

+  
**March 22**  
**Youth Sunday**  
**"The Power of Music"**

Is music a motivator, entertainment, a pastime, or a spiritual practice? The sixth through twelfth grade youth will use readings, stories, original writings, and—yes—music to answer this question as only they can. Music provided by the Teen Choir and youth musicians.

Following service, the ROPE parents will offer a light buffet in the Social Hall. Donations will support the 8th grade UU Heritage trip to Boston.

## Prayer

One of the most common spiritual practices, unless one is a Unitarian Universalist, in which case prayer may be an especially troublesome spiritual practice. If the definition of prayer is broadened beyond the simplistic "talking to God" notion, what does it mean to pray? Who talks and who or what, if anything, listens? What is the point of voicing the kinds of desires and fears that typically show up in a prayer? Our March worship services wrestle with the questions this standard spiritual practice poses for UUs and for anyone who examines closely the deepest movements of the human spirit.

### Further Exploration:

- Anne Lamott, *Help, Thanks Wow*
- Erik Wikstrom, *Simply Pray*
- Mark Nepo, *700 Ways to Listen*
- John O'Donohue, *To Bless the Space Between Us*

Sundays in March  
 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.\*

1<sup>st</sup> Most definitions of prayer assume the participation of two parties, the one praying and the one hearing the prayer. But does prayer truly require two parties in order to be a meaningful spiritual practice? Can one pray without any particular belief in God? Kathy and WA Donna Larkin Mohr address the challenge prayer presents when it assumes divinity on the other end. Musical guest flautist Cathy Sherwin.

8<sup>th</sup> Expressions of sorrow and concern in our worship services are sometimes accompanied with a request for prayers. What does it mean to pray for another person, both for the one who is praying and the one who is the focus of the prayer? Kathy and Worship Associate Paul Vachon wonder what happens when intercessory prayer, the offering of prayer on behalf of another, unfolds.

15<sup>th</sup> If particular definitions of God are set aside, and particular styles of praying that require a certain faith perspective are set aside, what is left for prayer? Can it then be a meaningful spiritual exercise? Kathy and Worship Associate Peggy Woehrlen consider prayer possibilities that grow out of common human experience rather than set belief systems. Music provided by the Sound Messengers.

29<sup>th</sup> \*ONE SERVICE 10:30 a.m. "Music as Prayer", followed by the Pledging Commitment Brunch. (pg.5 service details)

## March is Stewardship Month!

This campaign funds the operations of BUC for the 2015/2016 fiscal year. Packets will be distributed **March 15<sup>th</sup>**. On **March 29<sup>th</sup>** we will have a single Hymn Sing Service at 10:30 followed with a Pledging wrap-up brunch in the Social Hall.



*Look Who Signed the Book!*

*Welcome Our Newest Members*

*Erin & Lydia White*

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

Chris Stoddard's father, Jim, died early on the morning of January 4<sup>th</sup> in Weston, Massachusetts of complications from cancer.

“Our son-in-law died suddenly on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Please keep our daughter, three grandchildren, and us in your thoughts and prayers.” Nancy & Richard Schmitt

Marilyn Kelly was recently sworn in to the Board of Governors of Wayne State University.

Fred Straky is recovering from back surgery. We send him well wishes and a speedy recovery.

“Our family member had brain surgery this morning (February 8) for a tumor. Please keep him in your thoughts.” Marcy Hahn & family

BUC member George Hunter died on February 10<sup>th</sup> at the age of 91. George's wife Sharon, and his three children and grandchild had a memorial service at BUC on February 22. A veteran of WWII, having served in England, France and Germany, he returned to graduate at the University of Michigan with a BA in psychology in 1950, and an MA in Sociology in 1962. George was a Counselor and Clinical Social Worker at Wayne State University in Detroit for over 30 years.

BUC member Bette Dyer passed away on February 5 at the age of 92. There was a gathering of friends on February 21 at the Royal Oak Presbyterian Church. Bette was a lover of music, a gentle soul, and a member of the Alliance for several years.

