



The Journey

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



December 2018

December 2018 Worship Services

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

8447 Manresa Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32244

Church Phone: (904) 276-3739 • www.BBUUC.org

Check the BBUUC Calendar for information on other programming.

December 2

Dr. Mark Yount

presents

"Gathering Myself in Music"

Worship Leader:

Carole Hawkins

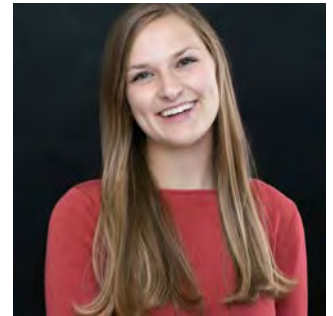
Accompanist: Eileen Morrison

**Special Music by Guest Vocalist Olivia Chernyshev,
accompanied by Michael Bernos**



About our Guest Musician:

Olivia Chernyshev graduated from Douglas Anderson School of Arts in musical performances, acting and dance. A frequent cast member at the Alhambra Dinner Theatre, she is a vocalist in the folk-rock band *Ample Angst* and contributes to various creative duo projects in town. We remember her as a youngster in BBUUC's youth RE program and are so proud to have her bringing her music back to enrich our service.



About our Service:

A title for multiple layers of meaning: I surround myself and bask in music. When I'm losing it I collect myself by tuning in to music's medicine and gather a deeper sense of Self in that. But how does music find in my deepest feelings a spiritual bond of shared humanity?

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.



Accompanying Musician and BBUUC Member **Mike Bernos** is a singer/songwriter whose songs appear on Spotify and Pandora. He is currently the guitarist and vocal contributor for the Americana band, *Ample Angst*. He has produced several EPs including his most recent, *Thunder and Rain*.

Pennies from Heaven is December 2

Please save all of your coins for the first Sunday of each month and remember, bills are welcome too! Pennies from Heaven donations are given to Meals on Wheels programs in Mandarin and Clay County and are alternated each quarter.

December 9

Rev. Elizabeth Teal

presents

"The Night the Animals Spoke"

Worship Leader: Lee Plumb

Accompanist:

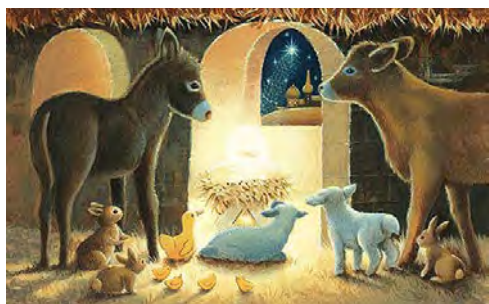
Eileen Morrison

About our Service:

A look at the meaning and message behind the myths and fables of the winter holy days. An interfaith approach to the magic and meaning of being here with each other no matter if you are feathered, furred, scaled or skinned!

About our Speaker:

Reverend Elizabeth Teal is the executive director of Giving Paws. She is also the Spiritual Director for The Ministry of Animals, and a monk in the world. Past credits include: Training Director and Consultant for Pattes Tendue (headquartered in Geneva Switzerland), coordinator of the ASPCA's Visiting Pet Program; the AACR team training and coordination of the NYC 9-11 response; sitting on Delta Society's first Pet Partners National Committee; and handling the first installed Canine Guardian ad Litem in the state of Florida. Rev. Teal thought she was going to grow up to be an ethologist focusing on interspecies relationships, but along the way became a monk, an artist, a storyteller, and an interfaith minister instead. She has taken the vows of the Community of the Mystic Heart. 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 through many windows. She is committed to equity, justice, and compassion in all our relationships and blogs daily at MinistryofAnimals.org.



December 16

Family Worship Service

presented by **the Children and Youth of Religious Education**

"Unto You a Child is Born"



Worship Leader: Chris Jarman, DRE

Accompanist: Dr. Gary Smart

Special Music by Sydney Crisp

About our Service:

The Christmas story is rooted in old, old tales of the winter solstice. In ancient times in Europe, when the solstice came, distant ancestors sometimes told stories of a miraculous child born to return us to the light. Drawing on our own Universalist heritage, RE will share an interactive story of hope for all people of a child born who would grow up to lead human-kind into a time of truth and justice.

December 23

Manuel (Manny)

Andrade presents

"Exploring the Concept of Faith and its Meaning"



Worship Leader: Kris Kines

Accompanist: Dr. Gary Smart

Special Music by Guest Musician Marc Dickman (Euphonium) with Gary Smart

About our Service:

The UU Principles call for a responsible search for truth in our faith journey. We will explore concepts of faith and how to give further dimension to our understanding of our place in the universe.

About our Speaker:

Manuel (Manny) Andrade, was born in Lima Peru and raised in NY. He attended Hunter College in NYC. He is a life professed Franciscan Friar. He attended Sanctus Theological Seminary and since 2002

holds a Licentiate in Sacred Theology. He received Deaconal Orders in 2000 and was ordained a Priest in 2003 in the American Catholic Church. He entered the Monastery of Our Lady Of Maine in 2001, on the grounds of the Cathedral Church of St Luke (Episcopal) in Portland as a friar of the Anglican Order of Jonathan Daniels for 2 years. He has been a Social Worker serving communities living with HIV in NY, VA, ME and FL since 1989. He married his husband Rusty Turner 2 years ago and they share their home with their beloved mutt Roxy.

