



Birmingham Unitarian Church  
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

## 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-12<sup>th</sup> 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.



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



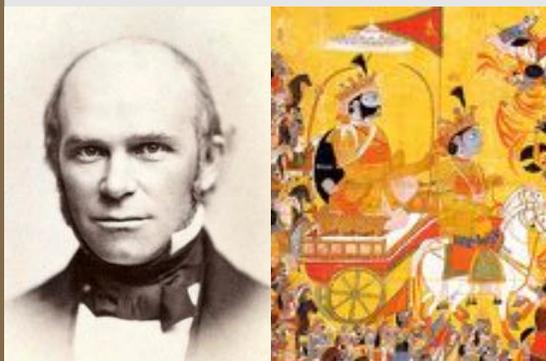
September 1 – Labor Day



September 8 – Homecoming Sunday



September 22 – Heaven on Earth



September 29 – Theodore Parker and the *Bhagavad Gita*

## September Services

9/1 Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Studs Terkel's book, *Working*, is a compelling look at the work people do and how they feel about it. A bestseller in 1974, much of it still resonates today. Worship Associates Bill Fox and Camille Harris, with Paul Vachon and Dan Kosuth, have created a service that looks at these voices as well as their own experiences. Music by Mark Watson, keyboardist for the Sound Messengers.

9/8 As we gather again as a worshiping community, we will consider: Who are we? Where do we come from? What is our purpose? We will also have our traditional Water Communion. Rev. Mandy Beal with Worship Associate Teresa Honnold and music from The Chalice Choir.

9/15 Guest in the pulpit. Music from the Sound Messengers.

9/22 Our Universalist forbears believed that heaven and hell are conditions that we create in this lifetime. This service will explore how we build those realities. Rev. Mandy Beal with Worship Associate Teresa Honnold and music from The Chalice Choir.

9/29 Theodore Parker was a 19<sup>th</sup>-century Unitarian minister who believed the arc of the moral universe bends towards justice. But how do we know if our actions are contributing to the greater good? Rev. Mandy Beal with Worship Associate Ed Sharples and music from the Sound Messengers.

## Joys and Sorrows

Dr. Robert A. Mitchell passed away on June 16. He was an active member of BUC in his younger years. His wife, Dr. Diane Sasaki, preceded him in death last October.

LuAnne Holder fell and broke both her wrists earlier this summer. Her husband David also underwent outpatient surgery, so both had operations on the same day! Both spent some recovery time at home.

Alex Adah was hospitalized at Beaumont in early July.

On July 6, Kathy DuHame, Mike Kendra, and Kathy's mother, Mary Vermiglio, were in a car accident. Kathy's arm was injured and she spent some recovery time at home. Mike is OK. Kathy's mother sustained serious injuries and has a long recovery. Please keep the family in your thoughts.

Sharon Kirchner spent some time in Beaumont hospital and rehab unit in July. She greatly appreciates all the cards and good wishes from so many—they helped keep her spirits up and pass the time. Well-wishers are welcome to text her or send cards to her home address.

Altar flowers on July 14 were provided by Cindy Goldman in memory of her son, Zachary Tyler.

A joy from Julia and Charlie Gragg: "Our son Christopher has returned to the USA after living in China for the past 10 years! He brought home with him a most wonderful woman! They made their wedding official in mid-July."

Ken Grundberg, longtime BUC attendee and active in Green Sanctuary and Motor City Free Geek, died July 26 after a long illness.

Mike Gabel was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia and started treatment in late July. Thoughts, prayers, and good wishes for a good outcome are welcomed by the family.

Kaye Rittinger underwent shoulder surgery in late July and spent some time at a rehabilitation facility.

David and Stephanie Greer greatly appreciate all the condolences following the death of their middle son, Jeffrey.

Deep sorrow for the mass shootings that occurred in El Paso, Texas on August 3 and Dayton, Ohio on August 4.

From Rich Schreck: "Remembering Ron Wemple, engineer, physician, college professor, and great friend."

