

RED RIVER RAMBLINGS

The Monthly Newsletter of Red River Unitarian Universalist Church ♦ Denison TX ♦ Vol 20, No. 12 ♦ April 2019

Sunday, April 7, 2019

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Close to You? Distance and Communication

Dr. William Lloyd Fridley, speaking

Would you rather be close or far? How far is it, and how long till we get there, Sisyphus? How close is too close, Icarus? Oops, better ask Daedalus!



William Lloyd Fridley, a longtime friend of the congregation. Fridley is an Associate Professor of Education and has been at Southeastern Oklahoma State University since 1999. He teaches Foundations of Education and his areas of expertise are philosophy of education, professional ethics and

ethical theory, and multicultural education. William is also an artist and song writer and collaborates with his wife Carolyn in musical recording, performing and other creative projects.

Sunday, April 14, 2019

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Embracing Religious Pluralism and Celebrating Interdependent Community.

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

An exploration of how our society can leverage our religious diversity to find common ground for our journey together into Beloved Community.

Mark is a United Methodist minister and holds a Ph.D. in Social Ethics, from Boston University. 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.

Sunday, April 21, 2019

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Easter for the Non-Religious:

Our Seventh Annual All-Music Easter Morning

With flutist Cornell Kinderknecht, performing

Religious communities often disagree more than they agree – conflicting theologies, writings, beliefs ... the list goes on and on. One thing, however, seems to be present in many, if not all, gathered communities of faith: music. We will again this year celebrate Easter with a special concert by flutist Cornell Kinderknecht.

For those who cut church on Easter fearing it would clash with your sense of being, here's your chance for redemption!



Cornell Kinderknecht is an award-nominated recording artist and performer of flutes and other woodwind instruments from around the world, including Native American flute, bansuri flute from India, ocarina, recorder and bamboo flutes. His original compositions and playing have been described as soothing, soaring, haunting, and playful with influences of Native America, the Middle East, India, and the Far East. His musical style draws from his experience in the areas of classical, pop, folk, jazz and world music. Watch Cornell in concert [here](#).

Sunday, April 28, 2019

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Breathing UU Faith Into The Body Politic

The Rev. Chuck Freeman, preaching

A compelling teaching from the Epistle of James reads, "Removing action from faith is like removing breath from a body. All you have left is a corpse." Religious progressives have allowed the faith narrative in Texas to be dominated by an extreme vocal sect of one religion. No wonder our state is on life support!! Come hear why breathing UU faith into the body politic will literally transform us from a near-death experience into a state of living, loving souls!



Rev. Chuck Freeman has been in the ministry since 1977 serving Church of Christ and now Unitarian Universalist congregations. He is the founding minister of the Free Souls Church in Round Rock, Texas. Chuck is a founding member of the Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry (TXUUJM) and its Executive Director. He is the co-founder & organizer of Undoing Racism Round Rock working for systemic racial equity in the community. Chuck is also an active leader in Shut Down Hutto which is a sustained campaign to close the T. Don Hutto immigrant prison in Taylor, Texas.

Spring Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 19th

1:00 pm

Following a catered lunch

Save the Date!

Jim's Jabber



Spring is in the air and the weather is turning nice. We all know what that means. Yes, it's time to kick off our annual pledge drive that we call the Stewardship Campaign. Red River UU exists and only because of the generosity and financial support of our members, friends and caring visitors. Without this support, Red River UU would not exist.

When you fill out your pledge card this enables the Board to create a budget for the next year and also determine how best to spend any extra funds to support our wishes for building improvements, outreach programs, share-the-plate, and other community and church activities.

Many of you have noticed the renovation and improvements we are doing in the foyer, upper lobby and elsewhere in our building. Funding from this comes from our NTUUC grant, special donations from our generous members, and any pledge money that we can divert without impacting ongoing programs. We all enjoy our beautiful old building, but taking proper care of it comes at a price. This past year we have had an exceptionally high cost for repairing things that have broken. More on this in the Spring Congregational Meeting.

For those of you that also contribute to support the church by volunteering, the Earth Day Festival is coming up in April. Amy can always use help so let her know you are interested and fill out the volunteer registration forms that are in the lobby, on the church app, website and on the WednesdayUPDATE.

