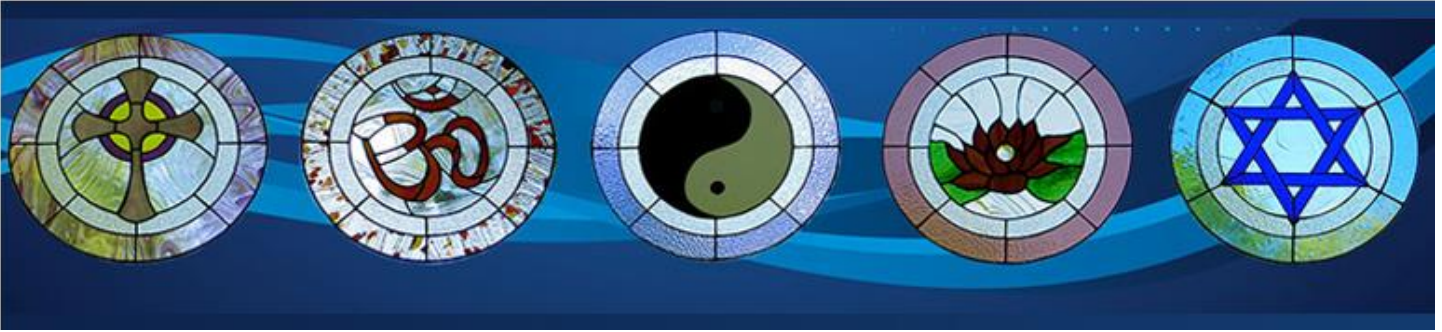


March 2021 Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

WELCOMING diversity

EMPOWERING spiritual growth

FOSTERING the interdependent web

TRANSFORMING lives

Please visit our website at www.uumidland.org 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.

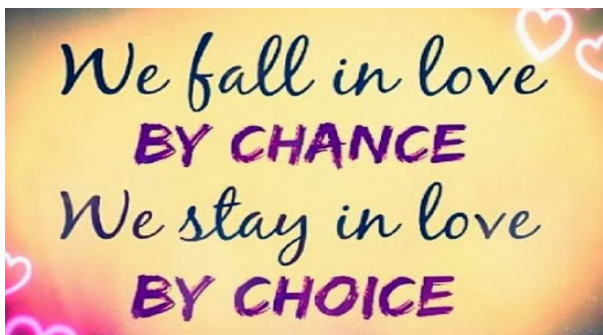
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March 2021 Newsletter

March 2021 Sermons at a Glance – Worship Theme: Redemption

March 7 *The True Hard Work* by **Rev. Julie Lombard**



Philosopher and writer Alain de Botton's essay "Why You Will Marry the Wrong Person" was the most-read article in *The New York Times* in 2016. It's hard to imagine that it was read more times than an article about the various candidates running for president. As people and as a culture, we would be much saner and happier if we examined our very view of love, Alain de Botton says, and relationships- I'd like to add. He wonders how might our relationships be different and even better if we were explicit about the real work of love is

not in the falling in love, but in what comes after? Please join us for worship as we explore this question together.

March 14 *There's a Way to be Good Again* by **Rev. Julie Lombard**

The message in today's sermon is about the line from one of my favorite books, Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* when Rahim Shah says, "There is a way to be good again." Rahim is talking about redemption- our worship theme. Join us for worship as we dream together about what creates the space for people, relationships, and opportunities to be restored, and the door to open to a better future, and whether or not we need an 8th Principle.



"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

March 21 *Loved into Being by UUA President* **Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray and friends**



Faith in Unitarian Universalism isn't an intellectual exercise: it's "heart" work. This full-length worship experience features a sermon by UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, as well as vibrant music, storytelling, and other worship elements that will help us to grow in spirit, in courage, and in generosity. Join us for this Stewardship Adventure. Worship leaders include [Rev. Chris Long](#) and [Rev. Mariela Pérez-Simons](#).

