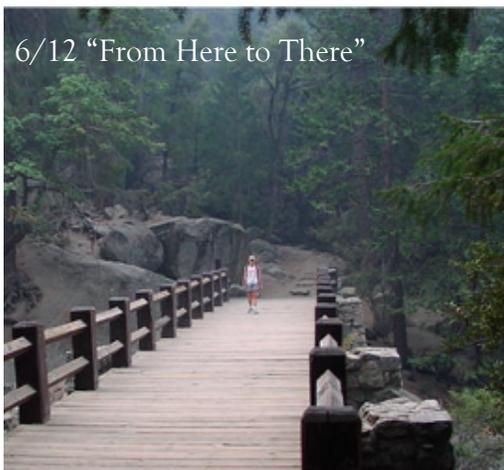




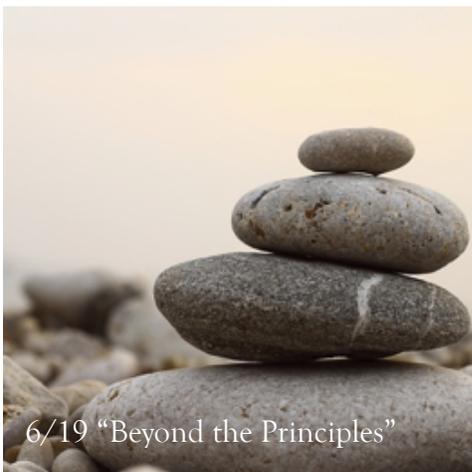
Birmingham Unitarian Church
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION



6/5 ROPE Sunday



6/12 "From Here to There"



6/19 "Beyond the Principles"

+ Watch the Live Stream Worship at General Assembly June 26

Come join us and feel the energy of worship at GA as we live stream into the BUC Sanctuary, a historic first for our congregation. BUCers will share in the service as it happens live at the General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio. This service is scheduled from 10:30 - 12:00 and incorporates a LOT of music. Share in this truly magical experience with Worship Associates Mike Auchter and Judy Amir who will lead the BUC portion of the service.



SERVICES 10:30 a.m.

- 5 Rite of Passage Experience, or ROPE, is BUC's Coming of Age program. After a full year of intense focus on values, relationships, spirituality, and religious thinking, our 8th grade class is ready to present their faith statements, or credos, to the congregation. Music provided by Rudolfs Ozolins and the Teen Choir.
- 12 As we bid goodbye to our graduating seniors in our annual Bridging Ceremony, Kathy and Worship Associate Bill Fox reflect on future times and how the dreams we hold today, for our seniors, for ourselves, draw us forward, even in ways we cannot always see. Music provided by Rudolfs Ozolins.
- 19 Having spent the church year systematically reflecting for a month on each of our seven UU principles, we now conclude with a look at all the principles do not address. What shapes us as UUs besides these core statements, and where do we look to find common values? Kathy will wind up the year's focus by considering other touchstones of our spiritual path. Music provided by Rudolfs Ozolins.

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

On February 7, long-time BUC member Betty Normandin died at home with her whole family and her cat by her side. Please join her family and friends as they celebrate her life on **Friday, June 3, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.** for a Memorial and Light Banquet at the Northfield Hills Clubhouse, 1750 Brentwood Dr., Troy Michigan 48098

Long-time rummage volunteer, Joanne Wentworth, is now residing in Sunrise Shelby Township. Watch for her address in the July-August Directory updates. She'd love to hear from her BUC friends.

Neb Duric and Marcia Mahood joyfully announce that their son Michael graduated from U of M the first week in May with a degree in Earth and Environmental Science. He will be working in Alaska on a climate change project, studying the role played by melting permafrost due to global warming.

BUC member Dorothy Prier turned 91 in May! Several of her BUC friends stopped by to celebrate with her at Brookdale Southfield. 😊



On May 13 Kerrie McMillen's mother Joyce suffered a heart attack during a medical intervention and died at the age of 84 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Our thoughts go out to Kerrie and her sister Lisa.

