



**Rev. Mandy Beal**  
*Senior Minister*

As I was creating the worship calendar for this year, I felt it was important to acknowledge and provide a container for the anxiety many of us feel about the upcoming Presidential election. I considered a lot of different ideas and angles and finally landed on “Our Divided Nation.” It seemed the most clear and honest name I could give to the worship topics we’ll explore this month. Jokes about the name began almost immediately. And they’re not wrong—it is a bit dire. What can I say? It seemed like a good idea at the time.

All of us have heard the adage not to talk about religion or politics. The (unintended) consequence is we may never learn how to have conversations about these emotionally-charged subjects. We now find ourselves in a time when religious and political discourse have become pervasive and divisive. Unless we have intentionally practiced engaging these subjects in public spaces, many of us feel uncomfortable and ill-equipped for the discussion. Even me.

And yet, I find myself in the position of leading our congregation through this experience. My intention was to craft a theme that leaves room for the diversity of thought inherent in a UU congregation while also clearly articulating a vision of Unitarian Universalism. It’s not my job to tell you how to vote or how to think. It is my job to provide a moral and ethical framework to help you navigate current events in the context of UU values and commitments. As always, you are welcome to disagree with me.

Discussing politics in church might feel uncomfortable, but every aspect of the human experience is appropriate for religious consideration. Religious belief informs values and values drive behavior, including voting. Being part of a church has an impact on one’s life. Worship, fellowship, learning, service—all of the things that make up our church—shape our lives. Everything we do matters. If participation in the life of our Beloved Community has not changed your life, then something was lost in translation. What we do in our church impacts who we are in the world. Religion is not a private matter. Not really.

The purpose of UU churches is to put more Unitarian Universalism into the world. In order to do that, we must have a clear understanding of what Unitarian Universalism is. What differentiates UU theology from mainstream theology is that our theological framework begins with questions about humanity, rather than questions about God. From questions about what it is to be human, we arrive at the conclusion that we are fundamentally meant to be in community. From this belief, we arrive at the need for explicit agreements about how we will behave, which we call covenants.

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*(...Rev. Mandy, continued)*

Unitarian Universalism is a covenantal religious tradition, which means that we are held together by these behavioral agreements over anything else. The primary UU covenant is our Seven Principles, which extend beyond our congregation and our religious tradition to our interactions with the world. If you haven't looked up the Seven Principles in a while, I recommend you give them another read and consider what it is to take on these Principles as a spiritual practice or an ethic of living.

These are the precepts through which we are called to filter our understanding of the world. We are not beholden to a belief, creed, doctrine, or dogma. But we are beholden to behavior that aligns with our values and commitments. We have aligned ourselves with a certain vision of the world and we build that world through our actions. We are all a part of this church and faith tradition because we have found something of value here. Our beliefs deserve a public voice. What we do here matters. How we live matters. How we vote matters.

*On a final note, I want to clarify that the personal reflections of our staff are their own and in no way reflect an official stance of or endorsement by Birmingham Unitarian Church.*



**Abha Dearing**

*Co-Director of Music Ministry*

As a member of a “model minority” who grew up during a time when there were few Indian-American immigrants in the metro-Detroit area, I often struggled with my place in our country. As a girl and young woman of color, I never really felt that I fit smoothly within any groups at school, after school, in the neighborhood, or in most of my activities.

Education is a high priority in Indian families, so I did well in school. My parents were quite frugal and fashion was decidedly not a priority, though music lessons were. My early life was defined by my parents' successes. You might be aware of the immigrant conundrum: guilt over leaving their motherland (India) and a fierce desire to succeed in the New World and prove their big move was worthwhile.

Fast-forward to now. My personal values and principles are formed from a foundation of Hindu tolerance and inclusivity, which led me to Unitarian Universalism. In the UU world, I feel most at home to express my spirituality, religious rites, and traditions, as well as the deeply-held values which align with our seven principles. I also have NO problem discussing this openly and arguing compassionately with anyone. Recently, this has been tested.

