



Birmingham Unitarian Church
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

October
Worship
Theme

The Divine
Feminine



October Services

6 “Mother Mary”

For many, St. Mary is a symbol of compassion and mercy. How might our Unitarian Universalism benefit from reflection on those virtues? Rev. Mandy Beal with Worship Associate Judy Amir and music from The Sound Messengers. Followed by our animal blessing at 12:00 noon. All household pets, stuffed animals, and pictures of pets are welcome.

13 “Economics, Politics, and Ethics of the Climate Crisis”

We hear a lot about the science of climate change, but all solutions have political and economic impacts, and these are just as important to our well-being as the science. Paul Clements, PhD, will help us deepen our understanding of these issues, and of the different approaches being proposed, and will join us in after service during the Harvest Potluck to answer your questions. Worship Associate Bill Fox and music from The Chalice Choir.

20 “Durga”

Perhaps the most popular story about the warrior goddess Durga is her defeat of the buffalo demon. This service will consider how that story might relate to our context. Rev. Mandy Beal with Worship Associate Judy Amir and music from The Chalice Choir.

27 Diwali Celebration

This multigenerational service will celebrate the joyful Hindu festival of Diwali and the goddess Lakshmi with story, song, and movement. Rev. Mandy Beal with Worship Associate Bill Fox and music from The Sound Messengers.

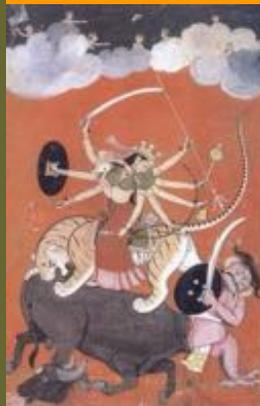
Animal Blessing
October 6
12:00 noon



October 6:
“Mother
Mary”



October 13: “Economics, Politics, and Ethics of the Climate Crisis”



October 20:
“Durga”



October 27: Diwali Celebration

Welcome to BUC

Sunday Worship Service
10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

The Divine Feminine

Rev. Mandy Beal



Like many people, I grew up in a religious tradition that put forth an exclusively masculine concept of the divine. As a child, I imagined God with a fluffy white beard, short white hair, and a killer suntan. I thought of this God as benevolent, protective, and very powerful, all traits I had come to associate with ideal masculinity.

In my early adulthood, I began my first church job at a very liberal mainline Protestant church, where the ministers were dedicated to

eliminating patriarchal language from worship services. Here I heard God spoken of without gender for the first time; God was never “He” or “She,” but always “God.” God was God’s own pronoun, and it encouraged my thinking about God to move a little further beyond the scope of the human experience. If God transcends gender, what else might God transcend? Anger? Jealousy? Tribalism?

Over time, my understanding of the world became more nuanced, and so did my relationship with god-or-whatever-we-want-to-call-it. I’d had a relationship with the masculine god, and with a non-gendered god, but never with a feminine goddess. That changed when I began my journey with yoga. Through my yoga practice and yoga teacher training, I explored sacred texts and stories about Hindu goddesses. These female deities are fierce, nurturing, and clever.

Using ideas of god(s) and goddess(es) is a way of making something vast more comprehensible for us. Perhaps one of the advantages of portraying the divine through multiple deities is the wide range of personality traits. I’m looking forward to exploring the Divine Feminine with BUC in the coming month.

Joys and Sorrows

Thank you to Harper West for her service in Sunday Morning Hospitality these last three years. Harper is stepping down from Hospitality to serve on the Stewardship Committee for the next two years.

Jim and Cheryl Shettel celebrated 46 years of marriage on September 1!

Mike Kendra and Kathy DuHame are touched and grateful for all the cards, emails, and calls after the passing of Kathy’s father, Jerry DuHame, and their car accident. They are healing well and now ask that you keep Mike’s mother, Barbara Kendra, in your prayers as she enters hospice.

From Barbara Woolf: “I’m thankful for my friends in the choir for their help when I fell after choir rehearsal on September 4. I looked odd, but am feeling fine. Thank you to our beloved community!”

Carole Wiseman’s mother’s birthdate was September 8. Dick Wiseman’s uncle celebrated his 102nd birthday on September 10. Dick’s uncle’s mother died when he was one year old in 1918 in the Spanish flu world epidemic.

Paula Short died on September 6. She passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family. Paula faced several health challenges over the course of her life, but was known for her humor and tenacity. She and her husband, Tom, were longtime members of BUC, and Paula sang in the Chalice Choir when she was well. She is survived by Tom and their two daughters, Pamela and Beth. A memorial service was held at BUC on September 28.

