

Birmingham Unitarian Church

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

December 2011

Worship Services @ BUC

9:30 and 11:15*

With Childcare & Children's Ed~ something for all ages

Dec. 4: "Incarnations"

Many spiritual traditions tell stories of deities come to dwell on earth in human form in order to impart lessons that might not be understood otherwise; in our culture, we know this best in the Christmastime stories that suggest Jesus, though born in human form to human parents, was God incarnate. Why do we need a deity to approach us this way, and what meaning are we to make from such stories? Kathy and Worship Associate Dan Kosuth reflect on the complex notions of incarnation.

Candy Cane Sunday ~ a holiday tradition dating back to the late 1970's at BUC. The Kindergarten through 5th grader classes will create three gifts on December 4th: a gift for Families (cookies made by BUC elves), a gift for BUC (an ornament for our BUC holiday tree), and a gift to the Community (collect socks and gloves for Communities United For Children in Pontiac). The High School will assist with the projects. Please bring in new socks and mittens to fit Kindergarten – 6th grade children. These items can be deposited in the RE Office.

BUC's Annual Meeting of Members December 4, 2011, 12:30 ~ Sanctuary

Dec. 11: "Carols & Lullabies"

The BUC Chalice Choir will sing Conrad Susa's "Carols and Lullabies", a lovely collection of traditional folk carols in Spanish and English that evoke the wonder, joy of anticipation, and awe we feel at this time of year. Soloists will be featured. The choir will be accompanied by a live harpist, classical guitarist (our own Steven Dearing) and a

marimba/vibe player. Come and enjoy some less familiar but fully traditional Christmas themes and beautiful folksongs for both services.

Dec. 18: "Believing is Seeing"

A multigenerational service led by Kathy and Worship Associate Camille Harris explores the ways believing shapes our perception of the world around us. The No-Fault Orchestra, directed by Pamela McAlpin, will be featured in the service.

*Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Services:

5:00 Family Oriented Service

8:00 Contemplative Candlelight

5:00 p.m.: A family-oriented service including familiar carols, stories, and a play about the wives of the three wise men. *No nursery or childcare provided*



8:00 p.m.: A service of carols, special music by the choir, and a telling of the Christmas story in traditional and contemporary words. *No childcare provided*

*Dec. 25: NO SERVICES @ BUC

Happy Holiday! Everyone is encouraged to attend one of the Christmas Eve services the night before, and to enjoy Christmas Day with family and friends.

*Jan. 1: One Service @ 10:30

Christmas Dinner

Unsure what to do for Christmas? Too busy to plan anything? Don't feel like having people over this year or traveling long distances? Come join us for a pleasant potluck dinner Christmas Day at the home of Camille Harris from 4:00 to 8:30 pm.

We'll provide Cornish game hens and dressing, you may bring a wonderful dish to share [[each person](#) should bring a dish for 6-8 or wine/beverage]. Appetizers and wine will be served at 4:00 pm, dinner by 5:00 pm. After dinner we will exchange gifts. Hope you can join us! Please RSVP by December 23. Carol Winslow will coordinate the reservations. Sign-up sheets and maps will be available at Church after services in December.



Carol Winslow
cwin@att.net 248-892-8387 [cell]; any direction details email Camille at her [new email: echarris1962@gmail.com](mailto:echarris1962@gmail.com); cell: 248-320-9651.

SOS Volunteers

Thank you so much for the support again this year. 30 men, women and children were hosted by over 200 volunteers from BUC and Paint Creek. You were a success! These are two comments given to me by our guests: 1) "To you Paul and everyone involved in this program, thank you for making my stay at BUC something I will always remember. Everyone treated Me with respect and dignity at a very difficult time in my life. Sometimes it's hard not to be angry and bitter with life right now, but when I see a large group of people come together, and spend a week helping strangers, it shows Me anything is possible. God bless all of you, and he has." *Male guest* 2) "Mom can we stay here again next week. I like it here." 9 year old child. "No we have to move to another church." *Mom*.

Connections - Joys & Sorrows

Maurice Lefford is on the mend from his bout with pneumonia and celebrated his 81st birthday on November 24.

