



3/13 "Out in the Open"



3/20 "Till a Thousand Flowers Bloom"



3/27 "Rising, Risen, & Rising Again"

+ March 20th Daffodil & Stewardship Sunday

Our annual Daffodil Sunday, when we celebrate the stand BUC took in favor of inclusion and welcoming LGBT persons, who often found themselves not welcome in a church. Where do our daffodils need to bloom next? Kathy and Worship Associate Teresa Honnold will offer ways to keep the daffodil message of welcome expanding into new areas. Music by the Sound Messengers. This service also marks the start of our 2016 annual stewardship drive, when all are invited to make their financial commitment for 2016-17. The Stewardship Team is offering a brunch after the service in appreciation of all that has been given, and to encourage generous participation.

5th Principle "Belief in the right of conscience & the use of the democratic process in our congregations & in society at large."

Given that UU churches already employ the democratic process in making decisions, and given that our country functions as a democracy, it could seem that such a challenge is already over and done with. But there is a tension forever before us in often difficult ways: how do we balance individual perspective and group perspective, how do we honor one person's conscience and still move a group forward? What is an individual to do when his/her conscience concludes that a decision—within a church, within society—is just plain wrong? These are the questions our March services will consider.

SERVICES 10:30 a.m.

- 6 Youth Sunday! "Your Life is Now" explores the ways in which we can be aware of our environment, from personal to global. This lively and original service will feature music performance and readings by the 6-12th grade youth plus the Teen Choir, under the direction of Abha Dearing. Following the service ROPE parents will offer a light brunch in the Social hall.
- 13 Knowing when to stand one's ground and when to yield to the will of a group that heads in a direction counter to what seems right calls for careful discernment. I want what I want, and sometimes what I want is very different from what the group I am part of wants. How do I know if my wanting is simply wanting or if it reaches the significance of being an issue of right and wrong, of conscience? Kathy and Worship Associate Mike Auchter try to unravel the difference between wanting one's own way, and knowing when a matter of conscience is at stake. Music by the BUC Chalice Choir.
- 27 Easter traditions mark the emergence of new life with the beginnings of spring, and the return of life that had seemed lost with the narrative of Jesus and resurrection. Kathy and Worship Associate Lisa Demian consider the difference in new life, and life that returns after being absent, since each requires a different kind of care to thrive. Music by the BUC Chalice Choir accompanied by a brass quintet.

March Sunday Specials

March 6th

9:15 NO Explorations in Unitarian Universalism this Sunday; class resumes on March 20..

11:45 Join us for a breakfast buffet following Youth Sunday: the ROPE parents will offer light brunch foods-yogurt, fruit, pastries, etc. in the Social Hall. No tickets required; donations are appreciated and will be used to support the 2016 UU heritage trip to Boston.

March 13th Daylight Savings Time “Sprints Forward” – Adjust your schedule and plan on

9:15 “Journal Writing as a Spiritual Practice”... No experience necessary. ☺ Bring pen and journal and join us in the classroom with the green door, through the foyer glass doors, to the left of the brick courtyard.

11:45 Join us at a table in the social hall for an all church, all ages activity preparing snacks for the Welcome Inn guests.

Noon-1:30 p.m. Come join us in the Commons for a tender, compassionate discussion with “Andi” Chapman RN, CDP from Heart to Heart Hospice and be prepared to be surprised at the insight you will receive. Just a few items to be discussed are:

- What is Hospice Care and how is it different from Palliative Care?
- Who can request services and who benefits from services?
- Who pays for services and what things are covered?
- Can I still see my Doctor or am I giving up hope?

March 20th

9:15 Explorations in Unitarian Universalism, led by Kathy Hurt, in the Blue Door Room. Topic: Ethics.

11:45 Join us in the Social Hall for a special Stewardship Brunch. We’re kicking off the beginning of our annual budget process by collecting financial commitments for BUC’s upcoming 2016-17 fiscal year.

March 27th Happy Easter!



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

“A joy from Kris and Andrew Schreck – Thank you to our BUC family for the love and generosity during the passing of Kris’ mom, Rosemary, last week (Feb. 9). The notes, prayers, meals, and wave of support lifted us up during this very difficult time. We are so grateful.”

