



The Candle Flame



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland

... a religious haven that cherishes the exploring mind and welcomes all souls

6220 Jefferson Avenue, Midland

www.uufom.org

Pastoral Care Contact

Donna Wedge
(989) 600-7567

Look for us on
[Facebook!](#)

The universe, vast,
beautiful, magnificent, as
it is, cannot content the
soul, but rouses it to
more majestic thoughts.

-- William Ellery Channing

Office Hours:

Usually every weekday
9:00 AM--Noon

Rev. Jeff's Hours:

.Mon. & Sat. by
appointment only.
Tues. & Thurs.
1:00-5:00 PM
Weds. 9:00 AM-1:00 PM
Sun. 8:30 AM-2:00 PM
To make an appoint-
ment, please email Rev.
Jeff directly at
uurevjeff@gmail.com

Antonio Ciolino's Hours
(Interim Director of RE)
Weekdays
M,T,W,F 9:00 -11:00AM
Th 9:00-10:00AM

October 2016 (Volume LXVIII No. 10)

Sunday Morning Services at 10:30 AM

October 2 "We Commune" Jen Ciolino

To commune means to give of oneself spiritually, in an intimate way. That takes a different shape for each of us. As a beloved community, we each have a unique contribution to offer that helps us be all of who we can be. Through the sharing of one personal journey of community, we are offered a chance to see our own beloved community for all of the beauty we are.

October 9 Indigenous Peoples Day—"The Divine Spark" Rev. Jeff Liebmann

Cloning represents an incredibly complex issue in bioethics. Cloning also challenges religious concepts of personhood, dignity, and identity. For Unitarian Universalists, the key issue would seem to be determining at what point in time we become "persons."

October 16 "The Way of the Mystic" Rev. Jeff Liebmann

A reason many of us come to church on Sunday morning is to search for the Ultimate Meaning in life. How do we embark on that quest and what tools can help us on our way?

October 23 "Convenient Myths" Rev. Jeff Liebmann

In this election year, we hear the rhetoric of hate in far too great abundance. After watching the story of Martha and Waitstill Sharp defying the Nazis this week on PBS, what inspiration can we derive from their efforts and how can we, as a congregation, continue their vital work?

October 30 "What is Spirituality?"-- ANNUAL MEETING

Rev. Jeff Liebmann

This question has many meanings, especially when we open it to the consideration of spiritualism and the idea that our spirits live on in some form after our deaths. We will celebrate Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) and explore the nature of spirituality.



Pulpit Ponderings from Rev. Jeff

Alien sounds bombard our ears every day. We walk down the street and the clanking of machinery and whirl of motors drowns out the whispering breezes and melodious tones of singing birds. The worst sound of all? Words spoken to disparage, to demean, to discredit, to dismiss. The smug, shrill voices of arrogance can make us feel unworthy, helpless to escape unpleasant circumstances.

When I am unable to shut out these unwanted sounds, I pull out my John Coltrane CDs and records and let his saxophone speak to me. Coltrane possessed a unique talent to bring his instrument to life with a purity that most of us mere mortals can only imagine. When his fingers dance, I hear no other sounds. My soul gets in sync with the beat and I follow his horn wherever it leads.

Too few people have the power to transcend the mundane and to lift others up into the stratospheric winds to join them on the journey. Some accomplish this feat with words, others with dance, still others with art. Some silent film actors had this ability using only facial expressions (watch Renée Jeanne Falconetti in the 1928 production of *The Passion of Joan of Arc*).

When you find people who speak to you this way, cherish them. Call upon them when the world bears down too hard, or when fear and doubt begin to crush your very humanity. The discordant voices are the ones out of step with reality. Harmony is the natural order in the universe and it welcomes us.



Joys and Concerns Changes

On **Sunday, September 11, 2016**, the Worship Ministry Team will pilot a new format for the Joys and Concerns portion of our Sunday services. Our intention is to provide a way for us to continue to share our significant life events with our beloved community while also supporting our goals of sharing the Unitarian Universalist message with more people by providing a comfortable place of worship and growing the membership of UU FoM.

During the time of Joys and Concerns, attendees will be invited to place a stone in the glass container in silence. They will also be encouraged to note their joys and concerns in a book placed near the stone receptacle. The book will be available before, during and after the

service. The entries will be noted by our Pastoral Care Team and shared in the weekly email updates.

The Worship Ministry Team welcomes your feedback! At the end of this year, we will evaluate the new format and determine what – if any – actions to take.