March 28 *A Roots Service* by **Rev. Julie Lombard featuring Harry Nutter, Janine Deckard, & Sonja Millichamp**

We are only days away from Trans Day of Visibility and we plan to celebrate this day here and now as a sacred time to gather- come one and all. There will also hopefully be a new tradition for this church with the introduction of the wonders of a Roots Service. It is a special kind of worship service that lifts up 3 perspectives from our lay-leadership on a specific topic- this time around the topic will spotlight our monthly worship theme: redemption. Join us and you'll be inspired when you hear their stories of redemption and what is at the root of this issue for them. Come, celebrate Trans Day of Visibility with this beloved community.



March 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.

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
CHURCH OF MIDLAND TEXAS

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 AM, in that same Zoom room, our staff hosts “time for all ages,” show-and-tell, joys and sorrows, and casual conversation.

March Calendar

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

March 7	12:00 PM	Welcoming Congregation Survey
March 21	12:00 PM	Welcoming Congregation Survey
March 21	2:30 p.m.	Stitching Circle - virtual
March 28	12:15 p.m.	Drop-In Circle
May 1		Pledge Card Due

UUCOM Board

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

UUCOM Staff

Rev. Julie Lombard, Minister
 Email: 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

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

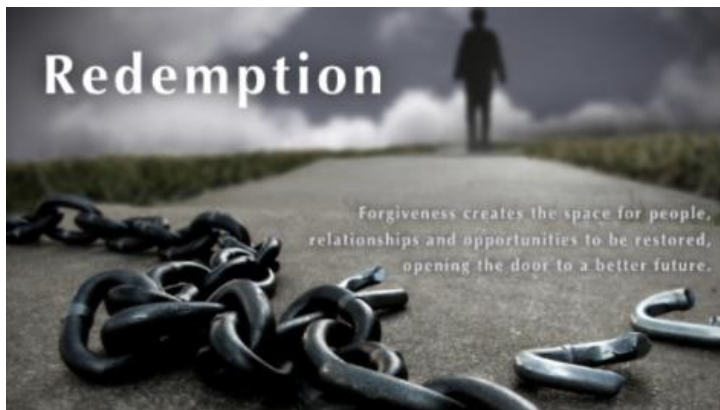
Like us on Facebook:

Unitarian Universalist Church of
Midland TX

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

March 2021 Newsletter

March Minister's Musings by Rev. Julie Lombard



"There is a way to be good again."—Rahim Shah, in Khaled Hosseini's novel, *The Kite Runner*. March ushers in the monthly worship theme of redemption. After another February's Black History month, we are given the gift of redemption to further contemplate the white supremacy culture raging in our world. This leads us to adopting an 8th UU Principle: <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/> & <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/why-now>

In the picture above, we see a person walking away from broken chains pictured with the statement: ***"Forgiveness creates the space for people, relationships, and opportunities to be restored, opening the door to a better future."***

Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael says that religious and secular moral traditions all over the world champion redemption as a means to spiritual growth and freedom from hopelessness. She asks what redemption means- it is the act of saving, or being saved, from error. Drug users and dealers achieve redemption by getting clean and then leading others to do the same. Rev. Forrest Church, wrote a story about his sobriety and redemption. You can read more: <https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/movesus/workshop8/forrest-church>

There are at least two examples of redemption found in the Old Testament. In the story of Noah, we see the saving of human lives, Noah's family. In the story of Joseph, we see the saving of human lives, a nation. In the story of Noah, God forgives; and in the story of Joseph, a human being forgives. In the story of Noah, the past is obliterated. In the story of Joseph, the past is redeemed. Which would you prefer?

Redemption can look different to different people. One person's redemption is another's hell. In our faith, we are left to decide this for ourselves, and, collectively, we agree that the covenants we construct matter because we believe it is an important part of living in right relation. The hope of restoration is made possible with right relationship. We believe there is a way to be good again - we need this kind of hope.

