



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

May 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 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.

Table of Contents



Sunday Worship

Sermons at a Glance
Sunday Mornings



UUCOM

Announcements

Minister's Musings
Share the Plate
Drop-In Circle
Blood Drive
Richard Davis
Concert
Banned Book Club
RE Corner
Membership
Care Team

Wider World



May 2024 Sermons at a Glance

May 5 “Learning the Principles By Heart” with Rev. Lisa Jebsen

We talk about our principles all the time. Do you have them memorized? Does our minister have them memorized? Is that important? Join us for a thoughtful of exploration of all this and more.

May 12 Mother’s Day

On this Mother’s Day, Jane Hellinghausen and Barbara Handley will lead the service—an adaptation of a sermon Sharing a Journey by Rev. Lisa Sargent. During this service, we will celebrate all of the mothers in our lives.

May 19 “Flower Communion & New Member Welcome”

Like flowers in a garden, our congregation is growing! Join us for our annual tradition of flower communion and for a special time of recognition for our newest members of UUCOM!

May 26 Jim Camp

Jim Camp will lead the service on this Sunday of Memorial Day weekend.

POTLUCK LUNCHEON, MAY 19, 2024

Please join UU’s for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, May 19th following the church service. Our Spring Congregational Meeting will be held immediately after the luncheon.



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

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,

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

The other day, I came across this poem by Emily Dickinson...

*Pink, small, and punctual,
Aromatic, low,
Covert in April,
Candid in May,*

*Dear to the moss,
Known by the knoll,
Next to the robin
In every human soul.*

*Bold little beauty,
Bedecked with thee,
Nature forswears
Antiquity.*



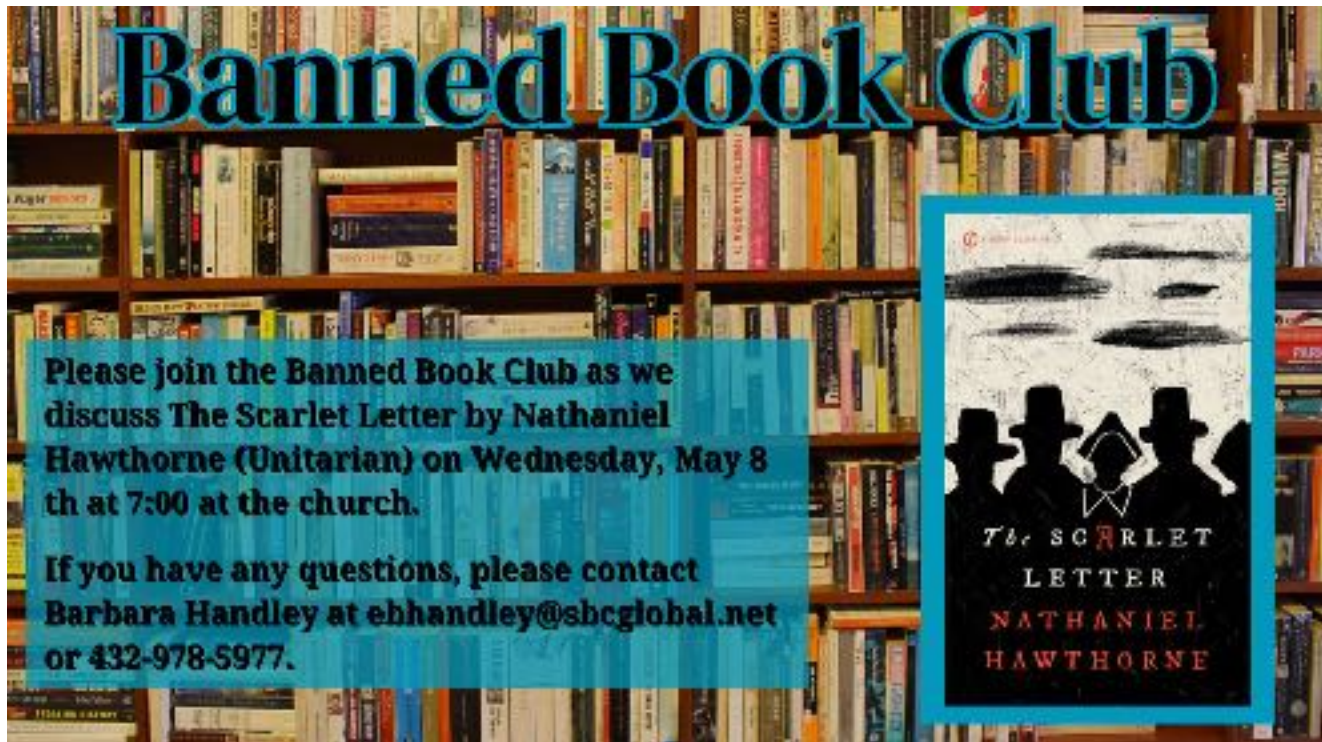
I love Dickinson's economy of words. So much expressed, so efficiently. So I'll try to keep my musings for this month concise like hers.