Jim

Thank You, Marilyn



Marilyn and Gill Alexander first visited Red River UU on January 22, 2012. It was 78° and most folks had skipped the morning, in order to enjoy the fine weather. Two months later they joined the congregation and shortly after that, Marilyn noticed that little things needing to be done here and there. She started helping take care of the building, replacing this, repairing that. Soon the little things became big things that needed caring so she started including them as well.

For the next six years Marilyn has taken care of our physical facilities, transforming our 100+ year-old building inside and out. You may have assumed that we have several people taking care of planting flowers, overseeing roof repairs, foyer renovation, keeping track of supplies, making sure the building is clean, the lawns mowed, and the walks trimmed. Not so. We've had Marilyn.

From replacing clock batteries to repairing asphalt in our parking lot, Marilyn and been our go-to person whenever a fuse blows, the outside faucets need winterproofing, or the church mice need to be encouraged to find a new home. She has shouldered it all quietly and expertly.

Carrying the responsibilities of caring for our

building and grounds has been both a joy for her and at times a royal pain, especially when the heat goes out on a cold, winter day or the a/c decided to quit when it's 100° out. While many of us had hoped she would make this a life-long commitment, we all knew the day would come when Marilyn would like to move on and let someone else take a turn.

She shared her decision with the Board which will be responsible for securing our next building and grounds coordinator.

It will not be as difficult for the next person (or team of people) because Marilyn has left the building in good repair and even composed a detailed job description to assist whomever assumes the helm.

Thank you, Marilyn, from all of us.

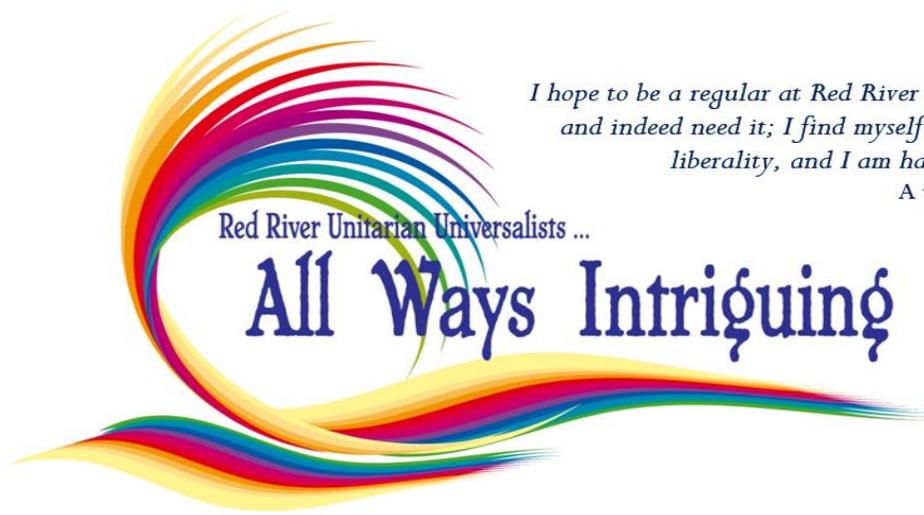
Postcards for Peace

A project started by Jolene Whitten as a way we might reach out to the Denison Mosque to show our support following the terror attack against two mosques in Christchurch, NZ.

Postcards were distributed the last two Sundays in March inviting people to write their own messages.

Encourage others to participate. Religious diversity enriches our community and letting them know how important it is that we have a local mosque is one way we can bring joy to others.

Denison Mosque, 6544 FM1417, Denison, TX 75020



I hope to be a regular at Red River UU. I like the community, and indeed need it; I find myself endorsing its openness and liberality, and I am happy to be at the meetings.”

A visitor's email to the church
Spring 2019

March, 2019

Dear friends,

The year since our last annual letter has been invigorating, inviting and intriguing. Take our Sunday Morning tAssemblies - now averaging 38 of us weekly. Fifty-two mornings with topics ranging from UU theology to loving elephants; global warming to monarch butterflies; a singing duo from Finland and the endearing spirit of Woody Guthrie presented by two dudes from Oklahoma. Clergy from 6 different traditions, lay speakers and church members that have entertained, challenged, surprised and expanded our thinking. Mornings filled with thoughts that matter. We are Red River UUs - All Ways Intriguing.

Encouraged by a mandate at last May's meeting, we've launched a proactive approach to growth. We have a new website, Twitter and Instagram accounts, and a second Facebook page. We're shifting from the RRUU initials to a Red River UU identity and we continue to be the only UU congregation anywhere with a church app! It reaches beyond the 55 members who have made Red River Unitarian Universalists their community of choice.