Dwane Adle's mom, Donna Jean Adle, passed away on August 7 at the age of 75. Dwane was able to be with her in Florida. Donna's funeral service was held on August 12 in the metro Detroit area.

Celina Ortiz is starting her Master's of Divinity program in September.

Barbara Woolf enjoyed a visit in early August from her younger son, Alex, with Samantha and sons Chance and Grayson—all the way from San Francisco!

Carole and Richard Wiseman celebrated their 52 wedding anniversary on August 12! They were married at BUC by Rabbi Sherwin Wine in 1967.

From Larry Larson: "Deep sorrow on August 25 as churches were encouraged to recognize the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of enslaved Africans in Virginia in 1619, marking the beginning of slavery in British North America."

From Art Hillman: "Not a sorrow, but definitely not a joy... an accomplishment: the Rev. Christine Hillman's ashes are in the 5 Great Lakes, as she requested."

From Jann Devereux: "Grateful for the great joy of summer with grandchildren, family, and friends!"

## Sunday Morning Discussion Group

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

The Sunday Morning Discussion Group continues to meet in the Lower Level Classroom each Sunday from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. We are beginning our tenth year. Topics are decided weekly by majority vote. However, on September 8, we will discuss the first half of the book *Class Lives*, edited by Chuck Collins and others. Class is often a taboo subject, according to the introduction. We will discuss the second half of this book on October 13. We had very good attendance over the summer, as we continued to share perspectives in a friendly atmosphere. For general information on the Sunday Morning Discussion Group, contact Larry Larson at [lawrencejudy@yahoo.com](mailto:lawrencejudy@yahoo.com).

## Body Wisdom

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



Starting September 9, by popular request, the Body Wisdom movement class that Penny started with us will begin again. It will be lay-led. We will meet on Mondays

outside the Red Door Classroom (in good weather, inside in case of rain) from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m., before the creative writing and art portions of Living by Heart. All genders are invited to join us. For more information, contact Karen Schreck ([ktschreck@icloud.com](mailto:ktschreck@icloud.com)). No meeting on 9/30.

## Living by Heart

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



The Living by Heart group meets on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Red Door Classroom. We use both simple art techniques and writing

techniques to explore what matters most in our lives. Open to all genders, and no experience is necessary. Bring a journal, a pen, and any art supplies you like. Facilitated by Karen Schreck ([ktschreck@icloud.com](mailto:ktschreck@icloud.com)). No meeting on 9/2 or 9/30.

## Grief Support Group

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays | 3:00 p.m.  
Large Conference Room



The Grief Support group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 3:00 p.m. in the Large Conference Room.

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

## Caregivers Support Group

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays | 2:00 p.m.  
Small Conference Room



Being a caregiver can be an isolating, overwhelming, and challenging experience. We offer support for

those doing the supporting. The group will be meeting regularly again on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 2:00 p.m. in the Small Conference Room. Facilitated by Alison Rule (248-320-1021).

## Issues and Ale

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



The next meeting of the monthly Issues and Ale group is Friday, September 6 at 6:00 p.m. at Joe Kool's Sports Bar and Grill, located at 1835 E. Big Beaver Rd. in Troy, next to the Troy Sports Center. All are welcome to join this group for lively conversation on important social justice issues in an informal atmosphere. For more information on Issues and Ale, contact Allen and Aletha Craig at [aarvcraig@mac.com](mailto:aarvcraig@mac.com).

## Humanists of BUC

Sunday, September 22 | 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. | Lower Level Classroom

The Humanists of BUC will start our fifth year on Sunday, September 22, with a talk by congregant Dan Kosuth on his core values. We will begin with a light lunch at 12:00 noon in the Lower Level Classroom, and then hear a very short talk on humanism by David Greer at 12:15. We anticipate that Dan will provide a Q&A session during or after his talk, and the program will end at 1:15/1:30. Our planning committee is proud to have provided a venue for many of the leaders of our church to speak on values that matter most to them. We welcome theists, agnostics, atheists, humanists, Christians, and everyone seeking to make our world a better place. For general information on the Humanists of BUC, contact Larry Larson at [lawrencejudy@yahoo.com](mailto:lawrencejudy@yahoo.com).

