



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

October 2022

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

October 2022 Sermons at a Glance

October 2 We are the Lock and the Key

Janine Allen is thinking about Yom Kippur and what it means now that she sees things through a Unitarian Universalist perspective.

October 9

Join us for a guest sermon with Dr. Rev. Steven Gaines.

October 16 "Rod & Sylvia"

In this continuation of the "Famous UUs" series, we explore the lives of Rod Serling and Sylvia Plath, two artists who identified as UUs and made a huge impact during their all too short lifetimes.

October 23 "Sitting With Death"

Being with someone in their last moments is a profoundly challenging, transformative experience. Lisa speaks on the lessons learned and the spiritual journey of watching a loved one die.

October 30 "Dia de los Muertos"

Over the last several years, we have held a service that explores the traditions of Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead). This holiday has its origins in Mexico and is typically celebrated on November 1 and 2 as a time to celebrate friends and family who have died. We invite you to bring a photo of a loved one if you would like to participate in this ritual to remember and celebrate a loved one.



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. The board and the COVID Team gave much thought to the rules (**Pg. 5**) 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

Barbara Handley, President
Harry Nutter, President-Elect
Jane Hellinghausen, Treasurer
Alex Fields, Secretary
Eli Hilbert, At Large Member
Chris Stoltz, At Large Member
Rebecca Dodge 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](mailto: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

While making plans for the services I'll lead in October, I was struck by the fact that death is a throughline for them all. I guess that's not entirely surprising with the arrival of autumn and with Halloween right around the corner. A glimpse of my TV viewing history and podcast feed and one might notice that death is a throughline there as well. (I fully admit to being a sucker for a good true crime documentary!) While some might be tempted to view all this as a sign that I am bound by a morbid curiosity, it's my humble opinion that this is a superficial analysis.



We all must face death and that's a terrifying prospect, especially in the US where there is a tendency to not speak of it beyond a tragic headline or in the hushed tones of the news of a loved one's passing. Unfortunately, I think this only serves to fuel that fear which can lead to avoiding planning for it, making difficult times even worse. In recent experience, my family has benefitted from having those tough conversations. By facing death and having honest, open discussions, we could allow our final moments with loved ones to be the best possible.

Perhaps this difficult topic is at the forefront of my mind because I've just recently become fascinated with *The Sandman* series on Netflix. It's based on the fantasy/horror graphic novel that tells the story of a powerful being who controls all dreams and nightmares. On his journey, we are introduced to some of his "siblings" who include Desire, Despair and my personal favorite, Death. The brilliant portrayal by Kirby Howell-Baptiste is utterly charming. This is no ghoul. She is firm yet compassionate and gentle as she ushers people to "the other side."

I hope to see you at 3301 Neely as we break taboos to explore this important, scary, dare I say, life affirming topic together.

POTLUCK LUNCHEON

Please join UU's for our monthly potluck luncheon following our service on Sunday, October 16th. The Membership Committee is planning on a monthly potluck luncheon to give us an opportunity to enjoy each other's company! Sign-up sheet is available on Guest Table in the foyer.



October Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this **October's** Share the Plate recipient. The Board has chosen the following recipient, the **Safe Place of the Permian Basin**.

Since 1978 families in the Permian Basin have found help, hope and healing at Safe Place. The mission of Safe Place is to break the cycle of family violence by empowering individuals to make safe and healthy choices through awareness, counseling, advocacy and shelter, while promoting hope, healing and dignity.



Today Safe Place operates the residential shelter and full-time advocacy and counseling services in Midland, Texas, and a full-time advocacy and counseling office in Odessa, Texas. The Safe Place service area covers 15 counties and 16,000 square miles.

Learn more about the Safe Place at <https://safelacenow.com/>.

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, October 30th from 12:15-1:00. Snacks and childcare will be provided.

