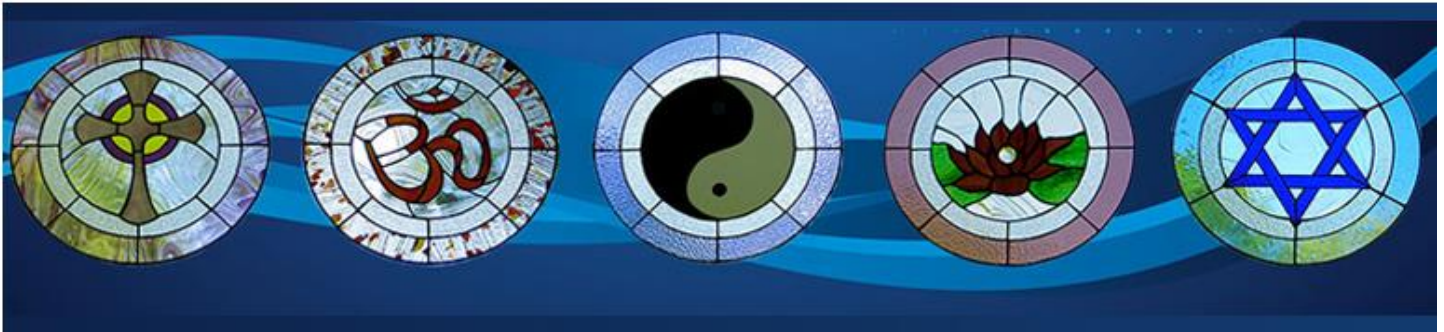


# July 2021 Newsletter



## Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

WELCOMING diversity

EMPOWERING spiritual growth

FOSTERING the interdependent web

TRANSFORMING lives

Please visit our website at [www.uumidland.org](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 Rev. Julie Lombard.

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# July 2021 Newsletter

## July 2021 Sermons at a Glance

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### July 4

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On July 4, we consider our national shortcomings as well as our triumphs. Abigail Adams, the 2nd first lady of the United States, was a feminist, an abolitionist, and a Unitarian. She is a founding mother for social justice activism in the US, and can reshape how we think about our national history. She is part of a great American lineage of justice seekers, a genealogy that present-day activists, including Unitarians, strive to be a part of.

### July 11

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This Sunday's service will focus on the Fourth UUA Principle: the free and responsible search for truth and meaning. It is also known as the Green Promise: grow by exploring. Harry Nutter will explain why it is this principle that led to his following a spiritual path within Unitarian Universalism.

### July 18 The 5th Principle: through the lens of South Korea.

Kurt Esslinger, a Presbyterian Church USA mission co-worker assigned to Korea will share what he has learned about Koreans Christians who put their faith into action in resisting South Korean military dictatorship and fighting for a true democratization and democratic participation in South Korea decades after the Korean War.

### July 25

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This Sunday Maureena Benavides will lead the service as we explore our Sixth Principle-- the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all—through music.



# July 2021 Newsletter

## Sunday Mornings

Beginning June 20, 2021 we welcomed everyone back to the sanctuary for our 11 AM service.

Learn more about the Phase 4 Reopening [on](#) page 5.

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](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, 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 7 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](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 2021 Newsletter

## July Calendar

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

July 5	9:00 AM	Chalice Camp
July 6	9:00 AM	Chalice Camp
July 7	9:00 AM	Chalice Camp
July 8	9:00 AM	Chalice Camp

## Worship Committee

At our Spring Congregational meeting, our congregation voted for us to proceed as Lay-Led +. That means that most Sundays friends and members of our congregation will be leading the service. Once a month or so, we will have a guest minister/speaker (that is the plus). This means that we need UU to volunteer to help. There are many ways of assisting! You may be a Zoom Host, or Greeter! You may be an in-person Greeter when we open for hybrid services. 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.



# July 2021 Newsletter

## Church Reopening

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Because the average number of positive Covid tests in Midland County has dropped to 5% or below for two weeks, the church Board voted to move the church to Phase 4.

In Phase 4, we will partially reopen the building. The board and the Covid Team gave much thought to the rules which we must all abide by in this phase 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.

**Continuing this Sunday, we will welcome everyone back to the sanctuary for our 11 AM service.**

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.

Namaste!

