



Red River Ramblings

The Monthly Newsletter of Red River Unitarian Universalist Church ♦ Denison TX ♦ Vol 20, No. 6 ♦ September 2018

September 2, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Acquiring a Spiritual Life Through Alcoholism Stewart Bolerjack, *speaking*

Stewart B. tells his story of a journey from a standard-issue, somewhat functional life into alcoholism, and from there to a life that is happily, usefully whole.

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

Sunday, September 9, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Applied Hope in a Warming World Elena Westbrook, *speaking*

Hurricanes, floods, fires ... what kind of world will we be facing in 20 years? What will you need to know and do? And how do you find the hope and inspiration needed to keep moving forward when the earth is undergoing such massive, global change?

Sunday, September 16, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Coexistence is Not Enough The Rev. Dr. Mark Davies, *preaching*

The challenges of our time are too great for people of different faiths to simply get along. The urgency of now requires people of all faiths along with people of no particular faith to move beyond coexistence to work together in the human community for the transformation of the world towards peace, justice, and sustainability.

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

Sunday, September 23, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am *Water Communion Sunday*

‘Water, Water Everywhere, Nor A Drop To Drink’ The Worship Team, *leading*

Water is required for all living things to exist. Given this fact, it is an enigma why the human race permits some to pollute, poison, steal or hoard this very essence of existence. This year’s water communion will focus on our collective treatment of water: one global, one national, and one local.

Bring a small container of water with you whether it comes from an actual place you’ve been, or from a virtual location – some place you’d enjoy visiting. Together we’ll look at ways to be better stewards of streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans, so our great grandchildren will not parish.

Sunday, September 23, 2018

Building Racial Unity: Conversations and Relationships Jeanne Fox, *speaking*

In 2016, our congregation realized we were unintentionally practicing Isolationism. We were a white congregation in a white suburb, living in a “bubble” but feeling genuinely troubled by the growing chasm between black and white people. We decided to reach out intentionally across the color line to meet each other, to talk, to create friendships, to learn and to walk in solidarity with one another in the community. I would like to share our story with you: by building relationships we build racial unity.



Because today is the 5th Sunday we will have an All-Church potluck lunch. Bring a dish to share and plan on tarrying following the assembly to enjoy some fine food, great conversations and getting to know some folks who you’ve only seen across a crowded chapel. Open to everyone.

~ *Celebrating Compassion, Diversity, and Spiritual Growth* ~



Jim's Jabber

We held our board meeting on August 19 and here are some of the highlights:

One of the first agenda items was a facility report in which it was presented that all was moving along according to plan. No sooner did we finish, when L.D. asked about that unusual noise coming from the AC unit in the hall. As we tracked it down we discovered that the bearings in the AC squirrel cage were going out. We notified Marilyn who immediately got on top of the problem and all was fixed by the services on the 26th. So much for according to plan.

The Board is planning on having a retreat on Sept 8th. This will be a 10am-4pm meeting run by a facilitator at an offsite location to discuss UU things in general and some specifics of Red River. Will keep you posted on how this goes and the highlights of what was discussed.

We talked about an article in the UU World utilizing different language and techniques for inviting people to attend UU gatherings. L.D. Clark proposed adding a music component to our 5th Sunday In 4 Lunch Potluck. He will speak to church

LGBTQ+ Welcome



A Special Adult Forum Five-Week Roundtable

Sunday mornings 10-11
Sept 5 – Oct 7

In keeping with our denomination's goals of social justice and the evolution of the beloved community as well as our congregation's goal of becoming a UUA Certified Welcoming Congregation, we are offering a 5-week roundtable regarding LGBTQ+ culture & history.

This program is not designed to be an authoritative resource but rather the beginning of a conversation and the opening of hearts and minds to what is happening in our world to LGBTQ+ people.

Here's the prospectus of what we'll be discussing along with a list of useful terms used when speaking about human sexuality.

membership and gauge interested participants.

The board appointed Ronda DeCaire and Robert Shelton to the Long Range Planning Committee to join Marilyn and me, so I'm looking forward to our next official meeting.

Marla gave an update on NTUUC and some of the things happening in that organization. NTUUC is planning a big open meeting for November 10th to discuss short- and long-range planning and possible directions for this organization. We will discuss more on this in our semi-annual meeting on Oct 21 in case any of you might be interested in going.

Kelly discussed the Caring Committee. She and Megan are co-chairs, but with Megan's departure we are looking for someone to take her place. If you are interested or just interested in being available to help, contact Kelly or myself.

Doug discussed our various app and web presence tools and how we could make those more noticeable to the members. We also discussed the new web design effort that is starting with Marla, Doug, and me using WordPress and a base template provided by UU.

