

UUSM Open Circles – 2019-2020
Annual Theme:
“Building Beloved Community”

Beloved Community is not accidental.
It occurs through intention and must be thoughtfully nurtured.
It is a place where we do not need to think alike to love alike.

Month	Topic	Wednesday Evenings <small>(1st & 3rd of each month, except Jan.)*</small> 7 – 9 pm Hemingway Lounge	Sunday Afternoons <small>(1st & 3rd of each month, except Sep.)</small> 12:30 – 2:30 pm Cottage Living Room <small>(Optional: Meet for lunch at 12 noon)</small>
September 2019	Covenant Rather than having a creed, we are defined by the promises we make, both with our congregation and with the world.	09/04/19	(no meeting)
		09/18/19	09/15/19
October 2019	Democracy This American ideal – our 5 th principle – is under attack. It’s messy, essential ... and fragile.	10/02/19	10/06/19
		10/16/19	10/20/19
November 2019	Mission & Vision Mission is a congregation’s North Star; it asks, “Who are we?” Vision describes where we want to go, who we want to become.	11/06/19	11/03/19
		11/20/19	11/17/19
December 2019	Compassion Compassion is part of a continuum that begins with sympathy (feeling pity for) and moves to empathy (feeling with).	12/04/19	12/01/19
		12/18/19	12/15/19
January 2020	Authority / Leadership Authority draws on experience and reason to inform leadership: not power <i>over</i> , but power <i>with</i> .	*01/08/20*	01/05/20
		01/22/20	01/19/20
February 2020	Generosity Generosity is foundational, creating beloved community by connecting people through a mutuality of giving and receiving.	02/05/20	02/02/20
		02/19/20	02/16/20
March 2020	Forgiveness Since our doctrine is love, forgiveness must be informed by asking, “What does love require?” To forgive is to side with love.	03/04/20	03/01/20
		03/18/20	03/15/20
April 2020	The Divine / God “God is a simple / deep dark / Light bright / up-tight, three letter word.” – Rev. Richard Gilbert	04/01/20	04/05/20
		04/15/20	04/19/20
May 2020	Sabbath Sabbath is a symbol for creation and creating; it acknowledges “being” over “doing.” We need Sabbath to refresh, restore, renew.	05/06/20	05/03/20
		05/20/20	05/17/20
June 2020**	Good & Evil Good and evil are a duality of existence. We endeavor to create goodness, speak truth to power, say “Yes” to life.	06/03/20	06/07/20
		06/17/20	06/21/20
July 2020**	Harmony Our task is to find a way to walk through life in harmony with our environment and our circumstances, devoid of anger and anxiety.	07/01/20	07/05/20
		07/15/20	07/19/20
August 2020**	Creation Creation is an ongoing process. We co-create with Earth, respecting the interdependent web while recognizing the climate-change threat.	08/05/20	08/02/20
		08/19/20	08/16/20

In January 2020, the Wednesday-evening group will meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, rather than the 1st & 3rd.

** Open Circles generally run from September through May.
They can continue through the summer months, if participants choose to do so. **