Bob Cunningham's mother passed away peacefully on October 27th which was her 95th birthday.

Yvette's Kaplan's mother died on November 5, at the age of 98. Her memorial service was at BUC on Wednesday, November 30.

Paul Miller is enjoying his new shoulder and knee after successful replacement surgery.

Kathy DuHame's father is recuperating from exploratory heart surgery that he had done in November. He had a procedure done on his lung which should greatly improve his quality of life.

Barbara Beeding's sister died the second week in November.

Former BUC member, Chris Boeson's husband, Hank Henson died November 17. His memorial service will be held on December 3 at the Greater Lansing UU Church.

Gilbert Maxwell's mother died on Thanksgiving morning at the age of 99. She was alert and communicative until the very end.

Matthew McNitt's sister died on Thanksgiving day after a long illness. She was the aunt of Iris, Virginia, Liam and Malcolm McNitt.

Keith Brown's aunt, Ginny Crowthers, died at the age of 91 on Thanksgiving morning.

Rev. Mark Bellentine, Senior Minister of the First UU Church of Columbus, Ohio and occasional guest minister at BUC, his mother pass away on November 22.

Ben Gabel was appointed by the Committee on Committees of the UUA to be a member of the Journey toward Wholeness Transformation Committee. He is looking forward to getting ready for the Justice Workshop they will be leading at the GA in Phoenix in 2012.



Recycle Holiday Lights

Bring your busted holiday light strands to BUC and Green Sanctuary will send them to be recycled! Look for our collection bin in the Social Hall during November, December and January. holidayleds.com, of Jackson MI, recycles light strands and will provide a 25% off coupon for their products to each participant. So don't toss those frustrating, tangled, non-working light strings - bring them to BUC and be green! (suggested \$2 donation towards shipping costs)

The Welcome Inn Opens Dec. 19, Training Dec. 1

The cold winter winds are starting to blow, and our friends in Royal Oak who have no homes will be coming to The Welcome Inn. This daytime shelter provides a hot lunch and a place to get out of the cold and talk to nurses, social workers, and get in contact with agencies to try to solve their problems. Every year, BUCers volunteer to chat with the guests, serve luncheon, prepare casseroles in advance, and shop for supplies. The Needs Network provides the funds for these purchases, so you can be reimbursed in the Church Office. There will be a volunteer orientation meeting on **Thursday December 1** at 6:30 PM at Unity Church (where the Welcome Inn is located), 2500 Crooks Rd, Royal Oak (just south of 12 1/2 or Webster). Two intrepid BUCers are on the first shift Monday mornings. For information about that, call Larry Freedman at [248 370-8227](tel:248-370-8227). Visit Annis Pratt's table in the Social Hall for further information.

S.O.S. generously donated their leftover paper supplies. Thanks! As always, The Welcome Inn needs lots of the following: Styrofoam cups/plates/bowls, paper napkins/paper towels, toilet paper, coffee, tea, Creamora, hot cocoa mix, sugar, artificial sweetener, bottles of salad dressings, men's & women's underwear, men's & women's thermal underwear, hats/gloves/scarves, sweatshirts/sweaters/flannel shirts, boots/shoes/work boots

To make arrangements for delivery between now & when the Inn opens around mid December please call Annis Pratt at 644-0737 avpratt@aol.com. To make an end of the year tax deductible donation to The Welcome Inn before the end of the year, please make your check payable to S.O.C.H. and send it to:

S.O.C.H.
c/o St. Dennis Catholic Church
2200 East Twelve Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

South Oakland Comm. Lunch

BUC will host the South Oakland Community Lunch on Saturday **December 3** at Genesis Church in Royal Oak, preparing our signature chicken dinner for low-income and homeless men, women, and

children. Many hands make this project work! We need donations of cash, food, and supplies, plus a kitchen crew. Call Pat Hammer: 248.644.6568
patriciajhammer@gmail.com

Gifts for the Lighthouse

The annual holiday gift collection for the Lighthouse in Pontiac will continue through December 16. All gifts must be new, unused, and unwrapped. Please leave gifts on the decorated table in the foyer.

