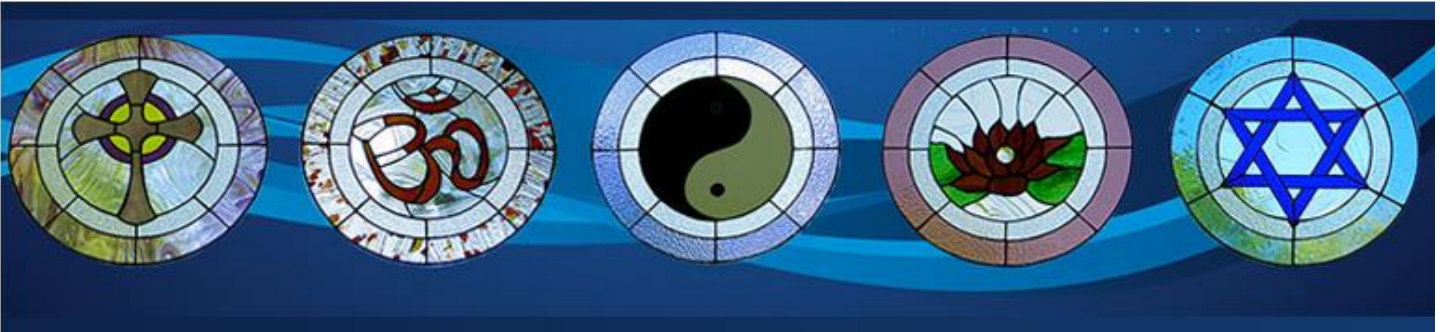


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Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

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.

Table of Contents

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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February 2022 Sermons at a Glance

February 6

Please join us for this Intergenerational service “Your Shoes, My Shoes”. This service follows the footsteps of some of our countries’ civil rights leaders through song and story. As part of this service, we will bless all of our shoes.

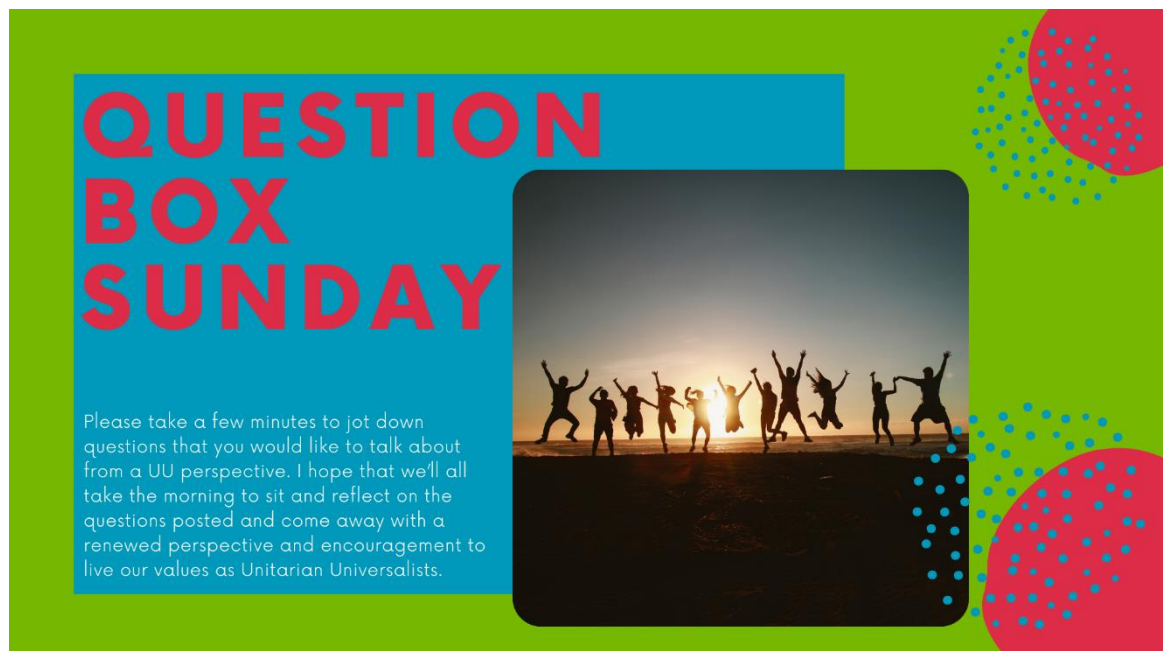
February 13 “No Half Savior”

This service will reflect on the life and work of Jarena Lee, a nineteenth-century African Methodist Episcopal Church minister who challenged patriarchy. Her story will prompt us to consider how our various identities can challenge and enhance meanings, truths, and experiences.

