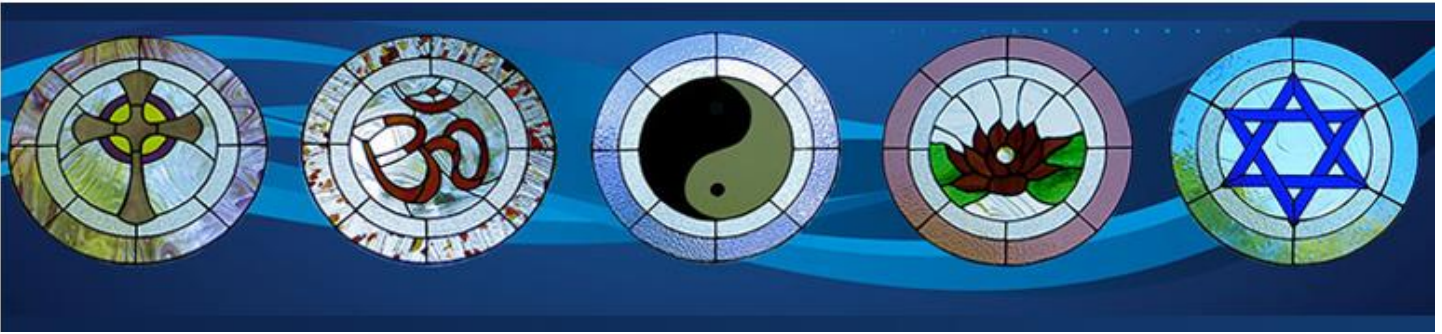


April 2021 Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

WELCOMING diversity
 EMPOWERING spiritual growth
 FOSTERING the interdependent web
 TRANSFORMING lives

Please visit our website at www.uumidland.org for a listing of all current events.

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Membership Matters
 Have you been getting to know the church and Unitarian Universalism? Do you feel that this congregation might be a spiritual home? Are you considering a deeper commitment to the church? Membership comes with great gifts and opportunities, as well as responsibilities to the church community. If you are considering membership, please check out our membership brochure in the foyer or see Carol Kullman, Membership Chair, a Board member, or Rev. Julie Lombard.

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April 2021 Sermons at a Glance – Worship Theme: Transformation

April 4 Easter: *What would Jesus do?* by Rev. Julie Lombard

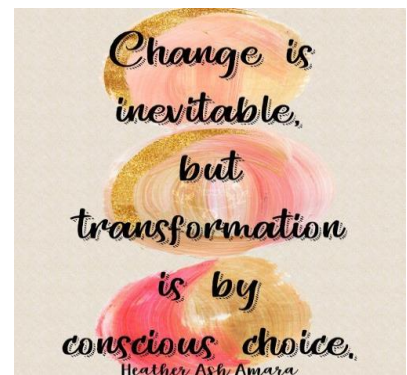


Easter comes only once a year and we have many traditions to consider, but instead of egg hunts and holiday dinners, what if we were to re-center the conversation around a wise teacher, Jesus. We have arrived, the pandemic is slowing down as heard immunity nears. We are all ready to roll away that stone in front of the tombs we've been metaphorically in. Let us ask as we wander out into wilderness, *what would Jesus do?* Join us for worship that will explore stories of transformation throughout the month. What new life is awaiting you personally and awaiting us collectively?

April 11 *Transformed by Shared Ministry* by Rev. Julie Lombard

"Shared ministry lives out the affirmation that all people are called to ministry. As members of a faith community, we are invited to serve together in a spirit of mutuality as partners. Working cooperatively, we strive to discover, develop, utilize, and support the gifts of each person and, as responsible stewards, to participate in the ongoing creative and restoring activity in our communities and the world." -Jean Morris Trumbauer

In a lay-leader team, I attended a Regional Governance and Spirituality Workshop in Crawford Notch, NH. I had no idea how it would transform me. Years later as a minister, I was a part of another team at a Regional Shared Ministries Workshop in Bangor, ME. A journey of transformation unfolded as I reconnected with my Crawford Notch roommate in Bangor. We come together willing to learn whatever Shared Ministry is, but the more meaningful lessons come from our time serving together. Please join us for worship as we continue to explore this month's worship theme: transformation.



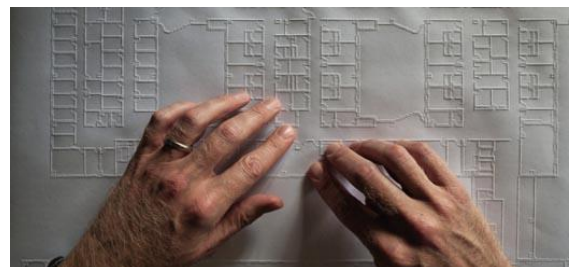
April 18 *Urgent Biophilia* Social Action Committee



Perhaps in no other time on Earth, have we felt the need to return, to reconnect with "Nature". We can understand the value of "nature" to our mental and spiritual health but what is harder is to understand and accept is our complete dependence on "Nature" for all the resources we need: food, water, shelter, and oxygen. Come celebrate the Earth as we acknowledge the 3.5-billion-year history of life on Earth. Join us as we explore what lessons the Earth and its history has to teach us as individuals and as a collective species working together to extend our time on Planet Earth.

