



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



Exploring Community in Books & Movies

American Bloomsbury by Susan Cheever, nonfiction, tells about the relationships of Emerson, Thoreau, Louisa May Alcott, Hawthorne and Margaret Fuller as they made up a literary community in 19th Century Concord Mass.

The Help by Kathryn Stocketts, a historical novel, also recent movie, is certainly about community—the white racial one of southern women, and the black "Help" they employed.

Team of Rivals by Doris Kearns Goodwin, historical non-fiction – One could see Lincoln's cabinet of rivals as a community. How they learned to get along, although they didn't all agree, is a lesson in history. Winner of a Pulitzer Prize (the recent movie covered a portion of this book).

Upcoming Dates

BUC's Fall Rummage

Dates: Truck Pick-up 9/28
Intake begins 9/29

Sale: Thur. 10/3 – 6:30-9 pm
Fri. 10/4 – 10-2 pm
Sat. 10/5 – 9-Noon

Sunday Services 9:30 & 11:15 ~ Community

Our worship theme for September is community, an apt choice for this time of year when many return from summer travels to resume usual work and school schedules, and when the church year resumes our usual programming. Yet community is a challenging theme in a time when social media is radically changing how we understand community, so that we require new definitions of what our myriad relationships mean when they unfold in a virtual context. Our neighborhood and national communities are challenged by the polarizing conversations of politics and a sense of scarce resources. What draws us into community, what drives us out of community, what keeps us in community during times of transition and upheaval? These are some of the questions the September worship services consider.

September 1 – ONE SERVICE 10:30: "The J.O.B. System" Guest speaker, Frank Joyce and Worship Associate Camille Harris. If the job system is so effective, why is there still such inequity? Can we imagine a better way to organize who does what, and how they are compensated?

September 8 – "Gather Us In": In our traditional homecoming service, Kathy and WA Lisa Demian look for our motivations in choosing any church community, and this church community. What binds us together through time when so much in our lives and our culture would seem to drive us apart? The service includes a water communion; please come with the water you collected over the summer.



The Campbell-Fox's dog Holly, contemplating the lake...

September 15 – "No Continuing City": While we may seek out a community initially for its stabilizing and familiar presence, vital communities are forever changing, reflecting the changes in the people who make them up and the changes in the places where they are located. How do we decide what to change in our community, what to keep, when to stay, and when to leave? Kathy and WA Frank Arvan explore the many movements going on beneath the surfaces of our communities.

September 22 – "Why We Are/Are Not a Diverse Community": Unitarian Universalists have long committed ourselves to welcoming diversity in our church communities, while painfully noting an evident lack of diversity. Kathy and WA Ben Gabel open up this difficult question to look at the obstacles to diversity among us, despite our good intentions.

September 29 – "A Time for Transcendent Unitarian Universalism" Guest minister, Leonetta Bugleisi and WA Grace Rising invite us to think beyond the ordinary about how the current trends in faith communities can benefit from 'applied' UUism.

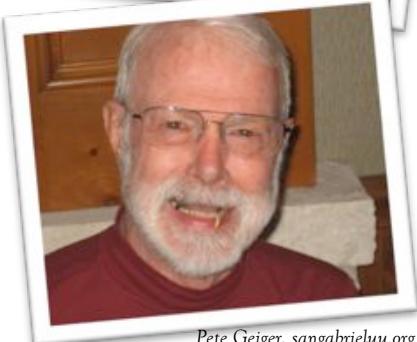
Connections: Joys & Sorrows



Matthew, the horse & ribbon!



Ernie Hodas and Family



Pete Geiger, sangabrieluu.org

To submit Joys and Sorrows for upcoming newsletters, please submit on our website newsletter submission form or write in the Joys and Sorrows book on

Juanita Cervenak had surgery on her vocal chords the first week in July and is recovering well.

William Sargent received the “Outstanding Camper” award for Symphony Orchestra at Session I Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.

Margot LeRoy and Richard Holzman wish to share their appreciation for the many condolences sent after Richard’s mother Jean’s death.

