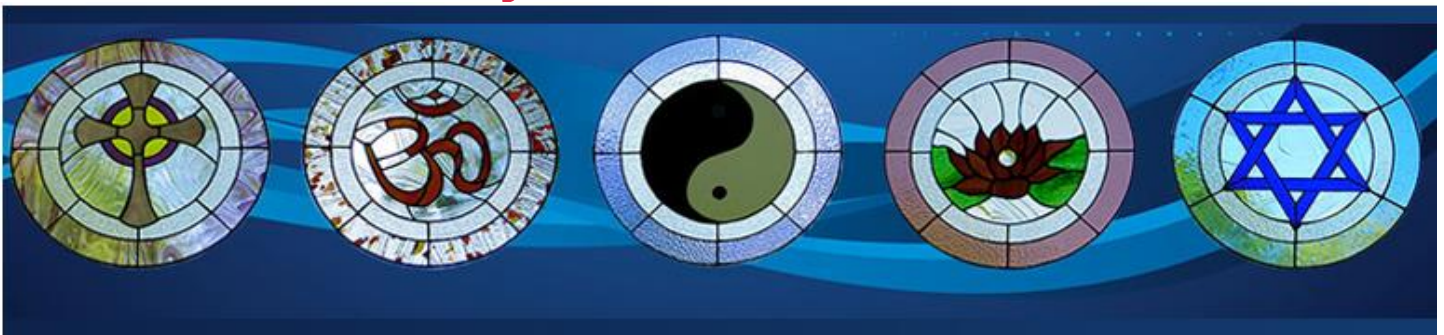


May 2021 Newsletter



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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May 2021 Newsletter

May 2021 Sermons at a Glance – Worship Theme: Transcendence

May 2 *Into the Woods* by Rev. Julie Lombard



Many people dream of escaping life as we know it, but few will ever act on it. Christopher Knight was a determined person in search of a good life. The shy and intelligent young man left his home in Massachusetts, drove to Maine, and disappeared into the woods. He would not have a conversation with another human until nearly three decades later, when he was arrested for stealing food. Come, hear a remarkable story of transcendence as you hear the extraordinary tale of the last true hermit and discover what we might learn from his isolation and by his return to our world. Join us for worship and get a small taste of the Great Mystery.

May 9 *Make us Whole* Rev. Julie Lombard

Mother's Day, like Father's day, comes with both celebration and concern. Not everyone greets the coming of this day with joy and appreciation; it comes as a mixture of blessings. We may find ourselves caught dreaming of a Normal Rockwell image of a family or humbly consider the cruel reality of unanswerable broken relationships. Who is this day for- those who are mothers, those who have mothers, or for those who have mothered? A wise person told me once that "We come together to better understand the mysteries in our lives." So let us come and gather together to understand the mystery of motherhood and let us find wholeness in our chose church family. Please join us for worship this Mother's Day.



May16 *Take Courage* Rev. Julie Lombard



We have arrived to our Spring Annual Meeting Day. We gather together and choose how we want to celebrate this day- we could tip our hats to the traditional spring holiday known as May Day with dancing, singing, and sweets or blend the words May Day into one Mayday, repeat it three times to be used as an universal signal of distress. Either way, we decide whether we need to warn or celebration the life of this faith community. We have much to celebrate at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland- a dedicated staff and lay-leadership, new and old members, a beautiful setting to which to worship, and an abiding liberal faith that shines like a beacon to the wider world. Please join us for worship and the Annual Meeting which follows.

May 2021 Newsletter

May 23 Flower Communion Sunday Rev. Julie Lombard

UUs have been asked to bring a flower of their choice on this day, either from their own gardens or from the field or roadside. All blooms are welcome, even a simple supermarket bouquet. This ritual signifies that it's by our own free will that we join with one another and our gathered flowers are a symbol of our united church fellowship. The significance of the flower communion is that as no two flowers are alike, so no two individuals are alike, yet each has a contribution to make. Our common bouquet would not



be the same without the unique addition of each individual flower, and thus it is with our church community, it would not be the same without each and every one of us. Please join us for this special worship service – an affirmation of this blooming beloved community. Since we cannot yet gather in person, you are invited to share a picture of yourself or your family with flowers that will be included in the Sunday morning slideshow. Even from a distance, we can still create our community bouquet and blessing!

