



Red River Ramblings

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

Sunday, September 6, 2020 - 11:15 on our [YouTube](#) channel and our [Facebook](#) page

“Is Religion Good?”

the Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, *speaking*

To what extent is religion a force for good in the world and why does it so often seem to be used in ways that contribute to so much human suffering? Are there ways to ensure that religion remains a way to cultivate human flourishing rather than a way that leads to unending human conflict?

Sunday, September 13, 2020 - 11:15 on our [YouTube](#) channel and our [Facebook](#) page

“The Seeker’s Guide to Miracles, Magic, Justice, Terror, and Truth”

the Rev. Dr. Christine Tata, *speaking*

Hard question: Is “truth” even a thing anymore? How about facts? Do we even know what our *opinions* really are? Join the Rev. Dr. Christine on September 13 for a special time of spiritual reflection specifically designed to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. Come away ready to give the world a peace of your mind. 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, September 23, 2020 - 11:15 on our [YouTube](#) channel and our [Facebook](#) page

“Water Communion with a Twist”

The Worship Team, *leading*

Our Annual Water Communion will be Sunday, September 20th and you are encouraged to participate. How? By making a *short (30 seconds or less)* video with you doing something that involves water. Be creative. Have fun. Be serious. Be thoughtful. Be yourself! Since we cannot gather water as a community sitting in the chapel, we will gather water videos or images – if making a video seems overwhelming – and visually / virtually celebrate this uniquely UU annual ritual. Email your videos to news@redriveru.org. The deadline is **Tuesday, September 15**.

Sunday, September 30, 2020 - 11:15 on our [YouTube](#) channel and our [Facebook](#) page

“Deck Chairs, Lifeboats, Icebergs? Time for A Better Story”

the Rev. Dr. Christine Tata, *speaking*

The meme machines are working full time to register *every* crisis we face as one of Titanic proportions—and us people are just helpless, hopeless fools, doomed to rearranging the deck chairs on a ship that’s destined to sink. But nobody actually rearranged any deck chairs on the *Titanic*. And that doesn’t have to be our story. Join Dr. Tata to talk about what comes next in our real story.

Jim's Jabber

I attended the first Zoom meeting of NTUUC church presidents and VP's and it was a very interesting meeting. All UU churches are struggling with the new normal of being a virtual church and being the best virtual church we can be.

This meeting got me thinking about what the future is for Red River UU and all churches.

We are a church located in a building in Denison, Texas and our building is currently closed. To keep in touch with our members we now record our services and post them online and we also hold meeting and gatherings using Zoom. In many ways we have become a virtual church. When the pandemic is under control enough so that we can open up the building and hold services and events (like we used to) we still need to keep the mindset that we are a virtual church with a building and any events we do need to include our virtual community. We must not go back to being a church in a building that also posts services on YouTube and Facebook. I think I can best answer what this means to us with the following examples of what we should/could be doing now and in the future.

1. One of the churches in NTUUC has a virtual visitors card available online on their website and accessible on their online services. They have gotten some visitors to fill these out and have also gotten 2 new members with the help of these cards. The web team will be implementing our virtual visitor card soon. It may already be available when you are reading this.
2. The implications of this is that our members don't need to reside in Texoma. They may live anywhere in the world. Just because you move away doesn't mean you move away from us. The Board will be reaching out to old members who have moved away just to let them know we are available online so they may join us.
3. NTUUC is putting together a list of the online activities that all of our UU churches do- from classes to youth activities to book clubs, etc. Anyone from anywhere may participate. Looking for a book club, there may be several to choose from that you might be interested in. NTUUC will become a mega UU virtual community of people. Each church will no longer be an island.

4. We currently hold our Adult Forum and Coffee Hour online via zoom. When we go back to meeting in the building, we somehow need to also be able to have our virtual community join us. Of course, they won't be able to enjoy Marilyn's deviled eggs or Robert's gluten-free surprise but they can watch us enjoy them as we converse.

Over the next months, the Board will be addressing this issue and will be working with various teams and committees on implementing these concepts. If any of you have any ideas we should consider please send [me](#) your thoughts so the Board can include these in our plans.

You can help us now by doing the following.

- Click LIKE on any Facebook post that has information about Red River UU.
- [Subscribe](#) to our YouTube channel. As a subscriber you can do CHATS. When you watch the morning assembly live, send a CHAT (Hello is fine). This serves two purposes. Other people online see you and it helps make us all feel a little closer, even if it is just virtual. It also helps the Membership Team see who is watching to help keep track of active and inactive members.
- If you watch our videos later, you cannot CHAT. In this case please send a comment or click LIKE so we can see who we are connecting with.
- If you watch our service on Facebook also click LIKE or send a comment.
- Remember, any time you click LIKE or enter a comment, this might go out to at least some of your followers so it's free advertising for Red River UU.

