



RED RIVER RAMBLINGS

The Monthly Newsletter of Red River Unitarian Universalist Church ♦ Denison TX ♦ Vol 20, No. 9 ♦ February 2019

Sunday, February 3, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Good Fruit, Affluena and the Good Samaritan

F. Scott Cooper, *preaching*

Those with “affluenza” are said to have an inability to understand the consequences of their actions because of financial privilege. How we evaluate others’ actions and what consequences are appropriate seem to be more and more related to what degree we identify with them and their political leanings. How do these things inform our covenants and principles as UUs?

Sunday, February 17, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Hanging on to Hope

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

What can we hope for even in times that seem hopeless? What are the ways we can express hope that will cultivate positive transformation in ourselves and in our communities? Are there still reasons to hope in our world today? These questions and others will be explored as we look for hope in a time of crisis.

Sunday, February 10, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Vellamo ~ in Concert

Pia Leinonen and Joni Tiala, *performing*



Ethereal Finnish folk with gorgeous vocals and memorable melodic hooks,” Baptized by trolls and Norse elves”.

Vellamo’s music is characterized by haunting melodies, Pia's ethereal lead vocals and Joni's virtuosic guitar stylings. In Finnish mythology, Vellamo is the goddess of the sea. Based in Kokkola, on the western coast of Finland, Vellamo combines the rich tradition of Finnish folksong with an appealing “retro” sensibility, creating a modern folk music experience.

They are on their eighth visit to the US. Their 9 week “Winter Trails 2019 Tour” will take them through 8 states and over 20 concerts, including being with us on Sunday.

Read more about Vellamo on page 3

Sunday, February 24, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Bayard Rustin ~ the Gay Socialist Pacifist Who Planned the 1963 March on Washington

The Worship Team, *leading*

During February we honor National Black History month. Often the remarks focus on Dr. King. Marco’s mom Adrian suggested to the worship team that we create an assembly on Bayard Rustin. None of us knew the name, the man, or anything about his life. We agreed that looking at this fascinating character is worth a knowing. On Sunday we remember the man behind the March on Washington who hasn’t been given his due because of decades of prejudice.

LGBTQ Valentine Mixer Sat. Feb 9



Just in time for Valentine’s Day – our No Pressure Mixer on Sat. Feb 9th from 4-6, in the Emerson Room and the Barton Parlor.

We will be serving refreshments & welcoming the community to join us!

We are asking for everyone to either donate \$5 or a canned good to benefit the Callie Clinic here in Texoma. We are excited to start offering social events and hope that members of the congregation will also attend.

The welcoming congregation committee

Adult Forum - 10
Emerson, Thoreau & the Transcendentalist Movement
A Great Courses Series

Morning Assembly 11:15

Conversations & Calories – 12:15

~ Celebrating Compassion, Diversity, and Spiritual Growth ~

Jim's Jabber

We are now entering the awards season. No, I'm not talking about the Academy Awards, I'm talking about the UU awards.



On Jan 26th NTUUC presented recognition awards to a variety of UU's in the cluster for their volunteer efforts both in local congregations and in the larger community. Fifteen people from Red River UU attended to applaud our own Kelly Cofield-Dyer

who received the Marty Robinson Volunteer Award. Thanks, Kelly, for all you do.

On February 21 at 6pm we will have our annual appreciation dinner at church. It will be potluck so bring your favorite dish.

We will be recognizing our volunteers who help to keep us going along with announcing this year's recipient of the Bruce Cameron Distinguished Service Award.

When you get a chance check out the remodeled bathroom next to the kitchen. It looks great. Our

thanks go out to David Dyer for making this remodel a success. He ripped out the old wallboard and flooring and installed new bead board and linoleum that matches the other rest rooms in the building. I also want to thank Marilyn and Kevin for putting on the finishing touches.



The Jan 13th assembly on Walt Whitman brought us a full house. We had 47 people in the chapel. Thanks go out to the Worship Team for making this happen and for scheduling more future exciting morning assemblies.

Ever wonder what attendance would have been had we done more aggressive advertising to the community on this event?

If any of you out there have some advertising or marketing ideas that we are overlooking, I would love to discuss these with you so please contact me.

