



ANNUAL REPORT for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Annual Meeting May 17, 2026



Buckman Bridge
Unitarian Universalist Church



**Governance Structure
FY 2025 -2026**

Nominating Committee¹
Helen Meatte, Adele DelSavio & Chuck Smithers
 LD@bbuuc.org

Board of Directors¹
 board@bbuuc.org

Robert Clark Vice President VP@bbuuc.org	Cindi Jorgensen President president@bbuuc.org	David Prohofsky Treasurer treasurer@bbuuc.org
Emily Townsend-Cobb Trustee trustee_townsend.cobb@bbuuc.org	Kristina Altes Secretary secretary@bbuuc.org	Nathaniel Samuels Trustee trustee_nsamuels@bbuuc.org
Don DeStephano Trustee trustee_ddestephano@bbuuc.org		

Pastoral Care Team
 chaplain@bbuuc.org

Affiliated Community Minister
Rev. Carmen Emerson
 revcme@gmail.com

Teams

Grounds CrUU
 Toni Piccolotti
 grounds.cruu@bbuuc.org

Library Madeline Sims library@bbuuc.org	Safety Open safety@bbuuc.org
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Ministries

BEACON Youth Ministry beacon@bbuuc.org	Healthy Congregation Ministry Linda Mowers hct@bbuuc.org	I.C.A.R.E. Benjamin Ochoa icare@bbuuc.org
Rainbow/Welcoming Congregation Lore Spade & Jessica Cuneo wcm@bbuuc.org	READI Ministry Claudia Marshall readi@bbuuc.org	

Employees

Director of Lifespan Religious Education Beth Curtis DLRE@bbuuc.org	Office Administrator Benjamin Ochoa office@bbuuc.org
Childcare Providers	Sexton Joshua Dean Samuel Moore sexton@bbuuc.org

Leadership Council

Caring Eileen Morrison caring@bbuuc.org	Finance Peg Christenson, Acting Chair finance@bbuuc.org	Facilities Steve McCullar & Ryan Cobb facilities@bbuuc.org	Hospitality Ryan Cobb hospitality@bbuuc.org	Lifespan Religious Education Joani Maskell & Marilyn Smart LRE@bbuuc.org	Membership Julie Smithers membership@bbuuc.org
PR & Communications Open PR@bbuuc.org	Programming Open programming@bbuuc.org	Social Action Kristina Altes sac@bbuuc.org	Stewardship Cindi Jorgensen, Acting Chair stewardship@bbuuc.org	Technology David Christenson technology@bbuuc.org	Worship Linda Mowers worship@bbuuc.org

¹ Elected



Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church

Annual Meeting Agenda

May 17, 2026

12 PM

Officiating: Cindi Jorgensen, President

Parliamentarian: David Prohofsky, Treasurer

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Review Safety Plan
3. Establish Quorum
4. Chalice Lighting
5. Presentation of May 18, 2025 meeting minutes
 - A. Corrections
 - B. Vote to approve
6. President's Report
7. Nominating Committee
 - A. Place names in nomination
 - B. Election
8. Treasure's Report
9. Finance Acting Chair
 - A. Presentation of 2026-2027 fiscal year budget
 - B. Discussion
 - C. Vote
10. Proposed Bylaw change
 - A. Discussion
 - B. Vote
11. Words from the floor
12. Adjournment

OUR MISSION

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

Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church's Covenant of Right Relations

In order to foster a healthy community with an open and safe environment, the Members of the Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church do hereby covenant to:

- Practice gentleness and kindness with one another;
- Speak respectfully and honestly;
- Know that we will sometimes disagree, so do so in the spirit of equity; do as much as possible to reach a mutually acceptable solution;
- Practice fair treatment and respect differences;
- Address issues and behaviors rather than people and personalities;
- Speak personally and privately with one another about concerns or disagreements, avoiding gossip and indirect communication through another person;
- Acknowledge the spirituality of the community, maintaining a sacred focus;
- In the midst of conflict, keep perspective — take a breath;
- Seek denominational and or professional help for resolution when needed, and
- Trust and use this covenant.

(September 25, 2005)

Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church
Annual Meeting
May 18, 2025

Recording of the meeting: <https://youtu.be/6tKEKxyh100>

Complete Annual Report: <https://bbuuc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Annual-Report-2024-2025-cover.pdf>

Call to Order

The annual meeting of Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church was held on May 18, 2025. It began at 12:00 pm and was presided over by Board President Cindi Jorgensen, with Kristina Altes as Secretary.

Review Safety Plan

Cindi Jorgensen reviewed the church's fire escape plan and where the fire extinguishers are. She also pointed out where the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) device is. The PA system will not work when fire alarms are going off, so it is important to know where the exits are. If children are in RE classes, their teachers will escort them outside so any parents/caregivers of the children will meet them outside rather than going into classrooms to get them. Cindi also reviewed recent safety updates, including the locking of doors during Sunday service, security cameras with displays in the AV room, and door locks, door jams, and magnetic strip window screens in each classroom.

Establish Quorum

There are 141 Members. The quorum for this meeting is 25%, or 36 Members. There were 13 proxies submitted and 54 Members in attendance. The quorum was met with a total of 67.

Chalice Lighting Reading by Diane Freeman (chalice lit by Kris Kines)

Approval of minutes

The minutes from the May 19, 2024, meeting was distributed to the congregation in the meeting notice. The floor was open for any Member to offer corrections. Since there were no corrections proposed, the minutes were approved as distributed by unanimous consent.

President's Report presented by Cindi Jorgensen, Board President

Cindi reviewed recent Board activities, including updates to safety protocols. She highlighted the work of the Grounds CrUU team, which has updated the campus landscaping and procured new outdoor picnic tables. Cindi gave kudos to the Worship Committee for addressing the needs of the BBUUC community amid the current political and social climate. Recent social events have been a success largely due to Beth Curtis. InvestFest successfully affirmed the BBUUC community due to the efforts of several volunteers. The Facilities Committee is working to construct a new retaining wall. Cindi also thanked Diane Freeman for her service as Vice President.

Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church
Annual Meeting
May 18, 2025 (Continued)

Diane thanked this year's Council members and gifted potted plants to the committee chairs.

Nominating Committee nominations

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Cindi Jorgensen noted that most members of the Board of Directors are entering their second term, and Nominating Committee members are running unopposed. The position of Vice President has one candidate. Therefore, the submitted Board of Directors for 2025-2026 are:

- President – Cindi Jorgensen
- Vice President – Robert Clark
- Treasurer – David Prohofsky
- Secretary – Kristina Altes
- Trustees – Elizabeth DeCoux and Don DeStephano (2nd year of 2-year term) and Nathaniel Samuels (1st of new 2-year term)

The Nominating Committee submitted Adele DeSavio and Chuck Smithers to serve on the Nominating Committee for a 2-year term while Helen Meatte will complete the second year of her elected 2-year term this upcoming fiscal year.

Treasurer's Report presented by David Prohofsky, Board Treasurer

David reported that revenues are ahead of projections while expenses are below projections, which places BBUUC in a stable financial position. The biggest change over the past year is the movement of funds from bank accounts to the Vanguard money market fund to take advantage of market conditions as interest rates improve or bolster our position in mutual funds. Fixed assets have not changed and we have no current liabilities. The Board has worked to maintain operating reserves with a target of \$150,000 in the capital reserve in case of future needs that may not be covered by insurance, such as roof repair. Revenues that exceed anticipated amounts are placed in the congregational growth fund. The emergency caring fund reduced but remains a resource, and the endowment fund has grown. Payroll increased due to the hiring of employees or contractors for roles that could not be filled by volunteers (e.g., bookkeeper), but the total expenses are down.

