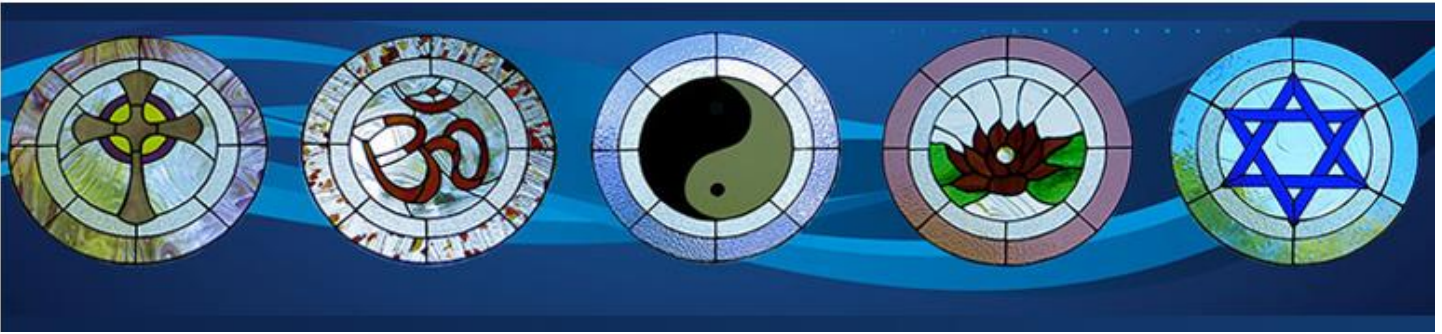


# June 2021 Newsletter



## 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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## June 2021 Newsletter

### June 2021 Sermons at a Glance – Worship Theme: Celebration

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#### June 6 *Weaving the Web*

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Barbara Handley will lead us in our traditional Weaving the Web service. Weaving is at the heart of our mission statement.

WELCOMING diversity

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WEFT—weft! Our seventh principle speaks of the interdependent web of all existence. This interactive service allows us to share our stories of inspiration and celebration of our beloved church community. During this service, we will also celebrate all of the volunteers that work both out front and behind the scenes.

#### June 13 *Inherent Worth and Dignity*

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This is the first in our summer series exploring our eight principle. In this service, Barbara Handley will share the story of the “birth” of our principles and specifically our first principle—the inherent worth and dignity of every person. In Spirit Play, our first principle is the Red promise—respect all beings. Many people believe that this is our most important principle. Some go so far as to say that it is the only principle that we really need.

#### June 20 *Justice, Compassion and Equity*

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Jane Hellinghausen will lead us in the second of our summer series. We will explore the second Unitarian Universalist Principle—Justice, compassion and equity in human relations. This is our Orange promise—offer fair and kind treatment to all.

#### June 27 *General Assembly Sunday Worship*

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UUCOM will be joining thousands of other UU congregations across the continent to share in this Sunday Worship from the First Universalist Church of Minneapolis. Traditionally, GA Sunday Worship is an inspiring service filled with music and inspiration. It is a celebration of Unitarian Universalism and shared ministry.



## June 2021 Newsletter

### Sunday Mornings

Interested in RE, see the **RE Corner** on page 9 for details.  
Sunday services are currently online, using Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/2750827327>

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: **275 082 7327**

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 above number.



UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF MIDLAND TEXAS

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

### 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.

### UUCOM Board

**Maurena Benavides**, President  
**Janine Deckard**, President-Elect  
**Alex Fields**, Treasurer  
**June Graham**, Secretary  
**David Allen**, At Large Member  
**Lisa Jebsen**, At Large Member  
**Beverly Wise**, At Large Member

### UUCOM Staff

**Rev. Julie Lombard**, Minister  
Email: [minister@uumidland.org](mailto:minister@uumidland.org)  
(432) 694-4308 office  
(603) 724-0978 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](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>

## June 2021 Newsletter

### June Calendar

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

June 27		General Assembly
July 5		Chalice Camp

### Worship Committee

At our Spring Congregational meeting, our congregation voted for us to proceed as Lay-Led +. That means that most Sunday's 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.



## June 2021 Newsletter

### Spring Congregational Meeting 2021 Results

What a success this year has been in terms of the learning and growth that has happened for our church. There have been many challenges we faced as we learned how to navigate church in the time of Covid. Our minister, Rev. Julie Lombard, was a hard working guide and leader as she ministered to our members and helped us all stay connected via Zoom church. I would like to offer my gratitude to her for her service to us and wishes for her continued joy in ministry.

