



11/01 "Indulgences"

SERVICES 10:30 a.m.

1 Selling indulgences, offering individuals a chance to buy a place in heaven is a practice long gone – but sometimes it seems a more subtle kind of indulgences still operates in ways in which our congregations manage resources. Kathy and WA Donna Mohr reflect on the challenges to equity, and how we begin to overturn those challenges. Music provided by Pianist Rudolfs Ozolins and special guest flautist.

8 This movement seeks to build a society where black people thrive instead of survive. It seeks justice for those lost to police violence, equity in housing, education and healthcare, compassion from fellow UU's for struggle. Guest preacher Ben Gabel and WA Camille Harris will explore the connection between our faith and the fight for Black liberation. The Chalice Choir will sing.

15 Some studies suggest there has been an overall drop in empathy following the advent of the Smartphone; others argue that being more connected can only make us more compassionate through heightened awareness of one another. Kathy and WA Bill Fox tease apart the ways in which our understandings of compassion may be changing. Music provided by the Sound Messengers.

22 "Second Helpings" We celebrate Thanksgiving with tables loaded with food. Kathy and WA Mike Aucher consider where abundance is present, and where it is absent, in our lives and the lives of those around us. What injustices restrict abundance, and how can those injustices be corrected? Music provided by BUC's Chalice Choir.



11/8 "UU Movement for Black Lives"



11/15 "Connectivity & Compassion"

+ Sunday, November 29: "Table Conversations" in the Social Hall

In the informal setting of the Social Hall, Kathy and Worship Associate Lisa Demian lead a service of music, readings, and conversations about how we individually navigate the inevitable experiences of inequality in our lives, and what steps we take to resolve those inequalities.

2nd Principle: "We covenant to affirm and promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relations."

As is the case with many of our principles, the plain language can be misleading, and deeper currents run through this principle. In order to live this, we are inevitably challenged to look closely at the darker side of our experience, where injustice, inequity, and an absence of compassion prevail.

That closer look starts with one's own circle of relationships: where do current interactions align with this principle, and where are such virtues absent from interactions—and why? November services pose these disquieting questions.

November Sundays – Special Programming

November 1st

9:15 Before Join Kathy for a conversation about UU understandings of God in the Blue Door room. This continuing class will be an ongoing study of UU beliefs and practices, a chance to reflect on, and (if you choose) write about, various tenets of your own faith perspective. Drop-ins welcome at any time.

11:45 After Words & Wisdom. We will listen to wisdom from contemporary writers and then respond to their thoughts with our own writing. Facilitated by Penny Hackett-Evans, in the Blue Door room.

November 15th

9:15 Before Unitarian Universalist studies for adults in the Blue Door room, led by Kathy. Topic is UU understandings of human nature.

11:45 After Have you always wanted to sing with a band? November 15 is your chance to sing some of our lesser-known hymns with the Sound Messengers. Let's discuss your thoughts and opinions on the role of music at BUC, and how music is selected and rehearsed. The Dearings look forward to having this conversation with you.



November 22nd

11:45 After "What Did You Say?" Are you a human? Do you have reasons to speak with children and/or youth? Whether you don't know what to say to young people at all, or you would like to refine your skills, please come to this interactive discussion. Led by Carey Wendell, RE Council Chairperson, learn how to empower children to be their whole selves. When managing young people, learn how to be authoritative instead of a dictator or an overly passive person.

Connections: Joys & Sorrows

“...joy and sorrow
are inseparable... together
they come and when one
sits alone with you...
remember the other is
asleep upon your bed.”

-Khalil Gibran

“We report with great sorrow the death of Miyo O'Neill. Miyo and her late husband Bill were in the group that founded BUC. She had been living at Henry Fort Village for some years, and a memorial service may be held there.” – Nancy Jones

Dorothy Prier was struck by a car on October 4 in a grocery store parking lot and suffered a broken femur. She is now at the West Bloomfield Nursing Center. Cards and visitors may reach her at 6445 W. Maple Rd, Room 400, West Bloomfield Twp., 48322.

