



# Red River Ramblings

The Monthly Newsletter of Red River Unitarian Universalist Church ♦ Denison TX ♦ Vol 20, No. 8 ♦ November 2018

## Sunday, November 4, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am - **Remember to Fall Back**

### **Becoming Great**

The Rev. Dr. Mark Y. A. Davies, *preaching*

What would it take for members of the human community to become great in relation to each other and the rest of life on our planet? What cultural, economic, social, and spiritual paths might help lead us to become one of the greatest generations for each other and the earth as a whole?

## Sunday, November 11, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

### **And Crown Thy Good**

Jerry Harris, Jim Holmes, L.D. Clark, and Bruce Cameron, *speaking*

Armistice Day was first observed November 11<sup>th</sup> in 1919, on the anniversary of the armistice with Germany. The tradition continued informally. Then President Coolidge called for national observations on Nov. 11 with appropriate ceremonies; F.D.R. signed it into law as a holiday; Eisenhower renamed it Veterans Day. L.B.J moved it to the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in October via the Uniform Holiday Bill and President Ford returned the date to November 11. The next time Veterans Day falls on a Sunday is in 2029 which led the worship team to ask four veterans in our congregation to speak. The topic? Veterans Day. Come listen to four perspectives on this holiday which has been tinkered with by more presidents than most other national holidays.

Morning Meditation - 9 am

Adult Forum - 10

### **Emerson, Thoreau & the Transcendentalist Movement**

*A Great Courses Series*

Now thru March 31

## Sunday, November 18, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

### **Ag Life and You**

Joyce White, *speaking*

Did you know that there's a service available in all 254 counties in Texas and in Oklahoma that offers programs, tools, and resources to help you grow better tomatoes, live more healthy lives, protect the environment, strengthen our communities and enrich youth? Neither did the worship team! On Sunday, Joyce White from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will give us an overview of how they can help people everywhere.

*Joyce grew up in the 4-H program and her mother was a leader so you can say that she has spent most of her life in Extension in one way or the other. Her Bachelor's degree is Secondary Education – Home Economics major and her Master's degree is in Education with an emphasis on Curriculum & Instruction.*

## Sunday, November 25, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

### **Know Your Status**

Christopher Grimes, *speaking*

Next Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World AIDS Day, where people from all faiths, sexualities, and social status can remember and honor those who fought a courageous battle with HIV/AIDS while celebrating the advances that have been made in the fight to end HIV. On Sunday Christopher will speak about the Callie Clinic, their work in the community and about World AIDS Day, where we've been and where we find ourselves today.

*Christopher Grimes is the Outreach/Prevention Supervisor and a Case Manager at The Callie Clinic. He provides education on HIV and other STD's and offers free and confidential HIV and Hepatitis C testing, so people can know their status. Serving the community helping HIV positive people live healthy and happy lives has become his life's work.*

~ Celebrating Compassion, Diversity, and Spiritual Growth ~



## Jim's Jabber

Thanks to all who came to the Oct 21<sup>st</sup> Congregational Meeting or voted online or used the proxy system. We were able to conduct our business and share our accomplishments with each

other. By vote we approved the Bylaw changes (which were minor updates and typo corrections) and the new 5-year plan. We also granted approval to the Board to purchase any adjacent property, should it become available.

As many of you are aware, NTUUC is having an open meeting on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at First UU in Dallas from 9:30 to 12:30. NTUUC is looking into the future on how they may best support all its members and UUs and have some ideas they want to present plus get feedback from us on not only these ideas but any other ideas that we may have. I am very excited about this meeting and plan on going.

Hopefully some of you will also want to attend. NTUUC is asking for people to carpool since parking is limited. If you are interested in going and looking for someone to carpool with, let any Board member know so we can help make that happen. There will also be a lunch with sandwiches and salad for those who would like to continue the morning conversation. I do need to know who might be staying for lunch so I can let NTUUC know so they order the right amount of food.

