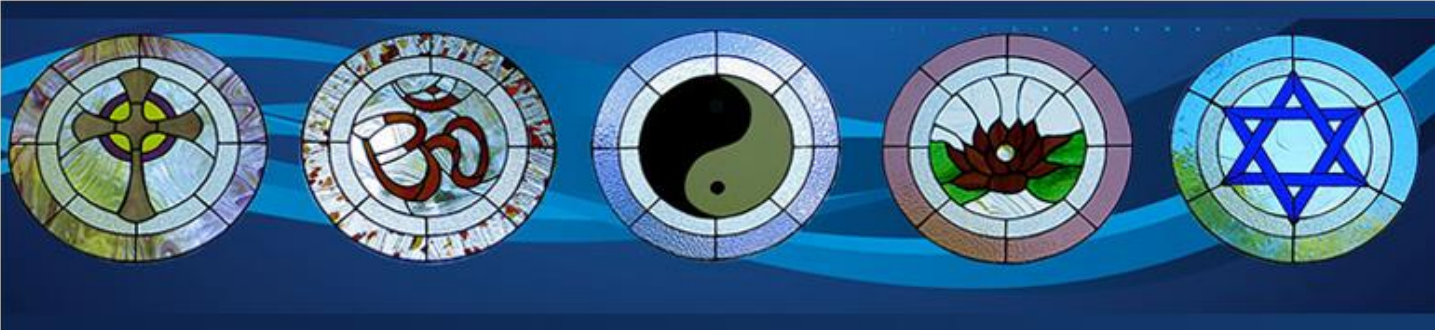


# September 2021 Newsletter



## Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

WELCOMING diversity

EMPOWERING spiritual growth

FOSTERING the interdependent web

TRANSFORMING lives

Please visit our website at [www.uumidland.org](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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# September 2021 Newsletter

## September 2021 Sermons at a Glance

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### September 5

"Our summer sermons at UUCOM have explored the eight principles of Unitarian Universalism. The Sunday we will examine the companion piece to our faith principles which is the "living tradition". This perspective encourages us to seek many sources to guide us in living out our eight principles. Those sources include wisdom literature, the prophetic voices which have opposed injustice and evil, nature and the enlightening messages within art, science and other human experiences and endeavors."

### September 12 – Water Communion

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Stream of Life by Rabindranath Tagore

The same stream of life that runs through my veins night and day runs through the world and dances in rhythmic measures.

It is the same life that shoots in joy through the dust of the earth in numberless blades of grass and breaks into tumultuous waves of leaves and flowers.

It is the same life that is rocked in the ocean-cradle of birth and of death, in ebb and in flow.

I feel my limbs are made glorious by the touch of this world of life. And my pride is from the life-throb of ages dancing in my blood this moment.



Join us for our annual Water Communion where we will blend waters that symbolize peace, struggle, hope and joy.

### September 19 – Alzheimer’s Association

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Julie Gray with the Alzheimer's Association will share with us about her long journey as caregiver for her mother who had Alzheimer's and now works in our local Alzheimer's Association.

### September 26

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"Utilizing critical race theory is the right and ethical answer to many of the problems we face today as we attempt to adapt to a changing world". These are the words of UU Minister, Jane Page. This Sunday, we will explore how Critical Race Theory fits within the principles of UUCOM. Harry Nutter and Jane Hellinghausen will lead the service.

# September 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](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**

**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](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: [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>

# September 2021 Newsletter

## September Calendar

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

September 12	11:00 AM	Water Communion
November 6	8:00 AM	Garage Sale

## Worship Committee

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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.





# September 2021 Newsletter

## Church Reopening

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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

## Garage Sale, Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

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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.

# September 2021 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! We are using a modified Spirit Play format. Our theme is: Super Heroes!!

Sept 5: The Chalice Story—this story is part of our Spirit Play foundation.

Sept 12: The Water Bearer's Garden—a tribute to Water Communion

Sept 19: Promises Story—our children will learn about our UU promises (principles)

Sept 26: Sources Story—our children will learn about the many inspirations that contribute to our faith

### 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 432-978-5977.



## September 2021 Newsletter

### What's Happening at UUCOM

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#### September Share the Plate

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We will share ½ of all cash donations with this September's Share the Plate recipient. The Social Action Committee has chosen the following recipient, Alzheimer's Association West Texas Chapter.