## Sharing Dinners

The BUC sharing dinner group will return again, with the season running from October through May but skipping December. Each month's dinner will occur on the second Saturday of the month. If you have not attended a dinner and would like to learn more about the group, please email Dave Sabbagh at [dsabbagh7@gmail.com](mailto:dsabbagh7@gmail.com). If you attended one or more dinners last year, your name is already on the participant list and you'll be hearing about the October dinner soon.



## Alliance

We hope you've had a good summer! The Alliance does not meet in September. We do hope to see you during the Fall Rummage Sale (Oct. 3-5)! Our first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday, October 16, with a catered lunch by Anne Calomeni, followed by a talk on climate change by BUC's Mary Dunn. Mark your calendars also for the November 20 program meeting and for our annual holiday luncheon, scheduled for Tuesday, December 10 at the Iroquois Club.

--Ann Throop for the Alliance Committee

**Save the Date! Save the Date! Save the Date!**

Leap Year fun is coming at BUC's big social event of the church year!

Leap into the **Talent and Services Auction 2020**

Put **Saturday, February 29, 2020** on your calendar

## September Plate Collection

A portion of our Sunday plate collections in September will be donated to Communities United for Children, a nonprofit created by BUC to support our work with Walt Whitman Elementary School in Pontiac. See related article in this newsletter.

Any BUCer may nominate a local nonprofit for consideration to be a plate recipient. Submit an application online at [bucmi.org](http://bucmi.org) by clicking the Social Justice tab, then Plate Collection Application. Or contact Barbara Robinson at 248-320-8366 or [brjdr8719@gmail.com](mailto:brjdr8719@gmail.com) to submit an application or discuss a potential recipient.

## Membership

Have you ever seen a group of friendlier faces? That's why these faces (and a few more not pictured) will be the first ones you see when you walk into church this year.

Meet our new BUC Greeters!

We used to use the Sunday Hospitality signup system, but we're trying something new. These folks expressed interest in greeting regularly for one year. A few Sundays ago, they (along with some board members and the Membership Committee) attended a "greeter training" to learn the nuts and bolts of the job, but also the deeper spiritual responsibility of welcoming, *truly* welcoming, everyone who comes through our doors—and braves coffee hour.



In the words of former UUA president Peter Morales:

"This is not a matter of good manners. I am not talking about being polite. I am talking about true religious hospitality. I am talking about being truly, honestly, welcoming. I am talking about realizing that each visitor is a vulnerable human being who is reaching out. True hospitality is a spiritual practice. It comes from deep inside. Religious hospitality is more than being superficially friendly. Religious hospitality involves being open to the dreams and the pain of each visitor. Religious hospitality means offering the newcomer the real human connection they are seeking."

Thank you to Shiehern, Tony, and Eleanor Kubien; Sarah, Dan, Leah, Gabe, and Hannah Isaksen; Izzy Khapoya; Mary Jo Ebert; Carey Wendell; Cheryl and Jim Shettel; Kathy and Jeff Kuehn; Mary Jo Plante; Paul Fordree; Tim and Marilyn Mast; Brianna, Trevor, and Helen Zamborsky, and Nate Schreck for making this commitment. You're gonna do great!

## Leadership Development Committee

LDC members old and new mingled together on Friday, August 23 for food and camaraderie as we celebrated the end of summer and began looking forward to the new church year. Our committee of nine will start the year off with our first meeting on September 15 as we get to know our new team and enjoy the excitement and challenges of a new church year. We look forward to having everyone come home to leadership!

~Andrea Zellner, Chair, LDC

# Rummage

## A big deal for BUC from many great deals for our community!

September 29–October 5 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 over \$1.2M toward church operations since its start 123 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 and fellowship!

