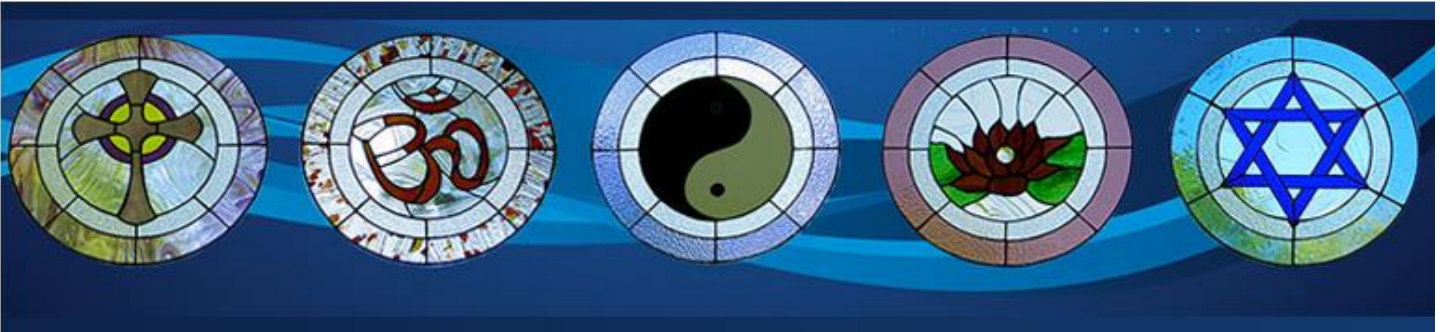


March 2022 Newsletter



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.

Table of Contents

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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March 2022 Newsletter

March 2022 Sermons at a Glance

March 6 “Death: Don’t Worry. Be Happy”

The Worship Committee selected Death as the theme for March, a subject many of us don’t want to think about, much less hear about, but a subject that effects each of us tangentially and, eventually, personally. During this Sunday’s sermon, David Allen will talk about some of his own tangential and personal interactions with the Grim Reaper. A parental advisory: Though there will be no nudity, foul language or smoking, this sermon’s subject matter is not recommended for our younger parishioners.

March 13 “Women in UU History”

In Women’s History Month, this service will explore a few women in the history of Unitarian Universalism and what we can learn from them.

March 20 “Breathing in the Light”

March 20 is the Spring Equinox, so this service will acknowledge seasonal changes in nature and in ourselves.

March 27 “Woven in a Single Garment of Destiny”

“Woven in a Single Garment of Destiny” from the Unitarian Universalist Association.



March 2022 Newsletter

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 (**Pg. 5**) 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>).

We expect that Zoom will become a permanent part of our 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:

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

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.

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: Spirit Play meets in person from 10:00-10:45. Masks are required.

Interested in RE, see the **RE Corner** on page 6 for details.

UUCOM Board

Janine Deckard, President
Barbara Handley, President-Elect
Jane Hellinghausen, Treasurer
April Graham, Secretary
Eli Hilbert, At Large Member
Lisa Jebsen, At Large Member
Rebecca Dodge At Large Member

UUCOM Staff

Jessica Stewart,
Office Administrator
(432) 694-4308
Office Hours:
Wednesday 9-1
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: 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>

March 2022 Newsletter

Community Pantry

Board member, Eli Hilbert would like to see if anyone has some piece of furniture that would be suitable for a community pantry that we could install near our free library. We would prefer to recycle than to purchase new. It would be lovely if it were sturdy, weatherproof and secure. If you have something that might work, please reach out to the board or contact Eli directly.

Save the Date! Work Party on Saturday, April 2

The past two years has been tough on all of us including our beautiful church home! Please join us at church at 9:00 to spruce up our building and grounds. So think about your favorite things to do: clean window, rake leaves, pull weeds, organize, dust and polish furniture. You may want to bring your favorite gardening tools or cleaning products. Remember many hands make light work!!

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has several opportunities to lead a service in April is available. April's theme is Salvation. You may use the theme to help in your planning. Or you may choose a totally different topic! If you would like to help but are not interested in leading a service there are many ways of assisting! You may be a Zoom Host, or Greeter and camera operator! 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.



