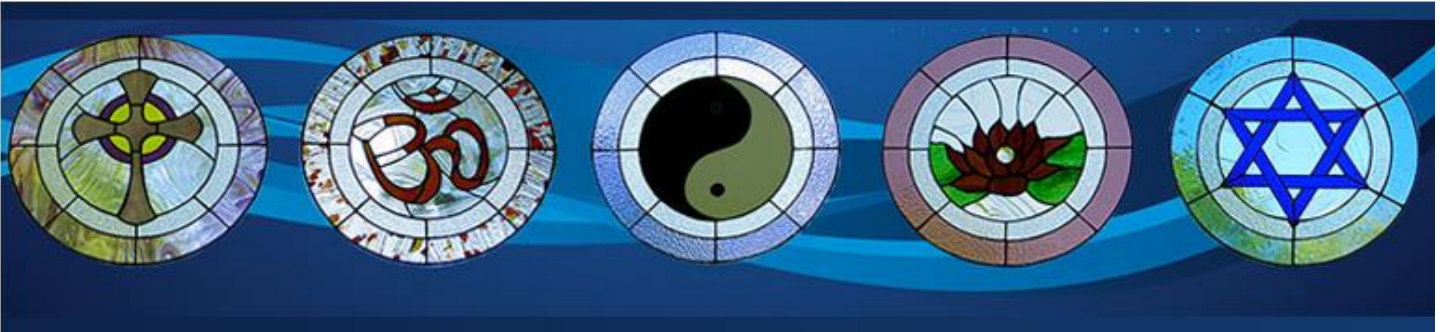


May 2022 Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

WELCOMING diversity

EMPOWERING spiritual growth

FOSTERING the interdependent web

TRANSFORMING lives

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

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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.

May 2022 Newsletter

May 2022 Sermons at a Glance

May 1

As you might expect with David Allen and Janine Deckard leading a service, things will be a bit different Sunday, May 1st. Many of you know that Janine and David are engaged. As a result, they are researching international wedding traditions. This Sunday, they will tell us about some of them with the hope that we will help them decide which to include in their wedding ceremony.

May 8 **Replacing the Sacred**

Rev. Steven will speak about Victoria Woodhull, a nineteenth-century Spiritualist, feminist, and presidential candidate who fought for justice, liberty, and human rights. This sermon will reflect on contemporary implications of Woodhull's experience and will explore how her message can extend far beyond itself.

May 15 **Commencement**

In this graduation season, Rev. Steven will help us reflect on graduations in life, endings and beginnings, ongoing growth. You're invited to wear graduation items (caps, gowns, whatever you have or find).

May 22 **Journeys of Birthright UU's**

This Sunday, you will learn about the journeys of three of our very own Birthright UU's: Alex Fields, Rebecca Dodge and Barbara Handley

May 29 **Flower Communion**

This Sunday we ask all participants to bring a flower or two to share in our beloved Flower Communion. This service celebrates our first principle (the Red Promise in Spirit Play) in a lovely, unique way.



May 2022 Newsletter

Sunday Mornings

Sunday services remain in a hybrid format both in-person and virtually. The board and the COVID Team gave much thought to the rules (**Pg. 4**) which we must all abide by as a way to properly care for each other and reduce the possibility of spreading the virus. Please read them carefully and be prepared to follow them. We will also continue to broadcast our services over Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/2750827327>).

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

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



11:00 AM SUNDAYS

All are Welcome!
Online Service

Zoom Meeting ID
275 082 7327

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

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

UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF MIDLAND TEXAS

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

Online Giving

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

Children's Space: Spirit Play meets in person from 10:00-10:45. Masks are required.

Interested in RE, see the **RE Corner** on page 5 for details.

UUCOM Board

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

UUCOM Staff

Jessica Stewart,
Office Administrator
(432) 694-4308
Office Hours:
Wednesday 9-1
Email: office@uumidland.org

Barbara Handley,
Director of Religious Education
Email: dre@uumidland.org
Phone: 432-978-5977

Sonja and Scott Millichamp,
Music Directors
Email: music-directors@uumidland.org,

Visit our website:

www.uumidland.org

Like us on Facebook:

Unitarian Universalist Church of
Midland TX

<https://www.facebook.com/UUMidland>

May 2022 Newsletter

Community Pantry

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

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has several opportunities to lead a service this summer. During the summer, we like to focus on our Unitarian Universalist Principles and Sources. You may use them to help in your planning. Or you may choose a totally different topic! If you would like to help but are not interested in leading a service there are many ways of assisting! You may be a Zoom Greeter and camera operator! You may be a Worship Associate. You may present a worship service. (The Worship Committee is here to help you!!!) You may share a gift of music by performing or by sharing musical suggestions. You may share suggestions for readings or service topics. There are many ways to share in our ministry. Please contact Barbara Handley at 432-978-5977 to volunteer.

