



# Red River Ramblings

The Monthly Newsletter of Red River Unitarian Universalists ♦ Denison TX ♦ Vol 22, No. 2 ♦ May 2020

**SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020** Join us at 11:15 am on our YouTube channel 'redriveruu' (all one word)

## "LIVING WITH GRATITUDE"

The Rev. Dr. Marlin Lavanhar, *preaching* [video message]

Scientific expert on gratitude, Robert Emmon's research demonstrates that practicing gratitude has significant physical and mental health benefits. People who practice gratitude have fewer health complaints, more energy and determination, greater satisfaction with life, and more optimism and resilience. He knows this as a scientific reality, I know it as a sacred principle. Practicing gratitude can enhance your life in many unexpected ways. Join me as we explore ways to bring gratefulness into our everyday lives. *Dr. Lavanhar is the senior minister at All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa.*

**SUNDAY, MAY 10 2020** Join us at 11:15 am on our YouTube channel 'redriveruu' (all one word)

## "THE WISDOM OF GRANDMOTHERS"

The Reverend Kelly J. Crocker, *preaching*

There is an indigenous teaching that states, "There won't be peace on earth until the voices of the grandmothers are heard." On this Mother's Day weekend, we will turn toward the grandmothers – those who affected social change by their words and deeds and those here in our own community whose lives affect each of us. What can we learn from the grandmothers? *Rev. Crocker is the Minister of Congregational Life at the First Unitarian Society in Madison, WI*

**SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020** Join us at 11:15 am on our YouTube channel 'redriveruu' (all one word)

## "COMFORT ME: FINDING COMFORT IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC"

The Rev. Amy Carol Webb, *preaching*

All congregations are gathering on-line. This Sunday our morning assembly is a video from one congregation who has developed an unusual, yet meaningful way to be together while sheltering in place. Of their gathering, their minister writes:

Gather with us on Sunday for our on-line worship service, as proof that physical doesn't mean spiritual isolation as we ask – what is comfort, what is it to you, what does it mean in this unprecedented time and how do we find it?" *Rev. Amy Carol Webb, is the minister of River of Grass UU Congregation in Davie, FL*

**SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020** Join us at 11:15 am on our YouTube channel 'redriveruu' (all one word)

## CONTEXTUAL ETHICS: WHAT IS THE FITTING TO DO?"

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

Sometimes thinking in terms of moral absolutes overlooks the complex and often conflicting choices, values, obligations, and principles that we face in the process of moral decision making. What are some effective ways to determine the most fitting thing to do in a complex and/or ambiguous moral situation?

**SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020** Join us at 11:15 am on our YouTube channel 'redriveruu' (all one word)

## "THE EROSION OF FORBEARANCE AND MUTUAL TOLERATION"

The Rev. D. M. Strong, *preaching*

We live in perilous times. Between now and November *We, The People* will become even more fractured and distrustful of one another. Two leading scholars of democracy, Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt write that our democracy is in danger by the weakening of the judiciary, the press and long-standing political norms that are leading us down the road to authoritarianism. Some history, some hope.

## Jim's Jabber



Because we have been closed since mid-March, we have had to quickly jump into being able to deliver our Sunday assemblies via some on-line format. We started with Zoom so that people can log in and see others, if using video options. This had worked well and was very successful during the Easter Flower Communion Service which al-

lowed members to talk about their flowers as Ellie put a flower in the vase. If you missed this assembly, it is available on our YouTube channel. It is worth the watch just to hear Ellie sing! To get at this on YouTube, open the YouTube App (you can download it free at Google Play or The App store) or go to YouTube.com on your browser. From YouTube search **redriveruu** to get at our channel. If you subscribe to our channel you can get at it easier by clicking the **Subscribe** button or menu choice depending on your device and browser. Once you are on our channel you will be able to not only see our current service but our past services. During the program you can type a chat that all who subscribe can see. Enjoy.

