



April Services

7 "From THIS We Live"

This service will conclude BUC's Stewardship season by reflecting on information from our Stewardship Gatherings. Rev. Mandy Beal with Worship Associate Teresa Honnold and music by The Sound Messengers.



April 14 - "Celebrating Passover"

April 21 - "Celebrating Easter"

14 "Celebrating Passover"

Passover is the Jewish festival commemorating the freedom of the ancient Hebrew people from bondage in Egypt. What lessons might this celebration have for modern Unitarian Universalists? Rev. Mandy Beal with Worship Associate Lisa Demian and music by The Chalice Choir.

Welcome to BUC

Sunday worship service
10:30 a.m.

We have childcare for infant through preschool-aged children, and Sunday morning classes for K-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 parents 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.



April 28 - "Earth Day"

21 "Celebrating Easter"

This service will explore the themes of rebirth and renewal associated with the Christian holiday of Easter. Rev. Mandy Beal with Worship Associate Judy Amir and music by The Chalice Choir.

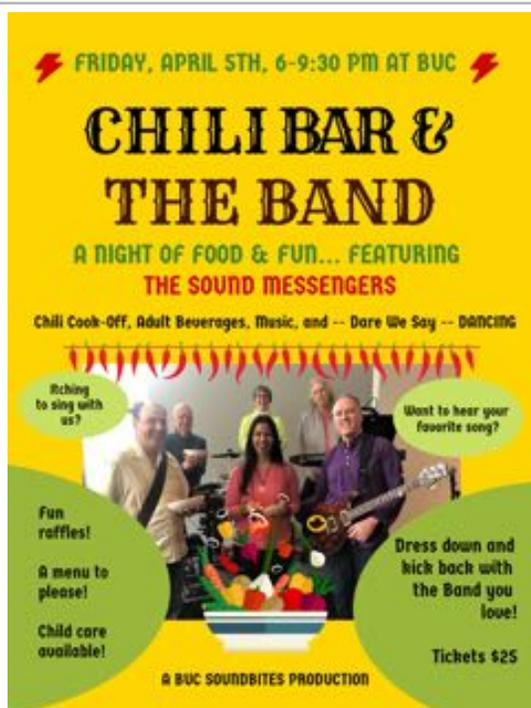
MAY DATES TO SAVE

 Sunday, May 5
Rev. Mandy's Installation

Sunday, May 19
Annual Meeting and Election

28 "Earth Day"

Our Earth Day observance will explore how our stewardship of the earth can be a spiritual practice, something we approach with our hearts as well as our minds. Worship Associate Donna Larkin-Mohr will lead the service, assisted by Jane O'Neil, Eric Sargent, and Dan Kosuth.



Last Chance! - Chili Bar & the Band

If you act quickly, you can still get tickets for a night of fun, food, and music by the Sound Messengers—our popular BUC band! It's Friday, April 5 (that's this Friday!!!), from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. at BUC. Wind down your work week with adult beverages and appetizers, salad, and your choice of our chili cook-off dishes from mild to hot. (We won't reveal which one is cooked by Rev. Mandy!) Choose ice cream or sherbet for dessert. Then kick back with the greatest hits of the Sound Messengers while we count your chili votes! This is a fun opportunity to share BUC music with your friends. It's an adult-only event, but childcare will be available. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online on the BUC website (Worship & Music > SoundBites), or by calling the church office. Hope you can join the fun!

Joys and Sorrows

Paula Short was hospitalized in intensive care in early March after a fall caused several broken bones. She has multiple health concerns, including lupus, and has a long recovery ahead of her.

Sookie Darlington has been diagnosed with a fourth breast cancer. A joy is that her daughter flew into Detroit from Charlotte in early March to attend a meeting of the tumor panel at U of M and get the opinion of a Karmanos oncology surgeon. Sookie also spent some time in the hospital after emergency surgery on March 22.

Sara Constantakis and her husband Brian Munzenberger celebrated their first wedding anniversary on March 3.

A joy from Kelly Taylor: "My wonderful father turned 90 on March 15 and he's still going strong!"

Longtime BUCer Grace Rising spent some time in the ICU at Newton/Wellesley Hospital in Massachusetts in early March with a viral heart infection. She is back home recovering and feeling great.