Finally, it's been brought to my attention, more than once, that there are members of our congregation who feel their specific religious beliefs are under question by others of different beliefs. We are a community of various spiritual beliefs and it is easy to be passionate in expressing what we believe. I ask everyone to be passionate, but be careful in how you express what you believe and be respectful of what others believe.

That's it for now.

Jim

## Halloween Fright Fest

Our first participation with the Sherman Police Department's annual Halloween Fright Fest was interesting and exhausting. Our participation was, frankly, totally self-motivated, in line with every other organization. The agreement being every participating group provides the candy in exchange for inserting literature or advertisement.

We were advertising the upcoming Dec 8<sup>th</sup> Children's Clothing Swap. The effort was well worth it. We handed out nearly 1,000 business cards announcing the swap and untold quantities of candy.

Several kudos are in order to ...

- Adrian for the ingenious plan to get a lot of people to the swap.
- Doug for designing and getting the biz cards printed
- Dick, Joyce, Angie, Adrian, Lisa, Marla, Doug and Marco (!) for giving out candy and cards
- Everyone who purchased candy. Without that significant component, we would have been run out of Midway Mall.

What wonderful support.

There was no way to count the crowd, but the group at the next table filled 2,000 small lunch bags with

candy and literature ... *and they ran out!* We would have run out, but fortunately found one Red River UU shopping bag still under our table that was full.



## Board Bits

The October Board meeting was held October 14<sup>th</sup> in the F. Church Library. Highlights included:

President Jim Holmes called the meeting to order. All voting members were present. The minutes from the prior meeting were presented and approved.

The financial reports were presented and approved.

Jim gave an overview and update on the facilities. A discussion ensued regarding the brick chimney structure needing repair. Jim to get estimates for necessary repairs to maintain structural integrity.

The Fall Congregational Meeting Agenda was prepared and approved by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35

Kelly-Cofield Dyer, *Board Secretary*

## Treasurer's Report

In the month of September, we had total receipts of \$6,242.49, and total expenses of \$7,341.12, including \$173.00, Share the Plate donation to Earth Day, and building maintenance of \$4,609.00, mainly related to sewer repair, leaving an excess of expenditures over receipts for the month of September of \$1,098.63.

As of September 30, 2018, we had \$5,950.29 available in checking, a total of \$60,911.46 in all savings accounts and a total of \$14,572.71 in Certificates of Deposit.

All bank accounts have been reconciled with no exceptions noted.

Dick Powell, *Treasurer*

## Our New Website

During the Fall Congregational Meeting we all got to see our new church website. It was a team effort headed by Marla who has been the *only* person to manage our old website. She has ensured the website works (a major feat) and kept it updated for the last ten years.

Working with her were Jim, who brought experience designing websites, including his own; and Doug who provided most of the written information.

The new site, part of the WordPress template designed for UU congregations, is current, attractive,

## LGBTQ Welcoming committee

will meet on Sunday **Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> @ 12:45** in the chapel.

## Worship Team

The Worship Team will meet on Sunday **Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:45** to finalized plans for the December morning assemblies - all focusing on the various traditions of December.

## Moveable Feast

Ronda DeCaire and Marilyn Alexander have volunteered to host the November Moveable Feast. It will be at Two Bears Ranch near Colbert. The dinner is provided by Ronda and Marilyn.

Here's the plan for the **Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>** feast:

4:00 Cheese and crackers

4:30 Dinner: Bakes salmon, strawberry spinach salad, scalloped potatoes with hummingbird cake for dessert

5:15 Sunset with night fall at 5:45, *for those who wish not to drive after dark*

R.S.V.P. to Marion Hill if you would like to attend.

## Literary Domination Society



Also known as a book group, people who like to read gather at 1 pm on the second Friday in the Emerson room. We talk about books we've read since last meeting. And, like any good thing, it's better if you see for yourself - and bring a friend.