Going forward we will be streaming our assemblies to our YouTube channel and only use Zoom for special occasions. If any Team or Committee would like to use Zoom for their meetings contact Doug or me and we will get you set up. We will also use Zoom to hold our Spring Congregational Meeting. We are planning on holding that meeting on June 28<sup>st</sup>.

The Finance Team has been meeting and has recommended spending cuts that will reduce some of our remaining expenses for this year (through June 30<sup>th</sup>). Since the building is closed, some expenses are either not needed or are reduced, and some expenses can be managed at a lower spending level. The Finance Team is forecasting about \$3,000+ in expense savings if their assumptions hold true. This was important to do because we are behind on receiving pledge commitments for this year's budget and also, we do not know how long we will need to keep the doors closed. If you still have some of your pledge commitment outstanding and are in a financial position to pay, please do so. A big thank you to those members who are paid up on their pledge commitment.

The Stewardship Team is still planning on doing our annual stewardship campaign. This year the 2020 Stewardship will kick off on May 11<sup>th</sup>. As in past campaigns, you can pledge on line or download your commitment card from the email letter everyone will receive.

With the hit to the economy and the stock market the

Finance Team, Stewardship Team, and Board have some concerns as to how much in pledge commitment our congregation will feel comfortable giving. We will need to know what the total pledge income will be in order to present the 2020-2021 operating budget at the June 28<sup>th</sup> Spring congregational meeting

Thanks to the efforts of some of our members with Jolene heading this, we have removed half the books from our Little Library and replaced them with some canned goods, toilet paper, and other useful items. Not sure how this will come out, but we thought we would try it. If it's successful, we will need some volunteers to help with donations. I'll keep you posted.

Take care, keep safe, and "keep on truck'n"

## Adiós Zoom~Hola YouTube!

The migration from Zoom to YouTube went well. The worship team and AV crew managed to be only 6 minutes late for our first YouTube experience. The second one had a couple of glitches - the worst was a 5-minute delay at the start, which appeared as if the video was not loading. Forbearance from all was appreciated.

One advantage of Zoom was the ability to see the faces of one another, which helped us to feel a deeper sense of community while apart. That is not available on YouTube.

The morning assembly is recorded in advance, giving the AV people time to make sure all is well before uploading the morning assembly to YouTube. Those participating practice social distancing and only 2 or 3 others are in the chapel during the taping of each program.

Each video premieres at 11:15 AM on Sunday morning. One special perk of watching the premier is the ability to type a message to everyone watching. This is available to everyone who subscribes to our YouTube channel (See article on the next page).

Because of the option to type chat messages, the worship team is continuing the Among Ourselves portion of the morning assembly.

## Indivisible Sherman

The Community Captains program is looking for those who might be interested in volunteering later this year on election work or who have ideas for service projects in our area now. Our hope is that we can extend the program in the fall to provide support to candidates and to voters. If you are interested in volunteering later or have an idea for a service project now, please let me know and I will put you on my list.

In solidarity,  
Lindy Olsen  
(323) 828-1140

# Connections

IT'S WHY WE'RE HERE

## 2020 Stewardship Campaign

Have you noticed recently when you get up, you're not quite sure what day it is? It is one of the little things that can happen when the days slip by without being much engaged with the world beyond our front steps.

The world, of course, is out there and we worry about ourselves and others, watch the reports and wonder if once the pandemic passes, what the New Normal, will entail.

Much will change and only after a long, long time will Covid-19 fade into history. We will go on, we will recover. Humankind, to date, has always recovered.

As individuals and families plan for that day, so too, does the church. Each spring we ask ourselves to make a financial commitment to sustain us for another fiscal year.

This year's campaign *Connections - It's Why We're Here* seems a fitting tagline to remind ourselves that we *are* still here, thanks to all who have kept things running during this difficult time. The stewardship team wishes that we could skip this annual necessity, but that would be irresponsible.

Everyone will get a letter on May 11<sup>th</sup> outlining the needs the finance team and the Board agree we must secure for budget year 2020-2021.

Look for the letter (what else do any of us have to do 😊), read it and think about what you can pledge. You can complete the Stewardship Campaign pledge online or by downloading the form that will come with the letter.