Church In-Person Service Rules

The board and the COVID Team gave much thought to the rules which we must all abide by as a way to properly care for each other and reduce the possibility of spreading the virus. Because of the lowered COVID positivity rate UUCOM has moved to making masks optional as long as the COVID rate stays below 10%.

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

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

2022-2023 Stewardship

“Fanning the Flame”



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland continues our efforts together to move forward in creating the "Beloved Community" where we live out our values and principles.

Make your 2022-2023 FY pledge either online or via physical form.

Please visit <https://www.uumidland.org/pledge-card/> to complete the online pledge form.

Or complete a physical form mailed to you.

The final deadline for pledge cards is May 1, 2022 to be included in this year's budget.

May 2022 Newsletter

Thoughts from the RE Corner

Children's Space 10:00-10:45

We are BACK!!!! Spirit Play meets in person from 10:00-10:45. Masks are required. Spirit Play is a Montessori-based curriculum that is based on our UU Promises (Principles) and Sources.

May 1—A Unitarian King. We will learn the story of King John Sigismund and Francis David.

May 8—A Present for Mom. Some of the best gifts do not come from a store.

May 15—The Baltimore Sermon. A sermon preached by Rev. William Ellery Channing changed the way Unitarians saw themselves.

May 22—Merging Streams. The story of the merger of Unitarians and Universalists.

May 29—Flower Communion. The story of Norbert Capek and the celebration of flower communion.

Chalice Lighting

We light this chalice to celebrate Unitarian (cup left hand to make a U) Universalism (cup right hand to make a U).

We are the church of the open minds (fingertips touch the forehead and swing open like a door).

We are the church of the helping hands (hands outstretched palms up).

We are the church of the loving hearts (hands crossed over heart).

Religious Education Volunteers

If you are interested in helping with our children's religious education, there are many ways that you can participate. You could read or tell a story during Children's Space. You may suggest a story for our Children's Space. Our theme is: Super Heroes!! I am looking for volunteers to lead Children's Space during June!! If you can help, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.



May 2022 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, **Texas Humane Legislation Network**.

Texas Humane Legislation Network (THLN) is the only Texas-based organization focused on addressing unjust state animal welfare laws. We at the Texas Humane Legislation Network - a 501c4 - are working to stop animal cruelty and abuse before it starts. THLN has promoted animal protection through legislation, education and advocacy since 1975.



Our IRS status as a 501c4 allows us to be political animal advocates, by lobbying and working with our representatives to fix our lenient animal cruelty laws. While there are *thousands* of 501c3s in Texas formed to help animals, they are *VERY* limited in how much they can lobby, and are outright prohibited from participating in any partisan activities.

Learn more at <https://www.thln.org/>.

Permian Basin Buddhists – Returns

The Permian Basin Buddhists returns to their weekly in-person meetings Tuesday nights, 7:00 - 8:30 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](#).

Monthly Stitching Group

Postponed Until Further Notice.

Interested in Becoming a Member?

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

Care Team for Church Members and Friends

We invite you to share any needs you 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!

May 2021 Newsletter

Monthly Board Thank You

The Board of Directors would like to thank those who joined us for the April 2nd Work Party for their outstanding efforts this month.

Garden and Grow, Continues

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

Free Yoga Class

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

Patty George is also leading meditation after the yoga class from 10:15 to 10:45. All are welcome and again they can contact her via the email above.

Food donations for people and pets!

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

Tree of Life

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

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



**UUMidland
Demographic
Survey**

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

<https://bit.ly/UUSrvy21>

SHARE/UPDATE YOUR
INFO ON YOUR
SCHEDULE

May 2021 Newsletter

Wider World

UU the Vote

Spring 2022 Skill Up Series

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



The graphic features an orange header with the text "Skill Up Spring Series 2022" and the URL "bit.ly/skillup4justice". To the right is a circular logo for "UU the Vote" with a stylized figure. Below the header is a blue box containing a list of training sessions with their dates, topics, speakers, and times.

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

UUA International Office

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

Displacement & Human Rights: All In for Climate Justice

April 22 - May 1, 2022 | UU@UN Intergenerational Spring Seminar - [Register](#)

UUA Intergenerational Spring Seminar

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

[Read More!](#)

TXUUJM

The [latest monthly newsletter](#) is here from the Texas UU Justice Ministry, our state action network. [READ FULL NEWSLETTER HERE.](#)

Please Join Us for General Assembly 2022!

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

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