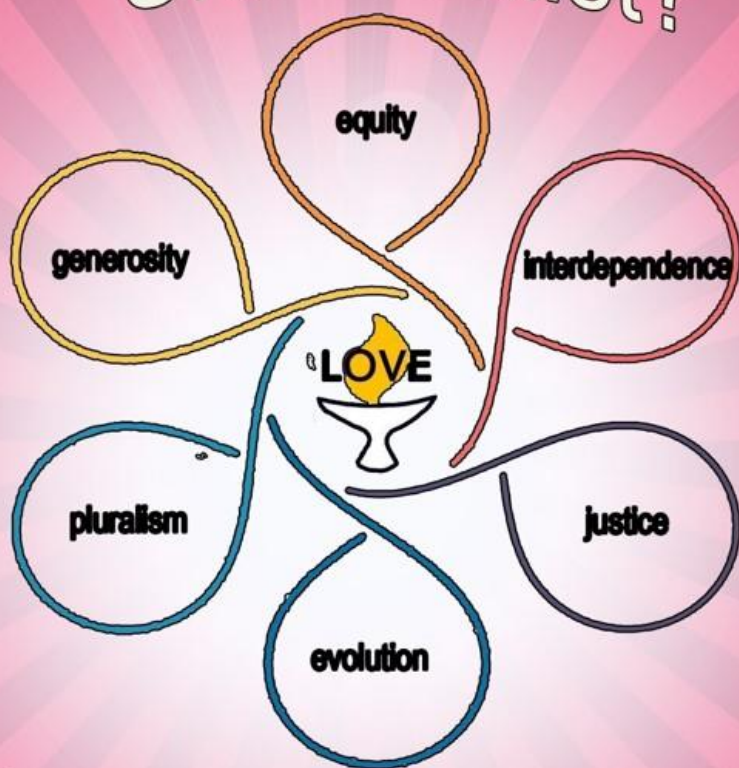


# What is a Unitarian Universalist?



5 March 2023  
Kathy Kerns, CLM  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

# ***What is a Unitarian Universalist?***

Order of Service

March 5, 2023

Our mission is to inspire love, seek justice, and grow in community.  
—Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

## **Gathering**

Music for Gathering *Whoever You Are*  
words by the Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church  
music by Katie Grigg-Miller

Welcome Kathy Kerns, Commissioned Lay Minister

Supporting Our Community (video) The Generosity Team

Chime

Prelude *Bourree*, by George Frideric Handel  
performed by Shirley Kiernan, violin, and Vanessa Vesely, piano

Words of Gathering Rev. Steven Protzman, Minister

Chalice Lighting James Vila Blake

Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law.  
This is our great covenant:  
To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love,  
And to help one another.

Opening Hymn *#1008 When Our Heart is in a Holy Place*

Time for All Ages Colleen Thoele  
Director of Religious Education

Singing our Children, Caregivers, and Teachers to Their Classes  
*Go On Your Way in Peace*  
by Hal Walker

## **Reflecting**

Holding One Another in Care and Compassion

*A time of silence, sharing our sorrows and losses, pastoral prayer,  
and sharing our joys, wonder and awe*

Music Meditation

*Together*  
lyrics by Myrna Adams West; music by Chris Hayden  
performed by Katie Grigg-Miller

Readings      *What's your elevator speech about Unitarian Universalism?*  
by Rev. William Sinkford

*Elevator Speeches*  
from Roger Bergere, Ann Creech, and Melvin Mackey

Hymn of Affirmation      *#113 Where is our Holy Church?*

Sermon      *What is a Unitarian Universalist?*  
Kathy Kerns

### Returning

Offering      *Ain't it Great to be UU*  
by Hal Walker

Extinguishing the Chalice

We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, the warmth of  
community, or the fire of commitment. May we carry these in our hearts  
and minds until we are together again.

