



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

September 2017 (Volume LXIX No. 9)

Sunday Morning Services at 10:30 AM

Pastoral Care Contact

Charlie Enright
(989) 600-9696

*"There is no question
for which
compassion is not
the answer."*

**- Judith Hanson
Lasater**

Look for us on
[Facebook!](#)

Office Hours:

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.,
Tuesdays, Wednesdays
and Thursdays

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

DRE Hours:

Tues. & Thurs. 1:00 p.m.-
4:00 p.m.
Weekday mornings and
Sunday by appt.

September 3

"The Work that Calls Us"

How do we figure out what to do with our lives, for our own
sakes and the sake of the world?

Speaker: Rev. Connie Grant

September 10

"Gathering the Waters"

We'll bring together the waters that symbolize where we have
been over the summer and what we all bring to this religious
community. Please bring a vial of water from your travels
near or far (or from your backyard). This is a worship service
for all ages.

Speaker: Rev. Connie Grant

September 17

"Being Wrong, Getting Right"

When we've done wrong or been wrong, how do we get right
with ourselves and others?

Speaker: Rev. Connie Grant

September 24

"The Spirit of This Community"

What this community means to us, and why we support it.

Speakers include: Sandra Berger, Dan Sealey, June Turley,
Stewardship Chair Judy Donahue, and Rev. Connie Grant

UUFOM Strategic Plan

Starting in October, the newsletter articles will be identified in one of the three Strategic Plan categories:

1. **Personal Connection and Development**
2. **Living Our Values**
3. **Building and Infrastructure**

As you peruse September's issue, try to categorize each article and section. As you'll quickly see, we are living our Strategic Plan *now!*

Ministerial Musings

“In the Interim”



Over the next two years, I'm here first as your minister, and second as your “interim minister.” I'm here first to fulfill what my contract calls “the normal responsibilities of congregational ministry, including worship and pastoral care” and to serve as your head of staff in accordance with your approved policies.

These are my thoughts, put in writing for a multigenerational audience on the occasion of the ordination of a colleague, on what a minister is and does:

A minister

- helps people live in ways that are true to their own spirits and true to the spirit of life.
- tells stories and helps people figure out what they mean.
- listens to other people's stories and helps them figure out what those mean, too.
- shows up to be with people when they are sad or afraid, so they know they are not alone.
- marks special times in people's lives, like birth, death, or marriage.
- encourages people to share their best with others.
- helps people find possibilities, and meaning, and hope in their lives.
- represents a religious community and helps people belong, and participate, and represent that religious community, too.
- devotes a life to these ways of ministry and to helping other people minister to each other.

I'm also here with you during this transitional time to help you reflect on who you are and who you want to be as a congregation, as you prepare to move forward to call a new settled minister.

Looking forward to this time with you, in faith and hope.

Connie

Pastoral Care

**Pastoral Care Contact
for September:**

**Charlie Enright
(989) 600-9696**

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!

Newsletter

Interested in writing something for a newsletter? Perhaps you have ideas of other items you'd like to see in our newsletter? Please email your ideas to uufom@uufom.org a week before the end of the previous month. This allows us to get all the material together and get the newsletter

Finding a New Minister

from Sara Clavez, President Elect

What is an Interim Minister? An interim minister is a fully trained minister in good standing with the Unitarian Universalist Association who comes to a congregation after the previous minister has left and stays for 1 – 2 years while the congregation is looking for a new settled minister. The job of the interim, in addition to preaching and helping with pastoral care, is to help the congregation process its experience with the previous minister. Then the focus will shift to goals for the future and strengthening areas to prepare us for a successful next ministry. Rev. Connie Grant's contract is for a two year interim. She will not be eligible to stay after that time.

How is the search for an interim minister different from that for a settled minister? The search for an interim is completed in a few weeks whereas the search for a settled minister takes several months. Interim candidates are interviewed by phone, references are checked and the board makes an offer. The search for a settled minister will be conducted by a search committee elected by the congregation. It will involve in-person interviews, observation of the minister in the pulpit at another UU church, and a vote by the congregation.

