



The Candle Flame



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland

A liberal religious haven that cherishes the exploring mind and welcomes all souls

Phone (989) 631-1162

6220 Jefferson Avenue, Midland

www.uufom.org

April 2017 (Volume LXIX No. 4)

Sunday Morning Services at 10:30 AM

Pastoral Care

Contact

Evelyn Lipowitz
(989) 631-0119

"Hope is a good breakfast, but it is a bad supper."

Francis Bacon

Look for us on
[Facebook!](#)

Office Hours:

To leave a message for the Fellowship or staff, please email uufom@uufom.org

Rev. Jeff's Hours:

Mon. & Sat. by appointment only.
Tues. & Thurs.
12:00-5:00 p.m.
Wed. 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Sun. 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

DRE Hours:

Tues. & Thurs. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Mon., Fri., Sat. by appt.

To make an appointment, please email Rev. Jeff directly at uurevjeff@gmail.com

April 2

"Challenges of Euthanasia"

Worship Team

James Hitt, Professor of Health Care Ethics at SVSU, will discuss some of the problems associated with developing an acceptable policy of physician assisted suicide.

April 9

"Hope is a Waking Dream"

Rev. Jeff Liebmann

One sometimes hears about being "woke," meaning that someone understands some aspect of the world in a deep way, a way that encompasses all perspectives and influences. Hope can only grow when we become woke and search for ways to effect change in the world.

April 16

Easter – "What's In Your Easter Basket?" **Worship Team**

The gift of growth is everywhere and comes in many packages. Let's see what treasures we'll find on our egg hunt this morning.

April 23

Earth Day – "The World in Our Hands" **Rev. Jeff Liebmann**

The fourth social action strategic planning initiative identified by the Fellowship last fall was climate change. Of all our initiatives, this one probably speaks most universally to our personal philosophies and priorities and, therefore, should engage us to act against threats to our environment. Today, we will begin a Fellowship Summit discussion to identify positions and strategies.

April 30 – TBA

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care Contact for April: Evelyn Lipowitz (989) 631-0119

Pastoral Care Ministry Team

New to our Fellowship? Just discovered you might need more help with an issue than you had counted on? Our Pastoral Care Ministry Team is here for you. We can provide a meal, a ride, some respite or a supportive ear and a cup of coffee. Don't be shy – we are a covenant family!

Pulpit Ponderings



“The road to Hell is paved with good intentions.” I suppose as Universalists, we must adapt this famous quote. What replaces Hell in the context of this saying if one does not believe in its existence?

Maybe parsing out the possible meanings of the phrase would help. I am fond of Robert Frost’s poem, *The Road Not Taken*. Frost concludes:

*Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

I equate the well-paved road with being the easy path – perhaps the *too* easy path of good intentions. I enjoy challenges, so I may simply be wired to taken the path less traveled by.

But life generally shows us that change, real change, comes about because people of courage took the innovative route to achieve a goal. Admittedly, this road presents challenges, even dangers. No guarantee exists that your struggle will be rewarded. The rough-hewn path is lined with thorns, poison ivy, unfriendly critters, and jagged rocks.

But the road paved with good intentions also has its perils. Complacency, indifference, resignation all lie on this path for the incautious traveler. This road may offer a smooth ride, but the price of the comfort is nothing less than your principles, perhaps your very soul.

The good news is that these two roads do not grow eternally more distant as time passes. You are not bound by a single choice made when all knowledge of consequences were still unclear. Rather, the two roads run side-by-side, parallel through our lives. You can leave the paving stone of good intentions and tackle the less-crowded trail anytime.

This Fellowship helps you make that leap of faith, because we have people already on the path ready to welcome you. Unitarian Universalism is not just a belief system – it is a devotional commitment to constantly improve yourself, your community, and the world. Unitarian Universalism is a yearning, a sojourn of the soul toward something deeper, bigger in life.

There are many ways to switch life lanes: get involved in our social justice strategic planning initiatives; join a Ministry Team; become a member of the Fellowship and join the family of people pledging to keep liberal religion alive and vibrant in this region.

All it takes is a call, an email, an outreach to me, a Board member, or one of the members of our ministry teams.

