



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

April 2023

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.

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.

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April 2023 Sermons at a Glance

April 2 "Pride Sunday"

The six-day Basin Pride Celebration ends this Sunday, so let's join the celebration by having a Pride Service honoring our diversity of genders and sexualities.

Our guest musician will be Skylar Conover, a trans singer-songwriter from Northwest Arkansas. Our speaker will be Steven Gaines of the Basin Pride Organizing Committee.

We invite you to wear Pride colors, either the colors of the traditional Pride flag or colors that represent specific identities of you or loved ones. After the service, we will have light refreshments and time for fun and fellowship.

April 9 "Easter Sunday!"

Barbara Handley will lead us in a UU Easter Service which will include a Story for All Ages.

April 16

Rev. Richard Johnson, guest speaker.

April 23 "Hope for Humanity"

A new month, a new batch of "feel good" stories to help us cultivate hope, the strongest weapon we have to fight all the "feel bad" stories we are subjected to in traditional news outlets.

April 30 "What I've Learned So Far"

Lisa reflects on 12 years as a member of UUCOM, including 9 months as minister and why this spiritual oasis is so important for our community.

POTLUCK LUNCHEON, APRIL 16, 2023

Please join UU's for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, April 16th following the church service. A sign-up sheet is available on the guest table in the foyer.



Spirit Play meets in person from 10:00-10:45. This class meets in person and has no Zoom option. Interested in RE, see the RE Corner on page 7 for details.

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 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>). 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

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.

1100 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

UUCOM BOARD

Barbara Handley, President
Harry Nutter, President-Elect
Jane Hellinghausen, Treasurer
Alex Fields, Secretary
Eli Hilbert, At Large Member
Chris Stoltz, At Large Member
Tom Parks, At Large Member

UUCOM STAFF

Lisa Jebson,
Lay Minister

Office Hours:

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 Wednesday, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
 Thursday, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
 Email: minister@uumidland.org

Jessica Stewart,
Office Administrator

(432) 694-4308

Office Hours:

Wednesday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 Email: office@uumidland.org

Sonja and Scott Millichamp,
Music Directors

Email:

[music-
directors@uumidland.org](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/UUMidland)

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.

Minister's Musings

If you're up to date with online lingo, you may be familiar with FOMO or the Fear Of Missing Out. I use this mostly in messages with my Cheap Trick friends online. (By the way, did you know that I like that group?! I'm not sure if I've ever mentioned it.)



When I say "friends," I actually mean one fan in particular. If you open my Facebook messenger, you'll probably find the chats with my buddy Bally at the top. We share a similar sense of snark and, of course, a rabid fandom of the boys from Rockford, Illinois. We also share a deep FOMO when we read reports of Cheap Trick shows we are unable to attend. Whether it's an exciting setlist, a special moment during the show, interactions with the band outside of the show, or most of all, the presence of a favorite fellow fan friend (how's that for alliteration?!), I love commiserating and celebrating with my friend on Long Island.

All of this is to say that I am definitely filled with FOMO for the coming weeks at UUCOM. This year, Basin Pride has shifted their Pride Week celebration to March 28-April 2 - a wise move to avoid the intense summer heat from past Pride celebrations. Now more than ever, I am called as a UU and a minister to stand up for and stand with the LGBTQ+ community. The hateful and hate-filled laws coming from state legislatures, including Texas, are a direct attack on some of the most vulnerable members of our society. One of the best ways to fight back is to live with joy. To celebrate. Out loud and proud!

So my FOMO is because Tim and I have had a trip planned for over a year now, a very special trip to New Zealand in celebration of our 30th anniversary and 55th birthdays. This is wonderful except that it means I will definitely miss out on the opportunity to represent UUCOM at Basin Pride on Saturday, April 1, as well as our special Pride Service on April 2 at 11AM. Although I will not be here in person, I will be with you all in spirit. If you would like to be involved, especially on April 1, we would love to have more UUCOM volunteers. Reach out to me at minister@uucom.org and I will connect you with Alex Fields who is heading up the group who will be there, showing the Permian Basin that UUCOM stands on the side of love with the LGBTQ+ community!

Another way you can support the cause is to attend our special "Pride Service" for 11AM worship on April 2 and show our visitors that we are truly a welcoming community. We'll have refreshments and fellowship immediately after the service.

Another way to fight FOMO with UUCOM is with our Spring Gatherings on April 16, 23 & May 6. Please plan to attend at least one of these lunches so we can dream and prioritize our future. No FOMO here! I'll be there in person for all of them! Call the office or email office@uumidland.org to sign up.

April Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this April's Share the Plate recipient. The Board has chosen the following recipient, **Keep Midland Beautiful**.



The mission of Keep Midland Beautiful is to educate and inspire our community to take action, to create a clean, beautiful, and waste-free Midland.

Formed in February 1983, Keep Midland Beautiful is a member of the Keep America Beautiful (KAB) Clean Community System.

