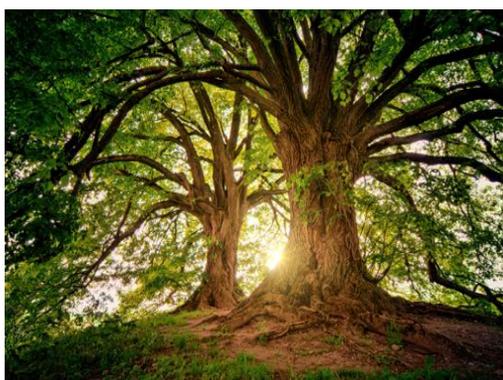




January 6 “Change”



January 13 “The Birthday of the Trees”



January 20 “Celebrating Dr. King”

+ Welcome to 2019 at BUC

Sunday services:
Announcements 10:25 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

We have childcare for infant through preschool-aged children, and Sunday morning classes for K-12th grade. We routinely begin with children and adults together in the service, and following the Message for All Ages, the children leave for class and meet up with parents following the service.

The mission of Birmingham Unitarian Church is to create a free and welcoming religious community that encourages lives of integrity, learning, service, and joy.



Reserve your seat on the BUC bus to Washington, DC for the Women’s March on January 19! See the Social Justice events page inside for details and registration information.

January Services

- 6 Buddhism has a lot to teach us about suffering and impermanence. How might we ease the suffering we experience when things change? Rev. Mandy Beal with Worship Associate Terrence Metz and music by The Sound Messengers.
- 13 Tu BiShvat is a minor Jewish holiday that celebrates the birthday of the trees. One interpretation of this holiday is to celebrate the important role that trees play in our lives. Rev. Mandy Beal and music by The Chalice Choir.
- 20 This multigenerational worship service will celebrate the positive changes that Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement brought to our country. People of all ages are invited to join in singing, story, movement, and discussion about the importance of valuing our differences. Music by The Sound Messengers.
- 27 Guest in the pulpit. Music by The Chalice Choir.



Helping Hands Are Here for You

There are times in all of our lives when we need help, for any number of different reasons. Perhaps we are just home from the hospital or have been in rehabilitation, are still weak or incapacitated, and could use some help with a meal or two. Perhaps our car is out of commission and we need transportation to an important appointment. Maybe we can no longer drive and need some assistance with errands. If, for whatever reason, you need some short-term help, please ask. A team of BUC volunteers is ready and willing to assist you. Contact Helping Hands Team Coordinator Heidi Kapsokavathis at hikeannie@gmail.com or 248-930-8009, or call the church office. We'll arrange the rest.

Joys and Sorrows

Longtime BUC member Pauline Mengebier died on December 2, surrounded by her family, at Hope West Hospice Care Center in Grand Junction, Colorado. She had visited family in Colorado over the Thanksgiving holiday and experienced a rapid deterioration of health. Pauline served in key leadership roles on BUC's Board of Trustees and was involved in several fellowship activities. Her memorial service was held at BUC on December 8.

Alice Eleanor Ensroth, mother of Keith and grandmother of Benjamin, passed away on December 6 at the age of 86, after battling Alzheimer's disease for over 15 years. She was a loving mother, a gracious woman of hope, and cheerful to the end.

Carole Wiseman's dear cousin, Patty, died on December 8.

Allen Craig's mother, Irene, passed away on December 14. She was 94 years old.

Robert and Donna Larkin Mohr celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on the Winter Solstice, December 21. Congratulations!

Getting to Know UU



Do you have questions about what BUC stands for, believes in, and values? Want to know more about BUC and ways you can give to and receive from the church? Membership Committee member Rob Davidson is facilitating a class to discuss, share, and explore who we are as UUs. Whether you consider yourself a newcomer or have been attending for a while, you are welcome. The last two classes will be held on January 13 and February 10 from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. in the Blue Door Classroom. On January 13, we will talk about the specific history of BUC and explore the building itself. If you would like to attend an upcoming class, please RSVP to Rob Davidson via email at kathyd8082@gmail.com. **Childcare is also available by contacting Rob in advance.**

Sharing Dinners



Registration for the Saturday, January 12 sharing dinner is still open. If you would like to participate, please email David

Sabbagh at dsabbagh7@gmail.com, and clearly indicate if you will host or be a guest. If you can host, please indicate how many people you can accommodate. Host/guest assignments will be made around January 1 and the hosts will be notified around January 3. Mark your calendars for the February sharing dinner, which will take place on Saturday, February 9.

