



# Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

## August 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](http://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



**Sunday Worship**  
Sermons at a Glance  
Sunday Mornings



**UUCOM  
Announcements**  
Minister's Musings  
Share the Plate  
Sunday Events  
Banned Book Club  
RE Corner  
Membership  
Care Team



Wider World

## August 2023 Sermons at a Glance

### August 6 “Five Jagged Rocks of Unitarian Universalism”

This sermon was written by Kari Gottfried a member of the UU Fellowship of Corvallis, OR. She is active in her congregation, her district and her region. Nationally, she is recognized as a Luminary Leader. Her thoughtful examination of UU principles with the analogy of five jagged rocks is a great reminder of the values we hold dear.

### August 13 “Hope for Humanity”

**“Hope is being able to see light despite all of the darkness.” - Bishop Desmond Tutu**

In the latest installment of Rev. Lisa Jebesen’s series, *Hope for Humanity* there will be plenty of stories about people and news events that can give us a reason to smile and know that there is goodness in the world.

### August 20 “A Conversation about Taboos”

As Unitarian Universalists, we tend to shy away from worlds like sin, salvation, dogma and evangelize. Let’s talk about why these words are taboo for UUs, if we can understand them in different ways and learn about ourselves in the process.

### August 27 *Famous UUs: TBA*

Today we will continue to explore our UU history through one or more of our more famous members. We will announce the name(s) closer to the time so be on the look out for the information in our weekly announcement email!

## POTLUCK LUNCHEON, AUGUST 20, 2023

Please join UU’s for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, August 20th following the church service.



**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.**

## 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.

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

## UUCOM BOARD

**Harry Nutter**, President  
**Kyle Farmer**, President-Elect  
**Jane Hellinghausen**, Treasurer  
**Alex Fields**, Secretary  
**David Allen**, 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](mailto:minister@uumidland.org)

**Jessica Stewart,**  
**Office Administrator**

(432) 694-4308

Office Hours:

Wednesday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
 Email: [office@uumidland.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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 have been to church regularly over the last year, you know that I'm fond of turning some of my sermons into more of a conversation where we answer questions about big topics so that we may explore together and build community. Although it wasn't by design, it definitely felt serendipitous that our most recent conversation was about change.

Our consensus seemed to be that while it can be difficult, change is necessary and the best way to deal with change is to "go with it." It's my hope that we can go with the changes that are coming in the next year.

As you have undoubtedly heard by now, my husband Tim has entered an agreement with the Board of Governors at the Midland Community Theatre to establish a succession plan for the Executive Director position and his eventual retirement. Next summer when this plan begins, we will relocate to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Tim will do most of his work remotely and travel back to Midland on a regular basis for meetings and teaching in person at Midland College, depending on the agreement he reaches with MC.

At the July board meeting at UUCOM, we discussed how these changes will impact the church and its leadership. We agreed that the first step would be a retreat in August where we can receive guidance from the Unitarian Universalist Association on the best options. In the fall, the board will be ready to have the congregation vote for the plan they prefer. As soon as we have more details, we will share them with you.

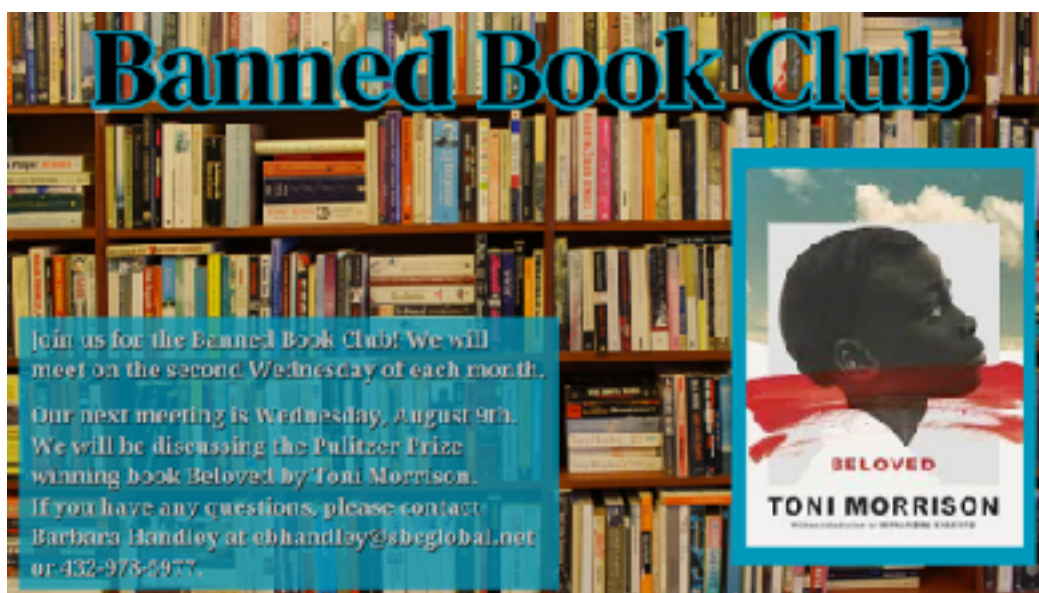
In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of the board members with any questions you may have.





