



RED RIVER RAMBLINGS

The Monthly Newsletter of Red River Unitarian Universalist Church ♦ Denison TX ♦ Vol 20, No. 10 ♦ March 2019

Sunday, March 3, 2019

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Teams

*The morning worship from The First Parish in Bedford, MA
The Rev. John Gibbons, speaking*

We go to movies to become engrossed with what we see, hear and feel. We know it is a film and yet we feel the emotions. We laugh or cry, are happy or sad. We leave often deeply touched by the experience. The result is no less real than sitting in a theater watching the actors in front of us.

Most of us rarely, if ever, have worshiped at other UU churches. We don't know how other UUs "do" Sunday morning. On Sunday we're going to try an experiment – by bringing a complete worship experience to our chapel, thanks to the miracle (well, so common now we hardly remember what a miracle it is) of video.

We will experience how a New England UU congregation – one that has been meeting every Sunday for 289 years – does worship! Will the experience be on par with going to a movie? Come find out how another UU congregation worships. The sermon has a timely message for us as well! The preacher is terrific (he's been with the congregation 29 years!)

Sunday, March 10, 2019

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

In The Spirit of Woody Guthrie with "Toulouse T' Care"

Fenton Rood & Mark Christian, *leading*

Toulouse T' Care, the singing duo of Fenton Rood and Mark Christian, brings us a morning filled with songs Woody Guthrie Wood wrote, along with a couple of songs about the man. Guthrie was a lot of things. He was an activist during the depression and all the way through World War II. As Unitarian Universalists we can learn a lot from the way Guthrie took on the issues of his day, holding compassion for the people while making business and governments accountable. 1853 Theodore Parker wrote that the moral arc of the universe bends toward justice. Our job is to find that moral arc and bend it towards justice.

Mark Christian is the retired minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Oklahoma City. Fenton Rood is the Director, Waste Systems Planning at Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. They've been singing protest songs as a hobby for awhile and enjoy sharing their enthusiasm with most anyone who will listen. They've found an audience in several UU churches, all of whom enjoyed their program on Woody Guthrie. And the name? Singing at the OKC farmer's market someone asked if it didn't bother them that people were just wandering around, not paying loads of attention to their singing, Mark's reply was, "Ah, we're too loose to care."



Sunday, March 17, 2019

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Why We Love Elephants

Lanan and Robert Shelton, *speaking*

Robert and Lanan Shelton are long time members of Red River UU. Robert began his love affair with elephants when he was a child. His grandmother traveled extensively, and when she visited a country with an elephant population, she brought a figurine representing an elephant indigenous to the area. Robert's sister moved to southern India, and the collection grew.

Lanan enjoyed the collection and began to look for other figurines. Now their collection is proudly displayed in our home. The Sheltons have been intrigued with documentaries about these magnificent creatures and would like to share their love for elephants with you.

Sunday, March 24, 2019

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

An Instinct for Kindness: Being an Ally in Times of Crisis

Dr. Rachel Tudor, *speaking*

Dr Tudor filed a complaint of discrimination against Southeastern when she was denied tenure solely because she is transgender. They retaliated by firing her. She sued and won (unanimous vote of the jury). She is now asking a federal appeals court to allow her to return to Southeastern with tenure. The State of Oklahoma is opposing that remedy. Thirty-one professional organizations have filed "friend of the court" briefs supporting her reinstatement. Dr. Tudor returns to our pulpit to update us on her struggle to be allowed to be who she is. A struggle no human should experience.

Sunday, March 31, 2019

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

The World is my Parish

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

The World is my Parish – reflections on what we might learn from the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, in our current global context. We will also be exploring the universalist themes within Wesley's understanding of grace.



Afterwards today we gather for our traditional 5th Sunday all church potluck. Bring a dish to share and plan on lingering to break bread together.