Jim

The Marginalization of the LGBTQ+ Community by different Religions

- Christian
- Buddhist/Hindu
- Muslim

Society's Stigmatization

- Homosexuality in history
- Stereotypes
- Hate Crimes
- Current Federal Administration

Unitarian Universalist Involvement

- History
- Current
- Welcoming Congregation
- The Beloved Community
- How You Can Help

Come to any or all of the sessions, and join the conversations.

Jack, *facilitator*

Okay; it's a book club, sort of. It's NOT like any book club you've seen before!

On the second Friday of every month, (this month that's the 14th) we meet in the church's Emerson Room at 1 pm to talk about ANY books we read in the last month or maybe before that.

Anyone who likes to read is welcome to come for a conversation about books. Sometimes people bring their books and lend them. Sometimes someone brings a snack.

We ALWAYS have a good time and you are welcome to join us. Call or text Carolyn Cameron for more info. 903 786 8646

Board Bits from the July meeting

The Board of Trustees met for the monthly meeting on August 19th in the chapel.

It was a lengthy but productive coming together.

L.D. Clark will be talking to folks regarding resurrecting a long-dead "music just for fun" component.

The building and grounds always occupy significant time, money and discussion. The major improvement in talks currently is the need for additional lighting in the chapel. Doug and L.D. will be working with Marilyn and Jim getting bids for materials and labor. Additional lighting will span the ceiling with special lighting over the piano and A/V desk.

Marla attended the meeting to give an update on NTUUC. Every year NTUUC awards grants to congregations for the financing of projects not funded in the budget. The congregation has until the end of November to prioritize our greatest need.

Doug was present giving an update on the upcoming Board retreat. The retreat will be held Sept. 8th and focus on training. The church By-Laws will be covered extensively to educate Board members on the laws that govern our church. The Policies and Procedures manual was established to provide guidelines for interacting with each other respectfully. This important church document is a vital training tool that will aid in our interactions being productive and not disruptive.

The date for the September Board meeting is TBA. The Board welcomes you to attend and discuss what's on your mind.



Literary Domination Society

Treasurer's Report

In the month of July, we had total receipts of \$3,564.00, and total expenses of \$3,540.32, including \$220.00, Share the Plate donation to the Grayson County Shelter, leaving an excess of receipts over expenditures for the month of July of \$23.68.

As of July 31, 2018, we had \$3,433.52 available in checking, a total of \$64,886.97 in all savings accounts and a total of \$14,572.71 in Certificates of Deposit.

All bank accounts have been reconciled with no exceptions noted.

Dick Powell, *Treasurer*

We Need You



A church is a community of kindred spirits with with caring

souls. Congregations

have traditionally

been places

where people

turn in time of

personal need and

struggle. Yes, we are caring

people (and yes, there is a "but" here)

but, we can't put all of our good intention to work if we don't know when there is a need. Truth is, we need you! We need to know when there is a need so we can help. So, email care@rruu.org and the good people at Red River UU will come out in droves because we care.

Kelly Cofield-Dyer, *caring facilitator*

September Birthdays

- 09 Victor Ratliff, Jr.
- 20 Angela Cates
- 22 Christopher Grimes
- 26 Paula Blackshear
- 29 Kat Walston
- 30 L.D. Clark

Friday Night Flicks ~ Sept. 21



Our Friday Night Flicks for September is Mudbound. We'll screen it on Friday, September 21st at 6 pm.

Set in the rural American South during World War II, Dee Rees' Mudbound is an epic story of two families pitted against one another by a ruthless social hierarchy, yet bound together by the shared farmland of the Mississippi Delta. Mudbound follows the McAllan family, newly transplanted from the quiet civility of Memphis and unprepared for the harsh demands of farming. Despite the grandiose dreams of Henry, his wife Laura struggles to keep the faith in her husband's losing venture. Meanwhile, Hap and Florence Jackson - sharecroppers who have worked the land for generations - struggle bravely to build a small dream of their own despite the rigidly enforced social barriers they face. The war upends both families' plans as their returning loved ones, Jamie McAllan and Ronsel Jackson, forge a fast but uneasy friendship that challenges the brutal realities of the Jim Crow South in which they live. Runtime: 135 minutes.

Social Action Update

Thanks to everyone who took the quick survey from TXUJMJ (Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry) to add your vote to what three issues you feel are most important for the Justice Ministry to focus on during the next Texas legislative cycle. Collectively we felt

- Environmental Justice (e.g. plastic bag bans, fracking, water resources),
- Immigration (e.g. local cooperation with ICE, border security, family detention centers), and
- Voting Rights (e.g. voter identification, online voter registration, early/mail-in voting), were the three most important issues.

Rebecca Crystal, *facilitator*

LGBTQ Welcoming committee

will meet on **Sunday Sept 9th @ 12:45** in the Church Library

Worship Team

The Worship Team will meet on **Sept. 12th at 12:45** to start working on the 2019

2019 Women's Retreat



The annual South-West UU Women's gathering will be Feb 22-24, 2019 in the Valley of the Vapors, Hot Springs, AR. Details [here](#).