Carol Wiseman celebrated her birthday on March 11. She signed the book in 1966, when she was 23 (she says "you can do the math!"). Also, Carol's beloved Aunt Sophie died in early March at age 99. She was Carol's mother's friend from childhood until they were separated by the death of Carol's mother.

We grieve for the dozens of people who were killed and the many more who were injured during the March 15 terrorist attack at Al Noor mosque and the Lindwood Islamic Centre in Christchurch, New Zealand. We condemn this violence and mourn with all those affected.

Harper West visited the MSU Veterinary Clinic for possible surgery on her dog, Hope, who was diagnosed on March 22 with a rare autoimmune disorder.

Adult Religious Education - "The Bible as Literature"

Fridays – April 12, April 26, May 10, and May 17 | 7:30 p.m.

Join us for this new adult religious education series, "The Bible as Literature," in which we'll explore and examine biblical writings from a literary perspective. Ed Sharples will be leading the one-hour discussions on four Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m., starting on Friday, April 12. Topics will include the origins of the writings of the Old Testament, drama, narrative, poetry, and comparative analysis. You may attend any or all of the four sessions. Participants should bring a version of the Bible; preferred texts are the King James Authorized, the Revised Standard, or the New Revised Standard. Suggested pre-reading for the April 12 discussion is Genesis, Chapters 1-9. Several readings throughout the sessions will be suggested but not required. Register by emailing Ed at edwardsharples@ymail.com.

Issues and Ale

Friday, April 12 | 6:00 p.m. | C.J. Mahoney's, Troy

The monthly Issues and Ale group is growing, and they would love for you to join them for lively conversation about important social justice issues in an informal atmosphere. The next meeting is Friday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m. at C.J. Mahoney's in Troy (2511 Livernois Rd.) and will be facilitated by Kathie Roggenbuch. Stop by and join in the conversation!

Sharing Dinners

Saturday, April 13

Our Sharing Dinners program is another great opportunity for fellowship and conversation with BUC members and friends. Sharing Dinner participants host potluck dinners in their homes on the second Saturday of each month. There are only two more dinners left this church year, so don't wait to get in on the fun! If you act fast, you can still sign up for the April dinner, being held on Saturday, April 13. Contact organizer David Sabbagh at dsabbagh7@gmail.com by April 5 (this Friday!) and let him know if you will attend as a guest, or if you can host (hosts are always much appreciated!). Watch the announcements for sign-up details on the last dinner of the year, happening in May.



"Getting to Know UU"

Sunday, April 14 | 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Red Door

Our "Getting to Know UU" series continues on Sunday, April 14 from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. in the Red Door Classroom. Learn about the history, beliefs, and people of Unitarian Universalism while making connections with other BUCers. At the April 14 session, Rev. Mandy will be speaking about membership at BUC. A light lunch will be served. If

you plan to attend, please RSVP to Rob Davidson at kathyd8082@gmail.com, and let him know if you need childcare.

From the Board: Annual Meeting Notice



I'm grateful I found Unitarian Universalism and especially Birmingham Unitarian Church—my church home. Here I connect with like-minded people and have the freedom to explore my spirituality and express my beliefs. This is possible because of our seven UU principles and our church covenant.

Our fifth UU principle is “the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.” One of the ways we exercise the democratic process is to hold an annual meeting, during which we elect the members of the Board of Trustees, Leadership Development Committee, and Stewardship Committee (voting is restricted to members in good standing). We also review the work of the past church year and look forward to the next year.

This year our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, May 19, after the Choir Sunday service. I encourage each of you to attend and participate.

-Bruce Webber, President, Board of Trustees

Grief Support Group

The Grief Support group meets monthly on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the Large Conference Room. All who are processing and experiencing grief at the loss of a loved one are welcome to participate. Facilitated by Alison Rule (248-320-1021).

Knitting Ministry



Join the Knitting Ministry for their next meeting on Monday, April 22 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Small Conference Room. If you would like to make something on your own, you can pick up yarn, project bags, and patterns from the

bin the hallway to the Commons. For more information, contact Andie Stewart at alamonts851@gmail.com.

Living by Heart



The Living by Heart group meets Monday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Commons. They use writing, poetry, and simple art to

explore what is in the heart and mind. Bring a journal and pen. No experience necessary. For more information, contact Karen Schreck at ktschreck@icloud.com.