From Kaye Ritinger: “Many thanks to everyone who helped me through my broken arm and, later, suffering through a car crash. Your loving support was truly a blessing. Also, I had my 80th birthday on September 19 and a great party put on by my family.”

Joanne Umphrey had a very special Grandparents Day on September 8: that week, Joanne celebrated the birth of grandchild #51!

Over Labor Day weekend, Lillian and Walter Dean celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends in Richmond, VA.

From Kathy DuHame: “Good news about my Mom, Mary Vermiglio. The spots on her liver and kidney pose no problems.”

From Sharon Kirchner: “It’s a joy to be well enough to be back at BUC. I’m grateful for all the cards, phone calls, and transportation.”

Paul and Mary Jo Plante celebrated 50 years of marriage in 2019!

From Emma VanHouten and Erika Hansinger: “Our kitten, Elliott, celebrated his first birthday on September 10!”

Michael Hatton has died. Michael was married to Mary Jane Connelly Hatton, daughter of Stan and Mary Jane Connelly. Mike and Mary Jane were members of BUC for several years before relocating to Houghton, MI. Their sons, Michael P. Hatton, Jr. and Christopher W. Hatton, were both raised in this congregation. Mike was a skilled cook and he used this talent in volunteering with Focus: HOPE and to prepare food for BUC activities. A memorial service will be held at BUC on Saturday, November 23 at 11:00 a.m.

Green Sanctuary Ministry

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 2 | 6:30 p.m. | Starbucks

The Green Sanctuary Ministry committee is looking for new members! They meet quarterly, and have need of volunteers to take on various assignments, from small, occasional tasks to major commitments. Their next meeting, to finalize plans for the Harvest Potluck, will be on Wednesday, October 2 at 6:30 p.m. (tomorrow!!) at the Starbucks at Woodward and Square Lake Rd. (offsite due to Rummage). For more information on the Green Sanctuary Ministry, contact Dan Kosuth at dankosuth@yahoo.com.



Issues and Ale

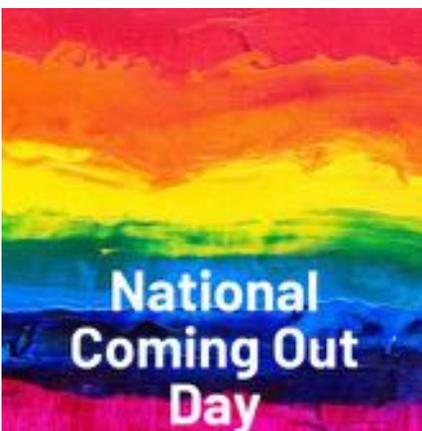
Friday, October 4 | 6:00 p.m. | Joe Kool's, Troy

The next meeting of the monthly Issues and Ale group is this Friday, October 4, at 6:00 p.m. at Joe Kool's Sports Bar and Grill, located at 1835 E. Big Beaver Rd. in Troy, next to the Troy Sports Center. This month's meeting will be facilitated by Jay Labban. All are welcome to join this group for lively conversation on important social justice issues in an informal atmosphere. For more information, contact Jay at sigma373@yahoo.com.

Sharing Dinners

Saturday, October 12

It's Sharing Dinner time again! This program provides a wonderful opportunity for friendship, fellowship, and conversation over potluck dinners in participants' homes on the second Saturday of each month (excluding December). Anyone is welcome to join at any time. If you would like to participate in the first dinner on Saturday, October 12, email Dave Sabbagh at dsabbagh7@gmail.com by October 6 (this Sunday!) and let him know if you will attend as a guest or if you can host (hosts are always much needed and appreciated!) If you can't make it this this month, you can email Dave to get on the list for next month's dinner, scheduled for Saturday, November 9.



Welcoming Congregation Renewal

Honoring National Coming Out Day during service on October 6

October 11 is National Coming Out Day! We're honoring this important LGBTQ+ day of observance during our October 6th service with a special song by Ann Reed called "God Is Sleeping/You've Got to Be Carefully Taught." Anyone in the sanctuary that day who is LGBTQ+ is invited to walk up to the chancel with their fellow LGBTQ+ congregants and join in the singing. There's no pressure to participate, but if you'd like to, please talk to or email Amy Smalley (asmalley910@gmail.com) or any member of the Welcoming Congregation Re-

newal Taskforce (below) to find out more.

