



# Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

## February 2023

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 Erica Stoltz or Barbara Handley, Membership Chair, or a Board member.

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## February 2023 Sermons at a Glance

### February 5 "Church Grounds"

Today we will view this short film, written by Tom Parks and starring several UUCOM members!

### February 12 "Black History Month"

Come learn about our rich UU history through the stories of important figures like Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Lewis McGee and William Sinkford.

### February 19 "Forgiveness"

Psychologists generally define forgiveness as a conscious, deliberate decision to release feelings of resentment or vengeance toward a person or group who has harmed you, regardless of whether they actually deserve your forgiveness. Many of the major religions have a tradition of forgiveness. We hope you will join us for another "interactive sermon" where we ponder the meaning of this word.

### February 26 "Luminescence"

This is a unique UU holiday established by other UU congregations that celebrates the nurturing of our own personal sparks along with the light that resides in all that is around us. We hope that this celebration will become a new favorite tradition here at UUCOM, like Water Communion and Flower Communion!

## POTLUCK LUNCHEON, FEBRUARY 19, 2023

Please join UU's for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> following the church service. A sign-up sheet is available on the guest table in the foyer.



**Spirit Play meets in person from 10:00-10:45. This class meets in person and has no Zoom option. Interested in RE, see the RE Corner on page 6 for details.**

## 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 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>). 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

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

## UUCOM BOARD

**Barbara Handley**, President  
**Harry Nutter**, President-Elect  
**Jane Hellinghausen**, Treasurer  
**Alex Fields**, Secretary  
**Eli Hilbert**, At Large Member  
**Chris Stoltz**, At Large Member  
**Tom Parks**, At Large Member

## UUCOM STAFF

**Lisa Jebson,**  
**Lay Minister**

Office Hours:

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
 Wednesday, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
 Thursday, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
 Email: [minister@uumidland.org](mailto:minister@uumidland.org)

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

(432) 694-4308

Office Hours:

Wednesday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
 Email: [office@uumidland.org](mailto:office@uumidland.org)

**Sonja and Scott Millichamp,**  
**Music Directors**

Email:

[music-  
directors@uumidland.org](mailto:music-directors@uumidland.org),

**Visit our website:**

[www.uumidland.org](http://www.uumidland.org)

**Like us on Facebook:**

Unitarian Universalist  
 Church of Midland TX

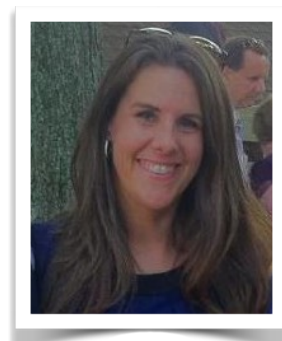
[https://www.facebook.com/  
UUMidland](https://www.facebook.com/UUMidland)

## ONLINE GIVING

While we are mostly meeting online, remember that there are still ways to give to our weekly offering and submit your pledge. You can text: "Give" to 432-271-4921. Or you can go to our website: [uumidland.org](http://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.

## Minister's Musings

For years, I've been frustrated with the notion of a "Black History Month." Why are we separating history in such a way? Shouldn't we be celebrating the contributions of POC all year long? And don't even get me started on the fact that we've designated the shortest month to Black history! Yet given the struggles we are currently witnessing including the Florida governor banning AP African American courses, it's painfully obvious that there is so much work to do to keep the promise of the 8th UU principle:



*We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.*

Part of that work comes from acknowledging and appreciating the historical contributions of POC. It's a small but important step. I look forward to sharing some of our UU history on February 12 with my sermon focused on the theme of Black History Month. In the meanwhile, I can't help but think about this quote from Maya Angelou, "Won't it be wonderful when black history and Native American history and Jewish history and all of U.S. history is taught from one book. Just U.S. history."





## February Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this **February's** Share the Plate recipient. The Board has chosen the following 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.



Learn More at <https://midlandculturalcouncil.com/>.

## 2023 Members and Friends Directory

Our 2023 Members and Friends Directory is being developed. Visit <https://bit.ly/3nAT2m0> to request a copy of the future directory.

