



Red River Ramblings

News from Red River Unitarian Universalist Church

Denison TX

Vol 20, No. 9

January, 2018

Sunday January 7, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

A Ritual of Letting Go, Cleansing, Intention, and Hope Marla Loturco, *leading*

Many UU congregations start off a new year with a special ritual. On Sunday we'll mark the beginning of 2018 by envisioning hopes and promises; letting go of regrets and pain; and embracing resolutions for change so together we might create a better tomorrow.

Our Assembly today will be all about letting go, metaphoric cleansing and quenching of thirst, setting of intentions, self-anointing, healing, new beginnings and possibilities. It is a service of words, music and the ritual of the Burning Bowl. At each stop around the circle of flame, water, oil and light, we become our own healer, priest/priestess, minister, teacher. It is for each a circle of release, cleansing, intention and hope to walk.



New UU Orientation – open to anyone wishing more information about our church. Meets 12:45-1:30 in the chapel.

Sunday, January 14, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Doubt Yourself and Move On Anyway Christopher Grimes, *speaking*

Feedback from last fall's *Sunday Morning at Red River* survey confirmed that we appreciate having members prepare a sermon. On this MLK week-end, Chris Grimes will be our morning speaker. Of his remarks, Chris writes, "I've recently come through a period of serious self-doubt and as we settle into the New Year I'd like to speak about the ways doubt can immobilize and yet how it can show us ways to change our outcomes.

Christopher is Out-reach/Prevention Supervisor at the Callie Clinic and pursuing his BA at OSOU. He reports he found his religious home the day he first visited and joined the congregation last August. He is a member of the Worship Team and is also a worship associate.

Sunday, January 21, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

The Fine Art of Religious Hocus Pocus The Rev. Doug Strong, *preaching*

The most difficult questions newcomers ask us are, "So just what *do* you interesting people believe? Wouldn't it be a lot easier to explain your religious promises to one another if you had a couple of guideposts and maybe a creed (or twenty) to show the way?" I always agree it *would* be easier to have creeds but some dude 450 years ago decided otherwise and it has been the nicest thing anyone ever did for us. Details on Sunday!

Sunday, January 28, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Anne Lamott: Irreverent Believer Marion Moore Hill, *speaking*

Anne Lamott is an essayist, novelist, and writing teacher whose unlikely journey from a troubled early life to a quirky spirituality is sometimes poignant, sometimes laugh-out-loud funny. She writes about the human condition, delving into topics as wide-ranging as jealousy, fear, grief, love, and the writer's life, always with self-deprecating humor.

A review of her book "Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith" in the San Francisco Examiner and Chronicle says, "Anne Lamott is walking proof that a person can be both reverent and irreverent in the same lifetime. Sometimes even in the same breath." Lay speaker Marion Hill, herself a mystery novelist, will present and comment on favorite passages from Lamott's books.

Sunday Mornings at Red River:

Meditation ~ 9

Adult Forum ~ 10

Morning Assembly ~ 11:15

Conversations & Calories ~ 12:15

Hello from Helen



Another January is coming up again, and along with everyone else I will be cleaning up my Christmas mess and looking forward to the New Year. I

don't really make any new year's resolutions anymore, but I do reflect upon the things that I can improve upon. One of my very elderly patients recently told me that the advice she keeps giving her grandchildren is very simple - 'be kind whenever you can, and give the other person the benefit of the doubt.' I don't think I can find anything better than that!

We have been locking the doors to the building once the Sunday services begin, and watching the front door via video on our phone (the Board member on duty, that is) and so far it seems to work well. Plans are underway to reinforce the back doors. I did consult with the security team at one of the bigger local churches, and their chief of staff told me that he thought we had a good plan in place. Please come and see me if you have any suggestions.

The new AED will live under the table in the

northeast corner of the sanctuary. It is very simple to use, and I hope we never have to find out just how simple! I am glad it is there.

I will leave you with a poem I enjoy, by Ella Wheeler Wilcox, called "The Year"

*What can be said in New Year rhymes,
That's not been said a thousand times?
The new years come, the old years go,
We know we dream, we dream we know.
We rise up laughing with the light
We lie down weeping with the night.
We hug the world until it stings,
We curse it then and sigh for wings.
We live, we love, we woo, we wed,
We wreath our brides, we sheet our dead.
We laugh, we weep, we hope, we fear,
And that's the burden of the year.*

Wishing you all the best in 2018. Helen.

See you at church!

Helen

New UU Orientation ~ Jan 7



Calling all recent visitors, and anyone else who might enjoy learning a bit more about our congregation and the

wider Unitarian Universalist communities: On the first Sunday we offer an informal gathering geared to help you get a better understanding of the free church tradition. Grab a snack and join in the conversation. 12:45 – 1:30 in the chapel.

Did you volunteer?

Fourteen wonderful people said they would volunteer to be a greeter while another 10 said "maybe" (source: *Sunday Mornings at Red River* survey). If this sounds familiar and you're thinking, "Yeah, I did check that," Linda Tracy – Greeter coordinator would like to hear from you. You can reach her by email [here](#). She is in

the throes of creating this year's greeter roster and wants to include everyone who has expressed interest. Greeters in 2018 will work once in 5-6 weeks (depending on how many sign up.) Being a greeter is a lot of fun – you welcome everyone who arrives, and offer special greetings and assistance to visitors. If you are friendly and enjoy being the first person a visitor meets, reach out to Linda.

