



Red River Ramblings

News from Red River Unitarian Universalist Church

Denison TX

Vol 20, No. 11

March, 2018

Sunday March 4, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

The Annual Sharing Service

Everyone, *speaking*

Remember the terrible weather last Dec. 31st and the decision to cancel Sunday morning at church in favor of staying home, warm, dry and safe? On Sunday we will have the gathering scheduled for Dec 31st - our Annual Sharing Service. Think spring: warm days and cool evenings, daffodils popping up, red bud blooms, vegetable gardens waiting anxiously and everything is turning green. Bring a reading, poem, song, or even a spring dance. Your contribution needs to be less than 6 minutes (so no one gets left out).



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

Sunday, March 11, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

There's A Melody Singing In My Heart

All Music Sunday

Last night we all lost an hour's sleep which could make for a grumpy Sunday. What better way to Spring Forward and celebrate longer evenings than a morning of live music? There are among us several talented folk along with members of the dulcimer group SunShine Sisters who have volunteered to delight us with their gifts of music. Come, whoever you are, with hope and anticipation. We promise you'll leave with a song in your heart. And ... if you also have a musical strand of DNA and would enjoy participating, please contact Dan Althoff [here](#).



Sunday, March 18, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Stand Up. Speak Out. Make it Okay to Say

Paula Cawthon, *speaking*

Why is it people get squeamish when they learn a coworker or friend is mentally ill while rushing out to offer support and love to someone who has cancer? How come, even in our enlightened and open culture, 90% of us struggle to even talk about mental illness? The stigma that surrounds intellectual and mental services is staggering as is the lack of awareness about what services are available, where they are and how to get help. On Sunday, we'll explore a topic that ought to be as easy as speaking about the weather.

Paula Cawthon has worked in Community Relations for Texoma Community Center for 27 years. She holds a BS in education from Texas Tech University and a Masters from Texas A&M University. She and her husband live in Denison. They have a son and one granddaughter.

Sunday, March 25, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

How to 'Make This Nation Rock Like a Cradle': Sojourner Truth

Dr. Randi Tanglen, *preaching*

Sojourner Truth was a formerly enslaved women, an itinerant minister, an abolitionist and women's rights activist. Her vision of racial and gender equality was deeply rooted in her religious beliefs. Through her life and legacy, we can reflect on our current political moment and the relationship between spirituality and social justice.

Dr. Tanglen is professor of English at Austin College and has a keen interest in researching women authors who impacted history.

- ◆ Meditation ~ 9
- ◆ Ault Forum ~ 10
- ◆ Morning Assembly ~ 11:15
- ◆ Conversations & Calories ~ 12:15

Hello from Helen



Greetings again, from Helen and the Board. The ice storm in late February led to many downed branches at my house. I hope that you stayed safe and warm.

As they say here in Texas - never complain about getting rain!

The biggest news we have is the success of the grant application to help pay for a wheelchair lift that will make the second floor accessible to all. Jim Homes has agreed to serve as a general contractor, and estimates that the project will take 7-8 weeks to complete. I think we should plan for a celebration when all is ready to go!

We are seeking interested volunteers to attend the 2018 Dwight Brown Leadership Experience that will be held May 20-25th in Little Rock Arkansas. If we attend, we need a team of 2 participants.

The church would pay half the fee, and we can ask NTUUC Registration Assistance for the other half. The information packet says this:

“Our goal is for teams to value the LE’s intentional leadership process and to recognize the vital connections between theological grounding, religious leadership, faith development, and the realization of beloved community. LE participation has often translated into tangible improvements in congregational health and vitality, and it can do the same for your congregation.” Please see a Board member if you are interested.

The Spring Congregational meeting will be held on May 20th this year and we are considering having it be a catered affair. Let us know what you think. Next month I will review voting requirements for this occasion.

As always, remember that you are welcome at any Board meeting. We plan to meet again on March 18th, 2018, after the service.

Take care, Helen.

Congrat’s Kelly!



This year the Bruce Cameron Distinguished Service Award was given to Kelly Cofield-Dyer. Kelly joined the church in November 2014, along with husband David and then later when Ellie turned 13, she joined.

Kelly has served as church treasurer, attended the 5-Saturdays extended Leadership Experience, is on the Good Times Team, Moveable Feast, co-coordinates the Caring Circle, work days, volunteers at the Earth Day Festival and is often the first one to raise her hand to volunteer to help.

★ In presenting the award on behalf of the Awards committee, Marilyn Alexander concluded, “We are so fortunate to have Kelly and her family at Red River UU.

How true! Warm congratulations, Kelly.

