





Red River Ramblings

October 2025 ♦ Vol. 26 ♦ Issue 4

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October 5, 2025 - 11:15 am

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The Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, *leading*

In his recently published book, *Here Comes the Sun*, author and climate activist Bill McKibben shares some hopeful information about the accelerating speed with which solar power is being generated around the world. It just might be last best chance to preserve a livable climate for us all and to provide a fresh chance for our civilization.

October 12, 2025 - 11:15 am

I Want the World to Know The Importance of Coming Out Day

Jack, *leading*

Jack takes us through the history of Coming Out Day, October 11th, and how its meaning hasn't changed since its inception in 1988. There are many perspectives to coming out, what's yours?

October 19, 2025 - 11:15 am

Reflections in Sea Glass

The Rev. David Pyle, *video discourse*

You can stumble across the small pieces of beauty, wisdom and truth that surround us all the time, but to find them in earnest takes training and intentionality.

Rev. Pyle holds a Master of Divinity from the Meadville Lombard Theological School and a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science from East Tennessee State University. He completed his Clinical Pastoral Education Residency at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois. He has served as a minister for congregations in California, Michigan, and Illinois, and as an Administrator for a congregation in Texas. He also serves as the Deputy Command Chaplain for the Army Reserve Sustainment Command. He lives in Oak Grove, Kentucky.

Spring Congregational Meeting is today following the morning assembly

October 26, 2025 - 11:15 am

Finding Courage in Chaos

The Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, *leading*

It is normal and justified to be scared in times like these. Political violence is on the rise, governmental power is being misused, cities are being occupied by our own military, and the most vulnerable among us are experiencing increased attacks. How can we find courage within community in the midst of this chaos?

Spiritually Alive ~ Joyfully Inclusive ~ Justice Centered

The October Board Report

Jana and Jack staffed a booth at the Austin College Nonprofit and Volunteer Fair this month. Jim set up our booth, and Marla took everything back to the church after the Fair. Susie helped the first hour, and Walter stayed the whole time. Student traffic was light, but it was a good chance to network with other nonprofits.

We have been busy getting ready for the Fall Congregational Meeting. I sent reminders to Committee Chairs and Team Leaders that annual reports are due, and Jack is following up. Jim, with assistance from Doug, is busy putting the information packet together to be sent out in early October.

The other exciting things the board has accomplished this month include transferring old financial reports from CDs to a thumb drive and voting that requests for reimbursement need to be given to Carole within 30 days of the purchase.

If you think you could keep up with the frenetic pace and heart-stopping adventure of serving on our Board of Trustees, the position of Vice President is still open.

Jana Norris,
President

Money Matters

Our fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. For the fiscal year-to-date, we had an operating net profit of \$8,849.98. This was due to the timing of pledge donations, partially offset by expenses for yardwork.

We continue to expect to have a loss this fiscal year due to lower pledges and additional expenses for yard work.

As of August 31, 2025, we had \$24,762.15 available to be used for general operations in our bank checking account, \$9,949.62 available in our bank savings account, and approximately \$20,902.78 available in

our UUA savings fund. The amount available in the UUA savings fund varies based on market value. In addition, we have the following restricted amounts: \$4,871.08 in our bank savings account restricted for the Minister Fund; \$5,951.89 in our bank savings account held in trust for Kat Walston; \$145.00 in our bank checking account for share the plate; \$15,843.31 in the endowment fund; \$51,000.00 restricted in the UUA Savings Fund for minister compensation; and \$21,190.93 restricted to cover continuing repairs and renovations to the building and to increase visibility in the community in order to grow membership.

Carole Harner, *Treasurer*

Feedback from the Worship Survey

Two of the comments we received on the Worship Survey after Water Communion Sunday were concerned about our use of AI in creating worship. The Worship Team would like you to know that we are taking both of your concerns seriously and will be having more discussions on the topic of AI at a future worship team meeting. Until that time – we will not use AI again for a morning assembly.

Another feedback included the following:

Maybe we could send out an email monthly asking if anyone would like to help contribute to the services? There could be other members who may want to contribute but do not know how to go about asking or even know who to ask. Also, there could be people at the church that have skills that could contribute as needed, like art or music or helping with the newsletter but have not been given the opportunity to do so.

The Worship team deeply appreciates and takes suggestions seriously. Please keep them coming.