Mary Jo Larson & Jim Bizer are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Liz in August, to Daniel Cox. The Bizer-Coxes are living in Ann Arbor.

Welcome new member, Anne Porritt who signed the Membership Book on October 23, 2015!



REFLECTIONS

Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt



One aspect of BUC life I have enjoyed since I arrived has been the absence of the old humanist-theist divide whenever theological discussions arise. For too many years, that division characterized our congregations and seldom moved us in productive directions: whichever group appeared more common, the lesser group complained of not feeling welcome. Use of vocabulary more likely to be familiar with one group left the other group unhappy, sometimes reduced to such strategies as counting the number of times the word God appeared in Sunday services. So I am relieved that we no longer fall into those polarities, that spirituality has become more nuanced, that the most common theological orientation in the congregation now would be “eclectic,” meaning individuals draw from a variety of spiritual paths to further their growth.

It makes sense that we would want to pin down where we stand belief-wise,

since vagueness about beliefs means those who are certain of their beliefs can run circles around us in any religious discussion. Vagueness about beliefs makes us look as though any old thing will do. But insisting on careful definitions of groups in the congregation, definitions that follow certain theological lines, is not a helpful strategy for addressing that vagueness. Our is an apophatic tradition, meaning we come from a long line of believers in a variety of religious worlds who have claimed that matters of the spirit are too complex, too mysterious and rich, to ever be confined within tidy labels, clear images, creeds, specific rituals.

Apophatic spirituality is a breaker of boundaries, forever discarding efforts that seek to nail down aspects of spiritual life. The sometimes frustrating inarticulateness of Unitarian Universalists, when asked about beliefs, has its roots in this kind of spirituality: we understand too deeply that at the center of any such conversation is a kind of silence that reaches beyond words and refuses to be captured in words.

True, we can always do better at formulating elevator speeches, at entering into conversations asking us to describe our path. But we do so knowing in advance that a tidy description will not be forthcoming, nor should it be. Wallace Robbins, a noted UU minister, put it bluntly: “We dare not fence the spirit.”

• * * * *

Thanks to all of you who have completed the surveys about a potential change in Sunday morning worship schedules to offering a single service with enriched programming opportunities. We have decided to extend the experiment, originally slated just for October, to continue through the end of the year in order to test strategies for addressing some of the potential challenges you identified and to track what impact such a change might have on overall attendance and plate collections. Keep giving us feedback, and look for a decision about the change (either to permanently shift to a single service, or return to our customary double-service schedule) in January.

Faithfully,
Kathy

Sermon Seminar – 4th Monday of the Month

Message Sermon Seminar Beginning in November, Kathy Hurt and Penny Hackett-Evans will facilitate a seminar in how to craft a sermon. The group will meet on the 4th Monday of each month from 6:00 – 9:00 in the sanctuary. The group will end in April. We will be using the book *The Shared Pulpit* by Erika Hewitt, which will lead participants through a gradual and thorough process of writing their own sermon. This program is open to all BUC members and friends and you may register by phoning the office (248) 647-2380. Email kathy.hurt@bucmi.org

The Sunday Morning Discussion Group 9–10:15 a.m.

November 1: The group will meet November 1 to discuss chapters 8 & 9, facilitated by Annis Pratt. Join us in the large conference room, immediately on the right inside the main entrance. November 8: NOT meeting due to SOS space needs. November 15: *The Universe in a Single Atom* – book wrap up. November 22: TBD. November 29: NOT meeting – Thanksgiving Break.

Exploring Spirituality Sunday Morning 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Join us in the small classroom on the left as you enter the blue door classroom (east of the center outdoor courtyard). We are reading and discussing Thich Nhat Han's book, *The Miracle of Mindfulness* and sharing about our experiences with meditation and what it means in our lives.

Tuesday Grief Support Group, November 3

Facilitated by Pat Kridler, the Grief Support Group meets the first Tuesday of the month (November 3rd and December 1st) from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. The November topic is, "What triggers your grief?" – everyone is welcome to share in the support of this group.

