



December 1: "Joy As Resistance"

December Services

1 "Joy As Resistance"

During this busy holiday season, let's take a moment to acknowledge the role of joy in resisting oppression and despair. Rev. Mandy with Worship Associate Kelly Taylor and music from The Sound Messengers.

8 Music Sunday

Tradition is an important staple of the holidays, when communities come together in the rituals of food, customs, celebration, worship, and, of course, music. This year, the Chalice Choir gifts our beloved congregation with Mozart's *Vespers*. This piece will be performed as the centerpiece of the service, with soloists and a chamber orchestra, interspersed with profound readings, spoken word from Rev. Mandy, and an entertaining Time for All Ages.

11 (Wednesday 7:00 p.m.)
"Blue Christmas"

This special service acknowledges the ambivalence some of us face during the holidays. This is a space to acknowledge grief, sadness, and loneliness amidst all of the hustle and bustle. Rev. Mandy with Worship Associate Judy Amir and music from Forrest Howell.

15 "A Winter Solstice Celebration"

As we approach the longest night of the year, we delight in the hope of the returning light. This all-ages Pagan service honors the turning of the wheel of the year. Music from the Sound Messengers.

22 "Celebrating Hanukkah"

There are many themes associated with Jewish Festival of Lights. This year, we will consider the role of perseverance in our spiritual lives. Rev. Mandy with Worship Associate Bill Fox and music from the Chalice Choir.



December 8: Music Sunday



Wednesday, Dec. 11: "Blue Christmas"



December 15: "A Winter Solstice Celebration"



December 22: "Celebrating Hanukkah"

Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Eve

Two evening services:

5:00 p.m. Younger people's service:
"Unfriendly Beasts"

7:00 p.m. Traditional service for the whole family. We will explore the role of angels and shepherds in the Christmas Story, along with a traditional candle lighting.

There is no childcare on Christmas Eve – children are invited to accompany you to either service.



December 29: Table Topics - Climate Action

The Climate Change Resolution Task Force presents a Table Topics service in Hodas Family Hall. Explore how our faith calls us to support the interdependent web of life and learn about solutions to the climate change crisis that we can support. No childcare.

Celebrations

Rev. Mandy Beal
Senior Minister



This holiday season finds me with a lot of feelings. There is so much happening in our world, in our nation, in our Unitarian Universalist Association, and in our church. A lot of it has the potential to be generative, leading to greater clarity and stronger processes. But that kind of potential doesn't exist without creating discomfort. In the immediacy of the stressors and changes we face, it's hard to keep the long-range possibilities for growth and goodness fresh before us. On top of these challenges,

we're heading into a month that is notorious for being stressful. I'm always a little leery of the holiday season. Of course I'm excited. But also slightly dubious. This is the time of year when I'm most aware of the systems of oppression that operate in American culture. They've been ensconced in the narratives we repeat annually that tell us what our families, finances, and aspirations "should be." So many of the "classic Christmas" stories we repeat annually have sexist, heterocentric, racist, capitalist, and violent themes. These stories tell us we can never have enough or be enough.

As thinking and feeling people, how do we fit ourselves for this annual onslaught of impossible standards and hurtful messaging? As a people of faith, how do we bring our values and commitments to bear on the season?

As UUs, we are expected to answer those questions for ourselves. But, we have each other as thought partners in that exploration, and accountability buddies in the implementation. Our worship services this month will offer a variety of ideas and theologies to help you frame these questions as well. And, if you're also having a lot of feelings this year, please join us for our Blue Christmas service on Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. This service will combine ritual, poetry, and song to hold feelings of grief, sadness, and ambivalence that can feel out of place (but in reality are very normal) during the holiday season.

Holding all of the complications of the season does not diminish its warmth, light, and love. From me and my family to you and yours, many blessings on you this holiday season, and best wishes for a happy New Year!

In faith,

Rev. Mandy



P.S. As the season of giving approaches, it's common for BUCers to express their love and gratitude for my ministry through gift giving. I was very touched by this last year, and admittedly a little unprepared. While it's important to me to be gracious in accepting your generosity, it's also important to me to set healthy boundaries that support good relationships in our congregation. After speaking with mentors and colleagues, I've decided to set a \$50 limit on gifts from congregants. Gifts are in no way expected, but should you choose to give me a gift this year, I ask that you please respect the \$50 limit. If you have questions about why I've chosen set this limit, please reach out to me directly.