The memorial service for Steve Lyttle, late husband of BUC member Harriet Lyttle, will be at BUC on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

“With great sadness, I announce the passing of my mother-in-law Mollie Faber Stoffer at the age of 89.” Paul Vachon

## Memorial Glen Deadline -- April 1st

BUC's Memorial Glen is a sacred space devoted to remembering and memorializing our members and their family members who have died. This spring we are finalizing plans for a renovation and expansion that will make this special place even more beautiful, peaceful and welcoming. Every year, normally on the last Sunday in May, we hold a solemn ceremony dedicating those friends and family whose names have been added to the cenotaphs during the year.

Forms to purchase a space are available in the church office (current and pre-need agreements) and will need to be returned and finalized by **April 1st**. to be engraved before the service this May.

## REFLECTIONS



Rev. Dr. Kathv Hurt

Like church buildings, ministers need refurbishing from time to time. Sermons begin to sound too much alike, participation in committee meetings becomes rote, office hours seem to result in more piles of paper than tasks accomplished, and a minister who was once a strong leader increasingly looks tired. BUC has just finished up a capital campaign intended to renew our worn buildings; now the Board of Trustees has agreed to my taking some earned sabbatical time to rest and renew during the late spring and summer, May 1 - August 31.

I plan to use my sabbatical primarily to work on two writing projects, some memoirs and an adult curriculum which, once tested in the coming church year, would be marketed to other UU congregations, continuing a BUC tradition of creating curriculum for spiritual growth. Aside from a couple of short trips and some family visits, I will mostly be in town. But sabbatical guidelines provide for a respite from usual duties, so I will be out of the office, absent from meetings, not preaching on Sundays. In consultation with the Board, however, I will put in place arrangements for ministerial and executive coverage during my absence, so BUC will not be without ministerial and administrative resources when needed, and will describe those arrangements to you when the time of my departure draws nearer.

And in case you were wondering, just to be clear: I promise you I am not off job hunting. Sabbatical time is a gift, a chance to replenish the inner wells from which inspiration is drawn. I have a sense that with the conclusion of our capital campaign and the preparations being made for some rebuilding projects, we are winding up another chapter in church life. Rather than assuming the next chapter will be much the same as the one just finished, I want to do some extended reflecting on what our ministry together has been thus far, and what it might be in the future. That reflection will be the most important project I undertake during this sabbatical.

Please ask me any questions, or raise any concerns, you have about these plans. I am grateful for this opportunity to undergo my own refurbishing, as we refurbish our campus. A new look, and a newly energized minister, will be just the first steps taken by our beloved community in creating a vibrant future.

In faith, hope, and love,

## Cherish the Flame Update

At this writing, 184 members and families of BUC have committed an impressive \$1,423,090 to the Capital Campaign. We deeply appreciate their support of the intent of BUC's Campus Development initiative toward a more welcoming, accessible and functional facility. This comprehensive revitalization plan led BUC to set a goal of \$1.6 million, and so the Campaign remains open for additional donations-thank you!

A Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, February 8th to review the background, progress and next steps of the Campus Development & Prioritization Committee (CDPC). This presentation by Lisa Demian, BUC Board president, and Dick Cantley, BUC treasurer and chair of the CDPC, was videotaped and can be viewed on our website <http://www.bucmi.org/#!video-special-congregational-meeting/c1z40>. Those who were unable to attend the meeting also will be interested in viewing the helpful question-and-answer session that followed; any new questions can be directed to Lisa or Dick. A congregational vote on the Campus Development initiative will be taken at the Annual Meeting.

*“Specific detail on the many projects, including cost estimates, will be provided in advance of the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.”*

## Film Buffs: *Of Gods & Men*, March 27<sup>th</sup>



7:00 PM in the Large Conference Room

"Based on an actual 1996 event that took place in a Trappist monastery located near a Muslim village during the Algerian Civil War. After an outbreak of terrorist attacks on the city from Islamic extremists, the Christian monks decide to hold their ground, but are increasingly caught between the danger of the violence and the unsympathetic protection of the Algerian army. As little as the monks are defined, the nature of human spirit in the face of great wrath is enough to carry the weight of this adventure. Raises fundamental questions about religion and sacrifice without laying out too many answers. French and Arabic with subtitles. Grand Prize winner at Cannes."

