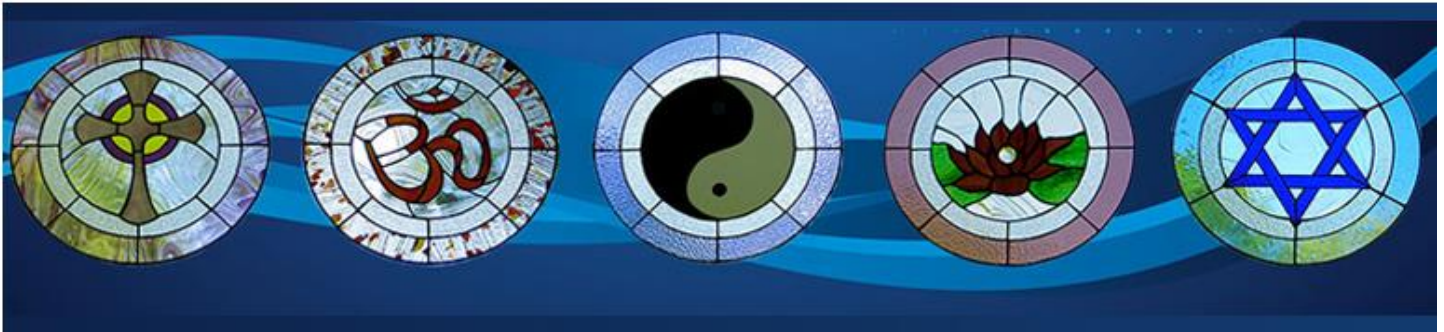


# March 2020 Newsletter



## Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

WELCOMING diversity

EMPOWERING spiritual growth

FOSTERING the interdependent web

TRANSFORMING lives

Please visit our website at [www.uumidland.org](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 the Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon.

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## March 2020 Newsletter

### March Minister's Musings

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Dear members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland,

I am writing to let you know that after five years as your minister, I have decided to step down from my position in June. My last Sunday in the pulpit will be June 7, 2020. My last day will be June 10, 2020.

Friends, I am so grateful to be your minister. I have felt deeply honored to be invited into your lives, to share in your joys and sorrows, and to accompany you through significant life transitions. I feel real grief about having to say goodbye to all of you. I love being your minister! I love being together on Sundays. I love talking with you about your ideas and your hopes, your pains and your passions. I love watching the children in our classes and services grow and learn. I love working with our committed staff and exceptional lay leaders.

I'm leaving because, for about ten years, my vocation has been primary in my family's life. It is time for us to shift focus to my spouse's career. My family and I are moving to Albuquerque where Ethan will be better able to find work in his field.

In the coming weeks, the Board will share with you a road map for ministerial transition. The Unitarian Universalist Association is prepared to support UUCOM through this transition.

I will be sharing with prospective ministers my glowing review of UUCOM. This is a church where many ministers would be happy and fulfilled. This is a healthy church with caring and committed leaders. This is a church that values professional ministry and treats its minister well. This is a church that has been growing and deepening in so many significant ways and is well positioned to launch into its next chapter of even greater impact.

As I will preach about on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> (the sermon will be on our blog soon), during any change or ending in our lives, it is important to be intentional about the emotional and spiritual tasks required for a "good ending." Properly processing the various feelings and needs of an ending allow a congregation to move into its next chapter with power and promise.

This week I will be holding office hours at the following times and locations to be available to hear your reactions and/or questions. And as always, I am delighted to hear from you by email, text, or phone to set up other times to meet.

Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:00 at the church

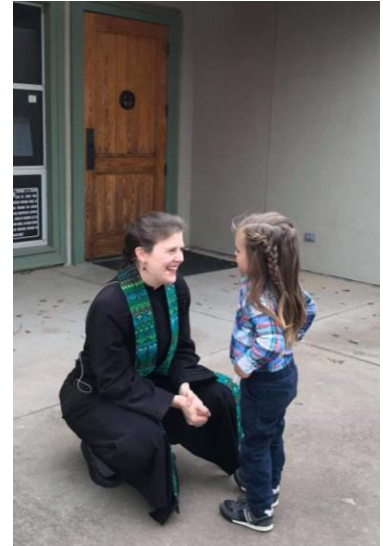
Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 12:00-2:00 at Brew St. Bakery 4610 N. Garfield St

Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 12:00-2:00 at the church

In the coming months, I hope for the opportunity to speak to many of you one-and-one and in small groups to share my gratitude and reflect on our time together.