Welcoming Congregation Renewal

Observing World AIDS Day on December 1

*So now it's a matter of talking about it, I being
placed in a box living, believing constantly
challenged, fraught with fight for every-
thing that matters. The doctor plainly
said it: "You're HIV positive."*

"Um, well."—my response.

Once upon a time, I met a prince in a mirror...

To read the rest of this moving poem by p.c. scarse, and others, visit the website of [HIV Here & Now](http://HIVHere&Now.org), a nonprofit that's using poetry and art to advocate for a world without HIV or AIDS.

Here at BUC, we believe in fighting for all those affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly the marginalized communities that have been and remain the most vulnerable to it. We also believe in giving our youth a comprehensive study in human sexuality to help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. On December 1, World AIDS Day, we will take a moment during our Sunday worship service to remember those lost to HIV/AIDS, remember those living with it now, and remember our responsibility as Unitarian Universalists to work toward a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

—Welcoming Congregation Renewal Task Force

Joys and Sorrows

From Andrea Zellner: “My sweet mama, Carol, was diagnosed with cancer at the end of October. Please keep her and Andrea, Zeke, and Eddie in your thoughts and prayers as we navigate this struggle.”

A joy from Larry Larson: “What a great church we have!! I’m so grateful for our SOS program for the homeless, including a baby only a few days old.”

Rev. Mandy extends a note of gratitude to Kym Worth for her service to this congregation.

From Brianna Zamborsky: “Congratulations to our friend Natalie Price on winning a seat on the Berkley City Council!”

A sorrow from the Metz family, who had to put down their family dog, Charlie, in early November.

Joys wrapped around sorrows from Sookie Darlington: “Honoring and celebrating dear, brave companions accompanying my return to the Rogel Cancer Center at U of M. Two more trips in mid-November, arduous due to weather and intensity/length of effort, with many talented technicians, personnel, and biopsy oncologists, through unrelenting efforts to find an ‘area of concern.’ It is an ARMY/community: this church, this family, this cancer center. I am blessed in learning to ask for and receive kindness and assistance. Thank you, thank you, thank you for this spiritual alive-ness all around this circle of life.”

Dan Kosuth celebrated his birthday on November 24. One more year before a big one! Dan and Colleen were pleased to have their sons Michael and Charlie with them to celebrate. Charlie and his girlfriend, Maggie, were in town from New York for the weekend.

December Plate Collection



As is our tradition, a portion of our Sunday plate collections in December will go to the Welcome Inn, a daytime warming center operating weekdays during winter weather (mid-December to mid-March) and on Tuesdays at Berkley Community Church the rest of the year. This season, the Welcome Inn will again be housed at Starr Presbyterian Church at 13 Mile and Crooks in Royal Oak, operating Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

BUC has been a critical source of support for the Welcome Inn for several years, and many BUCers supported the October fundraiser at Mark Ridley’s Comedy Castle. That event netted approximately \$12,000; however, the Inn may still need to shorten its winter season due to a budget shortfall.

Our congregation has also consistently supported the Welcome Inn through the donation and serving of meals for an average of 70 daily guests. Contact our BUC Welcome Inn Volunteer Coordinator, Annis Pratt, at (248) 644-0737 or avpratt@aol.com, to help with any of these tasks (see item later in the newsletter for additional details on volunteering).

To submit an application for a plate collection recipient, go to our website at bucmi.org and click on the Social Justice tab, then Plate Collection Application. Or you can contact Barbara Robinson (248-320-8366 or brjdr8719@gmail.com) to submit an application or discuss a potential recipient. Priority is usually given to nonprofits in which BUCers are involved. We gratefully appreciate your support for all of our recipients throughout the year!

Alliance Holiday Luncheon

Tuesday, December 10 | 12:00 noon | Iroquois Club

The Alliance is hosting its annual Holiday Luncheon on Tuesday, December 10 at 12:00 noon at the Iroquois Club, 43248 N. Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills (just north of Square Lake Road).