How I vote aligns with what I believe. I know that I own my vote and it is no one's business who I vote for, though it is probably not a mystery to anyone who meets me. This becomes problematic when I decide to discuss values-based topics with folks outside of my close family, friends, and church circles. And my openness is challenged by my own kids, who want to fit in, learn how to get along with all sorts of people, and still live their values out loud.

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My mom, a precinct delegate for this year's election, gave us a Biden/Harris yard sign. Of course I put it in the yard. I noticed it was removed and stored in the garage, so the four of us all had some strong words, but an overall healthy conversation about the following: what do we stand for? Is it important we shout it from the rooftops? If I vote my conscience, does it matter if I advertise that? Do I treat someone differently when I know their political leanings? And if yes, should I expect people seeing the sign to treat me a certain way? When we have folks working on our house and I know they are political opposites of us, what risk am I taking if they feel as passionately about their views as I do?

Steve related a story to me wherein he and a couple of the gentlemen working in the house opened up a conversation about politics. They were mutually respectful, listened deeply, and their relationship afterwards, though they never again discussed politics, was affirming, warm, and more jovial than ever.

My conclusion: we each have to vote and live our conscience. I feel compelled to also try and make the world better with my rhetoric and actions, but how I do that is up to me and how much I want to challenge my own personal comfort level. I can let everyone else be where they are, since I cannot control them and it doesn't do any good to feel inept. I know I am a person with privilege when I say that for now, I will decide when to do a "soft sell" vs. a "hard sell."

This is a tenuous time. I wish you all peace of mind and peace of heart.



**Steven Dearing**  
*Co-Director of Music Ministry*

As someone who has spent 2/3 of his life living in another country, albeit a city right across the river from Detroit, I feel like I have a perspective that is slightly different from the average American.

Many years ago while playing youth sports in Canada, my hockey and soccer teams would occasionally play international tournaments. I remember getting annoyed with the flag-waving, "USA! USA!"-chanting "Yankees," finding them cocky and loud. I would never have thought of it then, but I have a feeling that these boys came from both liberal and conservative families. I wonder how much that is the case today.

Abha and I are currently having some work done at our house. One day, I was being asked a question by one of the two contractors, when suddenly a comment was made about "that b\*\*\*\*" in Lansing." Anyone who knows me could figure that I couldn't let that slide. What followed was a tense, yet respectful

45-minute debate about today's political climate.

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*(...Steven, continued)*

I was baffled by how strongly both these guys felt the current president was the right guy for the job. They were both immigrants from eastern Europe, and both hard-working, middle-aged men (who are white). The very next day I was at the Subaru dealer when two men (also mature and white) were ranting about not watching football anymore because of players taking knees, which they called “disrespectful to the flag and the military.”

Over the last few summers, our family has spent the majority of our time travelling throughout the Midwest watching our two kids play ball. When you spend most of your time in a hotel with a dozen other families, you become close, and it’s quite easy to figure out each other’s political views. Abha and I would spend many evenings debriefing on how such warm, friendly people could be so opposite from us politically.

I feel like a grumpy old man saying this, but I think it is too easy to live in a bubble and only associate with like-minded folks these days.

As a non-citizen who cannot vote, I have a strong feeling that the current “USA!” chanters are those on the right, because how could anyone else be so proud of how things stand right now?

But there is hope for tomorrow, and although I am not a praying man, I really have a LOT of faith into our youth, our underserved, and our left-leaning-liberals, so they will be heard by casting their votes come November and the healing of the great divide can begin.



**Joanne Copeland**  
*Bookkeeper*

With the “election of our lifetime” looming on the horizon, I have noticed an increase in anxiety in many people, including myself. I’d like to think that this is a normal election and the outcome will solve all our problems. I’d like to think that, but too much is being reported that that will not be the case. Again, we are face-to-face with the unknown. As with the virus, there doesn’t seem to be a clear ending to this ongoing story we are all living through. Even after we vote on November 3, we probably won’t know the outcome for weeks or more afterwards. I don’t know. It’s hard to know how to deal with all that’s going on. But I do have a very supportive family, and my new grand-niece, born in July, has been a joy and gives me hope. I have friends and the BUC staff who are very supportive, too. We’ll get through this and someday we will be together again.