Living by Heart



During the winter months, to avoid night driving in bad weather, this group will be changing its meeting time to Monday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the

Commons. The next meeting is Monday, January 7. We use writing, poetry, and simple art to explore what is in our hearts and minds. Bring a journal and a pen. No experience necessary. Come once or every week. Contact Karen Schreck at ktschreck@comcast.net for more information.

Caregivers Support Group

This group will not meet in January.

Grief Support Group

This group meets monthly on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the Large Conference Room. All who are processing and experiencing grief at the loss of a loved one are welcome to participate. Facilitated by Alison Rule (248-320-1021).

Humanists of BUC

The Humanists of BUC will be meeting on Sunday, January 27 at 12:00 noon in the Lower Level Classroom. The program will begin with a short talk on Humanism by Rolland Vriesenga. We will then hear from our guest speaker, Heather Bruegel, a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin. Heather will share her research on the history of the Native American tribes in the Midwest area, including policy and activism. A light lunch will be provided, and everyone is most welcome to attend.



Knitting Ministry

We need your help! We have so much donated yarn that we want to be made into caps and scarves for the homeless, so we need extra crafters! The yarn is divided into project bags labeled with the suggested usage. If you want to make a different item, feel free. There are easy patterns in a blue notebook in the bin with our finished projects, but again, make what you are comfortable doing, knit or crocheted. If you or your group needs help, contact Andie

Stewart at alamonts851@gmail.com. We may even be able to meet with you to get you started. Place finished items in our bin in the hallway to the Commons and they will be delivered to those in need. The next meeting of the knitting ministry will be on January 28 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Small Conference Room.

Sunday Morning Discussion Group

The Sunday Morning Discussion Group will be meeting every Sunday in January and for most of the year from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. in the small Green Door Classroom. As usual, we will choose discussion topics from those submitted by attendees. On January 13, we will conclude our discussion of *Nomadland* by Jessica Bruder, covering the last half of this interesting book on poverty and survival in America. We don't dialogue. We share our opinions without interruption when it's our turn to talk. Most often our discussion topics are quite important to the majority of those attending. Everyone is welcome.

Alliance

The Alliance will not meet in January. Mark your calendar for our next meeting, February 20 at 12:00 noon, when our speaker will be Dr. Rob Glass, Superintendent of Bloomfield Hills Schools, on the state of Michigan education and why Michigan ranks so low compared to other states. All are welcome to the brown bag lunch and talk in the Pavilion.

January Plate Collection

A portion of our Sunday plate collections during the month of January will be donated to the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN), a network of 26 UU congregations and fellowships across Michigan, including BUC, who work together on social-justice advocacy primarily through education and opportunities to become politically involved in social-justice issues. In 2018, MUUSJN was critical in blocking cuts to Planned Parenthood, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and SNAP (formerly known as food stamps), as well as getting initiatives on the ballot to raise the minimum wage and provide paid sick time to workers. You can request to be added to MUUSJN's email list by visiting www.uujustice.org. MUUSJN's Executive Director, Randy Block, can be reached at randyblock@yahoo.com.

Any BUCer may nominate a local nonprofit organization to be a plate collection recipient. Submit an application online at www.bucmi.org by clicking the Social Justice tab, then Plate Collection Application. You can also contact Barbara Robinson at 248-320-8366 or brjdr8719@gmail.com to submit an application or discuss a potential recipient.

