

The BUC Big Picture

November 2024



November Worship At-a-Glance	November Event Highlights
<i>November 3</i> “Today”	<i>Sunday, November 3 & 10, 12 noon</i> Getting to Know UU (new member orientation)
<i>November 10</i> “Today and Tomorrow: Rebuilding Democracy”	<i>Tuesday, November 12, 7:00 pm</i> BUC Alliance <i>evening meeting</i> Keith Ensroth on Artificial Intelligence
<i>November 17</i> “We Are Birmingham Unitarian Church!”	<i>Sunday, November 17, 7:30 pm</i> UU Values Open Forum <i>brought to you by the Humanists of BUC</i> Topic: Detroit Equity Action Lab (DEAL)
<i>November 24</i> “Breaking Bread Together”	<i>Sunday, November 24 after service</i> RE Chili Cook-Off fundraiser

November Worship

November 3: “Today”

Where are we today? What can we do to make a positive difference in the world?

November 10: “Today and Tomorrow: Rebuilding Democracy”

Whether or not the results of the presidential election are known, we know there is work to do.

November 17: “We Are Birmingham Unitarian Church!”

Members who have joined the congregation over the decades will share stories about what the church was like at the time when they joined. Following the service there will be an opportunity for all congregants to jot down your recollection of (and feelings about) congregational events significant to you, and to post your notes on a timeline of congregational history.

November 24: “Breaking Bread Together”

A multigenerational service of Thanksgiving. If you can, please bring a loaf or other form of bread (pita, tortillas, bagels) representing your heritage in whatever way you choose. During the service, we’ll partake of the bread in celebration of the sustenance we share. Following the service, we’ll share a simple meal of chili and the bread you have brought.

November Plate Sharing

The recipient of our plate sharing in November is the BUC Emergent Needs Fund. This fund is used to provide direct support to people experiencing financial difficulty. This includes both people from our congregation who have experienced a loss or hardship and people from the community who have contacted us to request assistance. We typically ask for contributions to this fund in November in anticipation of increased need during the winter. Requests for assistance are welcome year-round.

Minister's Message

Rev. Connie Grant

“Perspectives on BUC History”

During our worship service on Sunday, November 17, we'll hear from some members who joined the congregation over the past seven decades about their memories of the church during the decade in which they joined.

Of course, you each have your own experiences and perspectives (on this and every other topic)! Following the service on November 17 (and for a week or two thereafter), there will be an opportunity for all congregants to jot down your recollection of (and feelings about) congregational events significant to you, and to post your notes on a timeline of congregational history that will be posted in Hodas Hall. A light lunch of bagels and fruit will be provided. If you won't be in the building between November 17-30, please email your notes for the timeline to connie.grant@bucmi.org.

Feel free to write about events that may have been challenging or difficult, as well as those that were happy. Please write as much as you want on as many post-it notes as you wish. (We'll have lots of post-its!) As you look at the notes that others have posted, you may wish to comment on something someone else wrote. The more perspectives expressed, the better!! Please express your thoughts and feelings as freely as you wish, as long as you do so with respect for others' thoughts and feelings. You need not sign your notes (although it would be helpful to me to know your name in order to follow up with you). After the timeline is taken down, the Transition Team (Teresa Honnold, Annette Sargent, Bruce Webber, and Harper West) and I will reflect back to you some gleanings from your perspectives.

One of the areas of our work together as minister and congregation during this transitional time is for you to claim and honor your history. As described in our Letter of Agreement, this includes “reviewing how the congregation has been shaped and formed; encouraging and hearing all of the stories about the congregation's past, as the foundation upon which the present rests; and embracing the rich variety that makes up the congregation.” In upcoming months, there will be

further opportunities for you to reflect on where you are now as a congregation and where you want to go.

I welcome the opportunity to talk with you about anything of concern to you. Please email me at connie.grant@bucmi.org to make an appointment and I'll be glad to meet with you!

“Who to Contact” list

Do you have an idea, question, or concern and need to know where to direct it? Check out our [“Who to Contact”](#) list, also linked on our [home page](#) in the “Learn About Us” box in the middle of the page.