Sharon Hunter fell in her home on May 16th – fortunately she was wearing her call assist device. She did not break any bones, but did require 17 stitches in her chin. After spending some time in Henry Ford Hospital, going home prematurely, and going back into the hospital, she is at Evergreen and ready to go home Friday, June 3.

BUC member Boris Silberberg died Sunday, May 15 in the presence of his family. A Memorial Service was held at BUC on Friday, May 20.

Congratulations to Donna and Bob Cunningham's daughter, Amy who was married by Rev. Doug Gallagher on May 21.



This is Susie Symons, with a special announcement about my husband, John Glick (John is the artist who made BUC's chalice that sits up front on our chancel table). There will be a retrospective Exhibit of John's 50 years of work. It is called: John Glick: A Legacy in Clay. It will be at the Cranbrook Art Museum and will stay on display for 8 months, until March 2017.

About 240 of John's pieces will be presented— from his student years to the most recent— showing the development of his ideas, designs, forms, glazes, decorative techniques, tools, and sculpture. The exhibit will be in the Lower Gallery, which has ideal lighting for the hundreds of objects, which will be included.

The exhibit opens on Saturday, June 18th, and the Museum is open from 11:00 - 5:00. We will plan to be there during that time. John is giving a casual 'walking tour' of the Exhibit with the Co-Curator at 3:00 that day

As many of you know, John and I will be leaving Michigan and moving to California in August. So the timing of this event feels momentous to us: a celebratory culmination, and a passage to discoveries in a new chapter of our life. Many have asked if John and I will continue in our two careers after we get settled. Truly, we don't even wish to know yet. We yearn to experience life anew for a while, taking a "gap year" before making any decisions.

John and I have the deepest appreciation to all who have supported him for his half-century of discovery and delight in clay. These are his closing words: "Thank you, thank you for sustaining me for these 50 years; this Retrospective belongs to you, too!"

Grief Support Group, June 7th

Our next meeting is Tuesday June 7th at 4:30pm. For this meeting we will be referring to the book "Understanding Your Grief" by Alan Wolfelt. Due to the beginning of our renovation project we will be meeting in the Sanctuary. Assuming construction preparations will restrict access to the front entrance of the building, you may get to the Sanctuary via the west sidewalk past the Commons, through the playground and courtyard and into the Pavilion. Alternatively if you're comfortable walking along the grass berm past our front entrance to the side door of the Sanctuary you can enter that way. Any questions can be addressed to Pat.

Sunday Morning Discussion Group

We will continue meeting over the summer, just not on site! We will be meeting at "Little Daddy's" restaurant at 39500 Woodward Ave. from 8:45 to 10 a.m. We will continue reviewing selected essays from the book, "The Stone Reader" to be announced.

Membership and Participation at BUC

Have you attended a Sunday service or two and are interested in finding out more about us? Are you thinking about signing our Membership Book, and would like to know more? There will be an opportunity in July to sit down for a light lunch and have some conversations at our 2nd BUC "Newbie Meet & Greet." If you'd like to talk with someone before that, please contact our Membership Facilitator, Lisa Crawford and she will arrange a convenient time to meet, have a cup of tea or coffee, and hopefully answer your questions. A good place to start is by taking a look at our Membership Path Brochure, available on our website > About Us > Membership Path or linked [HERE](#). You can also pick up a printed copy from the visitors table in Pavilion on a Sunday morning service.

Opera Buffs: June Encore Wednesdays 22 & 29

Encore presentations of four of the Metropolitan Opera's previous most popular live in HD productions are scheduled for this summer. The two for June are:

Wednesday, June 22 7 PM Tosca - Puccini

Luc Bondy's dramatic production of Puccini's operatic thriller stars Patricia Racette in the title role of the jealous diva, opposite Roberto Alagna as her lover, Cavaradossi, the painter whose political ideals lead them both into tragedy. George Gagnidze is Scarpia, the villainous chief of police who wants Tosca for himself. Riccardo Frizza leads the Met's musical forces in this powerful verismo score.