Take care, keep safe, and Keep on Truck'n

Jim ❖

No more church calendar

All entries on the church calendar are also in the Events list on the church website. Maintaining the monthly calendar is a duplication of effort.



The old calendar has been retired and is no longer available. All worship details are on the website's home page as well as all church events.

A Musical Tribute to L.D. Clark

Saturday, Sept. 5

7 pm - Until We Finish

Join us on Zoom ♦ Open to Everyone

Meeting ID: 929 4355 3609 | Passcode: 135010

Or join directly [here](#)

Last week, my friend and musician L (Larry) D (Dean) Clark died a month short of his 75th birthday. LD was the heart of my music circle *Jan's Jams* from the first meeting in 2008, was the founder of Red River Acoustic Music Society (RRAMS) in Van Alstyne and a long-time member of the Dallas Folk Music Society.

Always ready for a chance to play live acoustic music, we cannot let him go without one last song circle.

Friends and fellow musicians are invited to join us for a zoom virtual song circle tribute to LD.

Hope to see and hear many of you there.

Jan Fletcher

DETAILS FOR PERFORMERS: The church is providing our Zoom account. For those who wish to perform, you can sign in at 6:45. When you sign in, performers will be assigned a number in the circle and the audience will be muted. Because this is a concert, all mics will be muted except for the performer. After the first or second time around the circle, mics will be unmuted and everyone may raise their hand to share a story or memory of LD. Then music will be resumed.

We will all miss our friend and send him to his “Rapture” in song.



LD singing *Rapture* - April 3, 2020



Want to Make Some Music?

A virtual church needs activities for its members to keep the community in touch with each other. So, what are some ways to keep in touch? Those who know me will quickly say it's with music! Many years ago, when I first joined RedRiverUU, I started a music Chalice Circle. Throughout the years, I have continued a music circle or jam in my home at various times. That came to an end with Covid-19.

Without live music, my life is truly isolated! RRUU has a zoom account and the Board is looking for ways to reengage the congregation. Whether you play an instrument or not, if you would be interested in being part of this type activity, please get in touch with me. If there is enough interest, we will pick a night or weekend afternoon to make some music on zoom.

I attended a concert on zoom last month held on Zoom by Harmony House and it was exciting to be in virtual presence with the musicians!

Let's do that for each other. Email [me](#) with your questions or ideas.

Jan Fletcher

Treasurer's Report

For August 16, 2020 Board Meeting

In the month of July, we had total receipts of \$3,278.45. Expenses for the month totaled \$3,679.92. The result was a loss of expenditures over receipts of -\$401.47.

As of July 31, 2020, we had \$2,556.08 in checking, a total of \$70,145.60 in all savings accounts and a total of \$14,736.12 in Certificates of Deposit. Pledges received by mail in our PO Box are deposited weekly.

Jan Fletcher

Treasurer

Safely Voting Our Values

For our faith communities and all Americans to be able to safely vote our values during a pandemic, we need the U.S. Postal Service to be fully functional.

[Can you join us in writing your senators and asking that they support fully funding the US Postal Service?](#)

Unitarian Universalists across the country are working to get UU The Vote ready to mobilize people of faith for a new shared democratic sacrament: filling out our ballots with climate and creation in mind, centered in our values, imagining the kind of country we want, and delivering them safely to the mailbox, without endangering our health or anyone else's.

But our shared vision for a safe and fair election is in doubt. The Postal Service recently said that tens of millions of ballots are in danger of not being properly counted. That's because budget shortfalls and cost-cutting measures put in place by the new postmaster general, are disrupting mail delivery nationwide.

The House recently passed a bill that would provide \$25 billion in emergency funding for the Postal Service and set in place policies that make sure mail processing centers are ready for the millions of ballots headed their way.

[But the Senate has yet to act. Please take a moment today to write your senators and ask that they support a funded and functional Postal Service. Nothing is more essential for our democracy at this moment.](#)

Note: Thanks to Interfaith Power & Light for reminding us about the importance of emergency funding the Postal Services.

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it in your web browser](#)

September Birthdays

09 - Victor Ratliff, Jr

20 - Angela Cates

22 - Chris Grimes

26 - Paula Blackshear

29 - Kat Walston

If your birthday never appears on the monthly birthday list it is because you have never given your date (month and day - we don't publish years). Send yours to news@redriveruu.org.

