

The BUC Big Picture

November 2025



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November Worship

November 9

“You Are in Charge of Celebrations!”

As we enter a season of celebrations, the BUC Worship Associates team will share some visions of celebrating, and invites you to remember, create, and recreate the celebrations of your life—past, present and future.

November 16

“What is the Center of Unitarian Universalism?”

In our creedless faith, what are the central understandings and practices that unite us?

November 23

“Why We Give Thanks”

Why and how do we experience and express gratitude—anyway? A worship service for all ages.

November 30

“Breaking Bread Together”

The congregations of First UU Detroit, Northwest UU Church, and UU Church of Farmington are invited to celebrate the harvests of our lives as we break bread together. If you can, please bring a loaf or batch or other form of bread (pita? tortillas? bagels?) representing your heritage in whatever way you choose, and an accompaniment such as cheese, hummus, jam, or fruit. During the service in the Sanctuary we’ll symbolically share the bread, and after the service we’ll enjoy a simple lunch of bread and the accompaniments you bring. A worship service for all ages. All are welcome!

November Plate Sharing

ReLeaf Michigan

The recipient of our November plate sharing is [ReLeaf Michigan](#), a tree-planting and education organization established in 1988. ReLeaf Michigan is Michigan's only statewide tree-planting nonprofit organization, working with communities and organizations throughout Michigan to protect and restore our urban tree canopies. Their mission is to educate the public on the value of trees and how to properly select, plant, and maintain them. Founded by some of the most respected arborists in the state and building on lifetimes of green expertise, ReLeaf Michigan plants the Right Tree in the Right Place at the Right Time for the Right Purpose to ensure each tree thrives for generations to come. ReLeaf Michigan has worked with over 700 communities across Michigan. Working with community volunteers, they have planted more than 33,500 trees on public property in Michigan's cities, townships, and villages.

Plate donations can be made via cash or check during worship services or at any time via our [online giving portal](#) (choose "Plate Collection" from the drop-down) or [Venmo](#) (send payment to @BUCMI and note "Plate Collection").

Staff "Who to Contact" List / Office Hours

Do you have an idea, question, or concern and need to know where to direct it? Wondering which staff member handles a particular area? The answers are in our staff ["Who to Contact" list](#), also linked on our [home page](#) in the "Learn About Us" box in the middle of the page. This list has contact information for the minister and staff members responsible for pastoral, financial, worship, program, membership, administrative, and communications issues. **Church office hours** are also included at the top. These hours reflect when the office is open for church business and do not reflect the operating hours of the building as a whole. We kindly ask that you restrict church business (by phone and in person) to the office hours. The working hours of individual staff members, which do not necessarily match the office hours, and are listed on the [Minister & Staff page](#) of our website.

Minister's Message

Rev. Connie Grant

These first two weeks of November I'm mostly on vacation, popping into a few church meetings on Zoom but working as little as possible. I'm always reachable in the usual ways in case of need.

My spouse and I are currently in Prescott Valley, AZ, having been reunited with the stuff from our house in the Chicago suburbs in our phased move to relocate our home base. Excited to spend time with our grandsons in Phoenix!

I'll be back for the service on November 16, and in the meantime some notes:

- Many thanks to artist David Sabbagh for his gift to the church of a beautiful sculpted metal bell which now graces the Memorial Glen. On November 2 the tolling of the bell enhanced the reading of names newly-engraved on the cenotaphs.
- I'm looking forward to the first of this year's collaborative services with First UU Detroit, Northwest UU, and Farmington UU as we host them to celebrate the harvests of our lives and break bread together on November 30. Future plans include celebrations of Martin Luther King Day on January 18 in Detroit; Transgender Day of Visibility in Farmington on March 29; and Motor City Pride in Detroit on June 14.



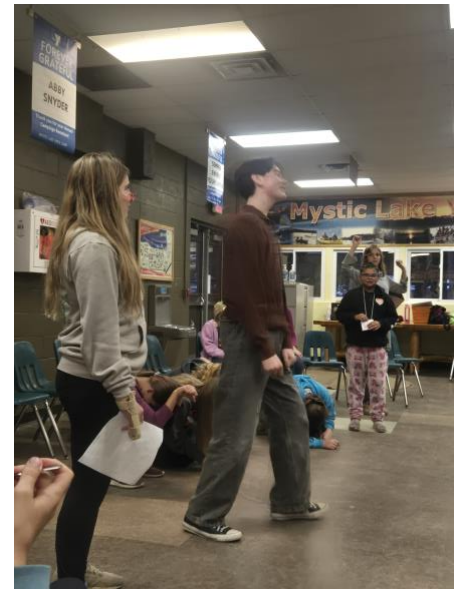
Looking forward, in faith and hope.

