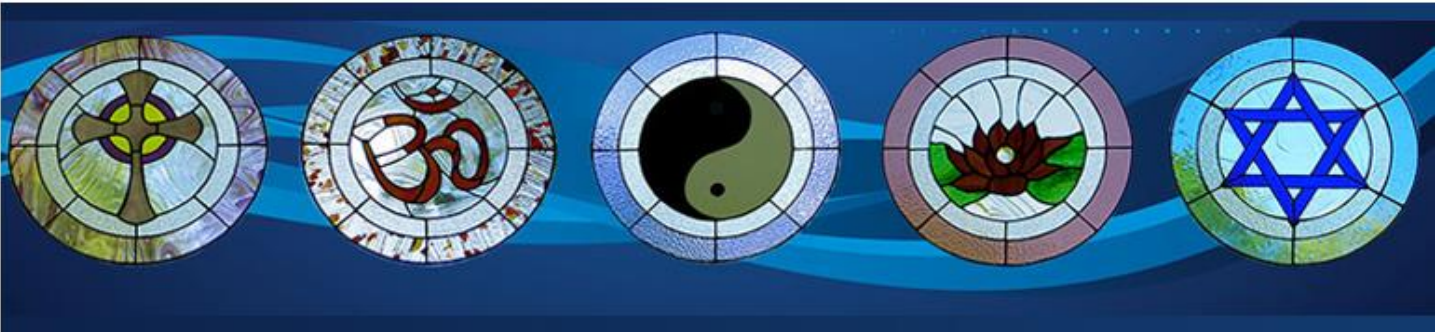


June 2020 Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

WELCOMING diversity

EMPOWERING spiritual growth

FOSTERING the interdependent web

TRANSFORMING lives

Please visit our website at www.uumidland.org 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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June 2020 Newsletter

June Minister's Musings

I had imagined our time of goodbye would give us many opportunities to see one another in person and share gratitudes and well wishes, hugs and handshakes. But keeping one another safe from the novel coronavirus means that our goodbyes will be different.

I'm sad we won't have that last potluck together, those warm greetings in the receiving line, or that annual service-in-the-round where we toss the ball of yarn and tell stories.

And yet just as we have created new opportunities for connection and worship during this time, we are creating new ways of saying goodbye.

Check out the events section to read about our drive-thru farewell event from the church parking lot. Plus, I'll preach at least one sermon in June or July about thresholds and goodbyes. And I'll be reaching out to all of our members and friends by card, call, or both to say a personal goodbye.

My goal is that by the time we reach my last day of July 31, you will feel almost over-goodbye'd! You might say, "Wait, she's still here?" You will be ready to say hello to your new minister.

Just as I told you back in March when I announced my departure, I am committed to helping create a "good ending" so that you can have a good beginning to your next promising chapter.

I am excited about your next chapter! I imagine the joyful time when you can again gather in person in your building and gardens! I imagine the new relationship you will have with your next minister – a relationship full of discovery and connection! I imagine the ways you will continue to deepen in living out your mission in this community which so needs your voices, hearts, spirits, and work.

I remain so grateful for you all, and so excited about your future.

Love and peace,
Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon



June 2020 Newsletter

June at a Glance – Sunday Services

Sunday June 7, 2020

Rev. Emily – TBA

Sunday June 14, 2020

Rev. Emily – TBA

Sunday June 21, 2020

This service will be led by guest UU minister Alex Kapitan, our Music Directors, and our Worship Associates | Radical, transformational welcome –

In these times, we deeply need faith communities dedicated to love and justice; committed to dismantling oppression; and compelled to live out radical welcome as a spiritual practice. In this service guest speaker Zr. Alex Kapitan will share how radical welcome isn't about simply opening our (virtual or physical) doors or being friendly, it's about creating spaces where each of us can bring our full selves forward and be transformed by our relationships with one another.



Zr. Alex Kapitan is a lay community minister, a trans and queer lifelong UU, co-leader of the Transforming Hearts Collective, and founder of the project Radical Copyeditor. Alex worked for many years at the UUA's national office supporting Welcoming Congregation, anti-racism, and social justice projects, and now does interfaith LGBTQ work and supports congregations in becoming places of radical welcome for all. Ze lives in western Massachusetts with a menagerie of furry and feathered friends.

