



Red River Ramblings

News from Red River Unitarian Universalist Church in Denison TX Vol 20, No 2 June, 2017

Sunday June 4, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Kind Regards - Take Two

The Rev. John Gibbons, *speaking (video message)*

This morning a powerful sermon which speaks to our turbulent times and our Unitarian Universalist history of the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Of his remarks, John wrote, "*As our resistance to injustice intensifies, what happens to our civility? Further thoughts about the spiritual sustenance of our struggle.*" Are you feeling conflicted about the turbulence in the country? Are you struggling, or afraid, or angry, or happy? Do you feel included, excluded, defiant, jubilant? If yes, than this is *not* a Sunday to play hooky from church.

Refreshments A-G (but not C)

Sunday, June 11, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

To Tell the Truth

The Rev. Annie Foerster, *speaking*

My parents, who lived on a lake and loved to fish, used to tell this joke: How can you tell when a fisherman is lying? His lips are moving. Little did I know telling the truth was a theological question, worth exploring deeply. Let's explore it together.

Refreshments H

Sunday, June 18, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Donkeys and Elephants

Participants from 'A Call to Faith in Turbulent Time', *speaking*

Every Wednesday evening, for the past 4 weeks 14 church members met to discover ways we can embrace and respect each other in a polarized nation, even though we may disagree.

On Sunday, members of the group will share how

this experience has affected them. We all agreed to share will be a brief video which we feel everyone deserves to see.

Refreshments: I-R, plus C

Sunday, June 25, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

The Best of General Assembly

Details in the eNews and church's mobile app

General Assembly ends today in New Orleans. It has been a 5 day emersion into Unitarian Universalism with business meetings, 100 workshops, lectures, and lots of sermons. Today we'll have glimpses of GA, including one of the sermons.

Refreshments S-Z

Every
Sunday Morning

Mindful Meditation - 9 am

Tranquility and peace for about an hour

The Adult Forum - 10 am

Native Peoples of North America

During June the forum continue exploring this Great Courses video series Hearing different angles on historical events gives you a more insightful, more accurate, and more rewarding understanding of events - especially when a new viewpoint challenges the story you thought you knew.

Conversations & Calories - 12:15 pm

Our fellowship hour, with opportunities to spend time with kindred spirits



Hello from Helen

We are in the season of graduations and preparations for summer vacations...my youngest will be off to college this summer, and I am marveling at how quickly the years fly by. My mother warned me to pay attention-she always said that time speeds up once you have chil-

dren. I wonder when I will be old enough to be right about as many things as she is!

We had a successful congregational meeting on May 21st, and I would like to report on some of the decisions that were made. The Ballots for Board of Trustees, Nominating Committee, and Committee on Ministry were approved. We decided to become a Reproductive Justice Congregation, and to look into the process needed to qualify as a Welcoming Congregation.

Our goals as a congregation for the next year will be to establish a Caring Team to help us be more organized and deliberate about attending to the needs of our members. We also discussed developing a mentor program for visitors, so that they don't feel stranded here.

In the future, we hope to have work days in order to complete the rehabilitation of the bicycles that live in the shed, so that they can be given away. We also hope to clear out the flotsam and jetsam in the garages, so that we can keep what is useful and drag the remains to the dump. There is also interest in having a fund raiser for the proposed elevator.

There are a lot of opportunities here-I hope you will decide to become a part of them!

Have a good summer-and may your air conditioner always work when you need it (should this be the blessing for both Oklahoma and Texas?)

Helen.

The Take Away ~ from the Spring Meeting

The Spring Meeting was May 21st with a 55% of the congregation participating - in person or by proxy ballots.

