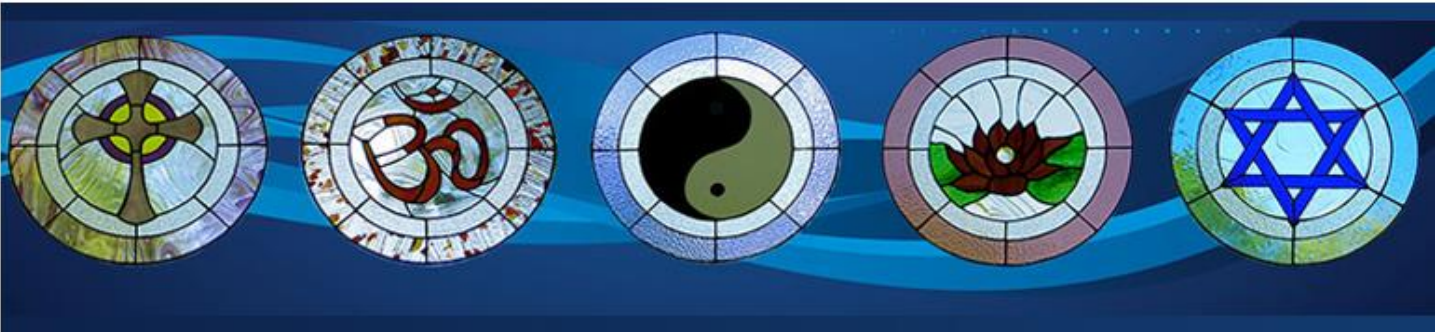


# February 2020 Newsletter



## Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

WELCOMING diversity

EMPOWERING spiritual growth

FOSTERING the interdependent web

TRANSFORMING lives

Please visit our website at [www.uumidland.org](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 Carol Kullman, Membership Chair, a Board member, or the Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon.

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Are you allergic to the word “faith”? I understand how you might be. We often confuse faith with the word “belief” and think faith is some naive belief in something that goes against truth, freedom, and love.

**Faith** comes from the Latin word *fides* which means “to trust.” So, to discover our faith, we can ask ourselves: As we move through the world, in what do we place our trust? How do we orient ourselves to the world and our place in it? **Whether we know it or not**, faith directs our thinking, our feeling, our acting, our very being.

So we all have faith, even if it is an unexamined, unconscious faith, even if it is a superficial faith, or a faith that ultimately does not serve us.

James Fowler’ [stages of faith](#) have been adapted by UU religious educator [Joy Berry](#) to emphasize the importance of Wrought Faith **along the whole lifespan** of faith formation.

Wrought is an old word that means *worked*.  
Wrought faith is active, and **shaped in community**.

A deep, mature, abiding faith comes as we work to give our faith shape in the world, **with** others. So you can see in the above image the tools of work and creation: the hammer and paintbrush, pencil and wrench. Here, faith is strong because it is resilient, malleable, shaped by human hands, tested and broken and repaired. Not on our own, but together.

That growth happens through living and working and creating our faith **in** the world **with** the world. How are you doing this work with others today?  
What a gift to do this work together.

Peace,  
Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon

## February 2020 Newsletter

### February at a Glance

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#### February 2

**11:00 AM Worship Service:** "What Have You Learned?" Response by Brent Caldwell, who will speak about his journey to agnosticism and pantheism |

This Sunday will be the fourth in a new series for our lay-led Sundays that features responses from many of our members and friends to this open-ended question. Brent Caldwell and his wife Amy recently became members of UU Midland, and were previously members of UU New Braunfels in the San Antonio area. Brent has several degrees in Physics, Chemistry, and Biology. A fully credentialed laboratory scientist, he passed up a career in research and development to pursue a career in public education. A classroom teacher of six years, Brent now works as an Educational Diagnostician for Big Spring ISD. He speaks fluent Spanish and German, and enjoys translating for Spanish language dominant families at parent-teacher meetings at his school. Brent and his wife Amy have a two year old son, Geordi who toddles around in the nursery during UU services.

