



# Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

## March 2024

Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Midland

WELCOMING diversity

EMPOWERING spiritual growth

FOSTERING the interdependent web

TRANSFORMING lives

Please visit our website at [www.uumidland.org](http://www.uumidland.org) for a listing  
of all current events.

### MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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

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## March 2024 Sermons at a Glance

### March 3 “Beyond Visibility”

Please join us for our Transgender Visibility service on this Sunday! Rev. Dr. Stevie Gaines will speak about the trans experience of seeking an ordinary life and how allies can help with that. Sky Conover will be our guest musician!



### March 11 “TUUJM” with Rev. Lisa Jebson

TUUJM stands for the Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry. Join us to hear from guest speaker Carrie Holley-Hurt about how our UU principles are being represented in Austin, as well as how we can get involved.

### March 18 “Hope for Humanity” with Rev. Lisa Jebson

As we head into another difficult election season, let’s fortify our minds and spirits with some good news. We’ll have stories from around the world that reflect the spirit of our 8 UU principles.

### March 23 “Honorary UU” with Rev. Lisa Jebson

You may know her as the “Unsinkable Molly Brown” - the first class passenger on the Titanic. You may even know about her heroism in the midst of that horrible tragedy. However, “Molly” is actually Margaret and her life story is an example of our UU principles in action.

### March 31 Guest Speaker Jim Camp

Join us for a lay-led service from Jim Camp!

## POTLUCK LUNCHEON, MARCH 17, 2024

Please join UU’s for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> following the church service.



**Spirit Play meets in person from 10:00-10:45. This class meets in person and has no Zoom option.** Interested in RE, see the **RE Corner** on **page 7** for details.

## Sunday Mornings

Sunday services remain in a hybrid format both in-person and virtually. For in person services, masks are optional and available on the guest table. We will also continue to broadcast our services over Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/2750827327>) services so that people who cannot attend in person will be able to join us online.

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



11:00 AM SUNDAYS

**All are Welcome!**  
**Online Service**

Zoom Meeting ID  
**275 082 7327**

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

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

UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
SERVING BY MEANS OF FAITH

## UUCOM BOARD

**Harry Nutter**, President  
**Kyle Farmer**, President-Elect  
**A.C. Fields**, Treasurer  
**Emmy Ulmschneider** Secretary  
**Chris Stoltz**, At Large Member  
**Tom Parks**, At Large Member

## UUCOM STAFF

**Lisa Jebson**,  
**Lay Minister**

Office Hours:

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
 Wednesday, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
 Thursday, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
 Email: [minister@uumidland.org](mailto:minister@uumidland.org)

**Jessica Stewart**,  
**Office Administrator**

(432) 694-4308

Office Hours:

Wednesday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
 Email: [office@uumidland.org](mailto:office@uumidland.org)

**Sonja and Scott Millichamp**,  
**Music Directors**

Email:

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

**Visit our website:**

[www.uumidland.org](http://www.uumidland.org)

**Like us on Facebook:**

Unitarian Universalist Church of  
 Midland TX

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

## ONLINE GIVING

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

## Minister's Musings

*Let mystery have its place in you; do not be always turning up your whole soil with the plowshare of self-examination, but leave a little fallow corner in your heart ready for any seed the winds may bring, and reserve a nook of shadow for the passing bird; keep a place in your heart for the unexpected guests, an altar for an unknown God.*

-Henri-Frederic Ariel



Here we are, a full two months into 2024. Did you make any New Year's resolutions? How are things going on that front? As a fitness leader, I have had many conversations about the desire for change, especially with the start of a new year, and they always fill me with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. Excitement because it's always wonderful to see someone who is ready to take steps to live a healthier life. Trepidation because resolutions are tough. I much prefer to set New Year's "goals."

While this may sound like a purely semantic argument, there is a reason beyond personal preference. Resolutions are more absolute than goals. Resolutions tend to be vague. Goals have more nuance, allowing us to define specific (and achievable!) things. Goals have more flexibility and can be adjusted as needed. I think this is a much more positive head space to work in.

So as we head into the transformative season of spring, my thoughts make a logical link with goals and transformation. It just so happens that transformation is the March theme on "Soul Matters Sharing Circle" - an online resource for small group theming for UU congregations.

In particular, these thoughts from Rev. Scott Tayler spoke to me.

