



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

January 2025

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 Barbara Handley, Membership Chair, or a Board member.

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January 2025 Sermons at a Glance

January 5 “Reframing Resolutions” with Rev. Stevie

At this time of year, people tend to make new year resolutions. This service will invite us to explore resolutions beyond habits and health.

January 12 An Interactive Experience with Maureen Benavides

Join Maureena and Isabel as well as Scott and Sonja as they lead you through a meditative experience using crystal singing bowls, Native American flutes and other instruments designed to resonate in your body to induce calm and connection. Learn about how sound changes our bodies and get healing through music. An interactive experience at the end will allow you to play a crystal singing bowl yourself. Start the new year in harmony!

January 19 “Hope and Joy in Community” with Rev. Stevie

This service will celebrate new members and the hopes and joys that we experience in community.

January 26 “Beyond Therapy” with Jim Camp

Going beyond therapy, we can move past a medical model into a spiritual dimension, where we find that the purpose of religion is to frame experience so that meaning is revealed through love.

POTLUCK LUNCHEON, JANUARY 19, 2025

Please join UU’s for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, January 19th following the church service. This is the perfect opportunity to share good food and fellowship. Please feel free to invite friends!!



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 7 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
CHURCH OF MIDLAND TEXAS

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 Social Media:
<https://linktr.ee/UUCoM>



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.

January Share the Plate

We will share ½ of all cash donations with this January and February's Share the Plate recipient. The Board has chosen the following recipient, **Supergirl Summer Camp**.

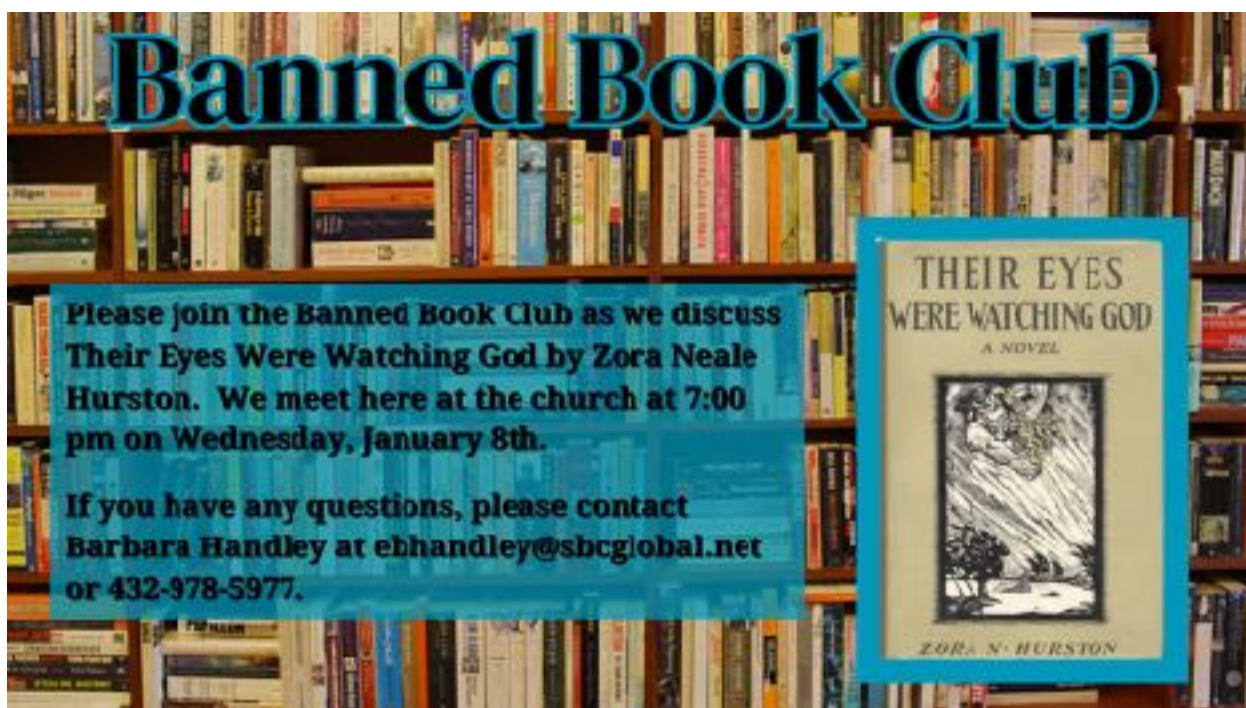
Created by Jennifer Jordan Strain, aka "Bench Press Betty", whose dream was to create a summer camp that would empower and inspire young girls to want to dream big as they grow up. Key female speakers each day come in and share their stories to the girls of how they came to love their profession. There will also be smaller group activities throughout the day that focus on teaching valuable life skills to the girls. These skills include teamwork, problem solving, confidence building, leadership, people skills, among many others. Each day will have it's own theme, with the last day of the camp having a special speaker and the opportunity for the girls to dress up as their favorite superhero; whether that's Wonder Woman, a Doctor, a Lawyer, or even their Super Moms!



