



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

February 2024

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

Table of Contents



Sunday Worship

Sermons at a Glance
Sunday Mornings



UUCOM

Announcements

Minister's Musings
Share the Plate
Midland/Odessa
PFLAG
Circle Suppers
Banned Book Club
RE Corner
Membership
Care Team

Wider World



February 2024 Sermons at a Glance

February 4 “The Man, The Dream, The Movement”

We hope that people of all ages will join us for this service written by Rev. Clyde Grubbs and Mary Jane Holden, and adapted by Erika Hewitt. It tells the story of the Civil Rights movement through readings, imagery and music. This story is a sacred one, a powerful one, a story that needs to be told, over and over, so that we remember its people and its principles.

February 11 “Drag: Dignity, Dispute, and Divinity”

Rev. Dr. Stevie Gaines will speak about drag performance—what it is and isn’t, why people get upset about it, how it fits with UU principles, and its relevance in the Permian Basin.



February 18 “A Nation of Nones”

“Religious None” is an umbrella term for atheists, agnostics and those who say their religion is “nothing in particular.” A January 2024 story on NPR reveals the results of a Pew Survey showing that this is the largest single religious group in the US. More details in the article about this group reveal that they share many of our UU values!

February 25 “A Conversation about Doubt”

As part of our ongoing conversation series, Rev. Lisa will lead an exploration of doubt and the role it plays in religion, spiritual exploration and our UU faith.

POTLUCK LUNCHEON, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

Please join UU’s for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, February 18th following the church service.



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 7** for details.

Sunday Mornings

Sunday services remain in a hybrid format both in-person and virtually. For in person services, masks are optional and available on the guest table. 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.

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

UUCOM BOARD

Harry Nutter, President
Kyle Farmer, President-Elect
Alex Fields, Treasurer
Emmy Ulmschneider Secretary
David Allen, 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

Jessica Stewart,
Office Administrator
 (432) 694-4308

Office Hours:

Wednesday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 Email: office@uumidland.org

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](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 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

I always get a chuckle out of moments of serendipity like the one as I prepared to write this...

Part of my writing ritual usually involves getting a cup of coffee (or reheating the one that went cold). As I awaited the familiar ding of the microwave, I absentmindedly looked at my phone where an NPR headline at the top of my Facebook feed immediately grabbed my attention...

[Religious 'Nones' are now the largest single group in the U.S. : NPR](#)



A religious “none” is someone who makes that selection on surveys when asked for religious affiliation. This is an umbrella term for atheists, agnostics and those who say their religion is “nothing in particular.” In fact, the group of people (28%) who claimed to be religious but following no religion in particular are a larger group than people who claimed to be Catholic (23%) or evangelical Protestant (24%), making them the single largest religious group in the U.S.

I find these survey results fascinating and heartening. We hear so much about the power of evangelicals - and let's be clear, that power is real and they are using it - and yet, I can't help but wonder what would happen if we harnessed the power of the “nones” in our country?!

That point is brought up in this article and it underscores an assertion I made in my sermon on January 21. (Here's the link to my sermon [Silence = Death](#) it's a good one, in my humble opinion!)

So many of the “none” respondents in this survey have values that line up with our UU principles and underscore the point from my January 21 sermon that we are the majority! You can see that underscored in the comments.

