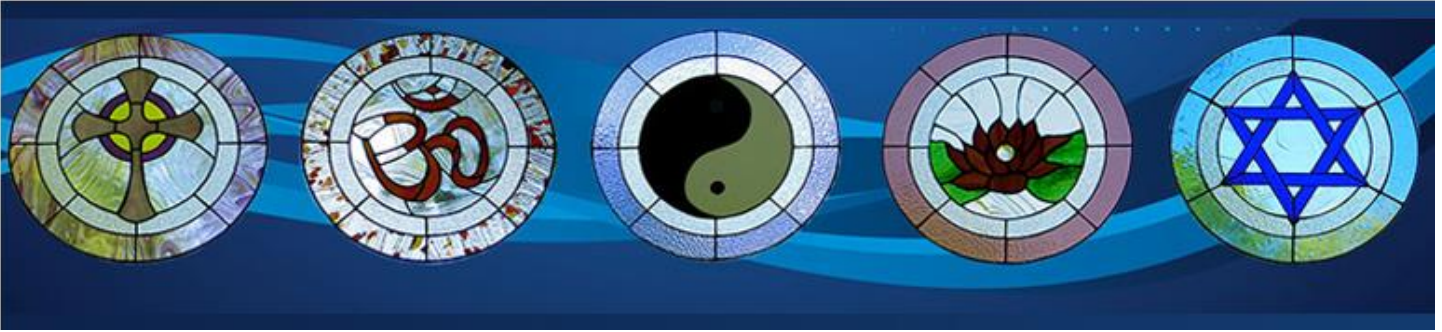


# July 2020 Newsletter



## Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

WELCOMING diversity

EMPOWERING spiritual growth

FOSTERING the interdependent web

TRANSFORMING lives

Please visit our website at [www.uumidland.org](http://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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## July 2020 Newsletter

### July Minister's Musings

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*To make an end is to make a beginning.* – T.S. Eliot

It is hard to believe that this is my last newsletter article to you. From the moment I arrived at UUMidland five years ago, I have loved working with and being with you. Through your care, your sharing of your lives, and your contributions to our shared ministry, you have changed me as a person and as a minister. I will be leaving at the end of July with a full heart, carrying your names and stories with me.

Since I announced my departure in mid-March, my goal has been to help us have a “good ending,” because I believe being intentional about endings is a spiritual practice that reverberates into our other endings, past and future, and enables us to more powerfully move into next chapters. The pandemic has complicated those plans because we have not been able to be physically together, and because we have accordingly shifted our routines and rituals. I am sad about that and sorry to leave you during such a challenging time. It is difficult not being able to have that last potluck with you, to greet you one last time beneath the tree out front, to sing together, to linger in the foyer and share remembrances and gratitudes.

However, I have been heartened that we have had such great involvement in our Zoom services, I have so enjoyed our phone conversations and text threads, and I am so grateful to all those who were able to drive by for the farewell parade. We have found many ways to connect during this time.

There are still also many ways to say goodbye. I am writing many letters during my last month as your minister, and I also encourage you to email, call, text, or write me in July if you want to connect – I welcome it! Our Sunday services for the last two Sundays of July will focus on ending our time intentionally. July 19<sup>th</sup> will focus on what we have done together as a congregation, and how you have impacted me as a minister. July 26<sup>th</sup> will focus more on the personal: how each of you has impacted me personally, and how every one of you are such important parts of this community.

In our tradition, there is an understanding, and even an explicit covenant among colleagues that departed ministers should not be in contact with congregants for at least one year. This may seem strange, and indeed it is one of the stranger parts of the profession of ministry. But this experience of a true ending makes possible a new beginning. Many times, congregants try to keep the connection alive with the past minister to avoid the pain of letting go or of encountering change, which prevents them from being truly open to a generative relationship with the new minister. I don't want you to miss out on that new relationship! Some of you may already be at peace with this, perhaps because you are aware of the boundaries ministers must consistently navigate in their role. Others may be ready – ready to meet and know your next minister! Others may find this truly disappointing and confusing. I hope that all can trust in the depth and truth of our relationship, even though it must end, at least for now. One exception we can make is to write snail-mail letters, if you like. You can contact the office or a member of the Care Team for my address in Albuquerque.