**Nico Van Ostrand**  
*Religious Education Coordinator*

October's theme of "Our Divided Nation" is challenging to write about because my own thoughts on division are full of anxiety, anger, and sadness, and thus are often disjointed. So instead of a disingenuous attempt to force those disjointed thoughts into a coherent reflection, I offer you two of my favorite quotes and some reflection questions.

The first is from feminist theorist Audre Lorde: "For the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house. They may allow us temporarily to beat him at his own game, but they will never enable us to bring about genuine change."

Lorde refers specifically to the patriarchy, but this quote has been used in analyses about many other systems—education system, political system, court system, prison system. I wonder, what "tools" were used to build those "houses"? What values are embedded in those systems? And how do those tools and houses fit in with Unitarian

Universalist values?

My second quote is from theorist Terry Eagleton: "Children make the best theorists, since they have not yet been educated into accepting our routine social practices as 'natural', and so insist on posing to those practices the most embarrassingly general and fundamental questions, regarding them with a wondering estrangement which we adults have long forgotten. Since they do not yet grasp our social practices as inevitable, they do not see why we might not do things differently."

I frequently use these questions, inspired by Eagleton's quote, as a way of checking in with my values as complex social justice issues evolve: What made you decide our social practices were inevitable? Alternatively, what made you realize you have the ability to enact change? If you could imagine a more perfect union into being right now, what social practices would be required? Are those social practices impossible, or simply new?

Unitarian Universalism does not provide concrete answers to these big questions, nor does it expect us to be able to answer them ourselves. Instead, Unitarian Universalism offers seven principles and six sources of wisdom to guide our reflection and subsequent action. It's a daunting task.

In Religious Education at BUC, children and youth are learning about Unitarian Universalist principles and values in the context of the ongoing pandemic, uprising, and political tension. From Kindergarteners to high-school seniors, BUC children and youth are considering the tools and houses and values and social practices that make up our divided nation. How might a 6-year-old enact UU values right now? What does it mean to be 17 this election year? I think all UUs would resonate with children and youth's answers to those questions; the deep wisdom in this community lives in members of all ages.



**Valerie Phillips**  
*Administrator*

“A loved one perished at the hand of the baron-hearted right.”

–“Divide and Conquer” by Idles

I grew up in a conservative-leaning area, so it is not a surprise that most of my friends and family hold different beliefs and political standings than I do. I am not a fan of conflicts or discussing politics.

Emotions often run deep and passionate. And sometimes the emotions of anger show up. I do not like loud, angry anything (except my music, which is a delightful outlet). I’ve learned that anger sometimes shows up because we’re actually afraid of something. Fear doesn’t always look the way you expect it to.

Speaking to others with differing viewpoints can be confusing, frustrating, and upsetting. There is often a desire to back up our feelings with facts. Statistics are always a little funny to me to discuss. Numbers can easily be manipulated to show what you want

them to show. Narrow your results by age or location and suddenly you can “prove” your desired point. And even if something is 100% factual, sometimes someone will dismiss it and not hear it at all just because of the source of information. Humor sometimes can defuse a situation, but it can also make it worse if someone takes it as a personal attack.

There are people who try to turn debate into a big game, trying to trick you and find a way to “win” the discussion. Again, I’m not a big fan of this flavor of boldness. Instead, I choose to listen to others. I try to understand why they feel the way they do about issues. When possible, I try to ask genuine questions in order to help strengthen understanding. Most importantly, I am kind and respectful in my listening and responses. By doing these things, I am able to make and keep connections to others and keep communication lines open. I still believe that the answers to peaceful collaboration will be somewhere in the middle.

An article I read recently said our political leaders aren’t the ones to reunite our country. They can lead and guide, but we’re the ones that need to do the work. In order to bring our country back together and heal the divisions, we need to remain open. We should be encouraged to not hide and isolate with our feelings and beliefs. It’s up to each one of us to use our voice and speak up. The biggest way to use our voice is to vote and encourage others to vote as well.