Closing Hymn      *#368 Now Let Us Sing*

Benediction



*Next Sunday March 12, 2023*  
*Love is the Spirit of this Church!*  
*Led by Rev. Steven Protzman with Worship Associate Elaine Bowen*

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## Activities & Events: March 5 - 12, 2023

<https://kentuu.org/calendar/>

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### March 5 Sunday

10:00 AM Sunday Worship  
11:00 AM Social Hour  
11:15 AM Music Dir. Listening Session  
11:30 AM Discussion on Changes to the  
UU Principles

### March 6 Monday

6:00 PM OWL

### March 7 Tuesday

10:00 AM Staff Meeting  
12:00 PM Retirees Gathering  
7:00 PM Build Your Own Theology

### March 8 Wednesday

12:00 PM Hobbs Hall Rental  
7:00 PM Search Team

### March 9 Thursday

4:00 PM Hobbs Hall Rental  
5:00 PM Ministry Executive Tea  
6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

### March 10 Friday

### March 9 Saturday

8:00 AM Hobbs Hall Reserved

### March 10 Sunday

10:00 AM Sunday Worship  
11:00 AM Social Hour  
12:30 AM Euchre Group  
5:00 PM Fessenden Hall Reserved  
5:30 PM Choir Dinner  
7:30 PM Community Sing

**Church Address:** Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent  
228 Gougler Avenue, Kent, OH 44240.

Office – 330.673.4247

Email – [churchoffice@kentuu.org](mailto:churchoffice@kentuu.org)

On the web – <https://kentuu.org>

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/uuchurchofkent](https://www.facebook.com/uuchurchofkent)

**Church Office:** The church office is located in the Eldredge Annex  
(yellow house) next to the church building

Visit our website.



### CHURCH STAFF

Minister  
Accompanist  
Congregational Administrator  
Campus Use Manager  
Dir. of Religious Education  
Music Director Pro Tempore  
Nursery Staff  
Sexton  
Tech Manager  
Affiliated Community Minister  
Affiliated Community Minister  
Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM)  
Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM)

Rev. Steven Protzman  
Vanessa Vesely  
MaryBeth Hannan  
Katie Kuras  
Colleen Thoele  
Katie Grigg-Miller  
Michelle Bores  
Brian Mulloy  
Julie Swango  
Rev. Renee Ruchotzke  
Rev. Christie Anderson  
Lori Mirkin-McGee  
Kathy Kerns

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### BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022 – 2023

Board Moderator  
Board Asst. Moderator  
Board Co-Secretary  
Board Co-Secretary  
Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee

Don Gregg  
Kara Kramer  
Susanna Smart  
Carol Weigand  
Liz Bright  
Heidi Shaffer Bish  
Diane Kloss

[board@kentuu.org](mailto:board@kentuu.org)

## ***Whoever You Are***

Whoever you are, we welcome you.  
Wherever you're from, we welcome you.  
Whomever you love, we welcome you.  
We welcome you, every one.

## ***#1008 When Our Heart is in a Holy Place***

Chorus: When our heart is in a holy place,  
When our heart is in a holy place,  
We are bless'd with love and amazing grace,  
When our heart is in a holy place.

When we trust the wisdom in each of us,  
Ev'ry color ev'ry creed and kind,  
And we see our faces in each other's eyes,  
Then our heart is in a holy place.

Chorus

When we tell our story from deep inside,  
And we listen with a loving mind,  
And we hear our voices in each other's words,  
Then our heart is in a holy place.

Chorus

When we share the silence of sacred space,  
And the God of our Heart stirs within,  
And we feel the power of each other's faith,  
Then our heart is in a holy place.

Chorus

## ***Go On Your Way in Peace*** by Hal Walker

You've got the light of love inside you,  
go on your way in peace.  
So shine that light, this whole world now awaits you,  
go on your way in peace. (2x)

You know we hold you. We hold you. Yes, we hold you.

### **#113 *Where is our Holy Church?***

Where is our holy church?  
Where race and class unite  
as equal persons in the search  
for beauty, truth, and right.

Where is our holy writ?  
Where'er a human heart  
a sacred torch of truth has lit,  
by inspiration taught.

Where is our holy One?  
A mighty host respond;  
the people rise in every land  
to break the captive's bond.

