

In This Issue



Fall

Congregational
Meeting
Oct. 30th



We're hosting
the 2017 Small
Congregations
Conference



Easy
Yoga Starts



Words, Words,
Words. What's
a UU to do?



And More!

Red River Ramblings



October 2016
Volume 14
Issue 4

Grow your Soul & Serve the World

Sunday, October 2, 2016

Reparations – What Is Mine To Do?

MarySue Foster, *speaking*

Most of us “got privilege” by the accident of our birth. Do we owe anything to those who didn’t have that same happy accident? Do others who aren’t born to privilege deserve some kind of recompense? Should the US legislate some kind of compensation to descendants of slaves or other groups? Is there something we can do as individuals? What do the Seven Principles say? We’ll explore these ideas and more on Sunday.

Refreshments A-G

Sunday, October 6, 2016

True Forgiveness

Khaleigh Rose Hopkins, *speaking*

Yom Kippur is the culmination of the Ten Days of Awe and considered the most sacred Jewish holiday. The Worship Team originally invited Lara Rivera from Denton (who spoke at Red River a couple years ago) to tell us about Yom Kippur which begins on Oct. 10th. Unfortunately she is ill, but her daughter Khaleigh volunteered to come speak with us. Of her remarks, Khaleigh writes, “*We will discuss what the important Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur is truly about. We will explore how we can make this sacred day an important part of our connection with not only our God, but with our community, and with our selves.*”

Refreshments H

Morning Meditation - 9

Adult Forum - 10

Worship - 11:15

Conversations & Calories - 12:15

Sunday, October 16, 2016

Envisioning Justice in Our Climate Changed World

Ally Tharp, *speaking*

Ally Tharp returns, for her third visit, to speak about how Unitarian Universalism is part of a global movement to respond to the moral crises of climate change. While we are diverse in spiritual belief, we are united in faith that a better world is possible and that our collective power can create change.

Refreshments I-R

Sunday, October 23, 2016

Out of the Conservative Closet in a UU Congregation

Tracy Homuth, *speaking*

I’m Tracy and I’m a closet conservative. I’m coming out to have an open discussion with the congregation on how I’ve come to join a Unitarian Universalist Church and how some of the UU practices and thinking strike this conservative as hilarious.

Refreshments S-Z

Sunday, October 30, 2016

An Election Day Sermon

The Worship Team

Election Day sermons were preached for nearly three hundred years in New England churches and on Sunday we will explore this tradition. This rich tradition was full of twists and turns. Perfect timing for the upcoming general election. A morning to speak to the body politic, not to speak politics so we won’t chance having our non-profit status yanked by the Great State of Texas.

The Fall Congregational Meeting is this morning.

In 4 Lunch Potluck - *for every body*

Red River Unitarian Universalist Church ♦ Denison, TX

A sanctuary for religious liberals celebrating compassion, diversity and spiritual growth.



Hello from Helen

Well, the cooler temperatures have arrived, so we can believe that fall is here. This time of year, I always feel as if I should be returning to school!

For those of you who are new to UU, or who are interested in learning a little more about it, I am glad to report that there will be a series of classes called "New to UU" that will begin this Sunday, October 2nd, after services. Marion will lead the first session, and it will start at 12:45. I think I will learn something too. The classes will occur on the first Sunday of every month, and you do not need to attend them sequentially.

We will be planning our next congregational meeting on October 30th, 2016. I would like to ask you to think about activities that would be suitable for a fund raiser. In the past, we have had fund raisers to help with our Endowment Fund as well as for our longed-

for elevator. I think we have held garage sales....any new ideas would be appreciated.

The membership committee has been hard at work to track our visitors, and to find ways to keep in touch with them after they visit. A new 'Visitors Packet' has been created; I believe it lives on the table next to the front entrance. I think we are doing a good job of being welcoming rather than overpowering. I know that many people who try us out have had differing experiences of church, not all of them positive. I remember being swooped upon in other settings in the past; it made me reluctant to return.

Please remember that you are always welcome at our monthly Board meetings if you have any concerns.

Hoping to see you soon.

Helen.



Haloween Sunday before the Fall Meeting is the next all-church potluck lunch. Plan on staying afterwards and sample the wonderful culinary talent that is an important part of our church community.

Breaking bread together is a long-standing UU tradition. Bring your favorite fall covered dish and try sitting with someone you don't know! It's a great way to meet someone.

Then plan on staying for the Fall Congregational Meeting, and learn what the various church groups have been doing

Fall Congregational Meeting - Oct 30th

The fall meeting will be Sunday, October 30, 2017 @ 12:45 pm in the chapel. This is the meeting where reports from several church committees are discussed. The reports, due **Wednesday, October 12th**, are expected from the following:

- Adult Forum
- Building and Grounds
- Booked for Lunch
- Green Team
- Moveable Feast
- UU Jam
- Communications Team
- North Texas UU Congregations - Red River's Representative
- Religious Education
- Safe Congregation Panel
- Social Justice
- Worship Team

Reports do not have to be long, and it would be helpful if submissions were plain text (no bullets, italics, columns, etc.). Kindly email reports to secretary (at) rruu.org.