UUCOM Members and Friends Directory



The 2022 UUCOM Members and Friends Directory is complete. Electronic and hard copies will be sent this week to UUCOM members, UUCOM friends will need to request their copy of the directory and any may request physical copies of the directory.

Please contact Jessica in the office by email, Office@UUMidland.org, or phone, 432-694-4308, or by [website request](#) to request an electronic or hard copy of the directory.

March 2022 Newsletter

Guest Speaker Rev. Dr. Steven Gaines



Guest speaker Rev. Dr. Steven Gaines

The Board of UUCOM is proud to announce the decision to bring Reverend Doctor Steven Gaines into our loving community as a regular guest speaker. He will assist us with a few services in the coming months. I know that many of you have questions about this new and exciting endeavor. We look forward to all that we have to learn from Reverend Gaines. He is the Associate Professor of Speech and Communication at Midland College. He is a part-time minister for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fayetteville, AR. He has graciously offered to help us at a time when we need a fresh new perspective and an extra set of hands. We are still planning to go forward with our Interim Search for an Interim minister, but our previous vote of Lay-Lead Plus allows us to seek the help of professional UU ministers, and Rev Gaines fits the bill.

Please feel free to reach out to me or any board member if you have questions.

Church In-Person Service Rules

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. We expect that Zoom will become a permanent part of our services so that people who cannot attend in person will be able to join us online.

THE RULES

1. Masks that cover the mouth and nose will be required for all participants (age 2 years and up). The exception to this will be speakers at the pulpit who stand behind the shield and individuals with medical issues that prevent mask usage.
2. All attendees must maintain 6 foot social distance. Exceptions only will be made for family groups.
3. Attendance will be taken for contact-tracing purposes.
4. Temperatures will be taken. All participants must register at 100 degrees Fahrenheit or below to be allowed entry.
5. Please use only the marked doors for entry and exit from the building.
6. Socializing areas will take place in outdoor spaces only (either under the front tree or in the south garden which will be accessible through the west gate only). The fellowship hall will not be open for socializing.
7. Though the sanctuary will be open, its capacity will be limited to 30 people. Should there be an overflow, we may use the fellowship hall for a small number of people. The only other areas open to all will be the bathrooms. The classrooms, kitchen, storage closets, library and offices will only be accessible to specifically authorized individuals.
8. There will be no congregational singing.

Just like the rest of you, the Board is looking forward to the day when we can return to what was our normal building use before the pandemic. We sincerely hope that day will be very soon. We will keep you informed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any board member.

March 2022 Newsletter

Thoughts from the RE Corner

Children's Space 10:00-10:45

We are BACK!!!! 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. In honor of Women's History month, all of our stories will honor brave, courageous, righteous women.

March 6—Angel of the Battlefield: Clara Barton and the American Red Cross

March 13—The Girl with a Mind for Math: The Story of Raye Montague

March 20—A Voice and a Vote: Olympia Brown. Lisa Jebesen will lead this story.

March 27—I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes her Mark

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 could read or tell a story during Children's Space. You may suggest a story for our Children's Space. Our theme is: Super Heroes!! I am looking for volunteers to lead Children's Space during June!! If you can help, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.



March 2022 Newsletter

What's Happening at UUCOM

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, **Planned Parenthood of Lubbock**.

Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas creates healthier communities by providing comprehensive reproductive and related healthcare services, delivering science-based education programs, and serving as a strong advocate for reproductive justice in Texas.

Planned Parenthood provides the following health services:

- Birth Control
- STD Testing and Treatment
- Abortion Services
- Transgender Healthcare
- Expert Care
- Healthcare Services

Learn more at <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-greater-texas>.

Monthly Stitching Group

Postponed Until Further Notice.

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?

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

We invite you to share any needs you March 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 March 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!

Garden and Grow, Continues

We will be continuing work in the Garden on the first Saturday of every month. Time varies depending on weather.

March 2021 Newsletter

Board Thank You for Month of March

Thank you to Harry Nutter for his work on oil and gas disbursements and Industrial Areas Foundation.

Free Yoga Class

Patricia (Patty) George, the Yoga teacher will hold virtual classes Saturdays, 9-10 AM. If anyone would like to join them - it's still free – just send an email to Patty George at, georgepat31@gmail.com to discuss in-person or virtual (Zoom) availability.