We had a good turnout for our spring congregational meeting and great presentations by all involved. As you can see, we voted on many topics of interest that will guide us in the coming year.

On May 16, our church made several important decisions, including:

- Voting in two new investment committee members - Bill Rutter and Tim Jebson.
- Voting to adopt a “lay-led plus” ministerial structure and budget.
  - This means that our lay members will lead the church and invite speakers to lead services a couple of times a month.
- Voting in new Board members, including: President Elect, Barbara Handley; Treasurer, Jane Hellinghausen; and At-Large Member, Eli Hilbert.
- Voting to hire a Director of Religious Education to replace Barbara Handley, who will be moving on to become our Board President-Elect.
- Voting to adopt the 8th Principle as a congregation.
- Voting to become a Welcoming Congregation.

UUCOM is embarking on new directions and now, more than ever, we want YOUR voice to be heard. As I have been attending UUCOM for over 20 years, I know we have strength in pulling together and putting our lovely hearts and minds to work. Maybe you would like to have a movie for book discussion, join in social justice efforts or be a part of shaping the direction of religious education or have a topic you would like to address in a lay lead service. There are ways for you to make this YOUR church and explore what your interests are.

As I say goodbye as your president, I am thankful I had the chance to lead us during this time. I was blessed to work with a board that was thoughtful, hard working, and always collaborative and diligent to manifest so much change in one year. We have accomplished so much! I am excited to have Janine coming into the president role. She and I have worked on the board of Out in West Texas together and I know from my experience there that she is a conscientious leader who will do great things for us.

I hope you can continue to find connection and stimulation through UUCOM. See you at church!

Maureena Benavides



## June 2021 Newsletter

### June Minister's Musings by Rev. Julie Lombard



There is much to celebrate in the life of this church. In the month ahead we will recognize our members and all they do, we'll be joining with UUs around the country at General Assembly, and we'll be celebrating a full summer of lay-led services that will lift up our 8 Principles. I hope you are looking forward to it! Every June, our monthly worship theme is Celebration!

We have so much more to celebrate here: another successful Annual Meeting, we have new lay-leaders guiding us forward and we have strong committees doing the work they are charged to do. We have a plan in place to safely re-open and new equipment to make a hybrid model of worship possible.

Let's celebrate that our Worship Committee has committed to filling our pulpit every Sunday in the calendar year! We have a strong Social Justice Committee that continues to lead and educate us about important topics. Our Welcoming Congregation Committee makes our church a more welcoming space for all people, and our Caring Team is leading the charge for us to care for one another. There's always a new way to learn about how your faith inspires whether it is by participating in a Small Group Ministry or by watching our youth learn in their various Religious Exploration Programs. Welcome back Chalice Camp!

We have bountiful love for art and music as seen in the beautiful art exhibits throughout the year in our sanctuary and on zoom- the church choir, the online art exhibit and worship service featuring our own local artisan- Rebecca Dodge, and all the many talented musicians that Scott and Sonja share with us throughout the year. We certainly do what we love and enjoy sharing the fruits of our labor with the wider world.

I'm very grateful this church has a strong staff that is committed and we have terrific partners who enjoy being here year after year. This place is oozing with a mature love that is capable of sustaining us for many years.

Celebration is a way of life here. This is a beloved faith community. We show up, we tell the truth, we do what we do with passion and intensity, and we don't get attached to the outcomes. These are the hallmarks of a strong ministry. You deserve to celebrate this shared ministry and all you do to make this shared ministry successful. Let the celebration begin! I may not be with you on the journey forward, but I will always be cheering you on.

Peace,

Rev. Julie

## June 2021 Newsletter

### Whatcha Watching

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I don't have cable, but I do like to stream & this is what I've been watching. Let me know if you've seen them & you'd like to discuss them.