Wednesday, June 29 7 PM L'Elisir d'Amore - Donizetti

Anna Netrebko as the beautiful and wealthy Adina leads the cast in Barlett Sher's production of Donizetti's charming comedy, first seen on Opening Night of the Met's 2012-13 season. Matthew Polenzani is Nemorino, the poor but good-hearted country boy who wins her love—with the help of the magic "elixir" sold by the quack Dulcamara, played by Ambrogio Maestri. Mariusz Kwiecien is the swaggering Sergeant Belcore and Maurizio Benini conducts.

Tickets are only \$12.50 at the AMC theater complex at Mound Road and M-59

Contact Larry Freedman - lawrenceman@sbcglobal.net (248) 0-8227



REFLECTIONS



Rev. Dr.
Kathy Hurt

By now you have received word of my appointment of BUC member Ben Gabel to the new staff position of Director of Service and Social Justice. Besides filling a gap in staffing configuration, which had previously left social justice programming without a staff liaison, this position provides a means for bringing new leadership and accountability to our outreach work. I invited Ben to bring his work for BUC by writing a bit about his vision for BUC social justice, and he writes as follows:

Service and Social Justice

I embark on this journey with you as your newly created Director of Service and Social Justice. In the coming weeks, I will be reaching out to BUCer's and ask what does service and social justice look like to you? For some, it's wheeling the book cart at the Whitmer School in Pontiac or planting trees in Detroit. Some may say

they advocate on the behalf of marginalized communities to restore diminishing public services. Others may participate in community organizing such as helping build a house with Habitat for Humanity. At the same time, social justice work doesn't necessarily mean that you need to go out and pick up a shovel. It could also include reading one of the UUA's common reads on social justice. This year, the common read is *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. It's a good read. Click [HERE](#) to order. There is a wide gamut of potential ways of being socially active.

Over the summer, I plan to meet with and to learn from the service and social justice folks at BUC. We will look over our current service projects and explore potential new partnerships with BUC. As we transition from inward to outward, one of my roles as Director of Service and Social Justice will be to foster relationships with organizations that serve folks we may not interact with in our everyday lives or on

Sunday mornings. While our new partners may not be as financially fortunate as those at BUC, however, we must remember that no one is powerless. How can we open our hearts so that we can learn from hearing their stories? What does it mean to witness the life of others who face systemic oppression?

While there are many BUCer's who are active in service and social justice, I also keep in mind the words of James Luther Adams. "Right attitudes are never sufficient alone. They must find embodiment in social institutions. Indeed, one must say that one does not even understand the meaning of 'right attitudes' or even of a theology until one recognizes their implications for social organization." Adams also notes that we are not a religious tradition with a creed, but a religious movement that has always wedded social justice work to theology. Unitarian Universalists continue to be active in the areas of civil rights, the peace movement, the feminist movement, gay and lesbian liberation, and the ecological movement, to just name a few.

In contrast to other religious traditions that do speak out forcefully on issues, here at BUC, we often do not have a voice that is greater than that of the individual. When we do this, we lose the chance to demonstrate that BUC is a vital faith community working on many important social justice issues. As we travel together, I look forward to exploring how we can make decisions about social justice actions that affirm both the right to individual belief and the responsibility of making collective stances on social justice.

Let it be a dance.

Ben



Green Sanctuary: Reduce, Repurpose, and Recycle

Nice words, but I just don't have the time. How often have we said that? Luckily, my trash collector takes the vast majority of my recyclables. So, that one isn't too difficult. I live in a not-so-big house, which means there is definitely a need to reduce the quantity of things we bring in. Wow, two down!