Budget

- The proposed budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 was distributed to the congregation in the meeting notice.
- The Finance Committee Acting Chair, Peg Christenson, presented the proposed budget. Peg thanked all members who pledged. She reported that the proposed budget includes a total of \$157,000. Peg noted that some budgeted committee expenses have decreased due to a shift in funds to the new Technology Committee, which has taken on some of the responsibilities that previously fell under other committees. Expenses have also been budgeted to pay for the new

Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church
Annual Meeting
May 18, 2025 (Continued)

bookkeeper and childcare workers. The property liability insurance quote is anticipated in mid- to late June.

- Peg called for a vote to approve the budget, which was seconded by Kris Kines. Voting was done by raising voting cards. The budget was approved.

Presentation on Proposed By-Law Changes

David Christenson explained the procedure to amend the bylaws, which require an 80% vote to pass. The proposed updates to Article II and Article III were distributed to the congregation in the meeting notice.

Article III: David Christenson explained that the proposed amendment would update the name of the UUA to reflect its current designation. David moved to accept the proposed update. Seconded by Kris Kines. The motion was approved unanimously.

Article II: David Christenson explained that the proposed amendment is the result of a compromise between three petitions that were drafted earlier this year, and which was approved by the Board to present for a vote at the annual meeting. David moved to accept the proposed update. Seconded by Elizabeth DeCoux. The motion was approved with 40 votes in favor, 2 votes opposed.

Words from the Floor

Valerie Bouffard asked if the 7 principles were being removed from BBUUC documentation. David Prohovsky explained BBUUC is transitioning its presentation of UU values. Lynn Wadley stated that she felt the vote for the Article II update was rushed. David Christenson indicated that the 7 principles will remain on the order of service, but the bylaws will now reflect the recent UUA update. Marilyn Smart expressed appreciation for the 7 principles as an educational tool. Linda Mowers indicated there is a children's version of the principles that can be used. Beth Curtis reminded that the UUA website includes resources with both the 7 principles and the 6 values with love in the center, and that it is up to each congregation to decide whether and how to use those as communication tools. Don DeStephano stated that BBUUC is an independent congregation and is not bound to abide by governance recommendations from the UUA but the current update does not threaten BBUUC governance. Mike Ludwick expressed appreciation for the 7 principles as well as the updated language. Carole Hawkins stated that the 7 principles can be used to communicate the UU values and covenant. David Christenson pointed out that Section 2.5 (Freedom of Belief) of the bylaws gives us flexibility in how we pursue our faith.

Closing words by Don DeStephano (chalice extinguished by Kris Kines)

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm

President's Report: Fiscal Year 2025-2026

It is just about the end of my term as president, and I feel absolute gratitude for the opportunity to serve all of you. It has been a joy about 95% of the time. This report is long, so bear with me as I point out some of the things that give me pride, and hopefully make you proud too.

Recently I had a conversation with Grace Repass. Grace was the president of BBUUC when I joined, and moved to Asheville, NC. The Asheville UU Church is big – about 500 folks, and employs a host of people to keep it running. Grace told me that she has remarked to several people that with our very few employees and the gargantuan number of volunteers, we accomplish just as much as they do.

What we have maintained and accomplished during this past year is remarkable when looked at in its entirety. Good for us that we have so many people driving all of our enterprises.

To mention just a few things and express boundless gratitude for the hard work involved:

Social Action put our values to action, aligning with Catholic Charities, Lutheran Services, Kim's Open Door, Beyond 90, St. Mary's Food Pantry to provide volunteers and needed items.

The Rainbow Welcoming Ministry expanded its presence with a healthy showing at Pride events and coordination of a program to enlighten us about transgender issues.

Our youth group, **Beacon**, became proactive with its advocacy and action for the disabled.

An **Accessibility Team** was initiated, helping us become responsive to the needs of the disabled.

Our **Caring Committee and Pastoral Ministry** rallied us to support those of us coping with life issues and supported us and families of those we lost.

Facilities and the Ground CrUU kept our campus a welcome and safe place for us and butterflies.

We had the great honor of hosting the Northeast Jacksonville **World AIDS Day Memorial**, including the installation of a beautiful and poignant quilt exhibit.

Our **RE committee and our illustrious DLRE** provided consistent opportunities for our growing number of kids to grow with us, and embraced families.

The Worship Committee, accompanists, and our song leaders continually provide services that surely impact every one of us, addressing our joys, our angst, and centering us spiritually.

CUUPS gives voice to the pagan spiritual community.

Those folks in **Hospitality** who stand behind our kitchen counters provide and serve refreshments and clean up after our services and other events, always smiling.

Who does not remember the first time coming to BBUUC and being greeted by a member of the **Membership Committee**? They are the first impression and our pipeline to new members.

President's Report: Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (continued)

Those of us behind the doors in the Sound Room – **AV and Tech** are constantly tweaking and making advances to keep us wired, providing us with PR, and coordinating with other committees to provide seamless presentations.

READI, our BBUUC activists, have given us opportunities for education, action, and contact with matters involving equity.

“Social activities arrangers” though not a formal entity, has been so busy giving us the opportunity to socialize, gather, and become friends, with holiday celebrations more and more successful and the advent of game nights with potlucks.

ICARE has rebounded with fresh energy, connecting us to social justice in the greater Jax area.

Our **Animal Ministry** has honored the relationships that many of us have with our non-human loved ones and has increased our awareness of our responsibility for the care of all living creatures.

The small but mighty **Christian Fellowship** group has consistently offered a program to educate those interested in the historical and spiritual concepts that drive Christianity.

And of course, the **Finance Committee**. I am pretty sure this committee has the most arduous task of any in our church. These folks keep us legal, keep us solvent, within the guidelines of the IRS, and make sure we can survive another day. They break our hearts when we can't get everything we want and do their best to make sure we get everything we need.

We have a skeleton crew of **employees**, including Beth and Benjamin, our babysitters, and sextons. When you see them, give them a little shout out. They are our treasures.

To those who have pledged – our programs and our physical presence would not be possible without you.

To those of you who volunteer – whether it is for a few things or for everything, I hope you find that it is as rewarding and just plain fun as I find it. Thanks!

This year's Board has worked together respectfully and smoothly. Many thanks to Robert Clark for his bad Dad jokes and quiet reason, Kristina Altes for her encyclopedic brain, her attention to detail, and her attempts to keep the rest of us in-line, and to David Prohovsky for his ability to put my thoughts into cohesive sentences and for his methodical brain. And to our trustees: Emily Townsend Cobb for prodding us to keep up to date regarding accessibility, and her unlimited energy despite having 2 little children and one really big one, Nate Samuels for his wisdom, smiling, and devotion to AV, and Don DeStephano for his unrelenting enthusiasm and push for our visioning process, and the institutional knowledge that was so needed for this Board of relative Newbies.

The next year will be a good one. Please have great ideas, promote them through our soon-to-be-announced Vision Process, support the new Board, and participate, participate!

Thank you for a great experience!

Cindi Jorgensen
President, BBUUC Board of Directors

Affiliated Community Minister's Report: Fiscal Year 2025-2026

I remain in Covenant with BBUUC as your affiliated community minister (through June 30, 2026). In accordance with our Covenant, I remain in good standing with the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association ("UUMA"), a member of the UUMA's Community Ministers chapter, and in full fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association ("UUA").

I continue my role as Spiritual Support Services Coordinator for Baptist Health System of Northeast Florida ("BHS"), with a focus on spiritual wellbeing for BHS team members. Over the past 12 months my work in this role has included:

- Writing curriculum, coordinating and co-facilitating monthly grief and bereavement support groups for team members.
- Researching, creating and co-facilitating a dementia caregiver support group.
- Creating an "Understanding Your Grief" online training module for physicians, which qualified for continuing medical education units.
- Planning and executing our annual grief and bereavement symposium with Dr. Alan D. Wolfelt, with a focus on child and adolescent grief.
- Expanding our grief and bereavement services from hospitals and freestanding emergency departments to primary care offices.
- In-kind presentations to multiple disciplines and service lines throughout the hospital system regarding chaplains as clinical care providers offering evidence-based, outcome oriented spiritual care interventions as members of the interdisciplinary teams.
- Leading resiliency workshops for managers and leaders throughout the system.
- Training and didactics with interns and residents in our Clinical Pastoral Education program, focused on grief and bereavement support; care of the whole person with regard for diversity and intercultural awareness; and understanding moral injury/moral distress.
- Training with bioethicist, Dr. Alissa Swota, in Baptist Health's peer-to-peer ethics liaison/support program.

