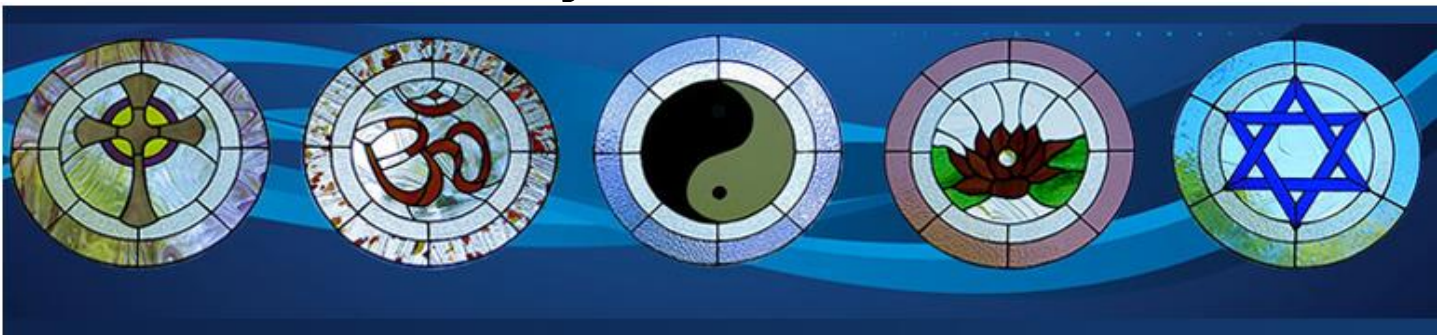


January 2020 Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

WELCOMING diversity

EMPOWERING spiritual growth

FOSTERING the interdependent web

TRANSFORMING lives

Please visit our website at www.uumidland.org for a listing of all current events.

Membership Matters

Have you been getting to know the church and Unitarian Universalism? Do you feel that this congregation might be a spiritual home? Are you considering a deeper commitment to the church? Membership comes with great gifts and opportunities, as well as responsibilities to the church community. If you are considering membership, please check out our membership brochure in the foyer or see Carol Kullman, Membership Chair, a Board member, or the Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon.

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January Minister's Musings

In service on January 12, I'll tell the story of Stone Soup, as I've done during a winter intergenerational service for the past several years. And even before I arrived at this church, for years and years you all have been reading *Stone Soup* in the fellowship hall as the children chop vegetables that are simmered during the service for a real soup we share together after church.

Most of our intergenerational services use the same stories year after year. Why?

"Novelty is not a faith development tool," says UU minister, Susan Smith.

There is power and purpose in experiencing the same story again, perhaps in a different year with new life experiences through which to filter that story. We may experience the story differently. We may find the story is the same, but we are different. Repetition can help settle a story more deeply into the movements of our lives, so that we find ourselves repeating its refrains, humming its tunes, living out its morals. For our children, in particular, the repetition of stories is important as we create foundations for discovering truth and meaning.

That said, sometimes stories can grow stale. Sometimes there are stories we need to put to bed. Sometimes we need a new character in our story. Sometimes we need a new story.

Sometimes novelty is a faith development tool. (I'm always talking about "both/and," aren't I?!)

As we turn the corner on this new year of 2020, what stories are you inhabiting? What stories are you telling? Are the characters in your story full of grit, hope, and passion? Or are they tired, resentful, stuck?

Do you have stories – deep in your bones – that lead you to deeper community, fuller giving, vulnerable and beautiful living?

What story do you need to share? Come share it with us.

Come find it with us.

And may you always know yourself to be held by a Love beyond belief,
Rev. Emily



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January at a Glance

January 5

11:00 AM Worship Service: "What Have You Learned?" - Response by David Allen

This Sunday will be the third in a new series for our lay-led Sundays that features responses from many of our members and friends to this open-ended question. David Allen earned a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Arts from Texas Tech in 1995. After teaching in the theatre departments Tech and at Palm Beach Community College, he moved to Midland in 1998 to assume the role of Drama Director at Midland College. Now retired, he spends his time writing, playing golf, frolicking with his dog, ZuZu, and taking long naps. David is currently a member of our board of directors and serves on the Building and Worship Associate Committees.

11:00 AM Religious Education: Star Lesson.

Mahalia Minerva wanted world peace. She learns that "peace begins with me".

January 12

11:00 AM Intergenerational Worship Service: Stone Soup - A Service about Community and Sharing.

