



Worship Services 9: 30 & 11:15 a.m.

5th Tossing off a “sorry” is a far cry from making a wrong right, from atoning for a hurtful word or action, from healing a wound we inflicted on another. Kathy and WA Lisa Demian consider the costs of truly making amends, the sacrifice that may be required to atone for harm. Music by the Chalice Choir.

12th “A Struggle for Peace: Islam’s Quest” (see inset)

19th A worrisome question when considering atonement, is absence of admission of wrongdoing. Can we move on if the wrongdoing is never acknowledged? Is it possible to atone for others? Our monthly celebratory services, led by Kathy and WA Teresa Honnold, search for the way to atonement when others seem oblivious to wrongs that have been done. Music by BUC house band Sound Messengers.

26th Affixing blame can become an overriding concern in the process of atonement. Sometimes knowing who the culprit was is helpful, while other times preoccupation with blame prevents healing from happening. Kathy and WA Frank Arvan explore our tendency to assign blame and how to move on from blaming to pardoning. Musical offering: Rudolfs Ozolins.

+ 10/12 “

“A Struggle for Peace: Islam’s Quest”

Islamic specialist and Wayne state faculty member, Basma Al-Bathy along with worship associate Dan Kosuth will present this service which will focus on the journey to inner peace from an Islamic lens. We will look particularly at the Islamic concepts of Jihad (striving in the way of God) and Tawba (repentance from sins).

Musical offering: the Chalice Choir.

October: Atonement

Taking a cue from the Jewish tradition’s observance of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, in October our worship services reflect on the theme of atonement. Sometimes mixed in with ideas about forgiveness, atonement has a more particular focus on the ways in which wrongs are made right, and what role the community plays in righting wrongs. As our culture increasingly becomes interconnected, keeping the connections we have with one another clear and unburdened by misunderstanding and thoughtlessness seems ever more urgent. The October services open up possibilities for attending to such unburdening.

For further exploration of the theme in books: *Atonement* by Ian McEwen; *The End of Your Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe; *The Atonement Child* by Francine Rivers. Exploring the theme in films: *Atonement* (based on the McEwen book) and *Locke*.

Karen Schreck had a knee replacement the first weekend in September and her recovery is progressing nicely.

Janet Patterson, beloved choir member, is recuperating from a hospital stay at the Bloomfield Convalescent Center on Maple in room 620. She will be there for a few weeks and would love visitors. We wish her a speedy recovery and a return to the alto section.

Connections: Joys & Sorrows

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

-Khalil Gibran

Paul Vachon's younger sister Francie died on August 31 – our condolences to Paul and his family and his sister's family. Paul wishes to express gratitude for “the generous expressions of sympathy following his sisters recent passing. They lightened my burden considerably.”

Susan Darlington wishes to communicate her joy in the tremendous support she felt from her BUC community following her fall in Jakarta and her hospitalization at Beaumont.

Dennis Muzzi and Andrea Thorne are excited to announce the engagement of their daughter, Tina to her long-time partner Finn. They plan an October 2015 wedding in Michigan and are hoping the state will (finally) be “standing on the side of love” such that their gay marriage will be unequivocally legal.

Ann Amenta had a stroke on September 7 while spending time with her son and his family. She is recovering, and making good progress.

Paula Short fell and broke her hip. Her husband Tom recently experienced the death of his father. Condolences and well wishes to the Short's for their multiple difficulties.

Carol Wiseman was back in the hospital for an adjustment to her recent knee surgery.

John Bogner, husband of Lynn Arbor, had a heart bypass surgery on September 15. He is home and doing much better.

Nancy Jones had knee surgery on September 16. She will be staying for rehabilitation at the Woodward Hills Center.

Marie Miller was one of two women lawyers honored at the State Bar Annual Meeting for their 50-year membership in the legal community.

Harriet Lytle entered Beaumont Hospital where she is being treated for a heart condition. She is hoping to return home soon.

Colleen Cavanagh's mother died peacefully after a long decline.