How will the Search Committee be formed? Who will be eligible? You must be a member of the Fellowship to serve on the search committee. The UUA recommends that current board members, staff, and committee on ministry members and their spouses be ineligible. All active members are eligible for nomination and all members will have an opportunity to vote for the search committee members. The top four vote getters will be on the committee. The board will appoint additional members from among the other top vote getters to add needed perspectives or skills. (*Cont. page 4*)

Finding a New Minister, cont.

Who can participate in the search process? Although the search committee will do the bulk of the work, everyone's help is needed. Members and friends will be asked to complete a detailed survey about who we are and what we want. The search committee will conduct focus groups. There will be a workshop called Beyond Categorical Thinking that is designed to help us think about who might fit in to our congregation and community. Everyone is urged to meet with the candidate chosen by the search committee during the week before the vote. All members will be invited to the special meeting to decide whether to call the candidate as our minister.

When will we have a new minister? Our interim minister will be with us through July of 2019. If the search for a settled minister goes smoothly, the committee will begin looking at candidates in January 2019 and our new minister will be with us in August of 2019.

Groups

Men's Group

Suspended Until Further Notice

Facilitator wanted! Responsibilities include showing up at group meeting location and possibly facilitating how the group would like to run. For example, structured, semi-structured or free-for-all. If interested please contact Shannon Sonoras, (989) 708-5348, uufom@uufom.org who will update this section.

Women's Group

ACTIVE! Next meeting: **Thursday, September 7th @ 7 p.m.**

A huge THANK YOU to Christina VanPouker (uuchristinavanp@gmail.com) who has kindly offered to be point-person for the Women's Group! Join us on Thursday night at Grand Traverse Pie Company to celebrate our new beginning. We'll discuss what we'd like to get out of the group and how we choose to be together. See you then!



Three Jewels Sangha of Midland

**Every Monday, 6PM
at UUFOM**

Three Jewels Sangha meets Mondays at 6pm 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>

Lifespan Learning

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



From the desk of the DRE: Heather Cleland-Host

Office Hours: 1- 4 PM Tuesdays, Thursdays
By Appointment Weekday mornings, Sundays

Opportunities in Religious Education

Sept 10 (Sunday)	After the Service	Soaring with the Sources Orientation
Sept 17 (Sunday)	10:30 AM	First Day of Children's Religious Education Classes
Sept 24 (Sunday)	10:30 AM	Children's Religious Education Classes

Soaring with the Sources Program

Lifespan Religious Education Orientation

For Parents, Volunteers, and All Interested Congregants!

September 10 After the Water Communion Service

Ice cream, Q&A, and Sign-ups!

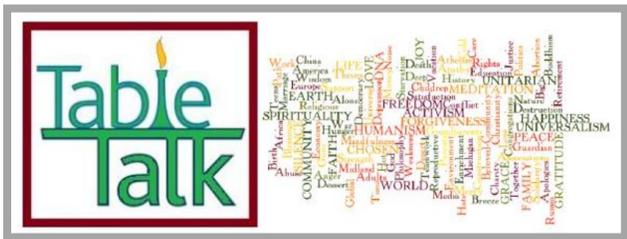
Children's Activities/Childcare Provided

The Lifespan Religious Education ministry team, our new Minister and our Director of Religious Education have been working to incorporate everyone's ideas into the 2017-18 Religious Education Program, "Soaring with the Sources," and we are happy to share with you the results at <http://uufom.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/SoaringWithTheSources-2017-18PDF-1.pdf>.

After the Water Communion Service, we will be holding an Ice Cream Social and Question & Answer session about this year's program and opportunities sign-up adults and children to participate.

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT!

We are seeking to find out if folk would like to start up Table Talks again after the service! If you are interested and have topic ideas, contact Jozef Bicerano.





