



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

Evelyn Lipowitz
(989) 631-0119

*"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.

August 2017 (Volume LXIX No. 8) Sunday Morning Services at 10:30 AM

August 6

"The Conversations Needed to Impact Gun Legislation"

Kathy Kinkema will share with us the complexities of the gun violence issue and the needed conversations about common sense legislation to assure the safety of our communities.

Speaker: Kathy Kinkema

August 13

"Spirituality and Teaching"

We all learn from experience and we all learn from others. Teaching is one of the most powerful ways for us to share what we have found on our spiritual journeys. In this program, we will explore how adopting the roles of teacher and student can help us with the work of finding/making meaning in life."

Speaker: Chris Nakamura, Associate Professor of Physics at SVSU

August 20

"To Be Determined"

Yes, that's the title!

Speaker: Rev. Connie Grant

August 27

"Practical Theology"

With our diverse theological beliefs and spiritual practices, what do Unitarian Universalists have in common as we practice our religion?

Speaker: Rev. Connie Grant

Ministerial Musings



I'm delighted to be with you in Midland as your Interim Minister for the next two years, as you search for a new settled minister. I expect to be in the office during the day (usually 11:00 – 3:00) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; take Mondays off; and work at home on Fridays. I'm available to talk with you on the phone or in person, and I hope to get to know you!

So you can get to know me, I offer a bit of biography: I was introduced to Unitarian Universalism at the age of twelve or so, heard the message that there is a spark of the divine in every person, and knew that I had found my answer to the question "What religion are you?" Some years later, when my own children began asking deep religious questions, as children do, we found a Unitarian Universalist congregation. I taught Sunday school,

became more and more deeply involved, and began to have an inkling of my call to ministry. I received a Master of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 2000. Most recently, I served for nine years as Minister for Congregational Life, with focus on Religious Education and Pastoral Care, at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, IL.

My first job was with a Japanese trading company, selling and importing reflective materials used for road signs, calculating prices to underbid competitors and explaining technical specifications to state highway engineers. After my oldest son was born, I left the "exciting world of international trade" to stay home and raise children for a while. When they were small, I worked part time doing keyline paste-up (a job, now obsolete, that involved wielding an X-acto knife and a ruler to prepare camera-ready pages for a daily newspaper under a 1:30 am deadline).

My three children are now all in their early thirties. Kevin is a journalist with an online news organization and lives in D.C. with his wife Holly. Ryan is manager at a high-end seafood restaurant and lives in Phoenix with his partner Haleigh and their sons Avery, one-and-a-half, and Oliver, two months. Megan is an artist who specializes in visual displays at a major retailer and lives in Chicago. John, my spouse of 40 years, is a sales engineer for an industrial equipment manufacturer and also lives in Chicago (and is likely to visit Midland from time to time).

Theologically, I describe myself as a "metaphorical theist (with humanist tendencies)." Process theology comes closest to expressing my understanding of interrelatedness and mutual transformation. For me, metaphorical theism means that there is one ultimate reality, and we use different metaphors to interpret that reality. I (sometimes) use the word "god" to describe the creating, sustaining, and transforming power in and of the universe. During our time together, you'll have an opportunity to hear more from me about these ideas!

Please be in touch! My email address is constance.l.grant@gmail.com, and my cell number is 847-840-8542. In case of a pastoral emergency, please call any time.

Looking forward!

Connie

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!

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: 1– 4 PM Tuesdays, Thursdays

By Appointment Weekday mornings, Sundays

Out of office: August 10, 15, 17, & 22

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!

2016-2017 RE Evaluation Results are back!

The 2016-2017 RE Evaluation was completed on July 20. In general, the results were improved from last year with the average score being 4.35 compared to 3.28 for last year. This is good for a transition year and optimistic for the future. Overall satisfaction of respondents was 4.12 for this year, compared to 2.94 in the previous year. Ranking for the satisfaction of children was 4.5; parents were 4, and volunteers were 3.86. The survey did identify a need for attention on volunteering. A small group of volunteers is serving more often than others, and there is a need for more volunteers to share the effort. For more a more detailed report, see the attached document.

2017-18 RE Program

Congregational input has been collected, and the program for the coming year is almost ready for review and feedback. We are currently awaiting discussion of the program with the new interim minister who starts in the first week of August. We expect to have the full description out shortly thereafter. We will also be scheduling orientations and more toward the beginning of September. We look forward to the new year!

Small Group Ministries

Women'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.

Men's Group

Tuesday August 8th, 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, August 20th, 12:15 to 2:00 p.m.

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

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

Ancient Shores Covenant of UU Pagans

Election time! Ancient Shores welcomes two co-facilitators, Scott and Monica Hughes and a new secretary, Scott Davis. We look forward to new things happening in CUUPS!



