

UU Church of Midland

On the Journey with Jennifer

As fall begins, the Board and I are finalizing the goals that emerged from the planning retreat with Mark Palmer on August 21. The Board will present a report on the goals for 2010-2011 as soon as possible.

My goals for every year are to offer quality worship and to renew relationships with the wide range of members and friends of this church. My new goal for the year is to support the preparations to welcome a new minister. For all of these goals, I need your help to let me know about your cares and concerns. Here are some ideas on when to call the minister:

When to call the Minister:
When you don't know me, but would like to.

When you would like to get to know the congregation, but aren't sure where to go first.



Reverend Jennifer Innis

When you have problems you would like to discuss... with your job, children, partner, or anything else where a sympathetic ear might help.

When life brings good things and you still need a sympathetic ear.

When you are considering becoming a member of the congregation.

When you would like to talk about religion.

When you would like to discuss the changes in this congregation and its ministries and your hopes and fears for the future.

Where in the UU World is Rev. Jennifer?

In addition to my usual time here, I have a couple of special events this month. My spouse and colleague the Rev. Patrick Price and I will attend the Revival hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship at Horizon UU Church in Carrollton on October 14-17. Also, I look forward to being a featured preacher at the Revival hosted by Pathways Church in Southlake on October 21.

For this month, I will be in Midland October 8-12 and 22-26. My day off is Monday when I am not in Midland. I am available by phone: 972-639-7900, or by email: revjinnis@earthlink.net. I look forward to hearing from you.

Namaste,
Jennifer

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October 2010 At A Glance

October 3

9:30 a.m. Forum: *Spirit of Life: Blow in the Wind, Rise in the Sea* led by Jane Hellinghausen
 11 a.m. Worship: *In Praise of Autumn and Animals* led by the Program Committee

October 10

9:30 a.m. Forum: *Spirit of Life: Move in the Hand* led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis
 11 a.m. Worship: *All We Teach and All We Do* led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis for Association Sunday

October 17

9:30 a.m. Forum: *Spirit of Life: Giving Life the Shape of Justice* led by the Program Committee
 11 a.m. Worship: "O! For a Three-Legged Stool!" led by the Rev. Paul Beedle

October 24

9:30 a.m. Forum: *Spirit of Life: Roots Hold Me Close* led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis
 11 a.m. Worship: *Space in the Mind and Peace in the Heart* led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis

October 31

9:30 a.m. Forum: *Spirit of Life: Wings Set Me Free* led by Harry Nutter
 11 a.m. Worship: *El Dia de los Muertos* led by the Program Committee

UU Children participate in religious education from 9:30 to 10:30 each Sunday morning.

At 11 a.m., children join the adults for the beginning of each service.

After a children's story, they engage in supervised projects or play through second hour.

Free childcare is available each Sunday.

October Calendar

Oct	6	7:30 pm	BYOP/Building Your Own Philosophy
Oct	8-12		Jennifer in Midland
Oct	9	11:30 am	Religious Education Com. at Murray's
		2-4 pm	Quantum Dreamers
Oct	11	6 pm	Program Committee
		7 pm	Board Meeting
Oct	16	TBA	Circle Supper
Oct	17		Deadline for November Newsletter
Oct	20	7:30 pm	BYOP/Building Your Own Philosophy
Oct	22	6:30 pm	Fourth Friday Fun
	22-26		Jennifer in Midland
Oct	23	2-4 pm	Quantum Dreamers
Oct	24	12:15 pm	Benefit Potluck Lunch for Safe Place
		12:30 pm	Congregational Meeting
Oct	30	10am-6pm	Colores del Pueblo Gift Fair

Sunday Highlights

Mark your calendars with the abundance of this month's notable events. The Rev. Paul Beedle returns to lead worship on **October 17**. He is a chaplain in Houston, and he may grace us with more of his beautiful music. Also, the congregational meeting on **October 24** will include a chance to approve the compensation package for a new minister. Finally, the congregation is invited to bring tokens of loved ones who have died as part of *El Dia de Los Muertos* on **October 31**. The service will include a time to add items to the offrenda and a time to share memories with the congregation.

October Mystery Member

If you were in the field of cardiovascular disease/lipoprotein, you would certainly know the name of October's Mystery Member. Nationally and internationally recognized, this research biochemist has been involved in academics his entire career. He's enjoyed creating new knowledge and meeting researchers from around the world.

For a boy from Oklahoma, his research interests have allowed him to travel the world, spending a summer in Jerusalem, Israel, a month in China, two weeks in Russia and two months in Portugal. He also attended professional meetings in Japan, Argentina, Sweden, Germany, Vienna and Montreal. Currently, he serves on the advisory committee for the Diabetes Center at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa. This committee sets the guidelines for diabetic care.

