



Red River Ramblings

The Monthly Newsletter of Red River Unitarian Universalists ♦ Denison TX ♦ Vol 21, No. 4 ♦ September 2019

Sunday, September 1, 2019 - 10:00 am - Noon

Labors of Love

The All Church Work Sunday

*No Adult Forum, No Morning Assembly,
No Conversations & Calories
(but lunch for those who stay)*

Labor Day week-end seems, to the worship team, the perfect time for us to shift gears and give a gift to our building and grounds. Starting at 10, while it will still be cooler, come and roll up your sleeves, look over the list of things that need doing, make a choice and go to work. There are windows to wash, oak paneling to polish, chairs to be spot cleaned, the basement to be attacked. The contents of the F. Church Library and the Susan Anthony room need to be swapped (The Anthony room will become the church nursery). Books to move, cribs too. Closets to organize, carpets to vacuum. You get the idea.

Spring Cleaning in August! Something for everyone. Do come. We conclude with some lunch!

Sunday, September 8, 2019 - 11:15 am

Meliorism: Living Between Optimism and Pessimism

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

On Sunday an exploration of what realistic hope might look like. In the midst of our current challenges and how we might find joy together as we work together to heal our communities and transform the world.

Sunday, September 15, 2019 - 11:15 am

World on Fire

Elena Westbrook, *speaking*

A 16-year-old named Greta Thunberg just spent two weeks crossing the Atlantic in a sailboat to keep from contributing to CO2 emissions by flying to New York. In the meantime, the U.S. is lowering fuel standards and removing limits on methane emissions by oil and gas companies. The Amazon is burning and Brazil refuses help to put the fires out. Elena Westbrook will talk about what we can do to convince more Americans that we must take action now, before the future of humanity goes up in smoke.

Sunday, September 22, 2019 - 11:15 am

Undermining Hope, Asylum in 2019

William O. Holston Jr., J.D, *speaking*

Our asylum laws were developed to comply with our obligations to provide refuge to persecuted people. That system is being undermined with unprecedented attacks. What is going on and what should we do?

Sunday, September 29, 2019 - 11:15 am

Bible: Truth or Fable?

Dr. James Krieger, *speaking*

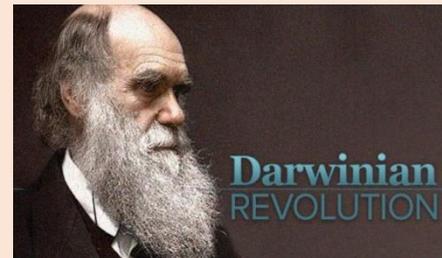
There are three levels of the Bible. Level one is all lies, level two is half truth and level three is all truth? This talk will open your spiritual mind to reason and reasoning of the Bible. What level are you at?

New Adult Forum Program

The Darwinian Revolution

A series from The Great Courses

Sunday mornings @ 10 through February 2020



Published 160 years ago, Charles Darwin's On the Origin of Species—the text that introduced the world to natural selection—is among a handful of books that have changed the world.

Born amid a ferment of speculation about evolutionary scenarios in the early 19th century; vilified and later pronounced dead at the turn of the 20th century; and spectacularly confirmed by discovery after discovery in succeeding decades—natural selection ranks with the theories of Copernicus and Newton for its iconic stature in science.

But the route to that status has been surprisingly circuitous and uncertain. Darwin's profoundly revolutionary message has often been misunderstood, and so have his own views on evolution, the intellectual background that led to them, and the turbulent history of their reception

Jim's Jabber



On August 10th Marla, Jack, and I went to the NTUUC training sessions at First Church in Dallas. I went to the RE Training class. The class moderator provided us with a 65page **Teachers' Handbook** that First Church uses. The first 20 pages covered security and the remainder covered how to handle classes and uncooperative students. All of this was something that I had not considered in any detail and was an eye opener for me. Looks like we will have to make some adjustments in the 5 Year Strategic Plan to include this.

On August 17th we had a Board retreat at Cindy Buffington's house. I want to thank Doug for running the retreat and a special thanks to Cindy for letting us take over her house for several hours. The retreat was very productive and we all got a chance to learn more about each other as well as discuss ideas and

issues impacting Red River UU for the coming year.

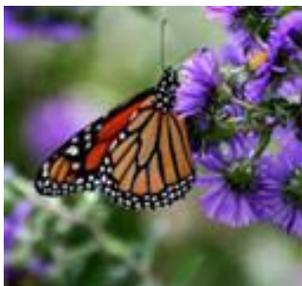
One of the Board's main topics at the retreat and in the following Board meeting is redoing the Statement of Conscience section in the Policies and Procedures Manual. The current policy needs to be updated to allow for a quicker approval process plus include policies on announcements and posts on Facebook, our website, our App, and other electronic media. We will be recommending our changes in the October Congregational Meeting for discussion and approval.

