



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



Winter Solstice Celebration Friday, Dec. 20

On Friday, December 20 at 7:00 pm, we will have an all-church celebration of the winter solstice. This will be a time for us to experience and reflect on the beauty and magic of darkness. As the earth reaches its longest night, we will mark the turning with special music, reflective offerings of words, dance amidst candlelight, the ringing of bells and a time of shared total darkness. The service will conclude with the increasing of light and a bonfire (weather permitting) in the courtyard along with a hot cider and cookie communion. We hope you will be there.

Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Child Oriented Service

8:00 p.m. Candlelight Service (no nursery/child care available)

Sunday Services – Love & Fear 9:30* ~11:15*

Our December worship services take up the twin themes of love and fear. While we may be more accustomed to thinking of love and hate as joined opposites, the polarities of love and fear, especially in the holiday season, resonate more deeply. “Perfect love casts out fear,” a Biblical writer tells us. If so, then what does it say about the presence or absence of love in our culture at this time when we are particularly obsessed with issues of security and safety, driven by fear to spend money and change lifestyles as part of an ongoing effort to eliminate fears of harm? One of our holiday carols makes reference to the celebration including the “hopes and fears of all the years”: in a season of love, joy, and wonder, where does fear enter in? These are some of the questions considered in our services this month. Also, another booklet of daily meditations on the theme will be available outside the sanctuary and in the pamphlet racks by the office beginning December 1.

December 1: Guest speaker Jeanie O'Connor explores the theme of love and fear in Taoism and Buddhism. Worship Associate Frank Arvan will lead the services. Music provided by guest pianist Hwa-Ling Russell.

***December 8, ONE SERVICE AT 10:30:** “Fearing Love” – The desire, even need, to be loved is so fundamental to our human nature that it can seem to be the motivation for almost anything we do. Why is this need so strong, and why is it so difficult to satisfy? Kathy and Worship Associate Sara Constantakis take up the question of obstacles to feeling loved, and how we might get past those obstacles. The Annual Meeting of the congregation immediately follows this single service. Music provided by the Sound Messengers and Rudolfs Ozolins.

December 15: Our BUC Chalice choir, soloists, and a small orchestra made of BUCers and local, professional musicians present Schubert's Mass in G this annual holiday music Sunday.

December 22: “Loving Fear” – Instincts motivate us to flee, fight, or freeze in the presence of threat. What would it mean to respond to whatever frightens us, whoever frightens us, with love? Kathy and Worship Associate Ben Gabel wonder what happens to threats and enemies when we welcome them in a spirit of openness rather than fending them off. The No-Fault orchestra will provide music for the service.

December 29: Dan Kosuth leads a milestones of the year service. There will be no nursery, child-care, or Religious Education classes on this last Sunday of the year.

December 2012



Welcome New Members!

Connections: Joys & Sorrows

Robert Mohr & Donna Larkin Mohr

Keystin Goldschmidt
& Stefan Eberhard

Jay & Gina Labban



Laura Kubit



Hannah Scott

*New Members (as of August 2013) not pictured:

Dennis & Ann Henderson
Jennifer & David Rosenberg
Fiona & Bradley Erickson
Diane & Chris Slon
Andrea Zellner (see Music back-up singer pg. 9)

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 Sunday morning.

Kaye Rittinger had hip surgery and is on the road to recovery.

Anita Solomon, a member during Bob Marshall's time, died in October. Her family held a memorial service at BUC on November 9.

A sorrow and release from Marilyn Mast: "My father, Ken Parker, died on October 26. Aged 99, he had a rich and full life, but we will miss him."

From Donna & Bob Cunningham, "Elizabeth Cunningham and Kris Bober were joyfully married on October 18th. Yea!"

Thanks and joy from Jeff Plachta & Edgar Rodriguez: "We are thankful and grateful for all the BUC'ers who contributed their time and resources to support ONE Royal Oak that worked to pass Proposal A. Thank you for helping us to get out the vote!"

Susie Sherman-Hall's father had hip surgery on October 23. He is recovering and doing well.

Marilyn Kelly's husband, Dr. Don Newman, is recovering well after cancer surgery.

Elson Spangler was hospitalized for most of November after a brief cardiac event. He is recovering and doing physical therapy in the hopes of being home by Thanksgiving. Elson and family wish to express their thanks for the visits, cards, and healing thoughts.

