



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

September 2023

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 2023 Sermons at a Glance

September 3 Labor Day Brunch

Please join UU's on Sunday, September 3rd for a Labor Day Brunch in lieu of our regular church service. At 11:00 we will enjoy the "fruit of our labors" by sharing a meal.

September 10 "Water Communion"

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 17 "UU Taboos: Sin"

Asking meaningful questions of ourselves can be tricky. To truly understand and explore tough topics requires an examination of our assumptions and biases. As we did with another taboo word "evangelize," on this Sunday we will talk about "sin." Let's have a conversation about big picture ideas - religious, spiritual and secular.

September 24 *Jim Camp - guest speaker*

Please join us for worship on this Sunday with our special guest speaker, Jim Camp. If you are interested in leading or assisting for a worship service, please contact Rev. Jebson or Barbara Handley.

POTLUCK LUNCHEON, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Please join us for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, September 17th following the 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. The board and the COVID Team gave much thought to the rules 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.

1100 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

Harry Nutter, President
Kyle Farmer, President-Elect
Alex Fields, Treasurer
Jim Camp, Secretary
David Allen, At Large Member
Chris Stoltz, At Large Member
Tom Parks, 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

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](mailto: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.

Minister's Musings

If you attended the service on August 20, you know that we had a spirited conversation about the taboo surrounding the word “evangelize.” This was a continuation of the series of Sundays where we have a discussion versus a sermon.

These conversations have so much value. In real time, we are living out our third and fourth principles (the acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations and a free and responsible search for truth and meaning, respectively). The discussions around taboos are particularly important to living out these principles. So many of us come to Unitarian Universalism with the “baggage” of a multitude of direct and indirect bad experiences with organized religion. I have always found a tremendous source of power in “taking back” words.

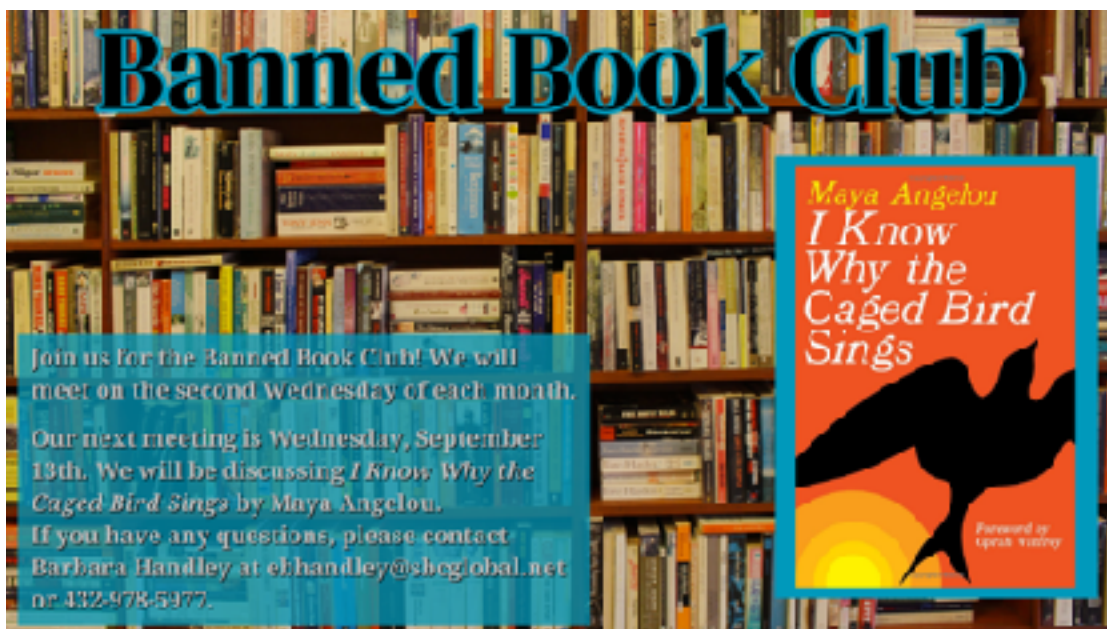
One of the points I was happy to highlight was what we stand to gain as UUs if we embrace this particular taboo. Namely, growth for our beloved community which could ultimately result in a stronger, more vibrant congregation which could help to strengthen our wider community and even the world – which as it just so happens is a means of living up to our sixth principle, the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

I hope that our conversation has inspired you to embrace your inner “UU evangelist” - there’s so many ways to spread our message of hope, like inviting a friend to Sunday worship or posting about us on social media. The world needs it now, more than ever!



Banned Book Club

The Banned Book Club meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Our next meeting is Wednesday, **September 13th**. We will be discussing the novel *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.



September Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this September-October's Share the Plate recipient. The Board has chosen the following recipient, **Safe Place of the Permian Basin**.

The mission of Safe Place is to break the cycle of family violence by empowering individuals to make safe and healthy choices through awareness, counseling, advocacy and shelter, while promoting hope, healing and dignity.

Safe Place of the Permian Basin provides:

- 24-hour emergency shelter to families affected by domestic violence
- a 24-hour crisis hotline that can answer your questions about family and intimate partner violence and how to get help (1-800-967-8928)
- personal and legal advocacy
- individual counseling
- support groups
- an intervention program for abusers



Emergency transportation to the shelter is available from anywhere in the service area. Clients do not need to live at the shelter to receive any of the advocacy, counseling, or support group services. Click on the Services & Programs tab for more information.