Just another reminder that on Sunday the 1st of September we will have a cleanup session in place of the adult forum and our morning assembly. There are more details on this in this newsletter. I will be looking for help in the basement to remove any keepers from the basement and take them the garage. We are planning a complete basement cleanout later this year so that we can use the basement for storage and a possible storm shelter if it passes city approval.

Jim

Way Station Dedication

This year's water communion assembly concluded with the dedication of our *Spirit of Life Monarch Waystation*. Using some of the water gathered, everyone went outside, toured the three portions of the garden concluding in front of the veranda where Marla and Dan read words of dedication which ended with the congregation singing, naturally, *Spirit of Life*.



The garden continues to grow and is lovingly cared for by volunteers. Like getting your hands dirty? Join the Monarch Waystation Team by speaking with [Linn Cates](#), Facilitator.

Arts Fest 2019

Red River UU will have a large presence at Arts Fest in Sherman on September 21. In our Red River UU booth we can reach out to the community about our church and advertise another **free children's clothing swap**. The booth will feature a craft, using half sheet of card stock with an outline of a person on one side. Kids will glue pre-cut clothing (cut from worn out clothes and fabric scraps) onto their person or color the clothing onto it. The front of the card will have information about the church and the clothing swap.

The Earth Day booth feature displays about recycling, a recycling game and online registration where Sherman's residents can enroll in the city's recycling program. In addition, we will hand out free shopping bags and the second edition of our Recycling Guide for north Texas and southern Oklahoma.

We need volunteers to provide person-power for set up, break down and help at both booths. To volunteer with the Red River UU booth or the clothing swap, contact [Adrian](#). To volunteer at the Earth Day Booth, contact [Amy](#).



Welcoming Congregation Com.

As we anxiously await the decision of the UUA to honor us with a Welcoming Congregation certification, the WCC is continuing our efforts to let the community at large & the LGBTQ+ community know what we stand for.

This last Friday (Aug 23) we had a Movie Night & invited everyone through social media & church media. We had 10 people, including a new lesbian couple that discovered us through our revived MeetUp group! Success!!

We welcome Grace United Methodist Church and Leap of Faith Church in the circle of Affirming Places of Faith. By supporting and working with each other, we can do more for the LGBTQ+ people in our area, which includes announcements about local events benefiting our community.

Volunteers are needed for a fundraiser car wash & bake sale benefiting Grayson Pride on Saturday, August 31st. It's happening from 4-7 at Grace UMC. If you can at least contribute some baked goods, talk to Jack & she can help with delivery. The next event is a skating party being held at the Sherman rink on Friday, September 14th from 2-4. Designed as a school supply drive, supplies are the ticket in. Later that evening, there is another fundraiser drag & comedy show for Grayson Pride at Tupelo's. We'll include the events through our FB & IG.

We invite you to participate with our group as Allies. We can always use more hearts & hands. Our next meeting is September 7th at 1 pm at the church. Have a beautiful month!

Worship Team Meeting

this month is on Sunday, September 8th at 12:45 in the chapel. Heard a wonderful speaker recently? We're always eager to get referrals of potential speakers. You can let us know [here](#)

Earth Day Planning

The Planning Committee will meet Tuesday, September 13 at 6:30 pm in the chapel. We plan to have a booth at the Sherman Arts Fest on September 21, where we will hand out recycling guides for north Texas and southern Oklahoma and cloth shopping bags left over from the 2019 Earth Day Festival. We will also assist Sherman residents with enrollment in the residential recycling program.

September Birthdays

🎂 September 07 - Victor Ratcliff, Jr.
🎂 September 09 - Jack Bolerjack

Treasurer's Report

In the month of July, we had total receipts of \$5,145.06. Expenses for the month totaled \$2,952.43, leaving an excess of receipts over expenditures for the month of July of \$2,192.63.

As of July 31, 2019, we had \$10,329.16 available in checking, a total of \$66,983.22 in all savings accounts and a total of \$14,645.47 in Certificates of Deposit.

Rebecca Stanczak, the bookkeeper at Horizon UU who, effective July 1, is keeping the books for Red River UU, reports that she now has electronic access to our bank statements and that she currently has an unreconciled difference of \$156.07 in our checking account. She and I will be working together to clarify this difference and resolve any other problems that arise in this transition of the bookkeeping responsibilities.