The following items are particularly needed: coats for children and adults, especially men's very large sizes; sweatshirts, sweatpants, and underwear, especially XXL sizes; large men's socks; pajamas for women and children; household items including cleaning supplies, toilet paper, facial tissue (Kleenex), bath towels, dishes, glasses, pots and pans, sheet sets in any size, comforters, and blankets. The only toys that tend to be in short supply are board games and books for older children. For additional information, please contact Margaret Marsh 248-288-3411 email: mmarsh96@yahoo.com.

Sponsor a Family this Holiday

Several families at the WHRC Elementary School will not be celebrating Christmas this year without your help. We are requesting that you deliver the gifts to Birmingham Unitarian Church by **Sunday, December 11th**.

Consider giving the family: a book to read or game to play together, holiday decoration(s), Christmas candy (homemade food is not allowed by the Health Department). Please be certain that every child receives the same number of gifts.

To assist with the distribution of your gifts make sure to wrap and label each gift with a tag securely fastened that has the family number (individual members first names should be written). Please place all the gifts inside one of the red or green bags provided and make sure the family number appears on the outside of the bag(s).

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us. Ilene Beninson 248.376-7031 or ilene.beninson@gmail.com.

Reflections

Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt



Fairy tales and myths of many cultures tell of gifts that are given which may or may not be recognized and accepted as such: that is, a character may be offered a gift that s/he spurns because it is not what is desired, or because it comes in a form that does not immediately appear to be a gift. If animals offer the gift, the hero sometimes rejects it as being unsuitable for human needs. If the gift is a handful of seeds or stones, the heroine may toss it away, deeming it worthless. If the gift comes from an ugly crone or a withered old man, it can seem a bother to accept because it requires too much time and effort.

In this season of gifts given and received, we tend to recognize a gift as such because it comes in the traditional guise of shiny paper and a bow, or the ever-present gift bag that signals clearly we are receiving something special. Sometimes the gift is opened to reveal our heart's desire—and other times the gift bag contains something we never wanted, may even despise, in which case it gets “re-gifted” in order to remove its clutter from our lives.

But what of the gifts that are not wrapped or bagged, that come our way not as part of a Hanukkah or Christmas celebration, but unexpectedly, by surprise: do we recognize them for the gift they are, or do we overlook them because they are not in the trappings we usually look for? If the gift arrives at an inconvenient time, or in an undesirable form, or is brought to us by someone we have little regard for, do we accept it anyway or spurn it?

Fairy tales and myths typically suggest that the person who can see the real value of a gift despite its form or its source tends to ultimately find the gift truly rewarding. On the other hand, the characters who decline gifts because they do not like how they look or the person offering them are likely to meet with misfortune. This holiday season, may we savor the gifts that come to us beautifully wrapped and well-chosen from people we love—and may we also not forget to be open to receive the less noticeable gifts, those that take us by surprise because of the way they are delivered or the person who brings them to us. Learning to receive gracefully and wisely is a practice that can bear wonderful fruit.

In faith, hope, and love, Kathy

Pastoral Care @ BUC

Everyone listed in the BUC directory can look forward to call from one of the Pastoral Care Associates in the coming months. A new pastoral initiative, the call is not to ask for money, nor recruit you as a volunteer, but just a call to express caring and to "check in" to see how you are. Too often calls from a church have an agenda to get something, but these calls will have no agenda besides making a caring connection with everyone in the congregation. Your Pastoral Care team is looking forward to having a conversation with you!

New Moms

A new mom? Come celebrate that and the holidays with other new moms. There will be a holiday get together and cookie exchange here at BUC on Thursday, December 15th at 1:00 in the Commons. It's not just BUC members, so why not bring a friend along who also is a new mom? As Santa would say, the more the ho ho ho merrier. For more details or to RSVP, please contact Tanya Nordhaus at tmroyc@aol.com

Lifespan Religious Education

Pam McAlpin, Director of Performing Arts & Adult Education pam.mcalpin@buemi.org
Kimery Campbell, DRE for Youth kimery.campbell@buemi.org
Eleanor McGuire, DRE for Children eleanor.mcguire@buemi.org

Adult Religious Education

BUC's adult RE program will start in full swing in January 2012. With the aim of offering a wide selection of opportunities, we hope to make this revitalized program much more than basic religious education. Many of you have already requested classes or offered to teach one. Please keep your ideas coming and watch for the blinking RE board in the social hall after services. Contact Lifespan team member Pamela McAlpin with ideas and questions.