**Marcia Mahood**  
*Rental Coordinator*

After the last presidential election in 2016, I remember thinking about the election that would occur this year, in 2020. I thought to myself that there would be all kinds of clever messaging that would play on the additional meaning of 20/20 vision. Clarity of vision in how you vote. Clarity in where you want the country to go. Clarity in the kind of change you might want to see.

Boy, I could not have been more wrong. My 20/20 vision did not foresee the serious divisions in our nation, and things seem far too serious for cute 20/20 double-entendre slogans.

So how am I facing this terrible division we face within our country today? I feel as if I am divided myself—beset by the anxiety of daily tumult on the national stage, and then searching for peace within my own private world. How do I find

this peace? My husband Neb and I have made a sanctuary in our backyard. We have a patio heater, solar lights, and a small firepit. We are ready for fall. When I am on my deck, I am absorbed with watching the woodpeckers on the feeders, the visits of the scraggly cardinal, and was thrilled by the one-time visit of a peregrine falcon. Neb has outfitted the backyard with a game camera, so once a week or so, we download the images and watch skunks, groundhogs, bunnies, and the occasional buck visit the buffet table that is our vegetable garden late at night. Friends come by, and we socially distance on the deck and enjoy our visits “in 3D.” Our goal is to extend the backyard season as long as we can. Anyone for hot cocoa on the deck in January?

So you can see I have made a conscious effort to not spend all my time thinking about our nation’s problems. I am involved in the political process, making calls and dropping political materials at front doors in my neighborhood. I feel guilty about not doing more sometimes, and yet I know I need to take a break from the worries of the world if I am to get through this time.

My parents have been gone for a few years now, and I still harken back to their words of guidance and comfort. They give me my 20/20 vision. My mother had a saying: “If you are going through hell, just keep on going.” I think that is fitting for our times. I think we have to keep on going. In order to do that, though, we have to keep hope alive, do our best, take time to find our sanctuary, refill our spirits, and then keep on going. And of course, make your plan to vote safely in 2020.



**Sara Constantakis**  
*Communications Coordinator*

“So we argue and we wrestle and we claim conviction, but we might as well be flipping coins. More will be revealed if we adjust the focus on the shortest distance between two points. ‘Cause these aren’t the best of times, and they’re not the worst, just like the edge of the earth is an illusion. God bless our brave little hearts, and our inherent limitations, and our short-sighted plans, and our collusion. Look long...”

These words are from the song “Look Long,” the title track of the Indigo Girls’ latest album. The Indigo Girls are a folk rock music duo made up of Emily Saliers and Amy Ray; poets, musical geniuses, and activists and probably my favorite artists of all time, in any genre or artistic form. Their songs have inspired, comforted, devastated, and lifted me throughout the last

two decades of my life, which I couldn’t imagine navigating without their music. “Look Long” has become the most recent musical touchstone for me in the politically divisive era in which we now find ourselves. As I’m interacting with, loving, and being in the world with people who don’t share my views (including some in my own close family), I am trying very hard to “adjust the focus on the shortest distance between two points,” which for me, in these times, are two opposing sets of political views. Adjusting the focus means stopping in a moment of frustration (usually over a Facebook comment) and reminding myself that behind that electronic missive, or that remark over the dinner table, there is a person, and an amalgamation of joys and hardships and privileges and lived experiences that is not my own. Many beliefs develop in response to factors beyond a person’s control. And we all have the “inherent limitations” the song mentions. All of us. One of the biggest is how difficult it can be for individuals to see beyond those personal lived experiences of ours. That limitation and many others are what make us human. And in that sense, they both unite us and divide us.

I haven’t done any research to see if Emily Saliers, who wrote “Look Long,” has discussed her meaning behind the lyrics, but my personal interpretation is that “look long” has a double meaning: “look long” as in to “zoom out” over a long chronological period of time (the arc of history, if you will), and “look long” as in to look at something closely, for a sustained length of time. I believe the song is asking us, in this deeply divided era, to do both. As “we argue and we wrestle and we claim conviction,” in the political arena, we can look both forward and backward in time, considering the history that has brought us here and the future we are creating. And, at the same time, we can pay close, sustained attention to the things that need it, rather than just engaging on a surface level or looking away altogether.

