



Birmingham Unitarian Church
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION



February Worship Theme:
Connection

February Services

2 "Covenant"

The Cambridge Platform and the Dedham Decision were major turning points in UU history. But do they still matter today? Rev. Mandy Beal with Worship Associate Ed Sharples and music from The Sound Messengers.

9 "The Legacy of Joseph Jordan & William Jackson"

During Black History Month, we honor the memory of the first black Unitarian and the first black Universalist ministers. Rev. Mandy Beal with Worship Associate Teresa Honnold and music from The Chalice Choir.

16 "Planet Earth: On Loan from Our Children" by Neb Duric

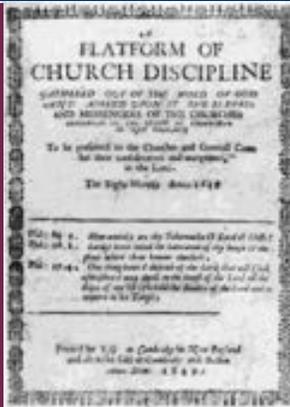
Climatologists say that we are defaulting on that loan. Are they purveyors of wisdom or prophets of doom? Cutting through the rhetorical fog. Guest speaker Neb Duric with Worship Associate Teresa Honnold and music from The Sound Messengers.

23 "When Covenants Are Broken"

Covenants are aspirational documents, so what do we do when we fall short of our aspirations?

Rev. Mandy Beal with Worship Associate Kelly Taylor and music from The Chalice Choir.

February 2:
"Covenant"



February 9:
"The Legacy of Joseph Jordan & William Jackson"



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.



February 16: "Planet Earth - On Loan from Our Children"



February 23:
"When Covenants Are Broken"

Connection

Rev. Mandy Beal
Senior Minister



There's an old saying that ministers have one sermon that they preach over and over from different perspectives. People also say that ministers preach what they need to hear. Throughout my formation process, I found that I was doing both of these things. All of my sermons, and most of my other work, centered around the theme of community.

When I realized what I was doing, I took a closer look at what was going on in my heart that led to such a tight focus on this subject. I realized it was because of my experiences in the church of my raising. In my early years, that church truly was my second home. I felt surrounded by love and comfort when I was there. And as I got older, that was taken from me. The very people that had nurtured me and my fledgling calling to ministry made it clear that I was no longer welcome.

This experience has informed my ministry. Although I've healed over the years, there's a part of me that will always be impacted by this spiritual injury. It's like how my right knee always has a torn meniscus, and it hurts more at certain times than others. I never want anyone to go through what I did, so it's important to me to nurture community in our congregation.

One of the reasons people seek out church is to form connections with others. UU churches are unique because our connection is not based in a shared set of beliefs. Our spiritual ancestors made bonds of mutual consent, rather than mutual belief. We call these covenants. The promises we make about how we will treat each other hold us together. These covenants compel us to surround one another with love and comfort. They also hold us accountable when we don't.

I still find this topic endlessly interesting, and I'm looking forward to spending a month exploring this with you in worship.

In faith,

Rev. Mandy

Lunch with the Minister

Rev. Mandy hosts a brown bag lunch every Monday afternoon from 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. in the Red Door Classroom. The group meets weekly except on holidays.

“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

A sorrow was expressed in early January that there are troops abroad yet again.

A joy from Pam Graham: “My daughter Maria completed her degree at U of M and has been accepted to several law schools.”

Inta Davis died unexpectedly at the end of December. Inta gave much to BUC, including in her roles on the Budget and Finance Committee and during the construction project. She’ll be remembered as a passionate and energetic member of our community. A memorial service was held at BUC on January 7.

A sorrow from Kelly Taylor: “My mom’s sister, my Aunt Louise, passed away on January 8. Thoughts and prayers would be much appreciated.”

Ginger and Dave Luckins celebrated their 35th anniversary on January 19! Dave says “Ginger is the best thing that’s happened to me!”