Invitation letters have been sent out with reservation forms. Please look at the entrees, complete the form, and mail with your check to Betty Blair, 2400 E. Lincoln St. #312, Birmingham, MI 48009. Guests are welcome.

Checks should be made out to "BUC Alliance". The deadline for reservations is Thursday, December 5. You may also return your reservation to BUC, or sign up in the Hodas Family Hall after Sunday service.

This is always a special luncheon, and everyone is invited. Questions? Please call Priscilla Hildum at (248) 475-0729 or email her at pahildum@sbcglobal.net.

We hope you will join us!

—Ann Throop for the Alliance Committee

Build a Gingerbread House

Saturday, December 7 | 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon | Hodas Family Hall

Our annual gingerbread house construction party returns on Saturday, December 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon in Hodas Family Hall. Fun for families, grandparents, grandkids, adults, and children!



\$7 donation requested per gingerbread house, payable at the event. Please bring cash or check. Younger children will need assistance with their projects. They may bring a helper, or work with a friendly volunteer helper from BUC.

Signup is required. RSVP to Merry Hoffmeyer via email at merryhoffmeyer57@gmail.com or text at (248) 953-5422 and please provide the following: your name and contact information, including phone number; name and age of child or children; and if your child(ren) need(s) a helper. Bring a box (or box lid) that is at least 14" x 10" for carrying your project home, and consider wearing craft-friendly clothing.

Christmas Day Potluck at BUC

Wednesday, December 25 | 4:00 p.m.

No plans for Christmas Day? Not up for having people over or traveling long distances? Come join BUCers and friends for our annual potluck dinner and gift exchange.

This year, we will be gathering at BUC on Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25, at 4:00 p.m.

Sign up after Sunday service on December 1, 8, or 15, or contact Carol Winslow at cwins@att.net. RSVP is required.



Issues and Ale

Friday, December 6 | 6:00 p.m. | Maggiano's



This month's meeting of the Issues and Ale group is Friday, December 6, at 6:00 p.m. at Maggiano's Little Italy, located at 2089 W. Big Beaver Rd. in Troy. All are welcome to join this group for lively conversation on important social justice issues in an informal atmosphere. For more information, contact Jay Labban at sigma373@yahoo.com.

Getting to Know UU

Sunday, December 15 | 12:00 noon | Red Door Classroom



Our biannual "Getting to Know UU" series continues with the third class on Sunday, December 15, from 12:00 noon–1:30 p.m. in the Red Door Classroom. Rob Davidson facilitates these Sunday classes about Unitarian Universalism in general and BUC in particular. Bring your questions, your thoughts, and your spirituality! A light lunch will be provided, and childcare will be available. Whether you consider yourself a newcomer or have been attending for a while, you are welcome. Sign up at the Membership table in Hodas Family Hall, or RSVP to Rob at kathyd8082@gmail.com, and be sure to tell us if you need childcare. The last class in this series will be on January 12.

Update from the Ushers

You may have noticed some new things on Sunday mornings that we are hoping will become routine practice. We are now asking that everyone enter the sanctuary between 10:20 and 10:30 a.m. You are welcome to wait in the Pavilion or Hodas Family Hall until the doors open at 10:20. Realizing that some folks may need extra time to be seated, this is not a rule, just a suggested practice. Once service starts, the doors will be closed and latecomers will be admitted during announcements or the first hymn. The ushers will be there to assist latecomers with seating.

Thank you for your attention, and please let us know if you have questions or concerns.

—Joan Cashman, Usher Coordinator (joancashman12@yahoo.com)

Building and Grounds Committee

While there are numerous maintenance projects and needs on our "to do" list for our church campus, several items are of particular significance.

One is a conversion of 7 parking spaces—previously marked with blue stripes/blue wheelchair—back to general parking spaces. This has been implemented on a temporary basis, with permanent re-stripping planned for next spring, which could open up a couple additional general parking spaces.

