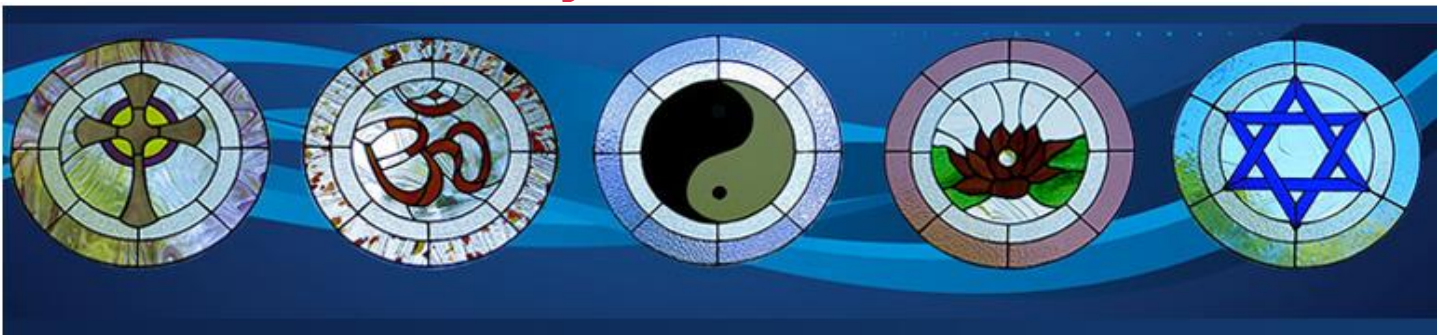


January 2021 Newsletter



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 Rev. Julie Lombard.

Table of Contents

January 2021 Sermons at a Glance	2-3
Sunday Morning	3-4
Minister's Musings; Watcha Reading; Watcha Watching	5-6
What's Happening at UUCOM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mid-week events• Share the Plate• Small Group Meetings• Thoughts from the RE Corner	7-10
Wider World	11-12

January 2021 Newsletter

January 2021 Sermons at a Glance – Worship Theme: Justice

January 3 *Mama, I'm a Girl* by Marlo Mack

When Marlo's son was three years old, he informed her that he was actually a girl. Marlo's now the mother of a happy, confident little transgender girl, but it took a while to get here. *How to Be a Girl* is a podcast produced about life with a young transgender daughter, as one family attempts together to sort out just what it all means. Marlo also writes a blog: www.gendermom.com. In 2017, *How to Be a Girl* was a Peabody Finalist, and was honored with a Webby Award and selected as the 'Best International Podcast' by the British Podcast Awards. Today's worship will featuring 2 short videos: Episode I: How to Be a Girl & Episode VII: THE FACTS (about transgender kids) from <http://www.howtobeagirlpodcast.com/videos>



January 10 *Healed by Conflict* by Rev. Julie Lombard

"Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of creative alternatives for responding to conflict." ~ Dorothy Thompson



Imagine your church being a place where you could bring conflict to be resolved... this is what one beloved community did on a quest to confront their own conflict through a restorative practice called 'Restorative Circles'. Hear how this Unitarian Universalist Church transformed themselves, their culture, and the wider world by facing conflict head on and learn how it lead them to say: We believe that open conversation and dealing directly with conflict are essential for a healthy church. Toward that end, Restorative

Circles™ are a method for responding to conflict between and among members of our church community. Come, hear their story.

January 27 *Change is Coming* by Rev. Julie Lombard

Justice looks beautiful in the young face of a teen, Greta Thunberg of Sweden, as she sits next to UN Secretary General António Guterres at the COP24 in Poland to let them know *"that our political leaders have failed us, because we are facing an existential threat and there's no time to continue down this road of madness."* Hear the stern rebuke she offered on behalf of the world's youth climate movement to the adult diplomats, executives, and elected leaders gathered by telling them she was not there asking for help or demanding they comply with demands but she was there to let them know that new political realities and a renewable energy transformation are coming whether they like it or not. Hear the story of how the young plan to guide us forward to a greener reality.



January 24 *Cultivating Home* Social Action Committee



The pandemic has inspired in many of us a renewed appreciation for our homes as a place of safety and retreat. Most of us have been lucky enough to always have a place that shelters us from life's storms. But what about those who do not have such a safe haven? Midland/Odessa has several chronically homeless residents. How can we support the dignity, health, and well-being of homeless men and women in Midland?

