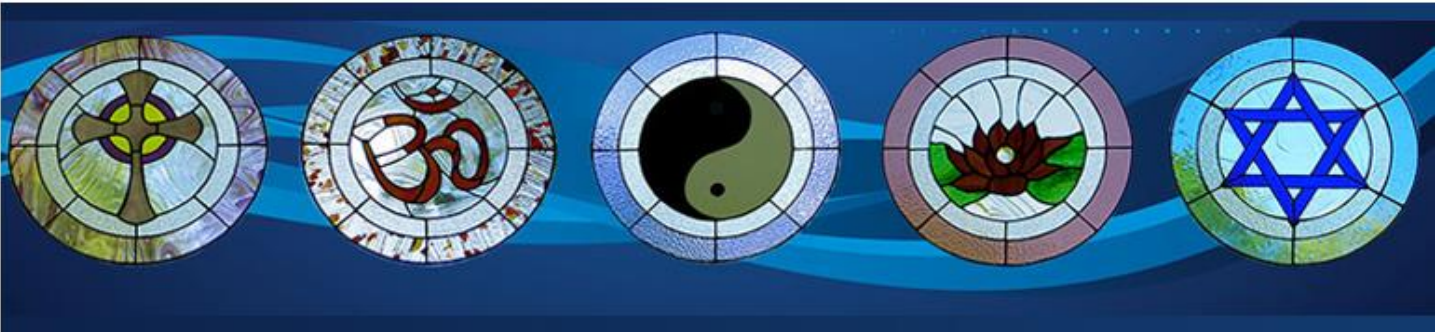


# October 2020 Newsletter



## Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

WELCOMING diversity  
EMPOWERING spiritual growth  
FOSTERING the interdependent web  
TRANSFORMING lives

Please visit our website at [www.uumidland.org](http://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 Carol Kullman, Membership Chair, a Board member, or Rev. Julie Lombard.

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### October Minister's Musings by Rev. Julie Lombard



It seems like yesterday when I remember attending a Mass Bay UU Minister's retreat on Cape Cod, the couple of days there were filled with many spiritual experiences that soothed my soul, but the one that has stayed with me the longest was walking a labyrinth and taking time to collect shells on the nearby beach. It's not surprising that the things that stuck with me could be considered spiritual practices.

I started walking the labyrinth path with a racing mind. With each step I took my brain slowly let go of all it was holding. By the time I reached the center, I was astonished at all the many changes I had been through on that journey. My perspective changed with each twist and turn. I exited the

path with a new sense of self- I was changed by connecting with a deeper sense of presence. The same was true with collecting sea shells on the beach. With each shell I gathered, I thought of a parishioner, and as my pockets filled up, I knew I also filled my heart with the love for my church family.

In the month of October, during worship we will explore forms of spiritual practice. Take this time to be inspired by the practices we consider and/or feel free to share your own practice. Spiritual practices ground us as we face many changes. What is your Spiritual Practice? Do you have one or more than one? Is it knitting or quilting, is hiking or walking, is it gardening or cooking? Has your practice(s) been impacted by the pandemic?

The seasonal changes found in autumn remind us of the many starts and stops that happen to us throughout the year. These changes can make it hard to settle into a routine, yet somehow we find a way like I did through the twists and turns of the labyrinth. These spiritual practices can help us stay grounded in the mist of change.

I urge you to celebrate each fall day by honoring the grace that is ever-present in your lives through your spiritual practices. Any ordinary act done mindfully can be turned into a spiritual practice- read a poem a day, listen to good music, plant bulbs, wash dishes, take your dog for a walk- explore your soul through these practices and let me know what you discover.

Peace, Rev. Julie

## October 2020 Newsletter

### Sermon Blurbs: October 2020 – Worship Theme: Beginnings

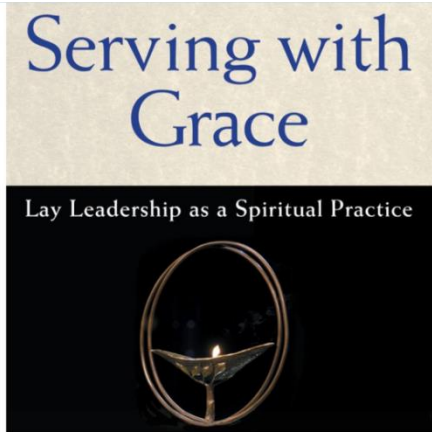
October 4 **A Sense of Presence** Rev. Julie Lombard

Every spiritual journey leads to a better understanding of our place in the world. Spiritual practices help us connect with the Self, which is merely a drop in the sea of consciousness. As we connect with consciousness, we learn that there is an intelligent design underlying our life, and that the spiritual realm contains all you need to know. How might we define spiritual practice? If it is the simple act of getting in touch with your Self, can being a prankster help you to arrive at enlightenment? Let us explore what might guide your choice of practice: Religion or tradition need not matter, except to your heart. Follow your intuition, not your mind (or another's). Practice will make all the difference: Spirituality is an experience, not an intellectual pastime. Please join us as we consider the many ways one might take this journey.