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.

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](#).



The graphic is a promotional poster for a demographic survey. It features a red and white background. On the left, the text 'UUMidland Demographic Survey' is written in white on a red background. Below this is a large QR code. At the bottom left, it says 'Call 432-694-4308 for a hard copy survey.' On the right, there is a blue speech bubble with the text 'SHARE/UPDATE YOUR INFO ON YOUR SCHEDULE' and an illustration of a notepad with a pen.

UUMidland
Demographic
Survey

Call 432-694-4308 for
a hard copy survey.

SHARE/UPDATE YOUR
INFO ON YOUR
SCHEDULE

<https://bit.ly/UUSrvy21>

March 2021 Newsletter

Wider World

Side With Love

Read the most recent update from Rev. Ashley Horan, Organizing Strategy Director of Side With Love [here](https://bit.ly/3snmkYF) (<https://bit.ly/3snmkYF>).

Our annual celebration known as 30 Days of Love has finished. This beloved tradition, which runs approximately from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January through Valentine's Day in February, is an opportunity for us to collectively nurture our spirits, deepen our understanding of our shared faith, and take action on our values for collective liberation.

Whether you joined in every event or haven't heard of 30 Days of Love yet, we want to lift up some of the amazing gifts generated by our contributors and invite you to continue bringing love and justice to our world. ***The materials are free for your continued use, individually or in your congregations, and we invite you to share them widely in your community.***

[Read more.](#)

As Unitarian Universalists, we know that we all have worth and dignity, and that all of our communities are connected. Join Side With Love, UUSC, and our partners at Detention Watch Network to demand

[#CommunitiesNotCages on March 3!](#)

Here's how you can take action on March 3:

- **[Join a local #CommunitiesNotCages Day of Action event](#)**
- **[Join the Digital Action Hour](#)**
- The Detention Watch Network is hosting a Digital Action Hour on March 3 at 10 am PT/1 pm ET. **[Join UUs in Folkston, GA to protest the expansion of what would become the largest ICE Detention Center in the country](#)**

TXUUJM

Updates from the Texas UU Justice Ministry, in Support of Trans Texans and Their Families

Trans people embody the inherent worth and dignity that is a pillar of our Unitarian Universalist faith. At the Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry, our hearts are with trans kids, their families and caregivers, and all trans and nonbinary people. We love you fiercely, and will forever fight for your rights and honor the beautiful ways you are *you*.

SOME THINGS WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW:

- Check in with your trans friends, family, and loved ones. Bring them a meal. Ask what support they need. Tell them how much you love them.
- Add your name to our partner Texas Freedom Network's letter below. Click here to sign: <https://bit.ly/3t1ZHYZ>
- Sign a letter via Equality Texas to let elected leaders know how you feel: <https://bit.ly/3t6AUmB>
- Donate to organizations that are doing the interconnected, long-haul work of justice in Texas, including TXUUJM, the Transgender Education Network of Texas, or the organization of your choice. Funding is important fuel for this fight.

Read the full TXUUJM Update [here](https://bit.ly/3pn6bkd) (<https://bit.ly/3pn6bkd>).

March 2021 Newsletter

UU the Vote

As we gear up for UU the Vote 2022, I am excited to tell you about our [Spring 2022 Skill Up Series!](#)

This is our monthly series of trainings on organizing skills to help build our UU the Vote and Side with Love Volunteer Squads and help YOU build stronger teams in your congregation and community. We'll start the session with some spiritual fun and then launch into our training. This is also a chance to find out how to get more involved as a Side with Love volunteer and meet members of the Volunteer Squads.

Sign up now to come live, or be the first to get the recordings!

Skill Up bit.ly/skillup4justice 

Spring Series 2022 

FEB. 20: Creating Effective Guest Opinions & Letters to the Editor - Jeff Milchen	
MAR. 20: Grounding, Welcoming & Energizing - Cenedy Knowles & Rev. Kristina Church	Every 3rd Sunday
APRIL 17: The Art of the Ask - Nicole Pressley	• 1 pm PT • 2 pm MT • 3 pm CT • 4 pm ET
MAY 15: How Do I Get People to Care? Building Strong Grassroots Actions for Justice - Susan Leslie	

Save the Date for SWUWCon 2022!