April 25 *Lost Sight. Gained Vision* by Rev. Julie Lombard

Architect, Chris Downey, was always a rather visual person, but at age 45 he went blind almost overnight from a tumor on his optic nerve. He used his creative skills to navigate the now unfamiliar world he lived in and as he adapted to a new normal he gained a new vision for designing spaces to suit a broader range of experiences. Join us for worship and hear his inspirational story of transformation. Discover how his blindness helped him to become an even more mindful architect.



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Sunday Mornings

Interested in RE, see the **RE Corner** on page 9 for details.
Sunday services are currently online, using Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/2750827327>

It will ask you to download an app to your computer. Just follow the steps. You might need to find "Zoom.pkg" in your downloads and double-click it to install the application. On your smartphone, download the Zoom app, and then join a meeting with the meeting ID: **275 082 7327**

For a low-tech option, you can call in with any phone to this number: 929-205-6099. When it asks for your Meeting ID, enter the above number.

Online Giving

While we are mostly meeting online, remember that there are still ways to give to our weekly offering and submit your pledge. You can text: "Give" to 432-271-4921 Or you can go to our website: uumidland.org and scroll down to the yellow PayPal Donate button. You can also mail a check to our office, or have your bank send a check.

Children's Space: Every Sunday from 10:15-10:45 AM, in that same Zoom room, our staff hosts "time for all ages," show-and-tell, joys and sorrows, and casual conversation.

April Calendar

Check online (<http://www.uumidland.org/calendar>) for the most up to date calendar.

April 18	2:30 p.m.	Stitching Circle – in person
April 25	12:15 p.m.	Drop-In Circle
May 1		Pledge Card Due

UUCOM Board

Maurena Benavides, President
Janine Deckard, President-Elect
Alex Fields, Treasurer
April Graham, Secretary
David Allen, At Large Member
Lisa Jebsen, At Large Member
Beverly Wise, At Large Member

UUCOM Staff

Rev. Julie Lombard, Minister
 Email: minister@uumidland.org
 (432) 694-4308 office
 (603) 724-0978 Cell

Minister's office hours are by appointment.

Jessica Stewart,
Office Administrator
 (432) 694-4308
 Office Hours:
 Monday 9-12
 Wednesday 9-1
 Friday 9-12

Email: office@uumidland.org

Barbara Handley,
Director of Religious Education
 Email: dre@uumidland.org
 Phone: 432-978-5977

Sonja and Scott Millichamp,
Music Directors
 Email: skassal811@yahoo.com
scott@bruenor.org,

Visit our website:
www.uumidland.org

Like us on Facebook:
 Unitarian Universalist Church of
 Midland TX
<https://www.facebook.com/UUMidland>

April 2021 Newsletter

COVID-19 Reopening Phases

Phase 3 Maximum Outdoor Space Open (Where We Are Now)

Phase 1 & 2 guidelines apply:

Phase 1: The Church building remains closed to the general public and church members and friends. Limited access/use. (including individuals: Church Staff, Board Chair, Treasurer, & Buildings & Grounds Chair, On the Couch Counseling Staff & Cleaning Service staff), Use Building Use Log –keeping a record of the time each person is in the church for contact tracing purposes. All those that enter the building have a mask on hand. Masks must be worn and social distancing put into effect when more than one person is in the building.

Clean surfaces of common areas after use with disinfectant- bathrooms, kitchen, church office areas such as the copier or phone. We recommend that disinfectant supplies be ordered by the office and there be a cleaning station in each bathroom and by the log book/front entry. All gatherings are on Zoom1 or Zoom2. [Outdoor spaces are not available-this is no longer applicable.]

Phase 2 Outdoor space at the church may be used for small groups (10 or less) by church members and friends. (Preferably less than 5), Each group must have a designated facilitator that requests usage of the space and keeps a log of those gathering for contact tracing purposes. The facilitator may access the space by the east iron gates near Midkiff, the facilitator can let people in through the wooden gate on the west side near the parking lot. Participants must bring their own masks & chairs. Masks are worn at all times and social distancing practiced. The building will remain closed. If bathrooms are needed, the facilitator is to recommend the usage of a bathroom at a nearby business.

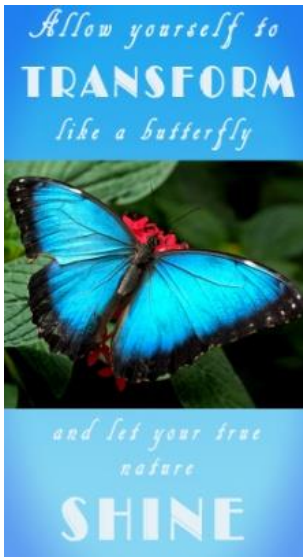
We share the outdoor space with our tenants such as the Buddhist Group, Patty George's Yoga, & Tree of Life.

Clean surfaces of common areas after use with disinfectant- outdoor furniture. We recommend that disinfectant supplies be ordered by the office and there be a cleaning station in each bathroom and by the log book/front entry.

Available Space: Zoom1, Zoom2, Meditation Courtyard (memorial garden), Southside Courtyard.

