



# Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

## October 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](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 Erica Stoltz or Barbara Handley, Membership Chair, or a Board member.

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## October 2023 Sermons at a Glance

### October 1 “Miley Cyrus, Viktor Frankl, and Robotic Pets”

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Reflecting on a song by Miley Cyrus, a story from psychiatrist Viktor Frankl, and a recent development in artificial intelligence, Rev. Dr. Stevie Gaines will help us consider the power of “radical human presence.”

### October 8 “Reflections on Love”

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There is no shortage of writings dealing with the topic of love - in fact, it's probably the most well-covered topic in fiction and nonfiction writings. In Rev. Lisa's sermon, we'll explore the topic through the many words for love in the Greek language: *eros*, *pragma*, *philia*, *ludus*, *agape* and *philautia*.

#### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & POTLUCK

Immediately after the worship service today, all UUCOM members are invited to our Fall Congregational Meeting and Potluck. Bring something to share with the group and be there to make your voice heard on several topics.

### October 15 “A Conversation about Death”

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Let's have a conversation about a tough topic. Rev. Lisa will bring some open-ended questions to guide us as we consider our own mortality and how we cope with what Kierkegaard called “the uncertain certainty.”

### October 22 “What Makes Something Holy”

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The sermon by Anthony Perrino and read by Jim Camp will briefly discuss the origin of the idea of holiness and then the decline and fall of the sacred sense. We consider how our perception of the wholeness of life and the world can form a holy experience.

### October 29 “Dia de los Muertos”

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Please join us for our traditional service that explores and celebrates 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 of remembrance of 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 7 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.

1100 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](mailto:minister@uumidland.org)

**Jessica Stewart,**  
**Office Administrator**

(432) 694-4308  
 Office Hours:  
 Wednesday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
 Email: [office@uumidland.org](mailto: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](http://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](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.

## Minister's Musings

October is LGBTQIA+ History Month and while I don't have a sermon planned around this theme, I wanted to be sure to highlight this celebration here. When talking to people about UUism, I take a lot of pride (see what I did there?) in bits of our UU history like this from Mark Oppenheimer's piece "The Inherent Worth and Dignity: Gay Unitarians and the Birth of Sexual Tolerance in Liberal Religion":

*On September 5, 1969 in Laforet, Colorado, a man named James Stoll made history. He died 25 years later in comfortable obscurity, surrounded by friends and family, yet unknown to legions who benefited from his courage. The Reverend James Stoll was the first minister of any American religious denomination, and probably in the world, to publicly admit his homosexuality. Stoll was a minister of the Unitarian Universalist Association, known as the Unitarians, and his act was the first of many that came to mark the Unitarians as a country's most accepting, welcoming denomination for homosexuals. The Unitarians were first to have an openly gay minister, first officially to condemn discrimination against homosexuals, and first to take official church stances on matters of special importance to the gay and lesbian community.*

Be on the lookout for more about this inspiring leader in one of my next installments of the "Famous UUs" series. Meanwhile, in honor of this month's celebration of history, I'm going to strive to find offerings to include in our services that are representative of the LGBTQIA+ community.



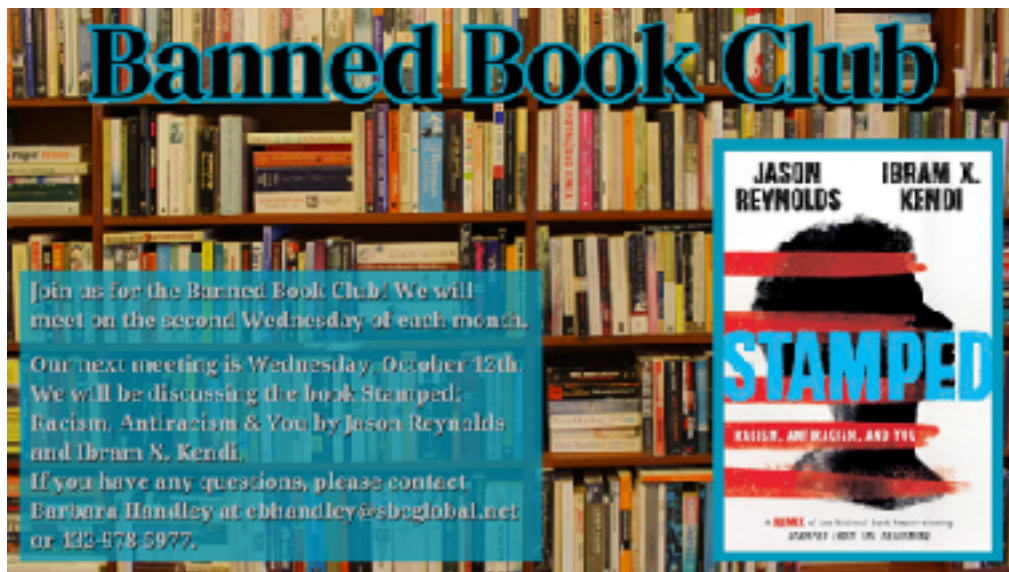
## POTLUCK LUNCHEON & CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, OCTOBER 8, 2023

Please join UU's for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> following the church service. Our Fall Congregational Meeting will be immediately following the luncheon.



## 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, October 12th. We will be discussing the book *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism & You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Handley at [ebhandley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ebhandley@sbcglobal.net) or 432-978-5977.



## October Share the Plate

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

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.

