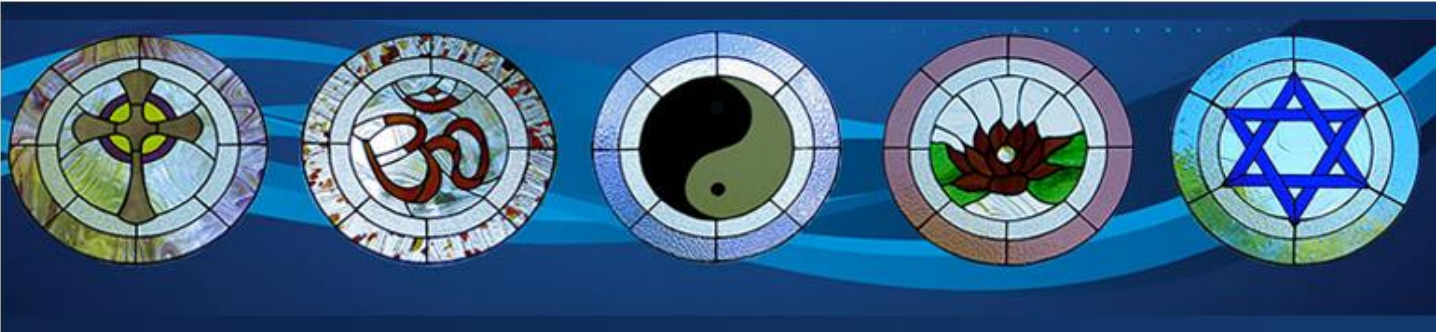


December 2021 Newsletter



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.

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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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December 2021 Sermons at a Glance

December 5

Dr. David Allen and Janine Deckard are collaborating for the December 5th service that falls during Hanukkah. They will each take turns taking us down the path of why they came to Unitarian Universalism. We hope that you will come and join us in-person and learn more about how they came to UUCOM.

December 12



Please join us for The Christmas Story Through Music and Words. We will celebrate the season with special music and readings.

December 19 *Winter Solstice*

A Story of Light and Darkness. Shanda Unger and Barbara Handley will lead this service with musical assistance from Sonja Millichamp.

December 26 *Holiday Brunch*

Please join us at 11:00 for a Holiday Brunch in lieu of church service. This will be a potluck so bring your favorite brunch food to share with our church community. Sign-up sheet is on the guest table in the foyer.



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Sunday Mornings

Learn more about reopening for in-person services on page 4.

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.

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

December Calendar

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

December 5		Mitten Tree
December 26	11:00 PM	Holiday Brunch

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>

December 2021 Newsletter

Holiday Brunch Potluck

Please join your UUCOM friends for a Holiday Brunch on Sunday, December 26th at 11:00. In lieu of church services, we will have an opportunity to break bread with our beloved church community. A sign-up sheet is available on the guest table in the foyer.



Church In-Person Service Reopening

On Sunday, October 24, 2021 we will partially reopen the building for Sunday services. 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. 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.

THE RULES

1. Masks that cover the mouth and nose will be required for all participants (age 2 years and up). The exception to this will be speakers at the pulpit who stand behind the shield and individuals with medical issues that prevent mask usage.
2. All attendees must maintain 6 foot social distance. Exceptions only will be made for family groups.
3. Attendance will be taken for contact-tracing purposes.
4. Temperatures will be taken. All participants must register at 100 degrees Fahrenheit or below to be allowed entry.
5. Please use only the marked doors for entry and exit from the building.
6. Socializing areas will take place in outdoor spaces only (either under the front tree or in the south garden which will be accessible through the west gate only). The fellowship hall will not be open for socializing.
7. Though the sanctuary will be open, its capacity will be limited to 30 people. Should there be an overflow, we may use the fellowship hall for a small number of people. The only other areas open to all will be the bathrooms. The classrooms, kitchen, storage closets, library and offices will only be accessible to specifically authorized individuals.
8. There will be no congregational singing.

Just like the rest of you, the Board is looking forward to the day when we can return to what was our normal building use before the pandemic. We sincerely hope that day will be very soon. We will keep you informed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any board member.

December 2021 Newsletter

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has several opportunities to lead a service in December and December. The theme for December is: Unity and Diversity. December's Theme is Forgiveness. You may use the theme to help in your planning. Or you may choose totally different topic! If you would like to help but are not interested in leading a service there are many ways of assisting! You may be a Zoom Host, or Greeter! 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.



UUCOM Members and Friends Survey

It is the time of year to update our Members and Friends Directory for 2022. This year we are combining our directory update with the collection of additional demographic data to limit the amount of work for the congregation.

A more robust demographic collection process had been discussed by the Board for both internal UUCOM use and for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), as they request demographic data from congregations as part of their annual UUA certification. To streamline this process in the future we are gathering this information alongside the UUMidland Congregational Directory update.