Voting by Mail

Do you want to vote by mail? Here is what we currently know for Texas and Oklahoma.

For both states, if you are mailing in your ballot be sure to mail it at least one week prior to election date (November 3 this year) and put 2 stamps on it. If you are dropping off a ballot you can only drop off yours, you can not drop off someone else's ballot. Be sure to bring appropriate ID when dropping off your ballot.

For Texas:

To be eligible to vote early by mail in Texas, you must:

- be 65 years or older
- be disabled
- be out of the county on election day and during the period for early voting by personal appearance

When you mail in your ballot:

- You will need to include a copy of a proper ID such as your driver's license or voter registration card
- You can drop off your ballot at designated spots.
- You will need two stamps.

For more information and on how to request a ballot: <https://www.sos.texas.gov/elections/voter/reqabbm.shtml>

For Oklahoma:

Information is changing. Oklahoma will make an announcement end of Aug. on latest plans. As of now:

- Anyone can request a mail in ballot.
- You may not need to have your signature notarized. I will update if I get new information.
- You will need a copy of an ID (Drivers License or Voter Registration card is fine)
- You can drop off your ballot at designated spots. If you mail it in you will need two stamps.

Here are the links for more information, including how to request a ballot.

[Apply for absentee ballots online](#)

[Download an absentee ballot request form](#)

P.S. Not registered to vote in Oklahoma? Learn how: https://www.ok.gov/elections/Online_Voter_Registration.html

Jim Holmes

Adult Forum for September:



"A Thought-Provoking Journey through Humankind's Existence on Earth" is the theme for the September Adult Forum.

Here's the list of video clips that will be watched and discussed during the September Adult Forum Zoom gatherings. The Forum meets @ 10 am each Sunday on Zoom. Join the meeting [here](#).

September 6

Cutting stone with sound - 9.07 min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7H2-BawRLGw>

Gobekli Tepe, Oldest Temple on Earth - 15 min

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMucOD_f9ug&t=890s

Who Built Gobekli Tepe, New Theory - 10 min

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQ8_qHZRu6o&t=394s

September 13

Excerpts from:

Joe Rogan Experience #725 with Graham Hancock and Randall Carlson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDejwCGdUV8>

or

Ellora Caves Documentary 2019 The Mind-Boggling Rock Cut Temples of India

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1SE25mURhc>

Ajanta Temple in Ellora Caves – Built with Alien Technology

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2Jl4HNDixc>

September 20

T.B.A.

September 27

History Channel UnXplained Season 2 Episode 4
The Truth about UFO's - 42 min

NOTE: Also, of interest for independent viewing.

Tesla Wireless Energy - 13 min

Tesla No Free Energy Allowed - 11 min

Our Virtual Water Communion with A Twist Sept 20

The morning assembly for Sept. 20th will focus on a

Water Communion

which will have, well, a twist. 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 ways our lives are touched or impacted by water - from a hot soak in the tub to devastating thunderstorms.



We need scads of videos & photos. If you start now you'll have plenty of hot, humid days where you can let your creative energy start flowing and come up with some cool and wondrously fun and astonishingly brilliant ideas.

After all, we're UUs, Brilliant beyond Hope, and maybe a bit wet 😊

The Worship Team



Fall Congregational Meeting - Sun. Oct 18, 2020 @ 1 pm via Zoom

During the Fall meeting, *all church committees, teams, Chalice circles, and interest groups* are required to write an annual report, covering what your group did from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020. The deadline for the reports is Sunday, Sept. 27. Please remember not to include upcoming ideas or plans. Annual reports are a compilation of what happened, not what might come to be. (Save those plans for the 2021 Fall meeting.) If you wrote a report last year - you have a report due. Send reports to news@redriveruu.org

Little Free Library/Food Pantry

In addition to sharing books, we are currently using the Little Library to provide food items for those in need. We have been doing this since March. If you would like to contribute, here is a list of items we need:

Food

- Soups
- Canned tuna and chicken breast
- Canned fruits, like peaches or pears
- Applesauce
- Canned veggies
- Beans, canned white potatoes
- Ramen noodles
- Pasta sauce
- Pasta
- Cookies (nothing that would melt in the heat, like chocolate)
- Crackers
- Boxed mac-n-cheese
- Bottled water
- Cans of lemonade

Other necessities

- Toilet paper
- Kleenex
- Soap
- Hand sanitizer
- Toiletries

Occasionally we provide face masks or some type of craft project, which have been popular. Small games, puzzles, or coloring books and colored pencils would probably be appreciated, too. Be creative!