George & Kay White Meyer celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary the second week in November. Congratulations!

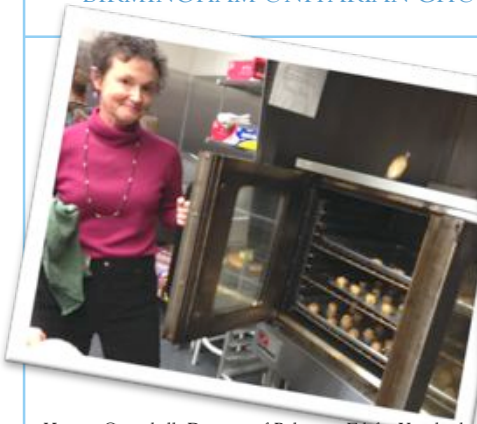
Dick Wiseman is back on his feet after gall bladder surgery with complications.

Kaaren Peters shares her joy - her son-in-law is home SAFE from service in Afghanistan.

From Grace Rising: "What a great, supportive community we have. I offer bundles of thanks to everyone who sent cards, visited, ran errands and provided super food during my surgery and recovery from knee replacement. All is well and I plan to be pain free very soon!"



Jason & Dawn Kulongowski



Kimery Campbell, Director of Religious Ed for Youth, displays the yummy cookies the kids made for our SOS guests.



Jay Sim & Lisa Rhoads pitch in to help the UFO clean up ☺ !

Getting Involved: Grief Group, Opera Goers, Town Hall

Tuesday, December 10: Grief Group

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

Saturday, December 14: Verdi's Falstaff Metropolitan Live in HD

An undisputed master of Verdi's final comic masterpiece, James Levine conducts Robert Carsen's acclaimed production, the first new Met *Falstaff* since 1964. Ambrogio Maestri sings the role of the blustery Sir John Falstaff. AMC Forum Theater Mound Rd. & M59 12:55 PM \$22. (\$20. Seniors)

Join us after the opera for discussion and eats. Sign up at the opera table after services or contact Larry Freedman [248-370-8227](tel:248-370-8227) lawrenceman@sbcglobal.net

Sunday, December 15: Town Hall Meeting – Service & Justice

Your Board of Trustees invites you to attend the Town Hall to discuss the capital needs of the Service & Justice Committee. 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.

SCRIP

Most BUCers know that the weekly Scrip table in the Social Hall is the place to shop for cards for holiday gift giving. But do you know that it is also the place to stop before shopping for home-improvement, decorations, dining out, groceries, gas, or online shopping? You can have Macy's, Home Depot, Land's End, Chipotle, QVC, Xbox Live, and hundreds of other merchants support BUC just by shopping with Scrip! Go to www.shopwithscrip.com or see your friendly Scrip salesperson for details.

Film Buffs: Friday, December 13

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

"Uncle Charlie has come to visit his relatives in Santa Rosa. Although he is handsome and charming, his young niece slowly comes to realize he is a wanted mass murderer - and he comes to recognize her suspicions. Hitchcock's personal favorite movie; a quietly creepy venture into Middle American menace." – Video Hound's Golden Movie Retriever 2012 *Shadow of a Doubt* (USA, 1943, 108 minutes) was rated PG by the MPAA.

For more information contact Larry at LJWisniew@yahoo.com or 248/569-0965



Getting Involved Continued: Facebook, Friday: Food, Faith & Fun, No-Fault Orchestra, Holiday Help & MAMA's Coffeehouse

Sunday, December 1

Learn More About Facebook

facebook

12:30 in the Commons

Grab some coffee, and bring your questions to the Commons to find out more about Facebook. Never even checked it out? Join us! Confused about how to use it? Join Lisa Crawford for a casual question and answer time.

December 6th Game Night

Friday: Food, Faith, & Fun



Potluck Dinner 6:30

Vespers 7:15

Games 8:00

RSVP to pam.mcalpin@bucmi.org

MAMA's Coffeehouse
Saturday, Dec. 14



Joel Mabus – a treasure trove of traditional and contemporary song, clever wit & guitar master.

Special Holiday showcase, liberally sampled from his recent release, "A Parlor Guitar Christmas."

8:00 p.m. Admission \$12, \$10 student/senior. Karisa Wilson opens the show.



