



Birmingham Unitarian Church  
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

6/21 "Baseball, Bigotry and the  
Boston Red Sox"



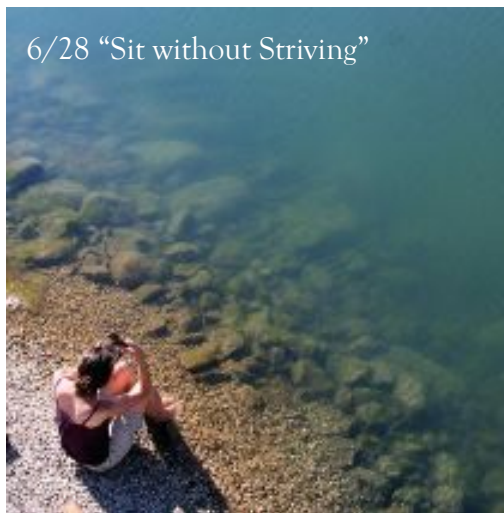
Effortless Meditation  
Wednesdays  
June 3 - July 8  
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Join us in the room with the blue door, on the east side of the courtyard. This new meditation group will meet for 6 weeks and will include basic instruction, breathing and guided meditation. The group is free and open to new and experienced meditators. Chairs will be provided. The group will be led by Denise Everheart, who is a teacher with the International Assoc. for Human Values.

6/14 Bridges, Flowers & Community



6/28 "Sit without Striving"



## Celebrate!

June brings lots of celebrations. We will be hearing from our youth, we will celebrate the transitions of our young people from Middle School to High School, from High school to college and other endeavors. We will celebrate the arrival of summer with a flower communion. We will celebrate Fathers. In between all the celebrating will be times of stillness, singing and reflection. Come as you are. Wear your shorts!

## Art in the Chancel

BUC member, Carolyn Vosburg Hall, made the quilted hanging which is in the sanctuary this month. She has written this about it; "Pat Schwing and I planned this wall hanging together in Florida. The Schwings love the sound and sight of the sea so I aimed to express that in fabric."

June  
Sunday Services  
10:30 a.m.

7<sup>th</sup> **ROPE Sunday;** The culminating Sunday of our *Coming of Age* year, this is the day on which our Rite of Passage Experience class will present their statements of faith, or credos. It's important both for the young people who have devoted this year to learning about human and spiritual relationships, but it is also important for our congregation. Please join us.

14<sup>th</sup> We will take time during this service to recognize the graduating seniors who are leaving our program. Some of the youth will share brief thoughts about their association with BUC and the future-another important day for both youth and adults! Bring a flower with you as we will be having our annual flower communion.

21<sup>st</sup> On Father's Day, Donna Larkin Mohr, Mike Auchter, and Peggy Woehrlen will take a look at the systemic racism that pervaded the Red Sox for so long and consider how issues surrounding racism play out in our everyday lives.

28<sup>th</sup> It seems that most of us are striving much of the time. We want to be someone else, to be some place else, to be better, kinder, thinner, smarter, happier, holier, calmer... What would happen if we gave up striving? Rev. Penny Hackett-Evans and WA Sara Constantakis will explore some of the common ways of living in the moment just as it is. Come for a quiet and contemplative service.

## Connections: Joys & Sorrows

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

—Khalil Gibran

Cindy Goldman has a joy and a big “Thank You!” to BUC church school and youth group for contributing to her son’s African Library Project. We shipped 2,571 books to South Africa and 1,000 books to Malawi. We could not have done it without your contributions and help – especially Kimery Campbell and Paul Plante!

Maria and Paul Miller share a joy: “The Baltimore Orioles and Hummingbirds are back. Spring has finally come!”

A Joy: Jim Shettel is having an amazing recovery from his hip replacement, and is doing fantastic at his PT.

Soren Andersen had a hip replacement in May and is on the road to recovery. Postive thoughts and healing wishes most appreciated.

Mary Gaweł-Ensroth and Keith Ensroth share a joy: “On Friday, May 15, our son and former BUC ROPE and GUUSH member, officially became ‘Benjamin Gaweł Ensroth, JD.’ On to the Bar exam as the last step toward the next stage in his life!”