We live out this faith by respecting the covenants we keep and the promises made to one another. Otherwise, why bother? There is a lot to ponder with the concept. The journey may be long, but it's good to know we are on a path to spiritual growth. Let us proceed on a search for the open door to a better future for all human kind. Let this be a month where we explore such ideas as redemption, covenant, forgiveness, and restoration, and even a new principle.

Peace, Rev. Julie

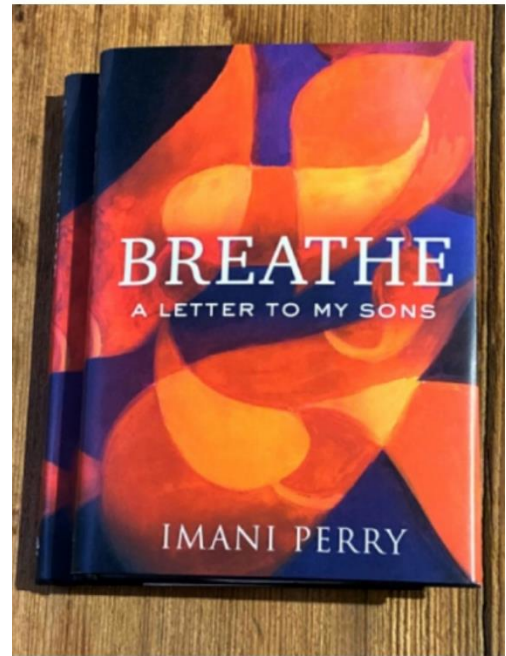
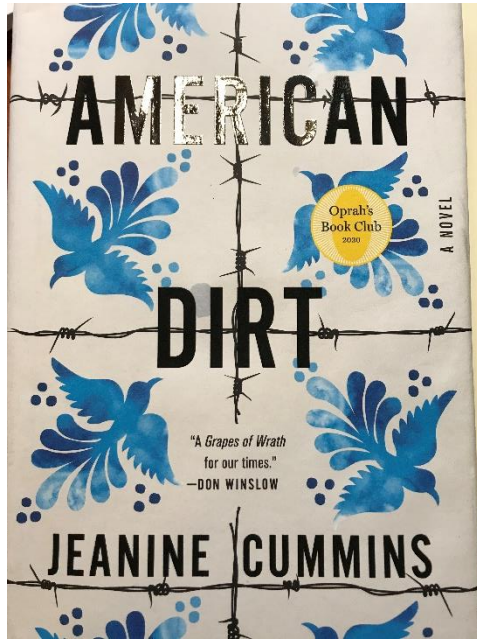
March 2021 Newsletter

Whatcha Reading

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




Whatcha Watching

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

The Black Church

WATCH NOW



Women in Blue

Subscribe to the INDEPENDENT LENS

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: VOICE OF FREEDOM

Celebrating Black History Month
WHAT TO WATCH | FEBRUARY 2021

PREMIERING THIS MONTH:

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE | FEB. 15
Voice of Freedom

PBS PRESENTS | FEB 16 & 17
The Black Church

INDEPENDENT LENS | FEB. 22
Mr. SOUL!

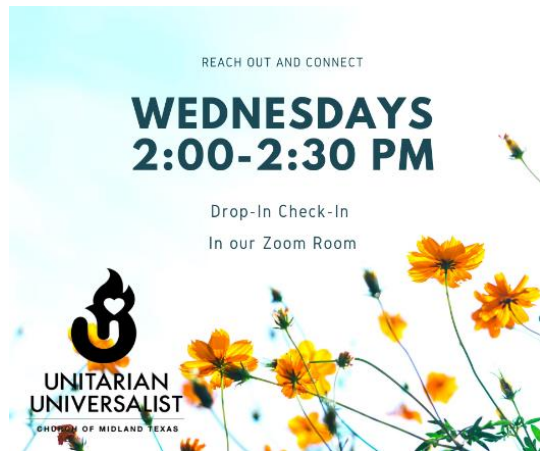
CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEBRUARY

Join Basin PBS all throughout the month of February as we celebrate Black History Month with programs from Antiques Roadshow, American Experience, Finding Your Roots, The Black Church and more!

