



# Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

## June 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.

### Table of Contents



#### Sunday Worship

Sermons at a Glance  
Sunday Mornings



#### UUCOM

#### Announcements

Minister's Musings  
Share the Plate  
Special  
Announcement  
Stewardship  
Banned Book Club  
RE Corner  
Membership  
PFLAG Meetings  
Care Team

#### Wider World



## June 2024 Sermons at a Glance

### June 2 “A Conversation About Happiness” with Rev. Lisa Jebson

Let’s explore this topic together with time for reflection and sharing about what happiness means on a general level as well as personally, why it’s important to seek new and different ways to find it and how we can share it with others.

### June 9 Pride Service with Rev. Dr. Stevie Gaines

Join us for a special service as part of the Permian Basin Pride celebration with refreshments afterward, sponsored by PFLAG Midland-Odessa.



### June 16 “Famous UUs”

Today we will learn about two impressive women from UU history: Olympia Brown and Lydia Maria Child. Olympia Brown was an American minister and suffragist and the first woman to be ordained with consent from her denomination. Lydia Maria Child was also a suffragist who advocated for many oppressed members of society.

### June 23 “Hope for Humanity” with Rev. Lisa Jebson

In her final installment in this series, Rev. Lisa will bring stories from recent news that exemplify our UU values and lift our spirits to continue to fight for them.

### June 30 “Thank You” with Rev. Lisa Jebson

Today’s service is about thanking our UUCOM board for their service and Rev. Lisa’s final message as minister. We hope you will join us for this special time.

## POTLUCK LUNCHEON, JUNE 16, 2024

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



**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. 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  
CREATED BY MARGARET ISLAND

## UUCOM BOARD

**Harry Nutter**, President  
**Kyle Farmer**, President-Elect  
**A.C. Fields**, Treasurer  
**Emmy Ulmschneider** Secretary  
**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](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

While preparing for the June 2 service which will be a conversation about happiness, I came across an article called "Readings on Happiness" by Elizabeth Hurst. Her thoughts struck a few chords with me that I'd like to share here...

***Type A personalities enjoy more material success than Type Bs, however, Type Bs tend to be much happier***

As a self described Type A, I really needed to hear this. I shudder to think about the hours, days, weeks, months, (years?) I've spent scrambling to do more and be more. Or all the time I've been held hostage by thoughts of not being good enough. To what end?! Hurst notes that she will remind herself of this fact about Type As and Bs the next time she's caught in negative thinking or found herself in the daily grind.

*The energy one does not use toward ambitious pursuits can serve other goals, for example getting lost in blissful contemplation. Maybe not as "productive" from the material point of view, but so good for lucidity and serenity!*

***Removing yourself from an irritating circumstance (or person!) tells your nervous system that it can stop feeling irritated - and it does!***

Sources of irritation in our lives can definitely interfere with happiness so there is a lot to be gained from taking a break when things get heated. Sometimes this means walking out of a room. Sometimes this means simply taking some deep breaths and counting to 10 - this is a great tactic when it's not possible to get that physical distance. This also requires a good sense of self and what those irritations are.

***A sense of entitlement is the root cause of most people's unhappiness.***

Hurst has a laundry list of things that we're not entitled to and the interesting thing to me was that was mostly what I'd call big ticket items, like a partner "who always thinks as you do" and "the respect and admiration of your peers." Avoiding the trappings of entitlement can definitely bring happiness but I'd like to take that one step further... What about more mundane things like getting through the next red light or finding ripe bananas at the store? All those little things can add up to a lot of happiness!

Thank you so much for reading! I look forward to exploring this fascinating topic even more with you on June 2.





## Special Announcement

We are pleased to announce that Rev. Dr. Stevie Gaines (they/them) will serve as our part-time minister beginning this August. Rev. Stevie has more than 20 years of ministry experience and has guest ministered for us several times since January 2022.

In addition to being a UU minister, Rev. Stevie is a college professor. They hold graduate degrees in ministry and communication, and their doctoral dissertation was about antiracist preaching and congregational leadership. Their research and writing explore communication, organizational leadership, conflict management, social controversy, and identity, especially race, gender, and spirituality/religion.

Stevie's hobbies include cooking, hiking, kayaking, jogging, reading, writing, watching movies, listening to music, and more. Stevie is engaged to singer-songwriter Sky Conover and has a 12-year-old son, Caleb.