An update on Keith Brown from Joy Powell: “For all he’s been through, Keith is improving remarkably. He is able to walk for short distances with a walker and can climb a few steps with double handrails. His speech/memory continue to improve (the doctors say improvement can continue for a year or more). On March 1st, Keith will take his first ride since the accident as a passenger in our Honda Accord for a home visit with the Beaumont Rehab team. He is tentatively scheduled to come home with 24/7 attendant care on March 10th. We are thrilled with his progress and the prospect of his homecoming after more than 11 grueling weeks away.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of you, Keith’s wonderful friends.”

Look Who Signed the Membership Book



Cynthia Osterhage February 7

Cynthia's BUC activities: Small Group, Bicycling, Sharing Dinners, Creativity Evenings ('arts therapy'), Rummage, and most recently Friday Film Buffs, Choir, and Social Justice programming. She lives in Ferndale where she enjoys gardening with perennials, walking her dog, and reading her book group's selections.

Jean Simmons: February 1

Jean is returning to BUC after being away for several years. She is a retiree and enjoying getting reacquainted with old friends, meeting new ones, and grateful to be sharing in the atmosphere of warmth and spiritual energy here at BUC.



REFLECTIONS



Rev. Dr.
Kathy Hurt

Unitarian Universalism has long been a spiritual home for people who came from another church tradition. Gatherings for newcomers typically include stories of how a tradition lost its relevance, or how questions were greeted with hostility, or the teachings no longer made sense. Still wanting a church home, these people who had previously been committed to a different church went on a search, and made their way to the local UU congregation because it seemed to hold promise for being a different kind of experience, where questions would be met with thoughtful replies (or sometimes a companion question), where linking religious ideas to actual lived experience would be a paramount concern, and where reason would not be sacrificed in order to maintain a particular worldview.

Yes, we've long been a spiritual home for those who were once termed "come-outers," persons from other faith traditions—and yet our numbers have remained small, perhaps in part because faith traditions can maintain a powerful hold on their adherents, even past the time the tradition ceased to be meaningful.

But no more: a recent study by sociologist Josh Packard, published in the *Christian Science Monitor*, claims there are presently 30 million "dones" in this country, "people who are finished with the church but not ready to give up their faith." Unlike the already well-documented "nones," individuals who see no need for a church in their lives, the "dones" still desire some kind of spiritual community, specifically one where "people can explore their convictions."

Sounds like a golden opportunity for Unitarian Universalism, right? But Packard adds another wrinkle when he notes that the "dones" are not so much leaving their original churches because of resistance to questions or lack of relevance, all of which suggests no longer being able to agree with a church, but they are leaving "because they couldn't find disagreement." In other words, the "dones" are looking for a spiritual community where the members do not think alike—and are not afraid to lift up their differences. And though this sort of diversity and welcoming of differences is what we aspire to, we also flounder with it at times, both wanting to be surrounded by people who "think like me" and yet wanting to affirm the value of differences that enrich a spiritual home.

I still believe the "dones" present us with a wonderful chance to do some great UU sharing of our good news, with a specific focus on our desire to be a community of differences. Maybe some of these 30 million will make their way to our doors, and in so doing encourage us, challenge us, to dig even deeper into the differences among us, and clarify how those very differences are a central part of what we hold dear.

Faithfully, Kathy

Volunteer of the Month: Mike Gabel

"When we found BUC, it was like a breath of fresh air! I no longer felt like a hypocrite, saying and doing things I didn't believe. More importantly, I didn't have to subject my kids to that. Our first experience at BUC was ROPE Sunday, and it was clear that this was exactly what we wanted for our kids. I think I joined the RE program as much as I joined BUC, becoming a regular churchgoer mostly to get our kids to RE class each week. And, since parents were expected to help out, when I was asked to help, I helped. I helped fundraise when my kids were in ROPE - but I found it kind of fun to sell poinsettias. I helped cover RE classes while I was waiting for the long OWL classes - I had nothing better to do, and the little kids are so cute! And I even was granted the opportunity to guide the ROPE class - which is truly a position that I respect greatly... and the trip to Boston is pretty cool!