Libby Harris' father, John Sarvis, died this past Monday September 29 in Charlottesville, Virginia. He was 95. Libby was visiting her father in Virginia when he became ill with pneumonia.

Taize Worship Service Wednesday, October 29 8:00 p.m. in the Commons

Taize is a prayer service designed to achieve a contemplative state through music, song and silence. There will be times of instrumental music, times of chanting, a minimum of spoken words to reflect on, and a long period of silence. The service will provide a place for people to find the stillness within and to listen to it.

This worship form comes from the Christian tradition and we have adapted it for use in our UU congregation. The service will last approximately 40 minutes.



REFLECTIONS



Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt

“...acting on a whim can produce results never imagined.”

Almost on a whim, and having heard that property values were on the rise in Royal Oak, I put my condo on the market at the beginning of September, figuring I would give it a whirl and see what happened. Within 24 hours of being listed, the condo had sold. In recounting this experience to a group of BUCers, I ended the story by fretting about the relocation I would now have to undergo

and noting, “That’s the last time I ever do something on a whim!” One of those listening pushed back at me, insisting I had drawn the wrong conclusion, that maybe the wiser conclusion was to realize that doing something on a whim (not the way I typically move through the world) might be a good strategy to employ more often.

One could expect that churches of all kinds, given their propensity for talking about faith and trust, about the innate goodness of humans and the interconnected web that supports us all, would be places where acting on a whim was a typical way of proceeding. After all, if my life stance is one of trust—in the universe, in others, in my own capacities for creativity and resilience—then why not take risks, act on a whim, give something a whirl, experiment often and widely? Trusting implies that I am able to manage my fear of the unknown and the possibility of loss of control sufficiently to be able to step out when I cannot see around the next bend, believing that all will be well no matter what happens. Yet churches of all kinds are consistently conservative institutions (including our own liberal churches), not known for bold experiments but known for sameness, for longstanding traditions, for doing what has always been done in the way it has always been done pretty much forever.

As BUC moves farther down the road towards a capital campaign, we travel increasingly into unknown territory, trying to discern what our church will need to remain vital for years to come and how to build that vital church of the future starting today. My hope is that our trust—in ourselves and our capacity to decide wisely and take constructive, creative action—will prove stronger than the tendency to stay put, within the boundaries of what already exists.

As I learned with my surprising condo sale, acting on a whim can produce results never imagined.

In faith, hope, and love, Kathy

October Volunteer of the Month: Diane Lake

“The answer to the question of what motivates me to volunteer at BUC is simple: I care a lot about BUC. My caring is a natural result of feeling cared-for or nurtured here. Not that I feel singled out in any way (except for getting this honor ~ that blew me away!). What is it about BUC that makes me feel nourished? I come up with almost as many answers as there are members. My first day at church I spotted three people I knew only by their admirable reputations for community work. They continued to be an inspiration, as well as the others I got to know along the way. It’s the people. I never felt obliged to do any volunteer work. I simply felt that I wanted to contribute something that might make BUC better for me and for everybody else. In the end, I guess my reasons for volunteering were pretty selfish.” – Diane Lake





Film Buffs, Friday 24th

"Grand Prize Winner at the Berlin Film Festival, director Calin Peter Netzer's sharply crafted 'Child's Pose' pivots on a riveting performance by Luminita Gheorghiu as a steely, well-to-do Bucharest architect determined to keep her 30-something deadbeat son out of jail after a deadly car crash. A spellbinding drama of social insight and psychological realism, this caustic look into the corrupt heart of the Eastern European bourgeoisie." -DFT Winter 2014 Film Guide

7:00 p.m. in the Commons. Snacks provided. Contact Larry at 248-569-0965 or LJWisniew@yahoo.com

"One of the signs of passing youth is the birth of a sense of fellowship with other human beings as we take our place among them."

~ Virginia Woolf

Leadership Development Committee – Harvesting Our Power

Got talent but don't know how to use it at BUC? Been leading at BUC but want to explore new opportunities to help others? Learn how to bring your leadership strengths to our church community. Learn how to nurture yourself so you don't burn out. Come join us for a morning of personal and cooperative development.

