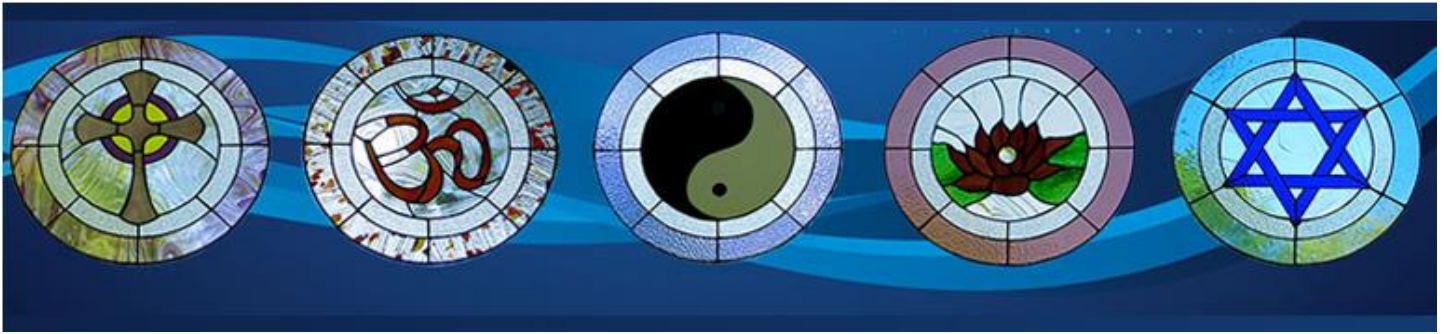


August 2020 Newsletter



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.

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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Greetings and Salutations

Dear church members and friends,

By now, you may have heard that a new minister will be joining your beloved community. Your Search Committee did a top rate job and voila, here I am. I was impressed with the Search Committee and with the ministry that y'all are doing and I hoped they'd recommend to the Board that I be your next minister. Luckily for me, my wish came true.

Have you ever heard the joke about the difference between a Yankee and a Damn Yankee? A Yankee is one that comes south, a Damn Yankee is one that sticks around. So, why's a Yankee like me, someone who loves snow and winter coming to TX? First, y'all have a terrific mission and vision. Second, you are doing some innovative ministry which is proof that you are willing to stick your necks out while siding with love. That takes courage! Third, your previous minister raves about what a wonderful congregation you all are and she laments leaving you. And lastly, I love ministry and you folks looked like a great place to begin my next shared ministry.

I was born and raised in N.H. My parents raised me Roman Catholic, but I had a change of heart at age 17. After college, I married the boy next door (Greg) and we had two beautiful babies (Annie and Ash). We live in the town of Plaistow, NH which is forty miles north of Boston. Annie is a sophomore at college at the University of New Hampshire and Ash is a junior at Timberlane High School. My family will be staying in N.H. when I come to be with you, but I have an apartment with plenty of room for them to visit. My husband has been with the same company for nearly 30 years. Until December 2019, I was the minister of the Northshore Unitarian Universalist Church in Danvers, MA.

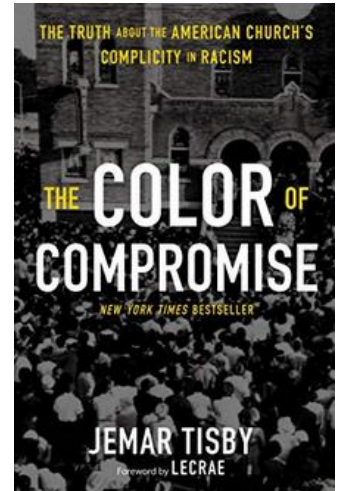
When I am not working, I love to spend time with my family in the mountain skiing, hiking, and camping. My husband and I are also whitewater kayakers, but our last paddle was in our canoe. I've lived in N.H. all my life with the exception of two brief interludes in NY and MD. After graduating seminary, my family took a 6000 mile trip to visit National Park out west for a month so we like to travel. I've been south a few times in my life, but I may be like a fish out of water while I get adjusted. You'll notice I talk funny. I have had the opportunity go south on a couple church service trips, one to rebuild in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and another to Guatemala. I also like play in my pottery studio, read, and watch movies.

I will arrive at the end of July to begin serving as your minister on August 1st. I am really looking forward to joining with you. You may like to contact me with questions or to request a pastoral care visit. As of August 1, please call me at (603) 724-0978 or email me at minister@uumidland.org. Much like before with Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon, you can meet with me anytime by appointment. My day off are Saturdays unless I need to switch it for another day to accommodate a church event and my sermon writing day is Thursdays.