In closing, I want to say that I believe in this church with all my heart, and in its mission to be a place of radical welcome, of spiritual growth, of real community. I have great faith in UUMidland's future, and I have great faith in all of you. Serving you as your minister has been, and remains, one of the great gifts of my life.

With deep love and gratitude,  
Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon



## March 2020 Newsletter

### March at a Glance

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#### March 1

**11:00 AM Worship Service:** Good Endings - Rev. Emily

We all experience many endings throughout our lives – endings of relationships, closings of chapters, or losses and shifts. Any transition in our lives is often a significant period for possible growth – if we can embrace the essential tasks of a good goodbye. You need not believe in the Christian resurrection to feel the wisdom in the words of Nietzsche "Only where there are graves are there resurrections."

**11:00 AM Religious Education:** The Story of Esther.

Children will learn about Esther and the Hebrew holiday of Purim.

#### March 8

**11:00 AM Worship Service:** "Murmurations: Lessons from Starlings on Resilience, Adaptation, and Community" - Rev. Emily

We evolve in relationships of mutual transformation. Part 1 of a two-part sermon series inspired by adrienne maree brown's work Emergent Strategy.

**11:00 AM Religious Education:** Waitstill & Martha Sharp.

The Sharps were instrumental in the Unitarian Service Committee in aiding in relocating European Jews from Nazi Germany.

#### March 15

**11:00 AM Worship Service:** "Fractals: Lessons from Nature on Making Change" - Rev. Emily

What we practice at the small scale sets the patterns for the whole system. Part 2 of a two-part sermon series inspired by adrienne maree brown's work Emergent Strategy.

**11:00 AM Religious Education:** Infinity of Questions: Maria Mitchell.

We will learn about the life of UU Maria Mitchell.

#### March 22

**11:00 AM Worship Service:** "What Have You Learned?" Response by Christopher Stoltz

This Sunday will be the fifth in a new series for our lay-led Sundays that features responses from many of our members and friends to this open-ended question.

**11:00 AM Religious Education:** Henry Hikes to Fitchburg.

This story is about two famous Unitarians, Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

#### March 29

**11:00 AM Intergenerational Worship Service:** UU Heroes - Rev. Emily

This Intergenerational and engaging service will tell the stories of several of our historical Unitarian Universalist heroes. We will be invited to reflect on other heroes that also inspire us, and ways we can honor their legacies. alike!



March's Theme:  
**Wisdom**

# March 2020 Newsletter

## March Calendar

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

March 1	12:00 p.m.	Potluck Lunch
March 3	7:00 p.m.	Permian Basin Buddhists
March 7	9:00 a.m.	Yoga Class
March 8	12:00 a.m.	"Dig Deeper"
March 10	7:00 p.m.	Permian Basin Buddhists
March 13	7:00 p.m.	Tree of Life Midland PNO
March 14	9:00 a.m.	Yoga Class
March 15	12:15 p.m.	The Holocaust: A Personal Journey with Rabbi Parr
March 15	2:30 p.m.	Stitching Group
March 17	7:00 p.m.	Permian Basin Buddhists
March 21	9:00 a.m.	Yoga Class
March 24	7:00 p.m.	Permian Basin Buddhists
March 28	9:00 a.m.	Yoga Class
March 29	12:15 p.m.	Newcomers' Drop-In Circle
March 31	7:00 p.m.	Permian Basin Buddhists
April 4	9:00 a.m.	Yoga Class

## Sunday Mornings, etc.

Interested in RE, see the **RE Corner** on page 7 for details.