## UUCOM's 2024 Stewardship

### Fanning the Flame



The 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 2024-2025 FY pledge either online or via physical form.**

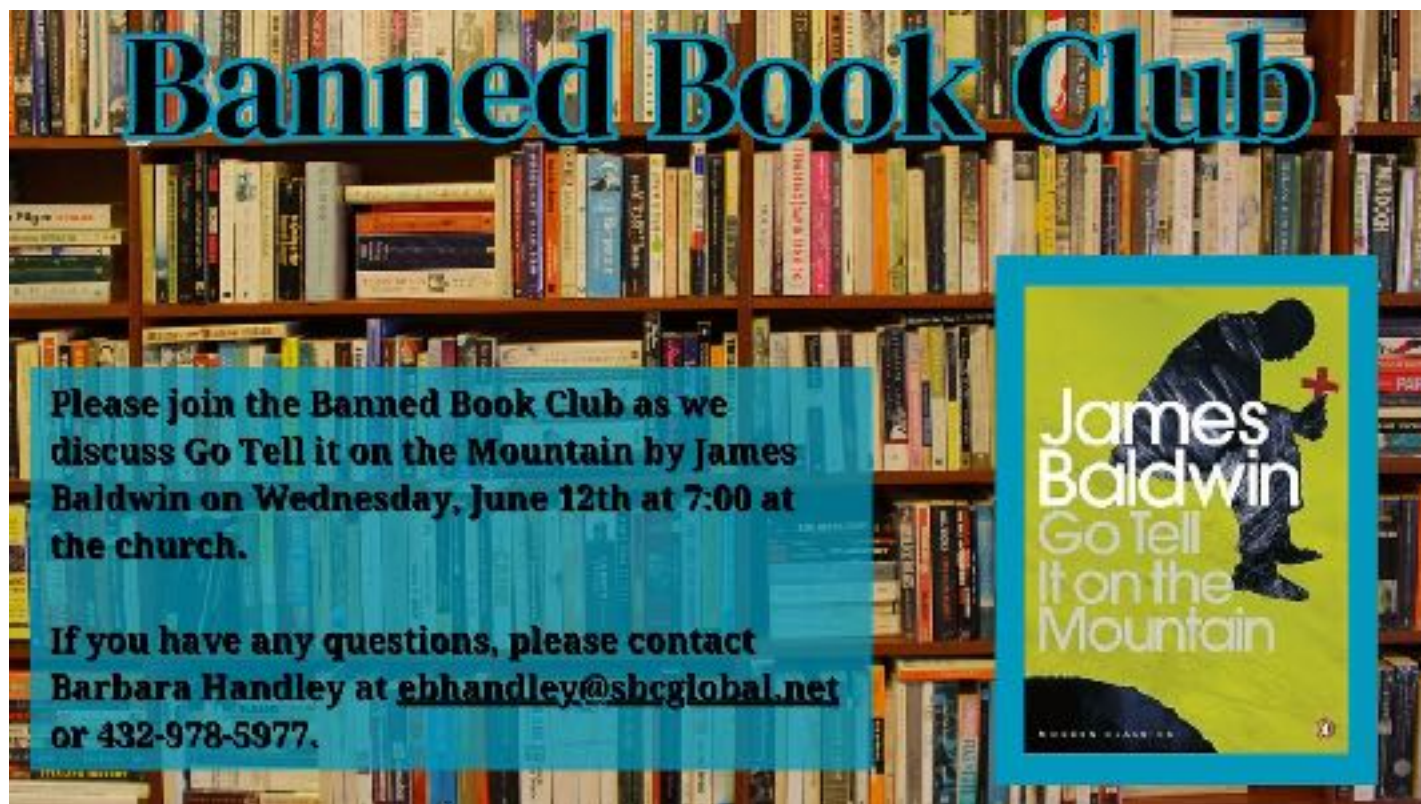
Please visit <https://www.uumidland.org/pledge-card/> to complete the online pledge form.

Or complete the physical form mailed to you.



## Banned Book Club

Please join the Banned Book Club as we discuss *Go Tell it on the Mountain* by James Baldwin on Wednesday, June 12th at 7:00 at the church. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Handley at [ebhandley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ebhandley@sbcglobal.net) or 432-978-5977.



## June Share the Plate

We will share  $\frac{1}{2}$  of all cash donations with this May & June's Share the Plate recipient. The Board has chosen the following recipient, **the Boys and Girls Club of the Permian Basin**.

Their mission is to help young people become productive, caring and responsible citizens by providing enriching experiences in a positive environment. The Boys Club came to Odessa in 1958 and Midland in 1965. In 1990 the Boys Clubs of America became the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. And in 2013, the Odessa and Midland clubs, remaining independent organizations, formed the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Permian Basin.