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Beyond seeing you on Sundays at worship or for visits, I would like to continue the spiritual practice of the Wednesday afternoon meditative meeting that Rev. Emily started and I would also like to introduce an evening Wednesday Vespers for folks that cannot attend a daytime offering. My hope is to continue doing common reads and offer more movie nights. They make for such rich discussions and learning. There are so many great books and movies out there. I'd like to hear what sources you've found meaningful. Recently, I watched a documentary series on Amazon Prime called The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism. There's also a book by the same title by Jemar Tisby (B.A., University of Notre Dame, Mdiv Reformed Theological Seminary). Tisby is the president of The Witness, where he writes about race, religion, politics, and culture. He is also the co-host of the Pass The Mic podcast. He has spoken nation-wide at conferences and his writing has been featured in the Washington Post, CNN, and Vox. He's is a PhD student in History at the University of Mississippi studying race, religion, and social movements in the twentieth century.



Here's a review about The Color or Compromise: *"With clinical precision, Jemar Tisby unpacks the tragic connection between the American church and the countless historic iterations of American racism. Readers are served well by Jemar's refusal to minimize the horror of this history or sanitize the church's hands from its complicity. For this reason and many others, The Color of Compromise is an appropriately discomforting volume for such a time as this. May it be referenced and heeded as a prophetic warning for decades to come."*-Tyler Burns, Vice President, The Witness.

In gratitude to serve you,
Rev. Julie Lombard
(she, her, hers)





Courage is one of those rare virtues that goes unnoticed, but that's not why people have courage-to be noticed, is it? Often folks do not want the attention or recognition for their courageous acts, yet many crave a better understanding of this virtue.

Where does courage come from? What qualifies something as a courageous act?

In the month of August, we'll explore Courage as a worship theme. We'll hear many stories of acts of

courage by men and woman and people of all ages from around the world. This is a great time to also reflect upon the courageous people who have made a difference in your life. We learn so much from them, some are unsung heroes while others have received the broadest of our praises.

Steve Jobs stated, *"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition."* Is that where we keep our courage reserve... in our hearts and intuition? Nelson Mandela said, *"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."* I think he confirms something that we all knew already, that courage's dance partner in life is fear. In the midst of a pandemic, we have all had the opportunity to dance with fear.

For many, courage is a word that brings to mind standing on principles in the face of great opposition like the Black Lives Matter Marchers. Others think courage is demonstrated by taking a stance against them. Either way, there's plenty to say about what defines it. The word is commonly defined as the ability to do something that frightens one. It originates from Middle English (denoting the heart, as the seat of feelings): from Old French corage, from Latin cor "heart." The definition refers to the ability to do something brave out of a motivation from the heart.

Maybe Steve Jobs was right about finding courage in our hearts. Maybe there, we'll find the wellspring we need to overcome our fears. I believe inspiration and love play a part, too because I agree with Lao Tzu when he said *"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage."* and *"From caring comes courage."* Many of the folks in this loving faith community know well how courage comes from caring acts because they have either given or received such care. What if we believed that this faith community is a creative birth place of courage, born through our care of one another and for the social justice for all? Maybe this self-generating form of courageous love might be what can conquer any fear?

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Sermon Blurbs: August 2020 – Worship Theme: Courage

August 2 Widening the Sacred Circle by Rev. Julie Lombard

This day marks the first Sunday of our new shared ministry. We will gather, get to know one another a little, and draw upon myth, fable, and religion that have been with us for the ages. In doing so, we will perform a ritual blessing to honor our journey forward because we are spiritual beings who have chosen to have a human experience. Honoring this transition through ritual will aid our souls' experience of the sacredness of life on earth, we'll marvel at the miracles upon us, and by doing so it will feed our souls for the journey ahead. Join us as we celebrate another glorious Sunday being a beloved faith community.

Hymns: TBD



August 9 Getting into Good Trouble by Rev. Julie Lombard



Today we'll honor John Lewis, a towering beacon in the fight for justice for all. His words and deeds are inspiring, familiar, and comforting. How might we best honor and celebrate his life? I believe we honor him most when we continue his work, rather than enshrine it. I believe he would ask us to listen to the new voices of those seeking justice. In honor of John Lewis, we will hear some of the voices of today's black leaders and what they are asking of us, as UUs, as allies, as members of the Beloved Community.