WHRC Adopt a Family for X-Mas



Our Annual Adopt-a-Family program is underway, providing gifts for families who might otherwise have a dreary Christmas. Gifts should be brought to the church no later than December 15.

Church contacts: Ilene Beninson
ilene.beninson@gmail.com or Mary Cay Dietz marycaydietz@yahoo.com

Christmas Gifts for the Lighthouse

We are collecting gifts for the Lighthouse of Oakland County. A wide range of new personal & household items are requested for donation. Pick up a flyer in the foyer for suggestions of needed items.



Catch the great holiday sales and deliver your gifts to BUC by Dec. 15!



BUC's No Fault Orchestra
Rehearsal Sat. Dec. 21: 10-12



Dust off those instruments! Performance Sunday, Dec. 22 9:30 & 11:15 Sign up in the Social Hall or contact Pam at

pam.mcalpin@bucmi.org

Reflections

the Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt



Reverend Galen Guengerich, minister of All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City, proposes that we Unitarian Universalists should place at the center of our spiritual identity, as individuals and as a religious community, the practice of gratitude. More than other spiritual virtues such as love, compassion, or service, Guengerich believes we are most in need these

days of learning gratitude, and then promoting gratitude in the world at large.

His argument is a hard sell. To be grateful requires acknowledging my dependence on others, never easy and perhaps especially difficult for the sorts of fiercely independent and self-sustaining people who opt to be Unitarian Universalists. Gratitude also means that I am continually noting how much that happens to me or comes my way is not of my own doing—again, difficult for UUs who are more likely to envision ourselves as activists, people who create our own meaning and chart our own way in the world.

But a practice of gratitude, gratitude as a central way of being, means a radical shift from focus on the self to focus on all around me, all that is not me, and recognizing all that I have no control over, all that I did not make happen, all that shapes me moment by moment. Practicing gratitude means I spend less time doing things, become much less busy, and spend more time simply accepting, observing, just being present.

Our world has no shortage of people hard at work building, being in control, movers and shakers who make things happen. There seem to be far fewer people on the other end of the equation, people who remain open to whatever comes, who express appreciation for what is, who yield to others and attend to all the events and circumstances that arose through no effort of their own. Gratitude could be a much-needed corrective in a world full of controlling, demanding, assertive individuals. The mission statement of Guengerich's congregation presents a call to gratitude that seems especially compelling in this frantic season of cultural messages about the importance of getting what we want: "We practice a discipline of gratitude, by which we acknowledge our utter dependence on the people and world around us, and we practice an ethic of gratitude, by which we accept our obligation to nurture others and the world in return."

In gratitude for all of you, Kathy

Coffee Volunteer Update

In October we used paper compostable hot cups after both services. On Oct. 6th this was a trial and also necessary to clear the kitchen for the caterers for a very large memorial service. Some of the comments were: "These cups are too large." I've tried to purchase 8 and 10oz. cups but cannot find them at a reasonable price. I will keep looking at physical and website locations. The glass mugs are 12oz. to the top and the paper hot cups are 13oz. to the top.

"These cups are too hot to hold." If you put 6 to 8 oz. in them (about 1 1/2 inches from the top) there is room to hold them around the top. "Why are we using paper cups when we already paid for glass mugs?" The glass mugs, due to tea, coffee and creamer scum, need to be hand scrubbed before being sanitized in the dishwasher. Volunteers spend two hours per service. If we use hot cups some Sundays it saves time. The dishwasher tray loaded with cups is heavy. Using hot cups or glass mugs is at the discretion of the volunteer. At some point I will try to arrange a meeting with the dishwasher manufacturer to discuss this scum problem. "I can't volunteer because I don't know how to use any equipment in the kitchen." We can pair you with an experienced volunteer, I can teach you everything you need to know in one service. In addition, there is an instruction notebook and photos to follow in the kitchen. You will be able to help at other functions such as RE functions, Memorial Services, Auction, Stewardship Sunday, Annual Meeting. In short order after 1-2 times you will be an expert. It's really easy and you get instant gratification from learning something new and being thanked by those you are serving.

"I don't know when I will be in town or available to volunteer." I guess it is about commitment and scheduling: vacations, weekends, dentist appointments, luncheon dates, etc. Volunteering once from September to December and again from January to June shouldn't be that different. You are rewarded by doing your share to make BUC the welcoming place we want and to keep it. Wasn't this a reason we came and continue to come to BUC? You can sign up at Church on Sundays in the Social Hall or on line at Sign Up Genius on the BUC Website, Email me at noodlestc@hotmail.com or call me at 586-446-0165.

