



# Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

## October 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](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.

### Table of Contents



#### Sunday Worship

Sermons at a Glance  
Sunday Mornings



#### UUCOM Announcements

Minister's Musings  
Share the Plate  
Banned Book Club  
RE Corner  
Membership  
PFLAG Meetings  
Care Team

#### Wider World



## October 2024 Sermons at a Glance

### October 6 TBA with Erin Brunson

The importance of the approaching election, voting, and democracy, generally.

### October 13 “Coming Out” with Rev. Stevie

October 11 is National Coming Out Day! This service will highlight community resources for people who are coming out of the closet, those who stay in, and those who want to be allies. Representatives from a few local nonprofit organizations will share some news, and we'll enjoy music by singer-songwriter Skylar Conover!

### October 20 “An Oatmeal Cookie” with Jim Camp

We discuss the fundamental importance of sensual experience, the seeing, hearing, tasting, touching experiences we have which help us in coping with the complexities of modern life.

### October 27 “Monsters Ink” with Rev. Stevie

This service will explore monsters in popular media and what they reveal about humanity and our quest for the Beloved Community. What do monster stories say about us, and what stories will we create?



## POTLUCK LUNCHEON, OCTOBER 20, 2024

Please join UU's for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, October 20th following the church service.



**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  
CREATED BY MILDRED THAYER

## 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](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.

## Ministers Musings

After doing several UUCOM services as a guest minister, I am pleased to be your part-time minister for 2024-2025!

In this new phase of our partnership, good things are already happening, building on important work done in the past; and great things are coming!

Here are a couple of recent happenings:

### Panel

A few of us attended the Basin PBS Interfaith Town Hall. This televised and livestreamed event included a moderated discussion with representatives of local faith organizations. What an opportunity to tell the Permian Basin about who we are and what we do!

### PFLAG

UUCOM continues its partnership with PFLAG Midland/Odessa, the local branch of a national organization “dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them.” The chapter’s Midland meetings are at UUCOM, and Rev. Stevie is a new member of PFLAG Midland/Odessa’s board of directors.



### Registration

Community organizations joined forces to provide a voter registration event at UUCOM. This is an exciting and important time in politics at all levels, and our last Sunday service of September and the first one of October are addressing this situation and what we can do.

The rest of this newsletter has information about more happenings! In these pages, you can learn about our children’s activities, a banned book club, financial support of other important works, and more. Happy reading!

With love,

Rev. Stevie



## October Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this September and October's Share the Plate recipient. The Board has chosen the following recipient, the **Texas Permian Future Generations**.

Texas Permian Future Generations (TPFG) is a grassroots organization aiming to promote the health and economic sustainability of the West Texas Permian Basin region.

TPFG was created in 2020 by a group of Permian Basin residents concerned about the effect the oil field was having on the environment around them. Our goal is a Permian Basin with better workplace protections for people who work in the oilfield, better air and water quality, and fewer earthquakes, as well as a more diversified economy with more economic opportunities outside of the oil field.

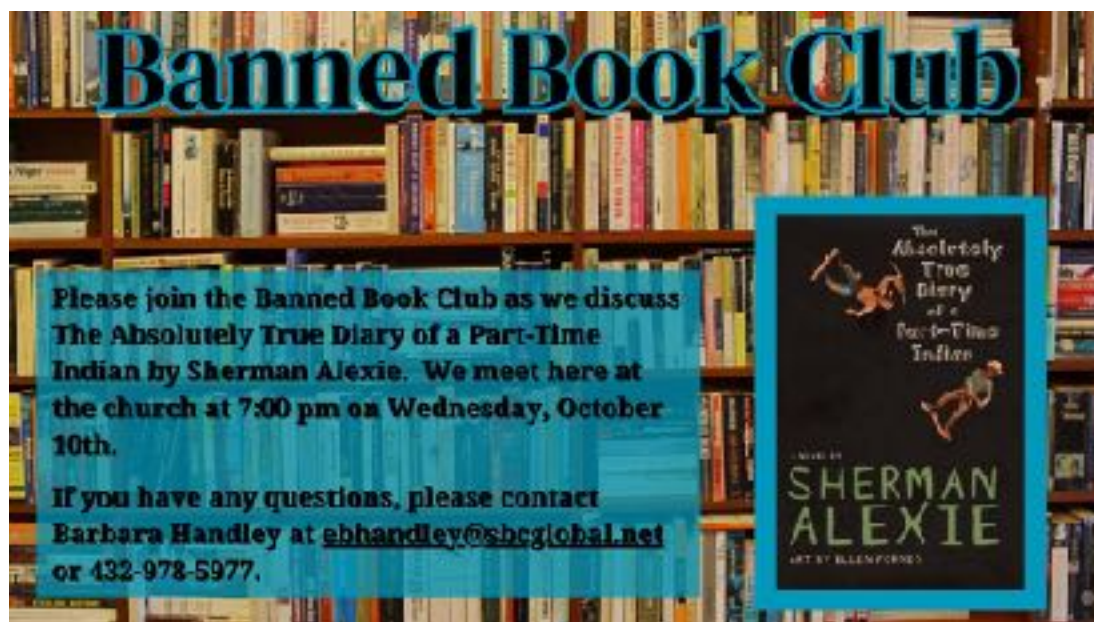
TPFG is dedicated to providing educational materials to community members regarding the health and environmental impacts of the fossil fuel industry.

