



Red River Ramblings

A Monthly Publication of Red River Unitarian Universalist Church ♦ Denison TX ♦ Vol 20, No. 12 ♦ April, 2018

Sunday April 1, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

The 6th Annual Easter Morning Concert with renowned flutist Cornell Kinderknecht

Some probably find it strange, peculiar or even heretical to have a concert on Easter, especially in a community of multiple Christian faiths. But, not for us. Easter, for many UUs, celebrates a renewal and rebirth more than a resurrection. Come hear an uplifting message, not so much of words, but music. Creative, unique, soothing and special. You can watch a video clip of Cornell [here](#), and read his bio [here](#).



New UU Orientation – open to anyone wishing more information about our church. Meets 12:45-1:30 in the chapel.

Sunday, April 8, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

New Member Sunday

Turn the Principles Upside Down

The Rev. Gail Lindsay-Marriner, *speaking (video message)*

Usually we think of our UU Beliefs as beginning with the worth and dignity of persons (#1) and wending their way down to “Respect for the Interdependent Web of Existence of which we are a part.” Gail thinks of it the other way around and starts her remarks with the Welsh tale *Why Deunant Has the Front Door in the Back*.

We will welcome new members this morning.

Sunday, April 15, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

The Purpose Behind the Pain

The Rev. Larry Blumfield, *speaking*

Some of us are struggling with pain. Sadly the misinterpretation of our varying faiths makes it difficult to talk about pain.

Sunday, April 22, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

There Is No Planet B

Dr. Pete Schulze, *speaking*

An astronomer detects a planet that potentially may harbor life and the news makes world-wide headlines. Why? Do people imagine our descendants will fly away if we finish wrecking this planet? Even space enthusiasts imagine only a tiny fraction of 1% of people going anywhere. That means billions of our progenies will be stuck here. Most people care about saving the planet but it is hard to care for Mother Earth when powerful forces want environmental *exploitation* rather than environmental *protection*. Since they can't argue that ruining the earth is a good idea, they get their way by using disingenuous information to trick us. On Sunday, a lesson in their deceptive arguments.

Note: If you want a preview of Dr. Schulze remarks, check out his “TEDx” talk he gave at Austin College last fall [here](#).

Sunday, April 29, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Religion and Empire

The Rev. Mark Davies, *speaking*

That Christianity became an imperial religion is antithetical to everything Jesus lived and taught. The Empire was never a friend to Jesus, and Jesus was never a friend to the Empire. The Empire executed Jesus with its most public and brutal method in order to display its power and eliminate a threat, and when the Jesus movement would not die, the Empire eventually co-opted the movement for its own purposes. That is what empires do.

Read our speakers bio's elsewhere in this issue.

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

Hello from Helen



Spring is back- I hope you are enjoying your garden, or at least the great outdoors. My butterfly/bee plants are coming back up and the bees are already gather-

ing pollen.

We are still hoping to find a second person who would be interested in attending the Dwight Brown Leadership Experience in Arkansas this May. If you would like to be considered, please see any of the Board members.

By the time you read this, if everything has gone well, the new wheelchair lift has been installed. We offer our thanks to Jim Holmes for doing all

the foot work for this. It is going to make a huge difference for so many of us! I am very excited.

We have had requests to consider using space at the south side of the building to create more parking for our congregation and visitors. Jim Holmes has started to make inquiries about this, and we will bring it up for discussion at the congregational meeting that is scheduled for May 20th.

Please make plans to join us on this day-we will have a catered lunch, and I am sure discussion will be lively.

As always, remember that you are welcome to join us to present any concerns at our monthly Board meetings. Our next one will be Sunday, April 8th, after the service.

See you soon, Helen.

Sunday Host Program starts April First

Our church is fortunate in having had numerous visitors lately, and the Membership Team is refining the process of welcoming them. Beginning April 1 (no, this isn't an April Fool joke), greeters will be assisted by Hosts. Each Sunday, a designated Host will wear an "Ask Me" button and be available to answer any questions a newcomer may have about our church, such as what Unitarians believe, our speakers and style of worship, etc.