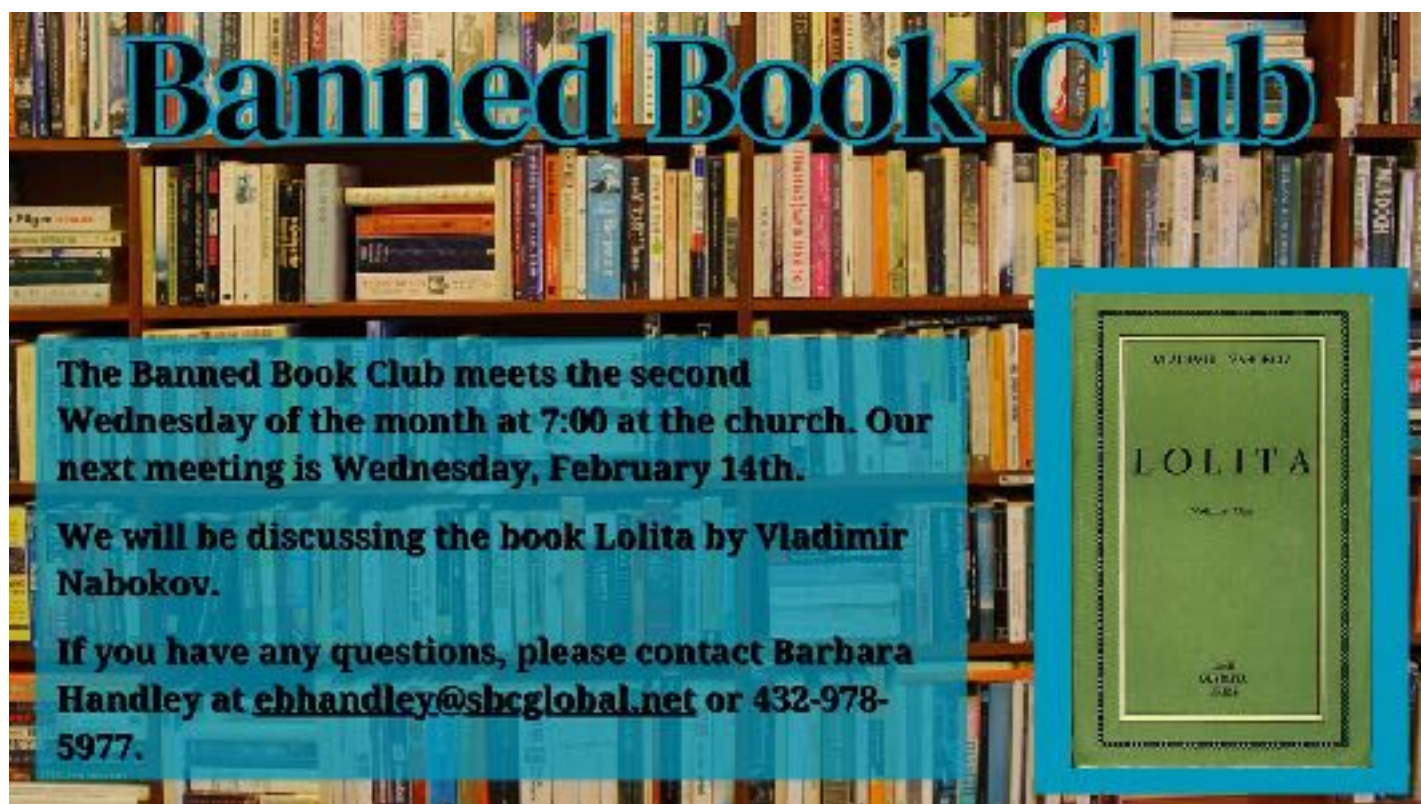
By the way, if you want a dose of hope for humanity, read that particular comment section! Normally I can't stomach any comment section anywhere online - but the ones for this article are thoughtful, respectful and gloriously grammatically correct!

Now what if a “none” respondent was invited to UUCOM? (Statistically, we all know someone who falls into that category!) If we take a chance and invite someone, I bet they would find a home, a beloved community that might have them write in “Unitarian Universalism” the next time they fill out such a survey.

Heck, while we're dreaming, let's go big... What if we did such a good job proselytizing and converting others to our living faith, Unitarian Universalism would need to be a named option on the survey?! I'll have more thoughts on this on February 18 during worship. I hope to see you then!

Banned Book Club

The Banned Book Club meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 14th. We will be discussing the book *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.



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-Odessa PFLAG**.

PFLAG is the nation's largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them.

PFLAG Midland-Odessa serves the Permian Basin as one of the founding LGBTQN+ organizations and is the extended family of the LGBTQN+ community. They're made up of LGBTQN+ individuals, family members and allies. Because together, we're stronger.

Learn more about PFLAG Midland-Odessa at <https://www.facebook.com/PFLAGMIDESSA/>.



UUCOM Circle Suppers



If you are interested in attending or hosting a Circle Supper contact the office at office@uumidland.org or 432-694-4308. A sign up sheet may also be on the foyer table.

PFLAG Midland/Odessa

We are thrilled to work with PFLAG Midland/Odessa to provide a home for their regular monthly meetings that support our local LGBTQ+ community and everyone who loves them.

If you are in need of immediate service please reach out to pflagmidlandodessatexas@gmail.com.

PFLAG also has a subgroup of LGBTQN+ community members in our Parents of Gender Diverse Children (POGDC). Our POGDC group consists of parents and grandparents of gender diverse children. Our meetings provide support, education and resources for parents who are navigating their children's journey. The children of these families get to meet together and socialize among themselves with a dedicated volunteer while the parents meet separately for confidential and affirming conversations.

