



Birmingham Unitarian Church
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION



January Worship Theme



January 5: "Coping with Loss"



January 12: "The Insight that Brings Us to the Other Shore"



January 19: Martin Luther King, Jr.



January 26: Guest in the pulpit

January Services

5 "Coping with Loss"

Loss is a natural part of the human experience, but can be so difficult. Is it possible to gain something through our loss? Rev. Mandy Beal with Worship Associate Camille Harris and music from The Sound Messengers.

12 "The Insight that Brings Us to the Other Shore"

Buddhism has much to teach us about the practice of nonduality. But what does that mean? Rev. Mandy Beal with Worship Associate Abby Schreck and music from The Chalice Choir.

19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

This multigenerational service will explore themes of interconnectedness found in MLK's work for civil rights.

With Abby Schreck, Rev. Mandy, participants of all ages, and music from The Sound Messengers.

26 Guest in the pulpit. Worship Associate Camille Harris and music from The Chalice Choir.

Welcome to BUC

Sunday Worship Service
10:30 a.m.

We have nursery care for infant through preschool-aged children, and Sunday school classes for kindergarten-12th grade.

We routinely begin with children, youth, and adults together in the service, then following the Time for All Ages, the children and youth leave for class and meet up with adults following service.

The mission of Birmingham Unitarian Church is to create a free and welcoming religious community that encourages lives of integrity, learning, service, and joy.

Wholeness

Rev. Mandy Beal
Senior Minister



It's a new year and time for a new worship theme! Our January theme is "Wholeness." Last spring, I asked a few groups in our congregation to submit ideas for worship themes. I received a lot of requests for loss, death, suffering, and healing. I decided to put all of those together with a positive spin and call it "wholeness."

Every experience we have is temporary. As we move through periods of pain and loss, or even happiness and excitement, we can be assured that those moments will eventually end. Eastern religions and certain Western thinkers (especially the ones who studied Eastern religions) have noted that integration is the best outcome for our experiences. If we allow ourselves to become convinced that happiness will last forever, or that happiness is the goal in life and the way things "should be," we experience great suffering. Likewise, if we reject or ignore experiences of loss and suffering, we lose the possibility of rich growth and personal development. But if we take an approach of experiencing "what is" as it's happening, rather than clinging to it or wishing it away, we become more resilient to moving through all of life's seasons.

Eventually, when we've moved through an experience and we've had an opportunity to process it, our goal becomes to integrate that experience into who we are. We have no control over most of what happens to us, but we can turn our experiences into a growth opportunity. It is in this spirit that we enter into a month of exploring wholeness from a variety of perspectives.

In faith,

Rev. Mandy



Lunch with the Minister

Rev. Mandy is hosting a weekly brown bag lunch at BUC!

Join us on Monday afternoons from 12:00 noon –1:00 p.m. in the Red Door Classroom. We will meet every Monday, except holidays, until late May.

"Anti-racism Learning Ground" (Adult Religious Ed) Tuesdays in February-May | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Do you want to participate in conversations about race, but feel worried you'll say the wrong thing? Do you wish you felt more confident talking about race with people you may not agree with? Have you ever wondered why our congregation is overwhelmingly white?

If so, please join Rev. Mandy, Art Hillman, and Peggy Bocks for a 7-part Adult Religious Education opportunity. We will learn key concepts about race, the history of race in our country and in our religious tradition, and discuss how the race conversation has unfolded at BUC. In order to meet our different learning needs, our sessions will have opportunities for people of color to caucus, led by Art.

Our primary texts will be *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates and *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving. Scholarships are available to purchase these books (contact Rev. Mandy).

Join the discussion from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on the following Tuesdays: February 18, March 10, March 24, April 7, April 21, May 5, and May 19. This class is open to all BUCers. RSVP by February 11 is required – email mandy.beal@bucmi.org or call the church office.

Joys and Sorrows

From Rev. Mandy: “A note of joy for Dick Schwing, who turned 85 on December 8!”

And happy birthday to Pat Schwing, who celebrated her 80th birthday on December 22!