When appropriate, the host may sit with a visitor during service to help him or her find a hymnal, to explain worship elements such as the chalice and candles of community, and to perhaps learn a bit about the visitor's background and interests. Several people have volunteered to be on the Host roster. [Marion Hill](#) would like to hear from anyone else who will agree to occasionally be a designated host. No one should need to be a designated host more than once a month.

The Membership Team also hopes all members of the congregation will be ready to assist our

hosts when needed. It won't be a hard task! If you recall when you were a "newbie" at Red River UU, this is your opportunity to make other newbies feel comfortable in our church. Doug has designed a new business card that hosts can give out to visitors, which include the church phone number, website, and app, and on which the host may write his/her own name if he/she wishes.



A Returning Visitors journal will be on the long ledge in the lobby (now called the Visitors Shelf), in which the host will record names of visitors who come to service more than once. Ideally, we will ease the bottleneck that sometimes occurs in the lobby by moving visitors over to the Visitors Shelf or on into

the chapel.

This new "host system" is a work in progress. Please give Marion any suggestions you have for improving our overall welcoming process.

Marion Hill, *membership chair*

Red River UU Church ~ *The Reason Earth Day is in Texoma!*

A small group of dedicated members and friends of our church, in partnership with others in the larger Texoma area, are indeed the reason Earth Day is in Texoma. Kudos to everyone working this year, as well as people who have worked in one, or more, of the last 9 annual Texoma Earth Day Festival!



The organizing is in its final stage and now is the time for the rest of us to step up and volunteer to help make the Festival a glorious success.



April has arrived and that means it is time for Red River UU Church's Annual Texoma Earth Day Festival. This will be our 10th Texoma Earth Day Festival. Bring a friend and come support the church's most prominent outreach event!

Activities and workshops include Monarch Butterfly Way Stations with our own Linn Cates, keynote speaker Dan Phillips on 'Balancing The Earth Books,' a live music event with Oliver White, Tai Chi, Zumba, our own Jan's Musical Memories, door prizes, kids activities, and much more!



For all the details and more information, touch the Earth Day Festival tab on the church app or click [here](#) and follow the links.

We need oodles of volunteers. Really! Last year loads of members and friends in the congregation did something. You can work on **Friday, Apr 20** setting up and/or **Saturday, Apr 21** during the day. You can work just an hour or so, or all day! Volunteers: be sure to fill out and return a [volunteer registration form](#) so we can order your Earth Day T-shirt in the correct size.

*Another Way to Help...
...especially if sitting is more comfortable and easy for you:*

We have had an information Booth at the Festival for the last 4 years. It is a terrific way to introduce Unitarian Universalism to the world, or at least to those who come to the Festival.



We have the tent, banners, table, chairs, literature. All we need are a few willing souls to help staff the table. If you'd like to take an 90 minute shift, it is easy - send an email by clicking [here](#) and someone will get back with you with open arms! (Note: if you're planning on volunteering to help with the Festival, see Jen's article on this page. Helping at the booth is separate from being a Festival volunteer.)

“We need oodles of volunteers. Really!”

Zen Meditation ~ on sabbatical



Red River Grassroots Zen meditation is taking a sabbatical until later this year because the instructor accepted an post at Grayson College.

Board of Trustees ~ Apr 8

The Worship Team will meet on Sunday, April 8 at 1 pm, in the chapel for their regular monthly meeting. Board meetings are open to all who wish to attend.

Worship Team ~ Apr 8

The Worship Team will also meet on Apr 8th to plan summer Morning Assemblies. They'll meet in the F. Church Library

Earth Day Worker's

- Planning meeting April 10th 6:30 chapel
- Set Up for the Festival: Fri, April 21st 9 - 6
- Festival Volunteers: Sat, April 20th 6 - 6

Treasurer's Report

In the month of February, we had total receipts of \$9,956.07, which included the \$7,410.00 NTUUC grant for the new elevator/lift, which was mentioned in last month's report as having been received at the awards ceremony in Oak Cliff in February.

