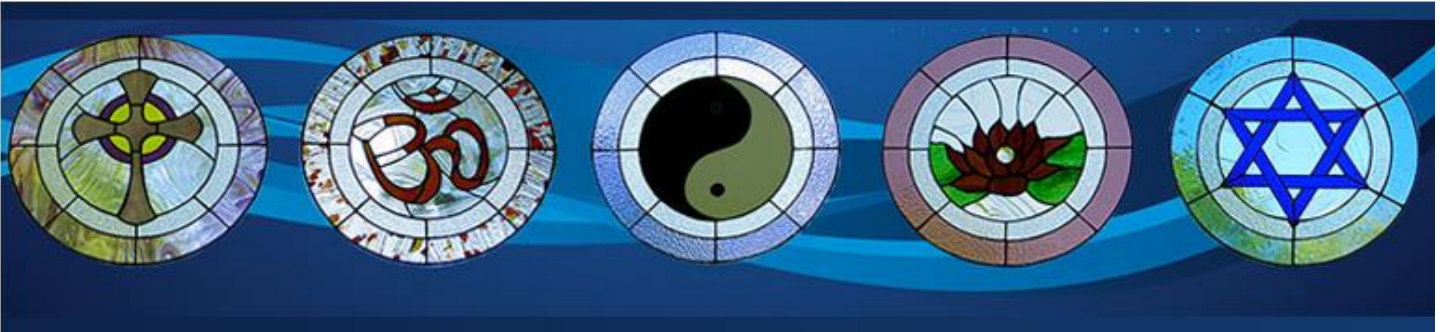


October 2021 Newsletter



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.

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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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October 2021 Sermons at a Glance

October 3

Join us on an historical journey of many of our famous Unitarians and Universalists. In this service we will hear from Clara Barton and Florence Nightingale amongst many others.

October 10 How Rock n Roll Saved My Soul

Join Lisa Jebesen on October 10 for thoughts on the healing power of music and how diversity and unity are an intricate part of this experience.

October 17 Unitarian Universalists, Cats and Dogs

Our theme for October is Unity and Diversity. This sermon adapted from Christopher Buice explores the diversity and unity that is Unitarian Universalism.

October 24 An Exploration of Faith: Part Two: An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith

At a time when I needed it most, I stumbled upon the writings of Barbara Brown Taylor and I saw in her books some of my own religious journey. In Part Two of my four-part series of sermons, based on Taylor's four most recent books, we'll explore Taylor's road map to discover altars in our daily life. Finding these altars, and incorporating them into our daily life, guides us to live with purpose, pay attention, and practice reverence. And, if you in turn will commit to sharing a service with us, one of her books will become yours.

October 31 Día de los muertos/Day of the Dead

Come celebrate a living tradition borrowed from Latin American culture, specifically from our Mexican neighbors, where participants learn how to respectfully honor life by cherishing those who died. All Saints Day, día de los muertos, will be celebrated virtually this year, so leader, Maureena Benavides, asks for you to submit your photo of a loved one/pet/person who has died so that their photo may be added to the virtual altar. You will also have time during the service to share a story or memory of your loved one along with a memory/photo of their favorite food or drink. A story for all ages makes this a celebration for everyone.



Costumes/face paint and revelry are encouraged! Text photos to Maureena at 432-889-4064 by Oct. 15 to be included in the virtual altar.

October 2021 Newsletter

Sunday Mornings

Beginning July 21, 2021 we returned to Phase 3.

The Covid-19 test positivity rate hit 8%. As a result, UUCOM will return to Phase 3 status. Sunday services will return to virtual only and the building will be closed to all but essential staff. Also, we will start using the outdoor areas for those interested in viewing services on the Internet at the church.

Learn more about the Phase 3 of reopening on page 5.