Deepest Sympathy

*Dan Althoff's father, **Dan Althoff, Sr** died January 1st at home in Durant. He was 88 years and 12 days old. Born in Dayton, OH, Dan lived many years in Florida. He declared himself an atheist. Dan and Carolyn are planning to hold a family memorial service in Florida sometime in the near future. They encourage anyone who wishes to offer a memorial donation give to their own favorite cause(s).*

A Giving Tree ~ for the church

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Giving Tree. Over \$500 worth of needed supplies were purchased. A reminder to those who left an I.O.U. - please put a note on your check when you either leave it in the offering bowl or mail it to the church that the payment is for a Giving Tree purchase.

Earth Day Planning ~ Jan 9th

Earth Day Planning Committee will meet Tuesday January 9 at 6:30 at church. We will receive updates on graphics and pending workshops.

Zen Meditation ~ Thursdays



Red River Grassroots Zen meditation continues to meet Thursday evenings from 7 - 8:15 in the Emerson Room. Open to all who wish to come and sit with us.

Booked for Fun ~ Jan 12th

Do you want to hear about new authors and great books to read? Our next book club meeting is on Friday, January 12, at 1 pm at church. Open to book lovers everywhere.

Worship Team ~ Jan 14th

The Worship Team has changed its meeting time. Starting in January, the team will meet on the second Sunday at 1 pm. Know of someone you think would make a good Sunday speaker? Send your suggestions to worship@rruu.org.

Moveable Feast

Currently arrangements for a Feast in January are in the planning state. Once finalized, the details will be announced in the eNews.

Church Directory

Everyone listed in the 2018 church directory will receive a copy soon. You might want to wait before printing your copy (if you do that) because at last count 14 people have yet to reply to emails

asking if the information in the database is current. Surely there will be updates.

Treasurer's Report

In the month of November, we had total receipts of \$3,574.00 from pledges and weekly offerings. Total disbursements were \$2,016.20, including \$95.00 Share the Plate donation to the Grayson County Shelter, leaving net income for the month of November of \$1,557.80.

As of November 30, we had \$23,056.77 available in checking, a total of \$41,822.39 in savings and a total of \$14,549.47 in Certificates of Deposit.

All bank accounts have been reconciled with no exceptions noted.

Dick Powell, *Treasurer*

Fair Trade Coffee



Marion Hill will soon be placing another order with Equal Exchange, which sells Fair Trade coffee produced by small growers in Central and South America. This coffee is somewhat more expensive than

Maxwell House or Folger's, but the small growers get a bigger share of its price than when selling their beans to the big companies.

You can explore all the various options available, go to shop.equalexchange.coop/packaged or shop.equalexchange.coop/bulk. This takes one to the wholesale part of the website, and the wholesale price is what individuals at RRUU pay (because we order several cases at a time).

But in case you get onto the retail site, or are asked for a password at the wholesale site, contact [Marion](#) for assistance. Please let her know your orders by January 10.

NTUUC Awards Luncheon

This year's NTUUC awards luncheon will be on February 3rd, gathering at 12:30 with lunch starting at 1 pm. The annual luncheon is a wonderful opportunity to meet UUs from other North Texas congregations, listen to an interesting keynote speaker (yet to be announced) and

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: *Rebecca*
Worship: *Angie, Doug, Marla,
Rebecca, 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](mailto:info@rruu.org)

Phone: 903.231.3232

Web: www.rruu.org

E-News: announce (at)
rruu.org

Facebook: [RedRiverUnitaria-
nUniversalistChurch](https://www.facebook.com/RedRiverUnitarianUniversalistChurch)

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

enjoy a fine meal. Several awards are given to individuals who have contributed to enhancing Unitarian Universalism in the area *and* we will learn if we will receive a grant to help defray the cost of the vertical elevator lift. Tickets will be available from Marla Loturco. Save the date – Feb 3rd!!

January Birthdays

Jan 09 – Kelly Dryer

Jan 26 – Megan Hutchinson

Chalice Circles & Interest Groups

Church activities are open to everyone. Contact the facilitator if you wish more information.

BOOKED FOR LUNCH ~ an informal monthly gathering for those who love to read and enjoy hearing about what others are reading. The group meets September - May on the 2nd Friday at 1 pm. They meet in the Emerson Room. [Carole Harner](#), *facilitator*

EARTH DAY PLANNING COMMITTEE ~ the group is responsible for the creation, each year, of the Texoma Earth Day Festival. All who enjoy planning a large-scale community event is invited to learn more. During the Festival many church members and friends volunteer to help. Planning meetings are the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 pm, in the chapel. [Amy Hoffman-Shehan](#), *facilitator*

MOVEABLE FEAST ~ a culinary chalice circle of people who enjoy food, preparing, sharing, and enjoying. A very popular church group that welcomes newcomers. The Feasters meet monthly and may gather in someone's home, at a restaurant, or church. [Marion and Elbert Hill](#), *facilitators*

NEW MOON RATTLING HEALING CIRCLE ~ meets monthly at church on various dates focusing on holiday or ritual happening during that month. The monthly circle meets from 6 - 7:30 pm. [Rebecca Crystal](#), *facilitator*

ZEN MEDITATION ~ If you have an interest in Zen as a topic, a practice or both, please come and practice sitting and walking meditation with us for 55 minutes followed by discussion centered on discovering what Zen really means as it evolves into a drastically changing, globalized world characterized by what some have called "the long emergency." Thursdays, 7 - 8:15 pm, in the Emerson Room. Open to all, no charge. [Todd Ellis](#), *facilitator*