



Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland

February 2025 Community Lives Here

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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February 2025 Sermons at a Glance

February 2 "Imbolc: Preparing for Growth" with Rev. Stevie

Imbolc is an ancient celebration of the coming spring. This service will invite active participation to help us plan for our own growth as individuals and in community.

February 9 "The Scandal of Valentine's Day" with Rev. Stevie

Valentine's Day can be fun but maybe not for all of us. This service will consider alternative understandings and practices of Valentine's Day, love, and relationships.

February 16 "Thoughts about Selflessness" with Jim Camp

Can a selfless act be a selfish act in disguise?

February 23 "Community of Hope" with Rev. Stevie

In this service we'll have an opportunity to tell each other about what gives us hope!

POTLUCK LUNCHEON, FEBRUARY 16, 2025

Please join UU's for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, February 16th 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 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
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.

February 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 A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess. We meet here at the church at 7:00 pm on February 12th. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.

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ANTHONY BURGESS
A CLOCKWORK ORANGE

Joy Lives Here Nature Walk

Join us on Saturday February 1st at 11:00 AM for a Nature Walk and Reflection at the I-20 Wildlife Preserve. Sonja Milichamp, Barbara Handley and other church members will lead us in a slow meditative walk around the playa with opportunities for silent contemplation, a few stops for reflective readings, and (if there is water in the playa) an opportunity to view some of the beautiful species of ducks that visit Midland each winter. Please dress comfortably for walking and the weather, and plan on being out for up to 60-75 minutes. (There will be an opportunity to turn back a quarter of the way around the loop for those who prefer a shorter trip.) You are encouraged to bring binoculars if you have those, but a few optics for duck viewing will be also available to share. Please invite your friends to join us for this special event!



February 19th Concert



Please mark your calendars for a special concert hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland. The Finnish duo, Vellamo, will be performing on Wednesday, February 19th at 7:00 in the sanctuary. This folk duo compares themselves to Peter, Paul & Mary with a Scandinavian twist!!! Please feel free to invite friends and family.

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 Vivalant. Call 432-694-4308 or email office@uumidland.org to sign up for a time!

RE Corner

Spirit Play 10:00-10:45

Spirit Play is a Montessori-based curriculum that is based on our UU Promises (Principles) and Sources. The theme this month is Black History.

February 2 — Ella Queen of Jazz. The story of the friendship between Ella Fitzgerald and Marilyn Monroe.

February 9 — The Walk. The walk tells the story of the voice of voting.

February 16 — The Girl with a Mind for Math. The story of Raye Montague.

February 23 — Lewis Latimer's Bright Idea. This is the story of Unitarian Lewis Latimer and how he helped with inventing the light bulb!

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 suggest a story for Spirit Play. You may help to create Spirit Play stories. If you are interested in attending Spirit Play Training, see Barbara. Please contact Barbara Handley at ebhandley@sbcglobal.net or 432-978-5977.

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,

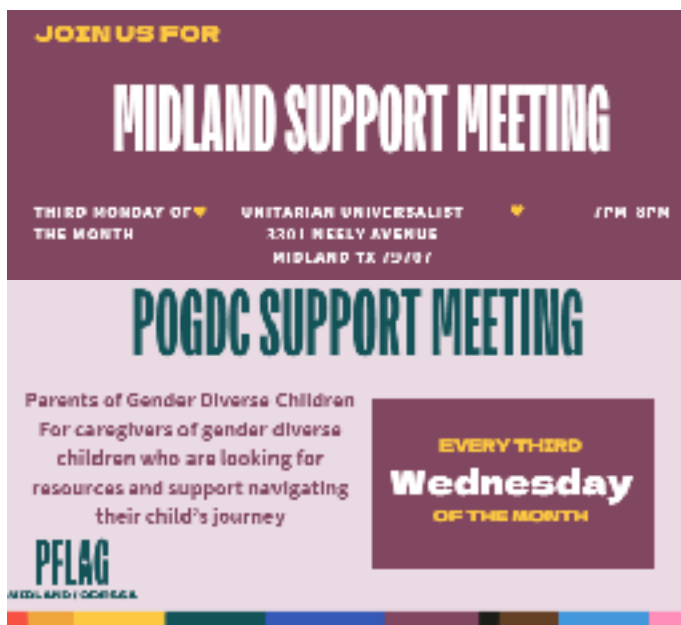
we bring our hands together again in the prayer pose: "I am still."