Humanists of BUC

Sunday, April 14 | 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. | Lower Level Classroom

The Humanists of BUC will be meeting on Sunday, April 14 in the Lower Level Classroom, starting at 12:00 noon. As usual, a light lunch will be provided, with the program beginning at 12:15. Dan Korobkin, deputy legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, will speak on the important state and national issue of the separation of church and state. A nonprofit organization, the ACLU “defends and preserves the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to every person in our country by the constitution and the laws of the United States.” A discussion period will follow the speaker. Everyone is urged to attend.

Sunday Morning Discussion Group

Sundays | 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. | Green Door

The Sunday Morning Discussion Group meets weekly, year round, to enhance Sunday mornings with a lively discussion of various topics. They meet in the small Green Door Classroom from 9:00 to 10:15 and decide on a topic by majority vote on the day of the discussion. However, on May 14, they will discuss the first half of the book *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* by Karen Armstrong. Used books are available for \$2-6 through Amazon and Thrift Books. The group has been meeting for over eight years without a drop in membership. New people are most welcome.

Alliance

Wednesday, April 17 | 12:00 noon | Pavilion and Commons

Mark your calendars now for the Alliance's travelogue, "Easter Island: An Island in Isolation, Both Geographically and Culturally." On Wednesday, April 17, BUC member Karen Stankye will share memorable experiences from her trip to the 2019 Tapati Rapa Nui, or cultural festival, on Easter Island. Karen will also speak about her explorations of the monolithic Moai statues and petroglyphs, with photos, history, and observations. Relatively few tourists visit this island, so don't miss this chance to learn more about an amazing part of the world. The brown bag luncheon will be held in the Pavilion, beginning at 12:00 noon. The Alliance will provide coffee, cookies, and grapes. Karen's talk will begin in the Commons at 1:00 p.m. Plan to join us on April 17, and invite your friends!

April Plate Collection

A portion of our Sunday plate collections during the month of April will be donated to Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC), an organization that was started in 2000 when the state granted Nestle Waters North America permission to withdraw massive amounts of water from a well in Mecosta, Michigan. MCWC seeks to protect Michigan waters from pollution, plunder, corporate theft, and privatization through education, advocacy, and action. Several BUCers are active volunteers. For more information, visit the Social and Environmental Justice table in Hodas Hall after service.

Any BUCer may nominate a local nonprofit organization to be a plate collection recipient. Submit an application online at bucmi.org by clicking the Social Justice tab, then Plate Collection Application. You can also contact Barbara Robinson at 248-320-8366 or brjdr8719@gmail.com or any committee member: Sharon Kirchner (Assistant Chair), Janet Brown, Dan Kosuth, Ron Lewis, or Paola Seidel. Applications are reviewed 3-4 times per year.

Film Buffs

The Teacher | Friday, April 26 | 7:00 p.m. | Commons

"In 1983 Czechoslovakia, with Soviet-style Communism in full swing, bossy middle school teacher and party official Comrade Drazdechova greets her new students with the request that each reveal what his or her parents do for a living. With ingenuity and deviousness, she uses the information to wheedle services of every kind from each family. The students soon grasp their teacher's most important lesson: their future success—or failure—is dependent on these modest 'favours.' *The Teacher* taps a rich vein of dark satire by casting light on the petty abuses of power and intimidation that authoritarian regimes spawn at every level. In Slovak with English subtitles. (Czech Republic, 2016, NR, 103 minutes)" –*DFT Film Guide*



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

What's an Installation?

Rev. Mandy Beal



On May 5, I will be “installed” as the seventh Senior Minister of Birmingham Unitarian Church. What does that mean? On a surface level, it means that there will be a whole day of church! We’ll have our regular 10:30 worship service, led by my friend and colleague, the Reverend Sam Teitel from Church of the River in Memphis, TN. My installation service will begin at 4:00 p.m. that day. If this is too much church for your

schedule, I hereby officially excuse you from our regular morning service. Children are especially encouraged to attend the Installation at 4:00. There will be a special Message for All Ages, after which the children can go to childcare.

An installation is a celebration of a church’s history and hopes for the future. This is when a congregation officially confers authority to lead onto a new minister. The ritual used for this is the Act of Installation. This is a set of promises we will make to each other, led by Board President Bruce Webber. A long list of UU ministers will be participating in the service. The sermon will be given by Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti of First UU Ann Arbor. There will be a laying on of hands, led by Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt. Rev. Dr. Doug Gallagher will also be here to give “charges” to the congregation, or a list of hopes he has for you during my tenure.