Jim

Join the Congregation



You've been visiting awhile or have been showing up long enough to realize you like it here, but the thought of actually *joining a church* is a stumbling block.

To join our congregation, you must do a few things:

- Know in your heart this is the place for you
- Sign the membership book
- Make a 'contribution of record' that can be volunteering for something (be a greeter, join a team or committee, help at an event) or make a financial contribution
- Complete "Time & Talent" and "Membership Information" forms and return them to Doug.

Our next New Member Ceremony will be Sunday, February 17th during the morning assembly. If you'd like more information, please email [Marion](#). We believe you won't be disappointed.

Meditation

Our 9 am weekly meditation group is taking a hiatus for the next while. It may return later in the year. In the interim, you can always find a quiet spot in your home to quietly sit for a while. It's a fine practice to develop.

Moveable Feast

Is not meeting in February because all Feasters are invited to the Appreciation Dinner on Feb. 21st.

Good People HELP!

Needed ASAP

- 1 or 2 people to be 'Ask Me' hosts
- 3-4 people to be Morning Greeter

Get more info [here](#)

The 8th Annual Appreciation Dinner – Thursday Feb. 21st @ 6 pm

Small congregations, matter not the theological proclivities, all rely on members and friends to assure their beloved community will not perish for lack of commitment, participation, financial resources, or love. Large congregations have the distinct advantage of having staff to oversee much of what it takes to keep things going well.

We do a sterling job and have achieved amazing results over our 21 years. We own our own building. We are growing. We have a balanced budget. Sunday attendance averages 35 and membership stands at 55 caring individuals.

Nine years ago, we quit paying rent and purchased a former funeral parlor on North Burnett Ave and spent a year transforming it into our church home. It was arduous, grueling and demanding work, but we did it. The Board of Trustees, under Marla Loturco's leadership, felt we needed to take a break, to spend one evening celebrating our achievements. They also wanted to somehow appreciate one person, Bruce Cameron, who had volunteered to be the Transformation Project Director. He spent hundreds of hours working.

The result is the Bruce Cameron Distinguished Service Award and, ever since, we've set aside the third Thursday in February for an Appreciation Dinner. Its a time to celebrate with gratitude how successful we, as the only liberal religious community in Texoma, have been.

When your birthday rolls around, don't you quietly think, you know, I'm glad I was born? The Appreciation Dinner is when we collectively say, "You know, I'm glad Red River Unitarian Universalists was born and thanks to ourselves for making it happen."

Everyone is responsible for this success. We all bring gifts. *Gifts of presence* - on Sundays at the morning assembly or Adult Forum, and by participating in meetings, chalice circles, social events and work days. *Gifts of leadership* - serving on committees, teams, and elected positions. *Gifts of economic resources* - small or grand, which sustains the fiscal institution.

This year's Appreciation Dinner will be a blending of fine Red River UU cuisine (aka potluck), some singing, some talking and a lot of thankfulness. The Bruce Cameron Award will also be awarded to someone.

Come, share in this, one of our own special traditions.

Come, whether you only rarely have been at church or if you are there every Sunday.

Come, whether you are a visitor, a friend, or a member.

Come, because you are part of what makes our small congregation vibrant, dynamic and vital.

Thursday, February 21st – 6 pm.



Sat. Afternoon Flicks

Feb 15

"13th" An appropriate choice during Black History Month. In this documentary, filmmaker and [Selma](#) director Ava DuVernay hovers a magnifying glass over the history of slavery and racial inequality in



the United States. She specifically connects America's dark past with the current issue of mass incarceration and the disproportionate prominence of African Americans in the prison system.

Saturday, Feb. 21st @ 2 in the chapel.

Run time: 1:40 hours

Sunday Speakers bios

Feb 3 – F. Scott Cooper

Scott is doing a year-long Chaplaincy Residency at Parkland Hospital in Dallas and is a UU minister in preliminary fellowship. He served as Sabbatical Minister at his home church, the First Unitarian Church of Dallas and completed his Ministerial Internship at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento. Scott received his M Div (Master of Divinity) degree from Brite Divinity School in 2016.