With a mission to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support the Alzheimer's Association leads the way to a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia.

Currently, in Texas more than 400,000 are living with Alzheimer's disease, and over 1,449,000 family and friends are providing care. Serving Amarillo, El Paso, Lubbock, Midland and the surrounding areas, the Alzheimer's Association West Texas Chapter is here to help. They provide education and support to all those facing Alzheimer's and other dementias throughout the community, including those living with the disease, caregivers, health care professionals and families. They are also committed to advocating for the needs and rights of those facing Alzheimer's disease and advancing critical research toward methods of treatment, prevention and, ultimately, a cure.

Learn more about LWV Midland at <https://www.alz.org/westtexas>.

#### Monthly Stitching Group

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***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?

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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

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We invite you to share any needs you September 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 September 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

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We will be continuing work in the Garden on the first Saturday of every month. Time varies depending on weather.

# September 2021 Newsletter

## **2021 Members and Friends Directory**

The 2021 UUCOM Members and Friends Directory is complete. Electronic copies will be sent the first week of September 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](mailto:Office@UUMidland.org), or phone, 432-694-4308, to request an electronic or hard copy of the directory.

## **Board Thank You for Month of July**

Tom Parks, April Graham for help with Pride and goodbye gift for Beverly.

## **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](mailto: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](#).



# September 2021 Newsletter

## Wider World

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### Rolling Ridge Spring On-line Retreats

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Find all program details [here](#).

We live in **troubling times** as the **divisions of race and gender grow deeper**. At Rolling Ridge, we believe that to build bridges of understanding, **we must take time to listen to the experiences of others**.

September 15 to October 15 is **National Hispanic Heritage Month**. Join us as we look at the history of this celebration which began as a week in 1966 and expanded to a month in 1988. Join us on Thursday, September 15th from 11 am to 1 pm as we kick off National Hispanic Heritage month, and discover the rich and diverse stories of the Hispanic and Latinx communities here in New England.



### Southern UU Fall Institute - October 10 - 15, 2021

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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>.



### WPCR Workshops

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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](#).

## September 2021 Newsletter

### [Creating a Listening Community August/September 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](#)).

### [Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders](#)

- September 2-6
- October 11-15
- November 15-19

Make plans now to attend the training event that has been called "the Golden Globe winner of conflict resolution programs"!

Acquire 32 contact hours that you can apply towards Continuing Education credits; enjoy fellowship with like-minded church leaders; and rejuvenate your ministry, all at the same time. Please join us and find out for yourself why a previous participant noted that MSTI is "the best and most thorough model for mediation with individuals and congregations that I have experienced in more than three decades of ordained ministry."

The fee for MSTI is \$750, which includes five full days of instruction and a manual. Online registration closes approximately 10 days before the event begins, although we encourage you to contact us to see if there may still be openings. Questions? Please call us at 630-627-0507, or send an email to [Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org](mailto:Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org). For further information we also invite you to check our website at <https://lmpeacecenter.org/>.

PLEASE NOTE: We are now using TicketSpice rather than Brown Paper Tickets as our online ticket agency. To register online please go to <https://lmpeacecenter.org/ticketspice/>. To pay by check, fill out the form on [this MSTI Brochure](#) and send it with payment to our office at: LMPC, 101 W 22nd Street, Suite 206, Lombard, IL 60148.

### [UU's for a Just Economic Community Upcoming Events](#)

#### **September 9 Webinar on Socially Responsible Investing Julie Skye**

Click for details: <https://uujec.org/Portals/0/PDFs/Julie.pdf>

Julie Skye is a Founding Member and the Chief Compliance Officer of the Sustainable Advisors Alliance, LLC, with their headquarters in Tulsa Oklahoma. She has combined her experience with her passion for Values-Based Investing and works with families, nonprofits, and endowments. Her research-based best practices, strategic planning and investment policy design are critical skills in helping clients develop risk-adjusted investment portfolios. Her work on Sustainable Impact Investing became such a passion she launched her own Registered Investment Advisory firm, Skye Advisors LLC, in December of 2017. In 2020, during the Pandemic, she and 5 other ESG Advisors founded SAA.