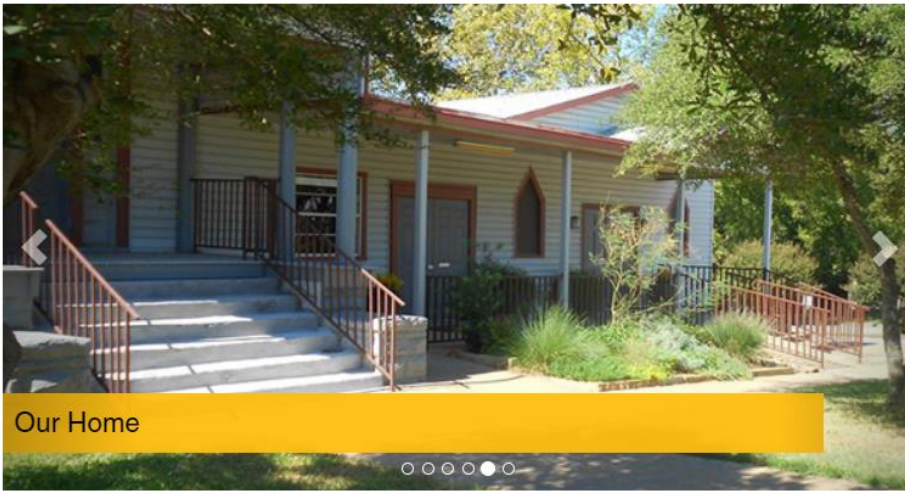
Call or text Carolyn Cameron for more info. 903.786.8646.

easy to navigate and contains more information and images than before.

Our web address has changed. The old "[rruu.org](http://rruu.org)" is gone, replaced with [redriveruu.org](http://redriveruu.org). If you have church email addresses in your contact list, you need to replace the 'rruu' portion with 'redriveruu'. (I.e.: info (at) rruu.org is now info (at) redriveruu.org.)

The work is not finished, however. A 'Members Only' portal will give members access to the church directory as well as certain church documents.

A copy of the new website's home page is on the next page. Click on the image to open our new site.



Our Home

This Sunday

## Becoming Great

November 4th, 2018 11:15 am • The Rev. Dr. Mark Davies

What would it take for members of the human community to become great in relation to each other and the rest of life on our planet? What cultural, economic, social, and spiritual paths might help lead us to become one of the greatest generations ... [read more.](#)

★  
FIRST TIME VISITOR?

📅  
UPCOMING SERVICES

☰  
SERVICE ARCHIVE



### Who We Are

We are people from all walks of life who share a common understanding that we do not all have to think alike. The questions sometimes are more important than the answers, from religious beliefs to political persuasions, whom we love to what we eat, it all is equally respected. We like that we different, feeling diversity enriches humanity. We also are the only religiously liberal community anywhere in Texoma and draw from a dozen or more small towns in Southern Oklahoma and Northern Texas

[More About Us](#)



### What We Are Doing

Living our lives with integrity, respectful of all people and committed to always exploring our individual paths of knowledge, service and spiritual growth is what we are doing. It happens in surprising ways – a sermon, a discussion, a potluck, an outreach project or a protest and sitting in stillness with a chapel full of kindred spirits. It can be hard to fathom how beautifully embracing a pluralistic view of life can bring such joy.

[Connect With Us](#)



### Get Involved

Once you visit, you may wish to become a bit more involved. It is a wonderful way to get to know people and to learn more about how a lay-led congregation manages itself.

[Get Involved](#)



### What We Do Sunday Mornings

We show up for different reasons, in casual dress, knowing we'll be inspired, challenged, probably disagree with at least one thing we hear and still leave feeling good. We like options. Some start at 9 for an hour of quiet meditation. Some come at 10 for the Adult Forum. Most come to the Morning Assembly at 11:15, and everyone tarrying afterwards for Conversations & Calories (our answer to 'coffee hour') at 12:15.