*Hymns:* #20 Be Thou My Vision, #1031 Filled with Loving Kindness (I'm hoping we can introduce this as a teaching moment.)



October 11 **Serving with Grace** Rev. Julie Lombard



Rev. Gary Kowalski said, "People who come to Unitarian Universalism seeking spiritual goods are likely to be disappointed so long as they have the outlook of consumers in search of material goods. If their connection to our liberal faith is to grow into something more rewarding, they have to give up the consumer mind set and begin to think of themselves instead as share holders, investors, co-owners in what happens in church. Just as the parties in a marriage see themselves as partners rather than competitors with a joint share in the success of the enterprise." Can lay-leadership be a spiritual practice? Please join us for worship and find out.

*Hymns:* #128 For All That is Our Life (not from the hymn list- can we teach this one?), #121 We'll Build a Land

October 18 **Lay-led Service** Shanda Unger

TBD

*Hymns:* TBD

October 25 **The Practice of Prayer** Rev. Julie Lombard

What do UU ministers Susan Fredrick-Grey, Manish Mishra Marzetti, and Jennifer Kelleher have in common? They are all devoted to the spiritual practice of prayer. Each of them came from a variety of faith traditions yet they have only come to know the peace of prayer explored during their adulthood as a UU. Find out how prayer prepared our UUA President, a non-theist, to listen for clarity in the midst of fear. Hear their stories and how prayer has helped them to discover all that is in their heart.

*Hymns:* #352 Find a Stillness, #123 Spirit of Life

*Glory fire chalice quilt by Peg Green*





# October 2020 Newsletter

## October Calendar

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

October 18	2:30 p.m.	Stitching Circle - online
October 25	12:15 p.m.	Small Group Ministry Drop-In Meeting
November 10	8:00 p.m.	Parent's Night Out

## Sunday Mornings, etc.

Interested in RE, see the **RE Corner** on page 6 for details.

Sunday services are currently online, using Zoom:

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

It will ask you to download an app to your computer. Just follow the steps. You might need to find "Zoom.pkg" in your downloads and double-click it to install the application. On your smartphone, download the Zoom app, and then join a meeting with the meeting ID: **275 082 7327**

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 above 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

## 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](http://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.

## UUCOM Board

**Maureena Benavides**, President  
**Janine Deckard**, President-Elect  
**Alex Fields**, Treasurer  
**April Graham**, Secretary  
**David Allen**, At Large Member  
**Lisa Jebson**, At Large Member  
**Kayleigh Kirk**, At Large Member

## UUCOM Staff

**Rev. Julie Lombard**, Minister  
Email: [minister@uumidland.org](mailto:minister@uumidland.org)  
(432) 694-4308 office  
(603) 724-0978 Cell

**Minister's office hours are by appointment.**

**Jessica Stewart**,  
Office Administrator  
(432) 694-4308

Office Hours:  
Monday 9-12  
Wednesday 9-1  
Friday 9-12

Email: [office@uumidland.org](mailto:office@uumidland.org)

**Barbara Handley**,  
Director of Religious Education  
Email: [dre@uumidland.org](mailto:dre@uumidland.org)  
Phone: 432-978-5977

**Sonja and Scott Millichamp**,  
Music Directors  
Email: [skassal811@yahoo.com](mailto:skassal811@yahoo.com)  
[scott@bruenor.org](mailto:scott@bruenor.org),

**Visit our website:**  
[www.uumidland.org](http://www.uumidland.org)  
**Like us on Facebook:**  
Unitarian Universalist Church of  
Midland TX  
<https://www.facebook.com/UUMidland>

