



# Red River Ramblings

The Monthly Newsletter of Red River Unitarian Universalists ♦ Denison TX ♦ Vol 21, No. 6 ♦ November 2019

Sunday, November 3, 2019 - 11:15 am



## From Fundamentalism to Freedom - A Personal Journey

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

An overview of my personal journey through fundamentalist Christianity to a religion of inclusion, justice, and sustainability.

Sunday, November 10, 2019 - 11:15 am

## The Joy of Impermanence

The Rev. Tashi Nyima, *preaching*

Most people, if they give any thought to impermanence, have a negative view of it. Why do good times have to end? Why do loved ones have to go? Why must health and youth fade? What we do not contemplate is that --were it not for impermanence-- we'd be stuck forever in old problems, with unwanted company, and never-ending negative situations. Impermanence is a blessing!

Sunday, November 17, 2019 - 11:15 am

## White Lion, Port Comfort, and the Perfecters of Democracy

The Rev. Doug Strong, *preaching*

Thanksgiving is Thursday. Cooks everywhere are preparing a special meal. If you instantly thought turkey, cranberries, peas with marshmallows, stuffing, pumpkin and apple pies, your thinking is too myopic. Thanksgiving is Thursday. If you instantly thought of Indians and Pilgrims breaking bread, you may want to come to church on Sunday because

there is history we overlook, forget or never knew.

History that reveals without the idealistic, strenuous and patriotic efforts of black Americans, our democracy today would most likely look very different – it might not be a democracy at all.

This assembly will include prayers for the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Sunday, November 24, 2019 – 11:15 am

## For All That Is Our Life

All Music Sunday (mostly!)

Our familiar and well-loved hymn of thanks and praise is the inspiration for this musical service at the cusp of Thanksgiving and the holiday season. Our talented musical volunteers and the Worship Team present a morning program that mines the riches of our *Singing the Living Tradition* and *Singing the Journey* hymnals to celebrate not only gratitude, but also the many contrasting elements and moods of our shared humanity. This promises to be a very special morning!

## Inclusive Pronouns

We have a new informative and helpful page on our website, *Inclusive Language*. You can access it from the About tab on the home page. We found the information on the White Bear UU Church in Mahtomedi, MN. Check it out [here](#).

Here's an infographic by way of introducing us to knowing more about pronouns:

Type	Name	Example
Feminine	She, her, her	She went to the store. I spoke to her. It was her apple.
Masculine	He, him, his	He went to the store. I spoke to him. It was his apple.
Gender Neutral	They, them, their	They went to the store. I spoke to them. It was their apple.
Gender Neutral	Ze, zir/zem, zirs/zes	Ze went to the store. I spoke to zir/zem. It was zirs/zes apple.
Gender Neutral	Ze, hir, hirs	Ze went to the store. I spoke to hir. It was hirs apple.

Please note that these are not the only pronouns. There are an infinite number of pronouns as new ones emerge in our language.



## Jim's Jabber

We had a great Fall Congregational Meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Twenty members attended and with the count of proxies and online voting we had an additional eighteen virtual members. Some highlights of this meeting were:

- Another great potluck meal preceded the meeting. Thanks to everyone who provided food!
- The new artwork was installed for all to enjoy. A big thanks to the Aesthetics Team for their selection.
- We reaffirmed our Behavioral Covenant.
- We accepted the Pathway to Membership proposal which has been inserted into the Policies and Procedures Manual.
- We approved the change to the Bylaws referencing the Pathway to Membership in the section on becoming a new member.
- We accepted the changes to the Statement of Conscience in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

- We reviewed 32 reports from our many committees and Teams on their activity over the last year.

During the Open Discussion someone suggested a name change for the Clara Barton Parlor. It was suggested using online voting for proposing this change. Because we have not used online voting for these types of matters before, the Board agreed to explore the suggestion. We will get back to everyone once we figure out an appropriate process.

One last thing worth mentioning on the meeting is the need for more volunteers. Some of key positions for Committees and Teams have no leadership and many could use more members. In my next Jim Jabber column, I'll identify these needs in more detail.

Much progress has been made on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor update projects. New flooring in the Arts & Crafts Room, the emergency exit from the second floor has had the plaster repaired, new lighting installed, and the back stairs soon will have skid-free coating. Once the walls are painted and a replacement exterior door installed it will be safe for emergency use.

Now all we need is a RE Team leader – anyone interested?

Jim

## Indivisible Immigration Initiative

At the last meeting, which was Oct 1<sup>st</sup> in the chapel, we decided to name our group that came out of the Close the Camps activities in the **summer Indivisible Immigration Initiative**. Please join us on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at Grace United Methodist Church in Sherman at 6:30 for our third meeting. We will have a guest speaker who will talk to us about volunteering at courts on the border.

Two announcements from the meeting:

There now is a Congressional candidate to oppose John Ratcliffe. Russell Foster is a Sherman native and has a compelling biography.

Be sure to vote in the state constitutional amendment election. The group urges people to look carefully at Proposition 4. **Proposition 4 (HJR 38)**

**Amendment as it will appear on the ballot:** "The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual income tax, including a tax on an individual's share of partnership and unincorporated association income."