## Please Subscribe!

Even though both Oklahoma and Texas officials are telling churches they may open, our Board is listening to the health officials, rather than politicians.

Besides, as we have only 50 chairs and needing 2 chairs between people would, for us, result in only 18 people being able to attend a morning assembly! It is prudent that the church is remaining closed for now.

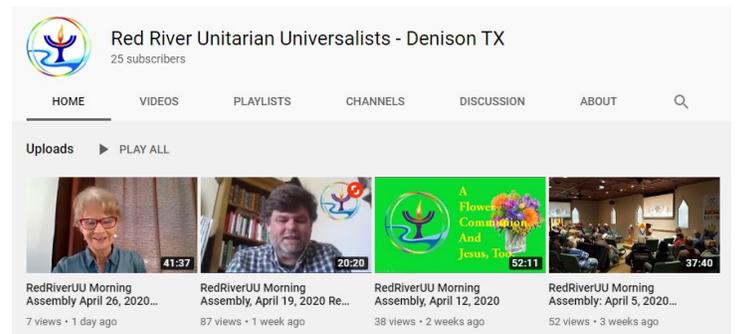
Gathering via our YouTube channel does provide a way to connect while watching a morning assembly.

But *only for those who subscribe to the YouTube channel*. Everyone can watch from anywhere in the globe. Only people who subscribe to our channel can type messages.

During each morning assembly, we now have a segment "Among Ourselves" where subscribers can chat with the group. True, you don't see the person, but many of us remember land lines where we were tethered on a short leash from the receiver to the phone.

Subscribing is free and the only email you get is from YouTube reminding you when the Sunday Morning Assembly will start.

Once you are on the church YouTube channel, there will be an option to SIGN IN. Signing in does *not* make you a subscriber. You will see the church logo when you sign in. Next to it is a red SUBSCRIBE button. Tap/click it to subscribe.



It takes more time to read the instructions than to subscribe.

The more who subscribe, currently 25, the more we can keep in touch with one another until the day when we can return to the chapel.

## Treasurer's Report

As previously approved by our Board, I have terminated the services of the bookkeeper we retained on a test basis at the start of this fiscal year. The bad news is that you're stuck with me keeping the books for the remainder of the year. The good news is that we don't have to pay the outside bookkeeper any more. Her final payment (\$90) was paid on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

As of March 31, 2020, we had \$3,738.64 available in checking, a total of \$66,983.22 in all savings accounts and a total of \$14,645.47 in Certificates of Deposit. Pledges received by mail in our PO Box are being deposited weekly.

Dick Powell, *treasurer*

## Little Free Library PLUS!



Thanks to the efforts of some of our members with Jolene heading this, we have removed half the books from our Little Library and replaced them with some canned goods, toilet paper, and other useful items. Not sure how this will come out, but we thought we would try it. If it's successful, we will need some volunteers to help with donations. Connect [Jolene](#) for more information.



## May Birthdays

09 - Ellie Dyer

27 - Don Mathis

*Were you born in May? Send the day in May you were born and next year you will be listed as well. Currently your birthday is not in the church database.*

## Board of Trustees

**BOARD**  
**OF Trustees'**  
**MEETING**

The May Board meeting will be held via Zoom on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. If you have an agenda item for the meeting, please send it to Jim before Sunday.

## Welcoming Committee

The LGBTQ welcoming committee meeting on Sunday, May 3 @ 1 pm via Zoom. Meeting ID: 872 2441 9230 and Password: 028130. All committee members are requested to join the meeting.



**LGBTQ**

Welcoming Congregation

## Common Read for May



is the Spring 2020 issue of the UU World magazine, is full of wonderful articles you will enjoy. Happy reading friends.