Even after I’ve sifted it all down and can’t find any common ground or justification for someone’s beliefs; even after I’ve “looked long,” as long as I can, I have our UU first principle to guide me: that every person—every one, even the ones I disagree with—has inherent worth and dignity. It can be challenging, but my faith compels me to remember this and live it out. I hope the guidance of our UU principles (and maybe the Indigo Girls, too) inspires you to look long, as well.

## From the Board

As I write this, I am reeling from the news of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death, the news of all the chaos in our country, and the personal news of my niece being hospitalized with COVID-19. One article I read stated, "The second female and first Jewish justice on the US Supreme Court died yesterday.... As our Jewish kin say upon the death of a beloved, 'May her memory be for a blessing'.... What are the blessings of Justice Ginsburg's life that we reap even as we mourn, we asked? The answers came quickly: Unflinching dedication and integrity... And embodying the iron spirit of staying the course, faithful and fierce, for however long our earthly journey lasts."

Four of the nine members of our current Board of Trustees are women, and I believe all nine, men and women alike, accept and value our Seven Principles. Reflecting on number three, the acceptance of one another and spiritual growth, reminds me that acceptance flows out of the belief in the inherent worth and dignity of all, our first principle. Forrest Church said much the same thing and added, "Acceptance, in the sense of our Principles, is not of behavior or ideas; it is of people in their basic humanity, their dignity and worth, their needs for companionship, growth, love, compassion, and justice."

As a board, we have recognized the need to do more to ensure our beloved community does not just survive, but thrives. To that end, we are now meeting twice a month. Neb Duric served on the COVID-19 task force from its inception through August; Mary Gawel-Ensroth has reorganized our minutes and documentation on Google Drive, among a half-dozen other things; Dave Greer shared thoughts on confidentiality, along with other board members, as part of our ongoing training; Andrew Schreck assisted in the amazingly successful Raise the Roof fundraiser; Cheryl Shettel has reviewed training materials and provided a report on financial matters; Diane Slon has created a sleek new format for sharing financial data; Craig Stroup has served as meeting host and my "go-to-guy"; and Paul Vachon volunteered to serve as the board rep on the Revenue Committee. This partial list is shared so you will know all nine of us are working to serve BUC in a variety of ways.

Where are we, and where are we going? Yes, our nation is divided, and we do not have all the answers. At BUC, every board member has different ideas about how to move us forward. We try. We plan. And, because we believe in our seven principles, the words of Forrest Church resonate strongly: "If what goes around comes around, doesn't it make sense to send love around, love and help and generosity and kindness and understanding and a gentle, healing and helping hand? That's what I want to come around to me, so that is what I try to send around." We are all flawed and make mistakes, but your board is trying.

Feel free to communicate with all of us; we are here to listen, learn, and help move us forward to a better tomorrow as we isolate and live into this moment. Yours in hope,



Donna Larkin Mohr  
President, Board of Trustees

## Joys and Sorrows

*With the start of a new church year, we'll resume listing Joys and Sorrows from the previous month. Here are the Joys and Sorrows submitted in September:*

Ray McCarus celebrated his 85th birthday in early September. "My joy is that I am still alive, and in decent health."

From Beth Brunton: "Awesome teacher, mother, sister, and partner Nancy Schmitt's birthday was September 17."

Annis Pratt's daughter Faith was hospitalized after a benign brain tumor was removed on September 8. "We have been terrified by her sudden illness (beginning with seizures) but things look better now and she is very cognizant. She is now home from the hospital, with her 'mile-a-minute' brain as good as ever. Your calls and prayers and concern for her comforted me deeply during those truly awful days."

From Nancy Schmitt: "Our dear friend, Laurel Heninger, has just been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. Please hold her in your thoughts and prayers as she navigates chemotherapy and surgery, if it's possible."