Secondly, the committee recognizes a serious maintenance need, with a substantial price tag, in replacing the Blue Door Classroom roof in 2020 and the Green/Red Classroom roof the following year. The committee has made these a top priority project, and will coordinate with the Board, Executive, and other committees on planning and funding.

—Jim Shettel, Chair, Building and Grounds Committee

Music at BUC

Mozart had to compose for the next gig. As a working musician who was very talented and creative, Mozart was more interested in creating music to move people's souls, and for his own satisfaction, than for a church service or a royal holiday celebration. Nevertheless, Mozart crafted hundreds of pieces which affected millions, maybe even billions, of people over the course of the next 250 years. He had to pay his bills. He had to feed his family and make ends meet. Poor Mozart.

To be clear, I'm not comparing what Steve and I do as your Co-Directors of Music Ministry with Mozart. However, I do think about what Mozart created from week to week. Steve and I are infinitely more blessed than Mozart in that we have a community of people who are passionate and engaged with their spiritual lives and the outside world. This complex and sophisticated community (you!) makes searching for, selecting, and discussing music with each other and the entire worship team a fulfilling endeavor.

So this December, as always, the service and holiday music are programmed to enlighten, excite, educate, entertain, and enliven your experience in church and beyond.

To highlight, the BUC Chalice Choir offers up its seasonal gift. The Mozart *Vespers* performance on Sunday, December 8 is complete with soloists and a small orchestra. We hope you continue to let us know when you are moved by the music. May your holiday season be meaningful and full of love; complete with magical, musical moments.

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



MAMA's Coffeehouse: Dr. Swing and his band

Saturday, December 14 | 8:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

\$15 adults | \$13 students/seniors

Tickets at the door only



Joel Palmer (a.k.a. Dr. Swing) is a respected Detroit-based singer/songwriter and guitarist known primarily for his '30s- and '40s-era swing style, with a flair for blues and folk as well. He'll bring his 7-piece band to MAMA's for a jumpin' and jivin' evening of holiday music, songs from the Great American Songbook and his own compositions, which nestle comfortably with the traditional swinging jazz classics.

Beverly Meyer will open the show.

As always, MAMA's will have beverages and snacks available.

Open mic at 7:30 p.m. Interested in performing? Send a note to mamascOFFEEHOUSE@BUCMI.ORG.

More info at:

joelpalmermusic.com

BUCMI.ORG/mamas-coffeehouse

Facebook.com/MAMAsCoffeehouse

Religious Education

Upcoming Things to Know



December 1: Candy Cane Sunday

Bring socks and mittens for Walt Whitman Elementary School

Traditional cookies, stories, and crafts

Youth will assist the younger students



Saturday, December 7: Build-a-Gingerbread House - 9:30 a.m. -12:00 noon

\$7 donation requested per gingerbread house, payable at the event. Please bring cash or check. Signup is required.

RSVP to Merry Hoffmeyer at merryhoffmeyer57@gmail.com or text (248) 953-5422 and please provide your name, phone number, and name(s) and age(s) of child or children

December 8: Music Sunday – 6th-12 grade students attend service

December 15: Multigenerational holiday solstice ceremony

December 22: Hanukkah service – K-5 students will do holiday activities

Tuesday, December 24: **Christmas Eve service - 5:00 p.m.** No-rehearsal, all-ages service: “The Unfriendly Beasts”

December 29: No Time for All Ages and no childcare during service

January 5: classes resume. We need ROPE advisors, 4 more teachers, and a few more RE council members for the winter/spring semester.

December Worship Theme: Celebrations

Do you remember? The smell of greens being hung in the church halls, decorating the altar with the same special advent wreath? My church was the village that raised me. I recall getting to cover a pine cone with as much glitter as I wanted, and carefully sticking buttons on a little, green, construction-paper tree. I remember trying to make graham-cracker walls hold up a roof, and covering cookies with too many sprinkles. These special times anchor our lives as they come around each year. Children need the repetition of events that mark the passing of time.

