met in Cleveland, OH and have also lived in Philadelphia, PA (where they married), and Jacksonville, NC. They are newcomers to Florida and feel very lucky to have found a sense of community with BBUUC.

Henry and Morris are their two rescue dachshunds, who fill their lives with tail-wags and snuggles.

Sev is an engineer, and he enjoys working on his cars, and has recently taken up wood-working. Jackie is a dentist who likes all things crafty, especially knitting, crocheting, and painting. She also plays the violin and would love to form a chamber group, let her know! Together, they enjoy spending time in the kitchen and their backyard garden. Pesto with home-grown basil is one of their favorites.

Each Sunday they look forward to the new service and use the car ride home to process and converse about spirituality and the featured philosophies. They had researched to find a spiritual home, and felt that Unitarian Universalism would offer the best fit. They look forward to becoming active in the church and exploring faith with Unitarian Universalism.

Joys and Concerns

Our prayers and love are with the **Kennicutt and Mowers families** after the passing of **Orlis “Kenny” Kennicutt**. He was 88 years old and was married to Frances Kennicutt for nearly 63 years. He was Linda Mowers’ father, Sarah Johnson’s grandfather and Judah’s great-grandfather. Kenny proudly served in the Marines for 22 years and was honored with a military funeral at Jacksonville’s National Cemetery. The family asks that any donations in his honor be given to the Haven Hospice on Blanding Blvd. and to WreathsAcrossAmerica.com.



Our condolences are also extended to the family of **Rev. Douglas Knight**. Rev. Knight passed away in October at the age of 82. He was an organizer from UUCJ who helped to found our Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church in 1990 and worked with us for over a year and beyond to assure our success. He was much loved and appreciated by our church. Donations in his honor may be given to the Jacksonville Humane Society or to BBUUC.

Prayers and wishes for recovery are extended to **Don and Patty DeStephano’s** daughter-in-law **Erica**. She received a bone marrow transplant in October.

Our hearts and thoughts continue to be with **Barry Mowers’** 18 year old grandson **Hunter Bohn**. He is facing a long recovery after suffering numerous serious injuries following a car accident.

Congratulations to the **Kines family!** Kris Kines’ nephew and his husband recently adopted a newborn baby boy - **Jasper Maxwell Moreno**.

And other congratulations to **Stacy Asimos** on the birth of her first grandbaby! We can’t wait to see all of grandma’s pictures!

BBUUC NEWS

Trustees Wanted

The Board is seeking to fill two Trustee positions that recently became open. Here is a description of the role:

The Trustees shall keep abreast of the business and programs of the church; participate in meetings of the Board of Directors; and perform such



other functions as assigned by the Board. Trustees shall be elected annually to commence serving July 1st, and shall not be related to one another or any officer by blood, marriage, or domestic partnership. The Nominating Committee (Leadership Development) is authorized to nominate individuals for the position of Trustee for terms of one (1) or two (2) years.

Leadership Development is always on the lookout for those who wish to be leaders within our congregation. However, since transparency is of the utmost importance in our governance, any member can self-nominate. If you are interested in serving as a Trustee on the Board, beginning December 21, 2017 - June 30, 2018, please send an email to Leadership Development at ld@bbuuc.org by December 17.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Leadership Development

(Joann Carollo, Peg Christenson, Grace Repass)

“ Our task is to be who we are, in every way we can be; our salvation proceeding in putting ourselves back together after each tumble . . . We iridesce, shine, and radiate. We exclaim and roar: we are. ”

—REV. KENNETH PATTON, UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

ICARE Justice Ministry

ICARE Community Problems Assembly and Research Kickoff

13 BBUUC Justice Ministry Network members helped pick the new issue for ICARE to address citywide at the Community Problems Assembly on November 14. The top three issues brought up in House Meetings in the 38 ICARE congregations were Criminal Justice, Youth and Education, and Health and Mental Health. All 353 Network Members present at the Community Problems Assembly voted after hearing testimonies for each issue. BBUUC Network Members cast 10 votes for Criminal Justice and 3 votes for Health and Mental Health. Criminal Justice won by a landslide.



The next step is to refine the issue at the Research Kickoff on December 5, 6:30 PM, at Arlington Congregational Church, 431 University Blvd N, Jacksonville, 32211. ICARE members citywide have experienced many situations where police actions are difficult to understand or accept. Cases brought up at the Community Problems Assembly included one where police officers called to help calm down a mentally unstable ex-husband ended with the death of the man by choke hold. He was a veteran, likely with PTSD, and he was unarmed. Other cases included extremely disrespectful treatment during traffic stops and in other encounters involving white police officers and African-American citizens.

Is better training the answer? Better supervision? Pro-active community relations efforts? What positive change can a coalition of 38 religious congregations representing 30,000 members hope to accomplish? What can/should we ask for, and from whom? That will be the topic of conversation for everyone at the Research Kickoff on December 5.

Contact any of the ICARE Team Leaders for more information. They are Viqui Hilliard, Corinne Warren, Carole Hawkins, Karen Christiansen and Ken Christiansen. Or email icare@bbuuc.org.



Coming Soon!

We want to hear from YOU! Please watch for the upcoming SURVEY from the Vision Task Force! The Vision Task Force will soon be collecting information from all members of BBUUC in order to identify a 5-year plan that includes actionable, measurable goals derived from our entire congregation's deepest wishes, and which will inform how our church will spend resources.

Meals on Wheels Update (Donation Collected Dec. 3)

About Clay County Meals on Wheels:

Home Delivered Meals and nutrition education are provided to elderly who have a physical or mental disability and are homebound, living alone, or with others who need help in the preparation of meals. Outreach is provided to the community for identifying persons in need of service through health fairs, speaking engagements and referrals.

The home delivered meals program provides 1/3 of the recommended dietary allowance requirements for persons over 60 years of age. Meals are packaged in special containers to preserve freshness and maintain food quality. Nutrition education information is provided on a monthly basis.

This "meals-on-wheels" program relies heavily upon volunteers to deliver meals. Private citizens donate their time and vehicles, assisting in the delivery of homebound meals for these isolated citizens. Voluntary contributions towards the cost of meals are encouraged and all contributions are used to purchase more meals.



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

Every Sunday @ 9:30am



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

Monthly on the 4th Sunday @ 9am
NO MEETING WILL BE HELD IN DECEMBER

JACKSONVILLE
COVENANT
OF
UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
PAGANS



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

WED, 12/6 & TUE, 12/19 @ 7pm



**First Coast
Freethought
Society**

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

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

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

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



**PRAYER
SHAWL
AFFINITY
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

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.



*True religion is the life we live,
not the creed we profess.*

Happy Birthday!

12/4 Don Repass
12/13 Frances Kennicutt
12/19 Gary Smart
12/22 Ron Nowack
12/24 Sandy Goldman
12/25 Mark Yount
12/27 Alexa Adamecz



Wedding Anniversaries

12/14 Jim and Judy Niss
12/22 Frances and Kenny Kennicutt
12/25 Manny Andrade and Rusty Turner
12/27 John and Janice Knapik



Membership Anniversaries

12/2/90 Barry Mowers
12/8/13 Manny Andrade
12/8/13 Grace Repass
12/9/07 Cheryl Frost
12/14/14 Meghan Kaminiski
12/14/14 Charles Rippo



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.

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 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 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.



Are You Shopping on Amazon?

Amazon Affiliates Fundraiser

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 in July (for purchases made in May)

\$118 in August (for purchases made in June)

\$144 in September (for purchases made in July)

\$118 in October (for purchases made in August)

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://amzn.to/1LcEwFZ>

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



Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church

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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.

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, 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.

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