So, what's Repurposing? Sometimes, when you buy produce at the market, it comes in a bag that is open-mesh and often bright red. Save those bags. After you accumulate about ten or so, roll each bag into a tight, tiny ball. Stuff all of them inside one of the bags, and then tie the bag tightly with a small piece of string (or you could use a rubber band). This makes a great scrubby for your dirty dishes. Collect your wine corks and give them to the kids for making trivets. There are probably at least a hundred kid-friendly projects for those leftover corks.



As for those wine bottles, well, you could make a world-class chandelier. Odd-ball glass containers? Buy some bee's wax and make candles that are good for the planet. We've all seen people screw the tops of baby food jars on the underside of a garage shelf and fill the clear glass containers with nails, screws, string, and other odd bits.

What about those old clothes that are in such poor shape you can't donate them? Depending on the fabric, some may make great rags, which will cut down on your use of paper towels. Some interesting fabric pieces may be just what your favorite quilter needs; other bits can be made into doll clothes. Of course, play clothes for the little ones can be a fun option.

Most of the food our family eats comes from our CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). They send me an email with a link to the online market. I order vegetables, fruit, eggs, cheese, meat, poultry, fish, and specialty items—dried herbs, candles, jams, sauces, and more. My spouse is particularly fond of their organic chocolate milk; he adds it to his morning cup of coffee. Yes, that's truly indulgent!

About once a month I pack up the bags, egg cartons, empty glass containers and return them to my CSA. Not much gets wasted, and the farmers can reuse all the things I send back. It's nice to know our marketplace reuses all the things we return. Reusing our stuff means less ends up in the landfill.

What about all those paper or plastic bags from the grocery store? Well, back in the 1970s we started using canvas bags, which we launder about every two or three weeks—depending on how dirty they get and whether or not they contained any food that may carry bacteria. At Whole Foods that offer cash-back for canvas bags, or you can donate the ten cents per bag to charity. I think of it as a small act of charity. Even at stores that offer no credit for my canvas bags, I still use them. Once you get used to canvas, you'll never want to use paper or plastic again!

There's so much more.... Let's keep the dialogue going.

Donna Larkin Mohr



Chilly Weather Doesn't Halt Grounds Spruce-Up!

Braving brief snow showers and chilly weather, a group of Green Caregivers worked digging weeds and pruning in the main courtyard after service on Sunday, May 15.

Thanks to: Meg Baker, Cindy Clement, Pat and John Hammer, Mary Markovski, Stephanie Patil, Harper West, and Carole Wiseman.

Don't worry, we didn't complete the task – there is always more gardening to be done at BUC!

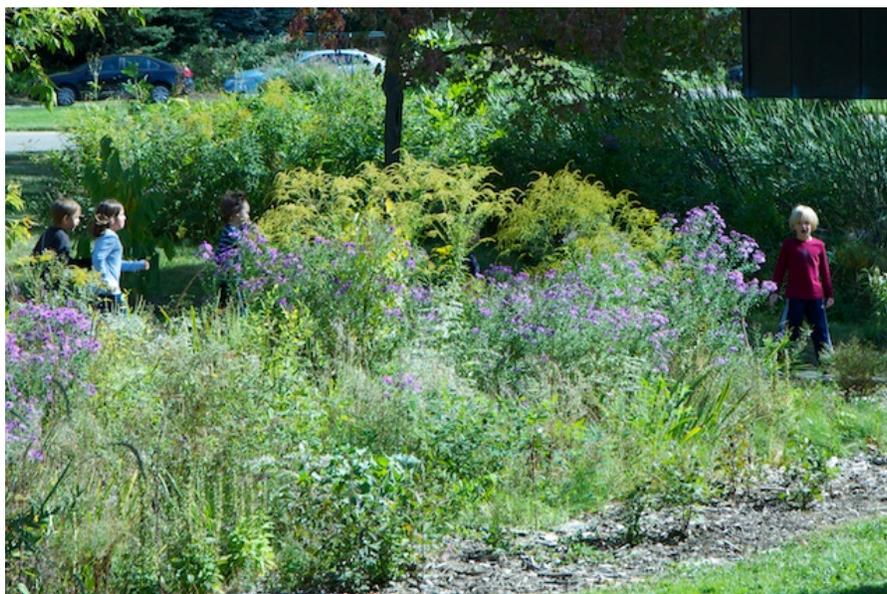
Join us on the third Sunday of each month for about two hours of weeding, mulching and other great ways to enjoy nature and build community. Next workday: Sunday, June 19, after service. Gather at a table in the social hall with your lunch. For more information, contact Harper West at harper_west@yahoo.com.

