



Red River Ramblings

News from Red River Unitarian Universalist Church

Denison TX

Vol 20, No. 4

August 2017

Sunday August 6, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

A Name, A Difference

The Rev. Cheryl M. Walker, *speaking (video from General Assembly)*

We come into our UU communities to do some good, as we make some friends and grow our souls. What other motivations might we bring with us, and which ones do we need to check at the door? What difference do we want to make with the time we have?



The Reverend Cheryl M. Walker has served as the Pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Wilmington, NC since 2009. Prior to going to Wilmington, she served four years as the Assistant Minister at the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City. Rev. Walker currently serves as the President of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Springfield College and a Master of Divinity from The Union Theological Seminary of New York.

Refreshments A-G (but not C)

Sunday, August 13, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

206, 237 Meals and Counting

Ben Merrill, *speaking*



Since opening seven years ago, Sherman's Grand Central Station has been serving lunch six days a week to guests for whom it is often their only meal of the day. G.C.S.

also provides an array of other services to anyone who comes through the door. Ben Merrill is the Food Manager and Chef of G.C.S. and he comes to tell us about his life and work. Both are inspirational.

Refreshments H

Sunday, August 20, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

New Member Sunday - We will welcome our newest members

The Good News of Unitarian Universalism

Zachary Hughes, *speaking*

"The Good News of Unitarian Universalism" recounts my spiritual journey to Unitarian Universalism and then to seminary at the SMU Perkins School of Theology. Reflecting on my journey, which is still very much unfolding, I realize that I came to value our UU principles before I even knew about the UU religion.



Zack is a member of Community UU Church in Plano where he serves as the President of the Board of Trustees. This fall, he will begin pursuing a Master of Divinity at the SMU Perkins School of Theology,

which awarded him the Charles and Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Fellowship. He lives in Richardson with his better-half, Kimberly, his gestating daughter, and their three rescued terriers.

Refreshments: I-R, plus C

Sunday, August 27, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

You Have to Be Carefully Taught

Rev. Meg Barnhouse, *speaking (video message)*







The minister at the First UU Church in Austin offered to prepare a sermon - based on three songs - to their service auction last winter. The winner chose three songs and

on Sunday we will hear the sermon the Rev. Barnhouse wrote.

Refreshments S-Z

Each Sunday

-  Meditation ~ 9
-  Adult Forum ~ 10
-  Morning Assembly ~ 11:15
-  Conversations & Calories ~ 12:15

UUA President: *Transgender Ban is Blatant Discrimination*



"I would like to see them try to kick me out of my military," Staff Sgt. Logan Ireland said in an interview with Air Force Times. *"You are not going to deny me my right to serve my country when I am fully qualified and able and willing to give my life."*

UUA President the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray issued the following statement in response to President Trump's plan to ban transgender people from serving in the U.S. military:

Yesterday's announcement from President Trump that he is barring transgender individuals from serving in the U.S. military is an act of blatant discrimination against transgender citizens. As Unitarian Universalists, we denounce President Trump's claim that allowing transgender persons to serve in the United States military would be a burden and a disruption. We believe that transgender people should be accorded all the rights and responsibilities due every citizen, including the right to serve our country in the military. Today, more than 15,000 transgender Americans are on active duty in the military, and their status is now thrown into question.

In reversing the decision made last year by President Obama's administration, President Trump not only undermines the strength and readiness of our armed forces but also goes back on his campaign pledge to support the LGBTQ community. We call upon the Trump administration to uphold the American values of equality and service by reversing yesterday's discriminatory decision.

Stop shopping at Amazon (until you read this)

Did you know if you purchase from Amazon you could also be earning money for the church? Amazon Charity donates 0.5% of purchases to Red River, provided you have linked your Amazon account with Amazon charity organization (they call it Smile Amazon).



Here's how: click on the image to the left and when Smile Amazon comes up, log into your Amazon account. That's almost all there is to it because now your Amazon account

is linked to the Red River UU Church. If you have bookmarked Amazon in your browser, you might want to delete it and replace it with www.Smile.Amazon.com.

Smile Amazon is the same as plain Amazon – same familiar site, same prices, same account. The only difference is that now your purchases will support our church. The more people who link their Amazon account with Red River UU, the more \$\$\$ we get.

Moveable Feast for August



The feasters are heading off to Rustico restaurant, 506 West Chestnut Street (in what was formerly the Palazzo building) in Denison

on Thursday, August 31st at 6 pm. When the group gets together at a local restaurant, it is always a Dutch-treat arrangement and open to anyone in the congregation who would enjoy having dinner with good church people!