Installation services are long, but they are so worth it. There will be a lot of depth and fun in the service. This is a chance to hear some very talented UU ministers and enjoy our diverse, excellent music program. I hope you’re able to join in the fun at 4:00 on May 5. Please be sure to RSVP to the email invitation.

Yours in faith,

Rev. Mandy

Membership Committee



Helen Oliver-Brooks

Hello from the Membership Committee, here to serve members both new and seasoned! Let’s celebrate two new members who signed the book in March. Please welcome Helen Oliver-Brooks and Pat (Patrice) Butkiewicz!

Helen lives in Southfield and has been attending BUC for a while.

Pat is a lifelong Detroit-area resident and a UU “convert” of 10 years. She resides in Troy with her 25-year-old daughter, Sundari, though probably not for long. A creative director and instructional designer by trade, Pat is an avid reader, gardener, movie-goer, cook, political junkie, and knitter for fun. “I look forward to becoming a part of the BUC community and deepening my relationship with UUism,” Pat says. “Thanks for being so welcoming.”



Pat Butkiewicz

For you seasoned members: is your church directory photo a hundred years old? Maybe it’s only five years old, but your kids are unrecognizable. Good news! We’ll be taking photos outside the sanctuary after service on April 7, 14, and 21. All you have to do is stop by and say cheese, and we’ll get your updated mug in the directory.

MAMA's Coffeehouse: Floyd King & the Bushwackers

Dennis Kingsbury, Maggie Ferguson & Jim Bizer

Saturday, April 20 | 8:00 p.m.

\$15 adults | \$13 students/seniors | Tickets at the door only

Joe Shields opens



Michigan's premier (and perhaps only) folk-rockin', semi-bluegrass, party-gospel band returns to the Coffeehouse. The threesome brings some serious instrumental prowess and stunning vocal harmonies to the stage in songs informed by both true history and tall tales. Visits to down-south honkytonks, odes to bourbon, preachers, and intimidating high-school dance partners—and even the occasional touching ballad—are part of a typical Bushwackers set. Buckle up, hunker down, and get ready—it'll be a time. Award-winning songwriter Joe Shields will open the show. Get there on time—you DON'T want to miss the opening act.

Music at BUC

BUC Music is ready for Spring to spring. Aren't you? This past month—in addition to the fine contributions of the BUC Chalice Choir, our pianist Forrest Howell, and the Sound Messengers—our Youth Sunday musicians gave their hearts away on piano and in the Teen Choir. To complement the carefully crafted spoken words and hymns placed throughout the service, each pianist chose a piece that would go well with a specific part of the service, and the youth thoughtfully chose their anthem, “Burn the



The Teen Choir on Youth Sunday

House Down,” which exemplified their theme, “The Flame Within.” Bravo to all of the youth who participated. We are so impressed with your commitment to UU values. And during our hymn service on March 31, we enjoyed introspective reflections from five congregants as they shared thoughts on the UU songs that mean the most to them.

“Chili Bar & the Band” is happening on Friday, April 5! Come and enjoy a fun night of food, music, and dancing in an adult-centered setting.

And finally, mark your calendars for Choir Sunday on May 19. The theme is “Family.” This promises to be a service full of personal stories, great music, and poignant moments surrounding those relationships we call family, whether they be biological or chosen.

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

Social and Environmental Justice

The Social and Environmental Justice (SEJ) Committee has a lot going on! First off, we have taken on a new moniker. After many years as the Service and Social Justice Committee, our new name reflects our recognition that environmental justice and racial justice are inextricably intertwined. In the months ahead, we plan to work closely with the Green Sanctuary Ministry to address injustice in every form.

Welcoming Congregation Renewal

As long-time BUCers may know, this year is the 25th anniversary of BUC's certification as a Welcoming Congregation. However, the act of creating a space and community welcoming to LGBTQ individuals and families is a process as much as a destination. Starting in September, Rev. Mandy and members of the Social and Environmental Justice Committee will work with the congregation on the ongoing process of recertification. If you would like to participate in this project, please contact Jane O'Neil at janeaoneil@gmail.com.