If you need to update your information and have yet to do so, you may either complete demographic survey which includes a directory update 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](mailto:office@uumidland.org)).

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

## RE Corner

### Spirit Play 10:00-10:45

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 5: No class today since Barbara is in Australia!**

**February 12: “Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre.”** This award-winning book explains this atrocity in an age-appropriate way.

**February 19: No class today Barbara is out of town.**

**February 26: No class today Barbara is out of town.**

### Chalice Lighting

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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

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If you are interested in helping with our children’s religious education, there are many ways that you can participate. You may suggest a story for Spirit Play. You may help to create Spirit Play stories. You may volunteer to substitute when Barbara is not available for class. Please contact Barbara Handley at [dre@uumidland.org](mailto:dre@uumidland.org) or 432-978-5977.

### Body Prayer

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It is important is to take time to be quiet, to be still,  
so we can be in touch with the deepest and best part of ourselves—our inner voice—often called prayer or meditation.

I invite you to join in a body prayer.

We begin with our hands in front of us in the prayer pose: “I am still”

We place our hands over our hearts: “I am loved.”

We place our hands cupped in front of us: “I can receive.”

We extend our hands out in front of us: “I can give.”

We lift our hands high over our heads: “I am open to the Spirit of Life.”

We bring our hands cupped in front of us again: “I receive these gifts.”

And returning to our stillness,

we bring our hands together again in the prayer pose: “I am still.”

[repeat three times and end with a slow bow as a closing.]

## What's Happening at UUCOM

### Permian Basin Buddhists

The Tuesday night Buddhist class has expanded to include a 30 minute meditation session to begin at 6:15 PM.

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](#).

### Tree of Life

The modern Pagan movement provides a means for people to connect with the daily, monthly, and yearly cycles that continue to affect us physically and emotionally. Through classes and rituals, the Tree of Life Open Circle explores this connection in an ongoing effort to foster growth and community for kindred spirits of the earth.

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

### Interested in Becoming a Member?

Interested in officially joining our church community? Reach out to Lisa Jebson, Jane Hellinghausen, or Barbara Handley; or check out our Path to Membership brochure in the foyer or info online. The process consists of committing to attend a Newcomers' Drop-In Circle or class; making a pledge of time, talent, &/or treasure; and signing the membership book. We welcome you!

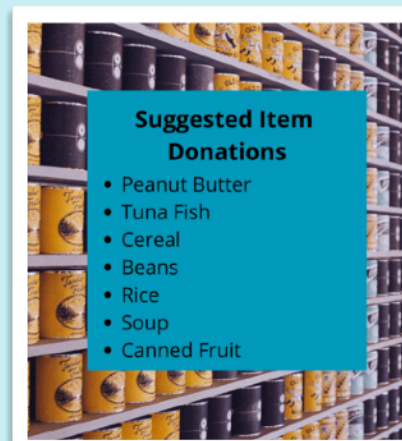
### Care Team for Church Members and Friends

We invite you to share any needs you may have or concerns about church members/friends with the care team. When others in our church family approach you about a difficult situation in their life please ask them if it is ok to share that information with the care team. You may share requests and concerns with Jane Hellinghausen ([413-4612](tel:413-4612)), or by calling the church office ([694-4308](tel:694-4308)).

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

### Food donations for people and pets!

Each Sunday during our offering, we collect donations of nonperishable food for local food pantries, and pet food for Lone Star Sanctuary for Animals. Make a special note to remember your food donations for our monthly Intergenerational Services, as the children love to collect the food and bring it forward. (You can check our calendar online to see when those are!)



# Wider World

## Side With Love

Side With Love is thrilled to announce [30 Days of Love 2023](#)! Our annual month of spiritual nourishment, political grounding, and shared practices of faith and justice, 30 Days of Love will go from Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (February 16) through Valentine's Day (February 14).

This year's 30 Days of Love is a gift to our whole community: a love letter, a warm hug, a spiritual balm for all of the individuals, families, religious professionals, partners and communities that embody our values and work for justice and liberation year round. Each week will feature a spiritual theme overlapping with one of Side With Love's intersectional justice priorities, and we'll share an array of offerings to help nourish your spirit and give gratitude and affirmation.