April 2021 Newsletter

April Minister's Musings by Rev. Julie Lombard



We are blessed with a new worship theme to help guide each month: April's theme is Transformation. One might look at these themes and point out they are theological themes; however that makes them sound somewhat abstract. We know that they are also everyday themes in our lives.

We are all too familiar with transition. It has played a large part in our lives especially as we traversed through a pandemic. In March, the Board voted to move towards re-opening, again. That means we are now back in Phase 3 and our outdoor spaces at church are open to small groups. Our outdoor programs may resume. We are well on our way after a long wait. Our leadership is looking ahead at how we may safely open more as the Covid-19 numbers decline. Stay tuned, a transformation is upon us!

As I look over my ministry, I never anticipated I would lead me here in Midland with you now. I had no idea the events that would unfold that brought me here to serve this beloved community. I truly enjoy being your minister as much as Rev. Emily did before me. I know you miss her, she misses you, too. It has been a long year for many of us, with uncertainty at every turn, but we have arrived at this time- one we welcome with joy. Easter is upon us, spring is here, and Earth Day will give us a chance to re-dedicate ourselves again to the fullness of the interconnected web of all life. A new freedom is upon us, one we've been waiting for.

What happens around the church during this time of the year is often seasonal & familiar. The church has its spring stewardship drive and y'all prepare for another annual meeting where we will vote on a budget and lay-leaders to guide us onward. If it is new to you, experience democracy at its best.

I feel so blessed to be here, supported by a dream-team church staff. The staff is honored to work cooperatively with dedicated lay-leaders to fulfill our inspiring mission and vision. This is a shared ministry, one that can only be done when we work well together as one strong team. I count myself as fortunate to be on this journey with you as we all serve Midland. This city needs our liberal nature, the migrant boys need our support, and our black and brown neighbors need us to live out the values that inspire the new 8th Principle. The world can go to pieces as it so often does, because here, we make shared ministry our calling and it makes the world a better place to live. I hope you will join us and receive the many blessings that are ours to receive when we unite to celebrate being together.

Peace, Rev. Julie



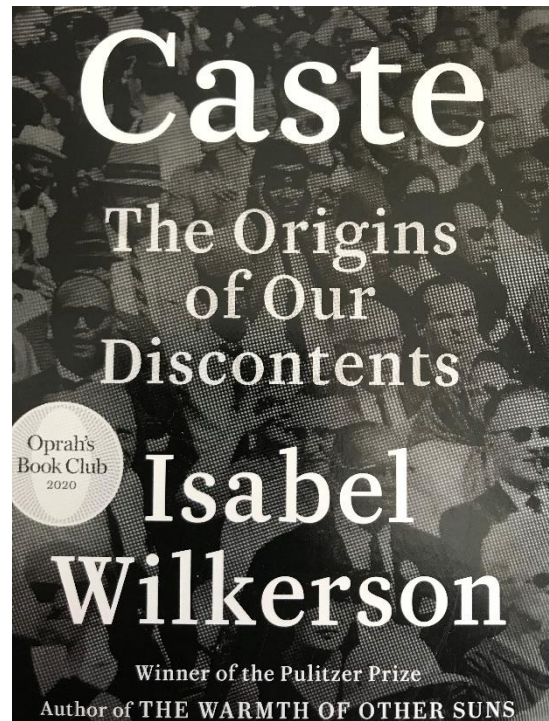
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Whatcha Reading

I like to listen to books while on long drives & this is what I've been reading.

Let me know if you've read them & you'd like to discuss them.

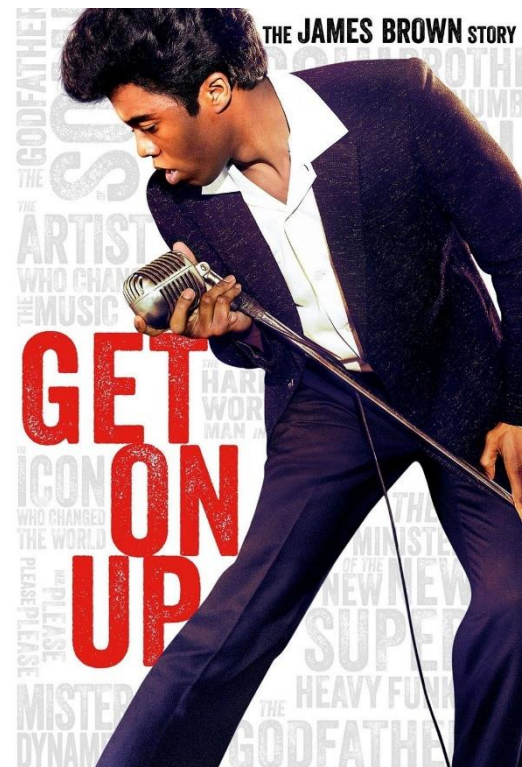
Peace, Julie



Whatcha Watching

I don't have cable, but I do like to stream & this is what I've been watching. Let me know if you've seen them & you'd like to discuss them.

Peace, Julie



April 2021 Newsletter

What's Happening at UUCOM

Welcome to UUCOM's 2021 Stewardship Season

“Fanning the Flame”

Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland continues our efforts together to move forward in creating the "Beloved Community" where we live out our values and principles.

