

Chalica @UCC – is a celebration that lifts up our core UU values, one each week for six weeks. In the seventh week we bring it all together with our value of Liberating Love the center of all our values.

There are kits available for anyone at UCC with candles for each week.

Each week this resource will be updated with print copies at UCC, on the website, and in a special edition of our weekly Family Ministry Newsletter.



Week Three - Justice

This third week of Chalica, we lift up our shared value of JUSTICE, which calls us to 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 within our congregations, our Association, and society at large.



Chalica Candle Lighting - Yellow Candle

If ever there were a time for a candle in the darkness,
this would be it.

Using a spark of hope,
kindle the flame of love,
ignite the light of peace,
and feed the flame of justice.

by Melanie Davis

Field Notes for Cracking an Empire

By Jackie Summers, Jan 24, 2026 – Empire can handle outrage. It has no defense against empathy at scale. Outrage spikes, trends, and fades. Empathy—“it can be me; it already is them”—changes what people are willing to risk and protect. [Read more](#)

UU Hymn #1028, [Fire of Commitment](#), has the following lyric:

From the light of days remembered burns a beacon bright and clear,
Guiding hands and hearts and spirits Into faith set free from fear.

Chorus:

*When the fire of commitment sets our mind and soul a blaze
When our hunger and our passion meet to call us on our way
When we live with deep assurance of the flame that burns within,
Then our promise finds fulfillment and our future can begin.
From the stories of our living rings a song both brave and free,
Calling pilgrims still to witness to the life of liberty.*

Chorus

From the dreams of youthful vision comes a new, prophetic voice,
Which demands a deeper justice built by our courageous choice

Chorus



Exploring Justice as A Family

Inspired by the movie *The [Iron Giant](#)*, these activities invite you and your family to explore justice—the Unitarian Universalist value that reminds us how choosing compassion, fairness, and courage helps us build a Beloved Community where all can thrive.

This resource offers

- A preview of the *The Iron Giant*'s content to prepare you for a conversation with children,
- Simple conversation prompts,
- An activity to do together,
- Music you can enjoy at home or on the road, and
- Books to explore

The Iron Giant is a masterpiece for exploring justice themes in a way that **feels safe, gentle, and emotionally rich** for all ages. It invites us into conversations in our families about:

- fear-based systems that see difference as danger
- how prejudice and paranoia harm communities
- who gets labeled a “threat” and why
- how individuals can choose justice, compassion, and nonviolence
- how allyship and bravery show up in relationships
- AND looking for and seeing the **sacred worth** in someone others fear.

***The Iron Giant* Family Watching Guide**

The Iron Giant is a story about a boy who meets someone very big and very different. Some people in the story make quick decisions based on fear, and sometimes they treat the Giant unfairly or try to hurt him. Those parts might feel a little tense or sad. We can assure kids that it's okay if they feel that way, that's how people feel when stuff like that happens and that we will be right there with them.

- **Government Agent Villain (Kent Mansley)** - Kent tries to control the narrative and exaggerates danger. This offers an opening to talk about how authority can misuse power — and how communities can resist harmful systems.
- **The Giant Under Threat** - There are scenes where the Giant is hunted. These can feel tense, but they're not graphic. Kids often relate to the unfairness more than the intensity.
- **The Ending (Self-Sacrifice)** - The Giant shows nonviolence and heroism. It can be emotional but is ultimately hopeful.

Early in the movie - I wonder how the Giant feels being in a world that's new to him?

As fear and misunderstanding build - I wonder why some people are afraid of the Giant before they know him?

When the Giant is threatened - I wonder who is acting fairly — and who isn't?

At the moment of self-sacrifice - I wonder what it means to choose love over fear?

At the end - I wonder how Hogarth and the Giant helped each other grow?

Whatever you notice, it matters.

Justice grows when we stay curious, kind, and brave together.



Family Craft

Shields: “You Are Who You Choose To Be”

Materials:

- paper plates or cardstock
 - tin foil (optional – robot shine!)
 - markers
 - Ribbons or washi tape or other stick on decorations
 - Sharpie permanent marker
1. Cover your shield with foil.
 2. Use the sharpie to decorate the shield with words describing the person you choose to be:
kind, brave, fair, listener, helper, peacemaker, ally.
 3. Add drawings from the movie (robot eyes, Hogarth’s smile, etc.).
 4. Hang it where the family can see all week. Send a picture to jenni.papp@uucleveland.org

Reflection: How does choosing who we want to be help create justice? - Making personal choices help to create justice by transforming our personal values into daily, intentional actions that actively disrupt injustice and build a more equitable, empathetic society.

UU Playlist:



Spotify [UU Playlist: Justice - All of Us Thrive](#)

Curated for UUCC as part of Chalica - Justice This family-friendly playlist mixes songs courage, fairness, and Beloved Community. This Justice playlist helps families explore bias, inclusion, and the work of helping all thrive—through music that empowers, comforts, and calls us into action.

How to use the playlist: Listen during a car ride, at dinner, or while doing something together with family or friends. Talk about which songs feel like justice, fairness, or courage. Notice how music helps us imagine a world where everyone can thrive.

Car Conversation Prompts

- Which song felt most like “justice work” to you? Why?
- Which song made you think about helping someone be the best they can be?
- Did any song remind you of a time you saw unfairness—or helped fix something unfair?
- A “Beloved Community” is a world where everyone is treated with kindness, fairness, and love, ensuring nobody is left hungry, poor, or scared. What would Beloved Community *sound* like if it were a song?
- How does music help us stay brave while working for justice?



Stories of Justice

Here are storybooks you can pull from your home or public library and revisit through a justice lens this week. Each one helps us explore our UU value of Justice—rooted in Liberating Love and the work of building communities where all can thrive.

The Youngest Marcher — Cynthia Levinson -

Shows how even young voices can help change unfair systems.

Wondering: I wonder how Audrey felt when she chose to be brave?

Each Kindness — Jacqueline Woodson

Reveals how small choices shape fairness and belonging.

Wondering: I wonder what kindness could have changed this story?

Say Something! — Peter H. Reynolds

Encourages children to use their voices to speak up for themselves and others.

Wondering: I wonder what you might want to say something about?

Change Sings — Amanda Gorman & Loren Long

Celebrates kids as creators of change and justice.

Wondering: I wonder what kind of change you want to help create?

Let the Children March — Monica Clark-Robinson

Shows the courage of kids who helped dismantle racist systems.

Wondering: I wonder why the children felt the march was important?

Ron's Big Mission — Rose Blue & Corinne J. Naden

Highlights the injustice of segregation and the courage to challenge it peacefully.

Wondering: I wonder how Ron knew something wasn't fair?

Those Shoes — Maribeth Boelts

Explores economic fairness, dignity, and generosity.

Wondering: I wonder how Jeremy decided what really mattered?

The Proudest Blue — Ibtihaj Muhammad

Celebrates identity, pride, and resilience in the face of exclusion or bullying.

Wondering: I wonder why her blue hijab felt important and powerful?

Strictly No Elephants — Lisa Mantchev

A gentle parable about exclusion and creating communities where everyone belongs.

Wondering: I wonder how they created a more welcoming community?