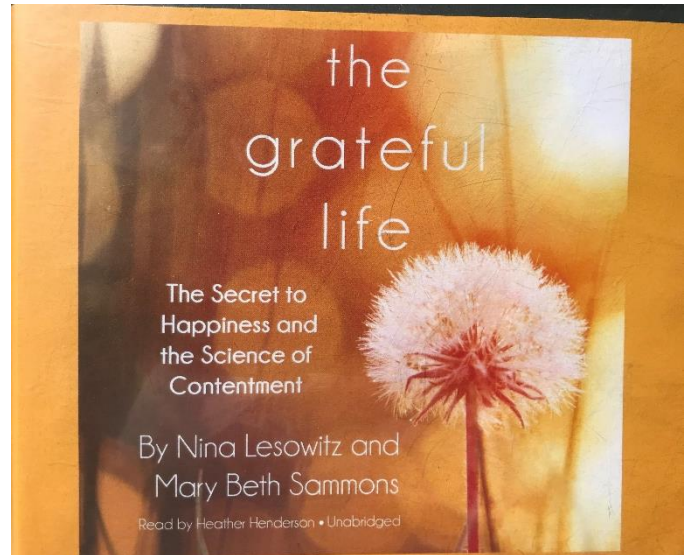
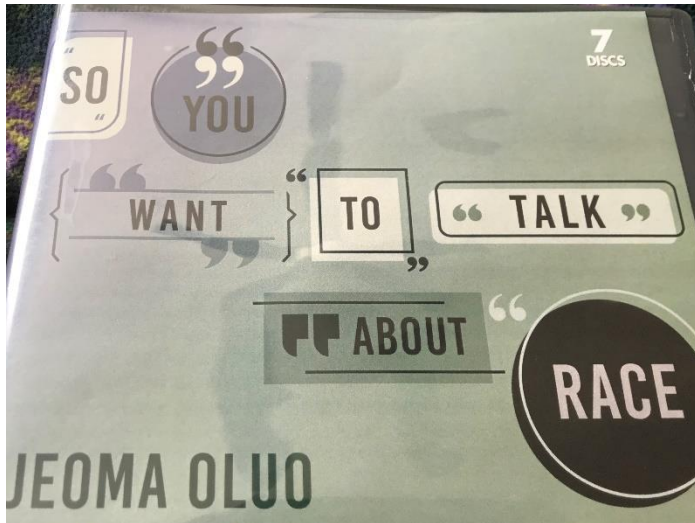
# October 2020 Newsletter

## Whatcha Reading

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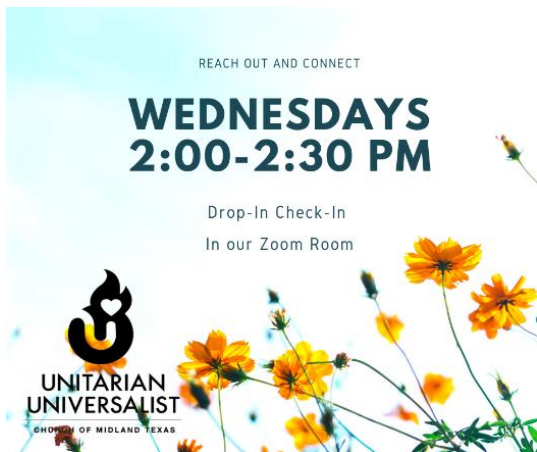
I like to listen to books while on long drives & this is what I've been reading... I found them at the Midland County Library. Let me know if you've read them & You'd like to discuss them.

Peace, Julie



## Mid-Week Event: Online Drop-In Space:

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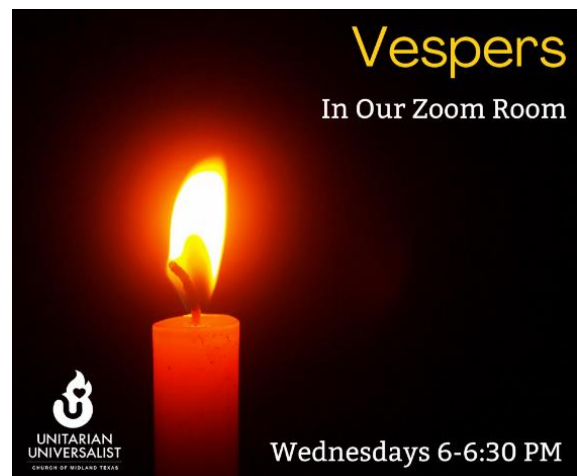


### Wednesdays 2 –2:30 PM

Rev. Julie will open our Zoom room ([same link as above](#)) for a casual space to check-in and connect. We will start with a brief reading and meditation at 2:05, and then invite people to check-in and chat. Children are welcome. Come anytime between 2-2:30, and stay the whole hour or just for a bit.