## March 29<sup>th</sup> Intergenerational Service

### "Dig Deeper" Sunday, March 8, 12:15-1:30

An opportunity to dig deeper into the themes and questions of the Sunday service through small group reflection and conversation, facilitated by Rev. Emily. Snacks and childcare provided.

### Newcomers' Drop-In Circle, March 29<sup>th</sup>, @ 12:15 -1:00 PM

All newcomers to the church are invited to join Rev. Emily and the Membership Committee after a service. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about each other and the church! Snacks and childcare will be provided.

## Save the Dates

**April 19 – Animal Blessing Intergenerational Service:** This will be a shortened service held completely in our gardens. To celebrate Earth Day and our reverence for the interdependent web, this service will include a blessing of the animals. You are invited to bring your well-behaved animals and keep them always on short leash, in your arms, or in a cage/box/bowl. You are also invited to bring photos or other mementos of deceased animals. Let Rev. Emily know if you would like to help plan this service.

**April 26 – Harry Nutter**

**May 3 – Lisa Jepsen**

**June 28 – Janine Deckard**

## 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

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**Minister**

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**Minister's office hours are by appointment.**

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Friday 9-12

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**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>



## March 2020 Newsletter

### March Share the Plate

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**We will share ½ of all cash donations with this March's Share the Plate recipient: Fund Texas Choice.** Fund Texas Choice helps Texans equitably access abortion through safe, confidential, and comprehensive travel services and practical support.



## FUND TEXAS CHOICE

As abortion procedures in Texas last a minimum of 2 days due to the State's mandatory 24-hour waiting period and longer appointments can last a week. So, they provide two primary services to those who qualify:

- Accommodation: Any person driving several hours to an abortion clinic needs a place to stay before and after their procedure.
- Transportation: If you don't have a car, they provide bus tickets or plane tickets to the nearest clinic that can help you, in any state. If you own a car or can borrow one, they work with clinics to offset fuel costs.

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

### The Holocaust: A Personal Journey. A Rabbi's visit to Warsaw and Auschwitz.

#### Presentation by Rabbi Jordan Parr

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Sunday, March 15 @ 12:15-1:15 Snacks and childcare provided.

Rabbi Jordan Parr is currently the spiritual leader of Temple Beth El in Odessa, TX. Rabbi Parr is a proud graduate of the University of Michigan and was later ordained at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, OH. Prior to assuming this part-time pulpit, Rabbi Parr led congregations in Jackson, TN, Plano, TX and Augusta, GA. He also served as the Associate Rabbi at Temple Shalom in Dallas. He is recognized as a leader in the fields of Jewish Education, Medical Ethics and the relationship of Judaism to baseball. When not at his pulpit, Rabbi Parr works as an Inside Sales Representative at the Richardson, TX hub of State Farm Insurance Company. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of North Texas, having taught at the college level for over a decade. Rabbi Parr is married to the lovely Cynthia and has two daughters, Rebecca and Sarah, and recently welcomed Sarah's husband, Sam, to the family – who emigrated to the United States with his family from the former Soviet Union as a young boy.

### Annual All-Church Garage Sale

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Please mark your calendars for our annual Garage Sale on Saturday, May 2nd! This is one of our major fundraisers for our congregation and it requires many hands to accomplish. First, we need items to sell. As you do your spring cleaning, please box up clean items for the sale. Please NO Videos!! These items may be brought to the church beginning Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> through Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Please do not bring items before April 26<sup>th</sup> unless you make arrangements with either Shanda Unger or Barbara Handley beforehand. Secondly, we need workers!! We need people to sort and price items. We need people with trucks or SUV's to help move items from storage. We need people to attend the Pre-View Sale on Friday, May 1st. The cost is \$10/entry. For each \$10 of purchased merchandise, you will receive a \$1 rebate up to \$10. Snacks and beverages are provided. Lastly, we need workers on Saturday to help with the sale. Particularly at 2:00 when we begin packing up the items that did not sell. A sign-up sheet for helpers will be available in April. If you have any questions, please contact Shanda Unger at 432-634-7769 or Barbara Handley at 432-978-5977.

