



Birmingham Unitarian Church
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION



July 14 – Emerson’s Shadow



July 28 – Spirit Walk



August 4 – Olympia Brown & Our 6th Principle

July/August Guest Clergy

July 7 – Rev. Danielle Lindstrom

July 21 – Rabbi Jeffrey L. Falick

August 11 – Rev. Julie Brock

Welcome to BUC
Sunday worship service
10:30 a.m.

During July and August, childcare with fun play activities and arts & crafts will be available during service for kids aged 10 and younger

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



August 18 – Subversive Patriotism



August 25 – Celtic Spirituality

July/August Services

- 7/7** Guest minister Rev. Danielle Lindstrom of Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Music from Steve Schneider.
- 7/14** Ralph W. Emerson has a storied place in UU history. Are there ways in which his legacy might be holding us back? Rev. Mandy Beal; music from “No Treble,” BUC’s tenor and bass a cappella ensemble.
- 7/21** Guest preacher Jeffrey L. Falick, Secular Humanist Rabbi of The Birmingham Temple’s Congregation for Humanistic Judaism. He will be looking at two biblical narratives, Creation and the Flood, to explore who wrote them and why. Music from Christina Dragone.
- 7/28** Join us for an exploration of various spiritual practices, including walking a labyrinth. Rev. Mandy Beal; music from Hwa-Ling Russel.
- 8/4** Olympia Brown was the first American woman ordained into full-time ministry, a Universalist, and a passionate activist for peace, liberty, and justice for all. Rev. Mandy Beal; music from Matt Fillion.
- 8/11** Guest minister Rev. Julie Brock of Community Unitarian Universalists in Brighton. Music from Forrest Howell.
- 8/18** Today marks the 50th anniversary of Jimi Hendrix’s iconic performance of the *Star Spangled Banner* at Woodstock. What does it mean to use a symbol of our country in a subversive way as an act of patriotism? Rev. Mandy Beal; music from Forrest Howell.
- 8/25** Celtic spirituality and Unitarian Universalism have more in common than you might think. Come explore the similarities between our traditions. Rev. Mandy Beal; music from Forrest Howell.

Joys and Sorrows

Dan Kosuth and Colleen Cavanaugh were in Petoskey, MI in late May and ran into longtime BUCer Diane Lake! She and John send greetings.

On May 27, Joanne Umphrey celebrated her 89th birthday, complete with a sprinkling of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and even a parade!

From Cheryl Shettel: "My kind, funny, loving dad, Chuck Sorber, passed away on May 29 at the age of 98. I was blessed to have a father's love in my life for so long. He will be greatly missed by all his family. His memorial service will be held on October 12 at 11:00 a.m. at Birmingham First United Methodist Church."

From Chris and Anita Stoddard: "Forty years ago on June 2, we were married in Fayetteville, New York."

Longtime BUC member Walter Johnson died on June 3 in Sequim, Washington. He was 90 years old at the time of his death. He is survived by his widow, Sara Johnson. They were married 64 years. He is also survived by his three children (Laura, Daniel, and Marjorie), four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Walt and Sara became involved with BUC in 1960 and remained very active until they moved to Washington in 2001. They then joined the Olympic Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Walt held several leadership roles during his time at BUC, including starting a bridge club, serving on a committee for growth, and serving on the Board of Trustees. Notes of condolence may be mailed to: Sara Johnson, 102 Owl Creek Ln., Sequim, WA 97382.

Rev. Mandy celebrated her 40th birthday on June 4!

It was a joy to have Sookie Darlington back in service with us on June 9! She was there post-radiation and pre-surgery, but she was there!

Congratulations to Michael Kosuth, son of Colleen Cavanaugh and Dan Kosuth—he will be moving to Englewood, Colorado to start his first teaching job of 8th grade English! May his adventures be fun and prosperous!

Longtime member Paul Miller is home under care of hospice. Phone calls and cards are appreciated.

From Larry Larson: "My father, Arthur Larson, was devoted to our family. He was loyal and responsible. Happy Father's Day!"

From Mary Jo Ebert: "I feel immense gratitude for the team who served students at Whitman Elementary School throughout the past year. In addition to helping them with reading and other skills, your willingness show up for them every week is a gift beyond measure. We wish the students, staff, and our volunteers a safe and productive summer."

