



Birmingham Unitarian Church
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION



BUC hosts November 3 – 10

Welcome to BUC

Sunday Worship Service
10:30 a.m.

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

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

November
Worship
Theme



Wings



November 3: "Love over Fear"



November 10: "Us and Them"



November 17: "Justice"



November 24: "The Mayflower Compact"

November Services

3 "Love over Fear"

The topic of climate change can bring up feelings of hopelessness that hinder our ability to be engaged. How might our Universalist heritage inspire us to approach this subject with love instead of fear? Rev. Mandy Beal with Worship Associate Donna Larkin Mohr and music from The Chalice Choir.

10 "Us and Them"

The Calvinism of our Puritan ancestors is based in a belief that some are chosen and some are not. Are there echoes of this theology underpinning our current immigration crisis? Rev. Mandy Beal with Worship Associate Tony Kubien and music from The Sound Messengers.

17 "Justice"

Join us as we explore Justice and the many manifestations it embodies here at BUC and elsewhere in our lives. Sharing their beliefs, ideas, and the role justice plays in their faith will be Sara Constantakis, Mary Jo Ebert, and Julia Pulver, accompanied by Worship Associate Donna Larkin Mohr. Music from The Chalice Choir.

24 "The Mayflower Compact"

The Mayflower Compact is considered one of the foundational covenants of our liberal religious tradition. As we prepare to mark the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's landing, how do we reconcile this legacy with the tragedies we know were wrought upon the indigenous people of this continent? Rev. Mandy Beal with Worship Associate Tony Kubien and music from The Sound Messengers.

Wings

Rev. Mandy Beal
Senior Minister



Someone once told me that because Unitarian Universalism was short on theology, we have to be long on social justice. I've never laughed so hard and been so mad at the same time. I don't believe this statement to be true, but I also recognize that a lot of people probably feel this way. I would actually argue almost the opposite: it is because of our theology that we are compelled to act for social justice.

November's worship theme is "Wings," which is a call back to our September theme, "Roots." I think many of us are familiar with the line from the hymn "Spirit of Life": "...roots hold me close, wings set me free..." This line inspired our September exploration of UU history and theology (roots) and our November exploration of how that inspires our actions today (wings). We'll specifically use our theology to explore issues related to immigration, climate action, and the treatment of the Indigenous peoples of this continent.

As UUs, we are not required to agree on a certain doctrine or theological perspective. We do not have an orthodoxy (meaning right-doctrine). We do, however, have an orthopraxy (meaning right-practice). Whereas we might have different beliefs and philosophies about the nature of life and the universe, we all arrive at the same conclusion that every person has inherent worth and dignity. We travel by many streams, but we reach the same ocean of compassion and concern for others who share with us in Life.

We believe that we are bound together through this experience and that the concerns of others are our own concerns. As a covenantal religious tradition, we are defined by our relationships with one another. How could we be the inheritors of these theologies, how could we call ourselves Unitarian Universalists, and not be concerned about the plights of others? I'm not sure we could.

In faith,

Rev. Mandy

Joys and Sorrows

Jesse Beal requested prayers and positive thoughts for members of the LGBTQ community on October 8, when the US Supreme Court heard three employment discrimination cases to determine if it is legal to fire LGBTQ people in the United States for their sexual orientation or gender identity.

A joy from Larry Larson: "I'm so proud of our church in providing a rummage sale. Hundreds of clothing items went to the poor, including seven large bags to be sent to Nigeria."

A sorrow from Kathy DuHame: "Mike Kendra's mom, Barbara Kendra, passed away on September 29 at the age of 90. She will be missed by all who knew her."

Emily Dearing, mom to Steven Dearing, mom-in-law to Abha Dearing, and Mimi to Rahk and Raina, died on Wednesday, October 2, after a battle with liver cancer. She was a spirited, amazing grandmother and an inspiring mom with a generous artist-heart and lust for life. She will be missed by all who knew her. Emily's family held a celebration of her life in Windsor on October 19.

From Pat Butkiewicz: "For the people of Japan suffering after the October 12 tsunami; for the Kurds and the people of Syria for the tragedy unleashed upon them."

Brenda McDonald died on October 13. Brenda was a part of the BUC community for almost 50 years. She was a beloved staff member in our music program, serving as the director of BUC's Children's Choir. Brenda suffered from a degenerative neurological disorder that kept her from attending BUC events in recent years, but she maintained an active interest in our congregation. She will be remembered for her kindness, humor, and tenacity. A memorial service was held on October 26.