Jay Smith recovered from a bout of pneumonia in late July, and shared, “Pneumonia doesn’t win. Yea! Just turned 91, now it’s time for FUN!”

On July 17, Ernie Hodas a long-time BUC member and benefactor, died in Scottsdale, Arizona at the age of 93. There will be a Memorial Service at BUC on **Sunday, October 6 at 2:00 p.m.**

Ed Brouhard has learned that he needs a second liver transplant and is undergoing diagnostic tests to determine if he qualifies.

Brian Schandevl’s grandmother, Virginia passed away August 7 at the age of 98. Brian expresses his gratitude for her long life and deep love for her family.

Jim Roddy had successful hernia surgery on August 8 and is sharing his joy and relief!

Congratulations to Carole & Dick Wiseman who celebrated their 46 wedding anniversary on August 12. They were married at BUC in 1967 by the Rabbi Sherwin Wine.

Newer attendee, Nathan Bahn, who lives near 12 ½ Mile Road and Main Street, is looking to carpool to BUC on Sunday mornings. If you would like to discuss this with Nathan, please email him at nathan.bahn@gmail.com or call him at 248-597-0455.

Happy Birthday to Bruce Lipka who orders the parts, fixes the coffee pots and keeps everything in good order. Bruce is one of many making BUC the welcoming place it is on Sunday morning. Thank you, Bruce!

Ann Dunn would appreciate your warm thoughts and prayers as she transitions from Beaumont to a rehab facility – she is improving.

Pete and Clarice Geiger, former BUC members now living in Texas, have been deeply involved in getting a UU fellowship started in Georgetown, Texas. Their first service was August 11th with a formal dedication happening on October 25. Pete still plays clarinet to enhance worship services, almost every Sunday!

Kristi Fielder’s grandfather, Gordon King died on August 24 at the age of 98 after a brief illness. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Lisa Baker shares two joys: her son Matthew won his first blue ribbon at Riding Camp and her mother Jane won best actress in a drama for all of Michigan!

Congratulations to Jim and Cheryl Shettel who celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on September 1, on a celebratory weekend get-a-way to Charleston, South Carolina.



Getting Involved: Artist Reception, Planned Giving, Town Hall, and Sharing Dinners

**Saturday, September 7, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Alice Frank Artist Reception**

Alice likes to present an intriguing variety of unique contemporary artwork ranging from monoprints to complex, multi-fired enamel wall sculptures created from various media including found objects, hand-blown glass, woven fabrics, metals, and watercolors.

**Sunday, September 15, 12:30 p.m. –
Planned Giving**

Randall Ross, VP, Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan will talk about a way to leave a legacy to BUC while earning a tax-advantaged income for the rest of your life – a Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity. Light refreshments will be served in the Commons.

Film Buffs: Friday, Sept. 20

Join us in the Commons at 7:00 p.m. – Snacks provided ☺

"Jean de Florette" is a 1986 French historical drama based on a novel by Marcel Pagnol. ("The Well-Diggers Daughter" shown last winter was also based on a novel by Pagnol.) The film takes place in rural Provence, where two local farmers scheme to

trick a newcomer out of his newly inherited property. At the time the most expensive French film ever made, it was a great commercial and critical success, both domestically and internationally. In French with English subtitles. – Wikipedia
for more information contact Larry at LJWisniew@yahoo.com or 248/569-0965



**Sunday, September 15, 12:30 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting – Green Sanctuary**

Your Board of Trustees invites you to attend the Town Hall to discuss the capital needs of the Green Sanctuary program. This is part of our upcoming capital campaign and YOUR input is critical. The Capital Development and Prioritization Committee will use your comments and critiques to develop and prioritize the list of projects that will make BUC more effective, efficient and appealing to current and future members. Please don't miss these forums that will shape the aims of the capital campaign and the future of BUC.

After all the town halls: Oct. 27 – Religious Ed, Nov. 24 – Worship/Music, & Dec. 15 – Social Justice), the Capital Development and Prioritization Committee will craft a proposal to present to the Board of Trustees that will try to encompass the wishes of the church community while staying true to our professed ideals and mission. In January the congregation will meet to vote on the proposal.