Safe Place of the Permian Basin provides:

- 24-hour emergency shelter to families affected by domestic violence
- a 24-hour crisis hotline that can answer your questions about family and intimate partner violence and how to get help (1-800-967-8928)
- personal and legal advocacy
- individual counseling
- support groups
- an intervention program for abusers



Emergency transportation to the shelter is available from anywhere in the service area. Clients do not need to live at the shelter to receive any of the advocacy, counseling, or support group services. Click on the Services & Programs tab for more information.

Learn more at <https://safeplacenow.com/>.



## UU Trade Days and Blood Drive

We are hosting the first ever UU Trade Days & Blood Drive November 11, 2023 from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM!

We will be looking for volunteers and donations of items like: clothes, appliances, furniture, electronics, etc. The week of November 6, we will have special donation drop off times in the evening.

More information about the donation times and the blood drive TBA.

This event is open to anyone in the community.



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11**  
**9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

We are hosting the first ever UU Trade Days & Blood Drive!

We will be looking for volunteers and donations of items like: clothes, appliances, furniture, electronics, etc. The week of November 6, we will have special donation drop off times in the evening.

More information donation times and the blood drive TBA.

**This event is open to anyone in the community.**

**UU TRADE DAYS AND BLOOD DRIVE**

## RE Corner

### Spirit Play 10:00-10:45

Spirit Play meets in person from 10:00-10:45. Masks are required. Spirit Play is a Montessori-based curriculum that is based on our UU Promises (Principles) and Sources.

**October 1:** Dragons Love Tacos

**October 8:** Promise Story: The Story of Bat

**October 15:** Yellow Promise Story: Stلالuna. Bats and Halloween go together so...

**October 22:** Dia de los Muertos. We will examine the celebration of the Day of the Dead in preparation of next Sunday's service.

**October 29:** Room on a 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).

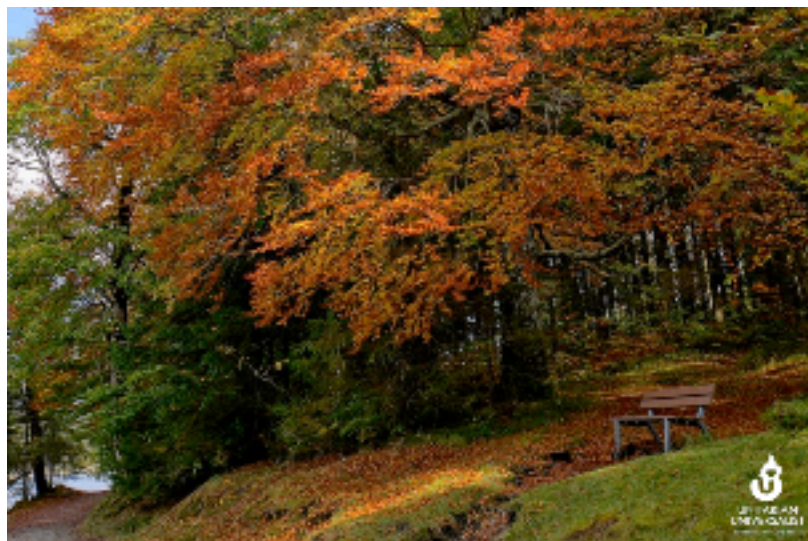
We are the church of the open minds (fingertips touch the forehead and swing open like a door).

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, there are many ways that you can participate. You may help to create a Spirit Play story. If you are interested in going through Spirit Play training, please contact Barbara Handley at [ebhandley@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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

Want to **get more involved** with the Texas UU Justice Ministry but not quite sure how? To that end, we'd **LOVE to have YOUR HELP!** Learn more [here](#).

**TXUUJM ACTION HOUR** (Thursdays 7pm CT) Join Zoom Meeting NEW LINK  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88084755738> NEW Meeting ID: 880 8475 5738

SAME LINK EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT! Same link for We Cry Justice & Action Hour. Come for one or both. ALL WELCOME.

Can't make it Thursdays? You can still use the Action Hour document to take actions on your own or with your church social justice group, any time during the week. The actions are updated weekly. You can always find [the perpetual document here](#). Bookmark it!

### UUJEC

**Thursday, October 12 at 5 PM PDT, 6 PM MDT, 7 PM CDT & 8 PM EDT**

To register for Zoom, **click [here](#)**

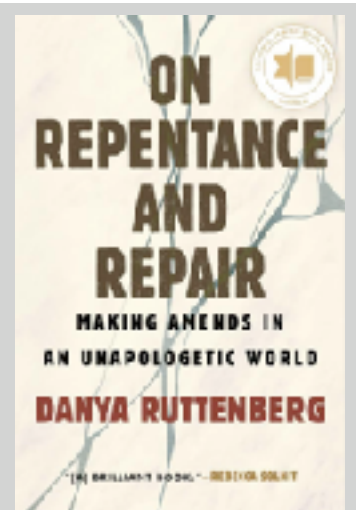
To watch on Facebook, **click [here](#)**

Do you want to know how the climate is likely to change where you live? When we understand what's coming, we can get ready for a future that contains opportunities as well as challenges. Using high-consensus federal resources, this conversation helps you understand America's projected climate by 2050 in terms of changes to summers, winters, precipitation patterns, and where people may want to move.

### 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

UUs Answer the Call in Atlanta. Will you join us? Read the Love Resists update [here](#).

### 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.***

- Oct 15: [Risk Discernment for Congregations](#)
- 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!

- [October 9](#)
- [November 13](#)
- [December 11](#)
- [January 8](#)

### 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:***

- [September 28](#)
- [October 26](#)
- [November 23](#)
- [December 28](#)