When I got the e-mail saying I had been selected as the 'volunteer of the month,' I suddenly realized that I had been duped! All these years I thought I was selfishly doing fun things that happened to help my kids, and all the while Kimery and Eleanor were setting me up as a volunteer! Clever ladies! And, being BUC, I won't even feel like a hypocrite - I said and did exactly the things I believe." - Mike Gabel



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FÉLIX & MEIRA

UN FILM DE MAXIME GIROUX

Film Buffs Friday, March 25

Join us in the Commons at 7:00 p.m. for "Félix and Meira is the tale of an unconventional romance between two people living vastly different realities mere blocks away from one another. Meira, a Hasidic Jewish wife and mother and Félix, a secular loner, unexpectedly meet in a local bakery in Montreal's Mile End district. What starts as an innocent friendship becomes more serious as the two wayward strangers find comfort in one another.

As Meira's eyes are opened to the world outside of her Orthodox community, the possibility of change becomes harder for her to ignore. Young director Maxime Giroux's film is a poignant tale of self-discovery set against the backdrops of Montreal, Brooklyn, and Venice, Italy.

In French, Yiddish, English and Hebrew with English subtitles. Winner, Best Canadian Feature Film, 2014 Toronto International Film Festival." - DFT Film Guide Summer 2015 Félix and Meira (Canada, 2014, R, 105 minutes)

Snacks provided. For more information contact Larry at [248-569-0965](tel:248-569-0965) or LJWisniew@yahoo.com.

Sacred Stories: Writing your Memoir

This group will meet from 7:30 - 9:00 in the Blue door on Monday nights. The story of your life is unique and can only be told authentically from your point of view. This will be a journey of self-exploration and discovery. All memoir tries to answer the question, "Who am I?" Come with journal and pen and your own unique life story. Facilitated by Penny Hackett-Evans.

Tuesday Grief Support Group, March 1

Facilitated by Pat Kridler, the Grief Support Group meets the first Tuesday of the month February 2 from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. The February topic is, “Dealing with the personal effects of a loved one.” We hope you feel welcome to join to join us for encouragement, and to relax in a safe place to share your grief.

Sunday Morning Discussion Group: Socrates Café

Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 10:15 join us in the large conference room, to the right of the main entrance. We are discussing the philosophical essays in the book “The Stone Reader” (edited by Peter Capatano and Simon Critchley). You don’t need to purchase the book, each essay can be downloaded by searching the essay title in your internet browser.

In the Gallery & Pavilion: *an exhibition of the work of Dr. Nihad Dukhan*



Master calligrapher Dr. Nihad Dukhan, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at University of Detroit Mercy, will be exhibiting his Arabic/Islamic calligraphy at the Birmingham Unitarian Church in Bloomfield Hills February 26th through April 1st. The artist opening reception is Friday, February 26th from 6 to 8 pm. Dr. Dukhan will address the gathering with translations and thoughtful interpretations of his artwork.



Dr. Dukhan draws on his childhood experiences growing up on the streets of Gaza competing with other kids painting text on walls of homes. His love for Arabic text matured as he sought out master calligraphic teachers in Istanbul, connecting him to the rich ancient tradition of Arabic/Islamic calligraphy. Now as a master, he seeks to convey meaning and beauty of the truth made visible.

His intent is to attract those both familiar and unfamiliar with Arabic/Islamic calligraphy to see the beauty in the lines. As an agent of change, he hopes to reach across cultural barriers to provide a potent message of love and beauty rooted in the time-honored tradition of Arabic/Islamic calligraphy.

Shared Silence

This group will meet for one hour on Monday evenings 6:15 – 7:15 in the Blue Door. We’ll begin with an embodied practice involving some kind of gentle movement. Then we will transition into 20 minutes of shared silence. We will experiment with various contemplatives. We will have a brief time of spoken sharing and end with the Loving Kindness meditation. This is an open and on-going group – open to drop-ins as well as regular attendance. Facilitated by Penny Hackett-Evans

Memorial Glen Inscription Requests: Due April 1st

BUC’s Memorial Glen is a sacred space devoted to remembering and memorializing our members and their family members who have died. This spring we are finalizing plans for a renovation and expansion that will make this special place even more beautiful, peaceful and welcoming. Every year, normally on the last Sunday in May, we hold a solemn ceremony dedicating those friends and family whose names have been added to the cenotaphs during the year.

If you were considering engraving a loved one’s name on a Memorial Glen cenotaph this year, forms are available in the church office and will need to be returned and finalized by April 1st.