January 2021 Newsletter

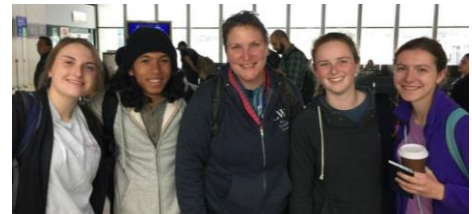
One local nonprofit, The Field's Edge, seeks an answer to these questions by building a tiny-home community for the chronically homeless, which just broke ground in November. Founder John-Mark Echols will join us to speak about the organization.

The name of the organization is derived from Leviticus 23:22, "When you reap the harvest of your land, moreover, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field nor gather the gleaning of your harvest; you are to leave them for the needy and the alien. I am the Lord your God." John-Mark reads this verse as a charge to love and serve our homeless neighbors selflessly.

thefieldsedge.org/about

January 31 *Justice in Central America* by Rev. Julie Lombard

Years ago, I took a group of young adults on a service trip to Guatemala with another UU minister. My eldest child was among the young adults that went. There, we worked in an orphanage and also with a non-profit called 'Long Way Home' to install needed cisterns in a remote village. Hear of our travels through a land in which a caravan of peoples have marched through on a path to a better life. The story behind our sisters and brothers from Central America comes with a long history of devastating poverty and people seeking work. Hear how their story changed us.



Sunday Mornings

Interested in RE, see the **RE Corner** on page 9 for details.

Sunday services are currently online, using Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/2750827327>

It will ask you to download an app to your computer. Just follow the steps. You might need to find "Zoom.pkg" in your downloads and double-click it to install the application. On your smartphone, download the Zoom app, and then join a meeting with the meeting ID: **275 082 7327**

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 above 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

January 2021 Newsletter

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.

January Calendar

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

January 17	2:30 p.m.	Stitching Circle - online
------------	-----------	---------------------------



UUCOM Board

Maureena Benavides, President
Janine Deckard, President-Elect
Alex Fields, Treasurer
April Graham, Secretary
David Allen, At Large Member
Lisa Jebson, At Large Member
Beverly Wise, At Large Member

UUCOM Staff

Rev. Julie Lombard, Minister
Email: minister@uumidland.org
(432) 694-4308 office
(603) 724-0978 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>

January 2021 Newsletter

January Minister's Musings by Rev. Julie Lombard



Happy New Year! You've probably heard the saying from Martin Luther King, Jr. "*Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.*" That is what is on my mind as I think about January and our worship theme of Justice.

It makes me wonder: what is justice? Where do we draw the line? It's important to ask these questions both as individuals and as a community. Our answers may differ. How we answer them as individuals may not be in alignment with our community response. You may individually support the U.S. *Immigration and Customs Enforcement* policies when our denomination does not, same is true with law enforcement reform. Justice is a balancing act.

The Unitarian Universalist Association has a social justice brand that says that we 'Side with Love'. Not long ago it was 'Standing on the Side of Love' until that statement was deemed insensitive to those who are unable to stand. We strive for inclusion, yet sometimes our words and deeds fall short.

Rather than follow a creed, we covenant to be together in right relation regardless of our position on any topic. This concept of covenant comes from our Judeo-Christian roots when our faith looked to the Bible to decide whether we could live faithfully with one another and with God, leading our ancestors to reject the rule of kings. Rather than being accountable to a superior God, we covenant with one another as equals and faith seekers. A sense of God may be part of this covenant for some people and not for others. This goes for justice, too.

You also may have noticed that UUCOM has moved into phase 1 of our Covid 19 responds which means we will be meeting only online during the current surge. The Board takes everyone's health seriously. They surveyed y'all in November to find out your personal comfort level with the pandemic, but things have changed in a short time. California has gone back into a lock down and many hospitals across our country have run out of beds. Please know that the leadership here wants to listen to you and meet your needs, but we also want to keep everyone safe. Our decision may not be the truest reflection of justice, but it is one of love. Stay home. Stay safe. Mask up. Wash your hands and shrink your interactions in the wider public. Let's do all we can to stop the spread Covid 19.

As James Luther Adams reminded us, as religious liberals we freely choose to enter into relationship with one another - this is the foundation of covenant, the promise we make with one another. In the month ahead, we will explore what that promise means as we ponder justice everywhere. I invite you to think about the positions you take, the positions this faith takes, and about how the need for justice calls us to love our neighbor.