Confronting Racism

The next meeting of this active subgroup of the Social and Environmental Justice Committee will be on April 19 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the home of group leader Peggy Bocks. The meeting will include discussion of the 2018 book *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo, the article "From White Racist to White Anti-Racist: The Life-Long Journey" by Tema Okun, and the TED talk "Walk Toward Your Biases" by Verna Myers. You can join the group anytime and need not have attended previous meetings to join. Contact Peggy at pbocks@gmail.com for more information and to be added to the email list.

Preventing Gun Violence

A few bills currently in the Michigan legislature that are supported by the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence:

- HB 4283 (MI House): *Extreme risk protection order*
- HB 4284: *Prohibits individuals subject to gun seizure orders from buying another firearm*
- SD 0157 (MI Senate): *Prohibits individuals subject to gun seizure orders from buying another firearm*

Please write to your Michigan state representative and senator in support of these bills!

-Jane O'Neil and Eric Sargent, Social and Environmental Justice Co-Chairs

Green Sanctuary's "Green Tip" for April

Round up your Roundup and take it to your hazardous waste recycling center.



Roundup weed killer has been listed by the World Health Organization as a "probable carcinogenic." There is enough evidence that this agent, glyphosate, has been banned by 14 countries as well as 15 states in the US. A California jury has just found Roundup to be a contributing factor in a farmer's non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Do you really want it near your children and pets?

Come to the Green Sanctuary table in Hodas Hall after Sunday service to get a list of things to use instead of Roundup.

Green Sanctuary Ministry

A bipartisan bill currently in the U.S. House of Representatives would put a price on carbon pollution in our air. The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763) or EICDA will drive down America's greenhouse gas emissions while unleashing American technology innovation and ingenuity. Citizens Climate Lobby, under the auspices of our Green Sanctuary Ministry, is working to get this bill approved.

How it works:

1. Carbon fee - This policy puts a fee on fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas at the point they are extracted, starting low and increasing over time.
2. Carbon dividend - The money collected from the carbon fee is allocated in equal shares every month to the American people to spend as they see fit.
3. Border carbon adjustment - To protect US manufacturers and jobs, imported goods will pay a border carbon adjustment, and goods exported from the United States will receive a refund.
4. Regulatory adjustment - The policy preserves effective current regulations like auto mileage standards, but pauses the EPA authority to regulate CO₂ and equivalent emissions covered by the fee for the first 10 years after the policy is enacted. If emission targets are not met after 10 years, Congress gives clear direction to the EPA to regulate those emissions to meet those targets. The pause does not impact EPA regulations related to water quality, air quality, health, or other issues.

Some additional facts about the policy:

-America's emissions will be reduced by at least 40% in the first 12 years of this bill.

-This policy will improve health and save lives by reducing pollution, especially in marginalized communities. Additionally, the carbon dividend puts money directly into people's pockets every month, helping low- and middle-income Americans.

-It will create 2.1 million new jobs. This is thanks to economic growth in local communities, including job growth in renewable industries and increased disposable income.

-Both Republicans and Democrats are on board and are co-sponsoring this bill.

-The fees collected on carbon emissions will be allocated to ALL Americans to spend any way they choose.

-The government will NOT keep any of the collected fees, so the size of government will not grow, making this policy revenue-neutral.

This is a brief summary of the bill and its benefits. For more information about this bill and how to let your legislators know you want them to support it, stop by the Green Sanctuary Ministry table in Hodas Hall after Sunday service.

The UUA recently endorsed this bill with the following statement:

"May our love of this blue green earth feed our souls to act on its behalf. Whether we choose to put our bodies in front of a pipeline or throw our considerable energies into legislation for just energy transitions, may we do so centering the margins. It will take all of us and many strategies to create climate justice, including passage by the 116th Congress of the EICDA."

Stewardship Update

During March, many BUCers came together in small group Gatherings for fellowship and to explore what they value at BUC. The 2019-2020 Stewardship theme and logo are derived from our hymn, “From You I Receive”: “From you I receive, to you I give/together we share, and from this we live.” Combining music and conversation, the Stewardship Gatherings affirmed primary values at BUC; the most comprehensive interpretation of both “this” and “you” in the hymn is that we “live” from the people and community of BUC.



The church as an institution should be able to reflect our congregation’s objectives. The Stewardship Committee’s goal is to provide the church with sufficient resources to be sustainable.

Pledges are due to the church by April 7, to allow time to finalize the 2019-2020 budget. The pledge box will be in the Pavilion on Sundays through April 7 and in the office during the week. If you cannot get to BUC, please mail in your pledge or call Kym Worth in the office (248-647-2380) from Monday through Thursday.