Effortless Meditation, March 23rd & 30th

Effortless Meditation led by Denise Everheart trained by the International Association of Human Values, will NOT meet the first three Wednesdays in March. Join us for a Full Moon Meditation on March 23, and for Exploring Breath and Meditation on March 30 from 7:15-8:15 in the Commons.

Humanists of BUC: Sunday, March 27

Suzanne Paul, past president of the American Humanists Association and former UU minister, will be speaking on: "Diversity, Tolerance and Acceptance- Our 3rd Principal. A light lunch will be provided at noon with our program to start at 12:30 in the green door meeting room. All are welcome- religious, non-religious, spiritual and non-spiritual.

The Art and Science of Getting Along: *Nonviolent Communication in Practice*



Nonviolent Communication (NVC) is often readily understood, yet can be challenging to put into practice. To help you bring NVC into your daily life, Katie Testa, of Metro Detroit Nonviolent Communication, is offering a six week comprehensive course where you can develop your skills through the use of practice exercises, role-plays and the sharing of your struggles and successes in a supportive community.

Learn how to be more compassionate with yourself and others by increasing your awareness of your feelings and needs. Strengthen new skills that enable you to honestly express what's alive in you while at the same time empower you to listen empathically to even the most difficult to hear statements without taking them personally. Together we will discover that it is possible to support our own values

while equally honoring the needs of others. This FREE class will meet from 10 - 12 each Saturday morning in the Blue Door. Regular attendance is suggested.

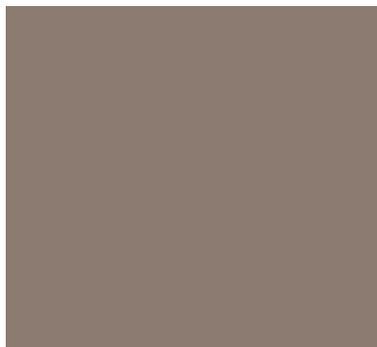
Rummage Spring 2016!

Big news! The BUC annual spring Rummage sale, normally held during the week containing May 1st, will be held—during the week containing May 1st! The changes in our building construction schedule have permitted us to return to our usual time and Spring Rummage 2016 will begin on Sunday, May 1.

So, what does this mean? This means BUCers have MORE TIME to: Organize their gently-used clothing, books, electronics, and other household items Plan their schedules for Optimal Rummage Efficacy Recruit a friend or relative to bring along to Rummage Post Rummage flyers on neighborhood bulletin boards or share with garage-sale junkie-pals Choose a fabulous casserole, salad, snack, or dessert recipe to share with the Rummage workers.

If you are new to BUC Rummage, you'll have a chance to sign up and ask questions at the Rummage table during April Sunday morning social hours. If you are a parent, it's easy to bring your kids to Rummage, too. We have two family nights—Monday and Friday—but young people are welcome at any time during Rummage week. They can sort, carry intake, consolidate, tear down boxes, and dozens of other jobs. We also offer child care for the very young. (Please notify us in advance!)

Rummage drop off times: Sunday, May 1 through noon on Tuesday, May 3. For large items, notify the Truck Coordinator at: buc.rummage.pickup@gmail.com by Friday, April 29.



MAMA's March 19: FINVARRA'S WREN



Saturday, March 19, 2016, 8:00pm: FINVARRA'S WREN

For St. Patrick's Day weekend, MAMA's Coffeehouse is proud to present Finvarra's Wren. One of North America's most exciting Irish quartets, this Detroit based band has an intense dedication to their instruments and to Irish music. Traditional and contemporary Irish, Scottish and Celtic-American folk songs are punctuated with wonderfully inventive arrangements of jigs, reels and hornpipes.

The band is led by Jim Perkins and Cheryl Burns, well known for their sensitive vocals and the inventive musical weaving of Jim's guitar and Cheryl's mountain dulcimer and bodhran. Their son Asher Perkins (button accordion and concertina) and daughter Alison Perkins (vocals, fiddle and tin whistle), are world renowned for their award winning playing.