Film Buffs

In Between

Friday, January 25, 7:00 p.m., in the Commons

"Lalia, Salma, and Nur share an apartment in Tel Aviv. Lalia, a lawyer with a wicked wit, burns off stress in the underground club scene. Selma is a DJ and bartender. Nur is a religious Muslim girl who studies at the university. Nur is intrigued by her sophisticated roommates, but when her conservative fiancé visits, his reaction leaves all three women shaken. In her debut film, director Maysaloun Hamoud brings three Palestinian-Israeli women to vibrant life as they attempt the daunting balance of tradition and modernity, fealty and freedom. In Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles. (Israel/France, 2016, NR, 96 minutes)" ~DFT Film Guide, Winter 2018



"What makes this spiky dramedy so compelling are the Palestinian-Israeli protagonists, whose split lives have rarely been depicted on screen." ~Alissa Simon, *Variety*

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

Change

Rev. Mandy Beal
Senior Minister



Here we are at the beginning of 2019. I always feel excited at the idea of a new year. Recently, I realized that what I'm actually excited about is the fantasies that I start harboring every mid-December about what's going to happen in the New Year. I always seem to forget that the "New Year" is actually just two weeks away, and nothing is really going to change that much in my life over the course of two weeks. I will wake up on

January 1st pretty much the same person that went to sleep on December 31st. January 1st holds possibilities, but it is also just another Tuesday. Waking up to a radically different life is a lot of pressure for a Tuesday.

Many of us put so much stock in the changes we want to make in the New Year. We do this knowing the chances of sticking to a resolution are slim, but most of us harbor aspirations of better living. The irony is how much we romanticize this type of change, the change we intend to but rarely make, compared to the fear and resentment we tend to have towards actual, organic change in our lives.

Change is never easy, but it is inevitable. By setting aside some time this month to explore the theme of change, my hope is that we will discover some new ideas for coping, perhaps even thriving, with change.

Yours in faith,

Rev. Mandy

Worship Notes

January's worship theme is "change." This is a perfect time to make some changes to our Sunday worship services! Starting January 6, there will be some ongoing adjustments to the opening part of the service to find the right pacing for our readings and the Message for All Ages.

The biggest change to the service will be the addition of a new worship element, Greeting Our Neighbors. This is an opportunity to say hello to the people sitting around you. You may want to hug your neighbors or shake hands, but please remember that some people may not want to engage in physical contact. There are a number of people in our beloved community with suppressed immune systems who may opt out of touching. Please ask before you touch anyone.

I value your feedback. Please send any questions or comments directly to me at mandy.beal@bucmi.org.

Paid Position Open at BUC

Job title: Part-time hourly custodian

Reports to: Associate Executive

Status: Part-time

Hours: 4-16 (variable) hours per week; afternoons, evenings, and weekends

Job summary: Assist with maintenance of campus buildings and grounds; room set-up/tear-down for events and meetings; rental set-ups; outdoor maintenance; cleaning of restrooms and carpets/flooring

Applicants should contact Kym Worth at kym.worth@bucmi.org; 248-647-2380, ext. 215



MAMA's Coffeehouse: Shari Kane & Dave Steele and Red Tail Ring

Saturday, January 19, 8:00 p.m.

Instead of our usual headliner plus opening act, we'll be kicking off 2019 with two headline acts on one show! The January 19 performance will feature two talented duos, both from our own Great Lakes State. An acoustic blues duo from Ann Arbor, Shari Kane and Dave Steele throw a four-handed guitar party of original and time-honored blues, gospel, swing, and ragtime. Steeped in Dave's smoky vocals, percussive rhythm, and innovative lead lines and Shari's crisp picking style, rootsy leads, and stinging slidework, their music has been described as "street swing and stomp blues," like a testament to sounds once heard on the streets of Harlem, in the juke joints of Mississippi, or from the jug bands of Memphis.

Laurel Premo and Michael Beauchamp of Red Tail Ring create lush, intricate arrangements of original folk music and traditional ballads with banjo, fiddle, guitar, and close harmonies. Featuring new songwriting fused with old-time and country-blues themes, their music tackles topical subjects such as gun violence and environmentalism as well as age-old questions of place and love. Red Tail Ring "doesn't just pay homage to vintage folk and roots music: the Kalamazoo duo breathes new life into it, channeling the power and charm of seminal material into its own original songs." ~John Sinkevics, LocalSpins.com



Music at BUC

Music abounds in our BUC winter! Thank you for all of the support and accolades for the Music Ministry. You, our beloved community, are a discerning bunch, appreciative of great music and aware of the work and energy that go into it. The Dearings, our new pianist, Forrest Howell, plus the numerous other fine musicians who grace our services each week are thankful to feel the love from this congregation.