This Spring, before we gather on May 19th for our Spring meeting, there is one important tradition we want to celebrate - the 2019 Annual Stewardship Campaign. Yes, celebrate. Pause and ponder the importance of this one small corner in Texoma that celebrates compassion, diversity and spiritual growth. What if it disappeared? Why not celebrate this opportunity to sustain our lay-led congregation? Our individual pledges are the "premiums" we pay for the assurance that a liberal religious presence will continue to thrive in Texoma.

The celebration has started with this letter. Take time and think about what our church means to you and how you can be part of sustaining that meaning. It costs about \$120.50 a day to keep us alive and well. How many days might you sponsor?

You can complete your stewardship gifts on line by tapping/clicking the button below. You can also give via the app and on our website. Paper commitment forms are available on the counter in the foyer outside the chapel and on the table in the upper lobby.

If you reply by April 15th (a day we can all remember), you will save having one of us give you a call.

Be well, friends - and intrigued!

Jim, Linn, Kelly, Dick, L.D., and Helen
The Board of Trustees



The 11th Annual Texoma Earth Day Festival - Sat. April 13

Red River UU ~ the reason Earth Day is in Texoma

We need your help at the 2019 Texoma Earth Day Festival. We have had almost no volunteers from Red River UU sign up, and we are getting worried. We need registration forms by Wednesday, April 3 in order to order t-shirts for volunteers. Sign up [here](#).

Many recycling programs in the United States have had to make changes in the materials they can accept in the past few years. China no longer accepts contaminated recycling, and that has caused some programs to shut down or dramatically restrict the materials they accept. As a result, people are confused about the items they can recycle and are concerned with whether their recycling is going to the landfill.

DURING THE FESTIVAL THIS YEAR: The Earth Day Planning Committee decided to focus on recycling and recycling education for the 2019 Texoma Earth Day Festival.

REGIONAL RECYCLING PROGRAMS: We have planned new displays on regional recycling programs. We are publishing a comprehensive regional recycling guide as our printed program. It lists the materials accepted for recycling by cities in north Texas and southern Oklahoma and the types of recycling programs offered. The guide also identifies thrift stores that take donations, scrap metal

with any questions.

businesses, drop off recycling sites, and bulk pick up programs. After the festival, the guide will be available online. We also are adding a couple of games to teach all ages how to sort recycling and identify whether an item can be recycled.

RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES: Throughout the day, we will be offering a wide variety of recycling opportunities on Rusk Street in front of the Municipal Building. Recycling on Rusk Street includes paper shredding, electronic waste (anything a current ran through), household items, prescription drugs, ink & toner cartridges, paper and cardboard, and Styrofoam. We are not accepting televisions or household hazardous waste.

COMMUNITY-WIDE SWAP MEET: We are also hosting our first ever community wide Swap Meet inside the ballroom. Attendees are invited to bring clothing, belts, handbags, jewelry, movies, games, puzzles and music to the Municipal Ballroom on Friday 12-5 pm. The swap meet will be Saturday 9-1. You can bring as much and take as much as you want. Anything left over will be transferred to the household recycling.

PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US for Red River Unitarian Universalists largest annual community outreach project.

Moveable Feast

The Feasters have decided to have lunch one Wed or Friday in April at Restaurant 691, on the campus of Grayson College. While it is a limited menu, the cost is \$10 and the food is excellent, as is the atmosphere. Check the WednesdayUPDATE for which Friday and if you want to join the group speak with Marion Hill (or contact her [here](#)).

Literary Domination Society

NOTE THE DATE CHANGE (just for this month) The fearless readers will meet on Friday, April 19 at 1 pm in the Emerson Room for an hour of fun talking about books. Please come prepared to talk about anything you've ever seen printed! We try to keep it to one hour. Call or text Carolyn Cameron

Worship Team

meets Sunday, Apr. 14 @ 12:45 to plan future Sunday mornings - chapel

Welcoming Congregation

Committee meets Sunday, Apr. 7 @ 12:45 - chapel

Board of Trustees Meeting

Will be Sunday, April 28 at 1 pm to finalize the proposed budget and other material for the upcoming May 19th Spring Congregational Meeting.