Volunteer Opportunities

Check out the buttons at the bottom of our [home page](#) to sign up to be a [Sunday greeter](#), [usher](#), or [Zoom host](#) or bring [Sunday doughnuts](#) or [chancel flowers](#)

Editor’s note: This month, BUC staff reflect on their professional organizations

Religious Education Musings

Shannon Snideman, Director of Religious Education

The [Liberal Religious Educators Association](#), otherwise known as LREDA (le-RAY-da), is the professional organization for religious educators at all ages and stages. LREDA is a hub for resources, collaboration, and training and supports religious educators through the credentialing process. LREDA is supported through membership dues, and the LREDA membership comes with many awesome perks. One of the best perks is helping religious educators establish connections with colleagues throughout the region and across the world of Unitarian Universalism. I am so humbled to be working alongside the religious educators who were leading my peers when I was in high school. It's been wonderful reconnecting with the adults that mentored me and supported my spiritual and leadership development. I have greatly enjoyed working with them to build a culture of youth empowerment for the youth of today.

After the reorganization of UUA congregations into regions, many LREDA chapters retained their previous district identities. Before Michigan became part of the MidAmerica Region, it was part of the Heartland district. The Heartland district and subsequent Heartland LREDA chapter holds all of Michigan, Indiana, and portions of western Ohio and northern Kentucky. I regularly have meetings with a cluster of RE professionals in the Heartland chapter, and we gather monthly on Zoom to share about what is going on in our congregations. We also work together on collaborations that lead to events like the Mystic Lake Retreat for middle schoolers, as well as the high school youth conferences. Last spring, I attended the retreat for Heartland religious professionals in Muncie, Indiana and it was the most invigorating experience that



I'd had in a long time...perhaps as long as it had been since I last attended a high school youth conference. I not only got to spend some time with dear friends and mentors, but also meet new friends who are doing this great work alongside me. It also gave me an opportunity to fill up my own spiritual cup so I could come back refreshed, full of love, hope, and light.



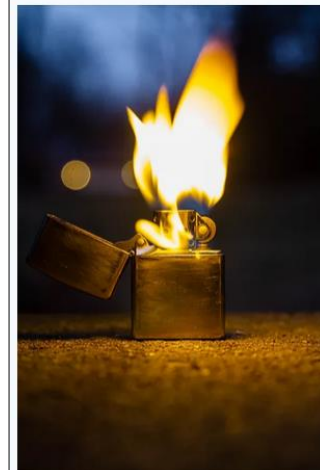
In addition to the resources and collaboration between religious professionals, LREDA provides professional development opportunities. Coming up in the first week of November, I will be attending the LREDA Fall Con from the comfort of my own blanket fort. Check out the cool gift I got for attending the conference, made by one of my RE colleagues! This year's con is virtual, hence

the blanket fort and blanket swag, and is following the same rotation model as General Assembly (alternating in-person and virtual). Speaking of GA, LREDA organizes the Sophia Lyon Fahs lecture series.

Sophia Lyon Fahs is often called “the mother of modern Unitarianism” and helped to revolutionize American children’s religious education. The focus for this year’s lecture was “Love as Accessibility” and how we can build more accessible spaces that allow us to manifest radical welcome in our congregations and religious education programs.

The recently renovated LREDA Portal resource library was just unveiled in September, and yours truly has an entry in the portal! Remember the message I shared with using the lighters and the water? I mentioned it in a forum discussion once upon a time, and I was asked to contribute it to the LREDA Portal. It’s been an honor to have a professional space where I am supported by my colleagues, and together we are shaping the future of liberal religious education and Unitarian Universalist faith formation.

RE-Kindling the Flame



Summary

A simple representation of the power of kindness

Source Information

Created and shared by Shannon Snideman, Director of Religious Education at the Birmingham Unitarian Church (MI)

Resource Links

- [based on a Tik-Tok by Petrice Jones](#)
- [Google Doc](#)

Music Memos



**Association for
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
MUSIC MINISTRIES**

other side, it helps challenge us to think differently from our norms.

I have officially belonged to the [Association for Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries](#), or AUUMM (formerly UUMN) for the 13 years I have been on staff at BUC, but I have been on the periphery for the 23 years Abha has been on staff. The conferences have taken us from Vancouver, BC to Boston, from Ann Arbor to Albuquerque. We have performed on their concert series, leading to invites to perform at UU churches all across the US, and we have presented a number of workshops on how to diversify worship music programming through incorporating a house band.