JOIN US FOR

MIDLAND SUPPORT MEETING

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST 7PM-8PM
3301 NEELY AVENUE
MIDLAND TX 79707

Providing support, safe spaces, and community
Leading with Love

PFLAG
MIDLAND / ODESSA

EVERY THIRD
MONDAY
OF THE MONTH

JOIN US FOR

POGDC SUPPORT MEETING

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST 6PM-8PM
3301 NEELY AVENUE
MIDLAND TX 79707

Parents of Gender Diverse Children
For caregivers of gender diverse children who are looking for resources and support navigating their child's journey

PFLAG
MIDLAND / ODESSA

EVERY THIRD
Wednesday
OF THE MONTH

RE Corner

Spirit Play 10:00-10:45

Spirit Play is a Montessori-based curriculum that is based on our UU Promises (Principles) and Sources. The theme this month is Black History.

February 4: “**Preaching to the Chickens: the story of young John Lewis.**”

February 11: “**Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre.**” This award-winning book explains this atrocity in an age-appropriate way.

February 18: “**Ruby Bridges.**” This is a true story of a young girl who helped to integrate her local school.

February 25: “**Lewis Latimer’s Bright Idea.**” This is the story of Unitarian Lewis Latimer and how he helped with inventing the light bulb!

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, 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 or 432-978-5977.

Body Prayer

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

UUA Newsletter

In November, the Article II Study Commission released its Final Proposed Revision to Article II of UUA Bylaws for review and discussion. Since then, UUs have shared feedback and developed proposals for amendments to the final language.

If your congregation plans to propose an amendment to the Final Proposed Revision of Article II, it must be submitted by 11:59pm ET on February 1, 2024. In the links below, you'll find details on the Final Proposed Revision and how to submit a proposed amendment, which must be endorsed by at least 15 certified congregations.

We are deeply grateful to the dedicated volunteers on the UUA Board of Trustees and the Article II Study Commission for their faithful and inclusive work on behalf of Unitarian Universalism. As Board Co-Moderator the Rev. [Meg Riley reminds us in UU World](#), "Thousands of people were involved in creating this draft... [I]t's been a very inclusive process and the electronic process [for amendments] has made it even more inclusive."

Our work together on Article II will culminate at General Assembly in June 2024, where delegates will cast votes on amendments and whether to adopt this new language for Article II of the UUA Bylaws. Links and information about GA are also available in the information below.

- [Read the newsletter here](#)
- [Final Proposed Revision](#)
- [Article II Resources](#)



Wider World

TXUUJM

Make Good Trouble in 2024 w/ the Texas UU Justice Ministry!

TXUUJM's weekly Action Hour and monthly We Cry Justice discussion group returned **Thursday, January 25th**. [Sign up here!](#) **BIPOC Connections Circles** return Feb. 3 (in person for Central/South Texas) and Feb. 5 (statewide) on Zoom. [Register here!](#) We hope to see you in community!

[Read the email invitation here.](#)

Fund Texas Choice

Have you been keeping up with Fund Texas Choice in the news?

Take a moment to read these recent media articles featuring interviews and direct quotes from our team:

- [Inside the nationwide web of activists helping Texans get abortions](#)
- [Activist groups create Texas Abortion Advocacy Network to restore, expand reproductive rights](#)
- [Anti-abortion lawyer wants names of people who donated to 9 Texas abortion funds](#)

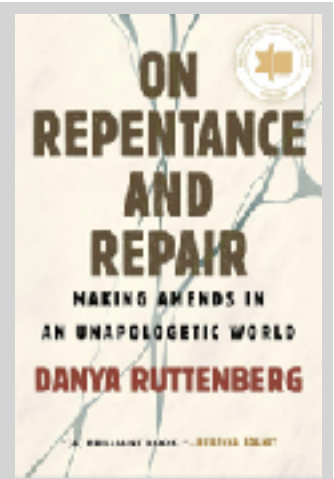
UUMFE

[February Musings](#) - This month our worship and small group resources focus on the eco-virtue of compassion which is defined as the capacity to resonate with and care about the suffering of others (Sacred Depths of Nature by Ursula Goodenough).