March 2021 Newsletter

What's Happening at UUCOM

Mid-Week Event: Online Drop-In Space:

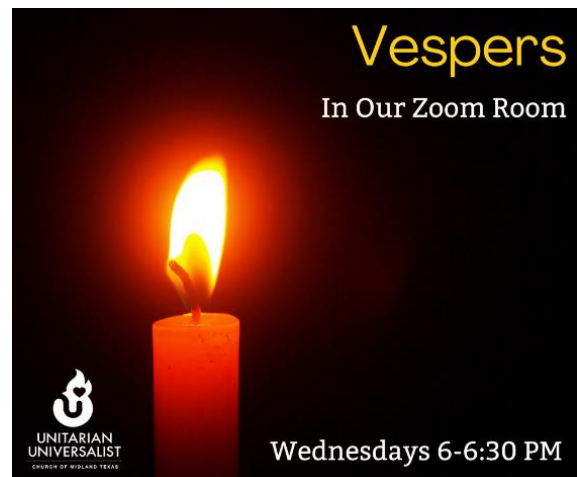


Wednesdays 2 –2:30 PM

Rev. Julie will open our Zoom room ([same link as 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.

Wednesdays 6-6:30 PM

Rev. Julie will open our Zoom room. This midweek evening service called Vespers, is held on Wednesdays at 6 pm, a quiet half-hour of music, prayer readings, and silence. A simple figurative breaking of bread follows the service - a brief check-in.



March Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this March's Share the Plate recipient. The Social Action Committee has chosen the following recipient Pride Center of West Texas.

Pride Center West Texas has a charitable mission to improve the lives of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) minorities through the provision of safe gathering spaces, educational offerings, and social services that prioritize those whom identify as LGBTQN+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, nonbinary, and the rest of our family members +). They have opportunities for you to participate in, promote, and even help provide culturally relevant/proficient education, events, and services that will create more safe spaces in which LGBTQN+ community members can safely exist! Help us raise awareness of issues faced by sexual orientation and gender-identity minorities, especially in rural communities like our home here in West Texas.



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

Monthly Stitching Circle

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 **March 21st** from 2:30-4:30 pm for our next meetup.

Please email Franny at starrymoon@gmail.com for our meeting link.

February 2021 Newsletter

Thoughts from the RE Corner

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!! This month we will be learning about UU Super Heroes.

March 7—The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice. Rev. Julie will share the story of Theodore Parker.

March 14—The Minister who was a Scientist. This is the story of Unitarian minister and scientist Joseph Priestley.

March 21—Angel of the Battlefield. This is the story of Universalist Clara Barton and her creation—the American Red Cross.

March 28—The Passover Story. Janine Deckard will share this sources story.

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 or 432-978-5977.

Welcoming Congregation Update

As a part of the process of becoming a "Welcoming Congregation", the UU Church of Midland is being encouraged to hold inclusive, sex-ed classes for our church and the wider community. This is not new for us, however this time it is a required element in becoming a Welcoming Congregation. Before we offer classes, we would like to know what our community needs. Knowing your needs will help us tailor programs that best serve this community and helps leadership move forward with the application process with the UUA.

Our leadership will be hosting a survey in March 2021. Please participate! You can participate in one of the surveys being offered on Sunday, **3/7 or 3/21** at the start of coffee hour. If you prefer to participate elsewhere (not on zoom) - please contact our church office by noon on 3/17. Our Office Administrator, Jessica will share the survey question with you. Your responses and this shared ministry matters. We want to hear from you! Thanks for doing your part.

Sermons

Please find Rev. Julie's most recent sermons in the sermon blog at www.uumidland.org/blog.