During each conference, we sing with a large group of music directors testing out new choral works, allowing us to gather new music for our Chalice Choir. We occasionally perform with others at daily worship services, learning new songs we bring back to BUC.

At the conferences in San Diego and Richmond, VA, I was able to work with Dr. Marcia McFee, author of *Think Like a Filmmaker: Sensory-Rich Worship Design for Unforgettable Messages*. Marcia's passion for creating worship deeply affected me, and through her I realized that worship didn't need to be stale.

I have also had time to connect with amazing, talented musicians who recharge my batteries. Hanging out until the wee hours of the morning with others who do the same job as me allows for deep, meaningful friendships and has created long-lasting collegiality.

One thing that stays constant about belonging to AUUMM, no matter where the annual gathering takes place, is that Abha and I come home to work with a church

Belonging to groups larger than the ones with which we typically surround ourselves is important. It helps create space for support from peers that are not in our everyday circles, and on the

community that not only values quality music but expects music of varied styles that is every bit as meaningful as the spoken message.

We are blessed.

--Steven Dearing, Co-Director of Music Ministry

Can I just say, “ditto what my Co-Director said”??

The group of people who form the AUUMM are intelligent, empathic, wickedly skilled, and deeply warm. The collegiality and professional development that Steve and I have participated in for many years (since 2001 in Vancouver, to be exact) has enhanced our understanding of our UU values as a collective body and has individually fed our souls.

Being Co-Directors of Music Ministry and life partners, Steve and I have each other. But we also have this organization and the legacy that was begun by our own Ministers of Music Emerita Barbara Woolf and Dan Boyce who, among other UU leaders, foresaw the value of having a sacred space to experiment, learn new ideas of worship, and receive ministry from others, since we are busy ministering to our BUC congregation through our music. We have forged lifelong friendships and seen many types of UU congregations and sights around the country through our travels for the conferences, our performances at other churches, and sightseeing. These conferences are fun and intense. Many of the workshops we experienced over the years informed subsequent services and continue to provide us with ideas and creative ways to connect spoken word, music, visuals, and sensory-rich worship so our services serve all. Steve and I have given back to this organization by performing at many conference worship services and leading lots of workshops on starting a band, concert series, the healthy voice, music-leading, and more.

As choir director, I have brought back piles of music in numerous styles from around the country and world for our BUC Chalice Choir to sing. This music opens the singers’ minds, hearts, and ears to thoughtful, authentic sounds and languages which connect us to our world community. AUUMM is a blessing, and we are grateful to BUC for the support it has given us to lead and experience these conferences annually.

--Abha Dearing, Co-Director of Music Ministry

Administrator's Missive

Valerie Phillips, Administrator



The [Association of Unitarian Universalist Administrators](#) (AUUA) is a professional organization for Administrators serving in Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations, district offices, or other UU-affiliated organizations. I have been a yearly member of the AUUA since January 2020. Membership in the AUUA has many benefits and perks.

There is a plethora of resources for Administrators and other staff who join as Associate Members. The AUUA Resource Library includes a growing collection of sample forms, policies, procedures, job descriptions, and articles. The Member's Listserv and the private Facebook group provide quick access to other Administrators' expertise via an email or message to the group or a search through previous messages. AUUA members are offered leadership opportunities such as serving on the board or a committee or helping plan activities.

My favorite part of membership in the AUUA has been the numerous professional development opportunities. I really enjoy learning new skills and working with others to share experiences and think through challenges. AUUA hosts a monthly check-in via Zoom, monthly "Lunch and Learn" sessions, and Soul Matters groups, and my absolute favorite activity has been the AUUA Professional Days or Pro Days. Over the last few years, I've participated in the online Pro Days events, which include the AUUA Annual Meeting, and have voted on items such as our annual budget, board



positions, and the AUUA Code of Professional Practices. The content of the Pro Day workshops seems to get better and more involved each year. This year, rather than having two full days of presentations and information, they split the events into one day in the spring and one day in the fall. I found it nice to not be overwhelmed with so much information at once, as well as having something to look forward to!

There are many opportunities for Administrators to build themselves up individually and within our careers, as well as make connections with others. I look forward to continuing membership with the AUUA, growing professionally and finding ways to promote and strengthen Unitarian Universalism through effective administration.