OR: Come Tuesdays 10 am-noon, as you are able, to work in Capek Woods. For more information, contact Stephanie Patil.

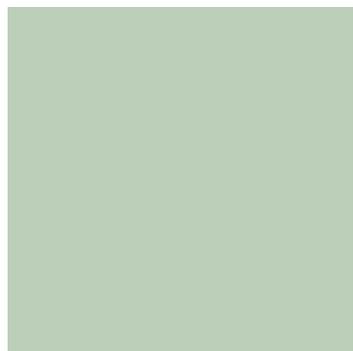
OR: Have your family or small group adopt an area to care for. Watch for more information, or contact Harper West at harper_west@yahoo.com.



Pictured clockwise from upper left: John Hammer, Mary Markovski, Pat Hammer, Harper West, Meg Baker, John Hammer, (again – whose garden stool seemed to have a mind of its own and sent him to the sidewalk more than once!), and Cindy Clement.



Capek Woods, September 2012



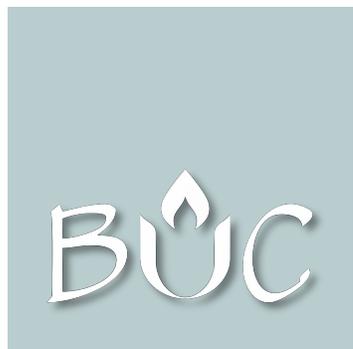
Service & Justice

Homeless for a Night

On May 21, BUC youth participated in “Fight the Night,” through which they experienced a bit of what it might be like to be homeless. The event began with a viewing of the film, “Homeless to Harvard” followed by a discussion about conditions that might occur in the lives of people like themselves that could lead to homelessness. Some examples cited were:

- parental loss of job for extended period of time
- serious mental or physical illness that prevented someone from working
- parental opposition to a child being gay or lesbian
- family crisis with no relatives able to help

Participants slept in sleeping bags with nothing but flattened cardboard boxes between them and the concrete base in the



courtyard. Fortunately the temperatures were mild and when it rained briefly during the night, there was shelter under the awnings. In a debrief the following morning, they shared some observations including:

- It would be dangerous to sleep outside, and we probably wouldn’t sleep as sound.
- A typical homeless person may have no place to get in from the rain or other weather conditions. Belongings would get wet and be difficult to dry out.

We have ID and phone that make it possible to seek employment or services. That may not be the case for many homeless people. It might also be difficult to find places to charge a phone.



After just one night sleeping outside, our sleeping bags and other belongings were dusty. It would be hard to keep things clean after being outside for a longer time, which would pose great challenges for homeless people who need to look presentable at a job.

Chaperones commented that concrete is an unforgiving surface on which to sleep (!), and even grass or other dirt surface may be quite uncomfortable. Youth commented that they’d had a busy week and were tired enough to sleep anywhere and observed that being outdoors and homeless is probably also more tiring than people think.