From Nancy and Richard Schmitt: A joy: “On January 15, Richard completed his 4 1/2 months of chemo. He had a body scan the following Tuesday.” A sorrow: “On January 18 at 5:00 p.m., Richard’s mother, Lee Schmitt, died—one day before her 95th birthday—surrounded by many of her seven children.”

BUCer Jim Williams has been through a hospitalization and is recovering.

Thank you to the Membership Committee, who will be serving at social hour during February.

A long-time member of our congregation, Harm Kraai, died recently. He and his wife Marian were members at BUC for years. During his time at BUC, Harm served in several important leadership roles, including being an advisor to our high-school youth group back when it was called GUSH. After relocating to Albuquerque, New Mexico, Harm and Marian became members of First Unitarian Church. Harm and Marian have three sons: Bert, Erik, and Hans. Notes of condolence may be sent to Marian at 222 14th St., Albuquerque, NM 87104.

February Plate Collection



A portion of our Sunday plate collections in February will be used to cover our congregational membership dues for the **Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network** (MUUSJN, pronounced “moose gin”), whose mission is to connect and empower faith communities in Michigan to create a more just and caring world. MUUSJN is an invaluable resource for educational materials and action alerts on a number of justice-related issues, including those that are the focus of our Social and Environmental Justice Committee (SEJ) here at BUC: LGBTQ issues, racism and immigration reform, gun violence prevention, and water and environmental justice. For a list of MUUSJN’s numerous accomplishments during 2019 or for more information on these issues, go to muusjn.org.

Are you a volunteer at a local nonprofit, or do you know of a local organization that you would like to nominate as a potential plate collection recipient? Any BUCer may nominate a local nonprofit for consideration. Just go to our website at bucmi.org, click on the Social Justice tab, and complete the Plate Collection application (you will need the organization’s 501(c)(3) tax ID and operating budget). For help or any questions about potential recipients, contact Barbara Robinson at 248-320-8366 or brjdr8719@gmail.com. Feel free to also speak with any committee member: Janet Brown, Dan Kosuth, Ron Lewis, Rob Davidson, or Mary Lanphier.

Submitting check requests on Sunday mornings

While the church office is closed on Sundays, the side copy room is left unlocked. If you need to submit a check request on a Sunday morning before or after service, the request forms can be found in the copy room, in a plastic holder on the wall to the left of the locked door that leads from the copy room into the office, near the shelves of supplies. You can complete a form and leave it in the mailbox labeled “office” in the very bottom left-hand corner of the mailbox stand. Check requests can always be submitted in person when the office is open, Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. If you have any questions about check requests, please contact Joanne Copeland.



Issues and Ale

Friday, February 7 | 6:00 p.m. | Maggiano's in Troy

This month's meeting of the Issues and Ale group is Friday, February 7 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, February 8

This month's Sharing Dinner will take place at BUC in Hodas Family Hall and is being organized by Carol Winslow. The February dinner is a great opportunity for folks who are unable to host in their home to host a table at BUC. Host duties are not extensive. If you would like to participate in the February dinner, you have **just a little time** to contact Carol. Email her at cwin@att.net by February 1 (**this Saturday!**) and let her know if you will attend as a guest or if you can host. If you can't make it this this month, you can email the regular monthly dinner coordinator, Dave Sabbagh, at dsabbagh7@gmail.com to get on the list for future dinners.



Bake-Off

Sunday, February 9 | after worship



Please join us on Sunday, February 9 for our 40th annual Bake-Off, a BUC tradition that includes a soup luncheon, baked goods silent auction, and live celebrity baker auction. Funds raised will benefit the 8th grade ROPE class and the GUUSH and UFO youth groups. This is a great opportunity for BUCers to share a delicious meal together following worship while supporting the young people of our congregation.

If you'd like to help with Bake-Off, there are lots of opportunities! Visit [this link](#) to sign up and help make Bake-Off a big success!

Building & Grounds Update

Our beloved BUC facility and campus will soon be requiring several major maintenance replacement projects. Information gleaned from the recent building expansion/renovation project indicated to us that the classroom roofs would need to be replaced in the 2020 (Blue Door) and 2021 (Green and Red Door) time periods. The B&G committee has made this a top-priority project, as has the Board of Trustees and the Executive. Expect to hear about planning specifics and funding requirements in the near future.