Where is our holy land?  
Within the human soul,  
wherever free minds truly seek  
with character the goal.

Where is our paradise?  
In aspiration's sight,  
wherein we hope to see  
arise ten thousand years of right.

### **#368 *Now Let Us Sing***

Low Voices: Now let us sing, sing, sing  
Now let us sing, sing, sing  
Lift up your voice, be not afraid;  
sing to the power of the faith within.

High/All Voices: Sing to the power of the faith within.  
Sing to the power of the faith within.  
Lift up your voice, be not afraid;  
sing to the power of the faith within.

Sing to the power of the hope within ...

Sing to the power of the love within. ...

Sing to the power of the joy within. ...

## **Current UUA Bylaws Article II Section C2**

### **Section C-2.1. Principles**

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

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

### **The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:**

- 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.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

### **Section C-2.2. Purposes**

The Unitarian Universalist Association shall devote its resources to and exercise its corporate powers for religious, educational and humanitarian purposes.

The primary purpose of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist institutions and implement its principles.

### **Section C-2.3. Inclusion**

Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have traditionally created barriers for persons and groups with particular identities, ages, abilities, and histories. We pledge to replace such barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect.

We strive to be an association of congregations that truly welcome all persons and commit to structuring congregational and associational life in ways that empower and enhance everyone's participation.

### **Section C-2.4. Freedom of Belief**

Nothing herein shall be deemed to infringe upon the individual freedom of belief which is inherent in the Universalist and Unitarian heritages or to conflict with any statement of purpose, covenant, or bond of union used by any congregation unless such is used as a creedal test.



## ***Proposed UUA Bylaws Article II Section C2***

### **C-2.1. Purposes.**

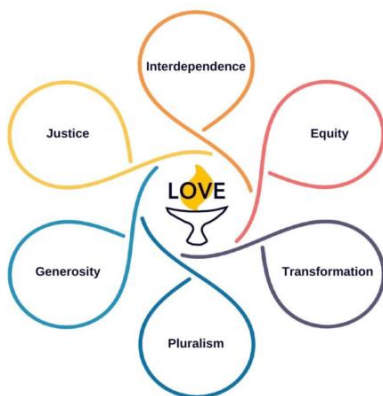
The Unitarian Universalist Association will devote its resources to and use its organizational powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. Its primary purposes are to assist congregations in their vital ministries, support and train leaders both lay and professional, to foster lifelong faith formation, to heal historic injustices, and to advance our Unitarian Universalist values in the world.

The purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Association is to actively engage its members in the transformation of the world through liberating Love.

### **Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant.**

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love.

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love. Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:



**Interdependence.** We honor the interdependent web of all existence. We covenant to cherish Earth and all beings by creating and nurturing relationships of care and respect. With humility and reverence, we acknowledge our place in the great web of life, and we work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

**Pluralism.** We celebrate that we are all sacred beings diverse in culture, experience, and theology. We covenant to learn from one another in our free and

responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.

**Justice.** We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive. We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions.

**Transformation.** We adapt to the changing world.

We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

**Generosity.** We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

**Equity.** We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness. We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.

### **Section C-2.3. Inspirations.**

As Unitarian Universalists, we use, and are inspired by, sacred and secular understandings that help us to live into our values. We respect the histories, contexts and cultures in which they were created and are currently practiced. These sources ground us and sustain us in ordinary, difficult, and joyous times. Grateful for the religious ancestries we inherit and the diversity which enriches our faith, we are called to ever deepen and expand our wisdom.

### **Section C-2.4. Inclusion.**

Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have traditionally created barriers for persons and groups with particular identities, ages, abilities, and histories. We pledge to replace such barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect. We strive to be an association of congregations that truly welcome all persons who share our values. We commit to being an association of congregations that empowers and enhances everyone's participation, especially those with historically marginalized identities.

### **Section C-2.5. Freedom of belief.**

Congregational freedom and the individual's right of conscience are central to our Unitarian Universalist heritage.

Congregations may establish statements of purpose, covenants, and bonds of union so long as they do not require that members adhere to a particular creed.