

# RED RIVER RAMBLINGS

The Monthly Newsletter of Red River Unitarian Universalists ♦ Denison TX ♦ Vol 21, No. 1 ♦ June 2019

**Sunday, June 2, 2019 - 11:15 am**

**On This Beautiful Morning:  
A (Very) Sung UU Assembly**  
Dr. F. Daniel Althoff, *presenting*

Inspired by such diverse sources as pop, rock, country, opera, Black gospel, Broadway musicals, as well as the sung liturgies from his Catholic background, Dan Althoff presents his original music based on the usual Sunday morning format here at Red River UU Church, including our Call to Community, Candles of Community, Chalice Lighting, Spoken (and Sung!) Affirmation, and Extinguishing the Chalice. With spoken commentary, readings, and remarks, along with several familiar and favorite UU tunes, this will be a very different type of musical Sunday assembly!

**Sunday, June 9, 2019 - 11:15 am**

**Education for Human and Ecological Good:  
Why Our World Needs the Liberal Arts”**

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

Education may not be the answer to all of our problems, but without access to good and holistic education for all persons, our problems will be exponentially more difficult to overcome.

**Sunday, June 16, 2019 - 11:15 am**

**From Ignorance to Astonishment:  
Schoolings from Our Fathers**

The Worship Team & The Congregation, *leading*

In our culture, it always feels like Father's Day is an afterthought of Mother's Day. No tents in Kroger's parking lot filled with tools, gadgets or ties; it isn't the busiest day for restaurants. Yet fathers comprise 50% of our existence. This year a morning for dads, living or not.

Mark Twain once wrote, “*When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.*”

How much did you learn from your dad? What have you intentionally rejected? What life changing words of wisdom do you carry with you? When did you last look at a picture of him?

On this Father's Day Sunday, we will reminisce about our male parent and look at their faces, maybe even try to guess whose father's image is on the screens.

Take time right now to find a photo of your dad (hopefully a face shot, but all images will be used) and email it to [worship@redriveruu.org](mailto:worship@redriveruu.org). Or bring photos to the AV desk to have a copy made. Deadline for photos is June 20.

The morning will unfold as it will, with light-hearted and profound stories from those willing to speak, seeing their faces and hearing some music about fathers.

**Sunday, June 23, 2019 - 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**In This Delicate Turning**

Rev. Marta I. Valentin, *preaching*

After exploring *el poder de nosotros/the power of we*, what are we ready to do/¿que estamos listo para hacer? Let's not be servants of the past in new cups. Let's all get free by planting faithful seeds of change and together turn to free the faith we love.

*Rev Valentin is minister with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford, MA.*

*Note Time Change: We will live stream the largest gathering of UUs as together we worship; we in our chapel, they at the General Assembly in Spokane.*

*The Adult Forum will start at 10:45,  
and end at 11:45.*

**Sunday, June 30, 2019 - 11:15 am**

**The Longest Day**

Liz Blackadar, *speaking - video message*

During a Summer Solstice we reflect on how we traveled from the darkest time of Winter Solstice some six months to today. What were some of dark times leading up to this powerful day? How did our ancestors accept their trials and tribulations only to release them on this celebratory gift of daylight? And how do we keep our light burning brightly, accepting what comes our way?

In 4 Lunch Potluck this morning! Remember to bring a dish to share and plan on breaking bread together.

## Jim's Jabber



I want begin with a big THANK YOU to Kelly Dyer, Linn Cates, and L.D. Clark for their participation in the Board this year. They made my job easier and fun. You will be missed at our meetings.

And I look forward to working with our new members Lisa Cates,

David Dyer, and Sabra Jones starting July 1.

We had a great May meeting. This was our 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting which is something we all should be proud of. Thanks to all that attended, voted online, and sent in a proxy. We had a quorum, so all votes were legal!

Some highlights from the voting for me were:

- The 2019-2020 Budget was approved: This document is now available on our web site.
- The 2019-2024 Strategic Plan was approved: This document is also on our web site.
- We voted a name for our Monarch Butterfly Garden.
- We unanimously elected the new slate of church leadership.
- We accepted the first year recommendations in the Strategic Plan as our goals for this next year.

Let me say a bit about our new set of goals. They are:

- Complete Facilities list for 2019
- Add live stream to services and staff
- Make live stream available to RE room, Emerson room, and our [Facebook](#) page
- Apply for NTUUC Grant (subject TBD)
- Fill position for Outreach Coordinator
- Fill position for RE Team Leader
- Create a Building Expansion Fund and Emergency Facilities Fund
- Add 1 Outreach program

This is an ambitious list but not unachievable. Two very important items on this list are to find an Outreach Coordinator and a RE Team Leader. If any of you are interested in finding out more about these positions, please contact me.

The item on live streaming will require some financial expense for the equipment (about \$3000-\$5000 estimated in the 5 Year Strategic Plan). In addition, the AV desk area will need to be re-worked

and enlarged to support two computers. Most importantly, we will need volunteers to run this operation.