**Be Advised: The building will be
CLOSED
the week of March 11 - 16
to repair the ceiling in the lower foyer.
Kindly stay away!**

Jim's Jabber

We had a great time at the appreciation dinner on Thursday night, February 21st. Thanks to all for coming and bringing a variety of great food. I also want to thank all the volunteers that we honored for what they do for Red River UU. I also want to congratulate this year's winner of the Bruce Cameron Award for ... oh wait, that was me who received this year's award, boy do I feel a bit embarrassed! Thank you to all the past winners for selecting me to receive this great honor.

Three big events are coming up in the next few months.

- First is the 1th Annual Texoma Earth Day Festival. As the Earth Day Festival's tag line remind us "*Red River UU ~ The Reason Earth Day is in Texoma!* We needs multitudes of volunteers to help so if you are interested contact Amy or any Board member.

- Second is the 2019 Stewardship Campaign that allows us to set our budget for next year and determine what additional activities we can afford. There will be more on this in the newsletter. Just remember, Red River is only able to exist through the generosity of our members.
- Third, we will have our semiannual congregational meeting on May 21st following the morning assembly. This is when we present next year's budget based on pledges. We will also be electing new church leadership for the Board, the Committee on Ministry, and the Nominating Committee for those whose terms will expire.

Finally, the church will do renovation on March 11-16 to repair the water damage in the foyer from the roof leak. Thanks to Marilyn and Kevin for making this happen. Also, thanks to our Aesthetics Committee (Doug, Carol, and Marilyn) for insuring that the work will look good and fit within the style of our wonderful building.

Jim

Congrat's Jim



This year's Bruce Cameron Distinguished Service Award was given to Jim Holmes. Doug was asked to do the honors:

The 2019 Bruce Cameron Distinguished Service Award is presented this evening to Jim Holmes.

Jim's first visit was when daughter Kelly dared him to come. Thanks Keller! After that Apr 10, 2016 visit, he returned sporadically at first. His only other connection with organized religion was being a Presbyterian for a while as a kid in Ft. Worth. Six months later, on Feb 19, 2017 Jim joined the congregation.

He's given a lot of thought about what he believes, what gives his life value and has shared some of that from the pulpit on Credo Sunday, when he spoke on "To The Universe and Beyond", and during last year's Veteran's Day morning assembly.

Jim's involvement has been multifaceted. Beyond Sunday mornings, he spearheaded the vertical elevator project - start to finish. Research brands, ordered, purchased, arranged the electrical work, was on site for the installation. He currently spends time in the cellar knocking out decaying bricks and

installing braces to hold the main chimney from collapsing. Then he will rebrick the chimney foundation. He has a way of saying YES, rather than no. To wit:

He is part of the monthly Trash Troop, has shared his knowledge of web design by joining the web team that created our new website; and is serves on the Long Range Planning committee and is part of the Moveable Feast.

He is the guru-par-excellence of our 16 camera security system and can show you how you can watch what's happening in any of the rooms of the church on your smart phone. During the morning assembly, he keeps tabs on the outside doors, and what Marko might be up to in the Arts & Crafts room.

And a lot of small, little things. When we got an email from someone locked out of the building last Sunday because no one noticed the light flashing, he took a suggestion from Kelly about maybe using buzzers you get in a restaurant that silently alert you when your table is ready and found a door bell with such a vibrating system so no one will be locked out again.

When asked, Jim agreed to serve - if elected - as the trustee-at-large on the Board.

One last place Jim said yes - when the nominating committee asked to stand for election as President of the Congregation last May, he said yes.

Jim Holmes, on behalf of a most grateful congregation thanks, dude, for all you do.- dms

The 11th Annual Texoma Earth Day Festival - April 13



This year's focus will be on recycling and recycling education. Our planning committee is gathering information about the current recycling programs in north Texas so attendees will know what they can recycle at home and at drop off centers. Recent changes in global recycling have resulted in changes in some recycling programs and a lot of confusion. We plan displays and a recycling resource booklet to help educate the public.

We will sponsor a community wide swap meet in the Municipal Ballroom. People can bring clothing, games and movies and take what they want. The left-overs will go to the company that recycles household items and electronics for the festival.