## July 2020 Newsletter

I am grateful for, proud of, and inspired by the great work we have done together in these five years. We have grown so much in health and in depth of engagement. I'll tell more about concrete stories at our service on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

I am grateful for, humbled by, and changed from your vulnerability and courage in inviting me into your lives – your hospital rooms, your homes, your deepest questions, your fears, and your joys. I'll talk more about this in our last service together on July 26<sup>th</sup>.

I am excited about your new chapter together sharing ministry with Rev. Julie Lombard! Rev. Julie and I have been in many conversations – and will be in many more – as we are both committed to helping facilitate a good transition.

As you cross the many thresholds before you right now – this congregation's shift in ministry, the challenges of the pandemic, our world's many current reckonings – I invite you to deepen into your spiritual practices, to commit even more thoroughly to community and relationship, and to remember the individual self is a fiction – we are wound and bound together. Let's get free together.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your minister. I'm always rooting for you.

With love and gratitude,  
Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon

*P.S. The photo includes the weaving given to me by the Board on behalf of the congregation. The weaving, depicting the phoenix rising from the ashes, was woven and embroidered by Kiri Fagen-Ulmschneider, Emmy's daughter. What a treasure!*

## July 2020 Newsletter

### July at a Glance – Sunday Services

#### Sunday July 5, 2020

The Body of America – Rev. Emily

"This is your country, this is your world, this is your body, and you must find some way to live within the all of it." – Ta-Nehisi Coates Through poetry, music, and sermon, in this service we will consider how we can remember the roots of our country by re-memorizing our bodies. The traumas of our history live on in all of our bodies, and so our freedom lives there, too. We can learn from new science about trauma and somatic healing to find powerful pathways forward for ourselves individually and as a country. This service draws in part from the book "My Grandmother's Hands" by Resmaa Menakem.



#### Sunday July 12, 2020

"It's Not Over Until We Can Sing" – Guest Minister Rev. Molly Brewer

As any reader who's had to put down a gripping book mid-chapter knows, stories unfold on their own timeline. So do global events. As much as we might want to, we can't rush an ending to a tumultuous time or make it go by any faster—so what can we gain by seeing this story through to its end and diligently taking in each passage? Join us as we intentionally explore the pages between the beginning and the end, and lift up the holiness of the "messy middle."

Rev. Molly Brewer (she/they) has served as the ministerial intern of the First Universalist Church of Auburn, Maine. A graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School, she was welcomed into fellowship with the UUA in 2019 and co-ordained in 2020 by their home church of Allen Avenue UU of Portland, Maine, and First Universalist Auburn. Rev. Molly lives in Maine with her spouse and two cats.

#### Sunday July 19, 2020

"Good Endings" Part 2 of 3 – Rev. Emily

Part 1 was back in March when I announced my departure. For Part 2, we will reflect on the great work we have done together in these last five years, and pathways forward into the next promising chapter. This service will also include a thank you to outgoing Board members and installation of the new Board.

#### Sunday July 26, 2020

"Good Endings" Part 3 of 3 – Rev. Emily

A service of personal gratuities and remembrances. This service will also include a "de-installation": a ritual of ending one called ministry in anticipation of welcoming your next new minister.

Sunday services are currently online, using Zoom:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/my/uucom>

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: **958 368 6410**

For a low-tech option, you can call in with any phone to this number: 346-248-7799. When it asks for your Meeting ID, enter the above number.



11:00 AM SUNDAYS

All are Welcome!