October is also LGBTQ+ history month. On October 20, Jesse Beal will do a reading to honor this important observance, and we'll also have a display of LGBTQ+ history books at the Social and Environmental Justice Table in Hodas Family Hall.

Our congregation has entered into a yearlong process of renewing our "Welcoming Congregation" status with the UUA. This renewal requires we do the following: dedicate two services to LGBTQ+ concerns, honor six days of LGBTQ+ observance in worship, offer an LGBTQ+ teaching module, and monetarily support an LGBTQ+ welcoming project. We deeply thank you for helping us renew this important designation.

—Welcoming Congregation Renewal Taskforce: Jane O'Neil, Donna Larkin Mohr, Jesse Beal, Brianna Zamborsky

SoundBites - The Brazeal Dennard Chorale

Friday, October 11 | 7:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

Please join us as the SoundBites concert series begins its sixth season with the Brazeal Dennard Chorale, 40 voices strong in an exhilarating performance of choral music of all genres.

For more than four decades, the Chorale has wooed Detroit audiences with its vocal excellence in such venues as Orchestra Hall. These highly trained singers pursue the legendary mission of founder Dr. Brazeal Dennard, a singer, composer, arranger, and educator. His efforts helped moved the African American spiritual beyond the confines of the church, exposing not only the beauty of this music but also its historical importance to a wider audience.



Music professionals throughout North America recognize the passion of the Chorale, and choirs everywhere sing Dr. Dennard's deeply rich spirituals. Now under the direction of Alice McAllister Tillman, the Chorale continues to inspire through its many performances and recordings.

We are pleased to host the Chorale on October 11 at 7:30 p.m. here in the BUC Sanctuary. Purchase tickets online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-brazeal-dennard-chorale-at-buc-soundbites-tickets-72317544723> (student tickets available at the door only, with valid student ID). For more information on the Chorale, please visit <https://www.brazealdennard.com>.



Harvest Potluck

Presented by the Green Sanctuary Ministry
Sunday, October 13 | After worship

Please join the Green Sanctuary Ministry for our Annual Harvest Potluck on October 13, after the worship service. All are invited—there will definitely be extra food. If you can, bring a dish to share. We encourage you to be mindful of how this food comes to us, including its environmental, economic, and social impacts on our lives.

Getting to Know UU

Sunday, October 13 | 12:30 p.m. | Red Door Classroom



Join us for another round of our popular adult education series, "Getting to Know UU." Rob Davidson will be facilitating four Sunday classes about Unitarian Universalism in general and BUC in particular. Bring your questions, your thoughts, and your spirituality! The first class will be held on Sunday, October 13 from 12:30–2:00 p.m., right after the Harvest Potluck, in the Red Door Classroom. The other three classes will be on November 10, December 15, and January 12 from 12:00 noon–1:30 p.m. A light lunch will be provided, and childcare will be available. Come to as many classes as you like. Whether you consider yourself a newcomer or have been attending for a while, you are welcome. Sign up at the Membership table in Hodas Family Hall, or RSVP to Rob at kathyd8082@gmail.com, and be sure to tell us if you need childcare.

South Oakland Shelter at BUC - November 3-10

Signups starting October 13

Volunteers are needed for BUC's annual South Oakland Shelter host week, November 3–10. Each year, volunteers have a unique opportunity to practice their values and principles and make a personal difference in the lives of 30 unhoused adults and children from the tri-county area. Please join us to house, feed, and take care of these folks while SOS staff attends to their mental and physical needs, housing, employment, education, and other professional issues. SOS has now merged with Lighthouse of Oakland County to provide a stronger response to poverty in our community. The new combined organization is known as Lighthouse of Michigan, of which SOS is a subgroup. You can learn more at southoaklandshelter.org.

In-person volunteer signups will be taking place after Sunday worship service on October 13, 20, and 27. Please visit the SOS table on one of those days to sign up, and contact SOS coordinator Paul Plante at pplante@mi.rr.com with any questions. Thank you so much for your continued support of SOS at BUC!

Alliance

Wednesday, October 16 | 12:00 noon

The opening meeting of the Alliance will be on Wednesday, October 16. We'll start with a catered lunch by Anne Calomeni at 12:00 noon in the Pavilion. The cost is \$15, payable at the door. We will also be collecting dues and issuing membership cards.

Our speaker will be our own Mary Dunn, project leader of the Climate Change Taskforce. She'll talk about the taskforce's work on a climate change resolution to be endorsed by BUC. Mary's talk will be held in the Commons at 1:00, with time for Q&A.