Sign-Ups: Sharing Dinners!

A great way to fellowship is to join the 100 BUCers who take part in Sharing Dinners—small monthly potluck gatherings. Many BUCers regard this as a favorite fellowship activity at our church.

Dinners are held the 2nd Saturday of the month (October through May, omitting December). If you can't commit for all the dates, you can sign up as an alternate, to be called as sub.

The names get shuffled to meet with as many people as possible. You will be asked to host once during the year, but accommodations are made.

Look for the sign up in coffee hours in September, in the office, or contact Carol Lee carolallmanlee@yahoo.com 248-652-9427.

Getting Involved Continued: Harvest Potluck, MAMA's Coffeehouse, Facebook Class, AED Awareness, Getting to Know UU, Young Adult Cider Mill Outing, & Rummage



Tuesday, September 24th
"Getting to Know UU"



Session I "History of Religious Beliefs"

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Commons

The first of four sessions offered in 2013-14. Join us as we share a brief history of Unitarian Universalism, the values & theology which shape it and a brief history of BUC.

 **MAMA's Coffeehouse**
Saturday, September 21

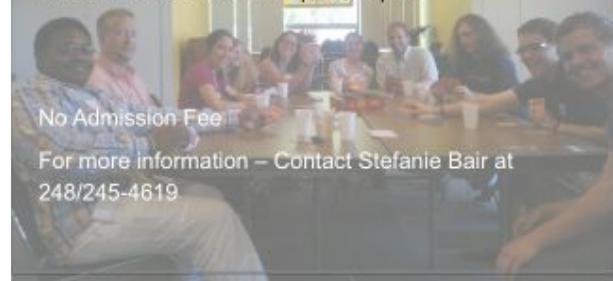
Featuring BUC's own Jim Bizer and his duo partner Jan Krist. They have just completed their second recording together, titled "Too" – the show will be the official CD release event. Buoyant to poignant, heartfelt to hilarious, Jim and Jan have received accolades from audiences everywhere.

8:00 p.m. Admission: \$12
\$10 student/senior (at door only)



Sunday, September 29th
Young Adults – Yates Cider Mill

Meet us in the Social Hall following the 2nd Service at 12:45 – those that can carpool, super!



Sunday, September 22nd
Events @ BUC

 **Facebook Class: The Commons 12:30 p.m.** If you are interested in finding out more about Facebook, what the attraction is, how to create an account, how to manage your privacy settings, join Lisa Crawford for a quick zip around this evolution in social networking.

AED Awareness: We now have two Automated External Defibrillators installed at BUC. Jim Shettel will be hosting a brief introduction to their use and basic CPR instruction following a brief time to grab coffee, in the Sanctuary at 12:45



Sunday, September 29th
Rummage Intake Begins!

Bring your gently used items for our Rummage Sale! Items accepted from Sunday, through Tuesday.

Sale Times:

Thursday, October 3: 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Friday, October 4: 10:00-2:00 Half-Price

Saturday, October 5: 9:00-Noon Bag Sale

Reflections by the Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt



all” philosophy in church functioning. But at BUC, that philosophy will be discarded in the fall, as we prepare to launch new formats for worship in both our 9:30 and 11:15 services—and the services will no longer be the same. This is our latest experiment in seeing what becomes possible when we no longer opt for “one size fits all” and instead look carefully at the people who make up our church, at the directions the Board has set for us, and at patterns in the culture that surrounds us for insight into ways of worshiping that will allow us to address more specifically the yearnings and challenges of individual members.