Presidential Prattling



As I write this note, my wife Gisela and I are traveling. Happily we have been able to stay connected to the Fellowship via spotty Internet service, but it feels like we've been gone a long time. I think I may be a bit homesick for all of you.

We're extremely fortunate to be touring China, including a stop in Tibet. It has been a fascinating journey that has shattered a number of stereotypes and misconceptions I had about the place.

First, we've all seen the video of the bright lights of the cities, much like one sees in Times Square, Tokyo or elsewhere. I expected to see all of that amidst a background of poverty and the drab grayness we associate with the old iron curtain countries. Not so here, as there are variations in the housing and buildings, but certainly no sign of the empty shelves or malaise I thought I might detect. These folks seem busy, happy, and optimistic for the future. The central government appears to have made the necessary adjustments toward private enterprises to enable this economic machine to thrive.

Second, the images of air pollution is not exaggerated. Outside of Tibet we've not really seen the sun. However the people we've met tell us it's getting better. Additionally, no one can imagine the dazzling number of electrically powered bikes, scooters and three wheeled service vehicles. They're working hard to wean themselves of coal and one had to expect that as that happens, they will benefit greatly from their electric powered vehicles.

The third observation is captured with one word - infrastructure. I could never imagine the amount of construction taking place. We pass hundreds of high rise apartment buildings next to as many more under construction wherever we go, on new highways and bridges, alongside new city parks full of people meeting morning and night to do tai-chi, yoga, dance, play cards and be together. They are building to improve the lives of a billion-plus people, and it seems to be working. We'll see what it looks like in 20 years.

Fourthly, Tibet. Wow, is all I can think to say. The mountains, monasteries and temples are spectacular. Also ever present are the Chinese, both military and civilian. Any talk of a "free Tibet" strikes me as a silly pipe dream. The building and development, while regrettable from a sentimental and perhaps mystical point of view, has resulted in very tangible improvement to the lives of the Tibetans. If they wish for some sort of freedom, they don't speak of it, and it's had to imagine a scenario that could bring such a thing about.

The Tibetan Buddhists speak of regular prayer, traveling regularly to local temples to do so, as well as at home. It was suggested that they pray for a good life for all people, rather than only for themselves or specific individuals. To that end, I might liken this to our UU principles, where we espouse the worth and dignity of every individual.

We're due home soon and I expect to be back for the October 2nd Stewardship service. We've got big plans for this next year and our pledge drive is the key to getting things done. I hope to see you this Sunday (or next).

Tom Bailey
Board President



Pastoral Care Contact for October is Mary Johnson (989) 600-7567

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!

Men's Group

Tuesday, October 4, 7:00 to 9:00 PM

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.

Women's Group

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.

Thursday, October 6, 7:00 to 9:00 PM

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 Toner for more information.

Thursday, October 20, 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Attendees should plan on bringing their own beverage and a snack to share. Anyone who identifies as female is welcome. Location is at a group member's home in Midland. Please contact Amber Toner directly for the address and meeting details.

Ministry Teams

Facilities

Kitchen

Gisela Bailey

Aesthetics

Michaele Malecki

Member Services

Library

open

Membership

Linda Rector

Pastoral Care

Gisela Bailey, Mary

Johnson, Co-Chairs

Social

open

Lifespan Learning

Adult Enrichment

Heather Cleland-Host

Children's Religious Ed

Open

Worship

Worship

Angie Kelleher, Sarah Schulz,

Co-Chairs

Music

Kevin King

Choir

Andrew Schulz

Sound System

R.G. Converse

Standing Governance

Committees

Building and Grounds

Tim Wagner

Endowment

Jim Falendar

Financial Affairs

Stewardship

Jen Ciolino

Finance

Speed Malecki

Nominating

Cathy French, Jon Cleland-

Host, Karen Treadway

Committee on Ministry

Marlene Hickman, Donna

King, Michaele Malecki,

Marsha McDonald, Daniel

Sealey



Seekers Practicing Addiction Recovery in Community (SPARC)

SPARC will be starting up again this fall. For information and to learn about plans for meeting times and places, please see Maggie Acker or Jody Liebmann.

Interweave Thursday, October 27, 7:00 to 8:00 PM Interweave meets each fourth Thursday at UUFoM. Transgender folks are welcome as are LGBT people and all allies. Contact Joelle Casteel for more information:
<http://finian0178@gmail.com>



Annual Meeting



The UUFoM Annual membership meeting will be held on October 30, 2016, following the morning service. We will be going over the 2017 budget, electing officers to serve the Fellowship in 2017, naming an unsung hero, reviewing annual reports, etc. There will be a luncheon prior to the meeting.