The Schubert Mass in G was an accomplishment for the 41 members of the BUC Chalice Choir plus soloists from within. Our orchestra consisted of some BUCers: Walter Dean, Mike McGillivray, and Cathy Sherwin, plus some other friendly pros who love playing with our church.

The Sound Messengers are grateful to rely on the drumming mastery of Brian Schandavel plus the backups of Amy Smalley and Kathy DuHame. Thanks to Craig Stroup, guest vocalist, for his spirited singing. Dave Uricek and Frank Stephens also round out the sound. We are missing Mark Watson, our keyboardist, who has been dealing with back issues. He knows you want to see his smiling face again soon and is working to heal.

Forrest chose some beautiful solo piano works to support our message in the service and the BUC Chalice Choir sang with gusto for the Christmas Eve service. 2019 promises lots more great choral and band music.

Mark your calendars for the next SoundBites concert on February 8! The show will feature the Cut Time Simfonica ensemble followed by delicious treats and sparkling beverages. It's never too early to get tickets! You can purchase online at <https://cut-time-simfonica-at-buc-soundbites.eventbrite.com>. More details about this show are later in the newsletter.

As always, write to us if you have music questions or comments: steven.dearing@bucmi.org and abha.dearing@bucmi.org.

~Abha Dearing and Steven Dearing, Co-Directors of Music Ministry

Service and Social Justice

Happy New Year! This new year brings some changes to the layout of social justice groups here at BUC. The Green Sanctuary Ministry team has decided to become a committee within the Service and Social Justice program area. As part of this new structure, Jane O'Neil has been named Co-Chair of Service and Social Justice! She will be serving alongside Co-Chair Eric Sargent. Jane will be primarily tasked with integrating the work of the Green Sanctuary Ministry into the Service and Social Justice program area. The Green Sanctuary Ministry team will remain a standing committee chaired by Cindy Clement.

Green Sanctuary Ministry goals will now be integrated into the work of the Service and Social Justice program area. In addition, Cindy Clement will represent the Green Sanctuary Ministry on the BUC Program Council, enabling the Green Sanctuary Ministry team's continued linkage with other program areas within the congregation. My hope is that this additional support from the Service and Social Justice program and having co-chairs on the Program Council will enable BUC to renew its commitment as a Green Sanctuary-certified congregation.

The Green Sanctuary Ministry and Service and Social Justice teams are planning to have a joint retreat on Saturday, February 16 to take a fresh look at their strategies and goals for the new year and beyond.

This is a time of year when I think about my priorities for the upcoming year. As I set new priorities, I also need to let go of others. I would like to inform our beloved community that I have decided to no longer pursue the path towards ordained UU ministry. This was a difficult decision to make, but it is the right one for me. Though I will no longer pursue ordained ministry, I will continue working towards transforming our faith into an inclusive beloved community. At this moment, my efforts will focus on developing the social justice work and programming here at BUC. I am grateful for the congregation's support and the love you all have shared with me.

-Ben Gabel, Director of Service and Social Justice



Confronting Racism Program

This area of focus of the Service and Social Justice team includes monthly potluck meetings, emails, and notifications of events. The goal is to provide the opportunity for all of us to do what is possible to heal and end racism. All are invited and encouraged to participate. Our goals are:

- Understand the *role* of white people, and each of us as individuals, in healing and ending racism
- Understand *structural racism* and how it is held in place, both historically and today
- Understand the *impact* of white privilege and white fragility
- Learn how to become an *effective ally* in healing and ending racism
- Identify social justice *actions* to heal and end racism

Meetings are facilitated by Peggy Bocks at her home in Troy. Contact Peggy at pbocks@gmail.com to join and begin receiving communications about the program.



Puerto Rico Program

This area of focus of the Service and Social Justice team provides the opportunity for us to connect communities and find ways we can empower the Puerto Rican people. Meetings are facilitated by Peggy Bocks at her home in Troy. Peggy is hosting a meet-and-greet potluck there on **Saturday, January 26 at 6:00 p.m.** Let's get to know each other and share our vision of what we want to accomplish. Contact Peggy at pbocks@gmail.com to join and begin receiving communications about the program.