Saturday, October 11

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

BUC Social Hall

Light breakfast and snacks will be served. Childcare will be provided. In order to ensure that we have sufficient refreshments and materials, RSVP to Max Kort at kortmax@gmail.com or (248) 459-9899 by October 5, 2014. If you need childcare, include the number and the age of the children. BUC Leadership Development Committee: Kathy Arnold, Colleen Cavanagh, Walter Dean, Mary Gawel-Ensroth, Max Kort, Annette Sargent, Sheila Seaver, Craig Stroup, Peggy Woehrlen

Opera Buffs

Five of the most popular MET Opera productions are on the schedule this fall for BUC opera fans.

- 🎭 Oct. 11 - Verdi's *Macbeth*
- 🎭 Oct. 18 - Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*
- 🎭 Nov. 1 - Bizet's *Carmen*

BUC opera goers meet at the AMC Forum 30 theater in Sterling Heights for the live in HD Saturday matinee transmissions directly from the stage of the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Many of us go for a bite to eat after the opera for discussion and fellowship. Tickets are \$22. (\$20.seniors).

Contact Larry Freedman - lawrenceman@sbcglobal.net for more information and to be on our email list.



Sharing Dinners

Meant to sign up but missed the first one for October 11? There's another dinner coming up November 8. There is an electronic link under the Fellowship Group section of our website or contact Debbie Fordree at debfordree@yahoo.com



+ Beyond the Page; Writing as Spiritual Practice – Mondays in October

We will meet each Monday in October from 7 - 9 in the Blue Door for this four-week session on Writing as Spiritual Practice. If you have been meaning to develop a daily spiritual practice, this might be a good place to begin. It will jump start us into the practice of daily writing, not to be read by others, but in order to better understand ourselves. We will have several prompts to write from each evening as well as some relaxation techniques. There will be prompts to write on during the week as well. This is not a class about the craft of writing, but rather an opportunity to be together and practice exploring our inner holy lives. Writing will not be shared.

The group is open to writers of much or no experience. It is best if you can commit to attending all four sessions. The group will be facilitated by Penny Hackett-Evans.

MAMA's Coffeehouse Brooks Williams and Shari Kane & Dave Steele October 18th

Doors Open at 7:00 - Show begins at 8:00
\$15 (\$12 students/seniors)

Two headlining acts, both specializing in (though not necessarily limited to) the blues...

Ranked one of the Top 100 Acoustic Guitarists, singer-songwriter Brooks Williams writes groove-laden songs and delivers them with an easy-going vocal style and monstrous guitar chops. Walking the line between blues and Americana, Williams has worked stages worldwide for over 25 years, amassing a staggering back-catalogue of songs, recordings and tales.

As an acoustic blues duo, Ann Arbor's Shari Kane and Dave Steele throw a four handed guitar party of original and time-honored blues, gospel, swing and ragtime. - like a testament to sounds once heard on the streets of Harlem, the juke joints of Mississippi, or from the jug bands of Memphis.

Sunday Morning Discussion Group

The Sunday Morning Discussion Group will start its fall program in September. We will meet every Sunday in October from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. in the large conference room. We will be discussing the book, *The Perversion of Autonomy** by William Gaylin and Bruce Jennings, who are bioethicists at the Hastings Institute in New York. *Note that the text we will use is the original 1996 edition, not the more recent 2003 text.

The Grief Group, Tuesday October 14

“The reality is you will grieve forever. You will not get over the loss of a loved one; you will learn to live with it. You will heal and you will rebuild yourself around the loss you have suffered. You will be whole again but you will never be the same again. Nor should you be the same nor should you want to.”- Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

The Grief Group did not meet in July and August, but is resuming its gathering on September 9 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the small conference room. This group is flexible. Come once, come every month - whatever works for you. Grace Rising facilitates this group. For more information you may contact Grace at gbrising529@gmail.com or give her a call at (248) 219-9654.

UU Young Adults Go Apple Picking

An event in conjunction with First UU Ann Arbor and First UU Detroit Young Adults groups!

