



# Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

## July 2024

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 Erica Stoltz or Barbara Handley, Membership Chair, or a Board member.

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## July 2024 Sermons at a Glance

### July 7 UU Principles with Barbara Handley

Barbara Handley will lead this service written by former UUCOM member, Dr. April Graham. We will have the opportunity to learn about Unitarian Abigail Adams, as well as, examine many of our UU Principles.

### July 14 “The Life Worth Living” with Jim Camp

Our sermon title will be “The Life Worth Living”, by Anthony Perrino. We consider the fundamental importance of integrity and relationship. We then discuss how these two things can lead to the tension which can arise between principles and persons in human life.

### July 21 “Produce Communion” with Emmy Ulmschneider

Come help us celebrate the bounty of our Earth and the people who bring that wealth to us as we revisit a new tradition: Produce Communion. In the spirit of Flower Communion, bring your favorite fruit, vegetable, vegetable, or farm product 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 share our offerings and reflect on how the food that nourishes us also connects us to the Earth and each other.

### July 28 “They Take Our Jobs” with Jane Hellinghausen

They Take Our Jobs!": Reflecting on Immigration," Rev. James C. Leach, Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte, NC, October 19, 2008. Shared by Jane Hellinghausen.

## POTLUCK LUNCHEON, JULY 21, 2024

Please join UU's for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, July 21st following the church service. Since Emmy Ulmschneider will be leading a Produce Communion service, try to include produce from the Farmer's Market or other local produce in your potluck contribution.



**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 6** for details.

## Sunday Mornings

Sunday services remain in a hybrid format both in-person and virtually. For in person services, masks are optional and available on the guest table. 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.

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  
SERVING BY MEANS OF FAITH

## UUCOM BOARD

**Kyle Farmer**, President  
**Barbara Handley**, President-Elect  
**A.C. Fields**, Treasurer  
**Emmy Ulmschneider** Secretary  
**Jane Hellinghausen**, 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](mailto:minister@uumidland.org)

**Jessica Stewart**,  
**Office Administrator**

(432) 694-4308

Office Hours:

Wednesday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
 Email: [office@uumidland.org](mailto: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](http://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](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.

## Minister's Musings

It's hard to believe that by the time you read this, the Jebesen family no longer lives in Midland and I will have led my final service as minister of UUCOM. (Or I will be in the final prep to do so!) During this service I will have said something similar to this...

The last two years have been such a blessing. It's been an honor to serve this beloved community and I will miss UUCOM dearly. As I've said many times before, this church has saved my life on more than one occasion. I like to think that after serving as your minister I'm leaving UUCOM a little better, a little stronger.

And because I really don't like saying goodbye, I'll leave you with my UU favorite joke to keep the sentimental tears at bay...

### ***How many Unitarian Universalists does it take to screw in a light bulb?***

*We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey you have found that light bulbs work for you, that is fine. You are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your light bulb. During next Sunday's service, we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, three-way, long-life and tinted; all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence.*

For all of my friends at UUCOM, I wish you love, light, good health and all the best for the days ahead.

Namaste!





## Drop-In Circle

New to UUCOM? New to Unitarian Universalism? Want to meet some new people? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please join us for our next Drop-In Circle on Sunday, **July 28th from 12:15-1:00 PM**. For more information, please contact Barbara Handley at 432-978-5077.

## July Share the Plate

We will share  $\frac{1}{2}$  of all cash donations with this July and August's Share the Plate recipient. The Board has chosen the following recipient, the **Arts Council of Midland**.

Their mission is to enrich lives with the Arts through community-wide advocacy, education, outreach and promotion. The Arts Council of Midland supports and partners with the artists and non-profit art organizations who create the cultural landscape of the West Texas community and both supports other local nonprofits and provides a number of programs including Celebration of the Arts, and wall art and murals throughout Midland.

