



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

August 2024

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



Sunday Worship

Sermons at a Glance
Sunday Mornings



UUCOM

Announcements

Minister's Musings
Share the Plate
Banned Book Club
RE Corner
Membership
PFLAG Meetings
Care Team

Wider World



August 2024 Sermons at a Glance

August 4 “Friendship: a Journey to Being” with Jim Camp

We discuss the deep meaning of friendship, how friendship unfolds the sacredness at the center of each of us. In our ordinary lives we are separated from the mystery, the depth, the greatness of our existence. Through intimate friendship, we enter into the Mystery of being.

August 11 “Opening to the Tao Te Ching” with Kyle Farmer

Join me as I explore the ancient Tao Te Ching. The Way. The ancient philosophies are new to many of us in the Western World.

August 18 “Happy Heretic” with Rev. Stevie

Rev. Dr. Stevie Gaines is beginning a year as our part-time minister. In this service, they'll share some of their spiritual journey and offer encouragement for us on our various paths.

August 25 “Awe and Wonder” with Rev. Stevie

Being amazed can be good for us in many ways. This service will include a show-and-tell time, and you're invited to share briefly something that fuels awe and wonder in you. A signup sheet will be in the lobby before the service.

September 1 Labor Day Brunch

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, September 1st, we will have a Labor Day Brunch in lieu of church service. So bring your favorite brunch food and join us at 11:00 for fellowship and food!

POTLUCK LUNCHEON, AUGUST 18, 2024

Please join UU's for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, August 18th 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 5 for details.

Sunday Mornings

Sunday services remain in a hybrid format both in-person and virtually. For in person services, masks are optional and available on the guest table. 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.

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
created by MILDRED THAYER

UUCOM BOARD

Kyle Farmer, President
Barbara Handley, President-Elect
A.C. Fields, Treasurer
Emmy Ulmschneider Secretary
Jane Hellinghausen, At Large
 Member

UUCOM STAFF

Rev. Dr. Stevie Gaines

Office Hours: By appointment
 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,

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.

August Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this July and August's Share the Plate recipient. The Board has chosen the following recipient, the **Arts Council of Midland**.

Their mission is to enrich lives with the Arts through community-wide advocacy, education, outreach and promotion. The Arts Council of Midland supports and partners with the artists and non-profit art organizations who create the cultural landscape of the West Texas community and both supports other local nonprofits and provides a number of programs including Celebration of the Arts, and wall art and murals throughout Midland.

For more information please visit <https://www.acmidland.org/>.



Banned Book Club

Please join the Banned Book Club as we discuss Uncle Tom's Cabin by (Unitarian) Harriet Beecher Stowe. We will be taking our Summer Hiatus in August so we will not be discussing this novel until **Wednesday, August 14th at 7:00 PM** at the church.

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.

Banned Book Club

Please join the Banned Book Club as we discuss Uncle Tom's Cabin by (Unitarian) Harriet Beecher Stowe. We will be taking our Summer Hiatus in July so we will not be discussing this novel until Wednesday, August 14th at 7:00 at the church.

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

RE Corner

Spirit Play 10:00-10:45

Spirit Play meets in person from 10:00-10:45. Spirit Play is a Montessori-based curriculum that is based on our UU Promises (Principles) and Sources.

August 4 — No Class today.

August 11 — Chalice Story—This is first of three foundational stories.

August 18— Promises Story our children will learn about our UU promises (principles)

August 25 — No Class today. Barbara is in Alaska!

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 or 432-978-5977.



What's Happening at UUCOM

PFLAG Midland/Odessa

We are thrilled to work with PFLAG Midland/Odessa to provide a home for their regular monthly meetings that support our local LGBTQ+ community and everyone who loves them.

Circle Suppers

If you are interested in attending or hosting a Circle Supper contact the office at office@uumidland.org or 432-694-4308. A sign up sheet may also be on the foyer table.

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!

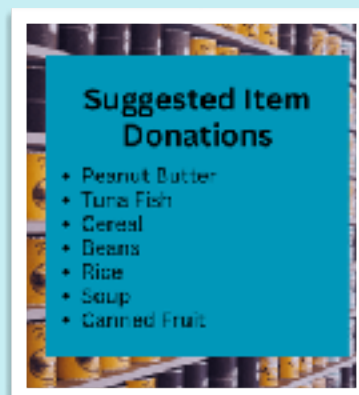
Care Team for Church Members and Friends

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

Texas UU Justice Ministry JULY NEWS: Sign up now for Border trips, UU the Vote, and more!

This August, join the [Texas UU Justice Ministry](#) and our interfaith partner [Texas Impact](#), in a timely and important [border witness trip](#), open to all Texas UUs (Aug 18-21, 2024). **Registration Deadline is August 1, 2024.** The trips include time in Harlingen, Brownsville, McAllen, and Matamoros (Mexico) witnessing at immigration court, observation at border wall and of Border Patrol, meeting with migrants and local humanitarian groups, community building among fellow UUs and partners, planning for how to share and act on your "courts and ports" witness effectively back home, and more. Passport required.

UBARU

GenderfUUI retreat - August 16-18 2024

The Genderfuul retreat is an affirming retreat where trans, non-binary and agender UUs can build community with each other. From nature walks to spiritual discussions and crafts, we hope that each person is able to relax and connect with the sacredness of being genderful. Our chaplain will foster an environment where everyone is encouraged to acknowledge and value a wide variety of identities, experiences, feelings, and vocabulary.

Registration includes 2 nights lodging and meals from dinner Friday to breakfast Sunday. August 16-18, 2024.

[Register here!](#)

UPLIFT

[Read the UPLIFT newsletter](#) including:

- A blog post about the discussion of the General Assembly's business resolution affirming trans, nonbinary, and intersex people
- A Blessing for Queer Youth of Faith
- Community Support for Trans/Nonbinary People

Wider World

Create Climate Justice

Register for a UU Climate Justice Revival Info Session

On September 28-29, congregations will host UU Climate Justice Revivals to collectively reimagine a spirit-filled and liberatory future. Through conversations, worship, and advocacy, congregations will work together to realize climate justice and collective liberation in our communities. Congregations will receive everything they need to host a revival in their communities. Sign up for an information session and learn what it's about, and how to register your congregation!

[Sign up for one of these dates!](#)

- August 5: 7 pm EDT/4 pm PT
- August 13: 12 pm EDT/9 am PT
- August 15: 12 pm EDT/9 am PT



Reimagine Together: From An Extractive Age To A New Era

UU Climate Justice Revival | September 28-29, 2024

2025 UU Common Read

The UUA Common Read for 2024-2025 is [Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families](#) (Skinner House, 2023). This Common Read offers two, parallel discussion tracks: one for a UU group with any or mixed gender identities, and one for UU participants with a trans or nonbinary identity. Each discussion guide consists of four 90-minute sessions that religious professionals or lay leaders may facilitate in-person or online. Coming in fall 2024: workshops for youth and families.

[Join the Common Read.](#)

