



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

January 2016 (Volume LXIX No. 1)

Sunday Morning Services at 10:30 AM

Pastoral Care Contact

Evelyn Lipowitz
(989) 631-0119

"The darkness of racial injustice will be dispelled only by the light of forgiving love."

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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.
Weds. 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Sun. 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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

January 8

"Logic and Lawn Darts"

Rev. Jeff Liebmann

When do we deem something too dangerous for our own good? In a land of free-market capitalism and enormous individual freedom, we reserve banishment for only the most heinous products that threaten our health and wellbeing. Or do we?

January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

"Living Our Values"

Rev. Jeff Liebmann

Recently, we adopted a strategic plan committing us to Living Our Values in four major areas of social justice. What can living our values look like in the area of racial justice?

January 22

To Be Announced

Worship Committee

January 29

"Report from the Front"

Rev. Jeff Liebmann

Last week, many members of this Fellowship joined with hundreds of thousands of people concerned about the future of our nation. Today, we will listen to the voices at the front lines of the fight for the soul of America.

Pastoral Care

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

Pastoral Care Ministry Team

New to our Fellowship? Just discovered that 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



2016 was a tough year on many of us. It remains to be seen how the events of this past year will influence 2017.

I view this coming year as providing us with two opportunities. First, we should look on the past year not with sorrow and regret, but with a renewed sense of resolve. I realize the temptation to hunker down and ride out the almost certain coming storm appeals strongly. I also realize that the events of 2016 have left many of us emotionally shaken and intellectually bewildered.

Take the time to mourn, to lick your wounds, and to regroup. But, don't linger in a state of hopeless victimhood for long. We must adopt a long-range strategy to pace ourselves for what might be an extended period of immoral actions and senseless attacks on logic and common sense. This means that we must get up, brush ourselves off, and get back in the game.

The second opportunity before us in 2017 is the invaluable gift of passionate engagement. The past year left no one untouched. Some gains in equality and justice now stand on the brink of a reactionary chasm of patriarchy, privilege, and power abuse. Not for decades has the challenge to freedom and democracy been so strong in this country.

We recently adopted a strategic planning process for this Fellowship that included several areas for exploring how we go about Living Our Values. In the weeks and months to come, consider where your passion lies and bring that to the conversation. We will be exploring how we will respond as a congregation to the issues of racial justice, LGBT equality, global climate change, and homelessness. If your passion fits one of these areas, now is the time to step up and take back some of the social action and public discourse.

Feel free to talk with me about ways you can explore this possibility.

- Rev Jeff

Small Group Ministries

Women's Group

**Thursday, January 5 and Thursday, January 19,
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

We meet twice a month. The first meeting will still be held at the Grand Traverse Pie Company on the first Thursday. The second meeting will be held on the third Thursday of every month, however, the location may change with each meeting. 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.

Men's Group

Tuesday January 3, 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, January 15, 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

Kathy French

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

Shannon Sonoras

Music

Kevin King

Choir

Andrew Schulz

Audio Visual

R.G. Converse

Governance Committees

Building and Grounds

Tim Wagner

Endowment

Tom Bailey

Financial Affairs

Stewardship

Jen Ciolino

Finance

Speed Malecki

Nominating

Jon Cleland-Host, Kathy French,

Karen Treadway

Committee on Ministry

Donna King, Michaele Malecki,

Marsha McDonald, Dan Sealey

Sacred Grove Article

Oh, that narrow window for ice skating magic! I remember a time, some 40 years ago, when my dad would look outside, and tell us that it's time to go skating. We'd bundle up, and trek across the woods, to a good-sized pond. Under the moon, with the sky filled with stars and the band of the milky way, we'd ice skate on a sheet of glass. It was a boundless freedom, with the wind rushing past and few sounds except the reverberation of the ice and an occasional owl. Sometimes we'd have a campfire out on the ice, learning why this doesn't risk falling through. The shallowness of the pond, a long rope on the sled, good discipline, attention, and knowing how to check the ice thickness kept this safe. That's all the ice skating I knew, for decades. Skating "rink"? What's that? Sharing this with my kids showed me that the window of good skating (before snow) is short – usually only a few weeks, and even less this year. That narrow window makes the experience more precious, while rewarding close attention to the weather. Blessed be, Jon Cleland Host

Adult Enrichment

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

The Adult Enrichment Team (AET) 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.

Pizza and Principles

We will have opportunities to participate after the services, at home with your families and once a month during a dinner program for ALL AGES. Each program includes a meal followed by programming aimed at full participation. During each month, we will also be aiming to have one community outreach project connected with the principle of the month. This year happens to be the year that the Children's RE program will be exploring what it is to Live as a UU. So, the two programs will supplement each other and give all ages something to talk about!