Beginning in September, the 9:30 service will be termed our “contemplative” service, and the 11:15 service will be termed our “celebratory” service. As the names suggest, the differences in the services will be differences in energy, in pacing, in tone, and—if those of us leading worship do our work well—differences in spiritual focus. Thus it will be possible for you, if your personal schedule permits flexibility, to select a service that most closely corresponds to what your spiritual needs might be on a given Sunday. After a hectic and not particularly satisfying week, where family members taxed your patience and your work seemed to increase no matter how hard you applied yourself to completing it, you may need the contemplative service to just be quiet for a time, to feel grounded, to reconnect with what supports you; if the week has gone in a positive direction, a time to reflect on all the good that came your way would also be available in the contemplative service. By contrast, if your week has demanded reservoirs of energy and effort, so that by Sunday you feel tapped out mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, you may

For all our affirmation of individual autonomy, for all our expectation that each person will wrestle with and craft from experience his/her own ultimate meanings, we Unitarian Universalists have been at times surprisingly willing to opt for a “one size fits

need the celebratory service to recharge yourself, to raise your spirits, to help you recall what is working well and why, and where help is available; if you found yourself energized by the relationships and projects the week brought you, the celebratory service offers you a place to direct and savor that energy.

While the sermon and the children’s time will be the same in each service during this first experimental year, the music, the readings and meditations, the order of the service, the use of the screens in the sanctuary, and even the seating arrangements will be different. Both services will continue to provide time for sharing of joys and sorrows, for anthems from the choir, for announcements (and of course for the offering). As we unfold this worship experiment, the worship team, the musicians, and I will be eager to hear how you experience the changes in style and mood of the services. We anticipate then fine-tuning our worship elements through the year in response to your feedback. At year’s end, we will solicit your comments as we determine whether and how to continue the experiment.

Our Board has expressed a desire for a more diverse congregation when we gather for worship, and different services represent an effort to meet that desire. Our culture has encouraged us to expect products and experiences that are tailor-made for us personally as a result of niche marketing, and we have the resources at BUC to shape services more particularly focused on the persons who attend them at different times. And our own Unitarian Universalist tradition has always insisted that spiritual needs and spiritual expressions are not be forced into a single mold, but rather allowed to diverge and improvise, to be creative and free. So it seems time that we carry these patterns and perspectives into our worship services, set aside the predictable “hymn sandwich” of a service (two hymns, with a sermon in between them), and make use of all our rich complexity when we gather on Sunday mornings. As one of our responsive readings begins by noting, “we come from many rooms”; beginning in the fall, those many rooms you come from will be honored in the many ways we worship at BUC.

Faithfully,

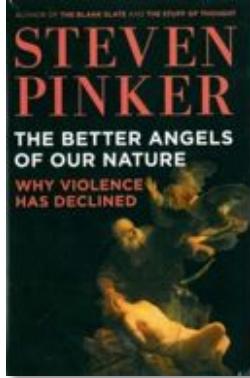
Kathy

Read, Think, Listen, Discuss, Meditate @ BUC

Sunday Morning Book Discussion

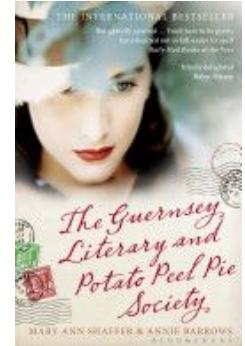
BELIEVE IT OR NOT: We are living in the least violent period of human history! Why has violence declined? Join the Sunday Morning Discussion Group to find out, as we discuss Harvard Professor Steven Pinker's, "The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined", with R. Bart Sangal, MD, facilitating.

We will meet for 14 weeks in the large conference room from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. starting with the Preface on Sept. 8th (EXCEPT Sept. 29th). Everyone is welcome to drop in any week.



Drop-In Book Club – Sept. 26

Join us Thursday evening in the Large Conference Room (first room on the right, just inside the Main Entrance) from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. for the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. Currently being made into a movie by Kenneth Branagh, starring Kate Blanchet. It is a sweet funny novel about people on the Island of Guernsey and their experiences of German occupation during WW2. The name was invented as a spur of the moment alibi when a German soldier stops them one night on the way home, past curfew. The story is told through letters of a London female columnist in 1946's who begins a correspondence with one of the members. The story is about community and the powerful role it plays in our lives.