On June 16, Anne Throop wished all a Happy Father's Day, Happy Grandfather's Day, and Happy Great-Grandfather's Day!

From Nancy and Richard Schmitt: "On June 22, we met Richard's 94-year-old mother's sister, who is 90. Through Ancestry.com, Lee Schmitt found her sister, a woman she didn't know existed. Amazing!"

J.B. Bernard has moved to Ann Arbor.

Longtime BUCers Ardis and Ed Hanish are mourning the murders their daughter, Laura Hanish, and granddaughter, Shanta Hanish. Laura and Shanta were found dead on June 21 in their Southeast Albuquerque home. At this time, the only suspect is Shanta's ex-boyfriend.

From Larry Larson: "What a wonderful achievement by Paul Vachon! His latest book, *Detroit: An Illustrated Timeline*, is a great book that is so informative and enjoyable to read!"

From Kathy Ransome: "My mother, Jeanne Ransome, died on June 25. She was almost 98. She died 5 weeks after breaking her hip and arm in a fall. She had a difficult time, but died in peace while I played Mozart's Requiem."

Tony, Shiehern, and Eleanor Kubien would like to thank Pappa and Mamma Chwa for coming from Malaysia to spend two months with them this summer!

Sunday Morning Discussion Group

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

The Sunday Morning Discussion Group will continue meeting throughout the summer on Sundays from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. in the Lower Level Classroom. Topics are decided by majority vote each week. All are invited to share their ideas and experiences. Come whether you are religious, spiritual, or neither. We encourage diversity. For general information on the Sunday Morning Discussion Group, contact Larry Larson at lawrencejudy@yahoo.com.

Living by Heart

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



The Living by Heart women's group meets on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 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. No experience necessary. Bring a journal, a pen, and any art supplies you like. We have lots to share also. July meetings will be facilitated by Penny Hackett-Evans (evansph2@gmail.com) and August meetings will be facilitated by group members.

Grief Support Group

July 9 and August 13 | 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. | Large Conference Room

The Grief Support group will be meeting just twice over the summer, on Tuesday, July 9 and Tuesday, August 13, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the Large Conference Room. All who are processing and experiencing grief at the loss of a loved one are welcome to participate. Facilitated by Alison Rule (248-320-1021).

Humanists of BUC

The next Humanist meeting is expected to be on September 22. The program will be announced in the September newsletter. Enjoy the summer break. For general information on the Humanists of BUC, contact Larry Larson at lawrencejudy@yahoo.com.

Issues and Ale

The monthly Issues and Ale group is on summer hiatus. Their next meeting will be on Friday, September 6 in their private room at Joe Kool's Sports Bar and Grill, located at 1835 E. Big Beaver Rd. in Troy, next to the Troy Sports Center. For general information on the Issues and Ale group, email Jay Labban at sigma373@yahoo.com.

Alliance

The Alliance has had its last meeting of the current program year. We take the summer off, and will meet again in October. Watch for information in September with meeting dates and programs. Mark your calendars now for our fall program meetings on Wednesday, October 16 and Wednesday, November 20. Our annual Holiday Luncheon will be held at the Iroquois Club on Tuesday, December 10. And, of course, plan to help with the Fall Rummage Sale. Rummage Week is September 29 to October 5. Enjoy the Summer! See you in the Fall!

-Ann Throop for the Alliance Committee

Summer Sunday Plate Collections



During the summer, we devote 6 weeks to each plate collection recipient, instead of a month, due to lower service attendance. A portion of our Sunday plate collections through Sunday, July 14 is being donated to **Ruth Ellis Center** in Highland Park, which provides trauma-informed services for homeless, runaway, and at-risk LGBTQ youth and young adults of color. During its 18-year history, the Center has evolved from a 500-square-foot space into a 10,000-square-foot facility that offers outreach and safety-net services, primary and behavioral health-care services and case management, skill-building, HIV prevention, and family-preservation programs. The Center also

provides a residential foster-care program which is thought to be the only facility in the Midwest specifically for LGBTQ youth, as well as a drop-in center which offers meals, a laundry facility and computer lab, job-seeking assistance, and peer-support groups.