Religious Education Musings

Shannon Snideman, Director of Religious Education

One of the most exciting parts of my job is witnessing the power of community, and the annual middle school gathering at Mystic Lake YMCA Camp is an event I particularly look forward to.

This year, four youth and four adults (three of whom were parents) traveled to Mystic Lake for a very wet, yet truly wonderful, weekend. We were joined by friends from five other Michigan UU churches: Northwest UU in Southfield, First UU in Ann Arbor, People's Church in Kalamazoo, All Souls in Grand Rapids, and the UU Church of Greater Lansing. I even had the pleasure of meeting another former Mystic Lake counselor from the Lansing church! In total, we had 54 people in attendance.



This middle school retreat is structured similarly to a high school conference, or CON. While each event has special programming, a CON is entirely youth-led, whereas the Mystic Lake retreat features programming provided by camp staff. However, throughout both weekends, small groups called CON Bands gather to give participants a chance to meet new people and build connections. CON Bands are also youth-led, which helps build and nurture leadership skills. Additionally, there are opportunities for youth to plan a worship service for Saturday evening. Our amazing BUC youth have consistently been involved in these powerful components, and it's incredible to see them developing into strong, inclusive leaders.

Being present in these spaces is truly an honor. It is, and always has been, what has inspired me to be an educator. I was in awe of my peers with whom I had the privilege to lead, and the work I do now provides a safe space for our future leaders to grow and thrive. I could talk about these youth all day, but there's nothing quite like witnessing youth empowerment firsthand and being the support that bolsters them up.

Music Memos

Abha Dearing, Co-Director of Music Ministry

Happy Autumn to our dear Beloved BUC Community.

Coming up, the BUC Choir will sing on November 9 and November 30. This includes an opportunity to join forces with the Choirs of UUCF (Farmington) and First UU (Detroit) on our joint Bread Communion service. On November 16, the Sound Messengers welcome a guest vocalist, Alison Ristovski. She will be a fine front-person for some of that day's music. Also, the Choir continues to prepare diligently for their Music Sunday, December 14, albeit slightly pared down this year. They will sound great singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" by John Rutter, a collection of secular Christmas songs which are sentimental, nostalgic, spirited, and inviting. Please mark your calendars for these special moments. We look forward to connecting with each of you about music at BUC, and of course all of the things that make up our lives.

Membership Matters

Sara Constantakis, Director of Congregational Life

"Whatever you are, be a good one" –William Makepeace Thackeray

Awhile back, I came across an article in *UU World* magazine about congregational growth. In "[The Secret to Congregational Success at Any Size](#)," Natalie Briscoe, lead for the Southern Region of the UUA, shares how UUA staff approach conversations with congregations about membership decline and growth. In these conversations, Natalie says UUA staff ask two questions: "Why do you want to grow?" and "What do you believe is holding you back?" Natalie then shares some wisdom and advice that I hope can transform the conversation about membership and growth in our beloved BUC congregation. Natalie writes: "I'm going to give it to you straight: people want to go where it is fun to be. They don't want to go where they are asked to serve right away. They don't want to go where people don't laugh,

don't celebrate, don't love out loud. They don't want to go to a space that is exactly the same as the harsh world they stepped in from. People want hope. They want beauty. They want joy. They want their spirits uplifted. There is no magic formula: people want to go where they can leave the world behind and make a better one."

But her next words are the ones that rang through me like a bell: ***"You can do that at any size. You are already fully equipped to offer everything the world needs so desperately right now."***

What has BUC been doing and offering the world at our current size? Over the past couple years, we have formed or revived the BUC Alliance, BUCers at the Theatre, FUUN (Family UU Network), and just this past month, the Craft and Chat Group and the Gaming Group. The BUC Caring Network (formerly known as Helping Hands) has reformed to support community members in times of need. And this month marks the return of our Thanksgiving Day potluck. You can read about all of this later in this newsletter and in our weekly email updates.

This is how congregations grow—by creating opportunities for connection, and the impact of what we have created is evident at BUC. We see new visitors every Sunday and have newcomers signed up for the November 22 session of our new member orientation class, Getting to Know UU, and future sessions.

"Whatever you are, be a good one," Natalie says. "Growth follows the good." By the UUA's definition, BUC is a mid-size congregation. At our current membership level, we *can* be a good mid-size congregation and do the work we are called to do in the world—including creating beauty and joy and uplifting spirits—through the programs mentioned above and so many others we have at BUC. Remember that data point I learned at General Assembly, that 70% of congregations have fewer than 150 members? All of those congregations, too, can be good congregations and, like us, do the work they were called to do in the world at their current membership levels. It's not about numbers. It's about how we engage in community; how we support, connect with, and love each other.