## May Volunteer of the Month: Pam Graham

Whether at work or at home, the projects I enjoy the most include 4 elements

- 1) A challenging problem that needs a solution
- 2) An opportunity to learn new skills
- 3) A team of committed and talented people
- 4) Spreadsheets

No wonder I enjoy volunteering with the BUC RE Council and the BUC Campus Development Committee.

The RE Council supports our amazing RE directors. They tolerate my spreadsheets of budgets, goals, metrics and surveys and apply them to make a strong program stronger. I’ve learned to teach Kindergarteners about Jerusalem and death and how to make the icing for Eleanor’s cinnamon rolls. The campus development committee faced a challenging problem: How do we prioritize the competing demands for space from our programs and members? My approach was to break the big problem into many small ones and evaluate and rank the many potential solutions.

I’ve been an automotive fuel tank engineer for 23 years. I’ve been married to David for 25 years and we have 2 children Ryan (20) and Maria (17). I enjoy work, travel, pottery, gardening and cooking. Very recently, I’ve been hunting morel mushrooms.

Thank you to the BUC Board for naming me the June volunteer. Thank you to the talented and committed people on the RE Council and the Campus Development Committee. Most of all thank you BUC members for supporting the campus development project. I’m excited about our future in an accessible, functional, beautiful building!



## PENNY'S THOUGHTS



Rev. Penny Hackett-Evans

I've read that there are two types of people; Autumn people and summer people. And, I am a summer person. I adore the summer months. As it happens, it's a cold, gray and windy day as I am writing this. And, I am not very good with cold, gray, windy days – especially in SUMMER. I have some sort of expectation that it should always be warm and sunny. Like somehow I personally am cheated if the sun doesn't shine just at the time and place and in the way that I choose. Which got me to thinking about a lot of other outrageous assumptions I hold; My computer should never freeze up. I should never be put on "hold", in fact I should never have to wait for anything. The dog next door should never bark. The lane I am driving in should always move smoothly and be the fastest one – as should the grocery line I am in. I should never get sick. Nothing I own should ever malfunction. Everything should cost what it cost 20 years ago. I could go on...

It's kind of a fun task to make this list of things that annoy you and then to see the assumptions that underlie those irritations. I encourage you to make such a list – and then laugh at it as I laugh at the outrageousness of my own list. Then maybe we can take ourselves a bit less seriously and allow the world to unfold in its own way in front of us. And, maybe we can learn our place in the grand scheme of things once again!

I leave you with a poem by Mary Oliver,

*Halleluiah*

Everyone should be born into this world happy  
and loving everything.

But in truth it rarely works that way.

For myself, I have spent my life clamoring toward it.

Halleluiah, anyway I'm not where I started!

And have you too been trudging like that, sometimes

almost forgetting how wondrous the world is

and how miraculously kind some people can be?

And have you too decided that probably nothing important

is ever easy?

Not, say, for the first sixty years.

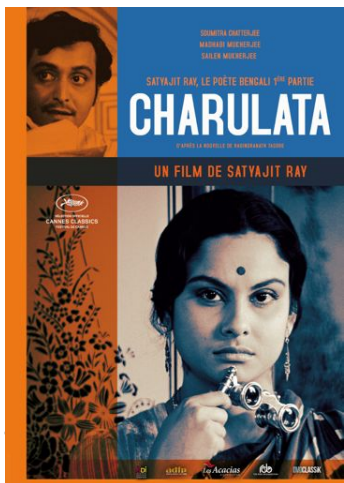
Halleluiah, I'm sixty now, and even a little more,

and some days I feel I have wings.

## Summer Grief Group

The Grief Group will continue to meet over the summer, facilitated by Pat Kridler. Join us the second Tuesday of the month, June 9<sup>th</sup> in the Small Conference Room (in the Religious Education hallway – down from the Commons) from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.