Children's Rotation Curriculum

Here is a brief outline of the **Kindergarten-5th grade** schedule through the holiday season:

Dec. 4th: Candy Cane Sunday

Dec. 11th: Susa service (Multi-age RE class for K-3rd grade children)

Dec. 18th: No Fault Orchestra & Multi-Generational service; OWL meets first service only

Dec. 24th: Two services. 5 p.m. (child-oriented) and 8 p.m. (contemplative)

Dec. 25th: BUC is closed—enjoy the holiday with your family!

Jan. 1st: Single service at 10:30 – discussion tables for adults in the Social Hall, activity tables for children.

Jan 8th: RE classes resume

Youth Religious Education

The 6th-7th grade class will kick off the holiday season with a Judaism wrap-up/Chanukah celebration on December 4th. Then they will have a couple of musical weeks, as they join the congregation for the Susa service on Dec. 11th and the multigenerational service on the 18th. Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to coordinate UFO events! We look forward to more fun and service in 2012.

In the 8th grade, the OWL (Our Whole Lives) class will meet from 9:30-12:30am on Dec. 4th and 11th and from 9:30 to 11 on the 18th. In order to get through this very intense curriculum before the holidays, there will be an extra class on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 3 to 6 p.m., followed by dinner and an overnight. (Parent chaperones are needed.) Fundraising continues to be a priority. Those who ordered poinsettias can pick them up on Dec. 4 and Parents' Night Out babysitting events are planned for Dec. 2nd and 17th. Our main fundraiser, Scrip, continues to grow as more and more BUCers create family accounts or shop at the Scrip table on Sunday morning. We are excited to announce that Meijer is now a Scrip merchant and we have an ever-expanding list of Scrip Now electronic options, just in time for holiday shopping. In addition, weekly bonus discounts give us the opportunity to earn even more from certain vendors. Please stop by the Scrip table or go to www.shopwithscrip.com and use BUC's enrollment code 812A84F12914L for one-stop gift card and personal shopping. And thank you for supporting our ROPE youth!

In December, the high school youth will guide the younger children during their Candy Cane Sunday extravaganza and they, too, will join the congregation for the Dec. 11th and 18th services. There will be a regular GUUSH meeting on the 4th and the second small group session on the 11th. On Dec. 18,

NO FAULT ORCHESTRA

December 18th

Dust off your instruments & sign up in the social hall.

See Pam McAlpin for details and encouragement

FRIDAY FOOD, FAITH, & FUN

December 9th

Potluck dinner 6:45-7:15pm

Vespers 7:30-8:00pm

Fun 8:00-9:00pm carols around the piano

with Barbara Woolf and Pam McAlpin

GUUSH will welcome current members and alumni to its annual holiday dinner from 6 to 9 p.m. in the BUC Commons. Bring a dish to pass and a wrapped white elephant gift! All current high school youth are encouraged to plan now to attend the annual high school retreat January 13-15 at Mystic Lake YMCA camp (drivers needed) and to participate in our second cluster event on January 28th.

Upcoming dates:

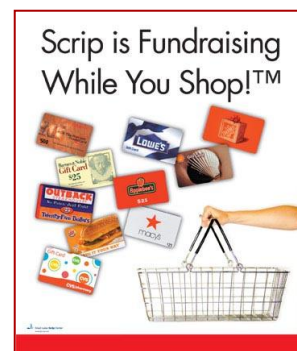
- Dec. 4 GUUSH, 6-8 p.m., Red Door
- Dec. 9 Fridays: Food, Faith & Fun—caroling around the piano with Barbara Woolf, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 11 Glo-Bowling at Thunderbird Lanes, 1-3 p.m.
- Dec. 11 GUUSH small groups, 6-8 p.m.
- Dec. 18 GUUSH holiday dinner, 6-9 p.m.
- Jan. 13-15 High School retreat at Mystic Lake YMCA

Guest At Your Table: a program of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Each year between Thanksgiving and New Year's, friends and families in our congregation participate in Guest at Your Table — a UU tradition. By bringing home a beautiful Guest at Your Table box, families and individuals learn about how the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee puts our shared principles into action in the United States and around the world. In each household, the Guest at Your Table box is placed in a prominent spot, often at the family meal table. When family and friends gather to enjoy their blessings, they can reflect on the contributions of their "guests" to the movement for universal human rights — and share generously. Since UUSC is an independent organization that receives no funding from the UUA, UUSC members are vitally important. If you would prefer not to bring home a box, you can take a donation envelope or support UUSC directly online at www.uusc.org.