About our Guest Musician:

Dr. Marc Dickman, from Valdosta, Georgia, is a founding member of the acclaimed jazz studies program at the University of North Florida. Dr. Dickman earned degrees from Troy State University, McNeese State University, and the University of North Texas. His versatility on euphonium, trombone, bass trombone, and tuba in the classical and jazz styles places him in much demand in the United States. At UNF he teaches applied low brass and jazz ensemble. He is a winner of the artist division



of the International Leonard Falcone Competition. His students have won awards in the jazz and classical areas. Dr. Dickman is a founding member of the groundbreaking jazz ensemble, the Modern Jazz Tuba Project. The MJT Project has two critically acclaimed releases; *Live From the Bottom Line*, and *Favorite Things*. Marc's CD, *A Weaver of Dreams*, is available at cdbaby.com. Dr. Dickman has performed in the following countries: USA, Japan, Hungary, Finland, Paraguay, Uruguay, Canada, Honduras, and Columbia.

Dr. Gary Smart is a regular accompanist and long-time member of BBUUC. He will be accompanying Dr. Dickman on piano. We are so fortunate to have him share his musical gifts with us, and for the many wonderful musicians that he has brought to our services. His career has encompassed a wide range of activities as composer, classical and jazz pianist, and teacher. Dr. Smart has spent two residencies in Japan, teaching in programs at Osaka University and Kobe College. He has also taught in Indonesia as "Distinguished Lecturer in Jazz" under the auspices of the Fulbright program. From 1999-2003, he served as Chairman of the UNF Music Department. Gary Smart is currently a Presidential Professor of Music at the University of North Florida.



Join us for BBUUC's Annual *Christmas Eve Service*



Come, bring your family and friends to our annual Christmas Eve Service! This family service will be a woven tapestry of music, carols, words and inspiration for this special season, for all ages— followed by a time of fellowship and holiday refreshments (furnished by volunteers organized by the Hospitality Committee). We start early, to allow everyone time to share Christmas Eve at home with their friends and families. *Don't miss this special evening!*

December 24th at 6:30 p.m.

December 30

**"BBUUC's
Fourth
Annual**

Festivus Celebration"

Worship Leader/presenter:

Jennifer Stokes

Accompanist: Dr. Gary Smart



About our Service:

Come join BBUUC in our Fourth Annual Festivus Celebration! We will enjoy a participatory Recitation of Festivus Miracles, air our grievances, and perform the traditional Feats of Strength! BBUUC is proud to have it's very own Festivus pole, which will be presented and admired during the service. Who knows, we may even have the traditional Festivus meal of meatloaf on a bed of lettuce during coffee hour.

For those unfamiliar with Festivus, the celebration was spawned from an episode of Seinfeld, which was inspired by what some may consider shenanigans that took place in one of the writer's childhood homes. The concept of a holiday, "a Festivus for the rest of us", was meant to be a jovial, and very tongue-in-cheek response to the overt consumerism of Christmas. Festivus is now observed around the world and is not necessarily just a Christmas-time holiday. BBUUC celebrates Festivus as a multi-generational, participatory service full of fun and happiness. Festivus for us serves as a reminder of what the holidays are really about, and reminds us to look past the trappings and find the joy.

About our Presenter:

Jennifer has been a member of BBUUC for almost 20 years. She has served as Vice President, Worship Committee Chair, and Building Task Force Chair; she has been an RE teacher and occasion-



al musician for services. Her favorite thing to do is be a Worship Leader, and truly delights in creating meaningful and enjoyable services for some of her favorite people - the BBUUC congregation!

Jennifer has a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management; holds a Florida General Contractors License, and is a certified Project Management Professional. She works for JEA as a construction manager. Jennifer is an active member of Toastmasters, having achieved her Advanced Leader Bronze and Competent Communicator awards. She serves as the Vice President of Education of her club, and recently completed a six-month assignment as a technical trainer for Toastmasters International. In what spare time she has, Jennifer enjoys home renovation projects, sewing, tending her chickens and spoiling her two grandsons.



**BBUUC Members and
Friends:**

**CALL FOR
PARTICIPANTS
IN THE
CHRISTMAS
EVE SERVICE**

If you play a musical instrument, have a poem, reading, or a brief holiday memory you'd like to share, or want to sing a solo (duet, trio, etc.), contact Linda Mowers, service organizer, at worship@bbuuc.org.

**DEADLINE TO VOLUNTEER IS
DECEMBER 9TH**

Don't forget, you can also join the Christmas Choir to participate! (See the article under "Activities and Events" for more information.)

*Help make our Christmas Eve program
filled with meaning and many voices!*

Enjoy having guest musicians in our Sunday Services?

Consider donating to the **BBUUC MUSIC FUND**. We are so fortunate at BBUUC to have wonderful, talented musicians among our members who are very generous with their special gifts. Our members who volunteer their time and talent to accompany the services and provide special music should be reminded how much we appreciate their musical contributions, as our services would be incomplete without them.