Sunday June 28, 2020

At our usual service time on Zoom, we will watch together the General Assembly Sunday Worship - the largest gathering of Unitarian Universalists, and a powerful communal experience! What a treat! Then we will gather afterward for virtual coffee hour to reflect on the experience. Note that the service may last longer than an hour. Alternatively, you can also experience the livestream yourself at 9 am or 12 pm at uua.org/ga (For our 11am service, we will be downloading the 9am recording and playing it via Zoom so we can all watch it together.)



Sunday services are currently online, using Zoom:

<https://uua.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

UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF MIDLAND, TEXAS

June 2020 Newsletter

June Calendar

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

June 3	2:00 p.m.	Online Drop-In
June 10	2:00 p.m.	Online Drop-In
June 14	2:30 p.m.	Stitching Circle - online
June 17	2:00 p.m.	Online Drop-In
June 24	2:00 p.m.	Online Drop-In
July 1	2:00 p.m.	Online Drop-In

Sunday Mornings, etc.

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

Drive-By Farewell - Saturday, June 13 2:00-3:30

My last day as your minister is July 31, but for the last month I will be with you remotely from my new home in Albuquerque. Before my family and I move, I would love to see you – from a generous, COVID-aware distance that keeps everyone

safe. I am truly sad we cannot mingle and hug and linger, as I originally imagined our goodbye would be. But we can still see one another and share our gratitude and good wishes!

I will be in front of the church (where I typically would greet you on Sunday mornings) on Saturday, June 13 from 2:00-3:30. I invite you to drive (or walk or bike!) through the parking lot during that time. I won't be wearing a mask so you can see my smile and hear me talk. I will stay 12 feet away. If you're driving, I ask that everyone stay in their car, and if you're walking or biking, I ask that you stay 12 feet away.

I would so appreciate the opportunity to see you and chat briefly from a distance, or at least wave!

I will have a gift to give each of you (sanitized and handed to you on a long stick!) as a token of my gratitude for the privilege of serving as your minister. Please see my minister's musings in the latest newsletter for additional current reflections on this time of goodbye.



UUCOM Board

Tom Hull, President
Maureena Benavides, President-Elect
Alex Fields, Treasurer
Emmy Ulmschneider, Secretary
David Allen, Member
Charles Holmstrom, Member
Kayleigh Kirk, Member

UUCOM Staff

Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon, Minister

Email: 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

Barbara Handley, Director of Religious Education

Email: dre@uumidland.org

Phone: 432-978-5977

Sonja and Scott Millichamp, Music Directors

Email: skassal811@yahoo.com

scott@bruenor.org

Visit our website:

www.uumidland.org

Like us on Facebook:

Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland TX

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

June 2020 Newsletter

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: Every Sunday from 10:15-10:45, 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
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.

Virtual UUA General Assembly

This year, General Assembly is completely virtual! General Assembly (GA) is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists to do the work of our Association, and to gather for worship, learning, and fellowship.

General Sessions (the business of the Association), the Service of the Living Tradition, Synergy Bridging Worship, and Sunday Morning Worship will be open for public viewing. Interactive programs, featured speakers, and online chat participation for General Sessions are available to registrants only (registration is \$150 - let me know if you want to participate and need help with the cost). Two of your Board members will be attending as our congregation's delegates.

As always, GA will feature prominent leaders from within and beyond our tradition. I am looking forward to the Ware Lecture by Naomi Klein, as well as the Featured Speaker Series that includes authors such as Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, Robyn Henderson-Espinoza, Howard Bryant, and Unitarian Universalists Rosemary Bray McNatt and Elías Ortega (Presidents of Starr King School for the Ministry and Meadville Lombard Theological School, respectively), and former UUA President John Buehrens.

For our own Sunday Zoom service on June 28th, we will watch together the GA Sunday Worship - a powerful communal experience - what a treat! Then we will gather afterward for virtual coffee hour to reflect on the experience. If you miss our 11:00 am worship service (or you are an early riser and want to watch it earlier), you can also experience the livestream at 9 am or 12 pm at uua.org/ga

- Rev. Emily



Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!

June 2020 Newsletter

June Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this June's Share the Plate recipient: Meals on Wheels.

Meals on Wheels delivers nutritious, well-balanced meals to homebound seniors by volunteers, providing comfort in knowing that a good meal and a friendly face will come with every visit.