## March 2020 Newsletter

### Sermon Excerpts - February 9, 2020 "Love Your Church"

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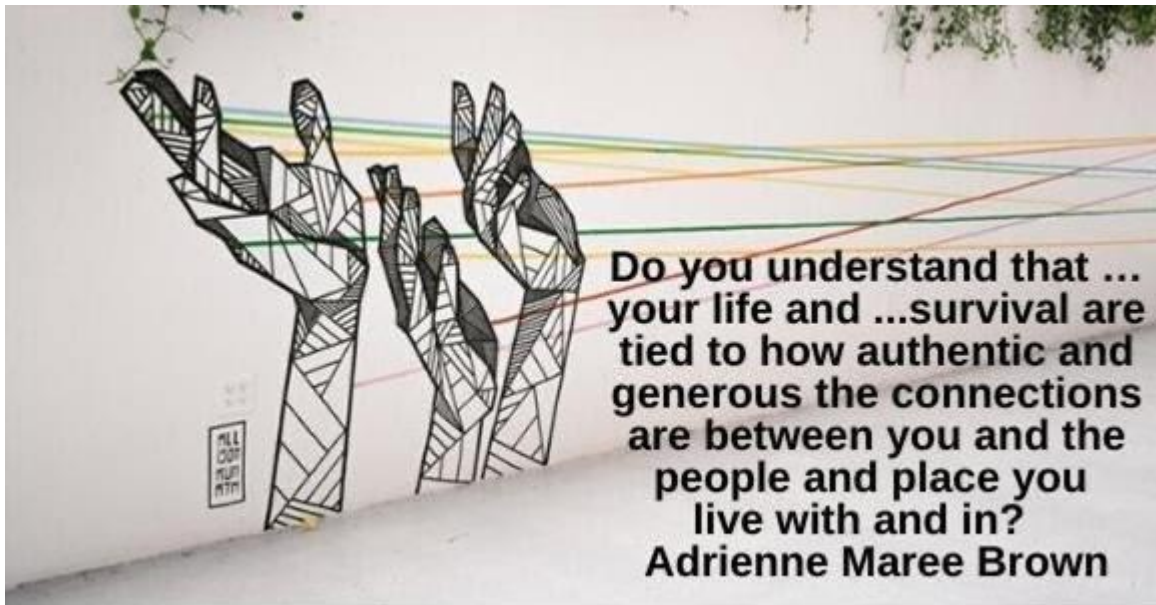


Photo by Allie Smith on Unsplash

As the fabric of true community frays and tears more and more in our culture, it's unusual to be in a place where it's not a relationship of transaction.

It can be confusing to come here and be invited to practice something different. To be told – “this is your home.” It makes sense if it takes some time to get your bearings...like an adopted older child in a new family, it takes time to figure out who people are, how things work, who **you** are in this new environment, what talents are being called forth and where.

So that's one reason the board has put together this Opportunity Fair after service today – you can walk around, check out the posters explaining the many teams and parts of the church, and how to get involved. But remember, those teams are there not because some authority-on-high dictated it, but because someone in this church imagined it and created it. So if there's something new *you* want to create, something you want to change, or grow, or transform...share that yearning with someone, find your people to work together to make it happen...

We engage in the work of this church – we see it as our home – because of the vision in our minds of the difference it makes. This church – us all together – is a community that can heal and strive and work and love in a way we cannot do alone.

And boy do I know this church has made a difference. This church has not just transformed lives, it has saved lives. Truly.

– **Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon**

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*Continued on Page 7*

## March 2020 Newsletter

I want to be trusted. I want to be respected, loved, accepted, heard & fulfilled. I want to be a part of something bigger than myself. I want to stand with an institution that is working toward a better tomorrow for all beings. I **want to be... HOME.**

Perhaps these aspirations sound familiar to you. Well these are the thoughts I had during the very first day I walked into these rooms.

I remember that day clearly. I awoke that morning eager to chase after my new community, no matter how hard the challenges were.

So there I was, standing in front of the door, bursting with excitement and anxiety to start my new adventure.