We have also been fortunate to have the ability to bring in guest musicians throughout the year to give variety to the services while also supporting the arts in our greater community. Lynn Wadley, a musician herself and member of the Worship Committee, has done a fantastic job finding and coordinating these guest musicians, along with our in-house musicians for the Sunday services. We also wish to thank Gary Smart, who has been such a huge help to us in bringing in many musicians who are students and colleagues of his in the UNF music program. These musicians have been fabulous!

These guest musicians are given an honorarium for their efforts. Our current worship budget is not enough to allow us to expand the music programming in our services, so we have been blessed to have a special Music Fund that was created by a generous donor last year to allow us to grow this element.

The Music Fund is always available for your contributions. If you have enjoyed the music we have incorporated into the service by guest musicians, please consider making a donation to the BBUUC Music Fund. You can place donations in the offertory envelopes and check the "Music Fund" box, or you can send a check or PayPal payment to the church with "Music Fund" on the memo line.

If you wish to make a contribution to the BBUUC Music Fund "in memory of" or "in honor of" a loved one, please pick up a Music Fund Dedication/Donation Form from the office or download the form from the Member's interface of our website under "Forms."

Your contributions will be acknowledged, and if you make a dedication, it will be acknowledged to the person who is the recipient, or the family of the person who has been honored in memory with a special Music Fund card.

The Worship Committee appreciates your generous contributions that allow us to enhance our worship experience, and to better serve the congregation.

— Linda Mowers, Worship Co-Chair

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Come All Ye Faithful Unitarian Universalists
to



Potluck Fundraiser

For

**Hurricane Michael Victims
December 7th, 6 to 8:30 pm**

ADULTS \$10

CHILDREN \$5 for 1 or more

Spaghetti with Meat and Meatless Sauce provided
Sign up for Salads, Veggies, Dessert, Garlic Bread, etc.

**WREATH DRAWING • TREE DECORATING
UGLY SWEATER (T-SHIRT?) CONTEST**

**DONATIONS GO TO
UU FELLOWSHIP OF BAY COUNTY**





Holiday Poinsettia Sale

Help us decorate our sanctuary for the holidays by purchasing one or more poinsettias in honor of, or in memory of, someone very special.

Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary on the 21st through Christmas Eve, to decorate for our Solstice Service on the 21st, our Sunday Service on the 23rd, and our Christmas Eve service on the 24th.

Dedications will appear in our Christmas Eve order of service. Forms are available at church on Sundays through the 9th. You can also order on-line at <https://bbuuc.breezechms.com/form/f05429>.

The deadline to order is Sunday, December 9th.

Cost is \$15 per plant.

Poinsettias can be picked up after the service on Christmas Eve.

This sale is sponsored by the Worship Committee.
Questions? Please contact Linda Mowers at worship@bbuuc.org.



Wreath up for raffle at BBUUC!

BBUUC Member Sandra Martin has created a beautiful wreath that we are raffling as a fundraiser for BBUUC (valued at over \$100). Sandy says it can be used in a sheltered outdoor area as well as indoors.

The wreath is at the church and will be on display the next two Sundays. Raffle tickets will be sold after Sunday services on November 25th and December 2nd. The actual drawing will be at the First Friday party on December 7th. The winner does not need to be present to win but can pick up on December 9th.

Raffle ticket costs are as follows: 1 ticket for \$2, 3 tickets for \$5 and 7 tickets for \$10, etc. We will have a table set up after service to purchase tickets. Good luck and thanks to Sandy for donating this beautiful wreath!

Our Mission:

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



Singing with Friends!

Are you interested in finding new friends through music? Our Choir of the Moment is now The Christmas Choir, and looking for singers. We will be looking at music selections and may even sing a bit to tune up our rusty voices!

Marilyn wants to especially welcome any newcomers who might be interested. And of course, welcome back the "old" ones! Even if you can't be with us on Christmas Eve, come and sing. (We may be singing more than just once a year...) Each rehearsal will last for 45 minutes to an hour. She will respect your time. Childcare will be provided if you let her know in advance.

Rehearsals will be in the BBUUC Sanctuary. Here are the dates:

Sunday, Dec 2, noon

Wednesday evening, Dec 12, 7:30 pm

Sunday, Dec 23, noon

**Monday, Christmas Eve,
warmup before the service. Time TBA**

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



Snowball Sleepover

Saturday, December 8 @ 6:30 pm

It's time again for our annual Snowball Sleepover, where we invite the children of the congregation to join us overnight for an evening of holiday movies, gingerbread houses, arts and crafts, and joyful revelry. Parents and the rest of the congregation are invited to join us in the morning at 9 am for a pancake breakfast. Please see Chris Jarman or e-mail her at dre@bbuuc.org to sign up.