David Allen

# July 2021 Newsletter

## Board President Update – Janine Deckard

I can't believe it's already been a year since I was asked to serve as president-elect. I have learned so much in that time. I am looking forward to serving as president for this year. There will be challenges to doing this, of course, considering the fact that we will be Creatively Lay-led. I am up to the challenge, however. I led lay services at the synagogue in Amarillo, Temple B'nai Israel, with the guidance of Mr. and Mrs. Adelman. It was a very educational experience and I encourage everyone that believes in the vision of UUCOM, to take the opportunity to serve as a lay leader at least once in their life. You have a gift, a voice, and a message that we need to hear. You have lessons that you have learned that will serve to inspire us as we do the business of living our values. If you are worried about the pressure of performance anxiety or your lack of experience, please know that we have a group of eager supportive team players. You will not be alone in your journey. We have so much to explore!

We have added the 8th Principle and applied to be a Welcoming Congregation. This means we have big goals for our congregation. Please reach out to our Worship Chair, Barbara Handley to get your name on the list! And the great thing is that you will have plenty of time to polish your message as we have all of the summer planned!

We still need helpers that are willing to learn the new normal of hybrid services since we will have the choice of meeting in-person or on Zoom from the comfort of your own home. If you need to talk about what it might look like to lead a service or have any other issue that you feel the board needs to discuss, please feel free to reach out: janinedeckard@gmail or 432-248-5435 (please text before calling).

Kind Regards,

Janine ... your Board President for 2021-2022



# July 2021 Newsletter

## Thoughts from the RE Corner

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### 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!!

**July 4—Apple Pie Fourth of July.** There are many ways to celebrate!

**July 11—I Am Love: a book of Compassion.**

**July 18—Watercress.** Food can hold many memories both bitter and sweet.

**July 25—Pond.** Matt, Katie and Pablo clean debris and junk to try to bring a pond back to life.

### Chalice Camp is Back!!

Plans for Chalice Camp 2021 are in the works!! Chalice Camp is an opportunity for children 5 and up to learn about Unitarian Universalism and interact in a camp setting! Camp will be held in the south garden. Campers will be required to wear masks and to practice social distancing. Our theme is Nature and the Violet Promise (value our home the earth). Please mark your calendars for Monday, July 5—Thursday, July 8 from 9:00-11:00. April Graham and Barbara Handley will facilitate Chalice Camp. Cost is \$50/child. Scholarships are available. When paying, please write "Chalice Camp" in the memo line on check. For more information, please contact Barbara Handley at [dre@uumidland.org](mailto:dre@uumidland.org) or 432-978-5977.

### 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

Your help is needed!! As of July 1, I am no longer our Director of Religious Education. Children's RE is my passion and I will continue to volunteer; however, I need support in the form of people power!! When we move to Phase 5, I will need to have Storytellers and Greeters. We will continue to offer Children's Time on Zoom as well as Spirit Play classes. If you are interested in helping, please contact Barbara Handley at 432-978-5977.

### Spirit Play Training

Spirit Play Training is an online opportunity to become certified to lead Spirit Play classes. Spirit Play is a multi-age curriculum based on stories that teach about our Unitarian Universalist Principles (Promises) and our sources of inspiration. Please contact Barbara Handley at [dre@uumidland.org](mailto:dre@uumidland.org) or 432-978-5977 if you are interested.

### Water Communion

Our annual Water Communion Intergenerational Service will be on a Sunday in September. This is a time to reflect on the importance of water in our lives. Everyone is asked to bring a small amount of water for the communal bowl. It may be from your travels, your pool or spa, or rain!

## July 2021 Newsletter

### What's Happening at UUCOM

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#### July Share the Plate

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We will share ½ of all cash donations with this July's Share the Plate recipient. The Social Action Committee has chosen the following recipient, Texas UU Justice Ministry (TXUUJM).

Guided by Unitarian Universalist principles, TXUUJM educates and organizes member congregations and partners with sympathetic organizations in order to advocate effectively for public policies that:

- Uphold the worth and dignity of every person;
- Further justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Ensure the use of the democratic process;
- Protect religious freedom; and,
- Promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence.



Learn more at: <http://txuujm.org/>.

#### Monthly Stitching Group

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***The Stitching Group will be taking a summer hiatus! Please follow the newsletters for when we will be meeting again in the fall. Happy stitching, everyone!***

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?

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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

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We invite you to share any needs you July 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 July 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!

#### 2021 Members and Friends Directory

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The 2021 UUCOM Members and Friends Directory is complete. Electronic copies will be sent the first week of July to UUCOM members, UUCOM friends will need to request their copy of the directory and all will need to request physical copies of the directory.

Please contact Jessica in the office by email, [Office@UUMidland.org](mailto:Office@UUMidland.org), or phone, 432-694-4308, to request an electronic or hard copy of the directory.



