



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

Pastoral Care Contact

Gisela Bailey
(989) 708-1344

*"If you want to
change the world,
change yourself."*

- Tom Robbins

Look for us on
[Facebook!](#)

Office Hours:

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

DRE Hours:

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

July 2017 (Volume LXIX No. 7) Sunday Morning Services at 10:30 AM

July 2 – Independence Day

"Making America Great (Again?): A Conversation"

What are the things that make a country great? Material prosperity? Military might? Foreign influence? Freedom? None of the above? On this Fourth of July weekend, come and share your vision of what constitutes national greatness.

Coordinator and Discussion leader: Judith Hill

July 9

"The Hidden Sun Beckons"

A total solar eclipse is not something you just "see", but rather, something you experience. These stunning events stirred human minds for thousands of years, inspiring fear, joy, hope, and more. Feel how this experience changed over the millennia. The most famous eclipse in history is racing towards us - just 43 days away.

Speaker: Jon Cleland Host

July 16

"Ziibiwing Center of Anishinaabe Culture and Lifeways"

Long before the UUFOM, Dow Chemical, or Midland existed, the Anishinaabeg lived here. Michigan (an Anishinaabe word) was part of the Council of the Three Fires that included the Odawa, Ojibwe and Potawatami tribes. Though Native religions were illegal until 1978, and before that, boarding schools tried to destroy the culture, the Anishinaabeg still have a presence here in mid-Michigan. A speaker from the Ziibiwing center, which celebrates and maintains Anishinaabe culture, will share history and culture with us.

July 23

"Truth is a Tangled Thicket"

Themes and reflections from the Unitarian Universalist Association 2017 General Assembly.

July 30

"Passion, Purpose and the Power of Connection"

Once upon a time, a seeker found a place to pursue their passion, giving them purpose and teaching the power of connection. This beautiful story unfolds every day and Sunday will be no exception.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care Contact for July: Gisela Bailey (989) 708-1344

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



I've said all the words there are to say in my six years here in Midland. The world still teems with problems that confuse and frustrate us. We have lived and laughed together, cried and hugged together. We have lost loved ones and friends, but gained many new ones. Most important, this Fellowship now stands as a true beacon of liberal religion in this city and in this region.

Progressive-minded people are emerging from the shadows and making their voices heard. This Fellowship can continue to encourage them and help guide their actions. I sincerely hope you are able to make that happen.

Thank you for everything. This Fellowship ordained me, saw me through the final fellowshiping process, and taught me many valuable lessons. Sometimes, those lessons were painful for me and for you. But we can learn most in life from our challenges. I have and I hope you will, too.

I will be in Midland for the month of July for pastoral care emergencies. After that, Jody and I will take a couple of weeks off and move to Columbia, SC. I wish the new interim minister well and hope the next two years finds this Fellowship challenging paradigms and testing assumptions.

With love and faith, I wish you all the best.

- Rev Jeff

Small Group Ministries

Women's Group

Thursday, July 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 July 11, 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, July 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

open

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

Last year, near the Summer Solstice, we invited a number of gods to join us for discussion one Sunday morning at the UUFOM. I was honored to portray the Sun god Ra, joined by Odin (Scott), Cernunnos (Scott), and Thunderbird (Dan) – with a guest appearance of the messenger god Mercury. Our summoning of the gods apparently worked, as within a year, the series “American Gods” came out. This TV series has renewed discussion in Pagan circles about what the gods could be.

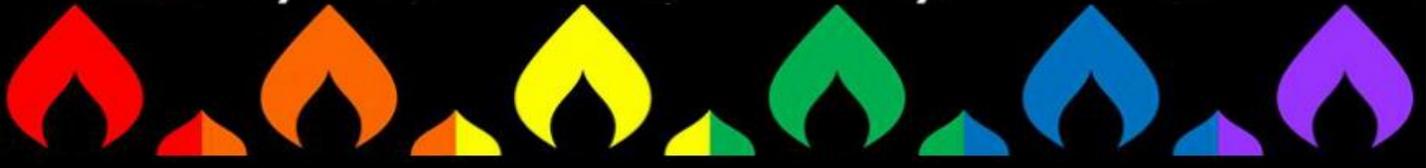


Some Pagans see the gods in their own pantheon as the only gods that exist, or the only ones that they personally worship (henotheism). Naturalistic Pagans see them as aspects of human thought, which don't exist separately from humans. For many Pagans (hard polytheists), the gods are completely separate, individual divine entities – which often can be contacted, heard from, and who can actively intervene in our world. Other Pagans see them as different aspects of one underlying goddess or god, or manifestations of the goddess and god. However, the unifying aspect of all of these is the acceptance of all Pagans, regardless of belief. Regardless of how you see them, may the gods smile on your summer!

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: Noon – 3 PM Tuesdays, Thursdays

By Appointment Weekday mornings, Sundays

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. We have just completed a year on the Seven Principles, and next year, we will be taking a journey with the Six Sources of Unitarian Universalism. 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!

Other Announcements

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

Board of Directors

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Staff

Minister

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Choir Director

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saschulz@hotmail.com

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