#### February 9

**11:00 AM Worship Service:** "Love Your Church"

Rev. Emily, member Kayleigh Kirk, and several other members invite you to reflect on the power of engaging in this church community. In our tradition, the church belongs to its members. What does it mean for the church to be yours, to be ours, to be "home"? After the service will be a fun Opportunity Fair organized by the Board and committees.

#### February 16

**11:00 AM Worship Service:** "Mystery & Faith" | Rev. Emily, with sermon by Guest Minister Rev. Sarah Taylor Peck.

Sarah Taylor Peck serves as senior minister of Community Christian Church in North Canton, Ohio and as a mentor for pastors in their first five years of ministry through the excellence ministry program for pension fund of the Christian church. She's married to Andrew, pastor of a large UCC church in Canton Ohio, and mom to Felix age 4, Zora age 2, and Moses the dog, age 16. Emily and Sarah were classmates at Harvard Divinity School, where Sarah received the Billings Preaching Prize. Sarah's theological writings have been published in ELLE Magazine, The Huffington Post, and the Salt Project.

#### February 23

**11:00 AM Intergenerational Worship Service:** "Big Shoes to Fill" | Led by Rev. Emily

This Intergenerational service will focus on black heroes, historical and present, and inspire us to follow in their footsteps by leading lives infused by our values. We will have a blessing of our shoes, which in past years has been a delight for kids and adults alike!



Welcome to  
the month of  
**Resilience**



# February 2020 Newsletter

## February Calendar

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

|             |            |                              |
|-------------|------------|------------------------------|
| February 1  | 9:00 a.m.  | Yoga Class                   |
| February 1  | 1:00 pm.   | Garden Work Day              |
| February 4  | 7:00 p.m.  | Permian Basin Buddhists      |
| February 8  | 9:00 a.m.  | Yoga Class                   |
| February 9  | 11:00 a.m. | Love Your Church             |
| February 11 | 7:00 p.m.  | Permian Basin Buddhists      |
| February 14 | 7:00 p.m.  | Tree of Life Midland PNO     |
| February 15 | 9:00 a.m.  | Yoga Class                   |
| February 16 | 12:30 p.m. | <i>White Lies</i> Discussion |
| February 16 | 2:30 p.m.  | Stitching Group              |
| February 17 | 7:00 p.m.  | Permian Basin Buddhists      |
| February 22 | 9:00 a.m.  | Yoga Class                   |
| February 23 | 12:30 PM   | Parent's Day Out             |
| February 25 | 7:00 p.m.  | Permian Basin Buddhists      |
| February 29 | 9:00 a.m.  | Yoga Class                   |

## Sunday Mornings, etc.

Interested in RE, see the **RE Corner** on page 7 for details.

## February 23<sup>rd</sup> Intergenerational Service

### Newcomers' Drop-In Circle, TBA March, @ 12:15 -1:00 PM

All newcomers to the church are invited to join Rev. Emily and the Membership Committee after a service. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about each other and the church! Snacks and childcare will be provided.

**Mark your calendar and come!**  
**Love Your Church is just around the corner**  
**February 9, 2020 Right after our Service**

Have you ever wondered how our Church "works"? Come and find out how UUCOM does what it does and how you can give back to the many ways that UUCOM gives to you. Your talents and strengths can build our Church home and in turn strengthen and grow you. Snacks and childcare provided.

## UUCOM Board

**Tom Hull, President**  
**Maureena Benavides,**  
**President-Elect**  
**Alex Fields, Treasurer**  
**Emmy Ulmschneider, Secretary**  
**David Allen, Member**  
**Charles Holmstrom, Member**  
**Kayleigh Kirk, Member**

## UUCOM Staff

**Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon,**  
**Minister**

Email: [minister@uumidland.org](mailto:minister@uumidland.org)  
(432) 694-4308 office  
(617) 501-0020 cell

**Minister's office hours are by appointment.**

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

(432) 694-4308  
Office Hours:  
Monday 9-12  
Wednesday 9-1  
Friday 9-12

Email: [office@uumidland.org](mailto:office@uumidland.org)

**Barbara Handley,**  
**Director of Religious Education**

Email: [dre@uumidland.org](mailto:dre@uumidland.org)  
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**Sonja and Scott Millichamp,**  
**Music Directors**

Email: [skassal811@yahoo.com](mailto:skassal811@yahoo.com)  
[scott@bruenor.org](mailto:scott@bruenor.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>

## February 2020 Newsletter

### February Share the Plate

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**We will share ½ of all cash donations with** this February's Share the Plate recipient: Heifer Project -Read to Feed.