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



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

## 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.

**June 2 — Henry Hikes to Fitchburg.** This story looks at the friendship of Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

**June 9 — Theodore Parker and the Turtle.** As a young boy, Theodore learns the importance of the red promise.

**June 16 — Opal Lee.** The true story of the grandmother of Juneteenth.

**June 23— A Bus Called Heaven.** This story explores the meaning of community.

**June 30 — Irma Rombauer.** UU Irma Rombauer used her Joy of Cooking to fundraise for her church the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis.

### 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. Funds are available for Spirit Play training if you are interested. If you can help, please contact Barbara Handley at [ebhandley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ebhandley@sbcglobal.net) or 432-978-5977.

JOIN US FOR

## MIDLAND SUPPORT MEETING

THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST 7PM-8PM  
3301 NEELY AVENUE  
MIDLAND TX 79707

Providing support, safe spaces, and community  
Leading with Love

EVERY THIRD  
**MONDAY**  
OF THE MONTH

PFLAG  
MIDLAND / ODESSA

JOIN US FOR

## POGDC SUPPORT MEETING

THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST 6PM-8PM  
3301 NEELY AVENUE  
MIDLAND TX 79707

Parents of Gender Diverse Children  
For caregivers of gender diverse children who are looking for resources and support navigating their child's journey

EVERY THIRD  
**Wednesday**  
OF THE MONTH

PFLAG  
MIDLAND / ODESSA



## 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!

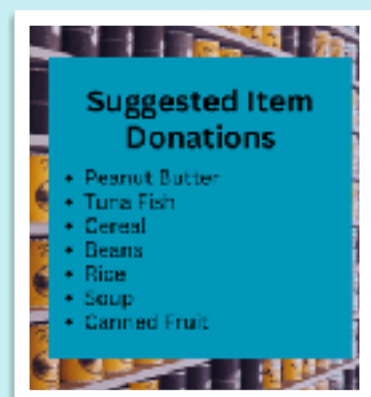
### Care Team for Church Members and Friends

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

## Basin Pride



Learn more at <https://www.pridecenterwt.org/basinpride>.

## TXUUJM

**6/6 NEW DATE - Guest Speaker: Steve Phillips, New York Times bestselling author, columnist, and political commentator - [RSVP](#)**

Join TXUUJM as we welcome New York Times bestselling author, columnist, and political commentator **Steve Phillips, in conversation with TXUUJM Executive Director Rev. Erin Walter**, about his book, *How We Win the Civil War: Securing a Multiracial Democracy and Ending White Supremacy for Good*. This is a FREE event, open to all.

## Wider World

### UUA Newsletter

May 2024 UUA Newsletter Read here: <https://bit.ly/3WVJbun>



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) here we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend.

In a world filled with division and challenges, the theme for this year's General Assembly is a powerful reminder of the core principles that unite us as Unitarian Universalists. "Love Unites, Stories Ignite" celebrates the profound impact of love as a binding force that transcends boundaries and fosters connections within our faith community and beyond.

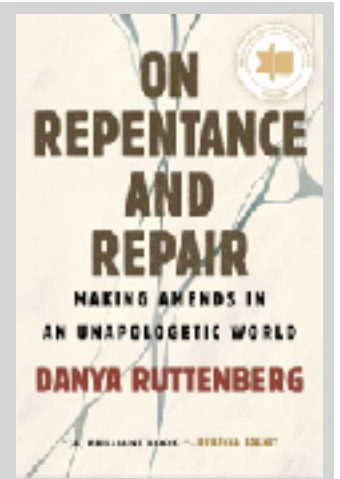
Our faith has always been rooted in the power of storytelling, and this year we'll explore how our stories can ignite change, inspire compassion, and help us build a more just and equitable world. Through storytelling, we share our experiences, our dreams, our struggles, and our triumphs. It is through these stories that we can find common ground, deepening our understanding of one another and the world around us.

The 63rd General Assembly will take place virtually Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024.

### 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 Ruttenberg (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 Ruttenberg into a framework for making amends offered by the 12th century Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides.

[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!](#)

- May 29, 2024 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT
- June 6, 2024 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM CT
- June 13, 2024 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT
- Questions? Email [UURevival@UUA.org](mailto:UURevival@UUA.org)

### Peruse additional Climate Justice Resources!

Rev. Kelly & Rachel shared the following resources that you can read and share with your congregations!

- **Green Sanctuary 2030**  
[Questions? Email Environment@UUA.org](mailto:Environment@UUA.org)
- **UUMFE**
  - [UUMFE Worship resources](#)
  - [UUMFE Curriculum for Climate Distress](#)
  - Questions? Email [Kellydignan@uumfe.org](mailto:Kellydignan@uumfe.org)

## UUMFE

- [June Monthly Musings](#)