



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

November 2023

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.

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Wider World

November 2023 Sermons at a Glance

November 5 *“A Community for Life.”*

Jim Camp offers a message on the importance, indeed the necessity, of community for an individual to have a truly meaningful, happy life. We will then discuss the important role the church can play in providing such a community.

November 12 *“More Meditations on Gratitude”*

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, it's a good time to reflect and build on the ways we can cultivate and express gratitude. Join Rev. Lisa for thoughts on this important topic and maybe offer your own?

November 19 *“Transgender Day of Awareness”*

November 20 is an internationally recognized day of remembrance for lives lost due to violence and transphobia this year and in years past. Now more than ever, we need to recognize the rights of our trans brethren and fight for them as if their lives depend on it. Because they do.

November 26 *“A Conversation About Sin”*

Rev. A. Powell Davies of All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington said, “I have never agreed with those who tried to tell us that the whole idea of sin is out of date.” For various reasons, UUs tend to shy away from words like sin. Join Rev. Lisa for another conversation about this word which might be considered taboo by many in our faith tradition.

SCAM ALERT!

Please note that scammers may contact you via text, email or phone pretending to be someone representing UUCOM like Rev. Lisa or Harry Nutter (board president). They will usually make it sound urgent and may try to get you to buy gift cards or send money.

No staff member or volunteer from UUCOM will ever solicit in this way. Do not engage with anyone who contacts you like this. Block the number and/or email address.

If you have any concerns or would like to discuss ways to stay safe from scammers, please reach out to Rev. Lisa.

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 8 for details.

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 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>). 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.

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
CHURCH OF MIDLAND TEXAS

UUCOM BOARD

Harry Nutter, President
Kyle Farmer, President-Elect
Alex Fields, Treasurer
Emmy Ulmschneider Secretary
David Allen, At Large Member
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

During conversations with many of you in the last few weeks, I've found myself prefacing them with an apology for my "mushy brain." There's a lot on my plate right now and at times I've felt the pressure of being pulled in many different directions. So this month's installment MM will be an assortment of short topics that have been swirling in my soggy celebelium....



This is a time of change and transition for our church. We have a lot of things going on at 3301 Neely. There are days when our physical church home seems to be in open rebellion! A constant stream of professionals have replaced toilets, fixed leaky/clogged sinks and AC lines, repaired fences and given us estimates on other improvements and repairs. I would like to thank our board for all the work to make this happen and for all the trips to UUCOM for these appointments: **Dr. David Allen** (at large member) and **Alex Fields** (treasurer) have been especially helpful in that regard. I hope you will thank them the next time you see them...

For those of you who were at the October 22 service, you may remember my husband sharing the joy of our Santa Fe home purchase and the sorrow of "closing stress."

And it's true.

Those final days were incredibly stressful! Looking back though, I don't think I'd change a thing. Yes, the back and forth with Southwest Title was a huge source of frustration - and Tim didn't even go into the many issues we had **after** the sale was finalized! However, that week really forced me to focus on the positive. I lost track of how many times I said things to myself like: *you are so lucky to buy a home in this beautiful place!* Or, *this is merely inconvenient - nothing in comparison to those who are suffering so much here in the US and abroad, like war, terrorism, poverty and hunger.*

In addition to strengthening what I affectionately refer to as my "Pollyanna Muscles," I also have affection and gratitude for that rough patch. In the midst of all of it, I never felt closer to my husband, my life partner, my best friend. We took turns "being mad" and helped each other through it all. And I'm proud of that. We even managed to laugh and cheer each other up, as needed. What a blessing to have a partner like Tim for good times and bad.

Plus these blessings were multiplied by the love and support I felt from extended family. Phone calls and texts with my brother, mom, Aunt Joyce and Cousin Molly truly helped me stay sane as well.

