



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

July 2023

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Midland

WELCOMING diversity

EMPOWERING spiritual growth

FOSTERING the interdependent web

TRANSFORMING lives

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

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Have you been getting to know the church and Unitarian Universalism? Do you feel that this congregation might be a spiritual home? Are you considering a deeper commitment to the church? Membership comes with great gifts and opportunities, as well as responsibilities to the church community. If you are considering membership, please check out our membership brochure in the foyer or see Erica Stoltz or Barbara Handley, Membership Chair, or a Board member.

Table of Contents



Sunday Worship

Sermons at a Glance
Sunday Mornings



UUCOM

Announcements

Minister's Musings
Share the Plate
Sunday Events
Banned Book Club
RE Corner
Membership
Care Team



Wider World

July 2023 Sermons at a Glance

July 2 Brunch and Lunch

As has become tradition, we will have a brunch in lieu of a regular service on this Sunday because it's a holiday weekend. Bring a dish to share and enjoy food and fellowship.

July 9 "Hope for Humanity"

It's time to share some more good news and nurture our spirits with uplifting stories about good things in our world.

July 16 "Change"

Join us for a conversation about change. What does it mean to you? Is it a good thing or a bad thing? Do you like change? What are some of the biggest changes you've ever made in your life?

July 23 "A Is for Atheism"

In this exploration of atheism, we'll look at the definition of atheism beyond not believing in the existence of a god or any gods - especially through the writings of Frank Zindler, former biology professor, author, editor of *American Atheist Magazine* and Director of American Atheists Press.

July 30 Guest

POTLUCK LUNCHEON, JULY 16, 2023

Please join UU's for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, July 16th following the church service.

In lieu of our regular church service, we will have a Brunch on Sunday, July 2nd. Please bring brunch items to share at 11:00.



Spirit Play meets in person from 10:00-10:45. This class meets in person and has no Zoom option. Interested in RE, see the RE Corner on page 7 for details.

Sunday Mornings

Sunday services remain in a hybrid format both in-person and virtually. The board and the COVID Team gave much thought to the rules which we must all abide by as a way to properly care for each other and reduce the possibility of spreading the virus. Please read them carefully and be prepared to follow them.

We will also continue to broadcast our services over Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/2750827327>). services so that people who cannot attend in person will be able to join us online.

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

For a low-tech option, you can call in with any phone to this number: 929-205-6099. When it asks for your Meeting ID, enter the below number.

1100 AM SUNDAYS

All are Welcome!
Online Service

Zoom Meeting ID
275 082 7327

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

10:15 - 10:45 AM
Children's Space

UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF MIDLAND, TEXAS

UUCOM BOARD

Barbara Handley, President
Harry Nutter, President-Elect
Jane Hellinghausen, Treasurer
Alex Fields, Secretary
Eli Hilbert, At Large Member
Chris Stoltz, At Large Member
Tom Parks, At Large Member

UUCOM STAFF

Lisa Jebson,
Lay Minister

Office Hours:

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 Wednesday, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
 Thursday, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
 Email: minister@uumidland.org

Jessica Stewart,
Office Administrator

(432) 694-4308

Office Hours:

Wednesday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 Email: office@uumidland.org

Sonja and Scott Millichamp,
Music Directors

Email:

[music-
directors@uumidland.org](mailto:music-directors@uumidland.org),

Visit our website:

www.uumidland.org

Like us on Facebook:

Unitarian Universalist
 Church of Midland TX

[https://www.facebook.com/
UUMidland](https://www.facebook.com/UUMidland)

ONLINE GIVING

While we are mostly meeting online, remember that there are still ways to give to our weekly offering and submit your pledge. You can text: "Give" to 432-271-4921. Or you can go to our website: uumidland.org and scroll down to the yellow PayPal Donate button. You can also mail a check to our office, or have your bank send a check.

Minister's Musings

For this month, I don't really have a fully fleshed-out theme, so I'd like to share some random thoughts.

First of all, please notice the scam alert included in this newsletter. There are con artists out there who will try to trick you into sharing personal information, like your social security number, banking or credit card info or it could be a simple request for a gift card. Please know that any requests like that from ANY UUCOM staff member or board member are completely bogus! The scam could arrive via text, calls or emails. Please take care and protect yourself. Do not engage with the scam artist. Do not click on links in suspicious emails or texts. If you are in doubt about a message, reach out to me directly.



I'm very excited about our Banned Book Club that's starting this month. Thanks to Barbara Handley for taking the lead on this new way to connect with others at UUCOM. The selection for this month is one many of us have already read - *To Kill a Mockingbird* - so it's an easy way to jump in and get involved!