COVID-19 Reopening Update

As Unitarian Universalists, we pride ourselves on being led by congregational polity. Due to the reporting of COVID cases being so low, the board voted to allow masks to be made optional at our April board meeting.

The congregation came to the board with concerns about the mask policy and the board voted to make a change on 5/17/2022. **Masks are now a mandatory item but we are allowing congregational singing WITH masks.**

This will allow our members with compromised immune systems and concerns about viruses; the peace to know they can worship safely.

Thank you for being flexible during this unusual new world we live in.

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.

RE Corner

Spirit Play 10:15-10:45

Spirit Play meets in person from 10:15 - 10:45. Masks are required. Spirit Play is a Montessori-based curriculum that is based on our UU Promises (Principles) and Sources.

October 2: Yom Kippur - A story from one of our Sources

October 9: Orange Promise Story - I Have a Little Problem said the Bear. In this story we learn about the importance of listening!

October 16: Yellow Promise Story - The Rooster Who Learned to Crow. As the Beatles said, "I get by with a little help from my friends!"

October 23: Dia de los Muertos - We will examine the celebration of the Day of the Dead in preparation of next Sunday's service.

October 30: Yellow Promise Story - Stلالuna. Bats and Halloween go together so...

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 could read or tell a story during Spirit Play. You may help to create Spirit Play. If you are interested in going through Spirit Play training, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 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!

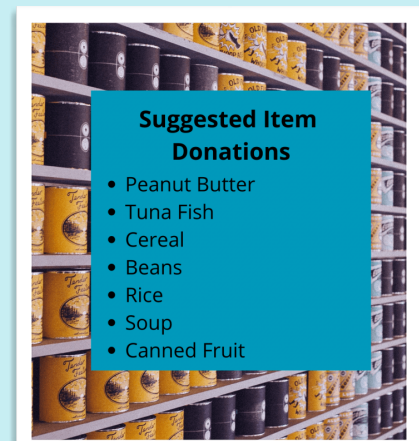
Care Team for Church Members and Friends

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

Spend Thursday nights with TXUUJM:

6-6:45 pm every Thursday: *We Cry Justice: Reading the Bible with the Poor People's Campaign* [book group!](#) (NEW TIME!)

7-8 pm every Thursday: [TXUUJM Action Hour!](#)

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3330426480>

Meeting ID: 333 042 6480

Unitarian Universalist Training

To help meet the need to skill-up for effective video engagement online, the UUA has partnered with Peter Bowden, a Unitarian Universalist trainer and coach, to share a free, five-session training through the UU Institute. The training covers video-based strategies to support online visitors, increase engagement with worship themes, and amplify justice work.

[Explore the Training.](#)

Side with Love

Join us on [September 27](#), [October 25](#), and [November 15](#) for these interactive workshops on local congregational climate action.

Climate disasters impact our communities and Unitarian Universalists have been called upon to respond. Join a series of online workshops to help congregations identify climate risks, understand who is most at risk, and how your community will be impacted. Meet others doing similar work and help your congregation prepare to respond to climate disasters where you live.

[Sign up for the Series.](#)

Rolling Ridge

The **Enneagram** is a system of personality typing that describes patterns in **how people interpret the world and manage their emotions**. The nine personality types are connected on a nine-pointed diagram and provide insight into our deepest motivations and fears, relational and spiritual tendencies.

Rolling Ridge invites you to join us for our fall Enneagram ONLINE series **with Enneagram enthusiast, Herb Pearce**. Whether you join us for one, two or all three, each will provide you with **a wealth of knowledge and deeper understanding about yourself and your relationships**.

[Learn More.](#)

2022 UU Common Read

Learn how to make our communities safer by participating in the 2022 UU Common Read: *Defund Fear: Safety Without Policing, Prisons, and Punishment* by Zach Norris. With an array of multimedia resources including a discussion guide and ideas for taking action, the UU Common Read offers community learning opportunities on some of the most impactful issues of our time.

[Join the Common Read.](#)