As a board certified chaplain, I am required to obtain 50 continuing education credits each year. This year my continuing education has included:

- Completion of my Certification in Death & Grief Studies (150 hours) with the Center for Loss & Life Transitions in Fort Collins, Colorado (December 2025).
- I am currently completing 40 hours of study with the Florida Professional Guardians Association to qualify for the state examination to become a professional guardian under Chapter 744 Florida Statutes.
- In May and June 2026 I will attend an online 2-day workshop with Dr. Harold Koenig at Duke University, "Faith and Human Flourishing."

Affiliated Community Minister's Report: Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (continued)

In terms of direct services to BBUUC, and in accordance with our Covenant:

- I have preached 7 times at BBUUC, offering a sermon series around the 6 needs of mourning.
- I've offered a workshop on "Creating Your Grief Plan" and advanced care planning (Honoring Choices).
- I've consulted with BBUUC leaders when requested regarding congregational, denominational, and covenantal matters.
- I remain available to the Healthy Congregation Ministry Team for consultation and training, as needed.
- I attended the Florida UU Ministers Association Spring 2026 meeting convened at First Unitarian Orlando.
- As a professional minister ordained by a UU congregation, in good standing with the UUMA, in full fellowship with the UUA and in covenant with BBUUC as your affiliated community minister, I will attend the 2026 General Assembly as a voting delegate.

It is a privilege to be a professional minister representing our Unitarian Universalist faith in the community, and to continue to be a part of BBUUC.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Carmen Emerson

Nominations for Officers, Trustees, and Nominating Committee

The BBUUC Nominating Committee (Chuck Smithers, Adele DeSavio, and Helen Meatte) is pleased to recommend the following slate of nominations for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (July 2026 – June 2027)

BBUUC BOARD

Bruce Kristol

President (1-year term, limit to 2 consecutive terms, this would be Bruce's first term)

Robert Clark

Vice President (1-year term, limit to 2 consecutive terms, this would be Robert's second term)

Open

Secretary (1-year term, limit to 2 consecutive terms)

David Prohofsky

Treasurer (1-year term, no term limits, this would be David's third elected term)

David Rulison

Trustee (2-year term, limit to 2 consecutive terms, this would be David's first term)

Emily Townsend-Cobb

Trustee (2-year term, limit to 2 consecutive terms, this would be Emily's first elected term)

Note: The third trustee, Nathaniel Samuels, will be completing the second year of his 2-year term.

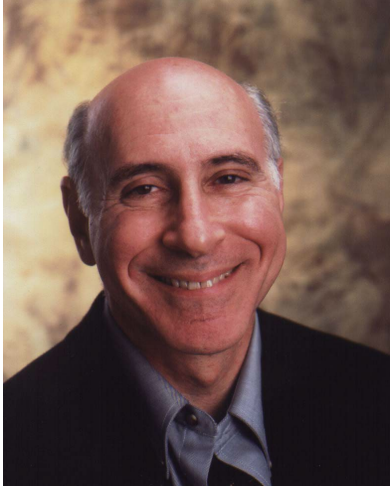
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mary Blizzard

Nominating Committee (2-year term, limit to 2 consecutive terms, this would be Mary's first term)

Note: The other two Nominating Committee members, Chuck Smithers and Adele DeSavio, will be completing the second year of their 2-year terms.

Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church Board Nominees for 2026-2027



President: Bruce Kristol

(BBUUC member since August 2023

Nominated for a first elected term as President

(limit: two consecutive 1-year terms)

Since becoming a member of BBUUC, I've participated in many activities: supporting DLRE's childrens' classes when needed, Grounds CrUU, Justice Ministry and ICARE, Journey Circles, Book Discussions, Hospitality as needed, hosting Circle Suppers, promoting UU Principles and supporting all of BBUUC's Programs as well as last year's participation on the Stewardship Committee.

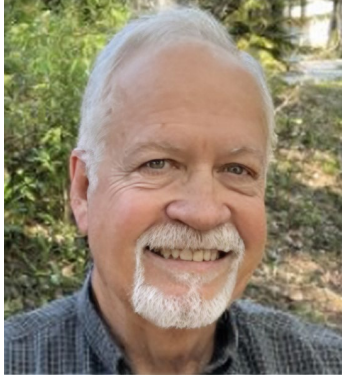
My introduction to Unitarian Universalism was at UUCJ, between 1977-1987. I instituted the White Elephant Auction to raise money, and designed and implemented Discover Thursday for singles for more than a year. I could usually be found in the kitchen, both setting up for an event and developing my dish washing skills, which I intend to continue at BBUUC.

As a psychologist since 1980, I have been an Elementary Guidance Counselor, Hospice Psychologist, Director of Grief and Bereavement, and trained Police, Firemen, Correctional and Probation Officers. I was a consultant to FSCJ's conducting a tri-campus survey for the president, dealing with human diversity issues. I continue to practice psychological services seeing Military Patients, mostly from NAS and Mayport.

With my very varied professional experience is my hope to be able to support and inspire our Team Leaders, whose unselfish endeavors and hard work make BBUUC the nurturing and welcoming place for all.

It is my hope to support and grow our programs and encourage our ongoing membership growth.

The **President** presides over Church meetings and the Board of Directors meetings, is responsible for the integrity of the decision-making process, and ensures that the duties of the Board are carried out as specified in policies and the Bylaws.



Vice President: Robert Clark
(BBUUC member since April 2023)
Nominated for a second elected term as Vice President
(limit: two consecutive 1-year terms)

It is an honor to be nominated to serve as Vice President of BBUUC. The Church has meant so very much to me since my wife, Janice, and I joined three years ago. It has been a source of support, inspiration, friendship and love. While I have volunteered for various activities at the Church I have not served as an officer and look forward to that opportunity if elected. My faith tradition is Christianity, but I found that it did not provide what I needed for a truly meaningful spiritual life. I have found a community of like-minded friends in the Church.

I have lived in Florida since I was three. I grew up in Orlando, Florida. I attended the University of Florida and received a Bachelor of Design (Architecture). I worked at a number of Architectural firms before accepting an offer from the Jacksonville Electric Authority which led to a varied and interesting career with them. I worked as a designer and engineer as well as a key account rep and project manager. My experience there allows me to develop a wide range of skill sets which I hope I can use in service to BBUUC.

The **Vice President** assists the President in the performance of that office, performs duties of that office in the absence of the President, performs duties of that office if the President shall become unable to fulfill the duties of the office, and carries out other duties as assigned by the Board.

Secretary: Open

The **Secretary** holds overall responsibility for the integrity of the non-financial documents created by the work of the Board, maintains all non-financial confidential records, ensures creation of accurate minutes of all official meetings of the Church and the Board of Directors, ensures an accurate roster of the Members of the Church is maintained, ensures an accurate list of Committees, Task Forces, Teams, and Ministries is maintained and available to the membership, and carries out other duties as assigned by the Board.



Treasurer: David Prohovsky

(BBUUC member since May 2023)

**Nominated for a third elected 1-year term as Treasurer
(no term limits)**

I have been attending BBUUC for four years and have been a member for three. During my first year attending BBUUC, I was an ICARE network member. I stepped in as Finance Chair upon joining the Church. I then slid into the position of Treasurer after my predecessor unfortunately had to resign. I have been practicing law for 25 years and bring my analytical skills and knowledge of financial markets to my role as Treasurer.