If you'd like to contribute to the Sunday morning assembly, contact any one of the worship team members: Marla Loturco, Eva Novak, Marilyn Alexander,

Megan Hutchinson, or Susie Norris. Chat with us during conversations and calories, give any of a call or email the whole worship team [here](#). We would be happy to talk to everyone who wants to help in any way. Our contact information is in our Congregational Directory.

For helping with other tasks, outside the realm of Worship – please contact Jana Norris or any other member of the board to volunteer. They will be happy to talk to you.

Volunteers run Red River UU and if you are interested, we would love your help.

October Birthdays



05 Marion Hill
16 Angus Zaphod
Peterson 17 James Biasi
*
17 Adrian Hinman
17 Tommi Homuth
18 Joyce Peak
23 Billie Barber
24 Pat Bley
24 Eva Novak
26 Carla Murphy
27 Andrea Kysor
*Denotes a child

Moveable Feast for October

Our October Moveable Feast will be a Saturday Brunch this month. The dates are three options: Oct 11, 18, or 25, depending upon what works best for most people. Stay tuned for more information soon for when and where.

A Lesson in Unitarian Civil War Chaplains

to our collection that focuses on the ministry, struggles and enduring convictions of Unitarian and Universalist Civil War Chaplains.

We begin with three This work comes to us from John McConnell, third year graduate student in Unitarian Universalist History at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, where his research explores Unitarian and Universalist chaplains who served the Union during the Civil War. He lives in Gahanna, Ohio, with his family, four chaotic dogs, and one very patient bird. He will happily talk about Batman until someone stops him. Look for more biographies soon, but you can start here:

[Babbidge, Charles \(1806-1897\)](#)

[Humphreys, Charles Alfred \(1838-1921\)](#)

[Woodbury, Augustus \(1825-1895\)](#)

Happy Reading, friends

A Reminder

The fall congregational meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, October 19, 2025**, following the morning assembly. Everyone is warmly invited to stay for the meeting which begins with a potluck lunch. Unitarian Universalists have celebrated the tradition that each congregation is beholden only to its members. For 250 years that tradition has never wavered. While everyone may speak, only members may vote.

From our non-resident Poet

October 16 is National Boss' Day. Here are some suggestions to get along with your supervisor, co-workers, and customers.



Ways to Work It at Work by Don Mathis

Follow the factory manual.

Pronounce their name correctly.

If you can't say something nice about somebody, think again.

You can live and let live, but you don't have to join them.

Don't discuss politics or religion (unless you work at a campaign HQ or a church).

Cut people some slack.

Do not press "Send" when you're angry.

If it's in your job description, delegate.

If someone asks you to do something, if you can't say 'Hell Yes,' say 'Hell No.'

Ask for help when you don't know how to do something or the task is too large

Admit when you are wrong. Own your error. Apologize.

Offer compensation if your action caused someone a loss.

An apology will show regret and responsibility.

An apology with action will show a desire to make things better.

Listen more, talk less. And when I say listen, really listen.

Every now and then, let someone else take the credit for your good idea.

Express gratitude.

To be there for another is to have another there.

Remember your reputation.

Deal with disappointment like a diplomat.

Control your expectations.

Choose your battles, the fewer the better.

Buy a treat for your coworkers for no reason.

Look people in the eye.

Return calls.

Let go of grudges.

Keep your head when others lose theirs.

Make the boss look good.

Our Elected/Appointed Leaders

Jana Norris, *president*

_____, *vice president*

Carole Harner, *Treasurer*

Cristin Mackey, *trustee at large*

Marilyn Alexander, *past president*

Our Various Teams

Adult Forum: *Jim*

Aesthetics: *Amy*

Audio Visual: *Jim*

Caring Circle: *Susie*

Children's R.E. Teacher: *Jack*

Communications: *Amy*

Earth Day Planning: *Amy*

Endowment

Facebook Admin: *Amy*

Finance: *Carole*

Good Times Team: *Marilyn*

Greeters: *Paula*

Grounds: *Marilyn*

Historian: *Marla*

IT Support: *Jim*

Membership: *Susie*

Minister Search: *Jim*

Monarch Way Station: *Linn*

Moveable Feast: *Susie & Walter*

Music:

NTUUC Rep: *Marilyn*

Publications: *Doug*

Rainbow Team: *Jack*

Social Justice:

Strategic Planning: *Jim*

TxUUJM:

Web Team: *Jim*

Worship: *Marla*

Worship Associates: *Marla*