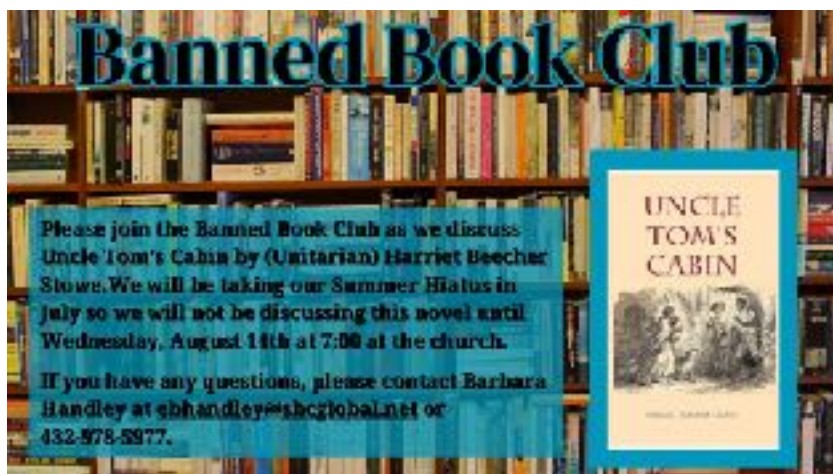
For more information please visit <https://www.acmidland.org/>.



## Banned Book Club

Please join the Banned Book Club as we discuss Uncle Tom's Cabin by (Unitarian) Harriet Beecher Stowe. We will be taking our Summer Hiatus in July so we will not be discussing this novel until **Wednesday, August 14th at 7:00 PM** at the church.

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Handley at [ebhandley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ebhandley@sbcglobal.net) or 432-978-5977.



## RE Corner

### Spirit Play 10:00-10:45

Spirit Play meets in person from 10:00-10:45. Spirit Play is a Montessori-based curriculum that is based on our UU Promises (Principles) and Sources.

This month's stories will explore famous Unitarian Universalists.

**July 7 — Theodore Parker and the Turtle.**

**July 14 — Henry Hikes to Fitchburg.**

**July 21— Martha and Waitstill Sharp: Answering the Call**

**July 28 — Lewis Latimer's Bright Idea.**

### 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! You can go through Spirit Play Training. If you can help, please contact Barbara Handley at [ebhandley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ebhandley@sbcglobal.net) or 432-978-5977.



## What's Happening at UUCOM

### PFLAG Midland/Odessa

We are thrilled to work with PFLAG Midland/Odessa to provide a home for their regular monthly meetings that support our local LGBTQ+ community and everyone who loves them.

### Circle Suppers

If you are interested in attending or hosting a Circle Supper contact the office at [office@uumidland.org](mailto:office@uumidland.org) or 432-694-4308. A sign up sheet may also be on the foyer table.

### 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 Jebesen, 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!

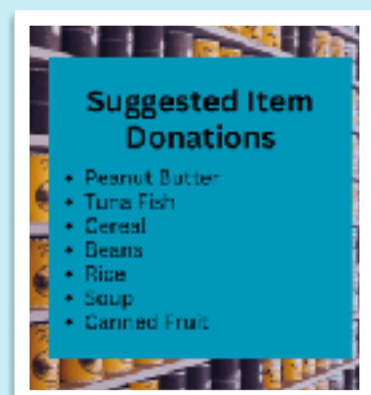
### Care Team for Church Members and Friends

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

### Border Witness Trip - August

This August, join the Texas UU Justice Ministry and our interfaith partner Texas Impact, in a timely and important border witness trip, one scheduled especially for Houston-area UUs (Aug. 11-14, 2024) and another open to all Texas UUs (Aug 18-21, 2024). The trips include time in Harlingen, Brownsville, McAllen, and Matamoros (Mexico) witnessing at immigration court, observation at border wall and of Border Patrol, meeting with migrants and local humanitarian groups, community building among fellow UUs and partners, planning for how to share and act on your "courts and ports" witness effectively back home, and more. The trip is led by Texas Impact's Fabiola Olvera Benitez (she/her/ella), Immigration Education & Advocacy Manager based in Harlingen.

Passport required. Please contact [txuujm@gmail.com](mailto:txuujm@gmail.com) with any questions.

[Click here to register](#)

### TXUUJM Board Recruitment

Are you a Justice Seeker? We are currently accepting applications for TXUUJM Board! Our hope for our board members is to have one or more of these qualities, characteristics, or experiences:

- Passion for social justice advocacy, education and/or witnessing
- Commitment to UU values
- Communication & collaboration skills
- Experience with social justice environment, particularly in a faith-based context
- Enthusiasm for our mission and values
- Willingness to help with fundraising

Does this sound like you? Or do you have a person in mind to recommend? We look forward to learning more!