The membership discussed then too action as indicated below:

- Approved the minutes of the Oct. 30, 2016 meeting
- Accepted the written reports as published
- Approved the 2017-2018 Operating Budget as presented
- Elected all candidates by acclamation, with words of appreciation for those leaving leadership positions
- Majority approved Red River UU Church becoming a Reproductive Justice Congregation
- Unanimously Approved Red Rive UU Church exploring the process of becoming a UUA Welcoming Congregation with Jim Holmes, Dan Althoff and Marla Loturco volunteering to spearhead the process
- Endorsed the re-establishment of a Caring Circle to help those in need with Kelly Cofield and Megan Hutchinson volunteering to co-lead the effort
- Majority approved terminating the 3 month trial of locking the doors during worship, effective immediately

- Discussed Congregational Goals for 2017-2018
 - While we follow up quickly with all visitors, we agreed we need to find ways to keep in touch and track newcomers. Marion Hill to write the detailed goal
 - Follow through on the Caring Circle so it becomes a functional part of the church with Megan Hutchinson writing the detailed goal.
 - Reproductive Justice Congregation process will be complete during the year
 - Welcoming Congregation Process will be started and continue throughout the year
- Voted to continue the Share the Plate Sundays with the recipients being the Grayson County Shelter and the Texoma Earth Day Festival (this year \$763 was given to the Shelter and \$839 to the Festival)

Comments during the Open Discussion

- Recommendation we get a Heart Defibrillator
- Cleaning out the garages
- Need to continue fund-raising for the Elevator Fund and the advantages of having an elevator to reach from the basement to the third floor

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 PM

The complete draft minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside the kitchen.

moveable feast

June 8th

David and Sylvia Lawrence have invited the Feasters to their country home in Van Alstyne on Thursday, June 8th. Here are the details: *We currently plan to have a simple barbecue. We will start at 6:00 p.m. with social*

time and will eat at 6:30 p.m. Weather allowing, we will be on the deck, so dress very casually. We will have a supply of various adult beverages, tea, and soft drinks. No need to bring anything. We will need a head count of those planning to attend. Please advise of special dietary needs. We will have suitable dishes for vegetarians. The address is 229 Parker Road Van Alstyne, TX 75495.

They need to have a head count so please email [Marion Hill](#) if you are planning on attending no later than June 5th.

The Garages desperately need us!

The downside of having 4 garages is evident in these pix. It is time to attack the buildup.

Saturday, June 24 from 8 - 10:30 am.

Three team to do three separate tasks

1. Work with LD Clark on the final solution for the Bikes (3-4 people who can remove needed parts and put together usable bikes - goal 10 good bikes)
2. Work with Doug Strong on sorting out Garage 4, pitching a lot of it out, saving usable wood, arranging the Earth Day supplies (4-5 people - bring gloves)
3. Work as a small team, cleaning the furniture in Garage 1 so it can be put online to sell. Cover it up to keep it clean. (2-3 people who can help but can't lift)

There will be two guys we've hired to do the heavy work.

We have trucks to haul off stuff to recycle and to the dump.

We have informally queried several members and June 25 seems to be the day most people were free. We will pray for a cool day, but starting at 0800 should give us time to finish things up before it gets too miserable to work.

Please come. Ten people = 25 hours of labor. Plenty of time to get the garages cleaned, sorted & looking good.

Please come!

Please

Pleas

Plea

Ple

Pl

P



Recycling/Trash Pickup, YES!

The church is the proud owner of its own blue recycling bin. It even has wheels! Here's what can go inside the bin:

Aluminum cans
Cardboard
Catalogs
Glass bottles or jars
Junk mail
Magazines
Newspaper
Phone books
Plastics 1-5, 7
Steel / tin cans



And here's what can **never** go inside the bin:

Aluminum Foil
Batteries
Hazardous Waste
Milk Cartons
Packing Peanuts
Styrofoam
Tissue Paper
Wax Paper
Window Glass



We also have a new Garbage Bin. It is a different color so we won't get them confused.

The garbage bin must have a large plastic pull-string garbage bag inside *before* tossing anything in.

Why? Because, the city will open the bin and take out the garbage bag.

Without the liner, they won't take what's inside. We cannot, for example, put garbage in a plastic bag from Kroger's thinking, "Well, it in a bag."

The Schedule:

Recycle bin can be wheeled to the Bond Street driveway every other Thursday. There is a schedule posted on the bulletin board in the foyer and outside the kitchen.

The trash bin can be wheeled to the Bond Street driveway any Wednesday evening - for Thursday pickup - but *must* be wheeled back no later than Thursday evening.

Given the size of the containers, and the amount of recycles and trash we produce, we probably only have to put out and return the bins once a month.