Apple Charlie's
38035 S. Huron Rd., New Boston 48164
Saturday, October 18 @ 1:00pm

Meet at BUC at 12pm for carpooling. Otherwise, meet at the orchard at 1pm.

Contact Stefanie Janes at [248-245-4619](tel:248-245-4619) or stefmbair@gmail.com if questions.



The Knitting Ministry – October 27

The Knitting Ministry provides lap robes, shawls, and baby clothes for members of the Birmingham Unitarian Universalist congregation, and supports other outside groups when they are able. They meet on the 4th Monday of the month, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the small conference room. The group is open to all whom knit or crochet. Patterns, yarn, and instructions are available. Contact Andie Stewart for more information aims851@hotmail.com

Alliance: Wednesday, October 15 at Noon

BUC Alliance begins another year with a luncheon meeting on Wednesday, October 15 at Noon, in the Pavilion. Our “Board-Catered” lunch will feature Quiche and salad, with cookies, too. The charge is \$10, at the door.

The program is also a special treat. Our speaker will be our own member, Marilyn Kelly, Former Michigan Supreme Court Justice, talking about election issues. Everyone is invited! This is an opportunity to become a member of Alliance - only \$10 for local dues - everyone welcome and invited to attend.

“Really, all you need to become a good knitter are wool, needles, hands, and slightly below-average intelligence. Of course, superior intelligence, such as yours and mine, is an advantage.”

--- Elizabeth Zimmerman

Music at BUC

September started with high energy and enthusiasm in the music department. Our singers came to rehearsal a week earlier than usual to get ready for our Homecoming Sunday September 7th-what dedication and commitment they showed and then displayed when they sang "Frozen" theme music. BUC's Chalice Choir invites new singers to join us. We have fun, music and food plus an uplifting feeling of fellowship and joy as we sing a variety of songs for upcoming Sundays and other events.

October 19th, the Madrigal Chorale and Chalice Choir join forces to raise money in a concert for "Ryan Rocks!", an organization which helps fund outdoor adventures for kids with terminal illnesses. Please join us at 4pm for a great collaborative afternoon.

Benefit Concert

Ryan Rocks!!!
Outdoor Adventures
Helping kids with cancer get into the outdoors
www.ryanrocks.org

Madrigal Chorale
100th Anniversary

Madrigal Chorale Benefit Fundraiser
Sunday, October 19 — 4:00 p.m.

With special guest the BUC Chalice Choir!
A freewill offering will be taken with all proceeds going directly to Ryan Rocks!!! Outdoor Adventures at 501c3 nonprofit organization offering children with a Pediatric Cancer Diagnosis and their families and outdoor adventure.
Doors open at 3:30 p.m.

“Where
words fail,
music speaks.”

~ Hans Christian
Andersen

Sound Messengers are excited to roll out new ideas for relating music to worship. Your transformative experience is our number one goal. Thanks to band members Brian Schandavel (drums), Chuck Bartels (bass) and back-up singers Mike Auchter, Kelly Taylor and Andrea Zellner.

The SoundBites concert series is all lined up. The first concert is November 21st, 7:30pm. We welcome Raion, a Japanese Taiko percussion and martial arts group. Come to the show and enjoy delicious gourmet sweets and champagne afterwards. We are falling into music at BUC!

Questions, suggestions or comments?
Please email band-leader Steven Dearing. steven.dearing@bucmi.org



South Oakland Shelter - The SOS Goes Out

Service & Justice

Through our Service & Justice program, BUC ministers to the needs of our communities, promotes social and economic justice, and serves as an agent of social systemic change.

BUC Scholarship Recipient Begins 2nd Year

Talisha Williamson graduated from Pontiac High School in 2013 and was awarded the first BUC Goldsmith Scholarship. She completed her first year at Oakland University and is now in her second year.

"My first year of college, I feel, went really well," she said. "It took a little adjusting to do because college is a lot different from high school. It's a good different."

Toward the end of her first year, Talisha declared her major - Health Science with a Pre-Pharmacy concentration.