Today, Keep Midland Beautiful is a [501\(c\)3 non-profit](https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations) organization, that strives to educate and engage Midlanders in litter prevention, beautification, and waste management. We work with the City of Midland to continue to improve our community. In addition to being partnered with KAB, we are also an affiliate of Keep Texas Beautiful.

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

Ordination Service

Please make plans to join us as we celebrate the ordination of Rev. Lisa Jebesen. Saturday, April 29 at 3:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland.

APRIL 29, 2023
3:00 PM
Please make plans to join us
as we celebrate the
ordination of Rev. Lisa
Jebesen. Saturday, April 29 at
3pm at UUCOM.

Spring Gatherings

It's the time of year when the board evaluates priorities to create a budget for the new fiscal year and we can't prioritize without YOU!

So on behalf of the UUCOM board, I'd like to invite you to one (or more!) of the following SPRING GATHERINGS for food, fellowship and the opportunity to dream and discuss what we want for the future of UUCOM.

- April 16 @ 12 PM - after worship, our monthly potluck
- April 23 @ 12 PM - after worship, light lunch provided
- May 6 @ 11 AM - light lunch provided



All gatherings will take place at UUCOM Children are welcome to attend. RSVP: 432-694-4308 OR office@uumidland.org.

We look forward to dreaming with YOU!

2023 Members and Friends Directory

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.

Blood Drive

Please help us help the community by donating blood on Saturday, May 13! Mark your calendar and we will post the link to the event ASAP for appointment times.



RE Corner

Spirit Play 10:00-10:45

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 2: Passover Story

April 9: Rechenka's Eggs. The story follows the relationship of Babushka and her rescue goose, Rechenka.

April 16: Gaura Devi Saves the Trees.

April 23: Miss Rumphius. Miss Rumphius reminds us that we all have the ability to leave a positive mark on the world.

April 30: Plant Herbs. We will plant herbs in the raised beds in the garden.

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 Spirit Play. You may suggest a story for Spirit Play. If you can help, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.



What's Happening at UUCOM

Permian Basin Buddhists

The Tuesday night Buddhist class has expanded to include a 30 minute meditation session to begin at 6:15 PM.

The Permian Basin Buddhists continue to meet here at UUCOM on Tuesday nights, 7:00—8:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome, whether you are new to Buddhism or have been practicing the Middle Way for some time. For regular updates about the group, join the [Permian Basin Meetup Group](#).

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](#).

Interested in Becoming a Member?

Interested in officially joining our church community? Reach out to Lisa Jebesen, 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!

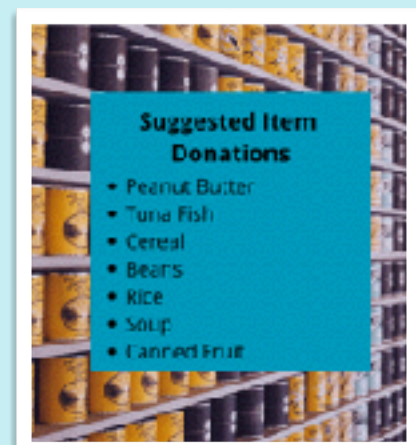
Care Team for Church Members and Friends

We invite you to share any needs you 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!

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!)



Wider World

TXUUJM

After a powerful showing for Legislative Action Day this month, [Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry](#) is in full swing with actions you can take from home (and from the Capitol) during this 88th Texas Legislature. Bring your UU values where they are needed -- into the public square! Here's how:

- [Sign up for the TXUUJM newsletter](#) to stay informed and get involved.
- Request to [join the TXUUJM Googlegroup](#) and [Facebook group](#), where members share actions and celebrate their work.
- Join UUs across Texas on Zoom, Thursday nights for [TXUUJM Action Hour](#). (Busy Thursdays or not a night owl? [Action Hour lunch bunch](#) meets on the Final Friday of the month.)
- **More Legislative Action Days at the Capitol, from TXUUJM partners:**
 - **Gone to Texas Lege TFN/Just Texas/Texas Rising - March 28, 2023** Registration full but you could show and rally!
 - **Alliance for a Clean Texas - April 11, 2023** [Registration link](#)
 - **Planned Parenthood Action, April 14, 2023** [Registration link](#)

UU Office at the United Nations Spring Seminar Programs

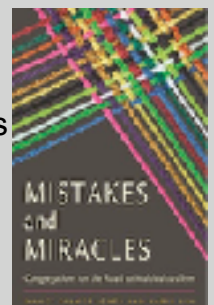
Join us for the 2023 UU@UN Intergenerational Spring Seminar! This year's Seminar will take place April 1-3, 2023. Join youth (14+) and adults in-person or online for programming and activities!

Learn more about the keynote and full schedule at <https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un/spring-seminar/programs-schedule>.

2023 UU Common Read

The UUA Common Read for 2022-23 is [Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism](#) (Skinner House Books, 2019). In this book, co-authors Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin—a white minister and a lay person of color—explore five UU congregations' journeys toward Beloved Community and share the joy, disappointment, and growth these congregations found.