Online Service

Zoom Meeting ID  
958 368 6410

Or check our home page  
for the link or call-in #

10:15-10:45  
Children's Space



# July 2020 Newsletter

## July Calendar

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

July 1	2:00 p.m.	Online Drop-In
July 2	2:00 p.m.	Chalice Camp
July 8	2:00 p.m.	Online Drop-In
July 9	2:00 p.m.	Chalice Camp
July 15	2:00 p.m.	Online Drop-In
July 16	2:00 p.m.	Chalice Camp
July 19	2:30 p.m.	Stitching Circle - online
July 22	2:00 p.m.	Online Drop-In
July 23	2:00 p.m.	Chalice Camp
July 26	11:00 a.m.	<b>Rev. Emily's Last Sunday</b>
July 29	2:00 p.m.	Online Drop-In
July 30	2:00 p.m.	Chalice Camp

## Sunday Mornings, etc.

Interested in RE, see the **RE Corner** on page 6 for details.

## 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](http://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, Rev. Emily will host a "time for all ages," show-and-tell, joys and sorrows, and casual conversation.

**Mid-Week Event:** Online Drop-In Space: Wednesdays 2 – 2:30 PM Rev. Emily will open our Zoom room (same link as the Sunday service, 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.



## 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  
**Kayleigh Kirk**, At Large Member

## UUCOM Staff

**Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon**,  
Minister

Email: [minister@uumidland.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@uumidland.org)

**Barbara Handley**,  
Director of Religious Education

Email: [dre@uumidland.org](mailto:dre@uumidland.org)

Phone: 432-978-5977

**Sonja and Scott Millichamp**,  
Music Directors

Email: [skassal811@yahoo.com](mailto:skassal811@yahoo.com)

[scott@bruenor.org](mailto:scott@bruenor.org),

**Visit our website:**

[www.uumidland.org](http://www.uumidland.org)

**Like us on Facebook:**

Unitarian Universalist Church of  
Midland TX

<https://www.facebook.com/UUMidland>

# July 2020 Newsletter

## July Share the Plate

**We will share 1/2 of all cash donations with this July's Share the Plate recipient: National Bail Out.**

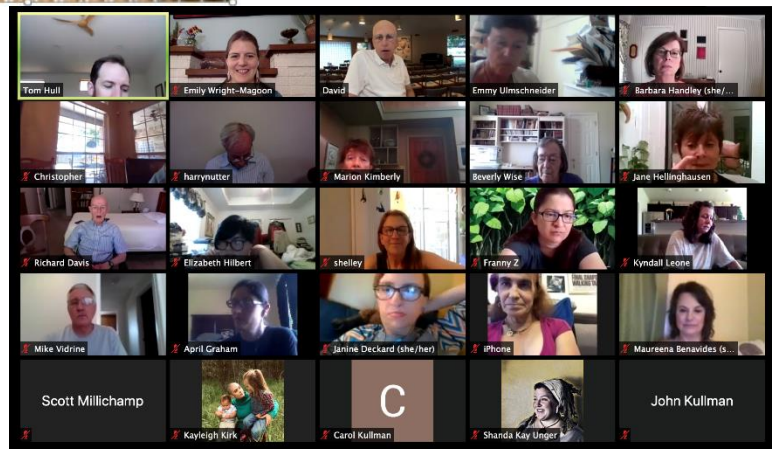
The National Bail Out collective is a Black-led and Black-centered collective of abolitionist organizers, lawyers and activists building a community-based movement to support our folks and end systems of pretrial detention and ultimately mass incarceration. They are people who have been impacted by cages, either by being in them ourselves or witnessing families and loved ones be engaged.

The National Bail Out Collective is committed to getting people free through bail outs, advocacy, and leadership development. They believe that pretrial reform must be led by communities most impacted and not by institutional actors or corporate interests, who are entrenched and benefit from the current system. Their communities are the real experts and are best equipped to name the problems and mold the solutions. They work to make sure people are out of cages and have the tools and resources they need to advocate for themselves!



