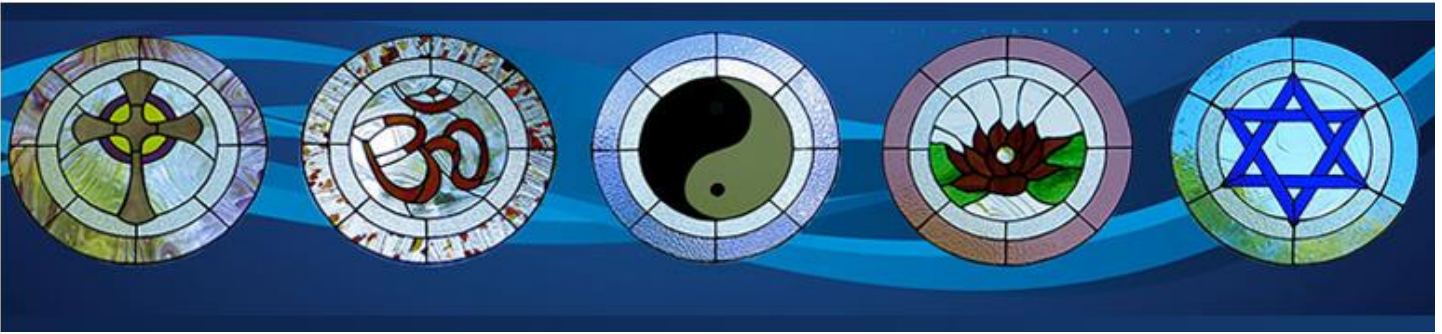


# September 2020 Newsletter



## 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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# September 2020 Newsletter

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

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My kids were to begin band camp soon. It is often my big reminder that a change of season is upon me. This year, things are different, very different. Some people resist change, I relish it. I have enjoyed the summer, yet I love seasonal changes that tell me it's time to return to routine.

Summer often offers a respite, a needed time to relax and unpack the lessons from a busy year. This summer I did my fair share of packing and unpacking. Now, I can hardly wait for this church year to get underway. I welcome every part of this beginning; the Water Ceremony, the exchange of stories of the adventures we have experienced, the welcoming of new faces, and the honoring of friends.

This summer, I had the opportunity to collect water for the water communion. I gathered it from my new apartment in Midland, the blue water from the Niagara River and some of its mist as it poured over the falls and created a cloud above its spectators, and water from Lake Winnepesaukee in NH. Where have you gathered your water from? Where ever it comes from, I can hardly wait to gather it and bless it along with the start of another new church year. I want to hear your stories. Please call or email me before September 10<sup>th</sup> to schedule a time to deliver your water and stories for the Water Communion Service that will be held on the September 13<sup>th</sup>. Here's how you can reach me: (603) 724-0978 or [minister@uumidland.org](mailto:minister@uumidland.org)

September's monthly worship theme is "Beginnings". We're hardly beginners at living in a pandemic. Yet there is still a lot of uncertainty as we begin another season. It has been months of this, yet each month offer something different. We can barely get our heads and hearts wrapped around one reality before a new one arrives. This takes courage and fortitude that you have already shown me. It's clear that this pandemic will not be over in a couple of months. However, that does not mean we cannot make meaning together. We actually need meaning more now than ever. So, come, come whoever you are, join me and share with me all that is in your hearts. Blessings to you and to all the new beginnings that come your way this September.

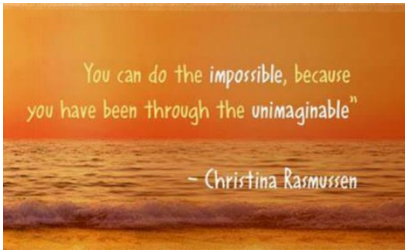
Peace, Julie



# September 2020 Newsletter

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

### September 6 **Naming Our Grief** by Rev. Beau Rivers



Grief educator, Christina Rasmussen observes, “we are experiencing ambiguous grief [during this unusual time] as we mourn the loss of identity, security, community, relationships, jobs, and any sense of normalcy.” How do we move forward in the midst of such fear and uncertainty? What risks are involved if we do or don’t move forward?

Rev. Beau Rivers served as Sabbatical Minister at The Church of the Presidents during the peak of the pandemic in Massachusetts and as Chapel Coordinator and WorshipWeb Assistant at the UUA in Boston. Her ministry is enlivened whenever she is able to combine her knowledge of theology, spirituality and humanity. She identifies as a mystic in the Sufi tradition and is a certified Reiki Master. Her ministry is supported by her daily meditation practice, love of the outdoors and prior careers in retail management and social work. She is the daughter of French-Canadian immigrants and claims her indigenous ancestry in the Walostokyik First Nations of Canada. Originally from Maine, she is an avid sea kayaker who calls Casco Bay home.  
Hymns: TBD

### September 13 **Sacred Water** by Rev. Julie Lombard

In the fullness of our faith community we gather our sacred waters from where ever our journeys have taken us. This ingathering, sometimes called a "Water Communion" is a beloved UU tradition. This ritual is celebrated as folks return and are invited to bring water from their journey or water that has other spiritual significance for them. Poured into a common bowl, these waters signify our coming together and a way of symbolizing that many are one. A water communion is never a competition to see who went the farthest away; it’s a celebration and blessing of our unique unity. Please join us for this multigenerational worship service which explores the importance new beginnings.



