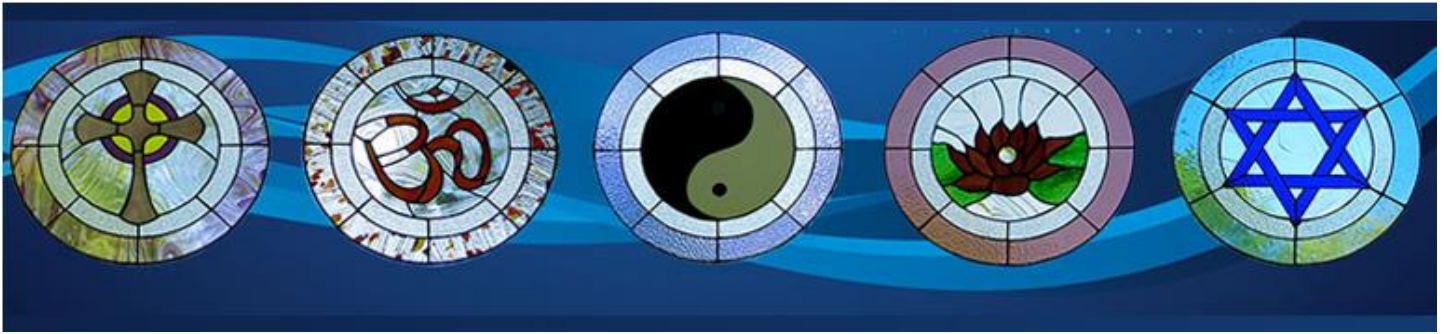


# May 2020 Newsletter



## 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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## May 2020 Newsletter

### May Minister's Musings

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Dear friends,

I offered to the Board that I shift my last day from June 10 to **July 31**. They agreed. So we will say goodbye just before your new minister hopefully arrives in August. You have a good search committee doing good work, and I continue to sing the church's praises to my colleagues. I will continue to treasure our final months together!



We will continue to be online, instead of meeting in person, for a while. The Board and I have not yet made a decision about specific timing for shifting back toward some types of in-person gatherings. We will continue to consider the science, the needs of our most vulnerable, and the advice from our local health care professionals.

*I am living a life I don't regret.  
A life that will resonate with  
my ancestors, and with as  
many generations forward  
as I can imagine.*

*I am attending to the crises of  
my time with my best self,  
I am of communities that are  
doing our collective best to  
honor our ancestors and all  
humans to come.*

ADRIENNE MAREE BROWN

This time has forced us to shift into **new ways of connecting** that will continue to benefit us!

I can imagine that even once we can meet in person again we might continue to offer some kind of online option as well. I know that meeting on Zoom doesn't work for everyone (which is why we have other ways to connect, too – see below!), but it does work for many and is teaching us new things about community and spiritual practice.

We have also launched our **Community Circles** – groups of 6–7 households who check in on one another regularly to offer connection and care. If you are a member or a pledging friend, you should have received an email from me on April 30 about your Circle and will be hearing from your Circle Leader soon. If you are not a member or pledging friend, but would like to be part of a Circle,

please let me know! We'd love to have you join one!

The Board has organized our stewardship campaign this year with the theme of **Rising from the Ashes** – like the Phoenix on the quilt in our sanctuary. The quilt's design was inspired by the time when our previous building burned down, our numbers were small, and we had to decide whether to continue. We did, and we thrived! This church has navigated many hard times and risen from the ashes with strength, love, and hope. **That's what we are doing now, too.**

So when the Board asks you to make a pledge of time, talent, and treasure to this congregation, I hope you will respond right away with a pledge that is within your means, even during this time of uncertainty.

...Because what IS certain is that **this community needs our church** – a place of radical love, open minds, and bold action.

*Continued on Page 3*

## May 2020 Newsletter

In particular, if you have received a **stimulus check**, and you are not a person whose income has been directly affected by this time, I wonder if you'd consider donating 10% of it to the church, and another 10% of it toward another local organization whose work you support. If your income *has* been affected and you are struggling, a reminder that the Minister's Discretionary Fund is here to help our members and friends – please reach out to me.