Peace, Julie

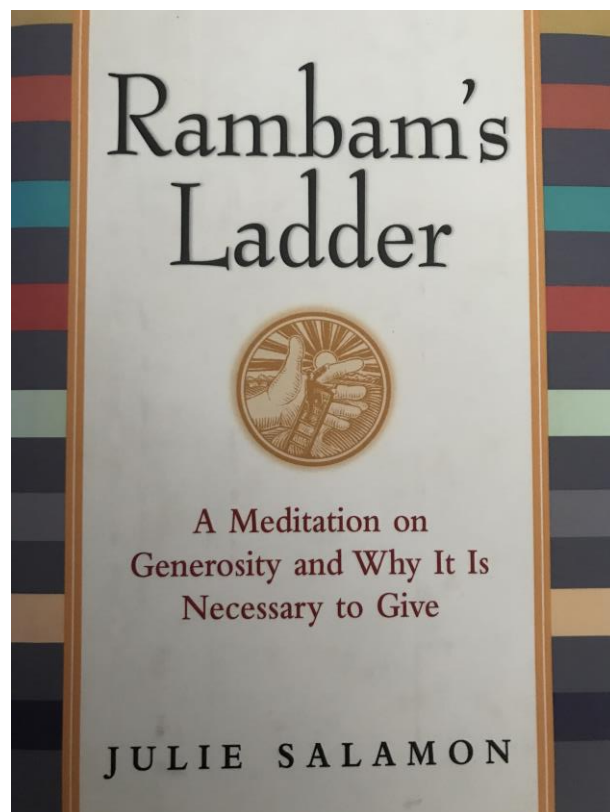
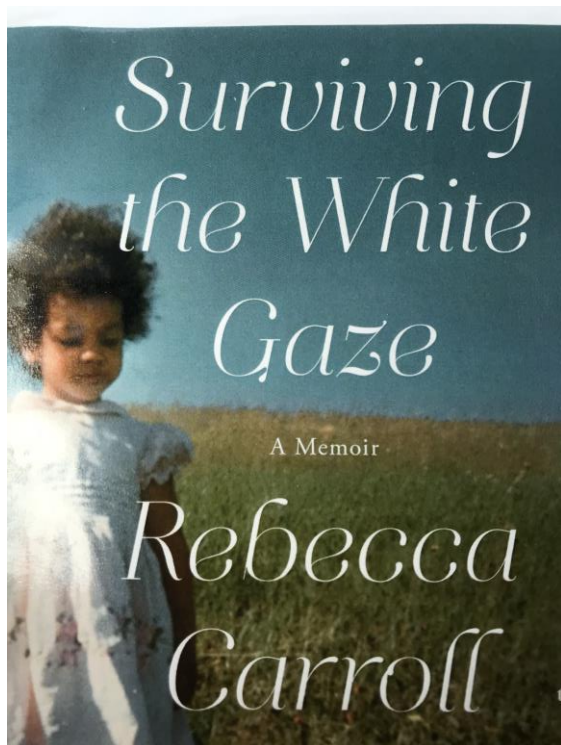


### Whatcha Reading

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I like to listen to books while on long drives & this is what I've been reading. Let me know if you've read them & you'd like to discuss them.

Peace, Julie



## June 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!!

**June 6—The Girl with a Mind for Math—the story of Raye Montague**

**June 13—I Am Love: a book of Compassion.**

**June 20—Drawn Together.** This story explores how art can break down language barriers.

**June 27—of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters.** President Barack Obama's inspiring letter to his daughters, Malia and Sasha.

#### 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

If you are interested in helping with our children's religious education during the time of Covid-19, there are many ways that you can participate. You could read or tell a story during Children's Zoom Space. You may suggest a story for our Children's Space. Our theme is: Super Heroes!! You may help to create Spirit Play stories for when we get to meet in person!! Please contact Barbara Handley at [dre@uumidland.org](mailto:dre@uumidland.org) or 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.



## June 2021 Newsletter

### What's Happening at UUCOM

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#### June Share the Plate

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We will share ½ of all cash donations with this June's Share the Plate recipient. The Social Action Committee has chosen the following recipient, Basin Pride.

After the first Basin Pride in 2019, the second annual Basin Pride makes its triumphant return Saturday, August 7, 2021 at 1 PM CDT – 10 PM CDT at [Noel Heritage Plaza](#). Admission is free! Basin Pride is a committee under Pride Center West Texas made up of queer community members from the Permian Basin.



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

#### Sermons

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Please find Rev. Julie's most recent sermons in the sermon blog at [www.uumidland.org/blog](http://www.uumidland.org/blog).

#### 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 June 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 June 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 June 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.

## June 2021 Newsletter

### **Board Thank You for Month of April**

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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.