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

## Grief Support Group, Tuesday, March 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Sharing and processing grief is a valuable part of our community experience. Join us once, or come whenever needed – small conference room at BUC, in the Religious Education Hallway.

## Sunday Morning Discussion Group: 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.\*

This group is always open to newcomers, even those who haven't read the book. The group is discussing *The God Delusion* by Richard Dawkins in the large conference room. This book discussion will be facilitated by Rolland Vriesenga.

\*Due to the single service on the 29<sup>th</sup> – meeting time will be 9:00

## Opera Buffs

### March 14: Rossini's *The Lady of the Lake*.

Bel canto superstars Joyce DiDonato and Juan Diego Flórez join forces for this Rossini showcase of vocal virtuosity, set in the medieval Scottish highlands and based on a beloved novel by Sir Walter Scott. DiDonato is the "lady of the lake" of the title, and Flórez is the king who relentlessly pursues her, their vocal fireworks embellishing the romantic plot in this Met premiere production conducted by Michele Mariotti.

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

Contact Larry Freedman – [lawrenceman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lawrenceman@sbcglobal.net) for more information and to be included on the opera email list.



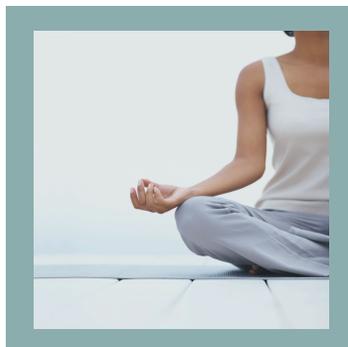


## + Matt Watroba Saturday, March 21

7:00 Doors Open – Show Begins 8:00  
\$15 tickets, \$13 senior/student

Matt brings a very special set of talents to the stage; his excellent guitar playing, mellow voice, friendship with his audience, and knowledge of his presentations is impressive. Add to that Matt's own special brand of humor and you are in for a most entertaining and enlightening evening. You will feel his obvious love of folk music, both traditional and contemporary—the writers and performers, the heroes and villains. Matt sings songs of compassion, inner strength, humor, and every day living - songs that you will feel and remember for a long time.

Opening act: Christopher Mark Jones



### Meditation Mondays

6:00 – 7:15 p.m.

Come to share silence and reflection. We sit for 25 minutes of silence to begin. Then we reflect together on a reading for 25 minutes and a final 10 minutes of silence. We meet in the classroom with the blue door – across the courtyard from the main entrance, towards Woodward.

**Meditation and emotional well-being (source: [www.mayoclinic.org](http://www.mayoclinic.org))**

When you meditate, you clear away the information overload that builds up every day and contributes to your stress.

### Poetry & the Sacred

7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Each Monday evening in March we will meet from 7:30 – 9:00 in the blue door to share poetry that is sacred to our lives. Bring a poem that has deep meaning to you. We will read and reflect on the poems together and we will also be writing our own poetry. No particular experience necessary. Come once or to all 5 sessions. Facilitated by Penny Hackett-Evans

### Music at BUC

Can we still say Happy New Year, even though it is March? We think so. Music at BUC is hopping, despite the cold. We had a great SoundBites show featuring the Moxie Strings on February 13. Thanks to all who helped in any way. These events are classy and enjoyable, from the quality music till the last bite. Mark your calendars for April 10th: the Goran Ivanovic Trio performs Balkan-Jazz-Latin fusion!

The Sound Messengers continue to provide band music for the 3rd Sunday services of each month. We were excited to audition a new sound system and hope to move forward soon. Let us know if you think of a specific tune for an upcoming specific themed service.

March 29 is Hymn Sing, where Co-Directors of Music Steven and Abha Dearing reflect on "Music as Prayer". Come and hear personal stories and sing favorite hymns.

The BUC Chalice Choir continues to work towards upcoming services and especially Choir Sunday, May 17.

Got ideas about music? Want to sing in the choir? Would you like to be more involved with music at BUC? We'd love to hear them!

Contact [steven.dearing@bucmi.org](mailto:steven.dearing@bucmi.org) or [abha.dearing@bucmi.org](mailto:abha.dearing@bucmi.org) for any music stuff.