Hymns: #361 Enter, Rejoice, & Come In, #131 Love Will Guide Us

August 16 Suicide: Searching for Answers; Changing Lives; Saving Lives by Roddy Biggs

Our guest speaker, Roddy Biggs, is a Middle Tennessee State University student finishing his bachelor degree in Religious Studies before pursuing seminary to become a UU minister. He is currently a member of the First UU of Nashville where he is a worship associate, a lay minister on the pastoral care team and serves as co-chair for the Social Justice Ministries at the church. Ever an important topic during a pandemic, please join us as we attempt to understand more about the very nature of suicide, and what causes it. As a liberal faith community, we can come together to help change the damaging narrative of suicide that has been created by society and by religious communities for centuries. Together we can make a difference; we can change the story and save lives

Hymns: TBD



August 23 Hope is Here by Rev. Julie Lombard



Years back, I found myself reflecting upon when hope was here. Travels had taken me from the UUA General Assembly in Providence, RI to a cross country trip of a lifetime. Inspired and humbled by the largest trees in the world, I pondered how this faith has stood strong as it weathered many storms over time. Withstanding harsh climates might be the symbol of hope we need now as we try to endure this pandemic.

Hymns: #16 'Tis a Gift to Be Simple, #128 For All That is Our Life

August 30, 2020 32407 + 34902 by Rev. Julie Lombard

Come hear stories of resilience, hope, and courage- love stories born out of the concentration camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau and the Gulags of Siberia. When Jews are sent to work at the camps, some earn privileged positions as tattooists or desk jobs. They use their privileged positions to help keep their fellow prisoners alive. One prisoner vows to survive the camp and marry a fellow prisoner. Hear testaments to the endurance of love and humanity under the darkest possible conditions. Join us for worship and leave with your spirit lifted up.

Hymns: #86 Blessed Spirit of My Life, #1057 Go Lifted Up

(Images are of the people we will meet in today's sermon)



Cilka (From Cilka's Journey by Heather Morris)



Lale & Gita (From The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris)

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August Calendar

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

August 1	11:00 a.m.	Rev. Julie's first service
August 6	2:00 p.m.	Chalice Camp
August 9	12:30 p.m.	Board Meeting - online
August 13	2:00 p.m.	Chalice Camp
August 16	2:30 p.m.	Stitching Circle - online

Sunday Mornings, etc.

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

Sunday services are currently online, using Zoom:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/my/uucom>

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: **958 368 6410**

For a low-tech option, you can call in with any phone to this number: 346-248-7799. 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.

UUCOM Board

Maureena Benavides, President
Janine Deckard, President-Elect
Alex Fields, Treasurer
April Graham, Secretary
David Allen, At Large Member
Lisa Jebson, At Large Member
Kayleigh Kirk, 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>

August 2020 Newsletter

Church News from the Board President

This month's meeting of the UUCOM Board of Directors was one in which we said goodbye to our beloved minister, Emily. And while our hearts are surely feeling her moving away from us, we are also welcoming change and newness. In the spirit of change, the meeting was also attended by our new board members, Janine Deckard -president elect, April Graham- secretary, Lisa Jebson- at large, and returning members of David Allen- at large, Alex Fields- treasurer, and Kayleigh Kirk-at large. We have a great team of leaders taking on the good work of our church. The meeting was also attended by our new minister, Julie Lombard. We look forward to welcoming her to our virtual pulpit online at Zoom church on Aug. 2nd. We hope to see you there.

The Board is already hard at work with policies to keep us safe (see below), creating a Covid Care team, addressing how to become a "Welcoming Congregation", and discussing ways we can build our leadership through attendance at the online leadership conference. We are reviewing our membership/stewardship and the year in review for our budget. We are also making sure we are addressing the incoming needs of our new minister as she takes on the sacred work of helping us to create the beloved community we all long for.

As your board president, I am honored to work with our current board as we move forward in another amazing year of growth, discovery, and connections. Please feel free to reach out to me or any of our board with questions or concerns. Our next board meeting will be held via Zoom at 12:30 on Aug. 9th. At that meeting we hope to work out a calendar of future Board meetings.

Please find ways to stay connected to each other and to welcome our new minister with open arms and hearts.

In Peace,

Maureen Benavides

Thoughts from the RE Corner

Chalice Camp

Chalice Camp 2020 will be virtual this summer and ongoing! We will Zoom once a week for 30 minutes similar to our Sunday Children's Time—Chalice Lighting, Story, Joys and Sorrows, Show and Tell and Singing out Song. We will meet every Thursday at 2:00 until the start of school. The link is <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/9583684410>. Or you may sign in using the code: 958 368 6410. Our last day of Chalice Camp is Thursday, August 13.