March 4-6, 2022, Grapevine, Texas

SWUW Con 2022 returns to an In-Person conference the weekend of March 4-5-6, 2022 at the Embassy Suites DFW North in Grapevine, Texas. Grapevine is conveniently located between the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth. Our conference theme is "For The Beauty Of The Earth" representing women's lives in action and harmony with our UU 7th principle - *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part*. We're also excited to be celebrating our 35th consecutive, annual Southwest UU Women's conference in 2022! www.swuuw.org

UU Ministry for Earth

Ahead of Biden's State of the Union Address on March 1, the Build Back Fossil Free coalition is hosting a [digital rally](#) this Thursday, Feb. 24th at 5pm PST / 6pm MST / 7pm CST / 8pm EST. In addition to hearing from frontline organizers with the latest coalition update, we'll be able to take action and get access to the final sign on letter that will be presented to President Biden. [Will you join us? Learn more.](#)

Spring is coming! "Get Rooted, and Get Ready!" is UU Ministry for Earth's theme and call to action for our [2022 Spring for Change: A Season of Sacred Activism](#). Spring for Change: A Season of Sacred Activism is an invitation to embody the time from the Spring Equinox (March 20) through Biodiversity Sunday (May 22) as one of educational power, spiritual grounding and accountable action for climate justice.

- Climate Convergence on World Water Day (March 22),
- A course on Ecology as Scripture, from our Caucus forums to our Earth Day worship celebration (April 22)

Please click [here](#) to read the full spectrum of programming for Spring for Change: A Season of Sacred Activism.

UPLIFT

HIV & FAITH Engaging Faith to End the Epidemic.

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 - 2:00 PM Eastern U.S. Time

The U.S. HIV & AIDS Faith Coalition is proud to partner with the [Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference](#) to present an HIV & Faith conversation on Women, Girls, & HIV.

March 2021 Newsletter

UUA Common Read: Defund Fear

The 2021–2022 UU Common Read is ***Defund Fear: Safety Without Policing, Prisons, and Punishment*** by Zach Norris, published by Beacon Press. The Common Read offers opportunities to explore personal connections to criminalization and public safety in America. *Defund Fear: Safety without Policing, Prisons, and Punishment* by Zach Norris confronts issues that will raise core theological questions for UUs. Discussion guides, video materials, and more are coming in April.

[Read More!](#)

UUA International Office

Recent global events have reminded us that the world's humanitarian crises don't wait for our convenience. The COVID-19 pandemic has now raged for a second full year, but that hasn't stopped climate change and other systemic injustices from continuing apace as well. To the contrary, it has exacerbated pre-existing inequities that impact basic human rights. [Read more about the UUA International Office.](#)

- UN Commission on the Status of Women
March 13-25, 2022 UN Summit | Parallel events hosted by UU@UN and IW - [CSW Events](#)
- [International Women's Day 2022 Resource Packet from the International Women's Convocation \(IWC\)](#)
- **Displacement & Human Rights: All In for Climate Justice**
April 22 - May 1, 2022 | UU@UN Intergenerational Spring Seminar - [Register](#)
- [Refugee Sponsorship of the Zaki Family](#)
UU crowdfunding campaign on Faithify from The Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough

UUA Intergenerational Spring Seminar

Unitarian Universalists aged 14 and up will deepen their connections across generations and grow their skills to take action for climate justice at the Intergenerational Spring Seminar in April. This year's theme is "Displacement and Human Rights: All In for Climate Justice," and will include both virtual and in-person gatherings join **online April 22 – May 1, 2022**.

[Read More!](#)

Please Join Us for General Assembly 2022!

In 2022, we will have the option of meeting online or in-person! For those who enjoyed the convenience and accessibility of remote participation, General Assembly will continue to offer a virtual experience with robust programming and enhanced delegate discussion tools. For those who miss the in-person experience, GA 2022 offers opportunities to re-connect with friends old and new, local site attractions, and more! Join us June 22 - 26, 2022 online or in-person in Portland, Oregon.

[General Assembly 2022 Registration is now open!](#)