From Nancy Schmitt: "Our friend Carol Johnson lost her 91-year-old mom last Saturday. Because her mom died in a nursing home in Midland, she was not surrounded by her family when she passed. COVID has been such a tragedy for so many."

Rolland Vriesenga was hospitalized for a heart attack with a diagnosed blockage of 25-50%. (The danger zone is 75%.) Rolland is feeling better and gives thanks to Buddha.

Kaye Ritinger celebrated a birthday on September 17. "I'm happy to report I am in good health and recovering nicely from my second arm surgery."

Cindy Goldman shares both a sorrow and a joy: "My brother Doug had quadruple bypass surgery on September 17. My joy is that he came through surgery and has encouraging signs that his recovery is on track! Thank you for your thoughts and prayers for him."

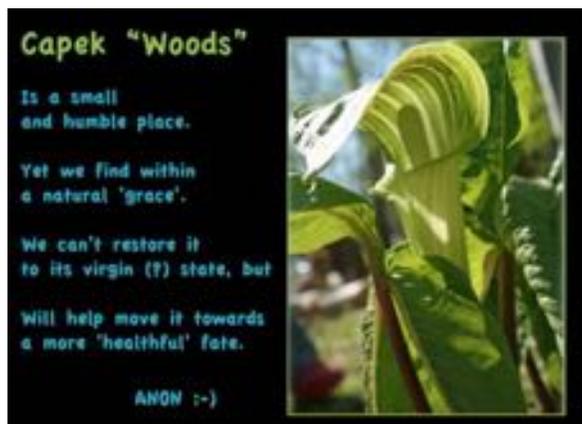
Karen Rapple, wife of Dick Rapple, passed away on September 16. Karen has many dear friends at BUC, and has appreciated the caring, supportive and like-minded community over the years. Additional information is available on The Dorfman Chapel's [website](#).

From Valerie Phillips: "My 13-year-old, Sarah, asked if we ever submit our joys and sorrows. It turns out that we do! Happy 14th birthday to Sarah! (September 27)"

From Larry Freedman: "Long-time member Ed Brouhard has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. The prognosis is not good, as the cancer has started to spread. Keep Ed and his family in your hearts and prayers."

# Capek Woods Walk-through

Monday, October 5 | 9:30 am | Capek Woods on BUC campus



Once or twice a year, when David Mindell from [Plantwise](#) comes to BUC to control invasive plants in Capek Woods, he first walks through the woods with us and gives us an informal progress report that has been an invaluable guide to the management priorities of our Capek restoration project. David is a restoration guru, and answers all our questions. Please join us for a short walk-through of Capek Woods on Monday, October 5 at 9:30 am. You are guaranteed to learn something interesting and be better

qualified to advocate for the health of the woods. If you plan to come, please email Stephanie Patil at [sp4public@gmail.com](mailto:sp4public@gmail.com). Masks are required and social distancing will be enforced. Long pants are recommended.

After thirteen seasons, the Capek Woods restoration project is in the management phase. With a little work on the outer edges and regularly scheduled invasive control, the woods is “seasoning,” but cannot be left unattended. We missed the invasive control during the last two seasons. In that short time, young buckthorn have started to grow back and the path is overgrown. We are always looking for volunteers to help with maintenance.

Capek Woods restoration began in 2007. It has gradually been nudged from being an invasive/non-native buckthorn overstory and garlic mustard understory, to a semblance of a wet prairie meadow that supports a diversity of insects, small critters, and birds. The wet prairie is filled with native plants that have giant “mops” for roots that help hold water from large rain events. You can view a slideshow of the restoration [here](#).

## Vespers service

Tuesday, October 6 | 7:00 pm | Facebook Live



Starting Tuesday, October 6, join Rev. Mandy for a new monthly vespers service. This is a joyful, yet introspective evening service that centers gratitude for the day that has passed and welcomes the night that is beginning. The service will include candle lighting in remembrance of your beloved dead and any concerns in your heart. Names and information for candle lighting can be submitted via [this link](#) on our website under Worship Links, or shared during the service on Facebook Live.