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, there are many ways that you can participate. You could read or tell a story during Children's Zoom Space or Chalice Camp. You may suggest a story for either of those times. 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.

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August Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this August's Share the Plate recipient: Midland African-American Roots Historical Cultural Arts Council (MAARHCAC).

MAARHCAC organized for the purpose of bringing to Midland a cultural revolution of art works, crafts, artifacts, literature, contemporary art and photographs, performing arts, musicians, theater, and music appreciation, of African- American history and culture. MAARHCAC is organized for charitable and educational purposes and to improve, enhance, and beautify. The organization's goal is to emphasize and enhance culture and human dignity. MAARHCAC is supported by funds received from donations, grants, and projects.



4th Out in West Texas Symposium – Presentation Submissions

The *4th Out in West Texas Symposium—Intersections*, will be held virtually November 6th & 7th, 2020, and is open to all participants! Our organization is seeking presentations from professionals in all fields with a primary focus on transgender issues at the intersection of race, ethnicity, ableness, religion/spirituality, on topics such as: transgender affirming practices, the needs of transgender clients/patients, and barriers to transgender care. The format for these virtual session presentations is a 45-minute presentation, workshop, or panel that is able to be presented on a virtual platform.

Visit our website at www.outinwesttexas.org to learn more about our work.

For questions about your proposal or the symposium, contact us at directors@outinwesttexas.org. Proposals must be received by August 31st to be considered.



Compassion allows us to use our own pain and the pain of others as a vehicle for connection.

Sharon Salzberg



August 2020 Newsletter

What's Happening at UUCOM

COVID Care Message

(members of the team include- Julie Lombard, David Allen, Barbara Handley, and Jessica Stewart (advisory))

In efforts to keep our community safe, the Board of UUCOM has decided that, effective immediately, all entry into the church is forbidden until further notice. We want to make sure all church members and friends are aware of this policy. Please note that no entry is permitted because we want to limit the chance of spreading Covid 19.

Only the following individuals are permitted building access to conduct essential church functions: minister, building and grounds, cleaning staff, paid staff (DRE/Music Directors), and treasurer.

We hope you understand our concern for our community and need to ensure we provide a safe environment for our essential staff. We look forward to the day we can see each other within the church walls. Until then, we will see you online at virtual church on Sunday!

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.

Permian Basin Buddhists - Suspended

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](#). For more information about the group, please contact Linda Blanchard at lindaqpublic@nowheat.com.

Pursuing Personal Peace

Pursuing Personal Peace is an on-air book club found at: <http://www.khen.org/pursuing-personal-peace>
This is Dennis Stratton and along with Margaret Rush, we are reviewing current and classic works by Buddhist authors on line. The Permian Basin Buddhist group is not able to meet during the COVID – 19 time. I am looking forward to sharing Buddhism in this way until it is safe to once again, meet in person
Here are a few titles we have in the PPP catalogue:

Letting Go of The Person You Use To Be, Lessons on Change, Loss, and Transformation by Lama Surya Das

The Good Heart: A Buddhist Perspective on the Teachings of Jesus by His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Buddhism Plain & Simple: The Practice of Being Aware, Right Now, Every Day by Roshi Steve Hagen

Bringing Home The Dharma: Awakening Right Where You Are by Jack Kornfield

If you are interested or curious, search on your computer or smart phone: [khen.org/pursuing personal peace](http://khen.org/pursuing-personal-peace).

Rev. Emily's final sermons online

Her three-part series "Good Endings" will remain on the [sermon blog](#) at least for a few months, but her other sermons will be shifted to [Emily's personal page](#) (<http://www.emwm.org/>) at the end of July.

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Monthly Stitching Circle

UU Stitching group continues! Join us for a virtual stitching meetup via Zoom during our regular time. 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 August 16th** from 2:30-4:30pm for our next meetup. Please email Franny at starrymoon@gmail.com for our meeting link.

Amazon Smile

Here's a super simple way to support our work! Click below (<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-1837838>), and a portion of all your Amazon purchases will help us keep working toward our mission in the Permian Basin:



Welcoming Diversity, Empowering Spiritual Growth, Fostering the Interdependent Web, and Transforming Lives.

Thank you!

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](#).

Beware of email or text scams

Nationwide, ministers and churches have been the target of a series of email and text phishing scams. If you receive an email or text purportedly from the minister or another staff member asking for an unusual donation or a gift card, please do not respond and mark it as spam.

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!)

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 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!

Free Yoga Class -Online

Patricia (Patty) George, the Yoga teacher has been doing virtual classes through 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".