Friday Night Flicks - Apr 19



One of the top Coen Brother's films "**No Country for Old Men**" is the April Friday Night Flicks movie we'll be screening on Apr 19 @ 7 pm in the

chapel. *Starring Josh Brolin, Tommy Lee Jones and Javier Bardem, the Coen brothers' 'No Country for Old Men' follows Llewelyn Moss, who stumbles on a bloody crime scene and a pickup truck loaded with heroin and two million dollars in cash. His decision to take the money he found sets off an unstoppable chain reaction of violence. As an enigmatic killer who determines the fate of his victims with the flip of a coin sets out in pursuit of Moss, the disillusioned Sheriff Bell struggles to contain the rapidly escalating violence that seems to be consuming his once-peaceful Lone Star State town. Run time 2 hours.*

Treasurer's Report

In the month of February, we had total receipts of \$7,386.00, which included a generous donation of \$5,000.00 for additional building repairs. Expenses for the month totaled \$3,205.28, including \$131.00, Share the Plate donation to Earth Day, leaving an excess of receipts over expenditures for the month of February of \$4,180.72.

As of February 28, 2019, we had \$9,914.30 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*

April Birthdays

-  07 Bruce Cameron
-  18 Carol Powell
-  22 Jeanne Mueller
-  28 Bill Mory

Are you an April baby, but don't see your big day listed? Add yourself by sending your birthday to news@redriveruu.org

Group Outing Planned

Grayson College Theatre 2019 is hooking up with the college's culinary arts department in a special event: a play and a 3-course lunch. The play is *Earth and Sky*, by Douglas Post. The meal is a three-course dinner prepared by the chefs from Restaurant 691 (many of the Feasters have eaten there and rave about the food).

The date we're going is Friday, April 26th @ 12:30 pm in the Black Box Theater on campus. Tickets are \$35 and include both the play and lunch.

How to get your reservation: Call 903.463.8654 or email bryantj@grayson.edu. pre-payment is required. *This is the first showing of the play, don't delay in getting your tickets as the theater only holds about 60 people.*

All who wish to go are invited. We will meet at 12:20 in the lobby of the Arts & Communications building. Hope to see you there!

THE STORY: "*Earth and Sky*," is a seductive and engrossing piece of theater, all the more alluring and remarkable because it comes packaged in what is basically a potboiler murder mystery. It's a well-worn formula, and Douglas Post meticulously ties up every one of the many details in his reworking of the familiar situations. Post has invested his literate dialogue with much intelligence, thoughtfulness and wit and, most importantly, he has given the play-which gets its title from a line in a Dylan Thomas poem-an added and haunting dimension by his ingenious framing of the story within the thriller format.

GRAYSON COLLEGE THEATRE 2019
PRESENTS

EARTH AND SKY

BY
DOUGLAS POST

A POETIC THRILLER FOR THE STAGE

WITH DINNER SERVICE BY
GRAYSON COLLEGE CULINARY ARTS

PRICE: \$35 (Includes the play and a three course meal prepared by GC Culinary Arts)	DATES: Friday, April 26th 12:30pm Friday, April 26th 7:30pm Saturday, April 27th 7:30pm Sunday, April 28th 12:30pm Sunday, April 28th 7:30pm
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LOCATION:
GC Black Box Theatre
Arts & Communication Building
6101 Grayson Drive Denison, Texas 75020

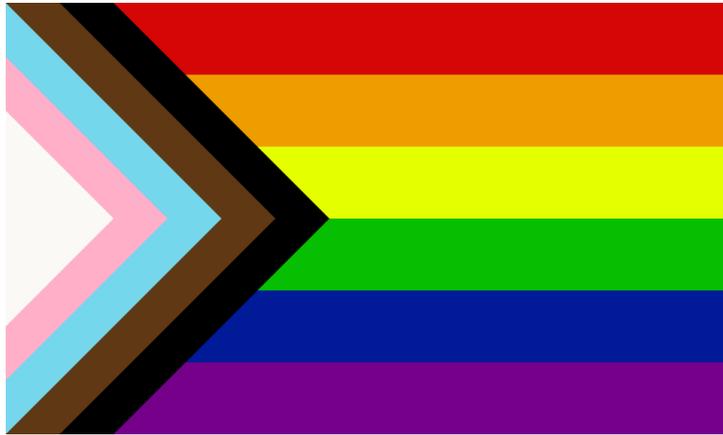
RESERVATIONS:
903.463.8654
bryantj@grayson.edu
Pre-payment is required by check or credit card

Common Read for April

Our story hurt people

Acknowledging that we have fallen short, UU World is committed to sharing in appropriate and respectful ways the inspiring and powerful stories of trans and gender nonbinary people within our faith community.