February 2021 Newsletter

2021 Drop-ins: Small Group Ministry

Small Group Ministry is a vital part of many Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations across America. In other churches they are called Chalice Circle or Covenant Groups. Groups of 8-10 people meet regularly, usually monthly, to reflect on and discuss significant life topics.

Small groups are great places to get to know other people and to get to know your better, too. Over time, participants build deep connections with one another, with the congregation and with the sacred.

Discussion topics are provided. The ones we'll use for Drop-ins will reflect our UU Principles and Purposes. The conversations we'll have will be respectful and caring and they'll lead to greater understanding of our UU values. In each session, facilitated by our minister, all participants have opportunity to share their perspectives, tell their stories, and listen deeply. The time together is structured: groups begin with a chalice lighting, centering readings, and some questions before the sharing begins.

Are Drop-ins for you? If you are not already in another Small Group Ministry at UUCOM, yes, please come. Maybe you just signed the membership book or did that long ago, or not at all- come and try it on and see how small group ministry fits for you. If you would like to join a new small group that goes beyond the drop-in basics, please contact our office to let them know.

When and Where: We'll continue to meet at UUCOM at <https://zoom.us/j/2113237997> on Sundays from 12:15-1:00 PM in the New Year. **The next meeting will be March 28, 2021 at 12:15 PM.**

If this sounds like something you'd be interested in please sign up in the church office by web at <https://forms.gle/jiWnXxmi3uNWQoiW7>, Phone: (432) 694-4308, Email: office@uumidland.org or reach out to your minister, Rev. Julie Lombard: minister@uumidland.org.

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!

Interested in Becoming a Member?

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!

2021 Members and Friends Directory

The 2021 UUCOM Members and Friends Directory is complete. Electronic copies will be sent the first week of March 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, or phone, 432-694-4308, to request an electronic or hard copy of the directory.

February 2021 Newsletter

Welcome to UUCOM's 2021 Stewardship Season

“Fanning the Flame”

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 2021-2022 FY pledge either online or via physical form by May 1, 2021.

Please visit <https://www.uumidland.org/pledge-card/> to complete the online pledge form. Or complete a physical form mailed to you.



Volunteer Opportunity

Looking for a way to share your time and talents with our church community? How about helping the Worship Committee as a Zoom Host. This is a job that you can do from the safety of your own home!! Here is what the job entails:

- The zoom host starts the meeting at 9:45am for the sound check and makes other service leaders co-hosts. They make sure that all participants to worship are muted & cannot unmute themselves (except for joys & sorrows, & coffee hour). (Greeter can help.)
- To start a zoom meeting they need to go to zoom.us and sign in. When they sign in, it will ask for an email address and a password. Once the person is signed in as the Zoom Host, then you can start a meeting. After that, others can get on the meeting from the church worship link.
- The zoom host and greeter are the waiting room attendants for worship. They admit people from the waiting room, & are vigilant to zoom bombing. They might alert the service leader or worship associate in the chat bar if there's something they missed. They have the right to kick someone out if they are causing problems- acting as bouncers.
- The zoom host or greeter also will send new folks the link to our connection card in the chat bar so folks can share with us their information and sign up for our email announcements. Connection Card <https://tinyurl.com/y8mo3t55>
- That is all. They can leave as soon as the service is finished as long as someone else remaining is co-host.
- The Zoom host has support during the service from the Greeter and other members of the Worship Committee.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Barbara Handley at 432-978-5977 or dre@uumidland.org

February 2021 Newsletter

Board Thank You for Month of February

Rev. Julie thanks the Board for allowing her to continue to work remotely through the surge & for renewing her contract!

Thanks to the Welcoming Congregation Team for helping to lead a worship service on 1/3. Also, for the WCT needs assessment Zoom poll planned for March.

Thanks to the Social Action Committee for leading a terrific worship service on 1/24 with John Mark from the Field's Edge in Midland. This was a lot of work & we appreciate their effort. We cannot wait to see what they are planning for Earth Day.