LUGHNASADH RITUAL AUGUST 4TH AT 6 P.M. UU FELLOWSHIP OF MIDLAND

(All ages welcome)

Led by Scott Hughes

Sponsored by Ancient Shores CUUPS

Come one, come all to the Lughnasadh Ritual. Scott Hughes will be leading the ritual and craft for this celebration. We're also thinking of having a group meal instead of a potluck like we usually have. We're thinking of having chicken strips, corn on the cob, baked potatoes and a dessert. RSVP and share what you are bringing on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1136309503168465/>

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 Great American Eclipse is nearly here! Most Americans have not experienced a total solar eclipse, and don't know what it's like. The last one visible in any part of the United States was in 1979, when most Americans had not yet been born – and even that one was only visible from a few states in the far Northwest. If you were at the Sunday service July 9th, you heard what an incredible event a total solar eclipse is – a stunning example of our First UU Source: "Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder...". To experience a total eclipse (or share it with a child), you have to travel to the path of totality, just 9 or so hours away. Here in Michigan, we'll see a partial eclipse – though much less than the experience of totality, still a wonderful sight. Whether one is Pagan or not, this is a chance to feel the power of a spirituality in world, here. Now is the time that you can experience it yourself, and if you have a child in your life, you can give them a memory that will last a lifetime. A quick video about the eclipse is here, <https://youtu.be/FY4SXhIWnqA>. Many more videos and resources can be found online.



Blessed be –
Jon Cleland Host



DHAMMASALA FOREST MONASTERY

To be rescheduled for the Fall

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)

The trip to the Dhammasala Forest Monastery was originally scheduled for the Saturday of the flood in June, and so had to be cancelled. We will be rescheduling this trip.

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.

In the words of the Monastery, "Dhammasala Forest Monastery is a meditation monastery in the lineage of the Thai Forest Tradition. Founded in 2000 by Ajahn Khemasanto, he remains the Abbot and teacher since that time. The monastery grounds consist of 28 acres of mostly forest with walking paths and meditation shelters. Our purpose is to give monks the opportunity to practice in line with the Dhamma (doctrine) and Vinaya (training rules) taught by the Buddha over 2,500 years ago. Laymen, laywomen, and visitors are also welcome at the Monastery to learn and practice in line with the Buddha's teachings."

How many options we will be able to offer will depend on interest, so email or phone Heather Cleland-Host, as soon as you know you might be interested!!

A few logistics if you are considering this field trip:

#1 There are opportunities for ANYONE who wants to come: The OPEN HOUSE is for all ages, or as the Abbot described: adults, children, dogs... The Evening classes are for 12 and older (younger if well-behaved).

#2 Meals: we will be working out food arrangements as we get closer to the date. Lunch will be a potluck with the monks. We would plan on bringing some food items to share for the potluck. The monks also accept food donations. Dinner will probably be picnic style or enroute around 4:30-5pm before the class.

#3 Final Planning: we will meet after the service on Sunday June 18 to cover details AND to discuss expectations at the monastery – dress, practices, etc.

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

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TBD

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John Kinkema
(989) 415-9451

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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

Accompanist

Sarah Nuss-Warren

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.*

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 a week before the end of the previous month. 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.

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

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.

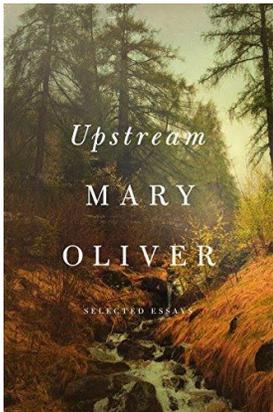
[Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network](#)

We recently received an email from [Jenny Beyer Elgin](#), the new Organizer for the **Interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition of Michigan**, a specific focus of the MUUSJN. Events and updates can be found on their [Facebook page](#).



inSpirit is a bookshop located on the first floor of the headquarters of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We periodically receive updates and suggestions from them about books that speak to

current endeavors our faith is addressing and relevant issues in the world in general. The latest communication from them caught my eye because one of the three suggestions was for an author I've heard quoted at the Fellowship more times than I have fingers, Mary Oliver.



Upstream: Selected Essays by Mary Oliver

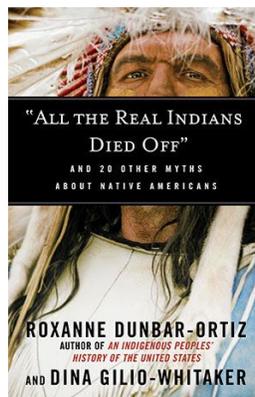
Mary Oliver reflects on her willingness, as a young child and as an adult, to

lose herself within the beauty and mysteries of both the natural world and the world of literature in her new collection of essays. Throughout *Upstream*, Oliver encourages us all to keep moving, to lose ourselves in the awe of the unknown, and to give power and time to the creative and whimsical urges that live within us.

"All the Real Indians Died Off" and 20 Other Myths About Native Americans by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and Dina Gilio-Whitaker

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and Dina Gilio-Whitaker critically deconstruct a wide range of persistent myths about Native

American culture and history and trace how they developed. They deftly show how these myths are rooted in the fears and prejudice of European settlers and in the larger political agendas of the settler state.



Landscapes of Aging and Spirituality: Essays, edited by Kathleen Montgomery

Nineteen writers reflect on the experience of aging and the ways it intersects with their spiritual lives. Alternately tender and frank, funny and wistful, these heartfelt ruminations offer companionship for those walking the journey of later life. These thoughtful writers ponder growing older as a spiritual path—not one that we choose, but one that has chosen us.