I think of you all often. I think of your unique struggles during this strange time, your resilience and creativity, and your commitment to principled values. We cannot know what the future holds, but we know we must arrive there together.

In commitment and love,  
Rev. Emily

### May at a Glance – Sunday Services

Church is not canceled, we are simply finding new ways to do church!

Sunday services are currently online, using Zoom:  
<https://uuma.zoom.us/my/uucom>

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:

The Meeting ID is: **958 368 6410**

For a low-tech option, you can call in with any phone to this number: 346-248-7799. When it asks for your Meeting ID, enter the above number.



11:00 AM SUNDAYS

All are Welcome!

Online Service

Zoom Meeting ID  
958 368 6410

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

10:15-10:45  
Children's Space

**Children's Space:** Every Sunday from 10:15-10:45, in that same Zoom room, Rev. Emily will host a “time for all ages,” show-and-tell, joys and sorrows, and casual conversation.

**Mid-Week Event:** Online Drop-In Space:  
Wednesdays 2 – 2:30 PM

Rev. Emily will open our Zoom room (same link as the Sunday service, 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.

REACH OUT AND CONNECT

**WEDNESDAYS**  
**2:00-2:30 PM**

Drop-In Check-In  
In our Zoom Room



UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF MIDLAND TEXAS



# May 2020 Newsletter

## May at a Glance – Sunday Services

### May Calendar

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

May 6	2:00 p.m.	Online Drop-In
May 13	2:00 p.m.	Online Drop-In
May 17	2:30 p.m.	Stitching Circle - online
May 20	8:00 p.m.	Online Drop-In
May 27	2:00 p.m.	Online Drop-In

### Sunday Mornings, etc.

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

### 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.

## 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

**Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon, Minister**

Email: [minister@uumidland.org](mailto:minister@uumidland.org)  
(432) 694-4308 office  
(617) 501-0020 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](mailto:office@uumidland.org)

**Barbara Handley, Director of Religious Education**

Email: [dre@uumidland.org](mailto:dre@uumidland.org)

Phone: 432-978-5977

**Sonja and Scott Millichamp, Music Directors**

Email: [skassal811@yahoo.com](mailto:skassal811@yahoo.com)  
[scott@bruenor.org](mailto:scott@bruenor.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>

**OUR ANNUAL SPRING RITUAL, ONLINE THIS YEAR!**

**Flower Ceremony**

**May 10th**

**Email or text Rev. Emily a photo of you with a flower. We'll have a slideshow!**

## May 2020 Newsletter

### Thoughts from the RE Corner

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Here is a list of ten projects to earn a Flaming Chalice pin! You must complete at least six to earn the pin. You may choose to complete more!

- Letters or drawings mailed to elderly and/or single folks. You may get a list of names and addresses from Barbara.
- This link contains two challenges!  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/mobile/folders/1g4Xhol7NbN5s0BJb2Jd3LKWbq0X2BigA?usp=sharing>
- Take a picture or draw a drawing that reminds you of each of our promises, label them and send them to Barbara and/or Emily who can make collages for our Facebook page or newsletter.
- Do one of the kids meditations and/or kids yoga (various apps, videos and books available)—four times.
- Write out or illustrate one of your favorite Spirit Play stories. You may create it using legos or clay or your favorite medium.
- Make a settling jar.
- Create your own Spirit Play story. Take a favorite children's book and adapt it and create the pieces needed to help tell the story. Remember that you don't have to include everything just the important parts! If you would like, you can share your story when we resume Spirit Play in person!!
- Read a book or story by a famous Unitarian, Universalist or Unitarian Universalist! Some examples: Beatrix Potter, Louisa May Alcott, Kurt Vonnegut, and Ray Bradbury. Go to the [uua.org](http://uua.org) for more names!
- Read three poems by a famous Unitarian, Universalist or Unitarian Universalist. Some names: Sylvia Plath, May Sarton, e. e. cummings, Ralph Waldo Emerson.