Effortless Meditation – Wednesdays in November

Join us in the Commons at 7:00 p.m. on November 4, Exploring Breath & Meditation: come explore the power of your breath in leading you effortlessly into meditation. November 11, Exploring Sound & Meditation: this week you will learn about how the effect of sound on the mind can aid in effortless meditation. November 18, Meditate & Mingle!: enjoy a free guided meditation followed by refreshments and conversation. November 25, Full Moon Meditation. These sessions are free, come to all or drop in when you can. Led by Denise Everheart representing the International Association of Human Values.

Muslim Unity Center & BUC: Building Bridges with Our Neighbors – Thursday, November 5

Part I will be Thursday, November 5 from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. at the Muslim Unity Center. 1830 Square Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 muslimunitycenter.org for Islam Basic Presentation, Meet the Imam, Tour the center, Q & A Session, American Muslims: Fact vs. Fiction. Light Refreshments will be served. BUC will host Part II on January 21.



Words and Wisdom

This group will meet on the first three Monday evenings of November in the Blue Door from 7:30 - 9:00. We will consider the words of others and write our own words of wisdom. Please bring a reading or poem that touches you to the first session and a journal. The group will be facilitated by Penny Hackett-Evans

Humanist Group Meeting – November 15

The Humanists of BUC are announcing our first general meeting and welcoming everyone! On Sunday November 15th we will meet in the Blue Door Room from 12:30 to 2:00 PM. A light lunch will be available at 12:30 with a program from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. We are very pleased that Dr. R. Bart Sangal will speak on the Humanist Manifesto III with a Q and A to follow.

Film Buffs, November 27: *Jealousy*

7:00 p.m. in the Commons. "In the opening moments of 'Jealousy', a stage actor leaves his family and heads out to the streets of Paris. What follows are a series of conversations, chance encounters and impulsive acts that illuminate the unexpected consequences of his decision. Dealing with the difficulties of being true to one's art (and fidelity in general) while facing economic realities, 'Jealousy' uses its lustrous images by the legendary cinematographer Willy Kurant (Masculin-Feminin) to portray fragmented lives in constant motion. In French with English subtitles." - DFT Film Guide Autumn 2014 (France, 2013, NR, 77 minutes)

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



Thanksgiving Potluck at BUC

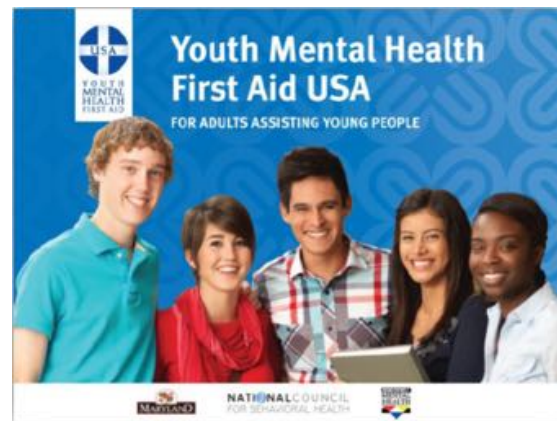
Unsure what you are doing for Thanksgiving? Are you too busy to plan anything? Don't feel like having people over this year or traveling long distances? Come join us for a wonderful potluck dinner at BUC on Turkey Day. Sign up at church after service between the 8th and 22nd or contact Carol Winslow, coordinator at cwins@att.net

Carol is looking for a co-host for the dinner - give her a call and co-host - it'll be fun!

National Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

BUC, in partnership with the Oakland Schools, is offering, at no charge, the national youth mental health first aid training. This class covers risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in youth (which are applicable to other age groups as well). It emphasizes the importance of early intervention. It teaches individuals some beginners' tools for assessing and responding to common mental health challenges. Participants will use role-playing and simulations to develop their skills.

The training will be led by BUC's own Holly Douglas. There will be two opportunities to participate-but in both cases, space is very limited. (Maximum of 30.) The class will be offered as a one-day workshop at BUC on **Saturday, Nov. 21, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** The same class will also be offered again as two half-day sessions at BUC on January 9 and January 16, from 8 a.m. to noon.