Make your 2021-2022 FY pledge either online or via physical form by May 1, 2021.

Please visit <https://www.uumidland.org/pledge-card/> to complete the online pledge form. Or complete a physical form mailed to you.



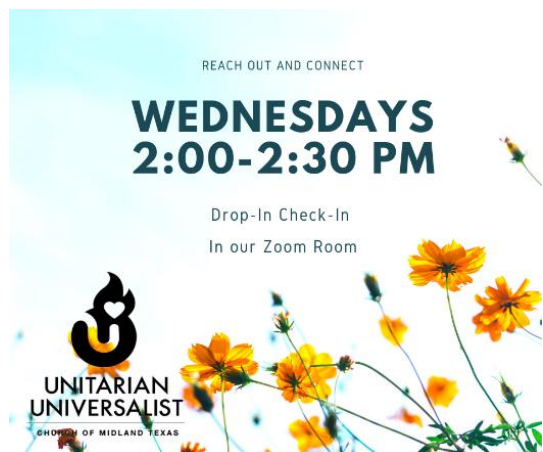
Board President's Update

Happy Spring. Behind the scenes, the board has been busy making lots of decisions to move us forward in safe and meaningful ways. Our church is currently in phase 3 of Covid reopening status. We are Currently looking at making big decisions about how we can come together in the spirit of inclusion and safety when the numbers are safe enough for us to do so. The Covid Care Team has been a huge benefit in looking at all of the data, research, and best practices. There is so much for us to consider and so many details to work out. But rest assured, you have some well-intentioned and conscientious people doing this work. The board is also looking at the budget and gathering a proposed budget for all members to vote on at our congregational meeting in May. We hope to see you there and to have your voice heard. As we prepare for our new church board to take over in the summer, we are creating board handbooks that outlined the various board positions and the duties. Being in leadership in the time of Covid has definitely not been a time to sit on our laurels. Our board has been working well as a team to create a worship committee that has a summer program well in the works and is looking for input from lay leaders on the upcoming services as well. Remember, one of the blessings of our faith is to have an open pulpit. If you have something you want to share, reach out to the worship committee to let them know because your ideas are welcome. And we have a great team of people that will assist you so you do not have to go it alone. We are also developing our committee on ministry to help facilitate communication between our congregation, minister and board. All of our voices are important. As your board president, I commit to finishing out my term with some thing that I call a “good leave.” It’s when you go all in and do your best effort to leave things in the best circumstances you can for whoever is taking over. And I believe your incoming board president, Janine Deckard, will be an excellent leader and a great person for me to pass the baton to. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns about things. See you at church!

Please find the COVID-19 reopening phases on page 4.

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Mid-Week Event: Online Drop-In Space:

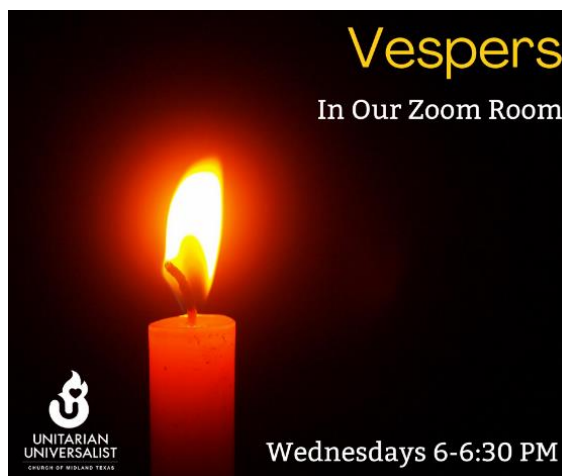


Wednesdays 2 –2:30 PM

Rev. Julie will open our Zoom room ([same link as above](#)) for a casual space to check-in and connect. We will start with a brief reading and meditation at 2:05, and then invite people to check-in and chat. Children are welcome. Come anytime between 2-2:30, and stay the whole hour or just for a bit.

Wednesdays 6-6:30 PM

Rev. Julie will open our Zoom room. This midweek evening service called Vespers, is held on Wednesdays at 6 pm, a quiet half-hour of music, prayer readings, and silence. A simple figurative breaking of bread follows the service - a brief check-in.



Outdoor Activities Returning in April



Brown Bag Series - Small Group Ministry with Rev. Julie Lombard

When: Wednesdays at noon- check the church calendar to confirm it is happening & not cancelled!

Where: the south courtyard

What to bring: BYO lunch, drink, lawn chair, & masks.

Get ready to join in on a rich small group ministry discussion facilitated by your minister. Topics will vary & TBD. Group size will be limited to 10, join in person or by zoom1. Call to make your reservation. For more info: 603 724-0978.

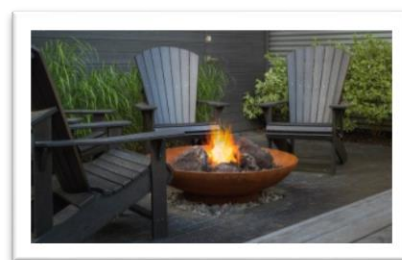
The Beacon Series - Small Group Ministry with Rev. Julie Lombard

When: Mondays at 6pm- check the church calendar to confirm it is happening & not cancelled!