A concern from Kelly Taylor: "Please send thoughts to my father, whose brain tumor has returned. We will meet with doctors to hopefully set a plan of treatment in place."

Diane Licholat-Surati asks for prayers and positive healing thoughts for their nephew, Andrew. He was stricken with Guillain-Barré syndrome and is in the hospital fighting paralyzing symptoms. Also keep his wife (our niece, Rachel) and their 6-month baby James in your thoughts.

Tanya Nordhaus started a remyelination study for her MS on October 21. So promising!

From the Board

As I mentioned in the September newsletter, the board is working on understanding and expressing the vision of BUC. Ultimately, this comes from you, the congregation. To craft our vision, we are asking three questions:

- * *How does BUC feed you emotionally and/or spiritually?*
- * *What will keep you here during the next 5 years?*
- * *What are your aspirations for BUC?*

We will hold several events to explore these questions:

- * A town hall on Friday, November 15 at 7:00 p.m.
- * A potluck dinner on Saturday, November 23 at 6:00 p.m.
- * Opportunities to share your ideas in the social hour after service
- * A survey to be conducted in the months following

(We are offering several ways for you to express yourself; we do not expect you to participate in all of these.)

Childcare is available for the town hall and the potluck dinner; RSVP to Shari Daly-Miller (shari.dre@bucmi.org) if you are interested.

We are excited to hear your answers to these questions and your ideas about the future of BUC!

—Bruce Webber, President, Board of Trustees



Issues and Ale

Friday, November 1 | 6:00 p.m. | Maggiano's

This month's meeting of the Issues and Ale group is **this Friday**, November 1, at 6:00 p.m. at a new location: 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 Jay at sigma373@yahoo.com.

Sharing Dinners

Saturday, November 9

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 (excluding December). Anyone is welcome to join at any time. If you would like to participate in this month's dinner on Saturday, November 9, you have **just a little time** to email the coordinator, Dave Sabbagh. Message him at dsabbagh7@gmail.com by November 2 (**this Saturday!**) 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.



Getting to Know UU

Sunday, November 10 | 12:00 noon | Red Door Classroom



Our biannual “Getting to Know UU” series continues with the second class on Sunday, November 10, 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! The last two classes in the series will be on December 15 and January 12. A light lunch will be provided, and childcare will be available. Come to as many classes as you like. 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.

Thanksgiving Dinner at BUC



Unsure what you are doing for Thanksgiving? Too busy to plan anything? Don't feel like traveling long distances or having people over this year? Come join us for a wonderful potluck dinner at BUC on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday November 28.

Sign up at church after service on November 3, 10, and 17 or contact Carol Winslow at cwin@att.net.

Carol provides turkey and fixings (for a modest fee to defray costs).

Carol is also seeking someone who would be willing to help coordinate the dinner with her.



Interested in Being a Helping Hands Volunteer?



Do you want to get involved in the life of BUC but don't know where to begin? I have a suggestion. Consider helping with the work of the Helping Hands team. HH exists to serve the needs of those who need tangible, short-term assistance, mostly with things like meals or transportation. When it comes to providing a meal, you don't even need to be a great cook or know how to throw together a scrumptious casserole. As long as a healthy meal is provided, it could come from your favorite restaurant or the corner deli!

If you are interested in joining HH but have questions, please feel free to contact me. I'd love to hear from you!

Yours in faith,

Heidi Kapsokavathis
 HH Team Coordinator
 (248) 930-8009
hikeannie@gmail.com

Humanists of BUC

Sunday, November 17 | 12:00 noon | Lower Level Classroom

The Humanists of BUC’s November program will be presented in collaboration with the Social and Environmental Justice Committee. Join us on November 17 at 12:00 noon in the Lower Level Classroom when Mary Dunn will present a program entitled “Solving the Climate Challenge.”

A light lunch will be provided at noon followed by a brief talk on Humanism before the primary topic, the climate crisis and what we can do about it.

Everyone is welcome. We are continuing our fifth year of providing leaders and members of our church and community the opportunity to express their views and lead discussions on important subjects. All are welcome to participate in learning and spiritual growth.

For general information about the Humanists of BUC, contact Larry Larson at lawrencejudy@yahoo.com.

