Unitarian Universalist Principles and Sources

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

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. We live out these Principles within a “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience. These are the six sources our congregations affirm and promote:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Welcome to the
Unitarian Universalist Church
of Birmingham

A church that honors differences in belief
Our church does not adhere to any creed, or dogma, or doctrine. We live in community, respectful of one another’s beliefs, using our covenant to guide us.

UUCB Covenant of Right Relations
Inspired by the seven Unitarian Universalist Principles, we promise to:

- Nurture a diverse and welcoming congregation by being respectful, friendly, and welcoming to all members, friends, visitors, and staff.
- Engage and contribute to the life of the congregation by connecting with its programs and governance, and by caring for our shared spaces.
- Trust that others’ behavior is driven by good intentions.
- Practice direct communication by actively listening to and speaking with individuals, not about them, in an honest and compassionate way.
- Seek to resolve conflicts and make amends through intentional compromise and when necessary, request facilitation and mediation.

By intentionally encouraging and growing healthy relationships within the congregation, we are empowered to live our values in the broader community. This covenant is a living document that will evolve as we evolve. We will do our best to abide by this covenant.
Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham
March 8, 2020

**Please rise in body or in spirit**

Ringing the Chime

Our service begins and ends with the chime.

Welcome

Announcements—Share the Plate, Cindy Lowery, Alabama Rivers Alliance

Prelude

A Rase is Gently Blooming, Op. 122 No. 8
by Johannes Brahms

Opening Words

Rev. Carolyn Owen-Towle

*Lighting the Chalice

Rev. Dr. Eric Heller-Wagner

*Affirmation (Responsive)  By Amanda Udis-Kessler

One: It may be the hardest thing we will ever do,
Many: Caught up in our self-righteousness, losing our pain.
One: The one who offended may not deserve forgiveness
Many: And we are not obliged to offer it.
One: Why, then, should we forgive?
Many: Because we have all caused pain.
One: Because we all miss the mark.
Many: Because we can deepen our souls if we forgive.
One: Because restoring even one relationship heals many hearts.
Many: Because we would be forgiven ourselves.
One: Because drawing closer to one another builds our communities.
Many: Because the alternative is endless bitterness.
One: Because the world we seek to create is a world filled with forgiveness.
Many: Because we need not remain caught up in our self-righteousness and pain.
One: It may be the hardest thing we will ever do.
All: Let us take the first step now.

Hymn

Here We Have Gathered #360
(see insert for words)

Offertory

The Girl with the Flaxen Hair
by Claude Debussy

Meditation Moment

*Music by Elizabeth Alexander

One More Redeemer

words adapted from Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs and Rev. Bill Neely
music by Elizabeth Alexander

Time For All Ages

Singing Children to Their Classroom

**The UU Principle Song**

One, each person is worthwhile; Two, be kind in all you do; Three, we help each other learn; Four, and search for what is true; Five, all people get a vote; Six, build a just and peaceful world; Seven, we take care of the earth. That each other learn; Four, and search for what is true; Five, all people get a vote; One, each person is worthwhile; Two, be kind in all you do; Three, we help each other learn; Four, and search for what is true; Five, all people get a vote; Six, build a just and peaceful world; Seven, we take care of the earth.

Reading

Sermon

When People Disappoint

*Hymn

Building Bridges #1023

*Extinquishing the Chalice

Rev. Rolfe Gerhardt

**Benediction**

Postlude

Ringing the Chime

Participating in today’s service:
Rev. Julie Conrady — Settled Minister
Mitchell Robinson — Worship Associate
Jim Sullivan — Chair Director
Chip Williams — Pianist
Wynne Dimock — Offerrory
Evan and Cole Seary — Chalice Lighters

JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING — TODAY, 11:30 AM, LIBRARY.

All are welcome to attend.

EXPLORING SPIRITUAL PRACTICES — MARCH 11, 6 PM, VOLKER ROOM
How do we enrich our souls when our world is in peril and our lives are complicated? Spirit in Practice was created to help Unitarian Universalists develop regular disciplines or practices of the spirit.

BOOK DISCUSSION: AN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, GRADY NUNN LIBRARY

Third Tuesdays, 12 noon - 1 pm  March 17 (Chapters 4-6) Rev. Julie Conrady will continue to lead the discussion of this very informative book which is the UUA Common Read for 2020.

THE TORAH’S ANSWER TO SOCRATES’ QUESTION (THE EUTHYPHRO DILEMMA)  MARCH 18, 6 PM LIBRARY

Come for a presentation and interactive discussion on the Torah’s answer to the challenging question: “Is the pious loved by the gods because it is pious, or is it pious because it is loved by the gods?” — or worded ethically and monotheistically: “Is it right because God says it is right, or does God say it is right because it really is right?”

UUCB 101: SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 9-NOON, COVENANT COMMONS

Description: Join Rev. Julie to learn more about our church, our UU tradition, and how to get connected. Childcare provided upon request. An opportunity to join the church will be included, although membership is open at any time.

FIVE WISHES: MARCH 22, 11:30 AM, LIBRARY

Review of the booklet “Five Wishes and provide advance directive/living will information to people of interest.

NEW YEARS’ RESOLUTION #1: DECLUTTER/ORGANIZE YOUR HOME— MARCH 31, 7-8:30 PM, VOLKER ROOM
Join Becky Laurent as she shares insights and resources to help you reach your goal to declutter and create a simpler lifestyle.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY – JUNE 2020

Are you interested in attending our UU Annual Conference this summer, June 24-28? This year’s conference is being held in Providence, Rhode Island. Please indicate your interest on your Connection Card today. You will be contacted about more details.

For a complete listing of Adult Enrichment Offering for Spring 2020, pick up a booklet in the Narthex.

**O P P O R T U N I T I E S  T O  C O N N E C T **

MARCH SHARE THE PLATE—ALABAMA RIVERS ALLIANCE

Alabama Rivers Alliance is a statewide network of groups working to protect and restore all of Alabama’s water resources through building partnerships, empowering citizens, and advocating for sound water policy and its enforcement. Please make your donation check payable to UUCB with Share the Plate in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND—TRIVIA NIGHT II

Due to the overwhelming success and fun of the first Trivia Night held in January, we will have another round on March 13! Ask your friends, coworkers and family. Cost is $10 per person or a table of eight for $100. Reserve your space now and sign up on the Connection Card today. Payments can be made through Venmo, cash or check. This is a FUNDraiser! Sign up to help or donate on the Connection Card.

OPEN MIC NIGHT—APRIL 3

Mark your calendars for this event! Also included during Open Mic, we will have a silent auction for themed dinners and bidding for the prized parking space! More information to come in the next few weeks.

WE ACCEPT VENMO! @uucbham
Please specify whether your donation is for Share the Plate, your pledge or a combination.

MUSIC CAMP—JULY 20-24

Registration is open! Visit bit.ly/UUCBHarmonyCamp to register. Limited spots available Ages 5 – 12.

February Share the Plate to Alabama Arise: $1,162 was collected.