- Rev Jeff

Small Group Ministries

Women's Group

Thursday, April 6, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

We will meet for conversation, connections, and camaraderie. The topics can range from the philosophical to everyday life and the group is open to anyone who identifies as female. Location will be at the Grand Traverse Pie Company on Saginaw Road in Midland. Please see the Facebook event or contact Amber Kramer for more information.

Men's Group

Tuesday April 4, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Join us for fellowship, conversation and fun (along with a slice of pie) at the UUFoM Men's Group Meetings. We meet the first Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Grand Traverse Pie Company on Saginaw Road in Midland.

Three Jewels UU Sangha

Every Monday – 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Three Jewels Sangha meets at 6:00 PM for meditation and discussion. Three Jewels Sangha is an open group that welcomes all within reach of the Tri-City area who are interested in gathering in community with others practicing Buddhism or Buddhist meditation, or those just exploring different meditation practices. For more information, check the Sangha out on Facebook: Three Jewels Sangha of Midland (UUFoM)

<https://www.facebook.com/ThreeJewelsSanghaOfMidlanduufom>



Ancient Shores Covenant of UU Pagans

Sunday, April 16, 12:15-2:00 PM

Ancient Shores is the UUFOM chapter of CUUPS. The group explores pagan religions, historical points of interest - both recent and ancient, and engages in community rituals to celebrate the natural cycle of the world that surrounds us. We meet on the Third Sundays of each month after the service.

<https://www.facebook.com/ancientshorescuups/>



Ministry Teams

Facilities

Kitchen

Gisela Bailey

Aesthetics

Michaele Malecki

Member Services

Member Engagement

Sara Clavez

Welcoming & Outreach

open

Pastoral Care - Gisela Bailey,

Mary Johnson, Co-Chairs

Media

open

Lifespan Learning

Adult Enrichment

open

Children's Religious Education

Kurt Sonoras

Youth & Young Adults

Zollie Davis-Huntley

Living Our Values

Homelessness – Judith Hill

Climate Change – Jim Crissman

LGBT - open

Racial Justice - open

Worship

Worship

Judith Hill

Music

Kevin King

Choir

Andrew Schulz

Audio Visual

R.G. Converse

Governance Committees

Building and Grounds

Tim Wagner

Endowment

Tom Bailey, Jim Falender,

Co-Chairs

Financial Affairs

Stewardship

Jen Ciolino

Finance

Tom Bailey

Nominating

Jon Cleland-Host, Kathy French,

Andy Salogar

Committee on Ministry

Maxine Guettler, Donna King,

Michaele Malecki, Marsha

McDonald, Dan Sealey

Sacred Grove Article

With Ostara just behind us, one of the first signs of the coming spring we see is the strange flower of the skunk cabbage, often surrounded by a snowless ring in swamps where snow remains. This is not just due to the warmth of the Sun on the upright flower – no, these are some of the few plants that generate significant amounts of heat. Wow, [a warm-blooded plant!](#) Sorry, Westerners, only the Eastern skunk cabbage ([*Symplocarpus foetidus*](#)) does this, not the Western skunk cabbage ([*Lysichiton americanus*](#)). It was cool to learn this today – even though I’ve been going out to find these flowers nearly every spring for 35 years, I never knew this! It’s a lot of heat too – as much as a mouse, so the selective advantage must be large to pay for such an expensive trait. This heat not only allows earlier blooming (melting snow), but also spreads the rotten scent, attracting their main pollinator: flies (like many other plants, this plant lies to its pollinators). Keeping the flies in the flower for longer allows for better pollination – and even when it is freezing outside, inside it is between 60 and 90 F! Hmmm, smells bad, Lukewarm inside even when cold outside...a tauntaun flower? Jon Cleland Host



Lifespan Learning

All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.