I hope to hear from you! No volunteers after any service means no coffee after that service. Let's not let that happen. A big "Thank You" to all those who have volunteered their service to BUC this year in the Social Hall Kitchen.

Carole Wiseman, Coffee Hosting Coordinator

Create, Think, Listen, Discuss, Meditate @ BUC

Sunday Morning Book Discussion

The Sunday Morning Discussion Group **will not** meet December 1. We will meet on Dec. 8th from 9:30 to 10:15 (There is only ONE SERVICE on Dec. 8) to discuss the last chapter of Steven Pinker's book, "The Better Angels of Our Nature". On Dec. 15th we will have a summary discussion from 9:30 to 11:00 in the Large Conference Room. Everyone is welcome.

Spiritual Conversations; Poetry & Reflection, Mon. Dec. 2

Meets from 7:30 - 9:00 on Monday, December 2 in the Blue door. The group will reflect on the theme for this month - fear and love. Bring a poem about either or both of those qualities - and/or a poem that has meaning to you. The group is always open to drop in as well as regular attendees. It is facilitated by Penny Hackett-Evans

Art & Spirit Group, Mon. Dec. 9

Meets from 7:30 - 9:00 on Monday, December 9 in the Blue door. This ongoing group, facilitated by Penny Hackett-Evans explores spirituality through the medium of art. If you can't draw a straight line with a ruler, this is the group for you! Absolutely no artistic ability is required. The group is about finding soul rather than creating art. We use art as a medium to accomplish that. Bring with you paper or a blank journal and any art materials you have around; markers, pens, pencils, scissors, glue, crayons, but most of all your willing imagination!

Monday Meditation Group

Meets from 6:00 - 7:15 every Monday in the Blue door room. The group is open to drop in as well as regular attendees ~ to people who are experienced meditators as well as those new to the practice. The group consists of a 30 minute sitting meditation, 30 minutes of reflection on a reading and a final 10 minute sitting. Please join us. Namaste

Writing as a Spiritual Practice, Mon. Dec. 16

Meets from 7:30 - 9:00 on Monday, December 16 in the Blue door. We will continue to write about our own spiritual memories and experiences as well as about the all church theme of fear and love. Bring a pen and your journal. No writing experience necessary ~ the focus of the group is using writing as a way to explore our spiritual lives. The group is facilitated by Penny Hackett-Evans

Alliance Holiday Luncheon, Dec. 11

Every year Alliance sponsors a festive holiday luncheon to which everyone is invited! This will be on Wednesday, December 11 at noon at the Radisson Kingsley Inn, just north of us on North Woodward, just south of Long Lake Road. The charge is \$25 (payable to BUC Alliance).

If you did not receive a mailing in mid-November or need more information you may contact Priscilla Hildum (248-475-0729) or at pahildum@sbcglobal.net The deadline for reservations is Sunday, December 8. Each year at this luncheon we collect donations for Communities United for Children a 501 (c)(3) organization. This money helps meet special needs of children at Whitmer Human Resource Center in Pontiac, the school where many BUCers volunteer to tutor each week.

Plans still forming, but our next meeting is in February, so "Stay Tuned!" We wish you happy holidays - and hope you will join us on December 11!



Sacred & Profane – Dec. 18

The S&P discussion group will meet on Wednesday Dec. 18 at 10:30 a.m. in the Large Conference Room. The topic is "How do you, as a UU, celebrate the Holidays?"

Service & Justice

Brightening the Holidays

See Page 4 for donation & contact information regarding the WHRC Adopt-a-Family and the collection for the Lighthouse.

Food Baskets: Six Thanksgiving food baskets were donated for distribution to low-income WHRC families in Pontiac. November plate collection funds were used to stock the baskets, and the balance will go to the Baldwin Center for their holiday food basket program. Both organizations are very grateful for our support.

- Dec 3, 6:00-8:00 pm ~ Beaumont Hospital Administration Bldg
- Dec 5, 5:30-7:30 pm ~ Berkley Community Center
- Dec 7, 11:00 am-1:00 pm ~ St. Joseph Hospital
- Dec 9, 6:00-8:00 pm ~ MSU Detroit Event Center

Contact Pat Hammer or Mary Jo Ebert for more information.