Hymns: # 1007 *There’s a River Flowing in My Soul*, #1064 *Blue Boat Home*

### September 20 **Remain Curious** by Rev. Julie Lombard



Have you ever wondered when Creativity Peaks: youth, middle age, or beyond? If you say yes, you are not alone. Explore the concept of the “Beginner’s Mind” with Elizabeth Gilbert as she reflects deeply on the gift and challenge of inhabiting a creative life. Creativity, as she defines it, is about choosing curiosity over fear. It’s a choice available to all ages. “For there are moments,” says poet, Rainer Maria Rilke, “when something new has entered into us, something unknown; our feelings grow mute in shy perplexity, everything in us withdraws, a stillness comes, and the new, which no one knows, stands in the midst of it and is silent.” Join us for worship and fellowship you cannot forget.

Hymns: #380 *Gathered Here*, #318 *We Would Be One*

### September 27 **The Temple of Your Heart** by Rev. Julie Lombard

When the second Temple was destroyed, the Yom Kippur service continued. Instead of a High Priest bringing the sacrifices, every single Jew performed the Yom Kippur service in the temple of his or her heart. On the eve of the holiest day of the year, what might we gain from forgiveness and/or revisiting our own mistakes? How can we learn from people who had to imagine the temple within their own hearts? Join us for worship where we look to the Jewish tradition to help us understand life at a challenging time without church as we normally know it.



Hymns: # 347 *Gather the Spirit*, #123 *Spirit of Life*

# September 2020 Newsletter

## September Calendar

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

September 2	6:00 p.m.	Weekly evening Vesper meetings begin
September 15	8:00 p.m.	Parent's Night Out
September 20	2:30 p.m.	Stitching Circle - online

## 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>

# September 2020 Newsletter

## Registration for Cottage Meetings: Extended

Cottage meetings are a vital part of getting to know our new minister: Rev. Julie Lombard. These cottage meetings will also provide an opportunity for us to brainstorm about the future of our church. Here are the questions we'll discuss:

- \* What's working well in our church?
- \* What goals would you like us to accomplish together in the next few years?
- \* Is this minister a good match for the next stage of our congregation's development?

We hope every one of you can attend, whether you've been attending UUCOM for one month or thirty years! Your voice is important. No group will be larger than eight people to ensure that we have time to hear everyone's ideas. You will receive an invitation to register for one of the following times on Monday, August 17, and registration will remain open through August 21. Please send us your 3 top choice meeting times to [office@uumidland.org](mailto:office@uumidland.org).

Note that all groups will take place on Zoom.

- Sunday, August 30, 12:30-2:30 pm
- Monday, August 31, 10-12 am
- Tuesday, September 1, 7-9 pm
- Wednesday, September 2, 10-12 am
- Thursday, September 3, 7-9 pm
- Friday, September 4, 4-6 pm

If one of these gatherings do not fit your schedule, please call Rev. Julie at (603) 724-0978 to schedule an individual meeting with her.



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

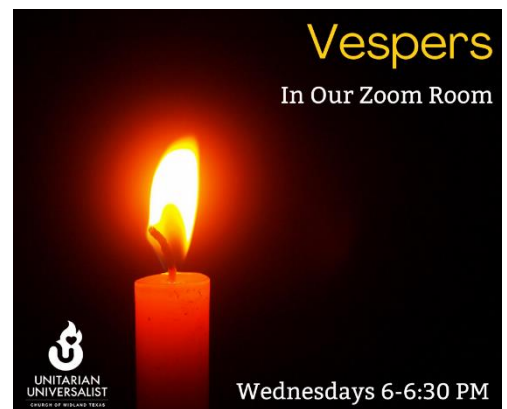


### Wednesdays 2 –2:30 PM

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.



# September 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!

Sept 6: The Chalice Story—this story is part of our Spirit Play foundation.

Sept 13: The Water Bearer's Garden—a tribute to Water Communion

Sept 20: Promises Story—our children will learn about our UU promises (principles)

Sept 27: Yom Kippur—Janine Deckard will share a story from one of our sources.

### **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.

## September Share the Plate

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**We will share ½ of all cash donations with this September's Share the Plate recipient: Lone Star Sanctuary for Animals.**



At Lone Star Sanctuary for Animals, they accomplish their mission of "Saving and Changing Lives" by providing loving care for homeless and abused dogs and cats until they can find them permanent, stable homes with loving and responsible owners. They are a Forever-home, Legitimate No-Kill facility, which means all of their animals will live at the animal shelter until they can place them in permanent homes.

They rely solely on donations, grants, bequests and fundraising events to further their mission.

Learn more at <https://www.lonestarsanctuary.org/>.

### What's Happening at UUCOM

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#### **Returning to the UUMidland Building**

This past Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> the Board decided that there will be NO access allowed to the building except for some staff, cleaning service and building and grounds. This is the Board's decision on they have their August 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will be via Zoom following Sunday service at 12:30 PM. People may contact Board President, Maureena Benavides if they have any questions. Her phone number is 432-889-4064 and you must leave a message.

#### **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.

#### **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).

#### **Parent's Night Out continues, Tuesday September 15<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 September 15<sup>th</sup> from 8-9 PM 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).

#### **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 September 31st to be considered.

#### **Sermons**

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

# September 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 September 20<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.

## Amazon Smile

Here's a super simple way to support our work! Click below (<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-1837838>), and a portion of all your Amazon purchases will help us keep working toward our mission in the Permian Basin:

Welcoming Diversity, Empowering Spiritual Growth, Fostering the Interdependent Web, and Transforming Lives.

Thank you!



## 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](#).

## 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".