Buy your regular holiday gift cards through Scrip and help ROPE get to Boston!

Many BUC young adults have named the 8th grade year as pivotal to their spiritual development and the Boston trip as the highlight of that year. It will cost over \$12,000 to keep this tradition alive for this year's 8th graders. We have the potential to earn all we need through our fundraisers, if BUC members can offer support, not by buying MORE stuff but by changing their shopping habits a little. Here's how: Purchase gift cards (ex: Macy's, Best BUY, Target, Amazon.com, Speedway gas, etc) from our list which includes hundreds of choices of restaurants, services, travel, shopping, and a great deal more. You pay exactly the cost of card and no more. A week later the cards are delivered to BUC for you to pick up at our table in the Social Hall during Sunday morning coffee hour. Finally, the merchants pay a percentage of the sale price on each card to our youth program. It's effortless, convenient & deeply appreciated.



Parent Holiday Helper! R.O.P.E. FUNDRAISER

The 8th grade ROPE youth (with adult supervisors) will babysit your children while you have a well deserved night out (or get some errands done!) They will provide close supervision, pizza and a healthy snack, games, a movie and lots of fun! ALL ages welcome. Reserve a spot on one of the following dates (or both!) **Friday, December 2nd and Saturday, December 17th from 5:30pm – 10:30pm** (BUC's Lower Level Classrooms.)

Donation: \$30 for one child, \$10 for each additional sibling. Donation is for one Parent Holiday Helper date (up to 5 hrs). Payment due at drop off (cash or check payable to BUC) Please complete a registration form located in your Sunday Order of Service or available outside the church office. Return to Eleanor McGuire's mailbox in the main office. Bring a friend! Reservations are encouraged. Drop-offs are welcome. For more information, contact eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org

“Is There Good Without God?”

The Sunday Morning Discussion Group will begin discussing Greg Epstein's *Good Without God: What a Billion Nonreligious People Do Believe* on Sunday, December 4th in the Large Conference Room at 9:30.

Epstein, the Humanist Chaplain at Harvard University and student of Rabbi Sherwin Wine, has written a learned but highly readable book about the historical roots of humanism and how it can give life meaning and moral direction to those who choose not to depend on a divine figure for these. This book inspires – both the reader and lively discussion.



Words & Spirit

Words and Spirit groups continue to meet from 7:00 - 8:30 on Monday evenings. "Living By Heart" - a group dedicated to exploring the words of poets and prose writers as a means of enhancing our own lives meets on the first Monday of each month... **December 5**. Please bring a poem you love and one line from a poem you love that you know "by heart."

"Writing As Spiritual Discipline" - a group dedicated to writing as a means for personal spiritual exploration meets on the third Monday of each month ... **December 19**. Bring a journal and a pen.

Sacred and Profane Discussions

In November we completed a two-part discussion on coping with death and grief. On Dec. 21st we will discuss, the Charles Dickens's classic story, "A Christmas Carol". Does this story about a miser and misanthrope point to a way of "Salvation" for UU's?

On Jan. 15th we'll discuss improving our relationships with the non-human world to complete the subject of relationships. We meet on the third Wednesdays at 10:30 until noon in the large conference room.

Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood will be here at BUC on December 18, at 12:30 in the Commons to discuss their mission and their current battle to open a health center in Auburn Hills which is meeting with some opposition.

Alliance Holiday & January Programs

Alliance continues its 2011-12 schedule with our traditional holiday luncheon at Noon on Wednesday, December 7 at the Radisson Kinsley Hotel. Reservation forms were mailed in early November. Everyone is welcome – but the deadline for making your reservation is December 2. Forms are available in the BUC office in the Alliance box.