From Sunday, July 21 through Sunday, August 25, our recipient will be **Girls of the Crescent**, a grass-roots organization that seeks to strengthen female Muslim representation in literature by donating books to schools and libraries that highlight diverse and strong female main characters.



Any BUCer may nominate a local nonprofit to receive a portion of our Sunday plate collection donations. Submit an application online at bucmi.org by clicking the Social Justice tab, then Plate Collection Application. You can also contact Barbara Robinson (248-320-8366 or brjdr8719@gmail.com) to submit an application or discuss a potential recipient. Preference is given to organizations that BUCers are involved with or that have a special connection with our congregation.

Helping Hands Volunteer? Think Ahead to the Fall!

As the summer church schedule begins and we take a short breather from all that we've been involved with this past year, I hope we're also thinking ahead to next year and wondering, what can I do to contribute to this beloved community, BUC?

I have a suggestion: consider how you might fit into 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 in the fall 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

Summer & Beyond

Rev. Mandy Beal
Senior Minister



Summer is a time of study and reflection for most ministers. It's an opportunity to step out of the pulpit (some) and do planning and preparation for the coming year. I've received requests to delve into our Unitarian Universalist history and how it informs our Living Tradition. I've also heard from congregants about social issues that are weighing heavily on them. And, there is desire to learn about world religions. All of these will show up in our worship life during the coming year.

Here's a sample of what I'm reading this summer to prepare for the coming church year: *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming* by David Wallace-Wells, *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo, *A Prayer for World Peace* by Jane Goodall, and a version of the *Rigveda* (one of the Vedas, the four sacred canonical texts of Hinduism). It's going to be an exciting year!

I'll be away on study leave intermittently throughout the summer. In addition to reading all of these books (and so many more), I'll attend our UU General Assembly in Spokane, Washington. (Actually, that will be over by the time you read this.) GA is an annual gathering of UUs from across the nation and around the world. It is a time of learning, voting, and taking action. Next year's GA is in Providence, Rhode Island, and I hope a lot of you will want to join me in attending.

You may see less of me around the church in July and August because summer is my time of preparation and study. But trust that you are in my heart. It is a privilege to continue learning and growing in service to our Beloved Community.

Yours in faith,

Rev. Mandy

Music at BUC

Ahhh, summer: a time for grooving on the beach, listening to the Beach Boys, and sipping fruity drinks while experiencing the zen of... wha— ??

Summer is re-energizing for many of us. Maybe we just finished a busy end of church/school year, and maybe we had one child finishing 6th grade at one school and another finishing 8th grade AND the awesome ROPE Program here at BUC. It feels like a whirlwind and then suddenly, it is over. Now, we embark on the summer, which has a different feel, but is exciting and challenging all the same.

Summer music at BUC is full of variety and creativity. Worship associates, Rev. Mandy, and others plan the hymns while Steve programs the complementary music and musicians so that services are as meaningful as ever. There is always something interesting happening in our worship.

During these months, the BUC Chalice Choir is on hiatus. Some of our members enjoy singing in various choir “camps” and workshops around Michigan (Interlochen, Ann Arbor, Royal Oak, and Port Huron) while other singers give their voices some rest and just sing at Sunday services. There is a late-summer CHOIR PARTY planned for anyone who has been in choir and wishes to join our ensemble, on Sunday, August 25. Choir Parties are great events and a chance to meet some current choir members and have fun in a low-pressure setting. Please email abha.dearing@bucmi.org for more info on joining choir or coming to a gathering.

The Sound Messengers are meeting a couple of times this summer to plan music and enjoy fellowship as well. This fall, look for even more variety and creativity in music at BUC.

The Dearings are in the office several times throughout the summer and we are always happy to discuss music at BUC. We will be out of town for the Association of Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries (AUUMM, formerly known as UUMN) Annual Conference in Denver this year from July 23-28. As in the past, Steve and Abha are grateful to have the opportunity to attend and experience worship with other UU music professionals, perform and learn alongside many other fine Music Directors, and come home with lots of ideas to share with you.

We know that in order to enjoy and fully experience any music, we must also embrace the silences between. We hope you will also enjoy some silences this summer and look forward to the renewable energy source that is in each of us as we enjoy the present and plan for the future of BUC Music.