I remember singing “Silent Night” in the darkness when I was a young child, standing on the pews with my parents, watching the small candle flicker. I remember when I was old enough to hold the candle all by myself, wax dripping on its little cardboard protector. I remember this ritual as a youth, slightly resentful of having to be there. I remember it again as a college student, returning to my home church, experiencing that same ceremony, able to reflect on having been there through so many changes. I remember continuing the tradition with my own children as they grew. Someday I hope to repeat this cycle with my grandchildren. The too-many things we do at the holidays can make us stressed out, family relationships may be strained, loved ones may have passed, but there is still an element of joy. They are memories lit by candlelight, and cemented in frosting.

–Shari Daly-Miller, Acting Director of Religious Education (shari.dre@bucmi.org)

Membership

The Membership Committee now has a table in Hodas Family Hall—come check it out. It has information for newcomers as well as longtime members. Also, when you see a visitor at coffee hour (look for the red nametag), please send them over (in addition to talking to them, of course!) so we can meet them and greet them and answer any questions they may have. Thanks!

New Member Corner

These two signed the book in November!

Jeff Kingzett (he/him/his) lives in the historic Pontiac house he grew up in. He has a public policy degree from James Madison College at MSU and a Master of Public Administration from Oakland University. Jeff is a Financial Advisor and Associate Vice President with Ameriprise Financial in Farmington Hills, where he specializes in environmentally sustainable and socially responsible investing. He served as an Oakland County Commissioner during the 1990s. His daughter Andrea (Dre) is a junior at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, studying photography and jewelry-making.



Nate Schreck (he/him/his) is a freshman at Rochester High School. Outside of school, Nate plays baseball and loves hiking in national parks. He loves coming to church and is active in the GUUSH high-school youth group. He enjoys going to cons and meeting new Unitarian Universalists of all different backgrounds. Nate is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist and three generations of his family have been coming to BUC. He's excited to join our congregation and is looking forward to joining a committee now that he is a member.



Social and Environmental Justice

New day and time! The Social and Environmental Justice team has moved our meeting time to the **third Wednesday of each month**, at 6:45 p.m. in the Large Conference Room at BUC. All are welcome to attend meetings, and join us in our work. To be added to our email list for notices of BUC activities and outside events, please contact us at janeoneil@gmail.com.

—Jane O’Neil and Julia Pulver, Co-Chairs

In November..

- SOS came to BUC and hosted dozens of unhoused individuals for one week
- BUC’s Welcoming Congregation Task Force teamed up with Film Buffs to present *Treasure*, a documentary on a Detroit story of transgender injustice
- The Art Exhibit Committee offered two dozen donated art pieces for auction to raise money for future exhibits which will reflect our UU social justice values
- The Climate Change Resolution Task Force’s Mary Dunn joined the Humanist group to share an overview of the Climate Change Resolution and the Energy Innovation Act
- The Open Hands Food Pantry red shopping cart (and Little Sister) found a new home at the north corner of the front lobby. Bring your food donations there any time.

Mark your calendar in December for..

- December 1: Welcoming Congregation will recognize World AIDS Day during service
- December 1: Final signups for Adopt-a-Family
- December 3: Confronting Racism starts meeting on a new day and time—the fourth Tuesday of the month. We will be discussing the film *Harriet* in theaters now, and the 1619 Project.
- December 15: Deadline to drop off Adopt-a-Family gifts at church. Delivery to the school is on December 16.
- December 15: Meteorologist Paul Gross will speak after service, presented by the Climate Change Resolution Task Force
- December 29: The Climate Change Resolution Task Force presents a Table Topics/New Year’s resolution service. We will explore how our faith calls us to support the interdependent web of life and learn about dozens of solutions to the climate change crisis that we can support.

South Oakland Shelter Thank You

Volunteer participation from BUCers, Muslim Unity Center, Northwest UU, Farmington UU, and independents made the BUC week in November a success. You gave the best gift to these adults and children: your time! You made a difference! If you are interested in continuing your involvement, SOS has a program called HandUp that allows you to “target” help to the specific people we housed. Money is contributed for a specific item and given to the individual through SOS staff to guarantee its use for that purpose. Contact Paul Plante (pplante@mi.rr.com) for a list of people.

