

## **2018 Sunday Services Committee Report**

*Dennis Higdon (Chair), Harvey Johnson, Rev. Jim McConnell and Julie Williams*

The Sunday Services Committee met several times in the last twelve months to plan and schedule future services, line up guest speakers and work with our minister to review upcoming service topics. The committee members were also directly responsible for performing many of the services given in the last year.

The committee's goal is to maintain a high level of Sunday service quality in subject matter and content, while providing, meaningful topics that reflect UU values, a humanist-based spirituality and a loving environment that openly welcomes diversity from the community in which we share.

A BUUF Services Schedule is maintained by our members on the Drop Box, and is available to all members for additions and revisions. It was recently posted on our kiosk for member review and contribution, and an announcement will soon be made to welcome our members to contribute service topics to the upcoming summer schedule.

We have worked closely with our minister, and a plan was developed last year so that each month our fellowship services would include one directly UU-related topic sermon, one social activism sermon and one sermon on environmentalism. All sermons and talks were to be related to one or more of the seven UU Principals, and these principals would be noted at the time of each service.

In the last season we have brought in several new speakers who share our principals, brought back old favorites and allies who share our beliefs, and continue to inclusively involve our members and the Berrien County community in future services. Retired UU minister Harold Beu gave us a service last year and can provide more services at a fee. A concern the committee has regarding guest speakers is the recent reduction in the BUUF budget to a total of \$300 per year allocated for reimbursing guest speakers, this will severely restrict our ability to bring in outside speakers and make member participation more important to fill the gap.

We welcome member participation, and a new proposal to welcome members to share their spiritual journeys in a Sunday talk has recently been taken up by some members. We will continue to provide a loving, meaningful and richly rewarding Sunday services environment for BUUF in the year to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Higdon  
Chairman, Sunday Services Committee  
May 15, 2018