

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers  
Order of Worship  
October 17, 2021**

**When Rough Meets Smooth**



**Gathering Music**

Peter Golbitz

**Welcome**

Alberita Johnson

**Call to Worship**

*Come In by Rev. Carol Thomas Cissel*

Mary Cline Golbitz

**Chalice Lighting**

Mary Cline Golbitz

**Covenant** by James Vila Blake

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

**Opening Hymn #1000 *Morning Has Come* produced by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin, Illinois**

[1\\_Morning Has Come.mp4 - 95%](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HSjhsLxxA8&list=PLycQZihfVzSUhV0r>

[EobMVXz9IsGiXw-i&index=75](https://www.uua.org/SharedWisdom/Unlocking-the-Power-of-Covenant/report-of-the-UUA-Commission-on-Appraisal-June-2021)

## **Shared Wisdom** *Unlocking the Power of Covenant/report of the UUA*

*Commission on Appraisal June 2021*

Alberita Johnson

In a real sense all life is interrelated. All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be...This is the inter-related structure of reality.

MLK Jr. letter from Birmingham Jail

## **A Time for All Ages** [Our Principles as a House of Love | WorshipWeb | UUA.org](#) By **Karen G. Johnston** Jennifer Grant

Voice One: Did you know that LOVE is a really big deal in Unitarian Universalism? I bet you did. Because we just can't stop talking about it.

Voice Two: Love this. Side with Love of that. Justice is what LOVE looks like in public. (We weren't the first ones to say that. Dr. Cornel West was. But we love it so much that we sing it back to him and the universe all the time!)

Voice One: There was once a scientist guy who asked all kinds of people, not just Unitarian Universalists, what they thought of love and how important it was for them. His name was Robert Miller. It turns out that of all the groups he studied, whether religious or not, UUs rank LOVE as a core value more so than others do.

Voice Two: I guess LOVE really is a big deal for UUs.

Voice One: I want you to remember that because we are going to come back to that.

Voice Two: Another big deal in Unitarian Universalism is our Principles. They are a big part of our covenant with each other.

Voice One: We know they are a big deal because we have so many ways to talk about them to make sure all the different brains and bodies and ages understand them. There's this way, which is really [a list in English](#).

Voice Two: And this way, which is [the list in Spanish](#)!

Voice One: You can even see our Principles in languages like [Arabic](#) and [Thai](#).

Voice Two: And there's this way, which is [in language for kids](#).

Voice One: And there's [this cool Principles wheel](#), by Reverends Ian Riddell and Kimberley Debus, which shows a not a linear way to think about the relationships between the different principles.

BOTH: SO MANY WAYS!

Voice Two: All of these ways are focused on the Seven Principles. When Unitarian Universalism first came into being in 1961, there were only six Principles. Our seventh Principle was proposed in 1985 and added in 1987.

One way to imagine our Principles was originally suggested by Reverend Barbara Wells ten Hove. It's called a [keystone arch \(PDF\)](#). This is like a doorway through which we enter into what this faith calls us towards.

Voice One: It's kind of cool because the 4th Principle – the free AND responsible search for truth and meaning is at the center, holding together the space for us to balance between each individual's inherent worth and the needs of the great community of which we are a part. But do doorways or archways ever exist all by themselves, just floating in air?

Voice Two: Not really, right? They are usually stabilized on the ground, a part of a larger building or structure.

Voice One: So maybe there is a Principle that is still missing?

Voice Two: Just like we figured out 35 years ago when we decided that the 7th principle was missing. Maybe the missing Principle is the ground upon which the doorway is built?

Voice One: Maybe it's the whole House of Love we are always trying to create for ourselves, each other, and the world?

Voice Two: Maybe, if we add an 8th Principle, we will get closer to the BeLOVED Community we dream about, where there is no oppression of any kind, where we can say Black Lives Matter, but we don't have to, because they already do.

BOTH: I want to be a part of building this House of Love. Do you?