Congrat’s Marilyn

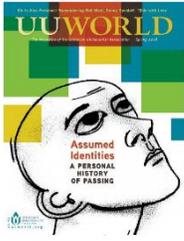


The Marty Robinson Volunteer Award is given each year to lay members of various UU congregations within NTUUC . This year we nominated Marilyn Alexander for her long-standing volunteer commitments. Marilyn continues to chair the Building & Grounds team - a critical post given the age of our building and the size of our campus. She arranges and supervises all repairs, lawn service and cleaning the building. She also is on the Good Times Team, Moveable Feast and when available takes a turn at the AV desk.

★ Red River UU is the only NTUUC member congregation to have received the Marty Robinson Volunteer Award since its inception eight years ago.

Well deserved, Marilyn!

Now at your home ...



UU World, the magazine of the Unitarian Universalist Association comes quarterly to all church members. It is a perk of belonging. The spring issue, now in route (or has just arrived at your home) and it is full of interesting, uplifting and thought-provoking articles.

To members: *when you've finished reading your copy, share it with others by leaving it on the counter outside the chapel.*

To friends of the church: *Here are links to several articles you may enjoy reading:*

[Sunday Security](#) *UU congregations are taking steps to be better prepared for emergencies.*

[The #MeToo Moment](#) *We can decide not to let our culture be defined by toxic masculinity.*

[Gun violence vigil draws 500 to NRA headquarters](#) *On fifth anniversary of Sandy Hook massacre, interfaith coalition gathers outside gun lobby's headquarters.*

[Assumed identities: A personal history of passing](#) *I didn't want to lie about who I was anymore, but I would learn people wouldn't accept a simple one- or two-word answer about who I was, either. Not talking about race isn't an option any person of color in this country has ever had, in particular if it's not clear what race you are.*

[The touchstone of community](#) *It's going to take all of us to move our world, and our faith, forward in the ways of truth, compassion, and justice. By Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA president*

[Overseas connection](#) *European Unitarian Universalists group helps expats and European fellowships find common ground.*

[Film Footnotes](#) *UU tangents in The Post, Lady Bird, and more.*

[Choosing a stubborn love](#) *An African American UU warily returns to his mostly white congregation.*

[Schrödinger's father](#) *The impending death of a loved one often leaves us sitting in a between-state.*

[Sin is personal, not just systemic](#) *Does the sin of white supremacy live in us or in the systems beyond us.*

Individual subscriptions (both print and digital) are available [here](#).

Happy Reading, friends!

Welcome Angie!



During the morning assembly on February 4th we officially welcomed Angela Cates into membership of the congregation. During the induction ceremony the new member is given a Red River UU tote bag, symbolizing that as a lay-led congregation we all work together; a coffee mug, symbolizing fellowship and a rose, symbolizing that "Love is the spirit of this church." Angie is a third generation Unitarian Universalist. Her mother and her grandmother are also members and were in the congregation to officially welcome Angie. Glad you're here, Angie.

New To UU Chat ~ March 4

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.



Dear Friends,

I would like to thank everyone for their support, kindness, and generosity over the last few weeks as I deal with AB's death.

The food, visits, and moral support have been invaluable to my survival thus far. The housing and job leads will keep me going through my next steps.

I know haven't been the most reliable this month, and I sincerely appreciate your understanding. A big thank you to Jim and Dick for covering my Board Member duties while I get it together.

I wouldn't have made it this far without all of you. Thank you all so much for showing me what a church family is really all about.

Megan Hutchinson

Zen Meditation ~ Thursdays 7:30



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.

CUUPS ~ March 3



Our proto-CUUPS group moved from being on the new moon whenever it occurred to being held each month on the Saturday nearest the Full Moon from 1-3 pm. Our next meeting will be Saturday, March 3 and will be a celebration of the Full Moon. All are invited to attend to discuss and share resources of the Full Moon. We will start with a check-in, followed by a discussion/sharing about the Full Moon. All levels of experience and knowledge welcome! Bring your divination tools and we can give each other readings.

The meeting on Saturday, February 3 had to be cancelled at the last minute due to my illness. However, it is possible that our congregation cannot sustain a CUUPS chapter. The first meeting was attended by 4 people, including me, and only one of those has shown a continued interest. I have put announcements in our newsletters, on a MeetUp I began for it, and also on Witchvox. There has been some activity but no added attendance.

The March meeting will be the sixth meeting. This meeting will determine the future possibilities of other meetings. If you want a CUUPS chapter, or earth or pagan circle in our church, attend the meeting to voice your interest.

Rebecca Crystal, *facilitator*

Worship Team ~ Mar 11

The Worship Team has changed its meeting time. Starting in March, 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 [here](#).

Treasurer's Report

In the month of January, we had total receipts of \$13,647.99, which included the \$10,000.00 contribution, to be used at the Board's discretion, which was mentioned in last month's report as having been received on the first Sunday of January.