## Film Buffs: Friday, June 19 ~ 7:30 PM

*Charulata* (late start) in the Commons This exquisitely rendered story of a woman's artistic and romantic yearning is set in nineteenth-century India, in the elegant home of a newspaper editor. Based on a novella by Rabindranath Tagore, *Charulata* is a delicate tale of a marriage in jeopardy. In Bengali with English subtitles. (119 min.) - DFT Film Guide Winter 2015 *Charulata* (India, 1964, NR, 117 minutes)

Snacks provided. For more information contact Larry at [\(248\) 569-0965](tel:2485690965) or [LJWisniew@yahoo.com](mailto:LJWisniew@yahoo.com)

## The Humanist's Study Group Summer Sundays 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

The Sunday morning discussion group has changed their name to more accurately reflect their purpose of being a place for non-religious, non-spiritual BUC members and friends who are learning to work for a better world through social and political action. Excepting July 5<sup>th</sup>, the group will meet all summer for discussion. Those who attend will choose the topics as the summer progresses. Join us in the large conference room (first room on the right as you enter the main entry way) on Sunday mornings for stimulating discussion and lively conversation. Due to vacations and summer scheduling, attendance tends to be lighter in the summer ~ the perfect opportunity to come and check us out!

## Wine, Wit & Words Friday – June 26

Friday evening June 26 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. we will gather in the Commons to hear the words of our own BUC writers. Please bring your own wine and a snack to share. Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. Sign up to read (three poems or two pages of prose) during coffee hour in June. Or, contact Penny Hackett-Evans at [Evansph2@wowway.com](mailto:Evansph2@wowway.com)



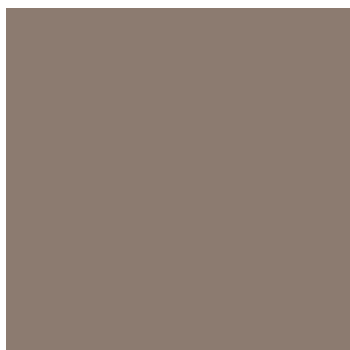
## New LGBTQIA Group Forming!

We (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and allies!) will gather together to see if, how, where, when we might want to form an ongoing group at BUC. This summer BUC will be celebrating a "Pride Sunday" (Aug. 30) and perhaps this group would want to help with that service. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please contact Penny Hackett-Evans ([Evansph2@wowway.com](mailto:Evansph2@wowway.com)) or come to the first gathering – **Tuesday, June 23 at 7:00 in the Green Door.**

## Finding Your "Vein of Gold": Wednesdays in June

7:30 – 9:00 p.m. in the Blue Door. Using the book "Vein of Gold" by Julia Cameron as a background, we will explore our own creativity. Using autobiographical writing, collage, walking meditation, music and other media, we will search for our own creative center and find ways to express it more often. Bring notebook, pen and simple art materials. Group will be facilitated by Penny Hackett-Evans





## + Stewardship Update

### The BUC Financial Year Begins July 1<sup>st</sup> Have You Made Your Pledge?

As of May 20, 2015, \$424,000 has been pledged to the 2015/2016 operational budget by 211 BUCers for an average pledge of \$2009. THANKS! However, we await word from about 115 members and friends and have a LONG way to go to meet our goal. Are you one of the missing? Please let Eric and Annette Sargent know soon what your financial commitment to BUC will be for the coming year. BUC needs a clear idea of what financial resources will be available in order to make wise budget decisions regarding staffing and programs. DON'T KEEP BUC IN SUSPENSE.

Eric & Annette Sargent: [248-792-2278](tel:248-792-2278), [sargente@me.com](mailto:sargente@me.com)

## Music at BUC

May brought the close of the BUC choir season with a full sanctuary 5/17 for Choir Sunday. It was exciting to hear it all coming together after months of preparation. Thanks to all for making it such a success. Special thanks go to those who shared personal reflections including Robert Mohr, Kelly Taylor, Chris and Diane Slon, Barb Eschner, Joanne Copland, Carol Lee, Kathy Ransome, and Andrea Zellner. Also, many thanks to those that lent a special musical talent, including Kaye Rittnger, Cathy Sherwin and Brian Schandevell; and a final "Thanks!" to Penny Hackett-Evans for her involvement.

