



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

January 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 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
Letter from BOD
Share the Plate
Sunday Events
RE Corner
Membership
Care Team



Wider World

January 2023 Sermons at a Glance

January 1

UUCOM will host a social hour during our normal workshop time on this Sunday. If you would like to bring a dish to share.

January 8 "Hope for Humanity"

With the winter holidays in the rear view mirror and a brand new year stretched out before us, let's fortify our minds and spirits with some good news. We'll have stories from around the world that reflect the spirit of our 8 UU principles.

January 15 "Exploring Buddhism"

Are you curious about Buddhism? Its origins can be found in India and it is one of the world's largest religions. As Unitarian Universalists, we draw inspiration from Buddhist traditions, meditation practices and teachings. Today our guest, Dennis Stratton will join us to help us learn about this spiritual and philosophical practice.

January 22 "The Truth is a Lie"

"Search engines find the information, not necessarily the truth."— Amit Kalantri

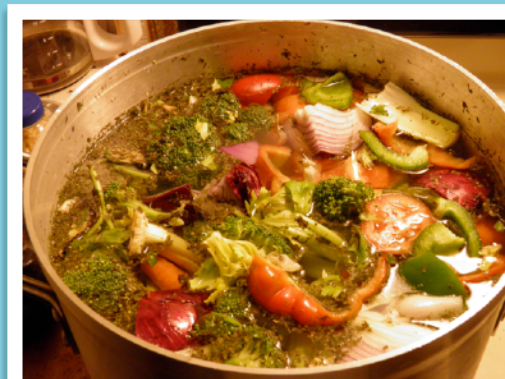
During a "Meditation on Prayer" in December, we had a lively "interactive sermon", exploring what prayer means to us individually and as UUs. Today we'll tackle another big topic "truth" in a similar way. Let's explore this together.

January 29 "Free Will"

Guest minister Richard Johnson will join us and lead this service.

SOUP POTLUCK LUNCHEON, JANUARY 15, 2023

This month's potluck will mix business with pleasure! Our third goal of Collaborative Ministry is to invite members in collaboration. After our luncheon, we will have committee chairs share information about each committee. If interested, friends and members will have the opportunity to indicate their interest! There is a sign-up sheet for food on the guest table in the foyer.



[Michael W. Kolton](#), [CC BY-SA 3.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

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

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](mailto: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

It's hard for me to believe but I've been "on the job" as minister here at UUCOM for five months now! While I am here to serve our congregation and the wider community, in terms of "church business", I answer to the UUCOM board of directors. Although we are still a couple months away from my official evaluation, during our December meeting, I asked for some feedback regarding my performance so far.



I have felt so much love and support from the UUCOM community - many of you have complimented my sermons and worship service - which is wonderful to hear! Not to mention the fact that during the fall meeting, the congregation voted unanimously to ordain me. I take that honor very seriously and look forward to sharing more with you about my ordination service which will be on April 29.

However, I want to ensure that I am continuing to grow in my role here and supporting our community in the best way possible. So I will pose some questions to you, because I would also love to hear your feedback. What 3 things am I doing well? What are 3 things I could improve upon? What sermon/worship themes would you like to hear about in 2023?

I look forward to hearing your thoughts. You can send me an email at minister@uumidland.org, drop in during office hours or schedule a time by calling 432.694.4803.

January 7th Blood Drive

Come to 3301 Neely and save a life by making a donation at our blood drive with Vivant. Call 432-694-4308 or email office@uumidland.org to sign up for a time!



BLOOD DRIVE

January 7, 2023

Come to 3301 Neely and save a life by making a donation at our blood drive with Vivant. Call **432-694-4308** or email office@uumidland.org to sign up for a time!


UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF MIDLAND TEXAS

January Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this **January's** Share the Plate recipient. The Board has chosen the following recipient, the **Lone Star Sanctuary for Animals**.

At Lone Star Sanctuary for Animals, they accomplish their mission of "Saving and Changing Lives" by providing loving care for homeless and abused dogs and cats until they can find them permanent, stable homes with loving and responsible owners. Lone Star is a Forever-home, Legitimate No-Kill facility, which means all of the animals will live there at their animal shelter until they can place them in permanent homes.



Lone Star is not affiliated with local Animal Control Services, and they *never* transfer animals out that prove to be hard to adopt.

They are a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, and operate entirely on donations and generous gifts. When you donate to Lone Star Sanctuary for Animals, you help Cats and Dogs get the care and love they need.