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

Social and Environmental Justice

The BUC Social and Environmental Justice team meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the month. We are focusing on five areas: Ending Gun Violence, Confronting Racism, Environmental Justice, Climate Change, and LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Renewal. All are welcome to attend meetings, and join us in our work. We meet from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., usually in the Blue Door Room. 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 Eric Sargent, Co-Chairs, Social and Environmental Justice Committee

Welcoming Congregation

In the 1980s and 90s, when the word “welcoming” became a code word in reference to LGBTQ people, the Unitarian Universalist Association launched a Welcoming Congregation Program to help us learn how to undo homophobia—and later, transphobia (prejudice against transgender people)—in our hearts and minds, our congregations, and our communities.

Today, most Unitarian Universalist congregations, including BUC, are recognized as Welcoming Congregations. This means we are committed to certain practices in our worship and education activities.

Our Welcoming Congregation Renewal Task Force was formed this spring to help ensure that we are fulfilling our commitment. We have begun planning activities for fall 2019 and beyond. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Jane O'Neil at janeAoneil@gmail.com.

Confronting Racism—July 19 and August 16 in Hodas Hall

Understanding is the first step toward healing racism. The BUC Confronting Racism program holds monthly meetings to address this goal. Everyone who wants to strive to heal and end racism in ourselves and our institutions is welcome.

Currently we are reading and discussing the book *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism* by Robin DiAngelo. But even if you haven't read the book, please join us anyway!

In July and August, we will continue to meet on the third Friday of the month—July 19 and August 16—from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Hodas Hall. To be added to the email list for this group, please contact program leader Peggy Bocks at pbocks@gmail.com.

Ending Gun Violence

Thanks to everyone who participated in Wear Orange Weekend June 7-9 and posted photos of yourselves wearing orange! Kudos to those who went the extra mile and attended rallies. Your participation in the conversation makes a difference in telling our representatives how strongly we feel about ending gun violence now!

How can YOU help? Contact your legislator through their website and/or CALL them! Information on current legislation and a sample letter is on the BUC website under Social Justice.



Walt Whitman Team Are a Class Act!



Now that the 2018-19 academic year is over at Walt Whitman Elementary School, let's celebrate the 24 awesome BUCers and friends who tutored, operated the book trolley (mobile library) program, and worked with students in the Banagrams program throughout the year, and others who coordinated the Adopt-a-Family program during the holidays. You are a special light to the students, who notice that you show up on a regular basis to help them learn.

Next year is a critical one for Michigan schools. At the end of the 2019-20 academic year, third graders who are not reading at grade level will be held back. There are some exceptions, but for most, the rule will go into effect. So... helping children develop reading skills will be more important than ever. Please consider whether you can be part of our team next year.

-Mary Jo Ebert, Program Coordinator

Detroit "Walk and Learn" Fundraiser

On Saturday, September 7, Paul Vachon will be conducting a special history-themed walking tour of downtown Detroit, with all proceeds benefiting BUC. The specific route is to be determined, and the walk is limited to 20 people. The group will meet at BUC at a mutually convenient time and arrange carpools for transportation downtown.

The cost is \$25 per person. To reserve your spot, contact Paul via email at pr.vachon@hotmail.com. Payment is due by September 1 and can be made via PayPal to pr.vachon@hotmail.com.

In case of inclement weather, the rain date will be Saturday, September 14.

5-Year Capital Campaign Pledges Due by December 31

Since early 2017, we have been enjoying our improved, welcoming, barrier-free, and more efficient campus. But the financial work of our project remains unfinished. We have outstanding pledges and debt to cover before the BUC Campus Redevelopment and Prioritization project can truly be complete. Are you on-track to complete your pledge by the end of 2019?

Over the last 5 years, some Capital Campaign pledgers have moved out of the area, drifted away from BUC, suffered financial reversals, or have died. Hence, we estimate that about \$80,000 of our original pledges are uncollectible. BUC is paying interest on this debt and cannot fully fund our present programs or make needed roofing repairs until the funding gap is resolved. If you have room in your budget, please consider an additional contribution or new pledge to help fill our funding gap. Your generosity will allow BUC to truly "wrap up" our Capital Campaign and move forward. Please contact Kym Worth in the BUC office if you have questions about your Capital pledge.

