



Red River Ramblings

The Monthly Newsletter of Red River Unitarian Universalists ♦ Denison TX ♦ Vol 21, No. 5 ♦ October 2019

Sunday, October 6, 2019 - 11:15 am

And the First Angel Sounded the Trumpet... The Rev. Dr. Christine Tata, *preaching*

Dr. Tata returns to Red River with an oddly coherent message from the apocalyptic Book of Revelation. Turns out John's Revelation isn't a fanatical religious rant. Even in the first century, we were warned against the idolatries of empire, and the warning is even more timely today vis à vis the climate crisis. The hegemony is slow to be moved to fix what it can fix. It's an inconvenient truth about how we have come to this point in our history. (Spoiler alert: The whole book's a spoiler.)

Sunday, October 13, 2019 - 11:15 am

Our First Breath is from the Ocean
The Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, *preaching*

On Sunday an exploration of the significance of the oceans for all life on earth and what responsible care calls us all to do to care for and protect this beautiful and precious part of our planet.

Sunday, October 20, 2019 - 11:15 am

**This I Believe:
Five Members Share their Credo**

Don Rogers, Ellie Dyer, Jack Bolerjack, Jolene Whitten and Joyce Peak, *speaking*

We all have a foundation upon which we build our religious philosophy. It is nestled deep in our soul rather than printed in any brochure and hungers to be shared. It comes from the depth of our own thought and heart. It is the core of our individual spiritual path. Credo literally means, "I give my heart and loyalty to..." Astute credos marry the gifts of both intellect and spirit. Credos spur presenters to select highlights from their religious odyssey, highlight in those affirmations that sustain them during the happy and hard days and nights of life.

The Fall Congregational Meeting

Potluck lunch - 12:30 pm
Meeting - 1 pm

Sunday, October 29, 2019 - 11:15 am

The Global U/U Story
UU-UNO Sunday

On this Unites Nations Sunday, an exploration about an important global issue and be inspired to take action in the name of justice. That's what the global U/U story is all about – Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists around the world engaging in liberal spiritual worship and doing their part to bend the arc of history toward justice.

It's Official!



LGBTQ
Welcoming Congregation

Dear Members of the Red River Unitarian Universalists,

Congratulations!

I am delighted to inform you the Red River Unitarian Universalist Church's application to become recognized as a Welcoming Congregation

has been APPROVED! Sincere congratulations on taking this powerful step, doing the collective work to educate one another on LGBTQ+ issues, and committing together to ongoing ministry to the queer community in and beyond the Denison, TX.

It is so delightful to learn of the breadth of work you have done to commit to becoming a Welcoming Congregation as outlined in our Welcoming Congregations Guidelines and Action Steps. You have been faithful in appropriating the framework and applying them to RRUUC's education, congregational life, and community outreach.

I most appreciate your incorporation of transgender and non-binary inclusion into your congregational life and religious education. The "What's with All Those Pronouns?" worship service and the five classes on LGBTQ issues, terminology, and history are beautiful expressions of Welcome in a culture resistance to trans inclusion. Furthermore, your LGBTQ Meetup and Facebook groups are brilliant! What an amazing way to engage the LGBTQ community in an environment where queer and trans braves spaces are far and few between.

As you move forward as a Welcoming Congregation, I encourage you to commit to renewing your welcome annually via the new The Five Practices of Welcome Renewal. For more information, please visit The [Five Practices of Welcome Renewal](#), subscribe to the quarterly [UPLIFT](#) newsletter, and read the [UPLIFT blog](#). We also invite you to join the new Welcoming Congregations of Unitarian Universalism Facebook Group and follow [UPLIFT](#) Twitter and Instagram @uua_lgbtq.

You can expect to receive two newly designed Welcoming Congregation posters in the mail. In the meantime, you have approval to use the attached new Welcoming Congregation logo on your website and other materials.

Thanks again for your congregation's life-giving, essential work!

With appreciation,

*The Rev. Michael J. Crumpler,
LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Director
Unitarian Universalist Association*



Jim's Jabber

This is another reminder that Committee and Team annual reports (Oct 2018-Oct 2019) are due to me by Oct 1st so we can get them in the packet that must be sent to the membership two weeks before our Oct. 20th Fall Congressional

Meeting which will start with a potluck for lunch prior to the meeting.. Please email your report to president@RedRiverUU.org. The reports should contain what was accomplished during this last year.