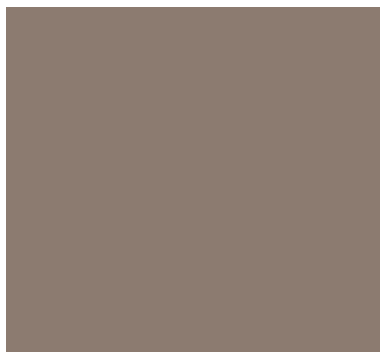


If you are interested, please reserve a seat with coordinator Alison Rule or through the office. Alison's email address is aprule@comcast.net Her number is (248) 320-1021.

BUC Alliance: Wednesday, November 18

On Wednesday, November 18, the Alliance will hear about "Boom Town - Detroit in the Roaring '20's". A speaker from the Detroit Historical Society will talk about the significance of the automobile industry, Prohibition and the demand for alcohol from Canada resulting in rum running, importance of conventions, and organized crime.

All are welcome to our brown bag lunch in the Pavilion at noon, with coffee and cookies provided, followed by the program at 1p.m. in the Commons.



+ November 21 Annie & Rod Capps with Jason Dennie

"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 an engaging stage presence," and you begin to describe an Annie & Rod Capps show. The addition of stringmeister Jason Dennie simply puts this ensemble over the top.

JOE SHIELDS will open the show.

\$15 Admission \$13 Seniors/Students. Shows begin at 8:00pm unless otherwise specified. Doors open at 7:00pm with open mic beginning 15 to 30 minutes later.



Music at BUC

BUC was buzzing with music in October, thanks to numerous factors from a renovated piano to a new sound system. A big "thanks" go out to all involved seeing these two major projects through fruition. There are still a few kinks to work out with our system, but the feedback (pardon) has been overwhelmingly positive regarding the clarity; from the spoken word to the songs our house band sang October 18. We are hopeful to get those kinks worked out shortly.

Our amazing BUC choir sang wonderfully in October. Earlier in the month they did an arrangement of "More I Cannot Wish You" from Guys and Dolls, a tricky number full of complex harmonies. The music served our First Principle perfectly. At the end of the month they sang "River in Judea" while our



Worship Chairperson, Teresa Honnold read an essay about why someone *didn't* believe in the seven principles. Rudolfs prepared and executed a wonderful array of piano solos. It is great to hear the piano restored to its original warm, beautiful tone.

The band was thrilled to test drive the new speaker system for the first time on their traditional third Sunday of the month. They performed music by India Arie, Sly and the Family Stone, and a new tune by our co director Steven. The sanctuary was packed, and folks were moving/grooving to the music. These kind of moments are such an inspiration for all to see and feel. If you haven't witnessed this yet, it might be a good time to give it a try.

We are getting geared up for our traditional holiday large event, and this year the choir will present Vivaldi's "Gloria." Two soloists have been procured, and most of what will be our orchestra. The choir is working diligently in preparation.

November Volunteer of the Month: Karen Stankye



“My thanks to the Board of Trustees. What an honor to be included with the previous volunteers of the month. I am grateful to have found Unitarian Universalism and specifically BUC where there are numerous avenues to make a difference in the world around me. Since retiring I have not only been able to assume leadership of the Green Sanctuary but also participate on the campus development team. Retirement also has allowed me to give back to the youth in the Pontiac area via the cooking/ nutrition classes at the Baldwin Center's summer program and by playing Banana Grams at WHRC weekly.

It is through my volunteer activities at BUC that I have been able to get to know people on a more personal level.

I highly recommend it. AND....The world needs you.” – *Karen Stankye*

Talent & Service Auction Builds Community, Supports BUC Budget

Judging from the bright smiles on more than 130 BUC'ers and friends, the October 16th “Building Connections” Auction was a big success. Partygoers enjoyed rib-sticking food (find one fan-favorite the recipe on our facebook page!), lively entertainment, fast-paced bidding and all-around fun.