In this month of giving thanks for the gifts we already have, I call on us to consider how the invitation to ***"be a good one"*** might transform our thinking about membership and growth at BUC. We will likely never again reach our membership numbers of ten or more years ago. Not many churches will achieve that, if any at all

do. But at BUC, we are doing everything we need to do to build foundations and grow in ways that transcend the numerical: forming fellowship groups and opportunities for connection and care, revising our bylaws and policies, and working on a strategic plan for our future.

Thank you for all the love, support, and well-wishes during my recent medical leave. I'm so grateful to my fellow staff members and our minister for their support and for taking care of my responsibilities while I recovered, and I'm especially thankful to be healthy and back with our beloved congregation to do the work we do together to *"be a good one."* May it be so.

Board Minutes

The Building and Grounds Committee has had a very busy few years, addressing flooding and remodeling of the Lower Level, followed by preparing for the Montessori school remodeling and lease. They have also assessed for numerous infrastructure issues, including failing roofs and aging HVAC systems. Dick Cantley has been an integral part of the committee for many years and is stepping down from active involvement. On behalf of the congregation, the Board would like to thank him very sincerely for his efforts, expertise, and diligence in helping us maintain and improve our complicated buildings.

Current members are Jimmy Vogel (Chair,) Brian Schandavel, Jane O'Neil, and Dick Cantley (rotating off in December.) The committee is looking to expand its membership. Several potential new members attended a recent meeting to learn about the work of the committee.

Upgrades to the wifi system at a cost of \$4500 are underway and should resolve issues with speed, reliability, and power.

As previously reported, the Contract Minister Search Committee has been formed and is beginning work this month to prepare the congregational profile or

description that is given to prospective ministers. They also prepare to interview candidates starting in January.

Be sure to review the proposed changes to the BUC bylaws and be ready to vote at the Sunday, November 16 meeting at noon (in person and on Zoom). The next project will be a rewrite of a long list of policies.

In faith,

Your BUC Board of Trustees for 2025-2026

President Mary Jo Ebert, Vice President Harper West, Treasurer Keith Ensroth, Secretary Bill Fox, Trustees: Donna Cunningham, Art Hillman, Claudia Kocher, Tanya Nordhaus, Brian Schandavel

BUC Strategic Plan: Building Our Future

Listen	Envision	Plan	Implement
Ideas <i>Input gathered from many perspectives</i>	Values <i>Enduring beliefs that define our identity</i> Vision <i>An aspirational picture of our desired future</i> Mission <i>A statement of purpose that reflects our values & priorities</i>	Goals <i>Strategic priorities that address how we will achieve our mission</i> Objectives <i>Specific measurable actions to achieve our goals</i>	Action Plans <i>Detailed steps to work together to reach our objectives</i>

Listening Labs a Success with Great Participation Each Time

Over the last month, BUC’s Strategic Planning Team conducted three brainstorming sessions as a key element of the initial “Listen” stage of our process. We are glad to report that 75 members, friends, and staff attended these Values & Vision Listening Labs. Thank you again to those who could be there and another welcome to our newcomers!

Facilitators Jess Newman, Kevin Kozlowski, and Kasey Alderete found that participants were eager to discuss their personal values and how they might align

with or support values essential to our church. Just one Lab's result is shown here: a large list of what people feel should be our common values. When the brainstorming turned toward the future, participants enjoyed forecasting what media headlines might say about BUC five years from now. "BUC Launches Dignity and Peace Youth Summer Camp Connecting Youth from All Over the Detroit Metro Area" is a sample of more than 100 headlines crafted in all the Labs.



The Team will next begin to synthesize everything that participants expressed, with the objective of using our learnings to propose an ideal set of BUC values plus a vision and mission for the future. This will form the "Envision" stage of strategic

planning. There is much more to do—evaluating data on membership, budgets, and programs within the context of other UU churches and today's world, for instance—as we move to the Plan and Implement stages. But we have already learned how engaged and open BUCers are when asked their opinions about the future of our beloved community. We will continue to consult with others in future stages, since we need to work together to put any plan into action.

As we report our ongoing progress to the BUC Board of Trustees and support the Ministerial Search Team, we will keep congregants informed as well. We invite you to forward any questions throughout the process to:

bucstrategicplanning@gmail.com.

In gratitude,

BUC Strategic Planning Team: Kasey Alderete, Drieka DeGraff, Barb Eschner, Kevin Kozlowski, Chris Slon

Meet BUC's Flamekeepers

By Tanya Nordhaus

As many of you know, I have been interviewing congregants about their connection to BUC and their lives. If you haven't done a Zoom interview with me, I encourage you to get on my schedule via [this link](#). More dates are added every Monday. And if you would prefer to interview in person, we can do that, too.