This change means no keynote speaker and no workshops, but lots of vendors, entertainment along with learning loads about recycling.

Here's some of the activities happening at this year's festival:

- Book Sale
- Blood Mobile
- Kids Art Show
- Paper shredding
- Drug takeback
- Trash Vii fashion show
- Adopt a pet
- Entertainment
- Recycling opportunities

You are encouraged to help with the festival by volunteering the most precious thing we all have - TIME!

Volunteers are needed on Friday, April 12th to set up and throughout the day on Saturday, April 13th.

Being a volunteer is work, yes, but also it comes with having a good time, meeting an array of people, learning about recycling (we all need to know more) and in knowing that together Red River UU is helping to make a difference in the world.

For liability reasons, all volunteers have to complete a [volunteer form](#) and return it to [Jeanette Parker](#).

You can volunteer for a few or many hours that you wish.

Red River UU -

The Reason Earth Day is in Texoma

Wanna Future? Recycle.

Presenting the

2019 Sherman Earth Day Recycle Event!!

April 13, 9am - 4pm



Did you know that there is a garbage island in the Pacific Ocean twice the size of Texas??

Recycling Starts With You!!

Learn what you can recycle! You would be surprised!

Items accepted for recycling: Electronic Waste, Appliances, Clothing, Shoes, Batteries, Cardboard, Paper, Styrofoam, Plastic Medicine Bottles, Ink Cartridges, Cell Phones

Outdated Prescription Drug Collection

Fabulous Earth Day Swap Meet - Municipal Ballroom - Clothing, Handbags, Movies, Jewelry, Music, Games

Paper Shredding

Visit our Website for Schedules and Details!

Youth Art Shows - Vendors

Entertainment - Children's Activities

Where: Sherman Municipal Ballroom and Lucy Kidd Key Park



www.EarthdayTexoma.org



Moveable Feast

The feasters agreed in January to try a different approach for 2019 that involves holding small feasts on odd numbered months. In January two feasts were held. If you would enjoy hosting a moveable feast in your home for up to 8 guests, speak with Marion Hill (or contact her [here](#))

Friday Night Flicks - Mar 22



“The Post” is the March Friday Night Flicks movie we’ll be screening on Mar 22 @ 6 pm in the chapel. (Note it is a week later due to the church being closed from Mar 11-16).

Here’s the plot summary:

Katharine Graham is the first female publisher of a major American newspaper -- The Washington Post. With help from editor Ben Bradlee, Graham races to catch up with The New York Times to expose a massive cover-up of government secrets that spans three decades and four U.S. presidents. Together, they must overcome their differences as they risk their careers -- and very freedom to help bring the long-buried truths to light.

The movie doesn’t credit our own Beacon Press (the printing voice of the Unitarian Universalist Association) that published the entire 5 volumes government version of the Pentagon Papers on Oct 10, 1971. Read the UU involvement [here](#).

Literary Domination Society

On Friday, March 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.

Worship Team

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

We are pleased to report that the Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies will continue to be with one Sunday a month through the calendar year.

Well Done Ellie!



Ellie Dyer starting singing in the shower and her family quickly learned she was pretty good. Now everyone knows! Ellie competed in the District Choir Auditions at South Eastern in Durant on Sat. Mar. 23rd and was awarded a medal for a superior performance earning a One, the highest. She performed a solo rendition of *“Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child”*. Ellie advances to the State competition to be held on March 30th. Send vibes and good wishes to the cosmos to help her do well. We’re all rooting for you, Ellie!

UU Day at the TX Legislature

The Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry (TXUUJM) is hosting a Legislative Action Day in Austin on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, and you're invited! Our goal is to gather 300 UUs from across the state of Texas for advocacy training, small group meetings with state senators, representatives, and legislative staff to talk about our key issues.