How will I serve? I feel that I have learned a great deal this past year and am excited to bring that experience to next year's Board. Being new to BBUUC has led me to be very active in my listening, hoping to learn more than I need as I integrate into the community. At the same time, I bring a new perspective and active mind to the challenges we face as we grow and believe I can maintain the high standards of financial openness and probity that have served BBUUC throughout its history.

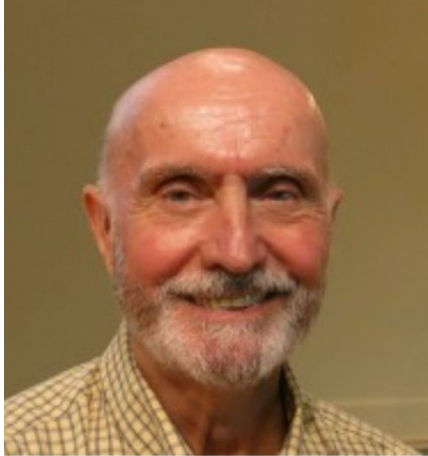
The **Treasurer** disburses funds under the direction of the Board of Directors, keeps a complete account of the finances of the Church in books, which shall remain the property of the Church, keeps the confidentiality of all personal pledges and payments, renders a current statement at each regular meeting of the Board of Directors, makes such statement available to Members of the congregation, and in the absence of the Treasurer, the Finance Committee Chair will assume the duties of this office.



Trustee: Emily Townsend Cobb
(BBUUC member since February 2025)
Nominated for a first elected term as Trustee
(limit: two consecutive 2-year terms)

Emily Townsend and her family have been members of BBUUC since February 2025 and have been attending services since January of 2024. Emily helps to lead the Accessibility Team; an initiative centered about improving inclusion for people with disabilities in the BBUUC community. She has served on the board since the summer of 2025, provides policy guidance to improve inclusion, and has provided sermons related to the work of disability justice. Professionally, Dr. Emily Townsend PT, DPT is a physical therapist and program lead at Brooks Rehabilitation. Emily is the first blind Doctor of Physical Therapy in the United States, and volunteers time mentoring other aspiring healthcare students with disabilities. A nationally and internationally recognized speaker regarding disability justice, Dr. Townsend is a passionate advocate for equity and inclusion in all spaces for all people. Emily is a proud wife and mother and is grateful for the love and community she and her family have found at the beloved BBUUC.

The **Trustees** keep abreast of the Church’s business and programs, participate in meetings of the Board of Directors, and carry out other duties as assigned by the Board.



Trustee: David Rulison

(BBUUC member, originally joined in June 2004)

Nominated for a first elected term as Trustee

(limit: two consecutive 2-year terms)

I was born in Massachusetts and have a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Oklahoma State University. I have moved around a lot including living in the United Kingdom while working for British Petroleum as an expert in environmental control technology. I discovered Unitarian Universalism in 2004, shortly before moving to the Jacksonville area. When I walked up the front steps of the Mandarin Community Center in early 2004, I knew right away that I had found my spiritual home. I joined BBUUC shortly afterwards. Over the years I have served as Worship Committee chair, Board President and a member of the Caring Committee and Healthy Congregation Team. Currently I serve as a Facilitator for one of the Journey Circles. Ten years ago, I began studies to become a mystic and have found that path to be rewarding and satisfying. We mystics have a great love for all humanity and are committed to making the world a better place by serving others. I welcome the chance to serve the congregation of BBUUC as a member of the Board.

The **Trustees** keep abreast of the Church's business and programs, participate in meetings of the Board of Directors, and carry out other duties as assigned by the Board.



Nominating Committee: Mary Blizzard

(BBUUC member since March 2025)

Nominated for a first term on the Nominating Committee

(limit to two consecutive 2-year terms)

I have been a member since 2025. I was born and raised, along with a brother and two sisters, in Charleston, WV. I also had a half sister who was born and raised in Scotland who passed away in 2021. As a child I attended a non-denominational Christian church until age 19 when I decided to expand my spiritual journey. I explored multiple religious denominations before settling on Unitarian Universalism. I met my husband of 52 years, Jack, at West Virginia State University. I graduated from WV State University with a degree in biology and worked as a vet tech, computer support tech and various other jobs before landing a job in financial aid. I worked as a financial aid director for a graduate college, a university and finally as a shared financial aid director for multiple community colleges in WV for 34 years before retiring in February 2026.

Jack and I were members of UUC Charleston, WV for many years. We also like to visit other UU congregations when we travel. We attend the Church of the South Hills, "Sunnyhill", whenever we visit family in Pittsburgh. Four years ago, we made the move to Florida. We tried to make time to visit BBUUC, but multiple eye surgeries, my sister's heart attack and work kept interrupting. Finally in 2025 we made our first visit to BBUUC, and I haven't missed a Sunday in over a year. I've joined multiple committees and look forward to services and other activities with BBUUC. BBUUC has become our new church home and favorite place to be.

Nominating Committee Members nurture the long-term health and vitality of the congregation's leadership pool, identify potential leaders, identify support resources for leaders, and perform other duties as specified in the Bylaws.

Treasurer's Report to Congregation as of March 31, 2026

Statement of Financial Position as of March 31, 2026 vs March 31, 2025 (Prior Year)

BBUUC remains in a strong financial position. We have no debt. Our bank balances have increased about ten percent from last year at this time. I've chosen to keep more cash on hand as the Board has been considering various investments in the church and its grounds. We remain very liquid, with a significant amount of our investments in money market funds due to our uncertainty about market conditions.

We have been able to grow the reserve fund that ensures our ability to maintain and repair our building and other physical infrastructure, the Capital Repair & Replacement (CRR) Reserve, to approximately \$150,000 as of 3/31/2026. Pending a new analysis of the costs of replacing our building and major mechanical systems after the recent bout of inflation, the Board is considering increasing the CRR Reserve to keep up with inflation. We also are considering how to reserve against our loss of wind-damage insurance.

We have not needed to transfer any money from the Operating Reserve for FYE 2026 operations, as spending has not exceeded donations. Our current projections are to write off approximately \$10,500 in pledges, and expect to have a surplus of donations above expenses for the year.

Our Fixed Assets are unchanged, and we have no Long Term Liabilities.

The Congregational Growth and Development (CGD) Reserve was not drawn on, and the balance has grown to just over \$98,000. The Emergency Caring Fund has seen net expenditures of \$517, leaving a balance of \$3,775. Endowment Net Assets increased by more than \$27,000 due to the strength of the financial markets. We note that current turmoil may reduce our endowments for the near term.

Statement of Financial Activity for July 2025 to March 2026 vs Prior Year (July 2024 to March 2025)

Total Revenue is up by nearly \$17,000 year-to-date. This is due almost equally to an increase in donations and the success of our fundraising.

Total Operating Expenses are up approximately \$9,500. We approved an additional \$1,000 for our facilities. Spending also increased by over \$7,800 in payroll, and nearly \$2,000 in Finance for the bookkeeper added in Nov 2024. Payroll costs are up more than ten percent as we are hiring employees for services lacking volunteer support, and increased wages. We are also working to provide more babysitting in conjunction with social events.

Treasurer's Report to Congregation as of March 31, 2026

(Continued)

Total Budget vs. YTD Actual Expenses as of March 31, 2026

Total Revenue is already 86% of the expected donations we budgeted.

Total Operating Expenses are nearly 72% of budget for 75% of the year.

As of the end of March, we have a residual of nearly \$22,000. If we do end up with a positive balance at year end, it will be allocated to reserves and/or rolled over as determined by the board.