During the summer, she kept very busy working as a Pharmacy Technician at CVS Pharmacy and at a summer camp. She also took a summer class.

Talisha qualified for renewal of the scholarship for the 2014-15 term, which is \$2k per year if she keeps up her gpa. She is grateful for the scholarship money and added, "Thank you for being interested in how things have been going with me." The BUC Goldsmith Scholarship is administered through the Community Foundation for SE MI. Graduates of Pontiac High School are eligible. A new recipient for the 2014-15 term is being identified.

Lily's Journey

Lily was working but not enough to live independently, forcing her, and her two small children, to live with relatives.

When Lily lost her job, her delicate living situation fell apart. Lily and her children were living in their car for 6 days when they entered South Oakland Shelter (SOS). While at SOS Lily was able to create a stable environment for her children, find employment, and is now living in her own home with a backyard where her kids can play.



SOS is the international Morse code distress signal, but it is also the universal call for help. They are no different than us. Amy chose to come to the South Oakland Shelter (SOS) because it was safer for her and her children in the shelter than at home with an abusive husband. Tom had been a successful insurance agent, but the bottom dropped out during the recession, and he has not been able to recover. Walter and Deirdre are professionals whose jobs and marriages both unraveled simultaneously. Walter spent his first night ever in a shelter last week, and Deirdre says that she has three goals during her time at SOS: find a job, secure housing, and fix her car.

It doesn't take too long to realize that there is no one picture of a homeless person. Our guests could be your cousin, child or parent whose caught a bad break.

"The mission of the Birmingham Unitarian Church is to create a free and welcoming religious community that encourages lives of integrity, service, learning, and joy." We are putting the service part of our mission statement into action when we host the SOS.

Michigan has an estimated homeless population of about 10,000. The South Oakland Shelter and the churches that assisted them served an estimated 500 of those homeless last year. Please join us and be part of our community effort to help ease the burden of homelessness.

SOS is at BUC: November 9 thru 16, 2014. Paul Plante, BUC SOS Coordinator pplante@twmi.rr.com (734)464-1577

Get Out and VOTE!



Many people made great sacrifices to win our right to vote. Get informed and get ready to vote in November. In many areas it's easy to get an absentee ballot if you can't get to the polls.

Social Justice Updates

All are invited to the MOSES 2014 Public Meeting – Sunday, October 5, 3:30 p.m., Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, 5251 E. Outer Dr., Detroit.

Read more at

www.MOSESMI.org. MOSES is

a coalition of churches in Detroit and the surrounding area who work

to improve the lives of people in the region through social justice advocacy.

Public Transit: We report on public transit in this newsletter because of its social justice relevance. Improved public transit in our region will provide better access to jobs, school, health care, and other destinations. It contributes to economic, personal, and environmental well-being.

(1) Work on the M-1 Rail project is well underway and is expected to complete in two years. Funding is coming largely from corporate and other private sponsors and the remainder from public grants and tax credits. It will have



11 stops from Grand Blvd in New Center to Congress St in downtown Detroit and will bring back a modernized form of the

street cars that were once a fixture in this region. (2) Michael Ford was named CEO of the Regional Transit Authority of SE MI. Since 2009, Ford was head of Ann Arbor's public transit system and from 1983 to 2008 held various public transit positions in California, Oregon, and Washington. (3) In the August primary, Oakland, Macomb, and Wayne counties voted in favor of the proposed SMART millages by wide margins, and advocates are urging local leaders to take swift action to improve the existing bus service.

Human Trafficking: Do you know that Michigan is a hot spot for profit-seeking predators who exploit children and adults for sex and labor services because of our international border and access to



national highways? We are not alone. Reports indicate that human trafficking is the second-largest and fastest-growing criminal industry in the world. In a 2013 Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking report, Attorney General Bill Schuette pledged “a victim centered approach to end modern slavery in Michigan.” Numerous pieces of legislation are being pursued with bi-partisan support to address apprehension and conviction of human traffickers and other changes to shift responsibility from victim to perpetrator.

