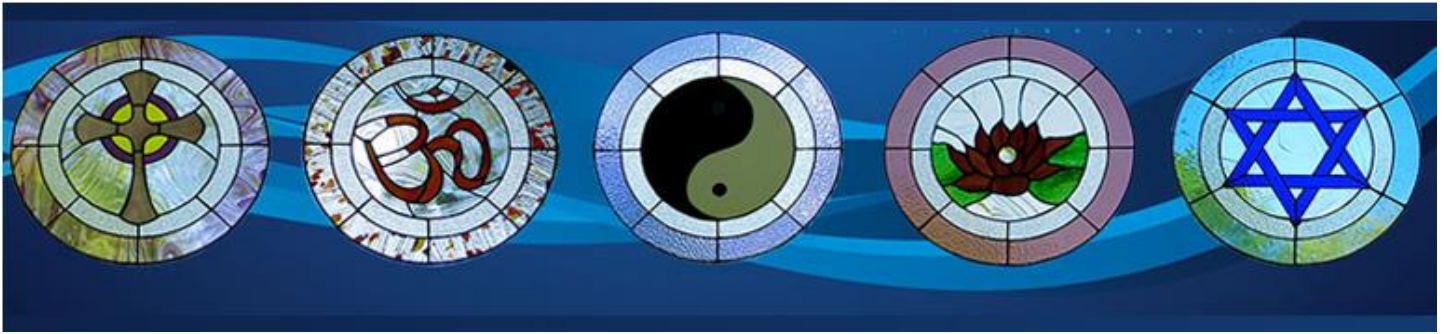


February 2021 Newsletter



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.

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 Rev. Julie Lombard.

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February 2021 Sermons at a Glance – Worship Theme: Love

February 7 **Love, Love, Love** **by Rev. Julie Lombard**



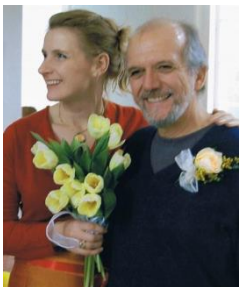
The tribute to all tributes worship services on the topic of love must include a tribute to the Beatles. How many Beatles song do you think there are that sing about love? What can we learn from them, what wisdom did their songs leave for us, and what did these prophets know about love? Come and sing along to the familiar tunes as we explore love through the eyes and hearts of the Secular Fab Four. Please join us for worship and this journey through love.

February 14 **'Side with Love' Sunday** **by Rev. Erika Hewitt & friends**

The UUA's Worship Web will include a full worship service to celebrate 30 Days of Love, as a downloadable video, for all Unitarian Universalist congregations to enjoy at their regular worship time. This worship service will feature stirring music, deep-hearted reflection, and moving testimonies from a range of UU leaders. <https://www.uua.org/worship/holidays/side-love-sunday>



February 21 **Sentenced to Wed** **by Rev. Julie Lombard**



Liz and Felipe were deeply in love. Although they swore fidelity to one another; they swore they would never get married until the day providence intervened in the form of the U.S. government. Liz was a U.S. citizen, Felipe was not. Their story explores the complications that unfolded by border crossing gone wrong. She considers marriage from every perspective before being willing to cross that threshold, again. Myths are debunked; fears are unthreaded; historical perspective is sought; and romantic fantasies are ultimately exchanged for vital emotional compromises and what becomes a celebration of love. Please join us for worship and this journey through love.

February 28 **Why We Give** **by Rev. Julie Lombard**

Lao Tzu said, *"Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love."* This quote brings me to ask: Why do we give? As our Stewardship Season begins, it's a good time to ask this kind of question. At the heart of why we give, we will find a deep abiding love, one that is an endless well from which we can draw. Come hear the messages of hope about how love changed one community and how music gave another community the courage to overcome the oppression in its midst. Join us to hear the amazing stories of St. Paul and the Corinthians and Jesus Rodriguez and the South Africans.



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Sunday Mornings

Interested in RE, see the **RE Corner** on page 9 for details.
Sunday services are currently online, using Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/2750827327>

It will ask you to download an app to your computer. Just follow the steps. You might need to find "Zoom.pkg" in your downloads and double-click it to install the application. On your smartphone, download the Zoom app, and then join a meeting with the meeting ID: **275 082 7327**

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 above 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.