The January meeting is a Brown Bag lunch at Noon on January 18. Always a favorite program, we will have a docent from the Detroit Institute of Arts presenting a slideshow of the current exhibition, Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus. Organized by the DIA, the Musee du Louvre and the Philadelphia Museum, the show runs until February 12. Bring your lunch, we'll supply beverages and cookies. The program will begin about 1:00 in the Commons.

Our Brown Bag lunch meetings continue through April, on the third Wednesdays, with fine programs planned. Brochures are available in the foyer pamphlet rack. Happy Holidays!

Music @ BUC



November was a month of hard work and preparation for both the Chalice and Kids Choirs. On November 4, BUC inaugurated its new concert series, SoundBites featuring local jazz favorites Shahida Nurullah (vocals) Marion Hayden (bass) and Kurt Schreitmuller (piano). We had a great turnout! A wonderful time was had by all. Thanks to Barb Eschner, Teresa Honnold, Don and Nancy Johnson, Margot LeRoy, Marcia Mahood and Ed Sharples for all of your help and skills. You helped make our first SoundBites a memorable evening. Mark your calendars for SoundBites, round two, coming February 10, featuring Wisaal from Lansing. Wisaal fuses Persian, Indian and Klezmer music. Sound interesting? It is! On November 12th, the adults enjoyed an intensive choral clinic given by Dr. Mike Mitchell,

distinguished choral pedagogue from Oakland University and friend to BUC. His energetic, detailed approach helped the choir sound better immediately and they clearly had a great time! The choir is working hard on their large holiday work "Carols and Lullabies, Christmas in the Southwest" and it is coming together nicely. The work will be performed during the December 11 services, and will be joined by harp, marimba/vibraphone, and Steven on guitar.

The Kids Choir made their debut singing two songs on November 6th. Their preparation and attention during rehearsal helped them sing from their hearts by themselves first, and then joined by the Chalice Choir. They continue to practice weekly and will be singing on Christmas Eve at the 5pm service.

Abha & Steven Dearing, Co-Directors of Music

MAMA's Coffeehouse, December 17 ~ Finvarra's Wren

Finvarra's Wren is one of North America's most exciting Irish quartets. This Detroit, Michigan based band has an intense dedication to their instruments and to Irish music. As a family based group, Finvarra's Wren is capable of playing with a tightness and effortlessness that often evades other ensembles. Traditional and contemporary Irish, Scottish and Celtic-American folk songs are punctuated with wonderfully inventive arrangements of jigs, reels and hornpipes.

The band is led by Detroit Irish music scene stalwarts Jim Perkins and Cheryl Burns, well known for their sensitive vocals and the inventive musical weaving of Jim's guitar and Cheryl's mountain dulcimer and bodhran. Their children, Asher Perkins (button accordion and concertina) and Alison Perkins (vocals, fiddle and tin whistle), are world renowned for their award winning playing. Each member of the family has enjoyed successful careers as musical performers, teachers and recording artists.



"Finvarra's Wren unequivocally ranks in topmost echelon of American bands performing Irish traditional music today. With expert musicianship from every quarter, the band's imaginative interpretations of tunes and songs are wholly true to the Irish tradition." Don Penzien, Festival Director, CelticFest Mississippi

There will be no opening act for this show. ADMISSION: Tickets available at the door starting at 7:00pm. General admission is \$12 unless otherwise indicated. Seniors (62 and over), and those under 18, are \$10. Children 12 and under are free. Group rates not available.

BUC Facilities ~ Landscape Plan Update

At the last Facilities meeting, discussion was had about development of the Master Landscape Plan. John Hammer will act as coordinator for BUC at the core committee member meeting held with the landscape architect, Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio. An effort is being made to ensure that BUC members feel a part of the planning process. While it would be impossible to make any progress on the plan with members participation at every meeting with the architects, discussion has begun on ways to encourage members' input.

