



# Red River Ramblings

News from Red River Unitarian Universalist Church

Denison TX

Vol 20, No. 6

October 2017

## Sunday October 1, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

### God in the Gaps

Rev. Larry Brumfield, *speaking*

Every field of science has unanswered questions and gaps in our knowledge. Science typically view these as open questions research questions. Others argue that if science cannot explain how something happens, then God must be the explanation. Such arguments are called "God of the gaps." The risk is that scientific knowledge is always developing. If gaps in our scientific knowledge are the basis for our belief in God, then as scientists fill in the gaps, the evidence foe God disappears. The God of the bible, however, is always at work in the natural world as well in areas science can't explain, hence the tension, to discuss and ponder.

## Sunday, October 8, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

### Responding to Apocalypse

Elena Westbrook, *speaking*

We've had fire and floods; have you found yourself waiting for the plague of locusts? In a time of turbulent politics at all levels, including inside our own Unitarian Universalist Association, how are we Unitarian Universalists called to respond? Next week, Elena Westbrook will talk about how we can use our principles to guide us with hopes and friendships intact.

## Sunday, October 15, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

### Charlottesville:

#### It's Not So Black And White

Rev. Dr. Marlin Lavanhar, *speaking (video)*

The events that took place in Charlottesville were shocking to the nation, even to those who wore military uniforms and carried assault weapons. Dr. Lavanhar explores, with sensitivity, the events in the sermon he delivered on Aug 20<sup>th</sup>. The message is for us all.

## Sunday, October 22, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

### Celebrating Earth Day in Texoma

Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *speaking*

2018 will mark the 10th Anniversary of the Texoma Earth Day Festival. Our Green Team has worked with multiple area businesses and organizations to create the festival since 2009. We will explore the history and evolution of this annual festival, as well as the driving forces that lead the Green Team to take on this challenge.

## Sunday, October 29, 2017

### The Fall Congregational Meeting is Today

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

#### Credo Sunday

with six members of our community

One's credo is a personal witness to the core of their spiritual journey. It means more than "I believe, I assert or I contend." It's not equivalent to a philosophical discourse or a social rant.

Credo literally means, "I give my heart and loyalty to..." The sharing of credos - statement of one's current faith - draws a community together. This Sunday Cindy Buffington, Joe Combs, Kelly Dyer, , Jim Holmes and Kat Walston will select highlights from their religious odyssey, highlight in those affirmations that sustain them during the happy and hard days and nights of life and share them from the pulpit.

*Today is the Fall Congregational Meeting. The gathering is open to the entire community. It is also the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday when we have an all-church potluck. Bring a favorite dish to share and plan on staying for lunch.*

*Details of the meeting are on the next page.*

## Sunday Mornings at Red River:

Meditation ~ 9 | Adult Forum ~ 10 | Morning Assembly ~ 11:15 | Conversations & Calories ~ 12:15

## Hello from Helen



Greetings! For those of us who use weather as a safe topic in mixed company, it has been an exciting few weeks. My sons are both in school in Houston, and

we had a few anxious days at my house, wondering how worried we should be. My husband, after many hours of careful study, can now explain to you the drainage system of the entire city of Houston. We do what we need to make us feel in control.

In some sense, the weather situation gave us a little relief from the ongoing political rancor that feeds the daily news. It gave reporters the chance to show us humans behaving at their best...something we need to think about when we get encouraged to point fingers at each other. I know my boys are getting the opportunity to add their muscle to volunteer situations that are opening their eyes to real suffering, not just the 'first world problems' they usually have to deal with.

I think we are all a little tired of politics (!) and we desire to create a space in which we can feel safe and free of the political fray. Because of our varied pulpit speakers, we may hear opinions that we disagree with and/ or make us decidedly uncomfortable. I believe that the worship committee intends to help create this safe and unbiased place; sometimes a speaker surprises and dismays us. We certainly need to talk about these uncomfortable situations and help one another decide how to minimize them in the future. Please come and discuss your concerns with any member of the Board or Worship Committee; there is always time during a Board meeting for you to come and share your thoughts.