Dick Powell,
Treasurer

School Supplies Drive

The drive continues throughout September. You can leave your contributions on the corner table in the upper lobby, outside the Barton Parlor. Thanks to all who have added supplies to the table. If you have any questions, please contact [Jack](#) for more information.

Texoma Nerds

Texoma Nerds is a group of people who enjoy games, books, movies, comics, and all things nerdy. (They have 345 people on the Facebook page!) Our church hosts a local Dungeon & Dragons group that meets in the church every Tuesday evening from 5-8 pm. If you enjoy the game and want more information, contact [Adrian](#).

Choir Rehearsals

Sunday, September 8 & 22 are our rehearsal dates and we will be singing on the 22nd. All want-a-be singers, along with those of you who belt out songs in the shower are most welcome to join us.

Homeless, not Voiceless!

If you enjoy choral music, if you enjoy supporting people whose lives are less than perfect, join others from church to hear the Dallas Street Choir on Saturday, September 14th - 1 pm at Waples Memorial United Methodist Church.

Tickets are **free**, but limited. Grab yours by tapping on the posted below.

COMING SOON TO DENISON!

DALLAS STREET CHOIR

Homeless, Not Voiceless

As seen at Carnegie Hall & Washington National Cathedral

FREE EVENT

Saturday, September 14TH 1 PM

Waples Memorial United Methodist Church
830 West Main Street Denison, TX

Limited Tickets

Through community engagement and public performance, the Dallas Street Choir seeks to improve the way society views those experiencing homelessness. Demonstrating that participation in a consistent, structured, safe, and creatively engaging environment better equips individuals experiencing homelessness to find a job, housing, and improve their overall lifestyle.

Presented by Denison Arts Council in collaboration with the City of Denison and the Denison Ministerial Alliance

Get tickets at: www.smalltownbigart.com

A.C. Community Fair

Each September Austin College hosts a Community Fair for incoming (and continuing) students. The purpose is to introduce the student body to the larger Texoma area. Non-profit organizations along with local congregations have an opportunity to connect with a younger population.

We will have a table if we get a few volunteers to staff it. We have a banner, and a stand you can't put anything on walls), A.C. provides a table and couple chairs. The event is Sept. 21 from 11-1 at the Wright Campus Center, set up starting at 10.

Will you volunteer? Info [here](#)

Kids Clothing Swap

Our next Kids clothing swap will be on Saturday, September 28, from noon-4 pm in the chapel. Holding a children's clothing swaps helps family and lets the larger community learn more about our church. The hard part is setting up the table, sorting the clothing. Help is needed, so if you're available for an hour or two, please speak contact [Adrian](#)

Aesthetics team update

The LGBTQ welcoming congregation committee explained that the large banner hanging in the chapel was never intended to be permanent. With that in mind, we have been searching for two matching pieces of art to be placed on the north wall of the chapel, on either side of the chancel. Several people have mentioned that the wall is too bare, and needs *something nice!* We have found what we feel fits the bill perfectly: Two framed fabric hangings designed by Aino-Maija Metsola, printed in Finland and sold by the World of Marimekko store .

Don't look for them for a while as after they arrive we must get them properly prepared and framed. Our goal is to have them finished in time for Credo Sunday, October 21 - the same day as our fall congregational meeting.

The LGBTQ banner has been relocated to the stairway to the second floor, one of the few spots large enough to properly display it.

Water Without Locations?

During last month's water communion someone asked if we were going to identify where the water came from. We did not do that because we learned that identifying created a division. While the locations were significant for the first communion 30 years ago, doing so now fashions a separation for only those who have time and resources can travel. So we all hear of far off places when many got no further away then Alda or Anna.

A few years ago we expanded the identification by inviting people to say where they *would have liked* their water to come from, as a way of being more inclusive.

Better, we think, is to focus on the water blending our individual beings (since 73% of our brain and heart are water) as one community rather than water flowing from many sources.

Thanks for the question.

The worship team

Our Common Read for Sept.

“If not you, then who? If not now, then when?”

Sixteen-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg asks this question, and we're asking people of faith to respond. We UUs know that all that exists is part of an interdependent web. What we do matters. We must show up for each other now.

Are you ready to demand a just and sustainable world? A right to a future for our youth and young adults? Sign up here for the [Sept. 20th Global Climate Strike](#) and Week of Action by locating an event near you and you will be in touch with local organizers. This information will also be shared with us so that we can mobilize UUs as powerfully as possible.