Respectfully submitted,
David Prohofsky, BBUUC Treasurer

Statement of Financial Position

As of March 31, 2026

	As of Mar 31, 2026	As of Mar 31, 2025 (PY)	\$ Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Bank Accounts			
Ameris Bank	45,007	66,587	(21,581)
Vystar Credit Union	48,092	16,067	32,025
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 93,099	\$ 82,654	\$ 10,445
Endowment	181,760	154,098	27,663
Schwab (TD Ameritrade)	0	161	(161)
Undeposited Funds	0	209	(209)
Vanguard Funds	224,952	195,087	29,865
Vanguard MMA	150,322	144,466	5,855
Total Current Assets	\$ 650,133	\$ 576,674	\$ 73,458
Fixed Assets	1,076,017	1,076,017	0
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,726,150	\$ 1,652,692	\$ 73,458
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Liabilities			
Ameris CommUNITY VISA	1,131		1,131
Payroll Tax Liabilities	1,198	1,102	97
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,330	\$ 1,102	\$ 1,228
Net Assets			
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	1,035,946	1,044,034	(8,089)
Accumulated Market Value Adjustments	153,290	123,425	29,865
Board Designated Reserves			
Capital Repair & Replacement Reserve	150,254	138,011	12,243
Congregational Growth & Development	98,516	92,535	5,981
Operating Reserve	60,000	60,000	0
Total Board Designated Reserves	\$ 308,770	\$ 290,546	\$ 18,224
Donor Restricted Net Assets			
Accessibility Fund	4,755		4,755
Beacon	2,290	1,463	828
Emergency Caring Fund	3,775	4,291	(517)
Funds Held for Next Fiscal Year	2,667	12,255	(9,588)
Rev Ray Scholarship Fund	3,250	3,250	0
Teen Travel Scholarship Fund	4,687	4,687	0
Welcoming Congregation Ministry	680	602	78
Total Donor Restricted Net Assets	\$ 22,103	\$ 26,548	\$ (4,444)
Endowment Net Assets			
Endowment Fund	87,815	87,565	250
Market Value Adjustments	93,945	66,533	27,413
Total Endowment Net Assets	\$ 181,760	\$ 154,098	\$ 27,663
Change in Net Assets	21,951	12,940	9,012
Total Net Assets	\$ 1,723,820	\$ 1,651,590	\$ 72,230
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 1,726,150	\$ 1,652,692	\$ 73,458

Statement of Financial Activity
FY 2025-2026 as of March 31, 2026

	July 2025 - March 2026	July 2024 - March 2025 (PY)	\$ Change
Revenue			
Contributions			
General Donations	3,051	3,082	(31)
Plate Cash	4,355	3,653	702
Pledgers' Additional Donations	5,447	0	5,447
Pledges Paid	106,779	102,410	4,369
Total Contributions	\$ 119,631	\$ 109,144	\$ 10,487
Other Operating Revenue			
Fundraisers for Operations	9,681	1,219	8,462
Interest & Dividends	4,773	4,767	6
Rent	455	1,061	(606)
Total Other Operating Revenue	\$ 14,909	\$ 7,047	\$ 7,862
Total Revenue	\$ 134,540	\$ 116,191	\$ 18,349
Expenses			
Board Administration			
Total Administration	3,439	5,549	(2,109)
Denominational Dues & Affairs	5,839	5,308	531
Total Board Administration	\$ 9,278	\$ 10,856	(\$1,578)
Facilities	16,061	14,164	1,898
Finance	11,786	9,945	1,841
Hospitality	790	806	(16)
ICARE	500	0	500
Lifespan Religious Education	1,561	1,550	11
Membership	133	162	(29)
Payroll Expenses	56,196	50,810	5,386
Public Relations & Communications	0	392	(392)
Social Action	0	227	(227)
Stewardship	1,437	1,810	(374)
Technology	5,163	5,218	(55)
Welcoming Rainbow Ministry	145	0	145
Worship	9,538	7,310	2,228
Total Expenses	\$ 112,588	\$ 103,251	\$ 9,338
Change in Net Assets	\$ 21,951	\$ 12,940	\$ 9,012

Total Budget vs. YTD Actual Expenses
FY 2025-2026 as of March 31, 2026

	Actual July - March	Annual Budget	Budget \$ Remaining	% of Budget
Revenue				
Contributions	119,631	144,050	24,419	83%
Other Operating Revenue	14,909	13,200	(1,709)	113%
Total Revenue	\$ 134,540	\$ 157,250	\$ 22,710	86%
Expenses				
Board Administration	9,278	16,355	7,077	57%
Caring Committee	0	300	300	0%
Facilities	16,061	16,807	746	96%
Finance	11,786	15,962	4,176	74%
Hospitality	790	1,500	710	53%
Lifespan Religious Education	1,561	3,350	1,789	47%
Membership	133	450	317	30%
Payroll Expenses	56,196	77,036	20,840	73%
Public Relations & Communications	0	650	650	0%
Social Action	0	400	400	0%
ICARE	500	500	0	100%
READI Ministry	0	100	100	0%
Stewardship	1,437	750	(687)	192%
Technology	5,163	7,595	2,432	68%
Welcoming Rainbow Ministry	145	500	355	29%
Worship	9,538	14,995	5,457	64%
Total Expenses	\$ 112,588	\$ 157,250	\$ 44,661	72%
Net Revenue	\$ 21,951	\$ -	\$ (21,951)	

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

	Amount		Amount
Revenue		Expenses	
Contributions		Caring Committee	
Pledge Commitments	142,000	Chaplain Supplies	50
Unfulfilled Pledges	<u>(10,295)</u>	Recognition/Training	200
Total Pledge Donations	\$ 131,705	Funeral Receptions	<u>50</u>
Donation General	4,000	Total Caring Committee	\$ 300
Plate cash	5,500	Facilities	
Pledgers' add'l donations	<u>5,500</u>	Building Inspections	1,200
Total Contributions	\$ 146,705	Building Repairs & Maint.	1,200
Other Revenue		Grounds Maint & Impr.	1,208
Interest Income	6,200	Lawn Service	3,792
Rental Income	1,000	Cleaning Service	6,000
Annual Fundraising	<u>6,000</u>	Cleaning Eq & Supplies	1,000
Total Other Revenue	\$ 13,200	HVAC	600
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 159,905</u>	Pest Control Service	1,260
		Piano Tuning	140
		Alarm Monitoring	720
		Utilities: Electric, water	4,000
		Utilities: Solid Waste	<u>179</u>
		Total Facilities	\$ 21,299
		Finance	
		Bank Fees	800
		Bookkeeper Services	4,800
		Fees - Govt	62
		Insurance - P&L, WC	<u>8,000</u>
		Total Finance	\$ 13,662
		Hospitality	
		Coffee Hour	600
		Annual Meeting Lunch	400
		Supplies	<u>500</u>
		Total Hospitality	\$ 1,500
		ICARE	
		ICARE Dues	<u>500</u>
		Total ICARE	\$ 500
		Lifespan Religious Ed	
		Curricula	600
		Social Activities	400
		Supplies	1,500
		Teacher Training	200
		Field Trips/Programs	<u>650</u>
		Total LRE	\$ 3,350

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (Continued)

	Amount		Amount
Board Administered Administration		Social Action Committee	
Awards & Recognition	250	Social Action Events	400
Background Checks	360	Total Social Action	\$ 400
Minister Prof Expenses	600	Stewardship	
DRE Prof Expenses	3,000	Social Activities	1,500
Office Supplies	600	Total Stewardship	\$ 1,500
Postage and PO BOX	360	Technology	
Printer Lease	2,200	A/V Equipment	600
Training for Office	100	Computers/Equipment	900
Total Administration	\$ 7,470	Utilities: Phone, internet	2,850
Denominational Affairs		SaaS Software	2,450
General Assembly Del	840	Website & Internet	55
Total Denom. Affairs	\$ 840	Total Technology	\$ 6,855
Denom. Contribution		Rainbow Welcoming Min	
UUA APF	7,952	Social Activities	400
Total Denom. Contrib.	\$ 7,952	Total RWM	\$ 400
Payroll Expenses		Worship	
Nursery Care	4,000	Music Honorarium	4,320
Office	15,000	Speaker Honorarium	7,575
DRE	46,200	Supplies & Resources	1,360
Sexton/Custodian	6,000	Team Training	1,740
Employer Taxes	5,493	Total Worship	\$ 14,995
Insurance LTD, GTL	989	Total Operating Expenses	\$ 159,905
Total Payroll Expenses	\$ 77,681	Change in Net Assets	\$ 0
Total Board Admin	\$ 93,943	Transfers to Reserves	
Membership		Capital Repair & Repl	0
Materials, Packets	450	Total Expenditures	\$ 0
Total Membership	\$ 450		\$
Public Relation & Comm		Total Exp & Expenditures	159,905
Community Events	250		\$
Literature & Promotions	400	Change in Net Assets After	
Total PR & Comm	\$ 650	All Exp & Expenditures	\$ 0
READI Ministry			
Community Activities	100		
Total READI Ministry	\$ 100		