February Calendar

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

February 12	12:15 p.m.	Drop-In Circle
February 12	2:30 p.m.	Stitching Circle - virtual

UUCOM Board

Maurena Benavides, President
Janine Deckard, President-Elect
Alex Fields, Treasurer
April Graham, Secretary
David Allen, At Large Member
Lisa Jebson, At Large Member
Beverly Wise, At Large Member

UUCOM Staff

Rev. Julie Lombard, Minister
Email: minister@uumidland.org
(432) 694-4308 office
(603) 724-0978 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

Barbara Handley,
Director of Religious Education
Email: dre@uumidland.org
Phone: 432-978-5977

Sonja and Scott Millichamp,
Music Directors
Email: skassal811@yahoo.com
scott@bruenor.org,

Visit our website:

www.uumidland.org

Like us on Facebook:

Unitarian Universalist Church of
Midland TX

<https://www.facebook.com/UUMidland>

February 2021 Newsletter

February Minister's Musings by Rev. Julie Lombard



Every year we are blessed with February. A much needed, shorter than usual, winter month. This year, this month brings us the worship theme of LOVE to consider. Love is a rather large topic to ponder in such a short month, but I am certain we will find our way through it together.

This February, we will explore the theme of love through Beatles songs about love to a border crossing love story gone wrong... because we are opened minded thinkers, we can find wisdom anywhere. William W. Purkey said, *"You've gotta dance like there's nobody watching, love like you'll never be hurt, sing like there's nobody listening, and live like it's heaven on earth."* While I agree with this wisdom, I struggle as I follow it. Instead, I wonder if my moves are smooth enough, I remember the hurt and I am reluctant to love again, I want to enjoy singing as I once did before the pandemic, and I too often forget to live as if we live in a heaven on earth. I suppose I am not alone.

Each of us has stumbled on this theme and even more when someone says something like, "God is Love." What does that mean and what does it mean to be in love... with God or someone or any place or thing? Love is a feeling. We get tingly, joyful, and then excitement floods in. We long to hug each other because it somehow expresses this feeling, but not one we choose to do during a pandemic.

February is also the soft start to another stewardship season. We will be asked- how do you show your love for this faith, this church, this beloved community that we share? Together we will explore why we give and what - time, talent, and treasure. Search your hearts and think of how this church has supported you as you reflect on how you want to support this ministry. In our stewardship season, your leadership will ask for your help to fuel the flame for the light of this faith we share.

Commitment is at the heart of love and it is a decision based on a combination of feelings and logic, love and commitment can go hand in hand especially as we make decisions about our future plans. Let us journey together through this important theme and see where it might lead us. In the end, I believe there is more love somewhere.

Peace, Rev. Julie

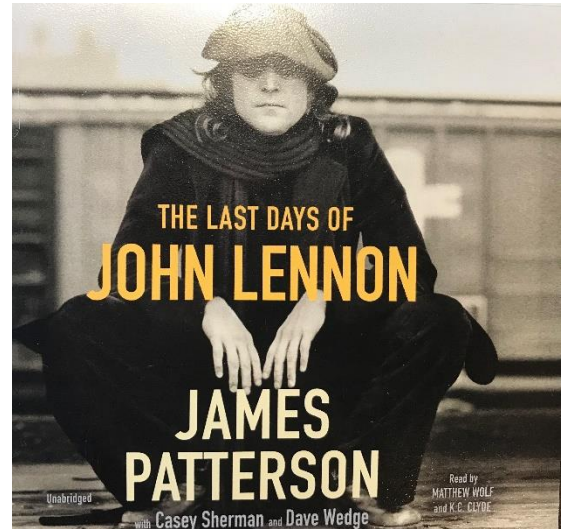
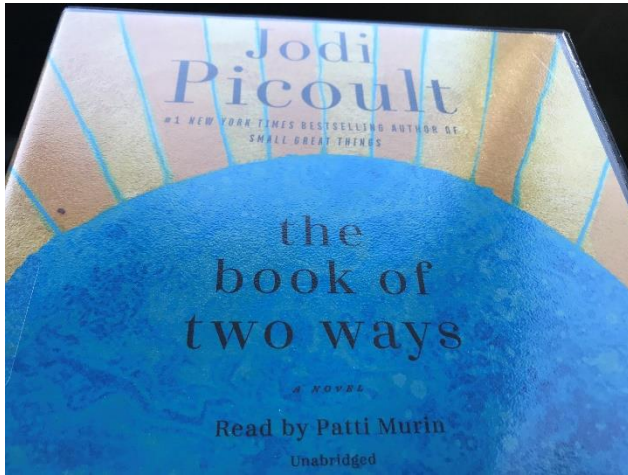


