

Five Intriguing Morning Assembles

Sunday, October 3, 2021

Moral Decision-Making: Is it in Our Genes?

Elena Westbrook, *leading*

Cognitive scientist Steven Pinker asked if there is an evolutionary basis for morality. If there is, what does that mean for how we understand differences in moral codes and how we make our own moral choices?

Sunday, October 10, 2021

Emotional Intelligence: Principles for Improving Relationships, Families, and Faith

Michael Davis, *speaking*

Research from the past 30 years has shown that *Emotional Intelligence* be more important than *Rational Intelligence* fostering healthy lives, stable relationships, and a flourishing of the human spirit. This talk will focus on the value of emotional intelligence in everyday life, how to nurture it, and how modern understanding of our emotions has been influenced by major figures in philosophical and religious history.

Sunday, October 17, 2021

Credo Sunday

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. On this Credo Sunday, five among us will offer their credo.

Sunday, October 24, 2021

Hide and Seek

Ashley Newlin, *leading*

Summary: What does a children game teach us about living a life of joy and our relationship with the divine? And don't worry, you don't need to get out of your chair for this one.

Sunday, October 31, 2021

The Walking Dead: Ways in Which the Dead Are Among the Living

The Rev Dr Mark Y A Davies, *leading*

An exploration of the ongoing relationship of memory, influence, and love that those of us who are living have with those who have died.

Inside this issue:

Jim's Jabber	2
Celebration of the Life of Robert Shelton	2
Adult Forum for October	2
Fall Congregational Meeting	3
42 Bed Bash Benefit Concert	4
October's Common Read - TX Abortion	5
October's Common Read, continued	6
Church Leadership Contact Us	6





Jim's Jabber

This morning as I write my Jim Jabber column, I can feel a bit of fall in the air. I am so looking forward to the cooler weather. I am also looking forward to eventually getting back to whatever our new normal will be as the pandemic settles down to its new normal.

On October 17th we will hold our Fall Congregational Meeting. This year it will be live in the chapel and also over Zoom. The Board has decided to hold the meeting directly after the Sunday Service (with a short break). The Board still feels uncomfortable having food served so bring a snack if you want but not one that will make loud crunching sounds as you chew! Our next gathering will be in February for our awards ceremony and hope-

fully by then we can do our traditional pot luck. Fingers crossed.

This month we lost a wonderful member, Robert Shelton. I will miss his friendship, his stories, his humor, his wonderful loud shirts and t-shirts, and the twinkle in his eyes. Thank you everyone for your contributions to the Shelton Memorial Fund. Lanan greatly appreciates it. She is at The Woodlands, 5600 Woodlands Trail, Denison (behind T.M.C.), room 204. Her phone is 903.271.5275. She also needs visitors so please drop in and see her. We have set up an app where you can sign up to visit or even take lunch (she is diabetic). The app is [Surrounding Lanan With Love and Support - Give InKind](#)

The director of the Texoma Fam-

ily Shelter contacted me to ask for help. Due to staff that is out because of illness they need help answering the phones and taking in donations. If you are interested contact Angela Sharp at 903-465-6041 or email her at director@texomafamilyselter.com.

We hold Jan's Musical Circle on the first Saturday of each month. However, there will not be one in October because most of the musicians will be at the Kerrville Folk Festival. We will start back up in November.

Take care, keep safe, wear your mask!

And Keep on Truckin'

Jim Holmes
president

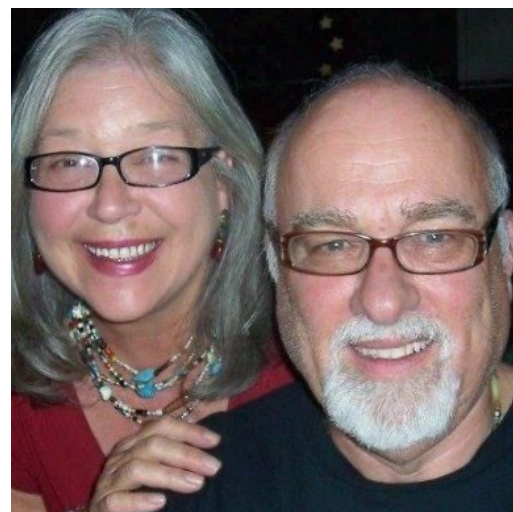
Celebration of the Life of Robert Shelton

