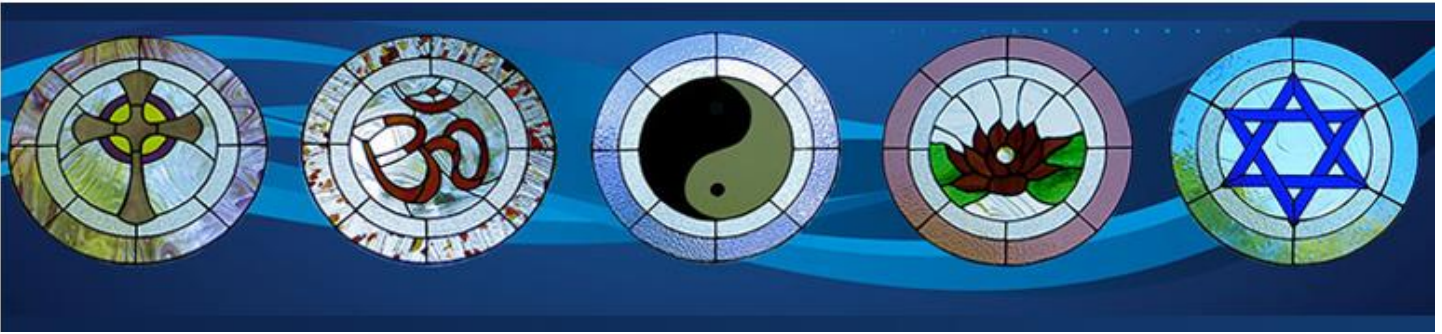


August 2021 Newsletter



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.

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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August 2021 Sermons at a Glance

August 1 – The 7th Principle

Have you felt overwhelmed with the climate change disasters and seeing tons of trash all over the planet? Our 7th Principle gives us the mandate to have: *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.* We are a part of a beautiful web, and we have the power to do something about the problems we are seeing.

"We are the first generation to feel the effect of climate change and the last generation who can do something about it." —President Obama

On August 1st, Janine Deckard will show us how she has taken steps to do her part in her own life to adopt more sustainable practices on her farm. From how she washes her clothes to how she feeds her family, she will show us visually how she does it. You will come away from this service inspired and motivated to try new things to live the 7th Principle every day.

August 8 – The 8th Principle

The 8th day of the 8th month is the perfect time to contemplate the 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism

"We the member congregations of the of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: 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."

UUCOM voted to adopt this principle at our congregational meeting in May this year. Now what? The path forward must involve an examination of our past which has led to the institutionalized racism that is baked into our culture today. Thoughts and reflections for our service will come from excellent sources like the Netflix documentary *13TH* and Radiotopia's podcast series "The Vanishing of Harry Pace."

August 15 - "Come, Come Whoever You Are"

This spring Midland found itself the recipient of unaccompanied minors from Central America. Many people in our community were upset about the potential "danger" from these boys. Our community responded by asking what can we do to help these boys. Most of our families at one time were immigrants, too. Barbara Handley will lead this service as we remember our roots as immigrants.

August 22 - TBA

August 29 - An Exploration of Faith: Part One, Leaving Church

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 religious journey. My four-part series of sermons, based on Taylor's four most recent books, will introduce you to the compelling narrative of her journey from Episcopal priest to college religion professor. What Taylor learned in her own personal search for truth and meaning has so much relevance to us as UUs. And, if you in turn will commit to sharing a service with us, one of her books will become yours.

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Sunday Mornings

Beginning July 21, 2021 we returned to Phase 3.

The Covid-19 test positivity rate hit 8%. As a result, UUCOM will return to Phase 3 status. Sunday services will return to virtual only and the building will be closed to all but essential staff. Also, we will start using the outdoor areas for those interested in viewing services on the Internet at the church.

Learn more about the Phase 3 of reopening on page 5.

Sunday services are currently hybrid both in person and online, using Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/2750827327>

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.