## February Volunteer of the Month: Ann Throop

It was exciting to be named the “volunteer of the month,” joining a great group of members who volunteer their time to the Church. When I was working, there was not much time to volunteer; I am glad there are a lot of opportunities now. BUC has always provided ways to help out at the church and in the larger community. Together we can make a statement about our values.

I enjoy working at rummage, an activity that provides opportunities for support from everyone. Not only does it help us recycle our “treasures” it provides lower cost goods to the community and to some specific charities. Outside the church, I have joined other BUC’ers in tutoring students at the WHRC elementary school. Helping 2nd graders with their reading is very satisfying. Working with the Alliance brings interesting programs for the group and fellowship opportunities with our luncheon meetings.

There are always committees that need our support and participation, and I also enjoy being a greeter and ushering. It is another good way to become acquainted with one of our membership while helping out.

Having been a part of BUC for over 40 years, it is exciting that we are moving forward with the “Cherish the Flame” campaign. Since my husband and I were married in the Social Hall by Bob Marshall, we have seen the expansion of the facilities with the Pavilion and Sanctuary; Commons, expanded Social Hall and kitchen. Now we can look forward to upgrading our facilities and providing space and programs for us and our future members. Try volunteering your time; you’ll like it!

Ann Throop



## March Volunteer of the Month: Ed Sharples

“Why do you keep saying ‘Yes,’? After all, you’ve been here 52 years. Isn’t that enough?”

Why, indeed. Could it be from a conviction that individuals, families, and communities will be better if members of BUC reach out to them? Perhaps it is nothing more than wanting to perpetuate a great religious institution for others I shall never know or that the joy, intellectual growth and spiritual awareness given to me should also be available to children in RE and to their children.

I say “Yes” because I admire professional UU ministry and all that it does to nudge us to be our best selves. It is a ministry that emphasizes life in the here and now rather than the there and then. It is a ministry of balance between heart and head, between the spirit and the intellect, a ministry that heals fractured psyches and seeks wholeness.

I say “Yes” because I love music well played, well sung. It is the music of the choir, of the Hodas piano, of the band, of the congregation, of the outreach of our coffee house and SoundBites. Music, like poetry, means more than it says as it speaks to inwardness and helps join heart and head. BUC’s music is a gift I joyfully receive.

I say “Yes” to the BUC community. Within six months of Diane’s death, I underwent triple by-pass surgery. Before and after those life-changing events, I was wrapped in the concern and affection not only of my sons but also of the BUC community. Church members, through cards, calls, visits and even dinners told me again and again I was not alone. And I am not alone today.

So it is “Yes” to ministry, music, and community. And it’s yes as pay-back for all I have been given by this extraordinary church.

In fellowship,

Ed Sharples



*All over the world, women are coming together in friendship to shine a light on human rights, gender equality and female empowerment.  
Now BUC will participate!*

**Sunday, March 15: Birmingham Unitarian Church celebrates**



International  
Women's Day

**The women of BUC are invited to join with guests from the Muslim Unity Center and Freedom House to celebrate and reflect on the role of women in bringing about positive change in the world.**

Our March 15<sup>th</sup> program (5:30 to 8:00pm) includes a welcome reception, bring-a-dish dinner, and inspiring personal stories told by a panel of BUC women and guests, among other ways of celebrating.

In addition to a dish that serves four, attendees are asked to share a photo or memento of a woman in their lives or in history who has inspired them. We're looking forward to honoring them with you!

Tickets are \$5.00. To reserve seats please visit our registration table during Sunday coffee hour.



**About International Women's Day.** Inspired by the suffrage movement for women's right to vote, International Women's Day was initially observed in 1911. Expanded over the years to honor the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future, the day also reminds us of inequities still to be addressed. Events of support are scheduled in many countries, and in such places as China, Russia, Vietnam and Bulgaria, International Women's Day is a national holiday.

For more information, visit [www.internationalwomensday.org](http://www.internationalwomensday.org)

## Service & Justice: Moral Mandate to Challenge Extreme Inequality

Delegates at last year's UUA General Assembly selected "Escalating Inequality" to be the 2014-18 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) for UU congregations. The CSAI summary states, "Half of all Americans are impoverished or struggling, as the middle class shrinks and billionaires take the profits. Where is our commitment to the Common Good? Challenging extreme inequality has now become a moral imperative, just as prior generations have led movements from abolition to civil rights and marriage equality."