Mark Your Calendar ~ Our annual laundry day for the St. Mary's Warming Center is scheduled for January 26. 15-20 folks needed.

Chess Anyone?

We're recruiting chess players for an after-school chess club at WHRC Elementary School. A few years ago, the chess club had enthusiastic participation by students and we'd like to restart it. Volunteers are needed in other roles too tutors, classroom assistants, cafeteria monitors, book trolley workers, etc. Contact George Lentz or Mary Jo Ebert.



Welcome Inn Opens Dec. 16

Help Needed! If you worked at our South Oakland Shelter and want to do more for the homeless, here's your opportunity. BUCers have volunteered for over ten years at The Welcome Inn, a daytime shelter in Royal Oak run by the South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless. It takes place at Starr Presbyterian Church, 1717 W. 13 Mile Road, Royal Oak (corner of Crooks and 13 Mile Roads)

BUCers cover weekly 4-hour shifts, buy and deliver supplies, sit and talk with the guests, prepare meals both at the site and at home, and perform a variety of other vital tasks. Interested in shopping for the Welcome Inn? Items can be delivered to BUC or taken to the Shelter after it opens. You will be reimbursed when you submit receipts to the BUC office.

Wish List:

- ✓ Ink cartridges for a Dell Photo 964 Printer, office supplies/printer paper
- ✓ Heavy duty paper plates, Paper napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, personal hygiene products, medical supplies
- ✓ Non-perishable pantry items, salt & pepper, lg. bottles of juice, Kool-Aid, coffee/sugar/creamers, dish soap, 8 oz Styrofoam cups (BUC is looking into disposables)
- ✓ Socks, Women's underwear, thermal underwear, socks

Annis Pratt is your BUC volunteer coordinator for The Welcome Inn. Visit the table to talk to her during coffee, about what you can do to help, or contact her atavpratt@aol.com or (248 644-0737)

BUC Plate Collection

The December recipient of our plate collection is The Sanctuary program of Common Ground, a free and safe 24-hour shelter that provides 3-week residential counseling to runaways and youths in crisis, ages 10-17, with the goal of reuniting youths with their families.

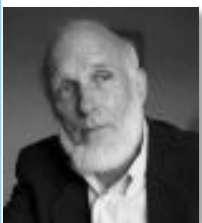
Other Service & Justice News

Equality for All ~ Update

Thank you to all who participated in the passing of Prop A in Royal Oak. Every vote, phone call, door knock, and dollar that you contributed helped get this done!

On Nov 7, the Senate passed the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (EDNA) by a 64-32 vote, and it awaits action by the House of Representatives. Contact your representative to express your stand on this.

"Sundown Towns: Hidden Racism Across America" - a presentation by author & sociologist Dr. James Loewen;



sponsored by the Race Relations & Diversity Task Force. Thursday, December 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m., The Community House, 380 South Bates, Birmingham. RSVP 248-644-5832. No charge.

Public Transit – Woodward Community Meetings

Open house meetings are being held to inform area residents about analysis and plans for Bus Rapid Transit, answer questions, and gather input from attendees. Locations and dates:

Thanks for all Your Help with SOS!

South Oakland Shelter: BUC successfully completed another wonderful week of hosting in November. After many years of service to SOS as a volunteer and coordinator, Grace Rising is stepping down from her coordinator position this year. BUC is extremely lucky to have had her dedicated service and leadership.

Here are a few guest evaluation comments. There were no negative comments, and only a few minor potential improvements. See Paul Plante for additional details:

Volunteer Praise:

- "I loved them all so much. God bless them!"
- "Sarah was welcoming from the start and she remained friendly every day."
- "Paul and his volunteers were great."
- "Tony and the kitchen crew were awesome."
- "Transportation was excellent, Mary Jo Plante - Great food & hospitality, Andy - Lunch preparation was terrific."
- "All the volunteers I spoke with were pleasant and friendly."

Comments Regarding Meals:

- "The chili was great; I even tried a few different kinds."
- "I loved how they arranged lunch, I thought it was better than most of the other places I've stayed."
- "I was thankful to receive three meals and I liked all the food they prepared."
- "Most of the dinners were wonderful."
- "I ate well every night."