Our thanks to all of you who are participating in supporting our beloved community.

Your 2019–2020 Stewardship Committee,

Soren Andersen, Co-Chair: r.soren.andersen@gmail.com, 248-227-9166

Walli Andersen, Co-Chair: walli404@wowway.com, 248-882-9155

Jim Shettel, Assistant Co-Chair: jimshettel@gmail.com, 248-917-3387

Cheryl Shettel, Assistant Co-Chair: cheryl.shettel@icloud.com, 248-703-9294

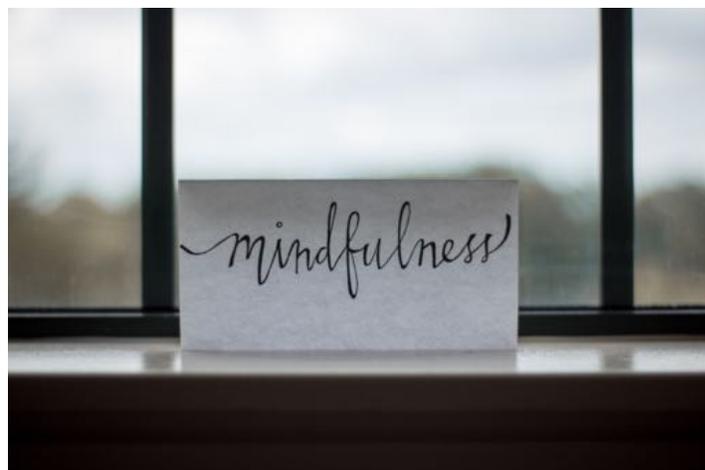
Mindfulness Meditation Workshop

Sunday, April 14 | 9:30 a.m. | Red Door

Curious about meditation? Heard the buzzword “mindfulness”? Consider joining BUC member Lisa Patterson for a 45-minute mindfulness meditation workshop this spring.

Based on the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) program, guided meditations and awareness exercises will be offered as tools to support a greater sense of personal satisfaction and peace.

Two more workshops will be held at 9:30 a.m., before Sunday worship services, on April 14 and May 19, in the Red Door Classroom. Register for either or both by calling Lisa at 248-516-9862.



Rummage: A Big Deal for BUC from Many Great Deals for Our Community!

April 28–May 4 is your chance to clean that cluttered cupboard and delight others when they find just what they need in the goods you donate. And your help with Rummage boosts BUC's budget!

Rummage has contributed \$1.2M toward church operations since its start 122 sales ago. BUC has made many friends in repeat customers who rely on our low-cost, quality merchandise. The church itself has gained useful items over the years. Anything not sold is donated to worthy charities, and we seriously address recycling throughout. Importantly, our volunteers—especially new members—deepen friendships by working side-by-side. Including our popular Silent Auction for standout donations, Rummage is fun!

New ways to help

- The Rummage team keeps tweaking our process to improve results. For example, we learned that large furniture does not sell. But small furniture in good condition—end tables, chairs, etc.—is welcome, especially if you can bring it to BUC yourself on intake days (Sunday 4/28 through 4:00 p.m. Tuesday 4/30).
- We'd like to offer "Rummage on Wheels" again, lining up volunteers with SUVs to pick up donations from those who have difficulty dropping things off at BUC. We need someone to coordinate this effort. Perhaps a small group could assist by providing some of the drivers to handle pick-up appointments?

Donations that customers love

- Please keep the vintage clothing coming! Jewelry sells well, as do books. Shoes are popular, when banded together and marked for size. We could use more children's clothing. The linens room is always crowded; please mark sheet sets, etc., for size—that would be a real time-saver!
- Art and interesting artifacts are a draw for the Silent Auction. We'll try to display art in the Gallery for easier decision-making, so please consider donating artwork. Knowing original price or provenance is helpful; thanks for including that info.

We need folks to help in four-hour shifts with sorting and pricing donations and as cashiers during the sale. Helpers can be BUC individuals, families, small groups, and friends. Hours are flexible, after 5:00 p.m. as well as during the day and on the weekend. Why not invite a buddy to work with you?