Joy from Larry Larson: “Thanks to Carol Winslow and many other volunteers, about fifty of us had a very enjoyable Thanksgiving Day dinner. We were not dining alone on that important day.”

Sorrow from Karen Stankye on the loss of her mentor and friend of 40+ years, Ruth Evans. Ruth hired Karen in 1977 and so is the reason Karen relocated to Michigan. Please keep Ruth’s only child, Janet, in your thoughts and prayers.

Joy from Ann Throop: “Many thanks and kudos to Abha and Steve and the choir for the wonderful music on Choir Sunday (Dec. 8). And extra-special thanks to Abha for taking on the role of soloist as well—at the very last minute. We are blessed with the quality of music at BUC.”

Sorrow from Kelly Taylor: “My friend lost her 40-year-old daughter to breast cancer on December 13. She left behind three small children. Please keep their family in your thoughts and prayers.”

Joy from Sookie Darlington: “Thank you to our congregation for sponsoring Adopt-a-Family, to Jane O’Neil for generous and competent skill in organizing this complicated process, and to all of us scouring online and in stores and organizing, purchasing, and wrapping the gifts. My group of three took care of presents for four kids plus family gifts—a joyful thanks to Camille Harris and Tim Smith in our endeavors, plus my son-in-law Chris Bunker, who used his engineering skills to assemble a remote-controlled bulldozer.”

Dec. 15 was the last Sunday that Lisa Demian and Jim Clark were with us before their official move to Kentucky. They have given so much to BUC and will be missed. Lisa and Jim’s new Kentucky address is in the church directory.

Joy from Dick Cantley: “What a joy it was to help the Bananagrammers at Walt Whitman Elementary School build their gingerbread houses. Special thanks to the crew that worked into the wee hours the night before to prepare (Mary Gawel-Ensroth, Karen Stankye, Barb Schandavel, and Mary Jo Ebert).

From Kathy Ransome: “Please think of cold men and women who are homeless during the holidays. I went to the Pope Francis Center early in the morning on Dec. 21 and helped serve breakfast to many men and women. Please give your assistance to the Pope Francis Center, South Oakland Shelter, and other warming centers.”

In mid-December, Jerry Grotsky died suddenly of a heart attack at age 40. He and his wife, Jenny, were members of Birmingham Temple, but Jenny grew up at BUC. Her parents are Tom and Marsha Bryant.

January Plate Collection



A portion of our Sunday plate collections in January will be going to the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence (MCPGV), a state chapter of the national nonprofit organization States United to Prevent Gun Violence, which was formed to support state programs to prevent gun violence. BUC is one of approximately 30 groups that comprise the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, which was started through the tireless efforts of Linda Brundage (current Chair) and other dedicated members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing. MCPGV advocates, in part, for legislation to curb gun violence through universal background checks, child-access

prevention, and a ban on military-type weapons and weapons in schools.

Any BUCer may nominate a local nonprofit to be a monthly plate-collection recipient by completing an application on our website (go to bucmi.org and click on the Plate Collection application under the Social Justice tab). Or contact Barbara Robinson (248-320-8366 for calls/texts or email brjdr8719@gmail.com) for help completing an application or to discuss a potential recipient and the guidelines we follow.



Issues and Ale

Friday, January 3 | 6:00 p.m. | Maggiano's in Troy

This month's meeting of the Issues and Ale group is **this Friday**, January 3, at 6:00 p.m. at Maggiano's Little Italy, located at 2089 W. Big Beaver Rd. in Troy. All are welcome to join this group for lively conversation on important social justice issues in an informal atmosphere. For more information, contact Aletha Craig at

aarvcraig@mac.com.

Sharing Dinners

Saturday, January 11

BUC's Sharing Dinner program provides a wonderful opportunity for friendship, fellowship, and conversation over potluck dinners in participants' homes on the second Saturday of each month. Anyone is welcome to join at any time. If you would like to participate in this month's dinner on Saturday, January 11, you have **just a little time** to email the coordinator, Dave Sabbagh. Message him at dsabbagh7@gmail.com by January 3 (**this Friday!**) and let him know if you will attend as a guest or if you can host (hosts are always much needed and appreciated!) If you can't make it this month, you can email Dave to get on the list for future dinners.