I will remind you that we will have our next Congregational meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup>, after the service and fellowship time. I hope to see you there.

Hope to see you soon,  
Helen.

## Fall Congregation Meeting

Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> - 12:45 pm. Our bylaws require that several church committees and teams submit an annual report of their activities over the last year. Reports cover what happened from October 1, 2016 through October 29, 2017. These reports become the history of Red River UU and will become part of our living tradition.

Reports are due from the following church groups:

- ☪ Adult Forum - Jerry Harris
- ☪ Building and Grounds - Marilyn Alexander
- ☪ Booked for Lunch - Carole Harner
- ☪ Earth Day Planning Committee - Amy Hoffman-Shehan
- ☪ Moveable Feast - Marion and Elbert Hill
- ☪ Communications Team - Doug Strong
- ☪ North Texas UU Congregations - Red River's Representative - Marla Loturco
- ☪ Religious Education - Dan Althoff
- ☪ Safe Congregation Panel - Dan Althoff
- ☪ Social Justice
- ☪ Worship Team - Doug Strong

Please submit your report - *in plain text sans formatting* - to info @ rruu.org by **Friday, October 15, 2017**

Being the fifth Sunday, we will have a potluck lunch before the service. Bring a dish to share!

During the meeting we can

- ☪ Approve the draft minutes from the May 21, 2017 Congregational Meeting
- ☪ Evaluate our current annual goals, now that we're in our 5<sup>th</sup> month of the goals
- ☪ Discussion the Committee on Ministry "Sunday Mornings at Red River" all church survey
- ☪ Discussion regard improving access for those with mobility issues
- ☪ Need for fund raising coordinator
- ☪ Discussion regarding refreshments afterwards
- ☪ Discuss the meaning of the "Free Pulpit" tradition
- ☪ Discuss the written reports from the above church groups
- ☪ Open Discussion from anyone with suggestions or concerns

Congregational Meetings are open to everyone - members and friends alike. The ability for a congregation to be self governing is one of our precious traditions. Come, listen, participate and be part of what makes Red River UU the church we love.

## Spotlight: Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry (COM) is a three member committee, selected by the congregation. Each spring a new member is elected at the Spring Congregational Meeting. Each member serves for three years.

There is a two-fold purpose for their existence, to keep a finger on the pulse of RRUU and to be a safe place for people to go when they have issues with others in the church. They are the check in a check and balance system between the Board, Minister or Worship Team, and the congregation. Anything told to the COM is told in confidence and, without permission, would not be discussed outside the COM by any committee member.

Anyone with an issue about the board, an individual board member, or someone in the congregation should ideally at-tempt to settle the problem with that person or persons. However, if they are uncomfortable approaching said individuals alone, they may explain the situation to the COM and request someone to accompany them to any meeting in an attempt to work out issues.

The COM is not a “complaints department” where you get to complain and leave. They are “facilitators” to assist with the issues being worked out between individuals and groups.

The COM is also the committee within the church that can hold informal discussions to find out what is running well at RRUU, and what changes individuals would like to see. Ideally they look at various functions within the congregation each year. In this month they have devised a survey on the Sunday Morning Experience. Please take a few minutes and either take the survey on line, fill out a printed survey, or talk with a member of the COM.

The COM, in addition to a board member is also the final authority for the disruptive persons policy and as a group will deal with individuals who do not attempt to live the RRUU Behavioral Covenant.

So, if anything in the church seems out of sync with our Behavioral Covenant, our policies, our bylaws and you don't feel comfortable addressing the board, please seek counsel from any one or all of the individuals on the Committee on Ministry.

Currently on the committee are Carol Harner, Robert Shelton, and Marla Loturco. An email to COM @ rruu.org (please remove spaces) will reach them all.

## New Moon Ritual ~ Oct 19<sup>th</sup>

Come join the New Moon Rattling Healing Circle on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 7:30 pm at church. Bring your own rattles or use one provided to Rattle in a Circle of Intention. Open to everyone who wishes to participate.