Each month I will be introducing you to three congregants. This month I introduce you to Nancy Jones, Keith Ensroth, and Mary Samal.

Nancy Jones joined BUC in 1960. She has been a member of BUC for three years longer than anyone else! Nancy worked at BUC for 28 years, doing the weekly newsletter (amongst other things) that was typed, mimeographed, or—later on—copied, folded, stamped, and mailed by her and her crew of volunteers, the Tuesday Tigers. She fondly remembers Bob Marshall, an early minister at BUC, attempting to enter the Guinness Book of World Records with the longest sermon. Nancy and her husband spent A LOT of time driving and competing in road rallies in their little MG and later in their Porsche. Nancy, as of recent, lives in Colorado with her daughter but still often watches Rev. Connie's sermons on Zoom. She misses us. Reach out to her, please.



Who was on track to become a priest? Our very own hard-working Treasurer, **Keith Ensroth**. Keith and his family were “Driftarians” (a word their son Ben coined) before finding BUC through his boss, Dave Carlson. They drifted between churches until in 1999 they found BUC, their spiritual home. Keith, who worked in IT most of his career, thought to himself when he was introduced to the internet, “Well, this isn't going anywhere.” Surprise, Keith. One of his favorite

childhood memories was being the navigator on his family of seven's trip to Gettysburg, DC, and Williamsburg. Keith, as someone once said, "gets s**t done!" If you've ever worked with him at church in one of his many, many roles, you'd say the same.

If you don't know **Mary Samal**, you should get to know her. This woman is beyond fascinating. Did you know she was a smuggler between West Germany and Russian-occupied Czechoslovakia? Indeed, she was. You most likely wouldn't know that because, as she said, when someone says, "How are you?", her answer is never "I smuggled!" Mary turned her harrowing past during the final years of WWII and its aftermath into a career. She earned her PhD in Political Science from Penn State. She spent most of her career at Oakland University, where she taught Eastern European politics. Mary joined BUC in 2019 and finally feels as though she belongs somewhere. We are so glad you are here, Mary. You do belong.



Program News & Info

“Helping Hands”: The BUC Caring Network

By Dan Kosuth, Pastoral Care Associate

Pastoral Care has been described as the “heart” of BUC. While we PCAs aren't trained counselors, we are trained to listen, to be present, and to share your experience with empathy and compassion. We are here to respond when life events happen, both joys and sorrows; as representatives of the church community, we offer spiritual and emotional support. Sometimes that means just sitting in silence

with your grief, or sharing your joy, or even just checking in on you when you can't get out.

At other times, folks need more practical assistance, such as a ride to church or to an appointment. For these “helping hands” services, we call on volunteers from the congregation to be available to respond to temporary, but immediate, “real world” needs as part of what is now known as the BUC Caring Network. And sometimes what you really need is a home-cooked meal.

Recently, Mary Samal, a long-time member of our congregation, was unexpectedly hospitalized. The Pastoral Care Team was in touch with Mary, and offered to help. When she was released, she was restricted from her usual activities, which presented a particular problem: she was expecting several houseguests from Europe, and didn't have groceries or the energy to prepare a welcoming dinner for them. I volunteered to make a “love casserole” for her, delivering my special “Aunt Pearl's Chicken & Rice” to her door, still warm from the oven. Mary, of course, was deeply appreciative, and her guests were well-fed. Mary has fully recovered and is back to her usual busy schedule, and has subsequently signed up as a volunteer for BUC's Caring Network. A happy ending all around!

But I was perhaps the real beneficiary of this transaction. I love to cook, so that was fun. Plus, supporting our church community is very important to me, and Mary's appreciation made me feel really good. There are biological reasons for this: when we perform acts of kindness, our brain releases dopamine, creating feelings of pleasure and reward. Another hormone is oxytocin, released when we form social bonds; helping others has been shown to increase its levels, fostering stronger social connections and leading to greater life satisfaction. (For more information on the benefits of altruism, see [this article](#).) I believe that these small gestures accumulate, contributing to a more compassionate and connected world. And, of course, any kindness can lead to reciprocal acts— again, to my benefit. What a deal!

Incidentally, you too can enjoy all the benefits of giving through the BUC Caring Network. So why not sign up today? After all, the secret to happiness is in the joy of giving.

To sign up for the BUC Caring Network, please fill out [this form](#). If you have questions about the form, please email PCA Administrator Monica Vogel at mbmathis17@gmail.com.

Racial Justice

The Racial Justice Committee invites you to visit our Detroit Institute of Arts for new exhibits featuring African American Art and Contemporary Anishinaabe Art.

Reimagine African American Art



This transformative reinstallation traces the development of African American art from the 1800s, when a few African Americans overcame tremendous challenges to become professional artists, to the 1980s, when some began to receive more national and international recognition.