Confronting Racism presents

Dree Cooper

Tuesday, January 7 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Commons

Confronting Racism is a monthly discussion group focused on helping participants confront their own racism. In January, we welcome Dree Cooper, a Detroit activist who speaks candidly of her experiences as a black woman with a goal of breaking down privilege, racism, misogyny, white feminism, and a false sense of power. She makes clear why each of us must engage in the daily work of understanding and confronting racism in our society.

This event is open to BUC members and friends. For more information, contact Peggy Bocks at pbocks@gmail.com.



Dree Cooper

January Art Exhibit

January 10 - February 1 | BUC Gallery

| Opening reception |

Friday, January 10

6:30 p.m. - start

7:00 p.m. - artist's talk

Refreshments will be served



**SAFE
SPACE**

A photo documentary that looks into the LGBTQIA+ community of Detroit, a masculine and industrial city that's known for having a specific aesthetic. These images are authentic expressions of the stories behind the subject. Paired with them are quotes taken from interview sessions, providing another layer of personality to the narrative of the stories.

A series captured by photographer Christopher Gene, a Detroit based artist and College for Creative Studies Alumni. Join us Friday, January 10, 2020 for the Opening Reception for Safe Space. Located at the Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304.

JANUARY 10, 2020 - FEBRUARY 1, 2020

Getting to Know UU

Sunday, January 12 | 12:00 noon | Red Door Classroom



The fourth and final class in this fall's "Getting to Know UU" series will be Sunday, January 12, from 12:00 noon–1:30 p.m. in the Red Door Classroom. Rob Davidson facilitates these Sunday classes about Unitarian Universalism in general and BUC in particular. Bring your questions, your thoughts, and your spirituality. A light lunch will be provided, and childcare will be available. Whether you consider yourself a newcomer or have been attending for a while, you are welcome. Sign up at the Membership table in Hodas Family Hall, or RSVP to Rob at kathyd8082@gmail.com, and be sure to tell us if you need childcare.

Music at BUC

Happy New Year, dear beloved community at BUC! Winter cold is upon us, but we sincerely hope you had a chance to cozily rest and restore over the last couple of weeks. The holidays are often crazy-busy, but they can also include some much-needed downtime in the middle of the church year, if we are mindful of this as a priority.

The last months of music preparation were thrilling for our church musicians. Mozart's *Vespers* was a rich traditional piece with many difficult yet fulfilling passages. The sophisticated weaving of voice parts supported by a sparse but sufficient chamber ensemble was consummate mature Mozart. Many of you expressed to Steve and I that you really enjoyed the small orchestra, soloists, and choir's singing, especially as it was woven between spoken words. Our goal is to make the music aspects of the worship experience and congregational life as memorable and applicable as possible. Collaboration is such fun. Warm thanks for your support and words when I had to step in at the last minute as your soprano soloist. It was a bit scary and plenty exhilarating. It was a great reminder to me to make lemonade!

The Sound Messengers really brought the variety in December, as well. Not only did keyboardist Mark Watson and bassist Dave Uricek sing lead on songs for the Winter Solstice service, Steve and Shari collaborated to fill that multigenerational service with music of several styles and moods.

Forrest Howell, our fine pianist, has been consistent as an accompanist and chooses appropriate pieces to complement or improvise upon to help sustain the mood of our services.

Speaking of collaboration, Keith Ensroth, our Music Committee Chair, is including some words below. Please read what he has to say regarding how to get more involved (or encourage others around you!) in music. We try to keep things fresh and new within budgetary and worship parameters.

CHOIR NOW!! This is a perfect time to come to rehearsals and sing with the BUC Chalice Choir. Rehearsals for choir begin again on Wednesday, January 8 from 7:30-9:00 p.m in the sanctuary. Email me at abha.dearing@bucmi.org for more info. We will also be having a "no-fault choir" experience during our January 19 multigenerational worship service—all are welcome to participate!