A final note: all workers are well-fed during set-up, sale, and take-down! Plus, workers and food-providers earn shopping privileges ahead of the public. So, donating tasty meals and desserts is an option for contributing to Rummage as well. Volunteering is easy through SignUpGenius or by visiting the Rummage table in Hodas Hall during coffee hour. THANK YOU for helping to sustain our first-rate Rummage for another successful year!

Religious Education



This year's Youth Sunday service, "The Flame Within," was led by a total of 22 of BUC's 6th through 12th grade youth. Each year, our youth throw themselves into planning and leading this service. They bring out their best musical abilities, they consider multiple theme ideas, and then they put their writing and planning skills to work to weave a service around their chosen theme.

Our theme for April worship is renewal. In our Religious Education program, the renewal is ongoing. Children become youth, youth become young adults, adults (and DREs) come and go, but each new generation brings new ideas, challenges, and dreams to our classrooms and events, keeping the church fresh. Each church year brings changes, but the children and youth will continue to help Religious Education renew itself—as it should.

On Sunday, April 7, we will hold our first-ever Futures Panel, from 11:45 to 1:15 in the Commons. BUCers David Sabbagh, Kye Campbell-Fox, Jessa Webber, and others will explore possibilities for post-high school years that go beyond aptitude tests and grade-point averages. All young adults and rising young adults (and parents) are encouraged to attend.

This year's 4th/5th grade *Our Whole Lives* program has concluded, with many accolades from the participants, their parents, and the OWL teachers. The success of this program leaves us excited about next year's offering, which will be *Our Whole Lives for Grades K-1*, happening in the early winter of 2020.

A core belief of the OWL programs is that sexuality education begins at home, supported by open and effective communication between parents and their children. This means that parents have primary responsibility for the sexuality education of their children. The responsibility of the educating institution is to provide resources that help parents teach about sexuality. In this way, parents and the educating institution become partners.

The *Our Whole Lives for Grades K-1* program nurtures and supports the three Rs of early childhood sexuality education—Respect, Relationships, and Responsibility—by helping children increase self-respect and respect for others, build relationships with members of all genders and with many kinds of families, and understand their responsibilities regarding their own health and that of others.

-Eleanor McGuire, Children's DRE (eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org)

-Kimery Campbell, Youth DRE (kimery.campbell@bucmi.org)



Sunday Morning Flowers

Take a moment to recognize or honor someone dear or to commemorate a special occasion by providing fresh flowers for the sanctuary. Flowers add significantly to the ambience on Sunday mornings.

To request Sunday morning flowers, go to the BUC home page (bucmi.org) and click on the Sunday Morning Flowers button on the left-hand side to access the SignUpGenius. Questions can be directed to Joanne Copeland at joanne.copeland@bucmi.org. Thank you for sharing your remembrances of special occasions and important people in your life and enhancing our communal worship experience.



Did You Know about BUC Rentals?

One of the many ways you can support the church is through rentals of our beautiful spaces. Is your outside organization looking for meeting space? Planning a shower, graduation party, or family gathering? Teaching a series of exercise classes or planning a music recital? Rates range from \$15/hour for classrooms to \$500 for use of the Hodas Family Hall for a large event, AND BUC members receive a 10% discount. Contact Marcia Mahood, Rentals Coordinator at marcia.mahood@bucmi.org or 248-647-2380 for more information. Marcia will be happy to work with you to ensure you have a successful event at BUC, while you support BUC at the same time.

New Member Welcome – April 21

Have you been thinking about becoming a member of BUC and deepening your commitment by signing the Membership Book? Have you been attending worship services and getting engaged in other BUC activities? We will be welcoming new members during our worship service on Sunday, April 21, and we want to welcome you. So if you have questions about becoming a member (and have not attended our “Getting to Know UU” classes), please contact Rev. Mandy at mandy.beal@bucmi.org or 248-647-2380 to discuss becoming a BUC member before April 21!



Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Associates provide support for BUC congregants experiencing significant life challenges, through the support of pastoral care associates and helping hands volunteers working in partnership with the minister. We assist the congregant in moving toward being able to help themselves, by being a caring presence during a difficult time and providing support in such areas as visits, meals, transportation, and assistance in locating appropriate community resources for ongoing needs.

We also have a “helping hands” program that provides short-term, practical support like transportation, errands, and more. This level of support is a good match for people recovering from illness or surgery.

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 their 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 a referral to other support resources. If you or someone you know could benefit from pastoral care, please contact the minister or a pastoral care associate.