A special gathering to celebrate Robert's life will be on Saturday, October 9th at 3 pm, in the chapel. The event will also be live streamed on ZOOM. The meeting ID is 916 0298 4473

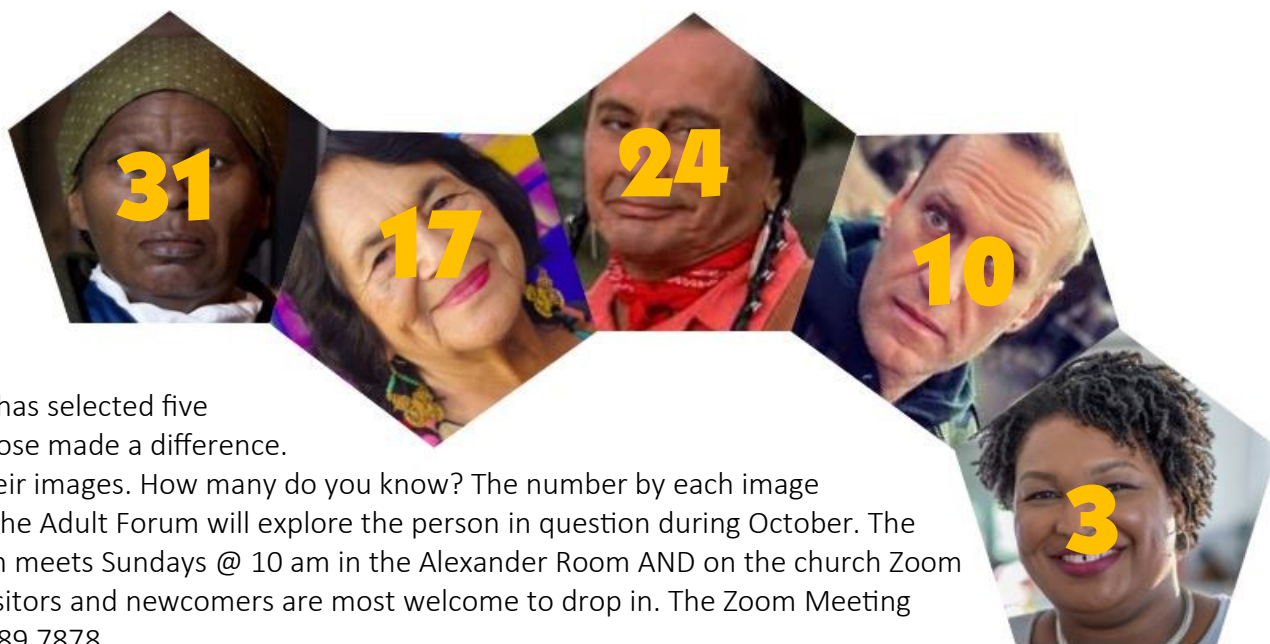
The family has been gathering special music that Robert loved, a book of cross word puzzles that Robert loved and even some special coffee that Robert

wanted served.

Robert loved puns, so bring your best puns for the "Pun Off competition. Lanan and the rest of the family want to really celebrate his life with tales, stories, images and music. It promises to be the sort of send off to whatever-comes-next in a style Robert would have wanted.



Do You Know Who These People Are?



Marion Hill has selected five activists whose made a difference.

Here are their images. How many do you know? The number by each image is the date the Adult Forum will explore the person in question during October. The Adult Forum meets Sundays @ 10 am in the Alexander Room AND on the church Zoom Account. Visitors and newcomers are most welcome to drop in. The Zoom Meeting ID is 989 0789 7878.

Each month a different member of the Forum team selects a topic for the Forum to explore. Over the last several months, the topics have been widely diverse, yet very interesting and informative. Those who attend often remark on how varied and stimulating the topic have been.

Fall Congregational Meeting

Soon the leaves will start changing so it must mean it is time for the Fall Congregational meeting. Sunday, October 17th is the date, and the meeting will start immediately following the morn-

ing assembly (Credo Sunday!). The meeting will be held in the chapel AND live streamed on the church ZOOM account. The Meeting ID: 925 3224 3954. The packet of documents will be

emailed to the membership on Monday October 4th.

Newcomers are warmly invited to stay and sit in on the meeting.