Hard hats are off to the volunteer “Band of Builders” who helped construct this wonderful evening. Special appreciation goes to the many donors willing to share their time, talents and services for others to bid on.

With all the multi-guest meals, services and classes offered, there were almost 500 individual bidding opportunities. Spots remaining open after the Auction were offered for purchase by folks who attended the next morning's Worship Service. Combining bidders and buyers, a large number of BUC'ers will share Auction-style fellowship with each other in the months to come. **And thanks to all, BUC received more than \$21,000 toward its operating budget!**



Auction crew volunteers take supper break during evening set-up

On the left: Inta Davis, Don Johnson, Barb Schandeval, Diane Slon, Mary Gawel-Ensroth, Dick Cantley (also pictured above pitching the crowd to fund replacement LED bulbs throughout BUC).

On the right: Teresa Honnold, Mary Jo Ebert, Barb Eschner, Anne Calomeni, Sharon Jacobs

Not pictured: Julia Gragg, Merry Hoffmeyer, Jane MacFarlane, Chair Marcia Mahood, Alison Rule, Pat Schwing, Amy Smalley

Wow! ClickBid brings in the bids!!

Service & Justice November 2015

SOS Host Week Nov 8-15 – Sing-Along Invitation

Thank you to all who have signed up to fulfill the many duties of our host week. We put our principles into action by providing meals, transportation, and a friendly, comfortable “home” for our SOS guests. The dinner music provided by BUC musicians during the last couple of years has been a “hit.” This year, in addition to dinner music throughout the week, we will have a sing-along with the choir and our SOS guests on Wednesday night, Nov 11, at about 7:30. All BUCers and friends are welcome to join in as we sing in community with our guests.

WHRC Book Trolley

Due to budget constraints, the WHRC Elementary School in Pontiac does not have a librarian. To fill the gap, BUCers and other volunteers staff a mobile library using trolleys. They find it rewarding to make books available to eager readers. Volunteers are needed on Thursday mornings. Contact AlisonRule@gmail.com; phone number in directory.

Earned Sick Time Proposal

A grass roots effort known as “MI Time To Care” is proposing legislation enabling workers to earn one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked, up to nine days, which can be used for their sickness or that of a family member, meetings with a child’s school or day care, or care needed by victims of domestic violence. For small companies, a combination of paid and unpaid sick time would be earned. While many employers already grant such a benefit, over 1.5 million MI workers do not receive it, including many in the food service industry. If enough signatures are collected, the Earned Sick Time Act proposal will go before the MI legislature. You can support this by (1) signing the petition in the social hall after Sunday services, (2) helping collect signatures, (3) talking about this with friends and family and encouraging them to support it. Contact MaryJoEbert@gmail.com; phone number in directory.

Escalating Inequality Study/Action – Speaker Series

Last April we launched a study/action program on the subject of escalating economic inequality. A speaker series is being scheduled for January-March. Watch for news about the speakers, dates, and registration. If you or your small group, discussion group, or book club would like to learn more about the subject and how to recognize actions you can take to address the economic gap (support of earned sick leave is one of them), contact Pat Hammer, Marti Szilagyi, or Mary Jo Ebert.

BUC Sock
Drive! Please
donate new
socks by
Sunday,
November
22nd. Most
needed: men’s
large, cotton,
or thermal.



WHRC – Holiday Adopt a Family

Each year, BUCers are invited to sponsor WHRC families through our holiday adopt-a-family program. Watch for chances to select a family during the latter half of November. If it’s too much for you to do on your own, consider teaming with other members and friends to make a difference for a local family.

Bananagrams After-School Program

The Bananagrams program is off to a great start with 30-40 students participating each week. We need a few more volunteers on Thursdays at 3:45-5:15 to ensure we have enough people helping each week. You can sign up for weeks that fit your schedule. Contact MaryJoEbert@gmail.com; phone # in directory.