Jim

## From Paris to Pittsburgh!



Join us for a FREE screening of *Paris to Pittsburgh*, a new film from National Geographic, produced by Radical Media in partnership with Bloomberg

Philanthropies -- narrated by Emmy® and Golden Globe® Award-winning actress and activist Rachel Brosnahan ("The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel"). This film is being offered through Interfaith Power and Light to draw faith communities together to inspire local community action to heal the climate for the benefit of all.

From coastal cities to America's heartland, Americans are demanding and developing real solutions in the face of climate change. And as the weather grows more deadly and destructive, they aren't waiting on Washington to act.

Learn about their incredible stories in *Paris to Pittsburgh*, and be inspired to create change in your own community!

We are excited to be hosting a screening of this incredible film in the chapel on **Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.**

Given the importance of global warming and our UU history of working toward living in a sustainable world, this movie is not only one worthy of our attention, it also is a way to share our concerns with the wider community, beyond the wonderful outreach from the Earth Day Festival.

**WANTED:** a couple people to help with publicity to get the word out. If you can help, please send a message via the contact us link on our website or the church app. We seldom have opportunities to bring national concerns to Texoma. The more people who learn about the film, the more who might come watch it.

**REMEMBER ...**

**Sunday Morning on Jun 23 will start later!**

**Adult Forum - 10:45-11:45**

**Morning Assembly - 12:00-1:30**

## Prison Ministry Workshop

### **Moving Into Prison Ministry: An Introduction to the Prison Industrial Complex**

**Sat. June 8 at Horizon UU Church** - Free! Open to All.

Religious freedom for people living in systems of mass incarceration is protected by the 1st Amendment of the US Constitution. Yet exploring and practicing a wide breadth of spiritual and religious views can be challenging. Prisons are dominated by largely fundamentalist teachings and resources.

This conference will help people interested in prison ministry who offer alternative perspectives and can support the unmet religious and spiritual needs of those who are incarcerated. Prison ministry is an expansive term that can include such activities as becoming a pen worship services in prison, advocating, and more.

Learning about the realities of the prison industrial complex will help you engage in both prison ministry and justice work. This event is hosted by the Worthy Now Prison Ministry Network, a program of the [Church of the Larger Fellowship, UU](#). Details about the workshop are [here](#).

## June Birthdays

June 9 - Richard Newlin

Are you a June baby, but don't see your big day listed? You can be! Just add yourself by sending your birthday to [news@redriveruu.org](mailto:news@redriveruu.org)

## Moveable Feast

For June, the Feasters are gathering for a dining experience at Rustico Restaurant in Denison on **June 6, at 6:00 p.m.** All are welcome to this Dutch-treat Feast! (But please let [Marion Hill](#) know you plan to come, so she'll have a count for the restaurant.) In July, small-group Feasts (no more than 8 people) will be held. Anyone who wishes to participate in small-group dinners should let Marion know, and she will assign Feasters to one or the other of the dinners. July's hosts are Amy Hoffman-Shehan and Carolyn and Bruce Cameron.

## Treasurer's Report

In the month of April, we had total receipts of \$3,352.35. Expenses for the month totaled \$4,596.76, leaving an excess of expenditures over receipts for the month of April of \$1,244.41. As of April 30, 2019, we had \$8,139.29 available in checking, a total of \$66,958.18 in all savings accounts and a total of \$14,644.91 in Certificates of Deposit. All bank accounts have been reconciled. with no exceptions noted. Dick Powell, *Treasurer*

## Its Official! By Unanimous Vote

Our Monarch Butterfly Garden has a name that will be on our certified Waystation sign and will be listed world-wide on the Monarch Watch Monarch Waystation Program's website.

Drum roll please!  
Our garden is now called:

## Web of Life Monarch Garden

On Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1 pm, we'll have a quick, yet important Tending Our Garden event. Come join the fun for *With a little bit,*

*with a little bit,*  
*with a little bit of bloomin . . . WORK,*  
*we can do this!*

We need to put in 2 more plants and spread mulch on our long chapel bed. 30 minutes top!

There are other aspects to the Monarch Waystation besides hands in the dirt, that might attract people to get involved. Someone with designing skills to make labels for the native prairie plants in the garden.

We could use the skills of activist minded individuals willing to plan and prepare presentations to our local mayors to sign the *Mayors' Monarch Pledge* and initiate actions in our municipalities to create habitat on city property. Best approach is for us to create a Monarch Station Interest Group. Move about that next month!

## A Fledgling Choir

Where three or more ... or hopefully 6 or more ... are gathered, there shall be singing! Calling all singers, we're going to start singing again.

But not immediately. Enthusiasm is mounting and while Dan Althoff is enjoying his summer break from teaching, maybe those of us who enjoy singing can get together (potluck supper??) and sing our hearts out once of twice.

Then, when school starts up in August and Dan knows his schedule better, we can get serious about becoming a choir.

Keep the enthusiasm growing, listen to those around you and corner them if they sing on key!