Tracing the evolution of African American culture, the collection provides a powerful lens into the lives, achievements, and resilience of Black artists. Four dedicated galleries will explore key historical movements, including the Harlem Renaissance, Social Realism, the Civil Rights era, and the Black Arts Movement. The reinstalled galleries will feature a variety of media — drawings, prints, photography, paintings, and sculpture.

Contemporary Anishinaabe Art: A Continuation (through April 5)

This exhibit celebrates the enduring cultures and creative achievements of over 60 Anishinaabe artists from across the Great Lakes region. These artists represent a continuation of Anishinaabe creativity, which has been



ongoing for centuries. One of the largest presentations of contemporary Native American art in the Midwest and the first major Native American exhibition at the Detroit Institute of Arts in 30 years, this exhibition challenges perceptions about what Native American art can be, how it should be seen, and how it can be interpreted.

Curated with the guidance from an advisory council of Ojibwe (Chippewa), Ottawa (Odawa), and Potawatomi (Pottawatomi) artists, the exhibition features a diverse scope of more than 90 works —basketry, beadwork, birchbark artistry, clothing, film, graphic design, jewelry, painting, pottery, sculpture, and woodwork—and highlights the unique histories and perspectives of the Anishinaabe people. The exhibition’s gallery labels will be translated into Anishinaabemowin, an original language of the Great Lakes region and North America.

DIA hours: Mon- closed; Tues-Thurs 9am-4 pm; Fri 9am-9pm; Sat-Sun 10am-5pm

BUC UUs for Justice in the Middle East

Each UUA General Assembly offers UUs an opportunity to bring forth Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW), issues of urgency. In 2024, the GA proposed and affirmed the AIW “[Solidarity with Palestinians](#).” UUs for Justice in the Middle East, here at BUC and in congregations around the country, works to implement witness, education, and action in keeping with this UU action in support of Palestinians. Our recent “Introduction to BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanction)” presentation and our work for Apartheid Free Communities are part of our efforts. Check out our [page on the BUC website](#), visit our table during coffee hour, and join our conversations about justice in the Middle East every second Sunday at 9 am in the Large Conference Room, and special programs throughout the year. Sign up for our mailing list at our table or send your request to sarah.redmond2007@gmail.com.

“If I Must Die, Let It Be a Tale”

Refaat Alareer (1979-2023)

If I must die,
you must live
to tell my story
to sell my things
to buy a piece of cloth
and some strings,
(make it white with a long tail)
so that a child, somewhere in Gaza
while looking heaven in the eye
awaiting his dad who left in a blaze—
and bid no one farewell
not even to his flesh
not even to himself—
sees the kite, my kite you made, flying up above
and thinks for a moment an angel is there
bringing back love
If I must die
let it bring hope
let it be a tale

The author of this poem and six of his family members were killed in a bombing in Gaza in November 2023.

Upcoming Events



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 another Native Plant Seed Sharing, happening **Sunday, November 9** in Hodas Hall following service.

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
- any other relevant information that will increase the chances of growing success

Drop off your labeled seeds at our table in Hodas Hall on Sunday before service. After service, anyone can pick up seeds at the table (no need to have contributed any). Let's support a healthy ecosystem and make the world more beautiful!

Email questions to Kimery Campbell at kaceybirder@wowway.com.



Join us in Hodas Hall on **Sunday, November 9** during coffee hour for our monthly all-ages community birthday celebration! If your birthday is in November, you're invited to come forward for special recognition. There will be cupcakes!



Dear Friends of the BUC Talent & Services Auction, our biggest biennial fundraising party:

Do you have feedback on past auctions, like our Blue Boat Bash or Mardi Gras? Do you have thoughts on what the 2026 auction could do? Fun and community spirit are key, as well as boosting the BUC budget: Can we achieve more and keep things easy? Join some auction veterans for an informal "Fresh Take" talk on **Sunday, November 9 from 12 noon-1 pm in the Green Door Room**, snackage provided. Please email barb.eschner@gmail.com if you'd like to come. We'll look forward to seeing you!

FUUN – The Family UU Network

FUUN creates opportunities for deeper social connection through shared activities and outings. With a focus on inclusion, the group hosts a monthly low-cost (or free) activity intended to appeal to a wide range of ages, including youth, families, and grown-ups. Examples of activities include park meetups, museums, bowling, movie nights, picnics, and sledding. Newcomers and drop-ins are welcome.

FUUN's next meetup is at the Cranbrook Institute of Science following church on **Sunday, November 9**. The museum is open from 12-4 pm. There is a cafe onsite and two planetarium shows that afternoon. Michigan Sky Tonight, the live show, is at 1:30 pm. This activity will be FUUN regardless of weather! Contact group leader Jordan Schwarz at jbschwarz@gmail.com for more details.