One note, please: Only rattles are part of this Circle. Drummers are urged to attend the monthly Full Moon Drumming in Denison.

The gathering is being lead by Rebecca Crystal. Some years ago we had a CUUPS (Covenant of the Unitarian Universalist Pagans) chapter at Red River. There is interest in reinvigorating it again and Rebecca has volunteered to help starting with a New Moon Ritual. Sound interesting? Do come.

As part of establishing a CUUPS chapter at church, the new moon ritual will be done monthly. Check the church calendar (always available on the church app; in the eNews and church web page).

Please email [Rebecca](#) Crystal for more information.

## Booked for Fun ~ Oct 13<sup>th</sup>

Do you want to hear about new authors and great books to read? Our next bookclub meeting is on Friday, October 13, at 1pm at church. Open to book lovers everywhere. A snack is provided.

Facilitated by Carole Harner

## Fifth Sunday Potluck



Every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday rather than having snacks afterwards, we hold an all-church potluck lunch. Bring a dish to share and plan on staying for lunch and should you wish, you're warmly invited to sit in on the Fall Congregational Meeting.

# Notes from NTUUC\*

\*North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations:

At the last NTUUC meeting on September 23, 2017, the board approved a new Strategic Plan for 2017-2021 and a budget for 2017-2018. All Grant requests must be submitted by November 30, 2017. All Awards nominations for NTUUC awards (Red River UU is eligible for the Marty Robinson Volunteer Award) are due by December 2, 2017. There will be a mini-training after the next NTUUC meeting geared toward topics that member boards might be interested in. Topic will be announced after October 14, 2017.

If anyone is interested in becoming more involved in a wider UU arena, there are lots of volunteer positions open in NTUUC committees. Please see Marla Loturco if you are interested.

## Happening Around the Cluster

**Arlington UU Church** - Two weeks ago the church joined the Inclusive Faith Coalition of Arlington.

**Community UU Church** - Starting process for new strategic plan which will probably be a revision from 2006. They also use balloon festival parking as a money making project.

**Denton UU Fellowship** - Experienced a break in two Wednesday ago, they took electronics.

**First UU Church of Dallas** - Minister Aaron White burned the mortgage paper in chalice. Mortgage has been paid off

**First Jefferson UU Church** - Have a transition ministry occurring, Jennifer Innis has moved to Community in Plano to work with her husband. We are doing a discernment and then search.

**Horizon UU Church** - holding a Gala fundraiser with a polka band tonight (Saturday 23, 2017)

**Longview UU Church** - Have a new plaque memorial for building - A member passed away and gave money to pay off the mortgage. Changes in bylaws are being looked at.

**UU Church of Oak Cliff** - Have solar lights in the parking lots, they are installed and working.

**Pathways** - With membership growing and attendance averaging at 65-70 people per Sunday, we have added 3 new groups: 1) Unity - an LGBT peer-support covenant group; 2) Principled People - an RE program centered on the 7 Principles (created by a member of the congregation); 3) 7/12 Connection Group - a UU-based recovery group founded on the 7 UU Principles and the 12 Steps of Recovery

**Sacred Journey** - After three years with no inspection, we passed the fire inspection. Also have two new classes of OWL for 18-35 group and fun look at taro and rues.

**Westside UU Church** - Working toward being a Reproductive Justice Congregation

**NTUUC** - Successful pride weekend in Dallas - Great parade and in the park we had two spaces with a big balloon to mark our location.

## Meet Chris Grimes



Christopher is the Outreach/Prevention Supervisor at the Callie Clinic, working to reach people of all walks of life in order to increase knowledge and understanding of HIV illnesses and how they impact individuals, families and the community. He is also pursuing his BA in liberal arts at SOSU. Chris is very focused on the health and needs of the community and strives to keep help unite people and encourage strong community bonds.

Chris and his husband Kyle live in Denison, where they help to care for his grandfather. They share their life with two wonderful dogs Stormie Lynn and Marilyn and are looking forward toward purchasing their first home together.