Peace, Rev. Julie

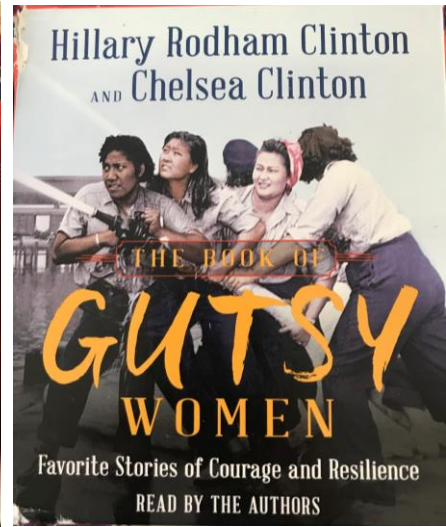
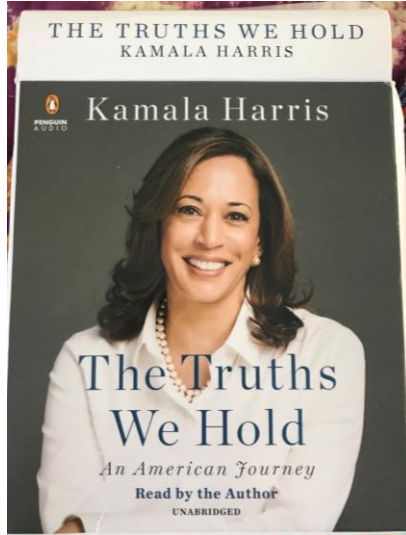
January 2021 Newsletter

Whatcha Reading

I like to listen to books while on long drives & this is what I've been reading...

Let me know if you've read them & you'd like to discuss them.

Peace, Julie



Whatcha Watching

I don't have cable, but I do like to stream & this is what I've been watching. Let me know if you've seen them & you'd like to discuss them.

Peace, Julie



N FILM
Hillbilly Elegy
2020 R 1h 57m HD

[▶ Play](#)
[↓ Download](#)

An urgent phone call pulls a Yale Law student back to his Ohio hometown, where he reflects on three generations of family history and his own future.

Cast: Amy Adams, Glenn Close, Gabriel Basso...[more](#)
Director: Ron Howard



N FILM
If Anything Happens I Love You
63% match 2020 PG 12m HD

[▶ Resume](#)
[↓ Download](#)

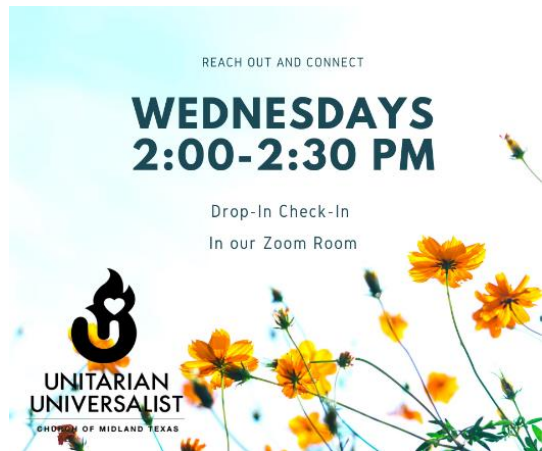
1m remaining
Grieving parents journey through an emotional void as they mourn the loss of a child in the aftermath of a tragic school shooting.

Directors: Will McCormack, Michael Govier

January 2021 Newsletter

What's Happening at UUCOM

Mid-Week Event: Online Drop-In Space:

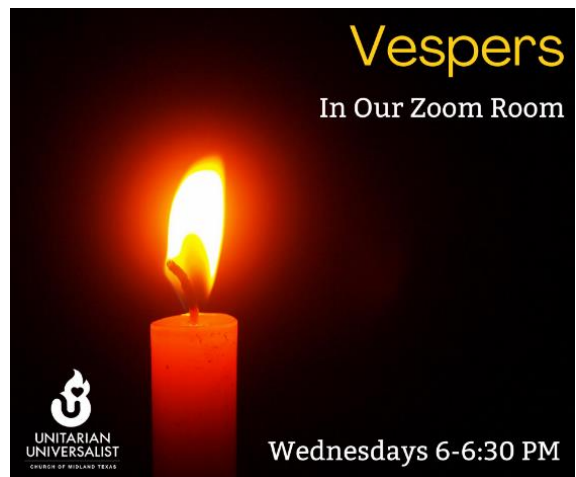


Wednesdays 2 –2:30 PM

Rev. Julie will open our Zoom room ([same link as above](#)) for a casual space to check-in and connect. We will start with a brief reading and meditation at 2:05, and then invite people to check-in and chat. Children are welcome. Come anytime between 2-2:30, and stay the whole hour or just for a bit.