*In short, when it comes to transformation, the message of spirituality is "Be careful with what you've been taught and told about transformation because much of it takes us in exactly the wrong direction." Our challenge as communities of transformation is to remind each other to take those different tacks. Such as:*

*It's about breathing rather than becoming better.*

*It's about patience not perfection.*

*It's about depth not dominance.*

*It's about attention not improvement.*

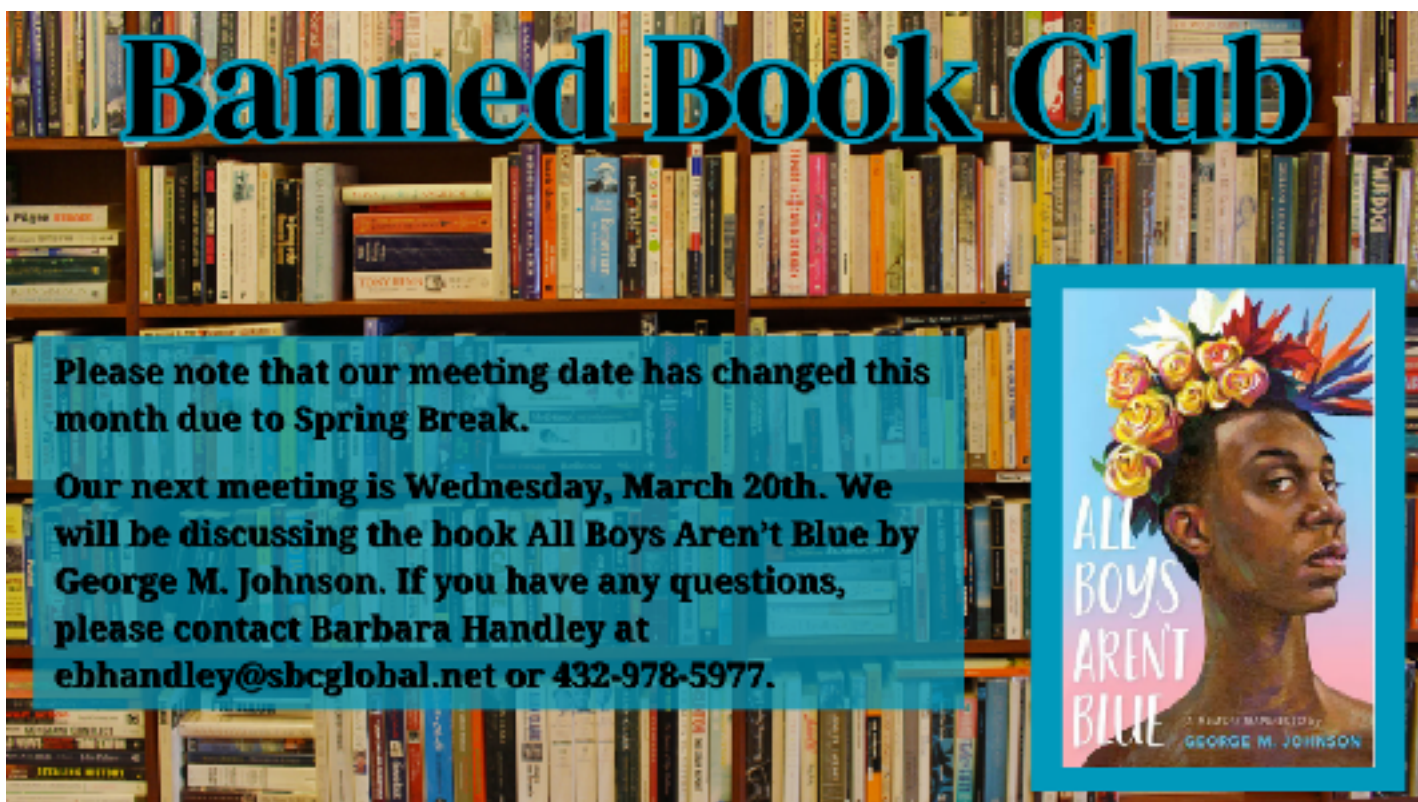
*That part about attention instead of improvement is especially important. It's so easy to get transformation mixed up with fixing. And fixing is transformation's biggest foe. Trying to purify or perfect ourselves is the surest way to stay stuck. The pursuit of purity and perfection focuses us on our inadequacy and inferiority, causing us to overlook those unexpected guests that Henri-Frederic speaks of.*

I've had some more forceful, emphatic messages from the pulpit recently and I love the message here to help balance out the transformation we are going through at UUCOM. As we move into spring, I plan to floor Rev. Scott's sound advice and: breathe, practice patience, discover depth and pay attention.