Look for us to continue striving for excellence and deeply spiritual connections between the music and the rest of the service. May 2020 be full of great music and greater connections!

—Abha Dearing and Steven Dearing
Co-Directors of Music Ministry

From the Music Committee

Like the Music? Want to Join Our Team?

"The music committee's mission is to energize, sustain, and grow the charism of music in all aspects of BUC life through advice and support of the staff, congregation, and all other church organizations."

Most of our committee members are makers of music at BUC through the choir, the Sound Messengers and MAMA's Coffeehouse. We are looking for a couple new members who share in our mission and passion, but who are not necessarily music-makers. We meet once a month on Sunday after service. There is minimal prep for the meeting and many of us take on tasks to help further the mission. If you are interested in joining us, please feel free to talk with me or other members of the committee: Brian Schandavel, Andrea Zellner, or Larry Wisniewski.

Like the Music? Want to Help Make It?

Are you a musician who would like to share your talents with the beloved BUC community? We are always open to folks who want to contribute music to our Sunday services. Please reach out to Abha, Steven, or me if you want to share. There is a process for this. Performing in church can be a very rewarding experience for all.

—Keith Ensroth, Music Committee Chair
(248) 703-7725, Keith.Ensroth@gmail.com



Religious Education

Upcoming Events

Friday, January 3: GUUSH Zoo Lights

Saturday, January 4: ROPE late-nighter - 6:00 -10:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 5:

→ GUUSH meeting - 10:30 a.m., **Red Door**

→ ROPE meeting for parents - 12:00 p.m., **Commons**. Light lunch provided.

+ activity for children and youth - go to Commons to get lunch, then meet in **Blue Door**

→ Teacher training for youth advisers and teachers, 12:00 p.m. Light lunch - fill a plate in **Commons**, meet in **Red Door**

+ activity for children and youth provided

Thursday, January 9: Planning meeting for Bake-Off - 6:30 p.m., **Red Door**

Sunday, January 12:

→ Children and youth invited to join in a choir experience with Abha and Steven Dearing - 12:00 p.m.

+ light lunch - fill a plate in Large Conference Room beforehand

→ Curricula orientation for kindergarten through 5th-grade teachers - 12:00 p.m., Large Conference Room. Light lunch.

Sunday, January 19: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day multigenerational service. Children/youth choir sings.

Sunday, January 26: UFO meeting - 12:00 p.m. BUC's Unitarian Friendship Organization for 6th and 7th grade students. With pizza.

Bake-Off coming soon!

BUC's own Celebrity Bake-Off, our ROPE and youth group fundraiser, will be happening in early February! Stay tuned!

January Worship Theme: Wholeness

"It takes a village to raise a child"... or, "Who should teach in children's and youth religious education?"

Often grandparents, parents, and children are scattered across the country. Most of the places we seek community are divided up by age: dance classes, art classes, musical groups, fraternal organizations, schools and jobs, sports and exercise groups, etc. Churches are one of the few places left where we go and see people of all different ages. It is a kind of community that is desperately needed in our disconnected world today.

In our religious education classes, it is often parents who do most of the teaching, which makes sense in that they have the most motivation to be sure the programs are great! This is also an important entryway through which newer families get involved with and learn about our church.

On the other hand, it is so valuable when people take the time to build relationships across the generations. Knowing and being known by people of many different ages is a huge asset to young people. It has been shown to improve their lives and prevent many destructive behaviors. One model suggests that the cool young adults with small children should teach the youth, and older people who are not currently parenting should work with the young children. This leaves the parents of youth with the time and energy to build connections by serving on boards and committees that keep a church running. This way, everyone gets a break from their daily norm, and the whole community is knit more closely together. Additionally, all the adults model active participation in community for the young people to see. Interacting with and caring about people, young and old, is HOW we build that village!

Incidentally, we are looking for 6 or so more teachers or youth advisers for this semester. Plus, there are opportunities for one-time projects or holiday activities. If interested, give me a buzz.