Will you volunteer to be part of the "Take Out The Trash" crew? If six people say yes, that's only twice a year that you need to drive to church on your Wednesday, roll out the bins and then return Thursday afternoon/evening and return them. Not too taxing, right? Sign up [here](#).

Booked for Fun

is taking the summer off so everyone can devote more time to reading! Keep tabs on what you'll be reading and share details when the group reconvenes in September.

Happy Reading, friends!

Treasurer's Report

In the month of April, we had income from general operations of \$7,732. After operations expense of \$6,676, we had a net income of \$1,056.

Operations expense include water and waste of \$126, gas bill \$53, electric bill \$117, UUA donation of \$118, internet \$68 and building insurance \$196.

In April, we donated \$154 from the Share the Plate program to Texoma Earth Day. As of April 30, we had \$7,910 available in checking.

Kelly Cofield,

Fair Trade Coffee order by Jun 4

Marion Hill will be placing another order very soon for



Fair Trade coffee. If you'd like her to order some for you, please let her know by June 4. This is coffee from Equal Exchange, which works with

farmer-led cooperatives and pays small growers a fairer price than they could get by selling beans to larger coffee companies. Red River UU buys at wholesale and passes this price on to individuals who order through the church.

You can easily take a look at what's available by going to shop.equalexchange.coop. That will tell you retail prices; you can't get onto the wholesale site without the church's password. As a rule of thumb, however, if a retail price of \$8.99/10 oz. bag is given, the wholesale price would be about \$6.40. Please order a whole case, which is typically 6/10 oz. pkg. Whole beans are available in some flavors.

To the editor

Thanks so much to the wizard who created the Red River mobile app. I use it several times every month to remind myself what's going on and when. I keep being surprised by the 'extras' on the app. Since it's free and super easy, even I could download it. Tell me if you need help to do it.

Carolyn Cameron

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: *Angie, Doug, Marla, Robert, Tommi*

Contact Us

Red River UU Church
515 North Burnett Ave
mail to:

PO BOX 1806
DENISON, TX 75021-1806
♦ ♦ ♦

How to reach us:

Email: [info \(at\) rruu.org](mailto:info@rruu.org)

Phone: 903.231.3232

Web: www.rruu.org

E-News: [announce \(at\) rruu.org](#)

Facebook: [RedRiverUnitarianUniversalistChurch](#)

Our mobile App: download
"RedRiverUU" free from the
[Apps Store](#) & [Google Play](#).

North Texas UU Leadership Conference

Saturday, June 10, 2017 • 8:30am-4:30pm

First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church
1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76112



Keynote:

Bishop Carlton Pearson

Adjunct Minister, All Souls Church, Tulsa

Bishop Pearson's keynote address is open to the public, at no charge, but a free-will offering will be taken for **Black Lives of UU**.

Workshops:

Tracy McShan

Growth Starts on the Ground Floor – How's your elevator ride?
How We Grow – For those seeking to grow their church mindfully

David Norton and James Snell

Stewardship – Making it Work
Creating A Successful Congregation

Connie Goodbread

Extended Leadership – The final session for participants in the
UUA Southern Region's Extended Leadership Experience

Carrie Stewart

The Racial Justice Movement of Our Time
A Historical Moment • Grounding in UUism
Defining Race and Racism • History of White Supremacy
What We Can Do • Education – Reflection – Action

Register at NTUUC.org/LetLoveLead

Registration is \$25, or \$30 after May 21, and includes lunch. Registration closes June 5.

See NTUUC.org/LetLoveLead for complete program information.



*Broadening the
source of Leadership
from Bylaws to
LOVE and the
definition of
Leadership from
"those elected"
to "those who lead"*

Chalice Circles / Interest Groups ~ open to all

BOOKED FOR FUN, an informal book discussion group which usually meets the second Friday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room. The group is on their summer hiatus, luxuriating and relaxing - reading away the summer. They return in September. Facilitator Carole Harner.

GREEN TEAM, Facilitator: Amy Hoffman-Shehan.

MOVEABLE FEAST, a Cooking and/or Eating Circle. In June, the Lawrences are hosting a simple barbeque in their Van Alstyne home on June 8th. Deadline to sign up is Monday, June 5th by emailing [Marion](#). Facilitators: Elbert and Marion Hill.