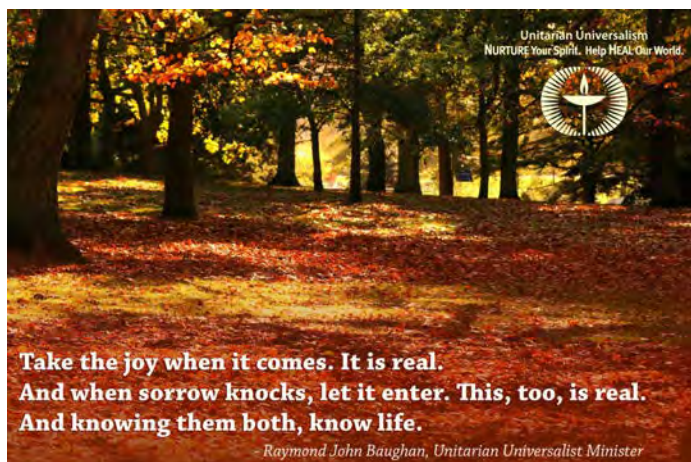


Cookies and Caroling

All are Welcome to an Evening Full of the Warmth of the Season. There will be delicious finger foods for nibbling, dough and toppings for cookie baking, arts and crafts for making special cards or ornaments and of course candlelight caroling in Mandarin.

Friends and family are welcome. Bring an appetizer to share and we shall have a jolly night! Save the date: December 22nd at 6 pm at the home of Debbie Atkins & Rich Toupin, 11921 Oldfield Point Drive, Jacksonville, 32223. There is a sign-up sheet on the credenza in the back of the sanctuary. Please let us know if you will be attending so we have enough materials for everyone.

You can contact DRE Chris Jarman at dre@bbuuc.org if you have any questions





Yule/Winter Solstice Service: Friday, December 21

BBUUC, in cooperation with its Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) chapter, will host a full Yule/Winter Solstice service on Friday, December 21st from 7-9 pm. This special service will include:

- Yule chalice lighting
- Singing in the directions/elements
- Collective Yule reading
- Listening to Yule music
- A story for all ages--Story of the Celts
- Spiral Dance and Drum Circle around the Yule log
- A quieting after the dance
- Charge of the Sun God reading
- Meditation
- Candle Lighting ritual
- Singing
- Singing out the directions/elements
- Closing words and extinguishing the Chalice

The service will be followed by cider and cookies and the burning of the Yule log

Do please join us celebrate this holiday in a uniquely UU Pagan way.



Monthly Drumming Circle

December's Drumming Circle is cancelled. It will resume on January 18th from 7:00-9:00 pm.

Join us for an evening with

TOM NEILSON

FOLK MUSIC • SATIRE • SOCIAL COMMENTARY



Saturday, Jan. 5th at 7 p.m.

Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church

8447 Manresa Avenue,
Jacksonville, FL 32244

Tickets on sale in advance throughout December
following Sunday services, or on-line at
<https://bbuuc.breezechms.com/form/2c9b16>.

Find out more
about Tom at
tomneilsonmusic.com

TICKETS:
\$15

BBUUC Adult RE Book Club

By Ken Christiansen

The BBUUC Adult RE Book Club will meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, 7-9 pm, AND in January, 1-3 pm for persons who don't drive at night. (Five or more "regulars" will keep each group going.)

January book: *Something Must Be Done About Prince Edward County: A Family, a Virginia*

Town, a Civil Rights Battle by Kristen Green. Available at: <http://a.co/d/f5CYMHt>. I read this book because Grace Repass shared her excitement about it and she will join our discussions. Grace grew up less than an hour away from Prince Edward County and knew almost nothing about what was happening there. Prince Edward County Schools was the first of five school systems that became plaintiffs in the Brown vs. the Board of Education Supreme Court decision in 1954. The author, Kristin Green, was educated in the private, all-white academy that was founded after the public system was closed down to avoid becoming integrated. The first two parts of the book thoroughly document what happened in Prince Edward County and elsewhere in the south during this time period. (Read for January 2). In part three we meet the people who were there. African-Americans who protested against the very sub-standard conditions of schools for black students and were deeply affected by the closing of all public schools. Caucasians, including some of Green's relatives, who founded the all-white private academy funded by public money. (Read for January 16). Green reports on all of these topics with a very deep sense of humanity. I think we will find ourselves in some of the discussions.

Email bookclub@bbuuc.org to indicate your interest in either the 1-3 pm sessions or the 7-9 pm sessions on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in January.

Following months' reads:

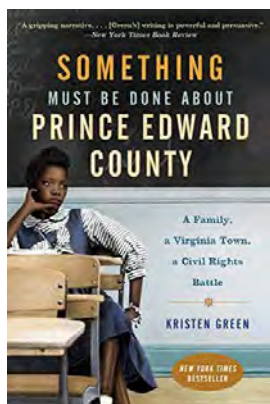
February: (UUA Common Read for 2016-17): *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear*, by The Reverend Doctor William J. Barber II. Available

at: <http://a.co/d/9A5vtrx>.

March: (UUA Common Read for 2017-18): *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity and Power in Ministry*, edited by Mitra Rahnema. Available at: <http://a.co/d/jkaQbCG>.

April: *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*, by J.D. Vance. Available at: <http://a.co/d/aFvPSyo>.

May: (UUA Common Read for 2017-18): *Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning and Connection for the America We Want*, by Frances Moore Lappe' and Adam Eichen. Available at: <http://a.co/d/dH5XLnB>



New Year, New RE

January will be the beginning of our new Religious Education programming for adults. The new format takes a 4-part approach to meet the needs and interest of our congregants. Please check out what is coming up. Registrations will begin in December.