Service and Social Justice Events

Sunday, January 6, 2:00 p.m.

From coastal cities to America's heartland, *Paris to Pittsburgh* celebrates how Americans are demanding and developing real solutions in the face of climate change. And as the weather grows deadlier and more destructive, they aren't waiting on Washington to act. This 90-minute documentary film shares worries *and* hope for the planet. BUC members Bonnie and Gene Simms have graciously invited you to their home in Birmingham to view *Paris to Pittsburgh* on Sunday, January 6 at 2:00 p.m. Seating is limited, so if you plan to attend, RSVP at www.tinyurl.com/BUC-Paris or by emailing Jane O'Neil at jane.oneil.gsm@gmail.com.



Women's March in Washington, DC

Friday, January 18 through Sunday, January 20

We invite BUCers and their friends and family to attend the Women's March on Washington, taking place on Saturday, January 19, 2019. We have reserved a 55-passenger charter bus for the trip. All genders and ages are welcome, with parents deciding whether their children are old enough to participate. We will be departing from BUC on Friday, January 18 at 8:00 p.m., marching at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday in DC, and arriving back at BUC on Sunday, January 20 at 8:00 a.m. Seats are \$125 per person and reduced fares are available. For more information, contact Ben Gabel at ben.gabel@bucmi.org or 248-622-7848. To purchase tickets or to donate to the fund, go to <https://bucwomensmarchdc.eventbrite.com>.

Sign-making party and march prep meeting: Wednesday, January 16, 6:00 p.m.

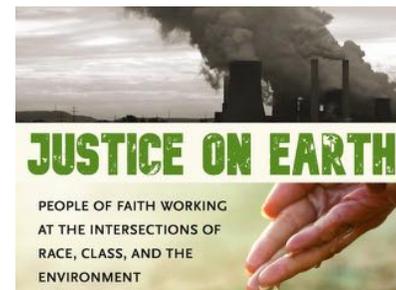
Join us at BUC on Wednesday, January 16 at 6:00 p.m. for a sign-making party for the Women's March! Bring sign-making materials and hear the latest updates on the march.

Carpools to local Women's Marches

Can't make it to Washington, D.C.? The Service and Social Justice team is organizing carpools to local Women's Marches in East Lansing and Detroit. Sign up at www.tinyurl.com/BUC-MichiganMarch.

Justice on Earth book discussion: Saturday, January 26, 10:00 a.m.

At a time when racial justice, environmental justice, and economic justice are seen as issues competing for time, attention, and resources, we invite BUCers to read *Justice on Earth*, edited by Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom. The book explores the ways in which the three issues are intertwined. We will begin with a discussion of the first essay, "Intersectionality, Faith, and Environmental Justice." Then we can set up more discussion dates. So, you do not need to read the whole book to join the discussion! To register for our first discussion on January 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at BUC, please email Cindy Clement at lwclcm18@gmail.com or go to www.tinyurl.com/BUC-Justice.



Justice on Earth is available for purchase for \$20 at the Green Sanctuary Ministry table OR the Service and Social Justice table after service; or from Ben Gabel; or on Amazon (\$9.99 for a Kindle version). Happy reading!

BUC Keeps Top Spot on Santa's Nice List!



Thanks to the tremendous generosity of BUCers who participated in our annual Adopt-a-Family project, 33 families from Walt Whitman School in Pontiac had more reasons to celebrate the holidays this year. We witnessed the sincere gratitude of some of the parents who came to pick up the gift bags full of uniforms and gifts from their children's wish lists.

Because of the extensive interest in this project and financial help from some BUCers, we were also able to adopt 57 guests at the Welcome Inn, a local daytime warming shelter in Southfield. We provided a warm gift (thermals, mittens, etc.) for each guest on Christmas.

We greatly appreciate the generosity of everyone who made this possible! Santa had special thanks for Co-Chair Jane O'Neil (Organizer/List-Keeper Extraordinaire), Elves-in-Chief Cheryl Shettel and Barbara Aylward, and Chief Reindeer Barbara Schandavel for coordinating with all the drivers to ensure an on-time delivery!