**Franny**- for suggesting we work with Mike to assist with tech support with re-opening.

**The Nominating Committee**- for continuing the search for new leaders. This is not an easy task this year!

**Emmy & SAC**- for a terrific Earth Day Service on April 18th.

**Jessica & Barbara**- for extra work done to work through the internet concerns.

**Scott, Sonja, & David**- their tireless assessment with regards to music & tech needs with worship transition.

**David**- for going the distance working with Mike (tech support) and figuring out the best path forward for stable internet & phone service.

**UUCOM Leadership**- for supporting me during my time of need- accepting my need to return home after the retraction of the contract renewal. I am sad to not get to stay and continue working with y'all.

### **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.

### **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](#).

### **Free Yoga Class – Online**

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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](mailto: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".

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.

## June 2021 Newsletter

### Wider World

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#### 2021 UUA General Assembly

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General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone June attend; congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates

The UUA Board of Trustees has passed a resolution making the 2021 UUA General Assembly a 100% virtual event. Let's reach record-breaking attendance **June 23-27, 2021!**

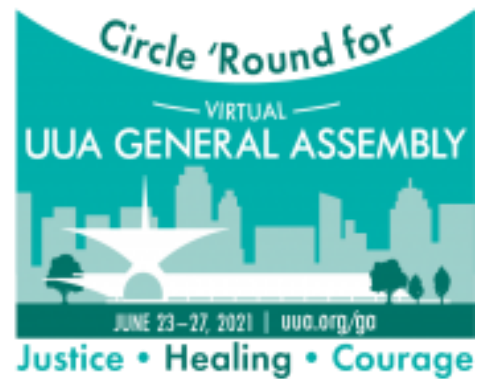
**Circle 'Round for Justice • Healing • Courage** is the theme for General Assembly 2021. GA is a time to circle 'round in community. We circle 'round in care and healing; for liberation and justice; and for love and courage.

#### Why Virtual General Assembly?

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. That remains true even when we cannot gather physically. Last year, GA had more than 4,900 registered attendees

participate from remote locations around the world. Although we give up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in-person, we retain our dedication to community and make our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable.

If you haven't registered for Virtual GA 2021 already, there is no better time to register than right now! Registered attendees are among the first to hear program announcements, including featured speakers and the Ware Lecturer and only registered attendees will have access to the new GA app (coming soon!) So, register early to join online discussions, familiarize yourself with the GA schedule, and find your place in our community of communities. Register at: <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>.



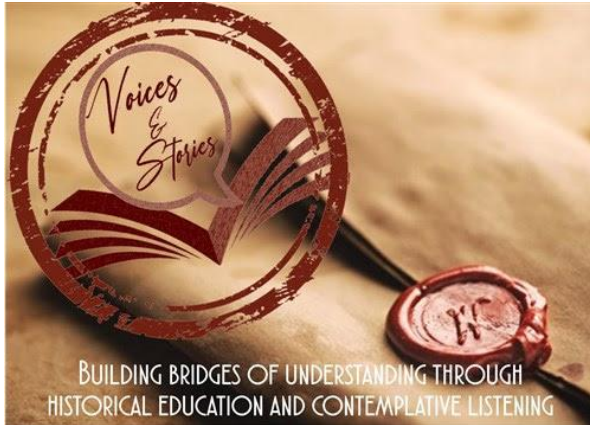
## June 2021 Newsletter

### 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.



Beginning in May, we are launching "**Voices and Stories**" as a new [ONLINE series](#) that uses historical education and contemplative listening to open hearts and minds to the events that have shaped American society today.

In June, Jackie Trotter Dove will facilitate our second "Voices and Stories" session on Tuesday, June 14th by introducing us to [Juneteenth](#) (short for "June Nineteenth") which marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and **ensure that all enslaved people be freed**. The troops' arrival came a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. **Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the United States** and is considered the longest-running

African American holiday.

[The 1982 Murder of Vincent Chin](#), who died on June 23rd, will be our third in this initial "Voices and Stories" series. The recent rise in **violence against Asian Americans is reviving the story of Vincent Chin**, a Chinese man beaten to death in Detroit by two white men who never spent a day in prison. This case of injustice for the Asian community ignited **a movement in Civil Rights history that many people don't know about**.

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**.

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### Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders

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- June 21-25
- 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



## June 2021 Newsletter

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 June 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.