Journey Circles (Small Group Ministry)

Journey Circle's central goal is to foster circles of trust and deep listening. In traditional small groups, questions are an opportunity for the group to think together, going through each question one by one. Journey Circles will engage reflection questions differently. Questions will be tools for individual exploration and spiritual discernment. Instead of asking small groups to go through the questions and discussing them one at a time during group time, participants will read all the questions ahead of time and find the one question that "hooks them"—the one that speaks to and challenges them personally. Participants then live with -or "walk with"-that question for a couple weeks leading up to the group, coming to their meeting, not with an answer to each of the questions on the list, but with a story about how their one personally chosen question led them to deeper, personal insight. This technique leads us away from abstraction and intellectualizing and challenges us to think about how the topic (and question) applies to our daily living. Sign-ups will begin last week of December.

- Meet once a month
- Each group has a trained facilitator
- Activities provided for the entire month
- Members hold each other accountable to the group

- Groups set the time, day, and place of their meetings

Covenant Group

Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month

Beginning January 9th 7:00 -9:00 pm

- Short-term, bi-weekly commitment for a set amount of time such as *Even Song*
- See the Heart to Heart Invitation for more information

Workshops

- As scheduled and interest lead
- Example: Shamanic Training Nov 3rd

BBUUC'S HEART TO HEART COVENANT GROUP



Heart to Heart Invitation

We hope you will be a part of a new HEART TO HEART COVENANT GROUP for reflection and sharing. Participants will explore individual life journeys through sharing thoughts, experiences, doubts, and beliefs. We will meet on Wednesdays twice a month from 7 to 9pm at the church.

Each time we will follow an order of service with the central event being a sharing time. We will be listening attentively and without interruption to one another. Listening is at the core of Heart to Heart.

Here is our plan (all dates are 2019):

January 9	Listening
January 23	Gratitude
February 13	Balance
February 27	Forgiveness
March 13	God
March 27	Loss and Grief
April 10	Money
April 24	Nature
May 8	Success and Failure
May 22	Friendship
June 12	Doubt
June 26	Making Peace with Parents

July 10

July 24

Sustainable Living

Endings

The Heart to Heart Covenant Group is a good way to explore personal beliefs and possibilities and a great way to get to know a group of people.

We will be using the book *Heart to Heart* by Christine Robinson and Alicia Hawkins, available at <http://a.co/d/diPkkmn>. If you don't have Amazon Prime or for any other reason would prefer that our DRE Chris Jarman purchase a copy for you, let her know (dre@bbuuc.org) and she will get it for you at cost (currently \$12.34 per paperback copy), no shipping charge.

For our first gathering, reflect on the idea of sharing in a group by creating your own stepping stones (see below) and choosing one or more of the other journaling suggestions to explore this topic.

Stepping Stones. To help you begin to tell your story to others in the group, think about your life so far as a set of stepping stones marking major eras in your life. These could include your years as a single mother, or the time you served in the military, or the job you had in Portland, or the time you spent recovering from an accident. Often stepping stones begin or end with a major event of some kind. You might describe one by saying, "I was promoted to a job which I hated and I did it faithfully for three years until I had a heart attack, which was a wake-up call, and so I moved on to ..." Or "Joey was born and I stayed home with him and earned my degree. I graduated, he turned three, and that era ended."

Start with as many stepping stones as you'd like, but try to collapse them into about five "eras" that you are willing to share.

Journaling Suggestions: What is your favorite childhood story? What is your favorite "victim" story, your favorite "hero" story? When you were a child, how did your family act around the dinner table? What was mealtime like? Write about a time in the past few years when you called on one or several of "your communities" for help, nurturing, and support.

Along with your "Stepping Stones" list, bring to the group five tokens such as coins, game markers, pebbles, or similar small items. You can bring five of the same thing, or you can bring tokens that symbolize the five stepping stones of your life.

COLUMNS

President's Perspective

December 2018
Grace Repass

BBUUC Board President
president@bbuuc.org

This is being written on the day before Thanksgiving. When you read it, Thanksgiving will be over and we will have recovered from being stuffed. (All except the turkey, poor bird!)

The BBUUC Board is grateful to all of you who help make Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church a wonderful community. It begins with each of us who walk through the door – babies, toddlers, students, adults, and senior citizens. The community continues with those who serve us each week – greeters, welcome ambassadors, child care helpers, religious education teachers, hospitality folks, worship leaders, speakers, and musicians. Those who serve us are supported by our staff – sexton, office assistants, and DRE. The thanks extends to those who are our leaders – committee chairs and members, elected officers and trustees.

Thanksgiving heralds the busy Holiday Season. There are many extra activities scheduled for us during this season – Holiday Party on December 7, Snowball Sleepover on December 8, Solstice Service on the 21, Cookies and Caroling on December 22, and Christmas Eve Service on December 24. Please take advantage of these special occasions.

Before we know it, 2019 will be ringing in. Celebrate the New Year with us at our first Walking Labyrinth New Year Vesper. On January 5 we will host a concert by Tom Neilson who is of the Pete Seeger genre. We are so pleased to be able to offer a new Adult Religious Education program in addition to



our usual RE for the children. There will be choices of activities, dates, and times to suit all. Choose from monthly book club offerings, covenant groups 'Heart to Heart' and Journey Circles. More information is coming!