### 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 9/29–Tuesday 10/1).
- We're offering "Rummage on Wheels" again (a substitute for renting trucks for large-item pickup). Sunday–Tuesday we need volunteers with SUVs or trucks to pick up donations from those who have difficulty dropping things off at BUC. Volunteer in Hodas Hall during coffee hour in September or by emailing Steve Wright ([stevenlexwright@outlook.com](mailto:stevenlexwright@outlook.com))
- Walli needs major help in the Rummage Kitchen (in the Commons) this fall. Every day (Sunday through Saturday), she needs at least one person to help during the 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. time period (coffee break and lunch), plus people to wash up every day (1:00–3:00 p.m.; come early for lunch first!). Email Walli ([walli404@wowway.com](mailto:walli404@wowway.com)) to clarify needs—and remember: the Commons is quiet and far away from the dust in the clothing area!

### Donations that customers love

- Please keep the vintage clothing coming! Jewelry sells well, as do books. Shoes in good condition 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.
- Art and interesting artifacts are a draw for the Silent Auction. We are now displaying art in the church Gallery during the sale, so please consider donating artwork. If possible, indicate original price and/or provenance.

We need folks to help in four-hour shifts to sort and price donations Monday–Thursday, and as cashiers during the sale Thursday evening (6–9), Friday (10–2), and Saturday (9–12). 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 takedown! Plus, workers and food providers earn early shopping privileges. Donating tasty food is an option for contributing to Rummage as well as working the sale.

Volunteering is easy through SignUp Genius or by visiting the Rummage table in Hodas Hall on Sundays. THANK YOU for helping to sustain our first-rate Rummage for another successful year!

## Welcoming Congregation

It's fall! And whether you like it or not, that means football season. So here's a little cheer:

*"What do we want?"*

**"TO RENEW OUR STATUS AS A LGBTQ+ WELCOMING CONGREGATION WITH THE UUA!"**

*"When do we want it?"*

**"BY THE END OF THE 2019-2020 CHURCH YEAR!"**

Ok. It's not very catchy. (I was in marching band.) But we're pumped and we want you to be, too!

So let's take a look at the scoreboard:

-1 of 2 worship services dedicated to LGBTQ+ issues complete! (Stonewall anniversary service)

-1 of 1 support for LGBTQ+ organization complete! (Ruth Ellis House plate collection)

-0 of 1 training modules complete. (In November, we'll be facilitating a film night and discussion to meet this criteria. Stay tuned for details!)

-1 of 6 days of observance during service complete. Our next observance will be of Bisexuality Day during our Sept. 22 service. Along with a reading, the Art Committee will display the art of our new Acting Director of Religious Education, Shari Daly-Miller, who is bisexual. Check it out! We'll also have a list of films, TV shows, and books that show positive portrayals of bisexual characters available at the Social and Environmental Justice table in Hodas Hall during coffee hour. (If you'd like it emailed to you instead, contact [briannazamborsky@gmail.com](mailto:briannazamborsky@gmail.com))

Thanks, everybody. We're gonna have a great season! (Honoring our First Principle by affirming the worth and dignity of everyone is a WIN for us all.)

## From the Board

Do you ever wonder what the future holds for you, for those you love, for your church home? Our Sunday worship is often aimed at what matters most in life and in our collective future. Life can be hard, but joining together in community can help make life more joyous and gratifying.

When it comes to living our inclusive, anti-oppression faith, we sometimes fall short.

- Lindasusan Ulrich said, "If justice is to be realized, our voices must speak loudly – even boisterously – of love."
- Alix Klingenberg said, "When we can gently hold things steady, change comes from within; that's where the real growth happens."
- Rayla Mattson said, "People of color – and other marginalized people – can't just want things to be different. It has to be everyone wanting things to be different for everyone."

That can be a lot to take in! As the Board works on developing our Vision, we have many things to consider: children, growth, justice, learning, loving, music, spirit, worship, youth – to name a few. To that end, we will be asking you questions during the next few months. Our goal is to hear your thoughts and ideas about our future so we may craft a vision that encompasses all – those with us now and those who will become part of our beloved community in the future. As we ask questions in meetings, in town halls, following worship, and in other venues, remember: we need you to speak up with your ideas. Please, join with us as we explore a new vision for our church home. Let us become the future we dream of for BUC.