Wednesdays 6-6:30 PM

Rev. Julie will open our Zoom room. This midweek evening service called Vespers, is held on Wednesdays at 6 pm, a quiet half-hour of music, prayer readings, and silence. A simple figurative breaking of bread follows the service - a brief check-in.



January Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this January's Share the Plate recipient the **Field's Edge**.



The Field's Edge is a 501c3 Non-Profit organization in Midland, Texas focused on cultivating a permanent supportive tiny house community for the chronically homeless and disabled. The Field's Edge's vision is to build a permanent, supportive, tiny-home community for the chronically homeless in Midland, Texas. This village will

bring close to one hundred formerly homeless residents of the Permian Basin into The Field's Edge family. Every detail of the design is centered on building relationships. People who have never experienced homelessness will be called to live in the village. They will live alongside men and women who have spent most of their lives on the street. The gifts and talents of our residents will be developed into microenterprises, enabling them to earn a dignified income. Partnerships are being forged with mental and physical health care providers to give residents the care they need. The Field's Edge will be a permanent place to call home, a place for neighbors to walk alongside each other for life. The driving force behind The Field's Edge is a firm belief that every man, woman, and child are created in the image of God, designed to stir, encourage, and build one another up. The ultimate goal of this ministry is to bring all people together into a lifestyle of true homemaking in an increasingly homeless world. Four walls and a roof do not make a home. Learn more: <http://www.thefieldsedge.org/>

January 2021 Newsletter

Monthly Stitching Circle

UU Stitching group continues! Join us for a virtual stitching meetup via Zoom during our regular time. We welcome all stitchers: knitters, crocheters, embroidery or hand sewing! Bring your projects to visit or to get and share advice & tips. **Join us on January 17th** from 2:30-4:30pm for our next meetup. Please email Franny at starrymoon@gmail.com for our meeting link.

2021 Drop-ins: Small Group Ministry

Small Group Ministry is a vital part of many Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations across America. In other churches they are called Chalice Circle or Covenant Groups. Groups of 8-10 people meet regularly, usually monthly, to reflect on and discuss significant life topics.

Small groups are great places to get to know other people and to get to know your better, too. Over time, participants build deep connections with one another, with the congregation and with the sacred.

Discussion topics are provided. The ones we'll use for Drop-ins will reflect our UU Principles and Purposes. The conversations we'll have will be respectful and caring and they'll lead to greater understanding of our UU values. In each session, facilitated by our minister, all participants have opportunity to share their perspectives, tell their stories, and listen deeply. The time together is structured: groups begin with a chalice lighting, centering readings, and some questions before the sharing begins.

Are Drop-ins for you? If you are not already in another Small Group Ministry at UUCOM, yes, please come. Maybe you just signed the membership book or did that long ago, or not at all- come and try it on and see how small group ministry fits for you. If you would like to join a new small group that goes beyond the drop-in basics, please contact our office to let them know.

When and Where: We'll continue to meet at UUCOM at <https://zoom.us/j/2113237997> on Sundays from 12:15-1:00 PM in the New Year.

If this sounds like something you'd be interested in please sign up in the church office by web at <https://forms.gle/jiWnXxmj3uNWQoiW7>, Phone: (432) 694-4308, Email: office@uumidland.org or reach out to your minister, Rev. Julie Lombard: minister@uumidland.org.



January 2021 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 3—Rescue and Jessica. This story explores the relationship of a girl and her service dog. This book is illustrated by Scott Magoon (Rev. Emily's brother-in-law!)

January 10— The Lazy Bear. Bullies come in many forms. See how Bear's friends react to being bullied.

January 17—Meet Greta. This Super Hero is only a teen!! Rev. Julie will share this story.

January 24—Malala's Magic Pencil. Another Super Hero who began her inspiration as a teen!!

January 31—Tico & the Golden Wings. This story explores the uniqueness of all.

Mitten Tree Results

Thanks to all of our generous members we will be donating 22 hats, 40 pairs of gloves and mittens and 16 pairs of socks to children at Lamar Elementary School!!

Religious Education Volunteers

If you are interested in helping with our children's religious education during the time of Covid, 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.

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.

January 2021 Newsletter

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 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!

Sermons

Please find Rev. Julie's most recent sermons in the sermon blog at www.uumidland.org/blog.

Garden and Grow, Continues

We will be continuing work in the Garden on the first Saturday of every month. Time varies depending on weather. Please contact Mike Vidrine for updates.

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](#).