### DEPARTMENTS

[How are you caring for your spirit?](#) It is essential that we find ways to breathe life into that which reminds us of our power, our humanity, our compassion, and our interdependence. *by Susan Frederick-Gray in [From the president](#)*

[Thank you](#) Your congregation's support for the UUA's Annual Program Fund makes vital work possible. For the past 50 years, *UU World* has been a tangible thank-you for that support. *by Christopher L. Walton in [From the editor](#)*

[The power of the wind](#) Four-page insert adapted from *Tapestry of Faith* lifespan faith development programs. *by the UUA Faith Development Office in [Families Weave a Tapestry of Faith](#)*

### LIFE

[Breakthrough Congregation: Teens lead the way](#) A Breakthrough Congregation's teen-led religious education program revitalizes First Religious Society in Carlisle, Massachusetts. *by Heather Beasley Doyle*

[Love what you love](#) We can be cheerleaders for people's simple joys—even if we don't share them. *by Erika A. Hewitt*

[Meet Rev. Tet](#) UU Church of the Philippines president is breaking new ground. *by Elaine McArdle*

[Soul Box project sends message on gun violence](#)  
*by Elaine McArdle*

['Keep pushing on'](#) Teen activist Sophia Geiger fights for climate justice. *by Jim Ross*

[Welcome to UUism: How does someone become a UU minister?](#) *by Liz James*

### SPIRIT

[Loss, poetry and the ballast of faith](#) My UU faith—and my parents' lived examples—informed my thinking about living and dying, sustaining and influencing me more than I realized. *by Kathryn Hamilton Warren*

[Meditation: Come into this room](#)  
*by Susan Maginn (UUA WorshipWeb)*

[Poem: 'Illegal' immigrants & legal inhumanity](#)  
*by Everett Hoagland*

[Poem: Constancy](#)  
*by Margaret Krell*

[All theologies come from a perspective](#) Contextual theologies seek to change society and the use of power in society.  
*by Jonalu Johnstone*

## Our Leaders

### Board of Trustees

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

### 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: *Jim (until we find someone)*  
Finance: *Jim, Dick, Doug*  
Grounds: *Marilyn*  
Long Range Planning: *Jim, Marilyn, Robert, Ronda*  
Membership: *Marion*  
NTUUC Rep: *Marla*  
RE Team: *Tommi*  
Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*  
Social Action:  
Welcoming Congregation:  
Worship: *Dan, Doug, Marla, Robert*

## Contact Us

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



### How to reach us:

- Phone: 903.231.3232
- [Mobile App](#)
- [Email](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Calendar](#)

## Heretic of the week Harry Emerson Fosdick

In each week's issue of [The Catholic Herald](#), author Charles Coulombe writes a column called *Heretic of the Week*. His *Heretics ~ Our Heroes!*



Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969) was born in Buffalo, New York, graduating from Colgate University in 1900 and Union Theological Seminary in 1904. He had already been ordained a Baptist minister a year prior at Manhattan's Madison Avenue Baptist Church.

The year he graduated, he was called to the First Baptist Church in Montclair, New Jersey (now called Christ Church), and served there until 1915. During World War I, Fosdick became an army chaplain and went to France – years later repenting of his support for the war. He returned to the US in 1918 and accepted a call to New York's First Presbyterian Church.

Two things were happening that would determine the course of his future life. In 1921, his brother Raymond started a 30-year stint as director of the Rockefeller Foundation. This brought the young minister to the attention of John D Rockefeller, whose Court Preacher he essentially became.

The second was Fosdick's intervention in the Modernist/Fundamentalist controversy then roiling American Protestantism. As a Union Theological Seminary graduate, Fosdick was most certainly in the former camp, and in 1922 delivered a highly controversial sermon – “Shall the Fundamentalists Win?” – in which he declared that the Bible was not the literal Word of God, but a record of man's self-revelation; he also championed evolution.

He escaped a trial by the Presbyterian Church through resigning his charge two years later, and Rockefeller immediately installed him as pastor of his own church, Park Avenue Baptist Church (as well as printing and distributing Fosdick's sermons nationwide).

In 1930, Rockefeller built the interdenominational Riverside Church and appointed Fosdick as head of that congregation. Seven years later, Fosdick conducted Rockefeller's funeral. Fosdick wrote numerous books, and his sermons were broadcast across America.