The UUA, Side With Love, and UU Minister for Earth have joined as partners with the Global Climate Strike on Sept. 20th and we're inviting you to #StrikeWithUs.

On September 20, three days before the UN Climate Summit in NYC, young people and adults will strike all across the US and the world to demand transformative action be taken to address the climate crisis. We know governments won't deliver climate action and justice on their own, so we're going on #climatestrike to show them what people power is capable of creating. The strikes are just the beginning of an escalated movement where millions will take to the streets to demand action now, especially for those most impacted by climate change who have done the least to cause it. Climate breakdown isn't inevitable. We know the solutions we need including a just transition away from the exploitative fossil fuel economy. We're inviting you to join other UUs and faith groups and millions more -- we have the power to make them happen.

Here's what's already happening among UUs:

Delegates at our recent General Assembly in June affirmed an [Action of Immediate Witness to Build a Green New Deal](#) and began organizing right at GA for the Global Climate Strikes.

UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray will be marching with UUs and thousands of others in New York City, and there will be powerful events all over the US and the world. UUs and friends are already registering here.

Side with Love is hosting a **UUs & the Global Climate Strike Webinar - September 5th at 4pm**

EST/1pm PST. [Register now.](#) We will have updates for you, great speakers and plenty of time to answer your questions.,

This webinar follows the [CNN Climate Town Hall](#) with ten presidential candidates being broadcast on Sept. 4th thanks in large part to the organizing by Sunrise Movement, a partner in the [Climate Strikes](#).

A group of UU ministers led by Rev. Peggy Clarke, senior minister at The Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, have put together an excellent packet of [worship materials](#) for **Worship Services on or before September 15 on the Global Climate Strikes** as well as an [informational flyer](#) on the Strikes and the many ways we can participate.

UU Conference- Advancing Economic and Climate Justice as a Moral Issue: Building a Movement for a Green New Deal - Sept 15=17 in Washington, DC.

Come for the first day at All Souls Unitarian Church to hear from some amazing speakers from our most impacted communities

and learn about actions we can take - or stay for the next day or two to get trained in advocacy and visit congressional representatives. [Learn more and register now.](#)

[Join us! We can sign up for a strike in your area or get coached on how to start one.](#)

We know that each of the guiding principles of our faith and our campaigns for justice are unattainable in the face of widespread climate injustice and chaos. The current US government centers the rights of corporations over people, other species and Earth. It sanctions state violence to protect the fossil fuel industry gains and it criminalizes water protectors, climate protesters, and indigenous peoples. It persecutes climate refugees through cruel, harsh immigration policies. It perpetuates environmental racism. We are called to engage this at every level possible. We can bring our vision, our resources and our selves into relationship with communities most impacted who are leading the way into sustainable and equitable futures.

Please [join us](#) for this crucial event on Sept. 20th. It is just the beginning of a new climate movement built on the foundation of decades of climate justice work and activism. Organizers are actively planning strategies for now through November 2020 and beyond. UUs have always been there. We are still needed now, more than ever.

Yours in solidarity and resistance,

[The UUA Organizing and Strategy Team](#)



Leaders

Board of Trustees

Jim Holmes, *President*
Lisa Cates, *Vice President*
Dick Powell, *Treasurer*
David Dyer, *Secretary*
Sabra Jones, *Trustee*
Helen Schulze, *Past President*

Committee on Ministry:

Dan Althoff, Elbert Hill, Marla Loturco

Nominating:

Kelly Cofield- Dyer, L.D. Clark, Amy Hoffman-Shehan

Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *Sabra*
Aesthetics: *Carol, Doug, Joyce*
Caring Circle: *Kelly*
Communications: *Doug*
Endowment: *Carolyn, Dick, Doug*
Facilities:
Finance: *Jim, Dick, Doug*
Grounds: *Marilyn*
Long Range Planning: *Jim, Marilyn, Robert, Ronda*
Membership: *Marion*
NTUUC Rep: *Marla*
RE Team: *Linn, Tommi*
Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*
Social Action:
Welcoming Congregation: *Jack*
Worship: *Doug, Marla, Rebecca, Robert, Tommi*

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, September 13th @ 6:30 - in the chapel Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *facilitator*

FLEDGLING CHOIR ~ a small group of people who like to sing and are hoping to encourage other singers to join us. When we rehearse, it is Sunday after the assembly. Open to all singers. In September we rehearse on Sept 8 & 22. We sing on the 22nd.

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*

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 various locations. More as the summer wanes into autumn. Linn Cates, *facilitator*

Contact Us

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- Calendar [here](#)

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