Vespers will be held every first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm on BUC’s public [Facebook page](#).

## Getting to Know UU... Virtually!

Begins Sunday, October 11 | 12:00 noon | Zoom

The Membership Committee welcomes everyone to our Zoom class, Getting to Know Unitarian Universalism (GTKUU).

In four non-sequential classes, you will learn about BUC and how it can serve you as your spiritual home. You will explore your spirituality individually and with others. The classes will be co-led by Brianna Zamborsky and Rob Davidson.

GTKUU is an interactive, introspective, and fun experience for anyone exploring Unitarian Universalism. We have adapted the in-person curriculum to a virtual model this year. While we may be physically distanced, we will still be spiritually connected.

Classes will take place from 12:00-1:30 pm on Sundays October 11, October 25, November 8, and from 2:00-3:30 pm on Sunday, December 13. Zoom access information will be shared in the weekly update emails, on the meeting calendar on our website, and on Facebook.

If you plan on attending, please RSVP by email to Rob Davidson at [kathyd8082@gmail.com](mailto:kathyd8082@gmail.com).

## Town Hall with Rev. Mandy

Friday, October 23 | 7:30 pm | Zoom

In order to provide information and answer questions about various aspects of our virtual life, Rev. Mandy will be hosting a Town Hall on Friday, October 23 at 7:30 pm. Topics that will be covered include worship, religious education, fellowship opportunities, and COVID-related precautions that have been taken in our buildings. Questions may be submitted in advance to Rev. Mandy ([mandy.beal@bucmi.org](mailto:mandy.beal@bucmi.org)). There will be time for open Q&A as well.

Zoom access information will be shared in the weekly update emails, on the meeting calendar on our website, and on Facebook.

## Virtual Costume Party

Friday, October 30 | 7:30 pm | Zoom

Ghosts and goblins and creatures of fright,  
don't miss this Zoom call pre-Halloween Night!

The BUC RE Council cordially invites all K-12 children and their families to join our Virtual Costume Party on Friday, October 30 at 7:30 pm.

Dress up, show up, and let's share some laughs!

p.s. BYOC (bring your own candy)!

Zoom access information will be shared in the weekly update emails and on the meeting calendar on our website. Contact Monika Mangrulkar at [monitalar@yahoo.com](mailto:monitalar@yahoo.com) with questions.



## Supporting South Oakland Shelter

Due to Covid-19, none of South Oakland Shelter's (SOS) host congregations are housing shelter guests in their buildings in 2020. Instead, host congregations are supplying lunches and dinners for SOS guests. The BUC SOS leadership team has opted to only finance the food, rather than deal with the Covid safety-related issues of preparing and delivering meals. So for the 30th year, BUC will be partnering with the Muslim Unity Center, Northwest UU, and Beacon UU to raise funds to provide lunches and dinners for SOS guests from November 1 through 8.

Covid safety guidelines mandate no volunteer and client contact. Shelter clients have been expanded from 30 to 103 (57 adults and 46 children/youth). The Government Cares Act is funding motel rooms for clients until December 1, 2020. Each room has a small fridge and microwave. All children and youth are doing virtual school in the rooms. Covid patients are accepted, and isolated. SOS is the only family shelter in Oakland County.

Here's how can you help support SOS this year:

**Contribute to our target goal of \$7,000 for the week to feed 103 SOS clients**

Donations of any amount are accepted. You can fund a family, adult, or child at \$10/day/person, which will cover the cost of lunch and dinner through SOS's contracted meal provider, Meals on Wheels. Feed a kid for one week for \$70! Choose your own giving level.

Donations will be accepted through Sunday, October 25.

All congregations can donate online at the BUC website ([www.bucmi.org](http://www.bucmi.org))

Click the **Give to SOS (South Oakland Shelter)** button  
to go to our online giving platform

Click the "Choose a Fund" drop-down

Select "SOS Donations"

You can also mail checks to BUC made out to Birmingham Unitarian Church (memo: SOS host). Donations exceeding the goal will finance Dec. housing or other SOS expenditures.