A building issue that is "heating up," so to speak (or, actually, not heating up), is the operational status of 3 of our furnaces that are around 25 years old and nearing end of life. In fact, we already had to replace a fourth on an emergency basis on Jan. 10, as it had stopped working. While we do have some dollars budgeted in a maintenance reserve account, the replacement cost to cover all of the furnaces will surely exceed that balance.

Another building issue that Rev. Mandy is championing is "wayfinding," or, simply put, the signage for our entire campus, both interior and exterior. Wayfinding encompasses both navigational logic and the "look and feel." More to come - watch this space!

And, finally a reward for the reader who has read this far: a "fun facts" B&G quiz. What do we spend more on at BUC: electricity, natural gas, or snow/ice removal/salting?

The answer (from the 2019-2020 annual budget): snow removal is the largest at \$11,000, then electricity at approximately \$9,000, and lastly gas at \$7,000. —Jim Shettel, B&G committee chair

Getting to Know UU - new series begins

Sunday, February 16 | 12:00 noon | Red Door Classroom



You are warmly invited to “Getting to Know UU,” a four-session Sunday class for anyone interested in learning about themselves, Unitarian Universalism, or BUC. It’s a great way to connect in a casual setting. The first session of the new four-class series facilitated by Rob Davidson will be on Sunday, February 16 from 12:00 noon–1:30 p.m. in the Red Door Classroom. A light lunch is provided, and childcare is available. Sign up at the Membership table after service in Hodas Family Hall, or email Rob at kathyd8082@gmail.com, and be sure to include childcare needs. The remaining three sessions in this series are scheduled for March 8, April 5, and May 3.

Brought to you by the Membership Committee

Humanists of BUC

Sunday, February 16 | 12:00 noon | Lower Level Classroom

The Humanists of BUC will be meeting on Sunday, February 16 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 are proud to announce that our Humanist group is now affiliated with the American Humanist Association and is included as a local group on their worldwide website.

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

Alliance

Wednesday, February 19 | 12:00 noon | Pavilion and Commons

The next Alliance meeting is on Wednesday, February 19. We will start in the Pavilion with a brown bag lunch at 12:00 noon. The Alliance will provide coffee, tea, cookies and grapes.

Our speaker is Dr. Michael Yocum, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services for Oakland Schools. He will speak on the state of Michigan schools. This is a topic we had scheduled for last February but had to cancel due to the bad weather forecast. Dr. Yocum’s presentation will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Commons, with time for questions and answers at the end.

Looking ahead, the next Alliance meeting will be on Wednesday, April 15. The speaker will be Kevin Piecuch, an attorney and Executive Director of the Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center. Our final meeting of the year is Wednesday, June 3, our annual meeting, and we will have a travelogue for the program.

All are invited to join us.

Get Your Ticket Now for Our Biggest Night of the Year!



The BUC Talent & Service Auction

Saturday, February 22nd 6:00-9:30pm Tickets \$25

***Join us for a delicious Cajun-themed dinner,
drinks, and bidding fun—all for BUC!***

Let the good times keep rolling: add your auction item!

Folks are donating dinner parties, dance and art lessons, a tie-dye class, sausage-making session, a visit to an alpaca farm, and other great services that multiply the good times and help deepen friendships. What's your passion or fun experience to share? It's BUC's biggest fund-raiser; please consider donating!

Please visit the Auction team on Sundays in Hodas Hall to let us know about your donation or buy tickets (also available weekdays in the BUC office if you call ahead, 248-647-2380).

Music at BUC

January started 2020 off with an array of emotions, ranging from letting go of the past (goodbye 2019!) and embracing the new energy of the future (hello 2020!). We in BUC Music aim to guide the congregation along the way, helping you reflect on the message and urging you to dig deeper or to even act on what you hear and see in church.