May 30 Texas as Art Rebecca Dodge & the Sibley Center



through a gallery tour on February 22nd. Today, Rebecca shares her journey with us in worship. Come and join us for colorful worship full of stories about these rich lands.

Come experience Rebecca Dodge's journey through West Texas. Rebecca turned images of Texas into art and it's been on display at the Sibley Center in Midland. The purpose of her work is to highlight not only art but to expand an appreciation for these unique landscapes. She has enhanced the images to re-imagine them in her own way to celebrate all they have to offer. This project is dear to her heart. She led church folks

Based on: Sibley Nature Center exhibit: Texas as Art

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_9YOIhbp5k



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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.

May Calendar

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

May 1		Pledge Card Due
May 16	12:00 p.m.	Spring Congregational Meeting
May 16	2:30 p.m.	Stitching Circle – in person
July 5		Chalice Camp

UUCOM Board

Maurena Benavides, President
Janine Deckard, President-Elect
Alex Fields, Treasurer
May Graham, Secretary
David Allen, At Large Member
Lisa Jebsen, 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>

May 2021 Newsletter

COVID-19 Reopening Phases

Phase 3 Maximum Outdoor Space Open (Where We Are Now)

Phase 1 & 2 guidelines apply:

Phase 1: The Church building remains closed to the general public and church members and friends. Limited access/use. (including individuals: Church Staff, Board Chair, Treasurer, & Buildings & Grounds Chair, On the Couch Counseling Staff & Cleaning Service staff), Use Building Use Log –keeping a record of the time each person is in the church for contact tracing purposes. All those that enter the building have a mask on hand. Masks must be worn and social distancing put into effect when more than one person is in the building.

Clean surfaces of common areas after use with disinfectant- bathrooms, kitchen, church office areas such as the copier or phone. We recommend that disinfectant supplies be ordered by the office and there be a cleaning station in each bathroom and by the log book/front entry. All gatherings are on Zoom1 or Zoom2. [Outdoor spaces are not available-this is no longer applicable.]

Phase 2 Outdoor space at the church may be used for small groups (10 or less) by church members and friends. (Preferably less than 5), Each group must have a designated facilitator that requests usage of the space and keeps a log of those gathering for contact tracing purposes. The facilitator may access the space by the east iron gates near Midkiff, the facilitator can let people in through the wooden gate on the west side near the parking lot. Participants must bring their own masks & chairs. Masks are worn at all times and social distancing practiced. The building will remain closed. If bathrooms are needed, the facilitator is to recommend the usage of a bathroom at a nearby business.

We share the outdoor space with our tenants such as the Buddhist Group, Patty George's Yoga, & Tree of Life.

Clean surfaces of common areas after use with disinfectant- outdoor furniture. We recommend that disinfectant supplies be ordered by the office and there be a cleaning station in each bathroom and by the log book/front entry.

Available Space: Zoom1, Zoom2, Meditation Courtyard (memorial garden), Southside Courtyard.

May 2021 Newsletter

May Minister's Musings by Rev. Julie Lombard



Friends, this community has been tested as you set out on a new path forward. There's uncertainty where it will lead you, but there are a few things to ponder: *"We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided."* –JK Rowling, *"Unity to be real must stand the severest strain without breaking."* Mahatma Gandhi, and *"Nothing ever goes away until it has taught us what we need to know."* – Pema Chodron.

There is learning to be done. I have some reflecting of my own to do and I leave you now to do yours. This time of discernment is vital. I want you to understand that I am not leaving you for a better opportunity. I will enter into the ministerial search process open to where it may eventually lead me. Now, you must discern what best fits your needs: interim ministry or developmental ministry, contract ministry or perhaps no minister at all.

I hope you do interim or developmental ministry because it is an important step towards preparing you to begin your next successful settled ministry. On the road ahead, you need to decide who you are and what you want to be.

It has been an honor to serve this community over the past pandemic year. Thank you for this opportunity! We have celebrated joys and held gently many sorrows, and we've confronted some tough issues- bylaw and policy changes, and explored how to move forward while being Right Relationship with one another especially with pandemic concerns. We've worked to make this community a Welcoming Congregation and jump started a new Social Action Committee, we helped a lot of folks that have been impacted by the pandemic, and we've remained open for business/worship every Sunday of the year! This summer your lay-leadership will lead you through an inspiration summer worship series about the 8 UU Principles. I'm proud of all we accomplished together and I hope you are, too.