## Herald Democrat

has ceased publishing church news in their print format in favor of their online format. They will still list church contact info in print however. If you're someone who checks the paper, you'll have to go online.

# How To Reach Someone

Here's a handy list of how to reach someone or a group or a committee when you don't know their personal email.

About the notation "+suffix"~ Because our newsletter is on our web page and church app, hackers and spammers can "phish" millions of bits of internet traffic and when it see an email address it steals it.

By removing the "@rruu.org" from the list below and inserting "+suffix" our church email addresses won't be stolen. This means, you need to replace the "+suffix" with "@rruu.org" in order for your email to be sent.

Adult Forum	adultforum+suffix
AV Team	avteam+suffix
Board of Trustees (all of them)	rruuboard+suffix
Board President	president+suffix
Board Secretary	secretary+suffix
Board Vice President	vicepresident+suffix
Booked For Fun	bookclub+suffix
Building & Grounds	building+suffix
Calendar (to add an event)	calendar+suffix
Caring Circle	care+suffix
Church Treasurer	treasurer+suffix
Committee on Ministry	com+suffix
Directory Updates	directory+suffix
Endowment questions	endowment+suffix
eNews	announce+suffix
Finance Committee	finance+suffix
Green Team	greenteam+suffix
Greeters	greeters+suffix
Meditation Group	meditation+suffix
Membership Chair	membership+suffix
Membership Team	membershipteam+suffix
Moveable Feast	feast+suffix
Newsletter Submissions	news+suffix
Nominating Committee	nominations+suffix
NTUUC representative	ntuuc-rep+suffix
President of the Church	president+suffix
Safe Congregation Policy	scp+suffix
Social Actions Coordinator	socact+suffix
Suggestion Box	suggestions+suffix
Web Master	webmaster+suffix
Worship Associates	worshipassociate+suffix
Worship Team	worshipteam+suffix
Worship Team Coordinator	worship+suffix

# Board Bits ~ Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> meeting

At their September meeting, our Board

- discussed ways the worship team can strive to inform visiting speakers that disrespectful speech, especially political in nature, does not belong in the framework of worship. The worship team will work on various ways to help achieve this
- approved a request from Rebecca Crystal to form a chapter of the UU Pagan group
- listen to James Roa request that we be willing to help church members take action to address the confrontation in North Korea. He was invited to think about presenting a talk on this
- learned the cost of construction for an elevator to be \$30-\$50K as well as \$50K for the elevator itself and agreed to continue exploring options that would make our building more assessable to those with mobility issues
- approved a request from Todd Ellis to hold meditation classes on Thursday evenings
- discussed the possibility of getting a lockable cabinet for AV supplies
- discussed possibility of nominating someone from church for the Marty Robinson Award, given each year by NTUUC and learned the grant reports are due on October 30 for current NTUUC grants and request for 2018 grants are due November 30th

# Church App



The analytics report for our church app indicated that the app is now on 141 separate devices.

A smart choice! Easy to use, always available and full of information!

Download it free from the Apps Store & Google Play.

# Creating Unitarian Universalism: Covenant as the Foundation of our Faith

Southern Region Fall Conference  
November 10 & 11, 2017  
The First Unitarian Church of Dallas  
4015 Normandy Ave Dallas, Texas 75205



Childcare for Infants to 4 years: **\$25**  
EvolUUtion Camp for Ages 5 to 11: **\$55** (Includes trip to Perot Museum)  
EvolUUtion Lab for Ages 11 to 15: **\$55** (Includes trip to Perot Museum)  
Ages 15 to 18: **\$55**  
Adults ages 18 & up: **\$115 early bird; \$145 after Oct. 7th**  
Ages 15 & up are invited to participate in large-group programming. There will be break-out sessions for People of Color, Youth, Young Adults, and White Allies during the programming.