Total disbursements in February for operating expenses were \$3,017.33, including \$85.00 Share the Plate donation to the Texoma Earth Day Festival and a contribution to UUA Fair Share of \$741.50, leaving net income for the month of February of \$6,938.74. In addition, \$7,000.00 of the NTUUC grant was disbursed for the initial payment for the installation of the new elevator.

As of February 28, we had \$9,083.81 available in checking, a total of \$71,838.20 in all savings accounts and a total of \$14,561.72 in Certificates of Deposit. These balances reflect the transfer of \$10,000.00 made at the Board's direction during the month of February from checking into the Endowment Savings account. All bank accounts have been reconciled with no exceptions noted.

Dick Powell, *treasurer*

Come. Stay. Join.

Our next membership induction ceremony will be held April 8, as part of the morning service. If you have been attending Red River UU and would like to join this feisty liberal congregation, please contact Marion Hill [here](#).



NOTE: At the upcoming May 20th congregational meeting, members will elect officers to serve in church positions, approve a draft budget for the next fiscal year, and will vote on other business of the church. Our bylaws state, "Individuals who have been members of the Church for 30 days ... shall have the right to vote at all official Church meetings." This means one must sign the membership book by April 20, 21018 in order to vote at the meeting. So April would be a great time to join.

New To UU Chat ~ April 4

Calling all recent visitors, and anyone else who might enjoy learning a bit more about our congregation and the wider Unitarian Universalist communities: On the first Sunday we offer an informal gathering geared to help you get a better understanding of the free church tradition. Grab a snack and join in the conversation. 12:45 - 1:30 in the chapel.



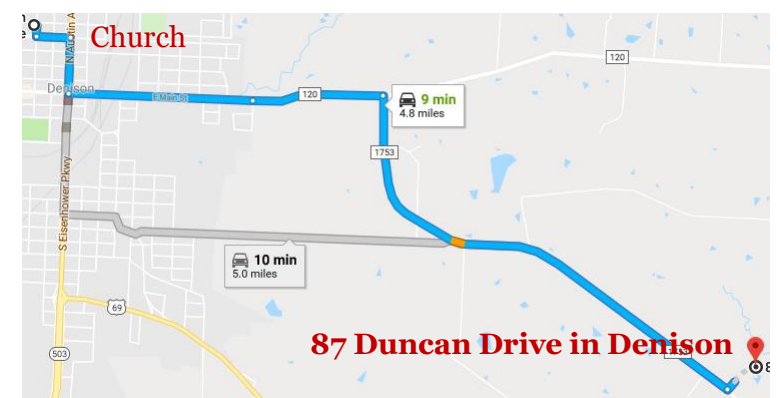
Moveable Feast ~ Thurs. Apr 19th

Come one! Come All! to a "Simple Spring Fare of Fresh Foods" for the April Moveable Feast at Cindy Buffington's country home in Denison, with Joe Combs co-hosting. A potluck of creative creations based on produce that's available in April.

Here's some ideas: *New potatoes, Herbs – dill, chives, mint, parsley, Berries, Spring risotto w/ new peas, Goat cheese, Avocados, Lamb, Arugula, Salmon, Radishes, Scallions, Pasta primavera, Leeks, Spinach and artichokes, Light soups, Big salads, or really anything you want to bring!*

If the weather cooperates, we can picnic in the back yard by the pond.

Thursday evening, April 19th starting at 6 pm



An **J**plifting Tale

Last May at the Spring Meeting, the congregation had a good discussion about ways that we might make the building more accessible for people with disabilities with the goal of having “Access For All.”



A major step in achieving the goal has been completed. Thanks to a generous grant from NTUUC (North Texas Unitarian Universalist Churches), augmented by our Operating Budget we now have a newly installed vertical lift which links the chapel level of the building to the Upper lobby, Barton Parlor, Emerson Room and Kitchen.

Kudos, hugs, back slaps, cheers, and shouts of appreciation go to Jim Holmes for the many, many hours it took to go from a dream to reality.