If anyone is interested in helping, here are some options:

- Put items in the box inside the front door of the church (if you have a key).
- Put items directly into the Little Library

- Take them to Jolene's house - you can leave them at her front door but let her know ahead of time. Text or call: 817.557.7828. Email: jr.whi10@gmail.com
- Take them to Jim's house - you can leave them at his front door.
- Send money to the church PO Box and identify it for the food pantry of the Little Library.

Note: When I add items to the Little Library, out of an abundance of caution for both me and those using it, I usually wear latex gloves and wipe down the door handles and shelves with an antiseptic wipe. This isn't required, but thought I'd mention it as a suggestion. Thanks in advance for any help you can provide. Also, if you need items from the Little Library, please help yourself.

Take care
Jolene

What Issues Are Most Vital 2 U?

**TEXAS
UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
JUSTICE
MINISTRY**



What 3 issues do you want the TX UU Justice Ministry to focus on during the 2021 TX Legislature? Even if you live in Oklahoma, you probably have ideas of what UU's in TX should be focusing on. While the fancy survey never materialized (apologies y'all) you can write the 3 issues you want the TXUUJM to work on during the 2021 TX Legislature in an email and send it to news@redriveruu.org. All entries must be received NLT Monday, Sept

7. Maybe Immigration? Racial Equity? Economic Justice? LGBTQ+ Equality? The Pandemic Fallout? Or ??? True the list is *huge* but there is only a finite amount of energy folks have and focusing on three results in a *huge* impact on the elected officials.

All UU Congregations in TX are invited to suggest three issues. Please participate. Send your list to news@redriveruu.org. Deadline Sept 7th

OPEN TO EVERYONE!

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*

Contact Us

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DENISON, TX 75021-1806

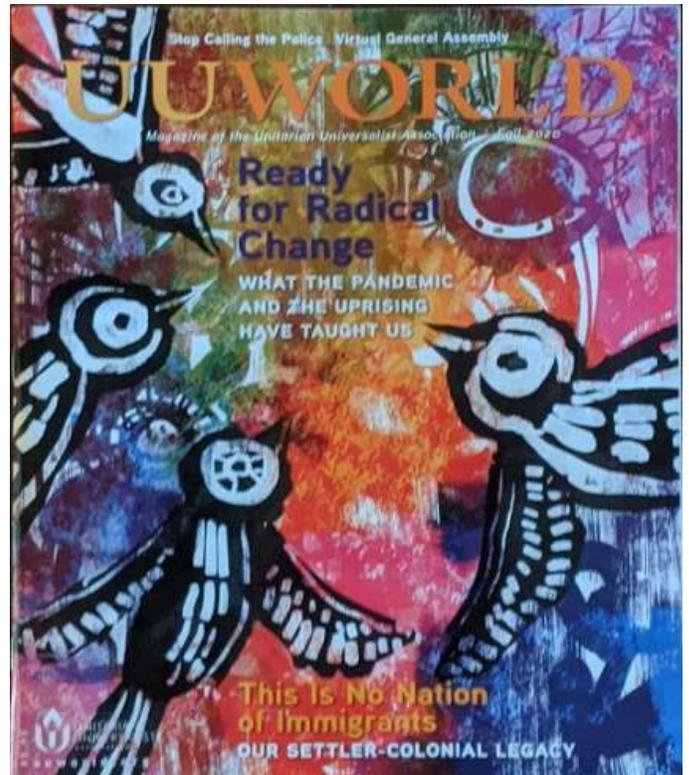
How to reach us:

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



The church calendar is now merged with the EVENTS listing on the church website home page

WORLD Magazine - Fall 2020



The UUWORLD magazine is sent free to all members of UU congregations. Others may subscribe (print or digital) from uuworld.org. The Fall 2020 issue contains several thought provoking essays worth reading.

Two Common Reads for September from the issue:

We're Ready for Radical Change - No Nation of Immigrants - Preface: Categorizing the US as a 'nation of immigrants' obscures the country's settler colonial history and erases the violence of settler colonialism, genocide, and slavery. Read excerpts from the Ware Lecture by Naomi Klein.

No Nation of Immigrants - Preface: Categorizing the United States as a "nation of immigrants" obscures the country's settler colonial history and erases the violence of settler colonialism, genocide, and slavery. Read Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz featured presentation

Enjoyable reading while sheltering in place!

Team Leaders: Remember your annual report for the October 17th congregational meeting is due by Sunday September 27.