From the desk of the I-DRE: Heather Cleland-Host

Office Hours: 10 AM – 2 PM Tuesdays, Thursdays

By Appointment Fridays, Saturdays

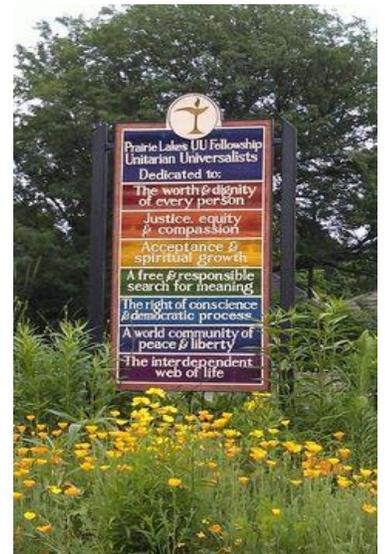
Religious education is a journey that begins in childhood, but never ends. We all have something to offer each other from the youngest to the most wise. This year in Religious education, our community has been exploring our Principles together through multi-generational programming. Each month is dedicated to a principle.

April is dedicated to the sixth principle!

We affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. Insist on peace, freedom, and justice for all. ([Indigo](#))

REFLECT & DISCUSS

For the last three months of the Living the Principles program, discussion/journaling topics available on the Rainbow Table. Each sheet has a reading to reflect upon, followed by questions. These reflections can be explored with others, with your children or parents, or on your own through journaling. Here is an example:



A Reflection on the Sixth Principle

...the unfolding of the soul is an increase in relationality and engagement. The more the soul has unfolded, the more the person is making it a priority to "improve the neighborhood," and to find meaning in life in relationships and in creativity and in activism. Our interest in spirituality and social justice is present in the wholeness of our own heritage, which holds these two together in an integrated way. The illuminated, unfolded soul is a presence of creativity and blessing and engagement in the world.

- Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker

Discuss or journal your thoughts:

- Eleanor Roosevelt wrote: "Justice cannot be for one side alone, but must be for both." What does that mean to you? Does it affect your views and interactions with others?
- Has there been a time when engaging or resisting the work of social justice changed you? Has there been a time when you know you made a difference? A time when you hoped to make a difference but did not or could not?

Children and Youth Programs

Spirit Play Programs:

Glow Worms (Age 4 to 2nd Grade) and Fireflies (2nd Grade – 5th Grade)

April 2 Theme: Overcoming challenges to make the lives better

- Glow Worms: *Anh's Anger* (a young child learns how to deal with frustration)
- Fireflies: *Malala the Brave* (A girl overcomes challenges to continue educating girls)

April 9 Subject: Inclusion & welcoming of new & longtime friends

- Glow Worms: *Butterfly Friends* & Fireflies: *Dad's Brother* both explore different ways to stand up for our friends and help our communities be more welcoming and inclusive.

April 16 EASTER Subjects: Spring & Learning about Jesus – Living out our principles

- Glow Worms: *A Bunny's First Spring* (Exploring new experiences)
- Fireflies: *Let's Meet Jesus* (short biography of Jesus – how did he live his principles?)

April 23 Subject: Using natural world to live according to UU Principles and Sources

- Chapel program (All children): *How? Living as a Young Humanist*

April 30 Subject: Protecting the Earth

- Glow Worms & Fireflies *Granddad's Prayers*

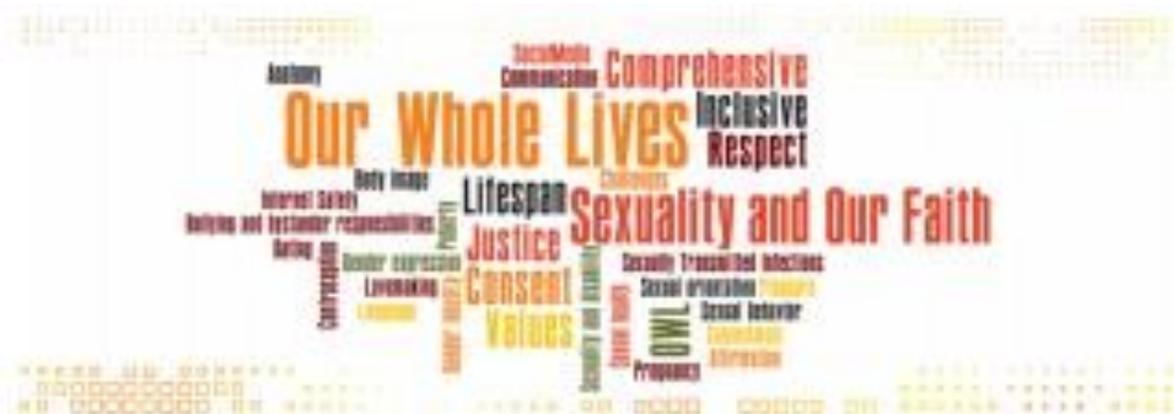
Middle School Program: Jedi Academy!