As I walked through the front door I was immersed into the beautiful rhythm and flow of this church. I saw more



members than I can count working cohesively toward one common goal. They were improving the functionality of their second home. Seeing all of these happy busy workers reminded me of the very first time I was exposed to a bee farm in Washington state, where I am from. ...These bees worked together so flawlessly because they all had one common love, their HOME.

We all witness our busy workers of this church every week. Working toward making our home the best it can be.

Coming into the church I was unaware of how it was run. I felt intimidated and well left out. I knew I wanted to help from day one, but how exactly? Finally I asked someone what I could do to help. They quickly replied "well help with whatever needs to be done." Surprised by their simple and concise answer, I thought, "wow, they're absolutely right but I don't want to over step with ignorance." I frequently held back on helping around here in fear of stepping on someone's toes. I heard my Nana's wise words in my mind replying, "do not make decisions based on fear, make them based on love."

During a Sunday morning service Reverend Emily was touching on service work for the church. She said something that set off an explosion of inspiration inside of me. She said, "The work does not belong to me as the minister. This church belongs to its members."

This struck an "ah hah" moment inside of my spirit. I reflected on her message that week, amazed at how off my perception truly was. I understood that just as I take pride in caring for my family and my home, the church is my home and the members are my family.

**– Kayleigh Kirk, Board member at large**

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See the whole sermon, and others, on the sermons blog at [www.uumidland.org/blog](http://www.uumidland.org/blog)

## March 2020 Newsletter

### Thoughts from the RE Corner

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#### Spirit Play Calendar

March 1—The Story of Esther. Children will learn about Esther and the Hebrew holiday of Purim.

March 8—Waitstill & Martha Sharp. The Sharps were instrumental in the Unitarian Service Committee in aiding in relocating European Jews from Nazi Germany.

March 15—Infinity of Questions: Maria Mitchell. We will learn about the life of UU Maria Mitchell.

March 22—Henry Hikes to Fitchburg. This story is about two famous Unitarians, Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

March 29—Intergenerational Service: Famous UU's\*

\*Childcare is provided for infants and pre-school aged children during Intergenerational Services. School aged children are encouraged to attend the entire service with their families.

#### Read to Feed

On March 15, children will report their accomplishments during our Spirit Play class. The funds will be pooled, and our children will help choose which animals Heifer International will donate to families around the world. There will be a special visit by a “kid” in the garden after service on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please convert all cash to checks made out to Heifer International.

#### Keep Midland Beautiful Trash Pick-Up

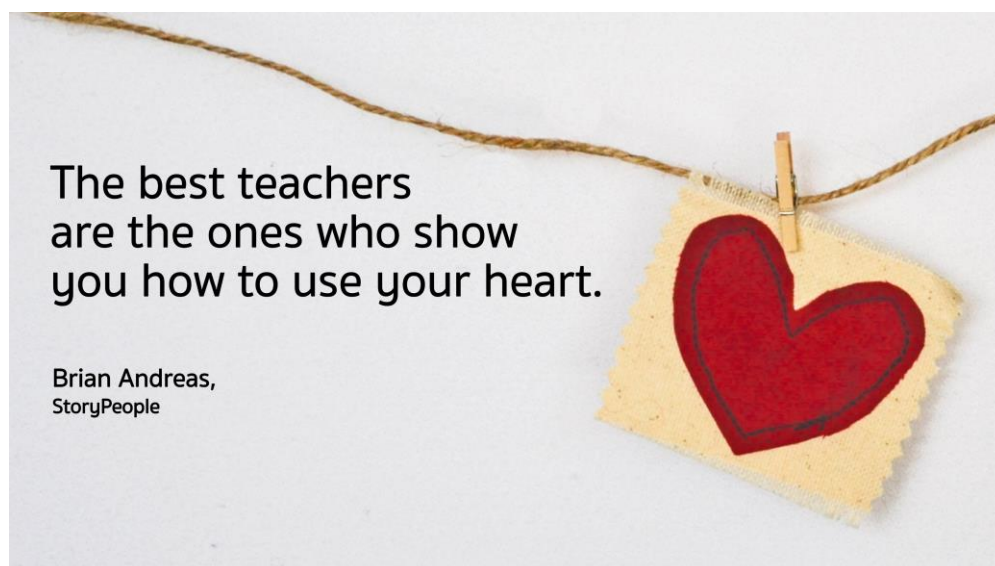
Please join us as we live out our violet promise—value our home the earth—as we help to clean up our community. We will meet at our assigned location at 9:00 on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Please wear pants and hat and sturdy shoes! There is a sign-up sheet for participants on the Guest Table in the foyer. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Handley at [dre@uumidland.org](mailto:dre@uumidland.org) or 432-978-5977. All ages are invited!!!

