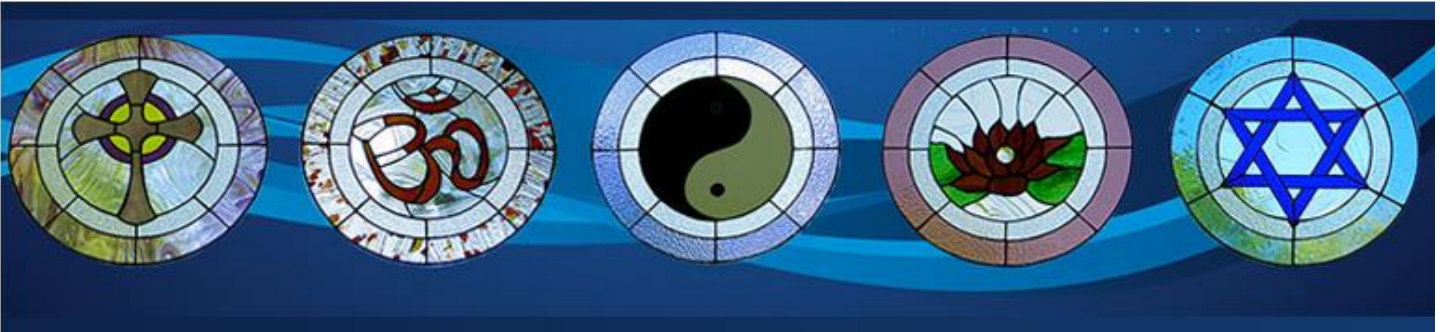


January 2022 Newsletter



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.

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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.

January 2022 Newsletter

January 2022 Sermons at a Glance

January 2

Shanda Unger will be leading the first service of the new year where we let go of what no longer serves us and look forward to what is coming!

January 9 – Reproductive Justice

Considering Abortion with Head, Heart, and Soul. Jane Hellinghausen will lead this service with a video sermon from the UU Church of Andover.

January 16 – Stone Soup

We will begin our Sunday at 9:45 with the telling of Stone Soup and the chopping of veggies. Please bring a veggie or two to chop during the telling of the story Stone Soup. While the soup simmers, we will have an Intergenerational Service in which we will retell the story of Stone Soup.

January 23 – Sneaking Out: My Path from Fundamentalist Christianity to Unitarian Universalism

Guest speaker Rev. Dr. Steven Gaines will share from personal experience of moving from fundamentalist Christianity to Unitarian Universalism, and that story will offer encouragement for all. Rev. Dr. Gaines teaches communication, religion, and social justice for Midland College and serves on the ministry team of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fayetteville, Arkansas.



Guest speaker Rev. Dr. Steven Gaines

January 30 – An Exploration of Faith: Part Three: Learning to Walk in the Dark



Barbara Brown Taylor
Stefanie Fauth, Festival of Homiletics

At a time when I needed it most, I stumbled upon the writings of Barbara Brown Taylor, and I saw in her books some of my own spiritual journey. In Part Three of my four-part series of sermons, based on Taylor's four most recent books, we'll explore Learning to Walk in the Dark which asks: How do we cope when we can no longer see the light in our lives? She helps us understand that journeying in darkness, dealing with the things that scares us, often prevents us from seeing the light in our own lives. Over the last two years, we have all been forced to confront the things that scare us. And, if you in turn, will commit to sharing a service with us about your spiritual journey, I have one of her books for you.

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Sunday Mornings

Learn more about reopening for in-person services on page 4.

Sunday services are currently hybrid both in person and online, using Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/2750827327>

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

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.

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
Beverly Wise, 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>

January 2022 Newsletter

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has several opportunities to lead a service in February and March. The theme for February is: Creation. March's Theme is Death. 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 Survey

It is the time of year to update our Members and Friends Directory for 2022. This year we are combining our directory update with the collection of additional demographic data to limit the amount of work for the congregation.

A more robust demographic collection process had been discussed by the Board for both internal UUCOM use and for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), as they request demographic data from congregations as part of their annual UUA certification. To streamline this process in the future we are gathering this information alongside the UUMidland Congregational Directory update.

To facilitate this effort, a voluntary survey has been created to collect the demographic data and directory update. All demographic responses you provide will remain confidential. Your data will not be reported beyond the aggregate (combined data from all responses) congregational data without permission.

You will also be asked to update a directory listing for the 2022 Members and Friends Directory if applicable. Lastly a new online Directory request page is available (<https://bit.ly/3nAT2m0>) if you would like a copy of the current or future directory.

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).

A graphic for the UUMidland Demographic Survey. It features a red and white background. On the left, the text "UUMidland Demographic Survey" is written in white and red. Below this is a large QR code. At the bottom left, it says "Call 432-694-4308 for a hard copy survey." On the right, there is a blue speech bubble with white text that says "UPDATE YOUR INFO FOR THE 2022 DIRECTORY TOO!" Below the speech bubble is an icon of a notepad with a pencil. At the bottom right, the URL <https://bit.ly/UUSrvy21> is displayed in blue.

January 2022 Newsletter

Church In-Person Service Reopening

On Sunday, October 24, 2021 we will partially reopen the building for Sunday services. 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.

January 2022 Newsletter

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!!

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

January 2—Red Promise Story: Weight of a Snow Flake.

January 9—Snowflake Bentley. This true story looks at the amazing contributions to art and nature.

January 16—Stone Soup. Please note special time of 9:45! We will enact our traditional story by chopping veggies to add to our broth. Following the church service, we will enjoy our community's masterpiece!

January 23—Malala's Magic Pencil. Another Super Hero who began her inspiration as a teen!!