This month we are taking a beloved annual tradition, the Flower Communion and combining it with a welcome to our new members. I think this will be a beautiful service and I hope you will be there! It's also an important day for our congregation because afterward we will have our Spring congregational meeting where you will vote for members of the board as well as our budget for the upcoming year.



Banned Book Club

Please join the Banned Book Club as we discuss *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne (Unitarian) on Wednesday, May 8th at 7:00 at the church. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.



May Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this May's Share the Plate recipient. The Board has chosen the following recipient, **the Boys and Girls Club of the Permian Basin**.

Their mission is to help young people become productive, caring and responsible citizens by providing enriching experiences in a positive environment. The Boys Club came to Odessa in 1958 and Midland in 1965. In 1990 the Boys Clubs of America became the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. And in 2013, the Odessa and Midland clubs, remaining independent organizations, formed the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Permian Basin.

For more information please visit <https://basinkids.org/>



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

Blood Drive May 4, 2024

We are hosting a Blood Drive May 4, 2024 from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM! Please help us help the community by donating blood. To schedule an appointment contact Lisa Jebson at 432-694-4308, or call 877-25 VITAL or log onto www.donors.vitalant.org.



Congregational Meeting

Please plan to join your Board on May 19, 2024 for the Spring Congregational Meeting following the service. So, be part of our congregational business as we see where we have come this year and start to prepare for next year.

UUCOM's 2024 Stewardship

Fanning the Flame



The 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 2024-2025 FY pledge either online or via physical form.

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

Or complete the physical form mailed to you.



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. Several of our stories this month are in honor of Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

May 5 — **Drawn Together.** Art can overcome language barriers.

May 12 — **A Present for Mom.** Some of the best gifts do not come from a store.

May 19 — **Flower Communion.** We will explore the creator of one of most beloved rituals.

May 26 — **Sadako & a Thousand Paper Cranes.** This real life story of a Japanese girl whose life sparked a movement.

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 can create a story for 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.

PRIDE SERVICE

With
Rev. Dr.
Stevie
Gaines

Join us after the
service for
refreshments
sponsored
by
DFLAG

JUNE 9, 2024
11:00 AM CST

3301 NEELY AVE.
MIDLAND, TX 79707

DFLAG
PFLAG
MIDLAND OFFICE

What's Happening at UUCOM

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.

Circle Suppers

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

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 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!

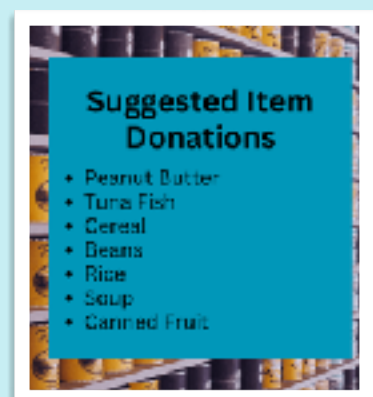
Care Team for Church Members and Friends

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

On Thursdays, TXUUJM members meet in virtual community to engage in the spiritual practice of taking small actions to build the world we dream about **together**. This spiritual practice connects us to the needs of the world and builds resilience and collective power.

This week, we primarily held space for participants to express their support for free speech on college campuses and their yearnings and sorrows about the war in Gaza. We also introduced important actions related to environmental justice. Taking action, one person at a time - all adds up! You can join us by taking one or two actions this weekend **directly from your email!** You are welcome to do and share the actions below and / or our public [Action Hour Document](#) with members of your congregation, family, or friends.

