



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

June 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.

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June 2023 Sermons at a Glance

June 4 "Things RuPaul Has Taught Me"

June is widely known as Pride Month and despite the current political climate of fear mongering and awful legislation from the right, Rev. Lisa Jebesen will explore some of the wisdom and joy to be found from pioneers in the LGBTQIIA+ community, including drag superstar, RuPaul.

June 11 "Father's Day"

The third Sunday in the US is recognized as Father's Day and as with Mother's Day, it can be a mixture of many emotions: joy, grief and sorrow to name a few. Whether you celebrate and/or struggle with this holiday, we hope you will join us for music and words to lift your spirit and nurture your "paternal heart."

June 18 *Guest*

More information to be announced.

June 25 *UUA General Assembly*

We will be streaming the GA Service from Pittsburgh.

POTLUCK LUNCHEON, JUNE 11, 2023

Please join UU's for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, June 11th following the church service.

Our Spring Congregational Meeting will follow the lunch. During this meeting, we will vote in new Board Members, approve the budget for the next fiscal year and follow up on our Spring Gatherings.



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. 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

One of my favorite sermons so far was an exploration of spring celebrations where we explored traditions like Songkran Water Festival, Nowruz and Holi. As the summer solstice draws near, I've found myself researching some of the many ways this day is celebrated and I thought you might be interested as well.

Scandinavian countries have variations of what we call Midsummer: Sweden has Midsommar, Finland: Juhannus, Norway: Jonsok or Sankthansaften, and Denmark has Sankt Hans Aften. Current day festivities are not always on the exact date of the solstice so that people can enjoy the holiday over a weekend. (Sort of like what we've done with Memorial and Labor Day). You can find Midsummer celebrations in other countries as well, but these are the countries most well known for this way of celebrating summer that include rituals and traditions from preChristian times like bonfires, decorating with flowers and plants. Modern Midsummer traditions include meals of beer, pickled herring and boiled new potatoes with chives or fresh dill and sour cream as well as wearing flower wreaths.

Bonfires are also a part of the celebrations in Austria's region of Tyrol. Since the Middle Ages, locals have created massive bonfires on top of many of the mountains as the sky goes dark on the longest day of the year. These fires turn the mountaintops into beacons and cast a mystical effect across the whole mountainous region.

The same can be said for the Feast of St. Joan in Barcelona. Across the city, bonfires and fireworks are lit in honor of the start of summer. The night before one of the most important feast days for Catalans is dedicated to celebrations including parties, beach bonfires and music. The fireworks set off in the streets were originally thought to ward off evil spirits. The following day is a quiet one - a public holiday in Catalonia - dedicated to feasting with friends and family.

From bonfires to boats.... In China, one of the biggest summer celebrations is the Dragon Boat Festival that commemorates the life and death of Qu Yuan, a famous Chinese scholar. It's been celebrated for over 2,000 years and as of 2008, it is a public holiday. A key part of the festival is the famous dragon boat races. These boats can be anywhere from 40 to 100 feet long and sit 80 rowers. The races symbolize bringing the dragons to life and laying them to rest after the race finishes.

I hope you enjoyed learning a bit about how others celebrate the summer. I also hope yours is filled with fun with friends and family and plenty of Sundays at UUCOM!





Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland continues our efforts together to move forward in creating the "Beloved Community" where we live out our values and principles. Make your 2023-2024 FY pledge either online or via physical form.

Please visit <https://www.uumidland.org/pledge-card/> to complete the online pledge form.

Or complete a physical form mailed to you.

The final deadline for pledge cards is June 1, 2023 to be included in this year's budget.

June Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this June's Share the Plate recipient. The Board has chosen the following recipient, the Boys and Girls Club of the Permian Basin.



The Boys and Girls Club of the Permian Basin's mission is to help young people become productive, caring and responsible citizens by providing enriching experiences in a positive environment. Every day nearly 1,000 Club Kids form meaningful relationships, develop essential life-skills, and establish the foundation for Great Futures. By providing resources like internet access and technology, studies in Arts Education, support with math and reading skills, mentors, nutritious meals, and a place to call home, we are empowering tomorrow's leaders to reach their full potential. For a majority of families in the Permian Basin, they are virtually the only affordable option for after-school and summer youth services.

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

Congregational Meeting

Please join your Board on **June 11, 2023**, for the **Spring Congregational Meeting and Potluck** following the service. There are many changes afoot and we need everyone's input to keep functioning as a democratic, inclusive body. We invite you to be part of our congregational business as we look back upon the previous year and set our sights on the year ahead.