Continued on page 5

In other personal news, I'm thrilled that I get to work with Tim on one of his final shows at Midland Community Theatre. At the end of September, I auditioned for and was cast as Mother Superior in *The Sound of Music*. A UU reverend playing Reverend Mother? Strange but true! I have to admit that I'm struggling with one of my lines about the holiness of the love of a man and woman. Should I ask to change it to something more inclusive or is that a violation of my character?! Perhaps I could break the fourth wall and tell everyone that the actor believes that love is love is love?! I'm no stranger to playing characters with different outlooks on life, but in this time, it feels different....

One more final thought is a rewrite of advice I shared last November: a laundry list of useful ways to combat stress during the busy holiday season. I think these suggestions could also serve us during these times where the news seems to be a never ending stream of awful headlines.

Physical activity - any type will do: a walk, a yoga class, high intensity interval training, tending your yard or garden.

Meditation/mindfulness - set aside some time, even 5 minutes to simply focus on breathing, embracing some stillness and lifting up one source of joy in your life, no matter how small

Connect with friends/family - surround yourself with loving, supportive company - Sunday services at 11AM at UUCOM are one excellent way to do that!

Spend time in nature - this could be combined with physical activity or meditation! I think the kids today would tell you to "Touch grass." Here in West Texas just be sure to have a good look around before you do to avoid stickers and fire ants!

Practice self care - do something just for yourself: get a massage, take a nap, read a good book, practice a hobby, etc.

I'd like to thank Lisa from November 2022 for the reminder about the value of doing some or all of the following, holiday season or no...

In peace,

Rev. Lisa J. AKA: Lisa from November 2023

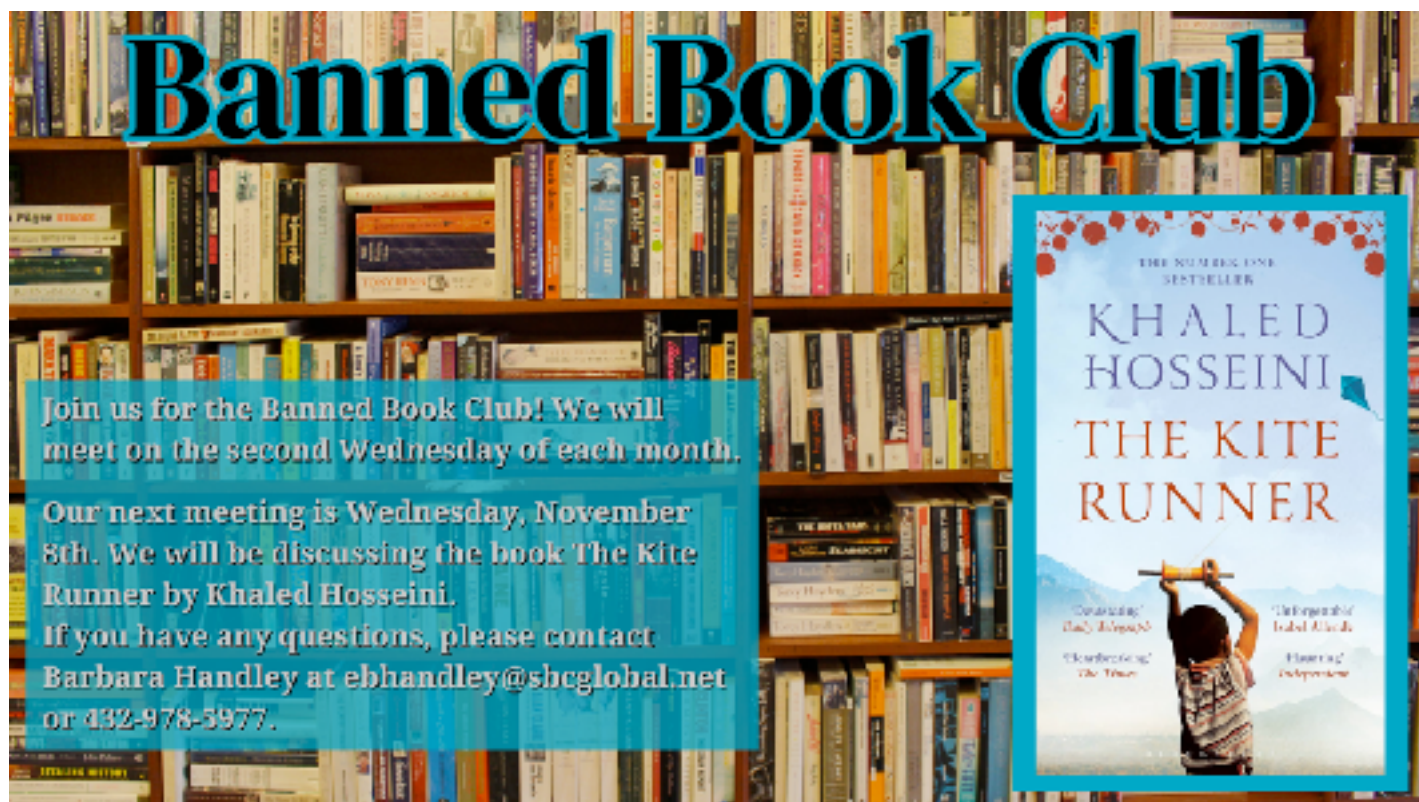
OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nov. 19 - Monthly Potluck and Congregational Meeting