I want to give a big thank you to the volunteers that helped out at the Sherman Arts Festival this month and those who helped with the Kids Clothing Swap. Several people also attended the ClimateStrike events (Sept 20th and again on the 27th) which was organized by Jan Fletcher of our congregation. Upcoming on Oct 1st is the next Indivisible Sherman meeting that is working of ways to reach out to immigrants living in Texoma. That meeting will be at our church.

Thank you to everyone who helped on our Labors of Love work day on Sept. 1st. (See pictures in this newsletter.) I am especially appreciative of the work done in cleaning and organizing the 2nd floor as well as the basement. The basement cleaning also uncovered a plumbing leak that was hidden behind stuff which we were able to repair. In addition, the cleaning revealed some additional brick foundation repair work that will need attention soon.

The LGBTQ banner was relocated to the landing going to the 2nd floor. This was done to make room for artwork that the Aesthetics Committee will be installing on the front walls of the chapel. I have no idea what this artwork looks like (even my power as President isn't enough to be allowed to know), but I have complete trust in the Aesthetics committee on what they have picked. This new artwork comes with a price (\$850) that is not in the current fiscal year budget, so during our assembly on the Oct 6th we will have a second offering to collect money to pay for the artwork.

Jim

Labors of Love

Twenty-five people gathered on Sunday, Sept 1st to worship by offering labors of love. It is amazing how much can be accomplished in two hours by working together.

With a list posted on the mirror in the Upper Lobby people selected what they wanted to do and then did it.

The closets were cleaned, the assortment of junk that somehow magically grows in the basement was tossed, the F. Church Library was organized along with the Nursery. The chapel chairs were vacuumed; coffee and food stains removed from the carpeting everywhere, windows were washed, Oak paneling polished.

The Laborers: Jim, Linn, Jolene, Doug, Sabra, Bruce, David, Dan, Dick, Carol, Don, Elbert, Marion, L.D., Tommi, Adrian, Helen S., Marla, Meg, Robert and Lanan, with Jack, Sherilyn and Jeanie stopping by to say hi. Well Done, Folks!



More pix on the last page

We Did It!

Greetings neighbors! As I hurriedly write this at the last minute I am proud to inform you that we have been granted the status of an LGBTQ+ Welcoming Congregation by the UUA! We will be announcing soon the date & time of a celebratory soiree for all to attend!

Don't get too comfy though folks, the work of justice & societal change is never truly finished. This certification is an annual process to maintain. The process is covered on the UUA website under "[The 5 Steps to Welcoming Renewal](#)." These will be covered in more detail at the October Congregational Meeting & in the next newsletter.

It means that we are committed to continually measuring our processes & progress to ensure that we are creating the Beloved Community in our little pocket of Texoma. If you'd like to join in that commitment, Red River has many committees that are in great need of a few hours a month of your time; check out our website to find the one(s) that call to your passions. Jack, *Committee chair*

Pro-Immigrant Group - Oct 1st



"Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to

make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble." U.S. Congressman John Lewis

Are you horrified by images of children detained in cages on our border? Does it bother you that our government is separating families who take great risks to seek refuge here? Did the photo of the bodies of Óscar Alberto Martínez Ramírez and his 23-month-old daughter, Valeria, on the cover of our morning program disturb you? And does it anger you that our current asylum policy is in violation of U.S. and International Law?

How would you like to have an opportunity to turn your anger into positive action? This opportunity embodies all 7 Unitarian Universalist principles. A group of us from Indivisible Sherman have decided we cannot be silent, we can't just stand by and watch while human rights are being violated in our name, and we must do something. We first met last month at Grace United Methodist Church. At our meeting, we discussed our goals and decided to begin by first learning as much as possible about current immigration issues. We are particularly interested in determining how we can help at the local level, learning about available resources with which we can join forces, and seeking information from experts on how we can be most effective in being agents of change.

We are meeting again here at Red River UU, on **Tuesday, October first at 6:30 - 8 pm**. Please join us in this fight for human rights. As Bill Holston reminded us from our pulpit on September 22nd, Immigrant Rights are Human Rights. As individuals we may not be able to accomplish a lot, but together, "We Shall Overcome!" - Jolene

Coming Sunday October 6th during the morning assembly

A Special Appeal

to purchase artwork
to adorn either side of the chancel.
(not the above art which was only to grab your attention)

We have been searching for two matching pieces of art to be placed on the north wall of the chapel, on either side of the chancel. Several people have mentioned that the wall is too bare, and needs *something nice!*

We have found what they feel fits the bill perfectly: Two Marimekko fabric hangings designed by Aino Maija Metsola, printed in Finland.