\$15 Admission \$13 Seniors/Students. Shows begin at 8:00 p.m. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Music at BUC

Music at BUC is "exciting and new"~kind of like the Theme from The Love Boat that the choir treated the congregation to on Valentine's Day. January and February have had plenty of musical variety and activities to please your ears. The BUC Chalice Choir sang in Chinese with the help of skillful cellist Andrea Thorne to commemorate the Chinese New Year and continues to prepare well for regular Sunday services and of course, Choir Sunday in May. Everyone is welcome to COME AND SING in choir, and it is an especially good time to join now. Email Abha: abha.dearing@bucmi.org

The Sound Messengers house band has been presenting music from various decades this month, including "Free Ride", "Landslide", Neil Young and U2~these songs reflect the principles, which are highlighted in our monthly themes. It is fun and joyful to craft the service with Kathy and the worship associates. As usual, our awesome drummer Brian Schandavel and fine back-up singers Amy Smalley, Kelly Taylor and Mike Auchter add so much to the sound and personality of the band. We feel honored to be at the helm of a robust music program here at BUC, but most importantly, your support and input on music help us continue to strive towards a transformative spiritual experience for all.

Service & Justice

Winter Speaker Series – March 17: “150 Years Later: The 13th Amendment – Freedom Comes to Michigan”

**Escalating
Inequality:
Let's Talk!**



Peter J. Hammer

Join us on Thursday, March 17, at 7:00 p.m. to hear Peter Hammer discuss this timely topic. Institutions like slavery do not end. They mutate and transform themselves. This process involves the dynamic interaction between “belief systems” and “institutions.” Peter Hammer’s presentation postulates an evolutionary transformation from slavery to Jim Crow segregation to the “spatial racism” that defines Southeast Michigan, and will explore its policy implications in light of the promises of the 13th Amendment. Peter Hammer is a professor of law at Wayne State University Law School and Director of the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights. To register, click on the Winter Speaker Series banner on the BUC website home page or contact Pat Hammer, Marti Szilagyi, or Mary Jo Ebert. Cost is just \$7. A fee waiver is also offered, no questions asked.

The Winter Speaker Series is presented by the Escalating Inequality task force of BUC and four other area UU churches. High school students are welcome. These events are open to the public.

Invite a non-UU to the Peter Hammer presentation. Use this +1 coupon for them to be admitted at no charge.



Hon. Marilyn Kelly spoke in February about what is needed to achieve equal protection under the law

Social Justice Advocacy – Information Sources

We regularly feature social justice advocacy news in BUC’s weekly update, newsletter, and Facebook page. In addition, we encourage you to join the Michigan UU Social Justice Network (MUUSJN) email list at www.uujustice.org, and tune in to national and international projects of the UU Service Committee (UUSC) at www.uusc.org. Contact Mary Jo Ebert to be included in a periodic email update on social justice topics. Get plugged in to these sources, and discover how your voice can make a difference. UU voices are needed!

Plate Collection: Flint Child Health and Development Fund

A portion of the March plate collection will be donated to the Flint Child Health and Development Fund, an organization that supports the delivery of critical public health, medical, and community-based services and interventions that address and mitigate the short and long-term impacts experienced by Flint families exposed to lead as the result of the Flint Water Crisis. These include optimal child health and development, access to infant and child behavioral health services, nutrition education, continuous access to a pediatric medical home, and healthy food access.

Any BUC member may nominate a local organization for the Plate Collection Committee to consider. Submit an application at www.bucmi.org. Click the “Service & Justice” tab, then “Plate Collection Application.”

The Welcome Inn

On behalf of Jason Morgan, the Director of The Welcome Inn, and all of its guests this winter, I want to thank all of the BUC volunteers who reached out to help the homeless this winter. you courageously covered four hour shifts; you provided hearty casseroles; you went out in the cold and snow to purchase and deliver everything from toilet paper to cough medicine; you donated generously to our plate collection for the warming shelter; and you slipped (lots of) cash into my pockets on Sunday mornings. Although the weather wasn't especially cold, it was a tough winter for our guests, a lot of whom suffer from mental issues as well as other chronic illnesses. Some days we served lunch to more than seventy people.

"As a homeless person I am very thankful that people still care," wrote one grateful client. "If it wasn't for the Welcome Inn, I probably would have froze this past winter. I know I would've saw many a hungry night."