Annual Reports are past due!

Annual Reports were due in the office on, September 6, 2016. All Committee Chairs, staff, Board President, etc. are asked to write down the accomplishments of their Teams this year and dreams and plans for the future. Annual Reports should be submitted to the office (uufom@uufom.org) ASAP. Thank you.



Public Radio Bundling Donations Many of us enjoy listening to public radio. So to support the radio stations and our church community, each year we collect financial contributions (called 'bundling') to send to the public radio stations at Delta and CMU. The funds are used to advertise UUFoM. This is the only formal publicity we have each year.

Please consider making a donation to public radio to benefit our Fellowship. We can then advertise our church community through out the year. We all benefit: you have a tax credit and the Fellowship can let others in the greater community know about us. Write a check to your favorite station(s) by October 15 and give it to Linda Rector before October 15. She will send all the proceeds to the station. Then, listen for our announcement as you enjoy public radio!

Guest at Your Table Our families have an annual tradition of participating in the "Guest at Your Table" program, which is sponsored by the UU Service Committee (UUSC). This is a way for people of all ages to help support important social justice projects all around the world. This years program is called "Defying Hate". Specifically, it's a way for families to help refugees fleeing from places like Syria; support people in South Africa who are members of the LBGT community; help children fleeing from Haiti; and,

Each family is given a box which is used to collect spare change, normally at meal time. They can talk about what it might mean to be homeless or to be punished because you are gay or other human rights issues. Then on November 20, we'll collect all the boxes and send the money to the UU Service Committee. Questions: Ask Linda Rector

Looking Ahead:

Will someone contact United Way and take responsibility for the Sharing Tree this year?

This is a community outreach project which helps provide holiday gifts for those who might not receive them otherwise.

Choir at Dow Gardens The UUFoM Choir will be singing at the Birches (not the Barn) on Friday, December 9 from 6:50-7:30 PM this year. Please come and support our choir for this annual, outdoor, winter event. (Dress accordingly!)

Laughter and Libations!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 3 in the Fellowship sanctuary. UUFoM's improvisational comedy troupe will be performing their auction show to benefit the fellowship. Did you miss the auction? Don't worry! Tickets are available at the door for a suggested donation of \$5 per person. Doors open at 6:45 PM and the show runs 7:00 PM - 8:15 PM. Snacks and beverages will be available. Light libations will also be available for a donation. This will be a family-friendly, clean show, so bring the kids!

Sacred Grove Pagan Column

I love this time of year; I have just returned from the farmers market and change and transition is literally in the air. Fall is a season of transition and transformation, I can feel, smell, see and taste the change. The summer vegetables and fruits are giving way to the apples, grapes, pears, beets and winter squashes. The days are still warm and the nights are cooler, the air feels crisper and brilliance of the golden afternoon light which can stop year in your tracks. The trees are about to turn color, and hay is getting mowed, collected and stacked, sugar beets are about to be harvested.

And yet, just days away from the Autumn Equinox, I feel a shifting in my heart and soul. While I feel very blessed, grateful and thankful for all that I have, my spirit and soul feel the tug of anticipating and the need to prepare for the dark of winter. As the days grow shorter I feel the need to gather and harvest food, friends and family around me, gather what I need

to prepare and survive the winter. This is a time for transition, time that reminds us of the seasons, and of transformation of our lives.

So in this time of transition, I invite you all to take some time connect with the natural world, family and friends. As you anticipate and prepare for the winter months, enjoy being outside, take a hike or walk, explore new places, plant some spring bulbs, go apple picking, appreciate the blessings and bounty of your life, spend time with family and or friends and give thanks for what you have.

-Cathy French



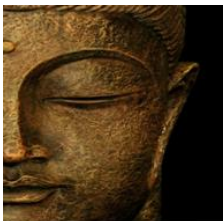
Three Jewels UU Sangha - New Time!

Every Monday – 6:00-7:00 PM
at UU Fellowship of Midland



Three Jewels Sangha meets Mondays 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>

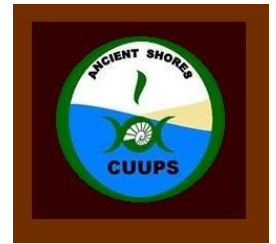


Buddhism Discussion with Antonio Ciolino – Mondays at 7:00 PM at UUFoM (Currently in summer recess)

Join Antonio and others to discuss Buddhism. This discussion is open to both beginners and experienced members. Childcare is available. Please contact Heather Cleland-Host.