WEEK 1 (February 16-22): **Interdependence :: Democracy & Electoral Justice**

WEEK 2 (February 23-29): **Embodiment :: LGBTQIA+, Gender & Reproductive Justice**

WEEK 3 (February 30 - February 5): **Resilience :: Climate Justice**

WEEK 4 (February 6-12): **Healing :: Decriminalization**

BONUS DAYS (February 13-14): **Blessings :: Liberatory Intersections**

Each week, you can expect to receive several different kinds of offerings, each from a different voice within Unitarian Universalism. **Each week's resources will be published by 12pm ET every Monday:**

[Learn more.](#)

## TXUUJM

**SAVE THE DATE!** Texas UU Justice Ministry's [Legislative Action Day is BACK!](#) **Monday, March 13, 2023, at the State Capitol in Austin!** PLAN TO JOIN US!

On March 13, **UUs from all around the state will gather in solidarity**, bring our values to the public square, visit with our legislators, and have fellowship time together. We have also been invited to be part of an **important interfaith rally that day around Black maternal mortality, postpartum healthcare**, and more. Details of buses, carpooling, and more to come, but **please put Monday, March 13, 2023, on your calendar** and plan to come to the capitol! Tell your friends!

Meanwhile, you're invited to join UUs across Texas **every Thursday night** for We Cry Justice and Action Hour. [Details here.](#) Bookmark [the Zoom link](#) (it's the same every time!). Zoom meeting ID: 333 042 6480. **Not a night person?** There's a bonus ["Final Friday Lunch Bunch"](#) Action Hour on the last Friday of the month at 12 noon. Same Zoom!

Not on TXUUJM's email list yet? [Please sign up here](#) for latest actions and news.



## Wider World

### New Proposal for UU Principles and Purpose

Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws, Principles and Purposes, is the foundation for all of the work of our UUA and its member congregations and covenanted communities. It is the covenant to which all of our congregations and covenanted communities pledge themselves when they become members of our UUA.

Our current Principles and Purposes were last revised in 1987. At General Assembly (GA) 2017, there was discussion of amending the Principles to add an 8th Principle, addressing racism, and an amended 1st Principle, addressing non-human life. The 5th Principle was the subject of a report in 2009, which dealt with the ways in which GA and other Unitarian Universalist (UU) gatherings do and don't embody an inclusive democratic process. The 7th Principle has also been the subject of discussions about possible amendments.

In response to those discussions, the UUA Board committed to establishing this Article II Study Commission to consider possible amendments to this Article.

The Article II Study Commission has completed its two year study. They submitted their [report \(PDF 26 pages\)](#) to the UUA Board of Trustees at their meeting held on January 20, 2023. The report includes the Study Commission's recommended revisions to Article II.

The final version of Article II, as amended by the Board of Trustees and/or the 2023 General Assembly, must receive a simple majority vote to move forward for a final vote at the 2024 General Assembly. It will take a 2/3rd majority vote at the 2024 General Assembly to be adopted as the new Article II of the UUA bylaws. If either vote fails, a similar proposal cannot be considered for two years.

Read their report in full and learn more about how they came to draft a proposed new formulation of our beloved UU Principles and Purpose. <https://bit.ly/39ECzqV>

### UU Ministry for Earth

UUMFE is excited to launch our first "long course": **Ecology as Scripture**. The course will meet SIX TIMES, so please commit to attending all classes (although we do realize that things come up that may interfere with attendance)! Class meets on Tuesday evenings at 7 PM EST/6CST/4PST. Dates are: January 31st, February 7th, February 21st, February 28th, March 21st, and March 28th. Led by Rev. Dr. Leonisa Ardizzone, we will explore interfaith/interspiritual teachings and practices that will guide us into personal, local, and global responses to climate chaos and environmental injustice.

This offering begins **NEXT WEEK** so make sure to register now.

[Register for 'Ecology As Scripture' long course](#)

# Wider World

## UUMUAC

### REPAIRING THE UUA'S APPROACH TO RACIAL JUSTICE: A Convocation of the UU Multiracial Unity Action Council

Saturday, February 18, 2023, 11:00am-1:30pm Central time, (Starts at Noon Eastern, 10:00am Mountain, 9:00am Pacific). To register send an email to [UUMUAC@gmail.com](mailto:UUMUAC@gmail.com); Zoom codes will be sent the day before.