Membership Matters

Sara Constantakis, Director of Congregational Life



The [Unitarian Universalist Association of Membership Professionals](#) (UUAMP) has around 100 members serving congregations in both paid and volunteer positions, with membership as one of the main components of their ministry. UUAMP was established at the 2011 UUA General Assembly, and our mission is to develop and support the ministry of membership through collaboration and professional development and grow Unitarian Universalism as part of shared ministry. UUAMP offers our members

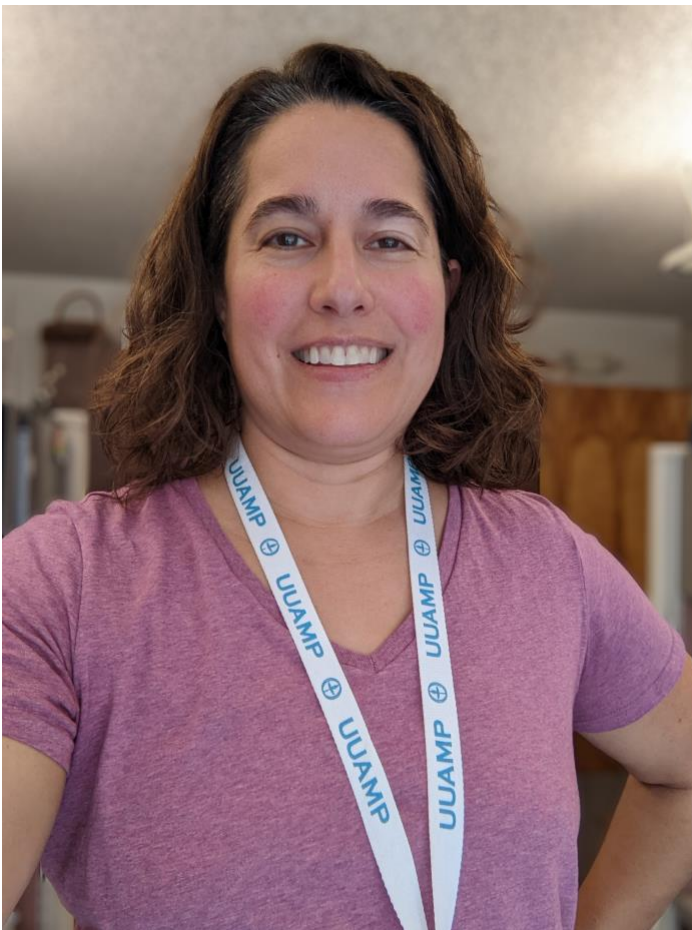
educational resources such as book discussion groups, webinars, best practice seminars, and workshops at local, regional, and national conferences. We also create opportunities for growth, renewal, and interaction with colleagues doing the work of welcoming and engaging newcomers, friends, and members in UU congregations of all shapes and sizes across the country.

I joined UUAMP in September 2023. Since then, I've been participating in our weekly Membership Chats on Zoom, a supportive space for participants to ask questions, learn from each other, and chat about whatever is on their minds and hearts. I've also participated in a discussion group with other UUAMPers taking the asynchronous UU Institute course "Tending Congregational Life: Guiding the Membership Journey." And I'm part of a team working on revamping UUAMP's credentialing program to help further the professionalization of this important ministry and advocate for its status and recognition alongside other UU professional organizations.

This past April I traveled to Naperville, IL to participate in UUAMP Pro Days, hosted at DuPage UU Church. The annual Pro Days brings together UUAMPers for learning, networking, support, and fellowship. The 2024 gathering was full of opportunities for connection, inspiration, and reflection and I was grateful to join

together with colleagues whose ministries spring from our mutual compassion for the work of connecting people to one another. Shortly after returning from Pro Days, I was honored to be invited to join the UUAMP Board and elected as a Member-at-Large at our annual business meeting in June. In the first few months of my term, I've been attending monthly Board meetings and working on the Board's goals of growing UUAMP and elevating our visibility. We will also be working on offerings for our 2025 Pro Days in June in Baltimore (in the alternating years when GA can be attended in-person, Pro Days is held right before GA in the host city). I'm looking forward to being part of Pro Days in 2025, as well as my first GA.