Yours in faith,

Bruce Webber, President, Board of Trustees



## New Committee to Bring Art Exhibits to BUC

Many in the BUC family will recall the rotating display of art and photography that intermittently graced the walls of the church Gallery prior to the building renovation. Rev. Mandy recently charged a small team to renew that initiative, with a new focus: to display the work of artists who help us to reflect on themes of social justice and spirituality.

Cindy MacLeod, with her educational and professional background in fine arts, is chairing the committee of BUC members Dwane Adle, Barb Eschner, Teresa Honnold, and Jane O'Neil. The group is currently developing its charter and materials to facilitate outreach to primarily under-represented and emerging Michigan-based artists. It's our hope that BUC display of their work will make a difference in their lives as well.

Please watch for these upcoming events:

- In September, we will have the pleasure of displaying the vibrant multimedia art created by Shari Daly-Miller, BUC's new Acting Director of Religious Education.
- In October, an exhibit from letterpress studio Signal Return will showcase posters designed by local artists for Detroit area nonprofits.
- In November, the committee will host an auction of a variety of art donated by BUC members and friends. Proceeds will go to BUC, in part to build a budget for the committee's work, making it cost-neutral to BUC.

A request: if you know an artist whose portfolio fits the goal briefly described above, please contact anyone on the committee. Cindy can be reached at [cjmacleoduu@gmail.com](mailto:cjmacleoduu@gmail.com). Thank you!

## September Building and Grounds Update

While we've been enjoying summer, stuff's been happening at BUC—in and on the building and around the grounds.

1. The front entrance concrete was completely replaced in July, under warranty, so no cost to BUC.
2. The parking lot was sealed (as is recommended for new asphalt) and re-striped for parking spaces, with many additional blue accessible (handicapped) spaces incorporated. NOTE: Use of ALL blue spaces requires a handicapped tag from the DMV. Please note that a posted sign at a blue space indicates an “official” handicapped space. However, at blue spaces that DO NOT have a posted sign, Bloomfield Hills police can still issue a ticket if you are using that space and do not have a tag on your vehicle.
3. Three toilets were replaced, in both the Hodas Family Hall women's and the Lower Level men's restrooms. These were all carry-overs from before the renovation project and were not replaced at that time.
4. The two ficus trees in the Sanctuary had become extremely root-bound and were in grave need of attention. They were donated in August to the Cranbrook Gardens and will be well cared-for in their new home.
5. Minor roof repairs were completed, following our normal annual inspection, at a significantly lower cost than previous years.
6. An estimate has been received to sandblast and paint the white poles and skylights in the courtyard, which is one of the priority maintenance projects on our committee's project list.
7. The church's Wi-Fi system was enhanced, which will provide improved access. Please make a note to connect to the network named “BUCguest” with the password BUC38651.
8. Also, from the desk of the Associate Executive, please welcome Kirk Tucker as our new part-time custodian to assist with custodial tasks as needed, including rentals and church event set-ups.

# Our UU Roots

Rev. Mandy Beal  
*Senior Minister*



It's finally September! I'm so excited about the plan for this year's worship services. We'll start things off with a month of considering our Unitarian Universalist roots. Last spring, I asked what kinds of topics and themes people would be interested in exploring during 2019-2020 worship services. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that many of you are interested in learning more about our history. I find our Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist history fascinating, and I look forward to digging into it with you this month.

UU history is important to me for several reasons. First, I want people to know that we didn't fall out of the sky in 1961 (the year that the Unitarians and Universalists merged). We have a long and rich history that can be traced back to the earliest days of Christianity and the first debates over the divinity and/or humanity of Jesus and the subsequent nature of salvation. Secondly, our history is full of fascinating characters. Our story is populated with heretics, free thinkers, martyrs, and rebels. We are a scrappy bunch today, yesterday, and always. And I love that about us.