Grief Support Group – Sept. 10

An open grief group meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Small Conference Room (left of the main entrance in the Religious Ed hallway). Whether you have had a recent loss or one from some time ago – you are welcome in this group. Dropping in for one meeting, or coming every month is fine. 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. If you have questions, contact Grace Rising gbrising@wowway.com 248-250-6500

Science for Everyone – Sept. 17

Join us for our discussion topic:

"Epidemiology: Assets & Pitfalls"

We meet in the Large Conference Room (first room on the right, just inside the Main Entrance) at 7:30 p.m.



Words & Spirit Groups – Start Again in October

Words and Spirit Groups will resume on first and third Monday of the month in October. Watch for information in the next newsletter.

Weekly Meditation Group – Mondays in October

Meditation Group Beginning in October, there will be a regular weekly meditation group on Monday evenings. Watch for specifics in the October newsletter.

BUC Alliance – October 16

Alliance will open its program year on Wednesday, October 16 with a luncheon at noon. Our Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt, will speak with us about BUC's activities in the larger community and the UUA. (Note there is NO September meeting).

Our opening luncheon features quiche and salad – a tradition, "catered" by the Board. The charge is \$10. Everyone is invited. Membership information and cards will be mailed in September. 2013 dates to hold are November 20 (program and brown bag lunch), and Wednesday December 11 for our holiday luncheon.

Sacred & Profane – Sept. 18

Please join us for our discussion topic: "Living as an Older Person" We meet in the Large Conference Room (first room on the right, just inside the Main Entrance) on the third Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

Service & Justice

Baldwin Center Summer Camp

During August 5-8, BUC staff and volunteers led programs for K-6th grade youth at the Baldwin Center summer camp in Pontiac. In Art class, the children made duct tape wallets, whimsical bugs, and other creations. In Theater, they learned and performed a play about selfish forest creatures who learned about sharing. In the Video segment, they interviewed each other and performed short skits that, on playback, enabled them to critique themselves. In Music, some tried a hand at guitar playing and all learned songs that they performed in a rousing choral performance on the last day. Special thanks to our BUC staff and volunteers who shared their talents and made this a meaningful and fun experience for the children.

In the June newsletter, we introduced the partnership we are forming with the Baldwin Center, a non-profit org serving adults and children in Pontiac since 1981 with over 25 programs including a family soup kitchen, clothing closet, after school enrichment, GED program, and urban gardening. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities at the Baldwin Center, contact Mary Jo Ebert maryjoebert@gmail.com – or visit www.baldwincenter.org.



Board hopes to recruit additional classroom assistants, as well as monitors for the breakfast and lunch periods. A project will be undertaken to sort and integrate library books from a school that merged into WHRC last year and help identify books pertaining to topics being covered in the classrooms.

A complete list of volunteer opportunities, with descriptions and time commitments, will be available after Sunday services starting on September 8. It will also be accessible on the BUC website and in the church office.

Marriage Equality

Federal Judge Bernard Friedman will hear arguments on October 1 in what could be a ground-breaking lawsuit filed by Jayne Rowse and April DeBoer, challenging the legality of Michigan's ban on gay marriage and adoption by same-sex couples. Jayne and April live in Hazel Park with their 3 children, whom they adopted separately. Michigan law bars them from jointly adopting each other's children. Learn more about this topic at equalitymichigan.org or www.uujustice.org.

Plate Collection

Our plate collection recipient for August 25 - September 29 is the school supply program at the WHRC Elementary School. With many families living near or below the poverty level, children receive school supplies through the generosity of communities such as ours. The Plate Collection committee is accepting applications for recipients for the fourth quarter. Submit applications at www.bucmi.org. Click the "Give" tab, then "Plate Collection Application."

BUC Service & Justice Co-Chairs: Mary Jo Ebert, Ilene Beninson

Service & Justice Resources:
MUUSJN (Michigan UU Social Justice Network):
www.uujustice.org
UU Service Committee (UUSC): www.uusc.org

WHRC Elementary School

A new school year is underway and Whitmer Human Resource Center (WHRC) volunteers are also headed "back to school." Under the direction of Communities United for Children (CUFC), support programs are offered in this elementary school of 900 students, including tutoring, a traveling book trolley, and food assistance. BUC member George Lentz leads the CUFC board, whose members include Ron Fredrick, two WHRC teachers, UU Paint Creek and Kirk in the Hills church members, former BUCer Maria Runk and a Chrysler retiree.