Thanks to the Staff for their commitment to worship & with everything that they do to help make this church strong!

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.

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!)

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](#).

Free Yoga Class – Online

Patricia (Patty) George, the Yoga teacher has been doing virtual classes though 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".

February 2021 Newsletter

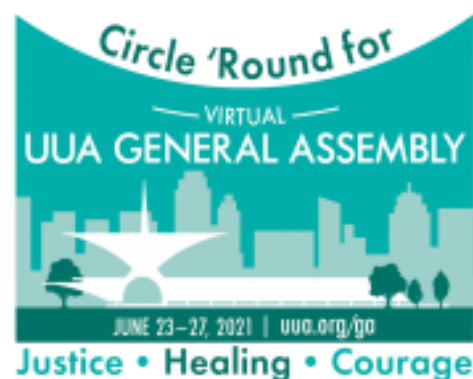
Wider World

2021 UUA General Assembly

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 may 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>.

Act Globally Winter 2021 Engaging with global Unitarian/Universalism in action

Learn about a number of global opportunities including workshops with the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC), the UUA Office at the United Nations, International Women's Convocation, and the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists this February, March and April.

Learn more [here](#).

February 2021 Newsletter

Lombard Mennonite Peace Center Learning Opportunities Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches

March 16, 2021 from 9:00am CT to 4:30pm CT

Although a normal part of life individual conflict is usually seen as something negative. Acquire the knowledge and skills to transform conflict into a force for positive change and spiritual growth. This work-shop will be repeated on March 13, March 22, and April 10, 2021.

Healthy Congregations * March 30, 2021 from 8:30am CT to 4:30pm CT

Could your congregation use a wellness check? Learn ways to minimize or prevent destructive conflict, manage negative reactivity, and help your church stay focused on its true mission and purpose.

This workshop will be repeated on March 18, March 27, and April 17, 2021

All events will be conducted online via Zoom.

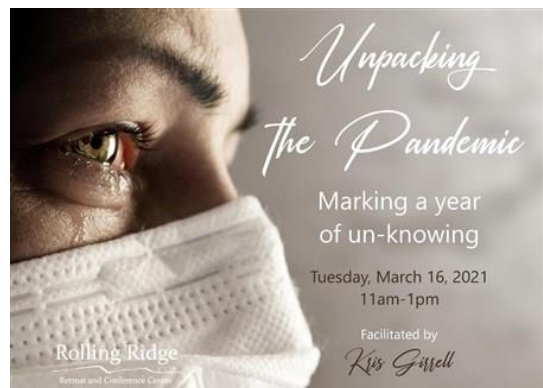
The "early bird" price for inds \$99; within two weeks of the event, the price increases to \$129. **Members of groups can save up to \$50 apiece**, compared to the regular individual rate, when they register all together and pay in full by the discount deadline. The discount deadline is approximately two weeks before the event. Coupons and detailed brochures for each workshop will be available soon on our website at <https://lmpeacecenter.org/brochures/>.

Please register for either event by calling our office at 630-627-0507. **For further information**, please email us at Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org

Rolling Ridge March on-line retreats

Find all program details [here](#).

On **March 16th**, we will be remembering one year of the pandemic with an ONLINE retreat, "**Unpacking the Pandemic**: Marking a Year of Unknowing". This session will be the first of three that **looks beyond all that we've lost** and focuses on how we can realize the lessons of the dark night of the soul in our spiritual development. Consider taking a long lunch from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and join the conversation. There is spiritual truth to be found in the pandemic if we just **make the time to consider it**.



We have lost so much this year, but we should not allow our fears to keep us from living. **If you are looking for a way to thrive** (even if you feel you are barely surviving), [there is still time to register](#) for our two-part ONLINE mini-retreat this weekend on Friday, February 26th and Saturday, February 27th. In a safe and supportive community, **we will explore the very real fears we've felt** during this pandemic and **look beyond them** to find freedom now, even as we wait for restrictions to lift.