Looking ahead, our next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 20, with a talk on gun control and ending gun violence. Our annual holiday luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 10, at the Iroquois Club. Mark your calendars.

Everyone is welcome to join us. Meanwhile, we hope to see many of you during the Rummage sale October 3-5!

—Ann Throop for the Alliance Committee



Fall Grounds Cleanup

Saturday, October 19 | 9:00 a.m.

On Saturday October 19, starting at 9:00 a.m., we're looking for volunteers to help with maintenance and beautification of our BUC campus grounds. Activities will include trimming, pruning, leaf and weed removal, and other garden chores. Don't miss the fun on what we hope will be a beautiful fall morning! Contact Kym Worth at kym.worth@bucmi.org or 248-647-2380 to sign up. Coffee and bagels will be provided.

Humanists of BUC

Sunday, October 27 | 12:00 noon | Lower Level Classroom

The next meeting of the Humanists of BUC will be on Sunday, October 27 at 12:00 noon in the Lower Level Classroom. A light lunch will be provided. The meeting will feature BUC Board of Trustees Vice President, Donna Larkin Mohr, speaking on her core values. A discussion will follow. Prior to Donna's talk, Larry Larson will give a short talk on how Humanism and BUC help him become a better person.

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

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

Music at BUC

This month, there is so much music in the air at BUC. SoundBites opens the concert season with the uplifting, soulful choral sounds of the Brazeal Dennard Chorale. This group of singers will fill BUC's beautiful sanctuary with the deep spirituals that help define choral music today while continuing the legacy of African American cultural contributions to our collective enrichment. As a young music student at Wayne State University, Abha was so blessed to work directly with Professor Dennard, whose presence embodied the idea of "being the change." He was tall, completely bald, and impeccably dressed in suit and bowtie for several rehearsals, where he led us in imparting the details and nuances of his then-new piece, "Hush!" His dynamic leadership and infectious enthusiasm definitely inspired Abha as a music educator. Come to our concert on October 11 and see how his legacy lives on.

We are looking forward to many joyful and reflective Sundays coming up. We pore over Rev. Mandy's theme ideas and the complementary readings and worship associate reflections to find the right songs and hymns to help thread the parts of the service together. Our services can bring solace and joy to many and we are grateful to have the opportunity to be creative in this collective endeavor.

As we look toward October's theme of The Divine Feminine, we have lots of music planned to coincide with the service topics. Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, commemorates a mostly male-deity story where good conquers evil through loyalty and strength. Some of this Hindu mythology rubs us the wrong way, as it celebrates male power and violent victories, but many aspects of Diwali, in anecdotal experience, surround performing acts of good and love and seeing "diva," or light, in our lives. Therefore Lakshmi and Saraswati, goddesses of wealth and knowledge, symbolize the riches in our interactions with each other and the quest for deeper understanding in this life and the greater world. Abha's dad, Ramesh Mangrulkar, will be providing authentic Indian music to commemorate Diwali this year.

In other music news, the Sound Messengers welcome sound engineer Roman Tarchinski, who has been mixing the band smoothly to give Sunday mornings the right effects for worship and celebration.

The Chalice Choir is working hard on the Mozart Vespers as well as a nice variety of choral music. They were joined in September by Darryl Johnson, a fabulous soul singer who graced us at last year's Motown service. It is such a joy to collaborate with fabulous musicians who are so passionate about worship and community.

As always, please write us with your thoughts on music at BUC (abha.dearing@bucmi.org and steven.dearing@bucmi.org).

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

SPREAD THE LAUGHS 14
a fundraiser for Welcome Inn Day Center

Thursday, October 24

**MARK RIDLEY'S
COMEDY CASTLE**

310 S. Troy St., Royal Oak; Valet & metered parking available
Headliner: Keith Alberstadt, a family-friendly comedian

<p>5:00 Doors open 5:45 Dinner by Movable Feast 6:45 Three-Way Raffle Closes 7:00 Silent Auction Closes 7:30 Comedy</p>	<p>\$40 per person 50% of cost is tax-deductible Write check to S.O.C.H. Sponsored by South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless</p>
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Tickets: Social & Env Justice Table @ coffee hour or call/text
Barbara Robinson, 248-320-8366. Need a ride? Let us know.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Whether you have a few moments or 50 years of life here on earth remaining, you have a purpose and there are things you want to accomplish, experience, and BE while you're here on earth. Join Dr. Sarah Bamford Seidelmann, Author and Shamanic Practitioner,

for a workshop at BUC on Saturday November 16. There's a reason that all shamans keep death as a close ally: Befriending death enables them to do the things they came here to do. Making friends with the inevitability of our eventual transition helps us become more firmly rooted in our joy and purpose while we are still in human form. Tickets available at <https://www.universe.com/events/til-death-do-us-start-tickets-B80C4S>. More about Sarah at www.FollowYourFeelGood.com.