Proposed change to Bylaws Article IX

Current version:

Article IX. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Elected office: Term length and limits

- President, Vice President and Secretary
 - are elected for a one (1) year term
 - only be elected to the same position two (2) consecutive times.
- Treasurer
 - is elected for one (1) year term
 - no term limits.
- Trustees
 - are elected for two (2) year terms except when 3 trustees are elected at the same annual meeting. In that case, one of the 3 will be selected using Board procedure, to have a one-year term.
 - can only be elected two (2) consecutive times.
 - If a trustee will not serve the second year of their term, their term will be truncated to a single year.
- Nominating Committee
 - are elected for two (2) year terms except when three (3) committee members are elected at the same annual meeting. In that case, one of the three (3) will be selected using Board procedure, to have a one (1) year term.
 - can only be elected two (2) consecutive times.
 - If a committee member will not serve the second year of their term, their term will be truncated to a single year.
- Only Members who are not employees of BBUUC shall hold elected office.
- A Person must be a member for at least a year to run for an elected office.
- Board members shall not be related by blood, marriage, or domestic partnership.
- Terms will begin at the start of the fiscal year (July 1st).

Proposed version (changes in **red**):

Article IX. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Elected office: Term length and limits

- President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary
 - no term limits, must be nominated yearly by the nominating committee.
- Trustees
 - are elected for two (2) year terms except when 3 trustees are elected at the same annual meeting. In that case, one of the 3 will be selected using Board procedure, to have a one-year term.
 - can only be elected two (2) consecutive times.
 - If a trustee will not serve the second year of their term, their term will be truncated to a single year.

Proposed change to Bylaws Article IX (continued)

- Nominating Committee
 - o are elected for two (2) year terms except when three (3) committee members are elected at the same annual meeting. In that case, one of the three (3) will be selected using Board procedure, to have a one (1) year term.
 - o can only be elected two (2) consecutive times.
 - If a committee member will not serve the second year of their term, their term will be truncated to a single year.
- Only Members who are not employees of BBUUC shall hold elected office.
- A Person must be a member for at least a year to run for an elected office.
- Board members shall not be related by blood, marriage, or domestic partnership.
- Terms will begin at the start of the fiscal year (July 1st).
- Contested elections will be voted by secret ballot. The member with the majority of the votes wins. If a runoff election is required, Board election procedures will be followed.
- The Board shall approve a procedure, compatible with these Bylaws, that will specify other details of elections.

Reason for change:

Removing term limits for President, Vice President, and Secretary will allow for increased continuity of institutional knowledge between Board administrations.

Council: Committee & Ministry Annual Reports

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Caring Committee

Chair: Eileen Morrison

Committee Members: Jessica Cuneo, Diane Freeman, Judy Holmes, Debby Jones, Cindi Jorgensen, Bruce Kristol, Marie Lybrook, Lee Plumb, Helen Meatte, Ellen Miceli

Mission Statement:

1. Encourage personal caring acts such as cards, calls, emails, visits, meals, rides, or other activities to celebrate or comfort.
2. Communicate Joys and Concerns as desired by church members.
3. Communicate with Pastoral Care.
4. Confidentially disperse funds to those who have need within the discretion of the Board President and Treasurer.
5. Be a vehicle for promoting expressions and acts of nurturing for our BBUUC community.

Accomplishments:

- The Caring Committee guided congregants in reaching out to members in need of support, sending cards, supplying meals, and offering rides to church and medical appointments.
- The Emergency Caring Fund was used appropriately as outlined in the Caring Committee Policy and Procedures.
- This year we said goodbye and remembered members Beverly DeHonesto and Jim Wood, who passed away.

Facilities Committee

Chairs: Ryan Cobb & Steve McCullar

Landscaping lead: Toni Piccolotti

Sexton: Joshua Dean, Sam Moore

Committee Members: David Christenson, Lesley Lybrook

Mission: The Facilities Committee serves the congregation by tending to the physical needs of the church building and its upkeep. The Committee also provides guidance and advice to the Board as to the long-term capital needs of the building and grounds.

Major Initiatives and Accomplishments:

- Accessibility door openers are to be installed on front and back Sanctuary doors, and hall door next month.
- Installed Handrails on each end of chancel
- All 48" fluorescent bulbs have now been converted to LED bulbs. LED bulbs use half the energy compared to the original fluorescent bulbs.
- Retaining wall around the south east corner of the building completed to help prevent erosion
- Sod and landscaping around retaining wall completed
- Pressure washed building and sidewalk
- Scrubbed main hallway floor
- Seasonal bee/Butterfly garden replanted

Challenges:

- Accessibility door openers
- Hall entry touchpad needs to be replaced.
- Thermostats need to be replaced/updated to more current model
- Additional outside and inside lighting to be added upgraded to LEDs.
- Finding a new cleaning service

Thanks To:

- Joshua Dean for his great work as Sexton
- Sam Moore for becoming a new sexton
- Lesley Lybrook for her skilled electrical work
- Toni and the Grounds CrUU for all the work on improving the landscaping
- Beacon for fundraising for the accessible door project

Finance Committee

Leaders: Peg Christenson, Acting Finance Chair; David Prohofsky, Treasurer

Committee Team Members: Kristina Altes, Stacy Asimos, David Christenson, Don Culpepper, Don DeStephano, Eileen Morrison

Mission Statement (or purpose): The Finance Committee serves the community by promoting an environment conducive to long term fiscal health of BBUUC. The Committee provides prudent financial advice to the Board and to the membership and reports the church's finances to the membership in a transparent, responsible, and thoughtful manner. The Committee also maintains the church's credit by timely payment of obligations and by proper maintenance of the church's financial records.

Vital Signs (statistics): See Financial Reports

Major Initiatives and Accomplishments:

- Planning & executing a pledge drive without a designated Stewardship chair or committee.

Challenges:

- Leadership succession...we really need a plan!
- Recruit, train, and support successors for Finance Chair & Treasurer

Thanks to:

- Our Congregation for their dedication to the financial well-being of BBUUC.
- Cindi Jorgensen for doubling as our Stewardship Chair
- Pam Richards for conducting the bylaw required annual review of the church's financial records.
- Committee chairs and ministry leads, for responsibly managing budgets.

Hospitality Committee

Hospitality Chair: Ryan Cobb

Hospitality Committee Members: Peg Christenson (Kitchen Manager), Cheryl Garrett, John Wrightington

Vital Signs

- Cleaning up is no longer a chore thanks to volunteers who jump in to assist. Your efforts to wash our dishes and stack the dishwasher are gratefully appreciated.

Major Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Winter Holiday festivities went off without a hitch.
- Easter Potluck was a great success with good food and plenty of desserts. Our thanks especially to all those who took the time to help clean up afterwards.

Challenges

- We need volunteers to sign up ahead of time, both for Sunday and potlucks. We cannot plan without knowing who is there to help and who is bringing what.

Thanks to

- John Wrightington for leading the Easter potluck
- Judy Holmes for all the time you rescued us from the pile of dishes.
- The Moore Family for stepping up to help us in the kitchen.
- The whole congregation for showing your appreciation for our coffee, drinks, and treats.
- A special shout-out to Peg Christenson and Cheryl Garrett for being there, every week.