The meeting packet, containing reports and the agenda, will be emailed to all members (and any friends who would like to receive one) on Monday, Oct. 16th.

Remember the 5th Sunday In4Lunch all-church potluck is the same morning!

New Church Directory

Thanks to everyone who has replied to the email asking for updates, edits and changes to your contact information. During October the database will be updated and a new 2016-2017 church directory will be published and emailed to everyone. If you have yet to reply to the email you received, won't you take a minute, find the email and reply?

If, by some chance, you did NOT receive an email asking you to verify your contact information, please send an email to [directory \(at\) rruu.org](mailto:directory@rruu.org).

Activities for Kids - an update

Ellie Dyer has agreed to lead activities for youngsters when kids visit on a Sunday. The board has purchased a UUA Children's Activity book and Ellie has organized a series of one-shot activities to use on Sunday mornings.

We had a record number of visiting children during September. The Arts & Crafts room has been used for kid activities with great success. Ellie will be paid from the grant the congregation was awarded by NTUUC (North TX UU Congregations).

Board Bits from September

Here's highlights of the Sept. 11th board meeting:

- Agreed to devote time to update the church's history. While we have binders with historical information (board minutes, Sunday bulletins, financial information, etc.) the electronic version of the "Board Book" is woefully outdated. During this church year all critical information will be scanned and each board members will receive an updated flash drive. The same information will be backed up to DVDs and placed in the church safe deposit box at the bank.
- Our QuickBooks Application has a glitch and needs the attention of someone who has experience using QuickBooks. Can you help? If so, speak with Kelly Cofield.
- Agreed the monthly board representative will work with the Sunday morning greeter on duty to assist newcomers and visitors so they can feel warmly welcomed and have an opportunity to fill out a guest card
- Reviewed and agreed, by consensus, to reaffirm the Board of Trustees' Covenant (a copy is available in the Congregational Governance tab of the church web site.

**Team and Committee Reports for the Fall
Congregational Meeting are due Wednesday,
Oct 12
Email reports to [secretary \(at\) rruu.org](mailto:secretary@rruu.org)**



We're Hosting a Conference!

It all began in August 2014 when Red River hosted a one-day conference *Wide Awake Worship* with Dr. Christine Tata as the facilitator. Thirty-three UUs from across north Texas attended. By all reports we did well. A seed was planted.

Last year Pathways UU decided to hold a one-day conference focusing on Religious Education. It too was a success and the event received a name - Small Congregations Conference - with the aim of having all the tiny congregations in the area (along with the big ones too, if they wished to attend) come together to network, swap ideas, concerns and to help one another.

This year, Arlington UU hosted the 2nd Small Congregations Conference that had different workshops for people to attend. Kelly Cofield, Marla Loturco and Dan Althoff attended and driving home they thought, "Why don't we host the 2017 conference?" In three years the gathering has evolved from an event to a tradition!

Might you be interested in being on the Planning Committee for this March 11, 2017 one-day event? A few folks have been brain storming. The first step is to send a survey to all small UU congregations within a reasonable driving distance from Red River (14-16 depending on what one feels is a "reasonable" distance). The purpose is to solicit suggestions for topics people would find sufficiently intriguing to entice the drive.

To spark their thinking, several potential topics are suggested:

- Audio/Visuals in worship
- Security issues
- Music in worship
- Using social media
- Stewardship
- Church growth
- Creating religious space

Currently Robert Shelton, Dan Althoff, Marla Loturco and Doug Strong have raised their hand and said, "Yes." Speak with any of them, if you'd like to help plan.

Books and Yoga



Do you want to hear about new authors and interesting books? Our next book club meeting is on Friday, October 14, at 1pm at church. Open to book lovers everywhere. A snack will be provided. We're trying something new in October.

The book club meeting will be followed by Easy Yoga. You don't have to get down on the floor so everyone can do it. Wanda Holmes, Keller's mother, has volunteered to lead us. We'll start yoga at 2:15. If you are planning to do yoga, please wear comfortable clothing that does not restrict your movements.

Come for just the book club or just yoga or both. Everyone is welcome.

Facilitator: Carole Harner

Treasurer's Report

In the month of August, we had income of \$3287 from general operations. After operations expense of \$2624 for the month, we had a net income of \$663.

In August, we donated \$157 from the Share the Plate program to the Earth Day Festival.

There was a donation of \$15 to the wi-fi fund.

Building insurance of \$210. UUA donation of \$236.50 (\$118.25 for July and August because I overlooked this requirement in July).

Water and waste bill of \$214, electric bill of \$212, gas of \$120 (July of \$59, Aug of \$61), Cable One of \$67.50.

I thank you all for your patience while I'm learning the ropes of treasurer.

