



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

November 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.

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November 2024 Sermons at a Glance

November 3 **Día de los Muertos with Maureena Benavides**

Join us to celebrate día de los muertos (Day of the Dead), a Latin American/Mexican tradition of remembrance and celebration of life. We are asking you to bring your mementos for your loved ones who have passed to put on our altar. There will be a time of reflection and sharing as we remember the lives of our loved ones who are no longer with us physically, but whose memories we keep alive with our tradition of sharing with food, music and story. All of your items will be returned to you at the end of service. Service lead by Maureena B.

November 10 **“How to Win a Fight” with Rev. Stevie**

This service will explore a few ways to deal with interpersonal conflict. When life is hard, having more than one tool can help.

November 17 **“The Trouble with Love” with Jim Camp**

We discuss three ways love gives us life, and then we discuss three risks of loving.

November 24 **“Trans Remembrance Vigil” with Rev. Stevie**

November 20 is Trans Day of Remembrance, so this service will honor lives lost to transphobia.

POTLUCK LUNCHEON, NOVEMBER 3, 2024

Please join UU's for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, November 3rd following the church service. Our Fall Congregational Meeting will take place after lunch. We have several important items on the agenda so please plan on attending so that your voice may be heard!



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 6** 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

Kyle Farmer, President
Barbara Handley, President-Elect
A.C. Fields, Treasurer
Emmy Ulmschneider Secretary
Jane Hellinghausen, At Large
 Member

UUCOM STAFF

Rev. Dr. Stevie Gaines

Office Hours: By appointment
 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.

November Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this November and December's Share the Plate recipient. The Board has chosen the following recipient, **Christmas in Action**.



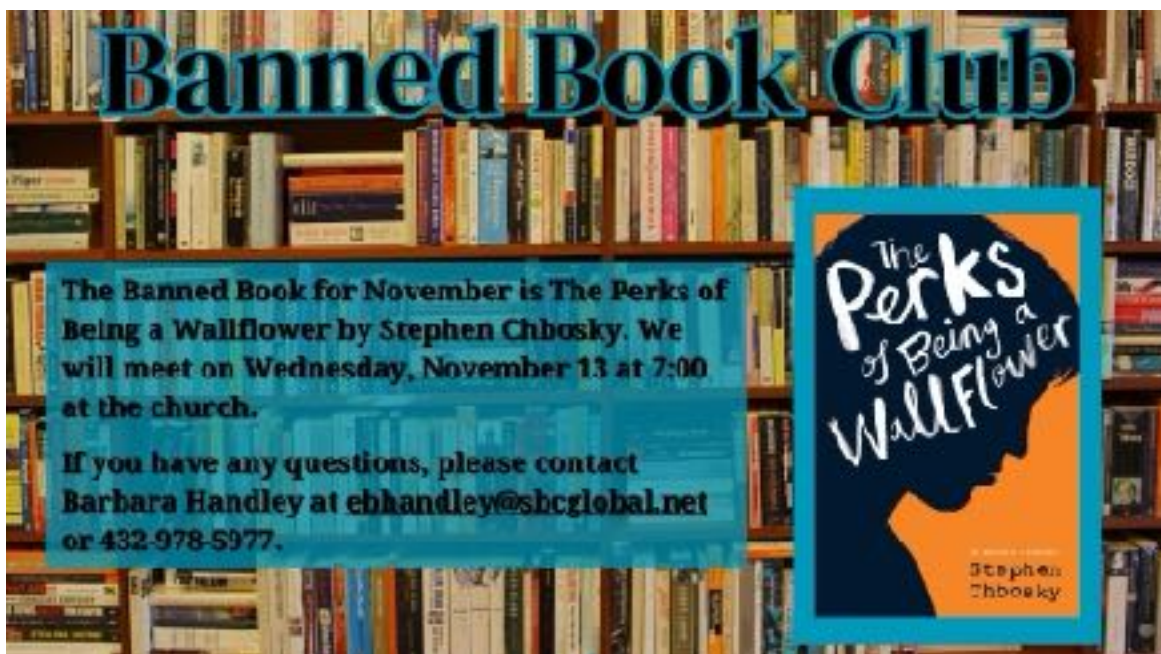
Christmas In Action is a 501(c)3 non-profit agency that, in partnership with the community, repairs homes of low-income elderly and/or disabled homeowners by putting Christian values and principles into action.

The seeds for Christmas In Action were planted in 1972 in Midland, Texas. Bobby Trimble was teaching his young men's Sunday school class at Alamo Heights Baptist Church from James 2:14-17. The lesson encouraged the class to step outside the church walls and work on homes of women without husbands in the community. At first the repairs were small, such as repairing gates, furnaces, evaporative coolers, etc. This developed into larger projects.

