



A Note to Our Visitors:

Welcome! Thank you for choosing to be with us today. Please join us for coffee and social time after the service. Wearing your name tag will allow us to greet you personally.

We are a Welcoming Congregation: People of all ages, races, colors, national origins, religions, genders, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status are welcome to be a part of our religious community as members or friends.

Ours is a unique religious community and visitors often have questions about our history, beliefs and programs. The following resources may be helpful:

- The visitor packet contains information on both our denomination and our local church.
- By filling out the Visitor Registration card, you will receive the *All Church E-mail* each week at the e-mail address provided. Visitors and members alike are invited to all our activities and programs.
- On the third Sunday of each month, lay leaders conduct a brief information forum after the service. This is an excellent opportunity to ask questions and meet other visitors.

Our Director of Religious Education and all of our welcoming team are available any time to answer your questions. You can reach us by phoning or emailing the church office.

Membership in our church is based on joining for a common purpose, rather than on acceptance of a common creed. We do not require adherence to a creed or dogma, but we do have commonly held principles that we affirm, promote and try to live. If you are in sympathy with these principles and purposes and are considering making a commitment to its ongoing life, you may be ready to join.

Hearing devices and large print hymnals are available by request from the Usher.

The Pickett Room, located inside the front doors, serves as a family room. Use the volume knob near the light switch to hear the service.

Unitarian Universalist Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

Church Staff

Interim Minister - Rev. Edward Brock	minister@uucbham.org
Interim Dir. Religious Education - Ruth Vann Lillian	dre@uucbham.org
Office Administrator - Jennie Moffitt	office@uucbham.org
Choir Director - Jim Sullivan	choir@uucbham.org
Accompanist—Smith (Chip) Williams	pianist@uucbham.org
Children's Choir Director -Tommy Thompson	childrenschoir@uucbham.org

Church Leadership

President - Dave Anderson	president@uucbham.org
Vice President - Leigh Shaffer	vp@uucbham.org
Treasurer - Mary Ann Plant	board@uucbham.org
Secretary - Misty Bennett	board.secretary@uucbham.org
Religious Education Chair - Heather Hunter	board@uucbham.org
Trustee Susan Barrow	board@uucbham.org
Trustee Andrew Duxbury	board@uucbham.org
Trustee Gerry Garrick	board@uucbham.org
Trustee Scott Naftel	board@uucbham.org

OUR CHURCH is supported by annual pledges from members and friends and by the contributions of visitors. We welcome your support. To discuss a bequest, trust, or other gift to the Endowment Fund, please contact the church office @205-945-8109.

Feel free to take this Order of Service home to share.
Otherwise, please deposit in the recycle baskets inside of the sanctuary.

Find us on Facebook, and online at www.uucbham.org.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham

A church that honors differences in belief

Our Vision

We are a welcoming and supportive community with open minds and loving hearts that provides spiritual nourishment, promotes free religious thought, and works for a more just world.

Our Mission

We promote the free exchange of ideas, while bridging differences
We foster personal, spiritual, and intellectual exploration
We care for one another and provide mutual support
We act for social justice and live our values in the broader community

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Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham

Sunday, January 7, 2018

Ring the Chime	
Prelude	Dawn Sz. 39 No. 7 by Bela Bartok
Welcome & Announcements	
Chalice Lighting	A Flame to Light Our Path
Opening Words	excerpted from <i>The Night Circus</i> by Erin Morgenstern and an adaptation from <i>The Spiritual Practice of Story Telling</i> , Christine Organ, UU World Summer 2015
*Hymn	We Laugh, We Cry #354 verses 1 & 4
Offertory Words	
Time for All Ages	The Dervish in the Ditch (from <i>Doorways to the Soul</i> , ed. by Elisa Permain)
Singing Children to Their Classrooms (Hymn #1010)	<i>Oh, we give thanks for this precious day, For all gather' d here, and those far away; For this time we share with love and care, Oh, we give thanks for this precious day.</i> (Children & adults will sing together once. The second time the adults will sing as the children leave the sanctuary for their classes.)
Offertory Music	Etude No. 17 by Philip Glass
Meditative Reflection	
Hymn	Do You Hear? #112
Greet Your Neighbor	
Choir Anthem	"New Year" words and music by John Rutter
Sermon	The Stories We Tell
Hymn	How Far Can Reach a Smile #84
*Extinguishing the Chalice (In Unison)	We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again. Elizabeth Selle Jones
Closing Words	from <i>Fragile Things: Short Fictions and Wonders</i> , by Neil Gaiman
Benediction	
Postlude	Turn! Turn! Turn! by Pete Seeger, Arr. David Lanz