And finally, I've always been fascinated with holidays and observances one can find with a quick internet search.: Embrace Your Geekness Day, National French Fry Day, National Mac and Cheese Day, or Gummi Worm Day on July 13, 14, and 15, respectively. **July 26 is National All Or Nothing Day.** I love Nelson Mandela, so I'll be sure to set aside some time to reflect his tremendous life on July 18, Nelson Mandela International Day. The last two I'd like to highlight contain a challenge and an invitation....

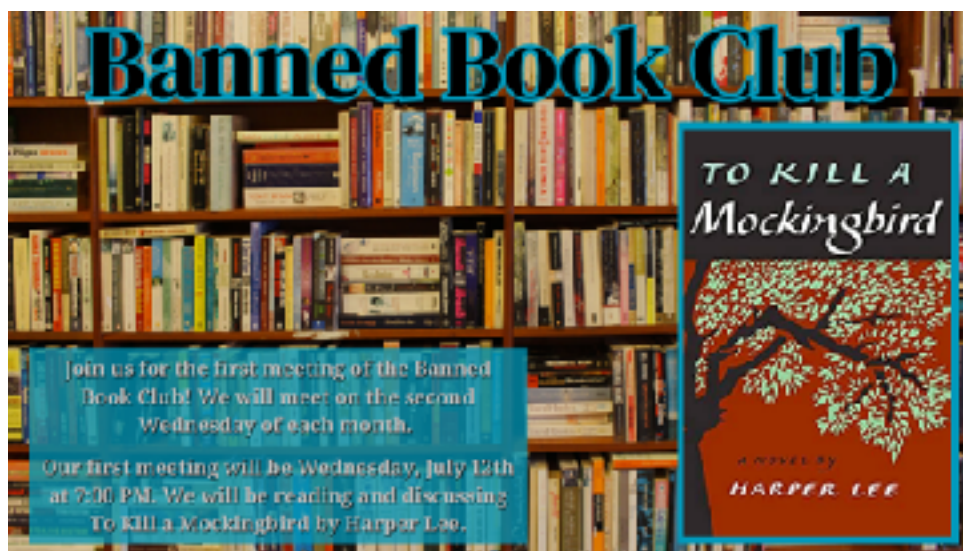
July 3 is International Plastic Bag Free Day - so I challenge everyone who reads this to observe that day! Then see how long you could keep up the streak.

The invitation is to come to church on July 9, which is also National Sugar Cookie day - I'll bring stories of hope for the service and homemade sugar cookies to share afterward!



Banned Book Club

Do you like to read? Do you like to be adventurous and naughty? Then plan on joining UU's for our first meeting of the Banned Book Club! We will meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, July 12th at 7:00. We will be reading and discussing *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.



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, Communities and Schools of the Permian Basin.

The mission of Communities in Schools of the Permian Basin (CISPB) is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. Communities in Schools of the Permian Basin was established in 1999 by a group of concerned citizens to address our area's dropout rate. The vision of the organization was to provide a positive environment for at-risk students, ensuring their access to educational opportunities, social services and support services. CISPB helps young people reach their goal of graduating from high school and going on to become positive contributors to the community.

CISPB believes every child needs and deserves the "Five Basic Life Tools" to be successful:

- A safe place to learn and grow
- A chance to give back to peers and community
- A marketable skill to use upon graduation
- A healthy start and a healthy future
- A personal one-on-one relationship with a caring adult



Learn more at <https://cispb.org/>.



Please be on the lookout for potential scams via calls, email or text! Scam artists will pose as Rev. Lisa Jepsen or other staff members of UUCOM in an attempt to get personal information and/or money, gift cards, etc. Oftentimes, there will be a sense of urgency, like "I need a quick favor" or "Your help is needed urgently!" UUCOM staff will NEVER make requests like these - just please use caution with anyone reaching out with suspicious requests like this.

Spring Gatherings Revisited

A special thanks to all who participated in any or all of our Spring Gatherings. These provided us with an opportunity to brainstorm ideas of activities and events to enrich our church community and our local community. At our Spring Congregational Meeting, we narrowed down our list. Thanks to those who volunteered to organize the following activities/events.

Soup Suppers (Ann Hicks) Small groups will meet in a member's home for a relaxed meal and fellowship.

Coffee Hour (Alex Fields) Coffee and tea will be provided following the church service for conversation.

Sustainability/Environmental Talks (Emmy Ulmschneider) Periodic talks about environmental and sustainability issues open to church and community.

Doggy Speed Dating (Rebecca Dodge) Teaming up with a shelter, UUCOM will offer space for people and pups to meet and bond.

Banned Book Club (Barbara Handley) Each month we will read and discuss a banned book! The Club will meet the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at church.