Singing “Gate Gate” as our first song for 2020 was a big challenge for our choir. With the help of Forrest and all our dedicated singers, it came together nicely and helped us remember that even if every note, entrance, and release is imperfect, we are each enough, as Rev. Mandy encouraged us to feel in her sermon.



The No-Fault Choir on MLK Sunday

The **No-Fault Choir** was such fun. Despite the snowy drive, we welcomed about 35 singers on MLK Sunday morning to sing “If I Can Dream,” 10 of them total newbies to Choir. Thank you, each of you, for being part of building this dream together. The **BUC Chalice Choir** continues to prepare special music in various styles, languages and genres. [Now is a great time to join](#), before things get ramped up for Choir Sunday in May!



The **Sound Messengers** house band has become a staple for BUC Music these days. Finding the right music that strikes an appropriate balance with the energy of the service, songs that are likeable but not cliché (unless that is what we are going for), and tunes that are within the skill set of the members are all musical aspects of collaborating and creating worship for Steven, who directs the group. Did you like the prelude on MLK Sunday? That tune was composed for worship by Steven. Maybe you have a song that speaks to you and may fit with one of our monthly worship themes? Send it along.

SoundBites and Sound Messengers merge for a Friday, April 24 evening event in the planning stages. Mark your calendars now to be sure to get a ticket for this evening of great food, fun, and music.

A couple of things we want to mention: if you have any issues or concerns with music, whether it be volume, style, content, or personnel, please come and see Steven or Abha directly. We have reasons for all our choices in consultation with Rev. Mandy and various other folks—your opinions matter to us and we can each be kind and open to growth in relationship with each other. The choir loft was expertly designed as a space for sound to reverberate, and speakers are aimed into the space. So if the band is loud when you are seated in the choir loft, you may prefer to choose a different seat.

The Music Committee, under the leadership of Keith Ensroth, has a new vision for the function and support of BUC Music. We are excited for a couple of new members to join (names to follow next month!) and continue to share the cool music happenings at BUC.

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

Religious Education



High School Schedule

February 2: GUUSH meeting

February 16: Youth attend the Climate Action service

February 23: Fifth Dimension class

March 1: All youth will be attending the service

8th Grade ROPE Schedule

This month, ROPE students will be interviewing their families and congregants.

March 1: All youth will be attending the service

-The Heritage trip to Boston will be April 23-26

6th and 7th Grade Schedule

February 2: Field trip to Dharma Gate Buddhist Center. Meet at BUC at 9:30 a.m. and return around 12:00 noon. Wear good socks as they may ask everyone to remove their shoes indoors.

February 8 (Saturday): Field trip to Bharatiya Hindu Temple in Troy. Meet at BUC at 2:00 p.m. and return between 3:30 and 4:00 p.m. Wear good socks as the Temple asks everyone to remove their shoes indoors.

February 9: Taoism and Confucianism; February 16: Shintoism; February 23: Sikhism

February 23: UFO (6th/7th grade) service project at Yad Ezra Jewish Kosher Food Bank. Meet at BUC at 11:30, BUC at 2:00/2:30.

March 1: All youth are requested to join the service, and they will work on music for Youth Sunday

Kindergarten-5th Grade Schedule

February 16: K-5 students will begin their day in the **Green Door** classroom without going to service. This will be an activity day where we will begin building stage sets and planning a short play for presentation during the Earth Day service on April 19.

March 1: K-5 students will join Shari for a special Children's Chapel experience. Meet in the Sanctuary.

In January, the youth and Rev. Mandy got started on planning for **Youth Sunday**, which is scheduled for **May 10** (Mother's Day). The youth will be continuing to work on Youth Sunday planning during the service on March 1.

Shari's February reflection: Everyone we meet affects us. No relationship is too short to have impact. You have all had an impact on me. I have been honored to work with BUC's children and youth this year. If this is the future of Unitarian Universalism and BUC, then the future is bright! I have been especially impressed with your youth; they are active in such a variety of church programs and events! I have enjoyed getting to know the dedicated teachers and volunteers that make your vibrant Religious Education program work. The staff here at BUC have been enormously supportive and great to work with. I appreciate having the opportunity to make this move to Michigan, which I had been considering for some time. Serving UU children and youth will always be important to me. I am planning to pursue my art career in the Detroit art scene. Thank you all for welcoming me so warmly to your community. I look forward to continuing in this role until June. I am certain that relationships have value no matter the length.