[Join the Common Read.](#)



Wider World

UPLIFT

Please SAVE THE DATE for the **UUA TDOV Virtual Party for Trans Families**

Friday, March 31st @ 7pm-8:30pm CT / 6pm MT

As legislators pass harmful laws in states all across the country and as people of faith and no-faith fight back, we want to remind transgender/nonbinary families that they are not alone.

As Unitarian Universalists we believe that every body is sacred. This will be a time of reflection, celebration, and renewal as we prepare for what is and whatever is coming our way.

[REGISTER HERE](#) In 2019 we launched a new Welcoming Congregations renewal program called [The Five Practices of Welcome Renewal](#). The goal of the program is to encourage congregations to practice Welcome every year, year-round. As such, we are inviting religious leaders and congregants to join one (or more) of our Five Practices of Welcome Renewal - Monthly Orientation sessions.

- Monday, April 10th
- Monday, May 15th

All sessions are at 1pm CT/12pm MT

[REGISTER HERE FOR A MONTHLY ORIENTATION](#) [CLICK HERE](#) to view a previously recorded session.

Rolling Ridge On-line Retreats

As part of our [Voices and Stories series](#), we invite you to join us ONLINE on Tuesday, April 4th from 7-9 pm eastern as Rabbi Howard Mandell shares his story and his understanding of how the Holy Week accounts are the source of the current trends in antisemitism today. Is this hard for Christians to accept? Yes. That is why our Voices and Stories series was created. As we build bridges of understanding through historical education and contemplative listening, we create safe and sacred spaces for growth, healing, and unity as we confront the faithism that can blind us. [We invite you to listen in and join the conversation](#) with Rabbi Howard as we consider what we are being called to be and do.

Find all the details of their many programs [here](#).

UUJEC

[UUJEC News & Views: Spring 2023](#)

Wider World

General Assembly

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging: Let's Start The Conversation

Join us June 21 - 25, 2023 online or in-person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Most GA events will take place at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, 1000 Fort Duquesne Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA.

General Assembly continues to be a time for us to gather, in body and spirit, to honor our history, celebrate who we are, and forge our future together. The General Assembly and Conference Services Team leads the initiative to ensure that diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) are woven throughout, from planning to fruition.

Each month we will highlight different tentacles of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in preparation for our upcoming General Assembly in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 2023. For the month of December, let's focus on inclusivity.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging: Accessibility at GA

The General Assembly Accessibilities Services Team works with the General Assembly (GA) Advisory Council, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) administration, and GA attendees to coordinate services and accommodations for members of the GA Community, and to seek out opportunities to raise awareness around inclusion and accessibility.

Co-Leads Ellie del Valle and Mary Beth Spencer tell us about Accessibility Services, the plethora of assistance provided, and how to access accessibility assistance at General Assembly.

[View Video Message](#)

UUMFE

Spring for Change: a Season of Sacred Activism 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 2023 Spring for Change theme is Active for Earthcare! Beginning the evening of Sunday, March 19 (the night before the Spring Equinox on Monday, March 20th!) and continuing through May 22nd (International Day for Biodiversity).

- **Earth Day Service**
Thursday, April 20th
5 pm PT/ 6 pm MT/ 7 pm CT/ 8 pm ET
- **Biodiversity Sunday**
Sunday, May 21st
Time to be announced

Learn more and register [here](#).

Wider World

Article II:

The Conversation About What It Means to be UU

As a community, we are part of a vibrant, living tradition. UU faith calls us to remain open to new insights and understandings of the world, its needs and possibilities. Our tradition invites faithful reflection on how we practice and live into Unitarian Universalism. We are called to discernment today through the revision of Article II of our bylaws. Unitarian Universalists serving on the Article II Study Commission have developed new ways of expressing and centering our core values and congregations are invited to review the proposed new language in preparation for a vote at General Assembly this June. We hope everyone will take part and connect more deeply with our faith and theology.

Has your congregation or community joined this essential conversation? In this newsletter we offer ways to get started, deepen your involvement, and prepare your delegates to submit and vote on amendments, then casting a preliminary vote on the whole proposal at GA. This is an exciting time for all of us to have a say in what it means to be UU.

P.S. We'll be sharing an announcement soon about Article II amendment workshops that will begin in May.

Side with Love

- **Green Sanctuary Orientation**

First Monday of each month ([April 5](#)) at 7pm ET

Interested in the Green Sanctuary Process? Join this orientation to get a better understanding of the program and learn how your congregation can engage in ongoing climate action.

- [IRA funds and UUs: Funding Clean Energy and Climate Solutions](#)

Wednesday, April 19 at 7pm ET

Learn more [here](#).

- **Spring Skill Up Series** - All Skill Ups run 90 minutes starting at 4 ET • 3 CT • 2 MT • 1 PT

- Apr 23 - [Facing the Apocalypse With a Smile](#), led by Rachel Myslivy, Side with Love Climate Justice Organizer
- May 21 - [What Do Impacted Communities Need - How Would I Know?](#) Led by Rev. Michael Crumpler, UUA LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Director