We thank you for the commitments you each make to support the church with your gifts of self and your money. BBUUC would not be able to survive without this support. As we push forward into the new year please know that your support is greatly appreciated.

Treasurer's Report

December 2018

Do you have a question about our church finances?

One question we frequently hear is "What's the difference between the church budget and Funds, and what's the difference between pledging, making a general donation, or donating to a Fund?"

Pledges from both Members and nonmembers are a critical planning tool used to create our budget each year. Over 90% of our contributions comes from pledges. Only the Treasurer and Finance Chair know your pledge amounts or financial hardship circumstances and we consider this sensitive information personal and confidential.

General contributions come from those who haven't pledged, from visitors, and from those who have exceeded their pledge for the year. General contributions also include donations to the collection plate on Sunday mornings unless specified for a pledge or a special fund.

Funds are restricted by the donors for special purposes and cannot be used for general operating expenses. Our funds include the Emergency Caring Fund for which a special collection was taken in October; the Music Fund that provides for special outside musicians during worship service, such as students from UNF; the Memorial Garden Fund that supports landscaping and plantings to sustain our Memorial Garden; the Endowment Fund that began with bequests and grows with time as a long term asset for our church. Some people make donations to these funds in memory or in honor of a loved one or from a desire to support an area of personal interest



in addition to their pledge. Our other restricted funds include Beacon, Ministerial Support Fund for professional ministry, Promissory Note Contingency Fund to protect our loan holders, Pennies from Heaven for Meals on Wheels, Teen Travel Fund, and Welcoming Congregation Ministry. Each of these funds adds to the ministry and financial strength of our church.

If you have more questions about our church finances please contact our Treasurer [Pam Richards](#) or Finance Chair [Peg Christenson](#).

The weeks between Thanksgiving and the New Year are a season of thankfulness and generosity. On behalf of the Finance Committee and the Board, we thank you all for the many ways you choose to give.

Respectfully,
Pam Richards, Treasurer



DRE Column "Bringing it home"

If your family hangs ornaments on a tree at this time of year, create blessing ornaments. With a clear plastic ornament found at craft stores, you can create a reminder of what graced your life in the past year. Place small photos or trinkets, beads and ribbons, or glitter to make them sparkle. What is the blessing you want to remember? How can you represent that in the ornament? In a few years you will have many beautiful reminders of the blessings in your life.

Spiritual Practice

Family Grace:

Thank you for all my loved ones who are seated around this table.

Thank you for the food that you have provided for us this day.

Thank you for this season when we can find JOY in the all the blessings of this season of giving.

Amen.

~ adapted from Beth McLendon

Chalice Lighting:

In this holiday season,
throughout the year to come,
and always in our lives,
may we know we are loved;
may we share the love we have;
and may we be the love we wish to see.

~ by David Breeden

Affirmation:

You Are the Holiday Miracle by Gwen Matthews

As December opens up before us, we welcome in the gift of reflection. We turn toward our holiday celebrations and search for common threads of meaning.

We begin with Yule, the winter solstice, and we are invited to explore duality, cycles, and seasons, and to witness the Holly King being overcome by the Oak King. Yule reminds us that we all partake in the miracle of renewal.

Hanukkah, the festival of lights, commemorates a time of miracles when the faith of the Jewish people sustained them to reclaim their holy temple and keep the light of the menorah burning for eight days.

Christmas, the celebration of Jesus' humble birth in a manger, offers us to revisit the miracle of birth and the desire to find saviors to heal the scars of humanity.

Here, in our church, you are just as much a holiday miracle as the turning of the earth, as persistence and dedication to a faith, as the creation of each new life. We see the love you give to others, the space you create to hold one another's joys and sorrows, and the generosity and spirit you entrust to this community.






You are the holiday miracle. This community is one of miracle-makers.



Love & Peace
Chris Jarman
Director of Lifespan
Religious Education
dre@bbuuc.org

Random Acts of Christmas Kindness 2018

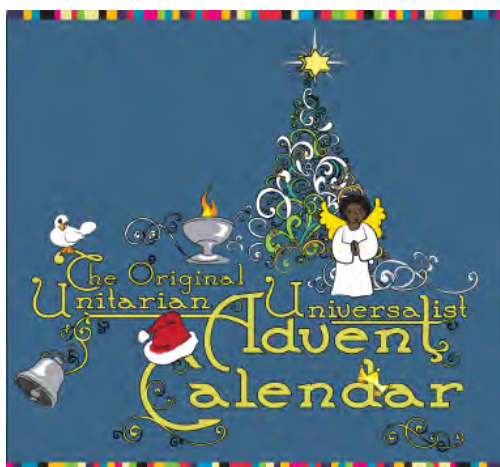
"No act of kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted." -Aesop