For more information please visit <http://www.christmasinaction.org/>.

Banned Book Club

Please join the Banned Book Club as we discuss *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky. We meet here at the church at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 13th. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.



November Drop-In Circle

New to UUCOM? New to Unitarian Universalism? Want to meet some new people? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please join us for our next Drop-In Circle on Sunday, November 17th from 12:15-1:00. For more information and to RSVP please contact Barbara Handley at 432-978-5977 or ebhandley@sbcglobal.net.



POTLUCK LUNCHEON

November 3, 2024

Please join UU's for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, November 3rd following the church service.

Our Fall Congregational Meeting will take place after lunch.

We have several important items on the agenda so please plan on attending so that your voice may be heard!



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 3 — 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 10 — The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses— This story is from the “Horse People” tradition.

November 17 — We are Grateful: Otsaliheliga — This story comes from the Cherokee tradition of celebrating gratitude throughout the year.

November 24 — 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

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!

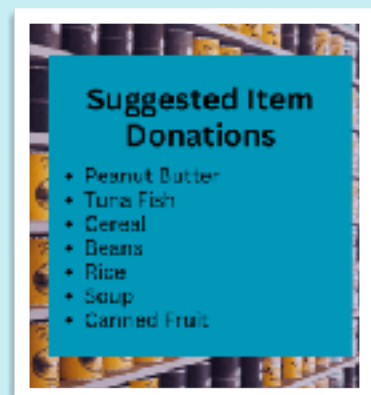
Care Team for Church Members and Friends

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

UUA Newsletter

As Unitarian Universalists, we are a proudly non-creedal tradition. When it comes to the most important questions, the people in our congregations and communities generally do not believe one single thing. This pluralism brings richness to our lives. Holding differences with grace while offering continued care for one another is kind of our whole thing. Blessedly, this has been the case for a very long time, including in the course of the last several years of discernment related to Article II of our Association's bylaws.



After a democratic process involving thousands of Unitarian Universalists discussing the faith's values and core theology, delegates at General Assembly 2024 voted to approve a new statement that articulates our historically grounded promises to one another in the form of Shared Values. Those values, as affirmed in that vote, are Equity, Generosity, Interdependence, Justice, Pluralism, and Transformation, centered around Love.

Since that vote, your UUA staff have been working diligently with the support and guidance of UU leaders and colleagues, to realize the vision of the General Assembly delegates. Get a peek behind the scenes at the resource development process in this [UU World interview with Mary Benard](#), Publishing Director of Skinner House Books and UUA Publications. This email brings you a variety of resources you can use in your own congregational and community life to engage our Shared Values together.

-- [Read the full email newsletter here](#) —

UUMFE

Our Last Regular Full Moon Gathering

November 14, 2024 - 8-9pm ET | 7-8pm CT| 6-7pm MT| 5-6pm PT

This will be our last regular Full Moon Gathering. We may hold some on a case-by-case **basis**, but **our spiritual gatherings will focus on Winter Solstice, Earth Day and General Assembly. Stay tuned for other educational events coming in January.**

We hope you join us November 14th to soak up the power of the supermoon.

[Register here](#)

Wider World

Create Climate Justice

How do we make our interdependence faithful and value-driven?

This question was posed by UUA President Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt during the fireside chat with UUSC President Rev. Mary Katherine Morn. These two theologians and leaders discussed the UU theological grounding for climate justice. Interdependent doesn't always mean something positive, as Rev. Betancourt noted. Someone upstream polluting has an interdependent relationship with those downstream. So: how do we make our interdependence faithful and value-driven?

Watch the [event recording](#) which includes reporting back from the small group discussion that happened.



[Get Connected: Who's doing what, where, when, and why?](#)

November 20 at 7pm ET / 4pm PT

With over 375 UU Congregations hosting the UU Climate Justice Revival and 125 ACTIVE Green Sanctuary 2030 Congregations, UUs are mobilizing for Climate Justice...but how? As climate disasters become more commonplace, we need stronger networks of community care. Whether you want to convene a regional Revival, work on disaster response, collaborate on statewide advocacy, or just learn how others are approaching their climate justice work, working together with other UUs can be a powerful response to the problems of our times.

2025 UU Common Read

The UUA Common Read for 2024-2025 is [Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families](#) (Skinner House, 2023). This Common Read offers two, parallel discussion tracks: one for a UU group with any or mixed gender identities, and one for UU participants with a trans or nonbinary identity. Each discussion guide consists of four 90-minute sessions that religious professionals or lay leaders may facilitate in-person or online. Coming in fall 2024: workshops for youth and families.

[Join the Common Read.](#)