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

From the Board

The BUC Board of Trustees has been busy this year, focusing on the following areas:

- 1) **Open questions.** As part of our strategic planning process, we are asking the congregation three open questions so we can understand what you value and the direction in which you would like to see BUC move. We held one town hall in November and we plan to collect information during several coffee hours and via an online survey.
- 2) **Safer Congregation Task Force.** We created a Safer Congregation Task Force to review our policies and procedures and recommend changes, so that our church can be a safe and welcoming place for all.
- 3) **Financial focus.** We are re-aligning committees so that financial committees report to the board, making the board directly responsible for church finances. We are reviewing and updating our policy governance documents to reflect this change.
- 4) **Increasing and coordinating revenue.** We created a Revenue Committee to coordinate fundraising activities and to imagine and implement new ways to raise money. This committee includes representatives from the Stewardship, Rummage, Talent & Service Auction, RE Council, and Budget and Finance Committees. It has met several times and is off to a great start.
- 5) **Capital project financing.** Our capital campaign is now closed, and we have a shortfall. There are also some classroom roofs which need to be repaired. We are looking into ways to finance these capital needs.

Please reach out to me or any other board member if you have questions, ideas, or comments!

–Bruce Webber, President, Board of Trustees (self@brucewebber.us)

Rummage

I hear we have a wee groundhog infestation here at BUC. Know what I say to that? 1) Aww. 2) Put ‘em to work, because...

SPRING RUMMAGE is coming!

Rummage is a joyous semi-annual event here at BUC. If you’re new, it’s a great way to get involved: donate, cook, sort, price, sell, and/or shop! Or maybe it’s time to step up your Rummage game. The amazing Walli Anderson is ending her tenure as food czar, for example, and we need someone(s) to take over for her. Free and delicious shared meals is part of what makes Rummage great—let’s keep it that way.

Are you skilled at folding bottom sheets? We also need a Linens coordinator. Have an eye for the old, odd, the valuable? We need help with Silent Auction preparations. Got a truck? You could assist with Rummage on Wheels by picking up donations for those unable to transport them.

Contact Mary Dunn (mjd70bc@msn.com) to learn more about volunteering or serving on the rummage committee or two new sub-committees! Or attend our next meeting on Monday, February 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Small Conference Room.

Spring Rummage Dates

Saturday, April 25 - Set-up

Sunday, April 26 - Set-up & intake

Monday, April 27 - Intake & sorting

Tuesday, April 28 - Intake, sorting, & pricing

Wednesday, April 29 - Pricing

Thursday, April 30 - Pricing, sale set-up, & sale

Friday, May 1 - Sale

Saturday, May 2 - Sale, consolidation, & tear-down

–Brianna Zamborsky for the Rummage Committee

Membership

February is Member Appreciation Month!

BUC's members and friends are the heartbeat of our congregation! Reflecting our February worship theme of "connection," the Membership Team has planned a month-long celebration of YOU: the BUC members and friends who make up our vibrant community. Following Sunday services in February, we will host activities in Hodas Family Hall. Join us to strengthen the connections among us, celebrate the traditions and memories that bond us, and recognize members who have "made it official" by signing the book in the last 12 months. We're hosting coffee hour, too—with some special treats!



This is also a great opportunity to stop by the Membership table in Hodas Family Hall after service. Maybe you want to learn how to download BUC's member directory (Instant Church Directory) on your device, take a new photo or update your info, or just say hi! Download Instant Church directory or show it to us on your device, and you'll be entered into a raffle to win a fun prize! We're giving away a different prize each Sunday in February, so you'll have four chances to enter.