February 20

One of my favorite things about when I first attended UUCOM, was the Drop-in Circles before COVID. We would ask questions and the group would talk about the answers they had found in their lives. I learned so much about Unitarian Universalism and the history of it all. At the end of 2021, I was reading a sermon by a UU minister and she mentioned her congregations’ most popular service was Question Box Sunday. When people could write down their questions and they could be discussed as a group with the 8 UU principles in mind. I will be facilitating this service as I feel like it would be a nice way to get to know each other better and renew our love of community and universal truths. Please join us and be sure to bring your questions!

- Janine Deckard



February 27 “Are We There Yet?”

Some moments of life are in between--between what has been and what will be. Such experiences can be chaotic and exciting, challenging and rejuvenating. This service will draw from queer/trans theory to consider the in-betweens of individual and congregational life.

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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 (**Pg. 5**) 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>).

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.

Sunday services are currently hybrid both in person and online, using Zoom:



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

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.

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: Spirit Play meets in person from 10:00-10:45. Masks are required.

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

UUCOM Board

Janine Deckard, President
Barbara Handley, President-Elect
Jane Hellinghausen, Treasurer
April Graham, Secretary
Eli Hilbert, At Large Member
Lisa Jebsen, At Large Member
Rebecca Dodge 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>

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Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has several opportunities to lead a service in April and March 27th is available. The theme for March is Death and April's theme is Salvation. You may use the theme to help in your planning. Or you may choose a 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 and camera operator! 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 Directory

Our 2022 Members and Friends Directory is almost complete. Electronic and physical copies will be sent beginning February 16, 2022 to UUCOM members and those who have made requests. UUCOM friends will need to request their electronic or physical copy of the directory. A new online Directory request page is available (<https://bit.ly/3nAT2m0>) if you would like a copy of the current or future directory.

If you need to update your information and have yet to do so, please either complete demographic survey or contact Jessica Stewart in the church office. 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).

The demographic survey will remain up year round for members and friends to complete and update their directory listings.



Guest Speaker Rev. Dr. Steven Gaines



Guest speaker Rev. Dr. Steven Gaines

The Board of UUCOM is proud to announce the decision to bring Reverend Doctor Steven Gaines into our loving community as a regular guest speaker. He will assist us with a few services in the coming months. I know that many of you have questions about this new and exciting endeavor. We look forward to all that we have to learn from Reverend Gaines. He is the Associate Professor of Speech and Communication at Midland College. He is a part-time minister for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fayetteville, AR. He has graciously offered to help us at a time when we need a fresh new perspective and an extra set of hands. We are still planning to go forward with our Interim Search for an Interim minister, but our previous vote of Lay-Lead Plus allows us to seek the help of professional UU ministers, and Rev Gaines fits the bill. Please feel free to reach out to me or any board member if you have questions.

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Church In-Person Service Rules

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.

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Thoughts from the RE Corner

Children's Space 10:15-10:45

We are BACK!!!! 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.

February 6—Preaching to the Chickens. This is the story of young John Lewis.

February 13—Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre. This award-winning book explains this atrocity in an age-appropriate way.

February 20—Ella Queen of Jazz: This book tells the story of the unlikely friendship between Ella Fitzgerald and Marilyn Monroe.

February 27—Little Cliff's First Day of School. This book by Pulitzer nominee Clifton L. Taulbert tells the story of first day of school jitters in 1950's South.

Chalice Lighting

We light this chalice to celebrate Unitarian (cup left hand to make a U) Universalism (cup right hand to make a U).

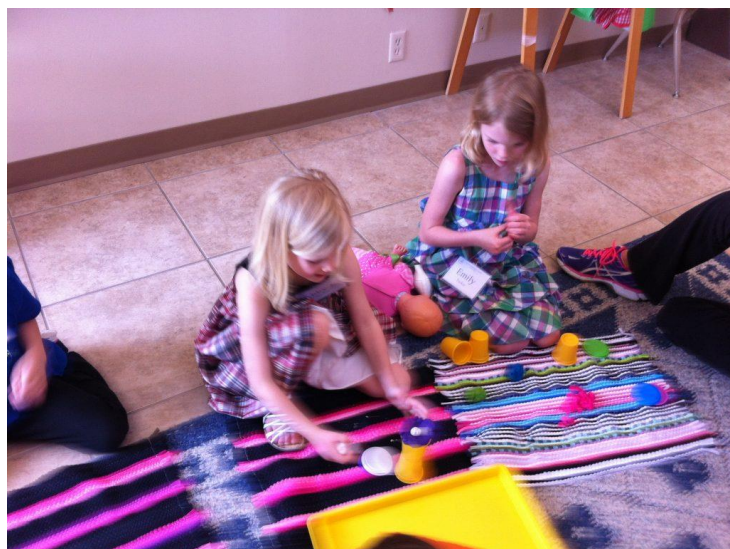
We are the church of the open minds (fingertips touch the forehead and swing open like a door).