Thank you, dear BUCers, for your willing hands and open hearts! *Annis Pratt*

Green Sanctuary

Earth Hour, March 19, 2016

Looking for a way to make your stance on climate change known? This Earth Hour, Help Shine a Light on Climate Change. Celebrate Earth Hour 2016 by turning off your lights for one hour on **March**

19th beginning at 8:30pm local time. It inspires & mobilizes people around the world to use their power to change climate change. Many people use this one-hour to focus on their commitment to our planet for the rest of the year. To celebrate you can have a candle lit dinner, talk to your neighbors, star gaze, go camping, play board games, have a concert or create or join a community event. The possibilities are endless.

In case you haven't heard of Earth Hour before this, it began in 2007 in Australia. In 2015, 172 countries participated, 10,400+ landmarks switched off their lights and there were 82,012,966 views of Earth Hours official video at www.earthhour.org Earth Hour has grown to become the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment Won't you join us in recognizing Earth Hour by turning your lights off between 8:30pm-9:30pm on March 19, 2016?

Building Green Bridges Workshop April 2nd

Our second annual Building Green Bridges workshop will take place on Saturday, April 2nd. Come to exchange ideas with other community faith groups about how we can live up to our environmental principles. Registration and healthy continental breakfast at 8 o'clock, the program begins at 9:00. Early bird in March is \$15, the day of will be \$20 at the door. Speakers: Cybelle Shattuck always has wonderful examples of what small groups can accomplish working with limited resources. Sister Patricia Benson, OP, will help us understand Laudato Si', the recent papal Encyclical Letter. Plus Jerry Hasspacher Time will be allotted for the exchange of ideas during breakout sessions.



Speaker: Cybelle Shattuck



Speaker: Sister Patricia Benson



Speaker: Jerry Hasspacher

Opera Buffs Saturday, March 6: Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*

Soprano Kristine Opolais and tenor Roberto Alagna join forces in Puccini's obsessive love story. Opolais sings the title role of the country girl who transforms herself into a Parisian temptress, while Alagna is the dashing student who desperately woos her. Director Richard Eyre places the action in occupied France in a film noir setting. "Desperate passion" is the phrase Puccini himself used to describe the opera that confirmed his position as the preeminent Italian opera composer of his day. Met Principal Conductor Fabio Luisi leads the stirring score.

HD Saturday matinee live transmissions from the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Many of us go for a bite to eat after the opera for discussion and fellowship. Tickets are \$24. (\$22 seniors).

Contact Larry Freedman – lawrenceman@sbcglobal.net 248-370-8227 for more information.



Online Giving Now Available at www.bucmi.org Text Giving available anytime, anywhere from the convenience of your SmartPhone. Check it out!

We have a secure and easy system accessible from our website where you can give a one-time gift, or set up regular giving. There are also step-by-step instructions to set up text giving. We've had several users give to the plate collection on Sunday morning by texting their donation during the offertory. We do pay a small percentage fee for the service, so one regular plate giver decided to give a one-time monthly text gift of \$25 instead of texting a \$5 gift each Sunday. You can easily get credit for your charitable giving by using text giving instead of cash.

Save Dates in April, May, & June:

Alliance: Alliance's next meeting will be on April 13, with Maury Okun, Executive Director of the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings, as our speaker. There is no March meeting. Our final meeting of the year will be the annual meeting on June 1. Mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Women's Retreat: Rev. Kathy Hurt will lead a retreat for BUC women on the weekend of April 29 - May 1. We will gather at the Columbiere retreat center in Clarkston on Friday evening through Sunday lunch for a week-end of sharing, laughter, silence, deepening and much more. Look for details in the April newsletter. Registration will begin April 1.

Register now for UU General Assembly: Registration opens on March 1 for the 2016 UU General Assembly; "Heart Land; where faiths connect". It will be held in Columbus Ohio on June 23 - 26. www.uua.org Join other BUCers as we hope for a very large delegation this year. (7 BUCers have already registered!) Buy your BUC t-shirt in the social hall in April and plan to join 2000 other UUs for singing, worship, lectures, workshops, shared meals and a generally uplifting four days.