Jim researched and found the perfect system. He met with the company and signed the contract. Then the labyrinth of city permits and inspections to comply with more codes and requirements than a soul could imagine.

Finally the day arrived. Two Guys and a truck. “*Piece of cake, the dudes proclaimed!*” When pressed, they said 4-5 hours. Yeah, right! It was 8 hours the first day, which went well beyond sunset. Then several hours the next day.



Jim’s our current Star Volunteer!

Thanks Jim. It wouldn’t have happened without you.

Special Workshop

Being an Ally for Social Justice: Multiracial Democracy and Economic Justice for All The multi-day event is April 13-15 at Horizon UU church.

With racist hate, fear and violence on the rise, this is an interactive workshop that uses storytelling, lessons and insights from social justice efforts historically and today, to help us be more effective in our work to dismantle white supremacy and build beloved community in our congregations and in our work for multiracial democracy and economic justice for all in our communities and country.

The workshop leader is Chris Crass. He is a social justice educator who writes and speaks widely on courage for racial justice, feminism for men, lessons from past movements, and creating healthy culture and leadership for progressive activism. He works with community groups, schools and faith communities to develop leadership and momentum for social justice action. He was a founder of the anti-racist movement building center, the Catalyst Project, helped launch the national white anti-racist network, SURJ (Showing Up For Racial Justice).



Rooted in his Unitarian Universalist faith, he works with congregations, seminaries, and religious activists to build the Spiritual Left. He is also the author of Towards Collective Liberation: Anti-Racist Organizing, Feminist Praxis, and Movement Building Strategy and Towards the “Other America”: Anti-Racist Resources for White People Taking Action for Black Lives Matter. You can learn more about his work at www.chriscrass.org.

The schedule:

- Friday April 13 7:00 – 9:00 pm Community building and sharing our stories of what brings us to doing justice work.
- Saturday April 14 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Focus on building up a culture of inspiration to counter despair, we will draw out lessons and insights from past and current anti-racist work and look at both anti-racist work in majority white communities and ways white people can show up as allies to join with people of color to dismantle white supremacy and build up racial justice.
- Sunday April 15 10:30 Worship Service “Renewal And Revival For Collective Liberation.” Everyone is welcome (at no charge) to hear Chris Crass speak.

Workshop registration is \$50 and includes lunch. Registration Assistance is available through NTUUC. \$5 off if you sign up by Sun. Apr 8th Registration closed Apr 11. Volunteers may have registration waived. More information and registration [here](#).

Three or four folks from church are *seriously* thinking of going. Speak with Marla if you want to go too.

Social Action Update ~

Our congregation has shown a continuing interest in social action. Most recently, this past month we had the first of many meetings beginning our process to becoming a Welcoming Congregation. This is wonderful! I have participated in this process in 3 different congregations and I expect our process to be engaging, challenging and fun! Learn more [here](#).

I have continued to post on our Facebook page opportunities to sign petitions or to stay informed. As a reminder of where these posts will be: If you go to our [Facebook site](#) you will see on the left side a list of options starting with "Home." At the end of that list is "Community" and if you click on it you will end up [here](#) where posts will appear.

Our two UUA congregational area of directed activity and specific actions to take are:

- Racism and White supremacy culture:
GO TO: <https://www.uua.org/multiculturalism/introduction>
- Systemic injustices intersect and so we are called to be a movement of movements. This means we each get to choose which areas we want to work in and what we will do.
GO TO: <https://www.uua.org/justice> for a list of these.

I believe these discussions can help our congregation grow in wisdom.

I look forward to your feedback.

Rebecca Crystal, *facilitator*

Booked For Fun~ April 9

Do you want to hear about new authors and great books to read? Our next book club meeting is on Friday, April 9, at 1 pm at church. Open to book lovers everywhere.

CUUPS canceled

Proto-CUUPS chapter has been discontinued due to lack of interest at this time. Anyone interested in this type of activity is encouraged to speak to Rebecca Crystal, visit [Witchvox](#) or visit the Raven's Nest store in Denson, TX.