<b>Friday:</b>	
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Check-In
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Dinner
7:15 PM – 7:45 PM	Opening Worship
8:00 PM – 9:30 PM	Session 1
<b>Saturday:</b>	
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Morning Worship
9:45 AM – 11:45 AM	Session 2
12:00 PM – 12:45 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Session 3
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Break
3:45 PM – 5:45 PM	Session 4
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Dinner
7:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Closing Worship

**TO REGISTER: [UUA.ORG/Southern](http://UUA.ORG/Southern)**

Unitarian Universalism is a covenantal faith. The holy promises we make to one another are the ground we travel on as we go on our spiritual journeys. And we are imperfect, never quite living up to our promises, necessitating the re-creation of our covenants as we go. Join us for a weekend of learning about our covenants, how to bring them to life, how to re-make and repair them when they are broken, and how to bring love to the center of our communities.

With Southern Region Staff Members:  
Connie Goodbread, Rev. Carlton Elliott Smith, Christine Purcell, Natalie Briscoe, and Kathy Charles

## Leaders

### Board of Trustees

Helen Schulze, *President*  
Linda Tracy, *Vice President*  
Dick Powell, *Treasurer*  
Megan Hutchinson, *Secretary*  
Jim Holmes, *Trustee*  
Dan Althoff, *Past President*

### Committee on Ministry:

Carole Harner, Marla Loturco,  
Robert Shelton

### Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *various members*  
Building & Grounds: *Marilyn*  
Caring Circle: *Kelly and Megan*  
Communications: *Doug*  
Finance:  
Membership: *Marion*  
Nominations: *David, Elbert,  
Lanan*  
NTUUC Rep: *Marla*  
RE Team: *Dan, Tommi*  
Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*  
Social Action:  
Worship: *Angie, Doug, Marla,  
Robert, Tommi*

## Contact Us

Red River UU Church  
515 North Burnett Ave  
mail to:  
PO BOX 1806  
DENISON, TX 75021-1806  
◆ ◆ ◆

### How to reach us:

Email: info (at) rruu.org

Phone: 903.231.3232

Web: [www.rruu.org](http://www.rruu.org)

E-News: announce (at) rruu.org

Facebook: RedRiverUnitarianUni-  
versalistChurch

Our mobile App: free from the  
[Apps Store](#) & [Google Play](#).

CHURCH CALENDAR [here](#)

## SWUUWCon 2018

Plan now to join us in Austin Texas  
February 23-25, 2018



**BE THE SPARK: KINDLE THE FLAME**



Keynote Speaker: Texas State Representative **Donna Howard**.

Featured Musician: **Kiya Heartwood**

Featured Minister: **Rev. Meg Barnhouse**

DETAILS ABOUT THE CONFERENCE [HERE](#)

Now Accepting Workshop Proposals for SWUUWCon 2018!

Do you have a workshop idea for the 2018 SWUUW Conference?

We hope you plan to attend the 2018 Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women's Conference in Austin, Texas February 23-25, 2018. The conference theme is "Be the Spark: Kindle the Flame!"

SWUUWCon is a gathering of women from the SouthWest district, encompassing all or parts of six states and Mexico, as well as women from outside our district. We expect approximately 150-200 women to join us.

As Unitarian Universalist women, we express our spirituality in a multitude of ways, always guided by our 7 principles. Our conferences excel because of your workshop ideas. Workshops will be 90 minutes in length on Saturday, February 24. There are three tracks:

1. **ACTIVISM**: How you can make a difference
2. **ARTS**: Creative writing, visual arts, or extended arts
3. **ACTIVITY** (Physical): Drumming, yoga, and exercise, etc

In your workshop description, please explain how your workshop combines one or more tracks with the conference theme: "Be the Spark! Kindle the Flame!" Also, please let us know how you will weave our UU spiritual values into your presentation. Workshop applications will be accepted through October 15, 2017 as registration will be opening in late October/early November!

This is a wonderful way to be able to give service to our women's community.

We hope to see you in Austin!

E-mail [workshops@swuuw.org](mailto:workshops@swuuw.org) with any questions!

[Submit Workshop Proposal Here](#)