Scott and his husband Conrad share a nearly-hundred-year-old home in the Oak Cliff borough of Dallas with Conrad's father Rudy. Conrad is a psychologist, and his son and daughter attend college.

Feb 10 – Pia Leinonen and Joni Tiala

Pia Leinonen, originally from the arctic region of Lapland, is Vellamo's lead singer. Her exquisite voice combines her love and vast knowledge of Finnish folk music with the western singer-songwriter tradition in a unique and beautiful way. Her moving and evocative expression has been compared to other story-centric performer such as Joan Baez and Marlene Dietrich.

Joni Tiala, originally from the Finnish port of Kokkola, began playing guitar at the age of 11. His eclectic musical background includes writing and performing for theater, progressive and alternative rock and Finnish and western folk. In addition to his work in Vellamo, Joni is an accomplished theater and session musician, and is founding member of the renowned Finnish progressive rock band, Moonwagon.

In addition to shows in their homeland, Vellamo spends half of each year touring abroad; their adventures have led them throughout the United States, Europe and New Zealand.

Feb 17 – The Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies

Mark Davies is the Oklahoma State Humanities Scholar for the Smithsonian Institute Museum on Main Street Water/Ways exhibit. He is also the Wimberly Professor of Social and Ecological Ethics; Director of the World House Institute for Social and Ecological Responsibility; and Executive Director of the Leadership, Education, and Development Hub North America for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry at Oklahoma City University where he has worked in both teaching and administration for 22 years. He is a United Methodist minister and holds a Ph.D. in Social Ethics, from Boston University.

Literary Domination Society

On Friday, February 8 at one o'clock, all readers are invited to come to the Emerson Room for an hour of fun talking about what we're been reading – from comic books to classics. Please try it! Call or text Carolyn for more info 903.786.8646.

Repairs & Improvements



NTUUC approved a grant that the board of trustees submitted to help offset the cost of repairing the crumbling chimney in the basement. Along with the grant, church funds will be used to repair the back stairway from the 2nd floor; installing new flooring in the Arts & Crafts room and repairing the ceiling in the lower foyer (damaged when the roof leaked).

Share Your World!

After you finish reading the UU World magazine, how about leaving it at church so the "Ask Me" Host can share them with visitors?

You may leave them on the counter in the lower lobby.

The magazine comes free to all members. There are 4 issues a year.



Treasurer's Report

In the month of December, we had total receipts of \$10,893.88, and total expenses of \$6,972.75, including \$67.00, Share the Plate donation to the Grayson County Shelter and our second quarterly payment of \$591.00 to the UUA Annual Program Fund, leaving an excess of receipts over expenditures for the month of December of \$3,921.13. As of December 31, 2018, we had \$7,735.42 available in checking, a total of \$60,934.49 in all savings accounts and a total of \$14,625.56 in Certificates of Deposit. All bank accounts have been reconciled with no exceptions noted.

Dick Powell, *Treasurer*

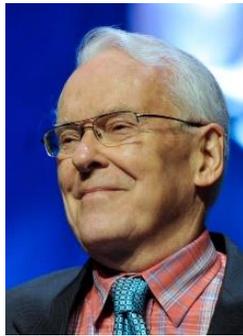
Worship Team

meets Sunday, Feb. 10 @ 12:45 to plan future Sunday mornings.

Common Read for February

The Rev. Clark Olsen was one of the three UU ministers attacked the evening the Rev. James Reeb, another UU, was murdered. It was during the March on Selma. Olsen died January 21st - Martin Luther King's holiday. Our common read for February is a portion of a 2001 UU World article Olsen wrote about the experience and how it shaped the rest of his life.

You can read the New York Times Jan 28th tribute to his life and ministry [here](#)



The Longest March

By Rev. Clark Olson

Selma was 36 years ago. But 20 years went by before my thoughts began to mature about what happened there—to Jim Reeb, Orloff Miller, and me.

My Selma had been a mixture of anger, fear, sorrow, wonder, and pride. Anger about Jim Reeb's death, about those who attacked the three of us, and about the Alabama system of justice—including an all-white, all-male jury—that found innocent the three men who had been charged with killing Jim.