We are starting a new Middle School Class this month! This class will be available for students from 5th Grade to 8th Grade. The Middle School class will meet in the Youth Room. The Jedi Mindfulness curriculum will be used. This curriculum has been successful in other congregations and appeals to the interests of many of our Middle Schoolers. For more information about this, please go to <http://imaginorium.weebly.com/jedi-academy.html>

Exploration beginning for the 2017-2018 PROGRAM YEAR

(Parent survey will be available in late April)

The RE Ministry Teams have begun to work on the 2017-2018 Religious Education program. This year the Adult Program realigned its programming with the Children and Youth Program so that we would all be exploring Living the Principles together. Next year we are exploring continuing this shared journey by exploring the Six Sources together. The children's program year will be the Making Meaning year of the program and will visit each of the Six Sources – one per month, with December dedicated to all Six and Unitarian Universalism in general. Keep your eyes open for more news about this from the RE Team!



Our Whole Lives Training

United Church Of Christ, Midland
4100 Chestnut Hill Drive
Midland, MI 48642

Friday May 19
1:00pm – 8:00pm
(Snacks and Dinner Provided)

Saturday May 20
9:00am - 8:00pm
(Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks, and
Dinner Provided)

Sunday May 21
12:00noon - 3:00pm
(Lunch and Snacks Provided)

Our Whole Lives is a comprehensive, kindergarten through adult sexuality education curriculum series. It provides youth with accurate information on sexual health, human development, sexual behavior, relationships, and personal skills in a supportive setting. This workshop trains teachers in how to teach participants about sexuality in age-appropriate ways.
This workshop will focus on curricula for grades 7-9 and 10-12.

Training Cost is \$150.00 per person

The registration fee covers the cost of the workshop including: trainers, meals, and supplies.

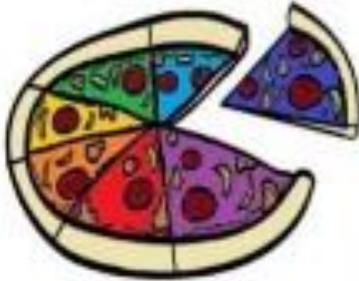
The required [Our Whole Lives](#) manuals are not included.

Information and Registration:

<https://www.uccmidland.org/our-whole-lives/>

The UU Fellowship of Midland invites you to attend...

PIZZA AND FUN: ***BUILDING A BETTER WORLD***



- What:** Food, fellowship and fun!
When: April 21, 2017 6-8:30 PM
Where: UU Fellowship of Midland
6220 Jefferson Ave, Midland
Invited: Friends & Families – all ages welcome!

Details: The UU Fellowship of Midland would like to invite everyone for an evening with food and activities for all ages celebrating the goal of a world community with justice, peace, and liberty for all. We will have pizza, salad, and more. We will have vegetarian and halal/kosher options (please email Heather Cleland-Host dre@uufom.org if you have special food needs). We will have activities as you arrive to help meet each other, during the meal (small groups to eat together), and following the meal. This is just an opportunity to renew relationships and make new friends. The program is for all ages – kid and adult friendly! Come join us!

What to bring: Yourselves! If you feel inspired, you can bring a sweet dessert to share, but this is intended as a free event.

Please RSVP by Monday April 17, so we can know how much food to prepare:
Heather Cleland-Host, Interim DRE, UU Fellowship of Midland
989-423-5932, dre@uufom.org

Adult Enrichment Team

The Adult Enrichment presents a broad range of educational programs. These programs provide participants opportunities to explore and experience ideas, philosophies, and activities; and to expand their religious knowledge as well as their awareness of current issues; thus motivating, enriching, and challenging them in their journey of lifelong learning. It is our mission to provide structured adult programming that promotes spiritual, religious, and intellectual enrichment within the context of Unitarian Universalism. It is our vision that the spiritual, religious, and intellectual lives of members and friends of UUFoM will be continuously enriched, and the sense of UUFoM as a “beloved community” will be continuously enhanced, as a result of lifelong learning opportunities of high quality provided by the AET in a safe and supportive environment.