Braver/Wiser*

"The Possibility of Redemption"
by Rev. Robin Tanner

"Is your congregation handicap accessible?"

"Yes, it is," I replied.

"Great. I'll see if my wife will bring me on Sunday."

There he was the very next Sunday. Over the next few months, I learned a lot about John. A Vietnam veteran who returned home to serve as a police officer for twenty-five years, John had spent his entire life (outside of his time in Vietnam) in one place, one church, one town.

He had an urgency to tell me his story, because his health was not good. He found himself in the midst of a spiritual quest. He no longer believed the same truths of a conservative Christianity that his family did.

Over the next two years, I spent time with his family. They were all exceptionally kind and pleasant, but beneath the surface was John's anxiety about their reaction to his beliefs, his grief over his terminal diagnosis, and their fear for his salvation. Add to that my own anxiety that John might have a death without suffering.

The day before John died, I was there, offering him a meditation about transitioning, while his childhood minister stood beside me offering a prayer. At the funeral, it struck me that many people there saw one version of John: he was fixed in their minds as they first knew him.

It's not unusual. We have narratives that guide the way we experience and know one another. In my own life, people often get frozen at a point for me.

One of my mentors, the Rev. Dr. William Barber, often reminds me that in movement work, "you must always believe the redemption of your enemy is possible."

This year, I've resisted a New Year's resolution. My usual Type A nature doesn't want to map out a new skill or goal, but this I think would sustain me more than home organization: to believe and experience people in my life as multidimensional; to hold out the possibility of redemption, and in so doing to live into the fullness of universalism, even for the enemy far—and within.

BRAYER/WISER
COURAGE AND COMPASSION FOR LIFE AS IT IS

*Life is full of hard edges and complicated choices. Braver/Wiser gives you weekly message of courage and compassion for life as it is. Every Wednesday we deliver an original written reflection by a contemporary religious leader, and brief prayer, grounded in Unitarian Universalism. Join the Braver/Wiser community and [sign up today!](#)

BIO's~ for our April speakers

April 1st - Cornell Kinderknecht

Cornell Kinderknecht is an award-winning recording artist and performer of historic and ethnic woodwind instruments from cultures around the world. He is an Indian Summer Music Awards winner. He has been twice nominated for "Musician of the Year" in the Texas Music Awards and his song "Mother's Hands" from Nightfall was named as a Top 5 Winner in the Instrumental Category of the Great American Song Contest. Venues he has performed include the prestigious Carnegie Hall in New York City, the magnificent amphitheater built into the 2,000 foot red rock cliffs of Zion Canyon, the underground "Cave Without A Name," Meyerson Symphony Center, and the AT&T Dallas Cowboys Stadium.

His music can be heard in film, television soundtracks and advertising. He and his music were featured in the nationally aired television series, "The Art of Living Gallery." He has debuted works for choir and Native American flute with the Texas Voices. He is a regular presenter and performer at music workshops and festivals around the US.

Cornell's original contemporary instrumental music is a unique style combining his experience in the genres of symphonic, chamber, pop, jazz, folk, and world music. His recordings reflect this wide range of influences. In addition to his solo recordings, Cornell's music can be heard on numerous other artists' recordings in multiple genres. Cornell grew up in a large musical family. His first public performance was at age ten and by age fourteen he was "gigging" regularly. Today, he continues to perform in many musical styles, his main focus being Contemporary World Music and Early Music (Baroque and Renaissance). He performs regularly at concert venues, workshops, festivals, coffee houses, and churches. As an instructor, Cornell has a private studio where he teaches flute students and is frequently an instructor at flute workshops and festivals.

Cornell received a music degree in woodwind performance from Kansas State University where he studied modern oboe, bassoon, and historic woodwinds with Sara Funkhouser. He has studied recorder in workshop and masterclass settings with Han Tol, Joris von Goethe, Saskia Coolen, and Frances Blaker.