He first joined a Unitarian Universalist church in Oklahoma City where he served on the Board and taught senior high Sunday school. He then attended Westside Unitarian Universalist Church in Fort Worth where he served as board treasurer. He continues his involvement with Unitarian

Universalism at the UU Church of Midland because he enjoys the openness and acceptance of diverse views. He's found the Buddhist approach to be the most satisfying though he wouldn't say he's a Buddhist. If he were to categorize himself, he states he would fall into a humanist camp.

While an undergraduate student, he worked five years as a psychiatric aide at Griffith Memorial Hospital, a state mental hospital in Norman, Oklahoma. These experiences led him to understand the commonality of the human condition no matter your origin.

You might not know this mystery member has collected stamps and coins since childhood. He has an extensive Russian stamp collection that he developed after spending time in Russia in 1978. His favorite author is Dostoevsky. His favorite song is *Satisfaction* by the Rolling Stones. Other favorites include UU hymn *Spirit of Life*, Van Morrison, pizza, Classical music and the movie *Apocalypse Now*. A current pleasure is gardening.

A UU for 33 years, he says, "After many years of looking for an 'answer' in philosophy and religion, I realized there are many paths. One has to make the 'leap of faith' to what one finds most intellectually and emotionally satisfying."

UUCOM Board

Carol Kullman, President

Harry Nutter, President Elect

Emmy Ulmschneider, Programs

Linda McConathy, Membership

Kathryn Shelley, Secretary

Alice White, Treasurer

Open, Social Outreach

David White, Building & Grounds

Barbara Handley, Religious Ed Rep.

Lisa Jebson, Religious Ed Dir.

UUCOM Staff

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Circle Supper

A Circle Supper is a gathering of about 8-10 people at someone's home or for a Dutch treat at a restaurant. These dinners are a great way to meet people at the church for conversation and to enjoy good cooking. If you would like to be a host or be added to the list future events, see Carol Kullman.

Spirit of Life Forum Series

Don't wait to check out our fall forum series. Spirit of Life is a new adult program created by the Rev. Barbara Hamilton-Holway based on lines of the hymn, Spirit of Life. Spirit of Life workshops offer participants space, time, and community to explore the wide range of Unitar-

ian Universalist spirituality. Reflecting, speaking, and listening are core activities in each workshop. This series is adapted to fit our forum time. If you would like to see the full curriculum, go to <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/>

[curricula/tapestryfaith/spiritlife/index.shtml](http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/spiritlife/index.shtml)
Spirit of Life is expected to run on consecutive Sundays from now through Nov. 7. See Rev. Jennifer for information or if you would like to assist with leading the program.

Read To Feed An Awesome Success

The combination of the efforts of the children and youth of our church and the generosity of sponsors from church, families and friends has resulted in a very success social outreach project. This was accomplished by the kids spending spare time reading/being read to over the summer. A total of \$650 was raised to donate to Heifer International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending world hunger and poverty while caring for the earth.

Together the kids decided to request the monies be used in this manner:
1. \$500 for a "Knitting Basket" which includes two llamas and two sheep whose wool will help a family earn an income
2. \$40 for two Flocks of Chicks whose eggs can be sold to pay for school, clothes and medicine
3. \$30 for Honeybees which will provide not only honey to eat and sell but they will also pollinate plants
4. \$60 for

Tree Seedlings which help protect farmland and provide animal feed, fencing, firewood and more
5. \$20 for a Flock of Ducks and Geese who are efficient egg producers.

Thank you to all who participated and supported this effort which will not only have a positive impact on the lives of a number of families, but our children and youth know that they truly can make a difference.

Benefit Potluck Lunch for Safe Place on October 24

Safe Place is the first local agency to be included in our benefit potlucks for 2010-2011. The mission of Safe Place is to end domestic violence, provide education, counseling, and shelter, and promote hope and dignity. Safe Place provides 24-hour support to families affected by domestic violence. Bring good food to share and make a financial donation as you are able on October 24. To learn more about Safe Place, go to <http://www.safeplacenow.com/>

Congregational Meeting, October 24

Join us for the fall congregational meeting after the potluck on October 24. The usual business will include voting on the Nominating Committee. This committee will recruit a slate of names for the Board and other elected positions for 2011-2012 to be voted on by the congregation in the spring.

The special item for business needs every member's attention. In the process of searching for a

minister, the Ministerial Search Committee needs to provide a financial offer to prospective ministers. This financial package is included in the profile of the congregation that will be posted at the end of October. The congregation will be asked to approve the financial package at this meeting. If you have questions about the agenda, see church president Carol Kullman or search committee chair Tom Parks.

