



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

May 2017 (Volume LXIX No. 5)

Sunday Morning Services at 10:30 AM

Pastoral Care

Contact

Donna Wedge
(989) 600-7567

"Resistance is feasible even for those who are not heroes by nature, and it is an obligation for those who fear the consequences and detest the reality of the attempt to impose American hegemony."

- Noam Chomsky

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.

May 7
"Stand"

Rev. Jeff Liebmann

The Unitarian Universalist Association faces a crisis regarding its stance on anti-racism, anti-oppression, and white supremacy. These are difficult, but vital discussions. How does this issue affect our congregations and what stand, if any, does this Fellowship wish to make?

May 14 Mother's Day
"Arise, All Women Who Have Hearts!"

**Worship
Ministry Team**

On this Mothers' Day, shall we heed the words of Julia Ward Howe, who urged disarmament and peace? Or must we be willing to go to war, in North Korea, for example, or in Syria, in the name of responsible national defense, or for the sake of defending innocent others?

May 21
"Sangha, Community, Life"

**Religious Education
Ministry Team**

A church community includes of all ages and spiritual needs, celebrating the intersectionality of religious experience. We will celebrate that community and recognize those who have devoted their time and effort to building connections.

May 28 Memorial Day
"Unfinished Business"

Rev. Jeff Liebmann

This holiday weekend, we will return to a service Rev. Jeff did in previous years. As the church year draws to a close, many questions often remain unanswered – questions of theology, of social justice and action, of Fellowship policies and decisions. Today is your chance to ask those questions openly and receive an answer directly.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care Contact for April: Donna Wedge (989) 600-7567

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 Fellowship has undergone many changes in recent years. Through a combination of resignations, retirements, budget reductions, and death, we have completely changed over our staff in a very short number of years.

Unfortunately, each of those staff members took with them many valuable years of experience. They also took with them responsibility portfolios larger than those assigned when they were first hired.

As a result, we now face a situation compared to two years ago where we are severely understaffed and important functions do not receive the attention they deserve. With R.G.'s passing, I believe this situation has reached a critical stage. Therefore, over the next few weeks, I will be talking to ministry teams, committees, and individuals about roles and responsibilities for some of these functions.

We have spent a great deal of time during my tenure here establishing policies, procedures, financial structures, and plans. While important, these tasks are luxuries compared to ensuring that the sump pump works, our children's program is of high quality, our music is professional, and our weekly Sunday service does whatever is needed to meet the spiritual needs of everyone in attendance.

I believe we are at a point in time when we must come together and focus on the core tasks of a church if we are to survive and thrive in the coming months. We must unite in common purpose to serve the crying need for liberal religion in this region. At a time when we have been beaten and even knocked to the mat a few times, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and make sure that this beacon of Unitarian Universalism endures.

If you want to get more involved, talk to me. Talk to Ministry Team and Committee chairs. If you see something that needs doing, ask how you can help make it happen.

Minsters talk a lot about stewardship. Some people mistakenly believe that stewardship is all about pledge drives and fundraisers. A steward is someone who cares about and for a church, which may involve writing a check, but also involves volunteering time and energy. It means setting aside differences to come together in common purpose. It means committing oneself not to a corporate entity, but to a home – a spiritual home away from home.

- Rev Jeff

Small Group Ministries

Women's Group

Thursday, May 4, 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 May 2, 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, May 21, 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

Judy Donahue

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 Pagan Article

This August 21st brings us the first total eclipse here in the United State in 30 years! On that day, the crickets will chirp in the darkness as night falls for 90 seconds at mid-day. Our Ancestors have been enthralled by this indescribable event for over a million years. In the many thousands of years that humans like us have lived, how many were amazed, inspired, scared, or astounded? How many of their spiritualities were forever changed? How many rituals in stone circles did these eclipses inspire? To connect with all of those people – with countless humans both living and dead – is one gift that the coming eclipse can give us. Don't miss it!



If you are important in the life of a child, is there a way for them to experience it with you? You could give them a gift that they'll have for the rest of their lives. Don't let the fear of eye damage stop you from going – simple precautions are all that are needed to guarantee safety.

Google "cloud cover eclipse" to see the best places to go inside the ~60-mile wide path of totality (which does not include Michigan). For full instructions, see my April 2 blog post at humanisticpaganism.com/blog/.

Dozens of millions of people in stare in awe, and this eclipse and will be the most photographed, selfied, live streamed, and documented moment in the history of the Universe up to now. Many places are already overbooked, but with such a wide area, even a parking lot will work. You can see it, and perhaps give a child the experience of a lifetime, if you plan now.