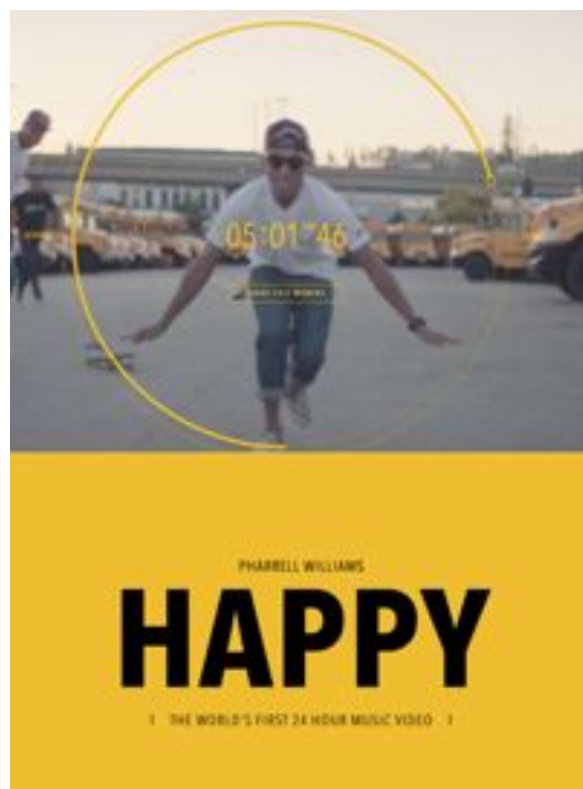
The choir will be meeting monthly over the summer at member's homes. If you would like to come out and have a drink and some eats and are thinking of singing with us, this would be a great time to "get your feet wet" with this fine group of like-minded BUCers. Bring your vocal chords!

During the summer, look for guest pianist like Hwa-Ling Russell on Father's Day and Matt Fillion at the end of July. They will both be bringing some fresh ideas to the piano. Steven provided the music 5/31, playing a few well-know solos for classical guitar to help with the final week of "happiness."

The Dearings look forward to an actual vacation this summer. We may be off the grid for a couple of weeks, but please never hesitate to contact us for opportunities to sing with the choir, joining up to help with our concert series SoundBites, or lending your skills as an instrumentalist.

We both wish everyone a happy spring/summer 2015!

Abha & Steven Dearing



## A Note From the Board of Trustees:

We thank all of you who attended the Annual Meeting, asked your questions, shared your thoughts about our path forward, and then voted. And thanks to those of you who could not be at the meeting and voted via absentee ballot. As we look forward to the coming year, we are excited by the quality of leaders you have elected to the Program Council and the Leadership Development Committee.

We commend the congregation for the spirit in which you asked questions and expressed your ideas and opinions during the Annual Meeting. We also have deep gratitude for the many hours of concentrated work done by the CDPC with input from our BUC architects, and for the visionary work of inFORM Studio. Together with all of you, they have made this possible.

We are pleased that the vote authorized us to seek necessary long-term financing for the cost of the renovation and repair projects to our campus that are not covered by your capital campaign pledges. We encourage those who are uncertain of this path to keep open minds and to keep asking your questions as we go along.

The Board has begun developing a plan for communicating our progress to the congregation as we move along. Updating the Social Hall will likely occur this summer - we will hold town halls before we begin and after we complete that work. We will also hold town halls periodically during the construction period, which will likely begin in April, 2016 and last for about 6 months. We are committed to keeping everyone updated and current during the process. We will provide ways for you to make comments and ask questions as we go along as well. Much of this will gear up during the winter. At present, the CDPC and the Construction Manager will be working together to develop plans for the timing of construction, with every effort to minimize disruptions. Of course, there will be messes and disruptions, but we are hoping to be able to maintain as many activities as possible during the construction.

The next steps for the CDPC include forming four sub-teams: a team to be the primary interface with the Construction Manager; a team to be the primary interface with the congregation, for gathering further input and regular outgoing communications; a team to research and put together the bridge and long-term finance packages; and a team for architectural review and guidance.