#### Save the Date

Chalice Camp 2020 will be Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-12:00. Cost is \$60 per participant. Scholarships are available. We must have at least five participants.

#### Religious Education Committee

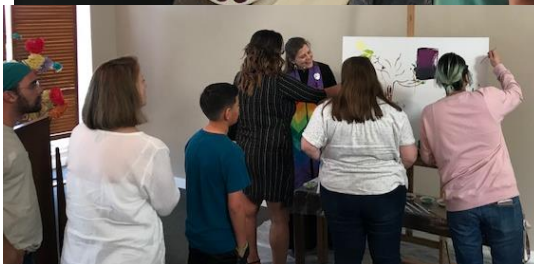
Our next RE Committee meeting is Sunday, March 8th at 9:30. If you are interested in volunteering your time and talent or just finding out what is happening in the RE wing, you are invited to join us! Childcare is provided.





# March 2020 Newsletter

On February 9, Rev. Emily and Kayleigh Kirk led a service to celebrate the ways our members make this church what it is through their gifts. We painted a painting together! Afterward, the Board and committees hosted a "Love Your Church" Opportunity Fair!

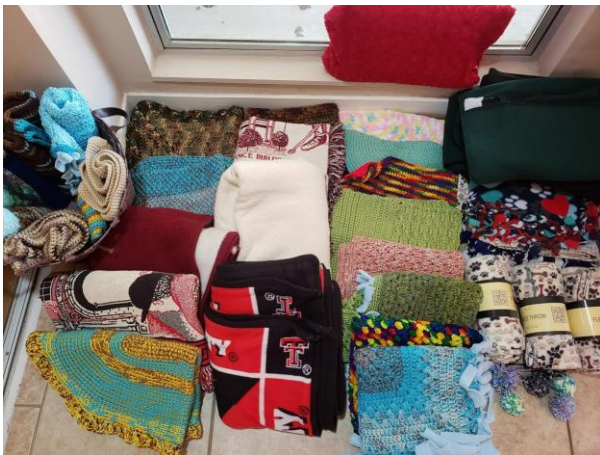




## What's Happening at UUCOM

### Monthly Stitching Circle

We welcome all stitchers: knitters, crocheters, embroidery or hand sewing! Bring your projects, get and share advice & tips, or join in the group project. Join us on **March 16th** at 2:30-4:30pm for our next meetup. Bring any stitching project you would like to work on. Previously, our group has donated blanket squares to Warm Up America and hats & scarves to our local homeless. In 2019, we made and collected over 60 blankets and other items for our local animal rescue groups! Thank you to everyone who participated!!



Our intergenerational "Big Shoes to Fill" service included a blessing of our shoes to honor our commitments to live out our values in the world!

Listen: a wisdom  
within you  
calls to a wisdom  
beyond you  
and in that dialogue  
lies peace.

Leslie Takahashi



### 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.

## March 2020 Newsletter

### Permian Basin Buddhists

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](mailto: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.

**Tree of Life Midland PNO\*** | Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM Brew St. Bakery

For updates and further information about Tree of Life, please check out their Facebook page [here](#).

### Free Yoga Class

Patricia (Patty) George teaches a free yoga class at UUMidland on **Saturday mornings from 9-10 am**.

The class is open to all, but please bring your own mat if you have one.

### Garden and Grow, Continues

We will be working this March in the Garden. Stay tuned for more details on when we work.

### 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](mailto: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!