## Banned Book Club

The Banned Book Club meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Our next meeting is Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be discussing the Pulitzer Prize winning book *Beloved* by Toni Morrison. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Handley at [ebhandley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ebhandley@sbcglobal.net) or 432-978-5977.



## August Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this July-August's Share the Plate recipient. The Board has chosen the following recipient, **Communities and Schools of the Permian Basin**.

The mission of Communities in Schools of the Permian Basin (CISPB) is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. Communities in Schools of the Permian Basin was established in 1999 by a group of concerned citizens to address our area's dropout rate. The vision of the organization was to provide a positive environment for at-risk students, ensuring their access to educational opportunities, social services and support services. CISPB helps young people reach their goal of graduating from high school and going on to become positive contributors to the community.

CISPB believes every child needs and deserves the "Five Basic Life Tools" to be successful:

- A safe place to learn and grow
- A chance to give back to peers and community
- A marketable skill to use upon graduation
- A healthy start and a healthy future
- A personal one-on-one relationship with a caring adult



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

## 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.

**August 6:** **Little Cliff's First Day of School.** This is a story about a little boy growing up in the rural south in the 1950's.

**August 13:** **Chalice Story**—This is first of three foundational stories

**August 20:** **Promises Story** our children will learn about our UU promises (principles)

**August 27:** **Sources Story-** our children will learn about the many inspirations that contribute to our faith

### 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 may help to create a Spirit Play story. If you are interested in going through Spirit Play training, please contact Barbara Handley at [ebhandley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ebhandley@sbcglobal.net) or 432-978-5977.



## What's Happening at UUCOM

### Permian Basin Buddhists

#### On hiatus until September.

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 Jebson, 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

REGISTRATION IS LIVE & SPACE IS LIMITED

Michelle Venegas-Matula and Carrie Holley-Hurt of TXUUJM will lead [virtual sessions of the Trans Inclusion in Congregations](#) program.

**12 noon -1 pm Wednesdays, Aug. 9 - Sep. 13, on Zoom**

FORMAT: [TXUUJM](#) will offer an optional Zoom gathering to watch the video lectures from creators Rev. Mykal Slack and Zr. Alex Kapitan, together on Zoom beforehand, from 11am-noon each of the six Wednesdays (otherwise you must be responsible for watching them on your own). We are offering those two options for lecture-viewing, in recognition of Zoom fatigue and different learning styles. From 12 noon-1pm, Michelle and Carrie will lead the discussions that align with the course videos and resources. [REGISTER NOW & INVITE YOUR CONGREGATION!](#)

### UUJEC

Read the Summer 2023 News and Views [here](#).

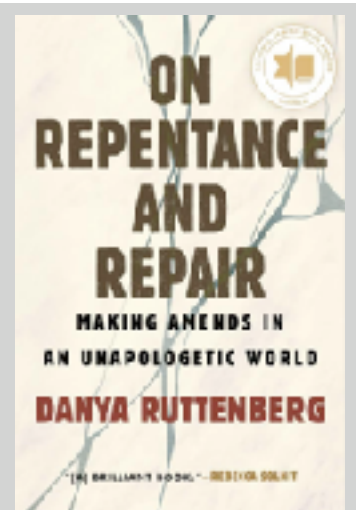
**Preparing for Labor Day weekend** UUJEC materials for supporting unions.

- [Here's a link](#) to UUJEC's "Working with Labor" workshop for GA.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZ4tEA7Qs-Y>
- Visit [our website](#) or email us for more ideas [UUJEC@UUJEC.org](mailto:UUJEC@UUJEC.org)
- <https://uujec.org/workerJustice>

### 2024 UU Common Read

The UUA Common Read for 2023-2024 is [On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World](#) by Rabbi Danya Rutenberg (Beacon Press, 2022). This Common Read offers a glimpse into one of our faith's foundational sources, Judaism. Readers explore our own call to be accountable in these modern times as we follow Rabbi Rutenberg into a framework for making amends offered by the 12th century Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides.

[Join the Common Read.](#)





# Wider World

## UUA Newsletter

It is with great enthusiasm that the UUA welcomes the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt as the tenth UUA President! We also note that this is not the first time the Rev. Dr. Betancourt has served as leader of the Association. She was appointed co-president for an interim period in 2017 and provided guidance and care during a significant moment in our history. This time, she will be in the presidential role for a six-year term and we are eagerly anticipating her leadership, working together to continue to advance Unitarian Universalism and live our values deeply in the coming years.

Her presidency comes with a number of historic firsts – she is the first openly queer person and first woman of color to be elected UUA president. She has served Unitarian Universalism for more than twenty years as a religious educator, minister, scholar, and member of the UUA national staff and many volunteer committees at the regional and denominational levels. She most recently served as Resident Scholar and Special Advisor on Justice and Equity at the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Rev. Dr. Betancourt holds a Ph.D. in Religious Ethics and African American Studies from Yale University as well as an M.Div. from Starr King School for the Ministry, where she also served on the faculty. She is the author of [\*Ecowomanism at the Panamá Canal: Black Women, Labor, and Environmental Ethics\*](#) (2022). You can learn more about her in [a new Q & A with UU World magazine](#), including how early life experiences shaped her path to ministry.