The National Bail Out Collective coordinates the Mama's Day Bail Outs, where they bail out as many Black Mamas and caregivers as we can so they can spend Mother's Day with their families where they belong! They also provide fellowship and employment opportunities for those we bail out in order to support their growth and create a national community of leaders who have experienced incarceration. They also work with groups across the country to support ongoing bail reform efforts and create resources for organizers and advocates interested in ending pretrial detention.

WELCOMING diversity  
EMPOWERING spiritual growth  
FOSTERING the interdependent web  
TRANSFORMING lives



Tom Hull leads our spring congregational meeting on June 7, 2020. Emmy Ulmschneider spoke about the WEFT acronym embedded in our mission statement, symbolizing the way all our voices, gifts, and contributions are needed for the weaving of our community and our work.

## July 2020 Newsletter

### Thoughts from the RE Corner

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Here is a list of ten projects to earn a Flaming Chalice pin! You must complete at least six to earn the pin. You may choose to complete more!

- Letters or drawings mailed to elderly and/or single folks. You may get a list of names and addresses from Barbara.
- This link contains two challenges!  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/mobile/folders/1q4Xhol7NbN5s0BJb2Jd3LKWbq0X2BigA?usp=sharing>
- Take a picture or draw a drawing that reminds you of each of our promises, label them and send them to Barbara and/or Emily who can make collages for our Facebook page or newsletter.
- Do one of the kids meditations and/or kids yoga (various apps, videos and books available)—four times.
- Write out or illustrate one of your favorite Spirit Play stories. You may create it using legos or clay or your favorite medium.
- Make a settling jar.
- Create your own Spirit Play story. Take a favorite children's book and adapt it and create the pieces needed to help tell the story. Remember that you don't have to include everything just the important parts! If you would like, you can share your story when we resume Spirit Play in person!!
- Read a book or story by a famous Unitarian, Universalist or Unitarian Universalist! Some examples: Beatrix Potter, Louisa May Alcott, Kurt Vonnegut, and Ray Bradbury. Go to the [uua.org](http://uua.org) for more names!
- Read three poems by a famous Unitarian, Universalist or Unitarian Universalist. Some names: Sylvia Plath, May Sarton, e. e. cummings, Ralph Waldo Emerson.



### Chalice Camp

Chalice Camp 2020 will be virtual this summer and ongoing! We will Zoom once a week for 30 minutes similar to our Sunday Children's Time—Chalice Lighting, Story, Joys and Sorrows, Show and Tell and Singing out Song. We will meet every Thursday at 2:00 PM from June 18<sup>th</sup> until the start of school. The link is <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/9583684410>. Or you may sign in using the code: 958 368 6410.

### 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 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 or Chalice Camp. You may suggest a story for either of those times. You may help to create Spirit Play stories for when we get to meet in person!! Please contact Barbara Handley at [dre@uumidland.org](mailto:dre@uumidland.org) or 432-978-5977.



# July 2020 Newsletter

## Sermon Excerpts – June 14, 2020 "Thresholds" Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon

*There is something dying in our society, in our culture, and there's something dying in us individually. And what is dying is the willingness to be in denial. And that is extraordinary. The willingness to be in denial is dying in a meaningful number of us, the tipping point. It's always been happening, and when it happens in enough of us, in a short enough period of time, at the same time, then you have a tipping point, and the culture begins to shift. And then what I feel like people are at now is, 'No, no, bring it on. I have to face it; we have to face it.*

