



1997-2022

Red River Ramblings

April 2022 Vol. 23 – No. 10

Red River UM...

The Reason Earth Day is in Texoma

Sunday, April 3, 2022 – 11:15 AM

Survival

The Rev. Dr. Don Fielding, leading

It is a very scary time. Survival is on everyone's mind. Will Ukraine survive? Will democracy survive? Polls are showing that young people are increasingly leaving religion; will religion survive? And if religion is threatened, what about our religion? Are Unitarian Universalism days numbered too? I will have some thoughts about the survival of religion, and our religion as well. Come and hear my recommendations about what we need to do to survive.

Sunday, April 10, 2022 – 11:15 AM

Building Resilient Community in Times of Chaos

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

The most sustainable and resilient ecological communities are those with greater biodiversity. What lessons might we learn from nature about the significance of diversity for the well-being of our human communities?

Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022 – 11:15 AM

Transcendence and Enlightenment: A New Take on the story of Easter

Beth Ferree

We've all heard the story about Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, but is it fact or is it an allegory for something else?

Sunday, April 24, 2022 – 11:15 AM

The Importance of Diversity for Human and Ecological Communities

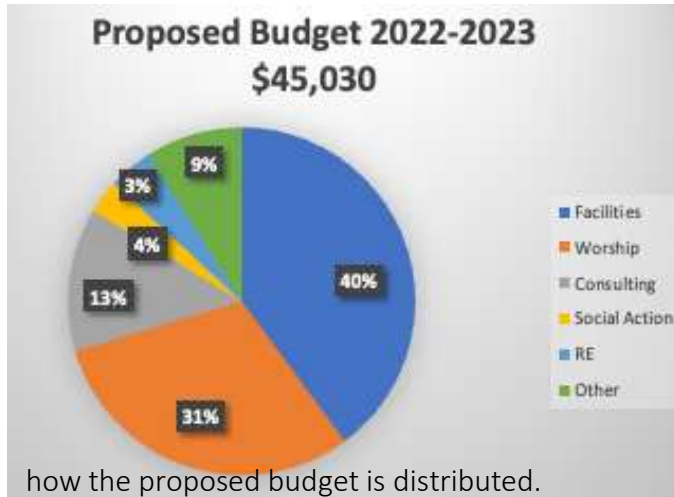
The Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, leading

The most sustainable and resilient ecological communities are those with greater biodiversity. What lessons might we learn from nature about the significance of diversity for the well-being of our human communities?

Red River Unitarian Universalists

Serving the world from Denison, TX

Jim's Jabber



Our 2022 Stewardship Campaign will run from April 3-17 this year. Please fill out your pledge card and send it in or better yet, pledge on-line. The Finance Team will take these pledge commitments and create a balanced budget for July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023. The Finance Team has put together a proposed budget of \$45,030 for this coming budget year. This sets a target of \$38,900 in pledges for our Stewardship Campaign. Here is a pie chart of

We held our special Congregation Meeting on March 20th to discuss and vote on if we want to officially pursue getting a minister. The vote was 26 yes, 1 no, and 2 abstains. We also voted on some minor Bylaw changes and the vote supporting those changes was unanimous (29 yes). We approved employing a contract minister for a 1-year contract that can be renewed if the congregation and minister approve. The membership has spoken.

The next major step is for the Board to recommend a five-person Contract Minister Search Committee to be presented at our May 15 congregational meeting. The search committee will then begin our formal search for a minister and identify grants and funding that the Board will submit to help us pay for a minister. If you are interested on being on this search team or know of someone that you would like to recommend, please let any Board member know. In your packet of documents for the May congregational meeting we will have more details on the next steps in our search process.

The annual Texoma Earth Day Festival is scheduled for April 23rd. Our church is the reason that Earth Day is in Texoma, and Amy has been leading it. We need more volunteers to help run this festival. Red River UU also plans on having a booth at the festival and we also need some volunteers to help staff our booth. Please let Amy or any Board member know if you are interested.

The Good Times Teams bring snacks for our Conversations and Calories after each Sunday morning assembly. If you are looking for a way to get involved and love food, our teams could use a few more good people.

We are slowly seeing more members and friends returning to the chapel. Please come join us.