We'll continue to meet to take action in community each Thursday evening and monthly on the Final Friday of the month!

REGISTER NOW: Action Hour Spring Special Guests!

- **5/2 - Guest Speaker: Elle Cross, Justice Organizer at Mano Amiga - [RSVP](#)**
Elle Cross is the Right to Justice Coordinator of Mano Amiga, a nonprofit that organizes alongside immigrants and people harmed by criminalization to advocate for systemic policy change in Hays county. We will dedicate this Action Hour to DeVonte Anderson's case in Hays County.
- **5/23 - Guest Speakers: Moving from Environmentalism to Climate Justice - [RSVP](#)**
Rachel Myslivy, Climate Justice Organizer with UUA Side with Love and Rev. Kelly Dignan, Co-Director of UUMFE, will be joining us and sharing more about deepen our work for climate justice. Don't miss this special event, open to UUs and friends across the globe but organized by TXUUJM!
- **6/6 NEW DATE - Guest Speaker: Steve Phillips, New York Times bestselling author, columnist, and political commentator - [RSVP](#)**
Join TXUUJM as we welcome New York Times bestselling author, columnist, and political commentator **Steve Phillips, in conversation with TXUUJM Executive Director Rev. Erin Walter**, about his book, *How We Win the Civil War: Securing a Multiracial Democracy and Ending White Supremacy for Good*. This is a FREE event, open to all.

UUA Newsletter

April 2024 UUA Newsletter Read here: <https://bit.ly/3QmEs0z>

Wider World

UPLIFT

The UUA's UPLIFT Ministries and TRUUsT Director Rev. Julián Jamaica Soto are planning a Trans Day of Visibility gathering on May 2 at 8pm ET/5pm PT. All are welcome to attend - all ages, all (a)gender identities, all religious experiences. [Learn more and register.](#)

UUtheVote

Need some support with your UU the Vote work? Confused about what electoral work is “allowed” for non-profits? Want help finding a local partner to work with? On April 18, we talked through some of the first steps to making a plan at our Getting Started With UU the Vote: Community Gathering. [Watch the recording here](#) and check out our [UUTV 2024 Launch Guide](#). You can also view our [UU the Vote Getting Started Slideshow](#) and our [UU the Vote Getting Started Hot Links](#) shared during the meeting.

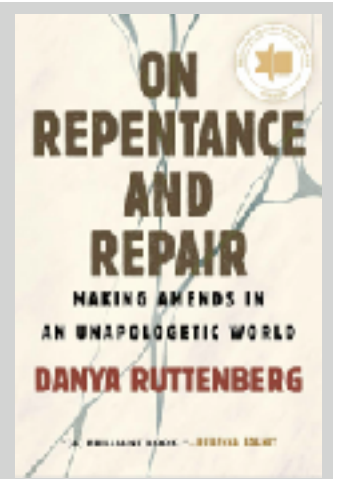
UUMFE

- [May Monthly Musings](#)
- [June Monthly Musings](#)

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

Create Climate Justice

- **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.](#)

UUJEC

May 9: Power To Heal, Medicare and the Civil Rights Revolution

Thursday, May 9

5 PM Pacific, 6 PM Mountain, 7 PM Central & 8 PM Eastern

To register for this Zoom event, [click here](#)

Film Screening and Chat

Here's [the trailer](#).

Power to Heal tells a poignant chapter in the historic struggle to secure equal and adequate access to healthcare for all Americans. Central to the story is the tale of how a new national program, Medicare, was used to mount a dramatic, coordinated effort that desegregated thousands of hospitals across the country in a matter of months.

Before Medicare, disparities in access to hospital care were dramatic. Less than half the nation's hospitals served black and white patients equally, and in the South, 1/3 of hospitals would not admit African Americans even for emergencies.

Through the voices of the men and women who experienced disparities and fought against them, POWER TO HEAL will introduce the audience to a missing link in the Civil Rights Movement -- a struggle over healthcare from a half-century ago that raises questions that resonate today: is healthcare a human right? Must the federal government intervene to ensure equality.