– Rev. angel Kyodo williams

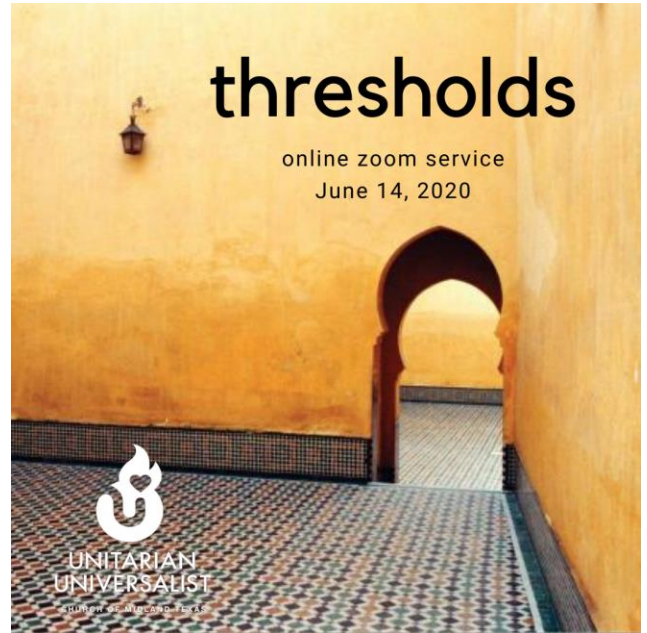
What in us needs to open and shift, die and wait in order for us to fully embrace this new chapter as a congregation?

What in us needs to open and shift, die and wait in order for us to – as Arundhati Roy said in our reading – create from this pandemic “a portal” – a portal into a world where interdependence is always seen and valued, not taken for granted or squandered?

What in us needs to open and shift, die and wait, in order for us to finally, finally fully reckon with our country's legacy of brutality and racism?

So, too, in your own life, in your own personal thresholds, what in you needs to open and shift, die and wait, in order to cross the threshold ready for the new?

– Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon



See the whole sermon, and others, on the sermons blog at [www.uumidland.org/blog](http://www.uumidland.org/blog)

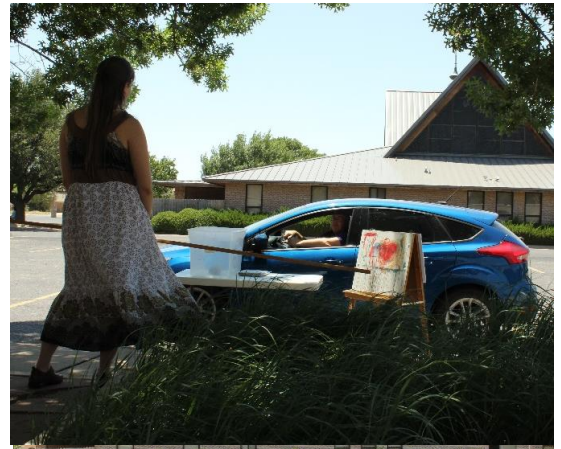
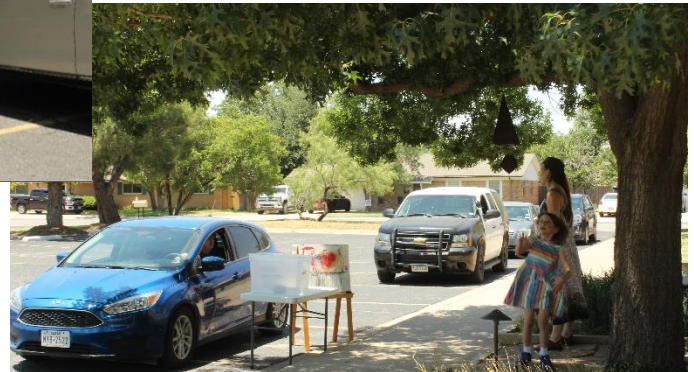


Photo from our weekly Sunday Children's Space



# July 2020 Newsletter

We had a physically-distanced farewell for Rev. Emily before she moved to Albuquerque in mid-June. (She will continue to minister remotely through the end of July.) On behalf of the congregation, the Board gifted Emily a weaving with the symbol of the phoenix rising from the ashes – the same symbol we have displayed in our sanctuary. Kiri Fagen-Ulmschneider created the weaving. Emily gifted each of us with stickers of our logo, and poppy seeds collected from the church garden.







## Meet Our New Minister: Reverend Julie Lombard

Born and raised in New Hampshire, Rev. Lombard was ordained in March 2016 and obtained Full Fellowship in 2020. She is a 2014 graduate of Andover Newton Theological School (Master of Divinity) and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Arts from the University of New Hampshire.