Also featuring our New Member Ceremony welcoming nine new members | Rev. Emily | And join us before the service - 9:30am - to cut veggies for the soup, and after the service for a soup lunch!

January 19

11:00 AM Worship Service: Integrity Part 1 - Rev. Emily

We will explore the story of the murdered Unitarian minister and Civil Rights activist James Reeb. What are the lies and truth that form the fabric of who we are as a country? How can we discover more communal integrity in the work of revealing hard truths?

11:00 AM Religious Education: Freedom Summer.

Two best friends in the South learn a powerful lesson about love and hate.

12:15 PM Newcomers' Drop In Circle

January 26

11:00 AM Worship Service: Integrity Part 2 - Rev. Emily

We will explore the story of the murdered Unitarian minister and Civil Rights activist James Reeb. What are the lies and truth that form the fabric of who we are as a country? How can we discover more communal integrity in the work of revealing hard truths?

11:00 AM Religious Education: Snowflake Bentley.

This story explores the beauty behind snowflakes shared with the world by "Snowflake Bentley".



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January Calendar

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

January 4	9:00 a.m.	Yoga Class
January 7	7:00 p.m.	Permian Basin Buddhists
January 10	7:00 p.m.	Tree of Life Midland PNO
January 11	9:00 a.m.	Yoga Class
January 14	7:00 p.m.	Permian Basin Buddhists
January 18	9:00 a.m.	Yoga Class
January 19	12:15 p.m.	Newcomers' Drop-In Circle
January 19	2:30 p.m.	Stitching Group
January 21	7:00 p.m.	Permian Basin Buddhists
January 24	8:00 p.m.	The Power of Intention
January 25	9:00 a.m.	Yoga Class
January 26	12:30 p.m.	<i>White Lies</i> Discussion
January 28	7:00 p.m.	Permian Basin Buddhists
February 1	9:00 a.m.	Yoga Class
February 9	11:00 a.m.	Love Your Church

Sunday Mornings, etc.

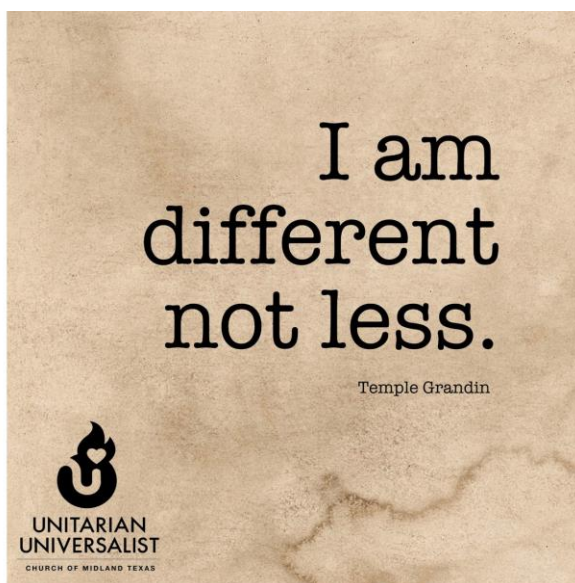
Interested in RE, see the **RE Corner** on page 7 for details.

January 12th Intergenerational Service

SAVE THE DATE - "Love Your Church" Sunday: February 9
A Special Service followed by an Opportunity Fair organized by the Board and Committees

Newcomers' Drop-In Circle, January 19th, @ 12:15 -1:00 PM

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



UUCOM Board

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

UUCOM Staff

Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon, Minister

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

Minister's office hours are by appointment.

Jessica Stewart, Office Administrator

(432) 694-4308

Office Hours:

Monday 9-12

Wednesday 9-1

Friday 9-12

Email: office@uumidland.org

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>

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January Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this January's Share the Plate 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-bluu>.

December Sermon Excerpt

“Family: The Ties that Bind, The Ties that Liberate” | Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon | December 8, 2019

I believe that healing happens in and through relationship.

Even though families can be a place of great sorrow and pain, I do believe that some of the deepest healing we need in our world can happen in and through families. Families, after all, are where we first ideally learn unconditional love. The great tragedy is that didn't happen for some. But with the courage that comes from baring our hearts, we can heal our families and ourselves incrementally each Generation.

It still won't be a hallmark movie.