(Left) Stephanie Greer, John Crissman, and Elizabeth Rauth planted trees for Greening of Detroit in May

June Plate Collection Recipient: MUUSJN

Our plate collection recipient for June 5 through July 10 is the Michigan UU Social Justice Network, a statewide coalition of UU congregations who work together to promote social justice and community service. BUC is a member congregation, and BUCer Pat Hammer serves on the board. Our plate donation will be used to support MUUSJN's advocacy programs. BUCers may also register for the MUUSJN mailing list to receive timely social justice action news and alerts and/or become a member. Visit uujustice.org

Any BUCer may nominate a local organization to be the plate recipient. Submit an application online at www.bucmi.org. Click the "Social Justice" tab, then "Plate Collection Application." Contact skirch47@hotmail.com if you prefer to submit a paper application.

Register at uujustice.org or contact Mary Jo Ebert for a registration form

Service & Justice Contacts

BUC Director of Service & Justice: Ben Gabel

BUC Service & Justice Chair: Mary Jo Ebert

MUUSJN (Michigan UU Social Justice Network): www.uujustice.org

UU Service Committee (UUSC): www.uusc.org



BUC's Knitting Ministry



Do you know that BUC has a "knitting ministry"? We make scarves, shawls, lap robes, and baby blankets to share with people on significant occasions in their lives ~ their "Joys and Sorrows"

We also make scarves to share with an organization that serves lunch to homeless once a month. A scarf is a great warm weather project! We generally meet once a month on the fourth Monday, 7p-9p in the small conference room. Please contact Andie Stewart alms851@hotmail.com to be sure we are meeting there, especially with upcoming construction.

You don't have to meet with the group to participate. There is a large supply of yarn

inside one of the benches (formerly in the foyer! Now in the Commons during construction. There is also a notebook with patterns in another of the benches where finished projects are stored. Feel free to take yarn if you would like to make a project for our group.

Religious Education

SUMMER RE Sundays at BUC

Beginning June 19th, Children's RE will go to its summer multi-age programming. There will be a Nursery/Preschool for the littlest ones and a Kindergarten through Fifth grade class meeting each Sunday through Labor Day. Our summer theme is always Great Books & Great Fun, a mix of creative craft activities, games and wonderful stories. BUC's youth (6th grade--High School) are welcome to join us or go into the Sanctuary for worship. Please check BUC's website before coming to church due to the sometimes unpredictable impact of construction. Thank you.

Youth Religious Ceremonies

Youth Religious Education NOTE: the first two paragraphs are lifted entirely from last year's preface, which came verbatim from 2013. They are optional. Perhaps you are new to BUC and have been puzzled (and a little annoyed) when you hear about "ROPE." Is this a church curriculum dedicated entirely to challenge courses? Packaging? Lariat-throwing? Or perhaps you are a BUC regular who has dismissed ROPE as "one of those Religious Education things that requires a lot of money." As a matter of fact, ROPE—or Rite of Passage Experience—is arguably the single most important year in our Religious Education sequence. It is a Coming of Age program, offered in late middle school like those in other faith traditions. But our tradition does not require our young people to read from the Torah or follow other set rituals.

Instead, the ROPE youth face a more individual challenge: they are asked to craft a personal statement of faith, derived from conversations with family and congregants, study of the components of religious tradition, and the experience that 13 or 14 years of life has already supplied. On June 5, ROPE Sunday, our 8th grade youth will present their credos, marking the completion of the Coming of Age year. These young perspectives on faith and our congregation are the strongest indicators of the health of our program and of the future of our church, so this is an important day, not just for our youth and their families but also for our entire congregation.

Of course, there are many important passages and another of these is the passage into adulthood. On June 12, Bridging Sunday, we will recognize the graduating seniors who are leaving our program and beginning their lives as young adults. The seniors who are able will make brief statements concerning their past and future—again, important to them but also important to our congregation. Please join us!

- ROPE Sunday: June 5th, 10:30 a.m.
- Bridging Ceremony: June 12th, 10:30 a.m.

