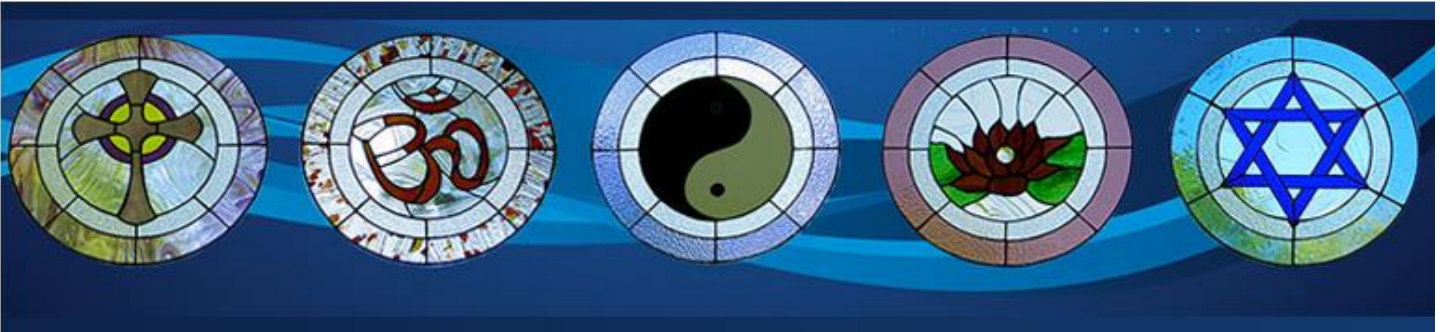


April 2022 Newsletter



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.

Table of Contents

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 Erica Stoltz or Barbara Handley, Membership Chair, or a Board member.

April 2022 Sermons at a Glance	2
Sunday Morning and Worship	3
Church Announcements	4-5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship Committee • In-person Service • Guest Speaker • Work Party 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UUCOM Member's and Friends Directory • Community Pantry 	
Thoughts from the RE Corner	6
What's Happening at UUCOM	7-8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share the Plate • Stitching Group • Membership 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Team • Yoga Class 	
Wider World	9-11

April 2022 Newsletter

April 2022 Sermons at a Glance

April 3 “Trans Truth”

UUCOM will join Rev. Steven Gaines and the UU Church of Fayetteville via Zoom. Rev. Gaines will interview a trans singer-songwriter about her experience and her use of music to process life, identity, and spirituality.

April 10 TBA

Rev. Dr. Steven Gaines will lead this service.

April 17 “What’s in Your Egg?”

This Easter Service will be led by Rev. Dr. Steven Gaines

April 24 “An Exploration of Faith: Part Four: Holy Envy”

At a time when I needed it most, I stumbled upon the writings of Barbara Brown Taylor, and I saw in her books some of my own spiritual journey. In the last of my four-part series of sermons based on her books, we’ll explore Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others. This memoir of Taylor’s experiences teaching world religions at Piedmont College shows us that God is bigger than any one religion. What we discover in whole heartedly exploring different religions can deepen our own understanding of faith and connect us to a world of spiritual seekers. I still have two of her books which I would love to give away to someone for sharing a service about your spiritual journey with us.



April 2022 Newsletter

Sunday Mornings

Sunday services remain in a hybrid format both in-person and virtually. The board and the COVID Team gave much thought to the rules (**Pg. 5**) which we must all abide by as a way to properly care for each other and reduce the possibility of spreading the virus. Please read them carefully and be prepared to follow them. We will also continue to broadcast our services over Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/2750827327>).

We expect that Zoom will become a permanent part of our services so that people who cannot attend in person will be able to join us online.

Sunday services are currently hybrid both in person and online, using Zoom:

11:00 AM SUNDAYS

All are Welcome!
Online Service

Zoom Meeting ID
275 082 7327

Or check our home page
for the link or call-in #

10:15 - 10:45 AM
Children's Space

UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF MIDLAND TEXAS

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 below 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: Spirit Play meets in person from 10:00-10:45. Masks are required.

Interested in RE, see the **RE Corner** on page 6 for details.

UUCOM Board

Janine Deckard, President
Barbara Handley, President-Elect
Jane Hellinghausen, Treasurer
April Graham, Secretary
Eli Hilbert, At Large Member
Lisa Jebson, At Large Member
Rebecca Dodge At Large Member

UUCOM Staff

Jessica Stewart,
Office Administrator
(432) 694-4308
Office Hours:
Wednesday 9-1
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: music-directors@uumidland.org,

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

April 2022 Newsletter

Community Pantry

Board member, Eli Hilbert would like to see if anyone has some piece of furniture that would be suitable for a community pantry that we could install near our free library. We would prefer to recycle than to purchase new. It would be lovely if it were sturdy, weatherproof and secure. If you have something that might work, please reach out to the board or contact Eli directly.

