



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

March 2023

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Midland

WELCOMING diversity

EMPOWERING spiritual growth

FOSTERING the interdependent web

TRANSFORMING lives

Please visit our website at www.uumidland.org for a listing
of all current events.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Have you been getting to know the church and Unitarian Universalism? Do you feel that this congregation might be a spiritual home? Are you considering a deeper commitment to the church? Membership comes with great gifts and opportunities, as well as responsibilities to the church community. If you are considering membership, please check out our membership brochure in the foyer or see Erica Stoltz or Barbara Handley, Membership Chair, or a Board member.

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March 2023 Sermons at a Glance

March 5 “Women’s History Month”

Today, and all month, we celebrate women’s history with stories of UUs like Annie B. Jordan Willis and Cecilia Payne Gaposchkin who made a lasting impact on their communities and the world.

March 12 “How We Celebrate Spring”

Spring is just around the corner! Here in West Texas it can mean all kinds of weather including dust storms, warmer temperatures and the occasional snow flurry. Join us for an exploration of how various world religions and cultures recognize and celebrate the Spring Equinox.



March 19 “Pros and Cons of Nonviolence”

Our nation recently observed Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and next month we’ll remember his assassination. King is known for his nonviolent activism. In this service, Rev. Dr. Steven Gaines will speak about the complicated relationship between violence and nonviolence in the ongoing battle for systemic justice.

March 26 “Hope for Humanity”

It’s time for another dose of good news! Please join us for positive headlines from around the world that help us cultivate hope in a world where it can be hard to find.

POTLUCK LUNCHEON, MARCH 19, 2023

Please join UU’s for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, March 19th following the church service. A sign-up sheet is available on the guest table in the foyer.



Spirit Play meets in person from 10:00-10:45. This class meets in person and has no Zoom option. Interested in RE, see the RE Corner on page 6 for details.

Sunday Mornings

Sunday services remain in a hybrid format both in-person and virtually. The board and the COVID Team gave much thought to the rules which we must all abide by as a way to properly care for each other and reduce the possibility of spreading the virus. Please read them carefully and be prepared to follow them.

We will also continue to broadcast our services over Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/2750827327>). services so that people who cannot attend in person will be able to join us online.

Sunday services are currently hybrid both in person and online, using Zoom

For a low-tech option, you can call in with any phone to this number: 929-205-6099. When it asks for your Meeting ID, enter the below number.

1100 AM SUNDAYS

All are Welcome!
Online Service

Zoom Meeting ID
275 082 7327

Or check our home page
for the link or call-in #

10:15 - 10:45 AM
Children's Space

UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF MIDLAND, TEXAS

UUCOM BOARD

Barbara Handley, President
Harry Nutter, President-Elect
Jane Hellinghausen, Treasurer
Alex Fields, Secretary
Eli Hilbert, At Large Member
Chris Stoltz, At Large Member
Tom Parks, At Large Member

UUCOM STAFF

Lisa Jebson,
Lay Minister

Office Hours:

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 Wednesday, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
 Thursday, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
 Email: minister@uumidland.org

Jessica Stewart,
Office Administrator

(432) 694-4308

Office Hours:

Wednesday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 Email: office@uumidland.org

Sonja and Scott Millichamp,
Music Directors

Email:

[music-
directors@uumidland.org](mailto:music-directors@uumidland.org),

Visit our website:

www.uumidland.org

Like us on Facebook:

Unitarian Universalist
 Church of Midland TX

[https://www.facebook.com/
UUMidland](https://www.facebook.com/UUMidland)

ONLINE GIVING

While we are mostly meeting online, remember that there are still ways to give to our weekly offering and submit your pledge. You can text: "Give" to 432-271-4921. Or you can go to our website: uumidland.org and scroll down to the yellow PayPal Donate button. You can also mail a check to our office, or have your bank send a check.