By Christopher L. Walton, Editor *UU World*



The “[Progress Pride Flag](#)” by Daniel Quasar adds new stripes to acknowledge the push for full inclusion by transgender people, with the white, pink, and light blue stripes, and people of color, with brown and black stripes. (© Quasar Digital, CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

Transgender and gender nonbinary leaders in the Unitarian Universalist movement, along with their allies and other UUs, are expressing alarm and sharing their pain at reading an essay in the Spring 2019 issue of *UU World*, “[After L, G, and B](#)” by contributing editor Kimberly French. I am profoundly saddened and deeply sorry to have caused pain to people who matter to me and whose dignity and worth I had thought we were promoting with the piece. As the magazine’s editor, I was wrong to decide to publish this essay and I apologize for the pain it has caused.

In consultation with the steering committee of TRUUsT (Transgender Religious professional UUs Together, an organization of trans leaders), we are keeping the essay on our website rather than taking it down, but are adding a preface that points to and quotes from this apology. My apology will appear in the original essay’s place in the online Table of Contents.

Many have asked why we published this article. My intent was to model, through a personal essay about one family’s experience, ways for the majority of our readers to engage respectfully with trans and nonbinary people; the impact, however, was to hurt and alienate trans and nonbinary people. I can point to three editorial mistakes: I planned an approach to the important topic of trans and gender nonbinary experiences within Unitarian Universalism without enough input from people who identify as nonbinary or trans. We did not model respectful engagement. Additionally, it was hurtful to put a straight, cisgender person’s experience in the foreground, especially as one of the first major articles in the magazine on this topic. We should have developed another kind of story in such a prominent spot that

centered trans and nonbinary voices. Finally, when we reached out to Alex Kapitan, a leader in the trans and gender nonbinary community while researching the story, and [he urged us](#) against the approach I had picked, I erred in failing to grasp the important cautions he offered: a story told from a cisgender perspective would cause harm. I believed, falsely, that we could address the concerns within the framework of the story I had commissioned. It was a mistake to disregard this caution, and I apologize.

Several readers have also pointed to specific language in the article that is painful if not traumatic to encounter in the magazine of the Unitarian Universalist Association. These include a reference to jokes at a high school in the 1970s that involved a homophobic slur, a reference to “so-called corrective surgery,” and alarming statistics about violence against transgender people that one colleague told me felt “grim without hope.” As editors, we did not have enough experience with trans issues to notice the microaggressions throughout the essay that our trans readers are calling to our attention. These specific editorial choices added pain to injury, and for that I apologize.

Acknowledging that we have fallen short, I want to reiterate that *UU World* is committed to sharing in appropriate and respectful ways the inspiring and powerful stories of trans and gender nonbinary people within our faith community. I am committed to listening to and learning from you. To that end, the magazine is making the following commitments going forward:

- We will expand our copy editing and fact checking process to include sensitivity readers who can help us spot what the editors cannot.
- We will redesign the editorial process to invite more input earlier in the planning phase so we can ensure that we are working from plans that will aid rather than harm. We are also looking at ways to evaluate the potential impact of a story as it nears publication.
- We will redouble our efforts to commission essays, reporting, and artwork from trans and nonbinary people, and from a wider set of contributors from marginalized communities.
- We commit to doing more to develop stories that center the voices and experiences of trans and nonbinary UUs.

I work with an amazing team of dedicated people. We want *UU World* to inspire and enrich the lives of its readers—and that’s why we are heartbroken, too, that our work has fallen far short of the mark and hurt many of you. I much more fully appreciate that it is the impact of an act, not its intention, that matters. I am sorry, and you have my commitment that the magazine will do better to live up to our shared Unitarian Universalist values and honor the trust of our readers.

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Social Action: *Rebecca*
Worship: *Doug, Aprla, Rebecca, Rob-*
ert, 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. 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. This month they meet for an hour on the third 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 third Friday @ 7 pm to enjoy a movie together. The April movie on Apr is 19th is "No Country for Old Men." 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*

Red River Unitarian Universalists
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