–Shari Daly-Miller, Acting Director of Religious Education (shari.dre@bucmi.org)

Membership

The Membership Committee is excited to announce something new for 2020!

Did you know that February is Friendship Month? We also have Valentine's Day in there, a time to celebrate love. And our worship theme for February is "connection."

So, it looks like we picked the perfect time to have our inaugural <drumroll> MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION MONTH!

That's right. The month of February is all about YOU, members. We'll have special treats during coffee hour, and fun activities. We'll get caffeinated, get creative, and get connected!

Every week we'll also have our new Visitors and Membership Table staffed and stocked with materials, as well as a photo booth if you need to update your directory photo.

Haven't downloaded the Instant Church Directory to your smartphone yet? We may have some incentive for you. A free gift? A drawing? (I'm not really sure—we haven't planned it all yet.) But you're not going to want to miss it!

We're doing all this to say, "We see you. We appreciate you. And also: we're here for you, too! What do you need?"

Finally, the month-long celebration will end with a new member ceremony during service, and a reception. (Read: big Costco cake.)

We. Can't. Wait!

—Brianna Zamborsky and Sarah Isaksen, Membership Co-Chairs

Welcoming Congregation Renewal

It's a new year! No better time for an update on the status of our Welcoming Congregation renewal.

Our year to complete the requirements set by the UUA to renew our status as a "Welcoming Congregation" actually goes from June 2019–June 2020. So first, let's look back at how we lifted up and learned about the lives of the LGBTQ+ community in 2019:

June 2019

- Stonewall anniversary service (1 of 2 worship services)
- Plate donation to Ruth Ellis Center (1 of 1 support of a cause)

September 2019

- Bisexuality Day poem (1 of 6 observances during service)

October 2019

- National Coming Out Day song (2 of 6 observances during service)
- Queer History Month reading (3 of 6 observances during service)

November 2019

- Screening and discussion of the film *Treasure: From Tragedy to Transjustice, Mapping a Detroit Story* (1 of 1 teaching module)

December 2019

- World AIDS Day remembrance (4 of 6 observances during service)

Wow. What a wonderful catalog of inclusion and education.

In 2020, we will continue in this spirit with our beloved Daffodil Sunday service, which will fulfill our second service requirement. We'll also observe Transgender Day of Visibility in March and will finish out the "year" with an observance of Pride Month in June.

Thanks again to everyone for engaging with this important social justice work and answering the call of love.

—Welcoming Congregation Renewal Committee

Social and Environmental Justice

New day and time! The Social and Environmental Justice team has moved our meeting time to the **third Wednesday of each month**, at 6:45 p.m. in the Large Conference Room at BUC. All are welcome to attend meetings, and join us in our work. To be added to our email list for notices of BUC activities and outside events, please contact us at janeaoneil@gmail.com.

–Jane O’Neil and Julia Pulver, Co-Chairs

In December...

December 1: Welcoming Congregation recognized World Aids Day

December 3: Confronting Racism met to discuss the film *Harriet* about the life of Harriet Tubman

December 15: Paul Gross spoke to 85 audience members about climate change, and especially how it will affect Michigan. See a video of his talk at www.tinyurl.com/Gross-BUC

December 16: Adopt-a-Family delivered gifts for 171 children to Walt Whitman Elementary School

December 29: The Climate Change Resolution Task Force presented a New Year’s resolution service to focus on how our faith calls us to support the interdependent web of life and help us learn about dozens of solutions to the climate change crisis that we can support.

Mark your calendar in January for...

January 7: Confronting Racism presents Dree Cooper, a Detroit activist who speaks candidly of her experiences as a black woman

January 10: Exhibit-opening reception and artist’s talk by photographer Christopher Gene, presented by the Art Exhibits Committee

January 15: SEJ monthly meeting

January 26: After service: Professor Julia Cole on how the Great Lakes will be affected by climate change

January 30: The Art Exhibits Committee invites you to a BUC trip to the DIA. We will be guided by a docent to view the current exhibit *Detroit Collects*, art by African American artists collected by Detroit-area art collectors.