TXUUJM's key issues for 2019 are:

1. Reproductive Justice
2. Immigration/Refugee
3. Justice Economic Inequality Justice
4. Environmental Justice/Education

More info [here](#) if you are interested in going to this free event (there will be buses leaving from Dallas)

Treasurer’s Report

In the month of January, we had total receipts of \$6,775.50, which included the NTUUC grant of \$4,320.00. Expenses for the month totaled \$3,561.09, including \$205.50, Share the Plate donation to the Grayson County Shelter and building maintenance expenses of \$1,060.00, leaving an excess of receipts over expenditures for the month of January of \$3,214.41.

As of January 31, 2019, we had \$5,733.58 available in checking, a total of \$64,934.49 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*

Welcoming Congregation update

In February the Welcoming Congregation Committee had a great time decorating for and hosting a Valentine's No Pressure Mixer. While attendance wasn't what we hoped, those who did come had a great time, including Dr. Aaron Brown from The Church @ Texoma - a new LGBTQ affirming Christian congregation in Sherman. They meet every Sunday evening at 6pm in our old digs, Grand Avenue Presbyterian Church.

We also worked with the worship committee to celebrate the progressing visibility of transgender people around the world. Check out the details about the March 24th Morning Assembly on page one of this month's newsletter. Next month we will be helping Amy & her team with the Earth Day event in Sherman, hope to see you there! Here's a good quote:

"The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference." Elie Wiesel

March Birthdays

- 12 Jan Fletcher
- 14 Marilyn Alexander
- 14 Fay Shadrick
- 19 Carole Harner
- 21 William Lloyd Fridley
- 22 Elbert Hill
- 23 Andres Mory
- 25 Lanan Shelton

If you are a March baby but don't see your big day listed, tis because you haven't added your birthday to the church database. You can do that by sending your birthday to news@redriveruu.org

Recycling at church

The Earth Day Planning Committee has some helpful guidelines so our church recycling meets the requirements, that have changed since China no longer accepts plastic waste from the world (China passed the National Sword policy banning plastic waste from being imported — for [the protection of the environment and people's health](#). They were recycling about 45% of the world's plastic waste!)

Here's some stuff found in our recycling bins that should not to have been there:

- Plastic bags

- Aluminum foil
- Building material
- Dirty cardboard
- Wax coated cartons
- Styrofoam

The city of Denison welcomes an assortment of **CLEAN** items, including

- glass bottles & jars
- all sorts of paper (but not foil liners or shredded paper)
- All types of cardboard
- Aluminum, tin and steel cans
- Food and beverage cartons with foil lining
- Plastics 1-5 and 7 (alas but not 6) NOTE: If there is no recycle code number on the bottom that means the plastic is a composite and cannot be recycled.

Please remember all cycled items need to be clean!

App Update from the UUA

A new monthly update from Boston. Here's a brief video from the Rev. Susan Frederick-Grey, president of the UUA:



Also in this month's Update:

As people of a deeply interconnected faith, we have each other's backs as together we resist a racist government bent on violating human rights for political gain. Love Resists can help you get connected to support individuals and families facing an unjust immigration system.

Be A Solution

In these times of criminalization and xenophobia, inclusive Unitarian Universalist spaces can save lives. Help your congregation live deeply into its intentional welcome of LGBTQIA+ folx with Five Practices of Welcome Renewal.

Renew Your Practice

As the UUA journeys toward a culture of greater equity and inclusion, we'll share insights and tools with congregations for their own exploration. One resource we've come across recently is the excellent training work of The Management Center. Your congregation may find it helpful as well.

Ethical Leadership

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*
Aesthetics: *Carol, Doug, Marilyn*
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

Contact Us

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How to reach us:

- Phone: 903.231.3232
- Email: info@redriveruu.org
- 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 group meets on Mar 12 and Mar 26 @ 6:30 pm. NOTE: The Mar 12 meeting is NOT at church. Ask Amy where y'all are meeting. 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.

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS ~ We return to summer time and meet on the second Friday @ 6 pm to enjoy a movie together. The March movie is "The Post." BUT because the church is closed March 11-16, Friday Night Flicks will meet on Friday, March 26 @ 6 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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