### What this means:

Prop. 4 is perhaps the most contradictory measure on the ballot, specifically because of the language used in the amendment. Presently, Texas does not impose a personal income tax. However, the Texas Constitution allows for the legislature to impose a tax on the incomes of natural persons if legislative requirements are met. Prop. 4 would eliminate this possibility by repealing the language that would authorize the legislature to impose the tax. However, the amendment uses the term "individual," and the Texas Constitution uses the term "natural persons". This disparity in language could potentially create a [corporate tax loophole](#).

Remember to vote! Here are Grayson County Election [Dates](#)

Remember the next meeting is Tues, Nov 12<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm at Grace United Methodist Church.

## Meeting in November

**Worship Team** – Sun. Nov 10 – 12:45. Chapel

**Board of Trustees** – Sun. Nov 17 - 1 pm. Chapel

**Fledgling Choir** - will rehearse on Sun, Nov 17 at 12:45 and sing the following Sunday, Nov 24. That rehearsal will be at 10:35.

## Treasurer's Report

In the month of September, we had total receipts of \$2,765.50. Expenses for the month totaled \$3,010.05, leaving an excess of expenditures over receipts for the month of September of \$244.55.

As of September 30, 2019, we had \$9,752.45 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, our new bookkeeper, had the bank account reconciled prior to Oct. 6th and confirmed that, because of the limitations of the Cloud version of Quickbooks which she has been using on a free 90-day trial basis, she will, as we previously agreed, move the accounting records back to a desktop version of Quickbooks which will again give us the reporting flexibility we desire and previously had.

She and I will continue to work together to ensure a smooth transition back to a desktop version of Quickbooks and resolve any problems that may arise in this transition, though none are anticipated.

Dick Powell,  
*Treasurer*

## LGBTQ+ Movie Nite

The LGBTQ+ Welcoming Congregation Committee had a wonderfully successful & fabulous time hosting the "Rocky Horror Picture Show" on the 25th. We had 26 people attend, from all over Texoma.

The audience participated at all the right moments & some even did the "Time Warp".

We're doing it again in December, showing *But, I'm a Cheerleader*, Fri. Dec 20. Watch the [trailer](#).

**Unfortunately** starting in January, we will only have recycling and trash pickup during those months that a volunteer has signed up on the Trash Troop calendar, posted on the bulletin board outside the chapel.

Currently that means no recycle/trash for 10 months next year!

## Common Read for November

The Berlin Wall came crashing down Nov 9, 1989. Here's a memory of that moment, and a lesson to be learned. By Don Mathis, former church member, now living in San Antonio

*When I was a GI in Germany in 1973, I was able to visit the other side of the Berlin Wall. In order to show the soldiers the importance of its mission in Europe, the U.S. Army took a select few on a tour into East Germany. I was among those fortunate enough to pass through Checkpoint Charlie – and back.*

*There was no graffiti on the Berlin Wall then. It was feared and respected on both sides. Crosses and flowers dotted every block or so to show where lovers of freedom had died.*

*Curtains from 1961, nothing more than rags in 1973, still showed through the mortar in many bricked-over windows. Occupants of homes and visitors to stores were ordered to exit through the back door – and the fronts of buildings and churches became part of the wall.*

*Vestiges of the original Iron Curtain were still evident on my visit. A mixture of broken glass and cement topped many walls. Newer sections were capped by large pipes, impervious to grappling hooks, too large for a human grip.*

*The Brandenburg Gate was a mockery of its former glory. This barrier to traffic, to freedom, was a blockage in the artery of life.*

*And how many remember the spirit captured in the photo of a young East German soldier, taking his leap to liberty? His jump is now immortalized in a steel sculpture.*

*I watched TV with the world on Nov. 9, 1989, and cheered and cried with joy at the fall of the Berlin Wall. The echoes of that celebration 30 years ago still linger.*

*And now, in America, there are plans to build a wall in Texas. I'm crying again – but it is not tears of joy.*

*Our country needs to learn the futility of walls. It did not work for the German Democratic Republic, and it will not work for America.*

## 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

## Contact Us

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- Facebook: [RedRiverUnitarianUniversalist-Church](https://www.facebook.com/RedRiverUnitarianUniversalist-Church)
- Mobile App: 'RedRiverUU' free from the [Apps Store](#) and [Google Play](#).
- Calendar [here](#)



**WORTHY NOW**  
prison ministry network

A liberal religious coalition powered by the Church of the Larger Fellowship



All are worthy of love, respect and support right now—  
not at some future time when we are better people,  
but as we are.

Our call is to build relationships in an inclusive, justice-seeking community that makes liberal religious values accessible to people who are incarcerated.

*Are you in a 75### or 76### zip code?*

**NTUUC IS MATCHING  
DONATIONS!**

**Contribute by the end of 2019, and NTUUC will match up to \$5000!**

Worthy Now is a prison outreach project from the Church of the Larger Fellowship that currently reaches out to over 100 UU prisoners serving time in North Texas. NTUUC is matching all donations given thru 2019. You can donate [HERE](#) or speak with Doug who has the donation information (won't fit easily here 😊)

## 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*

**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.

**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*