## Banned Book Club

Please note that our meeting date has changed this month due to Spring Break. Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 20th. We will be discussing the book All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Handley at [ebhandley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ebhandley@sbcglobal.net) or 432-978-5977.



## PFLAG Midland/Odessa

We are thrilled to work with PFLAG Midland/Odessa to provide a home for their regular monthly meetings that support our local LGBTQ+ community and everyone who loves them.



## 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 Texas UU Justice Ministry (TxUUJM)**.

TXUUJM is the UU State Action Network of Texas. We are "Bending Texas Toward Justice TOGETHER."


TXUUJM educates and organizes Texas UUs, member congregations, and partners to advocate effectively for UU principles in public policy and the public square.

UU Principles:

- Uphold the worth and dignity of every person;
- Further justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Ensure the use of the democratic process;
- Protect religious freedom;
- Promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence; and
- Accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

For more information please visit <http://txuujm.org/>.





## A CONCERT CELEBRATION IN MEMORY OF RICHARD DAVIS

Join us for a special concert with guest musicians to celebrate the life of Richard Davis and dedicate a gorgeous baby grand piano to his memory.

**April 11 at 5:30pm**

**at UUCOM  
3301 Neely Ave  
Midland TX 79707**



**UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST**  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF MIDLAND

## RE Corner

### Spirit Play 10:00-10:45

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

**March 3:** No Spirit Play! Barbara will be in Japan

**March 10:** No Spirit Play! Barbara will be in Japan

**March 17:** I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes her Mark

**March 24:** Star Lesson

**March 31:** Rechenka's Eggs

### 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 may help to create a new story for Spirit Play. You may suggest a story for Spirit Play. If you can help, please contact Barbara Handley at [ebhandley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ebhandley@sbcglobal.net) or 432-978-5977.

**Beyond Visibility**  
**A Trans Day of Visibility Service**

March 3, 2024  
11:00 AM GST



# What's Happening at UUCOM

## Circle Suppers

If you are interested in attending or hosting a Circle Supper contact the office at [office@uumidland.org](mailto:office@uumidland.org) or 432-694-4308. A sign up sheet may also be on the foyer table.

## Interested in Becoming a Member?

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

## 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](#).

## 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

**YOU'RE INVITED: TXUUJM Annual Gathering, March 23 in Dallas and online!**

The Texas UU Justice Ministry warmly invites all Texas UUs and justice-seeking friends to join us for TXUUJM's annual gathering, this year in Dallas (and on Zoom!) on Saturday, March 23. Whether you can travel to come in person, or join in online, [please register for an inspiring and educational day](#), connecting with your fellow UUs around the state! (We know there's a lot going on that day, so even if you can only drop in online for some of the day, please still register!) And as always, TXUUJM hopes to see you [Thursday nights for Action Hour](#) and at [other programs listed on our EveryAction event page](#) and TXUUJM.org.

[Click here to sign up](#) for TXUUJM events and programs, and for our newsletter!



**TXUUJM Annual Gathering**

MEET US IN **DALLAS, TEXAS** FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF DALLAS  
4015 NORMANDY AVE DALLAS, TX 75205

Join fellow Texas UUs as we gather this year in Dallas!  
Learn and connect about crucial justice issues and democracy efforts of 2024.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024**  
9:30 AM - 4:30 PM CDT

Our annual event agenda will include:

- A panel of speakers on the topic of "Bodily Autonomy, Safety, and State Control"
- TXUUJM updates on democracy actions and 2024 programs (with priority registration for those at the event, in person or online)
- Light breakfast, snacks, and lunch
- Time for connection, reflection, and discussion
- Group singing and group photo
- A youth caucus (for those middle school to high school equivalent age)

Stay tuned for more!