### Wednesdays 6-6:30 PM

Rev. Julie will open our Zoom room. This midweek evening service called Vespers, is held on Wednesdays at 6 pm, a quiet half-hour of music, prayer readings, and silence. A simple figurative breaking of bread follows the service - a brief check-in.



## October 2020 Newsletter

### October Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this October's Share the Plate recipient: PFLAG Midland-Odessa.



PFLAG is the first and largest organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people, their parents and families, and allies and PFLAG Midland-Odessa serves the Permian Basin. PFLAG Midland-Odessa is the extended family of the LGBTQ community. We're made up of LGBTQ individuals, family members and allies. Because together, we're stronger.

Learn more about PFLAG Midland-Odessa at <https://www.facebook.com/PFLAGMIDESSA/>.

### 2020-21 Drop-ins: Small Group Ministry

Small Group Ministry is a vital part of many Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations across America. In other churches they are called Chalice Circle or Covenant Groups. Groups of 8-10 people meet regularly, usually monthly, to reflect on and discuss significant life topics.

Small groups are great places to get to know other people and to get to know your better, too. Over time, participants build deep connections with one another, with the congregation and with the sacred.

Discussion topics are provided. The ones we'll use for Drop-ins will reflect our UU Principles and Purposes. The conversations we'll have will be respectful and caring and they'll lead to greater understanding of our UU values. In each session, facilitated by our minister, all participants have opportunity to share their perspectives, tell their stories, and listen deeply. The time together is structured: groups begin with a chalice lighting, centering readings, and some questions before the sharing begins.

*Are Drop-ins for you?* If you are not already in another Small Group Ministry at UUCOM, yes, please come. Maybe you just signed the membership book or did that long ago, or not at all- come and try it on and see how small group ministry fits for you. If you would like to join a new small group that goes beyond the drop-in basics, please contact our office to let them know.

**When and Where:** We'll meet at UUCOM at <https://zoom.us/j/2113237997> on Sundays from 12:15-1:00 PM on the following dates: 10/25, 11/22, 12/20 and it will continue to meet monthly in the New Year.

If this sounds like something you'd be interested in please sign up in the church office by web at <https://forms.gle/jiWnXxmj3uNWQoiW7>, Phone: (432) 694-4308, Email: [office@uumidland.org](mailto:office@uumidland.org) or reach out to your minister, Rev. Julie Lombard: [minister@uumidland.org](mailto:minister@uumidland.org).



# October 2020 Newsletter

## Thoughts from the RE Corner

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### 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!!

October 4: Sources Story—this story is part of our Spirit Play foundation.

October 11: Red Promise Story: Ella Queen of Jazz. This story looks at the unlikely friendship of two cultural icons—Ella Fitzgerald and Marilyn Monroe.

October 18: Yellow Promise Story: Amelia and Her Super Magical Powers. Amelia admires super heroes and their super powers. She discovers that she has some super powers herself!!

October 25: Halloween Tribute: Room on the Broom. April Graham will share this story of thoughtful consideration.

### 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 [dre@uumidland.org](mailto:dre@uumidland.org) or 432-978-5977.



# October 2020 Newsletter

## Board President Updates

Our UUCOM Board of Directors has been hard at work behind the scenes with several projects to lead our church in these challenging times. One of our very first, and on-going tasks, has been to form a Covid Care task force of members who are researching and reporting back to the Board, their findings, data, and best practices involving church practices during Covid. The Board reviews the data from our local health department reporting on Covid infection rates to have current information on how the community is doing. The Covid Care team information guides the Board in making their decisions on church building use, practices, and guidelines. There will be a monthly update in the newsletter to let you know where we stand. We currently have a rubric to determine at what point we will allow use of the building. We are currently still in phase 1 as our community infection rates are too high to allow us to permit full use of the building. Currently only essential personnel are permitted in the building and with strict safety and reporting practices. Look here for more information that we use when considering our safety practices. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/how-level-is-determined.html>

Another project that the church is passionately working on is obtaining **Welcoming Church** certification. As we affirm the dignity and worth of all people and put our values into practice, we are working to become officially recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Association for our LGBTQ affirming practices as a congregation. Read more about that here <http://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program/recognition>

Finally, we are addressing our Church Bylaws to revise them to be more inclusive, thorough, and applicable to our current times. That process has not been undertaken since 2014. We hope you will join us at the upcoming congregational meeting in November where we will all have a chance to vote on the changes and discuss the updates to our bylaws.

Our Board is an amazing group of people who has spent countless hours working on these and other tasks to keep our church thriving during these times. We hope that you have had a chance to meet, socialize and hear worship services from Rev. Julie. It is a joy to work with a kind hearted minister who is a true team player. We are all united together in creating a beloved community. Stay with us, friends. We are stronger together.