This program is not sponsored by and may not reflect the views of Birmingham Unitarian Church

Religious Education

Religious Education Registration: Safety First!

Please register your children and youth for RE! You can register online at www.bucmi.org/register-for-re and paper forms are also available. So far, around half of our RE families have filled these out. Please get this taken care of soon, so that we have contact and emergency information for all the children and youth in our programs.

Trunk or Treat

The Membership Committee and Religious Education Council are working together to bring a new event to BUC this fall, Trunk or Treat! This event is designed to be a welcoming place for children and families to bring their friends and meet our congregation. There will be a costume parade, a bouncy house, and treats for all. We want families to bring friends to introduce them to Unitarian Universalism. The Membership folks will have information about BUC and how to get involved. Other members will decorate their car trunks and bring treats for trick or treating. RSVP for this event here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eaeaf29a4f94-rsvp>

South Oakland Shelter

On Sunday, November 3, our 6th-, 7th-, and 8th-grade students are invited for an afternoon of baking cookies to help our SOS guests feel welcome with a sweet snack. We will gather at 11:45 a.m. in the kitchen. You can sign up to bring cookie dough and other supplies. Watch for the SignUp Genius form to arrive in your email.

Bake-off Postponed

Sadly, our annual Bake-Off has been postponed. The RE Council was unable to find a chairperson to coordinate at this time.

GUUSH: The Great UU Senior High Youth Group

Sunday, October 6 will be the first GUUSH meeting of the year. Students will meet at 10:15 a.m. in the Red Door Classroom to get to know each other and plan upcoming youth activities.

Mystic Lake Retreat: October 11–13

It's not too late to sign up for this event for 6th-8th grade youth! We have some interest, so let's fill a carload! Adult chaperones are also needed. Visit this link to register: <http://peopleschurch.net/religious-education/middle-school-uu-retreat-for-6-8th-grade-youth-at-mystic-lake-oct-11-13/>

Con Alert!

“Con” is short for CONference. November 1–3 is the CONtribUUtion Con held in Brighton MI, about an hour from BUC. Both middle- and high-school youth are invited. Adults are needed to drive and chaperone. Contact Shari if you are interested in attending.

Oops! Shari told a bunch of folks to have the 6-12th grade students attend the Time for All Ages during worship service. That idea has been scratched. Students in 6th grade and up should proceed directly to classes on Sunday morning so that they have plenty of time to “go deep” into their discussion topics.

Coming up: Poinsettia sale. More information will be available soon.

October Worship Theme: The Divine Feminine

Before the Abrahamic faiths' understanding of God, there was The Goddess, Mother of All. Creation stories from around the world claimed that the earth was born, not made.

It is easy for me to picture a nurturing woman energy that embraces us all, a loving mother, a caring feminine force that nurtures the body and spirit of the people. The divine feminine was the basis for civilization. She taught us to build communities based on cooperation. She was known by many names, but the polytheists of the ancient world knew that she represented the oneness of all. There was an ancient trinity: The Maiden, The Mother, and The Crone, represented by the waxing, full, and waning moons. She was The Maiden, the spirit of youth, of sexuality, and beauty. She was The Mother, the fullness of life, birth, and creation. She was The Crone, keeper of the wisdom, knowledge, and traditions of the people.

To me, the Christian trinity has never made sense. The missing part is obviously the mother! What if the trinity was seen as Mother, Father, and Child? Then it would make more sense to me. I see the Christian trinity as a clear example of the Church fathers writing women out of their religion. Why was there such avoidance of the divine feminine? The Mother of Us All—who births us, holds us, and feeds us—was such a potent symbol that the Old Testament Jews spent generations fighting her popular worship. The Christian patriarchy was also afraid of the power of the Goddess, thus they removed the female-friendly Gnostic Gospels from the canon, they ignored the teachings of women in the early church, and they allowed Paul, who had questionable feelings about women, to write the majority of the New Testament.

It is my hope that the revival of the Goddess in modern times will change our culture. Knowing our genes are traced to a common mother can help us to refute racism. To allow the worship of multiple deities can help us to build free, multicultural societies. I believe that honoring the many facets of women as SACRED and HOLY could even destroy the patriarchy. Blessed be!