Minister's Musings

This month's musings are a spring cleaning, of sorts. With March 20 being the first day of spring, here are some random thoughts that have cluttered my brain, so to speak, after serving seven months as your minister.



Random thought #1 - I have the best view from my office! Even during the winter, the courtyard is lovely and there is a charming pair of bluebirds who spend a lot of time out there. Next to my office window is a violet plant I brought from my last office at the YMCA. It is not lost on me that after the change of venue, the number of blooms has quadrupled. I've felt a similar blossoming myself. If you'd like to see the bluebirds and violets for yourself, please stop by during my office hours or make an appointment.

Random thought #2 - As of this writing, we are nearly finished with the tile/leak repair project in the fellowship area. Thank you for your patience during the period of "dishevelment." I look forward to more potlucks and gatherings in our "refreshed" space! I am also filled with gratitude that UUCOM is in a good enough financial position to take care of these projects.

Random thought #3 - Over the last several weeks, I have spent a lot of my spare time as a cast member of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Creating the role of Mrs. Gloop has been good for my soul. Nothing quite compares to the satisfaction, the fulfillment I feel when I'm performing. I hope that in your day-to-day routine you can find the things that feed your soul in this way.

Final random thought - During my time as a member and as the minister here, I have heard UUCOM described as one of Midland's "best kept secrets." We have a sign in our lobby declaring that we are an "oasis." These descriptions are complimentary, and yet, they fill me with a sense of dissatisfaction because I would love to see a larger, more diverse group of people getting in on our secret. I'll go out on a limb and say that this is a common goal for all of us. But how do we achieve it? I would love to hear your thoughts on real, tangible ways to keep building our beloved community. I'll kick things off with this idea: nothing is more powerful than word of mouth. If you know someone who you think would like to discover our "oasis," why not invite them to join us on a Sunday morning? I bet we all know at least one person or family who could benefit by getting involved here.

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday and hearing any random thoughts you might have!

March Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this **March's** Share the Plate recipient. The Board has chosen the following recipient, the **Pink the Basin**.

The mission of Pink the Basin, Inc. is to raise awareness of women's health issues and foster educational and service initiatives that positively embrace women's health.

Pink the Basin is a non-profit organization that believes every woman deserves to know if they have breast cancer. Fueled by a passion that comes from their differing experiences with the disease, the Pink the Basin board members and volunteers work tirelessly to raise the money it takes to realize their dream. Funds are distributed to partnering hospitals throughout the Permian Basin, who provide mammograms and other breast cancer diagnostic services.

Learn More at <https://pinkthebasin.com/>.

A graphic for an event announcement. It features a teal background on the left with white and red text. On the right, there is a photograph of a woman with long brown hair, smiling, wearing a blue top. The background of the photo shows a garden with tall grasses and a black metal trellis structure. A large, stylized pink arrow points from the text area towards the photo.

APRIL 29, 2023
3:00 PM
Please make plans to join us
as we celebrate the
ordination of Rev. Lisa
Jebsen. Saturday, April 29 at
3pm at UUCOM.

RE Corner

Spirit Play 10:00-10:45

Spirit Play meets in person from 10:00-10:45. Masks are required. Spirit Play is a Montessori-based curriculum that is based on our UU Promises (Principles) and Sources. In honor of Women's History month, all of our stories will honor brave, courageous, righteous women.

March 5: An Infinity of Questions: Maria Mitchell

March 12: I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes her Mark a is out of town.

March 19: Ella Sings

March 26: The Librarian of Basra

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 Spirit Play. You may suggest a story for Spirit Play. If you can help, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.



What's Happening at UUCOM

Permian Basin Buddhists

The Tuesday night Buddhist class has expanded to include a 30 minute meditation session to begin at 6:15 PM.

The Permian Basin Buddhists continue to meet here at UUCOM on Tuesday nights, 7:00—8:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome, whether you are new to Buddhism or have been practicing the Middle Way for some time. For regular updates about the group, join the [Permian Basin Meetup Group](#).