Membership in UUAMP has been instrumental to my development as Director of Congregational Life. It's empowering to be in community with others doing work around belonging in UU congregations. I'm grateful that UUAMP exists as a resource along my own path and that I've been given the opportunity to pay it forward through servant leadership on the UUAMP Board.



Board Minutes

Hello from the BUC Board!

It's been a busy month and we're happy to update you on what's been going on.

Building a New Way. In October, we announced that we'd signed a Letter of Intent with Bloomfield Montessori to lease space in our building on a long-term basis. See a separate article in this newsletter for details.

Membership. At the October town hall, we shared that BUC membership as of early 2024 is 258, a 57% reduction from levels 20 years ago. In her sermon that day, Rev. Connie outlined changing trends in participation in faith communities, most notably that significantly fewer people are attending regularly or at all. Clearly, this has an impact on our budget, funded primarily by pledges. Sara Constantakis shared that we are attracting more visitors this year and stressed the need to welcome visitors and help them find their place among us. We will remain transparent about the challenges we face.

Town Hall slides and recordings are available in the Member Resources section of our website and provide more details. Monthly town halls will continue this year, and we hope you will attend.

Watch for opportunities to support our projects. Please also consider serving as a Religious Education helper, greeter, usher, Zoom host (you can host from home!), or doughnut bringer. It takes all of us to keep our Sunday services welcoming to visitors and to play a role in boosting membership. Let's work together!

In faith,

Your Board of Trustees

Building a New Way

Update from the BUC Board of Trustees

In October, the Board signed a Letter of Intent with Bloomfield Montessori, a new pre-school, to lease space in our building on a long-term basis. This will generate revenue to address much-needed maintenance of our building.

The state has communicated the items needed for Bloomfield Montessori to meet certification. Lease negotiations are expected to commence by the time of this newsletter publication. Assuming that the state's processes proceed according to plan, construction of changes needed for the school will start in January. The initial students will likely start in May, and the school is expected to be fully operational by September. Please join us in thanking the Montessori lease team of Dick Cantley, Keith Ensroth, Bette Moen, and Randy Safford (who generously offered to draft the lease *pro bono*). We're grateful for you!

Meanwhile, other preparations have started in areas such as:

- sorting of stored items in order to clear rooms designated for the pre-school and make space for what needs to be retained
- assessment of how current renters can be accommodated in available BUC spaces
- discussions by the Rummage team, considering changes in available space

We have been hearing positive reactions from the congregation to this “new way,” along with offers to help. Thank you to all who are lending your skills and time to this effort. If you have questions, ideas, or concerns about the project, please email the Board at buc.board@bucmi.org.

Getting to Know UU

Sunday, November 3
Sunday, November 10

12:00 noon
Large Conference Room • Zoom
Snacks provided



**Explore your own spiritual
journey and learn about the
journey of our congregation and
Unitarian Universalism**

Getting to Know Unitarian Universalism (GTKUU), our new member orientation, returns in November! Happening on Sunday, November 3 and Sunday, November 10 at 12:00 noon, this two-session class is for anyone exploring membership at BUC. Explore your own spiritual journey and learn about the journey of our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. GTKUU sessions will be led by Director of Congregational Life Sara Constantakis and Rev. Connie. We encourage in-person attendance if you are willing and able (a light snack will be provided) and a Zoom option is available on the [calendar](#).

South Oakland Shelter 2024

For 30+ years, BUC has hosted guests from South Oakland Shelter (SOS) in our church building during the first week of November. Currently, none of SOS's host congregations are housing shelter guests in their buildings due to Covid-19. Instead, host congregations are supplying money for food via SOS's contracted provider, Meals on Wheels. BUC will again be working with the Muslim Unity Center, UU Church of Farmington, Northwest UU, and Beacon UU to raise funds to finance meals during our host week, November 3-10.

Here's how you can help support SOS this year: Contribute to our target goal of \$5,000 to feed 65 SOS clients for a week. Donations of any amount are accepted. You can fund a family, adult, or child at \$10/day/person, which will cover the cost of all food through Meals on Wheels. \$70 feeds one person for the week. Choose your own giving level. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, November 10.

Donate online at the BUC website at www.bucmi.org. Click the pink “Give to SOS” button near the bottom of the home page to go to our online giving platform, and choose “SOS Donations” from the dropdown. You can also mail checks to BUC, 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 made out to Birmingham Unitarian Church (memo: SOS host). Donations exceeding the goal will finance other SOS expenditures. Thanks so much for your continuing support! For any questions about SOS, please contact Paul Plante at pplante@twmi.rr.com.