Free Yoga Class – Online

Patricia (Patty) George, the Yoga teacher has been doing virtual classes though Zoom. If anyone would like to join them - it's still free – just send an email to Patty George at, georgepat31@gmail.com so she can send an email that will include a Login ID and Password which will be new each session. You do not need to join Zoom, they'll just need to Google Zoom and then hit the tab "Join A Class".

January 2021 Newsletter

Wider World

Lombard Mennonite Peace Center Learning Opportunities Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches

January 16, 2021 from 9:00am CT to 4:30pm CT

Although a normal part of life individual conflict is usually seen as something negative. Acquire the knowledge and skills to transform conflict into a force for positive change and spiritual growth. This work-shop will be repeated on February 13, March 22, and April 10, 2021.

Healthy Congregations * January 30, 2021 from 8:30am CT to 4:30pm CT

Could your congregation use a wellness check? Learn ways to minimize or prevent destructive conflict, manage negative reactivity, and help your church stay focused on its true mission and purpose.

This workshop will be repeated on February 18, March 27, and April 17, 2021

All events will be conducted online via Zoom.

The "early bird" price for inds \$99; within two weeks of the event, the price increases to \$129. **Members of groups can save up to \$50 apiece**, compared to the regular individual rate, when they register all together and pay in full by the discount deadline. The discount deadline is approximately two weeks before the event. Coupons and detailed brochures for each workshop will be available soon on our website at <https://lmpeacecenter.org/brochures/>.

Please register for either event by calling our office at 630-627-0507. **For further information**, please email us at Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org

SWUWCon "Virtually Unstoppable" - Feb. 26 - 27, 2021

The SWUWCon Virtual Conference "Virtually Unstoppable" will be held Feb. 26-27, 2021, with online registration opening in late December. We ask that you please use the attached flyers for promotion to your members. We have created vertical and horizontal versions for inclusion in various formats. Please also consider promoting in your weekly online services and/or group meetings. If you need alternative imagery or promotional materials to fit the format of your online service, please reach out to jpurdy@swuuw.org.

Online registration opening in late December at www.swuuw.org.



Save the Date!

Online registration opening in late December at www.swuuw.org



This year's SWUWCon is going **VIRTUAL!**

Please join us over Zoom with:

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Joanna Fontaine Crawford
of Live Oak UU Church,
Cedar Park, TX



Songs and Storytelling

Rev. Erin Walter



Worship

Chaplain Lee Legault



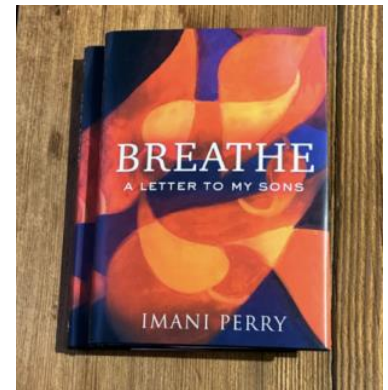
...as well as workshops, vendors, sisterhood and more!

January 2021 Newsletter

Common Read 2020-21: Breathe by Imani Perry

The UUA is pleased to announce that [Breathe: A Letter to My Sons](#) by Imani Perry (Beacon Press, 2019) is the new Common Read.

Emotionally raw and deeply reflective, Imani Perry issues a challenge to society to see Black children as deserving of humanity. She admits fear and frustration for her African American sons in a society that is increasingly racist and at times seems irredeemable. However, as a mother, feminist, writer, and intellectual, Perry offers an unfettered expression of love—finding beauty and possibility in life—and she exhorts her children and their peers to find the courage to chart their own paths and find steady footing and inspiration in Black tradition. The New York Times calls *Breathe* “an elixir of history, ancestry and compassion, which, together, become instruction...a parent’s unflinching demand, born of inherited trauma and love, for her children’s right simply to be possible.”



Breathe offers a broader meditation on race, gender, and the meaning of a life well lived and is also an unforgettable lesson in Black resistance and resilience.

At this moment in time, we are in the midst of a historic national reckoning with what it means to live as a Black or Brown American and systems of institutional racism that have been operating to control, traumatize, and oppress people of color since our country’s founding. As our President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, has written, “It matters that we support the uprisings whose goal is the liberation of Black people and communities who for too long have been crushed by white supremacy, militarism, and capitalism. We must find the sources within ourselves to give us courage in this moment.” In choosing *Breathe* as the 2020-2021 Common Read, our hope is that it nurtures this necessary courage.

Congregations, groups, and individuals may purchase this book from [inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop](#); group discount available. The e-book and audio book are available from [Bookshop.org](#). Discussion materials for UU congregations, groups, and individuals will be available online, at no charge, in late fall 2020.