There was suggestion of a blog, where folks could see progress and ask questions, etc. but, the thought is that perhaps those most interested in being involved with the process may not be familiar with blogging and how to use it. Perhaps facebook would be something people are experiencing greater ease of use and confidence. If you would like to be part of the congregational involvement with this project, please contact Lisa Crawford, lisa.crawford@bucmi.org. She is in the process of determining an interactive method for member participation. It would be most helpful at this stage to see who would like to be involved and structure the method to meet the needs of those who wish to be involved.

Film Buffs Presents: *Beginners*

When: Friday, December 16 at 7 p.m. in the Commons

"Based on indie director Mike Mills's relationship with his father, this intriguing drama tells the story of Oliver (Ewan McGregor), a graphic artist coming to grips with the imminent death of his father (Christopher Plummer), who, at 75, has one last secret: He's gay. Both inspired and confused by his father's determination to find true love at last, Oliver tentatively pursues a romance with commitment-shy French actress Anna (Mélanie Laurent)." - Netflix

Beginners (United States, 2010, 104 minutes) was rated R by the MPAA for language and some sexual content. Snacks provided. For more information contact Larry at 248-569-0965 or LarryWisniew@att.net.



Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan

HOW TO INCREASE A SIGNIFICANT INCOME SOURCE FOR BUC – *with a tax advantage for your contribution!*

Please consider a year-end gift to increase the BUC Fund at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. This fund, established by contributions from BUCers over the last 13 years, now totals about \$309,000, and generates an annual payout to BUC --- estimated at \$15,000 for 2012, a significant part of our operating budget.

Tax Benefits – Your gift of up to \$200 (per individual) or \$400 (per couple) is eligible for a 50% tax credit on your State of Michigan tax return. In addition, the full amount of the gift qualifies for a deduction on an itemized federal income tax return. A \$200 contribution to BUC's fund thus actually costs you about \$50. and will provide perpetual support for our church! ***This is the last year for the State of Michigan tax credit: it has been eliminated in the State budget for 2012. SO---***

Please make out your check to Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, with the note "BUC Fund" in the memo line, and get it to the BUC office ***by December 21st***

Questions? Endowment Committee members will be in the Social Hall during coffee hours through December 18, or call: Betty Blair, Donna Cunningham, Ron Fredrick, Dick Schwing, Nancy Jones.

Multi-Generational Worship Services @ BUC

One of the changes you may notice in our Sunday worship schedule this year involves more frequent multigenerational services, under the direction of Lifespan Education Team member Pamela McAlpin. Current plans call for a multigenerational service to be offered at least once each month through the regular church year.

Several reasons lie behind this decision to provide multigenerational worship. First, it expands our traditional worship repertoire into areas we might not explore otherwise, such as interactive elements in worship, new varieties of music, a different order for the service, and the inclusion of such alternative expressions as drama and dance. Second, a multigenerational service provides the opportunity for the participation of different ages in the planning and presentation of worship, giving our young people the chance to try their hand at leading parts of a service. Third, inviting the presence of all generations in the sanctuary, rather than just adults, is a reminder that our church community includes all ages and represents a commitment to be a church for all ages. Finally, everyone has a very different sort of worship experience when multiple ages are present, when children share worship with adults, enriching our individual and collective spiritual journeys.

If you wonder whether multigenerational worship will appeal to you because it might be "dumbed down" for kids or not provide a challenging sermon, set aside your doubts and try out several of these services. Good multigenerational worship involves varied senses and learning modalities, combines humor and insight, and speaks to all of us, of any age, wherever we are in our journey. See you at church!

Troy-area Interfaith Group Opening

There is a potential opening on the leadership team in the Troy-area Interfaith Group (TIG) for a Unitarian-Universalist if anyone is interested.

At this point, the UU representative on the committee is myself, Chris Rudolph. I'm having various time constraints on Monday evenings that are causing a time conflict with the general meetings of the Troy-area Interfaith Group. Additionally, and quite honestly, I haven't really been involved with an area UU Congregation in some time, even though I keep up on UU news and such. For these reasons, I think it would behoove me to see if there is any other UU person looking to take the spot.