42 Bed Bash Benefit for Texoma Family Shelter

Join us for our second annual Bed Bash Concert benefiting Texoma Family Shelter - Saturday, October 2nd at Loy Lake Park - Mayor Arena, 457 RC Vaughan Rd

Gates open @ 6 pm
Live music @ 7 pm
Concessions available

Featuring

- Kody West
- Giovannie & The Hired Guns
- Tanner Fenoglio

Check it all out #42BEDBASH

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

42 BED BASH

OCTOBER 2, 2021

LOY LAKE PARK - MAYOR ARENA - 7:00 PM

Get Your Tickets Now!

Tap/click the image above to order tickets

Introducing our October Speakers

Sunday, October 3

Elena Westbrook was formerly the worship chair for Community UU Church of Plano, where she has been a regular guest speaker. Now semi-retired, she has also been a marketing writer, a proposal manager, a medical copyeditor, an environmental consultant, and a radio DJ. She lives in Fairview with her husband, Paul.

Sunday, October 10

Michael J. Davis, J.D., Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice in the Department of Behavioral Sciences at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Having recently completed a dissertation analyzing emotional intelligence among law enforcement officers in small police agencies, Davis is a specialist in translating research on the value of emotional control and utility to practical settings such as the workplace, family relationships, and the criminal justice system. Also licensed as an attorney, Davis has spent his career investigating civil rights complaints, and developing institutional inclusion and diversity policies to improve the quality of life at colleges and universities across the State of Oklahoma.

Sunday, October 24

Ashley Newlin is entering her third year as a mDiv student at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, TX where she also serves as Moderator of the Brite Student Association and as a Resident Assistant at Leibrock Village, which is a housing unit for Graduate Students and Families at Brite and TCU. Her passions include playing Rugby and finding new and creative ways to tell the story of the divine. Ashley is excited to be returning home to her friends at Red River UU.

Treasurer's Report

Our new fiscal year continues with very positive results. In the month of August, we had total receipts of \$8,422.00, which included a generous donation of \$5,000.00, restricted for the purchase of new AV equipment. Pledges for the month totaled \$2,375.00. Expenses for the

month totaled \$3,996.65, leaving net income for the month of August of \$4,425.35.

As mentioned in last month's report, we used some of that cash to purchase additional new AV equipment totaling \$5,245.49.

As of August 31, 2021, we had \$11,518.90 available in checking, a total of \$19,090.31 in all savings accounts and a total of \$80,281.13 in UUCEF funds.

We continue this new fiscal year in a very solid financial position.

Dick Powell,
Treasurer



Birthdays in October

- 05 - Marion Hill
- 17 - Tommi Homuth
- 18 - Joyce Peak

Kudos to Merrilee Kick for becoming our most recent subscriber to our YouTube channel. She will now be notified when we upload new videos and can share videos with others.

October Common Read: Outraged by Texas Abortion Law

September 10, 2021

As Unitarian Universalists, we are outraged and heartbroken that the conservative majority on the U.S. Supreme Court last week announced that they would allow the implementation of SB8—a Texas anti-abortion bill that outlaws abortion after six weeks gestation. We believe that all bodies are sacred. Every person has the right to determine what happens to their own body at all phases of life—including if, when, and how they want to have children. As people of faith, this commitment is part of our deepest religious values: Unitarian Universalism proclaims that all individuals and communities have the right to self-determination, safety, and the resources that are necessary for health and sustainability.

As Unitarian Universalists, we believe that all bodies are sacred. Every person has the right to determine what happens to their own body at all phases of life.

Our faith tradition has a long legacy of advocating for safe, legal, accessible abortion care for anyone who needs it. Unitarian Universalists were among the plaintiffs suing the state of Texas over SB8 in *Whole Woman's Health v. Jackson*. Unitarian Universalist ministers and congregations were part of the Clergy Consultation Service, which supported people in accessing abortion care before *Roe v. Wade*. And from developing the most comprehensive sexuality education program in North America through *Our Whole Lives*, to regularly affirming our support for abortion access and care in resolutions from our General Assembly, dating back to 1962, we have been steadfast in showing up for reproductive justice.

This anti-abortion bill not only violates basic

reproductive freedom, it also deputizes private citizens to act as vigilantes who

can receive bounties for bringing lawsuits against individuals who receive, “aid and abet,” or provide abortion care. This decision, which overturns decades of legal precedent dating back to 1973’s *Roe v. Wade*, signals that any state can effectively ban abortion within its borders. Safe, legal, nationwide access to abortion care is no longer the law of the land.