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Join the kindness conversation! #24RACKS on twitter and Instagram						1 Make cookies for a neighbor
2 Donate toys to your favorite charity	3 Tell jokes to make someone laugh	4 Make a hug coupon for someone	5 Donate food to your local food pantry	6 Make a card for a soldier	7 Thank your Teacher	8 Make gifts for others at the Snowball Sleepover at church tonight
9 Turn in Your Guest at Your Table Box donation at church this morning	10 Hold the door open for a stranger	11 Take supplies to an animal shelter	12 Do a chore for someone in your family	13 Give a compliment to a friend	14 Take treats to the fire or police station	15 Pick up litter
16 Pay for a stranger's meal	17 Let someone go in front of you in line	18 Leave a happy note for someone to find	19 Pass out stickers to kids in line	20 Give treats to your mail carrier	21 Today is Solstice. Spread sunshine by smiling at everyone you see today	22 Come to Cookies & Caroling and spread the joy of the Season
23 Do a secret act of kindness for someone	24 Feed the birds	25 Merry Christmas!				29 

CoffeeCupsandCrayons.com

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ADVENT CALENDAR

Created by Ralph Roberts



WorshipWeb is delighted to offer these images, created by Unitarian Universalist (UU) minister Ralph Roberts, to count down the days in December to Christmas Eve (December 24).

Ralph has also assembled his images into a page-a-day format, which contains all images in one document (PDF). <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/image/uu-advent-calendar>

Due to its temporal nature, many of the historic milestones in this Advent calendar aren't necessarily recognized on the precise day that they're celebrated (for example, Kwanzaa is recognized here on December 2nd instead of December 26th, and the December 12 image

recognizes Clara Barton's birthday (December 25, 1821).

More than perfect historic accuracy, then, this Advent calendar is offered in the spirit of holding up and delighting in the ways that our Unitarian and Universalist ancestors had a foundational role in many of the winter holidays and the innumerable ways they're celebrated by people everywhere.



The celebration of **Chalica** is a uniquely Unitarian Universalist winter holiday. Chalica runs for seven days, usually from the first Monday in December through the following Sunday. Each day represents a different Unitarian Universalist Principle; each evening a chalice is lit by families in their homes to celebrate their UU identity and heritage. Gifts may be exchanged as part of celebrating Chalica, but they are usually handmade and could even be a verbal offering, a written promise, or an act of service tied to the theme of the Seven Principles. For example, the family chalice is lit for “justice, equity, and compassion in human relations” on the second day, and gifts might be given to promote these ideals: spending time in service at a soup kitchen, donating new clothes or toys to local organizations that work to reduce poverty, or intentionally offering kindness to others.

Unlike other winter holidays, celebrating Chalica or some variation of it offers a Unitarian Universalist family the opportunity to celebrate their unique faith in a holiday that highlights and celebrates our living tradition. With its specific emphasis upon the Principles, Chalica can serve as a learning tool for children who are eager to learn what makes their religion unique from others and encourage a rich sense of Unitarian Universalist identity. Likewise, an emphasis upon handmade presents and acts of service can provide comfort to those parents who are uneasy about the materialism inherent in many of the modern holiday celebrations. This can only serve to further emphasize our deeply held personal values of generosity, gratitude, and moderation.

- Learn more about Chalica from Kathy Klink-Zeit’s *Chalica* blog, from the Chalica Facebook page, and from UU World’s article about its origins.

- Learn more about creating your own UU family holiday rituals: “‘Tis the season for your own family rituals” (UU World, Winter 2005); “Creating rituals with and for children” (UU World, July/August 2003).

— UU World excerpt by Michelle Richards

Check out this excerpt from “A LAMP IN EVERY CORNER” By Janeen K. Grohsmeyer, from her book *A Lamp in Every Corner: Our Unitarian Universalist Storybook* (Boston: Unitarian Universalist Association, 2004):

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/reading/5958.shtml>



Guest at Your Table Box

donations will be collected on December 9th. Look for the collection table in the sanctuary. Please count your change, deposit the amount and then write one check to UUSC GAYT reflecting your collection.

Thank you for assisting UU Social Justice work around the world.

ICARE Report

December 2018

by Ken Christiansen

Successes with the implementation of Restorative Justice for youthful offenders in Jacksonville and throughout the state of Florida were celebrated at the Community Problems Assembly on November 13. Sixteen BBUUC Justice Ministry Network Members were in attendance. ICARE actions in 2018-19 will continue to focus on the implementation of restorative justice in the schools and policing issues. The next citywide event is the Research Kickoff, 6:30 PM, at Arlington Congregational Church, 431 University Blvd North, Jacksonville, FL 32211.



ICARE Network Members are strongly encouraged to participate in the Book Club discussions described in the Activities & Events section. The January book about Prince Edward County offers many parallels to what was happening in Jacksonville at the same time.

MEMBER NEWS



We welcome new Member, Brian Sibson!

New Member **Brian Sibson** grew up in Brandon, Florida, first moved to Jacksonville 17 years ago, and then lived in Alachua, Florida for a couple of years.

When he returned recently, Jacksonville gained a designer, inventor, biomimic (just ask, he'll love to tell you about it), artist, blacksmith, explorer, naturalist, conservationist, survivor, (proud) father and soon to be grandfather. Yes – these are all Brian.

He also holds six U.S. patents. Brian currently works as a production designer for a company that fabricates scenery, props and displays for theme parks, museums, aquariums and hotels. His hobbies include drawing, singing and playing the theremin (just ask again). He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Design and is two classes shy of completing a Master of Science degree in Biomimicry.