Here's a sneak peek at what to expect this year (and things can always change):

September: Roots – As UUs, who are we and where do we come from?

October: The Divine Feminine – An exploration of goddess worship in other religious traditions.

November: Wings – How does our Unitarian Universalist history inspire us to action today?

December: Celebrations – December is jam packed with holidays!

January: Wholeness – Many religions speak to a need for non-duality; what does that mean for us?

February: Connection – What holds us together as a religious people? What pulls us apart?

March: Resilience – How can we use challenges to become stronger?

April: Transformation – The world is always changing, and so are we.

May: Courage – Doing what's right in the face of challenge and hardship.

June: Wrapping Up – Our annual ROPE Sunday and Flower Communion services.

On another note, I want to thank everyone who helped out, sent cards, said prayers, or otherwise supported me in my recent illness. The community outpouring of love and support was overwhelming and I'm so grateful for this Beloved Community.

Yours in faith,

Rev. Mandy

## Music at BUC

A warm autumn welcome to the new church year from your Co-Directors of Music Ministry! The two of us had a rejuvenating and interesting summer filled with family time, exciting kids sports and arts activities, travel, and rich music experiences. We are eager to be with you again.

Some important things that we discovered: with your support, we attended the Association for Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries conference, which was held in Denver in July. This year's event focused on the music of People of Color. In addition to addressing issues of white supremacist culture within our faith, it lifted up and honored many great traditions of music and culture which have built a foundation for much of the music we UU's enjoy and call our own. When we visited Washington, DC with our 12- and 14-year-old kids, the African American and Holocaust museums reminded us in many profound ways that we can be instruments of creating a better future. The four of us also disappeared up North for a few days. This gave us the opportunity to look inward and remember that in order to take care of others, we must take care of ourselves.

Looking ahead to the fall, much of the music we will do in our Chalice Choir has been chosen. As Rev. Mandy heals and creates the thematic ideas for the worship year, we feel joy in collaborating and building worship which can connect people in deeper ways and on many levels.

The Sound Messengers house band is revving up for an exciting year, and joining choir now would be an excellent move for many of you. The Sound Bites concert series has an incredible opening event in October. The Brazeal Dennard Chorale joins us for the first concert!

Music connects us and affects us in more ways than we realize. We look forward to connecting with you this year.

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

**SoundBites**  
Concerts that Connect

## Oct. 11 - The Brazeal Dennard Chorale

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

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



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

We are pleased to host the Chorale on October 11 at 7:30 p.m. here in the BUC Sanctuary. SoundBites tickets will go on sale in Hodas Family Hall and via Eventbrite in early September. For more information on the Chorale, please visit <https://www.brazealdennard.com/>

# Religious Education



## Meet Shari

Hello! I am Shari Daly-Miller, and I am excited to be coming on board as your Acting Director of Religious Education. I believe passionately in serving the mission of Unitarian Universalism, and I welcome opportunities to share our faith with others.

I come from Grand Junction, Colorado, where I was the RE Coordinator of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Grand Valley for six years. The Grand Valley Congregation is small, not quite 100 members, so a large congregation is new and exciting to me. Grand Junction is located where the Colorado River and Interstate-70 cross the border into Utah. It is a desert, and very hot, so I am pleased to have come farther north. I came with my two little dogs, Buffy the vampire slayer and Jackie-O'poodle; sometimes they will accompany me to the office. We have settled in Berkley. I am divorced, and my two sons Arlo (26) and Rudy (19) have remained in Grand Junction, where they are attending Colorado Mesa University. They both attended UU RE from the time they were preschoolers until Bridging at Graduation. I am also a lifelong fine artist, working in many media including drawing, painting, sculpture, and fibers. I am pleased to be in a large city where there are lots of opportunities to look at art and show one's art. My art will be displayed in the foyer in September as the kickoff of the revitalized Art Committee.