Moveable Feast ~ in Sanger, TX

The Feasters have been invited to a potluck feast one Thursday in September at Megan Hutchinson's new digs. Look for all the details in an upcoming wednesdayUPDATE.

Chalice Circles / Interest Groups

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

Literary Domination Society ~ an informal monthly gathering for those who love to read, 2nd Friday at 1 pm in the Emerson Room. Carolyn Cameron, *facilitator*

Moveable Feast, a culinary chalice circle of people who enjoy food, preparing, sharing, and enjoying. A very popular church group that welcomes newcomers. Marion & Elbert Hill, *facilitators*

Friday Night Flicks ~ 3rd Friday of the month @ 6 pm. Comfy chairs, nice surroundings - and free popcorn! Doug Strong, *ersatz facilitator*

Earth Day Planning Committee ~ creators of the Texoma Earth Day Festival. Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *facilitator*

The Everything Email

news@redriveruu.org

A gentle reminder of the easiest way to get the word out to everyone about church activities, meetings, etc. Just use it to put something :

- On the **CHURCH APP**
- In the **NEWSLETTER**
- In the newly named **Wednesday UPDATE**
- In the **SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM**
- On the church **CALENDAR**
- On the church **WEB PAGE**

Leaders

Board of Trustees

Jim Holmes, *President*
Linn Cates, *Vice President*
Dick Powell, *Treasurer*
Kelly Cofield-Dyer, *Secretary*
L.D. Clark, *Trustee*
Helen Schulze, *Past President*

Committee on Ministry:

Dan Althoff, Marla Loturco,
Robert Shelton

Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: Jerry
Building & Grounds: Marilyn
Caring Circle: Kelly
Communications: Doug
Endowment: Carolyn, Dick, Doug
Finance:
Long Range Planning: Jim, Marilyn,
Robert, Ronda
Membership: Marion
Nominations: Amy, Elbert, David
NTUUC Rep: Marla
RE Team: Linn, Tommi
Safe Congregation Panel: Dan
Social Action: Rebecca
Worship: Chris, Doug, Marla,
Rebecca, Robert, Tommi

Contact Us

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



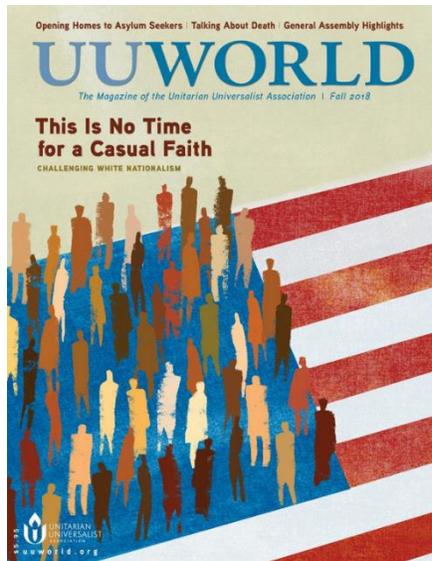
How to reach us:
903.231.3232
info@rruu.org
www.rruu.org
wednesdayUPDATE:

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

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

Church Calendar [here](#)

Our Common Read ~ for September



is an assortment of articles taken from the UU WORLD, *The Magazine of the Unitarian Universalist Association*, fall 2018 issue.

[This is no time for a casual faith](#) – The white supremacist rally last August in Charlottesville revealed the power and renewed boldness of the white nationalist movement—and the importance of our faithful commitment to communities of compassion, resilience, and resistance.

By Susan Frederick-Gray

[What we want at the end](#) – Talking about how we hope to die can help

avoid needless suffering for our loved ones and for ourselves.

By Kris Willcox

[Uus join Abolish ICE push](#) – Actions protesting U.S. treatment of migrants and asylum seekers were organized by the Latina organization Mi Gente in San Diego on July 2.

By Michael Hart, 7/9/2018

[Uus learn tools for ending the money bail system](#) – Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism hosts public witness event at 2018 General Assembly focused on criminal justice reform.

By Elaine McArdle

[Westboro Baptist Church picketed GA again](#) – During brief protest of Unitarian Universalist support for LGBT lives, police arrest a local activist. General Assembly Safety Team works to de-escalate situation with police.

By Elaine McArdle, 6/21/2018

UU World Digital Subscriptions

You can now subscribe to the UU World digital edition and enjoy reading the quarterly magazine on any device: a web browser, iOS Apple or Android. Annual subscriptions: for church members (who receive the print copy free as part of your membership) \$4.99; for friends of Red River the annual digital subscription is \$9.99. Details [here](#).

Red River Unitarian Universalist Church
PO BOX 1866
Denison, TX 75021-1806