BUC Racial Justice Book Club
November discussion:
Take My Hand by Dolen Perkins-Valdez
Monday, November 10
6:00-7:30 pm

Join the BUC Racial Justice Book Club for their November discussion! This group began with alumni of the Living the Pledge workshop and is a way learn more about racism as we continue our individual and group work to end racism. All are invited to join the discussions.

The book club decided last meeting to read part two of *Lovely One* on our own and to substitute *Take My Hand* as our book for November. Join the discussion of *Take My Hand* on **Monday, November 10 from 6:00-7:30**. The Zoom link is on the BUC [calendar](#).

Future meeting dates are December 8, March 9, April 13, and May 11. For questions and/or more information, contact coordinator Mary Masson at mmasson@wowway.com or (248) 568-6544.

Threats to Marriage Equality: A Conversation with Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 6:30 pm (Zoom)

With the Supreme Court signaling willingness to revisit *Obergefell v. Hodges*, marriage equality and basic civil rights may soon be at risk. Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel—one of the nation’s leading legal voices for LGBTQIA+ rights and co-counsel in the pivotal *DeBoer v. Snyder* case that helped pave the way for *Obergefell*—will discuss what’s at stake, how religious nationalism and judicial activism are driving these challenges, and what we can do to protect equality and freedom of conscience. We encourage you to join this timely conversation and invite others in your network.

No charge to attend; registration is required. **Register [here](#).**

This event is co-sponsored by Michigan UU Social Justice Network and hosted by Jews for a Secular Democracy.

Threats to Marriage Equality
 A Conversation with Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel
November 11
 via zoom
6:30 pm EST

Dana Nessel
 Michigan Attorney General

LEARN MORE & REGISTER
<https://bit.ly/jfasdnessel>

sponsored by:

- NCJW | MI
- Detroit Jews for Justice
- Transgender Michigan
- Michigan Marriage Equality
- Congregation for Humanistic Judaism of Metro Detroit
- Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network

co-sponsored by:

- Ohio Equal Rights
- Society for Humanistic Judaism
- Or Adam Congregation - Phoenix
- Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty
- South Asian American
- Voices For Impact (SAAVI)
- The Rabbi Joseph H. Gumbiner Community Action Project of the Tucson Jewish Museum & Holocaust Center
- Secular Humanist
- Jewish Circle of Tucson
- Keshet
- Florida NOW
- NCJW | Miami
- The Workers Circle
- Temple Israel of Greater Orlando

The BUC Alliance presents
An Evening with Mira Walker
piano performance and afterglow



Friday, November 14 at 7:00 pm
Birmingham Unitarian Church
38651 Woodward at Lone Pine | Bloomfield Hills
Free admission

American pianist Mira Walker is known for her sensitive interpretations, ranging from J.S. Bach to Florence Price, and her research on historically underrepresented composers. Mira completed her B.A. in Music at the University of Alabama and her M.M. in Piano Performance at Indiana University. She is currently a D.M.A. candidate in Piano Pedagogy and Performance at the University of Michigan, where she also serves as a Graduate Student Instructor, in addition to her role as Pianist at BUC.

Mira is a prizewinner in dozens of competitions and has performed internationally in solo and chamber programs and with many renowned orchestras. Upcoming projects and performances include the release of her first album, featuring compositions by Women of the Chicago Black Renaissance.

MAMA's Coffeehouse

a monthly acoustic music concert series

Saturday, November 15, 7:30 pm

The Rough & Tumble

John Finan & Sharon Tse open

Admission: \$20 regular | \$18 student/senior
No advance sales; cash or check at door only

The Rough & Tumble are a folk/Americana duo consisting of Mallory Graham and Scott Tyler. Forming in 2011, they spent eight years full time in a 16-foot camper with two big dogs, playing roughly 150 shows a year. At home at festivals, listening rooms, and house concerts across the country, their commanding stage presence, engaging performances, and affecting songwriting won them recognition from music industry veterans and audiences alike. Recently, they released *Hymns for My Atheist Sister & Her Friends to Sing Along To*, a collection of deeply personal, unifying, and uplifting humanist gospel songs.

John Finan & Sharon Tse: Their chance meeting produced one of Metro Detroit's finest acoustic duos. John and Sharon weave intricate guitar arrangements and effortless vocal harmonies into their unique brand of intelligent songwriting. Audiences will catch nuances of folk, rock, pop, and jazz as they are captivated by this duo's warm, approachable style.

Upcoming events

December 13: P.O.W.E.R. benefit concert

P.O.W.E.R. (a Peaceful Organization for Wellbeing, Empowerment, and Resilience) is a community of artists and musicians who create and fund opportunities for self-defense and situational-awareness training. The evening's performers include Jan Krist, Jen Cass, Jo Serrapere, Booby Pennock, Michelle Held, Kora Feder, Mike Ward and Katie Geddes.