With school budgets more strained than ever, WHRC's 22 K-6th classrooms will have about 40 students each, and the CUFC

Volunteer of the Month:

Max Kort



I volunteer because it makes me feel more connected to the church community. I also like helping out because it's doing my part. For example, some BUC members volunteer to teach my kids, so I like to volunteer to teach the kids of other members.

Two of my favorite volunteer opportunities have been playing piano for our S.O.S. guests and being an 8th grade OWL teacher. Both of these activities put me so far out of my comfort zone and let me try different skills than what I use every day on my job, so they allowed me to grow. I also like interacting with the other members of the RE Council and enjoy our time together each month.

Here are some areas where I have been involved at BUC:

- RE Council member for 3 yrs
- “Our Whole Lives” 8th grade teacher
- Preschool classroom volunteer
- South Oakland Shelter – pianist, guest driver, and laundry
- Rummage – Consolidation and Teardown
- Stewardship Table Captain
- Social – No-Fault Orchestra, Sharing Dinners, and family camping

Rummage

Doing fall cleaning? If you have been attending BUC for more than six months, then you know that your gently-used discards can be a treasured find for a shopper at BUC's semiannual all-church rummage sale as well as a valuable source of income to the church. But there is more at stake than closet-cleaning.

Rummage is not just a sale—it's a church service project. Without workers, there can be no Rummage. It's an opportunity to connect with other congregants and rummage friends, share meals, and support BUC. And there are perks! In addition to excellent lunches and dinner on Monday and Friday, Rummage workers who work 4 hours or longer are eligible for advance shopping privileges. (But please note that we do depend on our workers to put in an “honest” four hours!)

We want your household discards—but not everything. A good rule of thumb is, “If you wouldn’t buy it, don’t bring it!” The exceptions to this rule are recyclable paper (old books, phone books, office paper, newspapers, etc.) and all-metal recyclables, for which BUC can earn cash. If you bring recyclables to Rummage, PLEASE clearly label them as such!

A few minutes spent carefully packing and labeling your goods will save our volunteers a lot of effort. If it’s unusual and/or valuable, please tell us so that we will be able to make the best use of your donation. Pre-sorting your stuff (kids’ clothing together, house wares together, office supplies together) is a big help and, whenever possible, please bring hanging clothes on hangers.

And finally, please sign up to work at Rummage. We get lots of eager volunteers for the fun jobs of unpacking boxes and discovering treasures, but we also need sale time staff and consolidators on Friday night. Above all, we desperately need more help for teardown on Saturday afternoon, when the time comes to store equipment, clean up the rubbish, break down boxes, and put the church back together for Sunday morning. Stop by the signup table in the Social Hall or visit our online signup at SignUp Genius. The link will be on the landing page of our website by mid-September.

Fall 2013 Rummage week begins on September 29, with large-item pickup available on Sept. 28 & 29. Donations (and intake helpers) are needed Sunday through noon on Tuesday and sorters are needed right up until sale time. Department sales staff are essential during the sale hours: Thursday, October 3 from 6:30 to 9 p.m.; Friday, October 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (half-price sale); and Saturday, October 5, bag sale from 9 a.m. to noon. There are lots of non-sorting jobs involved as well, including trucking, setup, teardown, kitchen work/bringing food, layaway desk sales, publicity, Silent Auction backup (e.g., those who are willing to help eBay the most valuable goods or provide logistical help with electronic bidding), and more. Sign up after service any Sunday in September, ask questions freely, join in the planning, and help us make our old “stuff” do the most good!





Kids Choir

Kids Choir is open to any singer age 5 till 12. It is helpful if the singer can read, but it is not necessary. Kids Choir will sing a few services throughout the year and will rehearse regularly on Sundays between services from about 10:35 till 11:10am. Singers are encouraged to join KC for a "session". That is, they sign up to rehearse EVERY Sunday in preparation for singing on a particular date.