Inequality discussions reference the growing divide between "haves" and "have nots" or "the 1% versus the 99%." I learned from my mother the phrase, "the rich get richer and the poor get poorer." Current data supports this statement. To understand this requires an examination of where the power lies in decisions that affect the societal structures that contribute to one's ability to live a productive, satisfying life. The rock group U2's front man and social activist, Bono, states that America is not only a country, it is an *idea*. Our founders had the audacity to frame a government on the premise that all are created equal, regardless of the circumstances of their birth, and that all should have life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That vision of America is one of the greatest *ideas* in human history, says Bono. It suggests that an economic recession need not become an equality recession; if we have dignity and justice, then leave it to us and we'll do the rest.

How is that idea holding up today? In short, not well at all. Today, a person who is born poor has a much lower chance of advancing past that status than a person born poor fifty years ago. It's even worse for people of certain ethnicities and life circumstances. The middle class is shrinking and those remaining worry about the future for themselves and their children. Why is this happening? It goes back to that question of where the power lies. More and more, the power aligns with wealth. Decades of tax code and campaign finance changes have favored those with wealth, including corporations who can now donate unlimited funds to political campaigns. But this is not about individuals versus "big, bad corporations" or rich versus poor. In any of these groupings, there are people of good will and others who will take whatever they can get for themselves through any means. Some say "inequality" is a buzzword of liberals and slackers. That's a gross dismissal of the truth. This is about a system that has gotten very warped. It allows accumulated wealth to benefit fewer people at the cost of the greater good. It cuts budgets in order to give tax breaks but fails to see the long-term effects of an underfunded education system, deteriorating infrastructure, and a costly legal process that is out of reach financially for poor people and the struggling middle class. As the power shift intensifies, so does inequality, and people across all classes are feeling its effects, whether they realize it or not. At a recent conference in Illinois, a speaker told about a nurse he met during a fair pay march who said, "I see the effects of this economy coming in on the bodies of my patients." Other effects are visible in the form of dwindling and abused natural resources. Meanwhile, many voters actually vote *against* their own interests because they don't understand the machinations of this complex equality equation and are misled by an onslaught of well-crafted campaign messages that distract from truth.



Pat Hammer, Randy Block, Marti Szilagyi, Mary Lou Malone, & Mary Jo Ebert attended the Escalating Inequality conference in Evanston

So, what are we to do? The Service & Justice program is launching a study/action program to tackle the subject of growing inequality, in collaboration with five neighboring UU churches. Advocacy groups have already identified some possible actions but the reality is that we must first develop a deeper understanding of the problem and its causes before we can recognize and internalize the steps needed to address it. We hope that all BUCers will choose to engage in this course of study and action. Watch for announcements about this program. In the meantime, contact Mary Jo Ebert or Sharon Kirchner with questions or if you'd like to help make this happen for BUC.

~ Mary Jo Ebert, Co-chair, BUC Service & Justice Program

## Plate Collection Recipient – MUUSJN

The Michigan UU Social Justice Network (MUUSJN – moose’-gin) is a statewide coalition of UU congregations who work together “to foster the worth and dignity of people by promoting social justice and community service.” It was started in 2002 by Randy Block, BUCer George Lentz, and several other s who formed a network of UU churches in southeast Michigan. Randy has served as director since its inception and expanded its scope to a statewide coalition. Last year, MUUSJN achieved 501(c)(3) status. BUCer Pat Hammer serves on the board.



**SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK**

MUUSJN addressed many social justice issues during the past year. They include fair treatment of poor people impacted by the Detroit water shutoffs, collection of signatures to raise the minimum wage via ballot initiative, actions to promote and protect rights for LGBTQ persons and families, support to reduce deportation of immigrant families, and advocacy to expand in-home services for the elderly, the Healthy Kids dental program, and child care for low-income families. One of the great values of this network is the ability for smaller groups of people to band together, share resources, and have a greater impact. Along with our plate collection, we urge BUCers to register for the MUUSJN mailing list in order to get news about social justice action via a monthly newsletter and timely action alerts. You can do so online at [uujustice.org](http://uujustice.org) or in the social hall after services during March.