To facilitate this effort, a voluntary survey has been created to collect the demographic data and directory update. All demographic responses you provide will remain confidential. Your data will not be reported beyond the aggregate (combined data from all responses) congregational data without permission.

You will also be asked to update a directory listing for the 2022 Members and Friends Directory if applicable. Lastly a new online Directory request page is available (<https://bit.ly/3nAT2m0>) if you would like a copy of the current or future directory.

To complete the online survey, please visit <https://bit.ly/UUSrvy21>. A hard copy of the survey is also available on the welcome table or by contacting the church office (432-694--4308| office@uumidland.org).

A graphic for the UUMidland Demographic Survey. It features a red and white background. The text "UUMidland Demographic Survey" is prominently displayed in white and red. Below the text is a QR code. To the right, there is a blue speech bubble with the text "UPDATE YOUR INFO FOR THE 2022 DIRECTORY TOO!" and an illustration of a notepad with a pen. At the bottom, there is a call to action: "Call 432-694-4308 for a hard copy survey." and the URL <https://bit.ly/UUSrvy21>.

December 2021 Newsletter

Thoughts from the RE Corner

Children's Space 10:15-10:45

Spirit Play is a UU curriculum based on Montessori teaching principles for children in Kindergarten through sixth grade.

December 5— Hanukkah. Our children will learn the story behind this Jewish holiday. Janine Deckard will lead the story.

December 12—The Coat that Came for Christmas. All that Josie wants for Christmas is a coat like all of her friends have but her family doesn't have the financial resources to splurge.

December 19--Three Wise Women. This story of Christmas explores the lasting gifts of three women.

Mitten Tree—Beginning on Sunday, December 5th, we will accept donations for hats, mittens, scarves and socks. At the end of the holiday season, all contributions will be donated to children at Lamar Elementary School to help keep them warm during our chilly winter. You may also drop off your donations at Barbara Handley's home (4209 Arroyo) by placing them in her mailbox. Please text her at 432-978-5977 to let her know about delivery.



Advent Calendars

If you would like a "traditional" advent calendar that reveals historical UU contributions to the holiday, go to <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/images/uu-advent-calendar>.



December 2021 Newsletter

What's Happening at UUCOM

December Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this December's Share the Plate recipient. The Social Action Committee has chosen the following recipient, the Minister's Discretionary Fund. This month, half of all cash donations go to the Minister's Discretionary Fund, which is used to support people in need - both church members and those beyond our church - who have fallen on hard times.



Monthly Stitching Group

Postponed Until Further Notice.

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 December 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 December 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!

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 December

Thank you to Barbara and Shanda, Alex, Mike, and Harry, and Eli.

November 2021 Newsletter

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](#).

New UUMidland Website

Visit the new UUMidland at <https://UUMidland.org>.

We wanted to make the new website faster, easier to navigate, and more user-friendly. It is important for us to make information regarding our work, worship services news and events and more easily accessible for our members and those interested in UUMidland. This website endeavors to provide the most accurate, up-to-date information and share what UUMidland is all about to everyone who visits. The new website gives better access to our information keeping the important items from the old website in an easier to navigate, more condensed and in a more aesthetically appealing package.

For any questions, suggestions, feedback or comments, please contact us at Office@UUMidland.org or at the new website contact form.

November 2021 Newsletter

Wider World

UUA Upcoming Events

We are excited to invite lay leaders, religious professionals, adults, youth, members of congregations, and anyone else who is interested, to join UUA staff in an exploration of interdependence in UU theology and practice. "Compass: Navigating the Paths of Liberation Together" is an online conference offering fellowship, faith development, and a special musical guest, to be held on December 11 and 12.

[Register For Compass](#)

TXUUJM Update

Read [this update from TXUUJM](#).

Events, Actions, & Spiritual Support for Justice

- ICYMI: [Decolonizing Thanksgiving Giving worship service](#)
- Joy Practices for Justice Seekers. Rev. Erin Walter of TXUUJM [leads a free community class, Dance for Body and Spirit](#), over Zoom.

UU the Vote

- **Texas Zoom Power Hour! Tuesday, December 14, 2021 7-8 PM CT**
Only a few months before the March 2022 elections! This month's Zoom Power Hour will have an actions related to voter registration within our own networks and then move into the nuts and bolts of how to get started (or up your game) as a Texas Volunteer Deputy Registrar! Then we will break out by regions/cities to build out plans for planning / participating in voter registration activities in your own communities in 2022. Please join us! [Register here and mark your calendars!](#)
- **Spiritual Alliance of Communities for Reproductive Dignity (SACReD)**
Registration is open for SACReD, Jan. 25-26, 2022, a first-of-its-kind virtual gathering of justice-oriented people of faith, activists, and leaders from the reproductive health, rights, and justice community, including First Unitarian Church of Dallas. [More info here.](#)

UUA Welcoming Congregations

In honor of World AIDS Day, please join the [U.S. HIV & AIDS Faith Coalition](#) as we honor the millions of lives lost to HIV and AIDS alongside of those living with the virus for a World AIDS Day Conference.