Rev. Lombard served congregations in Milford, Haverhill, and Danvers, MA, and Manchester, NH in various roles including Director of Religious Education, Youth Advisor, Intern Minister, and Minister. She is passionate about multi-generational ministry, prayer, youth ministry, community-building, preaching, and worship co-creation and believes that the church's purpose is to grow and repair the world, and bring hope to all souls.



“Love is the spirit of our church”



Currently living in Plaistow, NH with her husband, Greg Lombard, two children, Annalee and Jackson, and a parakeet named Felicity, Rev. Lombard will start work here in Midland on August 1, 2020.

For more information about Rev Julie Lombard, please see her website: <https://revjulielombard.wordpress.com/>

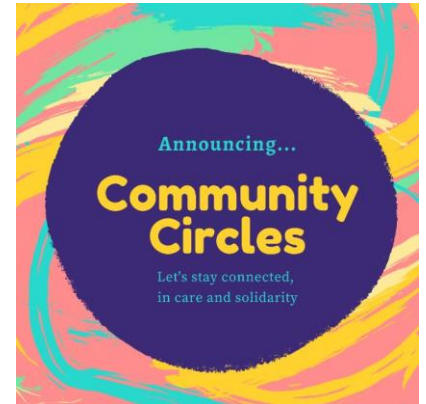


# What's Happening at UUCOM

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### Community Circles Launched

Update! We now have enough volunteers, and our Circles have started up. If you are a member or a pledging friend, you should have received an email from me, Rev. Emily, on April 30 about your Circle and will be hearing from your Circle Leader soon. If you would like to opt out of Circles, no problem - just let me or your Circle leader know. If you are not a member or pledging friend, but would like to be part of a Circle, please let me know at [minister@uumidland.org](mailto:minister@uumidland.org)! We'd love to have you join! Community Circles are 6-7 households who check in on one another regularly to offer connection and care. These circles are an opportunity to connect with community members who are our literal neighbors in ways we wouldn't otherwise and build new networks of support that last far beyond this situation.



### Annual All-Church Garage Sale

Due to the need to continue social distancing due to COVID19, we are postponing our annual Church Garage Sale. Please continue your Coronavirus Cleaning! Keep cleaning out those drawers, closets and cabinets. Store your items for donation in your newly cleaned closets, garages and spare rooms!!! The date for the upcoming Garage Sale will be announced in the near future. (Keep your fingers crossed!!)

### 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.

### Permian Basin Buddhists - Suspended

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 [lindagpublic@nowheat.com](mailto:lindagpublic@nowheat.com).

### Pursuing Personal Peace

Pursuing Personal Peace is an on-air book club found at: <http://www.khen.org/pursuing-personal-peace>  
This is Dennis Stratton and along with Margaret Rush, we are reviewing current and classic works by Buddhist authors on line. The Permian Basin Buddhist group is not able to meet during the COVID – 19 time. I am looking forward to sharing Buddhism in this way until it is safe to once again, meet in person  
Here are a few titles we have in the PPP catalogue:

**Letting Go Of The Person You Use To Be**, Lessons on Change, Loss, and Transformation by Lama Surya Das

**The Good Heart:** A Buddhist Perspective on the Teachings of Jesus by His Holiness the Dalai Lama

**Buddhism Plain & Simple:** The Practice of Being Aware, Right Now, Every Day by Roshi Steve Hagen

**Bringing Home The Dharma:** Awakening Right Where You Are by Jack Kornfield

If you are interested or curious, search on your computer or smart phone: [khen.org/pursuing-personal-peace](http://khen.org/pursuing-personal-peace).



# July 2020 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 July 19<sup>th</sup>** from 2:30-4:30pm for our next meetup. Please email Franny at [starrymoon@gmail.com](mailto:starrymoon@gmail.com) for our meeting link.

## 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.

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

## 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.

## 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](mailto: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!

## 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](mailto: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".