



Red River Ramblings

The Monthly Newsletter of Red River Unitarian Universalists ♦ Denison TX ♦ Vol 22, No. 5 ♦ August 2020

Sunday, August 2, 2020 - 11:15 on our [YouTube](#) channel

“When at Last I Sang Hallelujah” - the Rev. Dr. Christine Tata, *speaking*

For years Christine gritted her teeth whenever she heard Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah”—and she heard it playing everywhere for a while, as it became one of his mainstream successes. As much as she wanted to love the song, she didn’t, no matter how many times she listened to it and tried to figure it out. It wasn’t till she *saw* the lyrics printed on a page that the mystery began to come clear. Join the Rev. Dr. Christine Tata on August 2 as she talks frankly about the power of words to inform us, imprison us—or to set us free.

Sunday, August 9, 2020 - 11:15 on our [YouTube](#) channel

“Loving Persons We Don’t Like” - the Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, *speaking*

In a society that is increasingly divided, where vitriol seems to find its way into every room of our shared world house, what does it mean to love one another when we do not like one another?

Sunday, August 16, 2020 - 11:15 on our [YouTube](#) channel

"Failure Is Not an Option--It's Included" - the Rev. Dr. Christine Tata, *speaking*

People who say “Failure is not an option” may think they are being inspirational, but the Rev. Dr. Christine Tata suspects they’re just trying to sound tough. We understand the urge, but let’s get real: Failure is the *only* way human beings can evolve, or learn, or do anything worthwhile. Join Christine and the Red River UUs on August 16 for an advanced seminar in some epic fails that may make you wish you could go back and redo some of your successes.

Sunday, August 23, 2020 - 11:15 on our [YouTube](#) channel

“August 23: John Lennon Sees a UFO” The Worship Team, *leading*

The World Council of Churches is formed. East and West Germany announce their reunification. Hurricane Katrina forms over the Bahamas. The “hashtag” is invented. Russia launches the first floating nuclear power station. The only thing these events have in common is the date of August 23. Join the Worship Team in an exploration of how every humdrum day is full of memorable events—sometimes with historic consequences.

Sunday, August 30, 2020 - 11:15 on our [YouTube](#) channel

“Fur Babies” Lanan and Robert Shelton, *speaking*

During this time of isolation and uncertainty, our furry, feathery, or scaly friends provide joy and comfort for those of us lucky enough to have them in our homes. Today we’ll look at the history of those relationships and the benefits from having a pet. I hope you will share video or photos of your friends as we take a loving look at our companions.

Jim's Jabber



It's now the end of July and we are going in the wrong direction in trying to overcome the pandemic. I had hoped by now that confirmed cases would be in decline but that's not happening, and things are getting worse by the day. I expect that we

will not consider reopening the building until a vaccine is not only available but widely used and the confirmed cases come down dramatically. This means we will continue to be a virtual church for quite a while.

The Board has been discussing ways we can be more effective with our online, virtual church. We are looking into:

- ♥ Ways to get more people involved in our virtual format
- ♥ Getting our teams to meet and conduct their business with zoom
- ♥ Better monitoring and reporting on who uses the App, Facebook, the website, and our YouTube services.
- ♥ Promote the Adult Forum and Online Coffee Hour to improve attendance
- ♥ Look for other groups of friends to connect with Zoom

I've been attending the Adult Forum and the Online Coffee Hour, and it really helps to see familiar faces and carry on discussions, even when it's on a computer screen. I don't feel so isolated. So, if you a feeling a bit lonely come join us. We would love to see and hear from you.

For those of you that watch our YouTube services it would be nice if you would comment in the Chat section by at least saying Hi. It just feels good to see a familiar person's name even if it's just by Chat. You will need to subscribe to our YouTube channel in order to use the Chat feature. Just click on Subscribe and follow the prompts.

The Finance Team is looking into moving some of our savings that are currently in CDs, savings, and checking into a fund that is available through the UUA. The historical interest rate that the UUA fund pays is significantly better than what we are currently receiving. They will give the Board their detailed recommendation in our August Board meeting along with recommendations on what to do with the surplus budget money left over from closing last year's books. We do know that we will reserve some of this money to replace our deteriorating street sign.

Take care, keep safe,
And Keep on Truckn'

Jim ❖

WANTED! Photos, Snapshots, Images, Video Clips, Selfies ...

The worship team is putting out a call for images and videos of you and your pet(s). Too shy to do a 'selfie? OK, then just your pets.

Pets you now have. Pets you once had. Pets you loved. Pets you miss. No limit to the number of images or short video clips (short = less than 40 seconds) you can email. Send to: worship@redriveruu.org.

Deadline: August 23rd.

Robert and Lanan Shelton are leading the morning assembly on August 30, speaking about "Fur Babies" and wants lots and lots of pix of members and friends with their pet dog, bird, snake, turtle, rabbit, skunk cat ... and the list is endless



The Sheltons volunteered to do this and even though they both are less healthy than many, this is important for them. Let's all show our love by overwhelming them with images.

Self-Care Essentials

A Message from the UUA President:

Self-Care Essentials

By [Susan Frederick-Gray](#)

July 23, 2020

Dear Leaders,

I hope that you have had time off in recent weeks or will have some soon. This has been a brutal stretch of months. It is essential that we take time to rest and renew our spirits, because we deserve time to care for ourselves and because shepherding religious communities and working for racial justice are long haul endeavors.

Personally, I was grateful to spend some undivided time recently with my family, playing games, cooking together and even celebrating a birthday. My heart and soul needed it! My family needed it.