Wednesday, December 1st, [World AIDS Day Interfaith Service, @ 1pm-3pm ET](#)

[World AIDS Day Film & Discussion: "My, Faith, My Story", @ 4pm-5pm ET](#)

[2021 World AIDS Day Faith Conference RSVP](#)

WORLD AIDS DAY FAITH CONFERENCE

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

- 1:00 PM Eastern (U.S.) Faith Conference
- 4:00 PM Eastern (U.S.) Film & Discussion: "My Faith, My Story"

 U.S. HIV/AIDS Faith Coalition

November 2021 Newsletter

Side With Love

We're saying 'No' to limits on reproductive rights. [Read More.](#)

As Unitarian Universalists, we embrace the reproductive justice framework, which espouses the human right to have children, not to have children, to parent the children one has in healthy environments, and to safeguard bodily autonomy and to express one's sexuality freely. Rooted in these values, we unequivocally declare that SB 8, and any law that attempts to criminalize reproductive freedom—including abortion care—is morally wrong.

And, in addition to our thoughts and prayers, our faith calls us to actively and courageously resist such injustice. Here are some ways you and your congregation can take action today:

- Read this [update from Side with Love](#).
- Donate to support Texans seeking abortions. Give directly to organizations providing direct support and fighting against laws that violate our reproductive rights, such as [Sistersong](#), the collective of [Texas abortion funds](#), [Buckle Bunnies](#), or [SACReD - Spiritual Alliance of Communities for Reproductive Dignity](#).
- Join people of faith around the country to learn and strategize. Sign up to attend the [SACReD Gathering: Faith Communities Reclaiming Reproductive Dignity and Autonomy](#), January 25-26, 2022. This event will be a first-of-its-kind virtual gathering of justice-oriented people of faith, activists, and leaders from the reproductive health, rights, and justice community. "Grounded in our shared values of justice, dignity, human rights, compassion, and expansive love, we will discover how faith and reproductive liberation are interdependent through keynotes, panel discussions, and breakout sessions."
- Host a Reproductive Justice Sunday in January, 2022. In commemoration of the anniversary of Roe v. Wade and the ongoing fight for reproductive health, rights, and justice, join UU congregations across the country for a Sunday of solidarity, support, and reflection. We will be providing worship resources (readings, videos, liturgical frameworks) and suggestions for planning your own service in the coming weeks. If you would like to receive more information, sign up here: <https://bit.ly/ReproJusticeSunday2022>

One month ago, Side With Love launched its Action Center to support those working to build organizing capacity and power in our Unitarian Universalist community. Visit the Action Center, download the guide, and sign up to get involved today. Urgent action is needed to support the Freedom to Vote Act in December; get resources for your congregation to host an event in your community to protect voting rights.

It's incredibly important to put pressure on President Biden right now, as we approach the [COP 26 UN climate talks](#). Together, we can Side With Love and Create Climate Justice by showing up for this movement moment in solidarity with frontline leaders who have spent the past week [risking arrest in Washington, D.C.](#) to call on President Biden to reject false solutions and commit to a rapid and just transition away from an extractive economy.

Rolling Ridge Spring on-line retreats

Find all the details of their many programs [here](#).

Spring Programs Rowe at Home

Find a complete list of all of Rowe at Home's upcoming free and paid programs [here](#).

November 2021 Newsletter

UU's for a Just Economic Community Upcoming Events

UUSC's virtual **Human Rights Leadership Celebration** will take place on **Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 7:00 PM ET / 4:00 PM PT**. We hope you will join us for an evening of inspiration and hope in advance of Human Rights Day. Spotighting human rights and social justice work around the world, the event will feature a keynote presentation, musical performances, and appearances by special guests.

We also want to include you in our celebration! We invite you to share a photograph illustrating what you feel is important about human rights work. If you are interested in participating, please visit [this page, https://www.uusc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Photo-Directions.pdf](https://www.uusc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Photo-Directions.pdf) to learn more about the process.

Please feel free to share this invitation with others interested in UUSC and human rights. If you have any questions, please contact us at development@uusc.org.

This event will be free of charge. More details and information about how to register will be available in the coming weeks.

Learn more about UUJEC webinars [here](#).

UU Ministry for Earth

Would you be interested to join one of the grounding moments upcoming?

- **Save the Date: December 7, 2021**, at 4 PT / 5 MT / 6 CT / 7 ET, join **Climate Crisis: Act Now**, a special panel presented by UU Ministry for Earth, Fourth Universalist Church of New York, the UUA Office at the UN, and the New York Unitarian Universalist Justice.
- On **December 22, 2021** at 5 PT / 6 MT / 7 CT / 8 ET join us for a special **Winter Solstice Service**.

[Learn more.](#)

Save the Date for SWUWCon 2022!

March 4-6, 2022

Grapevine, Texas (centrally located between Dallas and Fort Worth)

www.swuuw.org

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.](#)