You may join the meeting virtually by Zoom or in person at the church after the service.

- *Budget proposal*
- *State of finances*
- *Spring Gatherings Recap*
- *Vote to fill Board positions of: President- Elect and one At-Large Member*
- *Vote on the proposed budget*

Participating in our biannual meetings is one very important way to be engaged and connected at UUCOM, so we hope you will be present virtually or in person following the service. We need a quorum of members there in order to vote on this important business. We value your input and your voice!

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.

June 4: Henry Hikes to Fitchburg. This story looks at the friendship of Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

June 11: There will be no Spirit Play on this Sunday.

June 18: Opal Lee. The true story of the grandmother of Juneteenth.

June 25: A Bus Called Heaven. This story explores the meaning of community.

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 can create a new Spirit Play story. You may suggest a 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

General Assembly

General Assembly (GA), the annual gathering of UUs, starts on Wednesday, June 21 at 6pm EST/5pm CST/3pm PST in-person in Pittsburgh, PA and online. There is so much to do at GA this year – from saying farewell to our current president and electing a new one, to taking part in the historic Ware Lecture, to worship with amazing UU musicians and worship leaders, to discussing and voting on essential business – and we can't wait to be with you for it all.

[GA Schedule](#)

There are so many amazing UU leaders and speakers participating in GA this year. The Rev. Chris Buice will lead worship in the Service of the Living Tradition and the Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti will lead Sunday Worship. UU clergy, religious educators and many others will offer workshops throughout GA, many of which are already available to watch online on-demand.

TXUUJM

Wow! It's the [last week of the 88th Texas](#) Legislature, and we're gearing up for General Assembly! Get the [latest news from the Texas UU Justice Ministry here](#). Thank you to all of you who have been showing up, calling, emailing, about our justice issues, from healthcare to trans rights, racial justice to the environment. [Please sign up here](#) for latest TXUUJM actions and news.

"Yes, this is the home stretch of the #TXLege. ["Sine die" is Monday](#). We are still [fighting for House Bill 12](#) (postpartum healthcare) and against a horror show of bad bills. We've squashed lots of them but many are still in play -- [more than I can list](#) here. Please keep calling your legislators about the issues that matter to you and [looking to TXUUJM](#) and partners on [Facebook](#), in emails, and social media for the latest calls to action." Read the full letter from Rev. Erin Walter [here](#).

Side With Love

Wednesday, June 14th

4pm PT/ 5pm MT/ 6pm CT/ 7pm ET

We know we need to focus on climate justice, but where do we start? For many Green Sanctuary Teams, the Justice campaign is the most challenging and also the one with the most room for growth and collaboration. Bring your questions and ideas and join the conversation!

[Register Here](#)

Wider World

UUMFE

Prepare for the Summer Solstice at our Monthly Full Moon Spiritual Gathering! We'll meet to **reflect, share in small groups and nourish our spirit. Bring writing utensils, paper, and a candle.**

- June 1, at 5 pm MT/ 6 pm CT
[Register for Spiritual Gathering](#)

This June, People vs. Fossil Fuels are mobilizing to turn up the heat and make Biden take *real* climate action – by ending the era of fossil fuels. Join us for a national week of action June 8th - 11th 2023 to demand Biden use his executive powers to end the era of fossil fuels and declare a climate emergency!

With mobilization tools like individual coaching, communication templates, action plans, and more, People v Fossil Fuels and partners are supporting folks to host **bold, creative, and disruptive actions to lift up their local fights against oil and gas developments.**

Action Steps:

1. [Review the Action Toolkit](#) for planning your action
2. Add your event to the Action Map or join an existing effort in your area <https://tinyurl.com/actionmap-EndtheEra>
3. If you're hosting an event, [request coaching support from PvFF](#)
4. [Join PvFF Action trainings](#)
5. Tell us what you did! [Add your action to the Side With Love Story & Report form](#)
6. [RSVP for Movement Chaplaincy led by UUMFE to debrief: June 15, 2023](#)
4PT-5MT-6CT-7ET

2023 UU Common Read

The UUA Common Read for 2022-23 is [Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism](#) (Skinner House Books, 2019). In this book, co-authors Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin—a white minister and a lay person of color—explore five UU congregations' journeys toward Beloved Community and share the joy, disappointment, and growth these congregations found.

[Join the Common Read.](#)