Upcoming Events

Da Serendipity Auction!

Saturday, May 6 starting at 6:00 p.m.

Holy whah, all youse trolls! Da Serendipity Auction is gonna be a Yooper Party dis year, you betcha. We'll get back ta youse later wit da details – but fer now, SAVE DA DATE – SATURDAY, MAY 6. Say ya to da UP, eh!



Be Who You Needed When You Were Younger

Please consider becoming a mentor for a teenager at the Juvenile Care Center. As little as one hour a week could make a huge impact in a child's life. You don't need any special talents and activities could be as simple as: go for a walk, toss a ball around, have a meal together, try a new activity. All it takes is a caring heart and the ability to listen and be a friend.

Every child is one caring adult away from becoming a success story – you could be that adult! Call or email Sue Landis at Midland Mentors for more information 837-6255 or slandis@co.midland.mi.us



Stages 'n Steps

WHAT: An anonymous support group specifically designed for survivors of abuse, neglect, or trauma in childhood

WHERE: Midland, Michigan

WHEN: Twice a month

WHY: Because you really can't "Just get over it already" and because "You really can't understand if you haven't been there". There are reasons for each of us ~ those who don't understand and those who do.

SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY: Email stages.n.steps@gmail.com with a request for further information.

Other Announcements

**Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Midland**
6220 Jefferson Avenue
Midland MI 48640-2934

Board of Directors

President

Speed Malecki
(989) 835-1915

President-Elect

Sara Clavez
(989) 687-7003

Treasurer

TBD

Secretary

John Kinkema
(989) 415-9451

Member-at-Large

Charlie Enright
(989) 600-9696

Member-at-Large

Jill Haver-Crissman
(989) 297-8594

Staff

Minister

Rev. Jeff Liebmann
uurevjeff@gmail.com
(412) 760-6588

Choir Director

Andrew Schulz
saschulz@hotmail.com

Interim Director,

Religious Education

Heather Cleland-Host
hch.solstice@yahoo.com

Accompanist

Sarah Nuss-Warren

*The Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Midland
welcomes, affirms,
promotes, and celebrates
the full participation of all
persons in all of its
activities without regard
to age, gender, sexual
orientation, race, or any
other such category of
exclusion.*

Library

We have a wonderful library downstairs in the Religious Education wing where you will find hundreds of books on all manners of topics. We have special collections on Buddhism, Paganism, Addiction Recovery, Unitarian Universalism, and the considerable collection from the local Occupy the Tri movement. Feel free to browse and borrow books.

Newsletter

Do you want to get something in an upcoming Fellowship newsletter? Please email submissions to uufom@uufom.org by the third Sunday of the prior month or the 20th, whichever is later. This allows us to get all the material together and get the newsletter out sooner. Also, please submit text without formatting, which makes the task of editing much easier.

Membership

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Fellowship...fantastic! Talk to Rev. Jeff and he can walk you through the details.

Food Collection

On the first and third Sundays of the month, we collect food to contribute to the SAMS food bank. There will be a table set up in the foyer with baskets to place food.

Recommended Donations for the Food Pantry

Tuna	Canned chicken
Women's hygiene items (tampons, sanitary pads)	Canned Beans
Dish Soap	Shampoo
Laundry Soap	Split peas/Lentils (include some recipes?)
Soup base (watch the sodium)	Deodorant
Evaporated milk (no condensed)	Liquid body soap
Fortified cereals	Ziplock bags
Oatmeal	Gallon of vinegar
Canned soups	Depends undergarments
Peanut butter	Brown rice
New underwear (both genders, all sizes)	Pastas-gluten free
White Northern Beans	Pasta sauce
Canned tomatoes	Jiffy Corn muffin mix
Crackers (grainy if possible)	