If you are interested in starting or increasing the number of native species in your yard, you can find a variety of nurseries that specialize in natives, many of which will ship plants to your home. But it is more economical—and very satisfying—to grow your own with native seeds from other local gardeners. We are making it easy for you with our third BUC Native Plant Seed Sharing! **We will again be set up for sharing NATIVE seeds in Hodas Hall following service on November 10.**

Participation is easy--whether you have any seeds to share or not. If you already have a population of native plants, collect the ripe seeds and keep them in a cool, dry location away from direct light. To prepare for sharing, place a portion of seed in an envelope or other dry container and label. The label should, at a minimum, include the native plant's name (both common and scientific, if you know it). It can also include any or all of these:

- native plant type: annual, biennial, perennial
- preferred light conditions: sun, part sun, shade
- preferred soil type: clay, loam, sand
- soil conditions: wet to dry

- height
- bloom period
- recommended uses, such as rain garden, pollinator garden, edging, boulevard planting
- any other relevant information that will increase the chances of growing success

Email questions to Kimery Campbell at kaceybirder@wowway.com

“Gaza on Fire: The Health and Human Rights Consequences of the War” with Dr. Alice Rothchild

Sunday, November 10 at 2:00 pm in the BUC Sanctuary + Zoom

Brought to you by Jewish Voice for Peace

Dr. Alice Rothchild has an extensive history as an advocate for social justice, women’s health and feminist empowerment, and human rights and peace, especially related to Palestine/Israel. She is active with Jewish Voice for Peace on the national level as a member of the JVP Health Advisory Council and serves on the boards of the Gaza Mental Health Foundation, Just World Educational, and We Are Not Numbers. An author, filmmaker, poet, healthcare expert, and community organizer, Rothchild has written three books on Israel/Palestine and contributed to numerous newspapers, magazines, webzines, anthologies, and poetry journals. After years as a OBGYN physician and educator in the Boston area, she now lives in the Pacific Northwest.

Dr. Rothchild will be in metro Detroit November 9-10 and Jewish Voice for Peace is organizing several opportunities to meet and hear her speak. Join JVP on Sunday, November 10 at 2:00 pm in the BUC Sanctuary and on Zoom for Dr. Rothchild’s talk, refreshments, and book signing. RSVP [here](#).

Presented with BUC UUs for Justice in the Middle East



BUC Racial Justice Book Group
November discussion: *White Evangelical Racism*
Rescheduled
Monday, November 11
6:00-7:30 pm

The Racial Justice Book Group is for any BUCers striving to understand and work to eliminate racial prejudice from our community and ourselves. All are invited to join the discussions. Meetings are on Zoom on the second Monday in select months September-May, from 6:00-7:30 pm. Zoom details are on the [BUC calendar](#) and listed in the weekly update email. Our discussion of *White Evangelical Racism* has been rescheduled to Monday, November 11, and next month's discussion of *Let Us Descend* by Jesmyn Ward is scheduled for Monday, December 9.

BUC Alliance
Tuesday, November 12
7:00 pm in Blue Door
Keith Ensroth on Artificial Intelligence (AI)



Join the BUC Alliance for an **evening program on Tuesday, November 12 at 7:00 pm** in Blue Door. Keith Ensroth will present on Artificial Intelligence, or AI. The presentation will provide a brief overview of what AI is, including why the recent appearance of ChatGPT on the scene has made such a difference. We'll also explore the risks and opportunities that AI brings to the world. Because AI is changing quickly, we'll touch on recent highlights in AI's rapid progression.

This meeting and the April 8, 2025 meeting are in the evening at the request of members not available for our luncheon meetings. Let's have a good turnout. See you there!

