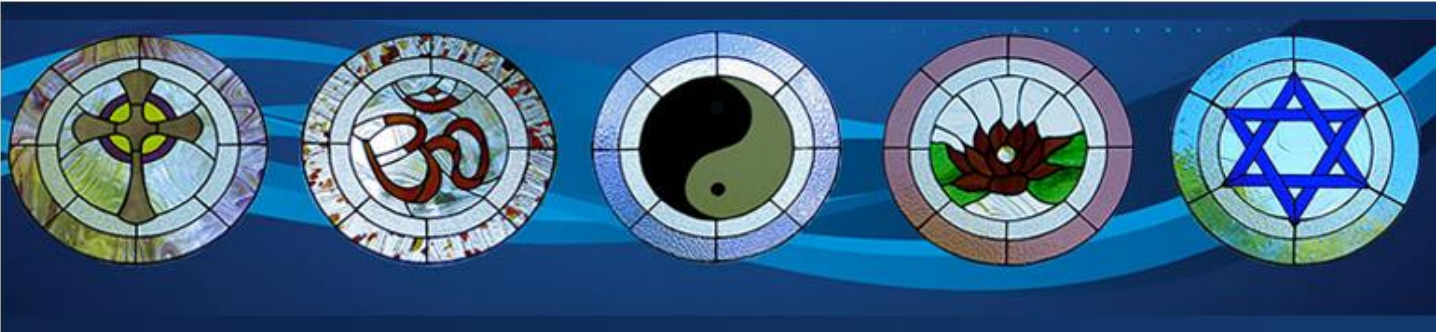


November 2021 Newsletter



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.

Table of Contents

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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November 2021 Sermons at a Glance

November 7 Show Up, Dressed To Participate.

Have you shown up for a friend because they asked you to? Has a friend shown up for you because you asked? Just showing up can make a difference. It can make a difference to others. It can make a difference to you. We do not have to be expertly wise or courageous or skilled, but show up, willing to participate, and see how the forces within us will help us manage and grow.

November 14 Wellbeing Beyond the Mind

What if all of us are completely well, safe, and whole at a level beyond our thinking, no matter how painful, prolonged, or frightening our experience has been? I would like to explore that radical question and share what I've learned so far about the human mind and spirit during my journey of healing from anxiety and physical challenges.

November 21 Setting a Table of Blessing

During this Thanksgiving service, we will set a table of thanksgiving, a table of blessing. We will hear reflections from Thanksgivings past.

November 28 Gratitude in the Age of Pandemic

The past 18+ months have been difficult. It has been difficult to stay home, to stay away from friends and family in our attempt to stay safe. During this time, our busy lives slowed down. We had time for reflection and self-reflection. We had time to realize for who and what we are grateful. During this service, we will be able to share with our community our pandemic blessings.



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Sunday Mornings

Beginning October 24, 2021 we returned to in-person services.

Learn more about reopening on page 4.

Sunday services are currently hybrid both in person and online, using Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/2750827327>

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

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.

Interested in RE, see the **RE Corner** on page 8 for details.

UUCOM Board

Janine Deckard, President
Barbara Handley, President-Elect
Jane Hellinghausen, Treasurer
April Graham, Secretary
Eli Hilbert, At Large Member
Lisa Jebson, At Large Member
Beverly Wise, 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>

November 2021 Newsletter

November Calendar

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

November 5	5:30 PM	Garage Sale Preview Party
November 6	8:00 AM	Garage Sale
November 14	12:00 PM	Congregational Meeting

Church In-Person Service Reopening

On Sunday, October 24, 2021 we will partially reopen the building for Sunday services. 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. Please read them carefully and be prepared to follow them.

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.