2024 UU Common Read

The UUA Common Read for 2023-2024 is [On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World](#) by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg (Beacon Press, 2022). This Common Read offers a glimpse into one of our faith's foundational sources, Judaism. Readers explore our own call to be accountable in these modern times as we follow Rabbi Ruttenberg into a framework for making amends offered by the 12th century Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides.

[Join the Common Read.](#)



Wider World

UUJEC

- **The Greatest Transformation in Human History** - Dr. Sailesh Rao
Thursday, February 8 at 5 PM Pacific, 6 PM Mountain, 7 PM Central & 8 PM Eastern
 Click here <http://tinyurl.com/mmnzwbzy> to register for the Zoom webinar
[Click here http://tinyurl.com/2v6ww9az](http://tinyurl.com/2v6ww9az) to watch on Facebook
 Dr. Sailesh Rao has over three decades of professional experience and is the Founder and Executive Director of [Climate Healers https://climatehealers.org/](https://climatehealers.org/), a non-profit dedicated towards healing the Earth's climate. A systems specialist with a Ph. D. in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University, Dr. Rao worked on the internet communications infrastructure for twenty years after graduation. In 2006, he switched careers and became deeply immersed, full time, in solving the environmental crises affecting humanity.
- **Power To Heal, Medicare and the Civil Rights Revolution**
 Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 7:30pm ET • 6:30pm CT • 5:30pm MT • 4:30pm PT
 2hr event: 1 hr screening and 1hr other interactions
 To register for this Zoom event, [click here, http://tinyurl.com/yc39t7ew](http://tinyurl.com/yc39t7ew). Film Screening and Talkwith Producer Dr. Barbara Berney
 Power to Heal tells a poignant chapter in the historic struggle to secure equal and adequate access to healthcare for all Americans. Central to the story is the tale of how a new national program, Medicare, was used to mount a dramatic, coordinated effort that desegregated thousands of hospitals across the country in a matter of months.
 To see more, [click here https://uujec.org/webinars](https://uujec.org/webinars) and scroll down.
- **Reimagining with Energy Democracy**
 Thursday, January 25, 2024
 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Eastern; 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Central; 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Mountain; 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Pacific
 For the last in our webinar series on Clean Energy as a Human Right, we invite you to explore the power of Energy Democracy and the ways our congregations can reimagine energy for our communities. Energy Democracy helps frontline communities build power and liberation by reimagining how we organize our lives toward new systems that support the health and wellbeing of our communities and ecosystems. Join the Energy Democracy Project, Cleveland Owns (OH), People Power Solar (CA), and POWER Interfaith (PA) for Reimagining with Energy Democracy on January 25, 2024 at 4PT - 5MT - 6CT - 7ET.
 RSVP by [clicking here, http://tinyurl.com/spn642x6](http://tinyurl.com/spn642x6).

Wider World

Side with Love

Save the date for 30 Days of Love 2024: January 15 - February 14, 2024

sidewithlove.org/30daysoflove2023

WEEK 1 (January 16-22): [Interdependence :: Democracy & Electoral Justice](#)

WEEK 2 (January 23-29): [Embodiment :: LGBTQIA+, Gender & Reproductive Justice](#)

WEEK 3 (January 30 - February 5): [Healing :: Decriminalization](#)

WEEK 4 (February 6-12): [Resilience :: Climate Justice](#)

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.

- A weekly **Side With Love** message, grounded in personal story and offered on our blog and via email and socials, reflecting on the week's spiritual and justice issue themes
- A **Time for All Ages** grounded in the week's theme, presented in video and written form, available for free use in your congregation this week or any week it works for you
- A video of **Body Practice**, suitable for all ages and with attention paid to accessibility for people of varying abilities
- A thematic **Prayer**, available for use in both video and text formats
- A thematic **Blessing**, available for use in both video and text formats
- A **Grounding Practice** to offer at the beginning of gatherings or meetings from our Side With Love Fun & Spiritual Nourishment Squad, available for use in video and facilitator guide formats

Faithful Gathering

Join our Side with Love Fun & Spiritual Nourishment Squad for an hour of spiritual sustenance and grounding with others organizing on the side of love. Show up as you are, with whatever is in your heart, and have your camera on or off as you need. Come drink in the music, meditation, play, and prayer. We end with a Connection Cafe for those who wish to talk together.

This gathering happens monthly on the 4th Thursday of the month at 4:30 PT / 5:30 MT / 6:30 CT / 7:30 ET. Register Now:

- [February 22](#)
- [March 28](#)
- [April 25](#)