I feel that a great Religious Education program incorporates not only learning, but also ritual, play, spiritual practice, music, art, dance, drama, and creative writing as some of the ingredients. I'm looking forward to working with the youth, children, and families this year! We are going to have a great time together!

## Religious Education in 2019-2020: What to Expect

Preschoolers will enjoy simple crafts, stories, and play time.

Elementary classes (K-1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades) will use BUC's own curriculum focusing on Beginnings. Among the topics covered will be creation myths, coming to agreement, and the Golden Rule.

6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade - "Neighboring Faiths: World Religions": This curriculum explores Hinduism, Buddhism, and other non-western faiths. Visits to various faith communities enrich the discussion as we compare and contrast these traditions to Unitarian Universalism.

8<sup>th</sup> grade - Coming of Age:

Fall: Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality, relationship, and values curriculum. This class is offered in conjunction with Northwestern UU in Southfield, so the location will move back and forth between the two churches. The nature of this class requires that enrollment be closed after September 15. If you wish for your student to participate in this class, please contact Shari (shari.dre@bucmi.org) as soon as possible. New students arriving September 15 or later will participate in the youth classes.

Winter: Rite of Passage Experience (ROPE) faith-development curriculum. Includes extra-hours activities, such as a "late-nighter" ROPE kickoff in January, a pre-trip sleepover, the UU Heritage trip to Boston, and ROPE worship service with rehearsal. Strong commitment to the program is a must!

High school youth:

NEW!! RE curriculum "The Fifth Dimension," based on *The Twilight Zone*! At each session, an episode of the original *Twilight Zone* TV show will be viewed, then discussion and activities will follow. The show was created by Rod Serling, himself a Unitarian, and incorporated his liberal views on race relations, extremism, gender roles, and more.



## MAMA's Coffeehouse: Joel Mabus

Saturday, September 21 | 8:00 p.m.

\$15 adults | \$13 students/seniors

Tickets at the door only

Opening act: Julie Buetel

MAMA's Coffeehouse returns for its 27th season with Michigan's own, ever-marvelous Joel Mabus.

"Joel Mabus is a free-ranging fretboard genius and funny, deep songwriter whose warm voice, sly humor, and musicianship sweep audiences along for the ride." –*Cornell Folk Song Society*

"Joel Mabus – what a player! And a great songwriter, and a guy that can walk out there with just a guitar and hold an audience. And I love that about him." –*Jeff Daniels, actor and singer-songwriter*

"Joel Mabus is the Joe DiMaggio of the folk music world – a virtuoso who can make the toughest plays appear effortless." –*Ron Olesko of WFDU-FM (Fordham University, New York)*

Enough said? Come see for yourself!

## Film Buffs

*After the Wedding* | Friday, September 27 | 7:00 p.m. | Commons



"Danish transplant Jacob Petersen, director of a struggling Indian orphanage, is given the opportunity to solve all his problems via a rich benefactor back in Denmark. Once he returns home, however, he finds things much more complicated than he expected, and he must choose between the world he knows in India and the obligations towards an ex-girlfriend and illegitimate daughter in Denmark. (Denmark/Sweden, 2006, R, 120 minutes)" – *VideoHound's Golden Movie Retriever*

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

## Social and Environmental Justice

The BUC Social and Environmental Justice team meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the month. We are focusing on five areas: Confronting Racism, Environmental Justice, Climate Change, Welcoming Congregation (LGBTQ+), and Ending Gun Violence. All are welcome to attend meetings, and join us in our work. We meet from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., usually in the Blue Door Classroom. To be added to our email list for notices of BUC activities and outside events, please contact us at [janeaoneil@gmail.com](mailto:janeaoneil@gmail.com). And check out our newly redesigned web page at [bucmi.org](http://bucmi.org) under the Social Justice menu!