But, there are no funds in the current fiscal year to cover the expenses which will be about \$850.00 The Board has approved reaching out to everyone in the hopes we can raise the funds with one appeal.

Carol, Joyce and Doug - the aesthetics committee

Our Common Read for Oct.

The membership committee has been exploring a new approach to membership, as outlined at last June's General Assembly in Spokane, WA. Marion Hill, membership committee chair, attended the workshop and brought the idea back home.

What follows is the concept endorsed by the membership committee and which will be discussed at the upcoming Fall Congregational Meeting on October 20th.

Pathways to Membership

Joining Red River Unitarian Universalist Church does not require adherence to specific theological beliefs, but the congregation does expect members to be active in four areas of church and community involvement. The areas are listed below, along with examples (not an exhaustive list) of actions that would "qualify" under each category.

If you are considering joining but have questions about any of the four areas or your individual contribution in any, please contact any person on the Membership Team (membership@redriveruu.org). One of us will gladly guide you along the Pathway to Membership. Have you done any of these actions?

1. Participate in life of church
 - a. act as greeter
 - b. perform music, sing in choir, or act as AV tech, to assist with a worship service
 - c. pledge and donate money, serve on a committee/team/interest group, such as Good Times team (non-church members may serve on a team but not be team leader.)
 - d. join in an 'all-church event (potluck meal, work day, Appreciation Dinner)
2. Be theologically aware and accepting of diversity
 - a. Read about what UUs believe (see p. 2)
 - b. Learn the history of the congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Association, UU Service Committee and other UU organizations
 - c. Take a "New to UU" class or "Building Your Own Theology" class
 - d. Study any religion other than one you grew up in or practice currently

3. Advocate for justice
 - a. Partner with group working for justice, within church or outside (such as the church's Welcoming Congregation Committee)
 - b. Advocate on an issue with an elected official (by phone, email, or in person)
 - c. Attend a protest march, rally, or other community action event
4. Preserve the environment
 - a. Volunteer with Texoma Earth Day Festival (planning committee or at festival)
 - b. Recycle and promote sustainability in your home and workplace, and at church
 - c. Educate others about environmental issues

*You join the church by signing the membership book in the presence of a member of the Board of Trustees and someone on the Membership Team (with whom you discuss your involvement in the four activity areas). Prior to your signing, complete the congregational information form and a Time & Talents Card, indicating your specific interests and abilities and how you will participate in church life.

To vote at a congregational meeting, you must have: (1) signed the membership book at least 30 days before the meeting; and (2) participated in church life (see activity #1 above) during the year prior to that meeting, in a way that can be documented. For example, if you donate money in a Sunday collection, the donation should be by check or in an envelope with your name on it.

Resources available

Many books related to Activity #2 are available in the lending library at Red River UU Church (in the glass-door cabinets in the Emerson Room, near the kitchen). When borrowing volumes from the lending library, please note your name and the date of borrowing on the card for that book in the box of cards on the bottom shelf of the cabinet. When you return a volume, please enter the date of return on the card for that book.

Some books and videos especially recommended by the Membership Team:

- *A Chosen Faith: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism*, by Forrest Church and John A. Buehrens
- *The Wisdom of Faith*, Bill Moyers and Huston Smith, either in book or video form (see www.spiritualityandpractice.com)
- Another excellent source of books relating to the religions of the world is *InSpirit*, the UUA Bookstore www.uuabookstore.org.

Fall Congregational Meeting

We do this twice a year because it gives us opportunities to keep tabs on the various things that we need to know in order to keep us going and going well. And then, of course, the bylaws require two congregational meetings each year - in May and October.

The board of trustees treated us to lunch for the last two meetings. This time, it is our turn - bring your favorite dish to share for an Everybody Potluck lunch, starting at 12:30. And Everybody includes YOU!

During the **October 20th** meeting we will have a discussion on a new and exciting approach project: *Pathways to Membership*; and explore expanding our Second Sunday Share The Bowl program so *every Sunday* all unidentified donations could be set aside and once a year given to local community projects.

The Packet of Meeting Documents will be email to the membership on Monday, October 7th and will be on the church app and website. We will also discuss statements of conscience and the best way to handle them, when life calls us to speak up and speak out.