**Register for our event:**  
<http://tinyurl.com/4u4etblkx>

**Sign up to volunteer:**  
<http://tinyurl.com/sm74drbu>

## UUtheVote

**Save the Date - UU the Vote 2024 Launch Thursday, March 14**

Join us for our launch, [Thursday, March 14th](#), as we highlight our upcoming work. The one-hour event starts at 7pm ET / 4pm PT. You'll learn about our work with State Advocacy Networks and their partners in key states, key ballot initiatives, political education and spiritual grounding opportunities and our mass voter contact program. [Join us!](#)

# Wider World

## Create Climate Justice

- **World Water Day, March 21 at 4pm PT / 7pm ET**  
World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness that 2.2 billion people live without access to safe water. We are honored to welcome Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs and Rev. Karen Van Fossan into a conversation on this important and sacred day. They are defenders and protectors of water; two spiritual leaders in our UU movement who will help us build a heart-centered approach to a right relationship with Mother Earth and her waters.
- **March 21 to May 2 (International Day of Biodiversity) is Spring for Change!** Together with a variety of Unitarian Universalist partners working for climate justice, the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth is offering activities and educational events to provide congregations and individuals with spiritual grounding and resources to face our ecological crises with courage, compassion, and a commitment to justice. [Click here to view the full schedule of offerings.](#)
- Join Us for 2024 [National Faith + Climate Forum!](#) We are excited to invite you to join us for an inspiring and transformative event designed to strengthen local congregations through care for creation – The National Faith + Climate Forum on April 16th from 12:00 pm - 5:15 pm ET / 11:00 am - 4:15 pm CT / 10:00 am - 3:15 pm MT / 9:00 am - 2:15 pm PT!

## UPLIFT

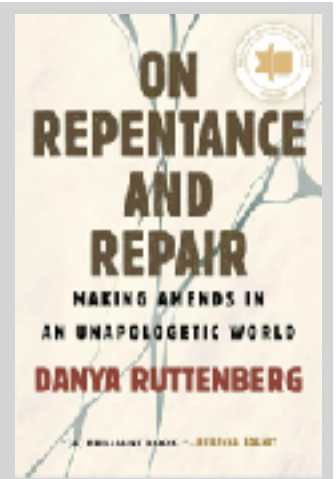
["Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities"](#)

[UPLIFT Access Monthly Resource Webinars](#)

### 2024 UU Common Read

The UUA Common Read for 2023-2024 is [On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World](#) by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg (Beacon Press, 2022). This Common Read offers a glimpse into one of our faith's foundational sources, Judaism. Readers explore our own call to be accountable in these modern times as we follow Rabbi Ruttenberg into a framework for making amends offered by the 12th century Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides.

[Join the Common Read.](#)



# Wider World

## UUMFE

### [March Musings](#)

### [April's Monthly Musings/ Earth Day Resources](#)

- **World Water Day: Water is Life**

March 21, 2024. 7:00 pm ET | 6:00 CT | 5:00 MT | 4:00 PT / 90 minutes long

World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness that 2.2 billion people live without access to safe water. We are honored to welcome Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs and Rev. Karen Van Fossan into a conversation on this important and sacred day. They are defenders and protectors of water; two spiritual leaders in our UU movement who will help us build a heart-centered approach to a right relationship with Mother Earth and her waters.

[Register.](#)

- **Full Moon and Earth Day Gathering**

April 23, 2024. 7-8 pm ET | 6-7pm CT | 5-6 pm MT | 4-5 pm PT.

Join UU Ministry for Earth on the Full Moon closest to Earth Day so we may all find time to ground, recenter, and imagine what is possible for Earth. There will be time for reflection and small group sharing.

Zoom link is always the same: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3248332840?pwd=SXVScW1ESzJlLy9PMWIkTXVkTnpjZz09>

- **Movement Training for Young Adults**

Saturdays in April, 2pm PT / 1pm MT / 2pm CT / 3pm ET, lasting for an hour and a half.

UUYACJ is hosting its third annual movement training workshop series! This workshop series seeks to support, resource, and empower young adults in their activism and organizing. Over the course of four Saturdays, participants will gain skills and knowledge relevant to all justice movements, such as how to build deep relationships, crafting direct actions, incorporating art, and using herbalism to care for ourselves and each other. Justice work asks so much of organizers and UUYACJ is grateful that we get to offer these free workshops as a gift in return. You can attend just one, or all of them!

These live, virtual workshops are open to all young adults (ages 18-35). They will be happening every Saturday in April over Zoom.

- [Spiritual Care for Climate Distress, Anxiety and Grief - Worship Resources](#)