It is a rather easy position. There is a general monthly meeting of the Troy-area Interfaith Group, the first Monday of every month at 7:00 (No meetings in July). About an hour before this meeting, at about 6:00 to 6:15 is when the leadership group meets. Mostly, you just vote on weather issues should be brought to the attention of the whole group at-large, come up with subjects to discuss at the monthly meetings, and initiate the organizing of the major events of the Troy-area Interfaith Group (National Day of Prayer, International Day of Peace, and Thanksgiving). It also does not mean you have to volunteer for everything either, volunteers usually come from the general group population.

What they try to do for the leadership team is to have a representative from each of the religious faiths in the area. So the goal is to always have someone from the UU faith on this committee, which is why I'm sending this letter out to the three local congregations; Emerson (a founding member of the group), Paint Creek, and BUC; asking if anybody else is interested in taking the spot I'm currently in. If anyone is interested or has any questions, please feel free to contact me, Chris Rudolph: crudolph8@gmail.com or (586) 248-2149.

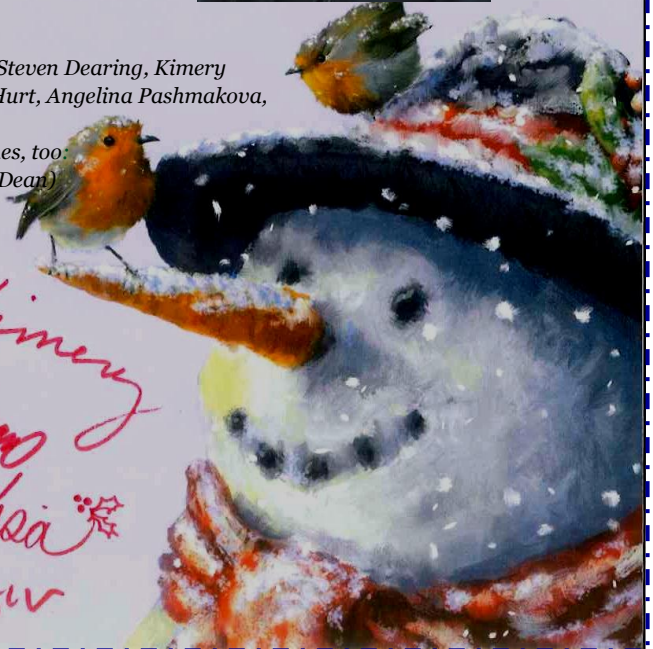
The December 5th meeting for the Troy-area Interfaith Group will be at 7:00 pm, at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 3633 W. Big Beaver in Troy. We will hear a presentation on "Action by Presence" by Michael Horlacker. Please bring a simple dessert or snack to share.

Happy Holidays, From the Staff @ BUC



Jim Shettel, Kim Ruiz, Pam McAlpin, Steven Dearing, Kimery Campbell, Jason MacDonald, Kathy Hurt, Angelina Pashmakova, Lisa Crawford, and Eleanor McGuire
(Not pictured, but sending their wishes, too: Abha Dearing, Kitty Ayers, and Jim Dean)

Handwritten signatures in red ink: Angelina, Pamela, Kimery, Jim, Jason, Lisa, Abha, Eleanor, and Steven.



Return Address Correction Requested

First Class Postage

38651 Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
Ph: 248.647.2380
Web: www.bucmi.org
Email: buc@bucmi.org

Birmingham Unitarian Church

Advertisements

Emerson Cookie Sale!

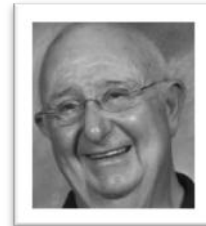
Emerson Church invites you to our 4th annual Homemade Holiday Cookies & more Sale! The Sale will be held on Sat., Dec. 10 from 10 am to 2 pm and on Sun., Dec. 11 from 11 am to 1 pm. We will again feature home-baked holiday cookie plates (\$8 -1 lb. plate; \$5 -1/2 lb. plate), other baked goodies, handmade pottery, and more! Look for Emerson Church (the "barn" church) at 4230 Livernois in Troy. We look forward to seeing you there!

Professional Home Health Aide

20 years' experience -
References available. Full-time, part-time, or single visit service.

Ken Kauffman

1-248-914-1122



All Submissions for the Newsletter must be received by midnight on the 20th of each month for the following months newsletter to the editor lisa.crawford@bucmi.org