Total disbursements in January were \$1,589.39, including \$139.01 Share the Plate donation to the Grayson County Shelter, leaving net income for the month of January of \$12,058.60.

As of January 31, we had \$19,157.32 available in checking, a total of \$61,838.20 in savings and a total of \$14,549.47 in Certificates of Deposit. These balances reflect the transfer of \$20,000.00 which I made during the month of January from checking into the savings account.

I wish to report good news and bad news: The bad news is that last month's report mentioned a \$4,000 contribution made in December which I stated, erroneously, was to be used for the proposed elevator/lift. However, the note accompanying the contribution states that the money "... is specifically for repairs and maintenance to the building and grounds." The good news is that NTUUC awarded us a grant in February for the new elevator in the amount of \$7,410 !

All bank accounts have been reconciled with no exceptions noted.

Dick Powell, *treasurer*

Membership Team ~ Mar 4

The Membership Team will meet on Sunday, March 4th at 12:45 in the chapel to continue exploring ways to better welcome visitors and follow up with newcomers.

LGBTQ Welcoming ~ Mar 18



The LGBTQ Welcoming Committee invites anyone interested in helping to grow our congregation to become more inclusive with the diverse community in which we live to join us at our next meeting, Sunday, Mar 18th at 12:30-1:30 pm. We'll meet in the chapel.

Chris Grimes & Rebecca Crystal, *co-facilitators*

NTUUC ~ Update from our rep

Important discussion points from the February 3rd meeting that are important for our church include:

SPECIAL ANTI-RACISM WORKSHOP

“Being an Ally for Social Justice: Multiracial Democracy and Economic Justice for All” The workshop is a multi-day event to be held on April 13-15 at Horizon UU church.



The workshop leader is Chris Crass. He is a social justice educator who writes and speaks widely on courage for racial justice, feminism for men, lessons from past movements, and creating healthy culture and leadership for progressive activism. He works with community groups, schools and faith communities to develop leadership and momentum for social justice action. He was a founder of the anti-racist movement building center, the Catalyst Project, helped launch the national white anti-racist network, SURJ (Showing Up For Racial Justice).

Rooted in his Unitarian Universalist faith, he works with congregations, seminaries, and religious activists to build the Spiritual Left. He is also the author of Towards Collective Liberation: Anti-Racist Organizing, Feminist Praxis, and Movement Building Strategy and Towards the “Other America”: Anti-Racist Resources for White People Taking Action for Black Lives Matter. You can learn more about his work at www.chriscrass.org.

With racist hate, fear and violence on the rise, this is an interactive workshop that uses storytelling, lessons and insights from social justice efforts historically and today, to help us be more effective in our work to dismantle white supremacy and build beloved community in our congregations and in our work for multiracial democracy and economic justice for all in our communities and country. The schedule:

- Friday April 13 7:00 – 9:00 pm Community building and sharing our stories of what brings us to doing justice work.
- Saturday April 14 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Focus on building up a culture of inspiration to counter despair, we will draw out lessons and insights from past and current anti-racist work and look at both anti-racist work in majority white communities and ways white people can show up as allies to join with people of color to dismantle white supremacy and build up racial justice.
- Sunday April 15 10:30 Worship Service "Renewal And Revival For Collective Liberation." Everyone is welcome (at no charge) to hear Chris Crass speak.

Workshop registration is \$50 and includes lunch. There is a \$5 discount on the registration fee until Sunday, April 8th. Registration closes Wednesday, April 11th at midnight. Limited Registration Assistance is available through NTUUC. Volunteers may have registration waived. More information and registration [here](#).

NEW SIDE WITH LOVE BANNERS - maybe

Churches needing new banners for “Side with Love” to replace old banners “Standing on the Side of Love” should let NTUUC representatives know as we are considering a group order.

MARILYN ALEXANDER

Marilyn Alexander from Red River Unitarian Universalist Church received one of the 2018 Marty Robinson Volunteer Awards presented by NTUUC at the Feb 3 banquet.

\$\$\$ TO ATTEND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Registration assistance is available for churches with members attending Dwight Brown Leadership Experience (DBLE). DBLE registration is now open. DBLE will be held May 20-25 in Little Rock Arkansas

NEWS FROM AREA UU CHURCHES

Arlington - Industrious church members are turning kitchen from dark cave to bright welcoming room

Community - Rev. Patrick Price, and his wife Rev. Jennifer Innes, current interim DRE, will be leaving the end of July; Great Decisions 2018 has enough attendees to merit two groups - it is being held at the Church and in the homes of attendees.

Denton - In winter addition of UU World, our minister Pam Watts was respondent to questions on Social Action

First Dallas - Daniel Kanter has been on a four month sabbatical and things have worked very well without him, signifies good organization.