-Jane O'Neil and Julia Pulver, Co-Chairs

### September Happenings

- September 2: BUC and other UUs will participate in a Labor Day march; info has been shared in announcements
- September 4: BUC will host a watch party for the CNN Climate Town Hall with 10 Democratic Presidential candidates. Join us at 8:00 p.m. in the Blue Door Classroom.
- September 17: Monthly meeting of the Social and Environmental Justice team—join us!
- September 19 and 20: MSNBC will broadcast a two-day climate forum in Washington, DC
- September 20: BUC's Confronting Racism group meets; see related article below
- September 20: You can join young people in the streets for global climate strikes and a week of actions to demand an end to the age of fossil fuels, and climate justice for everyone. Go to [www.globalclimatestrike.net](http://www.globalclimatestrike.net) for more info. The Social and Environmental Justice team is planning to participate in a strike nearby; we'll keep you updated on what we're planning.

### Confronting Racism—September 20 in Hodas Hall

As we begin our second year of confronting racism in ourselves and our communities, our work will shift to incorporate more action in response to what we are learning. In his August 25 sermon, guest speaker Joshua Berg discussed the importance of evolving from understanding our own racism to being actively anti-racist. In our September Confronting Racism group session, we will explore together the tangible, do-able ways that we can be anti-racist. All BUCers are welcome and encouraged to join us on Friday, September 20 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. To be added to the email list for this group, contact program leader Peggy Bocks at [pbocks@gmail.com](mailto:pbocks@gmail.com).



### Join Our Team at Walt Whitman Elementary School

Students are returning to classrooms at Walt Whitman Elementary School in Pontiac, and so are we! BUCers and friends are invited to help students grow their reading and math skills. We have a variety of volunteer roles to fit different interests and schedules, including tutoring, mobile library, after-school Bananagrams, and special projects. If a weekly commitment is too much, we create pairs or small teams to job share. Help make an impact on the academic success and self-esteem of a K-5 student.

Interested but not sure? Attend a volunteer information session on Saturday morning, September 14, 9:30 a.m. at BUC. All are welcome. Contact Mary Jo Ebert at [maryjoebert@gmail.com](mailto:maryjoebert@gmail.com).

## SOS Is Coming!

Mark your calendar for SOS! BUC will host South Oakland Shelter during the week of November 3-10. Watch this space for more information next month.

## Climate Change Resolution

What can one person do to help in the fight against climate change?

Building public understanding of climate change, and the political will to address it, is arguably the most important communication effort of the century. To do our small part in this gargantuan task, the Climate Change Resolution team has been convened to help share information with BUC members and with the broader community. We are organizing speakers and other educational presentations on the climate crisis and some of the solutions being proposed.

We have also created a Climate Change Resolution we will propose to the congregation at meetings this autumn. The Resolution includes statements on BUC's position on climate issues and our commitment to action.

We look forward to working with all of you to discuss the resolution and the many ways we can join the fight against climate change.

## BUC Scholarships

The BUC Goldsmith Scholarship Fund was founded with funds from the estate of Stuart and Suzanne Goldsmith, who were early members of BUC. Administered through the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, the program awards \$2,000 scholarships to Pontiac high school graduates and is renewable for up to three years at \$2,000 per year. For 2019-20, five students were awarded scholarships, three of which are renewals and two are new. Any BUC member or friend may donate to the fund at any time. Contact Mary Jo Ebert at [maryjoebert@gmail.com](mailto:maryjoebert@gmail.com).



Do you shop with Amazon? You can give to BUC while you shop! Through their AmazonSmile program, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice, including BUC!

Check out their website to get started:

[www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)



You can also help BUC when you shop at Kroger! BUC participates in the Kroger Community Rewards Program, which means that each time you use your Kroger Plus Shopper's Card, BUC receives a donation!

Register online at

<https://www.kroger.com/signin?redirectUrl=/account/communityrewards>

(You'll need to sign into your Kroger account—or register if you don't have one—then choose Community Rewards and search for Birmingham Unitarian Church to add us.)

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## Pastoral Care

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

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

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

Pastoral care also has a “Helping Hands” program that provides short-term practical support like food and transportation.

If you know of anyone who needs pastoral care support, please let the minister or a pastoral care associate know. Also, if you know of someone who is housebound and would like a visit, please let us know.

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

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