January 30--Tico & the Golden Wings. This story explores the uniqueness of all.

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.



January 2022 Newsletter

What's Happening at UUCOM

January Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this January's Share the Plate recipient. The Social Action Committee has chosen the following recipient, **The Recording Library of West Texas.**

The Recording Library's mission is to produce high quality recordings in order to enrich the lives of those with impairments.

As an organization we are committed to expanding our outreach, maintaining the transparency of our financial and operational practices, and utilizing the latest technology in all of our programs.

Dedicated to improving the lives of people who cannot access the printed word, the Recording Library of West Texas offers audio versions of different forms of media to the visually impaired. From audio version books and audio version magazines to audio versions newspapers and newsletters, we help our community stay connected and better their lives.

Their services are free of charge, regardless of age, gender, race, religious affiliation or socio-economic level. Learn more at <https://www.recordinglibrary.org/>.



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 January 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 January 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 January

Thank you to the Nominating Committee.

January 2021 Newsletter

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](#).



January 2021 Newsletter

Wider World

TXUUJM

Read [this update from TXUUJM](#).

Events, Actions, & Spiritual Support for Justice

- The Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry is proud to be part of [the Spiritual Alliance of Communities for Reproductive Dignity](#).
The SACReD Gathering will be held Jan. 25-26, 2022, a first-of-its-kind **virtual gathering** of people of faith, activists, and leaders from the reproductive health, rights, and justice community. The [SACReD coalition](#) includes TXUUJM member congregation First Unitarian Church of Dallas, Texas Freedom Network, All Souls Unitarian (DC), SisterSong, and many more.
- Joy Practices for Justice Seekers. Rev. Erin Walter of TXUUJM [leads a free community class, Dance for Body and Spirit](#), over Zoom.

Side With Love

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

1. Participate in ["Our Calling to Reproductive Justice: A Webinar for Religious Professionals"](#) (Tuesday, Jan 11, 3-4:30pm ET), to reflect on our history and theology related to reproductive justice, how this work connects with ongoing pastoral care needs, and what strategies and action(s) can be most helpful. Led by Revs. Rob Keithan and Darcy Baxter.
[Register now.](#)
2. If you haven't already, sign up to host a [Reproductive Justice Sunday](#) (suggested date: January 23, to coincide with the Roe v Wade anniversary, although you may choose any date that works for your congregation). Sign up to receive free-use videos and liturgical resources, to be published online by January 17 (all videos will include captioning and downloadable versions). [Register now.](#)
3. Submit your own poetry, reflections, litanies, rituals, and stories for all ages to be included in our online Reproductive Justice worship resource guide! Submissions may be video or written; videos will be captioned for final use. These may include your new or past writings. By submitting, you agree to allow your words to be used freely by any congregation. Email submissions to Rev. Ashley Horan at ahoran@uua.org by January 6.
4. Donate to support Texans seeking abortions. Give directly to organizations providing direct support and fighting against laws that violate our reproductive rights, such as [Sistersong](#), the collective of [Texas abortion funds](#), [Buckle Bunnies](#), or [SACReD - Spiritual Alliance of Communities for Reproductive Dignity](#).

Rolling Ridge Spring On-Line Retreats

Find all the details of their many programs [here](#).

Spring Programs Rowe at Home

Find a complete list of all of Rowe at Home's upcoming free and paid programs [here](#).

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[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

[WPCR Workshops](#)

As the United States enters a new chapter in its history and, in the words of Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman, “we lift our gazes not to what stands between us but what stands before us,” **White People Challenging Racism (WPCR): Moving From Talk to Action** continues to awaken racial awareness and spur participants into action.

In a time of unprecedented crises, WPCR is meeting the moment. More workshops are being offered in more communities than ever before. We are continuously updating our curriculum to reflect events taking place in the U.S. WPCR alumni continue to carry out action plans to confront, challenge and dismantle racism wherever they live, work, worship, and volunteer. Imagine the impact we can have if everyone who takes WPCR implements their action plan!

Upcoming workshops.

[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 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**.

January 2021 Newsletter

CUUPS News

- **2nd Saturday Brainstorm & Fellowship**

Join Cat R. on 2nd Saturdays to brainstorm for the next ritual and talk about chapter topics. On Jan 8, 2022 at 7 PM EST we'll be talking about two things! First we'll cover tips to make online rituals more engaging. We also talk about the upcoming monthly book group for "Pagan and Earth-Centered Voices in Unitarian Universalism." Email info@cuups.org for more details. Register at: tinyurl.com/Jan2022CUUPsFellowship

- **Starting February on 3rd Saturdays – A Virtual Book Discussion Group**

This series of 6 sessions is an experience for CUUPS chapter leaders to learn how to set up team teaching. Contact CUUPS to learn how to participate.

This will be a one-hour class at 7 PM EST on 3rd Sundays starting Feb 20, 2022

In this particular book group you and your chapter can participate in three ways:

Be a Student – Attend by yourself or invite your chapter to sign up. To get the email info@cuups.org and you will receive reminders when we are ready to begin.

Be a Guest Facilitator for a Session! You will lead a “table read” for 2 essays of your choice and provide 5 discussion prompt questions for each essay. You simply show up. Our CUUPS Zoom tech will run the meeting Zoom for you. We will send you a flier to promote the book group at your home congregation as being co-hosted by CUUPS National and YOUR chapter!

Interested in reading and writing? Participate in the project as a writer by contacting info@cuups.org with which 2 essays you wish to write 5 prompts. You can do as many as you like, but at least 2.

Help us gather the questions, prompts, and such into one Discussion Guide that CUUPS can offer to congregations and chapters at a later date for this book.

Be a part of the creation of this new Adult RE program! For more info email info@cuups.org