Vulnerable seniors are at the greatest risk amid COVID-19. Local Meals on Wheels programs are on the front lines every day, focused on doing all they can to keep older Americans safe and nourished in communities across the country. In fact, a new survey conducted by Meals on Wheels America finds that nearly all local Meals on Wheels programs are experiencing increased demand, with four in five programs reporting that new meal requests have doubled since March 1, when concerns over COVID-19 and social distancing measures began taking hold.

Thoughts from the RE Corner

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/1g4Xhol7NbN5s0BJb2Jd3LKWbq0X2BigA?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 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.

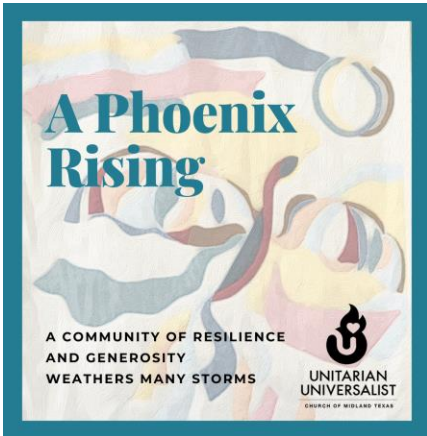


Chalice Camp

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. I will be asking for parental input as to best day and time. If you are interested in assisting during Chalice Camp, please let me know at dre@uumidland.org.

June 2020 Newsletter

Sermon Excerpts – May 17, 2020 "Phoenix Rising " Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon



The Phoenix Rising is pictured on the quilt in our sanctuary – a quilt designed and stitched by our church members decades ago, after our previous church building burned. The Phoenix is a creature from Greek mythology that is self-renewing – it dies in a fury of flames, and then the new phoenix emerges each time from the ashes. Oh – and in Harry Potter mythology, even the Phoenix’s tears are magical – and its feathers form the core of Harry’s wand.

The church chose this symbol when our building had burned, the member numbers were small, and the church had to decide whether to walk away or rebuild. They bravely decided to rebuild, and in 1977 the church was rededicated with 10 families – a few years later they bought the land we currently have and built our current building. This church has been in our

community since 1954 – it has been through booms and busts, times of low and high membership and periods of conflict.

This church has always risen like a Phoenix to respond to the needs of the time. In the 60s, this church helped desegregate MISD, and stood for peace movements during the war. The first ever regional gathering of the Southwest UU Women’s Conference was held right here in Midland to support women’s rights. There was a prison ministry in the 80s, and there’s our current work through Out in West Texas, and more.

We have been here since 1954 – a place and a people that welcome and support the free search for truth and meaning, and the living out of our values in the world. We have always offered something incredibly unique in our area.

We are here because people before us saw the need for this church – we will be here long after our current challenges because *you all* see the need for this church.

May we heed the call to respond to the challenges of our time...together.

At our online flower ceremony service on May 31, 2020, Rev. Emily talked about how the ceremony is not trivial but rooted in resistance and in our commitment to the inherent worth and dignity of all people. Norbert

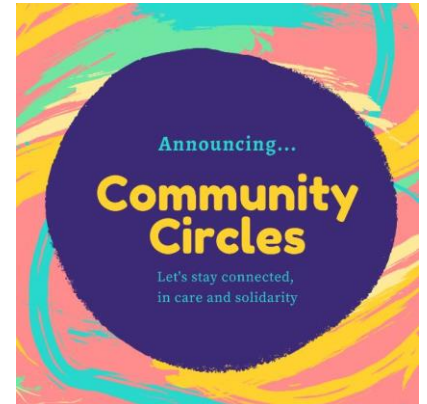
Capek, the founder of the ceremony, died in a Nazi concentration camp, arrested for resistance. May, we, too, live out our values and work for a world free from the sickness of white supremacy.



What's Happening at UUCOM

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! 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!!)

Ministerial Search Committee

The Board is pleased to announce the members of the Ministerial Search Committee:

David Allen, Chair
Erica Stoltz, Secretary
Maureena Benavides, At-large
Barbara Handley, At-large
Janine Deckard, At-large

They have already finished the first phase of their work and expect to receive information about applicants shortly. Due to the sensitive nature of their work, they will be unable to share specifics with the congregation until their search is complete.

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.

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 June 14th** from 2:30-4:30pm for our next meetup. Please email Franny at starrymoon@gmail.com for our meeting link.*

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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 lindaqpublic@nowheat.com.

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. 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 through Zoom. If anyone would like to join them - it's still free – just send an email to Patty George at, 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".