Heifer International is on a mission to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities. Their community development model focuses on building social capital by increasing income and assets within farming families, improving their food security and nutrition, and protecting the environment - with women's empowerment and connected communities at the very center. Their programs support entrepreneurs around the world, creating lasting change from the ground up. It begins with a seed investment of livestock or agriculture, followed by mentorship to help project participants build a business, and ultimately to gain access to supply chains and markets.



Heifer International's Read to Feed Program involves children in their mission and teaches the fundamentals of caring for others while fostering a love of reading. Participants in Read to Feed help the next generation understand that they can be part of the solution to global issues.

Read to Feed is a fun and engaging readathon in which students practice literacy skills while learning about global issues of hunger and poverty. Once your students set a goal, they ask family and friends for sponsorship pledges. At the end of the program, students pool their funds to select animals and gifts for families in need around the world. Reading more translates to helping more families! Read to Feed fosters a love of reading, a passion to help others and a desire to create a better world as a globally minded citizen.

### **White Lies Discussion in Two Parts - Adult Religious Education Opportunity | Sunday, February 16 (Part 2) @ 12:30 - 2:30**

In 1965, a white Unitarian minister & civil rights supporter, James Reeb, was murdered in Selma, Ala. Three men were tried and acquitted, but no one was ever held to account. Fifty years later, two journalists from Alabama return to the city where it happened, expose the lies that kept the murder from being solved and uncover a story about guilt and memory that says as much about America today as it does about the past. This story is told in the recent NPR podcast *White Lies*. You can listen to the podcast at [npr.org](http://npr.org) and on podcast apps like Apple, Google, Pocket, & Spotify. You can also find a visual narrative of the story at [apps.npr.org/white-lies/](http://apps.npr.org/white-lies/). At our discussion on Feb 16 we'll focus on episodes 6-7 and the bonus episode titled "A Strange and Bitter Crop" (from the NPR podcast *Code Switch*). Attending both parts is ideal, but not required. *Lunch and childcare are provided. RSVPs (with dietary restriction info) are encouraged – on the sign-up sheet in the foyer or by emailing [minister@uumidland.org](mailto:minister@uumidland.org)*



## February 2020 Newsletter

### January Sermon Excerpt

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Sermon on January 19, 2020:

“White Lies” Part 1 – Facing Hard Truths with Integrity



Hearing hard truths is part of what it means to be a people of integrity who can face the unvarnished truth and let it guide us – who can let suffering speak and not put up our defenses, not turn away, but instead lament that pain, feel the love in our lament, and then answer the call with courage & tenacity.

Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon

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See the whole sermon, and others, on the sermons blog at [www.uumidland.org/blog](http://www.uumidland.org/blog)



# February 2020 Newsletter

## Thoughts from the RE Corner

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### Spirit Play Calendar

February 2—Blue Promise Story: Beatrice's Goat. This story will launch Read to Feed. With the gift of a goat, Beatrice's life will change for the better.

February 9—Red Promise Story: Ruby Bridges. The true story of Ruby Bridges and how her life changed with the integration of schools in New Orleans.

February 16—Violet Promise Story: Old Turtle. This story discusses where and what God is.

February 23—Intergenerational Service\*--Your Shoes, My Shoes

\*Childcare is provided for infants and pre-school aged children during Intergenerational Services. School aged children are encouraged to attend the entire service with their families.