After nearly a year of development, the new Mexican restaurant opened its doors to the public in downtown Denison last May. Rustico Fine Mexican Cuisine features culinary offerings stretching from the Yucatán peninsula to the Mexican Pacific with a rustic and home-style feel.

Chef Felipe Gaytan, a native of Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico, has cooked in the U.S. since 1985, including a tenure with the Mansion on Turtle Creek in Dallas. More recently, Gaytan opened and operated Ceviche restaurant in Durant about six years ago.

Become a Member



The actual process for becoming a member is simple and takes less than 15 seconds. It is what happens before those 15 seconds that is significant. Significant because it

comes, for most people, only after a good deal of thought and an abundance of questions. a statement of who you are as a person and where you are as part of your search for personal growth and understanding Those 15 seconds gives you the privilege of a new adjective to describe yourself. You become a Unitarian Universalist! It is a statement of who you are as a person and where you are as part of your search for personal growth and understanding. Fifteen seconds that will mean much for a long time.

If you've been flirting with joining the congregation, you might like to do it on Sunday, August 20th as that is the next Sunday we will take a few minutes during the Morning Assembly to welcome those who have recently become members. You can get details from Marion Hill, membership chair.

You will be welcomed to the tribe with joy!

Harmony House Concert



On Sunday, August 13, 2017, 4:00-6:00 p.m., the sublime music and songs of Ellis Paul will fill the air and touch the hearts of those who make reservations for his show at Harmony House Concerts. To learn more about Ellis, visit his website, www.ellis-paul.com. You can watch YouTube videos and hear songs from his latest album (he's made more than nineteen now) and read about his fascinating journeys. Reservations and info: 903-583-2661.

"Despite his success and sense of history, Mr. Paul remains an artist with his eye on the future and an interest in discovering the transformative potential in his music."

~The New York Times.

Mindfulness Based Training

Have you wondered how it is that mindfulness meditation can help reduce stress? Ever wished you could lessen stress in your life? Stress Reduction Mindfulness Meditation – An Introduction is a 90 minute free introduction at 10 AM on Saturday, August 19th at Venue Off the Square, 223 S. Travis in Sherman. This program is open to all who wish to attend. Pre-registration is required to save your place. Details from mibtforall@gmail.com.

c'mon, inner peace.
I don't have all day.



Treasurer's Report

In the month of June, we had an income from general operations of \$3,325.

After operations expense of \$2,179, we had a net profit of \$1,146. Operations expense include water and waste of \$190, gas bill \$57, electric bill \$169, UUA donation \$118, internet \$68 and building insurance \$196.

In June, we donated \$99 from the Share the Plate program to the Texoma Earth Day Festival.

As of June 30, we had \$12,847 available in checking.

Kelly Cofield,
Outgoing Treasurer

Earth Day Planning Comm.

The next meeting of the Earth Day Planning Committee will be Tuesday, August 8th at 6:30 pm at church. Starting in August, we will meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm, always meeting at church.

The committee is sponsoring a Clothing Swap Fund Raiser on Saturday, August 26th from 9-11 at church, with drop off on Friday evening, August 25th from 6-9. The entry fee to participate will be \$10.00

Read all about the Clothing Swap Fund Raiser on the next page of this issue of Red River Ramblings.

Clothing Swap Fund Raiser



wardrobe
exchange

OK. How often do you look at everything hanging in your closet and think, “I don’t have a *thing* to wear?”

OK. How often have you said, “I’m never going to wear *that, or that, or that* again, but they’re really nice and I don’t want to just dump them in the Goodwill bin.

The Earth Day Planning Committee has a solution for both situations! A one-day Clothing Swap Fund Raiser on Saturday, August 26th from 9-1. The process is simple. Gather up your gently used clothing (without snags, tears or worn fabric), along with costume jewelry, coats, jackets and vintage clothing and drop them off at church on Friday evening, Aug 25th from 6-9. Then come on Saturday from 9-1 and shop.

The entry fee to participate will be \$10.

The Church Cares



If you know someone in the congregation that could use some cheering up, or maybe has been missing for a while, there is

something you can do about it. Call the Caring Circle!

If you would like to be available to give a call, or send a card, or do a friendly visit, tell us (Meg or Kelly). Email “care (at) rruu.org” or leave a message on the church line 903.231.3232.