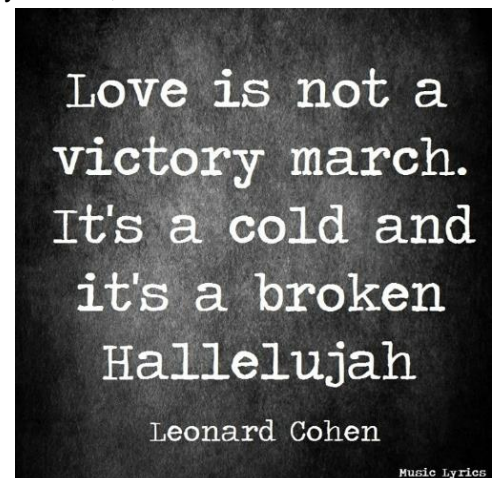
It's more like Leonard Cohen's song "Hallelujah" – "Love is not a victory march, it's a cold and it's a broken hallelujah."

From calling your brother after years of estrangement, to confiding your deepest fears in your spouse, even to setting a boundary for the first time with your mother – these all come from a place of great vulnerability, great courage, great Love.

Brene Brown says, "It's courage beyond measure. It's daring greatly. And often the result of daring greatly isn't a victory march as much as it is a quiet sense of freedom mixed with a little battle fatigue."

It's a hallelujah, even if broken.

As you do this work of great courage and love, friends, may you always know you are held by this community and by a Love beyond belief.



See the whole sermon, and others, on the sermons blog at www.uumidland.org/blog

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White Lies Discussion in Two Parts - Adult Religious Education Opportunity | Sunday, January 26 (Part 1) & Sunday, February 16 (Part 2) @ 12:30 - 2:30

In 1965, a white Unitarian minister & civil rights supporter, James Reeb, was murdered in Selma, Ala. Three men were tried and acquitted, but no one was ever held to account. Fifty years later, two journalists from Alabama return to the city where it happened, expose the lies that kept the murder from being solved and uncover a story about guilt and memory that says as much about America today as it does about the past. This story is told in the recent NPR podcast *White Lies*. You can listen to the podcast at npr.org and on podcast apps like Apple, Google, Pocket, & Spotify. You can also find a visual narrative of the story at apps.npr.org/white-lies/

The story will also be the focus of Rev. Emily's sermon on January 19th. At our discussion on Jan 26, we'll focus on episodes 1-5, and on Feb 16 we'll focus on episodes 6-7 and the bonus episode titled "A Strange and Bitter Crop" (from the NPR podcast *Code Switch*). Attending both parts is ideal, but not required. *Lunch and childcare are provided. RSVPs (with dietary restriction info) are encouraged – on the sign-up sheet in the foyer or by emailing minister@uumidland.org*



The Power of Intention: A Buddhist Talk by Gen Kelsang Menla | Friday, January 24, 6:30-8:00 pm

With our busy lives and even busier thoughts, we can often feel pulled about by emotions and circumstances. Meditation can help. But how? Positive affirmations, mindfulness, visualization, mantra- there are so many presentations of meditation. How can we utilize meditation as a practical and effective tool for positive change? This talk will explain an easy to understand practice of meditation which focuses on the use of intention in three simple steps. With focused intention we channel our thoughts and energy in a meaningful direction, thereby harnessing the power of our mind. Through this we can take control of our uncontrolled thoughts, transform our experience of life, and live with a clarity of purpose and intention in each day. Gen Kelsang Menla has studied under the guidance of Venerable Geshe Kelsang Gyatso Rinpoche for over 20 years and was requested by him to become the Resident Teacher of Kadampa Meditation Center Texas in June 2017. Gen Menla was ordained as a Kadampa Buddhist monk in 2001 and has worked and taught within the New Kadampa Tradition for many years. He brings a warm heart and joyful attitude to sharing Buddha's teachings and the practice of meditation.

It is with sadness and gratitude that we share the news of Jean Reid's death this week. She and her husband, Aubrey, were among the cofounders of this, **our** UU Church of Midland, in the 1950's. Jean turned 98 this year. She was a woman ahead of her time. We are so grateful to have had her love and passion in our spiritual community. Reverend Emily will have the honor of celebrating Jean's life and gifts in a memorial service which will be on January 25th at 10am at Manor Park chapel.

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Thoughts from the RE Corner

Spirit Play

Spirit Play is a UU curriculum based on Montessori teaching principles for children in Kindergarten through sixth grade.

January 5—Indigo Promise Story: Star Lesson. Mahalia Minerva wanted world peace. She learns that “peace begins with me”.