BUC's Membership Committee isn't just for new members and visitors—it's for all members. We see you, we appreciate you, and we're here for you! We'll provide more information about weekly events when we kick off Member Appreciation Month on Sunday, February 2, and stay tuned to the weekly emails for details. Questions? Come see us!

— Brianna Zamborsky (Chair), Judy Amir, Rob Davidson, Jann Devereux, Cynthia Osterhage, and Kris Schreck

New Member Corner



Welcome Jennifer Norber, who signed the book in January!

Jennifer lives in Farmington Hills with her husband, two children (ages 12 and 15), and one rescue fur-baby. Her family belongs to Temple Shir Shalom; however, she feels BUC is her spiritual home. She has a Bachelor's in Social Work and a Master's in Leadership Studies with a concentration Lay Ministry from the UU seminary Meadville Lombard. She is a Spiritual Care Advisor at Hospice of Michigan and an Experienced Registered Yoga Teacher. She enjoys watercolor painting and chanting mantra. She is thrilled to be a member here and looks forward to getting to know you all.



Stewardship

We Need You... to Get BUC “On Stable Ground”

As we all know with our own household budgets, the numbers don't lie. If we spend too much or don't bring in enough money—or both!—there will be an imbalanced budget and a shortfall.

There is no way to sugarcoat the reality of the current budget situation at BUC. BUC is running at a deficit in the current fiscal year that ends June 30, 2020, and would face the same situation in the 2020-21 budget if revenue stays at the same amount. The Stewardship Committee is projecting that we need an increase in giving from everyone in order to cover expenditures and get us “On Stable Ground.” The average cost of running the church is \$1,400 individual/year.

The Stewardship Committee is asking that all BUC members and friends begin to consider their individual financial situation in preparation for the annual Stewardship Campaign that begins March 1.

In response to requests for improved financial transparency, the Stewardship Committee and Board are committed to communicating the financial situation of BUC in terms of programs, staffing, and infrastructure, through factual and understandable information, so that members and friends know what our Beloved Community must have to be financially stable while carrying out our mission.

The Committee's goal is to have all pledges completed by April 1 so that the Board may prepare a budget to present to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on May 17.

—The Stewardship Committee:

Soren Andersen, Jim Shettel, Harper West, and Walter Dean



Social and Environmental Justice

The Social and Environmental Justice team meets on 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 January...

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

January 10: Opening reception for the “Safe Space” photography exhibit, presented by the Art Exhibits Committee

January 26: Dr. Julia Cole spoke to over 100 attendees after service on how the Great Lakes will be affected by climate change

January 28: Artist’s talk for “Safe Space,” jointly presented by the Welcoming Congregation Committee, the Art Exhibits Committee, and Confronting Racism

Mark your calendar for...

February 1, 8 and 15: Book discussion forum on the UUA Common Read, *An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States*

February 16: Our own Neb Duric speaks during service about the climate crisis.

February 18: First meeting of “Anti-Racism Learning Ground,” 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. For more information, see p. 2 of this newsletter. RSVP required by February 11; email mandy.beal@bucmi.org or call the church office.

February 19: SEJ monthly meeting; all are welcome to attend

March 28: Beyond Voting—a conference to help us all learn about ways to be more engaged in our democratic process.

Beyond Voting Conference

Voting is a great way to get involved in our democracy, but there is so much more you can do beyond that. The SEJ team at BUC invites you to join us on March 28 at Beyond Voting, a nonpartisan conference to learn about the various ways, big and small, that you can be part of the solution.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! If you want to get involved in putting on this event, we definitely need a few extra hands—please contact Esther Mauricio at eesmah62@aol.com.