For more information please visit <https://supergirlsummercamp.org/>.

Banned Book Club

Please join the Banned Book Club as we discuss *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. We meet here at the church at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 8th. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.



Membership

If you have been considering becoming an official member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland, the New Year is the perfect time to do so. If you have already attended a Drop-In Circle, you just need to sign the membership book witnessed by a member of the Board of Directors (Kyle Farmer, Barbara Handley, Alex Fields, Emmy Ulmschneider, or Jane Hellinghausen) and then complete a pledge card pledging your time, talent and treasure to UUCOM. (Tithing is not required!) **We will be having a new member recognition during the service on January 19th.**

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, January 5th from 12:15-1:00. For more information and to RSVP please contact Barbara Handley at 432-978-5977 or ebhandley@sbcglobal.net.

DROP-IN CIRCLE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 5TH 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.

Blood Drive

February 22, 2025, 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM.

Come to 3301 Neely and save a life by making a donation at our blood drive with Vivant. Call 432-694-4308 or email office@uumidland.org to sign up for a time!



BLOOD DRIVE

Please help us help the community by donating blood.

Come to 3301 Neely and save a life by making a donation at our blood drive with Vivant. Call 432-694-4308 or email office@uumidland.org to sign up for a time!

February 22nd
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM



JOIN US ON INSTAGRAM

@uucomidland



<https://bit.ly/UUCOM-IG>

RE Corner

Spirit Play 10:00-10:45

This is a time for chalice lighting, story, check-in and fun! We are using a modified Spirit Play format. Spirit Play is a UU curriculum based on Montessori teaching principles for children in Kindergarten through eighth grade. This month our stories are about famous UU's as requested by one of our children!

January 5 — Henry Hikes to Fitchburg

January 12 — Star Lesson

January 19 — Infinity of Questions: Maria Mitchell

January 26 — Theodore Parker and the Turtle

Body Prayer

It is important is to take time to be quiet, to be still,

so we can be in touch with the deepest and best part of ourselves—our inner voice—often called prayer or meditation.

I invite you to join in a body prayer.

We begin with our hands in front of us in the prayer pose: "I am still"

We place our hands over our hearts: "I am loved."

We place our hands cupped in front of us: "I can receive."

We extend our hands out in front of us: "I can give."

We lift our hands high over our heads: "I am open to the Spirit of Life."

We bring our hands cupped in front of us again: "I receive these gifts."

And returning to our stillness,

we bring our hands together again in the prayer pose: "I am still."

[repeat three times and end with a slow bow as a closing.]