While this bill is a devastating blow, we also know that the radical right’s long legacy of chipping away at abortion access is only one tactic in a broader strategy. Comprehensive reproductive and sexual healthcare has never been available to all people. Rooted in white supremacy, misogyny, Christian hegemony, and colonialism, the anti-abortion movement has always tried to exert control over the bodies and families of people with uteruses.

In addition to the long battle over abortion, U.S. history is riddled with assaults on the bodily autonomy and agency of marginalized people, specifically Black/Indigenous/People of Color (BIPOC), poor communities, disabled people, and queer and trans people. Profound violations and inequities have included forced sterilizations, disparities in maternal mortality, denial of health care, and the violence of involuntary family separation through immigration detention, child protective services, or Indigenous boarding schools.

The Reproductive Justice movement—founded in the 1990s by Black women, and centering the leadership and needs of BIPOC women and other marginalized women and trans people—has always insisted that our focus cannot be solely on abortion and reproductive rights. Rather, if we are to truly secure unfettered access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare, freedom, and autonomy for all people, we must focus not just on rights, but on analyzing systems of power, addressing intersecting oppressions, centering the most marginalized, and joining together across issues and identities. As our General Assembly affirmed in the 2015 Statement of Conscience, [“Reproductive Justice”](#): ***We are all relational beings with***

Continued on page 6

Our Leaders/Contacts

Board of Trustees

Jim Holmes, *President*
Marilyn Alexander, *Vice-President*
Dick Powell, *Treasurer*
David Dyer, *Secretary*
Amy Shehan-Hoffman, *Trustee*

Committee on Ministry:

Elbert Hill, Carolyn Cameron, ?

Nominating:

Kelly Cofield Dyer, Don Rogers, Linda Tracy

Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: Marilyn, Jim, Amy, Marion
Aesthetics: Carol, Doug
Caring Circle: Kelly
Communications: Doug
Endowment: Carolyn, Dick, Doug
Facilities: Jim
Finance: Jim, Dick, Jan, Marilyn
Grounds: Marilyn
Long Range Planning: Jim, Marilyn,
Membership: Marion
NTUUC Rep: Marla
RE Team: David, Ellie, Marilyn
Safe Congregation Panel: Dan
Social Action:
Welcoming Congregation: Adrian, Amy, Lisa, Marla, Thomas
Worship: Dan, Doug, Marla

Red River Unitarian Universalists

515 North Burnett Ave

mail to:

PO BOX 1806

Denison TX 75021-1806

How to reach us:

Phone: 903.231.3232

[Mobile App](#)

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

The church calendar is now merged with the EVENTS listing on the church website home page



Common Read. continued

varying abilities, preferences, and identities. Unitarian Universalism calls us to advocate for the positive expression of sexuality, including choices about reproduction and nurturing, and for a culture of respect and empowerment.

Our Statement also names our deep commitment to support and partner with directly impacted communities, working together to build the anti-oppressive world we dream about:

In order to embody our principles we, as Unitarian Universalists, must listen to and follow the lead of those from the most affected communities, especially women of color, and reach outside our cultural assumptions.

We must continue to fight together for permanent federal legislation that enshrines the national right to abortion care. In this uncertain period of both grief and regrouping, our faith calls us to continue to advocate fiercely for all people to be able to readily access safe, legal abortion care whenever and wherever they need it. This will require a variety of tactics: donating generously to abortion funds; creating networks that financially and logistically support people to access abortion care; working in partnership with reproductive justice organizations who have already-developed infrastructure for both advocacy and service provision; and engaging in state-based legislative advocacy and legal support as a harm reduction strategy. Moreover, Reproductive Justice leaders remind us that without access to safety, stability, and resources, there will never truly be “choice” in reproductive health. [Abortion is only one part](#) of ensuring “the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.”

One crucial role we can play is in continuing to voice values-based, theologically grounded support for abortion and reproductive justice. We can also provide spiritual support and accompaniment for people of all identities as they make choices about their reproductive health throughout their lives. We must also commit to organizing our congregations and our communities in solidarity with movements for racial and gender justice, economic equity, sex and body positivity, universal healthcare, and social systems that support diverse forms of parenting and family.

As we continue to fight for this fundamental and sacred right, we urge Unitarian Universalists to develop partnerships with local reproductive justice organizations, and to join Side With Love’s Action Center for ways to take concrete action together in this critical time and in the days ahead.

For more information contact info@uua.org.