Church Directory Update

It is probably handy *not* to print a hard copy of the directory since it is always a work in progress. One change is the Leadership Page on which half of the committee/team/interest group leaders are missing. If you want the replacement page, click [here](#) to download it.

Be Aware

Our former email address of xxx@rruu.org no longer is in existence. If you have not updated your contact list by replacing “@rruu.org” with “@redriveruu.org” your email will no longer reach their destination. We switched to “@redriveruu.org” a year ago and the web team decided it is time to retire the old address.

LGBTQ Movie Night

Friday, October 25 is the next LGBTQ movie night, gathering at 7 pm in the chapel to watch a flick. Save another date - December 20th for the next LGBTQ movie night.

Treasurer's Report

In the month of August, we had total receipts of \$2,996.50. Expenses for the month (which included our first quarterly Fair Share contribution of \$650.00 to UUA) totaled \$3,328.66, leaving an excess of expenditures over receipts for the month of August of \$332.16.

As of August 31, 2019, we had \$9,997.00 available in checking, a total of \$66,983.22 in all savings accounts and a total of \$14,645.47 in Certificates of Deposit.

Rebecca Stanczak, our new bookkeeper, and I have discussed the limitations of the Cloud version of Quickbooks which she is using on a free 90-day trial basis. We both feel that the limitations of this version of Quickbooks offset advantages we initially felt would be provided. We have agreed to terminate the trial (at no cost to RRUU) and move the accounting records back to a desk-top version of Quickbooks which will again give the reporting flexibility we desire and previously had.

She does have electronic access to our bank statements and, as expected, has resolved the previously reported minor unreconciled difference in our checking account. She and I will be working together to ensure the smooth transition back to a desktop version of Quickbooks and resolve any problems that may arise in this transition, though none are currently anticipated.

Dick Powell,
Treasurer

Shelter Dinner Oct 3

Red River UU is among several local congregations that volunteer to provide dinner for the residents at the Grayson County Shelter. Our next opportunity to do this is on **Thursday, October 3rd**. Those who wish are encouraged to stay for supper. All who are currently on the Shelter Meal Team should be sure your contribution is at the shelter by 5:45 pm. Dinner is usually at 6 pm. Shelter team members *along with anyone who would also like to participate*, please notify [Joyce](#) for the headcount and what you plan on bringing.

Worship Team Meeting

this month is on **Sunday, October 13th** at 12:45 in the chapel. We've received a couple splendid recommendations for upcoming speakers. Have a recommendation. You can let us know [here](#).

Leaders

Board of Trustees

Jim Holmes, *President*
Lisa Cates, *Vice President*
Dick Powell, *Treasurer*
David Dyer, *Secretary*
Sabra Jones, *Trustee*
Helen Schulze, *Past President*

Committee on Ministry:

Dan Althoff, Elbert Hill, Marla Loturco

Nominating:

Kelly Cofield- Dyer, L.D. Clark, Amy Hoffman-Shehan

Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *Sabra*
Aesthetics: *Carol, Doug, Joyce*
Caring Circle: *Kelly*
Communications: *Doug*
Endowment: *Carolyn, Dick, Doug*
Facilities:
Finance: *Jim, Dick, Doug*
Grounds: *Marilyn*
Long Range Planning: *Jim, Marilyn, Robert, Ronda*
Membership: *Marion*
NTUUC Rep: *Marla*
RE Team: *Linn, Tommi*
Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*
Social Action:
Welcoming Congregation: *Jack*
Worship: *Doug, Marla, Rebecca, Robert, Tommi*

Contact Us

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How to reach us:

- Phone: 903.231.3232
- Email: info@redriveruu.org
- Website: redriveruu.org
- Facebook: [RedRiverUnitarianUniversalist-Church](https://www.facebook.com/RedRiverUnitarianUniversalist-Church)
- Mobile App: 'RedRiverUU' free from the [Apps Store](#) and [Google Play](#).
- Calendar [here](#)

Circles & Interest Groups

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

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. Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *facilitator*

FLEDGLING CHOIR ~ a small group of people who like to sing and are hoping to encourage other singers to join us. When we rehearse, it is Sunday after the assembly. Open to all singers.

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*

WEB OF LIFE MONARCH WAYSTATION ~ a new group in the planning stages right now, to tenderly love our monarch waystation and to help spawn more gardens at other churches or various locations. More as the summer wanes into autumn. Linn Cates, *facilitator*