April 15 - Rev. Gail Lindsay-Marriner

I have been serving as a UU minister for twenty years. I served UU congregations in Weymouth, Swampscott and Cambridge, MA immediately following my graduation from Harvard Divinity school in 1995. I was called to the First UU Church in Houston, TX in the spring of 1998 and I served there happily for almost

ten years. I also served for three years as the interim at the UU congregation of Duluth, Minnesota at the tip of Lake Superior.

I grew up in southern Minnesota, the oldest child of a physician and an artist, graduated from St. Olaf College with degrees in art and English, added a teaching certification from the University of Minnesota, and taught elementary school art for a couple of years. Craving a job where I could talk about art as a tool for making meaning I started a master's degree in Aesthetics and Critical Theory at the University of Texas at Dallas. I ended up transferring to Harvard Divinity School when I realized that ministry was a better setting for me to help people of all ages reflect on how we might live meaningful and rewarding lives.

April 15 - Rev. Larry Blumfield

Larry sent bullet style bio information: Born in Gary, IN; a BA, MS and a Bachelor of Divinity from Bethany Theological Seminary, a Brethren school; been employed by 3 Fortune 500 companies (doing something); has 5 children, 12 grand children and 3 great grand children. His guiding principle: *Find your gift and give it away.*

April 22 - Dr Peter Schulze

Peter Schulze is a professor of biology and environmental science at Austin College, where he directs the College's Center for Environmental Studies. He holds a Ph.D. in biology from Dartmouth College, serves on the editorial board of the journal *Freshwater Biology*, and was the J. Herbert Hollomon Fellow of the National Academy of Engineering. Schulze and his wife, Helen Schulze, M.D., have two sons, Ben and Matt.

April 29 - Rev. Mark Davies

Rev. Dr. Mark Y. A. Davies is the Wimberly Professor of Social and Ecological Ethics; Director of the World House Institute for Social and Ecological Responsibility; and Executive Director of the Leadership, Education, and Development Hub North America for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry at Oklahoma City University where he has worked in both teaching and administration for 22 years. He is a United Methodist minister and holds a Ph.D. in Social Ethics, from Boston University.

Mark engages in advocacy and activism in the areas of peace, social justice, and ecological sustainability. Locally this is expressed through his work with the Human Community Network, which works to create non-violent systemic change for a just and flourishing human and ecological community through collaboration, education, innovation, and action.

He and his wife Kristin live in Edmond, OK and they have two teenage daughters.

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Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*
Social Action: *Rebecca*
Worship: *Angie, Doug, Marla, Re-
becca, Robert, Tommi*

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Facebook: [RedRiverUnitarianUni-
versalistChurch](https://www.facebook.com/RedRiverUnitarianUniversalistChurch)

Our mobile App: 'RedRiverUU' free
at the [Apps Store](https://apps.apple.com) & [Google Play](https://play.google.com).

Church Calendar [here](#)

April Birthdays

April 7 Bruce Cameron
April 18 Carol Powell
April 22 Jeanne Mueller
April 28 Bill Mory
April 30 Jaxon Schwichtenberg

Chalice Circles & Interest Groups

Church activities are open to everyone. Contact the facilitator if you wish more information.

BOOKED FOR LUNCH ~ an informal monthly gathering for those who love to read and enjoy hearing about what others are reading. The group meets September - May on the 2nd Friday at 1 pm. They meet in the Emerson Room. [Carole Harner](#), *facilitator*

EARTH DAY PLANNING COMMITTEE ~ the group is responsible for the creation, each year, of the Texoma Earth Day Festival. All who enjoy planning a large-scale community event are invited to learn more. During the Festival many church members and friends volunteer to help. Planning meetings are the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 pm, in the chapel. [Amy Hoffman-Shehan](#), *facilitator*

MOVEABLE FEAST ~ a culinary chalice circle of people who enjoy food, preparing, sharing, and enjoying. A very popular church group that welcomes newcomers. The Feasters meet monthly and may gather in someone's home, at a restaurant, or church. [Marion and Elbert Hill](#), *facilitators*

ZEN MEDITATION ~ on sabbatical until later in the year. HOWEVER, remember you can always join in the Sunday morning meditation starting a 9 am, in the chapel. Open to everyone.