Horizon - In process of becoming involved with [Faith in Texas](#), a multi-racial, multi-faith movement developing civic leadership in faith communities for economic and racial justice.

Longview - Working on a children’s program, updating security system, and updated name on building. Dedicated a plaque to John Phillips for the money he donated to pay off the mortgage.

Oak Cliff - Digital electric piano was used this last Sunday for the first time. Roy Zimmerman - concert on March 1st

Pathways - St Stephens Episcopal Church had a program “Try Being Me: I’m Your LGBTQ Neighbor” A representative spoke at Pathways inviting us to participate. Several Pathways members attended the program at St Stephens.

Sacred Journey - Concluding last class in divination with 12 people attending

Tyler - Having a lot more children and hired a child care worker. March will installing new play structure and swings.

Westside - Voted to become a Reproductive Justice Congregation

Marla Loturco, Red River UU’s representative

Booked For Fun~ March 9

Do you want to hear about new authors and great books to read? Our next book club meeting is on Friday, March 9, at 1 pm at church. Open to book lovers everywhere.

Carole Harner, *facilitator*

Earth Day Planning ~ Mar 13 & 27

Earth Day Planning Committee will meet twice in March, on the 13th and again on the 27th to finalize the many aspects of assuring we'll again have a wonderful Earth Day Festival.

From Christine Tata ~

Dear friends,

As some of you know, I've begun writing on a blog platform called Medium, where I'm enjoying sharing thoughts, laughs, minor philosophies, and some sort of spiritual stuff now and then.

Since I've bowed out of Facebook, I'm looking for other ways to keep in touch with my community of family, friends, and faithful.

Here's a link to my latest smart-aleck piece:

[When Jesus's Email Gets Hacked](#)

You can follow me and find previous pieces at my home page, here:

<https://medium.com/@mct2051>

I hope you'll read, upvote, comment, and share.

Let's continue some of the wonderful conversations we have all shared, at one time or another, with those we respect and care for the most.

love, Christine

The Rev. Dr. Christine Tata graced our chapel several times yearly when she lived in Dallas. She is now in the greater Austin area to be closer to family.

Moveable Feast ~ Mar 17

The March Moveable Feast will be *All Things Irish*, a potluck affair on **Saturday, March 17th at 5 pm** at church. Megan Hutchinson is hosting the event. Menu is anything Irish. Dress is anything Irish. (Got the hint?). Those who are into games are invited to bring a game or join *Cards Against Humanity* that Megan will have available.

Moveable Feast is open to EVERYONE who wishes to come. It is a wonderful way to spend time together.

Social Action Update ~

Our congregation has shown a consistent interest in social action. In February we participated in [The Promise and the Practice](#) of our Faith for Black Unitarian Universalism as a continuation of our denomination's discussion on racism. We also hope to participate in the matching donation – if we get \$10.00 donations for every member that will happen.

We are encouraged to “*Make a long-term commitment to dismantle white supremacy, racism, and oppression from within our denomination and beyond, and to uplift the Black Lives, Voices, and Leadership of Unitarian Universalism. This is our time to be Bold, Radical, and Transformational as we commit to nurture a radically inclusive, justice centered, multiracial and multigenerational religious faith!*”

There are two one hour [webinars](#) offered which can be an introduction, or part of an on-going discipline of education.

In addition, I will continue to post on our Facebook page opportunities to sign petitions or to stay informed. I did get feedback that at least one person wasn't sure where to find the posts. If you go to our [Facebook](#) page you will see on the left side a list of options starting with “Home.” At the end of that list is “Community” and if you click on it you will end up on the [Community page](#) which is where posts will appear.

As a reminder, we answered yes to the two Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs). This means we choose to direct our attention to studying these issues at this time:

1] Racism is fundamental to U.S. social systems. White supremacy culture operates economically, institutionally, politically, and culturally, shaping everyone's chances to live healthy, fulfilling lives. It is also the nation's most toxic export, shaping policies and practices that do profound harm to the Earth and all living things.

2] Systemic injustices intersect across environment, race, gender and all other forms of oppression. Identifying the underlying mechanisms which enable systemic and intersecting injustices enables us to mitigate their harm. Intersectional justice calls us to work together across oppressions and become a movement of movements. I will focus on these and other UUA social justice posts on our Facebook page. I look forward to your feedback.

Rebecca Crystal, *facilitator*

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](mailto:announce@rruu.org)

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

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

March Birthdays

12 Jan Fletcher
14 Marilyn Alexander
14 Faye Shadrick
19 Carole Harner
21 William Lloyd Fridley
22 Elbert Hill
23 Andrea Mory
25 Lanan Shelton
27 Sonny Schwichtenberg

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 are 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 group meets monthly on the Saturday nearest the full moon. [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*