Plate Collection Recipient – Baldwin Center Youth Program

Every day after school, Pontiac children ages K-6th grade gather at the Baldwin Center where they receive tutoring and other help with homework. Our October plate collection will be used to purchase computers for the students to access the Internet for homework and other learning. We would also accept a donated PC! ☺

Know of a good local organization that you'd like to recommend for our plate collection? The Plate Collection committee is accepting applications for next year, which can be submitted at www.bucmi.org. Click the “Social Justice” tab, then “Plate Collection Application.”

Service & Justice Committee Being formed! BUC is fortunate to have very capable, dedicated people leading our service projects which include SOS hosting, WHRC Elementary School support, holiday Adopt-A-Family and Lighthouse gifts, tree planting in Detroit, and more. Our Service & Justice program would benefit from the ideas and expertise of others in the congregation to help plan and prioritize the projects and social justice topics that we undertake and to integrate the service and interests of children, youth, and adults. We also need help in areas such as communication and publicity, both BUC-focused and in the wider community. If you would like to be part of this committee, please contact Sharon Kirchner or Mary Jo Ebert.

BUC Service & Justice Co-Chairs: Mary Jo Ebert, Sharon Kirchner

MUUSJN (Michigan UU Social Justice Network):

www.uujustice.org

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



Religious Education

The RE program has scheduled an optional volunteer work day at Gleaners of Pontiac for K-12 children and youth and their families from 12:30-2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 4 (Election Day). The link to sign up is on the RE page of our website. Contact Eleanor or Kimery if you have questions. Hope to see you there!

Children's RE

October's *Creation Myths* looks at how, for thousands of years, people have made up stories to explain the beginnings of the cosmos, the earth and humankind. All creation stories are beautiful. And for some believers, these stories are sacred and not to be questioned. In contrast, our UU Fourth Principle challenges us to follow a lifelong path of spiritual growth. Sometimes spiritual growth requires us to question traditional beliefs and look at accepted ideas in new ways. Hopefully, as our children move through these workshops, they will experience a sense of communion with people throughout the ages who have struggled for personal answers to these larger questions. Here is a brief overview of the workshops and ideas that comprise this rotation:

Science - looks at the history of Galileo's battle with the Catholic Church about the nature of the universe. Succinctly, can we believe in science and still believe in God?

Games - familiarizes the kids with the story of the Seven Days of Creation as put forth in the Old Testament in Genesis 1:1-2:4,

Art - focuses on the Hindu creation myth which reveals the universe as endlessly created and destroyed - it has no beginning or end. One Hindu saying goes "There are more universes than there are drops of water in the holy river Ganges".

Storytelling - explores why three of the world's major religions: Islam, Judaism and Christianity, all tell the same creation story due to their shared history. It's widely heard tale of how one God created the world in seven days and it's found in the Qur'an, the Torah and the Old Testament, respectively.

Please contact the Children's DRE with any further questions at: eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org

Youth RE

Sixth and seventh grade Neighboring Faiths class will spend October studying the historic roots of Judaism and take a field trip to the Holocaust Memorial Center on October 12. Thank you to our fall teachers: Bruce Webber, Debbie Fordree, and Viola Newman.

The Unitarian Friendship Organization (UFO) is our 6th and 7th grade youth group. Three upcoming service events are: Cookie baking for our South Oakland Shelter guests in November (parent coordinator needed); All-Youth Bakeoff (Michelle Chapman, UFO Coordinator); and our ongoing food drive for the Open Hands Pantry in Royal Oak. Please make sure that Youth DRE Kimery Campbell has your contact information so that she can notify you of the date and time of all events!