Learn more at <https://safeplacenow.com/>.

RE Corner

Spirit Play 10:00-10:45

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 3: Red Promise Story: **Strictly No Elephants.** We should be welcoming to all!

September 10: The Water Bearer's Garden—a tribute to Water Communion

September 17: Orange Promise Story: **Frog & Toad: The Surprise.**

September 24: Yellow Promise Story: **Turtle Tale**

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 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

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

TXUUJM AUGUST NEWS: [Click here](#) for the Aug. 22 e-news from the Texas UU Justice Ministry. Meet new BIPOC Organizing Intern Taylor Huntley, take action against Operation Lone Star, register for the new FREE virtual round of [Transgender Inclusion in Congregations](#) (evenings Sept. 11-Oct. 16 on Zoom), and more! Click [here to register for TXUUJM e-news](#) straight to your own inbox, and [click here](#) if you missed the Aug. 14 TXUUJM e-news

- **Please mark your calendars for the return of Action Hour and We Cry Justice on Thursday, Sept. 7,** and [join our Facebook group](#) for sharing actions any time.

- **NEW SESSION: Sept. 11 - Oct. 16 OPEN FOR REGISTRATION**

Sarah Berel-Harrop and Heather Malkawi of TXUUJM will lead [virtual sessions of the Trans Inclusion in Congregations](#) program.

7:30-8:30pm Mondays, Sept. 11 - Oct. 16, on Zoom

FORMAT: [TXUUJM](#) will offer an optional Zoom gathering to watch the video lectures from creators Rev. Mykal Slack and Zr. Alex Kapitan, together on Zoom beforehand, from 6:30-7:30pm each of the six Mondays (otherwise you must be responsible for watching them on your own). We are offering those two options for lecture-viewing, in recognition of Zoom fatigue and different learning styles. From 7:30-8:30pm CT, Sarah and Carrie will lead the discussions that align with the course videos and resources.

[REGISTER NOW & INVITE YOUR CONGREGATION!](#)

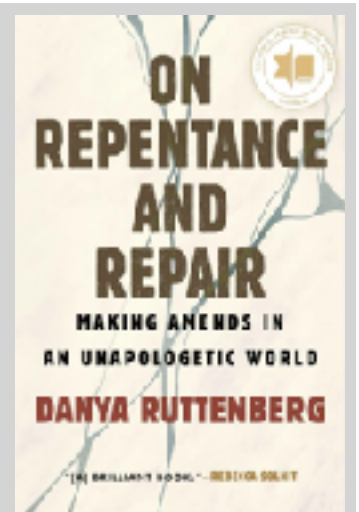
UUA Newsletter

Read the August 2023 UUA Newsletter [here](#).

2024 UU Common Read

The UUA Common Read for 2023-2024 is [On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World](#) by Rabbi Danya Rutenberg (Beacon Press, 2022). This Common Read offers a glimpse into one of our faith's foundational sources, Judaism. Readers explore our own call to be accountable in these modern times as we follow Rabbi Rutenberg into a framework for making amends offered by the 12th century Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides.

[Join the Common Read.](#)



Wider World

UUJEC

- **Farming for our Future - September 26-28**
Learn more [here](#).
- Preparing for Labor Day weekend UUJEC materials for supporting unions.
 - [Here's a link](#) to UUJEC's "Working with Labor" workshop for GA.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZ4tEA7Qs-Y>
 - Visit [our website](#) or email us for more ideas UUJEC@UUJEC.org
<https://uujec.org/workerJustice>

UUtheVote

Read the full newsletter [here](#).

- When Congress returns from vacation in September, one of our key tasks will be to refocus their attention on the recently reintroduced [Freedom to Vote Act](#) (FTVA).
- We have great news to share! As of September, we'll transform [UU the Vote](#) from a bi-annual campaign to a proactive, year-round program to advance voting rights and democracy as we add a Democracy Strategist will join the team.
- Victory in Ohio: UUs support efforts to protect democracy

UUMFE

Join us at any or all of the following fall programs!

- September 1, 2023- [Monthly Musings resume](#) from July and August break
- September 14, 2023 - [Weekly Online Meditations begin](#)
- September 17 - 23, 2023 - [Climate Week in New York City](#)
- If you'll be there, email kellydignan@uumfe.org
- September 23, 2023 - "We Imagine. We Create," an Environmental Justice Festival sponsored by [Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, New York UU Justice, & Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York](#), with support from the [New York State Convention of Universalists](#).
- Environmental Festival 1:00 - 3:30 pm
- Climate Week Jazz Vespers 4:00- 5:00 pm
- Join us all afternoon at the [Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York!](#)
- September 29, 2023- [Full Moon Gathering](#) - celebrate the Fall Equinox!

September's theme is Community. October's theme is Ancestors.

[Read both monthly Musings here.](#)

Stories and Songs of the People, by INITC

Saturday, August 19th

Starts at 10am HT/ 1pm PT/ 2pm MT/ 3pm CT/ 4pm ET

[Sign-up for this day of learning](#)