BUC Visits the DIA

Detroit Collects, currently on exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts, is art by African American artists which is owned by private collectors who live in Detroit.

On Thursday, January 30, everyone who is 55 or older is invited to attend this exhibit with BUC. The DIA-provided bus will pick us up at BUC at 12:00 noon and deliver us to the DIA. We will be guided through the *Detroit Collects* show by a docent, and then will have some free time in the museum before the bus leaves at 3:30 to bring us back. There is no cost to us for this trip; it is part of Thursdays at the Museum.

To register, go to www.tinyurl.com/BUC-DIA or email janeaoneil@gmail.com. For more information about the show, visit <https://www.dia.org/detroitcollects>.

Holiday Joy Delivered

171 children (and their parents) had a happier holiday this year because of YOU! Because of your generosity and the work of shopping and wrapping and delivering bags, these families know that others care about them and want to help.

This year, the Adopt-a-Family program adopted 52 families large and small. We had participation at BUC from new members, seasoned veterans, individuals, and groups. It all came together on December 16 with the hardy group of drivers who filled their cars and made like reindeer delivering bags of joy (and school uniforms, too).

Many, many thanks to everyone who participated and to the team of volunteers who made it all happen: Cheryl and Jim Shettel, Barb and Dennis Aylward, Barbara Robinson, Nate Schreck, Andrew Schreck, Arlena Heter, Dan O’Neil, Barb and Brian Schandavel, Paul Plante, and Bob Clement.

Climate Change Resolution Task Force

In May, members of BUC will be asked to vote on the resolution below. The Climate Change Resolution Task Force created this resolution to provide an avenue for BUC to fight climate change, in part by endorsing the Energy Innovation Act.

The Resolution will be put to a congregational vote at the 2020 Annual Meeting. To be adopted, the Resolution must pass by 75%.

We are conducting informational sessions this winter and spring to educate congregants about the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act and other points of the Resolution. In addition, we have hosted or will host several speakers on various aspects of climate change and sustainability, including Dr. Paul Clements of Western Michigan University, Paul Gross of WDIV, Dr. Julia Cole of the University of Michigan, and Tracy Purrenhage of SOCRRA.

To learn more about the Resolution, or to join the committee, go to www.bucmi.org/service-justice or ask any Task Force member.

—Climate Change Resolution Task Force:

Anne Calomeni, Mary Dunn, Mary Jo Ebert, Izzy Khapoya, Jane O’Neil, Karen Stankye, Kurtis Zetouna



Climate Change Resolution

Be it resolved that the congregation of the Birmingham Unitarian Church (BUC) favors:

1. Public policy actions to lower greenhouse gasses quickly
2. Recognition that fossil fuel pollution causes far-reaching negative health consequences
3. Speedy transition from use of fossil fuels to renewable energy by individuals, corporations, state and local governments
4. Participation in the fast-evolving non-carbon economy

To bring our actions into alignment with our position, BUC will:

- Endorse the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act as introduced in the 116th Congress of the United States
- Provide educational programs on
 - use of fossil fuels, their impacts, and alternative energy sources
 - environmental justice and collaboration with frontline communities
- Renew commitment to BUC’s Green Sanctuary ministry.

Green Sanctuary Ministry Major Water Victory for BUC Plate Recipient

Last April we devoted part of our Sunday plate collection to Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation in its case against giant corporation Nestlé’s grab of millions of gallons of fresh water from Evart, Michigan. In December, we got the wonderful news that the Michigan Court of Appeals has ruled against Nestlé’s insistence that their bottled water operation is an “essential public service.”

Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation argues that the effect of such pumping is to draw down the water table, depleting an agricultural resource and damaging the surrounding ecosystem. Thanks to funds donated by water advocates like us, our rights to the water under our feet has been protected.

Your Green Sanctuary Ministry joins the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network, through alliance with the People’s Water Board of Flint and Detroit, in advocating for *water as a human right*. The victory in the Nestlé case is another example of what one church can do when it joins with other organizations to work for a common cause.