No Shame Parenting (Maureena Benavides) No Shame Parenting classes will be offered to the community. These classes will be led by Maureena and her interns and associates.

Electronic Signage (Tim Jepsen) Tim will investigate the costs and logistics for electronic signage at UUCOM.

Sharing Day (Lisa Jepsen) Lisa will spearhead a UU Trade Day. This is similar to our garage sale only there is no cost for the items!

If you are interested in participating or helping, please contact those team leaders!

RE Corner

Spirit Play 10:00-10:45

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.

July 2: **Apple Pie Fourth of July.** There are many ways to celebrate the fourth of July.

July 9: **There will be no Spirit Play on this Sunday.**

July 16: **Ganesha's Sweet Tooth.** This story comes from one of our sources.

July 23: **Burro's Tortilla's.** Many hands make for light work. Unless one helps, they may not reap the benefits of the work!

July 30: **Strega Nona.** Strega Nona means Grandma Witch unless one is in need of her services.

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 may suggest a story for our Spirit Play. You can create a Spirit Play story! If you can help, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.



What's Happening at UUCOM

Permian Basin Buddhists

The Tuesday night Buddhist class has expanded to include a 30 minute meditation session to begin at 6:15 PM.

The Permian Basin Buddhists continue to meet here at UUCOM on Tuesday nights, 7:00—8:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome, whether you are new to Buddhism or have been practicing the Middle Way for some time. For regular updates about the group, join the [Permian Basin Meetup Group](#).

Tree of Life

The modern Pagan movement provides a means for people to connect with the daily, monthly, and yearly cycles that continue to affect us physically and emotionally. Through classes and rituals, the Tree of Life Open Circle explores this connection in an ongoing effort to foster growth and community for kindred spirits of the earth.

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

Interested in Becoming a Member?

Interested in officially joining our church community? Reach out to Lisa Jebson, Jane Hellinghausen, or Barbara Handley; or check out our Path to Membership brochure in the foyer or info online. The process consists of committing to attend a Newcomers' Drop-In Circle or class; making a pledge of time, talent, &/or treasure; and signing the membership book. We welcome you!

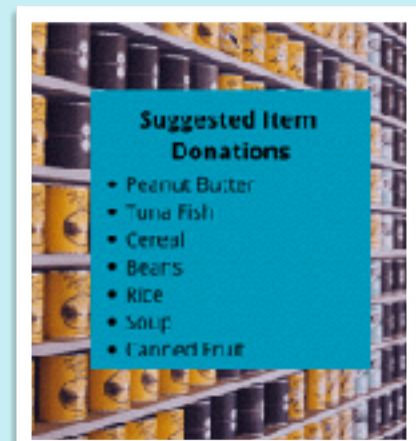
Care Team for Church Members and Friends

We invite you to share any needs you may have or concerns about church members/friends with the care team. When others in our church family approach you about a difficult situation in their life please ask them if it is ok to share that information with the care team. You may share requests and concerns with Jane Hellinghausen ([413-4612](tel:413-4612)), or by calling the church office ([694-4308](tel:694-4308)).

Thank you for helping to make our church an even more supportive and caring community!

Food donations for people and pets!

Each Sunday during our offering, we collect donations of nonperishable food for local food pantries, and pet food for Lone Star Sanctuary for Animals. Make a special note to remember your food donations for our monthly Intergenerational Services, as the children love to collect the food and bring it forward. (You can check our calendar online to see when those are!)



Wider World

TXUUJM

- Did you miss TXUUJM's Paula Cole Jones / 8th Principle event on June 13th? Check out these videos and info that Paula invited us to share with you.
 - [Click here for FAQ on the 8th Principle.](#)
 - [Governance and the 8th Principle recording](#)
 - [Doctrine of Discovery with Dave Weiman March 8, 2023](#)
- **VIRTUAL SESSIONS COMING SOON!**
August-October - TXUUJM will lead [virtual sessions of the Trans Inclusion in Congregations](#) program. Stay tuned to our emails for registration link next week!
[Click here to learn more!](#)

UUJEC

Read the Summer 2023 News and Views [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, July 15th 2pm ET UUJEC Advisory Board Member Chuck Collins will join us for our Annual Meeting to discuss wealth, inequality and his latest book *Altar to an Erupting Sun*.

2024 UU Common Read

The UUA Common Read for 2023-2024 is [On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World](#) by Rabbi Danya Rutenberg (Beacon Press, 2022). This Common Read offers a glimpse into one of our faith's foundational sources, Judaism. Readers explore our own call to be accountable in these modern times as we follow Rabbi Rutenberg into a framework for making amends offered by the 12th century Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides.

[Join the Common Read.](#)