My last day preaching with you will be May 23th and my final day serving you will be on July 31st. I have some vacation and study leave time that needs to be taken before I depart. That means from June 6-July 31st I will serve you remotely from NH.

Starting August 1st we are supposed to no longer have contact with one another for a year. This practice is to help you connect with whoever arrives to serve you next. This congregation has a lot to offer and I know you will have someone serving you before you know it, but for now I step back out of respect for your stronger future.

I will always consider you part of my ministry family. I hope you do with me in return. Peace be with you. May love find you, today and always.

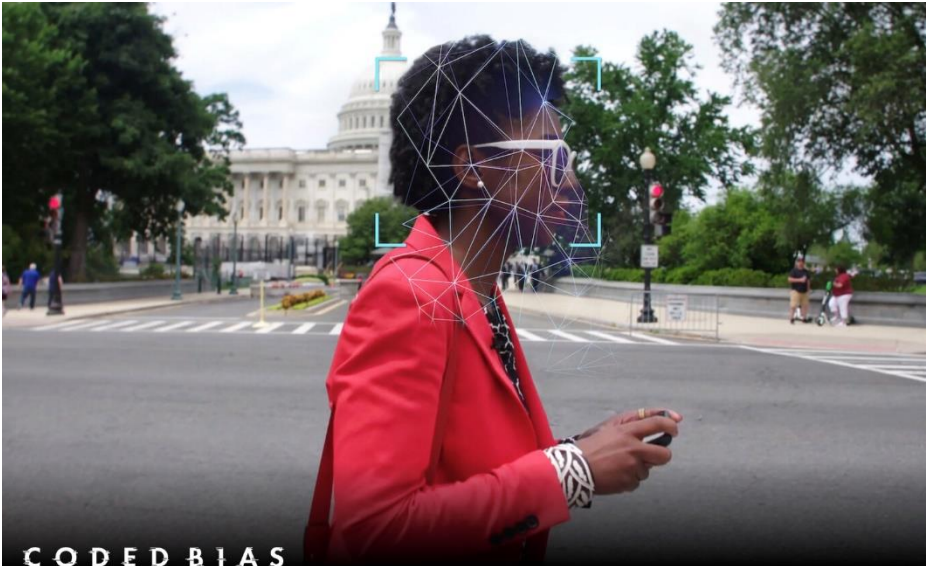
Peace, Rev. Julie

May 2021 Newsletter

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




CODED BIAS
New 2020 TV-MA 1h 25m HD

▶ Play

↓ Download

Director: Shalini Kantayya
Genres: Documentary Films, Science & Nature Docs

This documentary investigates the bias in algorithms after M.I.T. Media Lab researcher Joy Buolamwini uncovered flaws in facial recognition technology.



TWO DISTANT STRANGERS
New 2021 TV-MA 32m HD

2021 Oscar Nominee

▶ Play

↓ Download

Cast: Joey Bada\$\$, Andrew Howard, Zaria... more
Directors: Travon Free, Martin Desmond Roe
Genres: Dramas, Social Issue Dramas

In this Oscar-nominated short film, a man trying to go home to his dog gets stuck in a time loop that forces him to relive a deadly run-in with a cop.

May 2021 Newsletter

What's Happening at UUCOM

May Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this May's Share the Plate recipient. The Social Action Committee has chosen the following recipient, the Midland YMCA.



Established in 1953, the Midland YMCA is an association of people of all ages, ethnic groups and religious affiliations united with a mission to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Major program services include full time and after school child care, summer day camps, aquatic programs, youth and adult sports, adult and senior health and fitness programs, among many others.

100% of the donations received from UUCOM's Share the Plate will go to the Annual Campaign which provides scholarships to individuals and families who cannot afford these programs.

Thank you for helping the Midland YMCA make our community a better, healthier place to live. www.midlandymca.org.