Selma was fear, reexperienced fairly often in telling friends or family about the events of that terrible night in Selma: the men coming across the street shouting angry words, carrying a club. Waiting at the clinic while the doctor examined Jim. Fearing Jim's death as he squeezed my hand more tightly as his head pain increased and before he sank into unconsciousness. Fearing for all of us when our ambulance had a flat tire just after leaving Selma's city limits on the way to the hospital in Birmingham, and the ambulance radiotelephone wouldn't work. Especially fearing when a car full of white men pulled up behind us on the country road, then followed us back to town while we drove on the rim of our flat tire, headed for a phone that would bring a replacement ambulance. Fear turned to terror when the car full of men parked next to our waiting ambulance and walked around the ambulance knocking on the windows. I thought that they might bury us in a watery ditch that night, the same kind of ditch where the bodies of civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner had recently been found in Mississippi. And fear that Jim would die before we arrived at the Birmingham hospital.

And Selma was sorrow. Sorrow that Jim, "this good man" as President Lyndon B. Johnson called him in his address to Congress, left his family to be in Selma, walked with Orloff and me on that Selma sidewalk in the position, next

to the curb, that was most vulnerable to the attackers' club; that we weren't able to get help quickly; that he had very little chance, if any, of surviving the blow; and that his wife and children had to deal with this terrible blow to them as well.

Wonder and pride were also part of my Selma mixture. Wonder, or amazement, at the media attention, at the sight, in the hospital, of President Johnson's gift of yellow roses, and at his dispatch of a presidential aircraft to bring Marie Reeb and Jim's father to Birmingham before Jim's body gave out. Amazement that Jim's martyrdom apparently moved President Johnson to urge Congress to pass the Voting Rights Bill. My wonder and pride were personal as well: that I had chosen to go to Selma, and that I, so totally by accident, had been present at such a pivotal, though tragic, event in history.

For years, Selma was this mixture of emotions for me, enriched with some knowledge of the historical context. But though I had told the story to my family and to a few others, including friends at the Berkeley UU Fellowship, where I was then the minister, I had not shaped it to anything more than my emotional stew. [More](#) (when the link opens, scroll down to the section "Finding The Meaning" to continue reading the remainder of his article)

Welcoming Congregation Update

Part of the process of becoming a certified Welcoming congregation is to bring to our congregation more visibility of the contributions of LGBTQ people. The worship team, for example, now places a notation in the morning program acknowledging the contributions of LGBTQ authors, composers, etc.

Did you notice that on February 27th we will all learn more about one of Martin Luther King's compatriots? Thanks to Adrian Hinton for suggesting the name.

The committee has three new social media accounts. FB - Red River LGBTQ or @rrlgbtq; a Twitter- Red River UU LGBTQ or @UuLgbtq as well as an Instagram- Red River UU LGBTQ. So, follow us, tell your family and friends as well. The more people who keep up with what we're doing, the better our outreach to the wider community. Many LGBTQ people find a home within UU congregations, like ours!

Thanks to Lisa and Angie Cates for joining us and contributing greatly to an awesome meeting. We look forward to seeing your faces at the table and giving of yourselves to our effort.

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: Doug, Marla, Rebecca,
Robert, Tommi

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- Website: redriveruu.org
- Facebook: [RedRiverUnitarianUniversalistChurch](https://www.facebook.com/RedRiverUnitarianUniversalistChurch)
- Mobile App: 'RedRiverUU' free at the [Apps Store](#) & [Google Play](#).
- Calendar [here](#)

Chalice Circles & Interest Groups

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

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. The committee has not yet made a decision whether there will be a festival in 2019. We'll keep you posted. Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *facilitator*

LITERARY DOMINATION SOCIETY ~ an informal monthly gathering for those who love to read and enjoy hearing about what others are reading. They meet for an hour on the second Friday @ 1 pm in the Emerson Room. Carolyn Cameron, *facilitator*.

MEDITATION ~ current on hiatus until further notice.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON FLICKS ~ As the days are getting shorter, FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS is shifting to a winter schedule, meeting on the 3rd Saturday at 2 pm. For February, the group will screen 13th. Sat. Feb. 16th @ 2 pm. Comfy chairs, nice surroundings - even two screens! Doug Strong, *ersatz 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*

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