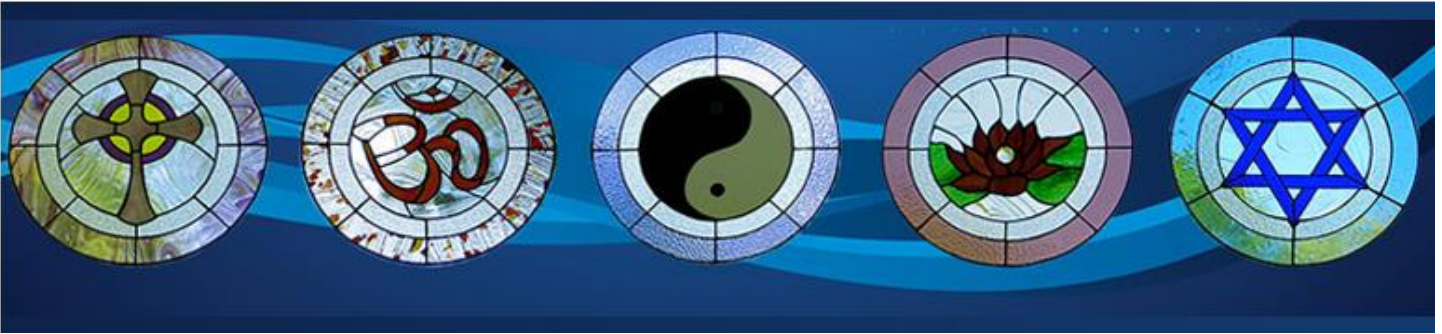


July 2022 Newsletter



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.

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.

Table of Contents

August 2022 Sermons at a Glance	2
Sunday Morning and Worship	3
Church Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minister's Musings• Potluck Luncheon• Share the Plate• COVID-19 Reopening Update	4-5
Thoughts from the RE Corner	6
What's Happening at UUCOM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Membership• Care Team• PB Buddhists	7
Wider World	8

August 2022 Newsletter

August 2022 Sermons at a Glance

August 7 An Ego Trip or a Life Plan?

Many of us humans recognize an Ego Trip after the fact, but some keep taking one Ego Trip after another, while other, happier humans have a Life Plan. Which type are you? We'll listen to an ego trip poem by Scott Kalechstein Grace and then explore one way to create a life plan, this one developed by Michael Hyatt, for personal development then you can adapt it for a work environment.

August 14 Hola! Hello! Bonjour!

Join us for worship and a special message from our new lay minister, Lisa Jebesen.

August 21 Good News

While this phrase is used in some traditional Christian churches in reference to their savior, this phrase will be used as part of a regular installment during Lisa's sermon. It's a chance to highlight positive stories that can help us keep hope alive during difficult times.

August 28 Sophia Fahs

With a new school year underway, it's a good time to celebrate Sophia Fahs an author, teacher, who helped revolutionize Unitarian religious education.



August 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.

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 6** for details.

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
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>

August 2022 Newsletter

Minister's Musings

The last couple of weeks have been a fascinating spectrum of feelings for yours truly: anxious, apprehensive, scared, bittersweet while navigating the process of resigning from my position at the Midland YMCA but mostly thrilled beyond measure to accept the call to become lay minister for UUCOM. There are so many hopes and dreams swirling in my heart and mind right now and of course, I want to act on them all. However, I know that it's important to lay the groundwork for the best chance for achieving so many things, so I'm trying to start simply with tasks like setting up an office, establishing regular office hours and finding the best system for leading regular Sunday services. Another item for this list is something that will hopefully involve you. What are your hopes and dreams for UUCOM? What topics would you like to hear about on Sundays? Please stop by during my regular office hours or contact me at minister@uucom.org if you'd like to set up another time to chat.

Tuesday 9AM-12PM

Wednesday 12-4PM

Thursday 12-3PM

I can't wait to continue to build our beloved community together!

Peace,

Lisa J.

August Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this **August's** Share the Plate recipient. The Board has chosen the following recipient, the **West Texas Symphony**.

West Texas Symphony (formerly Midland-Odessa Symphony & Chorale) is proud to enrich lives through professional music performances and music education programs. Unique, compared to similar orchestras throughout the United States, the West Texas Symphony includes a symphony orchestra, adult chorale, youth choir, and three resident instrumental ensembles.

Ranked by the League of American Orchestras as a metropolitan orchestra, WTS proudly holds the distinction of being one of the largest professional performing arts organizations in West Texas. The instrumental ensembles - Lone Star Brass, Permian Basin String Quartet, and West Texas Winds - perform with the symphony as principal musicians and in two annual recitals, in-school music education concerts, lunch time concerts and many other WTS and community events.