BUCers at the Theatre



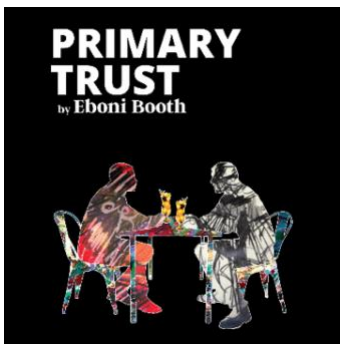
BUCers at the Theatre invites you to Drama in the D! This legendary arts venue in the heart of the city has a lobby bar, cocktail lounge, café, and union theatre professionals—all in an art gallery setting. BUCers can join together to carpool or meet up at Detroit Repertory Theatre for afternoon matinees. Sign up for our email list during coffee hour, or contact Maryl Kacir Huntington at (313) 407-4377 to receive email alerts.

Tickets: \$21 general seating with BUC discount (\$35 at the door)

1:00 pm: lobby, art gallery, and café/cocktail bar open (vegan options available)

2:00 pm: curtain opens promptly

Reserve by text or email to Maryl Huntington at (313) 407-4377 or marylk@live.com. Pay by check made out to the DRT at the show, or pay Maryl in cash/Venmo (@Marylynn-Huntington)



***Primary Trust* by Eboni Booth**

BUC date: Sunday, November 16 at 2:00 pm

Winner of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for Drama

By day Kenneth sells books, and by night he drinks mai tais at a tiki bar with his best friend, Bert. Primary Trust is an achingly beautiful tale that celebrates friendship, connection, and the small acts of kindness that can change a life and enrich an entire community. This play runs 90 minutes with no intermission.

BUC Family Holiday Giving 2025

Get your shopping bags ready everyone—it's time for BUC Family Holiday Giving! In keeping with a longstanding BUC tradition, you will have the opportunity again this year to sponsor a family from Walt Whitman Elementary School for the holidays. We will be able to make the holidays brighter for dozens of families by providing holiday gifts.

Each family at the school who wishes to do so will submit 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) on three Sundays: **November 16, November 23 and November 30.**

Drop off at church is on Sunday, December 14.

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 them to school (on December 15), please let Jane O'Neil know by email at BUCSEJ@gmail.com.

Alliance Annual Holiday Luncheon

Tuesday, December 2, 12:00 noon (Iroquois Club)

The BUC Alliance cordially invites you to their annual holiday luncheon on Tuesday, December 2 at 12:00 noon at the Iroquois Club. Guests are welcome. Tickets are \$40 per person and include choice of entree, warm rolls with honey butter, the Iroquois Club house salad, and coffee/tea/soft drinks. Donations will be collected for Communities United for Children (CUFC), a 501(c)(3) organization supporting BUC's longtime partner, Walt Whitman Elementary School in Pontiac.

Tuesday, November 18 is the deadline for reservations. Contact Kaye Rittinger at (248) 310-8768 or kayebill@rittinger.net. Make your entree selection(s) from [this flyer](#), complete the form, and mail with check to Jann Devereux at the address listed. Hope to see you there! Visit the Alliance table in Hodas Hall on Sundays to learn more.



Join us on **Wednesday, November 19 from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Purple Door** for the next meeting of the BUC Gaming group—an all-ages monthly meetup of fun, laughter, and connection. With rotating themes like board games, card games, puzzles, and pen-and-paper classics, there’s always something new to play and great people to play with! Whether you’re a seasoned strategist or just looking for a lighthearted way to connect, there’s always a place for you at the table.

Contact Valerie Phillips (valerie.phillips@bucmi.org) or Shannon Snideman (shannon.snideman@bucmi.org) for more information.



Looking for a place to get crafty and connect with others in our community? Join us on **Friday, November 21 from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Green Door** for the next meeting of the Craft and Chat group—a relaxed, all-skills-welcome group where we gather each month to make art, swap ideas, share stories, and laugh together.

Whether you have a project in hand or simply want to soak up inspiration, you’re warmly welcome. Contact Valerie Phillips (valerie.phillips@bucmi.org) or Shannon Snideman (shannon.snideman@bucmi.org) for more information.

“Getting to Know UU” New Member Orientation

Saturday, November 22

**10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Large Conference Room**

Snacks provided | Zoom option available



Interested in becoming a member of BUC? Join us for a special one-session Getting to Know Unitarian Universalism (GTKUU), our new member orientation class, on **Saturday, November 22 from 10:00 am-1:00 pm** in the Large Conference Room at BUC. Led by Rev. Connie and Director of Congregational Life Sara Constantakis, GTKUU is a step along the [path to membership](#) at BUC.

