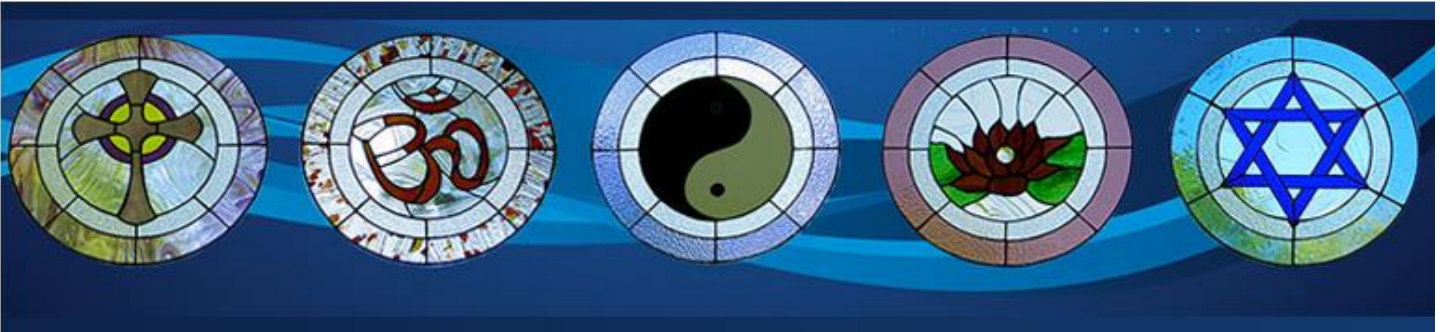


July 2022 Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

WELCOMING diversity

EMPOWERING spiritual growth

FOSTERING the interdependent web

TRANSFORMING lives

Please visit our website at www.uumidland.org for a listing of all current events.

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.

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July 2022 Newsletter

July 2022 Sermons at a Glance

July 3

On July 3, 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 10

Come help us celebrate the bounty of our Earth and the people who bring that bounty to us as we start a new tradition: Produce Communion. In the spirit of Flower Communion, bring your favorite fruit or vegetable to share. If you want to honor our agricultural heritage, visit one of our local Farmers Markets to purchase local produce and thank the farmer for their hard work. In a series of readings, music, and prayer, we will reflect on how the food that nourishes us also connects us to the Earth.

July 17 Love is More

This year's Basin Pride Festival is July 16, and the Interfaith Pride Service will be at UUCOM at 1:00 on July 17. Before that, our 11:00 service will help us think beyond the popular "love is love" saying. Playwright and novelist Claire Willett recently said, "For Pride Month this year, can straight people focus less on 'love is love' and more on 'queer and trans people are in danger?'" Rev. Dr. Steven Gaines will respond to that invitation in consideration of UU Principles.

July 24

In this fantastical (and very interactive!) story, we witness one version of our planet's birth, in which humans are given the precious gift of freedom. When is our freedom to choose one thing instead of the other frightening? When does it feel especially juicy, and ripe with promise? How do we use our freedom wisely?

July 31 Radical Acceptance

Janine has been studying spiritual topics for the majority of her life. One thing has been truly transformative—studying the Buddhist wisdom of Acceptance vs Resistance. She is looking forward to sharing some of what she has learned and how it's helped her.

July 2022 Newsletter

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 (**Pg. 4**) 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>).

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.

Sunday services are currently hybrid both in person and online, using Zoom:



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

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.

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: Spirit Play meets in person from 10:00-10:45. Masks are required.

Interested in RE, see the **RE Corner** on **page 5** for details.

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
Rebecca Dodge At Large Member

UUCOM Staff

Jessica Stewart,
Office Administrator
(432) 694-4308
Office Hours:
Wednesday 9-1
Email: office@uumidland.org

Barbara Handley,
Director of Religious Education
Email: dre@uumidland.org
Phone: 432-978-5977

Sonja and Scott Millichamp,
Music Directors
Email: music-directors@uumidland.org,

Visit our website:

www.uumidland.org

Like us on Facebook:

Unitarian Universalist Church of
Midland TX

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

July 2022 Newsletter

Potluck Luncheon on Sunday, July 10

Please join us for a potluck luncheon following our service on Sunday, July 10. In the spirit of Emmy's Produce Communion, please try to prepare food that is in part locally grown produce! Sign-up sheet is available on Guest Table in the foyer.

July Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this **July's** Share the Plate recipient. The Board has chosen the following recipient, the **Midland Community Theatre (MCT)**.

The mission of Midland Community Theatre is to provide opportunities for all people of all ages to participate in and experience quality theatre arts and education. MCT was founded and has been providing quality theatre arts to the Permian Basin since 1946. Over the next two years, MCT will expand upon his vision by increasing the usage of the facility for the entire community.



Learn more about MCT at <https://mctmidland.org/>.