Thank you again for your support. We believe it will be of great value to BUC now and into the future. As several people pointed out at the Annual Meeting, it is the people and the connections that are the most important in our beloved community. We believe that working together during this time will allow us to enhance both our campus and our community.

Lisa Demian, President

Barbara Woolf, Vice President

Marilyn Mast, Secretary

Dick Cantley, Treasurer

Eric Sargent

John Hammer

Dave Graham

Marilyn Kelly

Bruce Webber



## BUC Alliance Wednesday, June 3: Annual Meeting & Luncheon

We hope you will join us for this closing celebration of our Alliance program year. Donna Hollis will be catering our luncheon in the Social Hall. Sign up following the service on May 31 (the cost of lunch is \$20). You may also make a reservation and leave it in the Alliance mailbox in the copy room of the BUC offices. We hope to see you there! Pictured at right: BUC Alliance Annual Luncheon June 9, 2011



## UU REGIONAL SPRING GATHERING

Join UU Churches from South East Michigan and Canada for the second annual service project, picnic, and fun event on Belle Isle.

### JUNE 6, 2015

10 AM - 3 PM; SHELTER #9

**Your support is needed!**

Contact the picnic planning committee to find out how you can help [uupicnic@gmail.com](mailto:uupicnic@gmail.com)  
(Carpooling is recommended; cars without a state of Michigan Recreation Passport will be charged parking.)



## Service & Justice June 2015

### Baldwin Center Summer Program – Volunteer Opportunities



The children are interested in a wide range of topics including art, science, singing, dancing, cooking, video technology, educational games, creative writing, and many more.

During each of the last two summers, BUC staff and volunteers conducted a week of afternoon workshops for children at the Baldwin Center in Pontiac who attend the summer enrichment day camp. We were the first outside organization to run such a program at Baldwin, and Youth Director Lauren Fuller welcomes our continued involvement. We are planning our program for this summer. If you have a skill that could be taught or demonstrated or if you can volunteer as a helper, contact Mary Jo Ebert or Eleanor McGuire.

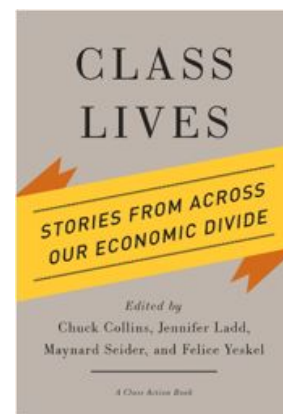


## Challenging Extreme Inequality

Members of BUC and four neighboring UU churches are offering a variety of ways for members and friends to participate in a study/action issue focused on the escalation of economic inequality in our communities and across the country. We hosted a workshop on May 30 that focused on classism as one of the foundational contributors to the widening gap. We've also selected a book to serve as a common read on this topic:

*Class Lives – Stories from Across our Economic Divide*, Edited by Chuck Collins, Jennifer Ladd, Maynard Seider, Felice Yeskel.

Discussion dates to be announced. *Class Lives* is an anthology of narratives dramatizing the experience of class in America. It includes forty essays from authors who represent a range of classes, genders, races, ethnicities, ages, and occupations. Born into poverty, working class, the middle class, and the owning class—and every place in between—the contributors describe their class journeys in narrative form, recounting stories that illustrate their growing awareness of class and their place, changing or stable, within the class system. Contact Pat Hammer, Marti Szilagyi, or Mary Jo Ebert for more information





## Plate Collection Recipient – South Oakland Shelter



BUC has a long-standing partnership with South Oakland Shelter, serving as host for SOS guests for a week each November. In addition to providing a rotating emergency shelter program in partnership with over 60 area churches, SOS offers a variety of services that assist clients with finding employment and housing and transitioning successfully out of homelessness. Family support services such as tutoring, mentoring, and access to health care are also offered. For more information about SOS, visit [www.southoaklandshelter.org](http://www.southoaklandshelter.org)

### Nominate a Recipient

The plate collection committee is seeking recipient candidates for the next quarter. If you know of a local organization to recommend for our plate collection, submit an application online at [www.bucmi.org](http://www.bucmi.org). Click the “Social Justice” tab, then “Plate Collection Application.” Contact [maryjoebert@gmail.com](mailto:maryjoebert@gmail.com) if you prefer to submit a paper application.