Plate Collection – BUC Emerging Needs Fund

The November plate collection recipient is the BUC Emerging Needs Fund, which Rev. Kathy uses at her discretion to aid members of the local community and our congregation who request help.

BUC Service & Justice Chair: Mary Jo Ebert

MUUSJN (Mich. UU Social Justice Network): www.uujustice.org

UU Service Committee (UUSC): www.uusc.org

Campus Developments: Town Hall Recap

Town Hall Covers Membership, Pledges, Mortgage Affordability

On behalf of the Campus Development and Prioritization Committee (CDPC), BUC Treasurer Dick Cantley chaired a Town Hall meeting on Sunday, October 4th. This session covered three important topics: BUC's current membership numbers, status of Pledge income, and affordability of the \$400K mortgage needed to complete the planned revitalization of the church campus.

Video of the presentation, Q&A and supporting slides are now posted [here](#)-in the About Us > Campus Development section of the BUC website. Highlights include:

- **Membership:** Since 2011 when the BUC membership list showed 448 members, about 100 members relocated, requested removal from the list, or passed away. In 2015, modest growth shows membership at 428, during a period when other churches report shrinking numbers. It's interesting to note that about one out of four BUC members are "new" having joined over the last four years.
- **Pledge income** has steadily grown from \$403K in 2011 to more than \$500K in fiscal year 2014/2015. As Program goals and operational budgets were set, monies were shifted to different areas based on need and staff hours were allocated accordingly. While membership numbers have held "sideways" our Pledges are up 25%, at a time when we also raised \$1.5M for our Capital Campaign-evidence of an engaged congregation.

After the meeting Rev. Kathy Hurt provided this detail in response to a question regarding staff cuts: "Sometimes staffing reductions are made in order to save dollars, and sometimes they are made in order to ensure our resources are being committed where they are most needed, and in areas most likely to enhance church life. The reductions in recent years were a combination of the two rationales, so that saving some money also meant an opportunity to increase staff support in areas that contribute significantly to our experience at BUC. The intention to grow and strengthen the church as a whole and to advance our mission is always the primary consideration for the Board and the Executive in deciding how best to use our resources."

- **Mortgage affordability:** In May the CDPC reported that the monthly payment for principal + interest on a \$400K conventional mortgage with 30-year amortization would range from \$1910 to \$2398, and that operating funds were estimated in sufficient amount to cover that range. As of October 4th, the monthly payment range (for 25-year amortization) was updated to \$2111 to \$2599, and both actual and estimated operating funds were identified to cover payments.

During the meeting, Dick Cantley also asked for attendees' level of interest in an alternative way to fund an \$800K bridge loan to cover construction costs while the committed Capital Campaign donations flow in. That is, for BUC to form an LLC where members could invest in \$1000 increments over a 48-month period at an interest rate of 3%. Response showed some interest; the wider congregation will be surveyed about this possibility in the near future.

Again, we invite you to view the videotaped meeting and Q/A on the BUC website. The next CDPC Town Hall meeting will be scheduled for sometime in January. In the meantime, please direct any questions to Dick_Cantley@yahoo.com. Thank you again for your continued support.

Religious Education

Children's Rotation Curriculum

November's Ideas About God rotation explores the many different, ever-changing opinions about God found within our world. This rotation focuses on questions such as "What is God?" It asks the children to contemplate for themselves four possible theological paths: atheism, self-directed journeys, monotheism and beliefs in multiple gods.

Below is a brief outline of the Preschool-5th grade schedule through the holiday season.

The Nursery will be staffed every Sunday but not on Christmas Eve. Thank you.

Nov. 29th: Holiday Happenings for Preschool - 5th grade

Dec. 6th: Candy Cane Sunday for all Preschool - 12th grade

Dec. 13th: Choir Sunday; Vivaldi Gloria (Preschool & K-5th grade RE classes offered)

Dec. 20st: No Fault Orchestra/Multigenerational service for all Preschool - 12th grade

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

Please contact Eleanor McGuire, Children's DRE, with any questions at: eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org

November Poinsettia Sale Fundraiser Begins November 1st



The BUC ROPE students are again selling wonderful poinsettias. The ROPE program offers our 8th grade students a UU Coming of age experience - a year of study culminating in a trip to Boston to explore our Unitarian and Universalist roots. The Poinsettia sale is one of several fundraisers necessary to ensure that all of the students can experience the trip to Boston.