Take care and keep safe,

And Keep on Truckin'

Jim Holmes,
president

Texoma Earth Day Festival



The Texoma Earth Day Festival returns on April 23, 2022. After a two-year break with providing only drive through recycling events during the pandemic, we are happy to bring back the full festival.

We will offer workshops on monarch way **stations**, solar energy, finding the best electric energy provider for your needs and worm composting. Our entertainment will include the Greater Harvest Church band and “Trashion” Fashion VII. For the first time, the festival will offer a free Children’s Clothing Swap and a free Plant Swap.

Our recycling options, sponsored by several businesses and government entities, continue to expand and grow. We will have paper shredding, electronic waste collection, and an unused medication collection for limited hours. There will be containers throughout the day for cardboard, plastics 1,2,&5, aluminum & tin food containers, plastic bags (including shrink plastic film and bubble wrap), Styrofoam (not including soft foam) and ink & toner cartridges. We might be able to offer glass recycling, but it isn’t confirmed at this time.

Details about the festival are evolving, so watching the website and Facebook page as we get closer to the date is important. The festival website is www.earthdaytexoma.org and our Facebook page, Texoma Earth Day Festival, is Texoma Earth Day Festival | Facebook.

We need volunteers for both the festival and the Red River UU booth. We will have swag at the booth for the first time! Learn more about volunteering here.

General Assembly 2022

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participant’s worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates. Red River UU is certified, and it would be wonderful to have two delegates attend this June’s GA! It will be a Multi-Platform General Assembly

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. That remains true even when we cannot gather physically. In 2021, GA had more than 4,000 registered attendees participate from remote locations around the world.

In 2022, we will have the option of meeting online or in-person! For those who enjoyed the convenience and accessibility of remote participation, General Assembly will continue to offer virtual attendance with robust programming and enhanced delegate discussion tools. For those who have been missing the physical experience, GA 2022 will also feature face-to-face interactions, hanging banners, a browsable exhibit hall, meals with friends old and new, local site attractions, and more! Join us June 22 - 26, 2022 online or in-person in Portland, Oregon.

Want some firsthand feedback about the wondrous GA is? Speak with Marion and Elbert Hill who have attended several GA’s.

Welcome to Five New Members



During the morning assembly on March 20th Membership chair Marion Hill led the congregation in welcoming five new members.

Michelle Haynes moved from Orange County, California, to Whitewright, Texas, about 4 ½ years ago. She works for Blackberry (which she explains is no longer a phone company but now specializes in cyber security and security software). Environmentalism is very important to Michelle; her hobbies and her spiritual base revolve around nature. She will be working with Linn Cates on the church's Monarch butterfly project.

Jana Norris has been a member of Red River UU before. She and her husband moved to Maine, near Portland, some years ago, where Elbert and I had the pleasure of visiting them when we were there to attend the annual UUA General Assembly, which met in Portland a few years ago. The Norrises are now back in this area, and Jana has again joined Red River. She's a retired lawyer, has studied both witchcraft and Buddhism, and now often acts as a worship associate in Red River's services.

Darlene McKinnell signed the membership book to join Red River in 2020, just before the church went online only for several months because of the pandemic. Darlene was born in Durant, OK, then attended schools in California, Nevada and Colorado. She was for a time a radio personality at a station in Nevada. Darlene has been married twice, has one daughter, and now lives with her dad, Don Rogers, in Mead, OK.

Hannah Peterson describes herself as "an atheist but a tolerant one." She works as a consultant in the cannabis industry and will be studying for an art degree at Southeastern Oklahoma State University this fall. Her daughter, Lillie, will also be a student there.

William Holloway, (Hannah's father) moved to Durant a few months ago. Bill shares a home there with Hannah and her family. While Bill's wife Susan (who is unfortunately deceased now) was working as a church music director and organist at various churches, the family attended the church where she served, which included Methodist, Lutheran, Baptist, and Catholic denominations. Bill has a background in music, having studied oboe and voice at UT in Austin and in Massachusetts. Besides his varied church experiences with his wife and family, he also attended and sang at First Religious Society UU in Newburyport, Massachusetts, for several years. He's retired from the U.S. Postal Service and likes to paint.