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

MAMA's Coffeehouse: Two headline performers! Escaping Pavement and Jason Dennie

Saturday, October 19 | 8:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

\$15 adults | \$13 students/seniors

Tickets at the door only

ESCAPING PAVEMENT

Hailed as “the most dynamic Americana group out of Detroit, Michigan,” Escaping Pavement masterfully blends and blurs the lines of Bluegrass, Folk, and Americana. Emily Burns and Aaron Markovitz share equally in singing, songwriting, and guitar playing, creating an astounding, harmony-driven musical interplay that has earned them high-profile appearances nationwide. With a 2017 Detroit Music Award win for Outstanding Americana Recording, over 700 shows under their belt, and a nonstop touring schedule, this duo is spreading their roots-based message far and wide.



JASON DENNIE

For the past two decades, Jason Dennie’s extraordinary and varied instrumental gifts have enriched Michigan’s music scene in uncountable ways. Raised by multiple generations of bluegrass musicians, Jason melds that traditional background with contemporary acoustic music in spectacular and creative ways. He’s the recipient of numerous awards, including the Gamble Rogers Fingerstyle Championship. His acoustic trio, Thunderwude, has been gaining notoriety, but we will hear him perform his remarkable music as a solo act.

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

Open mic at 7:30. Interested in performing? Send a note to mamascOFFEEHOUSE@BUCMI.ORG.

Film Buffs

Jafar Panahi's Taxi | Friday, October 25 | 7:00 p.m. | Commons



“Donning a disguise, the great Iranian director Jafar Panahi (*The White Balloon*) goes in front of the lens, masquerading as a Tehran taxi driver. As he shuttles a procession of idiosyncratic fares across the bustling city, a dashboard camera captures their candid conversations. In Farsi with English subtitles. (Iran/France, 2015, NR, 82 minutes)” —Netflix

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

BUC Hosts Display of Signal Return's "On Press: Making Visible an Unseen Detroit"

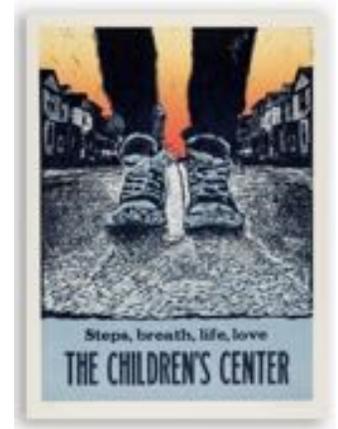
The Art Exhibits Committee is proud to reprise a show that was produced by Signal Return, a traditional letterpress print shop and community arts center, in partnership with The Scarab Club, one of Michigan's finest venues for art, music, and literature. The effort paired 12 Detroit artists with 12 Detroit nonprofit organizations and resulted in powerful letterpress posters celebrating the nonprofits.

As Signal Return described the show: "People are watching, visiting, and writing about Detroit, too often putting a superficial spin on a complex city. A more textured story exists, and it is critical that Detroiters do the telling. Not all artists are activists and not all nonprofit organizations are connected to the world of art.... This collaboration fostered a creatively rich opportunity for engagement for both groups, for Detroit, and for those looking at us from the outside."

The artists and nonprofits are:

Mark Arminski/Georgia St. Community Collective
Olayami Dabls/Mariners Inn
Andy Krieger/The Children's Center
Sabrina Nelson/Black Family Development
Pat Perry/Freedom House
Azucena Nava-Moreno/Detroit Horse Power

WC Bevan/WNUC
Louise Jones/Detroit Hives
Nicole Macdonald/Wild Indigo Detroit Nature Explorations
Renata Palubinskas/Keep Growing Detroit
Renee Rials/COTS
Vito Valdez/Last Day Dog Rescue



The project was directed by Signal Return's Lynne Avadenka and the artists were guided in the letterpress process by Lee Marchalonis. Artists received honoraria for their time and talent, and proceeds from poster sales benefit the organizations. BUC will host the exhibit throughout October, and orders for posters will be forwarded to Signal Return for fulfillment.

October Plate Collection

A portion of our Sunday plate collections in October will be donated to **Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center**, whose mission is three-fold:

- 1) Provide low-cost legal services to immigrants and refugees seeking to make a home in the city of Detroit
- 2) Offer low-cost housing to immigrants and refugees who have difficulty finding long-term residences in the city of Detroit
- 3) Assist businesses owned by Detroit residents (from disadvantaged communities) unable to find capital due to their inexperience, need for professional support, and/or immigration status

The Center, which has legal clinics around Detroit and in Pontiac, has just purchased a building which they are renovating to provide office space and housing for their clients. Learn more about SDIRC and the families they serve at detimmigrantcenter.com.