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

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 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

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>

October 2021 Newsletter

October Calendar

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

October 31	11:00 AM	Dia de los muertos
November 6	8:00 AM	Garage Sale

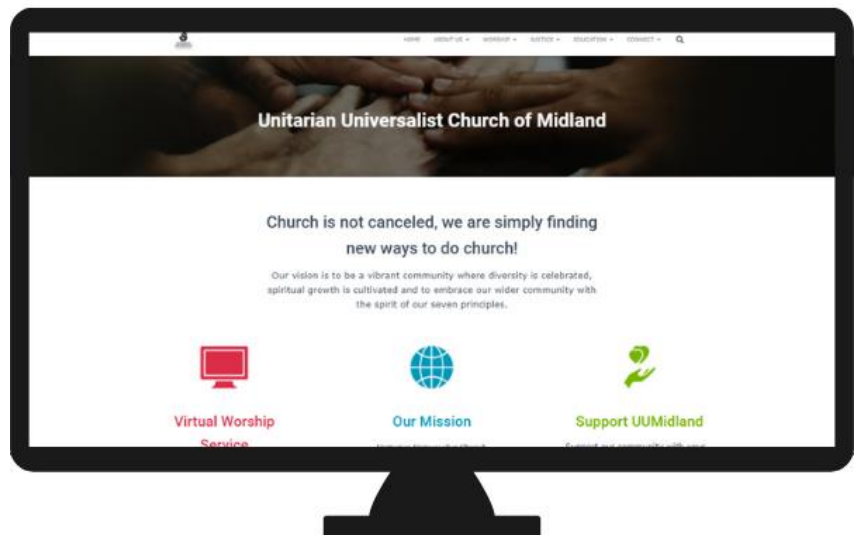
New UUMidland Website

We are very excited to announce the launch of our newly designed website. Visit us at <https://UUMidland.org>. After months of hard work and dedication, we are delighted to officially launch the new website September 26, 2021. 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.

We would like to thank our Board, staff and committee members who donated their time to look at the website edit pages and provide their feedback.

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



Garage Sale, Saturday, November 6th

Please make note of the new date! Please mark your calendars! UUCOM's (annual) garage sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 6th from 8:00-2:00. (This is dependent on the positivity rate for COVID-19 in Midland.) 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.

October 2021 Newsletter

Church Reopening

The Covid-19 test positivity rate hit 8%. As a result, UUCOM will return to Phase 3 status. Sunday services will return to virtual only and the building will be closed to all but essential staff. Also, we will start using the outdoor areas for those interested in viewing services on the Internet at the church.

Phase 3 - Maximum Outdoor Space Opening

- Limited access/use. (including individuals: Church Staff, Board Chair, Treasurer, & Buildings & Grounds Chair, On the Couch Counseling Staff & Cleaning Service staff)
- Use Building Use Log –keeping a record of the time each person is in the church for contact tracing purposes.
- All those that enter the building have a mask on hand. Masks must be worn and social distancing put into effect when more than one person is in the building.
- We share the outdoor space with our tenants such as the Buddhist Group, Patty George's Yoga, & Tree of Life.
- Outdoor space at the church may be used for small groups (10 or less) by church members and friends. (Preferably less than 5)
- Each group must have a designated facilitator that requests usage of the space and keeps a log of those gathering for contact tracing purposes.
- The facilitator may access the space by the east iron gates near Midkiff, the facilitator can let people in through the wooden gate on the west side near the parking lot.
- The building will remain closed. If bathrooms are needed, the facilitator is to recommend the usage of a bathroom at a nearby business.
- Clean surfaces of common areas after use with disinfectant-outdoor furniture.
- We recommend that disinfectant supplies be ordered by the office and there be a cleaning station in each bathroom and by the log book/front entry.
- Available Space: Zoom1, Zoom2, Meditation Courtyard (memorial garden), Southside Courtyard

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has several opportunities to lead a service in October and November. The theme for October 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.



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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!!

October 3: Red Promise Story: The Story of Bat. Bat can fly but he is not a bird. Bat is a mammal. Who should bat be friends with?

October 10: Orange Promise Story: The Sunflower Sword. A boy wants to be a knight but his mom won't let him have a sword. She gives him a sunflower instead.

October 17: Yellow Promise Story: Stلالuna. Stلالuna is bat who is raised by birds.