THE RULES

1. Masks that cover the mouth and nose will be required for all participants (age 2 years and up). The exception to this will be speakers at the pulpit who stand behind the shield and individuals with medical issues that prevent mask usage.
2. All attendees must maintain 6 foot social distance. Exceptions only will be made for family groups.
3. Attendance will be taken for contact-tracing purposes.
4. Temperatures will be taken. All participants must register at 100 degrees Fahrenheit or below to be allowed entry.
5. Please use only the marked doors for entry and exit from the building.
6. Socializing areas will take place in outdoor spaces only (either under the front tree or in the south garden which will be accessible through the west gate only). The fellowship hall will not be open for socializing.
7. Though the sanctuary will be open, its capacity will be limited to 30 people. Should there be an overflow, we may use the fellowship hall for a small number of people. The only other areas open to all will be the bathrooms. The classrooms, kitchen, storage closets, library and offices will only be accessible to specifically authorized individuals.
8. There will be no congregational singing.

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.

November 2021 Newsletter

Garage Sale, Saturday, November 6th

The Garage Sale is on!!!!



UUCOM's (annual) garage sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 6th from 8:00-2:00. You may begin bringing your donations to the church beginning on Sunday, October 31st. Items may also be dropped off during office hours and each evening from 5:00- 8:00. Please do not bring items before the 31st!! We will need lots of volunteers! We need people with trucks to pick up donations from the storage unit (the Kullmans stored many items before their move) and from member's homes. We need people to unpack and organize donations. We need people to work during the sale on Saturday, especially after 2:00 when we will be packing up unsold items.

As usual, we will be having the Preview Party on Friday, November 5th from 5:30-7:30. This is your first opportunity to get those coveted treasures! The cost is \$10/person. For every \$10 that you spend, you receive a \$1 rebate up to \$10! Snacks and beverages will be served. To volunteer or to have any questions answered, please contact Barbara Handley at 432-978-5977 or Shanda Unger at 432-634-7769.

November 2021 Newsletter

Congregational Meeting

Please plan to join your Board on November 14, 2021 for a potluck and Fall Congregational Meeting following the service. The past six months have seen us move between in-person and virtual services, become a lay-led congregation, and install a new board. We need *your* input as we move forward to continue nurturing the spiritual growth and connection that makes this church so beloved by many of us. Please plan to be part of our congregational business as we take stock and plan for the remainder of the spiritual year.

The potluck and meeting will take place directly after the 11:00am worship service, both via Zoom and in person (outdoors at the church).

To attend the service at 11:00am and/or the meeting at 12:00pm on November 14 virtually:

<https://zoom.us/j/2750827327>

Meeting ID: **275 082 7327**

Dial-in number: **929-205-6099**

UUMIDLAND

Fall Congregational Potluck and Meeting

VIRTUAL AND IN PERSON

To attend the service and/or meeting virtually:

<https://zoom.us/j/2750827327>
Meeting ID: 275 082 7327
Dial-in number: 929-205-6099

November 14, 2021
12:00 PM
SEE YOU ALL THERE!

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has several opportunities to lead a service in November and November. The theme for November is: Unity and Diversity. November's Theme is Forgiveness. You may use the theme to help in your planning. Or you may choose 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 Host, or Greeter! 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.

UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF MIDLAND TEXAS

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER

November 2021 Newsletter

UUCOM Members and Friends Survey

It is the time of year to update our Members and Friends Directory for 2022. This year we are combining our directory update with the collection of additional demographic data to limit the amount of work for the congregation.

A more robust demographic collection process had been discussed by the Board for both internal UUCOM use and for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), as they request demographic data from congregations as part of their annual UUA certification. To streamline this process in the future we are gathering this information alongside the UUMidland Congregational Directory update.

To facilitate this effort, a voluntary survey has been created to collect the demographic data and directory update. All demographic responses you provide will remain confidential. Your data will not be reported beyond the aggregate (combined data from all responses) congregational data without permission.

You will also be asked to update a directory listing for the 2022 Members and Friends Directory if applicable. Lastly a new online Directory request page is available (<https://bit.ly/3nAT2m0>) if you would like a copy of the current or future directory.

To complete the online survey, please visit <https://bit.ly/UUSrvy21>. A hard copy of the survey is also available on the welcome table or by contacting the church office (432-694--4308| office@uumidland.org).

**UUMidland
Demographic
Survey**

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

UPDATE YOUR INFO
FOR THE 2022
DIRECTORY TOO!

<https://bit.ly/UUSrvy21>

November 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!!

November 7: We are Water Protectors. This story is inspired by the many movements led by Indigenous people to save our resources.