Where: the south courtyard

What to bring: BYO marshmallows to roast, roasting stick, drink, lawn chair, & masks.

Get ready to join in on a rich small group ministry discussion facilitated by your minister. Topics will vary & TBD. Group size will be limited to 10, join in person or zoom1. Call to make your reservation. For more info: 603 724-0978.



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2021 Drop-ins: Small Group Ministry

Small Group Ministry is a vital part of many Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations across America. In other churches they are called Chalice Circle or Covenant Groups. Groups of 8-10 people meet regularly, usually monthly, to reflect on and discuss significant life topics.

Small groups are great places to get to know other people and to get to know your better, too. Over time, participants build deep connections with one another, with the congregation and with the sacred.

Discussion topics are provided. The ones we'll use for Drop-ins will reflect our UU Principles and Purposes. The conversations we'll have will be respectful and caring and they'll lead to greater understanding of our UU values. In each session, facilitated by our minister, all participants have opportunity to share their perspectives, tell their stories, and listen deeply. The time together is structured: groups begin with a chalice lighting, centering readings, and some questions before the sharing begins.

Are Drop-ins for you? If you are not already in another Small Group Ministry at UUCOM, yes, please come. Maybe you just signed the membership book or did that long ago, or not at all- come and try it on and see how small group ministry fits for you. If you would like to join a new small group that goes beyond the drop-in basics, please contact our office to let them know.

When and Where: We'll continue to meet at UUCOM at <https://zoom.us/j/2113237997> on Sundays from 12:15-1:00 PM in the New Year. **The next meeting will be April 25, 2021 at 12:15 PM.**

If this sounds like something you'd be interested in please sign up in the church office by web at <https://forms.gle/jiWnXxmi3uNWQoiW7>, Phone: (432) 694-4308, Email: office@uumidland.org or reach out to your minister, Rev. Julie Lombard: minister@uumidland.org.

April Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this April's Share the Plate recipient. The Social Action Committee has chosen the following recipient, The Nature Conservancy.



The Nature Conservancy has been working for more than 50 years to protect land and water in Texas. Now more than ever, our natural resources are up against extraordinary pressures. Your support allows us to continue protecting nature's most cherished places and spaces, like the iconic West Texas mountains, the sandy shores of the Gulf Coast, and the growing cities in between. With your help, we're innovating solutions to the most pressing challenges facing people and nature today—and helping to ensure a thriving, more resilient tomorrow.

Sermons

Please find Rev. Julie's most recent sermons in the sermon blog at www.uumidland.org/blog.

February 2021 Newsletter

Thoughts from the RE Corner

Children's Space 10:15-10:45

This is a time for chalice lighting, story, check-in and fun! We are using a modified Spirit Play format. Our theme is: Super Heroes!! This month we will be learning about Super Heroes who champion our earth.

April 4—Easter: Rechenka's Eggs. This is our traditional Spirit Play Easter story about a Russian woman and her rescue goose.

April 11—Rev. Julie will share a story.

April 18—Miss Rumphius. In honor of Earth Day, we will learn about Miss Rumphius and her efforts to beautify the earth.

April 25—Gaura Devi: Saves the Trees. This is a true story of an eight year old girl who worked to save the trees near her home in India.

Chalice Lighting

We light this chalice to celebrate Unitarian (cup left hand to make a U) Universalism (cup right hand to make a U).

We are the church of the open minds (fingertips touch the forehead and swing open like a door).

We are the church of the helping hands (hands outstretched palms up).

We are the church of the loving hearts (hands crossed over heart).

Religious Education Volunteers

If you are interested in helping with our children's religious education during the time of Covid-19, there are many ways that you can participate. You could read or tell a story during Children's Zoom Space. You may suggest a story for our Children's Space. Our theme is: Super Heroes!! You may help to create Spirit Play stories for when we get to meet in person!! Please contact Barbara Handley at dre@uumidland.org or 432-978-5977.

Celebrating our Principles: 6/13-8/8/2021

Featuring: Our 8 UU Principles throughout the months & **General Assembly Worship** on 6/27

Are you ready to explore our UU Principles in more depth? Does one of these principles make your heart sing? Your Worship Committee has pulled together a summer series that we feel you won't want to miss this journey. You can play a part: want to try to do a reading or show your favorite movie about a particular principle? Maybe sing a song or share a poem about it? Let the Worship Committee know, we'll hook you up to this special way of worshipping. Our summer series is mainly a lay-led group effort, so we could sure use your assistance and involvement. Come hear from your members and friends who step up and speak out about the principles they feel passionate about. Check out the dates and principles below. Let us know how you would like to be involved. The more you get involved, the more meaningful worship and church life will be.

Contact: Barbara Handley, Worship Chair and Rev. Julie Lombard, Minister or call the church office.

February 2021 Newsletter

6/13/2021 #1 "The inherent worth and dignity of every person;" (Our Red Promise)

Unitarian Universalism is a high humanist system of thought. It emphasizes the inherent worth of all people rather than any inherent flaws in humanity. This belief leads many UUs to not only take care of their own spiritual health but to care for other people as well. This leads to the second principle. Join Barbara Handley and some friends from Sunday School.