[View our Board Application Here](#)

**Curious about what TXUUJM has been up to? Check out the recording of Tuesday night's celebration of our work so far this year!**

June 25, 2024 we honored our UU ministerial interns Sarah Berel-Harrop (TXUUJM) and Heather Malkawi (Texas Impact.) We celebrated all the hard work and community support hours from the first half of the year. We shared laughter and tears as we scrolled through photo proof of our collective power.

**Weren't able to be there? Here's the recap: [Virtual EOY Celebration](#)**



# Wider World

## UUA General Assembly

### Social Witness Statements at General Assembly 2024

These statements were affirmed at General Assembly and are undergoing review by UUA legal counsel. Final text will be posted at [UUA Statements](#) by July 15th.

- AIW: [Centering Love Amidst the Ongoing Impact of COVID-19](#)
- AIW: [Solidarity with Palestinians](#)
- AIW: [World on Fire: Humanitarian Work and Climate Change](#)

Additionally, during General Assembly, the [UUA Business Resolution: Embracing Transgender, Nonbinary and Intersex People is a Fundamental Expression of UU Religious Values](#) was adopted as well as [Responsive Resolution: UUA General Assembly Support for October 7 Hostages](#).

**The 63rd General Assembly took place Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024.**

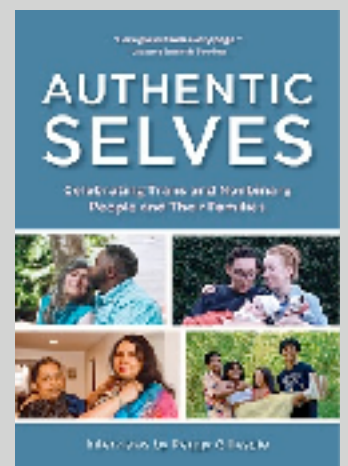
### UU World Coverage of GA 2024

- [At All-Virtual GA, Unitarian Universalists Center Love and Pledge Bold Social and Climate Justice Action](#)
- [Love at the Center: New UU Statement of Values Passes after Momentous General Assembly Delegate Vote](#)
- [Voting Results](#)
- [Sunday Worship](#)
- [Submit Participant Feedback](#)
- [On-demand Recordings Library](#) for full online registrants

## 2025 UU Common Read

The UUA Common Read for 2024-2025 is *Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families* (Skinner House, 2023). This Common Read offers two, parallel discussion tracks: one for a UU group with any or mixed gender identities, and one for UU participants with a trans or nonbinary identity. Each discussion guide consists of four 90-minute sessions that religious professionals or lay leaders may facilitate in-person or online. Coming in fall 2024: workshops for youth and families.

[Join the Common Read.](#)



# Wider World

## Create Climate Justice

### Register for a UU Climate Justice Revival Info Session

On September 28-29, congregations will host UU Climate Justice Revivals to collectively reimagine a spirit-filled and liberatory future. Through conversations, worship, and advocacy, congregations will work together to realize climate justice and collective liberation in our communities. Congregations will receive everything they need to host a revival in their communities. Sign up for an information session and learn what it's about, and how to register your congregation!

[Sign up for one of these dates!](#)

- August 5: 7 pm EDT/4 pm PT
- August 13: 12 pm EDT/9 am PT
- August 15: 12 pm EDT/9 am PT

## UPLIFT

[Pride newsletter.](#)

## Side with Love

In these times, where the threats to democracy and liberty devastate our communities, we are fortified by the truth that throughout history, people rise to meet the moment. In 2024, we are rising to the challenges we face in the world.

### Transforming our Climate Justice Work

We are launching a first-ever faith-wide [Climate Revival](#) that will break down silos and springboard hundreds of congregations to a move beyond extraction into a wider climate justice movement—the Revival supports congregations with tools and training to equip us to take courageous and impactful action.

### Growing our Organizing Power

We're building [response networks](#) across the country for trans people, students, and the many folks targeted by state violence and legislative attacks.

### Taking mass action for democracy

We are answering the call to show up boldly and be part of the moral majority that knows another world is possible. We are taking action right now towards that future with [UU the Vote 2024](#).

[Support Side With Love](#)