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

MUUSJN (Mich. UU Social Justice Network): [www.uujustice.org](http://www.uujustice.org)

UU Service Committee (UUSC): [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)

## Rummage Ruminations

Rummage Spring Rummage 2015 is behind us, leaving a welcome income of about \$15,000, which is about average for recent sales. But the Rummage Committee is a little malcontent. We had a higher than average number of donations, more items than usual in the Silent Auction—and fewer volunteers. After a long and careful discussion, we concluded that we need more helpers and more customers!

So, in our proactive way, we would like to ask all the faithful BUCers to start thinking NOW about Fall Rummage.

1. First of all, mark your calendar: Setup and Intake begins on Sunday, Sept. 27. The sale runs October 1-3. And then, look over these ideas for new ways to help.
2. We have recently been blessed with lots of large-sized donations. Unfortunately, we have not been as lucky with our trucking crews. In order to keep from wearing out our few drivers, we would like to reserve the truck for furniture. To accommodate the aged and infirm population who have no good way to get their Rummage to BUC, we propose: Rummage Uber! If you don't have time to volunteer during the week but could spend some time collecting donations from other BUCers, please let the committee know. You can do this on your own schedule (as long as it gets to BUC by Tuesday, Sept. 29).
3. Laura Lee and her Silent Auction team often receive lovely, valuable items that need more specialized sale attention. “You should try to sell this on eBay,” is something she often hears. Unfortunately, Laura just doesn't have room on her business cards to add eBay Czar to her other dozen job titles. We could really use an eBay champion. If you have (or want to develop) the skills and the time to market these nicer donations, please let the committee know. A big advantage is that you can do this entirely on your own schedule—it need not be tied to the actual sales.
4. Be our spokesperson! Talk it up among your friends. Recruit a pal to volunteer. Tell your bargain-loving relatives to mark their calendars—or whatever it takes to get the word out.
5. Prep, prep, prep your Rummage! As you set things aside for the sale, make sure it's as sale-ready as possible. Hang clothing, tape puzzle boxes and games closed, attach instructions to appliances, sort books, and recycle anything that is just no longer any good. And if you are among the many Rummage faithful, thank you, thank you, thank you—and see you in September!



## Religious Education

Perhaps you are new to BUC and have been puzzled (and a little annoyed) when you hear about “ROPE.” Is this a church curriculum dedicated entirely to challenge courses? Packaging? Lariat-throwing? Or perhaps you are a BUC regular who has dismissed ROPE as “one of those Religious Education things that requires a lot of money.” As a matter of fact, ROPE—or Rite of Passage Experience—is arguably the single most important year in our Religious Education sequence. It is a Coming of Age program, offered in late middle school like those in other faith traditions.

On June 7, ROPE Sunday, our 8th grade youth will present their credos, marking the completion of the Coming of Age year. These young perspectives on faith and our congregation are the strongest indicators of the health of our program and of the future of our church, so this is an important day, not just for our youth and their families but also for our entire congregation.

Of course, there are many important passages and another of these is the passage into adulthood. On June 14, Bridging Sunday, we will recognize the graduating seniors who are leaving our program and beginning their lives as young adults. The seniors who are able will make brief statements concerning their past and future—again, important to them but also important to our congregation. Please join us!

ROPE Sunday: June 7th, 10:30 a.m.

Bridging Ceremony: June 14th, 10:30 a.m.

## Children’s Religious Education

Summer RE Sundays at BUC: beginning June 21st, Children’s RE will go to its summer schedule, offering multi-age programming during BUC’s 10:30 am worship service. There will be a Nursery for the littlest ones, a Preschool class and a Kindergarten through Fifth grade class meeting each Sunday through Labor Day. Our summer theme is always Great Books & Great Fun, involving creative craft activities, games and sharing wonderful stories.