Among the guests BUC housed were 11 children, ages 2 days old to 14 years old, and 21 adults, including 4 pregnant guests (one of whom delivered on Monday night of our host week). BUC offered a stable environment for employed guests to work out of, while other guests were working with SOS staff to find jobs. SOS staff worked with all guests to find temporary or permanent housing. BUC transportation allowed all to get to work and school. Our meals were filling and nutritious thanks to a dedicated volunteer staff. This was a really great group of guests, possibly my best experience in the last 15 years. Volunteers were really great! See you next year! —Paul Plante, Coordinator, SOS at BUC

Climate Change Resolution Task Force

Paul Gross is coming to BUC! Plan to stay after service on Sunday, December 15 to hear Local 4 Meteorologist Paul Gross. Gross is recognized as one of the nation's leaders in communicating the scientific truth about global warming, without the politics. His lecture is an engaging science lesson, with plenty of time allowed at the end for questions and discussion.

You will learn the actual science behind everything you hear in the news, and leave with a basic understanding of what is actually happening to our planet's climate.

Coffee and snacks will be provided, too.

Confronting Racism

Confronting Racism is a monthly discussion group focused on helping us confront our own racism. "Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives." -Martin Luther King, Jr. **New day and time:** The monthly meeting has moved to the first Tuesday of the month, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commons. For more information, please contact Peggy Bocks at pbocks@gmail.com.

Adopt-a-Family

The Social and Environmental Justice team is again hosting our wonderful Adopt-a-Family program this year. Generous BUC members can adopt a large or small family for Christmas and provide them with toys, books, and clothing for the new year. We serve families who have students at Walt Whitman Elementary School in Pontiac, where many BUC folks tutor and volunteer.

December 1 is the last day to adopt a family for 2019. If you haven't already done so, please check in with us to see if there are any families that need you to brighten their holidays.

Gifts are due back at BUC on Sunday, December 15 and will be delivered to the school on Monday, December 16. Questions? Contact Jane O'Neil at (734) 216-9076 (call or text) or via email at janeaoneil@gmail.com.

Environmental Justice

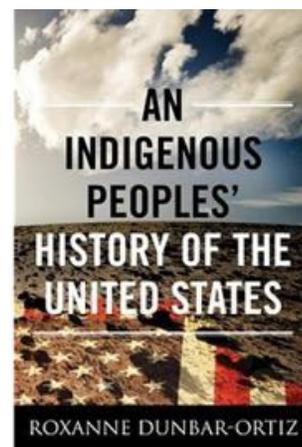
Izzy wants your water bills! Under the guidance of the Sierra Club's Christie McGillivray, the Environmental Justice group is working on an experiential learning project. We want to collect water bills from the various communities represented at BUC, including as many as possible from the City of Detroit, and compare them with each other. The differences in charges and presentation are major, as are the rates for water and sewer in different communities.

If you are willing, please make a copy (all pages/sides, please) of your latest water bill, put it in an envelope marked "Izzy Khapoya, Water bill project," and bring it to the Social and Environmental Justice table after any Sunday service. If you can't make a copy, you can bring an original, and we can make a copy in the office. Or you can send a scan or a photo of the bill to Izzy at ikhapoya@gmail.com.

Green Sanctuary

The Green Sanctuary Ministry's next meeting is December 4.

We are planning to organize a discussion group early in the new year on the 2020 UUA Common Read: *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*.



Welcome Inn Opens December 16

On cold days from December to the middle of March, BUC volunteers at the Welcome Inn join members of other churches and organizations to prepare and serve meals, cook casseroles at home, provide fresh fruit and produce, make brownies, send financial donations, glean bread from local bakeries, and purchase everything as needed, from long winter underwear to ink cartridges for the computers—and all in a spirit of friendliness and compassion.

In return, we receive hugs and blessings, prayers and thanks from our guests, as well as the gratitude of the staff, who always remark about how many UUs step up to bring solace to the unhoused and vulnerably housed.

From an hour or two making a casserole to purchasing needed items to a weekly stint, your help for our unhoused friends during the bitter winter will be deeply appreciated!

Please stop by the Welcome Inn table in the Hodas Family Hall to sign up and/or contribute.