Lifespan Religious Education Committee

Leaders: Joani Maskell and Marilyn Smart

Director of Lifespan Religious Education: Beth Curtis

Committee Members: Lesley Lybrook, Jessica Selby, Judy Holmes, Annabelle Gallois-Bernos, Cindi Jorgensen, Benjamin Ochoa

Mission Statement: To foster Unitarian Universalists who understand the value of community and faith by creating connection, friendship, and a sense of belonging.

Children's Religious Education Activities and Highlights

- Three RE Classes (by age) plus Nursery
 - Spirit Play (4 – 1st grade) – Spirit Play Source Stories
 - Spirit Explorers (Ages 2th through 6th grades) – Custom Curriculum
 - Youth (Ages 7th grade and up) – Custom Curriculum
 - Nursery (ages up to 4)
- OWL Grades K-1 (Fall 2025 - led by Annabelle Gallois-Bernos, Heidi Jo Bartlett and Beth Curtis)
- Pirate Week RE Activity Day
- Monthly Children's RE Newsletter
- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Trunk or Treat with Bonfire and Haunted House
- Mystery Elf Buddy Note Exchange
- Kids activities and games for Jingle Mingle Holiday Party
- "Parents Night Out"s throughout year.
- Tilley Fowler Family Picnic and Nature Walk
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Jacksonville Zoo Field Trip
- End of the Year Pool Party

Adult Religious Education

- Journey Circles (3) with "Drop In" Availability for newcomers
- "Coffee and Conversation" early morning discussion Group
- "Coming of Age for Adults" Adult RE Program
- "UU Elevator Speech – Articulating our Faith" Adult RE Program
- "Long Strange Trip – UU History" Adult RE Program
- "Soulful Parenting" Parent Support and Discussion Program

Social Action

- Soaptober, soap drive- Sulzbacher Center
- Quarterly Pennies From Heaven Collections
- Children's RE Classes on Animal Activism, Water and Environmental Justice, Clean Water Rights, Eco/Environmental Awareness and Activism, Racial and LGBTQ+ Justice and Equity
- Annual Welcoming Congregation Event.

Lifespan Religious Education Committee (continued)

RE / Worship Collaborations

- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Water Communion Family Service
- Thanksgiving Family Service
- Christmas Pageant / Family Service
- Easter Family Service / Flower Communion and Egg Hunt
- Earth Day Service
- Religious Education Family Service
- Weekly “Time for All Ages” Stories

Professional Development

- LREDA member and SELREDA member, attending monthly meetings, trainings, online GA, cohort and annual gatherings
- UU Institute, UUA and OWL workshops and discussions
- PD Workshop: “Caring for Our Children, Caregivers and Their Families in These Times”

Thank-Yous:

- Thank you to Joani Maskell and Marilyn Smart for serving as LRE co-chairs!
- Thank you to LRE committee members and all the volunteers in children’s and adult RE, for their commitment over the past year. LRE exists and thrives because of you!
- Thank you to Marie Lybrook for organizing the Nursery schedule. Thank you to the Nursery workers and volunteers for taking care of our littlest ones!
- Thank you to our Sextons and Office Administrator, to the AV Tech Team, David Christenson and David Dean.
- Thank you to all the Board and the Council members for your encouragement and your support in all things RE.

Membership Committee

Chair: Julie Smithers

Committee Team Members:

Mary Blizzard, Beth Curtis, Adele DeSavio, Marie Lybrook, Lynn Wadley

Mission Statement:

To warmly welcome all visitors, provide information about our church and denomination, provide a pathway to membership, integrate new members into the congregation and to foster a sense of belonging in our church community.

Vital Signs (statistics): 7/1/2025-4/19/2026

- First Visits (per Guest Registries): 71
- Members: 140
- Members Emeritus: 4
- Active Non-Members: 17
- Active Former Members: 3
- Removed by Board Action due to inactivity: 9
- Resigned due to move from area: 0
- Resigned due to other reasons: 3
- Joined: 11
- Non-Members Eligible to Join: 12
- Deceased: Members: Beverly DeHonesto 9/23/2025, Jim Wood 12/14/2025
- How First Time Visitors found us:
Website: 29 / Referrals: 20 / Facebook: 1 / Other (Google Search, UU Friends, UUCJ): 10

Initiatives and Accomplishments:

- Provided 11 In-person and Virtual Learn About Us Classes involving 46 newcomers
- Recruited an active and reliable group of Greeters/Offertory Ushers
- Recruited Members and Friends to engage visitors during the Fellowship Time
- Maintained Breeze database
- Maintained Membership Forms on Breeze
- Maintained UUA BBUUC Member Roster
- Provided Board input for Annual Update to Membership Roster
- Provided Board input for UUA Congregational Certification
- Restructured Volunteer Survey and provided results to appropriate leaders
- Planned and executed Circle Suppers/Mini Mixers
- Worked with Technology Committee to arrange for videos to be viewed comfortably in the Forrest Church Room

Challenges:

- Scheduling rooms due to the increase in number of groups meeting.

Thank You's:

- To Greeters/Offertory Ushers, Tag Team Members, Hosts of Circle Suppers/Mini Mixers and the Technology Committee.

Racial Equity, Accessibility, Diversity, and Inclusion (READI) Ministry

Leaders: Claudia Marshall, Mike Ludwick

Ministry Members: Peg Christenson, David Christenson, Elizabeth DeCoux, Linda Mowers

Mission Statement: The mission of the READI Ministry is to educate BBUUC in effective, evolving anti-racism and anti-oppression work. Through education, discussion, reflection, and community engagement, we deepen our understanding of racial equity, accessibility, diversity, and inclusion, and empower our community to create change—beginning with ourselves.

Vital Statistics

- Hosted monthly banned book discussions (10 sessions total)
- Participation ranged from 5 to 15 attendees per session
- Partnered with Worship and Social Action Ministries for 2 major collaborative events

Major Initiatives and Accomplishments:

Banned Book & Community Reading Series

Throughout the year, READI facilitated monthly reading and discussion experiences centered on justice, identity, and equity.

- **May–June 2025:** *How to Stand Up to a Dictator* by Maria Ressa; *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson
- **August:** Combined discussion of both texts
- **September:** *Identical* by Ellen Hopkins
- **October:** *In the Midst of Winter* by Isabel Allende
- **November:** *A History of Indigenous Peoples* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (Native American focus)
- **January 2026:** *1984* by George Orwell
- **February:** *It Was Never About a Hot Dog and a Coke* by Rodney L. Hurst Sr.
- **March:** *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
- **April:** *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson (Environmental Focus)

Guest Speakers & Programs

- **August 3, 2025:** Kelly Frazier spoke on “Racial Justice in Jacksonville” and the work of the Northside Coalition
- **January 2026:** Rev. Dr. R. L. Gundy presented “My Journey in Civil Rights and the LGBTQ Community”
- **April 2026:** In partnership with the Worship Team, READI hosted Rodney L. Hurst Sr. for a sermon and community conversation, “*The Struggle Continues*”

Activism & Community Engagement

- Supported and contributed to the **No Kings, No Kings 2, and No Kings 3** protests (March 2026), including poster creation and on-site participation
- Continued collaboration with the Social Action Ministry, including engagement with **UU the Vote** initiatives

Challenges:

In these difficult times when Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts are being attacked and dismantled, READI remains committed to challenging our community with diverse perspectives and meaningful dialogue. As we move forward, we will continue to deepen engagement, expand partnerships, and respond thoughtfully to the evolving needs of our time.