Performance dates in church are always both services (KC may leave after singing the 2nd service) and this year are:

- Session 1: rehearses till October 20th
- Session 2: till December 15th
- Session 3: till March 2nd
- Session 4: till May 18th.

To sign up, please email Abha Dearing:

abha.dearing@bucmi.org or just show up in the Music Room on September 8th!



Beginning September 8, our first double service Sunday, the new BUC house band will launch during second service. The band, led by Steven, fronted by Abha, and featuring Rudolfs (in a new role as a rock keyboardist), will also include BUC drummer Brian Schandevl (on occasion), and Chuck Bartels on bass. This new endeavor is due to generous support of BUC music lovers, allowing us to purchase new equipment, as BUC grows. We as a band (name to be determined and suggestions welcomed) will venture into new genres, which will allow us to go even deeper as we explore two different services. Dancing encouraged... With much excitement, Steven Dearing, Co-Director of Music

Teen Choir

The Teen Choir meets on some Sundays between services and for special rehearsals in preparation for youth-oriented services. All Teens (age 13 till 18) in 8th grade through high-school are welcome to sing without prior experience. Abha will communicate with teens via email:

abha.dearing@bucmi.org

Secure performance dates are: March 16 and June 1.



Chalice Choir

This Adult Choir welcomes singers from all backgrounds and experience levels. Our BUC Chalice Choir sings music from many cultures and eras in various voicings (3-, 4-part harmony and beyond!). There is NO AUDITION NECESSARY. The Chalice Choir sings at 2 services per month, for both services that morning. From September 4th to June, they rehearse on most Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9pm, with snacks and socializing afterwards. Total beginners and accomplished soloists and every singer in between are invited to be part of this

Abha





On Sunday, September 8th BUC will resume offering two services each Sunday, beginning with our annual Homecoming celebration. The 6th - 12th grade youth will attend the entire service while the Preschool - 5th grade children will first participate in the Children's Corner and then go to a multi-age class led by Director of Religious Education Eleanor McGuire. Traditional religious education classes will begin on September 15th.

Children's Rotation Curriculum

This year's first rotation Sacred Places explores how and why particular spiritual places bring meaning into the lives of their followers. Specifically, these sacred places anchor believers to memories, traditions and feelings that are often difficult to describe with mere words. This rotation asks: "What is a holy place? What needs does it fulfill for its believers? and How do we honor our own and others' sacred places?" There are many holy places in the world – for simplicity, this rotation examines only four significant locations:

- Jerusalem – What are some of the significant stories & holy places of Jerusalem? Which three religions consider it a sacred place? Where is it located? Who is caring for it?
- Mecca – What is the meaning of a pilgrimage to Mecca? Why is it sacred? Where is it located and who is caring for it? How is it different from Medina?
- Cathedrals & the Vatican – What did Europe's cathedrals mean to Christians? What does the Vatican represent to many Catholics? How do these spiritual homes differ from a typical UU church? How has the significance of these places changed over time and who is caring for them?
- Nature / Peacefulness / Connectedness – Why do so many people find spiritual comfort in nature? Who is caring for our earth?

For further information, please contact Children's DRE Eleanor McGuire at eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org.

Youth Religious Education

BUC's Youth RE program is divided into three levels of Sunday morning classes and youth groups. For the 6th and 7th graders, we offer our Sunday morning Neighboring Faiths class, which examines other faith traditions, often with a visitor and a field trip. This year, we will study Unitarian Universalism, modern Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and some aspect of Protestantism. The first class will take place on September 15 and faith units will vary in length from one to four Sundays. The Unitarian Friendship Organization (UFO) is our 6th and 7th grade youth group. They enjoy a succession of social and service events organized by parents. We will meet for a planning session in September.

Fall begins our 8th grade coming of age curriculum, the combined OWL (Our Whole Lives) and ROPE (Rite of Passage Experience) programs. OWL, which will run from 9:30 to 12:30 each Sunday from September 16 to December 16, is an intense sexuality, relationships, and values education program specifically designed for middle school youth. In order for their youth to participate in OWL, parents must register their youth before the first class and participate in an orientation session led by the instructors. 8th grade families who have not been contacted regarding OWL please get in touch with Kimery Campbell immediately.