6/20/2021 #2 "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;" (Our Orange Promise)

UUs do not have a specific list of laws of behavior to follow. They are encouraged to personally consider the nature of ethical choices rather than adhere to strict doctrine. Yet, they do agree that ethical behavior should include the notions of justice, equity, and compassion. Countless UUs are known for social activism and charitable giving, and the majority have a general kindness and respect toward others. Join Jane Hellinghausen and watch the movie: Finding Home in Boomtown.

6/27/2021 General Assembly Worship

We will be joining together on Zoom to watch the livestreamed Sunday service from General Assembly - the largest gathering of Unitarian Universalists, and a powerful communal experience! What a treat!

<https://www.uua.org/ga-worship>

7/4/2021 #3 "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth;" (Our Yellow Promise)

UUs are very non-judgmental. A UU gathering might easily include atheists, monotheists, and polytheists, and this diversity is to be tolerated and encouraged. Spirituality is a highly complex and subjective topic to UUs, which can lead to multiple conclusions. UUs are also encouraged to learn from this diversity as they develop their own personal ideas of spirituality. Let us know if this excites you?

7/11/2021 #4 "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;" (Our Green Promise)

UUs focus on their own personal spiritual development and understanding rather than being concerned about everyone reaching a consensus. Every person has the right to their own spiritual seeking. This principle also refers to the respect for everyone's personal beliefs. It is not important to think that you are the right one but to accept that every person is free to consider their own truths regarding faith. Let us know if this excites you?

7/18/2021 #5 "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process;" (Our Blue Promise)

Unitarian Universalist's egalitarian outlook lends itself to the promotion of democratic organization. As a second ethical statement, UU also endorses action based upon one's own conscience. This understanding is closely related to the respect which UUs show each individual person, both in and out of the UU community. It places value on each person as an equal in that everyone has a connection to 'the sacred' and through that, a trust is developed. Join Rev. Julie Lombard and Scott & Sonja Millichamp

7/25/2021 #6 "The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;" (Our Indigo Promise)

The notion of inherent human worth lends itself to an emphasis on the world community and the allowance of basic rights for all members. It is a very optimistic view of the world, but one that UUs hold dear. Many UUs admit that this is, at times, one of the most challenging principles. It is not a matter of faith, but in the face of injustice, tragedy, and atrocities in the world, it can test one's faith. This principle speaks to the foundation of UU compassion and the fortitude of those who hold these beliefs. Join our World Music theme of inspiration. Let us know if this excites you?

February 2021 Newsletter

8/1/2021 #7 "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." (Our Purple Promise)

UU acknowledges that reality consists of a complex and interconnected web of relationships. Actions taken seemingly in isolation can still have far-reaching effects, and responsible behavior includes being mindful of these potential consequences. In this principle, Unitarian Universalists broadly define that "web of all existence." It includes one's community and environment and many use the words "the spirit of life." It is all-encompassing and helps each individual understand society, culture, and nature while trying to support it where they can. Join Janine Deckard.

8/8/2021 #8 "Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

More and more UU churches are adopting this principle as part of their tradition. Find out more at: <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/background> Let us know if this excites you?

Monthly Stitching Group

Join us for our first IN-PERSON stitching group this month! Due to the church moving into [phase 3 of reopening](#), we are allowed to meet outside on the patio or in the grass during our normal time. Please bring a camping chair or blanket and join us for a masked & socially distanced, but in person, stitching group!! Hurray!! We welcome all stitchers: knitters, crocheters, embroidery or hand sewing! Bring your projects to visit or to get and share advice & tips. Join us on April 18th from 2:30-4:30 pm for our next meetup.

Please email Franny at starrymoon@gmail.com with any questions.

Board Thank You for Month of March

The Welcoming Congregation Team for the WCT needs assessment zoom poll prep & roll out.

Rebecca Dodge- for sharing her art with us

Staff- for their commitment with worship & for to work through any and every issues.

Care Team for Church Members and Friends

We invite you to share any needs you may have or concerns about church members/friends with the care team. When others in our church family approach you about a difficult situation in their life please ask them if it is ok to share that information with the care team. You may share requests and concerns with Jane Hellinghausen ([413-4612](tel:413-4612)), or by calling the church office ([694-4308](tel:694-4308)).

Thank you for helping to make our church an even more supportive and caring community!

Interested in Becoming a Member?

Interested in officially joining our church community? Reach out to Rev. Julie, Carol Kullman, Jane Hellinghausen, or Barbara Handley; or check out our Path to Membership brochure in the foyer or info online. The process consists of committing to attend a Newcomers' Drop-In Circle or class; making a pledge of time, talent, &/or treasure; and signing the membership book. We welcome you!

February 2021 Newsletter

2021 Members and Friends Directory

The 2021 UUCOM Members and Friends Directory is complete. Electronic copies will be sent the first week of April to UUCOM members, UUCOM friends will need to request their copy of the directory and all will need to request physical copies of the directory.

Please contact Jessica in the office by email, Office@UUMidland.org, or phone, 432-694-4308, to request an electronic or hard copy of the directory.