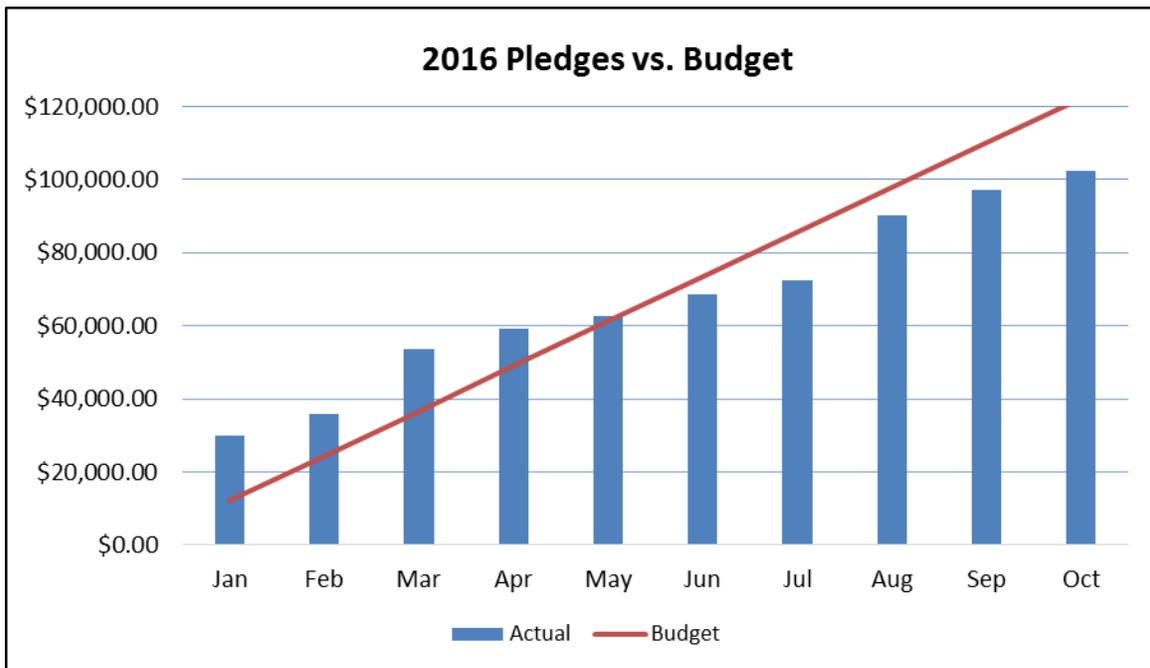
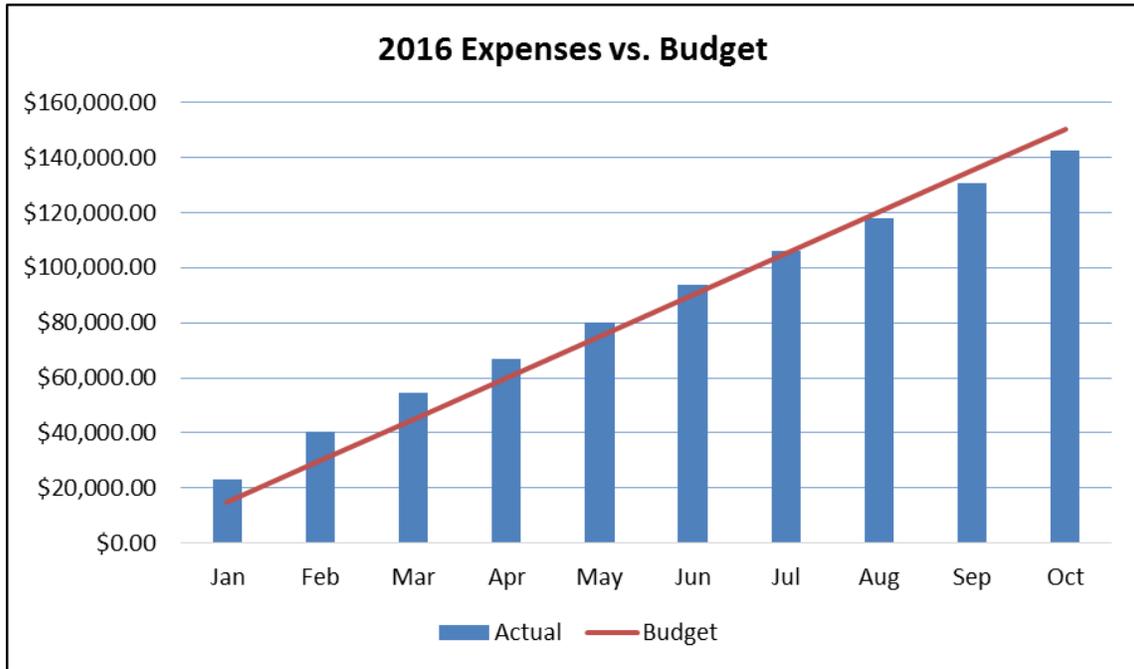
Talks About Unitarian Universalist History

Sunday, January 8 and Sunday, January 29
12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Where do we come from? Come for an hour with Rev. Jeff and learn about the history of Unitarian Universalism from ancient times through medieval Europe and early America to today.

Treasurer's Report

Through end of October 2016, our expenses were 5% below budget, as shown on the first chart below. Unfortunately, our pledge totals are even further below target. As shown on the second chart, we are 17% (roughly \$20,000) below the pledge total we expected to reach by October 31. Please check to make sure you've paid your entire 2016 pledge.



You can also help by using this link when making any purchases through the Amazon website:
https://www.amazon.com/?_encoding=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&linkCode=ur2&tag=ufom-20

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

Antonio Ciolino
(989) 615-5920

Treasurer

Linda Rector
(989) 435-4456

Secretary

John Kinkema
(989) 415-9451

Member-at-Large

Cody Aymer
(989) 289-2442

Member-at-Large

Jill 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

*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)	