November 14: Dreamers. When a woman and her baby immigrate to the United States they learn English from a remarkable source—a public library.

November 21: We Are Grateful—Otsaliheliga. This is a Sources Story of Gratitude from the Cherokee people.

November 28: Zonia's Rain Forest. The rain forest is Zonia's home and her playground. This is the story of what Zonia did to help her home.

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, 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 432-978-5977.



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What's Happening at UUCOM

November Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this November's Share the Plate recipient. The Social Action Committee has chosen the following recipient, **Midland Meals on Wheels**.



Did you know...across the nation, 1 in 6 seniors struggles with hunger? Each weekday, Senior Life volunteer drivers take one of 38 routes to deliver an average of 500 hot, healthy meals to the frail and home-bound throughout Midland. For many of our clients, the daily

human interaction is the most significant aspect of this service. The visual contact and communication we have when delivering a meal allows us to keep an eye out for any issues or situations that may need attention, often engaging help from our other homebound service teams and programs. We work to solve issues before they become a bigger problem.

Learn more at <http://seniorlifemidland.org/homebound-services/>.

Monthly Stitching Group

Postponed Until Further Notice.

We welcome all stitchers: knitters, crocheters, embroidery or hand sewing! Bring your projects to visit or to get and share advice & tips.

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 November 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 November 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!

Garden and Grow, Continues

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

Board Thank You for Month of November

Thank you to Jessica for doing the new website! Scott and Sonja for their positivity in working with the tech and getting us back to hybrid.

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2021 Members and Friends Directory

The 2021 UUCOM Members and Friends Directory is complete. Updated electronic copies will be sent the first week of November 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.

Free Yoga Class – Hybrid Class

Patricia (Patty) George, the Yoga teacher will return to in-person classes this Saturday June 26, 2021 9-10:00 AM. Classes will still be held through virtual classes as well. 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](#).

New UUMidland Website

Visit the new UUMidland at <https://UUMidland.org>.

We wanted to make the new website faster, easier to navigate, and more user-friendly. It is important for us to make information regarding our work, worship services news and events and more easily accessible for our members and those interested in UUMidland. This website endeavors to provide the most accurate, up-to-date information and share what UUMidland is all about to everyone who visits. The new website gives better access to our information keeping the important items from the old website in an easier to navigate, more condensed and in a more aesthetically appealing package.

For any questions, suggestions, feedback or comments, please contact us at Office@UUMidland.org or at the new website contact form.

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Wider World

UUA Upcoming Events

We are excited to invite lay leaders, religious professionals, adults, youth, members of congregations, and anyone else who is interested, to join UUA staff in an exploration of interdependence in UU theology and practice. “Compass: Navigating the Paths of Liberation Together” is an online conference offering fellowship, faith development, and a special musical guest, to be held on December 11 and 12.

[Register For Compass](#)

Taproot: A National BIPOC Space Nov 2021

Event format: Online

Date & time:

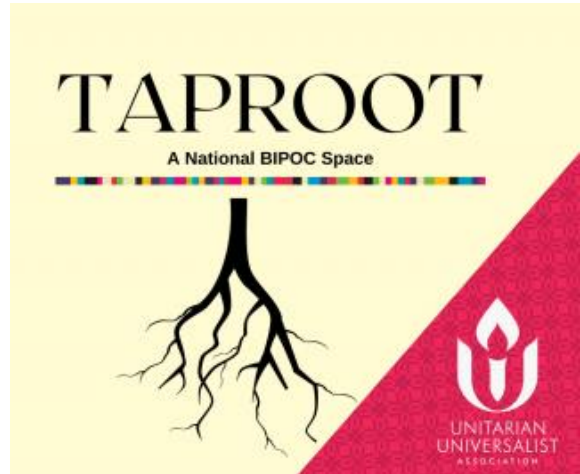
- Thursday, November 11, 2021, 9:00 pm - 10:15 pm EST
- Thursday, November 11, 2021, 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm PST

The work of spiritual community is complicated in the 21st century. From busy schedules to the ever pressing tension brought on by systemic injustice, the need for faithful leadership that is grounded and resilient is imperative. This is all the more true for leaders within our communities and congregations who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). All too aware of this need, Congregational Life is excited to explore and co-create a network with congregational leaders that support them in this time in emergent ways through Taproot: A National BIPOC Space. The organizing pillars of this collective is:

- Rest & Renewal
- Analysis Building
- Leadership Development

BIPOC Leaders rooted in the Unitarian Universalist congregations are invited to take part in this monthly, virtual gathering as we explore these pillars in creating means by which to ground ourselves in resilient communities of care.