Please contact Eleanor McGuire, Children’s DRE, with any questions at: [eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org](mailto:eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org)

## Youth Religious Education

The 6th and 7th graders will attend both ROPE and Bridging Sunday services. At the Moving Up gathering on May 17, we identified prospective fun activities for the coming church year and talked about all-youth activities.

ROPE (Rite of Passage Experience): The class of 2015 will have their moment on June 7 at ROPE Sunday. They will celebrate their transition into high school that evening at the GUUSH-ROPE picnic at the home of Bill Fox and Kimery Campbell ([www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090F48AFAB29A31-guushrope3](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090F48AFAB29A31-guushrope3)). They will henceforth be encouraged to participate in all high school events. (See below.)

In anticipation of Boston 2016, the rising 8th grade families will begin their share of maintaining Scrip sales, which will continue year-round. The high school youth will say hello and goodbye to their peers at ROPE and Bridging Sunday and at the annual GUUSH-ROPE picnic on June 7. ([www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090F48AFAB29A31-guushrope3](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090F48AFAB29A31-guushrope3))

BUC’s youth (6th grade–High School) are welcome to join us or go into the Sanctuary for worship. Occasional Youth Group programming will occur during the summer – stay tuned to your email for notices of events with UFO, ROPE &/or GUUSH. While school is out, we will begin work on leadership development, calendars, and event planning to make the 2015-16 GUUSH program one that appeals to everyone.

Questions about Youth RE can be addressed to Kimery Campbell at [kimery.campbell@bucmi.org](mailto:kimery.campbell@bucmi.org)

## Explorations School for Young Learners

As we come to the end of the preschool year, the Explorations School for Young Learners has accomplished much in two short years! We have added a 3-year-old preschool class, welcomed Sally Barwin to our staff and continued to expand our program. Just last month we welcomed two additional students into our toddler program. The children have had a wonderful year building friendships, reading books, creating many masterpieces, going on field trips and exploring the world



around them. We have all had a busy year at Explorations School for Young Learners.

This month, after regular preschool ends, we will begin our third summer camp program.

At summer camp the children can look forward to making new friends, singing songs, playing games, reading books, making crafts, having special treats and fun on the playground. The Explorations School for Young Learners and Explorations Summer Camps are exciting, fun programs for young children! Fall registration for our Toddler and

Preschool Programs continue. For more information about our Toddler, Preschool or Summer Camp programs please contact us at [248-647-6531](tel:248-647-6531) or visit our website: [explorationspreschool.com](http://explorationspreschool.com).



## Bring Back Water ☺

As you travel around over the summer, collect a bit of water from wherever you are and bring it with you on September 13, our Homecoming Sunday. This is our Water Communion. If you're inclined, take a picture and send it to [lisa.crawford@bucmi.org](mailto:lisa.crawford@bucmi.org) ~ we'll have a visual feast to go with our celebration.





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Birmingham Unitarian Church  
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www.bucmi.org

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### Paid Advertisement – June 2015

Hello from the UU of the low country. My name is Mike Block, a long time resident of Michigan. I am a retired police officer and a UU member. I moved to Sea Pines, the Southern tip of Hilton Head Island about 10 years ago. I return each summer for July & August. Most of those summers I have successfully traded homes with families in the Birmingham/Bloomfield area.

I am open to a trade or a trade/rent combination. All of the 'trade' does not have to be in July or August. I have someplace else to stay at other times of the year. I am also open to a trade for less than 8 weeks.

My house is located on a golf course. It has three bedrooms each with its own bathroom, a renovated kitchen, great outdoor deck with hot tub. The floors have all been replaced in the past few months. It is a bike ride to the beach and lots of other amenities. Photos and references are available upon request.

My email address is [blockmd@aol.com](mailto:blockmd@aol.com) and my cell phone number is [248-515-3296](tel:248-515-3296).



Dear Fellow Nature Buddies,

Pat Hammer and I are so very grateful (and relieved!) that some of you were able to help pull the garlic mustard from BUC's Capek Woods. Thank you, thank you!

\_ Stephanie Patil