The 6th and 7th graders will attend both ROPE and Bridging Sunday services. At the Moving Up gathering on May 22, we identified prospective fun activities for the coming church year and talked about all-youth activities. On June 11, we will have a fun end-of-the-year Progressive Dinner at the homes of the Seidel, Lesperance Solomonson, and Campbell-Fox families. Sign up at: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090F48AFAB29A31-ufoprogressive ROPE (Rite of Passage Experience): The class of 2016 will have their moment on June 5 at ROPE Sunday. They will celebrate their transition into high school that evening at the GUUSH-ROPE picnic at the home of Bill Fox and Kimery Campbell (www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090F48AFAB29A31-guushrope1). They will henceforth be encouraged to participate in all high school events. (See below.) In anticipation of Boston 2017, the rising 8th grade families will begin their share of maintaining Scrip sales, which will continue year-round. The high school youth will say hello and goodbye to their peers at ROPE and Bridging Sunday and at the annual GUUSH-ROPE picnic on June 5. (www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090F48AFAB29A31-guushrope1) And while school is out, we will begin work on leadership development, calendars, and event planning to make the 2016-17 GUUSH program one that appeals to everyone.

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

Construction Kick-Off June 5th Sledgehammer Auction Event!



This past fall, Sharon Jacobs was the winner of the sledgehammer auction item. She has decided to gift the honor to Jason MacDonald, BUC's Custodian for over 25 years. Join us in the Social Hall for some cake following the service on June 5th and then come cheer as Jason begins the demolition for our new renovations!

As we begin the demolition and construction phases there will be times when the building is only accessible through certain entrances.

Please check the BUC website's homepage for day-to-day updates on building progress, and entrance information.

We'll also post pictures on our Facebook page and our website so you can share in the excitement of this transformation!

Ready? Set? Go!

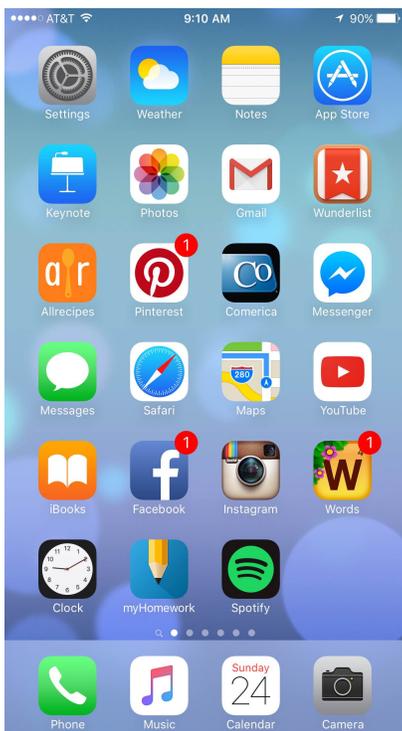
Join Us

What's on Summer Hiatus?

- * Shared Silence on Monday Evenings
- * Monday Eve Creative Explorations with Penny
- * Humanists Group
- * Film Buffs
- * MAMA's Coffeehouse
- * Alliance
- * Choir
- * Sharing Dinners
- * Sunday Specials & Welcome Home Wednesdays



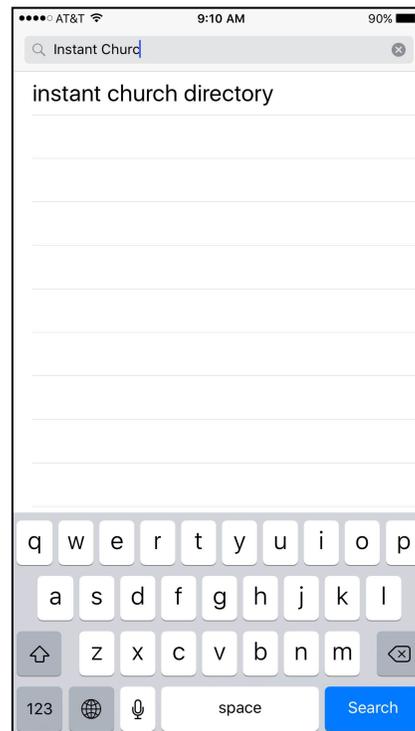
Download the BUC Directory App – Step-by-Step