As significantly, she also brings to the role theological depth, a commitment to communal care, and a pledge to continue to organize for justice. She has also expressed an appreciation for the diverse voices and leaders in our community as well as for the hard work that UUA staff does every day. We know that Unitarian Universalists (UUs) across the country and UUA staff will all benefit from her experience, wisdom, and sense of care.

Carey McDonald, our Executive Vice President, expressed his keen anticipation in this way, “we are excited to have the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt at the helm as UUA President to lead us in the next chapter of our faith’s journey. We are already inspired by her deep theology and commitments to community care and imagining the way forward together.”

We are entering an exciting time for both the UUA and Unitarian Universalism. Rev. Dr. Betancourt’s presidency and the General Assembly vote by delegates to continue consideration of changes to the Article II bylaws mark a key moment in our faith tradition. With her leadership, we are positioned to move forward in faithful community, in recognition of our shared values and the important work ahead.

Follow Rev. Dr. Betancourt on Facebook and help us warmly welcome her as the tenth President of the UUA!

# Wider World

## Side with Love

One of the nation's most culturally consequential referendums is underway in Atlanta. Locals, professional UU organizers, other spiritually grounded activists—including your fellow volunteer UUs—and others from around the world are actively leaning into the work, going door-to-door and at busy community sites to collect the signatures needed to bring this issue to a vote.

The City of Atlanta will contribute nearly \$70 million to the deletion of at least 13,070,000 square feet of the Weelaunee Forest—developing it into a training ground that militarizes and equips police forces with the skills to quell democratic assembly and protest while protecting profit and property. We have two weeks left to show up for democracy, climate justice, and community security by collecting 70,000 signatures to let the people of Atlanta decide.

You can contribute to this referendum from wherever you reside, when—and how—you feel called. This is what UUs do.

### ***Join us for the Week of Action July 27 - August 5th***

- National Online Action for UUs Sign Up  
Thursday, August 3 6-7:00 PM CT. [JOIN](#)

Read the three Actions of Immediate Witness passed at GA2023!

- [Organizing for Health Equity](#)
- [Protect the Dreamers, the Recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival \(DACA\) with a Pathway to Permanent Residence](#)
- [Stop Cop City](#)

### **Two-Session Webinar: Combating Fascisms Without & Within: - An Organized UU Response**

In her 2023 Berry Street essay, the Rev. Cecilia Kingman reflects upon the rise of authoritarianism, right-wing ideology, and fascism both within Unitarian Universalism and in the wider world. In this first session, join Rev. Kingman and the Side With Love team for an interactive opportunity to engage with this essay and the kinds of faithful responses it demands on behalf of our UU faith.

**PRE-REQUISITE:** [Watch](#) or [read](#) the 2023 Berry Street essay, “My Little Pony Was Right: Reflections on Fascism Without & Within” by the Rev. Cecilia Kingman

**[Session 2: August 14](#)** at 8pm ET / 7pm CT / 6pm MT / 5pm PT

# Wider World

## UUMFE

Join us at any or all of the following fall programs! Read the July UUMFE Newsletter [here](#).

- August 22, 2023 - [Monthly Action-Reflection Circle begins](#)
- August 30, 2023- [Full Moon Gathering](#) on Zoom
- September 1, 2023- [Monthly Musings resume](#) from July and August break
- September 14, 2023 - [Weekly Online Meditations begin](#)
- September 17 - 23, 2023 - [Climate Week in New York City](#)
- If you'll be there, email [kellydignan@uumfe.org](mailto:kellydignan@uumfe.org)
- September 23, 2023 - "We Imagine. We Create," an Environmental Justice Festival sponsored by [Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth](#), [New York UU Justice](#), & [Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York](#), with support from the [New York State Convention of Universalists](#).
- Environmental Festival 1:00 - 3:30 pm
- Climate Week Jazz Vespers 4:00- 5:00 pm
- Join us all afternoon at the [Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York!](#)
- September 29, 2023- [Full Moon Gathering](#) - celebrate the Fall Equinox!

### Stories and Songs of the People, by INITC

Saturday, August 19th

Starts at 2pm MT/ 3pm CT/ 4pm ET

Join the InterNātionāl Indigenous Initiative for Transformative Collaboration (INITC) for Stories and Songs of the People, a hybrid event taking place at the University of Hawaii, Maui and online.

Join us for a virtual gathering of intercultural, interfaith sharing of experience and knowledge for the profound social, cultural, economic, legal and environmental issues reflecting the impacts to the health and well-being of our collective Nations and our Planet. We invite you to join us individually or create your own in-person gathering and then join us virtually as a group as we gather on the island of Maui.

[Sign-up for this day of learning](#)