

# Urban Immersion

Visiting youth open their eyes to issues that they may not have experienced in their communities, or more likely, had simply not noticed. They come away with an understanding of shared humanity with others who look differently from them, worship differently, and have different life circumstances. They see how UCC Justice Ministries seek to alleviate social injustice, and they leave with both a sense of hope, and a deeper understanding of their own faith, and its connection to justice.

Visitors to Milwaukee experience diversity through a weekend of worship, service, food and cultural history. Participants begin the weekend with an evening at the Black Holocaust Museum, touring the neighborhood, and learning about African American history. The next day they may work on a service project, either addressing food insecurity or helping at a shelter for unhoused men. Saturday afternoon, they will visit the Islamic Society of Milwaukee to witness midday prayers and discuss faith. For fun and culture, they will go to lunch either at the Public Market downtown or at the nearby Sherman Phoenix Food Hall. They could even be guests at an evening family soul food meal at Bethel-Bethany.

In this time of sharply defined contrasts in our society, we have learned that connecting communities of people on a personal level increases our understanding of each other and reminds us that we are all brothers and sisters under one God. *"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only love can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."*

After 35 years of working with UCC youth, we have also come away with a sense of hope, and the belief that they are the light of our future.

Contact Bethel-Bethany UCC at 414-442-1281 or email [Office@bbucc.org](mailto:Office@bbucc.org); Mark Plumb at [plumb@wi.rr.com](mailto:plumb@wi.rr.com) or Pastor Sue Schneider-Adams at [pastor\\_sue@bbucc.org](mailto:pastor_sue@bbucc.org)

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# Urban Immersion

## Weekend Youth Retreat

**BETHEL-BETHANY**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2878 N 54th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53210

**BETHEL-BETHANY**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

### Christian Neighbors

*Bethel-Bethany UCC*



- ▶ *Walk our neighborhood with Lutheran, Catholic, and Non-denominational Churches*

### Muslim Neighbors

*Islamic Society of Milwaukee*



- ▶ *Witness the different ways people pray*
- ▶ *Visit the Islamic Center to learn about the Muslim faith and afternoon prayers*

## ECONOMIC DIVERSITY

### Unhoused Neighbors

*The Guest House*



- ▶ *Tour the Guest House of Milwaukee, a shelter for men without permanent housing*

### Hungry Neighbors

*Making Sandwiches*



- ▶ *Make sandwiches for the men's lunches and for distribution to the neighborhood*
- ▶ *Learn about Food Is Free, our self-serve food pantry at Bethel-Bethany UCC*

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY

### Immigrant Heritage

*Ethnic Food*



- ▶ *Food at a Public Market*

### African American Heritage

*America's Black Holocaust Museum*



- ▶ *Learn about a terrible period of inhumanity from a 'griot,' a traditional storyteller*
- ▶ *ABHM promotes racial repair, reconciliation and healing*

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