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

Leading today's service:

Rev. Gail Stratton – *Guest Speaker*
Debra Burrell – *Service Leader*
Jim Sullivan – *Choir Director*
Chip Williams – *Accompanist*
Tommy Thompson – *Song Leader*

Today's flowers are provided by Gerda Carmichael.

TODAY IS FIRST SUNDAY LUNCH

If you are a visitor today, please stay and be our guest. If you didn't bring a dish today to share, consider giving an offering to help defer the costs of kitchen supplies.

ADULT ENRICHMENT OFFERINGS (beginning next week)

- ◆ Tai Chi - Saturdays - 9 am Memorial Garden, weather permitting or inside the church
- ◆ Meditation Group - Sundays - 9 am, Room #103, lower level
- ◆ SUUday ForUUm - Sundays - 11:15 am, Room #122, lower level
- ◆ The Poisonwood Bible - Sundays - 11:15 am, 1/14-2/18- Music Room, lower level

Please take the time to review all of the Adult Enrichment Offerings listed in the booklet provided today or on our website at www.uucbham.org.

STARTING NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, we will observe a new ritual for the sharing of Joys and Concerns. Everyone is invited to write their joy or concern in a special book which will be kept on the back table. The meditation leader will then read out these aloud in the service. People will also be invited to come forward and light candles in silence.

MARTIN LUTHER KING BREAKFAST The UUCB Justice Committee will be purchasing tickets for the Unity Breakfast at the BCCJ on January 15, 7:30AM, Martin Luther King Day.

We think it is important for our church to be recognized by having a table at the event. The cost of a ticket is \$40 and each table seats eight people. If you are interested in joining with us, please contact Virginia Volker or Patty Faulkinberry. They will be purchasing tickets by Tuesday and then get them to you.

The guest speaker for this event will be Senator Doug Jones! There will also be Civil Rights Movement Era music. 1000 or more people are expected to be attending this event. All are welcome.

FROM THE CARING COMMITTEE

The Care and Share information is located in the body of the ACE.



"RECIPE" OF THE MONTH Mix 1 part music, 1 part outreach, 1 part intergenerational fun. Add a pinch of harmony, if desired. Bake during a few hours of rehearsal time. Servings: as many as we can schedule. We're ready to begin a new batch of **MUUSICSHARE!**

We've moved our monthly meeting to the **second Tuesday** of each month, 6:30-8:30 PM, in the sanctuary. We'll start on new songs January 9th, rehearse for 2-3 months, then share the music with our shut-ins and shut-ins in the broader community. Singers and players of all ages are welcome. We'll send chords and lyrics before the first meeting. Contact Debra Burrell, debburrell@charter.net, to get on the mailing list.

FORGING AHEAD: CIVIL RIGHTS STORIES & SONG, JAN. 12-13
Friday, Jan. 12, 5:30-8 pm, Temple Emanu-El

The Context: Circa 1950s Civil Rights and the Jewish Community
Featuring author T.K. Thorne, Ellen Cooper Erdreich, Sol Kimerling, Cantor Jessica Roskin, Sarah Metzger, Rabbi Douglas Kohn and many other voices from our community.

FROM SEEDS OF DISCORD TO SEEDS OF CHANGE: The Attempted Bombing of Temple Beth-El and the Murder of 4 Little Girls
Saturday Jan. 13, 6:30-9 pm, Temple Beth-El

Featuring Sen. Doug Jones, former Lt. Gov. Bill Baxley, UAB history professor Pam Sterne King, Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin, former Birmingham Mayor Richard Arrington, Rabbi Barry Leff and "Soul Daughter" musician Neshama Carlebach

Due to limited seating, tickets are required for entry to Saturday night's program. Get your free tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/forging-ahead-civil-rights-stories-song-tickets-41340427331>