We have applied for a second plate collection in 2020. Meanwhile, please donate generously at www.saveMiwater.org, as they still have \$80,000 to pay in legal fees.

—Annis Pratt for the Green Sanctuary Ministry



Bananagrams Program Needs Helpers



The Banagrams team at Walt Whitman Elementary School is recruiting a few people for the months of January and February when some of our team members will be unavailable. On Thursdays from 4:00-5:30 p.m., we help K-5 students at the elementary school in Pontiac work on spelling and vocabulary skills. Contact Barb Schandavel, Karen Stankye, or Mary Jo Ebert if interested.

Welcome Inn

The Welcome Inn opened at Starr Presbyterian Church, 1717 W. 13 Mile in Royal Oak, on December 16. As always, BUCers stepped right in to make donations, purchase supplies, work in the clothes closet, and cook and/or serve hearty casserole meals. Did you know you can cook a casserole at home (or gather a group of friends to make several) and they will be delivered for you?

What do the unhoused ask of us? The late mystery novelist Sue Grafton put it so well in *W is for Wasted*: “They want respect, freedom from hunger, shelter from the elements, safety, the companionship of the like-minded. They want to live without fear. They want to enjoy the probity of the open air without the risk of bodily harm. They want to be warm. They want the comfort of a clean bed when they are ill, relief from pain, a hand offered in friendship. Ordinary conversation.”

To join our volunteers at the Welcome Inn, see Annis Pratt during social hour on Sunday to sign up, or contact her at avpratt@aol.com or (248) 644-0737.

Monetary donations can be mailed to South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless, P.O. Box 1937, Royal Oak, MI 48068.

MAMA's Coffeehouse: James Keelaghan

Saturday, January 18 | 8:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

\$15 adults | \$13 students/seniors

Tickets at the door only

Dave Marsh, the preeminent American music critic, described James Keelaghan as “Canada’s finest songwriter”; with the number of legendary songwriters from the north country, that’s very high praise. Armed with a songbook that has enlightened, enthralled, and been embraced by audiences around the world, Keelaghan’s life as an artist is one that is a perpetual journey on many levels, a journey that has invited fans of literate and layered songwriting to be a part of his artistic expeditions. Some of his songs weave their way through marvelously etched stories of a historical nature with underlying universal themes, and others mine the depths of the soul and the emotional trails of human relations. Over the course of nine recordings, his masterful storytelling has been part of the bedrock of his success, earning Keelaghan his share of nominations and awards, and acclaim from Australia to Scandinavia.

As always, MAMA’s will have beverages and snacks available.

Open mic at 7:30 p.m. Interested in performing? Send a note to mamascoffeehouse@bucmi.org.

More info at: keelaghan.com, mamas-coffeehouse.org, [Facebook.com/MAMAsCoffeehouse](https://www.facebook.com/MAMAsCoffeehouse)



Countdown to the TALENT & SERVICE AUCTION 2020!



Film Buffs

Shoplifters | Friday, January 24 | 7:00 p.m. | Commons



“With his radiant new masterwork *Shoplifters*, Japan’s great Hirokazu Kore-eda (*After the Storm*) turns his eye on an often-invisible segment of modern Japanese society; those struggling to stay afloat in the face of desperate poverty. Kore-eda’s wise and engrossing drama is the story of a Tokyo family of societal castoffs, surviving day-to-day by a routine of petty thefts. But when the family reaches beyond its modest means to take in a traumatized young girl, *Shoplifters* gently expands into an eloquent, surprising, wholly irresistible revelation of the true meaning of family. Winner of the Palme d’Or at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival. In Japanese with English subtitles. (Japan, 2018, R, 121 minutes)” —*Detroit Film Theatre Film Guide Winter 2019*

“A masterpiece.” —*The Wall Street Journal*

Snacks provided. For more information, contact Larry at 248-569-0965 or LJWisniew@yahoo.com.