Alliance

Wednesday, November 20 | 12:00 noon

The Alliance got off to a good start in October with a delicious lunch catered by Anne Calomeni followed by an informative talk on climate change with Mary Dunn and Jane O’Neil.



Our November meeting is Wednesday, November 20. We will meet at 12:00 noon in the Pavilion for a brown-bag lunch. The Alliance will provide coffee, tea, cookies, and grapes. Following lunch, we will meet in the Commons at 1:00 p.m. for our program. The speaker will be Linda Brundage, Executive Director of the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, a grassroots organization working toward the prevention of gun violence through community education and stronger gun laws. Mark your calendars to join us on Wednesday, November 20.



Our annual Holiday Luncheon will be on Tuesday, December 10

at the Iroquois Club in Bloomfield Hills. Information will be sent in a letter. Reservations are required for the luncheon. Mark your calendars.

—Ann Throop for the Alliance Committee

BUC Sustainable Living Resource Page



Looking for a place to order those mesh produce bags? Wondering if anyone you know has used those walnut scrubby pads? OR do you want to share your experience with a “green” product or service?

There is a place for you. Visit www.TinyUrl.com/BUC-green. This is a spot where BUC members and friends can share info on how to be more green—putting our values into practice. This is a place to share info on products we like and don’t like, services that might be useful (or not), and books we found to be informative and inspiring.

If you have something to share on the website, send an email to Marie Davids at mariedavids@yahoo.com, who will get all the pertinent information from you and will put it up on the site for all to see.

Music at BUC

As we reflect on the whirlwind Autumn we are experiencing, Steve and I would like to express deep gratitude for all the hugs, emails, cards, gestures, presence, and condolences you sent our way after the short illness and passing of Steve's dear mother, Emily Dearing. In our capacity as your Co-Directors of Music Ministry, and in the almost-twenty-year relationship we have forged with you and this beloved congregation, we have experienced many of life's highs and lows. We are comforted by the knowledge that Steve, Rakesh, Raina, and I reside firmly in your care. We feel deep gratitude for you.

Though we were dealing with many heartfelt issues, the BUC Music community continued to busily prepare many wonderful music events. The SoundBites committee hosted a successful SoundBites concert featuring the Brazeal Dennard Chorale. It was thrilling to hear this legendary group's intensity, watch their attention to detail, and hear the passionate reverence in all their music. The treats and drinks afterwards were delectable as usual. Steven feels deep appreciation for all the hands who helped make this possible, including: greeters and ticket takers Mary Gawel-Ensroth and Keith Ensroth; bakers Amy Smalley, Judy Amir, Barb Schandavel, Marcia Mahood, Teresa Honnold, and Barb Eschner; and bartenders Dick Cantley and Pat Schwing. Thanks also to those who helped turn the sanctuary into a concert venue and make Hodas Family Hall ready for coffee hour again.

The guiding monthly themes of "Roots" (September) and "The Divine Feminine" (October) have borne the music offerings within the services. Steve and I both have prioritized taking the time to delve deeply in conversations and reflections with each other, Rev. Mandy, and musicians here and in the wider Association of Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries about the many facets of these ideas. When this dialogue takes place, our integration of music within the worship experience becomes richer and, hopefully, a collective spiritual transcendence occurs. This is one of the reasons why we LOVE meetings (no eyeroll insert—we are serious!). They offer us a chance to connect with our Music Committee, fellow staff members, Worship Associates, and other folks so we can learn what moves each of us and tailor worship for what we all need. We also remind each other that even if one person didn't "like" something we did, someone else needed that in that particular moment. Church is for all of us.

It was personally fulfilling to hear and see Hinduism and Diwali, the Festival of Lights, be explained and celebrated at BUC in such a layered, faceted way that brought Hinduism out of the "other" and related it to each of us. Within each of us, there are these elements of humanity which Hindu mythology addresses: pain, jealousy, frustration, hope, courage, love, and peace, among many others. The goddess Durga was shown in her fullness and universality through Rev. Mandy's sermon, Ramesh Mangrulkar and Krishnan's music, Bill Fox's reflection, and the carefully chosen hymns. So many of you took a risk and sang along with the Hindi bhajan (hymn) and showed your openness to the messages within the service. Diwali was also commemorated with the help of Latika Mangrulkar, Shari Daly-Miller's creativity, and several other aspects. And then the costumes and candy!