Community Pantry



Board member, Eli Hilbert would like to see if anyone has some piece of furniture that would be suitable for a community pantry that we could install near our free library. We would prefer to recycle than to purchase

The Worship Committee has several opportunities to lead a service this summer. During the summer, we like to focus on our Unitarian Universalist Principles and Sources. You may use them to help in your planning. Or you may choose a totally different topic! If you would like to help but are not interested in leading a service there are many ways of assisting! You may be a Zoom Greeter and camera operator! You may be a Worship Associate. You may present a worship service. (The Worship Committee is here to help you!!!) You may share a gift of music by performing or by sharing musical suggestions. You may share

suggestions for readings or service topics. There are many ways to share in our ministry. Please contact Barbara Handley at 432-978-5977 to volunteer.

COVID-19 Reopening Update

As Unitarian Universalists, we pride ourselves on being led by congregational polity. Due to the reporting of COVID cases being so low, the board voted to allow masks to be made optional at our April board meeting.

The congregation came to the board with concerns about the mask policy and the board voted to make a change on 5/17/2022. **Masks are now a mandatory item but we are allowing congregational singing WITH masks.**

This will allow our members with compromised immune systems and concerns about viruses; the peace to know they can worship safely.

Thank you for being flexible during this unusual new world we live in.

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.

July 2022 Newsletter

Thoughts from the RE Corner

Children's Space 10:00-10:45

We are BACK!!!! Spirit Play meets in person from 10:00-10:45. Masks are required. Spirit Play is a Montessori-based curriculum that is based on our UU Promises (Principles) and Sources. This month, all of the stories are food-based! So after telling the story, there will be cooking! And of course, eating!!

July 3: Apple Pie Fourth of July. There are many ways to celebrate the fourth of July.

July 10: Ganesha's Sweet Tooth. This story comes from one of our sources.

July 17: Burro's Tortilla's. Many hands make for light work. Unless one helps, they may not reap the benefits of the work!

July 24: Strega Nona. Strega Nona means Grandma Witch unless one is in need of her services.

July 31: Gator Gumbo. This tale takes place in the bayous of Louisiana!

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, there are many ways that you can participate. You could read or tell a story during Spirit Play. You may suggest a story. If you can help, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.



July 2022 Newsletter

What's Happening at UUCOM

Permian Basin Buddhists – Returns

The Permian Basin Buddhists returns to their weekly in-person meetings Tuesday nights, 7:00 - 8:30 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](#).

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!

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](#).

May 2021 Newsletter

Wider World

TXUUJM

Dear Texas UUs and our justice-seeking friends,

What we do matters. So, let's start with an action. [Click here to tell our Senators to support democracy](#) by overhauling the Electoral Count Act. (This action took me 10 seconds, thanks to our friends in UUSJ!)

My spirit feels good, knowing we are taking action together.

That does NOT dismiss that our work is hard, of course. We have much to do, facing a post-Roe vs. Wade world, working for gun control, racial justice, the environment, and more.

- TXUUJM provides Resources for Congregations and Communities including:
 - [Partner Toolkit](#)
 - [Mobilization Map of actions](#)
 - [Transphobic and Anti-Abortion Policies are a Direct Threat to My Religious Freedom](#) (From UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray)
 - SACRED's [Progressive Faithful Response to the Loss of Roe—and More](#)
- TXUUJM and First UU Austin present: OWL facilitator training! [Registration is open now](#), for Sept. 16-18 in Austin, with trainers Aisha Hauser and Jennifer Nichols!

Read the full TXUUJM email [here](#).

Side with Love

On June 24, 2022 the Supreme Court of the United States handed down its decision in the Dobbs v. Jackson case. The final opinion effectively overturned Roe v. Wade and eliminated federal protections for abortion. Each state will now be able to independently regulate abortion, with at least 26 states poised to entirely ban abortion care beginning immediately.

We weep for the millions of people and families that will be harmed—physically, spiritually, financially, and emotionally—because of this decision. We mourn that this ruling rolls back many decades of advances for reproductive health, rights, and justice. And we sit with the numbness, despair, and anger we feel knowing that white Christian nationalist misogyny has won the day.

Whenever our movements experience a major defeat, we take a beat to discern what our next moves will be. We all have the right to grieve, to rage, to mourn when we lose – it's what keeps us human, and reminds us why we keep fighting. (Sometimes this can look like mass protest, when we gather in the streets as a community together. Many communities are planning decision day #BansOffOurBodies marches or protests; find yours [here](#).)

Read the full Side with Love letter [here](#).

May 2021 Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth

We have completed the 2022 Spring for Change season, from the moving workshop [Ecology as Scripture](#) to [the UU at the United Nation Spring Seminar](#) to the most recent celebration of Biodiversity Sunday, we are grateful for the manifold ways you have engaged in local and national collaborations for climate justice. (Have you heard of [the advocacy](#) of Florida UUs to stop polluting burning of sugar cane?)

Read the full newsletter [here](#).

Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community

Read the current UUJEC News & Views, the Summer 2022 Edition at https://uujec.org/Portals/0/News%20Views22Summer.pdf?mc_cid=f0b3050f59&mc_eid=38fd0d1399.
Join the UUJEC for upcoming Web Seminars on the 2nd Thursdays of July and July!

Rolling Ridge On-line Retreats

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

Programs Rowe at Home

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