### 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 [marvjoebert@gmail.com](mailto:marvjoebert@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)

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

## A Welcome Inn Thank You!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU to the BUCers who made this winter at The Welcome Inn so heartwarming for our guests.

Jeff Gray, a father of two, lost everything when his house burned down. The Welcome Inn was able to find his birth certificate and establish an ID so that he could apply for a job. It helps me, he said, to “be a better father to my children, a better son to my mother, and finally be stable enough to take care of my own situation.”

We had more than thirty volunteers from our congregation who organized the clothes closets, made casseroles, served meals, purchased and delivered underwear, medicine, clothing, extra food, belts, wallets, office supplies, and anything else The Welcome Inn’s director asked for by email or Facebook. Thanks too for your generous contributions through the plate collection and individual donations

One intrepid soul turned up every week to share jokes and play games with our guests and help them set up engagement books and prepare valentines to send to (perhaps long lost) family members and sweethearts. Another BUCer made sure every week that there was enough food to cook a warm breakfast on frigid Monday mornings.

Our own Alexander Seidel became a young hero for the homeless when he organized the preparation of 80 casseroles as a project for his eagle scout badge.



## Religious Education

# RE Volunteer Opportunity, April 3!

The RE program has scheduled an optional volunteer work day at Gleaners of Pontiac for K-12th grade children/youth/friends and their families from 9:00-11:30am on Friday, April 3rd (Good Friday). Sign up at the link on our website [www.bucmi.org](http://www.bucmi.org) on the RE page, or contact Eleanor or Kimery if you have questions. Hope to see you there!

## Children's RE

Conflict is a normal part of living with others. It proves that we are all different – and our differences make us, and our world, more interesting. To address conflict, our UU Fifth Principle encourages “the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.”

So how does our religion balance individual wants with group needs - an endeavor which requires both effort and patience. March's Coming to Agreement rotation explores two questions: “What are the skills and steps needed to carry out the democratic process?” and “What are some benefits of coming to agreement?”

Each workshop focuses on one of these four steps for resolving conflict within groups of any size:

- 1) Identify the problem (Listening)
- 2) Brainstorm options (Deliberation)
- 3) Choose a solution (Compromise)
- 4) Try it out! (Commitment)

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

## Youth RE

The 6 & 7 grade class has had a busy start to 2015 with field trips to the Arab-American Museum, the Muslim Unity Center, and St. George Greek Orthodox Church as well as a fun afternoon at Air Time Indoor Trampoline park in Troy. In March they will begin studying assorted Protestant denominations and join the older youth in planning for Youth Sunday.

The 8th grade Rite of Passage Experience (ROPE) class has been interviewing congregants and exploring ideas about God. In March, they will continue these discussions, work on credo-writing, prepare for Youth Sunday, and play a little Theological Jeopardy.

The Sunday morning high school class will continue its discussions centered on the theme of Radical Inclusion.

March 22nd is Youth Sunday! This year's theme is The Power of Music. Please join the 6-12 youth at either service to hear their very thoughtful interpretation of the role of this important worship (and everyday life) element. Thanks to Abha and Steve Dearing for their assistance with musical execution and to all of the youth advisors and parents for their generous support.

And please plan to stop in the Social Hall following service to enjoy our second annual ROPE breakfast buffet. No tickets, but they are accepting donations to support the ROPE UU Heritage trip to Boston.

If you are not receiving regular email updates about youth events, please send your contact information to Youth DRE Kimery Campbell at [kimery.campbell@bucmi.org](mailto:kimery.campbell@bucmi.org). You can also find updated youth event information on the RE Calendar on the BUC website.

## Explorations School for Young Learners



The Explorations School for Young Learners had a very busy February! The preschool students had a wonderful time working on their 'Letter of the Week' books and had so much fun designing and creating Valentines to share! They were especially excited to make their own yummy Valentine's treats! The toddlers had fun exploring winter and creating many Valentine's Day treasures! We had our first Open House of the year, and were very happy to welcome another preschool student into the program in February! It is so exciting to watch our program continue to grow!

Explorations is now accepting registrations for fall for both of our programs, the Young Explorers Toddler School (18 - 33 months) and the Explorations Preschool (3-5 year olds).