**Hymn #1028 *Fire of Commitment* produced by the Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Kitsap, Washington**

[2\\_The Fire Of Commitment.mp4 - 100%](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvnogUP1IPU&list=PLycQZihfVzSUhV0rEobMVXz9IsGiXw-i&index=68>

**Centering/Story *The Invisible Thread* By [Nathan Ryan](#)**

Mary Cline Golbitz

"Maybe the purpose of being here, wherever we are, is to increase the durability and occasion of love among and between peoples." —June Jordan

I don't have any particular affinity for school buses. I don't hate them; I just don't feel any way about them.

My toddler, on the other hand, LOVES them. I mean he really, really, loves them. He has a diecast toy bus, banged up and missing its doors and wheels, that he carries around with him. He looks out his bedroom window in desperate hope that one will come down our street. For as long as he could make sounds he would squeal with delight when he saw one. Over time, "buuuuu" has transformed to "school bus."

I find myself seeking them out even when he isn't around. I turn my head when I hear those distant screeching brakes. I keep fleeting mental notes of which ones I've seen and where.

Why do I do this? It's not because of the buses themselves. I don't particularly care about them. I do it out of subconscious instinct. I do it because I love my son. It makes him happy, and I like seeing things that make him happy.

I have not argued with him about the carbon output of poorly maintained buses. I have not discussed the problems of overfilled underfunded schools. I have simply grown to notice a thing that brings him joy and doing that brings me joy.

Sometimes love is simply letting someone else like what they like. It's the invisible thread that tethers your heart to someone dear through something as mundane as a school bus. This thread will transcend my mortality. It transcends intellectual discourse. The thread—between me and my son; between any of us who searches for what brings joy to another person—exists because we love.

## **Stones of Intention**

Mary Cline Golbitz

## ***Musical Interlude***

Peter Golbitz

Lesley Peterson

## **Final Stone**

**Reading/Reflection:** *The Tangible Covenant*

Mary Cline Golbitz

**Hymn/Contemporary**      *What a Wondrous Day* by Ken Janzen, vocals and instruments

## **TECH-Link to mp3 of song**

<https://queersacredmusic.com/track/2605096/what-a-wondrous-day-swing>

[3\\_What A Wondrous Day.pptx](#)

**TECH**-Google Slides w/TEXT of VERSES:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1AN8J1t-YGTy\\_G0nAaDgcHWUCo0xELj2mzcMfN0o1QI/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1AN8J1t-YGTy_G0nAaDgcHWUCo0xELj2mzcMfN0o1QI/edit?usp=sharing)

**Sermon**    *Five Jagged Stones of Unitarian Universalism (Adapted)*

by [Kari Gottfried](#)

Mary Cline Golbitz  
Alberita Johnson

**Hymn**      *Lean On Me* by Playing For Change

[4\\_Lean On Me Playing For Change Song Around The World.mp4 - 100%](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiouJsnYytl&list=PLycQZihfVzSUhV0rEobMVXz9lsGiXw-i&index=65)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiouJsnYytl&list=PLycQZihfVzSUhV0rEobMVXz9lsGiXw-i&index=65>

**Offertory**

*Give Love* by Peter Golbitz

Mary Cline Golbitz  
Peter Golbitz, Guitar  
Lesley Peterson, Violin

**Words of Gratitude**

By the work of our hands, and the work of our hearts, our love is made real. May we be grateful for all that is given, and grateful for all that is shared.

**Extinguishing the Chalice** by Elizabeth Selle Jones

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.

**Benediction**      *Ubuntu quote by Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

Alberita Johnson

**Postlude** *Lean On Me* by Playing For Change

[4\\_Lean On Me Playing For Change Song Around The World.mp4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiouJsnYytl&list=PLycQZihfVzSUhV0rEobMVXz9lsGiXw-i&index=65)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiouJsnYytl&list=PLycQZihfVzSUhV0rEobMVXz9lsGiXw-i&index=65>

**Closing**

Alberita Johnson

---

Thank you to today's participants:

Mary Cline Golbitz Lay Minister

Alberita Johnson, Lay Minister

Suellen Kipp, Director of Music

Peter Golbitz, Musician

Lesley Peterson, Musician and Tech Team Member

Mark Brandon, Tech Team Member

Walter Peterson, Tech Team Member

Allie Carville, Tech Team Member

Evan Carville, Tech Team Member

Alanis Garcia, Tech Team Member

Mary Studer, UU Dialogues Host

Jeff Letts, UU Dialogues Host