January 12— Intergenerational Service*: Stone Soup

January 19—Freedom Summer. Two best friends in the South learn a powerful lesson about love and hate.

January 26— Snowflake Bentley. This story explores the beauty behind snowflakes shared with the world by “Snowflake Bentley”.

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

Stone Soup Forum

On Sunday, January 12th, we will have our annual **Stone Soup Forum** at 9:30-10:30. This intergenerational and interactive forum tells the story of Stone Soup as we cut and chop veggies for the soup. We ask all parents to “practice” chopping with their children prior to attending this forum. We also ask parents to help supervise their younger children as they help to prepare our soup. Please bring a washed vegetable or two to add to our delicious soup. Following the Intergenerational Service, we will partake of delicious Stone Soup.

Looking Ahead

Read to Feed is back! We will launch this year’s Read to Feed on Sunday, February 2. Read to Feed is a fundraiser for Heifer International. Children (with parental assistance) recruit friends, neighbors and family to sponsor them for reading books! Don’t forget to ask church friends to sponsor!! Donations will be turned in on Sunday, March 15th. The following Sunday, the children will select the animals that they would like to donate! On March 22nd, some special “visitors” will be in the garden to celebrate with our children!

RE Registration

Each fall we ask parents and/or guardians to complete a registration form. Our form has recently been updated to include action plans for medical/health concerns. Registration forms can be found at the Guest Table in the foyer or on our website.

Religious Education Committee Meeting

Our monthly RE Committee Meeting will be Sunday, January 19th at 9:30. If you are interested in learning more about what goes on in the RE wing or are looking for a way to share your creative energy, this may be the committee for you.

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New members: Marco Ramon, Elizabeth Hilbert, Jon Clinton



Emmy Ulmschneider taught a “garden pop-up” class – providing trimmings from our own Afghan pines and showing how to make them into wreaths.

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Holiday Party hosted by the Religious Education Committee

What's Happening at UUCOM

Monthly Stitching Circle

We welcome all stitchers: knitters, crocheters, embroidery or hand sewing! Bring your projects, get and share advice & tips, or join in the group project. Join us on January 19th at 2:30-4:30pm for our next meetup. Bring any stitching project you would like to work on. Previously, our group has donated blanket squares to Warm Up America and hats & scarves to our local homeless. In 2019, we made and collected over 60 blankets and other items for our local animal rescue groups! Thank you to everyone who participated!!



Member Update

We are excited to welcome several new families as official members of our congregation.

- Marco Ramon;
- Elizabeth Hilbert;
- Jon Clinton;
- Amy and Brent Caldwell;
- Kristen and Scott Betton; and
- Chalace and Toby Phillips

We have also had several members move away. Although we will miss seeing them every week, we send each of them fond wishes on their new adventures.

- Desiree Ewing has relocated to New Braunfels;
- Deborah Brown to Houston;
- Sally Flores to Granbury;
- Margaret Assany to Maine;
- Kerry Manzo to New York;
- Michael Wise to Los Angeles; and
- Juli (formerly Tommie) McBrayer to Leander.

Beware of email or text scams

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



Thanksgiving Service: Setting a Table of Gratitude



Roads to UUMidland Panel Discussion



Paganism 101 Class Taught by Shanda Unger

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Permian Basin Buddhists

The Permian Basin Buddhists continue to meet here at UUCOM on Tuesday nights, 7:00—8:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome, whether you are new to Buddhism or have been practicing the Middle Way for some time. For regular updates about the group, join the [Permian Basin Meetup Group](#). For more information about the group, please contact Linda Blanchard at lindaqpublic@nowheat.com.

Amazon Smile

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



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

Thank you!

Tree of Life

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

Tree of Life Midland PNO* | Friday, January 10th @ 7:00 PM Brew St. Bakery

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

Free Yoga Class

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

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

Garden and Grow, Continues

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

Food donations for people and pets!

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

Interested in Becoming a Member?

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

Care Team for Church Members and Friends

We invite you to share any needs you may have or concerns about church members/friends with the care team. When others in our church family approach you about a difficult situation in their life please ask them if it is ok to share that information with the care team. You may share requests and concerns with Jane Hellinghausen ([413-4612](tel:413-4612)), Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon, or by calling the church office ([694-4308](tel:694-4308)). Rev. Emily can also be reached at minister@uumidland.org. For urgent needs, you may call her cell phone, [617-501-0020](tel:617-501-0020).

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