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Whatcha Reading

I like to listen to books while on long drives & this is what I've been reading. Let me know if you've read them & you'd like to discuss them.

Peace, Julie



Whatcha Watching

I don't have cable, but I do like to stream & this is what I've been watching. Let me know if you've seen them & you'd like to discuss them.

Peace, Julie



Following Capitol Attack, FRONTLINE Documentary Special Traces President Trump's Incitement of Division, Violence and Ultimately Insurrection Throughout His Term

Share: [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Email](#)

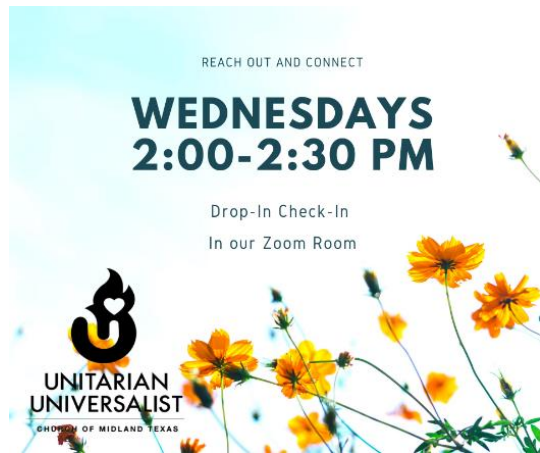


Trump supporters attacked the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021 in protest of the ratification of President-elect Joe Biden's Electoral College victory over President Trump in the 2020 election. (Shay Horse/NurPhoto via Getty Images)

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What's Happening at UUCOM

Mid-Week Event: Online Drop-In Space:

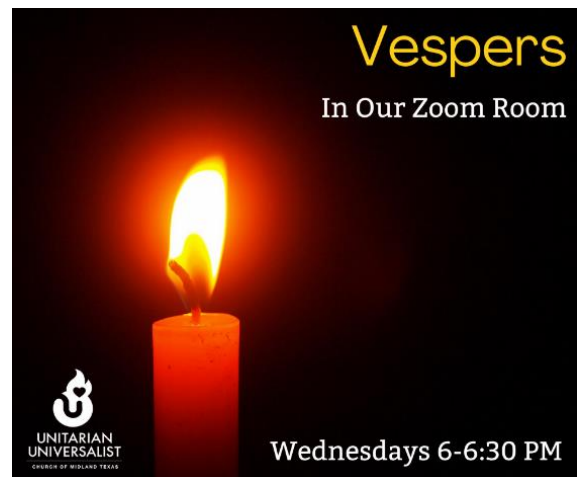


Wednesdays 2 –2:30 PM

Rev. Julie will open our Zoom room ([same link as above](#)) for a casual space to check-in and connect. We will start with a brief reading and meditation at 2:05, and then invite people to check-in and chat. Children are welcome. Come anytime between 2-2:30, and stay the whole hour or just for a bit.

Wednesdays 6-6:30 PM

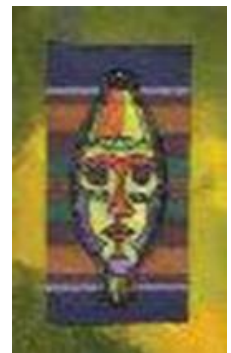
Rev. Julie will open our Zoom room. This midweek evening service called Vespers, is held on Wednesdays at 6 pm, a quiet half-hour of music, prayer readings, and silence. A simple figurative breaking of bread follows the service - a brief check-in.



February Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this February's Share the Plate recipient the **Midland African-American Roots Historical Cultural Arts Council (MAARHCAC)**.

MAARHCAC organized for the purpose of bringing to Midland a cultural revolution of art works, crafts, artifacts, literature, contemporary art and photographs, performing arts, musicians, theater, and music appreciation, of African- American history and culture. MAARHCAC is organized for charitable and educational purposes and to improve, enhance, and beautify. The organization's goal is to emphasize and enhance culture and human dignity. MAARHCAC is supported by funds received from donations, grants, and projects.



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!

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Monthly Stitching Circle

Join us for a virtual stitching meetup via Zoom during our regular time. We welcome all stitchers: knitters, crocheters, embroidery or hand sewing! Bring your projects to visit or to get and share advice & tips. Join us on **February 21st** from 2:30-4:30 pm for our next meetup.

Please email Franny at starrymoon@gmail.com for our meeting link.

Thoughts from the RE Corner

Children's Space 10:15-10:45

This is a time for chalice lighting, story, check-in and fun! We are using a modified Spirit Play format. Our theme is: Super Heroes!!

February 7—Someday: Ellen Watkins Harper. This super hero was a Unitarian African American who fought against slavery.

February 14—A Longer Lasting Light. This story explores the life of Unitarian Lewis Latimer.

February 21—The Story of Esther. This sources story (Judaism) will be shared by Janine Deckard.

February 28—Finding Your Way. This was the motto of Ethelred Brown, a Jamaican, who immigrated to the US and became a Unitarian minister.

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 during the time of Covid-19, there are many ways that you can participate. You could read or tell a story during Children's Zoom Space. You may suggest a story for our Children's Space. Our theme is: Super Heroes!! You may help to create Spirit Play stories for when we get to meet in person!! Please contact Barbara Handley at dre@uumidland.org or 432-978-5977.

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!

Sermons

Please find Rev. Julie's most recent sermons in the sermon blog at www.uumidland.org/blog.

February 2021 Newsletter

2021 Drop-ins: Small Group Ministry

Small Group Ministry is a vital part of many Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations across America. In other churches they are called Chalice Circle or Covenant Groups. Groups of 8-10 people meet regularly, usually monthly, to reflect on and discuss significant life topics.

Small groups are great places to get to know other people and to get to know your better, too. Over time, participants build deep connections with one another, with the congregation and with the sacred.

Discussion topics are provided. The ones we'll use for Drop-ins will reflect our UU Principles and Purposes. The conversations we'll have will be respectful and caring and they'll lead to greater understanding of our UU values. In each session, facilitated by our minister, all participants have opportunity to share their perspectives, tell their stories, and listen deeply. The time together is structured: groups begin with a chalice lighting, centering readings, and some questions before the sharing begins.

Are Drop-ins for you? If you are not already in another Small Group Ministry at UUCOM, yes, please come. Maybe you just signed the membership book or did that long ago, or not at all- come and try it on and see how small group ministry fits for you. If you would like to join a new small group that goes beyond the drop-in basics, please contact our office to let them know.

When and Where: We'll continue to meet at UUCOM at <https://zoom.us/j/2113237997> on Sundays from 12:15-1:00 PM in the New Year. **The next meeting will be February 21, 2021 at 12:15 PM.**

If this sounds like something you'd be interested in please sign up in the church office by web at <https://forms.gle/jiWnXxmi3uNWQoiW7>, Phone: (432) 694-4308, Email: office@uumidland.org or reach out to your minister, Rev. Julie Lombard: minister@uumidland.org.