Building Your Own Philosophy (BYOP)

The BYOP book discussion group meets at the church on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month from 7:30 – 9:00 pm. All are invited to participate. The readings for October are *The Stages of Life* by Carl Jung and *Tell Me a Riddle* by Tillie Olsen.

The next book, to be ordered from the Great Books Foundation, is titled *Great Conversations 2* (table of contents below). It costs \$24.95 + 2.00 S&H. If you want to order a copy, please give a check made out to Linda McConathy for \$26.95 to Linda or Walt no later than Oct. 17th. Discussions using the new book begin in November. For more information, please call 687-5221.

GREAT CONVERSATIONS 2

Table of contents:

The Story of Samson - (Judges 13–16)
Selected poems -John Donne
Meditations 1 and 2 - René Descartes
"The Nose" - Nikolai Gogol
"The Grand Inquisitor" - Fyodor Dostoevsky
"The Fall of the House of Usher" - Edgar Allan Poe
"Bartleby the Scrivener" - Herman Melville
"Goblin Market" - Christina Rossetti
"Philosophy and Physics" - Max Planck
"The Playboy of the Western World" -John Synge
The Road to Serfdom (selection) - Friedrich A. Hayek

"Distributive Justice" - John Rawls
"Guests of the Nation" - Frank O'Connor
"Which New Era Would That Be?" - Nadine Gordimer
"What We Talk About When We Talk About Love" - Raymond Carver

Quantum Dreamers

Quantum Dreamers examines the many levels and possibilities of existence, including understanding our dreams, using our dreams to live a full life, and examining the quantum influences that affect us. Our new book is *Lucid Dreaming: Gateway to the Inner Self* by Robert Waggoner. " Lucid dreaming provides a path to greater creativity, self understanding, and exploration.--- It is a unique psychological tool with which to consciously investigate dreaming and the subconscious." ---From the Acknowledgments and Preface of *Lucid Dreaming: Gateway to the Inner Self* by Robert Waggoner.

We will be meeting on our regular schedule in October, the 2nd and 4th Saturday from 2-4 p.m. Contact Alicia Gardner if you have any questions at 570-0703.

Come to Choir

The choir is up and singing. If you would like participate, contact Beverly Wise at 686-2791 for more information.

Colores del Pueblo

**Saturday, October 30
9 am—6 pm**

Just in time for holiday shopping – Colores de Pueblo at the UUCOM. What better gift than hand-made crafts and textiles from artisan cooperatives in Guatemala, Mexico and Ecuador. Your dollars give people an alternative to leaving their homes, going to a big city, living in a shanty town and working in a sweat shop. Part of the proceeds benefit the UUCOM while promoting social justice and cultural preservation through economic fair trade.

To learn more about Colores del Pueblo and UU friend Deborah Brown, go to www.coloresdelpueblo.org. Tell your friends!

Joys & Sorrows

If you or someone you know in the church could use a friendly call or a visit, please contact Rev. Jennifer.

Program Committee

Our forums and lay led worship services make UUCOM the UUnique place it is. We are looking for a new chairman of the program committee, a special person to follow Jane and continue her long tradition of new people and ideas. The committee meets each month. No experience necessary, if you are interested in making a difference to our church, contact Emmy Ulmschneider or a member of the program committee.

Search Committee for New Minister Continues on Course

Members of the Search Committee continue in their efforts to complete all preliminary planning steps that will lead to official announcement on a national scale for a full-time minister for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland.

Meeting weekly this fall, the Search Committee is developing the entire application package in electronic



format, one that can be accessed as a downlink from the church's home page for prospective candidates.

Members feel that the electronic web-based format and application process sends a signal to prospective candidates that not only is our church technologically proficient but that we expect our next minister to be as well. Assisting the committee in that regard is UU member Kathryn Shelley, who is lending her expertise as a liaison between the committee and the design and operation of the church website.

Current plans are to schedule a workshop session later this fall for the congregation on "Beyond Categorical Thinking" offered by the Transitions Office of the Unitarian Universalist Association. In addition, the compensation package generated by the Search Committee and presented to the Board will be submitted to the full congregation for a vote on October 24. Applications from interested candidates in the position are expected to begin arriving later this fall and continuing to early spring. Members of the Search Committee are Barbara Handley, John Kullman, Cristi Branum, Jane Hellinghausen, Alice White, and Tom Parks.

Association Sunday, October 10

As we come together in this annual service to affirm our common bonds and purposes, we have something special to celebrate this year—the 50th anniversary of our Association of Congregations! The theme of Association Sunday 2010 is Celebrating 50 Years and the Future of Our Faith.