In Peace,

**Maureena Benavides, M.A., LPC**

**pronouns: she/her/hers**



# LGBTQ

## Welcoming Congregation

This Unitarian Universalist community welcomes and celebrates the presence and participation of people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer.





# What's Happening at UUCOM

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### ZOOM Cottage Meetings

Get to know our new minister: Rev. Julie Lombard. Brainstorm about the future of our church.

- What's working well?
- What goals should we set for the next few years?

Whether you've been attending UUCOM for one month or thirty years, your voice is important.

Zoom Groups will be no larger than eight to ensure the ability to hear everyone's ideas. Contact Rev Julie to find a time that fits your busy schedule. Please call Rev. Julie at (603) 724-0978

### Permian Basin Buddhists - Suspended

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](#). For more information about the group, please contact Linda Blanchard at [lindaqpublic@nowheat.com](mailto:lindaqpublic@nowheat.com).

### 4th Out in West Texas Symposium – Presentation Submissions

The *4th Out in West Texas Symposium—Intersections*, will be held virtually November 6th & 7th, 2020, and is open to all participants! Our organization is seeking presentations from professionals in all fields with a primary focus on transgender issues at the intersection of race, ethnicity, ableness, religion/spirituality, on topics such as: transgender affirming practices, the needs of transgender clients/patients, and barriers to transgender care. The format for these virtual session presentations is a 45-minute presentation, workshop, or panel that is able to be presented on a virtual platform.

Visit our website at [www.outinwesttexas.org](http://www.outinwesttexas.org) to learn more about our work.

For questions about your proposal or the symposium, contact us at [directors@outinwesttexas.org](mailto:directors@outinwesttexas.org). Proposals must be received by October 31st to be considered.

### Monthly Board Thank You

Reverend Julie and the Board of Directors would like to thank the following people for their outstanding efforts this month:

- Jessica Stewart – for her amazing behind-the-scenes work in leading the Zoom upgrade.
- David Allen – for training more folks to become slide projectionists.
- Shanda Unger – for stepping up to lead our group of hard workers as Worship Chair; and thanks to Lisa Jebesen for making this a reality.
- Covid Care Team – Rev. Julie, Barbara Handley, Jessica Stewart, and David Allen were all willing to jump right in to pull together policy recommendations for the Board. We continue to be grateful for monthly updates & for your investigations into what other churches are doing.
- Janine Deckard – for reviewing the Right Relations Policy with the minister to apply it to how we use Zoom at church.

# October 2020 Newsletter

## Monthly Stitching Circle

*UU Stitching group continues! Join us for a virtual stitching meetup via Zoom during our regular time.* We welcome all stitchers: knitters, crocheters, embroidery or hand sewing! Bring your projects to visit or to get and share advice & tips. **Join us on October 18<sup>th</sup>** from 2:30-4:30pm for our next meetup. Please email Franny at [starrymoon@gmail.com](mailto:starrymoon@gmail.com) for our meeting link.

## 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](#).

## Parent's Night Out continues, Tuesday November 10<sup>th</sup>

*Join us for a virtual UU parent's meetup via Zoom.* Let's meet up for an online visit so that we can check in with each other and see how everyone is doing. Join us on November 10<sup>th</sup> from 8-9pm from the comfort of your own home. Bring your favorite evening beverage or snack. Email Franny to receive a link to our Zoom meetup: [starrymoon@gmail.com](mailto:starrymoon@gmail.com).

## Garden and Grow, Continues

We will be continuing work in the Garden on the first Saturday of every month. Time varies depending on weather. Please contact Mike Vidrine for updates.

### Beware of email or text scams

Nationwide, ministers and churches have been the target of a series of email and text phishing scams. If you receive an email or text purportedly from the minister or another staff member asking for an unusual donation or a gift card, please do not respond and mark it as spam.

## 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!)

## 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!

## Free Yoga Class - Online

Patricia (Patty) George, the Yoga teacher has been doing virtual classes through Zoom. If anyone would like to join them - it's still free – just send an email to Patty George at, [georgepat31@gmail.com](mailto:georgepat31@gmail.com) so she can send an email that will include a Login ID and Password which will be new each session. You do not need to join Zoom, they'll just need to Google Zoom and then hit the tab "Join A Class".

## Sermons

Please find Rev. Julie's September sermons in the sermon blog at [www.uumidland.org/blog](http://www.uumidland.org/blog).