## July 2021 Newsletter

### Garden and Grow, Continues

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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 June

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**The Re-opening Task Force-** for making changes to the policy, purchasing a new computer and other worship supplies, and planning a path forward.

**Scott & Sonja-** for pulling together a summer music library to use.

**Staff-** for making themselves available for reviews and making this tedious part of the job so enjoyable.

**Board-** for all they did behind the scenes to lead a successful Annual Meeting, especially Maureena for her summary of the Annual Meeting for the newsletter. Many hands made light work. Monthly communication like this is paramount going forward.

### Free Yoga Class – Hybrid Class

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Patricia (Patty) George, the Yoga teacher will return to in-person classes this Saturday June 26, 2021 9-10:00 AM. Classes will still be held through virtual classes as well. 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) 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!

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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

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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](#).

# July 2021 Newsletter

## Wider World

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### Rolling Ridge Spring On-line Retreats

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Find all program details [here](#).

We live in **troubling times** as the **divisions of race and gender grow deeper**. At Rolling Ridge, we believe that to build bridges of understanding, **we must take time to listen to the experiences of others**.

Upcoming events in this series:

- The musical Hamilton on Monday, June 12, 2021
- Camp Meetings and the Evangelical Spirit on Thursday, August 19, 2021
- Marriage Equality on Thursday, November 18, 2021

Previous events in this series:

- The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 on Thursday, May 6, 2021
- Juneteenth on Monday, June 14, 2021
- The 1982 Murder of Vincent Chin on Wednesday, June 23, 2021

If you'd like access to recordings of previous events, [please email us](#).

We invite you to **expand your understanding of history** that impacts the experiences of different people groups today by joining us for one of our upcoming "Voices and Stories" events, and **listening deeply to the Spirit** who invites us to break down walls and **build bridges of understanding among people**.

### WPCR Workshops

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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](#).

### Creating a Listening Community July/August 2021 Training Signup

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Join us for a six-week workshop for "Creating a Listening Community: Restorative Circles Practice and Facilitation". We will explore what gets in the way of listening, how to listen to understand and create a space of empathy within ourselves for others, and how we can use this way of communication to help our communities connect when it seems impossible to hear one another.

**Starting July 13 - August 17, 2021.**

To register for the July 13th workshop ([click here](#)).

# July 2021 Newsletter

## Spring Programs Rowe at Home

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

## Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders

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- August 2-6
- October 11-15
- November 15-19

Make plans now to attend the training event that has been called "the Golden Globe winner of conflict resolution programs"!

We have all witnessed the recent abhorrent events in our nation's Capitol where underlying tensions and unresolved conflict escalated into mob violence. Sadly, conflict does not confine itself to the political realm. Conflict is also inevitable in the church. Even if your church is not experiencing conflict now, it very likely will at some point in the future. Be prepared when conflict does arise to transform something negative into a positive opportunity for growth and reconciliation.

Acquire 32 contact hours that you can apply towards Continuing Education credits; enjoy fellowship with like-minded church leaders; and rejuvenate your ministry, all at the same time. Please join us and find out for yourself why a previous participant noted that MSTI is "the best and most thorough model for mediation with individuals and congregations that I have experienced in more than three decades of ordained ministry."

The fee for MSTI is \$750, which includes five full days of instruction and a manual. Online registration closes approximately 10 days before the event begins, although we encourage you to contact us to see if there may still be openings. Questions? Please call us at 630-627-0507, or send an email to [Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org](mailto:Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org). For further information we also invite you to check our website at <https://lmpeacecenter.org/>.

PLEASE NOTE: We are now using TicketSpice rather than Brown Paper Tickets as our online ticket agency. To register online please go to <https://lmpeacecenter.org/ticketspice/>. To pay by check, fill out the form on [this MSTI Brochure](#) and send it with payment to our office at: LMPC, 101 W 22nd Street, Suite 206, Lombard, IL 60148.

## Stop our Pollution!

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Take action for "The Earth Bill" and Climate Justice Legislation Wednesday, July 7, 8 PM EDT, 5 PM PDT. Presenters: Members of the Climate Crisis Policy/Earth Bill Network (EBN) Faith Team Working Group.

Learn about the growing national [Earth Bill Network](#) grassroots movement. First we'll look at the current "state-of-play" in Congress; second learn about the "[2021 Bill Package](#)" and "[The Earth Bill](#)" -- to address 80% of our pollution through a single bill by mandating 100% renewable electricity, electric vehicles and regenerative agriculture by 2030; and third, what you can do locally with allies through the Congressional "[Adopt-A-District](#)" campaign. Learn how it's tied to UU's Climate Justice Goals.

Learn more at <https://bit.ly/2Tq0h4W>.