Winter Is Here: Welcome to the Welcome Inn



For many years, BUCers have supported the Welcome Inn, located at Southfield Covenant Church at 21575 West 10 Mile. Operated by South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless, it is the only daytime warming center for the homeless in all of south Oakland County.

As Director Ben Ogden (back row of photo) puts it, we operate a kind of hospice for the chronically homeless, providing companionship and comfort to a painfully vulnerable population.

On any given day between mid-December and mid-March, 70 to 90 guests use the facility. They receive hot meals, clothing from our clothing closet, social services, haircuts, medical treatment, and, most important of all, our friendly companionship.

The Welcome Inn is completely dependent on donations. You can send a check directly to the South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless (SOCH) at P.O. Box 1937, Royal Oak, MI 48068 or donate at www.sochwi.org.

BUC volunteers help in a number of ways. They sign up for weekly four hour-shifts maintaining the clothing closet or serving meals. They are vital to crucial short-term needs like purchases and deliveries, for which BUC covers expenses. Casserole recipes are assigned that they can cook at home (a great small group or neighborhood project) and then deliver to Southfield Covenant Church or BUC. Please see Annis Pratt at the Welcome Inn table in the Hodas Hall or contact avpratt@aol.com.

Join the Bananagrams Team

Bananagrams was created by a game-loving Rhode Island family who wanted a game for all ages with simple rules and high-quality, tactile components. At Walt Whitman School, we use this game to help students build vocabulary and learn correct spelling in a fun way. Join our team at the school on Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. You need not attend every week. For more information and to sign up, contact Mary Jo Ebert at maryjoebert@gmail.com.



Green Sanctuary

UN Global Goals Offer Hope for Our Future

In September 2015, the United Nations (UN) adopted a set of goals for sustainable development to fight climate change, end poverty, and make the world a better place for every person:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. End poverty | 10. Reduced inequalities |
| 2. Zero hunger | 11. Sustainable cities and communities |
| 3. Good health and wellbeing | 12. Responsible consumption and production |
| 4. Quality education | 13. Climate action |
| 5. Gender equality | 14. Life below water |
| 6. Clean water and sanitation | 15. Life on land |
| 7. Affordable and clean energy | 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions |
| 8. Decent work and economic growth | 17. Partnerships for the goals |
| 9. Industry, innovation, and infrastructure | |

Each goal is supported by specific “targets” focusing on how the goal can be achieved. Goal #6, “clean water and sanitation,” is supported by eight targets.



According to the [SDG's 2018 Report](#), the participation and reporting of countries is hopeful, but progress has not been rapid enough. For the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be reached, “everyone needs to do their part: governments, the private sector, civil society and people like you,” the UN's [website reads](#).

The corporate world is taking these goals seriously—they recognize how important it is to change our path. As the corporate world continues to embrace sustainability, acknowledging and reporting on the SDGs has become increasingly popular. [A February 2018 study](#) by KPMG found that four in ten of the world's largest companies already reference the SDGs in their corporate reporting.

To learn more, go to www.globalgoals.org.

-Jane O'Neil

Green Sanctuary Ministry member

Memorial Glen

Did you know BUC has a Memorial Glen with cenotaphs (monuments) where the names of our members and their family members who have died may be engraved? Once a year, we engrave the names of the deceased that have been requested that year. There is a cost involved, and forms that need to be filled out. If you are interested, submissions need to be in by April 5 for inclusion in this year's memorial Sunday service in the Memorial Glen.

Questions may be directed to Kym Worth at kym.worth@bucmi.org. If you haven't seen the Memorial Glen, check it out some Sunday. The Glen is located northeast of the playground area, through the brown metal gate.

Citizens' Climate Lobby



Several members of our congregation—Karen Stankye, Donna Larkin Mohr, Annis Pratt and Mary Dunn—are part of an environmental advocacy lobby that meets with local members of Congress on behalf of federal carbon fee and dividend legislation. The Detroit Metro North Chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) meets at BUC.

Your Green Sanctuary Ministry joined CCL's efforts, endorsing a policy that would return carbon fees directly to American households, resulting in a 40% reduction in carbon output for our country.