Learn more and register [here](#).



Side With Love

One month ago, Side With Love launched its Action Center to support those working to build organizing capacity and power in our Unitarian Universalist community. Visit the Action Center, download the guide, and sign up to get involved today. Urgent action is needed to support the Freedom to Vote Act in November; get resources for your congregation to host an event in your community to protect voting rights.

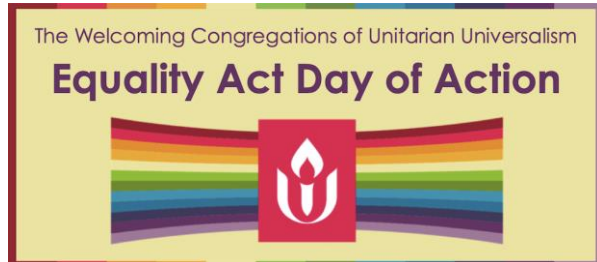
It's incredibly important to put pressure on President Biden right now, as we approach the [COP 26 UN climate talks](#). Together, we can Side With Love and Create Climate Justice by showing up for this movement moment in solidarity with frontline leaders who have spent the past week [risking arrest in Washington, D.C.](#) to call on

November 2021 Newsletter

President Biden to reject false solutions and commit to a rapid and just transition away from an extractive economy.

UUA Welcoming Congregations

The Equality Act still hangs in the balance in Congress. There is still time for all who believe in Equality for all to ACT.



Please join us for one or more days of action to contact senators in key states: ME, PA, WV, NC, FL, IN, OH, WI, IA, NE, UT, AK and NY.

Thursday, November 11th **@ 3:30pm-5pm ET / 2:30pm CT / 1:30pm MT / 12:30pm PT**

To learn more about the Equality Act visit: [HRC/EqualityAct](https://www.hrc.org/equalityact)

The Five Practices of Welcome Renewal Zoom Orientation

Thursday, November 4th @ 12pm-1pm ET/11am CT/10am MT/9am PT

Monday, November 15th @ 2pm-3pm ET/1pm CT/12pm MT/11am PT

[REGISTER HERE](#)



UU's for a Just Economic Community Upcoming Events

Alan Michael Collinge "The Student Loan Scam"

Thursday, October 28 at 5 PM PDT, 6 PM MDT, 7 PM CDT and 8 PM EDT

Stan Cox on How Much is Enough?

Thursday, November 11 at 5 PM PDT, 6 PM MDT, 7 PM CDT and 8 PM EDT

Learn more about UUJEC webinars [here](#).

UU Ministry for Earth

From now until November 30, UU Ministry for Earth is offering a final opportunity for congregations to view the powerful documentary, "The Condor and the Eagle" and support Indigenous-led organizing for climate justice. Learn more about this award-winning film and get resources for group viewing for congregations.

[Watch Condor & Eagle](#)

Rolling Ridge Spring on-line retreats

Find all the details of their many programs [here](#).

Spring Programs Rowe at Home

Find a complete list of all of Rowe at Home's upcoming free and paid programs [here](#).

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[Creating a Listening Community October/November 2021 Training Signup](#)

Join us for a six-week workshop for "Creating a Listening Community: Restorative Circles Practice and Facilitation". We will explore what gets in the way of listening, how to listen to understand and create a space of empathy within ourselves for others, and how we can use this way of communication to help our communities connect when it seems impossible to hear one another.

To register for the upcoming workshops ([click here](#)).

[Save the Date for SWUWCon 2022!](#)

March 4-6, 2022

Grapevine, Texas (centrally located between Dallas and Fort Worth)

www.swuuw.org

[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.](#)