Sermons

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

Monthly Stitching Group

Join us for an IN-PERSON stitching group this month! Due to the church moving into [phase 3 of reopening](#), we are allowed to meet outside on the patio or in the grass during our normal time. Please bring a camping chair or blanket and join us for a masked & socially distanced, but in person, stitching group!! Hurray!! 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 16th from 2:30-4:30 pm for our next meetup.

Please email Franny at starrymoon@gmail.com with any questions.

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!

May 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 Super Heroes who exemplify the red promise (Respect all beings).

May 2—A Present for Mom. This story gives our kiddos a chance to plan for Mother's Day!

May 9—Rev. Julie will share a story about Mr. Rogers.

May 16—Give the Ball to Pete. This story is about the true meaning of sportsmanship.

May 23—Flower Communion. The story of Norbert Capek and the first flower communion service.

May 30—The Reluctant Dinosaur. Friendship helps a dinosaur to get over his fear of not being the "best".

Chalice Camp is Back!!

Plans for Chalice Camp 2021 are in the works!! Chalice Camp is an opportunity for children 5 and up to learn about Unitarian Universalism and interact in a camp setting! Camp will be held in the south garden. Campers will be required to wear masks and to practice social distancing. Our theme is Nature and the Violet Promise (value our home the earth). Please mark your calendars for Monday, July 5—Thursday, July 8 from 9:00-11:00. April Graham and Barbara Handley will facilitate Chalice Camp. Cost is \$50/child. Scholarships are available. When paying, please write "Chalice Camp" in the memo line on check. For more information, please contact Barbara Handley at dre@uumidland.org or 432-978-5977.

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.

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Celebrating our Principles: 6/13-8/8/2021

Featuring: Our 8 UU Principles throughout the months & **General Assembly Worship** on 6/27

Are you ready to explore our UU Principles in more depth? Does one of these principles make your heart sing? Your Worship Committee has pulled together a summer series that we feel you won't want to miss this journey. You can play a part: want to try to do a reading or show your favorite movie about a particular principle? Maybe sing a song or share a poem about it? Let the Worship Committee know, we'll hook you up to this special way of worshipping. Our summer series is mainly a lay-led group effort, so we could sure use your assistance and involvement. Come hear from your members and friends who step up and speak out about the principles they feel passionate about. Check out the dates and principles below. Let us know how you would like to be involved. The more you get involved, the more meaningful worship and church life will be.

Contact: Barbara Handley, Worship Chair and Rev. Julie Lombard, Minister or call the church office.

6/13/2021 #1 "The inherent worth and dignity of every person;" (Our Red Promise)

Unitarian Universalism is a high humanist system of thought. It emphasizes the inherent worth of all people rather than any inherent flaws in humanity. This belief leads many UUs to not only take care of their own spiritual health but to care for other people as well. This leads to the second principle. Join Barbara Handley and some friends from Sunday School.

6/20/2021 #2 "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;" (Our Orange Promise)

UUs do not have a specific list of laws of behavior to follow. They are encouraged to personally consider the nature of ethical choices rather than adhere to strict doctrine. Yet, they do agree that ethical behavior should include the notions of justice, equity, and compassion. Countless UUs are known for social activism and charitable giving, and the majority have a general kindness and respect toward others. Join Jane Hellinghausen and watch the movie: Finding Home in Boomtown.

6/27/2021 **General Assembly Worship**

We will be joining together on Zoom to watch the livestreamed Sunday service from General Assembly - the largest gathering of Unitarian Universalists, and a powerful communal experience! What a treat!
<https://www.uua.org/ga-worship>

7/4/2021 #3 "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth;" (Our Yellow Promise)

UUs are very non-judgmental. A UU gathering might easily include atheists, monotheists, and polytheists, and this diversity is to be tolerated and encouraged. Spirituality is a highly complex and subjective topic to UUs, which can lead to multiple conclusions. UUs are also encouraged to learn from this diversity as they develop their own personal ideas of spirituality. Let us know if this excites you?

7/11/2021 #4 "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;" (Our Green Promise)

UUs focus on their own personal spiritual development and understanding rather than being concerned about everyone reaching a consensus. Every person has the right to their own spiritual seeking. This principle also refers to the respect for everyone's personal beliefs. It is not important to think that you are the right one but to accept that every person is free to consider their own truths regarding faith. Let us know if this excites you?