*** Save the Date ***

Interfaith Reproductive Justice Conference
Friday, May 20, 2016
Woodside Church, Flint

Featuring:

Interfaith Panel -- Protestant, Catholic, Muslim,
 Jewish, & UU -- will discuss how their faith
 supports reproductive justice

Updates on Legislation
 Skills Training Workshops
 Issues Workshops

For more information, 248-549-5170 or
randyblock@yahoo.com

Religious Education

Children's Rotation Curriculum

March's Creating Equity rotation explores how our church teaches us to practice our faith. It focuses on activities undertaken by BUC to awareness of the use of the democratic process in our congregations and in society at large. BUC's children will

contemplate four different aspects of equity:

- 1) Recognizing differences and needs: What are the differences in peoples' material experiences? Could there be greater equity?
- 2) Patterns of consumption: What habits lead to the preservation or depletion of the earth's limited resources? What could be done to save some for future generations?
- 3) Local distribution of opportunities/resources: What does BUC do locally to create equity by supporting organizations in neighboring communities?
- 4) Global distribution of opportunities /resources: What does BUC do in the larger world to create equity?

Finally, this rotation reinforces the Unitarian Universalist Fifth Principle, which can be summarized as "belief in the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process in our society."

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



Youth Religious Education

Youth Sunday is March 6! Please join our 6-12 youth as they explore the concept of being present. This year, as a special feature, the Teen Choir will be accompanied by the Sound Messengers! After service, the ROPE parents will offer a special brunch (donations instead of tickets) in the Social Hall. Please join us. See service summary for more information.

In March:

- **The 6 & 7 Neighboring Faiths class** will finish their session on non-Buddhist Asian religions with a visit from a Sikh family and a wrap-up Sunday.
- **The 8th grade Rite of Passage Experience (ROPE) class** will continue to discuss ideas about God and welcome a panel of BUCers to class to learn about BUC history.
- **The Sunday morning high school class** will continue its focus on equity and the issues that are being debated during this election year, such as immigration, water rights, prison reform, etc.
- **All youth** will attend the Easter service on March 27.

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.

Alternative Service

Welcome Home Wednesdays Begins March 9

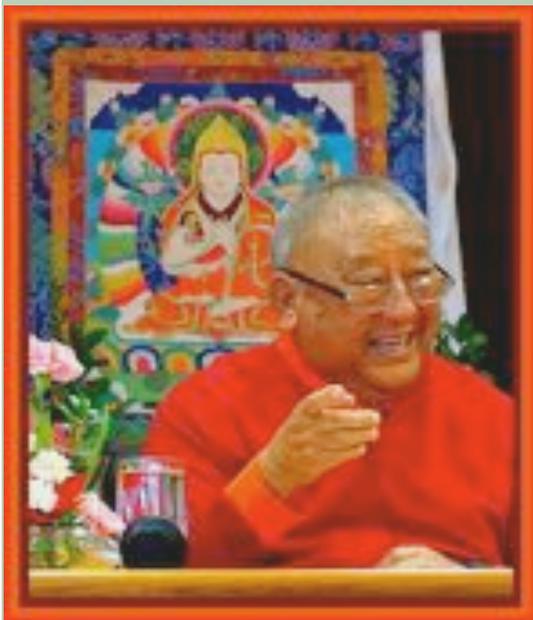
We begin our new alternative worship/program series in March. The worship service features the talents of Drumcommunity founder Lori Fithian. Join us with what works for you — one part, or the whole evening!



- 6:00 Catered soup and salad, we'll eat in the lower level
- 6:45 Lori will lead Worship in the Sanctuary
- 7:30 Drumming program in the Lower Level

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Gelek Rinpoche Speaks Friday, March 25th at Birmingham Unitarian Church 7:00 p.m.

Suggested Donation: \$10

Reception before the talk at 6 pm

Help us make this a wonderful community event by bringing your favorite hot or cold hors d'oeuvres to share. Beverages provided

Born in Lhasa, Tibet in 1939, Kyabje Gelek Rinpoche was recognized as an incarnate lama at the age of four. Among the last generation of lamas educated in Drepung Monastery before the Communist Chinese invasion of Tibet, Gelek Rinpoche was forced to flee to India in 1959.

In the late 1970's Rinpoche was directed to teach Western students by his teachers, the Senior and Junior Masters to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Since that time he has taught Buddhist practitioners around the world. In 1989, Rinpoche founded Jewel Heart, a Tibetan Buddhist Learning Center.