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 ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.



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What's Happening at UUCOM

February Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this **February's** Share the Plate recipient. The Social Action Committee has chosen the following recipient, **Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism – BLUU**.

BLUU harnesses love's power to combat oppression and foster healing as a spiritual and political imperative. We know the power of love to be life changing, inclusive, relational, uncomfortable, unconditional and without end.

Formed in the wake of several conversations among Black UUs at the July 2015 Movement for Black Lives Convening in Cleveland, OH - the BLUU Organizing Collective is committed to to:

- Expanding the power & capacity of Black UUs within our faith
- Providing support, information & resources for Black Unitarian Universalists.
- Justice-making and liberation through our faith

Learn more at <https://www.blacklivesuu.com/about-bлуу>.



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 February 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 February 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 February

Thank you to Tim Jebesen for fixing up the church (esp toilet! Haha!).

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Free Yoga Class

Patricia (Patty) George, the Yoga teacher will hold virtual classes Saturdays, 9-10 AM. 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!

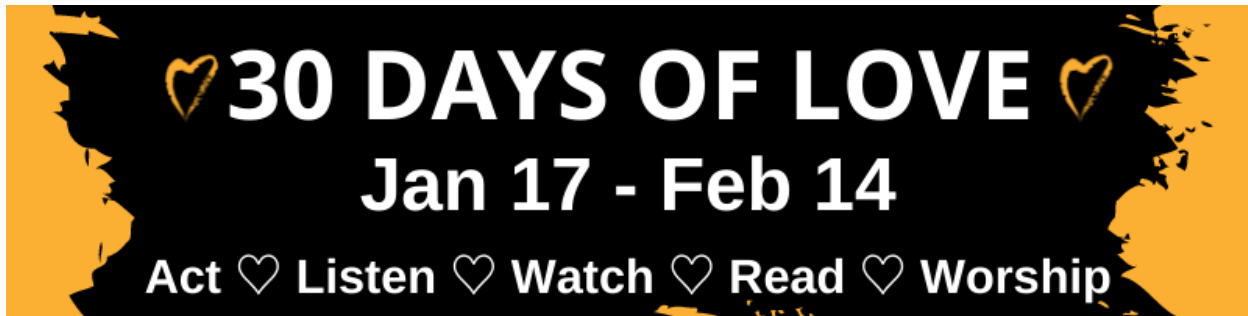
Each Sunday during our offering, we collect donations of nonperishable food for local food pantries, and pet food for Lone Star Sanctuary for Animals. Make a special note to remember your food donations for our monthly Intergenerational Services, as the children love to collect the food and bring it 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](#).





So in the midst of all that is hard, Side With Love is honored to invite you to join us in this year's [30 Days of Love](#) – our annual season of spiritual nourishment, political deepening, and collective action to embody our values and work for collective liberation. Each week of 30 Days of Love will focus on one of Side With Love's intersectional justice priorities. Although each week will have a primary focus, you will notice a lot of overlap – demonstrating just how intersecting these issues are. Every week will include a variety of resources, activities, and opportunities for engagement for people of all ages. Check out our offerings [here](#).

The work that we do together to build a world in which all of us are free and thriving is interrelated. When we ground our spirits, grow our skills, and act strategically for justice in deep relationship with each other and our Movements, we choose to Side With Love.

Action Center is a place where we unite in work towards a world where we all thrive. Together we take action, Side With Love, and make deep impacts in this critical moment. [Read More!](#)

Weekly Playlists - Resources And Activities For All Ages

Each week of 30 Days of Love a 'playlist' or 'menu' of activities for a multigenerational audience. We will have a full playlist of offerings each week for families/communities in the categories of Read, Watch, Act, Listen, and Worship.

- [Week One: January 17 - 23 – Reproductive, Gender, & LGBTQIA+ Justice](#)
- [Week Two: January 24 - 30 – Democracy & Voting Rights](#)
- [Week Three: January 31 - February 6 – Decriminalization & Racial Justice](#)
- [Week Four: February 7 - 14 – Climate Justice](#)

Here are some ways you and your congregation can take action today:

- Southlake, TX ... School board members scrap a diversity and inclusion program that was created to address racist behavior in schools.
- Katy, TX ... Black author's award-winning book pulled from library shelves, his visit canceled.
- Granbury, TX ... boxes of books (a student helpfully compiled a list at <https://twitter.com/cjtackett/status/1487132310306795525>) tagged with "Krause's List" are removed from school libraries prior to due process / review.