Save the Date! Work Party on Saturday, April 2

The past two years has been tough on all of us including our beautiful church home! Please join us at church at 9:00 to spruce up our building and grounds. So think about your favorite things to do: clean window, rake leaves, pull weeds, organize, dust and polish furniture. You may want to bring your favorite gardening tools or cleaning products. Remember many hands make light work!!



Work Party on Saturday, April 2

The past two years has been tough on all of us including our beautiful church home! Please join us at church at 9:00 to spruce up our building and grounds. So think about your favorite things to do: clean window, rake leaves, pull weeds, organize, dust and polish furniture. You may want to bring your favorite gardening tools or cleaning products. Remember many hands make light work!!

UUCOM Members and Friends Directory



**2022
DIRECTORY**

To order a copy, please fill out the online request form:
<https://bit.ly/22Dir-Req>

The 2022 UUCOM Members and Friends Directory is complete. Electronic and hard copies will be sent this week to UUCOM members, UUCOM friends will need to request their copy of the directory and any may request physical copies of the directory.

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

April 2022 Newsletter

Church In-Person Service Rules

The board and the COVID Team gave much thought to the rules which we must all abide by as a way to properly care for each other and reduce the possibility of spreading the virus. Please read them carefully and be prepared to follow them.

We will also continue to broadcast our services over Zoom. We expect that Zoom will become a permanent part of our services so that people who cannot attend in person will be able to join us online.

THE RULES

1. Masks that cover the mouth and nose will be required for all participants (age 2 years and up). The exception to this will be speakers at the pulpit who stand behind the shield and individuals with medical issues that prevent mask usage.
2. All attendees must maintain 6 foot social distance. Exceptions only will be made for family groups.
3. Attendance will be taken for contact-tracing purposes.
4. Temperatures will be taken. All participants must register at 100 degrees Fahrenheit or below to be allowed entry.
5. Please use only the marked doors for entry and exit from the building.
6. Socializing areas will take place in outdoor spaces only (either under the front tree or in the south garden which will be accessible through the west gate only). The fellowship hall will not be open for socializing.
7. Though the sanctuary will be open, its capacity will be limited to 30 people. Should there be an overflow, we may use the fellowship hall for a small number of people. The only other areas open to all will be the bathrooms. The classrooms, kitchen, storage closets, library and offices will only be accessible to specifically authorized individuals.
8. There will be no congregational singing.

Just like the rest of you, the Board is looking forward to the day when we can return to what was our normal building use before the pandemic. We sincerely hope that day will be very soon. We will keep you informed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any board member.

Guest Speaker Rev. Dr. Steven Gaines



Guest speaker Rev. Dr. Steven Gaines

The Board of UUCOM is proud to announce the decision to bring Reverend Doctor Steven Gaines into our loving community as a regular guest speaker. He will assist us with a few services in the coming months. I know that many of you have questions about this new and exciting endeavor. We look forward to all that we have to learn from Reverend Gaines. He is the Associate Professor of Speech and Communication at Midland College. He is a part-time minister for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fayetteville, AR. He has graciously offered to help us at a time when we need a fresh new perspective and an extra set of hands. We are still planning to go forward with our Interim Search for an Interim minister, but our previous vote of Lay-Lead Plus allows us to seek the help of professional UU ministers, and Rev Gaines fits the bill.

Please feel free to reach out to me or any board member if you have questions.

April 2022 Newsletter

Thoughts from the RE Corner

Children's Space 10:00-10:45

We are BACK!!!! Spirit Play meets in person from 10:00-10:45. Masks are required. Spirit Play is a Montessori-based curriculum that is based on our UU Promises (Principles) and Sources. This month's stories will reflect earth-based promises.

April 3—A Quiet Place. We all need a place where we can just “be”.

April 10—Old Turtle. This story reflects the connection to God, the earth and one another.

April 17—Rechenka's Eggs. The story follows the relationship of Babushka and her rescue goose, Rechenka.

April 24—Miss Rumphius. Miss Rumphius reminds us that we all have the ability to leave a positive mark on the world.

Easter Egg Hunt

Easter is Sunday, April 17. As part of our church tradition, we have an Easter Service followed by our annual Easter Egg Hunt. The Religious Education Committee is asking each parent to bring a dozen filled plastic eggs for each of their children. If filling the eggs with candy, please use wrapped candy! The donated eggs will then be hidden in the garden for the hunt. Please bring baskets for children to place their collected eggs.