We hope you will join us immediately after 11AM worship for our monthly potluck

Banned Book Club

The Banned Book Club meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 8th. We will be discussing the novel *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.



November Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this November's Share the Plate recipient. The Board has chosen the following recipient, **Community Unitarian Universalist Church in Plano, TX.**

On Sunday, July 23, 2023, between 12:00 am and 12:30 am, a firebomb attack took place at Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Plano. An incendiary device with a chemical accelerant was thrown or placed at the front doors of the main church building. Because of the quick action of Plano's First Responders, the damage to the church property was limited to the front doors, the materials directly outside the front doors, and the entrance foyer.

This month we will be adding your share the plate contributions to our own contribution to Community Unitarian Universalist Church.

Learn more about the incident at <https://www.communityuuchurch.org/uua/firebomb-attack-on-july-23-2023-at-community-unitarian-universalist-church-of-plano/>.

Blood Drive November 11, 2023

We are hosting a Blood Drive November 11, 2023 from 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM!

Please help us help the community by donating blood. To schedule an appointment contact Lisa Jebesen at 432-694-4308, or call 877-25 VITAL or log onto www.donors.vitalant.org.



POTLUCK LUNCHEON NOVEMBER 19, 2023

Please join UU's for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, November 19th following the church service.



RE Corner

Spirit Play 10:00-10:45

This is a time for chalice lighting, story, check-in and fun! We are using a modified Spirit Play format. This month we will pay tribute to the indigenous peoples of North America.

November 5: “**The Mud Pony**”. This story exhibits the Pawnee belief that no matter how lowly one’s origin, the path to honor is open through adherence to virtues such as a humble spirit.

November 12: “**The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses.**” This story is from the “Horse People” tradition.

November 19: **No class today!**

November 26: “**We are Water Protectors**”. This story is inspired by the many movements led by Indigenous people to save our resources.

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).

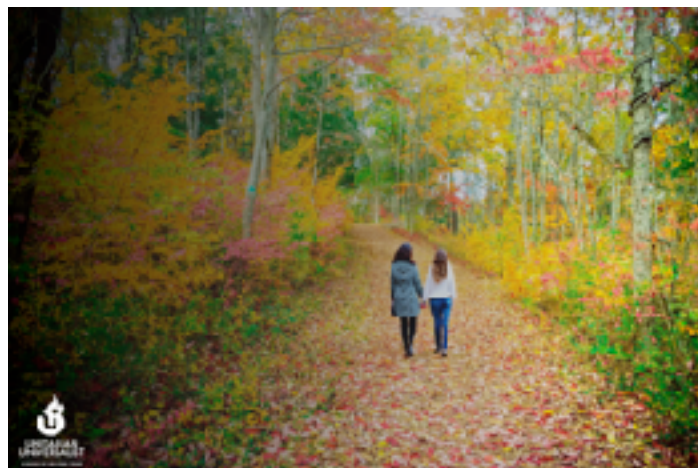
We are the church of the helping hands (hands outstretched palms up).