All middle school youth are encouraged to attend the annual UU Junior High Retreat at Mystic Lake YMCAcamp near Clare, Michigan, Oct. 17-19, 2014. This event is open to all 6-8th grade youth. We encourage parents to participate, too. Please mark your calendars now for this special opportunity for building interchurch connections, both for youth and adults. The weekend will include both camp- and UU-led team-building and fun events, meals in the social hall, a bonfire and (important) heated cabins. Register at www.midamericauua.org soon—it's filling up fast! Contact Kimery with questions at:

kimery.campbell@bucmi.org

Explorations Preschool for Young Learners

We are so excited about the new school year at Explorations School for Young Learners...we have grown! This year we have added a 3 year old preschool class, expanded our toddler program and welcomed Sally Barwin to our staff! Sally comes to us with a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education, over 18 years of experience and a



wonderful passion for educating young children.

The preschool class made cupcakes to celebrate our first birthday of the school year! They also had lots of fun creating banana and kiwi coconut trees for snack after we read *Chicka, Chicka, Boom, Boom!* The children are creating many masterpieces, which are proudly displayed on our classroom walls!

We are still accepting registrations for our fall programs for 3 year old and 18 - 33 month old children. Our lower level classrooms allow us to serve up to 34 children and we are eager to serve more families. Please help us increase enrollment by recommending Explorations Preschool to your family, friends and neighbors.

Check out our website at explorationspreschool.com or find us on Facebook at Explorations School for

Young Learners. For questions or other information please contact us at explorations@explorationspreschool.com or 248-647-6531

Feasibility and Planning Study - August 2014

In August, BUC undertook a planning and feasibility study to test support for a proposed fundraising campaign to address important church needs.

- Urgent Repairs
- Essential Renovations
- Enhancements to commonly used spaces
- Investments in our future

The following are key findings of the study, conducted by CCS, a consulting firm with sixty-five years of experience assisting church communities plan for and meet their fundraising goals. The findings represent in-depth conversations with 46 BUC families and 75 survey respondents

- **Overall reaction to addressing the needs of the church was well understood and very positive**
 - 95% of interviewees and 80% of survey respondents were 'very familiar' or 'somewhat familiar' with the plans to renovate and extend the campus
 - 100% interviewed and 92% of surveyed ranked 'Urgent Repairs' as a high priority. 90% interviewed and 61% of surveyed also ranked 'Essential Renovations' as a high priority
 - While 'Enhancements to commonly used spaces' and 'Investments in our future', were seen as being of medium priorities, they were well understood and supported for later investment
- **There are leaders and many volunteers willing to support the effort** by taking either a leadership position or serving as a committee member
- **86% of interviewees and 76% of survey respondents are willing to financially support a campaign by making a gift**
- BUC was rated as the highest charitable giving priority for 83% of those interviewed, with an additional 10% rating BUC as a high philanthropic priority
- **98% of those interviewed and 58% surveyed recommended that BUC move forward with a capital campaign** to address the highest priorities. Among those not answering "yes," most (26%) were "unsure."
- **80% of interviewees indicated that now is the right time** for Birmingham Unitarian Church to move forward with a campaign
- Based on interview and survey responses, and CCS analysis and recommendations, the Board is investigating how best to proceed with plans to address the 'Urgent Repairs' and 'Essential Renovations' of our Church.

Thank you to all that provided their opinions and insights.

Fordree Law Firm, P.C.

Deborah E. Fordree

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Telephone 248.652.1222 Fax 800.672.6161
fordreelaw@yahoo.com

Estate Planning – Wills, Trusts, Health Care Directives, Powers of Attorney, & General Practice

If you chose to make Birmingham Unitarian Church or UU organization a recipient of your estate, I will donate up to 20% of the fee to the Church or that UU organization.



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FULLY-LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST &
DOCTORAL LEVEL BOARD-CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST

Office Locations	drloriwarner.com
<p>BERKLEY The Healing Haven 2583 Sunnyknoll Drive Berkley MI 48072 www.thehealinghaven.net</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Acceptance and Commitment Therapist ■ Individual Adult Psychotherapy ■ Couples Therapy ■ Workshops and Group Therapy
<p>ROYAL OAK <i>in the office of</i> Robin Hanks, PhD, PLLC 333 West 7th Street, Suite 190 Royal Oak, MI 48067</p>	<p> facebook/Lori J Warner, PhD PLLC</p>

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