Southwest Detroit Immigrant
and Refugee Center

Any BUCer may nominate a local nonprofit for consideration to be a plate recipient. Submit an application online at <https://www.bucmi.org/plate-collection-application>. Or contact Barbara Robinson at 248-320-8366 or brjdr8719@gmail.com to submit an application or discuss a potential recipient.

Membership

YOU'RE INVITED!



“Trunk or Treat!” Halloween Party

- costume parade
- trunk or treating
- bounce house
- photo booth
- assorted games
- raffle
- apple cider & doughnuts

WHEN: Sunday, October 27 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Costume Parade - 1:00 p.m.
 Trunk or Treating - 1:15-1:30 p.m.

WHERE: BUC parking lot

WHO: BUCers of all ages welcome! Children can bring a friend, too!

WHY: Because ghouls just wanna have fu-un. Obviously.

HOW: If you'd like to participate, RSVP here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eaeaf29a4f94-rsvp> and show up in costume! (Hey! Maybe you could find something at RUMMAGE!)

Costumes should be culturally sensitive and not too violent

If you'd like to be a “trunk,” i.e. pass out treats from the back of your vehicle, we need 20 volunteers! We're asking folks without kids in RE to be our “trunks.” Please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eaeaf29a4f94-buctrunks>

Admission: please bring a non-perishable food item for donation. For each item, you'll be entered to win Rev. Mandy's parking spot for one Sunday morning... in winter!

Event brought to you by the Membership Committee and the RE Council

Hospitality News

Enjoy Social Hour refreshments completely free!

As of September 8, we are no longer asking for donations for the refreshments served during our post-worship Social Hour.



Social and Environmental Justice

The Social and Environmental Justice (SEJ) committee is happy to welcome Julia Pulver, RN as our new co-chair. Julia is a lifelong UU, and has been active in social justice and political activities all her adult life, including running for Michigan State Senate in the 2018 elections. Julia and her husband Ben—a chef—have four children.



The BUC Social and Environmental Justice team meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the month. We are focusing on five areas: Confronting Racism, Environmental Justice, Climate Change, Welcoming Congregation (LGBTQ+), and Ending Gun Violence. 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 Classroom. To be added to our email list for notices of BUC activities and outside events, please contact us at janeaoneil@gmail.com. And check out our web page at <https://www.bucmi.org/service-justice>.

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

September Accomplishments

In September, SEJ members and friends:

- Wrote 85 letters in our Write Here! Write Now! campaign to Senators Stabenow and Peters about several bills currently in the Senate that support programs and policies to address climate change
- Joined a large group of climate strikers at Somerset Mall in Troy to show our support of the Climate Strike movement
- Filled the Blue Door room at the watch party for the presidential climate debate

October Happenings

- October 20: Michigan United presents a Presidential Forum for Economic, Immigrant and Racial Justice. If you can help work the phone banks to get the word out about the forum, please contact Julia at juliapulver@gmail.com.
- October 6: Honoring National Coming Out Day during worship service
- October 6: The next art exhibit will be hung in the BUC gallery
- October 10: CNN hosts a presidential town hall focused on LGBTQ+ issues
- October 13: During worship, the Climate Change Resolution group presents speaker Dr. Paul Clements, who will help us understand an important aspect of the climate crisis, including how we can be a positive force
- October 13: The Green Sanctuary Ministry presents the Annual Harvest Potluck
- October 15: monthly meeting of the Social and Environmental Justice team—join us!

Climate Change Resolution

We hear a lot about the science of climate change, and it is very compelling. But any solution has political and economic impacts, and these are just as important to our well-being as the science.

The Climate Change Resolution team has arranged for Paul Clements, PhD, to help us deepen our understanding of these issues and of the different approaches being proposed. Dr. Clements is a professor of political science at Western Michigan University and has been producing research and speaking on this topic for many years. He will give our sermon on Sunday, October 13 and will join us in the Hodas Family Hall during the Harvest Potluck to answer your questions.

Confronting Racism

The Confronting Racism program’s monthly meeting is moving to the fourth Tuesdays of the month, from 7:00–9:00 p.m. in the Commons. Every person who is striving to heal and end racism in ourselves and our institutions is welcome. In October, we begin a series of study and discussion of the 1619 Project, featured in *The New York Times Magazine*. We’ll explore how slavery shaped our country’s economy, culture, and values and its ripple effects to today. Each month we’ll also discuss practical steps we can take to be actively anti-racist. Contact Peggy Bocks at pbocks@gmail.com to receive materials to prep for the October discussion and to receive ongoing alerts about community events and actions related to confronting racism.