Many BUCers knew Brenda McDonald, a longtime member of BUC who was also Choir Director and Children's Choir Director for a short time about 40 years ago. She passed away mid-October. Members of the Chalice Choir sang "In Remembrance" while Music Director Emerita and dear friend of Brenda, Barbara Woolf, played piano for the lovely memorial held to commemorate Brenda's life.

Heading into November, our theme of "Wings" gives us further opportunities for growth and proactive challenges. We will be inspired to put our faith into action. Speaking of action: the Chalice Choir is busy preparing for the Mozart Vespers performance on Sunday, December 8 (Choir: don't forget the BIG rehearsal on Saturday, December 7 from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon!). We will have soloists and a chamber orchestra accompanying the Chalice Choir and it will surely be a spirited morning. The Vespers will be presented as it was originally intended: surrounded by readings and the regular business of the service. Please mark your calendars. If you have prior choir experience, you can still join Choir to prepare for the regular services AND the Mozart. If you have not sung for several years, we welcome you in January, which is a wonderful time to join us. Contact abha.dearing@bucmi.org for all choir information.

Do you have a particular piece you are eager to perform at church during the offertory portion of the service? Please contact Steven at steven.dearing@bucmi.org to discuss the theme of your musical idea, and we will try to work it into a service. There is quite a lot of talent and creativity in our midst and we want to include as many of you as we can.

With love and gratitude for this beloved community,

Abha Dearing and Steven Dearing
Co-Directors of Music Ministry



Religious Education

A huge “Thank You!!!” to everyone who put together or attended the Trunk or Treat! It was so fun we will want to do it again!



Kubien Family



Judy Amir



Dan & Sarah Isaksen



Joanne Copeland

The **K-2nd and 3rd-5th** grade classes (**Green Door**) are starting new curricula from the UUA’s Tapestry of Faith programs.

The **6th-7th** grade Neighboring Faiths group (**Blue Door**) is studying Hinduism, and will visit a local temple.

The **8th grade** OWL students (**Commons and Northwest UU**) are meeting each Sunday this month.

The **High School** class (**Red Door**) continues with “The 5th Dimension,” a curriculum based on *The Twilight Zone* by UU Rod Serling.



GUUSH: The Great UU Senior High Youth Group

The next meeting of the youth group will be Sunday, November 3 at 10:15 a.m. in the **Red Door**. We have already solidified a bunch of social action and church event participation, and now we need to plan some activities that are just for fun! Bring your ideas.

In the coming weeks, we will be participating in the SOS setup after church on Sunday, November 3 and helping with SOS meal prep on Friday, November 8.

Poinsettias Are Coming!

Look for the poinsettia tables after service to order your holiday flowers. The poinsettia sale is a fundraiser to raise money for the 8th graders’ ROPE trip to Boston. Delivery of poinsettia orders will be on Sunday, December 1.

November Worship Theme: Wings

My childhood included regular church attendance. When I was a teen, I was honored to be asked to teach in the Sunday school program of the church where I grew up. I also served on the social justice committee, working on programs that addressed hunger and poverty. But what were most important to me were the youth retreats, which gave me the hope to work through the sometimes miserable parts of my teen life. The people I went to camp with are still companions on my life journey; now, we are all on Facebook.

As a young adult, I joined a UU congregation, and I went straight into serving as a youth advisor. Through district-level cons (conferences) and youth leadership weekends, I was trained on how to be a quality youth advisor. After I married and moved to the Western Slope of Colorado, I found the UU fellowship there was dormant. I started planning to revitalize this group, because I wanted my children to experience a loving church home like I’d had. The roots that had sustained me as a child became the wings that helped a small UU society to flourish into the full congregation that exists today.

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

Changes in the Leadership Development Committee

The LDC has a joy and a sorrow. We are heartbroken to report that our beloved Lisa Demian is leaving for greener pastures in beautiful Kentucky. While we will miss her leadership and wisdom more than words can convey, we are thrilled about the new chapter in her life and wish her the most joy and happiness in her new home. Our joy is that Camille Harris will be joining the LDC in Lisa’s stead. Welcome, Camille! We are so happy to have you! The LDC will be meeting on Sunday, November 3 at 9:00 a.m. in the Large Conference room.