Favorite Part of the Work:

- "The music at dinner - it was a nice change."
- "All the relaxation time."
- "Showers being available at the host site."
- "I thought it was nice that they were willing to make the appropriate adjustments throughout the week."
- "My conversations with volunteers were very helpful."
- "I loved the TV area."

Transportation: Everyone marked either exceptional or good.

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

Save the Date Feb. 21 ~ Multi-Church Women's Celebration

Calling all women 15 and over - please save the date of Friday, Feb. 21 for our bi-annual women's dinner event. This year will be called "Weaving a Web of Women" and will be an evening of supper, conversation and a worship program with women from BUC, Paint Creek UU and Emerson Church UU.

Volunteer of the Month: Dorothy Prier

BUC has been my "church home" since I moved to Michigan in the fall of 1963. I came as a long-time Unitarian, having been active in the historic Oklahoma City church (founded in 1893!).

My first volunteer commitment was to join the choir and I continued for 25 years. I served on the Music Committee, sometimes as its chair. I served on the church board of trustees as Treasurer for one year.

The Women's Alliance was well-established and long ago became "The Alliance." I have been an active member, and have served on the board since I retired. My ongoing responsibility has been publicity and as contact person with our national affiliate, the UU Women's Federation.

I have been a Pastoral Care Associate since that group was formed and enjoy the personal involvement with BUC members and friends, as directed by our minister.

One of the most gratifying experiences I have had was as a member of the original committee which developed our beautiful Memorial Glen. This very detailed project took more than five years, with an inspired leader and a dedicated group. It was a joy to have been a part of this very meaningful addition to our beloved church.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Prier



BUC Music

Kids & Chalice Choir to Sing

Christmas Eve

The Kids Choir will sing for the early Christmas Eve service- at 5:30 ~ rehearsals begin December 1st at 10:35am. The Chalice Choir will sing for the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service ~now is a great time to sing with us if you do not have time otherwise!

The choir is excitedly preparing "Mass in G" by Franz Schubert for the December 15th services which will feature soloists from the choir and accompaniment by a fine chamber orchestra assembled from BUC- members and other locally grown professional musicians.

SoundBites

The SoundBites Concert was another success! Fabulous music from Scott Gwinnell Trio followed by delectable treats and bubbly wine for everyone made for a great evening. Join us for future SoundBites shows on February 14th and April 4th.



BUC's House Band: The Sound Messengers

BUC's house band The Sound Messengers continues to grow tighter as they strive to match the themes of the services with music that is uplifting and thought provoking. In November, The Sound Messengers performed Don Henley's "Heart of the Matter" and Sarah MacLachlan's "Forgiveness."

Steve Schneider and Mark Bruening graced our services with their Celtic music, and we enjoyed James Hughes saxophone music, varied for both the Contemplative service at 9:30 and the Celebratory service at 11:15.



The Sound Messengers: Rudolfs Ozolins on keyboards, Abha Dearing vocalist, Brian Schandavel on drums, Kelly Tevlin-Taylor, Mike Auchter, Andrea Zellner back-up vocals, Chuck Bartol on bass, Steven Dearing on guitar



On Dec. 8, as part of the annual Candy Cane Sunday event, the RE program will be collecting new socks, gloves, and mittens for toddler through 6th grade children at the Whitmer School in Pontiac. Please bring unwrapped donations of these items to the RE office on Dec. 8th. Thank you!



Children's Religious Education

Here is a brief outline of the Kindergarten-5th grade schedule through the holiday season:

- Dec. 1st: Holiday Happenings for Preschool – 5th grade
- **Dec. 8th: Candy Cane Sunday during single 10:30am service**
- Dec. 15th: Schubert service (Preschool, Nursery & multi-age RE class for K-5th grade offered)
- Dec. 22nd: No Fault Orchestra (Nursery & multi-age RE class for Preschool-5th grade offered)
- Dec. 24th: Two services: 5 p.m. (child-oriented) and 8 p.m.
- **Dec. 29th: Congregant-led service at 10:30am (no RE offerings for Nursery -12th grade)**

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

Youth RE

What is Youth Religious Education really about at BUC? Those who are not directly involved may not realize that there are two elements to our program: Sunday morning class and youth group. Both are important in the development of young UU minds. Classes follow a defined curriculum: Neighboring Faiths

for 6 & 7; Our Whole Lives (OWL) and Rite of Passage Experience (ROPE) for our 8th grade coming-of-age youth; and, this year, a high school curriculum that explores old-fashioned values led by my colleague Eleanor McGuire. However, in the youth groups, BUC's youth (and their families) collaborate to shape the experiences for the year, trying to provide a balance of service and social activities. On November 17, all three youth groups worked together to run the 34th annual Bakeoff, a combination fundraiser and church luncheon. In December, the middle school youth will begin creating fleece blankets for local animal shelters and the high schoolers are planning to adopt a WHRC family for the holidays while all three groups have the first conversations to plan Youth Sunday. Please watch this space for more information about our young people and the ways in which they are building connections to the congregation, the broader community, and each other.