Celebrating-Easter.com

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, there are many ways that you can participate. You could read or tell a story during Children's Space. You may suggest a story for our Children's Space. Our theme is: Super Heroes!! I am looking for volunteers to lead Children's Space during June!! If you can help, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.

April 2022 Newsletter

What's Happening at UUCOM

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, **Keep Midland Beautiful**.

Our goal is to empower you with the tools and knowledge you need to help keep our community clean, vibrant, and beautiful! This site is your resource for all things related to litter prevention, beautification, and waste management in Midland, Texas.



We are a **Non-Profit 501(c)3** that works closely with the City of Midland on programs that promote a beautiful Midland.

Learn more at <https://keepmidlandbeautiful.org/>.

Monthly Stitching Group

Postponed Until Further Notice.

We welcome all stitchers: knitters, crocheters, embroidery or hand sewing! Bring your projects to visit or to get and share advice & tips.

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!

Care Team for Church Members and Friends

We invite you to share any needs you April 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 April 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!

Garden and Grow, Continues

We will be continuing work in the Garden on the first Saturday of every month. Time varies depending on weather.

Free Yoga Class

Patricia (Patty) George, the Yoga teacher will hold virtual classes Saturdays, 9-10 AM. If anyone would like to join them - it's still free – just send an email to Patty George at, georgepat31@gmail.com to discuss in-person or virtual (Zoom) availability.

Patty George is also leading meditation after the yoga class from 10:15 to 10:45. All are welcome and again they can contact her via the email above.

April 2021 Newsletter

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!)

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](#).



**UUMidland
Demographic
Survey**

Call 432-694-4308 for
a hard copy survey.

SHARE/UPDATE YOUR
INFO ON YOUR
SCHEDULE

<https://bit.ly/UUSrvy21>

The graphic features a red and white QR code on a red background. To the right, a blue speech bubble contains the text 'SHARE/UPDATE YOUR INFO ON YOUR SCHEDULE' above an icon of a notepad and pen. The URL 'https://bit.ly/UUSrvy21' is displayed in blue text at the bottom right.

April 2021 Newsletter

Wider World

UU the Vote

We plan to kick off our UU the Vote work on **Sunday, April 10 at 1pm PT / 2pm MT / 3pm CT / 4pm ET**. This 90-minute live webinar will feature UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, our state partners, and our new UU the Vote Campaign Manager. Learn how our program is going deeper into values-based conversation, showing up for ballot measures to combat voter suppression, fight for reproductive justice, and resist the criminalization of Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities.

Will you join us to launch UU the Vote 2022?

Unitarian Universalists understand that democracy is a process and a practice. A movement for radical democracy requires us to create new coalitions and community partnerships to put power in the hands of the many, instead of the few. UU the Vote is part of [Side With Love](#), which shares four intersectional justice priorities; we hope you'll join us in connecting reproductive justice, LGBTQ+ justice, and climate justice with electoral justice.

Spring 2022 Skill Up Series

This is our monthly series of trainings on organizing skills to help build our UU the Vote and Side with Love Volunteer Squads and help YOU build stronger teams in your congregation and community. We'll start the session with some spiritual fun and then launch into our training. This is also a chance to find out how to get more involved as a Side with Love volunteer and meet members of the Volunteer Squads.

Sign up now to come live, or be the first to get the recordings!



The graphic is a blue and orange banner for the 'Skill Up Spring Series 2022'. It includes the URL 'bit.ly/skillup4justice' and the 'UU the Vote' logo. The schedule is as follows:

Date	Topic	Speaker	Time
FEB. 20:	Creating Effective Guest Opinions & Letters to the Editor	- Jeff Milchen	Every 3rd Sunday
MAR. 20:	Grounding, Welcoming & Energizing	- Canedy Knowles & Rev. Kristina Church	• 1 pm PT • 2 pm MT • 3 pm CT • 4 pm ET
APRIL 17:	The Art of the Ask	- Nicole Pressley	
MAY 15:	How Do I Get People to Care? Building Strong Grassroots Actions for Justice	- Susan Leslie	

UU Ministry for Earth

Spring for Change: a Season of Sacred Activism — from March 20 (Spring Equinox) through May 22nd (International Day for Biodiversity) — is an invitation to the Unitarian Universalist faith community to embody the transformational, regenerative power of Spring through sacred activism for Earth and all our relations.