—Andrea Zellner, on behalf of the LDC

MAMA's Coffeehouse: Annie & Rod Capps Band

Saturday, November 16 | 8:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

\$15 adults | \$13 students/seniors

Tickets at the door only

Their brief description reads: "Songs about broken things and poignant little ponderings delivered with a rootsy vibe, a touch of twang, and a soulful groove." Add to that "impeccable musicianship, intricate arrangements, and engaging stage presence," and you begin to describe an Annie & Rod Capps show. Stringmaster Jason Dennie and bassist Ozzie Andrews complete this talented ensemble. This is the last in a series of CD release concerts promoting their new recording, *When They Fall*.

"These two are the real deal and your life will be richer for having seen and heard them, and for owning their CDs. So treat yourself!"

—Al Kniola, "The Back Porch," 88.1 WVPE Public Radio

Bill Edwards will open the show.

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

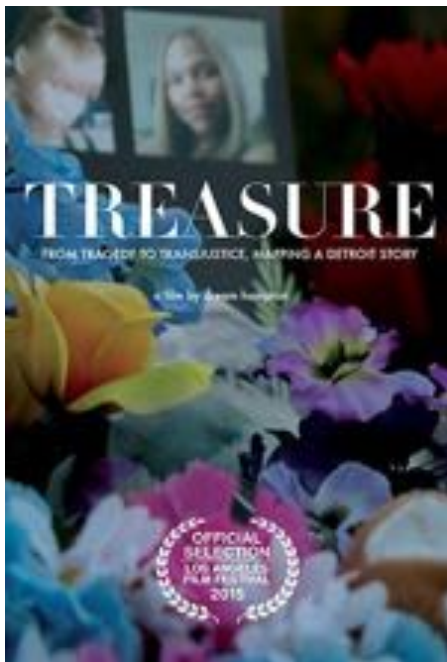
Open mic at 7:30 p.m. Interested in performing? Send a note to mamascOFFEEHOUSE@BUcMI.org.

More info at annieandrodCapps.com, BUcMI.org/mamas-coffeehouse, and Facebook.com/MAMAsCoffeehouse



Film Buffs partners with Welcoming Congregation

Treasure | Friday, November 22 | 7:00 p.m. | Commons



The Film Buffs is partnering with the Welcoming Congregation Task Force to present a screening of the film *Treasure* on Friday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commons.

Treasure is a feature documentary about nineteen-year-old transgender woman Shelly "Treasure" Hilliard, whose murder involved police coercion, Jim Crow drug laws, the criminalization of sex work, and transphobia. It is about a young Detroit trans community activated by her death and her family's legal quest for justice. Jesse Beal will lead a discussion after the film.

Snacks will be provided. For more information, contact Larry at (248) 569-0965 / LJWisniew@yahoo.com, or Jane O'Neil at janeaoneil@gmail.com or (734) 216-9076.

Silent Auction of Fine Art to Benefit BUC and Future Art Exhibits



Later this month, the Art Exhibits Committee will offer you an opportunity to add a distinctive piece of art to your home or office décor, or to give as a unique gift. Thanks to donations from a few BUC friends who collect fine art, a selection of ceramics, pottery, and paintings will be available in a silent auction. Proceeds will allow the Committee to feature future displays that reflect our UU social justice values. The auction will start online on Friday, November 15 and conclude live at BUC over delicious treats after worship on Sunday, November 24.



Like the auction held during Rummage, this will be a secret-bid auction. Items will go on display in the Gallery and photos with details will be sent to BUCers by email, with a request to share with friends.

Anyone interested will be able to submit a bid by email between November 15–23. Bidders, including those who might wish to raise their original bid, can also submit bids in person before the auction closes at 12:00 noon on Sunday, November 24. The Art Committee will tally bids and contact the winners that Sunday afternoon. All art will need to be picked up promptly, by Tuesday, November 26.

Here we are showing just a few samples of the works, large and small, to be offered. We hope you find something you like in this fun round of fundraising on behalf of BUC.

—BUC Art Committee



November Plate Collection

As is our tradition, a portion of our Sunday plate collections in November will go to the BUC Emerging Needs Fund. This fund, which is distributed at the discretion of our Minister, was established to meet the needs of our congregants and the surrounding community that come up during the calendar year.

Any BUCer may nominate a nonprofit service organization (with 501(c)(3) status) to be a plate collection recipient. Priority is given to organizations that BUCers are involved in.