[More on Sunday Mornings](#)



### Community Involvement

We feel called upon to put our beliefs into action. One example is the Texoma Earth Day Festival which we started eleven years ago that has grown in popularity over the years. It's a day-long festival in a local park where hordes of people learn about all things environmental. It is hard work but rewarding because it takes our 7th Principal, "respect for the interdependent web of all existence", from words to actions.

[More about Our Outreach](#)



### Our Stories

Ask any one of us, and you'll learn how varied our stories are. This year's Gay Pride day in Dallas included three from our congregation – daughter, mother, grandmother – proudly marching together and giving hundreds of high fives to the throngs celebrating the joy of diversity. It is one way to live our 1st principle "the inherent worth and dignity of every person".

[More about Our Stories](#)

Are you planning on attend this important Saturday morning event? The Board of Trustees surely hopes many of us will attend.







The organization *wants to hear from us!* How often in life does that happen? We're a small congregation, as are five other North Texas congregations.

Spending a morning (OK, maybe a bit longer, including travel) talking about the various ways NTUUC might/could assist us is an investment in our future.

We can car pool (they suggest given how tight parking in along Preston Road in Dallas) and even stay for a light lunch if folks so wish.

Won't you give it some serious consideration? If so, just speak with any board member and make their day, or leave a message on the church phone 903.231.3232.

## November Birthdays

-  Laura Shehan - 7th
-  Dan Althoff *and* Carolyn Cameron - 8th
-  Marla Loturco *and* Maura Shehan - 13th
-  Cylvia Lawrence - 16th
-  Bill Mueller - 19th
-  Tristan Cates *and* Pete Schulze - 22nd

Note: Your birthday not listed? Update the database easily by leaving a message on the church phone 903.231.3232

## Sat. Afternoon Flicks~in winter!



This month's flick on **Sat. Nov 17 @ 2 pm** is "Citizen Kane." Often named the greatest film of all time. Orsen Wells was barely 26, his first film. From the 1941 review: [Orson Welles](#) who nearly

*scared the country half to death with his memorable broadcast of a blitz by invaders from Mars, has uncovered for his initial production, of*

*which he is co-author, star, director and producer, most widely exploited entertainment of the season.*

## Fall Meeting Summary

The October 21<sup>st</sup> Fall Congregational Meeting was a lively, informative and important meeting. After enjoying a lunch we didn't have to bring (or clean up afterwards, thanks to the Board of Trustees!) Jim called the meeting to order. Kelly did the roll call and verified 31 people were present or had voted. We had a quorum.

The various supporting documents we needed for the meeting were projected on the screen which helped a lot (and saved loads of paper!) We approved the minutes from last Spring's meeting and discussed the Congregational Behavior Covenant which we reaffirmed. Reports from the various church teams and committees were reviewed and accepted.

Marla introduced our new website by showing us slides of the old site as a good point of comparison to the new one. The new site is more up-to-date and Marla showed us several different pages.

We spoke about the various community outreach projects we're involved with and mentioned a couple of new ones in the making.

Jim introduced the new 5-Year Plan. After a good discussion, people voted to approve it. Read it on the website: About>Governance.5-year-plan

While nothing is current in the works, should we ever wish to expand our church campus the Board asked the congregation for permission to purchase the adjacent lot *should it ever become available*. (Developers are snapping up vacant lots and having congregational approval now avoids the possibility of missing out a purchase because we would need 14 days to call a meeting to vote yes or no.)

The LGBTQ Welcoming committee asked that we revise our bylaws by rewording one sentence to remove "he/his" to read "their" and Dick asked us to change "maintaining a" to "confirming the" list of members of the church.

During the Open Discussion, Doug suggested consider giving away the offering *every week*. Not the identified contributions (i.e: pledges, Share the Bowl Sunday). Congregations that have done this report their annual giving increased after announcing they "give away the offering" and we would then have funds to enhance our community outreach involvements.