# Good Time Teams Update

Looks good, doesn't it?



Our *Conversations & Calories* is a valuable part of Sunday Mornings at Red River UU. The opportunity to meet, greet, and get to know people is an important aspect of church growth. Our 'Conversations & Calories' is when we get to know one another, as it is a tad difficult during the Forum or Assembly. Food makes all the difference in whether people tarry or rush off.

For the last eighteen months 4 separate teams (each with 3 or 4 families) have brought the items we enjoy. The Good Times Team has lost four members over the last six months. Things are looking simply lean and lite some Sundays.

The people we all ought to be thanking for their gifts of food are:

- Team 1 - Bickham, Dyer, Holmes, Powell, Strong
- Team 2 - Cates (Linn), Hill, Hoffman, ?
- Team 3 - Alexander, DeCaire, Shelton, ?
- Team 4 - Homuth, Schulze, ?, ?

**THE NEED:** Four more people to replace those who are gone.

**THE JOB:** Usually each team emails one another to coordinate who is bringing what. After people leave, the team is responsible for cleaning up: loading the dish washers, vacuuming, wiping the counters, and taking out the recycles and trash to the bins outside.

You don't have to sign up in perpetuity, join a team for as long as you wish. It actually is a lot of fun and the benefit for everyone is immeasurable. Won't you say yes? Contact [Marilyn Alexander](#) for details and to sign up.

**In 4 Lunch Potluck**  
**After the morning assembly**  
**Sunday, June 30th**

# Water Communion

A reminder if you're venturing away, to bring home a small container of water for our annual water communion ceremony, which will be on August 25. Time was, when the world used film, that film canisters were the perfect container. Gone are those perfect containers, as now, nearly everyone has a camera on their phone. So, remember to take a picture of where you would have brought your water and save it for our ever-adjusting way of celebrating water communion.

## Attend General Assembly

without leaving home. Here's highlights of this year's annual gathering of UUs from across the nation.

All times are Pacific Daylight Time (add 2 hours to our local time).

Video will appear on [UUA.org/ga/2019](http://UUA.org/ga/2019). Click on the links below to read about each event that you can watch.

### Wednesday, June 19

- [Opening Ceremony & Worship: Coming Home](#)  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

### Thursday, June 20

- [Worship, Opening, Framing: A Love to Change the World](#)  
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
- [Service of the Living Tradition](#)  
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

### Friday, June 21

- [Friday Morning Worship](#)  
8:30 - 9:00 a.m.
- [General Session I](#)  
9:00 - 12:00 p.m.
- [Synergy Bridging Worship](#)  
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- [Ware Lecture by Richard Blanco](#)  
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

### Saturday, June 22

- [Saturday Morning Worship](#)  
8:30 - 9:00 a.m.
- [General Session II](#)  
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
- [Saturday Closing Ceremony: Saying Yes to the Power of We](#)  
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

### Sunday, June 23

- [Sunday Morning Worship: In This Delicate Turning](#)  
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Note: We will be streaming this Morning Worship in our chapel 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. The Adult Forum will start at 10:45 and end at 11:45.

## 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*

### Nominations:

*Amy, Elbert, David*

### Committee on Ministry:

*Dan Althoff, Marla Loturco, Robert Shelton*

### Nominating Committee:

*David Dyer, Elbert Hill, Amy Hoffman-Shehan*

### Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *Jerry*  
Aesthetics: *Carol, Doug, Jim*  
Building: *Jim*  
Caring Circle: *Kelly*  
Communications: *Doug*  
Endowment: *Carolyn, Dick, Doug*  
Finance:  
Grounds: *Marilyn*  
Long Range Planning: *Jim, Marilyn, Robert, Ronda*  
Membership: *Aprion*  
NTUUC Rep: *Marla*  
RE Team: *Linn, Tommi*  
Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*  
Social Action: *Rebecca*

## 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. Next Meeting, June 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 - in the chapel 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. The L.D.S. is on summer vacation, happily reading the days away. Carolyn Cameron, *facilitator*.

**MEDITATION** ~ current on hiatus until further notice.

**WEB OF LIFE MONARCH WAYSTATION** ~ a new group in the planning stages right now, to tenderly love our monarch waystation and to help spawn more gardens at other churches or different locations. More as the summer wanes into autumn.

**A SPECIAL EVENT THIS MONTH** - screening the National Geographic documentary *Paris to Pittsburgh*. See details on page 2 of this newsletter.

---

Red River Unitarian Universalists  
515 North Burnett Avenue  
PO BOX 1806  
Denison TX 75020

## Contact Us

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



How to reach us:

- Phone: 903.231.3232
- Email: [info@redriveruu.org](mailto:info@redriveruu.org)
- Website: [redriveruu.org](http://redriveruu.org)
- Facebook: [RedRiverUnitarianUniversalist-Church](https://www.facebook.com/RedRiverUnitarianUniversalist-Church)
- Mobile App: 'RedRiverUU' free from the [Apps Store](#) and [Google Play](#).
- [Calendar here](#)