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 may suggest a story for Spirit Play. You may help to create Spirit Play stories. You may be a substitute teacher for the times that Barbara is away on adventures!

Please contact Barbara Handley at 432-978-5977.



What's Happening at UUCOM

Permian Basin Buddhists

The Tuesday night Buddhist class has expanded to include a 30 minute meditation session to begin at 6:15 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](#).

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 Jebson, 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

TEXAS UU JUSTICE MINISTRY NEWS (10/25/23): [TXUUJM](#) is working for public education, reproductive rights, LGBTQIA+ rights, and more, and is getting ready for a trip to the border in solidarity with migrants and border communities. You can travel or help fund a traveler! [Click here for the latest news](#) from our UU state action network, and [click here to sign up for TXUUJM e-news](#) and to [become a Chalice Lighter](#).

JOIN TXUUJM ON ZOOM*:

[We Cry Justice](#) - every Thursday 6pm CT

[Action Hour](#) - every Thursday 7pm CT

[Final Friday Action Hour Lunch Bunch](#) - 12 noon CT, final Friday of every month, including this Friday, Oct. 27!

On Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88084755738>

[Register on TXUUJM's EveryAction page!](#)

UUMUAC

HOW "WHITE GUILT" HARMS EVERYONE - A Convocation of the UU Multiracial Unity Action Council

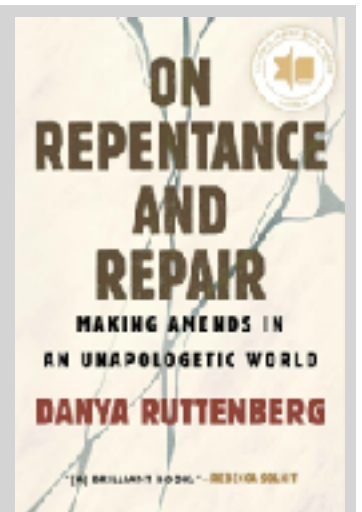
Saturday, Nov 4, 2023, 1:00pm-2:30pm Central time (Starts at 2:00pm Eastern, noon Mountain, 11:00am Pacific)

To register send an email to UUMUAC@gmail.com; Zoom codes will be sent the day before [Find the event PDF here](#).

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

Side with Love

Hubs of Climate Resilience

Join us on November 9 at 7pm ET to learn how you can turn your faith into action to create hubs of climate resilience for our communities.

Skill Up Series: Summoning Courage

Skill Ups are our monthly training series on various organizing skills to help strengthen our congregational and community justice teams. These trainings incorporate spiritual fun and hands-on exercises to help deepen the lesson.

Skill Ups occur every 3rd Sunday for 90 minutes, starting at 4 ET / 3 CT / 2 MT / 1 PT.

- Nov 19: [Faith Out Loud](#)
- Jan 21: [Community Safety and Security](#)
- Check out the collection of past Skill Ups [here](#).

Monthly Mixers

Following the success of our virtual and in-person mixers for General Assembly, we're thrilled to announce our virtual monthly Side With Love Mixer.

This mixer will be held the 2nd Monday of every month at 5pm PT / 8pm ET.

Come connect with one another, build community across issues, and have some facetime with our staff. Register now!

- [November 13](#)
- [December 11](#)

Faithful Gathering

Join our Side with Love Fun & Spiritual Nourishment Squad for an hour of spiritual sustenance and grounding with others organizing on the side of love. Show up as you are, with whatever is in your heart, and have your camera on or off as you need. Come drink in the music, meditation, play, and prayer. We end with a Connection Cafe for those who wish to talk together.