We voted to adjourn at 2:40 pm, full and happy!

# Our Common Read for Nov.



By [Bruce Knotts](#) UU-UINO Director.

In 1919, the world was struggling to recover from the First World War and created the League of Nations. The idea was American, but the United States never joined. The League was flawed and political will in subsequent years faltered. In 1929, the U.S. Stock Market crashed, and its effects reverberated around the world. Everywhere, there was unemployment, inflation, poverty, and desperation. The Italians decided to trust their fate to Benito Mussolini. Later the Germans put their trust in Adolf Hitler. In Spain there was a civil war which resulted in the dictatorship of Francisco Franco. In Japan, militarists and expansionists took power, and the world was set for a Second World War that was far more deadly and affected a greater part of the globe than the First.

As the Second World War ended, the world came together and formed the United Nations which itself grew about 108 other agencies, such as UNICEF, UNESCO, the World Bank, the IMF, the World Food Program, and many more. Like the League of Nations, the United Nations is flawed, but it has prevented a Third World War. It has expanded human rights, drastically decreased extreme poverty, and dealt with health emergencies such as Ebola and SARS. Eventually, the United Nations also brought the world together to tackle the existential threat of climate change. In present day, climate change and conflict have produced massive global migration; the worst since the Second World War. U.S. Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr. signs the UN Charter on behalf of the United States. President Harry S. Truman stands at left looking pleased.

When problems become too big for governments to solve quickly, as happened in 1929, electorates turn to authoritarian nationalist leaders who promise to put nation first, to push out or eliminate “the other,” and to bring jobs and prosperity for all “pure” members of the nation. We saw this in the form of the [America First Committee in the United States](#) during the Depression, led by Charles Lindbergh. That movement was anti-Jewish, anti-immigrant, and, according to President Franklin Roosevelt, Nazi. Fortunately for the United States at that time, the America First Committee failed in taking power.

The World again is stressed and again voters are turning to ethno-nationalist parties to push out or eliminate the “other” and provide jobs and prosperity to all “pure” members of society. In the 1930s, this led to the worst suffering and devastation the world had ever seen, and it is clear that turning in that direction again will produce even more catastrophic results.

What’s the alternative? It is the United Nations, which has a Global Compact for Migration, the Paris

Climate Agreement, the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review to strengthen human right protections everywhere. UN Women works for gender equity. UNICEF works to ensure that children everywhere grow up healthy and have access to quality education for global citizenship. The World Health Organization works to maintain the health of the world. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank work to maintain global economic stability. The 144-year-old Postal treaty maintains the global postal system so that letters and packages can be sent from anywhere to everywhere. (Note: The Trump administration has just announced plans to [remove the United States from this 144-year-old treaty](#).)

In addition to removing the USA from the Postal Treaty, the Trump Administration has removed the United States from the Human Rights Council, so our voice will no longer be heard in that forum. He has withdrawn us from UNESCO which [promotes education, science, and culture](#). Trump [has defunded UNRWA](#) which provides [assistance to Palestinian refugees](#). The Trump administration condemns multilateral cooperation and promotes “patriotic” nationalism. It condemns the International Criminal Court which ensures that the worst human rights violators are brought to justice. (Note: in the 1990s, Unitarian Universalists led the faith-based caucus to establish the International Criminal Court and we were in Rome for the negotiations of the Rome Statute which established the ICC.) It is bad enough that the Trump administration has turned its back on the United Nations, but there are also other nationalist governments in several parts of the world and nationalist parties vying for power in many of the Western democracies.

