



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

September 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 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 2024 Sermons at a Glance

September 1 Labor Day Brunch

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, September 1st, we will have a Labor Day Brunch in lieu of church service. So bring your favorite brunch food and join us at 11:00 for fellowship and food!

September 8 “Work and Rest” with Rev. Stevie

The importance of Labor Day is yearlong. This service will explore how work and rest can combine for personal growth.

September 15 “Water Communion with Rev. Stevie

Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern wrote that “‘We are separate beings and yet all one’ is one of the profoundest truths we try to encompass.” To help us process that, you’re invited to bring a little water to combine with other people’s water in this annual service. Your water may be from any location that is special or meaningful to you.

September 22 “Coyote Says He Never Lies” with Jim Camp

We discuss the roles of lies and truth in human existence.

September 29 “WWYD?” with Rev. Stevie

This service will put a twist on a popular phrase to help us navigate social controversy, especially in an election season.

POTLUCK LUNCHEON, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

Please join UU’s for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, September 15th 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

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

Jessica Stewart, Office Administrator

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

Sonja and Scott Millichamp, Music Directors

Email:
music-directors@uumidland.org,

Visit our website:
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 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.

September 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 Awakening* by Kate Chopin. We will meet here at the church at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, September 11th.

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.

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THE AWAKENING
KATE CHOPIN

Drop-In Circle

New to UUCOM? New to Unitarian Universalism? Want to meet some new people? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please join us for our next Drop-In Circle on Sunday, September 29th from 12:15-1:00. For more information, please contact Barbara Handley at 432-978-5077.



DROP-IN CIRCLE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH FROM 12:15-1:00 PM

New to UUCOM? New to Unitarian Universalism? Want to meet some new people? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please join us for our next Drop-In Circle.

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 or board member asking for an unusual donation or a gift card, please do not respond and mark it as spam.

Specifically for UUCOM beware messages from both Rev. Dr. Steven (Stevie) Gaines and Lisa Jebesen. Members have reported recent messages from the latter.

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.

September 1 — Sources Story — this is part of our UU foundation. Our inspiration can come from many sources.

September 8 — Red Promise Story: The Dreamers — this story looks at the myriad things that migrants carry with them to make a home—hope, resilience, courage.

September 15— Orange Promise Story: I Have a Little Problem said the Bear — sometimes we just need someone to listen...

September 22 — Yellow Promise Story: Stellanuna — we can learn from others

September 29 — Green Promise Story: Butterfly Friends — true friends stick together!

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 a Spirit Play story. If you are interested in going through Spirit Play training, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.



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 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!

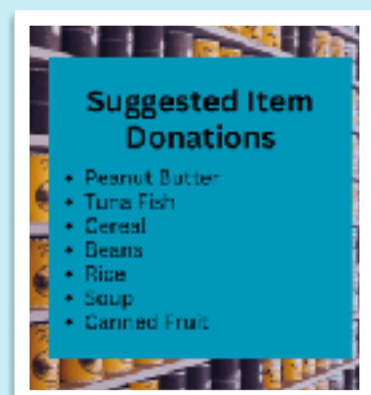
Care Team for Church Members and Friends

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

Special Guests for TXUUJM Democracy Action Hours this fall on Zoom!

Hope and determination are in the air! Join the [Texas UU Justice Ministry](#) for Special Edition Democracy Action Hours throughout election season! [Register now for 8/22](#), as TXUUJM's Faith in Democracy Organizer Sarah Berel-Harrop leads the Action Hour at 7pm CT with very special guests from the ACLU of Texas and the League of Women Voters! Sign up to get the Zoom link via [this TXUUJM EveryAction page of events](#)! Let's organize and mobilize the positive energy out there right now and UU the Vote across Texas!

On Thursdays, TXUUJM members meet in virtual community to engage in the spiritual practice of taking small actions to build the world we dream about **together**. This spiritual practice connects us to the needs of the world and builds resilience and collective power.

You can register for Action Hour or any of our events using our [events](#) list.

UBARU

August Newsletter <https://fileserver.aw.active.com/file-server/rest/files/11207a7d-b141-42e7-a26e-0964b996b92c>

- The Women Aligned fall retreat is October 11-13/14, 2024
- Men-Aligned Retreat October 18-20, 2024

UPLIFT

[Read the UPLIFT newsletter](#) including:

- A blog post about the discussion of the General Assembly's business resolution affirming trans, nonbinary, and intersex people
- A Blessing for Queer Youth of Faith
- Community Support for Trans/Nonbinary People

UUA

[UUA August Newsletter](#)

Wider World

Create Climate Justice

Register for a UU Climate Justice Revival Info Session

On September 28-29, congregations will host UU Climate Justice Revivals to collectively reimagine a spirit-filled and liberatory future. Through conversations, worship, and advocacy, congregations will work together to realize climate justice and collective liberation in our communities. Congregations will receive everything they need to host a revival in their communities. Sign up for an information session and learn what it's about, and how to register your congregation!

[Sign up for one of these dates!](#)

- September 5: 7 pm EDT/4 pm PT
- September 13: 12 pm EDT/9 am PT
- September 15: 12 pm EDT/9 am PT



Reimagine Together: From An Extractive Age To A New Era

UU Climate Justice Revival | September 28-29, 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.](#)