This gathering happens monthly on the 4th Thursday of the month at 4:30 PT / 5:30 MT / 6:30 CT / 7:30 ET. Register Now:

- [November 23](#)
- [December 28](#)

Wider World

Love Resists

Stop Cop City: The issues at the heart of the movement

Webinar series from Love Resists and American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Session One: November 14 at 8pm ET / 5pm PT

On Nov. 14 (8 p.m. ET/ 5 p.m. PT), join our webinar to explore the environmental impacts of Cop City—and the long history of how those in power have worked to harm our communities and our environment. You'll hear from Atlanta activists and community members struggling to sustain the place we call home. And you'll learn ways that you can get involved to stop Cop City in order to protect people and the planet. [Register now.](#)

[Available to View: Risk Discernment for Congregations - Oct Skill Up](#)

Led by Rev. Ashley Horan, UUA Organizing Strategy Director, this skill-up training is for congregational leaders. We often talk about partnership and solidarity in organizing and the crucial role of showing up well in crucial moments. But how do we know which potentially risky asks we're actually ready to say "yes" to -- and follow through with? In this training, we discuss a framework for having congregational conversations about risk, including expanding our courage as communities with significant power and resources. View the recording and slides now.

[Guidelines for Arrestee / Defendant Support: A Toolkit](#)

Why Do We Need Guidelines for UU Arrestee/Defendant Support?

Unitarian Universalism is deeply rooted in values. And praxis. This means we are less concerned with what we each believe – and more concerned with how we live into our beliefs. As UUs, we strive to show up in good ways in the face of injustice, understanding that this is deeply sacred work.

The more we show up on the frontlines of justice movements, the more we risk arrest, incarceration, and prosecution. Depending on our real or perceived demographics, many of us already face these risks on a regular basis. Meanwhile, as our collective commitment to justice grows, state and corporate suppression of dissent is also growing.

Why Do We Need These Guidelines Now?

UUs have been engaged in social change efforts, including nonviolent civil disobedience, for many generations. Today, it seems that UUs who resist injustice are being arrested and detained at increasing rates. This is due, in part, to an enhanced partnership between corporations and the state in criminalizing dissent.

The sustainability of UU activism, as well as the sustainability of UU activists, well may depend upon the capacity of UU entities to provide a spectrum of support for those at the frontlines.

Wider World

Create Climate Justice

Webinar: Creating Hubs of Climate Resilience with Federal Clean Energy Funding November 9 at 4pm PT / 7pm ET

How can we use federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding to create hubs of community resilience? We're hoping to leverage the very real impact of building improvements into broader change.

For example, if your congregation is thinking about installing solar panels with the 30% direct pay option, you should also think about adding battery backup (which has an additional 30% option) to offer your buildings as an emergency shelter in extreme weather or a cooling center during power outages.

Curious? Join Denise Abdul-Rahman, Black Sun Light Sustainability; Shina Robinson, Asian Pacific Environmental Network; and Miguel Yanez-Barnuevo, Environmental and Energy Study Institute for an informative discussion on ways you can turn your faith into action to create hubs of climate resilience for our communities.

[Register now and invite two members of your congregation to join you!](#)

This event is our second in the Clean Energy as a Human Right webinar series, which includes:

- [Visionary Approaches to Federal Clean Energy Funding](#),
- [Creating Hubs of Community Resilience](#) on 11/9,
- UUMFE's [Light for All Winter Solstice Gathering](#) on 12/20, and
- Reimagining with Energy Democracy in 2024 (date TBD).

UUMFE

November 9 | Monthly on 2nd Thurs. until Dec 17, 2024
8:30 – 9:30pmET/ 6:30 MT/ 7:30 CT

UUYACJ has a new offering. We'll be holding a community space for organizers. Our first gathering will be September 14th!

As relationships are vital to build networks of care and a world of liberation, we will be creating and deepening connections with other UU young adult organizers. The space will include time for socializing, sharing our experiences in organizing, learning from our comrades, and imagining what a UU political analysis looks like. Anyone who is doing justice work (environmental or otherwise) is welcome here.

[Register](#)