—Annis Pratt, Welcome Inn Volunteer Coordinator (248-644-0737)



The Welcome Inn operates under the nonprofit South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless. Financial donations can be sent to:

South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless

P.O. Box 1937

Royal Oak, MI 48068

Gift List for Rummage

Are you in the holiday spirit? 'Tis the season for sharing gift lists. The Rummage Committee has a gift list, too, and would be delighted for you to share the gift of your talents. There are so many options! Some roles do not require meeting attendance, and some do. So, what piques your interest? Please contact Mary Dunn at (248) 854-2034 or mjd70bc@msn.com, or Walli Andersen at (248) 288-4701, with questions or interest. Feel free to offer your own ideas. The next rummage meeting is Monday, January 13.

Committee positions:

- Recording secretary
- Food manager
- Marketing manager
- Recruitment manager

Pre-sale position:

- Sunday signup of rummage volunteers

Sale position:

- Linens coordinator

Post-sale positions (Can be done on your own time. Contact Laura Lee at lauralee@speechwriting.com for more info.):

- Silent auction post-sales: use online sites for special items
- Book savers: deliver books to libraries and other charities
- Freecycle: find a home for leftover rummage

The Talent and Services Auction is coming!
Please note the new date:
Saturday, February 22, 2020
Mark your calendar for BUC's biggest fundraiser
and most fun event!

Open Hands Food Pantry

Under the first two guiding principles of Unitarian Universalism (1st principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person, and 2nd principle: Justice, compassion and equity in human relations), BUC continues the collection of non-perishable food items for the Open Hands Food Pantry.

Items for donation can be placed in the red shopping cart in the church lobby. Donations will be picked up bimonthly and delivered to Open Hands on the St. John's Episcopal campus at 11 Mile and Woodward. This month's focus items are toothpaste, shampoo, and soup, but all non-perishable food and toiletry items are appreciated.

Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. They allow Open Hands to purchase items needed and at reduced prices. Checks can be mailed to:

Open Hands Food Pantry

26998 Woodward

Royal Oak, MI 48067

Open Hands provided assistance to 14,000 people in 2017. In the last 5 years, more than 125,000 people, including 35,000 children, were living below the poverty level in Oakland County.

Questions? Please contact Joan Cashman at joancashman12@yahoo.com or (248) 837-0624 .



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS



Effective immediately, our church office hours are:

Monday - Friday:
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday - Sunday:
CLOSED

The office will not be staffed on Sunday mornings.

Please plan to take care of church business Monday through Friday.

Sunday Morning Discussion Group

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

The Sunday Morning Discussion Group meets in the Lower Level classroom every Sunday from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. We discuss a topic picked by majority vote. However, on January 12th, we will discuss the first half of the book *The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper and Fairer Health Care* by T. R. Reid. We will discuss the second half of this timely book on February 9.

Everyone is welcome to share their ideas and get to know each other better. This group can enrich your Sunday morning experience. For general information on the Sunday Morning Discussion Group, contact Larry Larson at lawrencejudy@yahoo.com.

Body Wisdom

On hiatus for winter

Living by Heart

Mondays 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. | Red Door



The Living by Heart group is moving to afternoon hours during winter to make travel easier. From December through February, we will be meeting on Monday afternoons from 1:30-3:30 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. Contacts: Karen Schreck (ktschreck@icloud.com) and LuAnne Holder (luanneholder@wowway.com)

Grief Support Group

2nd Tuesdays | 3:00 p.m.

Large Conference Room



The Grief Support Group is currently meeting just once a month due to lower attendance. We meet on the second Tuesday 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).

No meeting on December 24 (Christmas Eve).

Humanists of BUC

The Humanists of BUC planning committee is looking forward to meetings next year on the fourth Sundays at noon. Please mark your calendars for January 26, February 23, March 22, April 26 and May 24. Have a great holiday season

For general information about the Humanists of BUC, contact Larry Larson at lawrencejudy@yahoo.com.

Caregivers Support Group

2nd 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 is

currently meeting just once a month due to lower attendance. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in the Small Conference Room. Facilitated by Alison Rule (248-320-1021). **No meeting on December 25 (Christmas Day).**

Birmingham Unitarian Church
38651 Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills MI 48304
www.bucmi.org

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 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.