October 24: The Paper Bag Princess. Do clothes make the person?

October 31: Halloween Tribute: Room on the Broom.

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 or 432-978-5977.



October 2021 Newsletter

What's Happening at UUCOM

October Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this October's Share the Plate recipient. The Social Action Committee has chosen the following recipient, the Midland Chamber of Commerce's Teacher Adoption Program.



The goal of our Teacher Adoption Program (TAP) is to provide Midland teachers with a voluntary community of tangible support, care, and encouragement. Through this program, an individual, small group, or family volunteers to “adopt” a teacher for the school year.

Learn more about TAP at <https://www.midlandtxchamber.com/education-tap-overview/>.

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 October 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 October 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 October

Thank you to Harry, Tom Parks for providing goodies, other Pride volunteers.

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2021 Members and Friends Directory

The 2021 UUCOM Members and Friends Directory is complete. Electronic copies will be sent the first week of October 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](#).

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Wider World

Southern UU Fall Institute - October 10 - 15, 2021

10th Annual Southern UU Fall Institute, Change--Make the Most of It. Attend SUUFI 2021 to get some R&R at The Mountain. Reconvene, Reconnect, & Rejoice with us!

Learn more at <https://www.themountainrlc.org/suufi>.

Multiple opportunities to learn, experience, grow and relax via theme talks, workshops, hikes, social time, alone time, and entertainment for 6 days and 5 nights at 4200' elevation in Autumn color and coolness in a temperate rainforest at 4200' elevation.

Learn more and register at <https://www.themountainrlc.org/suufi>.



Side With Love

Register for the Fall Social Witness Convening, October 6th [here](#).

The Action Center is place to join in national and local action to take on these battles. Right now, bills that could expand voting rights, create a pathway to citizenship, address homelessness and poverty, and transform how we confront the climate crisis hang in the balance because our representatives have chosen profit over people, and the oppression of many over liberation for all. Together we have opportunities to tip the scales towards justice.

[Register for Action Center](#)

FALL SOCIAL WITNESS CONVENING



Wednesday, Oct 6
7-9 pm ET / 4-6 pm PT
Register: bit.ly/CSW-convening1

Defend and Advocate with Transgender, Nonbinary, and Intersex Communities

Stop Voter Suppression and Partner for Voting Rights and a Multiracial Democracy



Wednesday, Oct 13
7-9 pm ET / 4-6 pm PT
Register: bit.ly/CSW-convening2

The COVID-19 Pandemic:
Justice. Healing. Courage.

Undoing Systemic White Supremacy:
A Call to Prophetic Action

www.uua.org/action/process/csais/fall-social-witness-convening

UU's for a Just Economic Community Upcoming Events

Green Hydrogen discussion

Thursday, October 14

Alan Michael Collinge "The Student Loan Scam"

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

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Stan Cox on How Much is Enough?

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

The crises that collided in 2020—climatic disasters, the pandemic, economic breakdown, near-collapse of the U.S. food system, unconstrained police violence—all disproportionately impacted marginalized communities. Various legislative initiatives to end these crises, including the Green New Deal, contain some solid “New Deal” policies for economic and racial justice; however, the “Green” policies remain wholly inadequate. The crucial but missing piece is a fast-falling cap on quantities of oil, gas, and coal that can come out of the ground and into the economy each year, reaching zero within 15 years. Adapting to the cap will require that sufficiency, equity and fairness, not economic growth, become U.S. society's central aims.

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

Rolling Ridge Spring on-line retreats

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

While our dreams may speak, Generous Listening opens up our hearts to hear ourselves, others, and nature by connecting us beyond words through a vital openness to that which has not yet been heard. John Kiemele will be leading [this two-session ONLINE series](#) on Monday, October 4th and 18th from 7-8:30 pm and helping us confront the chronic disconnection in our modern culture with courageous presence. Extra self-guided practice and reflection experiences will be offered between the sessions. This introduction to generous listening will help you become more present in your life and offers a taste of our [Gateways to God](#) spiritual companionship training.

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](#)).

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.](#)

Spring Programs Rowe at Home

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