Learn more about MCT at <https://www.wtxs.org/>.



Potluck Luncheon

Please join uu's for a potluck luncheon following our service on Sunday, August 21st. The Membership Committee is planning on a monthly potluck luncheon to give us an opportunity to enjoy each other's company! Sign-up sheet is available on Guest Table in the foyer.

August 2022 Newsletter

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has several opportunities to help in the coming months. Each Sunday, we need a Worship Associate and a Zoom Greeter/Camera Operator. As part of our shared ministry, there is at least one Sunday a month when the pulpit is open to those who may present the worship service. (The Worship Committee is here to help you!!!) The following Sundays are available for leading the service: September 4 and 18 and October 2 and 9.

There are many ways to share in our ministry. Please contact Barbara Handley at 432-978-5977 to volunteer or sign-up on the sheets on the Guest Table.

COVID-19 Reopening Update

As Unitarian Universalists, we pride ourselves on being led by congregational polity. Due to the reporting of COVID cases being so low, the board voted to allow masks to be made optional at our April board meeting.

The congregation came to the board with concerns about the mask policy and the board voted to make a change on 5/17/2022. **Masks are now a mandatory item but we are allowing congregational singing WITH masks.**

This will allow our members with compromised immune systems and concerns about viruses; the peace to know they can worship safely.

Thank you for being flexible during this unusual new world we live in.

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.



August 2022 Newsletter

Thoughts from the RE Corner

Children's Space 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 we will begin with our foundational Spirit Play stories.

August 7: Chalice Story - This is first of three foundational stories.

August 14: Promises Story - our children will learn about our UU promises (principles)

August 21: Sources Story - our children will learn about the many inspirations that contribute to our faith

August 28: Little Penguin: Red Promise Story - Our red promise (respect all beings) is for even those of us with flaws!

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 help to create Spirit Play. If you are interested in going through Spirit Play training, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.

Principles

- 01**
The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- 02**
Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- 03**
Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth
- 04**
A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- 05**
The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process
- 06**
The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- 07**
Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part
- 08**
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.

August 2022 Newsletter

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](#).

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!

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](#).

May 2021 Newsletter

Wider World

TXUUJM

GET TRAINED TO TEACH OWL! In light of the recent [Supreme Court ruling](#) against Roe v. Wade, the [Texas UU Justice Ministry](#) especially wants to encourage congregations to host more OWL classes. TXUUJM and First UU Church of Austin are hosting an OWL facilitator training Sept. 16-18 in Austin (levels 7-9/10-12). Please [see registration link here](#). Scholarships available. Our friends at [NTUUC](#) is also hosting all-levels training in Dallas in August.

More about OWL from TXUUJM and First UU Austin: "We view this training as part of our larger work for LGBTQIA+ rights, gender justice, and collective liberation, especially at a time when some Texas politicians prey on trans-inclusive families for political gain and when books and programs for human sexuality are censored. While we take to the streets and the halls of democracy in action, we also want to educate and support the next generation of UUs and Texans (and beyond!) in their understanding of sexuality, bodily autonomy, and the inherent worth and dignity of every person."

[REGISTER HERE](#).

Read the full TXUUJM email [here](#).

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth

- **Join UU the Vote, UU Ministry for Earth, and the newest Side with Love partner Environmental Voter Project** for the first National Phone Bank of 2022! Join us on **Monday, August 1 at 7pm ET/6pm CT/4pm PT** for the first UU the Vote phone bank of the 2022 midterm election. The Environmental Voter Project is a nonpartisan nonprofit that identifies inactive environmentalists and transforms them into consistent voters to build the power of the environmental movement. Help us build across movements to #VoteLove, #DefeatHate, and #CreateClimateJustice. [RSVP for UU the Vote with Environmental Voter Project!](#)
- Join the UUA Office at the United Nations in collaboration with the Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC), a partner organization of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Together, we can learn from and elevate the work of Youth-led Climate Justice Initiatives. This event is scheduled for 90 minutes. Register today! [RSVP for More Than We Inherited](#).
- At General Assembly 2022, UUs for a Just Economic Community, UU Ministry For Earth, and Cedars UU Church, Bainbridge, WA collaborated on a special workshop "Ecological Civilization: Earth, Religion and the Human Future." On July 14, Rev. Lucy Hitchcock, David Korten, Michael Cox, and former UU Ministry for Earth Co-Director Aly Tharp convened a follow-up discussion to explore possible next steps. This robust conversation brought clarifying questions, ideas, and examples to imagine what could be. Look below for links for recordings of the original workshop and the July convening, alongside a special discussion guide.
 - [Watch the GA Workshop](#)
 - [Discussion Guide for Workshop](#)
 - [Watch July Gathering and Discussion](#)