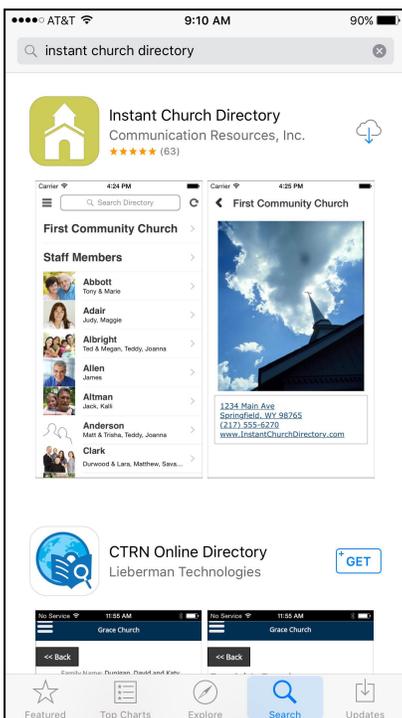
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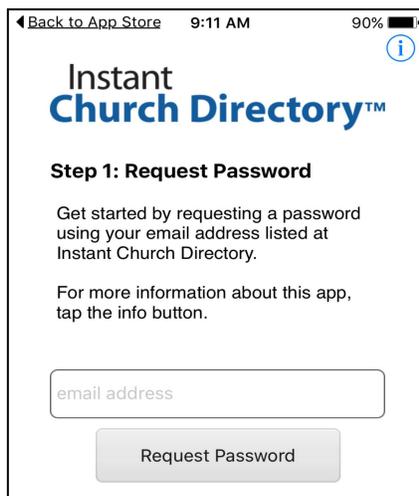
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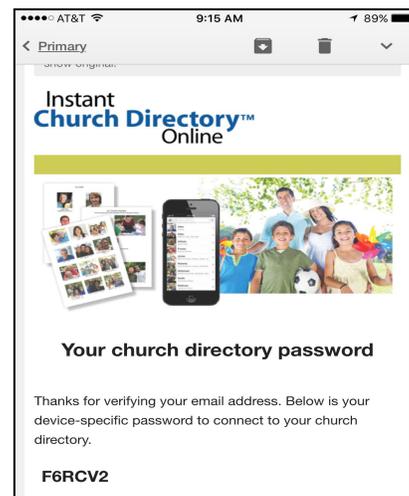
3rd Type “Instant Church Directory”



4th touch the download icon



5th type in your address that is in the directory, then open you email to get the one-time password



Lastly, go to your home screen, touch the directory icon and type in your password – and it will download! It may take up to 45 seconds to a minute to upload to your phone. You will not need to enter this password again, the app will open when you touch the icon.

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

You're



Invited!!

11th Annual Health Care Heroes

Featuring Guest Speaker: TR Reid

Author, The Healing of America
Former NPR commentator
Advocate, ColoradoCare (a state single-payer proposal)

Friday evening, June 17, 2016 @ 7:00 pm
Doors open at 6:30

Wayne State University Law School-Damon J Keith Center
Spencer M Partrich Auditorium
471 W. Palmer Detroit 48202

Parking is available (credit or debit cards only) in Parking Structure No. 1
across West Palmer Street from Wayne Law. Or see,
<http://parking.wayne.edu/visitors/index.php>.



Tickets: \$25

Mail to: MichUHCAN c/o Pat
Hammer 1764 Oak Ave
Birmingham MI 48009 or, *Online*
www.michuhcan.org

Seating is limited ... Please RSVP
by Friday, June 10 2016