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

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

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

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August Calendar

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

July 21		Return to Phase 3
August 7	1:00 PM	Basin Pride
September 12	11:00 AM	Water Communion
October 2	8:00 AM	Garage Sale

Worship Committee

At our Spring Congregational meeting, our congregation voted for us to proceed as Lay-Led +. That means that most Sundays friends and members of our congregation will be leading the service. Once a month or so, we will have a guest minister/speaker (that is the plus). This means that we need UU to volunteer to help. There are many ways of assisting! You may be a Zoom Host, or Greeter! You may be an in-person Greeter when we open for hybrid services. You may be a Worship Associate. You may present a worship service. (The Worship Committee is here to help you!!!) You may share a gift of music by performing or by sharing musical suggestions. You may share suggestions for readings or service topics. There are many ways to share in our ministry. Please contact Barbara Handley at 432-978-5977 to volunteer.



August 2021 Newsletter

Church Reopening

The Covid-19 test positivity rate hit 8%. As a result, UUCOM will return to Phase 3 status. Sunday services will return to virtual only and the building will be closed to all but essential staff. Also, we will start using the outdoor areas for those interested in viewing services on the Internet at the church.

Phase 3 - Maximum Outdoor Space Opening

- 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.
- We share the outdoor space with our tenants such as the Buddhist Group, Patty George’s Yoga, & Tree of Life.
- 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.
- The building will remain closed. If bathrooms are needed, the facilitator is to recommend the usage of a bathroom at a nearby business.
- 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



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UUMidland is a Welcoming Congregation

On July 19 2021 the Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland became a recognized Welcoming Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Being welcoming means striving for radical inclusion, and creating spaces that honor every part of our identities, backgrounds, and experiences. With this recognition we are excited to continue our collective work to educate one another on LGBTQ+ issues, and committing together to ongoing ministry to the queer community in and beyond Midland, TX.

The Welcoming Congregation Program was launched in 1990 to address widespread homophobia and the exclusion of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people within Unitarian Universalism, and religion writ large. In hopes of fully living into our UUA beliefs and principles, namely "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations," we instituted the Welcoming Congregations program. Our aim was to encourage and support congregations in their efforts to outreach and support LGBTQ+ members and their community. Since then, the UUA has approved more than 800 congregations.



More information about our Welcoming Congregation status will be coming.

To learn more about the Welcoming Congregation program please visit the UUA website, <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program>.

Garage Sale, Saturday, October 2nd

Please mark your calendars! UUCOM's (annual) garage sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 2 from 8:00-2:00. (This is dependent on the positivity rate for COVID-19 in Midland.) You may begin bringing your donations to the church beginning on Sunday, September 26th. Items may also be dropped off during office hours and each evening from 5:00- 8:00. Please do not bring items before the 26th!! We will need lots of volunteers! We need people with trucks to pick up donations from the storage unit (the Kullmans stored many items before their move) and from member's homes.

We need people to unpack and organize donations. We need people to work during the sale on Saturday, especially after 2:00 when we will be packing up unsold items.

As usual, we will be having the Preview Party on Friday, October 1 from 5:30-7:30. This is your first opportunity to get those coveted treasures! The cost is \$10/person. For every \$10 that you spend, you receive a \$1 rebate up to \$10! Snacks and beverages will be served. To volunteer or to have any questions answered, please contact Barbara Handley at 432-978-5977 or Shanda Unger at 432-634-7769.

August 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!!

August 1: The Evil Wizard. We will learn about our super hero Esmerelda's crusade to right the Evil Wizard's injustices.

August 8: Spite Fences. Spite fences don't make for good neighbors.

August 15: A Little Jar Labeled Freedom. This is the condensed version of the Creator's Workshop.

August 22: What if Nobody Forgave? Grudges have a way of weighing one down.

August 29: A Good Idea. This story is an example of what it means to win or lose graciously.

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

Your help is needed!! As of July 1, I am no longer our Director of Religious Education. Children's RE is my passion and I will continue to volunteer; however, I need support in the form of people power!! When we move to Phase 5, I will need to have Storytellers and Greeters. We will continue to offer Children's Time on Zoom as well as Spirit Play classes. If you are interested in helping, please contact Barbara Handley at 432-978-5977.

Spirit Play Training

Spirit Play Training is an online opportunity to become certified to lead Spirit Play classes. Spirit Play is a multi-age curriculum based on stories that teach about our Unitarian Universalist Principles (Promises) and our sources of inspiration. Please contact Barbara Handley at dre@uumidland.org or 432-978-5977 if you are interested.