DHAMMASALA FOREST MONASTERY **September 30**

Option 1: Open House only (morning): 9 – 2:15pm

- Leave Fellowship: 9am;
- 10:15am - 1pm at Monastery;
- Back at the Fellowship: 2:15pm)

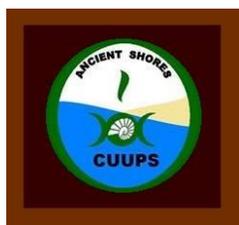
Option 2: Dhamma class & meditation: 3:30-9:30pm

- Leave Fellowship: 3:30pm
- Dhamma class: 5:30pm Meditation: 7pm
- Back at the Fellowship: 9:30pm (possibly earlier)

Option 3: Full Day

The trip to the Dhammasala Forest Monastery was originally scheduled for the Saturday of the flood in June, and so had to be cancelled. It has been rescheduled for September 30 (Saturday). The monastery is located in Perry, MI, about 1 hour 15 minutes from Midland. We are trying to put together one to three carloads of folks interested in going down to the monastery. *For more details, contact the DRE, Heather Cleland-Host at dre@uufom.org or (989) 631-1162.*

Ancient Shores CUUPS



Ancient Shores CUUPS
Monthly Meeting
Sunday, September 17th
After the Service

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/>



Mabon/Equinox Ritual
Thursday, September 21 at 6pm
(All ages welcome)

Come one, come all to the Mabon/Equinox Ritual. We will be doing a group meal with sign-ups for dishes to pass. RSVP & Sign-up what you are bringing on the Friends of Ancient Shores CUUPS page, or contact Monica Hughes. If you are not on Facebook, choose your favorite and come join us – the more the merrier! We look forward to celebrating this Holiday with our friends.



Sacred Grove Pagan Column

The reports are pouring in, with many areas having the clear skies needed to see totality. Some planned their wedding for totality, others had a marriage proposal during totality, and so on. Here are some snippets:

Before the celestial event, Kev Brock thought the people she'd read about crying and cheering at past eclipses were just "overly dramatic." But then the moon crossed the sun in Salem, Ore.: "One of the most incredible things I've ever seen," she said. "It made me cry and my children cheered."

... "Short of the birth of my kids, it was the most beautiful thing I've seen in my life," said David Wiza of Beaverton, Ore.

... "holy cow!"

Karri White, a banker from Santa Cruz, Calif., choked up and wiped away tears after a group hug with family and friends during totality.

.... A thunderous roar rose up as the skies went dark.

.... "It was probably the most amazing thing I've ever seen in my life," said Robert Erwin. "... I took the eclipse glasses off and experienced totality. It was incredible."

For me, perhaps the most surprising thing was the illusion of enormity. The Sun normally appears quite small in the sky, especially near zenith, but the dark pit of the eclipse suddenly seemed to grow, looming over us, like a watching eye. Just before that, seeing the dark shadow of the moon – a transparent curtain of black racing toward us at over 1,000 miles an hour – brought a creepy foreboding. Already I hear people talking about 2024. As we savor the gift of the eclipse our Universe has given us, may your days be blessed.

-Jon Cleland Host

Ministry Team Leaders

Facilities

Kitchen - Gisela Bailey

Aesthetics - Michael Malecki

Member Services

Member Engagement - Sara

Clavez

Welcoming & Outreach - Open

Pastoral Care - Gisela Bailey,

Mary Johnson

Lifespan Religious Education

Director of Religious Education

Heather Cleland-Host

Children's Religious Education

open

Adult Religious Education

open

Youth Resources Coordinator

Zollie Davis-Huntley

Living Our Values - Open

Homeless Contact – Judith Hill

Climate Change Contact –

Jim Crissman

LGBT Contact – Jacob Guettler

Racial Justice –

Zollie Davis Huntley

Worship - Judith Hill

Music - Andrew Schultz, Choir

Director

Building and Grounds - Tim

Wagner

Endowment - Tom Bailey, Jim

Falender

Financial Affairs

Stewardship - Judy Donahue

Finance - Tom Bailey

Nominating - Tom Bailey, Kathy

French, Andy Salogar



Great Lakes Bay AIDS Run & Walk September 30, 2017

Until there's a cure . . . join us in the fight against HIV/AIDS

Please join Jacob Guettler, myself (Andy Salogar) and the Engagement Team as we represent U.U. values, raise funds to help prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and provide vital care services for anyone living with the disease through Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center.