**Ancient Shores CUUPS:
Third Sundays After the Service
October 16**



Ancient Shores is the UU FoM 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.

**UU FoM PARENTS' CIRCLE
Adult Enrichment Programming**



The 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 UU FoM will be continuously enriched, and the sense of UU FoM 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.



**Living the UU Principles
--One Principle a Month**

What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist? And, more important, how do we live it?

Check it out after the service:

Starting in October, we will be holding one multi-generational program a month on second Fridays (**October 14**) to look at the Seven Principles. Each program will include a meal and be followed by programming aimed at full participation of all ages. 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! In September, we will be sharing the details of this program and seeking volunteers to help make this program happen.



Adult OWL (Our Whole Lives) Coming In October!

Our Whole Lives, or OWL, is a series of sexuality education curricula for six different age groups, developed jointly by the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and the United Church of Christ. The facilitators for the OWL program are volunteers from the congregation. They receive special training in order to present the material in a clear and balanced manner. Recently, two of our members were trained to facilitate the Young Adult and Adult OWL curriculum, which is planned to be offered in October. If you are interested, please contact our trainers (Kurt Sonoras and Linda Rector) or the Adult Enrichment Team chair (Heather Cleland-Host). Sign-ups will be available during coffee hours.

UUFoM Parents' Circle

Group Facilitator: Sarah Schulz

All Ages Young and Wise are welcome!



Parents' Circle is a group that meets together for discussions and potlucks. Some of the discussions possible: "how is our parenting impacted by our religious journey?"....."what can I do with my challenging 3-year old?"....."how can we support each other with childcare needs?"....."How do we equip our kids to deal with religious bullying?" The parents' circle is made up of families with children through 12th grade. We have a private Facebook group for safe sharing. Contact: Sarah Schulz or Heather Cleland-Host to join the group. Nursery care will be available. *(The parents' circle is made up of families with children through 12th grade. We have a private Facebook group for safe sharing. Contact: Sarah Schulz or Heather Cleland-Host to join the group)*

Group Facilitator: Sarah Schulz

(The Parents' Circle is made up of families with children through 12th grade. We have a private Facebook group for safe sharing. Contact: Sarah Schulz or Heather Cleland-Host to join the group)



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**The Office is open
most weekdays
9:00 AM- Noon**

Minister: Rev. Jeff
Liebmann

**Interim Director
of RE:** Antonio
Ciolino

Board President:

Tom Bailey
(835-2029)

President Elect:

Speed Malecki
(835-1915)

Treasurer:

Janelle Dombek
(839-0912)

Secretary:

John Kinkema
(415-9451)

Member at Large:

Codi Aymer
(289-2442)

Member at Large:

Sara Clavez
(687-7003)

Food Collection: On the first and third Sundays of the month, we will start collecting food to contribute to the SAMS food bank. There will be a table set up in the foyer with baskets to place food items which will be delivered to the food bank by a member of the team. Please see the attached list of recommended items that are needed. They are high in protein type foods, and items which cannot be purchased with food stamps.
In fellowship, Maxine Guettler

Recommended Donations for the Food Pantry

Tuna (tampons, sanitary pads)	Women's hygiene items
Canned Chicken	Dish Soap
Canned Beans	Laundry Soap
Split peas/Lentils (include some recipes?)	Shampoo
Soup base (watch the sodium)	Deodorant
Evaporated milk (not condensed) soap	Deodorant Bar/Liquid body
Fortified cereals	Ziplock bags
Oatmeal	Gallon of vinegar
Canned soups: bean, green pea, lentil	Depends undergarments
Peanut butter genders, all sizes)	New underwear (both
Brown rice	White Northern Beans
Pastas-gluten free also	Canned tomatoes
Pasta sauce	Rice
Crackers (grainy if possible)	Jiffy Corn muffin mix

When and Who?

The UUFoM Google Calendar can answer your questions. If you want to know when something is happening, type in "UUFoM" on your search engine, then open www.uufom.org, which is our website. Click on the "Calendar" tab to view the calendar. You will see when all Team meetings are scheduled, events are planned and what the Sunday sermon will be.

And to everyone who schedules meetings for the Fellowship building and other places: Please send an email note to our Church Secretary (Elaine), at uufom@uufom.org whenever you plan any meeting. Include the full name of the Ministry Team, time, and room to be used. This avoids conflicts and also insures our community knows when events and meetings are planned. If you have questions, contact the Membership Team.

Library

We have a wonderful library downstairs in the Religious Education wing. If you go downstairs, turn right, then left, you will find hundreds of books on many 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.