The church calendar

You can always access the church calendar in four different places:

- Touch the ‘Church Calendar’ tab on your church mobile app
- Click the link under Contact Us on the last page of the newsletter
- Click the link in the left sidebar of the eNews
- Click the link in the left sidebar of the church website

Board Bits from the July 23, 2017 meeting

During the first board meeting of the new church year, all five board members (Helen, Linda, Dick, Megan and Jim) were present. Summary of the meeting follows:

- Transition of bank authority from former treasurer to Dick has been completed and new signature cards are on file at the bank
- Reviewed the Annual Church Calendar and set the following dates:
 - Fall Congregational Meeting: Sunday, October 22
 - Spring Congregational Meeting: Sunday, May 20, 2018
 - Annual Appreciation dinner: Thursday, February 22, 2018
 - Board of Trustee Representative schedule
 - August: Helen
 - September: Dick
 - October: Linda
 - November: Helen
- Piano Donation - Agreed that the church is not in a position to accept the donation of a small upright piano - as we lack the room, need or resources to deal with it.
- Garage Clean Out - Since we were rained out last Spring, agreed to try again in October, when it is cooler. Tentative dates Oct 21 or 28. TBD in the August board meeting.
- NTUUC requests that we appoint a R.E. rep - agreed since we have no formal R.E. program we would skip on appointing someone to this position.
- Building Elevator - agreed to invite Marion to speak to the board at their Aug 20 meeting to explain in more detail the rationale for pursuing purchasing an elevator
- Linda volunteered to work on an outreach process for visitors as part of the congregation’s goal of having more proactive follow-up

Leaders

Board of Trustees

Helen Schulze, *President*
Linda Tracy, *Vice President*
Dick Powell, *Treasurer*
Megan Hutchinson, *Secretary*
Jim Holmes, *Trustee*
Dan Althoff, *Past President*

Committee on Ministry:

Carole Harner, Marla Loturco,
Robert Shelton

Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *various members*
Building & Grounds: *Marilyn*
Caring Circle: *Kelly and Megan*
Communications: *Doug*
Earth Day Planning: *Amy*
Finance:
Green Team:
Membership: *Marion*
Nominations: *David, Elbert, Lanan*
NTUUC Rep: *Marla*
RE Team: *Dan, Tommi*
Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*
Social Action:
Worship: *Angie, Doug, Marla, Robert, Tommi*

Contact Us

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E-News: announce (at) rruu.org

Facebook: RedRiverUnitarianUniversalistChurch

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

CHURCH CALENDAR [here](#)

A shameless plea from your editor

They say real power resides in the hands of the newsletter editor. In the hopes no one will be too offended ... I want to invite you, (your friends, neighbors, enemies, and the check out clerk at Kroger) to come to my estate sale on Fri. Aug 11 and Sat. Aug 12 from 9-2 and Sun. Aug 13 from 1-4.

After John died, I had an estate sale before moving to Sherman. I brought what was left from that sale. Now, I'm moving to Denison and I am purging myself of a house full of things. (This because I'm new digs are 60% smaller.)

The purge list includes: leather sofa and love seat; antique bookcase, 18th C. Spanish traveling chest; Stickley cherry drop leaf table; Stickley two drawer side board; Tempurpetic mattress (king size); framed art work; Sasaki color stone china (service for 12); Vintage Syracuse China fine china (service for 12); gas range; side by side refrigerator; dish washer; dining table & chairs; French kitchen dining table; French baker's rack; old antique oak pedestal desk; French doors; Patio doors; wood lateral filing cabinets; wood book cases; flamingo figurines; vintage bent bamboo items (coat rack; dry sink; towel rack); Mexican area rugs and runner; Oriental rugs; room size Finnish Rya rugs; along with boxes of small stuff collected over 60 years of travel. Then there are the boxes in the shed that I've have yet to open.

Pictures forthcoming next week (if I live that long).

Thanks everyone.

Doug

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.

EARTH DAY PLANNING COMMITTEE, is the reason Earth Day is in Texoma. The group meets throughout the year to plan the Festival. Opportunities for people to do a variety of tasks. The planners always meet on the second Tuesday of each month. Meeting in the Chapel at 6:30 p.m. Facilitator: [Amy Hoffman-Shehan](#).

GREEN TEAM, our ecological interest group that works on ways our congregation can support a Ministry for Earth. We will meet next in September at church to explore projects for the upcoming year. Details coming next month. Facilitator, TBA.

MOVEABLE FEAST, a Cooking and/or Eating Circle. The Aug. feast will be at Rustico Restaurant for a Dutch-treat dinner on Thursday, August 31st at 6:00 p.m. Everyone in the church is warmly invited to come. Sign up via email to [Marion](#). Facilitators: Elbert and Marion Hill.