### Read to Feed

Thanks to the generous donations, our children were able to raise \$625.50 for Heifer International. This includes \$145.50 from March's Share the Plate. The children selected the following items to be donated to families:

Honeybees  
Honeybees  
Chickens  
Pig  
Trio of Rabbits  
Sheep  
Seedlings  
Alpaca

With \$35.50 going to area most needed!

A special thanks to all that contributed to this worthy cause.

### 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. Our plans are fluid due to social distancing. If we are able to "camp", we may be practicing our social distancing, i.e., wearing masks and spacing ourselves! Stay tuned for more information!

## May 2020 Newsletter

### Sermon Excerpts – April 19, 2020 "While the Earth Breathes ..." A Sermon for Earth Day

What does it mean that as we are forced to slow down, to stay home, to focus on the essentials, that the earth is breathing more deeply?

How can we not only survive this great rupture, but emerge from it wiser, having listened to the earth breathe, having even more deeply considered our interconnectedness with all things...?

"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing." – Arundhati Roy

As we navigate these uncertain, difficult days,  
may we find times –  
whether they be whole days, or mere moments –  
to pause and listen.

In that listening, may our sense of separateness  
dissolve;  
may we know our connectedness with the web of life,  
May we discern ways to live from that deep  
knowing...  
that deep knowing which in truth is love.

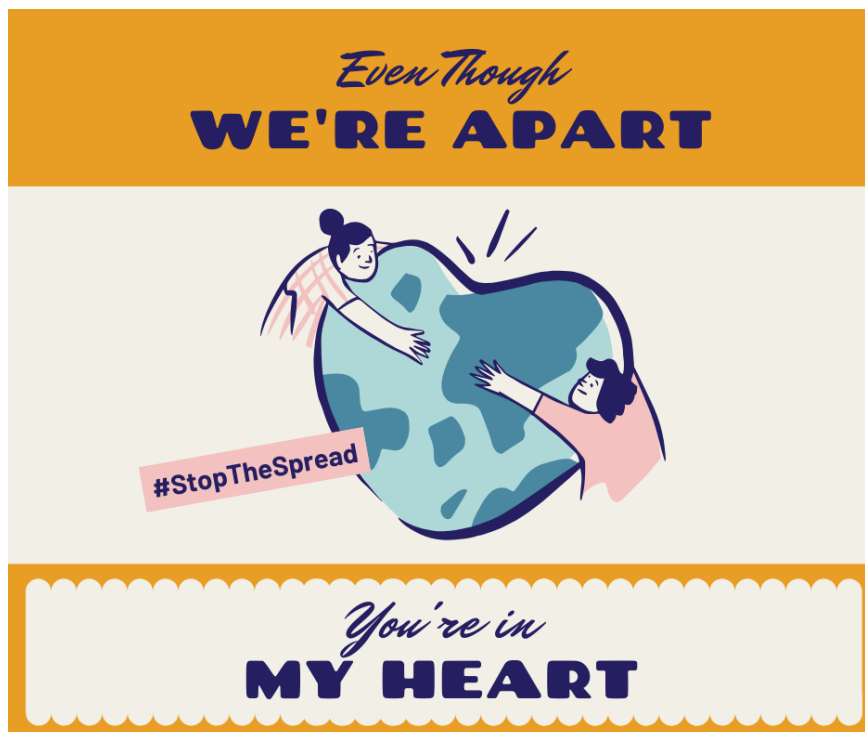
May you rest in that love.

– Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon



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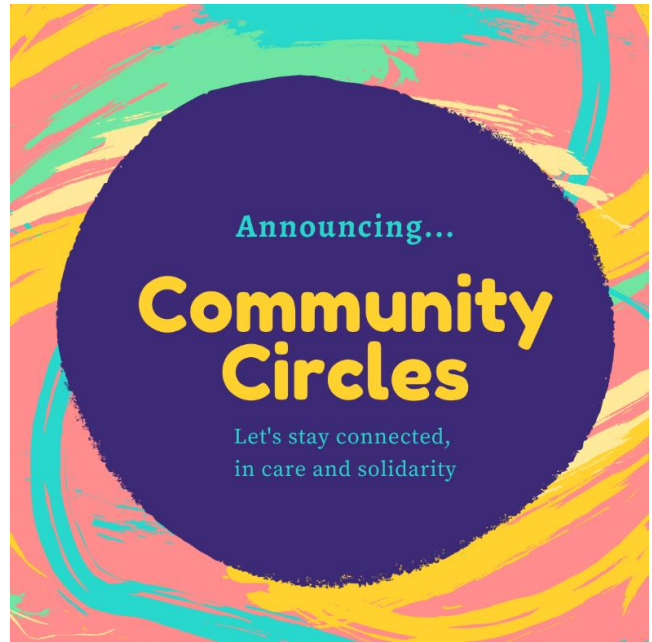
See the whole sermon, and others, on the sermons blog at [www.uumidland.org/blog](http://www.uumidland.org/blog)



## May 2020 Newsletter

### Community Circles Launched!

Update! We now have enough volunteers, and our Circles have started up. If you are a member or a pledging friend, you should have received an email from Rev. Emily on April 30 about your Circle and will be hearing from your Circle Leader soon. If you are not a member or pledging friend, but would like to be part of a Circle, please let Rev. Emily know! We'd love to have you join! Community Circles are 6-7 households who check in on one another regularly to offer connection and care. These circles are an opportunity to connect with community members who are our literal neighbors in ways we wouldn't otherwise and build new networks of support that last far beyond this situation.



### May Share the Plate

**We will share ½ of all cash donations with this May's Share the Plate recipient: the Crisis Center of West Texas.**

Crisis Center of West Texas works every day to end domestic and sexual violence in West Texas. Your support helps ensure we never have to turn away a survivor or child who has faced abuse in their life. Donate today to help make West Texas safer for families like yours.



**CRISIS CENTER**  
OF WEST TEXAS  
RESPOND | SHELTER | EDUCATE

Every dollar counts. It takes \$84 to provide one survivor a night in the Louise Wood Angel House shelter. We believe all women, men and children deserve to be treated with respect, and no one deserves to suffer at the hands of another. Join us to create a community free from violence. **Donations help to:**

- Provide a lifeline for survivors of domestic and sexual violence through our 24-hour-a-day hotline.
- Ensure women and children escaping violent homes have a safe and supportive place to turn at the Angel House 24-bed shelter.
- Keep individual and group counseling services available, free of charge, for survivors.
- Teach teens about healthy relationships and how to stop dating violence before it starts.

### 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.



# What's Happening at UUCOM

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### Annual All-Church Garage Sale Update

Due to the need to continue social distancing due to Covid19, we are postponing our annual Church Garage Sale. Please continue your Coronavirus Cleaning! Keep cleaning out those drawers, closets and cabinets. Store your items for donation in your newly cleaned closets, garages and spare rooms!!! The date for the upcoming Garage Sale will be announced in the near future. (Keep your fingers crossed!!)

### Monthly Stitching Circle

*UU Stitching group continues! 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 May 17<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-4:30pm for our next meetup. Please email Franny at [starrymoon@gmail.com](mailto:starrymoon@gmail.com) for our meeting link.*

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 **May 17<sup>th</sup>** 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!!

### Ministerial Search Committee

The Board is pleased to announce the members of the Ministerial Search Committee:

David Allen, Chair  
Erica Stoltz, Secretary  
Maureena Benavides, At-large  
Barbara Handley, At-large  
Ann Hicks, At-large

They have already finished the first phase of their work and expect to receive information about applicants shortly. Due to the sensitive nature of their work, they will be unable to share specifics with the congregation until their search is complete.





## May 2020 Newsletter

### Permian Basin Buddhists - Suspended

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.

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

### 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!)

### 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!

### Free Yoga Class - Virtual Yoga Classes

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](mailto: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".