When: Saturday, September 30, 2017, 9:00 a.m.

Where: Wenonah Park, Downtown Bay City, MI

Registration on Day of the Event: 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

5K Run/Walk Start Time: 9:00 a.m.

Already busy September 30? That is ok!

Even though it is sure to be an enjoyable morning, there is no need to run/walk to support this cause. Feel free to **make a donation for our team** [online](#) at the link below or talk with Andy Salogar any time after the service and I can take a cash/check donation as well.

Click our [team link](#) above to sign up or donate. Our Team Name is UU Values.

You can sign up as a walker (free/ \$10 donation recommended) or a runner (\$25 fee/includes AIDS Run/Walk tee) if you are more brave! Wear your **Standing on the Side of Love** or other **UU gear** and we will walk (or run) together to represent our U.U. values!

Although I signed up as a walker, I would be happy to run with other members if we have a running crew and Jacob will be our team lead for the walkers.

Afterwards, let's head over to [City Market](#) for a smoothie or a coffee or whatever catches your eye!

**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

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Janelle Dombek

Secretary

John Kinkema

(989) 415-9451

Member-at-Large

Charlie Enright

(989) 600-9696

Member-at-Large

Jill Haver-Crissman

(989) 297-8594

Staff

Interim Minister

Rev. Connie Grant

constance.l.grant@gmail.com

Choir Director

Andrew Schulz

saschulz@hotmail.com

Director, Religious Education

Heather Cleland-Host

hch.solstice@yahoo.com

Sexton

Sandy Hay

Membership Coordinator

Shannon Sonoras

uufom@uufom.org

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.

Stewardship

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MIDLAND 2018 STEWARDSHIP/PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

September

I am Judy Donahue, a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association for approximately 45 years. My UUA membership was in other parts of the United States before becoming a member of UU FoM, three years ago. I am grateful for my recent introduction as 2018 Pledge Campaign leader by Board President Malecki.

The pledge campaign for the year 2018 starts officially on September 10, 2017. I will be sending via e-mail the pledge packet which asks for the amount you will pledge, the frequency of your payments, and interests you have in serving the fellowship. In addition to needing your financial support, we also need your help to keep the community of the fellowship running smoothly. Please tell us how you can help by filling out the interest area. A few people cannot do all that is needed.

I will give a weekly progress report on the campaign in the mid-week Candle Flame and remind all of the continuing campaign on Sundays. Our goal for 2018 is \$153,000. Most items in the budget are basically the same as last year. One position missing from last year's budget which has been reinstated is that of the Membership Administrator. The work in this position is very important to the workings of the fellowship. This position keeps the e-mail lists up-to-date for the Candle Flame and monthly newsletter, organizes the content, ensures the quality of the Sunday Service handout, responds to phone calls and e-mails, and does many more administrative duties.

Just think, if we reach our goal early, you won't have to listen to me remind you every Sunday of the Pledge Campaign or continually read about it until it officially ends before the Annual Meeting at the end of October.

Please help us reach our goal or go a bit higher.

Judy Donahue

In the Wider UU World

In this new section of the *Candle Flame* you will see articles, invitations and news that is related to the Unitarian Universalist world that is happening outside the walls of U.U.F.O.M. As always, if you have any suggestions, send them to uufom@uufom.org.

Women & Religion

I AM WILLING
February 2nd – 4th, 2018
Unitarian Church of Evanston (IL)



Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund

The UUA has joined with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee on a recovery and relief fund for those affected by Hurricane Harvey in the Gulf Coast area of Texas and Louisiana.