At a time when we face global problems, it is time to strengthen the UN, which is what your office at the United Nations is working to do. We work to enhance access of civil society to UN processes. We work to strengthen the UN General Assembly, and especially the democratic Member States in the General Assembly, to confront the great powers and demand accountability and peace. It was over 120 Member States in the General Assembly that [moved forward a treaty for the abolition of nuclear weapons](#) last year. We hope to see more of that kind of activity in the General Assembly. We want all nations (especially the USA) to sign, ratify and adhere to United Nations conventions and declarations such as:

1. [The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
2. [The UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women](#)
3. [The UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities](#)
4. [International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination](#)
5. [International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families](#)
6. [The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)
7. [The Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

And all the other important UN treaties, conventions and declarations which endeavor to make this a better and more just world.

122 countries of the General Assembly came together in 2017 to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Read more about the process and why this is monumental [on our blog](#).

It is easy to become depressed with the lack of U.S. Government cooperation with the UN. However, your Unitarian Universalist office at the UN (the UU-UINO) is working with our faith-based and secular partners to reinforce the important work of the UN. UN reports on climate change, poverty, global health, gender equity, education, and more are highly respected. Other countries and local and state entities are stepping up to take the lead in areas where U.S. leadership no longer exists. An important climate conference was held recently in California, attended by climate activists from all over the world, in support of the UN Paris Agreement, showing that [the U.S. is “still in”](#) even if the federal government is not.

Please show your support for the important work of the UN by organizing a [UN Sunday worship service](#) at your congregation and continuing to have events in your community and congregation to support the UN’s Global Compact on Migration, the UN’s Paris Climate Accords and all the other important work of the UN. Thank you for your continuing [support of the Unitarian Universalist UN Office](#) and for lifting up the ongoing critical mission of the United Nations.

## Leaders

### Board of Trustees

Jim Holmes, *President*  
Linn Cates, *Vice President*  
Dick Powell, *Treasurer*  
Kelly Cofield-Dyer, *Secretary*  
L.D. Clark, *Trustee*  
Helen Schulze, *Past President*

### Committee on Ministry:

Dan Althoff, *Marla Loturco,*  
*Robert Shelton*

### Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *Jerry*  
Building & Grounds: *Marilyn*  
Caring Circle: *Kelly*  
Communications: *Doug*  
Endowment: *Carolyn, Dick, Doug*  
Finance:  
Long Range Planning: *Jim, Marilyn,*  
*Robert, Ronda*  
Membership: *Marion*  
Nominations: *Amy, Elbert, David*  
NTUUC Rep: *Marla*  
RE Team: *Linn, Tommi*  
Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*  
Social Action: *Rebecca*  
Worship: *Chris, Doug, Marla,*  
*Rebecca, 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:  
903.231.3232  
info@rruu.org  
[www.rruu.org](http://www.rruu.org)  
wednesdayUPDATE:

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

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

Church Calendar [here](#)

## Chalice Circles & Interest Groups

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

**CHILDREN'S CLOTHING SWAP** ~ is a special project to help those families in Texoma who kids always seem to outgrow their clothes long before they wear out! **Saturday, December 8 from 10-2**, in the chapel we'll hold what may well be the first-ever kids clothing swap. Families will bring clothes they want to swap and can take the same number of new (to them) clothes home. Want to help? There'll be a signup sheet on the bulletin board later in November with details.

**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. The committee has not yet made a decision whether there will be a festival in 2019. We'll keep you posted. Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *facilitator*

**LITERARY DOMINATION SOCIETY** ~ an informal monthly gathering for those who love to read and enjoy hearing about what others are reading. The group meets September - June on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 1 pm. They meet in the Emerson Room. Carolyn Cameron, *facilitator*

**MEDITATION** ~ a wonderful way to start your Sunday by sitting quietly in the chapel. Open to everyone, 9 am each Sunday morning.

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON FLICKS** ~ As the days got shorter, **FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS** shifted to a winter schedule, meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 2 pm. Comfy chairs, nice surroundings - even two screens! Doug Strong, *ersatz 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*



Red River Unitarian Universalist Church  
PO BOX 1866  
Denison, TX 75021-1806