August 2021 Newsletter

What's Happening at UUCOM

August Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this August's Share the Plate recipient. The Social Action Committee has chosen the following recipient, The League of Women Voters.

The mission of the League of Women Voters (LWV) is Empowering voters. Defending democracy. The League of Women Voters of Texas is a nonpartisan, grassroots civic organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to people 16 and older of all gender identities. With 100 years of experience, the League is one of America's oldest and most trusted civic nonprofit organizations.



Learn more about LWV Midland at <https://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-midland>.

Monthly Stitching Group

The Stitching Group will be taking a summer hiatus! Please follow the newsletters for when we will be meeting again in the fall. Happy stitching, everyone!

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 August 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 August 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!

2021 Members and Friends Directory

The 2021 UUCOM Members and Friends Directory is complete. Electronic copies will be sent the first week of August 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.

August 2021 Newsletter

Garden and Grow, Continues

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

Board Thank You for Month of July

David Allen - for building and grounds and services.

Free Yoga Class – Hybrid Class

Patricia (Patty) George, the Yoga teacher will return to in-person classes this Saturday June 26, 2021 9-10:00 AM. Classes will still be held through virtual classes as well. 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.

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](#).



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Wider World

UUMUAC MONTHLY "THIRD WEDNESDAY" WORSHIP SERVICE

Starts July 21 - 7:00 pm Central Time (8:00 Eastern, 6:00 Mountain, 5:00 Pacific)

The Religious Professionals Task Force of the Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Council is sponsoring "Third Wednesday" evening worship services on the third Wednesday of each month, beginning July 21. Rev. Richard Trudeau will be the officiant July 21, with a sermon titled "Racism and the Red Sox." No knowledge of, or liking for, baseball will be assumed. Open conversation will follow.

To get Zoom information, whether for the July 21 Worship Service or those in subsequent months, please send your name, email address, and congregation (if any) to richard3point@gmail.com. For the July 21 Worship Service, send no later than July 20.

On August 18 Rev. Kate Braestrup will be the officiant (title not known as of this date)

On September 15 Rev. Ken Phifer will be the officiant (title not known as of this date)

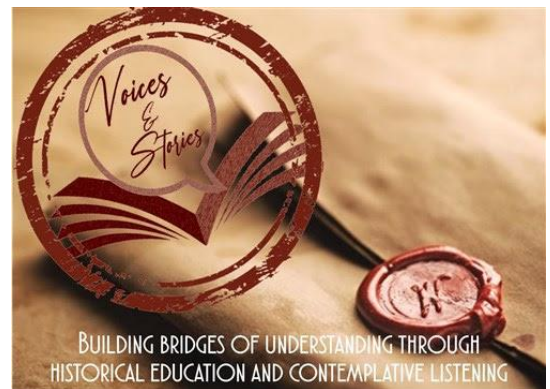
Rolling Ridge Spring On-line Retreats

Find all program details [here](#).

We live in **troubling times** as the **divisions of race and gender grow deeper**. At Rolling Ridge, we believe that to build bridges of understanding, **we must take time to listen to the experiences of others**.

Upcoming events in this series:

- Camp Meetings and the Evangelical Spirit on Thursday, August 19, 2021
- Marriage Equality on Thursday, November 18, 2021



If you'd like access to recordings of previous events, [please email us](#).

We invite you to **expand your understanding of history** that impacts the experiences of different people groups today by joining us for one of our upcoming "Voices and Stories" events, and **listening deeply to the Spirit** who invites us to break down walls and **build bridges of understanding among people**.

Southern UU Fall Institute - October 10 - 15, 2021

10th Annual Southern UU Fall Institute, Change--Make the Most of It. Attend SUUFI 2021 to get some R&R at The Mountain. Reconvene, Reconnect, & Rejoice with us!

Learn more at

<https://www.themountainrlc.org/suufi>.



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Creating a Listening Community August/August 2021 Training Signup

Join us for a six-week workshop for "Creating a Listening Community: Restorative Circles Practice and Facilitation". We will explore what gets in the way of listening, how to listen to understand and create a space of empathy within ourselves for others, and how we can use this way of communication to help our communities connect when it seems impossible to hear one another.

Starting August 13 - August 17, 2021.

To register for the August 13th workshop ([click here](#)).

Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders

- 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"!

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.

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.](#)