School boards continue to be a flashpoint for the culture wars. Many Texas elected officials are doubling down on their attacks on Texas public schools and libraries. Our Texas Power Hour for Democracy seeks to build our organizing and electoral power. This month's Power Hour will continue our focus on actions related

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to activism at the school board level. Then we will break out by regions/cities to build out plans for planning/participating in organizing activities in your own communities in 2022. Please join us!

Register at: <https://secure.everyaction.com/CznAvldM80WY0FR4EvDlwq2>

Save the Date for SWUWCon 2022!

March 4-6, 2022
Grapevine, Texas

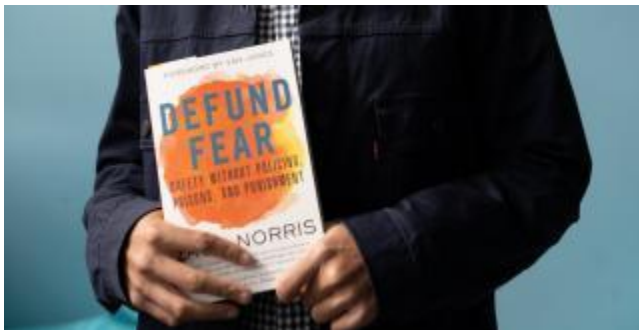
SWUW Con 2022 returns to an In-Person conference the weekend of March 4-5-6, 2022 at the Embassy Suites DFW North in Grapevine, Texas. Grapevine is conveniently located between the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth. Our conference theme is “For The Beauty Of The Earth” representing women’s lives in action and harmony with our UU 7th principle - *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part*. We’re also excited to be celebrating our 35th consecutive, annual Southwest UU Women’s conference in 2022!

www.swuuw.org

UU Ministry for Earth

- **Are you a young adult (18-35) that is passionate, grieving, joyful, frustrated, etc about the climate crisis and climate justice? (Or do you know someone who might be?)** Join or share the news about UU Young Adults for Climate Justice’s book club!! UU Young Adults for Climate Justice will be reading *All We Can Save* beginning in late January and ending in mid-April. *All We Can Save* is an anthology of essays and poetry about the climate crisis and we are excited to be able to offer 20 paperback copies for those that want to participate.
- UU Young Adults for Climate Justice hope any interested young adults join us in this community learning space! Sign up here bit.ly/YACJBookClub

UUA Common Read: Defund Fear



The 2021–2022 UU Common Read is ***Defund Fear: Safety Without Policing, Prisons, and Punishment*** by Zach Norris, published by Beacon Press. The Common Read builds community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared platform for reflection and a shared focus for action. Further, a Common Read can take us on a powerful faith journey as we explore—individually and together—what it means to be human and accountable in a pain-filled world.

In *Defund Fear*, Community leader and lawyer Zach Norris shifts the conversation about public safety away from fear and punishment and toward growth and support systems for our families and communities. Norris explores what has gone wrong, why, and who has been most impacted by repressive and racist policing systems. He offers a blueprint for public safety that holds people accountable while still holding them in community. As Unitarian Universalists, the matters raised in *Defund Fear* invite us to respond to public safety in the U.S. today through a lens of faith. We urge you to grapple theologically with big, tough questions about

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who we are and the meaning and purposes of our lives. For your care, for your growth, and for the care and growth of others in your community with whom you will discuss *Defund Fear*, it is strongly recommended that you enter this book with this **series of questions** by your side.

We expect by the end of this calendar year we'll be ready to announce a menu of resources so that congregations can start scheduling their Common Reads. Anticipate a range of resources geared toward identity-based groups and geographically dispersed cohorts as well as a traditional discussion guide for a Common Read session that any UU faith community can use. For more information visit the [UUA website](#).

[UUA Intergenerational Spring Seminar](#)

Unitarian Universalists aged 14 and up will deepen their connections across generations and grow their skills to take action for climate justice at the Intergenerational Spring Seminar in April. This year's theme is "Displacement and Human Rights: All In for Climate Justice," and will include both virtual and in-person gatherings. **Registration opens January 18.**

[Read More!](#)

[Please Join Us for General Assembly 2022!](#)

In 2022, we will have the option of meeting online or in-person! For those who enjoyed the convenience and accessibility of remote participation, General Assembly will continue to offer a virtual experience with robust programming and enhanced delegate discussion tools. For those who miss the in-person experience, GA 2022 offers opportunities to re-connect with friends old and new, local site attractions, and more! Join us June 22 - 26, 2022 online or in-person in Portland, Oregon.

[General Assembly 2022 Registration is now open!](#)

Registration for General Assembly 2022 in-person in Portland, Oregon is now open. Financial support for registration as well as a payment plan is available. General Assembly 2022 will be a multiplatform event, with registration options for in-person and/or virtual participation. Registration for Virtual participation will open March 1. Register Now for In-Person General Assembly!