We encourage in-person attendance at this session if you are willing and able (snacks will be provided) and a Zoom option can also be made available.

If you can join us on November 22, please RSVP to Sara Constantakis at sara.constantakis@bucmi.org. And if you've been around for awhile and would like to get to know people who are considering joining, we'd be happy to have you!

BUC Thanksgiving Potluck

Thursday, November 27, 10:00 am-6:00 pm (meal around 3:00 pm)

Not sure what your Thanksgiving plans are yet? Come celebrate with your BUC family! Enjoy delicious food, warm fellowship, and a chance to give thanks together with your church community. You can even come by before or after other gatherings!

We'll gather throughout the day in a relaxed, come-and-go atmosphere, with a casual late lunch (or early dinner!) served in the Pavilion around 3:00 pm.

Let us know if you'll be joining us—sign up to bring a dish, help with setup or cleanup, or lead a game or craft to help us connect and have fun together. You can sign up online through our [SignUpGenius link](#) (we'll update options once we know how many people are coming), or in person on Sundays after service (November 9, 16, and 23) in Hodas Hall with Valerie Phillips.

Come for the whole day, stop by for a quick snack, or just to say hello—everyone is welcome!

Questions? Contact Valerie Phillips at valerie.phillips@bucmi.org.



2026 Registration is open!
Workshop dates: January 12 & 19,
February 2, 9, & 23, March 2
7:00-9:00 p.m on Zoom

Living the Pledge To End Racism Workshop

Facilitated by trained members of the BUC Racial Justice team. No registration fee.

WORKSHOP GOAL

To help participants integrate the Pledge to End Racism in their daily lives by:

- Learning how to confront racism and bias in everyday encounters;
- Recognizing and challenging systemic racism; and
- Making a personal commitment to help end racism in their community.

Participants will develop a community of support and an understanding of how to use this support to deepen their work in building a just and equitable multicultural world.

WHO IS THIS WORKSHOP FOR?

- People who've had previous anti-racism training and want to take their understanding and competency to a deeper level. This class will provide an opportunity to grow their knowledge and commitment for more effective anti-racism work.
- People who've never taken a class about racism and are willing to invest in their learning with additional reading and other activities. This class will provide an opportunity to start on the road to anti-racism competence.

SCHEDULE

January 12: Module 1 – Foundations for Understanding
January 19: Module 2 – Recognizing and Confronting Bias
February 2: Module 3 – Speak Up Against Microaggressions
February 9: Module 4 – Structural and Institutional Racism
February 23: Module 5 – The Movement for Black Lives
March 2: Module 6 – Personal Commitment to Ending Racism

Participants are asked to prepare for each session by reading articles and watching videos that address the major topics of the module. Each session includes presentations and Q&A with the full group, as well as small group discussions.

(continued next page)

Register: [Click here](#) or visit bit.ly/LtP-Register

The Pledge

The Living the Pledge workshop is based on a pledge developed in 1997 by Jim Rotch, a young white attorney in Birmingham, Alabama.

I BELIEVE that every person has worth as an individual.

I BELIEVE that every person is entitled to dignity and respect, regardless of race or color.

I BELIEVE that every thought and every act of racial prejudice is harmful; if it is my thought or act, then it is harmful to me as well as to others.

Therefore, from this day forward **I WILL** strive daily to eliminate racial prejudice from my thoughts and actions.

I WILL discourage racial prejudice by others at every opportunity.

I WILL treat all people with dignity and respect;

I WILL commit to working with others to transform this community into a place that treats people of all races, ethnicities, and cultures with justice, equity, and compassion, and

I WILL strive daily to honor this pledge, knowing that the world will be a better place because of my effort.

WHAT BUCers ARE SAYING ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

This workshop was developed by members of First UU Church of Richmond, Virginia, and this is our fourth offering of it at BUC. Following are reflections from BUC participants about their experience.

The workshop is flexible and allows people to move forward from wherever they are when they start.

I gained a broader and deeper understanding of how pervasive and intentional racism is in this country.

The workshop caused me to think more deeply about the experiences of people of color.

You'll be enlightened about personal interactions. You may be surprised at how your well-intended words and actions may be experienced differently than you expect.

It helped me understand the wide range of individual actions that can make a difference and provided the framework for personal participation in racial justice activities.

It's a welcoming, honest, brave space where we're all in the same boat and there to support each other in what can be an uncomfortable but transformative experience.

I am more aware of how I answer questions about race and feel more confident to speak out about those issues.

Informative, thought provoking, personally challenging.

Register: bit.ly/LtP-Register or QR code →
There is no charge for attending this workshop.