To submit an application, go to our website at bucmi.org and click on the Social Justice tab, then Plate Collection Application. Or you

Save the Date: 2019 Build-a-Gingerbread House Saturday, December 7 | 9:30 a.m. -12:00 noon | Hodas Family Hall

Our annual gingerbread house construction party returns on Saturday, December 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon in Hodas Family Hall. Fun for families, grandparents, grandkids, adults, and children! \$7 donation requested per gingerbread house, payable at the event. Please bring cash or check. Younger children will need assistance with their projects. They may bring a helper, or work with a friendly volunteer helper from BUC.

Signup is required. RSVP to Merry Hoffmeyer via email at merryhoffmeyer57@gmail.com or text at (248) 953-5422 and please provide the following: Your name and contact information, including phone number; name and age of child or children; and if your child(ren) needs a helper, will you be staying, or shall we find a volunteer? Bring a box (or box lid) that is at least 14" x 10" for carrying your project home, and consider wearing craft-friendly clothing.

Membership

New Member Corner

Look who signed the book in September!



Paula Olson was born in Illinois, where she met her husband, Jim, at the University of Illinois. They moved to Algoma, WI in 2001, to Michigan in 2016, and to Bloomfield Hills in 2018. They have two children: Meredith and her wife, Liz, live in Ohio; Jeremy and his wife, Kyra and son, Jack, live close by. She is retired from her work as a preschool teacher and childcare center director. She enjoys reading, gardening, and volunteering at Cranbrook Conservatory/Greenhouse.



Chris, Sarah, Allie (5), and Zoe (5) Sullivan live in Clarkston, about a mile from where Sarah grew up. They recently moved to Michigan after being in Seattle, WA for a decade together. They are looking forward to getting to know all of you, and contributing to this inclusive community with joy. They love to be outside and explore together, especially swimming, kayaking, gardening, biking, hiking, and camping.

We're thrilled to have the five of you in our BUC community and can't wait to get to know you!



Starting this month, the Membership Committee will hold a regular "book signing" on the second Sunday of the month for those ready to take this important step on their path to membership. Keep checking the "New Member Corner" here in the newsletter for friendly faces to welcome and congratulate!



Welcome, Kirk!

We're overdue in welcoming Kirk Tucker, our Assistant Custodian. He joined the BUC staff in August 2019 and assists with building and grounds maintenance, cleaning, and room setup and tear-down for meetings and events.



Thank you to our fall grounds cleanup crew! Pictured from left to right: Esther Mauricio, Dave Luckins, and Terry Gates. Not pictured: Paul Plante and Cindy Clement.

Social and Environmental Justice

All are welcome to attend meetings, and join us in our work. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month from 6:30 pm to 8:00 p.m., usually in the Blue Door Classroom. 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 October..

- BUC’s Welcoming Congregation Task Force marked National Coming Out Day with a powerful song, and Queer History Month with an emotional reading and a book display.
- The Art Committee mounted a new show of posters honoring a dozen Detroit-area nonprofits.
- The Climate Change Resolution Task Force presented Dr. Paul Clements on the economics of climate change, and Mary Dunn spoke to the Alliance group on the Energy Innovation Act.
- The Green Sanctuary Ministry presented the Annual Harvest Potluck.
- We re-introduced Open Hands Food Pantry collection in our new red shopping cart!

Mark your calendar in November for..

- November 3: BUC will host dozens of homeless individuals for one week, from November 3-10.
- November 15-24: Art Committee Auction. Proceeds will fund future displays that reflect our UU social justice values.
- November 17: Signups begin for Adopt-a-Family on November 17, and continue on November 24 and December 1. Drop-off to church is December 15, to school is December 16.
- November 17: The Climate Change Resolution task force will present to the Humanist group.
- November 22: Welcoming Congregation and Film Buffs co-present a documentary on a Detroit story of transgender injustice.
- November 26: Confronting Racism starts meeting on a new day and time—the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Confronting Racism

At our October meeting, we viewed a film, discussed what we were taught in school about slavery and the reason for the Civil War, and began discussing the 1619 Project.

The 1619 Project is a program organized by *The New York Times* in 2019 with the goal of re-examining the legacy of slavery in the United States and timed for the 400th anniversary of the arrival in America of the first enslaved people from West Africa. We plan to use this material over the next few months. To learn more, search online for “1619 project”.