Tree of Life

The modern Pagan movement provides a means for people to connect with the daily, monthly, and yearly cycles that continue to affect us physically and emotionally. Through classes and rituals, the Tree of Life Open Circle explores this connection in an ongoing effort to foster growth and community for kindred spirits of the earth.

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

Interested in Becoming a Member?

Interested in officially joining our church community? Reach out to Lisa Jebson, Jane Hellinghausen, or Barbara Handley; or check out our Path to Membership brochure in the foyer or info online. The process consists of committing to attend a Newcomers' Drop-In Circle or class; making a pledge of time, talent, &/or treasure; and signing the membership book. We welcome you!

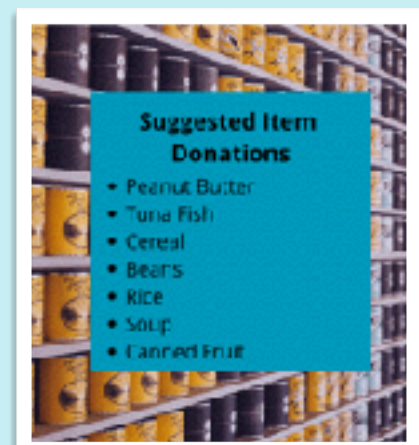
Care Team for Church Members and Friends

We invite you to share any needs you may have or concerns about church members/friends with the care team. When others in our church family approach you about a difficult situation in their life please ask them if it is ok to share that information with the care team. You may share requests and concerns with Jane Hellinghausen ([413-4612](tel:413-4612)), or by calling the church office ([694-4308](tel:694-4308)).

Thank you for helping to make our church an even more supportive and caring community!

Food donations for people and pets!

Each Sunday during our offering, we collect donations of nonperishable food for local food pantries, and pet food for Lone Star Sanctuary for Animals. Make a special note to remember your food donations for our monthly Intergenerational Services, as the children love to collect the food and bring it forward. (You can check our calendar online to see when those are!)



Wider World

TXUUJM

[TXUUJM February Newsletter: Warm up for Legislative Action Day!](#) In the Texas UU Justice Ministry's [February newsletter](#), sign up for trainings, for TXUUJM's Legislative Action Day on March 13th, and get the latest tips on how you can be taking action now that the 88th [Texas Legislature is in session](#).

THE BIG DAY IS ALMOST HERE: [March 13th Legislative Action Day](#) is just two and a half weeks away!

WHO & WHAT? We need to know [WHO is coming](#) (and how many) so we can arrange the WHAT of legislative visits (plus food, shirts, and more).

WHY? Issues on the table, like postpartum healthcare, are life and death for Texans.

Likewise, it is crucial we show up in solidarity with trans and nonbinary-inclusive families, in support of inclusive public education, and more.

On March 13, we will:

- **Rally** with interfaith partners on the South Steps of the capitol, around the issue of Black maternal mortality and 12 months of postpartum healthcare for mothers and birthing people!
- **Meet** with legislators, staff, and committee folks to advocate for the bills and issues that matter to us! (TXUUJM and our partners will provide bill information, talking points, and schedule visits. [We need you to sign up so we know you're coming!](#))
- **Sing!** UU hymns and justice songs will fill the main capitol rotunda, led by UU musicians and music directors, at 12 noon on a busy day in the capitol!
- **Learn** about the 88th Legislature and how to **develop** relationships and keep the **pressure** on our leaders to be accountable to the people!

Read more about Legislative Action Day and the participants [here](#).

Every week, you're invited to join UUs across Texas on Thursday night for We Cry Justice and Action Hour. [Details here](#). Bookmark [the Zoom link](#) (it's the same every time!). Zoom meeting ID: 333 042 6480.

Not a night owl? Action Hour lunch bunch meets on the Final Friday of the month. Details at [txuujm.org](#).