What are Association Sundays? Association Sundays are a request by the UUA for all congregations to recognize and support, both spiritually and materially, the national work of the Association.

We envision a day – an "Association Sunday" - during which thousands of Unitarian Universalists across the nation are simultaneously celebrating our shared commitment to Unitarian Universalism. Like Ministry Sunday in 1995, (which was a request to support the financial needs of ministers and seminary students) and Mind the Gap Sunday in 2002 (which was focused on supporting Youth and Young Adult Ministries), each Association Sunday includes a worship service based on a particular theme and

congregations are asked to host a special collection to support the Association of Congregations.

We will celebrate Association Sunday and take a special collection during the worship on October 10. See Rev. Jennifer Innis for information.

Religious Education Program

Hello members and friends:

The fall semester is off to a great start. Our "Toolbox of Faith" is filling up as Maureena Benavides has led lessons which use these tools as a metaphor for things we use while exploring spirituality as Unitarian Universalists. I think my favorite so far is duct tape – which represents flexibility. The bags they created with the tape are so cool!

It is thanks to volunteers like Maureena that we can offer wonderful lessons on Sunday mornings. Child care is also provided by Terry – who came to UUCOM this summer – she has done an excellent job as well.

That said, we are still looking for a few more volunteers to help during second hour on the last two Sundays in December as well as teachers for February and May in the spring. Don't be intimidated at the thought of leading a lesson. We have the lesson plans ready to roll and we can help make sure you're ready!

Please call me on my cell (528-5359) or send me an email at LJebesen@aol.com if you're willing to help.

Peace,
Lisa Jebesen
RE Director

Fall Leadership Training

The Southwestern Conference is sponsoring its fall leadership training on November 12-14, 2010 at Glen Lakes Retreat Center, Glen Rose TX. The theme is: Living Our Faith: Unitarian Universalism at Work. Participants will have 14 hours of training in one of four tracks.

The tracks are:

1. Curriculum Development Renaissance Module (Gaia Brown, Pat Kahn)
2. Examining Whiteness - an 3. ARAOMC training (Carrie Stewart, Jennifer Nichols)

4. Small Group Ministry (Diana Dorroh, Helen Zidowecki)
- Conflict Engagement (Margaret Borden)

Check www.swuuc.org for information. Deadline for early registration is October 10.



Membership Matters

Have you been getting to know the church and Unitarian Universalism? Do you feel that this congregation might be a spiritual home? Are you considering a deeper commitment to the church? Membership comes with great gifts and opportunities, as well as responsibilities to the community, such as voting in the upcoming congregational meeting. If you are considering membership and might want to participate as a member in the congregational meeting on October 24, see Linda McConathy, Membership Chair, a Board member, or the Rev. Jennifer Innis before October 23.

Young Adult Retreat

Are you an 18-35 year old? Then you are invited to the Young Adult Fall Retreat at the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge on October 15-17. Young adults will gather at the Fontainebleau State Park in Mandeville, Louisiana for a weekend of worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth. This year's retreat will focus on the Six Sources of Unitarian Universalism, including Humanism, Jewish and Christian teachings, and Earth-centered spirituality. For information, contact Landon Bridges at 225-755-9114 or landdon.j.bridges@gmail.com

Mystery Member Revealed

Walter McConathy, Ph.D., another of the fascinating people at the UUCOM. Walt has been married to his wife, Linda for



44 years. They have one son who they both agree is the apple of their eye. Their son is on the Faculty of Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis and is

involved in research on neuroimaging. Walt's family also includes three cats that give them a lot of pleasure.

Our Mission and Covenant

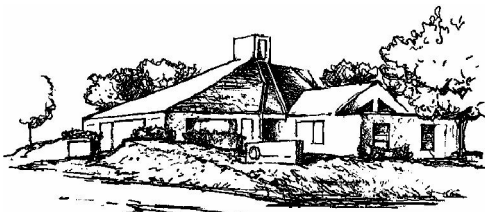
The Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland is an oasis of liberal religion empowering people to pursue spiritual growth and work toward a just, equitable, sustainable society. As a congregation, we covenant together before the wonder and mystery of life to provide a welcoming, safe, and tolerant religious community that both nurtures and challenges us in our diverse and yet shared journeys. Striving together in the spirit of love, we will listen and respond to the ethical and spiritual concerns of one another, seeking to foster a deeper sense of fellowship that strengthens us each in service to life.

- *adopted 2003*

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- o the inherent worth and dignity of every person
- o justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- o acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- o a free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- o the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- o the goal of world community with peace liberty, justice for all
- o respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Membership in our church is open to all who wish to covenant in the free, responsible search for truth and meaning. Contact the church office for more information.



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