Kelly Cofield, Treasurer

October Birthdays

Two among us have birthdays in October:

Marion Hill	October 5
Joyce Peak	October 18

UU Jam - R.I.P.

I'm sorry to announce RRUUJAM is cancelled effective tomorrow. After suggestions that my music circle be moved to RRUU for it to grow, few new folks showed up. This had not developed; so, I will be ending the circle at Red River.

I hope to be resuming a music circle in my home in the future...I'll be in touch...

Thanks for your friendship and support in the past.

Facilitator: Jan Fletcher

October's Moveable Feast

Donna Toerper invites all Feasters to her home in Bonham on October 29, beginning at 4:00 p.m. She set the time because some people prefer to drive home before dark, but any who wish to stay later and visit are welcome to do so. This will be a potluck, in order to accommodate special diets. There will be a Halloween theme, so feel free to dress in your favorite costume. (Non-costumed folk will be allowed in also.) RSVP to [Marion](#) or to [Donna](#), indicating any preference you have regarding date and/or time. Donna will provide directions to her house closer to the time along with coffee, iced tea, juice for kids. BYOB/BYOW. Sounds like a fun Feast - thanks, Donna!

Facilitators: Marion & Elbert Hill

Green Team Meeting

The green team is holding a meeting on October 13th at 5 pm at Amy Hoffman-Shehan's home in Sherman to continue working on next year's Texoma Earth Day Festival. Newcomers are most welcome to join in.

Facilitator: Amy Hoffman-Shehan

Our Oct. First Time Speaker



Khaleigh Rose Hopkins (Oct. 9th), "Hello my name is Khaleigh Rose Hopkins, I am currently a senior in high school and attend First Christian Church in Denton where I have found my calling in life to follow the path of ministry. I enjoy being busy in school while playing golf or being with friends on the town square, Growing up in a college town, and converting my faith at the age of 13 has taught me a lot about myself and about the world around me that I am very excited to share with you."

Leaders

Board of Trustees

Helen Schulze, *president*
 Marla Loturco, *vice president*
 Kelly Cofield, *Treasurer*
 Doug Strong, *Secretary*
 Linda Tracy, *Trustee*
 Dan Althoff, *Past President*

Committee on Ministry:

Carole Harner, Gerry Shehan,
 Robert Shelton

Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *various members*
 Building & Grounds: *Marilyn*
 Communications: *Doug*
 Finance:
 Membership: *Marion*
 Nominations: *Elbert, Kat, Lanan*
 NTUUC Rep: *Marla*
 RE Team: *Dan, Tommi*
 Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*
 Social Action:
 Worship: *Dan, Doug, Marla, Robert*

Contact Us

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E-News: announce (at) rruu.org

Facebook: RedRiverUnitarianUniversalistChurch

Smart Phone App:

<https://redriveruuchurch.appsme.com>

or scan this QR code:



FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM

Words, words, words!

I'm so sick of words

I get words all day through

First from Him, now from you

*Is that all we UU's can do?**

(*With apologies to Lerner and Loewe)

During our Aug 21st Leadership Workshop the discussion focused, briefly, on a variety of words that are used during things on Sunday. Several people felt the term “things” (as in “The Order of Things” “After Things”) misses the mark because our time together is more than just a thing. (The term was first introduced as a way for visitors to instantly see that what we do on Sunday morning will be distinctively different.)

Many have felt that traditional liturgical language - worship, prayer, hymn, benediction, etc. - equally miss the mark and, for a few, such words are highly charged and even offensive.

The Worship Team has, over the last several years, found ways to label the various things we do on Sunday morning that reflect our own approach to the things we do on Sunday morning. We sing songs (albeit from our hymnal). We may have a meditation or a mus-ing or a prayer or simply called that part of our time Practices. We tend to call the focal point of what happens during Sunday morning as a Reflection or Remarks rather than a Sermon. Another word-play has given us a Call to Community rather than an Introit.

We do not, however, know what to call our time together. We're not alone in this. Many UU congregations struggle with what terms to use to explain or honor or enhance the things that happen during the hour together on Sunday morning. The Ethical Society refers to this special hour as “Platform” while at Pathways, UU's come on Sunday morning to share time they call “Common Ground.”

A lot of people feel Worship is the perfect word, others won't come if the word is used. Some ask, if we call it Service, “What service are we doing?” Recently we've used Celebration or Assembly rather than Worship and have simply called the paper we hold a Program.

We all appreciate variety in our Worship and having a lexis tailored to a specific Service may be more meaningful than having each Assembly contain the same jargon. We trust that if you are offended during Things by a particular word, know that there will be other Platforms when you are content and the dude sitting next to you is pissed. Because if we all liked or disliked the same things, we'd be Baptists rather than Unitarian Universalists.

P.S. Do you have suggestions, ideas, and comments about wording we use on Sundays? Please tell us. You can use the digital suggestion box: Suggestions (at) rruu.org.