Wider World

Side With Love

- **Green Sanctuary Orientation**

First Monday of each month ([March 1](#) and [April 5](#)) at 7pm ET

Interested in the Green Sanctuary Process? Join this orientation to get a better understanding of the program and learn how your congregation can engage in ongoing climate action.

- **[IRA funds and UUs: Funding Clean Energy and Climate Solutions](#)**

Wednesday, April 19 at 7pm ET

Learn more [here](#).

- Spring Skill Up Series - All Skill Ups run 90 minutes starting at 4 ET • 3 CT • 2 MT • 1 PT

- Mar 19 - [Evaluation is an Act of Love](#), led by Sarah Berel-Harrop, Side with Love Squad and Texas UU Justice Ministry Leader
- Apr 23 - [Facing the Apocalypse With a Smile](#), led by Rachel Myslivy, Side with Love Climate Justice Organizer
- May 21 - [What Do Impacted Communities Need - How Would I Know?](#) Led by Rev. Michael Crumpler, UUA LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Director

UUJEC

Health Reform: Single Payer is Necessary But Not Sufficient - Steffie Woolhandler, M.D., MPH

Thursday, March 9, 5 PM Pacific, 6 PM Mountain, 7 PM Central & 8 PM Eastern

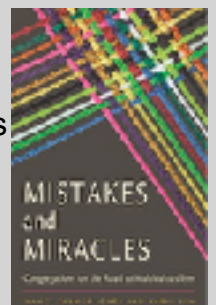
To register to join our Zoom event, [click here](#)

To join Facebook Live, [click here](#)

2023 UU Common Read

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

[Join the Common Read.](#)



Wider World

General Assembly

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging: Let's Start The Conversation

Join us June 21 - 25, 2023 online or in-person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Most GA events will take place at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, 1000 Fort Duquesne Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA.

General Assembly continues to be a time for us to gather, in body and spirit, to honor our history, celebrate who we are, and forge our future together. The General Assembly and Conference Services Team leads the initiative to ensure that diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) are woven throughout, from planning to fruition.

Each month we will highlight different tentacles of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in preparation for our upcoming General Assembly in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 2023. For the month of December, let's focus on inclusivity.

Inclusion: Black History & Transformative Healing

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February is Black History Month when we take time to celebrate the achievements of Black Americans and honor the significant role and impact they have made on all facets of life and society throughout history. As we celebrate, we are also reminded of enslavement, racism, and discrimination Black Americans have had, and continue to have, to overcome. In this video, we will magnify historical trauma and introduce transformative healing. Transformative healing is at the heart of racial healing and racial healing is all about doing the work. Therefore, during the month of February, Black Americans both honor the impact of our greatness and challenge negative narratives in pursuit of transformational healing.

[View Video Message](#)

Wider World

UPLIFT

In 2019 we launched a new Welcoming Congregations renewal program called [The Five Practices of Welcome Renewal](#). The goal of the program is to encourage congregations to practice Welcome every year, year-round. As such, we are inviting religious leaders and congregants to join one (or more) of our Five Practices of Welcome Renewal - Monthly Orientation sessions.

- Monday, February 27th
- Monday, March 27th
- Monday, April 10th
- Monday, May 15th

All sessions are at 2pm ET / 1pm CT / 12pm MT / 11am PT

[REGISTER HERE FOR A MONTHLY ORIENTATION](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) to view a previously recorded session.

UU Office at the United Nations Spring Seminar Programs

Join us for the 2023 UU@UN Intergenerational Spring Seminar! This year's Seminar will take place April 1-3, 2023. Join youth (14+) and adults in-person or online for programming and activities!

The theme is "[Demilitarization & Abolition: Resist Policing and Empire](#)."

Militarized policing is a dire problem both in the U.S. and globally. This year's Seminar aims to help us increase our understanding of abolition and equip ourselves with skills to take action.

We hope you'll help us spread the word and [register by March 15, 2023](#).

Learn more about the keynote and full schedule at <https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un/spring-seminar/programs-schedule>.