MAMA's Coffeehouse

a monthly acoustic music concert series

Income from MAMA's
Coffeehouse (after operating
expenses) benefits BUC

Saturday, November 16

Scott Cook

doors open at 7:00pm

open mic at 7:15

concert begins at 7:30

Admission: \$17 (\$15 student/senior)

Cash or check at door only

In 2007, Albertan songwriter Scott Cook quit his job teaching kindergarten in Taiwan and moved into a minivan. He's made his living as a troubadour ever since, touring almost incessantly across Canada, the US, Europe, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and elsewhere, averaging 150 shows and a dozen summer festivals a year, and releasing seven albums of plainspoken, keenly observant verse along the way. He's been back on the road full-time since January of 2022, living in a campervan named Roadetta with his sweetheart Pamela Mae on upright bass and vocals, visiting 43 states and eight Canadian provinces. In 2024, they're touring Australia and North America and recording an eighth album for release in the fall.



Mike Green opens

“Mike Green is a man of many, sometimes hidden, talents. Sure, he's a well-known and respected talent agent, but he's also a wicked gardener. A gourmet cook. A lover of great music. And now, an out-of-the-closet singer/songwriter. What do all these things have in common? They make our lives a little richer, a little more nutritious, more worth living. These are all crafts that require time, patience, and a love for small details. In Mike's first recording, he sets a table as varied as it is satisfying. Pull up a chair and join in the feast.” – John McCutcheon

BUC Holiday Giving 2024



Get your shopping bags ready, everyone—it's time for BUC Holiday Giving! In keeping with a longstanding BUC tradition, you will have the opportunity again this year to provide holiday gifts for a family from Walt Whitman Elementary School. Join us in helping to make the holidays brighter for dozens of families!

Each family submits a wish list of items they hope to be able to give their children. Wish lists will be available in the Pavilion (outside the Sanctuary) at church on three Sundays: November 17, November 24, and December 1.

Drop-off of gifts at church is on Sunday, December 15.

If you'd like to help by working at the table on a Sunday, helping organizing bags on drop-off Sunday, or helping to deliver gifts to the school, please let Jane O'Neil know by email at BUCSEJ@gmail.com.



UU Values Open Forum

brought to you by the Humanists of BUC



At our next UU Values Open Forum on Sunday, November 17 at 7:00 pm on Zoom, Prof. Peter Hammer will discuss the Detroit Equity Action Lab (DEAL) at the Wayne State University Law School. DEAL develops leaders who work to end structural racism by equipping them with tools to disrupt racism and create equitable alternatives together.

One of DEAL's priorities is focusing on racial equity from a personal to structural lens. Fellows connect to anti-racism movement ancestors, as a means of personal and movement transformation. DEAL emphasizes that co-liberation toward racial equity is as much about

our personal journeys as it is about addressing oppressive systems.

Prof. Hammer is the Director of the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at the Wayne State Law School and was invited by Mary Dunn to speak to us.



Do you have an experience, passion, or connection related to UU values that you would like to share at a future Open Forum? Click [here](#) or contact Larry Freedman at lawrenceman@sbcglobal.net.



BUC's Religious Education Committee is hosting a Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, November 24 from 11:30 am-1:30 pm. Come sample the chilis made by the chefs in our community, then vote for your favorites! Tickets are \$7 each or 4 for \$25 (includes 5 tickets for voting), and all proceeds raised will benefit the Coming of Age program and fund the Spring 2026 Boston Heritage Trip. This experience provides an opportunity for youth to explore Unitarian Universalist history, as well as discover connections to the greater UU community. All of the funds raised will go toward travel, food, lodging, transportation around Boston, and activities included in the experience.

And what a cozy time of year to eat some chili! We need LOTS of chilis to be made, but we also need some extra help in the kitchen and in Hodas Hall. Each chili will have a collection bin, and the chef who makes the chili that raises the most funds wins a special prize! Additional voting tickets may be purchased for \$1 each or 12 for \$10.

[CLICK HERE](#) to sign up if you want to submit your chili for the Cook-Off or if you are able to help support this event another way.

BUC Leadership Application

The BUC Nominating Committee identifies and nominates leadership roles for the Board (3-year commitment), Stewardship Committee (2-year commitment), and Nominating Committee (2-year commitment).

If you have signed the membership book, made a financial contribution, and voted within the last two years and would like to be considered for one of these roles, please complete [this application](#). The Nominating Committee will consider all applications and select the nominees from among the applications submitted as well as the eligible membership.

See the [Elected Leaders page](#) on the BUC website for a short description of the positions involved, or ask a member of the Nominating Committee for more details.

Please complete the application and press submit at the bottom of the form no later than FEBRUARY 21, 2025. You will receive a reply by MARCH 31, 2025.