Volunteer Opportunity

Looking for a way to share your time and talents with our church community? How about helping the Worship Committee as a Zoom Host. This is a job that you can do from the safety of your own home!! Here is what the job entails:

- The zoom host starts the meeting at 9:45am for the sound check and makes other service leaders co-hosts. They make sure that all participants to worship are muted & cannot unmute themselves (except for joys & sorrows, & coffee hour). (Greeter can help.)
- To start a zoom meeting they need to go to zoom.us and sign in. When they sign in, it will ask for an email address and a password. Once the person is signed in as the Zoom Host, then you can start a meeting. After that, others can get on the meeting from the church worship link.
- The zoom host and greeter are the waiting room attendants for worship. They admit people from the waiting room, & are vigilant to zoom bombing. They might alert the service leader or worship associate in the chat bar if there's something they missed. They have the right to kick someone out if they are causing problems- acting as bouncers.
- The zoom host or greeter also will send new folks the link to our connection card in the chat bar so folks can share with us their information and sign up for our email announcements. Connection Card <https://tinyurl.com/y8mo3t55>
- That is all. They can leave as soon as the service is finished as long as someone else remaining is co-host.

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- The Zoom host has support during the service from the Greeter and other members of the Worship Committee.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Barbara Handley at 432-978-5977 or dre@uumidland.org

Garden and Grow, Continues

We will be continuing work in the Garden on the first Saturday of every month. Time varies depending on weather. Please contact Mike Vidrine for updates.

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!)

Board Thank You for Month of January

Board- for allowing Rev. Julie to work remotely through January/surge & for making the tough decision to return to Phase 1 of the re-opening process.

The Welcoming Congregation Team & Social Action Committee- for helping to lead a worship service on 1/3 & 1/24.

The Conflict Team: Maureena, Barbara, & Venus for reviewing the report. **Emmy-** prepping greens for the holidays.

Barbara- for helping with worship as a WA & for leading the holiday events and activities.

Jessica & Alex – for quickly dispensing funds to those in need.

Scott & Sonja- for helping with worship as sliders & all their holiday cheer/music. It was AWESOME!

Maureena & family- for hosting Venus for Christmas.

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](#).

Free Yoga Class – Online

Patricia (Patty) George, the Yoga teacher has been doing virtual classes though Zoom. If anyone would like to join them - it's still free – just send an email to Patty George at, georgepat31@gmail.com so she can send an email that will include a Login ID and Password which will be new each session. You do not need to join Zoom, they'll just need to Google Zoom and then hit the tab "Join A Class".

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Wider World

30 Days of Love

*Curated and Posted Weekly
SideWithLove.org & Facebook/SideOfLove*

2021 WEEKLY THEMES

January 17 – 23
Living Our Values in the World

January 24 – 30
Hospitality and Inclusion

January 31 – February 6
Educating for Liberation

February 7 – 13
Restoration and Reparations

February 14
Side With Love Sunday

*February 15
Assessment and Learning*

30 DAYS OF LOVE

Love is asking us to **live our values**, be **hospitable and inclusive**, **educate for liberation, restore and repair**, and, most importantly, to **Side with Love**.

How do we do these things?

Each week we will hear from activists, artists, and authors who will share their thoughts. **YOU** can also pick your own adventure with weekly offerings for you to click and participate in. Let's keep learning together.

*Curated and Posted Weekly
SideWithLove.org & Facebook/SideOfLove*



Lombard Mennonite Peace Center Learning Opportunities Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches

February 16, 2021 from 9:00am CT to 4:30pm CT

Although a normal part of life individual conflict is usually seen as something negative. Acquire the knowledge and skills to transform conflict into a force for positive change and spiritual growth. This work-shop will be repeated on February 13, March 22, and April 10, 2021.

Healthy Congregations * February 30, 2021 from 8:30am CT to 4:30pm CT

Could your congregation use a wellness check? Learn ways to minimize or prevent destructive conflict, manage negative reactivity, and help your church stay focused on its true mission and purpose.

This workshop will be repeated on February 18, March 27, and April 17, 2021

All events will be conducted online via Zoom.

The "early bird" price for inds \$99; within two weeks of the event, the price increases to \$129. **Members of groups can save up to \$50 apiece**, compared to the regular individual rate, when they register all together and pay in full by the discount deadline. The discount deadline is approximately two weeks before the event. Coupons and detailed brochures for each workshop will be available soon on our website at <https://lmpeacecenter.org/brochures/>.