To register send an email to [UUMUAC@gmail.com](mailto:UUMUAC@gmail.com); Zoom codes will be sent the day before

- Session 1. Is Racism Really "as bad as ever"? Rev. Richard Trudeau conversation
- Session 2. Is UU Culture "White Supremacist"? Steven Myles
- Session 3. Policy-Oriented Antiracism vs. Consciousness- Oriented Antiracism: What Works Best? Dr. Kenneth Christiansen
- Session 4. Seven Principles: Beyond Segregation & Hierarchy Rev. Craig Moro
- Session 5. MLK and the First Principle Rev. Richard Trudeau
- Session 6. What's so Wrong with the 8th Principle? Rev. Jack Reich

## SWUUCon 2023: "Phoenix Rising"

Join us March 3-5 in Dallas for the [Southwest Unitarian Universalists Women's Conference](https://swuuw.org/swuuwcon-2023/) (<https://swuuw.org/swuuwcon-2023/>)

held at [First Unitarian Church of Dallas, Texas](#).

- Our Keynote Speaker is Rev. Deneen Robinson
- Rev. Kiya Heartwood is our Conference Musician
- Rev. Beth Dana is Chaplain
- Performance is by [Satin Dolls](#)

Many friends have chosen to stay at the [Sonesta Select Dallas Central Expressway](#).

View the conference schedule [here](#).

### Registration is Open!

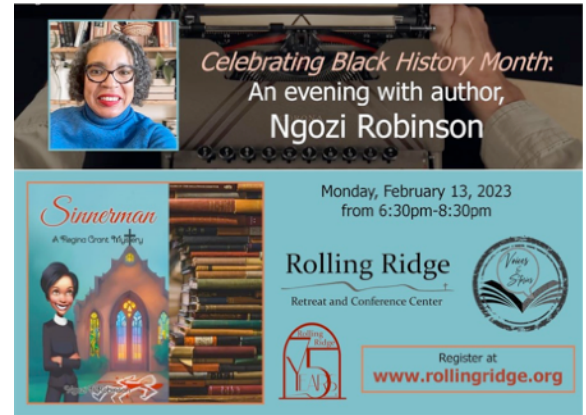
Take advantage of our conference registration Early Bird Special of \$160. This rate will disappear on February 17, 2023. We have different discounts for first time attendance and maidens. Those interested in applying for scholarships, please apply [here](#) before registering.

## Wider World

### Rolling Ridge

To celebrate **Black History Month**, Rolling Ridge is sponsoring an evening with local author and pastor, [Ngozi Robinson](#) as part of our [Voices and Stories series](#). Voices and Stories events build bridges of understanding through historical education and contemplative listening.

On **Monday evening, February 13th from 6:30-8:30 pm**, we will host an author's talk with Ngozi who has published a new mystery book. This inspiring and enthusiastic writer and speaker will share her story, read excerpts from her books, and also be available for Q&A and book signings. Copies of her books, including her devotional writings, will be available for purchase. [This event is open to the public, free of charge, onsite at the Ridge.](#)



## General Assembly

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging: Let's Start The Conversation

Join us June 21 - 25, 2023 online or in-person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Most GA events will take place at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, 1000 Fort Duquesne Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA.

General Assembly continues to be a time for us to gather, in body and spirit, to honor our history, celebrate who we are, and forge our future together. The General Assembly and Conference Services Team leads the initiative to ensure that diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) are woven throughout, from planning to fruition.

Each month we will highlight different tentacles of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in preparation for our upcoming General Assembly in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 2023. For the month of December, let's focus on inclusivity.

### 2023 UU Common Read

The UUA Common Read for 2022-23 is [Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism](#) (Skinner House Books, 2019). In this book, co-authors Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin—a white minister and a lay person of color—explore five UU congregations' journeys toward Beloved Community and share the joy, disappointment, and growth these congregations found.

[Join the Common Read.](#)