The plants are big and beautiful, florist quality Poinsettias, available in Red, White, Pink, and Marble. All of these plants are truly gorgeous!

A **bargain** size plant in a 5' pot is \$9; a **traditional** plant in a 6" pot is \$13; an **extra size - two plants** in a 7" pot is \$19 and a **premium arrangement of three full plants** in an 8" pot is any color is just \$22. They will be available for pick up after the service on December 6 - just in time for your Holiday decorating, or as a "little something" to bring to your Holiday visits.

Thank you very much for your support of our BUC Rite Of Passage Experience! If you would like to place an order or if you have questions, please stop by our table in the social hall, or contact Cecilia or Mike Gabel.

Youth Religious Education

In November, the 6 & 7 class will begin a unit on Hinduism, which will continue through November and include a field trip to a temple, a visitor, and food and music.

OWL (Our Whole Lives) is going well under the direction of trained facilitators Dave Graham, Vickie Muir, and Alison Rule. Poinsettia sales are scheduled to begin on November 1.

High school class: Unlike many UU churches, BUC offers high school youth both a Sunday morning high school class and a

youth group, the Great Unitarian Universalist Senior High (GUUSH). BUC's youth will continue their Faith and Science discussions on Sunday mornings in November. For example, our UU Principles draw from many sources, including "humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science". Given that road map, how does an individual actually sift through the widely differing moral opinions surrounding most modern day scientific issues?

UFO: The 6&7 grade youth will have their annual cookie-baking for our SOS guests on Sunday, Nov. 8. Lisa Kort is the SOS cookie coordinator this year!

GUUSH: It is almost time for the South Oakland Shelter at BUC and the annual youth-produced dinner. This year, in collaboration with families from Northwest UU, the menu is up for a change! Please notify SOS coordinator Paul Plante if you are interested in helping with the Nov. 14 dinner.

From Nov. 13-15, the Dayton UU Church will host a chaplaincy training conference (or "con"). The cons are wonderful opportunities for youth to attend workshops in new areas, make interchurch connections, and develop leadership skills but we must have more drivers. Parents, we are relying on you.

If you are not receiving regular email updates about youth events, please send your contact information to Youth DRE Kimery Campbell at kimery.campbell@bucmi.org.

Out and About with Your Green Sanctuary Committee

In October Members of BUC's Green Sanctuary Committee attended exciting conferences and came back with lots of ideas for our own earth ministry. On October 9 Annis Pratt, Karen Stankye, and Mary Dunn went to Michigan Interfaith Power & Light's Conference at the People's Church in Lansing. The conference was on how to Green and Grow your Congregation. It was heartening to be one of so many churches and synagogues promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy for our buildings. There were great keynote speakers, including Sister Simone Campbell, author of *Nun on the Bus*, who reminded us that it takes community to save the earth (we can't do it alone), challenging us to come together by doing one small thing at a time. Valerie Brader, Executive Director of the Michigan Agency for Energy, brought us the good news that renewable energy is now so economical for Michigan that the "cleanest source can win on price."

To top it all off, our own Green Sanctuary chair Karen Stankye won a kit full of energy savers for our church – including a fixer alarm, power strips, and a temperature sensor. Go Green!

On the weekend of October 23-25, Ken Grundberg, Sharon Kirchner, and Mary Jo Ebert attended the Great Lakes Bioneers Conference to present a panel discussion on "The Free Geek in the Motor City" (www.motorcityfreegeek.net) about recycling electronics in an environmentally friendly way. The Bioneers (www.blbd.org) promote a sustainable community that fosters life-giving relationships, nurtures connections, and celebrates solutions for restoring and healing. – Annis Pratt



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