[Learn More.](#)

Letter from the Board

On October 15, 2022, the Board of Directors and Rev Lisa Jebesen met with the Rev Tyler Coles from the Southern Region of the UUA for a Ministerial Start-Up. This was an opportunity for us to discuss responsibilities of the Board and our minister. We were tasked with establishing one goal for each of the five areas of Collaborative Ministry.

Heritage—understanding how the congregation has been shaped and formed.

Goal: "This Day in History" segment of the Board Welcome at least once a month.

Mission—Engaging with a sense of purpose and direction.

Goal: Reinstigate human and animal food donations program.

Leadership—Engaging with both community members' needs and the ways the congregation invites collaboration.

Goal: Recruit for committees during January Potluck

Connections—Nurturing sustainable relationships with the greater community.

Goal: Invite someone from the Hindu and/or Buddhist community to speak about their faith and spirituality.

Future—Becoming who we aspire to be.

Goal: Accomplish and follow up on goals.

RE Corner

Spirit Play 10:00-10:45

This is a time for chalice lighting, story, check-in and fun! We are using a modified Spirit Play format. This month we will pay tribute to the indigenous peoples of North America. A special thank you to the anonymous donor of several of the books that we are using this month!!

January 1: Happy New Year!! No class today!

January 8: “Blue Promise Story: Change Sings!” This is Amanda Gorman’s new children’s book about change!

January 15: “A Lesson for Martin Luther King, Jr.”

January 22: “Freedom Summer”

January 29: There will be no class today because Barbara is in New Zealand!

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!

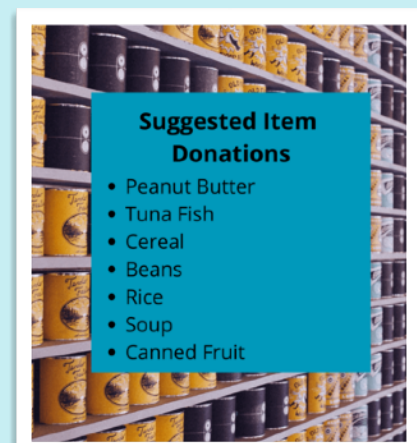
Care Team for Church Members and Friends

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

TXUUJM

REGISTER NOW for "TXUUJM: 10 Years & Growing!" event on Jan. 21, 2023! Your [Texas UU Justice Ministry](#) invites you to our [10th Anniversary gathering](#). This event -- 10am-4pm Saturday, Jan. 21, in Austin -- will serve as a time of reconnection and preparation for TXUUJM Legislative Action Day in the spring, as well as inspiration for the year of justice action ahead. [Please register now.](#) **Scholarships available and encouraged!** We do not want cost to be a barrier, we just want to see YOU! **Your advance registration helps the TXUUJM team plan and prepare for a powerful event.** Thank you!

- Rev. Erin Walter, TXUUJM Minister & Executive Director



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.

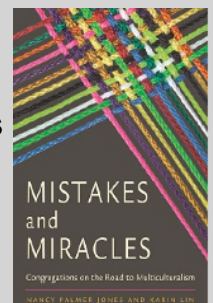
Each month we will highlight different tentacles of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in preparation for our upcoming General Assembly in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 2023. For the month of December, let's focus on inclusivity.

[View Video Message for December](#)

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.](#)



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 (January 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 (January 16-22): **Interdependence :: Democracy & Electoral Justice**

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

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

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

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

[Learn more.](#)

[A Personal Reflection on Marriage & Liberation](#)

[UPLIFT Action](#), December 9, 2022

Create Climate Justice

- **Strengthen Local Climate Commitments (SLCC): January 4, 2022 - 8PM ET**
SLCC is for community change-makers, ready to roll up their sleeves; we're Unitarian Universalists working together with our friends engaging in deeper community partnering to achieve measurable results on climate action and equity for our communities.
[SLCC Orientation to Tools & Resources](#)
[RSVP](#) to all future SLCC meetings
- **Green Sanctuary 2030 Celebration: January 18, 2023 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM CT**
The Green Sanctuary 2030 Celebration will spotlight the amazing work UUs are doing through the GS2030 program. Active Green Sanctuary congregations will share their successes, challenges, and ideas. Come to learn, leave inspired! All are welcome!
[Register now.](#)

UUJEC

[Click here](#) to read our current
News & Views for Winter 2023 to view upcoming events.