We were lifted out of our seats on November 27 when H.R. 7173, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2018 (www.cclusa.org/bill), was put forward in the U.S. House of Representatives. House District 11's now-outgoing Representative Dave Trott, with whom our CCL chapter has cultivated a cordial, respectful, and cooperative relationship, signed on as a co-sponsor of the bill. This is a bipartisan, market-based, economically practical, and environmentally effective piece of legislation we will be discussing with Representatives from House Districts 9 (Andy Levin, incoming), 8 (Elissa Slotkin, incoming), 11 (Haley Stevens, incoming) and 10 (Paul Mitchell). There are plans for the bill to be re-introduced in 2019.

Have you wanted to do something for our Beloved Planet that is real and effective? Our CCL chapter meets here at BUC, and our next meeting is January 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Large Conference Room. If you have only a small amount of time, you can fill out a constituent form stating your concern for the environment or in support of this resolution. These forms will be hand-delivered to your representative by our Congressional Liaisons (contact Mary Dunn at mjd70bc@msn.com). To be kept updated on CCL activities and progress, you can join our email list by contacting Karen Stankye (kesala@msn.com).

The Giving Tree

In December, you saw a beautifully dressed tree on the chancel. It always seems a little spartan, a little less celebratory, when the tree is taken down. So, this article is to let you know that you can expect to see the tree return in early February. What? Yes, the tree will return—albeit in a different incarnation. It will be labeled a “giving tree” and be filled with empty envelopes. More details will follow in the February newsletter. In the meantime, we ask you to reflect on the words of the Rev. Gary Kowalski:

“Imagining that you're going to win the lottery, or that it would solve all your problems even if you did, really is farfetched. Winning the sweepstakes is one-in-ten million. Marrying a multimillionaire may be what producers call ‘reality-based’ programming, but that’s TV reality. It doesn't apply to you or me. But it’s not farfetched at all to believe that everybody—each one of us—can have a life that means something, that’s rich in love and that makes a difference. So what I’m inviting you to do is not to buy into a fantasy, but to consider investing in a dream.”

-BUC Board of Trustees

Religious Education

The January theme of “Change” is one that resonates strongly with the Religious Education team. In a sense, our whole program is about change, since that is what children do, as they progress from the nursery to Bridging. We try to build upon young people’s changing ideas—those that come about through questions and a broadening understanding of the world—while supporting families through the inevitable accompanying social, developmental, emotional, and spiritual change.

For example, this winter, the RE program will launch OWL for 4th/5th graders. This well-established curriculum supports the vocabulary, perspectives, and interpersonal skills needed by our young people in today’s rapidly changing world.

And, of course, our curriculum is often focused on change! In the 6th and 7th grade class, we focus on World Religions—religion being one of the key forces that have helped change and shape our civilization. The high-school class, as part of their 2018-19 Principled Music curriculum, is all about social change as presented in popular music.

The most change-centered program in RE is our Coming of Age program, as we chronicle and celebrate our 8th graders’ transition into young adulthood. We begin with Our Whole Lives (OWL), our sexuality education and values curriculum, and continue with Rite of Passage Experience (ROPE), our faith and spiritual direction curriculum. It culminates in ROPE Sunday on June 2, when our youth present their credos to the congregation, outlining their faith ideas and talking a little about their own changes.

Here are some upcoming activities on the RE calendar:

On Sunday, January 20, an RE Volunteer Renewal session will take place following service, from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. We will begin with lunch, followed by a training session, in which Rev. Mandy, Kimery, and Eleanor hope to share our experiences of both the joys and challenges of being RE volunteers.

A GUUSH update: BUC’s high-school youth will host ConArtist, a regional art-themed youth conference, January 25-27. You can register online on the BUC website at <https://www.bucmi.org/con-artist-registration>. Adult overnight hosts and cooks are needed. Let us know if you are available!