Blessed be
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.

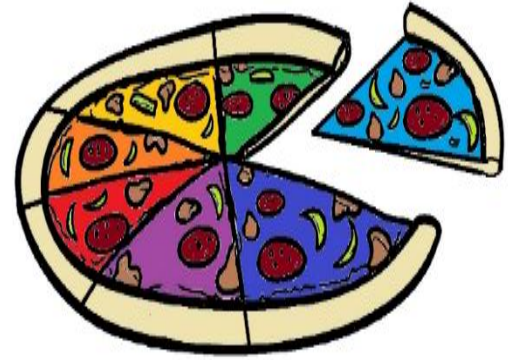
May is dedicated to the seventh principle!

We affirm and respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. The color for this principle is Violet: Value the Earth, our community, life, all of us.

Pizza and the Principles

Interconnections (Seventh Principle)

Sunday, May 21 After the Service



We will have pizza, salad, and more (please email if you have special food needs). We will have activities celebrating the Seventh Principle as we gather, during the meal (small groups to eat together), and following the meal. The program is for all ages – kid and adult friendly! Come join us!

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

Exploration Beginning for the 2017-2018 Program Year

Survey Due May 7

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2L6YC3Q>

The Lifespan Ministry Teams are seeking stories and ideas for next year's 2017-18 Religious Education program. We are accepting survey answers through Sunday May 7. If you have ideas or thoughts you would like to share, this is your opportunity to have input into the program. Please note: the survey software only allows one survey per computer, so if you have more than one family member filling out the survey, let me know and I can provide a link to a separate data collector.

Notes on next year's 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!

Children and Youth Programs

May 7 Subject: Stewardship of the Earth – our communities and world The Elementary School classes will have two lessons on the Interconnected web of Life: The Great Kapok Tree (Glow Worms) & Guara Devi (Fireflies). The Middle School Jedi Padawans will be exploring the Courage of Love.

May 14 Subject: Speaking up for those that cannot speak for themselves – The Elementary School classes (Glow Worms and Fire Flies) will share a lesson: Who Speaks for Wolf? The Middle School Jedi Padawans will be exploring the Spirit of the Interconnected Web of Life (7th Principle). This will be our last Jedi Lesson for this year and will include a closing ceremony. *NOTE: Parents of Middle Schoolers, we will be making Lightsabers with the kids on Friday May 12. Contact Heather Cleland-Host, dre@uufom.org for more information.*

May 21 Intergenerational Sunday service – Sangha, Community, Life

May 21 Pizza & the Principles: Interconnectivity of Life (7th Principle): After the service, lunch & fun!

May 28 Memorial Day Weekend – Pizzazz

June 4 Flower Communion and Bridging

Upcoming Events

Da Serendipity Auction Yooper Party **Saturday, May 6 at 6:00 p.m.**

Holy whah, youse guys and gals! Da Serendipity Auction Yooper Party is pert' near here! Sign-up sheets are out, an' silent auction items are open fer bids. Child care signup closes on April 30, so git dem kits signed up fast!



Den on May 6, put on yer swampers and chukes fer a night ta remember! Dinner wit trolls and lopers, booze fer adults who wanna partake, a chance ta bid on silent an' live auctions, an' yooper tunes will make it a night ta remember. Bring some grub ta share, and pay \$10 per person at da door (scholarships can be had, just talk ta loper Rothhaar). Say ya to da Yooper Party, eh!

UUA General Assembly **June 21 to 25, New Orleans**



The General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association will take place in late June in New Orleans. Our Fellowship has delegate positions available for those who plan to attend and are willing to participate in business meetings. This year, several very important issues will be discussed, including the election of the new UUA President. If you are interested, please talk to Sara Clavez or Speed Malecki.

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Worship Ministry Team Question

We are planning services for the summer and wanted to assess the level of interest in the Blessing of the Animals, which normally takes place the second Sunday in June. If you have an opinion – for or against – please email the Fellowship at <mailto:uufom@uufom.org>.

Fellowship Garden

If anyone would like to take over coordination of the garden behind the Fellowship building this year, please talk to Codi Aymer, who will help you get things started.

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)	
Dish Soap	Canned Beans
Laundry Soap	Shampoo
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)	
White Northern Beans	Pastas-gluten free
Canned tomatoes	Pasta sauce
Crackers (grainy if possible)	Jiffy Corn muffin mix