As I reflect on what we all have been navigating together over the last five months, I am astounded. We have created new ways of gathering, new systems and practices, new ways of working and being in relationship. In our daily decisions at the UUA, we returned frequently to a core question: What is essential?

Now that we are contemplating a longer horizon of virtual gatherings, along with the vital work of pastoral care and organizing for justice, the core question remains, even as our answers may change.

What is essential? What are your congregation's goals and what might be the best way to achieve them? Are the tools and practices you developed under pressure still a good fit for the long haul?

If I am honest, the idea of a whole year like the last five months is overwhelming. As a parent, as the beginning of the school year looms, I am wrestling with the anxiety, uncertainty and complexity of trying to figure out what this coming year will look like and how to manage working and parenting. This is alive for so many UUA and congregation

staff who are caring for children. Similar uncertainties and demands are alive for staff and households for a whole host of reasons. I find myself asking what is essential and what is realistically possible.

This is a good time to check in with your leadership teams to ask whether what you have been doing is sustainable. This is a good time to pause and reflect anew on your core mission and how best to embody it, with care for one another and the world at the center of your conversations.

Recently Jan Gartner, the UUA's Compensation and Staffing Practices Manager, noted that the stresses of our times restrict the very creativity these times require of us. So, take time for yourself, dear leaders, and support those around you in taking the time they need. Rest and joy are sources of our creativity and critical for our spiritual strength, resilience, and survival. We and our faith will be better for it.

Yours in love,

Susan

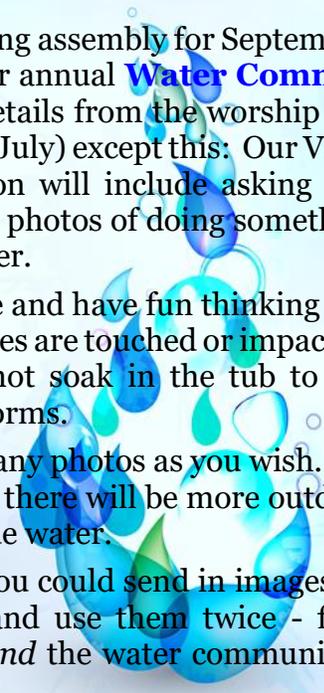
Heads Up, Everyone

The morning assembly for September 20th will include our annual **Water Communion** ritual. No details from the worship team yet (it is still just July) except this: Our Virtual Water Communion will include asking everyone to take 3 or 4 photos of doing something that involves water.

Be creative and have fun thinking of the many way our lives are touched or impacted by water - from a hot soak in the tub to devastating thunderstorms.

Send as many photos as you wish. If everyone starts now there will be more outdoor options that include water.

And yes, you could send in images of washing your pet and use them twice - for the "Fur Friends" and the water communion morning assembly.



August Birthdays



06 - Linda Tracy
09 - Helen Schulze
10 - Lisa Cates
29 - Carolyn Fridley
31 - Doug Strong

Were you born in August? Send the day in August that you were born and next year you will be listed as well.

Upcoming Zoom Meetings

Adult Forum - Sundays @ 10

Online Coffee Hour - (formerly Conversations sans Calories) Sundays following the morning assembly (usually between 11:45 - noon)

Board of Trustees - Third Sunday @ 1pm

Earth Day Planning - Not meeting now, but they are planning a recycling event on Oct. 24.

Welcoming Congregation - Taking a break until they can meet in person. They are monitoring the subject matter and credits in the weekly programs to make sure we meet the criteria for recertification.

Worship Team - Meets ad hoc 2-3 times a month to work on upcoming morning assemblies

Hope Lives Here



42 BED BASH is a benefit concert for the Texoma Family Shelter. It will feature Jason Boland and The Stragglers, Jarrod Morris and Tanner Fenoglio. Now scheduled for October 10 @ Loy Lake Park's Mayor Area, given the pandemic it may need to be postponed.

The Texoma Family Shelter is one of two community organizations that the congregation supports through our Second Sunday Share the Bowl, which is why it is being advertised in *Red River Ramblings*. If you'd like to be a sponsor, or wish to order tickets, visit the [shelter's website](#). Their tag line says it all: *Hope Lives Here*.

PS. They have 42 beds!

RedRiverUU: The Pandemic Version

The Committee on Ministry has reviewed the responses to the recent survey and have submitted a report.

Community is especially important in this time of social distancing, and it is more difficult to create this community. Sometimes we must take ourselves in hand and force the issue. Some people are joining the Zoom meeting on Sundays that was called Conversations sans Calories. However, most of our members are not attending. The Committee on Ministry is suggesting two plans to help Red River UU stay in community.

First, if each person connected to Red River UU would call, email or text at least one friend and one person they don't know very well each month we would have the start of community support. It is important to know that you are being thought of by others.

Also, the survey pointed out that some people would like to participate in small group zooms about assorted topics. If anyone desires to start a group, book club, knitting group, or any other, it will be advertised in the UPDATE and in the newsletter. Our zoom license allows a host key to be created for anyone to host a zoom meeting. For more information on these groups please contact Jim Holmes.

We would appreciate your help by providing feedback about what we are currently doing and what we might possibly do.

This survey is open to everyone. It is anonymous, so please be candid.

Tap/click to take it.

Dan, Marla, and Robert



Take the survey now

Our Leaders

Board of Trustees

Jim Holmes, *President*

Lisa Cates, *Vice-President*

Jan Fletcher, *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*

Stories of Impact: "The UUA's Response to Covid-19"



Picture of the Month



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](#)