If you are not receiving regular email updates about Religious Education, please send your contact information to Children’s DRE Eleanor McGuire at eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org or Youth DRE Kimery Campbell at kimery.campbell@bucmi.org

Scrip

BUC’s Scrip program is still going strong! If you’ve never heard of Scrip, it’s “shopping cart fundraising”—we sell plastic, paper, or electronic gift cards and a portion of the card value is donated to BUC. Scrip cards are convenient—faster than writing a check, using a credit card, or even cash! Just swipe and go—and your balance is printed on your receipt. Scrip offers access to hundreds of merchants, from Ace Hardware to Zappos.com. Scrip cards are also a more secure alternative to credit cards. For example, using a Scrip gas card allows you to pay at the pump with no personal account information attached.

Ordering is easy—place your order at the Scrip table on Sunday morning and collect your cards the following week. And now you can pay for Scrip cards with a credit card!

For more information about Scrip, talk to BUC Scrip coordinator Kimery Campbell, or stop by the table!

SoundBites

Concert and Afterglow

CutTime Simfonica

Friday, February 8, 7:30 p.m.

BUC's SoundBites turns to classical music with a hip difference!

Our Friday, February 8th concert features CutTime Simfonica, a string ensemble with percussion that “cuts classical music loose” and makes it accessible to new audiences. CutTime Simfonica is led by Rick Robins, a 22-year veteran bassist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, in a lively variety program that shakes up this fine art with rhythm, fun, and info about the music.



Find out how concert-goers and concert-avoiders come together to enjoy classical music without having to dress up. Join us on February 8th! Tickets are \$20/adult and \$10/student, available in Hodas Hall on Sundays or via Eventbrite at <https://cut-time-simfonica-at-buc-soundbites.eventbrite.com> (student tickets available at the door only, with valid student ID).

Visit <https://cuttime.com> for more on this popular Detroit group, including musical clips.

With SoundBites, we showcase diversity in music that helps us connect with the wider community around us. If this will be your first SoundBites event, we promise an evening of great entertainment when our Sanctuary is transformed into an intimate concert space. Performances are followed by a reception with wine, sparkling water, and yummy desserts; SoundBites fans rave about the chance to meet and chat with the musicians after they perform.

Co-Director of Music Ministry Steven Dearing brings us top-notch talent and hosts these events with the help of BUC volunteers. Join the team by becoming a ticket-taker, dessert baker, or bartender. Watch for volunteer opportunities via Sign-Up Genius.

SoundBites concerts are a wonderful way to introduce your friends to BUC as well. Please “like” and share our Facebook event to help spread the word on CutTime’s February 8th appearance. Thank you!

Leadership Development Committee “Speed Dating”

Love for BUC is in the air! Join us for “Service Speed Dating” after service on Sunday, February 17 to find your service soulmate: the community opportunity that is the perfect match for your talents! Your Leadership Development Committee matchmakers are thrilled to invite you to a special coffee hour devoted to mixing and mingling! Our committees and groups are all angling for a match and we plan to spark your interest by providing a fun, low-key exploration of all that we do here at BUC. For more information, please contact Andrea Zellner (alzellner@gmail.com), who will be coordinating this event.

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Associates provide support for BUC congregants experiencing significant life challenges, through the support of pastoral care associates and helping hands volunteers working in partnership with the minister. We assist the congregant in moving toward being able to help themselves, by being a caring presence during a difficult time and providing support in such areas as visits, meals, transportation, and assistance in locating appropriate community resources for ongoing needs.

We recently developed a “helping hands” program that provides short-term, practical support like transportation, errands, and more. This level of support is a good match for people recovering from illness or surgery.

Pastoral Care Associates are specially trained lay members of BUC. They work in collaboration with the minister to extend their services throughout the congregation. Pastoral care involves:

- Being present with the person
- Listening to the person describe their situation
- Asking appropriate questions to help the person tell their story
- Offering empathy and emotional support
- Referring to the minister, if appropriate, for pastoral counseling

The minister offers pastoral counseling. Pastoral counseling is typically short term, and may lead to a referral to other support resources. If you or someone you know could benefit from pastoral care, please contact the minister or a pastoral care associate.

Minister: Rev. Mandy Beal

Pastoral Care Associates: Cindy Goldman, Alison Rule, Ed Sharples, Lisa Patterson, Paul Fordree, Mary Markovski, Merry Hoffmeyer, Helen Strahl