Humanists of BUC

Sunday, January 26 | 12:00 noon | Lower Level Classroom

The Humanists of BUC will be meeting on Sunday, January 26 at 12:00 noon in the Lower Level Classroom. Our featured speaker will be Dan Kosuth on “My Core Values.” Dan has been an admired church leader for many years. He is especially known for his commitment to environmental justice. Attendees will have an opportunity for questions and comments on their values as well.

As usual, a light lunch will be provided at 12:00 noon with a short talk on Humanism at 12:15, followed by Dan’s talk and discussion. We usually end by 1:15 to 1:30.

We need your support and participation, so please join us on January 26.

For questions or comments, email Larry Larson at lawrencejudy@yahoo.com.

Sunday Morning Discussion Group

Sundays | 9:00 - 10:15 a.m. | Lower Level Classroom

The Sunday Morning Discussion Group meets from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. every Sunday morning in the Lower Level Classroom. Each week the topic to be discussed is determined by majority vote from topics anyone can nominate. However, on January 12, February 9, and March 8, we will discuss the book *The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care* by T. R. Reid. On January 12, the prologue and Chapters 1-3 will be covered. On February 9, Chapters 4-9 will be covered. On March 8, Chapters 10-13 and the appendix will conclude the discussion of this important book.

We light a candle at our meetings, symbolizing the light of experiences, opinions, and perspectives. We're also developing friendships to strengthen our community. Please join us.

Send an email to Larry Larson with questions or comments: lawrencejudy@yahoo.com.

Living by Heart

Mondays 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. | Red Door



The Living by Heart group meets in the afternoon hours during winter to make travel easier. From December through February, we will be meeting on Monday afternoons from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the Red Door Classroom. We use both simple art techniques and writing techniques to explore what matters most in our lives. Open to all genders, and no experience is necessary. Bring a journal, a pen, and any art supplies you like. Contacts Karen Schreck (ktschreck@icloud.com)

Grief Support Group

2nd Tuesdays | 3:00 p.m.

Large Conference Room



The Grief Support Group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. in the Large Conference Room. All are welcome who have had a human

loss, recent or past. Facilitated by Alison Rule (248-320-1021).

Caregivers Support Group

2nd Wednesdays | 2:00 p.m.

Small Conference Room



Being a caregiver can be an isolating, overwhelming, and challenging experience. We offer support for those doing the supporting. The group meets on the second

Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in the Small Conference Room. Facilitated by Alison Rule (248-320-1021).

Alliance

It was good to see so many at the Alliance Holiday Luncheon at the Iroquois Club. The contributions to CUFC (Communities United for Children) will help provide needed support for the children at Walt Whitman Elementary School.

There is no January Alliance meeting, but mark your calendars for our programs in 2020. Our February 19 meeting will feature Dr. Michael Yokum from Oakland Schools. He'll talk on the state of Michigan schools. There is no meeting in March. The April 15 meeting will be on immigration in Detroit and Michigan with Kevin Picuch, an attorney and Executive Director of the Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center. No meeting in May due to Rummage. We end the program year with our annual meeting on June 3. We hope you will join us at these meetings.

Best wishes to all for the holiday season, and we wish everyone happiness and good health in the New Year!

—Ann Throop for the Alliance Committee

Birmingham Unitarian Church
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Pastoral Care

Pastoral care associates are specially trained lay members of BUC. They work in collaboration with the minister to extend their services throughout the congregation. Pastoral care involves:

- Being present with the person
- Listening to the person describe his or her situation
- Asking appropriate questions to help the person tell their story
- Offering empathy and emotional support
- Referring to the minister, if appropriate, for pastoral counseling

The minister offers pastoral counseling. Pastoral counseling is typically short term and may lead to referral to other support resources.

Pastoral care also has a “Helping Hands” program that provides short-term practical support like food and transportation. If you know of anyone who needs pastoral care support, please let the minister or a pastoral care associate know. Also, if you know of someone who is housebound and would like a visit, please let us know.

Current Pastoral Care Associates are Alison Rule (Chair), Cindy Goldman, Ed Sharples, Paul Fordree, Mary Markovski, Helen Strahl, and Kim Schultes. The Helping Hands Coordinator is Heidi Kapsokavathis.