### Read to Feed

The Read to Feed program sponsored by Heifer International encourages reading while providing a means for children to impact the lives of others. Children and/or parents are asked to get sponsors for each book that is read. (Or for non-readers, each book that is read to them.) For six weeks, children will keep track of the number of books read. On March 15, children will report their accomplishments during our Spirit Play class. The funds will be pooled, and our children will help choose which animals Heifer International will donate to families around the world. There will be a special visit by a "kid" in the garden after service!!

### Love the Church

Love the Church will be on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> following church service. If you are interested in learning more about the Children's Religious Education Committee, please join us in the fellowship hall to learn about this committee and others!

### Religious Education Committee

Our next RE Committee meeting is Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30. If you are interested in volunteering your time and talent or just finding out what is happening in the RE wing, you are invited to join us! Childcare is provided.



# What's Happening at UUCOM

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### Monthly Stitching Circle

We welcome all stitchers: knitters, crocheters, embroidery or hand sewing! Bring your projects, get and share advice & tips, or join in the group project. Join us on **February 16th** at 2:30-4:30pm for our next meetup. Bring any stitching project you would like to work on. Previously, our group has donated blanket squares to Warm Up America and hats & scarves to our local homeless. In 2019, we made and collected over 60 blankets and other items for our local animal rescue groups! Thank you to everyone who participated!!



### Parent's Day Out

Join us after church on **February 23rd** for a Parent's Day Out. At 12:30pm after church, we will sign the children into child care by and carpool to lunch for a chance to hang out and get to know other parents in our congregation. We will return to the church by 3pm. This time, we will be doing a potluck! Henry & Franny will provide hamburgers. You may also bring your protein of choice to be grilled on the BBQ. Please sign up to bring a side/dessert/beverage/etc to contribute! Watch for the sign up sheet in the foyer.

Important things to note:

\*\*Please be sure to bring your child(ren) a sack lunch to leave with them while we are out.

\*\*Children must be registered with the Religious Education program for families to participate.

\*\*RSVP to Barbara Handley at [dre@uumidland.org](mailto:dre@uumidland.org) with names and ages of children.



The Memorial Service for Jean Reid, one of UUMidland's founding members, was held January 25, 2020 at Manor Park and officiated by Rev. Emily, with several members assisting with the service and reception. UUMidland is in debt to Jean and Aubrey Reid for their many contributions to the life of this church. Our sympathy to Jean's nieces and nephew: Krista, Penny, and Jon - and all Jean's family and friends.





# February 2020 Newsletter

## Permian Basin Buddhists

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](#). For more information about the group, please contact Linda Blanchard at [lindaqpublic@nowheat.com](mailto:lindaqpublic@nowheat.com).

## Amazon Smile

Here's a super simple way to support our work! Click below (<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-1837838>), and a portion of all your Amazon purchases will help us keep working toward our mission in the Permian Basin:



Welcoming Diversity, Empowering Spiritual Growth, Fostering the Interdependent Web, and Transforming Lives.

Thank you!

## 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.

**Tree of Life Midland PNO\*** | Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM Brew St. Bakery

For updates and further information about Tree of Life, please check out their Facebook page [here](#).

## Free Yoga Class

Patricia (Patty) George teaches a free yoga class at UUMidland on **Saturday mornings from 9-10 am**.

The class is open to all, but please bring your own mat if you have one.

## Garden and Grow, Continues

We will be working this February in the Garden. Stay tuned for more details on when we work.

## 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!)

## Interested in Becoming a Member?

Interested in officially joining our church community? Reach out to Rev. Emily, 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)), Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon, or by calling the church office ([694-4308](tel:694-4308)). Rev. Emily can also be reached at [minister@uumidland.org](mailto:minister@uumidland.org). For urgent needs, you may call her cell phone, [617-501-0020](tel:617-501-0020).

Thank you for helping to make our church an even more supportive and caring community!

## Beware of email or text scams

Nationwide, ministers and churches have been the target of a series of email and text phishing scams. If you receive an email or text purportedly from the minister or another staff member asking for an unusual donation or a gift card, please do not respond and mark it as spam.