Brian was raised in the Lutheran church but his life experiences and personal observations led to an evolution of his spiritual beliefs and to BBUUC. Here at BBUUC, Brian is a willing fellowship host, participates in the One Year to Live class with Don Repass, and enjoys the song circle. Recently, he attended an ICARE house meeting and has decided to add his voice to that cause. Brian says that what he most enjoys about BBUUC is meeting many like-minded, fellow travelers on the same spiritual journey. Welcome, Brian!



Welcome new members!

Our newest member were welcomed on 11/11 to BBUUC. Their names are Sandra Martin, Helen Meatte, Brian Sibson, MaryAnn Mings, Liz Baldwin, Eric Zagorac, and Jackie Hughes. Please make them feel welcome by inviting them to participate in our committees and activities.

And, by the way, here are the lyrics to the welcome song that we use to sing our newcomers into our UU!!

*Consider yourself at home.
Consider yourself one of the family.
We're forming a bond so strong,
It's clear, we're going to get along!*

*Consider yourself well in.
Consider yourself part of the membership.
We're glad you've come on board.
Let's grow! Together in bonds of love!*

*We have a place to meet, friends to greet,
ideas to share.
And a world that needs our care.
Every last one of us has love to give,
we know it's true
All our welcome is for you!*

*Consider yourself well-loved
A part of the bunch, a plus,
A celebrated, highly rated, true UU!
Consider yourself one of us.
A celebrated, highly rated, true UU!
Consider yourself one of us.*

We'll make sure the lyrics are available for you next time!

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.

Joys and Concerns

A concern for **Ken and Karen Christiansen**: Ken's aunt, **Carole Rose Gilda Kohn**, was the youngest of seventeen siblings. His mother was the oldest. All are now gone. Carole was single for seventy-seven of her eighty-four years. She was a travel agent and traveled widely herself. She also worked for the City of Los Angeles and State of California. She was for a time a Religious Science practitioner. Ken and Karen brought her to Jacksonville from Chattanooga, TN, when her health was failing in August of 2017. She resided at Park Ridge Nursing Center in Riverside most of the past year. She died on October 26 at Community Hospice in St. Vincent's Hospital. The Christiansen family has privately celebrated her life along with the spreading of her ashes.

Happy Birthday!

Don Repass 12/04
Frances Kennicutt 12/13
Gary Smart 12/19
Ron Nowack 12/22
Peter Olevnik 12/23
Sandy Goldman 12/24
Mark Yount 12/25
Alexa Adamecz 12/27



Wedding Anniversaries

Manny Andrade & Rusty Turner.... 12/25
Janice & John Knapik 12/27



Membership Anniversaries

Barry Mowers 12/02/1990
Manny Andrade 12/08/2013
Grace Repass 12/08/2013
Cheryl Frost 12/09/2007
Meghan Kaminski 12/14/2014
Charles Rippon 12/14/2014



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.

BBUUC NEWS

Happy Holidays!



A successful Auction, Chili Cook Off, First Friday, Holiday Wreath Raffle (thank you, Sandy Martin!), and more have us on the way to meeting our 2018-19 goal of \$12,000 for the BBUUC operating funds! We are

over half way there, and have more ideas and fun for everyone who would like to be a part of our **Fund Raising Hub**.

Here are some of our ideas:

Wine Tasting • Magician • Cake Walk • Game Night • Goat Bingo • Picnic at Ft. George • Sell unwanted Holiday gifts • Ramble Hike at Guana Preserve • Kayak Amelia • Freezer Walk • Technology Lab • Balloon Volleyball (seated) • Black Creek Outfitters Paddling • Yoga

JOIN US! WRITE DOWN YOUR IDEAS AND HOW YOU WILL CARRY OUT THE IDEA.

Sign up on the HUB FUNDRAISING Sheet in the Sanctuary. Text ideas to Christine (904-303-2800) and Eileen (904-610-4440).



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/>

DECEMBER 5th @ 7pm



PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

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

FIRST FRIDAY @ 12pm



LUNCH BUNCH

(Location to be determined each month)

Call or Text

John Sheffield to RSVP
(904) 728-3565

SECOND WEDNESDAY @ 11:30am

unitarianuniversalist
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

freely following jesus



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

FOURTH SUNDAY @ 9am



First Coast Freethought Society

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

**THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH
6:30 - 8:30pm (doors open at 6pm)
NO MEETING IN DECEMBER!!!**



Beacon

Beacon is a community of UU teens aged 12-20.

<https://sites.google.com/site/bbuucbeacon/>

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS FROM 7-9pm



Lunch Bunch @ GiGi's

inside the Ramada Inn
(in Mandarin)

RSVP to Ron Nowack
ronow@yahoo.com

LAST FRIDAY @ 12pm

**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.

amazonsmile
You Shop. Amazon Gives.

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:

\$93 from purchases made in January, received in March
\$112 from purchases made in February, received in April
\$93 from purchases made in March, received in May
\$142 from purchases made in April, received in June
\$156 from purchases made in May, received in July
\$179 from purchases made in June, received in August
\$113 from purchases made in July, received in September
\$244 from purchases made in August, received in October
\$137 from purchases made in September, to be received in November
\$178 from purchase made in October, to be received in December

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!

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.



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

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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