Program

10:00–11:00 a.m. — Speakers

⇒ **Voters Not Politicians** on how the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission works and how you can be part of it

⇒ **ACLU** on new voting laws, including voting by absentee ballot, same-day registration, and more

⇒ **Census 2020** on the Census Bureau jobs available, and how you can talk about why everyone should participate in the Census

⇒ **Oakland County Clerk’s Office** on how citizens can be part of the voting process

10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. — Resource Tables

⇒ Get information and questions answered from organizations like the League of Women Voters, VoteSmart, local governmental representatives, and more

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

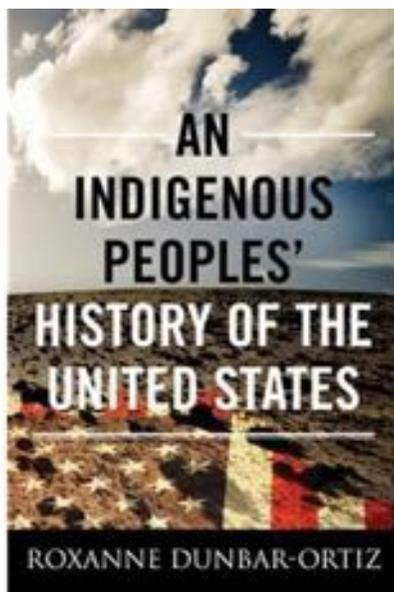
Be it resolved that the congregation of the Birmingham Unitarian Church (BUC) favors:

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 Book Discussion Forum



A book discussion forum on the UUA Common Read, *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, will be hosted by the Green Sanctuary Ministry on three consecutive Saturdays: February 1, 8, and 15. Coffee and light snacks will be provided. All are welcome to participate; there will be enough quoted material to guide discussion even if you haven't read the book.

GIVE YOUR  TO MUUSJN
THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 13 • 7:00 PM

**A concert to benefit the Michigan UU Social Justice Network
 In support of its Interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition**



**Enjoy an evening of show
 tunes and love songs**

performed by

Jay Kaplan & Jeff Willetts

accompanied by

**Elisabeth Wagner
 & Jesse Gibbs**

Jay Kaplan and Jeff Willetts have been performing show tunes and songs from the American songbook for 15 years. Joined by Elisabeth Wagner on piano and Jesse Gibbs on drums and percussion, the group has performed more than two dozen shows in Ann Arbor and the metro Detroit area.

By day, Jay is an attorney with ACLU of Michigan and leads their LGBTQ Project. Jeff is a music teacher for Ann Arbor Public Schools and studied opera and classical music. Elisabeth and Jesse have played in orchestras for countless community theatre productions.

Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church

23925 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield

Doors open 6:30 pm; Program at 7:00 pm Light refreshments will be served

Tickets: \$50 Individual || \$75 Couple || \$20 for patrons with limited budgets

Purchase at www.uujustice.org/give-your-heart-to-muusjn

For more information contact **Barbara Stevenson at 313-505-1110**

Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN) is a statewide network of UU congregations and a founding member of the Interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition, which advocates for justice for women, LGBTQ people, immigrants, people of color, and low income families. This benefit will support the work of the coalition, which includes over a dozen women's and LGBTQ advocacy groups.

sacred earth

Sacred Earth: BUC Member Art Exhibit

Many of today's artists are using a wide variety of creative expressions to address the impact we as human beings are having on our planet. The BUC Art Exhibits Committee invites you to join them by entering the BUC Sacred Earth Art Exhibit.

Planned for April to help celebrate Earth Day, the exhibit offers an opportunity for BUC members to use artistic media to express our hopes, fears, and goals with regard to the climate emergency and environmental justice issues.

All forms of fine art are eligible—painting, photography, drawing, sculpture, textile art, poetry, ceramics, and multimedia. All submissions must be your original art.

We are looking forward to making time and space for all of us to celebrate the creative abilities of this beloved community.

The Rules

- The show will be juried by a panel comprised of members of the three sponsoring committees: the Art Exhibits Committee, the Green Sanctuary Ministry, and the Climate Change Resolution Task Force.
- There will be a \$10 entry fee for each work. Proceeds will cover show costs with any surplus to be donated to environmental causes.
- Any sales of works should be negotiated between artist and buyer. Donating 10% of any sale to the BUC Art Exhibits Committee or Green Sanctuary causes is encouraged.