Thanks to:

- The Technology Team who has helped enormously with after-service activities where they provide sound, record video, and post video to the church YouTube page.
- The Worship Team for collaboration with the service and event with Mr. Hurst.
- The Religious Education Committee for collaboration on helping us understand the experience of Muslim-Americans
- All who have attended any of our programs who have made it a priority to venture out of our comfort zones to learn, share, and grow together

Social Action Committee

Leader: Kristina Altus

Committee Members and Participants: Ruth Baker, Liz Baldwin, Jessica Cuneo, Beth Curtis, Don DeStephano, Patty DeStephano, Wanda Frazee, Annabelle Gallois-Bernos, Henry Halaiko, Kathy Halaiko, Cindi Jorgensen, Dakhota Little, Mike Ludwick, Joani Maskell, Helen Meatte, Benjamin Ochoa, Erin Reidy, and Chuck Smithers

Mission Statement (or purpose): To put our Unitarian Universalist faith into social action.

Accomplishments:

- April 2025-present St Mary's Episcopal Food Pantry Collection
 - 284 bags of groceries donated to the Market at St Mary's
- July 2025 Beyond90 School Supply Drive
 - 50 backpacks filled with school supplies for refugee students in Jacksonville
 - Committee participation in distribution event at Beyond90 campus
- August 2025 Beyond90 Food Pantry Setup
 - Assisted with setup of culturally sensitive food pantry for refugees in Jacksonville
- October 2025 and February 2026 Kim's Open Door "Super Saturday"
 - Provided fruits and vegetables for educational and recreational event
 - Served lunch to ~40 refugee students
- December 2025 Angel Tree
 - Donated holiday gifts for 19 children in the Lutheran Services Florida (LSF) Early Head Start educational program
- March 2026 Clay County Clothes Closet and Food Pantry Diaper Drive
 - Collaboration with Religious Education Committee
 - 22 bags and boxes of diapers, 1 brand new coffee maker, and over \$300 from the Pennies from Heaven drive benefitting the clothes closet and food pantry
- March 2026 Catholic Charities Garage Sale
 - Assisted with garage sale that raised \$5,580.61 for food pantry, emergency assistance, rent and utilities help, homelessness prevention, and immigration services

Technology Committee

Chair: David Christenson

Committee Members: Peg Christenson, Ryan Cobb, Lesley Lybrook, Nathaniel Samuels, Madeline Sims, Sam Moore & Josh Dean

Mission: Maintain software and hardware that supports the overall mission of BBUUC.

Major Initiatives and Accomplishments:

- Install second TV in Forrest Church room. Both TVs in the room can be hooked up to show identical output from a computer. This allows people to site anywhere in the room and have a good view of a TV.
- Now using Google Meet and Microsoft Teams for meetings
- Project to document all AV and other equipment procedures. QR codes will be displayed near the equipment to open the online documentation.
- New digital clock for sanctuary has been installed. It has a remote for setting time.
- Fluorescent lights in classrooms are being replaced with LED lights which consume about half the power and have triple the lifespan.

Challenges:

- Security of BBUUC emails and documents.
- Dealing with phishing emails sent to bbuuc.org addresses.

Thanks To:

All the committee members and others that helped out.

Worship Committee

Leader: Linda Mowers, Worship Chair

Worship Team: Linda Mowers (Chair), Manny Andrade, Mary Avery, Jennifer Bacmeister, Elizabeth DeCoux, Alyssa Halliday, Kris Kines, Claudia Marshall, Donna Zimmerman

Adjunct Support:

- **Beth Curtis, DLRE:** Leads family worship coordination, Time for All Ages, and connects services with children and youth.
- **David Dean:** Provides video production support, YouTube preparation, and serves as a sermon reader.

Mission Statement: To deepen the spiritual journey of our congregation by creating and presenting shared worship experiences that center on Unitarian Universalist Theology, our Values, and the Inspirations of our faith, all of which call us to our better selves. (rev. 7-18-24)

Vital Signs

- Trained lay leaders collaborate weekly to plan and conduct services for our lay-led congregation.
- Services follow Soul Matters monthly themes, supplemented with UU liturgy and professionally written sermons.
- Holiday and tradition-based services include Flower Communion, Water Sharing, and celebrations with guest voices.
- Music is coordinated by the Worship Team, with Jennifer Bacmeister as contact and regular support from member musicians.
- Gary Smart serves as primary accompanist, supported by Eileen Morrison and Garret Kaplan as needed.
- Family services are developed with DLRE Beth Curtis to include all ages.
- Services are recorded by the Tech Team and finalized by David Dean for YouTube.

Major Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Maintained service content centered on UU theology, values, and major observances such as Water Sharing, Christmas Eve, Easter, and PRIDE Month.
- Lifted diverse voices in liturgy, music, and preaching, with attention to marginalized communities.
- Supported our Welcoming Congregation renewal by observing LGBTQ+ Days of Observance throughout the year.
- Collaborated with the Board and Stewardship Team to integrate the annual stewardship theme.
- Coordinated the annual Poinsettia sale to decorate the chancel and honor loved ones.
- Pursued ongoing training, retreats, and gatherings to strengthen worship leadership, with support from Affiliated Community Minister Rev. Carmen Emerson.

Worship Committee (continued)

Appreciation

We extend gratitude to every congregant and volunteer who sustains our worship life—including our accompanists Gary Smart and Eileen Morrison, Tech Team volunteers led by David Christenson, video editor and sermon deliverer David Dean, offertory ushers, Chalice Lighters, Pennies from Heaven collectors, Beth Curtis and the RE team, the Pastoral Care Team led by Chaplain Donna Zimmerman, member musicians, song leaders, and coordinators such as Viqui Hillard, Lynn Wadley, and Marilyn Smart. We also thank the Membership and Hospitality Committees for their welcoming presence. If we have missed anyone, please know you are deeply appreciated.



Beverly DeHoniesto

24 Feb 1948 – 23 Sep 2025

Mrs. Beverly Jean DeHoniesto (née Jones) passed away peacefully on September 23, 2025, with her daughter by her side.

She was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on February 24, 1948, to Nathaniel and Annie Ruth Jones (née Morast), and grew up with a love of learning, music, and community. Beverly graduated from Westinghouse High School in 1966 and earned her degree from Antioch University in Yellow Springs, Ohio. Following in the activist footsteps of her brother, Kenneth “Jackie” Jones, she spent several years in Washington, DC, engaged in political organizing and community work before dedicating her life to teaching and mentoring students across the county.

Whether you knew her as Beverly, Bev, Ms. Bev, Ms. D, or Mrs. DeHoniesto, each name carried a story, and with each, she left a lasting impact on the lives she touched. She carried a love of life and shared that love with everyone around her.

Beverly was preceded in death by her husband, Robert, and is survived by her daughter, Adero; her granddaughter, Amalia; and her sister, Natalie and Gladys, along with countless students, colleagues, friends, and family who will never forget the love, guidance, and inspiration she brought into their lives.



Jim Wood

27 Apr 1954 – 14 Dec 2025

Jim Wood was born April 27, 1954 and passed away on December 14, 2025.

He first joined BBUUC in 2017. During his years at BBUUC he served as Chair of the Facilities Committee, held a weekly drum circle, led worship services with the CUUPS group, was a Song Leader, and served as a Chaplain on the Pastoral Care

Team.

Jim was a towering figure, both in stature and force of personality. He was witty, gregarious, and well-read. He was a consistent presence as a greeter, and a reader of joys and concerns.

Jim's death was a blow to many of us. He loved fish and chips, a good ale, and long conversations. His radiant caring was shared by many in his role as a chaplain. There was some poetry in the fact that he had just returned from one of his beloved and frequent journeys to Great Britain, the center of his spiritual practice of Druidism when he died. He is survived by a son, Zach, and his former wife Isabelle, who was a constant companion during the end of his life.



Statement of Values of the Unitarian Universalist Association

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our Association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love.

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values

We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:

Interdependence: We honor the interdependent web of all existence. With reverence for the great web of life and with humility, we acknowledge our place in it.

Pluralism: We celebrate that we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology.

Justice: We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive.

Transformation: We adapt to the changing world.

Generosity: We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.

Equity: We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion.



Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church

Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Society, doing business as
Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church

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