Volunteer Opportunity

Looking for a way to share your time and talents with our church community? How about helping the Worship Committee as a Zoom Host. This is a job that you can do from the safety of your own home!! Here is what the job entails:

- The zoom host starts the meeting at 9:45am for the sound check and makes other service leaders co-hosts. They make sure that all participants to worship are muted & cannot unmute themselves (except for joys & sorrows, & coffee hour). (Greeter can help.)
- To start a zoom meeting they need to go to zoom.us and sign in. When they sign in, it will ask for an email address and a password. Once the person is signed in as the Zoom Host, then you can start a meeting. After that, others can get on the meeting from the church worship link.
- The zoom host and greeter are the waiting room attendants for worship. They admit people from the waiting room, & are vigilant to zoom bombing. They might alert the service leader or worship associate in the chat bar if there's something they missed. They have the right to kick someone out if they are causing problems- acting as bouncers.
- The zoom host or greeter also will send new folks the link to our connection card in the chat bar so folks can share with us their information and sign up for our email announcements. Connection Card <https://tinyurl.com/y8mo3t55>
- That is all. They can leave as soon as the service is finished as long as someone else remaining is co-host.
- The Zoom host has support during the service from the Greeter and other members of the Worship Committee.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Barbara Handley at 432-978-5977 or dre@uumidland.org

Garden and Grow, Continues

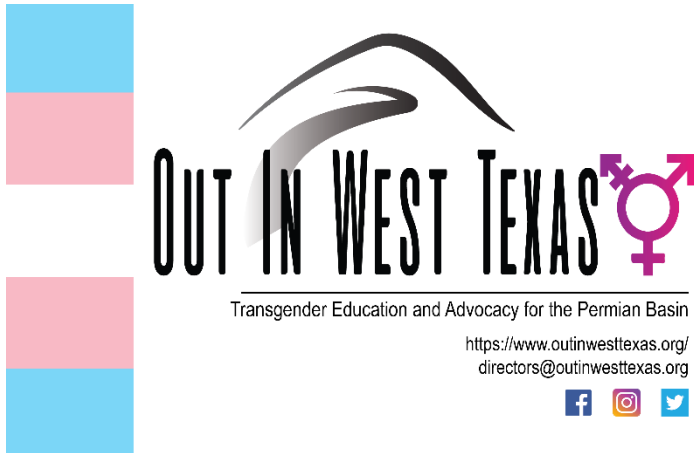
We will be continuing work in the Garden on the first Saturday of every month. Time varies depending on weather. Please contact Mike Vidrine for updates.

Food donations for people and pets!

Each Sunday during our offering, we collect donations of nonperishable food for local food pantries, and pet food for Lone Star Sanctuary for Animals. Make a special note to remember your food donations for our monthly Intergenerational Services, as the children love to collect the food and bring it forward. (You can check our calendar online to see when those are!)

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Out in West Texas



Out in West Texas is in need of board members! We are currently holding monthly board meetings via Zoom, so travel is not necessary. Out in West Texas has a very strong record of doing education and advocacy work to make it easier for trans people to access healthcare, education, victim's services, and many other services in the Permian Basin. You could be a part of the team!

If you're interested in becoming a board member, please email us at directors@outinwesttexas.org

Out in West Texas is a project to train medical, legal, mental health, and educational providers of the West Texas region in professional competencies associated with working with transgender clients, as well as to provide training in transgender affirming practices.

Tree of Life

The modern Pagan movement provides a means for people to connect with the daily, monthly, and yearly cycles that continue to affect us physically and emotionally. Through classes and rituals, the Tree of Life Open Circle explores this connection in an ongoing effort to foster growth and community for kindred spirits of the earth.

For updates and further information about Tree of Life, please check out their Facebook page [here](#).

Free Yoga Class – Online

Patricia (Patty) George, the Yoga teacher has been doing virtual classes though Zoom. If anyone would like to join them - it's still free – just send an email to Patty George at, georgepat31@gmail.com so she can send an email that will include a Login ID and Password which will be new each session. You do not need to join Zoom, they'll just need to Google Zoom and then hit the tab "Join A Class".

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Wider World

2021 UUA General Assembly

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates

The UUA Board of Trustees has passed a resolution making the 2021 UUA General Assembly a 100% virtual event. Let's reach record-breaking attendance June 23-27, 2021!

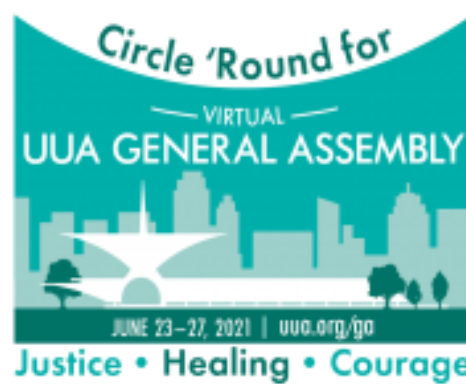
Circle 'Round for Justice • Healing • Courage is the theme for General Assembly 2021. GA is a time to circle 'round in community. We circle 'round in care and healing; for liberation and justice; and for love and courage.

Why Virtual General Assembly?