Please register for either event by calling our office at 630-627-0507. **For further information**, please email us at Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org

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SWUUWCon "Virtually Unstoppable" - Feb. 26 - 27, 2021

The SWUUWCon Virtual Conference "Virtually Unstoppable" will be held Feb. 26-27, 2021, with online registration opening in late December. We ask that you please use the attached flyers for promotion to your members. We have created vertical and horizontal versions for inclusion in various formats. Please also consider promoting in your weekly online services and/or group meetings. If you need alternative imagery or promotional materials to fit the format of your online service, please reach out to jpurdy@swuuw.org.

Online registration opening in late December at www.swuuw.org.



Save the Date!

Online registration opening in late December at www.swuuw.org



This year's SWUUWCon is going **VIRTUAL!**
Please join us over Zoom with:

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Joanna Fontaine Crawford
of Live Oak UU Church,
Cedar Park, TX



Songs and Storytelling

Rev. Erin Walter



Worship

Chaplain Lee Legault

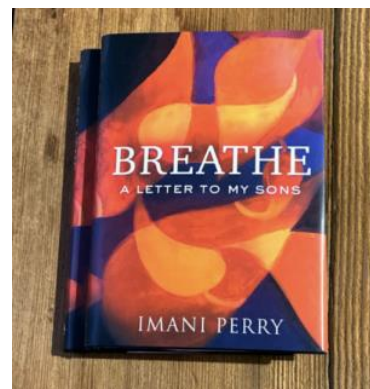


...as well as workshops, vendors,
sisterhood and more!

Common Read 2020-21: Breathe by Imani Perry

The UUA is pleased to announce that [Breathe: A Letter to My Sons](#) by Imani Perry (Beacon Press, 2019) is the new Common Read.

Emotionally raw and deeply reflective, Imani Perry issues a challenge to society to see Black children as deserving of humanity. She admits fear and frustration for her African American sons in a society that is increasingly racist and at times seems irredeemable. However, as a mother, feminist, writer, and intellectual, Perry offers an unfettered expression of love—finding beauty and possibility in life—and she exhorts her children and their peers to find the courage to chart their own paths and find steady footing and inspiration in Black tradition. The New York Times calls *Breathe* “an elixir of history, ancestry and compassion, which, together, become instruction...a parent’s unflinching demand, born of inherited trauma and love, for her children’s right simply to be possible.”



Breathe offers a broader meditation on race, gender, and the meaning of a life well lived and is also an unforgettable lesson in Black resistance and resilience.

At this moment in time, we are in the midst of a historic national reckoning with what it means to live as a Black or Brown American and systems of institutional racism that have been operating to control, traumatize, and oppress people of color since our country’s founding. As our President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, has written, “It matters that we support the uprisings whose goal is the liberation of Black people and communities who for too long have been crushed by white supremacy, militarism, and capitalism. We must

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find the sources within ourselves to give us courage in this moment.” In choosing *Breathe* as the 2020-2021 Common Read, our hope is that it nurtures this necessary courage.

Congregations, groups, and individuals may purchase this book from [inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop](#); group discount available. The e-book and audio book are available from [Bookshop.org](#). Discussion materials for UU congregations, groups, and individuals will be available online, at no charge, in late fall 2020.

2021 UUA General Assembly



General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates

The UUA Board of Trustees has passed a resolution making the 2021 UUA General Assembly a 100% virtual event. Let's reach record-breaking attendance June 23-27, 2021!

Circle 'Round for Justice • Healing • Courage is the theme for General Assembly 2021. GA is a time to circle 'round in community. We circle 'round in care and healing; for liberation and justice; and for love and courage.

Why Virtual General Assembly?

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. That remains true even when we cannot gather physically. Last year, GA had more than 4,900 registered attendees participate from remote locations around the world. Although we give up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in-person, we retain our dedication to community and make our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable.

If you haven't registered for Virtual GA 2021 already, there is no better time to register than right now! Registered attendees are among the first to hear program announcements, including featured speakers and the Ware Lecturer and only registered attendees will have access to the new GA app (coming soon!) So, register early to join online discussions, familiarize yourself with the GA schedule, and find your place in our community of communities. Register at: <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>.