Important Dates

March 15: Please submit image files of up to three different pieces by email to cjmacleoduart@gmail.com. There is a \$10 nonrefundable charge for each piece submitted, payable in the BUC office, or at the Social and Environmental Justice table at social hour after service on Sunday. Sculpture can include detail shots or multiple views. Include an artist's statement and the dimensions of the pieces. Please be conscious of the church's available space.

March 18: The show will be juried on March 18, and you will be notified about which pieces have been accepted as soon as possible thereafter.

March 29: If you have been notified that your art has been selected, please deliver the artwork to the church, ready to hang or set up, on Sunday, March 29. Any oil paint should be dry.

Job Posting: Director of Religious Education

We have a posting for the full-time Director of Religious Education position. The successful candidate will have demonstrated experience working in churches in volunteer or paid positions, sufficient knowledge of Unitarian Universalism, a love of children and youth, high levels of organization, and proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite.

The full posting and directions for applying can be found [at this link](#).

MAMA's Coffeehouse: Dave Boutette & Kristi Lynn Davis Bottle Rocket Cabaret

Saturday, February 15 | 8:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

\$15 adults | \$13 students/seniors

Tickets at the door only



Dave and Kristi have found the magic that happens when two voices share a melody. Kristi's natural gift for harmony is instantly bringing new life to Dave's celebrated catalog of songs. Close, comforting, and warm, Kristi's voice slips in right beside Dave's, creating the ideal vehicle to deliver the lyric. In addition to the great music, the Dave and Kristi's charming stage presence and quick wit have become hallmarks of their performances.

Bottle Rocket Cabaret is the duo comprised of award-winning musicians John Latini and Jamie-Sue Seal. The pair presents a lively collection of songs with superb vocals, masterful guitar-playing, and vintage flair. Often drawing comparisons to the iconic duo "Delaney and Bonnie" for their soulful vocals and bluesy approach, their roots-based repertoire also reveals glimpses of jazz standards, gospel, musical theater, and opera-house follies.

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:

www.daveboutette.net/dave-boutette-kristi-lynn-davis/

www.bottlerocketcabaret.com

www.bucmi.org/mamas-coffeehouse

[Facebook.com/MAMAsCoffeehouse](https://www.facebook.com/MAMAsCoffeehouse)



Film Buffs

The Farewell | Friday, February 28 | 7:00 p.m. | Commons



"After learning that her family's beloved matriarch, Nai Nai, has been given mere weeks to live, Chinese-born, U. S.-raised Billi returns to Changchun to find that her family has decided to keep the news from Nai Nai. While the family gathers under the joyful guise of an expected wedding, Billi rediscovers the country she left as a child, and is forever changed by her grandmother's wondrous spirit. (China, 2019, PG, 101 minutes)" - Netflix

Snacks provided. For more information, contact Larry at 248-569-0965 or LJWisniew@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 February 9, we will continue our discussion of the book *The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care* by T. R. Reid, looking at chapters 4-9. On March 8, Chapters 10-13 and the appendix will conclude the discussion of this important book.

Please join us and share your ideas, opinions, comments and observations, as we become better acquainted and learn from each other.

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. Contact: LuAnne Holder (luanneholder@wowway.com)

Grief Support Group

If you've experienced a human loss, recent or past, and would like to be part of a grief support group, please call Alison Rule (248-320-1021) or Cindy Goldman (248 320-1750).

Caregivers Support Group

Being a caregiver can be an isolating, overwhelming, and challenging experience. If you'd like to be part of a caregivers support group, please call Alison Rule (248-320-1021) or Camille Harris (248-320-9651)

Kid-Friendly Sharing Dinner Group

At a recent Lunch with the Minister, there was some interest expressed in a kid-friendly Sharing Dinner group. If any parents would like to launch and coordinate this type of group, Dave Sabbagh would be glad to help get you started, based on his experiences with our adult Sharing Dinner group. Dave is unable to coordinate a kid-friendly group himself but can coach, tutor, or make recommendations to anyone who would like to take on the coordinator role. Contact Dave at dsabbagh7@gmail.com.

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.