BUC's preschool continues to grow and the staff truly enjoys the opportunity for outreach into the surrounding communities. We now have families from Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham, Troy, Southfield, Berkley, and Royal Oak. Please visit us at one of our

upcoming OPEN HOUSES on Tuesday, March 10th or Thursday, May 7th. For more information about Explorations please email us at [explorations@explorationspreschool.com](mailto:explorations@explorationspreschool.com) or 248-647-6531 x210.

## News from the Green Sanctuary Committee

BUC BOARD COMMITS 2 COMMIT!

Did you know that the Unitarian-Universalist Association has a Ministry For Earth, dedicated to carrying out our Seventh Principle of respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part?

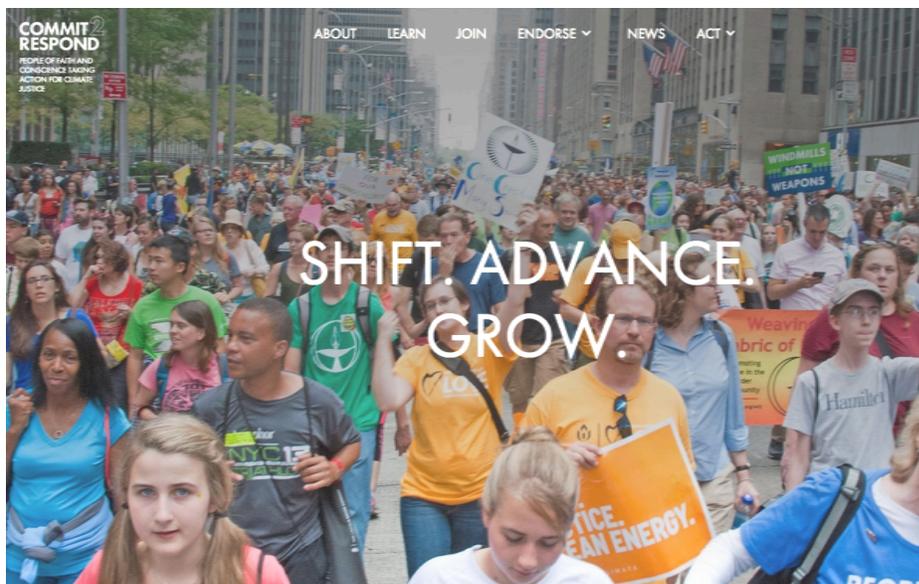
The Ministry of Earth is sponsoring a way for congregations to take action through its

Commit2Respond program, a movement to accelerate the shift to clean, renewable energy, grow our capacity for climate justice, and advance the rights of marginalized communities in the face of Climate Change. Our Birmingham Unitarian Church Board has agreed for us to participate in this program as a congregation.

Commit2respond is planning a Climate Justice Month of spiritual transformation and commitment between World Water Day on March 22 and Earth Day on April 22, 2015. They will post daily messages about resources, powerful practices to engage in together, and tools to understand how shifting to a low carbon future, advancing human rights, and growing the movement are our moral charge. We can participate in Climate Justice Month as an individual or as a group. Look for what is going on at [www.commit2respond.org](http://www.commit2respond.org), follow it on Facebook and Twitter, and keep your eyes open for further information from your BUC Green Sanctuary Committee.

This is our movement. We have the power to make a difference.

Annis Pratt



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

## Rummage Volunteer Position Opening: Sign Organizer

The Rummage Committee needs a “sign organizer” or “sign czar.” While artistic talent is not essential, it could be put to good use. Schedule is VERY flexible! No need to attend meetings!

Tasks: soon after the end of the sale, go through all signs (which will be on the stage in the Commons)

- identify ones that need to be replaced
- organize the re-usable signs
- put the folders in storage (Rummage Closet)
- make (or arrange to have made) replacement and newly needed signs

If you are willing be BUC Rummage’s Sign Czar, please e-mail or speak to: Kimery Campbell  
[kimery.campbell@bucmi.org](mailto:kimery.campbell@bucmi.org), (248) 647-2380, ext. 216 or  
Mary Dunn [mjd70bc@msn.com](mailto:mjd70bc@msn.com), (248) 585-9954



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