7/18/2021 #5 "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process;" (Our Blue Promise)

Unitarian Universalist's egalitarian outlook lends itself to the promotion of democratic organization. As a second ethical statement, UU also endorses action based upon one's own conscience. This understanding is closely related to the respect which UUs show each individual person, both in and out of the UU community.

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It places value on each person as an equal in that everyone has a connection to 'the sacred' and through that, a trust is developed. Join Rev. Julie Lombard and Scott & Sonja Millichamp

7/25/2021 #6 "The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;" (Our Indigo Promise)

The notion of inherent human worth lends itself to an emphasis on the world community and the allowance of basic rights for all members. It is a very optimistic view of the world, but one that UUs hold dear. Many UUs admit that this is, at times, one of the most challenging principles. It is not a matter of faith, but in the face of injustice, tragedy, and atrocities in the world, it can test one's faith. This principle speaks to the foundation of UU compassion and the fortitude of those who hold these beliefs. Join our World Music theme of inspiration. Let us know if this excites you?

8/1/2021 #7 "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." (Our Purple Promise)

UU acknowledges that reality consists of a complex and interconnected web of relationships. Actions taken seemingly in isolation can still have far-reaching effects, and responsible behavior includes being mindful of these potential consequences. In this principle, Unitarian Universalists broadly define that "web of all existence." It includes one's community and environment and many use the words "the spirit of life." It is all-encompassing and helps each individual understand society, culture, and nature while trying to support it where they can. Join Janine Deckard.

8/8/2021 #8 "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."

More and more UU churches are adopting this principle as part of their tradition. Find out more at: <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/background> Let us know if this excites 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!

2021 Members and Friends Directory

The 2021 UUCOM Members and Friends Directory is complete. Electronic copies will be sent the first week of May 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.

May 2021 Newsletter

Board Thank You for Month of April

Gardening Crew- for gathering to clean up the church gardens during spring break. April, Maureen, Venus, Barbara, and others!

The Nominating Committee- for finding new leaders

Toby Phillips – for performing in worship on 3/7

Janine Deckard, Harry Nutter, & Sonja Millichamp- for presenting in the first Roots Service on 3/28

Jane Hellinghausen- for her (with Barbara) warm welcome back (wine & flowers). For her willingness to be the slider on 3/21 – the Loved into Being UUA Stewardship Sermon

Emmy Ulmschneider- for working with SAC to plan an Earth Day Service in April

Barbara Handley- for stepping up as the Board Chair-Elect & for becoming the new Worship Chair, for the flowers she sent my child after a surgery, & with Jane & her warm welcome back to Midland

Jessica Stewart- for her extra work she did to support Jane leading the UUA worship service on 3/21 & to support the Stewardship mailing/efforts

Scott & Sonja Millichamp- their tireless assessment with regards to music & tech needs with worship transition

Board, Staff, & Committee on Shared Ministry- for attending the leadership training on 3/7 (esp. after the other leadership training by the Board)

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

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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".

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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!

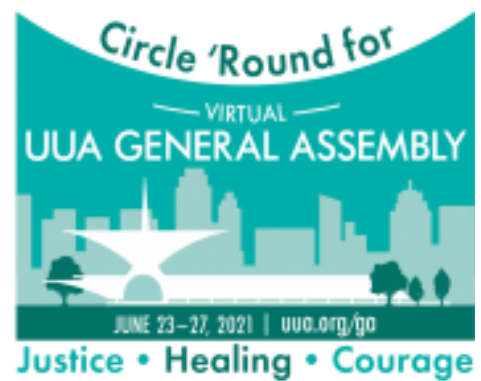
Circle 'Round for Justice • Healing • Courage is the theme for General Assembly 2021. GA is a time to circle 'round in community. We circle 'round in care and healing; for liberation and justice; and for love and courage.

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>.