The 12-minute video “[America’s First Museum Dedicated to Telling the Story of Slavery](#)” is about the Whitney Plantation, which was the first museum dedicated to telling the story of slavery in America and memorialized all who have worked and lived on its grounds. Former prominent Lawyer John J. Cummings III and Dr. Ibrahima Seck have made it the remainder of their life’s work to bring stories of the enslaved to light.

We have decided to move our meetings to the fourth Tuesday of the month; in November that would mean meeting two days before Thanksgiving, so please watch the weekly slides for a final decision on our November meeting date.

Climate Change Resolution

On Sunday, November 17 from 12:00–1:30 p.m., Mary Dunn will present to the Humanist group on one important solution to the climate challenge: the Energy Innovation Act. She will also discuss the upcoming BUC vote on our Climate Change Resolution.

SOS at BUC

Many thanks to all the SEJ members who have volunteered their time to make this hosting a success. I am so happy to have this organization at BUC. I know with your help, November 3-10 will be a success for our guests, and satisfying to our volunteers. —Paul Plante, SOS Coordinator

Adopt-a-Family

It's hard to believe that the holidays are upon us once again, but here they come! And with them comes the opportunity to brighten the holidays of dozens of local families.

The Social and Environmental Justice team is again hosting our wonderful Adopt-a-Family program this year. Generous BUC members can adopt a large or small family for Christmas, and provide them with toys, books, and clothing for the new year. We serve families who have students at Walt Whitman School in Pontiac, where many BUC folks tutor and volunteer.

Signup days are Sundays after service on November 17, November 25, and December 1. Gifts are due back at BUC on Sunday, December 15, and will be delivered to the school on Monday, December 16. Questions? Contact Jane O'Neil at (734) 216-9076 (call or text) or via email at janeaoneil@gmail.com.

Rummage Recap

Over 200 members and friends of BUC participated in our fall Rummage Sale, September 29–October 5. The good work brought in over \$13,500 (gross, before expenses) and provided several charitable organizations (such as the Baldwin Center) with goods to distribute to their clients.

No matter how you contributed—as a worker, food provider, donor of items for the sale, or background supporter writing pulpit announcements—you made a valuable contribution to this all-church event. Thank you!!!!

Rummage's value, of course, goes far beyond raising needed money for church operations. As a “friend-raiser” and community-builder, Rummage enhances fellowship by bringing together a diverse group of people, united over a common task and communing over excellent donated food. In many ways, as we've commented over the years, it's worshipful.

Rummage committee work goes on pretty much all year, and we welcome anyone who could help, including with some of the “behind the scenes” activities. We typically meet once a month in February, March, April, May, August, September, and October. While it's great to have more people attend the meetings, we also need helpers who can handle tasks without attending.

Specific needs for the 2020 Rummage work are:

- handling marketing, both internal and online
- creating and editing publicity/flyers/miscellaneous documents
- coordinating food (be the most popular person in the church for 2 weeks each year!)

Yes, food will be re-thought for the coming year. Consider working with a group of friends to re-imagine how to support rummage workers with food, including signup forms and times. Contact Walli Andersen (248-882-9155; walli404@wowway.com) to discuss.



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. in the lower level classroom every Sunday. We appreciate new people who share their ideas and experiences or just want to listen and get better acquainted with church members. Our topics are chosen by majority vote weekly. All are welcome. For general information on the Sunday Morning Discussion Group, contact Larry Larson at lawrencejudy@yahoo.com.

Body Wisdom

Mondays 6:30-7:00 p.m. | Red Door

Back by popular demand, the Body Wisdom group movement class meets Mondays outside the Red Door Classroom (in good weather; meet inside in case of rain) from 6:30-7:00 p.m., before the creative writing and art portions of Living by Heart. All genders are

invited to join us. Facilitated by Karen Schreck (ktschreck@icloud.com).



Living by Heart

Mondays 7:00-9:00 p.m. | Red Door

The Living by Heart group meets on Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00 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) and LuAnne Holder (luanneholder@wowway.com)



Grief Support Group

2nd Tuesday of the month | 3:00 p.m. Large Conference Room



The Grief Support Group is currently meeting just once a month due to lower attendance. They meet 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 Wednesday of the month | 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

is currently meeting just once a month due to lower attendance. They meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in the Small Conference Room. Facilitated by Alison Rule (248-320-1021).

Birmingham Unitarian Church
38651 Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills MI 48304
www.bucmi.org

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.