Bananagrams at Walt Whitman Elementary



We are recruiting a few more volunteers for the Bananagrams program at Walt Whitman Elementary School in Pontiac, which runs on Thursdays from 4:00–5:30 p.m. You may serve as a “regular” or as a sub. Training is provided. Contact Barb Schandavel at b9scha@gmail.com or Karen Stankye at kesala@msn.com to volunteer.

Open Hands Food Pantry

For the past several years, BUC has been a supporter of the Open Hands Food Pantry through the advocacy of Kimery Campbell, former DRE for Youth. We are extending her efforts with our continuing support of this nonprofit. It is operated by St. John’s Episcopal Church in Royal Oak and provides food and toiletries to approximately 12,000 low-income and unhoused people per year in Oakland county. Striking General Motors/UAW workers are welcome at Open Hands; Oakland County residency is not required.

The SEJ committee has placed a shopping cart in BUC lobby to collect your items for donation to Open Hands. There are also “shopping lists” available if you need ideas.

Please be aware that in many cases, Open Hands is able to get more food for clients with monetary donations than with food donations because they can buy more food through Gleaners and other suppliers. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you can mail checks to:

Open Hands Food Pantry
26998 Woodward Ave.
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Open Hands also has an Amazon Wish List to simplify donation of needed items. You can access their wish list at <https://openhandspantry.org/donate> (scroll down and click on the Amazon Wish List button). Items always needed include tuna (family size), soup, dried beans, dried peas, dried lentils, feminine hygiene items (pads preferred), laundry soap, peanut butter, juice, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, and dish soap. They also always need reusable cloth grocery bags or gently used plastic grocery bags. Emergency items for unhoused individuals include ready-to-eat items (no cooking required), new or gently used blankets and sleeping bags, new or gently used coats, socks, mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, backpacks, and handwarmers.



Real Talk on Islam

Every Thursday 7:00– 8:00 p.m.

Masjid Mahmood (Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Center)
1730 W. Auburn Rd., Rochester Hills

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Metro Detroit is pleased to announce the launch of its popular “Real Talk on Islam” open house after popular demand and feedback. The open house will be held on every Thursday at their Community Center in Rochester Hills from 7:00–8:00 p.m.

“Real Talk on Islam” will be an ongoing weekly opportunity for informal and candid conversation about Islam for neighbors, academia, students, media, and anyone else interested in learning about the faith from its followers. All questions are welcome and will be addressed in an informal environment over a free cup of coffee and cake.

Free and open to the public

For more info, please call 248-677-1316 or email tabligh.det@ahmadiyya.us

Sunday Morning Discussion Group

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

The Sunday Morning Discussion Group meets from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. in the Lower Level Classroom every Sunday. We vote on a topic each week, and the majority decides. On October 13 only, we will complete our discussion of the book *Class Lives*, edited by Chuck Collins and others. We're learning what it's like to be really poor.

We usually have great discussions, with eight to fourteen attending. We need many perspectives, ideas, and experiences to make it a great learning experience, so please join us and enrich your Sunday morning at BUC. For general information on the Sunday Morning Discussion Group, contact Larry Larson at lawrencejudy@yahoo.com.

Body Wisdom

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



Back by popular demand, the Body Wisdom group movement class meets Mondays outside the Red Door Classroom (in good weather; meet inside in case of rain) from 6:30-

7:00 p.m., before the creative writing and art portions of Living by Heart. All genders are invited to join us. Facilitated by Karen Schreck (ktschreck@icloud.com).

Living by Heart

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



The Living by Heart group meets on Monday evenings from 7:00–9:00 p.m. in the Red Door Classroom. We use both simple art techniques and writing techniques to explore what matters most in our lives. Open

to all genders, and no experience is necessary. Bring a journal, a pen, and any art supplies you like. Facilitated by Karen Schreck (ktschreck@icloud.com).

Grief Support Group

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



The Grief Support Group is currently meeting just once a month due to lower attendance. They meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. in the Large Conference

Room. All are welcome who have had a human loss, recent or past. Facilitated by Alison Rule (248-320-1021).

Caregivers Support Group

2nd Wednesday of the month | 2:00 p.m.
Small Conference Room



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

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

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

Pastoral Care

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

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

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

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

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