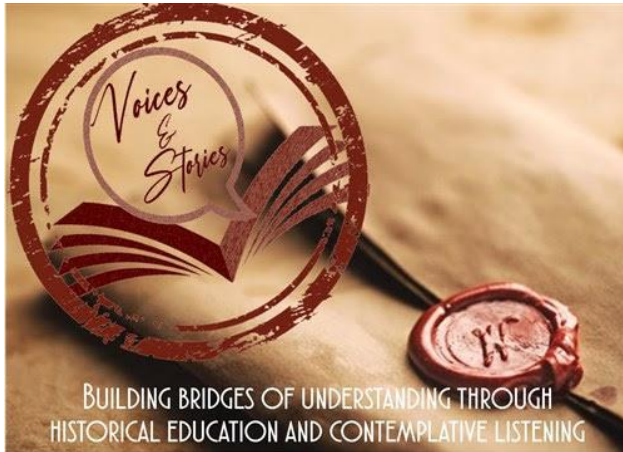


May 2021 Newsletter

Rolling Ridge Spring on-line retreats

Find all program details [here](#).

We live in troubling times as the divisions of race and gender grow deeper. At Rolling Ridge, we believe that to build bridges of understanding, we must take time to listen to the experiences of others.



Beginning next month, we are launching "**Voices and Stories**" as a new [ONLINE series](#) that uses historical education and contemplative listening to open hearts and minds to the events that have shaped American society today.

With the recent rise of anti-Asian sentiment, [the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882](#) will serve as the inaugural event of our "Voices and Stories" series. Signed into law on May 6, 1882, the Chinese Exclusion Act was the first, and remains the only law to prevent all members of a specific ethnic or national group from immigrating to the United States. This act of Congress was the culmination of

decades of anti-Chinese sentiment and continued for 60 years until it was repealed in 1943.

Join us on **May 6th from 11 am to 1 pm** to learn about the history of anti-Chinese sentiment which culminated in the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Following an overview of this aspect of American history, we will move into a time of contemplative sharing and reflective conversation as we consider the implications on anti-Asian hate today and what we need to do to build bridges of understanding and to take a stand for justice.

Lawrence Jay, Director at Rolling Ridge, will be facilitating this session and will share how the stories of his great grandparents intersect with this historical event.

We invite you to expand your understanding of history that impacts the experiences of different people groups today by joining us for one of our upcoming "Voices and Stories" events, and listening deeply to the Spirit who invites us to break down walls and build bridges of understanding among people.

WPCR Workshops

As the United States enters a new chapter in its history and, in the words of Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman, "we lift our gazes not to what stands between us but what stands before us," [White People Challenging Racism \(WPCR\): Moving From Talk to Action](#) continues to awaken racial awareness and spur participants into action.

In a time of unprecedented crises, WPCR is meeting the moment. More workshops are being offered in more communities than ever before. We are continuously updating our curriculum to reflect events taking place in the U.S. WPCR alumni continue to carry out action plans to confront, challenge and dismantle racism wherever they live, work, worship, and volunteer. Imagine the impact we can have if everyone who takes WPCR implements their action plan!

[Upcoming workshops.](#)

May 2021 Newsletter

Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders

- May 3-7
- June 21-25
- August 2-6
- October 11-15
- November 15-19

Make plans now to attend the training event that has been called "the Golden Globe winner of conflict resolution programs"!

We have all witnessed the recent abhorrent events in our nation's Capitol where underlying tensions and unresolved conflict escalated into mob violence. Sadly, conflict does not confine itself to the political realm. Conflict is also inevitable in the church. Even if your church is not experiencing conflict now, it very likely will at some point in the future. Be prepared when conflict does arise to transform something negative into a positive opportunity for growth and reconciliation.

Acquire 32 contact hours that you can apply towards Continuing Education credits; enjoy fellowship with like-minded church leaders; and rejuvenate your ministry, all at the same time. Please join us and find out for yourself why a previous participant noted that MSTI is "the best and most thorough model for mediation with individuals and congregations that I have experienced in more than three decades of ordained ministry."

The fee for MSTI is \$750, which includes five full days of instruction and a manual. Online registration closes approximately 10 days before the event begins, although we encourage you to contact us to see if there may still be openings. Questions? Please call us at 630-627-0507, or send an email to Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org. For further information we also invite you to check our website at <https://lmpeacecenter.org/>.

PLEASE NOTE: We are now using TicketSpice rather than Brown Paper Tickets as our online ticket agency. To register online please go to <https://lmpeacecenter.org/ticketspice/>. To pay by check, fill out the form on [this MSTI Brochure](#) and send it with payment to our office at: LMPC, 101 W 22nd Street, Suite 206, Lombard, IL 60148.