



# Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

## September 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](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 2022 Sermons at a Glance

### September 4 A Labor of Love

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On this Labor Day weekend, we will have a casual service over coffee, tea and juice. We will have the opportunity to reminisce with each other about labor, whether it is paid labor or our labors of love. No zoom available for this Sunday!

**Labor Day Coffee Hour** Join our host Barbara Handley for coffee and fellowship. We'll have time to share joys and sorrows plus any stories from your own experiences as a worker, past, present, good and even the not-so-good.

### September 11 Water Communion Sunday

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Please join us for one of our favorite annual traditions where we gather to celebrate the start of a new church year. We encourage you to bring a small amount of water from a place that is special to you. (Water will also be provided to share as well in case you don't have any collected.) During the service, you will have the opportunity to pour your water together with others and share why it is special.



### September 18 Second Principle

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We celebrate and advocate for “Justice equity and compassion in human relations” in our second principle. How do you think about compassion? This morning in our lay led service, we will consider ideas about compassion, shared by Krista Tippet, host of NPR’s On Being project. Jane Hellinghausen will be the service leader.

### September 25 Hope for Humanity

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This is part of a continuing series where Lisa brings stories from around the world to help cultivate hope and optimism when the news can leave us feeling despondent and hopeless.

**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](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

If you attended the service on August 21, 2022, you may recall these words by Maureen Killoran that I used for the benediction.

*No matter how weak or how frightened we may feel, we each have gifts that can make a difference in the world. In this coming week, may you do at least one thing to support the broken; to welcome the stranger; to celebrate what is worthy; to do the work of justice and love.*

*Be strong.*

*Be connected.*

*Each day, act — so you may be a little more whole.*



In my humble opinion, a good benediction is also a call to action, which is why I love these words so much. So I'm curious to know if anyone accepted Killoran's challenge? I would love to hear about ways you found to support, welcome, celebrate and/or work. How did it feel? How can you make this a regular practice?

One of the small ways that I try to make our little corner of the world better while "celebrating what is worthy" (AKA the interdependent web of life) is the simple task of picking up trash during morning walks with our dog, Bandit. It's a small thing but they add up!

During trying times, we can make a difference in many ways, big and small. I honestly believe it's one of the best ways to cultivate hope and create a better world for us all and "be a little more whole."

## POTLUCK LUNCHEON

Please join UU's for our monthly potluck luncheon following our service on Sunday, September 18th. 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.



## September Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this **September's** Share the Plate recipient. The Board has chosen the following recipient, the **Museum of the Southwest**.

In 1965 a handful of civic visionaries imagined the possibility of a small museum to serve their remote West Texas town and from that brilliant beginning emerged the Museum of the Southwest, a community asset for culture, science, families and education for more than fifty years.

The museum is comprised of four distinct facilities, the Museum of the Southwest's campus is the home to the Turner Memorial Art Museum which includes the historic Turner Mansion and the Lissa Noël Wagner Wing, along with the Blakemore Planetarium and the Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum.

Learn more about the Museum of the Southwest at <https://www.museumsw.org/>.



## Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has several opportunities to help in the coming months. Each Sunday, we need a Worship Associate and a Zoom Greeter/Camera Operator. As part of our shared ministry, there is at least one Sunday a month when the pulpit is open to those who may present the worship service. (The Worship Committee is here to help you!!!)

There are many ways to share in our ministry. Please contact Barbara Handley at 432-978-5977 to volunteer or sign-up on the sheets on the Guest Table.

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

**September 4: Red Promise Story:** Little Penguin. We should try to show respect to each other even with our flaws.

**September 11: The Water Bearer's Garden**—a tribute to Water Communion

**\*\* September 18:** No Spirit Play since Barbara is on a British Isles Cruise

**\*\* September 25:** No Spirit Play today since Barbara is in London seeing Harry Potter and the Cursed Child!

### Chalice Lighting

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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

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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](mailto:ebhandley@sbcglobal.net) or 432-978-5977.

We are looking for volunteers to help with Sunday School - please contact Barbara Handley or Lisa Jebesen if you are interested.

# 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!

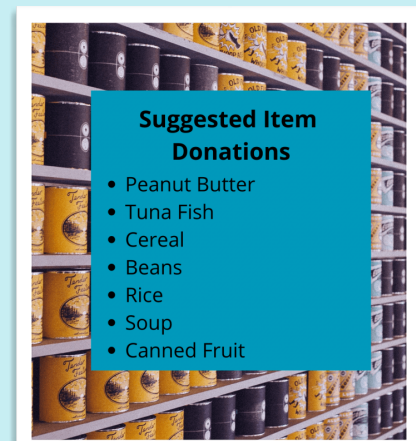
## Care Team for Church Members and Friends

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

Missed the TXUUJM August newsletter? Read it at

<https://bit.ly/TXUUJMAug2022>

### 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

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.](#)

### Unitarian Universalist Association

In the final year of her six-year term as UUA President, the Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray shares her last Ingathering welcome message, for 2022. Please watch, download, and share this video in your congregation's Ingathering worship service and help us share Rev. Frederick-Gray's loving message of justice and inclusion.

[Watch the Video.](#)

### Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community

**Ideas for Organizing a Climate Change Task Force in your Congregation with Interfaith Partners**

Thursday, September 8 at 7 PM Central

To join our Zoom event, please register [here](#).

### 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.](#)