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

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!

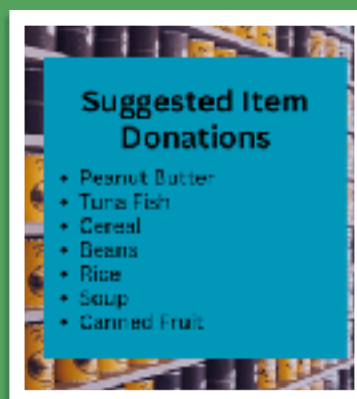
Care Team for Church Members and Friends

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

TXUUJM LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAY AT CAPITOL: Last but not least, registration will open very soon for TXUUJM Legislative Action Day at the Capitol on Monday, March 17, 2024 (with additional interfaith/partner programming on March 16 and 18 for those who can do Sunday-Tuesday). Save the date, [sign up for emails](#), and keep an eye out for the registration link in your inbox!

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

We Cry Justice Theological Reflection Virtual Group

6:00-6:45pm CT on the fourth Thursday of the month, followed by the TXUUJM Action Hour at 7.

Register here: <https://secure.everyaction.com/p/MWNGVWWY-0WYbfBnkITceQ2?pn=1>

Jim Crosby of the Poor People's Campaign will lead us in reflections on the themes in each short chapter. To buy the book: <https://www.broadleafbooks.com/.../9781506.../We-Cry-Justice>

A MESSAGE FROM REV. ERIN ABOUT THURSDAY NIGHTS

"My dream these days is to see you every Thursday night -- that we become a devoted group of folks who know and support each other in joyful, impactful, spiritually grounded justice work. Please put TXUUJM on your calendar for 6-8pm CT Thursdays!

In the hopes of making Thursday nights the best they can be, the TXUUJM volunteers and I have decided on a small but important change: **We have moved the [We Cry Justice book group](#) earlier, to 6-6:45 pm every Thursday, and given it more time.** That also means a 15-minute breather between We Cry Justice and the TXUUJM Action Hour, so folks can grab food, stretch, and take a breath before returning for action."

[Read the full message and learn more about We Cry Justice here \(https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?u=379155077c12eb59e220cff4c&id=6ba72b5b1a\).](https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?u=379155077c12eb59e220cff4c&id=6ba72b5b1a)

UUA Press Release

From the UUA President: Fierce Love Compels Us To Action

On January 23rd UUA President the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt shared this statement in response to executive orders issued by the US President. It includes additional resources to take action to support your congregation, community, and loved ones.

"Each and all of us is in fact a vital part of the fabric of this nation, deeply beloved and deserving of protection, safety, and belonging."

Read the full press release at <https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/fierce-love-compels-us-action>.

Wider World

Side With Love

30 Days of Love 2025 Theme: Inhabiting our Freedom Dreams

“Now is the time to practice that which we seek to grow in our world—deeply, compassionately, and at the scale of relationships in our communities. As the governing and power structures of our world rely more and more on domination, exploitation, and disposability to consolidate power, we must hold onto and grow ours. **Our power is grounded in our values that proclaim the transformative power of love and harness the enduring power of community.** We are the antidote to our fear. Our collective work is to practice the new world we seek to build, drawing inspiration from abolitionist and emergent strategies for liberation, as explored in Andrea Ritchie’s *Practicing New Worlds: Abolition and Emergent Strategies*. Liberation is our North Star guiding us through these times.” Learn more at <https://sidewithlove.org/30daysoflove2025>.

2025 Weekly Themes

- **Week One: “We are home”**
From the the immigrant justice coalition lead by United We Dream
- **Week Two: “Trans people are divine”**
From the creators of the Black Trans Prayer Book
- **Week Three: “Water Is Life”**
From the Standing Rock protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline
- **Week Four: “There are Black People in the Future”**
From artist Alisha B. Wormsley

A collection of resources will be released weekly, published on Tuesdays, from January 20 – February 14, related to the theme of Inhabiting Our Freedom Dreams. Links and more details for 30 Days of Love, along with several other announcements and resources.

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.](#)