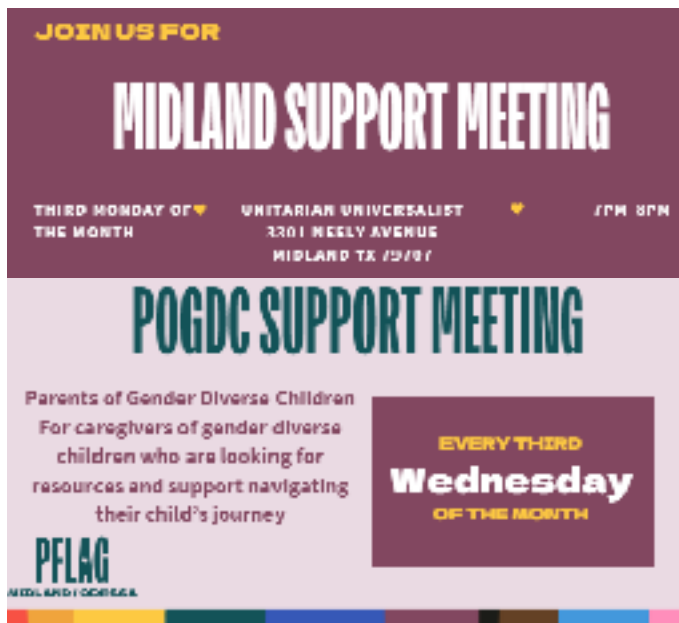
Religious Education Volunteers

If you are interested in helping with our children's religious education, there are many ways that you can participate. You may suggest a story for Spirit Play. You may help to create Spirit Play stories. 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.

Interested in Becoming a Member?

Interested in officially joining our church community? Reach out to 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!

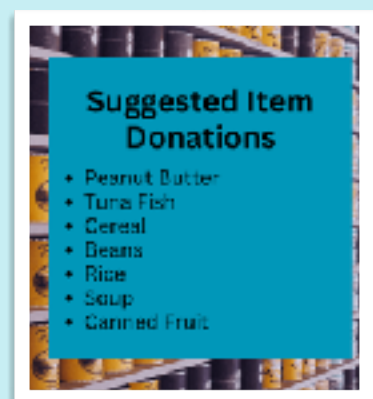
Care Team for Church Members and Friends

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

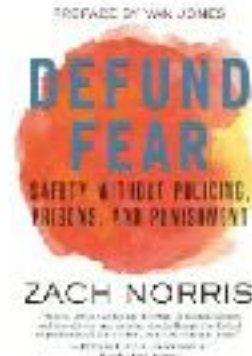
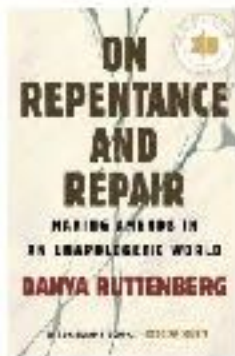
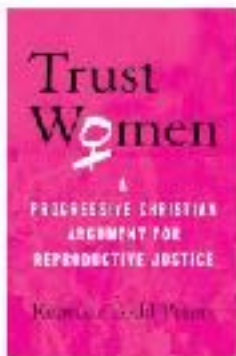
SAVE THE DATE: TXUUJM Legislative Action Day at the Capital, March 17, 2025! Fill out our interest form and share how you would like to show up!

[3/17/25: Legislative Day Interest Form](#)

We Cry Justice Theological Reflection Group (Virtual)

Fourth Thursdays, 6:00 pm CST, January-June and
September-November*

We will be engaging with the following Beacon Press Books:



*dates will vary in April, October, and November, to accommodate Jewish holidays and Thanksgiving

UUA Newsletter

[A Holiday Message from President Betancourt](#)

UUMFE

[UUMFE December 2024 ENews](#)

UUJEC

[UUJEC News & Views: Winter 2025](#)

Wider World

Side With Love

[December Newsletter -Welcoming our new team members!](#)

[Reflecting on 2024 & 3 Resources to Empower Your Community as We Move Forward](#)

In these turbulent times, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on the extraordinary efforts of UUs across the country who contributed to our UU the Vote work during this election season. No matter the results of the election, your commitment to justice and strengthening our democracy has made a real difference. Together, we mobilized, educated, and inspired thousands of people across key states, demonstrating the transformative power of our faith in action.

1. Tap into the [Community Resilience Hub](#)
2. Contribute to the Congregational Asset Map Survey
3. Share Your Insights in the UUA Community Care and Resilience Survey
(Email socialjustice@uua.org with your congregational affiliation to receive the links.)



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.](#)