## Welcome Inn Virtual Fundraiser

The Welcome Inn, Oakland County's only daytime warming center, will have its annual "Spread the Laughs" fundraiser virtually this year on Thursday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m. Magician Steve Taylor will be followed by local comedian Billy Ray Bauer. Interesting silent auction items will be offered. \$25 tickets may be purchased on the Welcome Inn website, [www.sochwi.org](http://www.sochwi.org).

# Calendar of Events

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The events listed here can always be found on our [website](#) under [Meeting Calendar](#). Events are also announced via the weekly email, Sunday service announcements, and our [BUC Community private Facebook group](#).

The [Meeting Calendar](#) also lists Zoom information for committee and group meetings.

To join an event or meeting, simply click on the Zoom link. If you're not using a computer to access Zoom, you can dial into meetings with your phone by calling the number and entering the meeting ID and passcode.

## Weekly Events

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### Worship Service

Sundays | 10:30 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/196899450?pwd=RXJuNFpHdWMraENaZmFDWFVaSExqUT09>

To join by phone:

dial: 253-215-8782

meeting ID: 196 899 450

passcode: 882131

### Sunday Discussion Group

Sundays | 3:00 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/96501517735?pwd=Yy9NSUg3TGRHUGxjNDY5VzRtT0dzZz09>

To join by phone:

dial: 253-215-8782

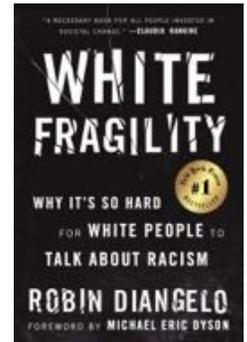
meeting ID: 965 0151 7735

passcode: 047076

Sunday, October 11:

Discussion on the first half of the SDG book selection:

*White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo



### Living by Heart

1st Mondays | 7:00 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/99983328991?pwd=N1cybVdKYXhWSE9PVEZDSVo3Y1VxQT09>

To join by phone:

dial-in: 253-215-8782

meeting ID: 999 8332 8991

passcode: 569485

2nd-4th Mondays | 1:30 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/92103015538?pwd=YzVMZzZpQTthhb0lFUVhYYlksVY8vZz09>

To join by phone:

dial: 253-215-8782

meeting ID: 921 0301 5538

passcode: 016260

# October Events

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## Issues and Ale

Friday, October 2 | 6:00 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/95530625607?pwd=R3NRRnp5SllsZ3JKUVhJVWwyU3dtZ09>

To join by phone:

dial: 253-215-8782

meeting ID: 955 3062 5607

passcode: 736518

## Getting to Know UU session 1

Sunday, October 11 | 12:00 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/92186591265?pwd=bmdpbNlMzalV5a08wK3BpTnk2bldJdz09>

To join by phone:

dial: 253-215-8712

meeting ID: 921 8659 1265

passcode: 670705

## Confronting Racism

Tuesday, October 20 | 7:00 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/93729325877?pwd=MIJkMUNIZE4zQmtrT3VNbHJ2Ti8xdz09>

To join by phone:

dial: 253-215-8782

meeting ID: 937 2932 5877

passcode: 570711

## Vespers service

Tuesday, October 6 | 7:00 pm

Live on BUC's [Facebook page](#)

## Humanists of BUC

featuring Suzanne Paul

Sunday, October 11 | 7:00 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/95187474160?pwd=TWJwaE1ZSUdhMmlHUTIxenVMR0RDdz09>

To join by phone:

dial: 253-215-8782

meeting ID: 951 8747 4160

passcode: 508762

Suzanne Paul, former UU minister and American Humanist Association president, will be speaking on the topic “Balancing Head and Heart.” Paul was the minister of the Farmington UU church for twelve years and the founding minister of the New Hope UU church, which continues practicing a humanistic philosophy today.

## Town Hall with Rev. Mandy

Friday, October 23 | 7:30 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/91939476283?pwd=c2MwTWJSeWFNZFFucHgzZzlkS09GQT09>

To join by phone:

dial: 253-215-8782

meeting ID: 919 3947 6283

passcode: 304037