In December, the 6 & 7 class will wrap up its look at the roots of Protestant Christianity with an Advent celebration on Dec. 15. OWL will have its final sessions in December. On Saturday, December 7, an extra three-hour session will be followed by a dinner, social evening and overnight at BUC. On December 15, the youth will close the program with a celebratory brunch. It has been a real privilege for me to help with instruction this semester. I have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the class and to work with our two exceptional lead teachers, Dave Graham and Max Kort. Thank you also to this semester's OWL instructional support team: Terry Blankenship, Cheryl Shettel, Laura Hamrick, and—last but not least—Lynn Bell. The Sunday morning high school class will continue its exploration of virtues, both old and new.

GUUSH, in addition to helping at Candy Cane Sunday and adopting a family, will hold its annual Holiday Dinner on December 20 from 6 to 9 p.m. All current and alumni youth are invited to join the evening of fun and white elephant gift-giving! See you there!

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. You can also find updated youth event information on the RE Calendar on the BUC website.

Green Sanctuary: Solar Vision

BUC has an exciting opportunity to carry out our 7th principle of responsibility for our beloved earth. Members of Green Sanctuary and the Campus Development Planning committees (which includes Dick Cantley, BUC CFO) have met again with a representative of the solar energy company Srinergy and Michigan Interfaith Power and Light to further discuss the solar project submitted for BUC by Srinergy last spring. The points listed below are some of the areas that were clarified:

1. Warrantee/ life of system is listed at 25 years
2. Actual life is probably more like 30 years
3. The panels are made in the USA by Solar World who has been in business for 35 years
4. The system for BUC would provide 30kwh; that is approximately a 56% offset of our current electrical usage
5. The pricing submitted to BUC is predicated on Srinergy selling at least 100kwh thru MIPL
6. If we lease with intent to buy the equipment through them, they are able to get the govt. incentives & will pass almost all of the 30% savings on to us, but we will be paying 5% to borrow the money
7. Our cost after incentives would be \$82,215
8. The majority of the panels would be located on the roof of the Sanctuary and Red Door Buildings.
9. DTE is mandated to buy back the any excess electricity we generate from a 20kwh unit at the same price they charge us.
10. There would be a one-time fee of approximately \$100 payable to DTE to set up this buy back. The price per kwh would be consistent throughout the life of the unit.
11. Once again, it was explained that in Michigan we have enough sunlight to effectively use solar panels. MI actually has more average sunlight than Germany, where solar power provides the majority of electricity.
12. Unlike systems of the past, we don't need storage batteries as we would essentially use DTE as our storage. We would sell any excess to DTE on good electricity making days & buy it back when/ if needed.
13. We can decrease the net cost if households in our congregation purchase solar systems through Srinergy. BUC would get a \$500 credit off the price for every household that converted to solar.
 - a) If your electric bill per month is current about \$75 you would need approximately 400 sq feet for solar panels on a south facing roof unobstructed by trees. This would provide you with about 4.5 kwh of electricity and meet 100% of your needs. The cost would be approximately \$15,000 with a 30% rebate or \$10,500.
 - b) For \$10,500 you could eliminate your electric bill and make a donation to the church of \$500 towards solar panels for BUC!
 - c) Once BUC signed papers with Srinergy, they would then ask for those families interested in solar at home to submit their electric bills & address. Srinergy would then analyze if the locations were candidates for solar & how many kwh could be provided.

Our next step would be to get quotes from other companies. However, Srinergy is offering us this special pricing because we belong to Michigan Interfaith Power & Light Consortium. At this point, we are waiting to ascertain whether or not the church is going ahead with the Capital Campaign and whether or not this project is included in the campaign. If you would like to have a copy of the details of the proposal, please contact Karen Stankye at kesala@msn.com.





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