Half of all funds raised will go to at-risk populations served by UUSC partners and the other half of the funds will support Unitarian Universalist congregations and members of those most affected by the storm. Those funds will be administered by a group of leaders in the UUA's Southern Region.

UUSC will work with and support local grassroots community partners on the ground in Texas serving at-risk populations who may not be able to access relief services and who are traditionally left out of mainstream response efforts. UUSC and their partners will work to bolster locally led relief efforts that are serving immigrant families, in particular young mothers and their children.

To donate, go to <https://giving.UUA.org/harvey-floods> or call [\(888\) 792-5885](tel:8887925885).

Once upon a time in every district in the UUA there was a **Women & Religion Committee** charged with creating a woman's space for the exploration of women's spirituality.

Our committee (for the MidAmerica region) is one of three left of the original 21.

We gather one weekend a year to explore, learn, and celebrate our **WomanSpirit**. Through music, worship, workshops, and a spectacular keynote speaker we rejoice in a woman-only conference.

This year singer and activist **Holly Near will speak, inspire and serenade us**. If you have not attended before this is your year to be renewed and energized by experiencing **WomanSpirit!!!**

Other Items of Interest

[UUA President Condemns Directive Banning Transgender People from Military Service](#)

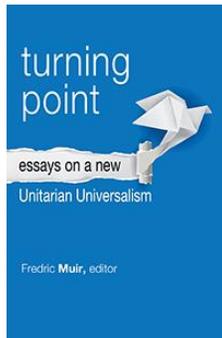
UUA Outreach Team – [July 2017 Playlist](#) (...kind of like a newsletter)

[UU Ministry for Earth](#) - UUMFE's new e-newsletter!

[The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center](#) - The Mountain, founded by Unitarian Universalists in 1979, is a non-profit year-round ecologically conscious retreat and learning center serving churches, businesses, non-profits, schools, and other groups. It celebrates Unitarian Universalist principles, inspires people of all ages, transforms lives, and builds a more compassionate world. Check out their retreats [here](#).

“With a new church year nearly upon us and a newly elected UUA president, many congregations and individuals are looking ahead at the future of Unitarian Universalism. We recommend these resources as you imagine and work toward the future of our faith.”

{Links to the books at inSpirit can be found on each book image.}



Turning Point: Essays on a New Unitarian Universalism, edited by Fredric Muir

Outlining a bold vision for the future of

Unitarian Universalism, 20 leaders issue a clarion call for change. In inspiring, fresh essays, they implore us to collectively liberate ourselves from patterns that prevent us from becoming a robust faith for a new age. This essential new collection outlines a liberal faith for the twenty-first century and inspires trust that Unitarian Universalism can deepen and grow once again.

To Wake, To Rise: Meditations on Justice and Resilience, edited by William G. Sinkford

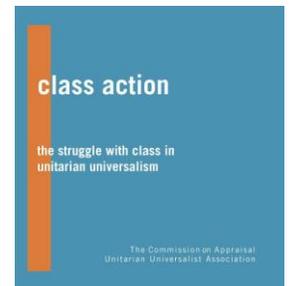
The 2017 edition of the inSpirit Series is an anthology of 29 poems, prayers, and reflections about resisting oppression and keeping the faith in social action work.

Collected and introduced by William G. Sinkford, a former president of the UUA, and the first Black person to hold that position, these meditations are both a support for activists and a call to action in a new era of political and social division.



Class Action: The Struggle with Class in Unitarian Universalism by The Commission on Appraisal

In a time of vast and growing social and economic inequality, the 2017 Commission on Appraisal examines the impact of class and classism on Unitarian Universalism. With its in-depth analysis of our faith's history, theologies, and current structures and its final recommendations and resources for future work, *Class Action* is a must-read for all looking to live more fully into the faith and vision of Unitarian Universalism.



Bonus – Check out these [highlighted children's books!](#)