Unlike many UU churches, BUC offers high school youth both a Sunday morning high school class and a youth group, the Great Unitarian Universalist Senior High (GUUSH). The Sunday morning class will begin on September 15, with a focus on reconnecting the youth as well as an overview of the year's topics. As UUs, life often forces us to grapple with dilemmas that pit one virtue or belief against another deeply held value. Navigating through multiple choices and evaluating all of the ramifications of an ethical stance can yield a significant step forward, even if it is only temporary. September UU Dilemmas workshops all grapple with complex issues that

have no comfortable solutions but which allow the youth to ponder together the many angles of a dilemma and decide individually where they stand. Here is a brief overview of the workshops and ideas comprising this unit:

- Do we need communal sacred places such as churches? How do shared sacred spaces help and/or hinder one's spirituality?
- Are some historical theological conflicts irresolvable, despite our best wishes? For example, how would UUs resolve the differing spiritual claims that Judaism, Christianity and Islam each assert over Jerusalem?
- Could UUs benefit from a little more sense of shame or self-recrimination? Are we stuck at compassionate self-interest (ex: I am nice because then everyone is happy)? Should we develop our moral framework beyond good behavior = good feelings?
- Are the UU Principles similar to the Ten Commandments in that we have inadvertently placed too much emphasis on another set of ultimate guidelines or rules? What is the best way to express and share the core tenets of UUism?

GUUSH (Great Unitarian Universalist Senior High) meets on Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Its purpose is to provide high school youth with a means to develop leadership abilities while planning social action projects, worship, and fun events, including work upon the annual Bakeoff fundraiser, tentatively scheduled for November, and the Youth Sunday service in March. This year, GUUSH will be led by co-facilitators Virginia McNitt and Julia Wendell.

Questions about Youth RE can be addressed to Kimery Campbell at kimery.campbell@bucmi.org

Opening September 9!



Preschool begins Sept. 9, Parent's Time Out Sept. 16

Program registration information available at
explorationspreschool.com

Young 5's	Mon-Fri	AM or PM
4 Year Olds	Mon-Fri	AM or PM
4 Year Olds	Mon/Wed/Fri	AM or PM
3 Year Olds	Tue/Thurs	AM or PM
Parent's Time Out		AM or PM

Sunday Morning HOSPITALITY

YOU can make such a difference with a genuine smile, a handshake, and a warm welcome on Sunday mornings. Stefanie Bair is now coordinating our Greeting efforts on Sunday morning!

YOU can make those entering the sanctuary feel welcomed, and assist in our plate collection operation on Sundays. Larry Freedman is diligently recruiting to fill these positions on a weekly basis.

YOU can make our social time following the services more convivial by hosting and serving coffee, bagels & donuts. Carole Wiseman is now coordinating Coffee Hosts!

It is now easy, breezy, peezy to volunteer – follow the link on the front page of our website – be a part of service to our community – make a difference ☺

Sunday Morning Flowers



It only takes a moment to recognize or honor someone dear or to commemorate a special occasion by providing fresh flowers for the Sanctuary! We've initiated a simple new process to sign-up for Sunday Morning Flowers. On the landing page of the website, is a link to a Signup Genius Page. The options are bringing your own arrangement or having BUC order one for you. The cost is \$50. In the comment section provide the words you would like printed in the order of service.

If you are having BUC order an arrangement, follow the link to the BUC website and pay online by clicking on the "Donate" button and noting that is for "Sanctuary Flowers on (date)", or you may send a check to the office. Please note "Sunday Flowers" in the memo line. If you have questions, please feel free to call Grace Rising at (248) 250-6500. Thank you for sharing your remembrances of special occasions and important people in your life.

BIRMINGHAM UNITARIAN CHURCH
WWW.BUCMI.ORG

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**AN EVENING with
GELEK RIMPOCHE**

Monday, November 18, 7pm

- Reception follows -

Questions about this event & Jewel Heart courses?

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