The 2022 Spring for Change theme is *Get Rooted, Get Ready!* Together, we will *Get Rooted* in our faith communities, our spiritual practices, and our relationships to the ecosystems we are home to.

“Get Rooted, Get Ready!” Earth Day Worship Service

April 22 – 9am PT / 10 MT / 11 CT / 12 ET & Available for Congregational Use!

A course on Ecology as Scripture, from our Caucus forums to our Earth Day worship celebration (April 22)

Please click [here](#) to read the full spectrum of programming for Spring for Change: A Season of Sacred Activism.

UU Young Adults for Climate Justice Movement Training Workshop Series

UU Young Adults for Climate Justice is hosting a movement training workshop series for young adults (18-35). Spread the word or join us across three Saturdays to be supported, resourced, and empowered in your justice work. They are independent workshops, so register for just one or all three!

April 2021 Newsletter

Jail Support 101 (April 2nd, 4 pm ET)

Presented by Casey Clowes, Antoinette Scully, Hanan Robinson, and Alex Sherwood.

Health and Wellness: For the Moment/For the Future (April 9th, 3 pm ET) Presented by Rev. Elizabeth Mount

[Register for Movement Workshops!](#)

Environmental Justice + Heather McGhee: March 30 @ 5pm PT/6pm MT/7pm CT/8pm ET

The UUMFE BIPOC Caucus is calling all changemakers! This month the Caucus is taking lessons from Heather McGhee in finding places of radical change and necessary hope as we bring both of these themes home to ourselves and our communities. The reality is we can no longer operate without bridging the relationship between racial injustice and our climate crises. It's time to dive in deep as we learn from Heather's talk on the Sum of Us and then challenge ourselves to take what we learned to ourselves and our communities.

[Register for the Discussion!](#)

In honor of **World Water Day**, UUs for Social Justice is encouraging Unitarian Universalists in the United States to tell the US Congress to demand increased equity and more nature-based solutions in the upcoming 2022 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). [Learn more](#) about the effort and write to US legislators.

UUA International Office

Recent global events have reminded us that the world's humanitarian crises don't wait for our convenience. The COVID-19 pandemic has now raged for a second full year, but that hasn't stopped climate change and other systemic injustices from continuing apace as well. To the contrary, it has exacerbated pre-existing inequities that impact basic human rights. [Read more about the UUA International Office.](#)

Displacement & Human Rights: All In for Climate Justice

April 22 - May 1, 2022 | UU@UN Intergenerational Spring Seminar - [Register](#)

UUA Intergenerational Spring Seminar

Unitarian Universalists aged 14 and up will deepen their connections across generations and grow their skills to take action for climate justice at the Intergenerational Spring Seminar in April. This year's theme is "Displacement and Human Rights: All In for Climate Justice," and will include both virtual and in-person gatherings join **online April 22 – May 1, 2022**.

[Read More!](#)

TXUUJM

The [latest monthly newsletter](#) is here from the Texas UU Justice Ministry, our state action network. This issue includes [TXUUJM's statement of support for trans Texans](#) and their families, Rev. Erin Walter's call to President Biden, 14 UU congregations supporting climate justice, a [very important Doodle poll](#), and more! You can sign up for the newsletter at [TXUUJM.org](https://txuujm.org). As always, thank you to your congregation for supporting TXUUJM! Together, we are bending Texas toward justice. - Rev. Erin Walter, TXUUJM Acting Executive Director, txuujm@gmail.com.

READ [FULL NEWSLETTER HERE](#).

April 2021 Newsletter

UUA Common Read: Defund Fear

The 2021–2022 UU Common Read is ***Defund Fear: Safety Without Policing, Prisons, and Punishment*** by Zach Norris, published by Beacon Press. The Common Read offers opportunities to explore personal connections to criminalization and public safety in America. *Defund Fear: Safety without Policing, Prisons, and Punishment* by Zach Norris confronts issues that will raise core theological questions for UUs. Discussion guides, video materials, and more are coming in April.

Read More!

Please Join Us for General Assembly 2022!

In 2022, we will have the option of meeting online or in-person! For those who enjoyed the convenience and accessibility of remote participation, General Assembly will continue to offer a virtual experience with robust programming and enhanced delegate discussion tools. For those who miss the in-person experience, GA 2022 offers opportunities to re-connect with friends old and new, local site attractions, and more! Join us June 22 - 26, 2022 online or in-person in Portland, Oregon.

[General Assembly 2022 Registration is now open!](#)

UUs for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC)

See our latest News & Views by clicking here:

<https://uujec.org/Portals/0/News%20views%20spring%202022.pdf>