Thank you for your financial support of BUC's improved buildings and campus.

Eric & Annette Sargent
2014 Capital Campaign Wrap-up Team

Membership

First, a big THANK YOU to Marcia Mahood for getting the Membership Committee up and running again in 2018-2019. She helped a lot of new members sign the book, planned a fun Pasta Dinner/Game Night, and updated our member directory, among so many other things.

She's stepping down as chairperson, but has organized a great group and given us a push in the right direction to do more great things in 2019-2020. Brianna Zamborsky and Sarah Isaksen will be the new co-chairs of Membership, so prospective, new, and current members alike, go to them with any questions you have!

One thing our committee will work on in the upcoming year is creating a culture of welcome that pervades the whole community, not just the front lobby. Something everyone can do is talk to new people in Hodas Hall or the sanctuary. Wondering how to engage with someone you don't know? Here are some great questions to ask. Start with "I don't think we've met before." (NOT: "Are you new here?") Then:

- What brought you here today?
- How did you enjoy the service?
- Have you been to a UU church before?
- Do you have any questions about the church?

And hey, if they do have questions, now you know who to ask! (Honestly, there's a chance we won't know either. But we'll figure it out.)

Most importantly, be authentic. Be your beautiful selves. Make a genuine connection with another human being—there's nothing better.

-Brianna Zamborsky, Co-Chair, Membership Committee



Thank you, Marcia!!

Fun memories from our year-end church picnic on June 9...



Religious Education

A big welcome and thanks to our incoming summer nursery/childcare staff! Our summer RE programming this year is designed to be flexible to meet the needs and interests of our attendees. We are fully equipped for arts and crafts, outside play (weather permitting), imaginative play, and lots and lots of fun. Our energetic and reliable staff are ready to engage with kids aged 10 and younger in a fun and loosely structured atmosphere. Regular RE programming will resume in September.

Our new summer nursery/childcare staff members are Kye Campbell-Fox, Emma Fordree, Abby Schreck, Iris McNitt, and Madeline Taylor.



Kye Campbell-Fox



Emma
Fordree



Abby Schreck



Iris McNitt



Madeline Taylor

Building and Grounds News

The first news is the re-establishment of the Building and Grounds (B&G) Committee, chaired by Jim Shettel. Members include Dick Cantley, Jim Clark, Inta Davis, and Stephanie Patil. The committee is working with Rev. Mandy and Kym Worth to finalize their charter, but one of their primary functions is to prioritize BUC's needs regarding facilities and grounds.

Following are some of the recently completed or soon-to-be completed B&G projects:



- Grounds Work Day (Tuesday, June 11) - led by Paul Plante, the team trimmed many trees/bushes, weeded, and tidied up the church property. Thank you to Cindy Clement, Jim Clark, David Luckins, Carole Wiseman, and David and Stephanie Greer!

- Courtyard plantings - work continues as funds and resources are available to execute the master plan for the courtyard. The center bed is now complete with the maple tree (donated by Andrew and Peter Schreck in honor of their parents' anniversary) and many new plantings. John Hammer has been the driving force in this ongoing project, assisted by Pat Hammer.

- The Capek Woods natural area was treated for invasive species and plantings were added, managed by Stephanie Patil and Pat Hammer with volunteers.



- Green Door Classroom roller blinds - this room receives the sun from the west and heats up quickly in the summer months, making it difficult to keep the space cool enough for use, even with the AC unit. New roller blinds were installed to reduce heat and cold exchange into the room, making it more energy-efficient and pleasant.

- The tiled floors in restrooms and entryways were deep cleaned with extraction and sealed on June 27.

- The parking lot will be seal coated July 3, as required up to 18 months after new asphalt is installed. It will also be re-striped to add additional accessible parking spaces, ensuring easier access for our congregants and guests with mobility challenges.

- Automatic door opener motors were replaced on the exterior sanctuary doors. These will be turned on and available during summer worship services. Please note that propping the doors open or trying to use the automatic door opener when the doors are locked will damage the motors, requiring expensive replacement again. See Kym for instructions on using the doors for your sanctuary events.

We welcome your input regarding the buildings and grounds of our beloved BUC, and especially appreciate your volunteer efforts! Feel free to email any member of the committee or Kym Worth.

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 a 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.