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. That remains true even when we cannot gather physically. Last year, GA had more than 4,900 registered attendees

participate from remote locations around the world. Although we give up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in-person, we retain our dedication to community and make our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable.

If you haven't registered for Virtual GA 2021 already, there is no better time to register than right now! Registered attendees are among the first to hear program announcements, including featured speakers and the Ware Lecturer and only registered attendees will have access to the new GA app (coming soon!) So, register early to join online discussions, familiarize yourself with the GA schedule, and find your place in our community of communities. Register at: <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>.



Act Globally Winter 2021 Engaging with global Unitarian/Universalism in action

Learn about a number of global opportunities including workshops with the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC), the UUA Office at the United Nations, International Women's Convocation, and the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists this February, March and April.

Learn more [here](#).

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Rolling Ridge Spring on-line retreats

Find all program details [here](#).



Spring is on its way with Easter resurrection nearly here. At Rolling Ridge this year, we have some **new events planned** to remember the reason for this season and to **celebrate new life and new hope**. Find all retreat details [here](#).

"Triduum" (or "Three Days") remembers the paschal mystery of Christ through **Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday**. This year, Rolling Ridge will be holding [ONLINE vesper services each night](#) (April 1, 2, and 3) at 6 pm as we walk with Jesus through the Last Supper, the crucifixion, and into the tomb.

This series of **evening vespers** will feature silence, candle lighting, Taize-style worship, reflections, and contemplative sharing based on the book, *Show Me the Way: Daily Lenten Readings* by Henri Nouwen.

Join Dr. Elizabeth Woodard, Ph.D., Catholic theologian and spiritual director, for a two-part post-Easter ONLINE retreat that will focus on how to live with open hearts during a time such as this. Learn more [here](#).



WPCR Workshops

As the United States enters a new chapter in its history and, in the words of Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman, "we lift our gazes not to what stands between us but what stands before us," [White People Challenging Racism \(WPCR\): Moving From Talk to Action](#) continues to awaken racial awareness and spur participants into action.

In a time of unprecedented crises, WPCR is meeting the moment. More workshops are being offered in more communities than ever before. We are continuously updating our curriculum to reflect events taking place in the U.S. WPCR alumni continue to carry out action plans to confront, challenge and dismantle racism wherever they live, work, worship, and volunteer. Imagine the impact we can have if everyone who takes WPCR implements their action plan!

[Upcoming workshops.](#)

UU Ministry for Earth Events Digest

Below is a link to a digest of upcoming events recommended by UU Ministry for Earth.

The UU Ministry for Earth recently launch of a [caucus for BIPOC UUs](#) who are passionate about the intersections of racial, environmental and climate injustices. Why a separate caucus for BIPOC? As we said above, we have long witnessed the disproportionate and disastrous impacts of climate change on communities of color. The BIPOC caucus will create a space for us to meet with others devoted to environmental and climate justice work, and also be a voice for us in the broader environmental and climate

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justice movement. It will allow us to form bonds with other BIPOC who fight not only racial and environmental injustices but are also the embodiment of living through a long history of injustice and cruelty.

Please consider joining and/or forwarding this invitation. Thank you for supporting and engaging in this vital ministry to Respect Life, Restore Earth, and Renew Spirit.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/2O7SGpZ>.

Spring Programs Rowe at Home

Find a complete list of all of Rowe at Home's March free and paid programs [here](#). These programs include "[Clark Strand: Celebrate the Season with Haiku: An Online Equinox Weekend Retreat](#)," "Christine Valters Paintner: Sky, Sun, Sea, & Stone: Celtic Spirituality and Creative Writing," and March Couples Date Night: Come and Play with Your Lover."

Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders

- May 3-7
- June 21-25
- August 2-6
- October 11-15
- November 15-19

Make plans now to attend the training event that has been called "the Golden Globe winner of conflict resolution programs"!

We have all witnessed the recent abhorrent events in our nation's Capitol where underlying tensions and unresolved conflict escalated into mob violence. Sadly, conflict does not confine itself to the political realm. Conflict is also inevitable in the church. Even if your church is not experiencing conflict now, it very likely will at some point in the future. Be prepared when conflict does arise to transform something negative into a positive opportunity for growth and reconciliation.

Acquire 32 contact hours that you can apply towards Continuing Education credits; enjoy fellowship with like-minded church leaders; and rejuvenate your ministry, all at the same time. Please join us and find out for yourself why a previous participant noted that MSTI is "the best and most thorough model for mediation with individuals and congregations that I have experienced in more than three decades of ordained ministry."

The fee for MSTI is \$750, which includes five full days of instruction and a manual. Online registration closes approximately 10 days before the event begins, although we encourage you to contact us to see if there may still be openings. Questions? Please call us at 630-627-0507, or send an email to Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org. For further information we also invite you to check our website at <https://lmpeacecenter.org/>.

PLEASE NOTE: We are now using TicketSpice rather than Brown Paper Tickets as our online ticket agency. To register online please go to <https://lmpeacecenter.org/ticketspice/>. To pay by check, fill out the form on [this MSTI Brochure](#) and send it with payment to our office at: LMPC, 101 W 22nd Street, Suite 206, Lombard, IL 60148.