For more information please visit <https://www.permian-generations.org/>.



## Banned Book Club

Please join the Banned Book Club as we discuss *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie. We meet here at the church at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, October 10th . If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Handley at [ebhandley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ebhandley@sbcglobal.net) or 432-978-5977.



## RE Corner

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

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

**October 6 — Yellow Promise Story — Stلالuna**

**October 13 — Green Promise Story — The Butterfly Friends**

**October 20 — Blue Promise Story — The Starfish Thrower**

**October 27 — Yellow Promise Story — 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 can suggest a story for Spirit Play. You may help to create 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.



September 28th Voter Registration Event!

## 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](mailto: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!

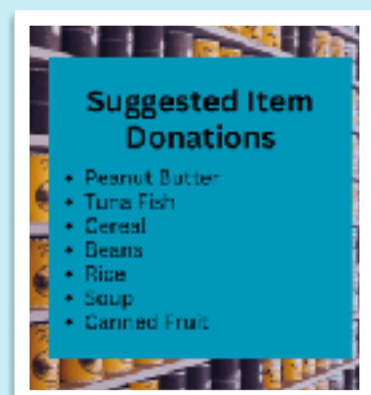
### Care Team for Church Members and Friends

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

## TXUUJM

### TXUUJM NEWS: REGISTER NOW FOR OCTOBER IN-PERSON EVENTS

The [Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry](#) invites you to important and inspiring in-person events in October, in Dallas, Ft. Worth, and Austin, in addition to our ongoing virtual Action Hour, Democracy phone and text banks, and the We Cry Justice book group. Sign up now for the UU the Vote Texas events in Dallas and Ft. Worth the weekend of Oct. 5 and 6, and for the Empowered Safety Training in Austin on Oct. 19. [For all the details, please see the most recent TXUUJM Newsletter here.](#)

## UUtheVote

- Saturday, October 5 12-4 PM- Power the Vote in Dallas with Faith in Texas**  
 St. Lukes Community UMC, 5710 E R L Thornton Fwy, Dallas, TX 75223  
 Our work will include voter registration, canvassing in the nearby neighborhoods and community care but helping folks pay down electric bills. We can use volunteers to canvas or help on site.
- Sunday, October 6 10:30am-12pm Worship at Westside UU 1-4pm Power the Vote in Fort Worth with Faith in Texas!**  
 Greater St. Stephen First Church, 3728 East Berry St, Fort Worth, TX 76105  
 Our work will include voter registration, canvassing in the nearby neighborhoods and community care but helping folks pay down electric bills. We can use volunteers to canvas or help on site.  
[RSVP to join us today!](#)
- At the beginning of September, UU the Vote kicked off its 2024 Fall Mobilizations with a powerful event in Philadelphia featuring UUA President Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt. The speakers at our opening panel reminded us that we build power one conversation at a time. Watch our recording of the panel discussion to get inspired and prepared for this election season.  
[UUTV Panel Discussion](#)

## UUA

[UUA September Newsletter](#)

[Shape our Future with Conversations About Our UU Shared Values](#)



# Wider World

## UUMFE

- [A message on Hurricane Helene](#)
- Our annual report is ready to read! [Click here for the full PDF.](#)
- **Full Moon Gathering** - October 17, 2024 7- 8pm EDT  
Let's gather to honor the Hunter Supermoon!  
[Register here](#)
- **A Curriculum for Spiritual Care for Climate Distress, Anxiety and Grief**  
The climate crisis has become an emotional and spiritual crisis. We can become immobilized with distress and unmotivated to act for climate justice. There is no quick fix, and yet research shows that gathering in community is a primary strategy for addressing this distress. We developed this curriculum for exactly these reasons!  
It helps participants: Name and honor our feelings together, prevent becoming paralyzed, and recommit to meaningful action. There are options for workshops and whole congregation worship. [Check it out here](#)

## UBARU

- **Fall Bioblitz October 4-6, 2024**  
A BioBlitz is a communal citizen-science effort to record as many species within a designated location and time period as possible. BioBlitzes are great ways to connect to the environment while generating useful data for science and conservation and have some fun!
- The Women Aligned fall retreat is October 11-13/14, 2024
- Men-Aligned Retreat October 18-20, 2024

## 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.](#)