A Controversy over the Proposed 8th Principle

A Convocation Sponsored by The Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Council will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2022 - from 10 am to 3 pm Central (11 am to 4 pm Eastern, 8 am to 1 pm Pacific). This is a virtual event, for UUMUAC members, supporters, and potential members and friends - held using Zoom technology. Working under the banner "The Unity of Light and Dark-Skinned People of the World, the group is working to add an eight principle to our Purposes and Principles. Given the current rancor concerning the growing divide between various ethnicities in the world a reflection of our UU values might well deserve to be added as an 8th principle. Perhaps it is time to re-ignite the chalice! If you are interested in exploring the addition of an eighth principle, ask for the 2-page flyer with full details and schedule by emailing uumuac@gmail.com. Check out their web site Home | UUMUAC.

Concerned about Falling?

Did you know that Falls are the most common cause of serious injuries as we age? Even the fear of Falling can affect the active participation in life. A Matter of Balance is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels.



Join Wellness Coaches, Tommi Homuth and Joyce White, the Texas A&M Family & Community Health County Extension Agent as they present an 8-session workshop to help improve balance, flexibility and strength. The course starts Tuesday, May 5 and runs each Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am to noon. Classes will be held in the Alexander and Emerson rooms at church.

A Matter of Balance uses practical coping strategies to reduce fear of falling and to diminish the risk of falling including group discussions, mutual problem solving, exercises to improve strength, coordination and balance, and home safety evaluation. The \$20.00 Workshop fee will be sponsored by Tracy Realty, if you sign up to attend the workshops by April 15th. Sign up by letting Joyce White know: Email Joyce [here](#) or call 903-813-4203

Fair Trade Coffee

Marion Hill will be ordering Fair Trade coffee soon. Fair Trade coffee is somewhat more expensive than Folger's, but it allows small farmers who grow coffee to sell to a coop rather than to big companies, thereby earning more money. To see what's available, go to <https://shop.equalexchange.coop>. That will show the retail price (for example, \$52.50 for 6/12 oz. pks). But we get it at the wholesale price (\$46.50 for the 6 pks.) They have both ground coffee and whole beans.

If anyone wishes to place an order, get in touch with [Marion](#) before April 3, when she'll be ordering.

The Caring Circle

We sent a birthday card to Lanan w notes from several people. She was thrilled to hear from us. Lanan is happy in her new setting, and recently got a new neighbor - her best friend's sister, who had a stroke and is recuperating next door. Lanan recently got a replacement mobility scooter, funded in part by gifts from our congregation and able to be more active. Her diabetes is now much better under control because she is receiving a proper modified diet.



Please keep Darlene McKinnell and her did Don Rogers in your thoughts/prayers as together they await the results of some tests that could indicate a serious illness.

Now that spring has arrived, Kat reports she will be able to return to church. She is saddened to learn that her neighbor, a good friend, is moving soon. We sure she will love our warm welcome.

Doug reports he's improving day by day, having started speech and physical therapy. No ETA until the bruising and swelling in the legs subsides. He's disliking his AFO (ankle, foot, orthotics) braces less and less. He's prime focus now is on healing, then on the lengthy legal situation of having a car hit him.

Birthdays during April ..



07 – Bruce Cameron
18 – Carol Powell
18 – Jolene Whitten

Sneak Peek

This year's stewardship campaign has a simple three-word tagline because we feel it perfectly sums up what we've accomplished

over the last quarter century and reflects the decisions made at the March 20th congregational meeting (you can read a summary of the votes taken in this month's *Jim's Jabber*. Our campaign this year will follow a similar format we're used in the last several years. You can anticipate receiving a letter from the Board of Trustees within the next few days. We can make our pledges on the church app, our website and by picking up a pledge card on the ledge in the foyer outside the chapel. The board hopes we can wrap up this year's appeal by April 17th so the final figures can be included in the packet of documents for the upcoming May 15 spring congregational meeting.



The 2020 Stewardship Campaign

BELIEVING WE CAN

Treasurer's Report

February 2022 had receipts considerably higher than in January. Total income was \$7,300.00, more than double what was received in January. Expenses, on the other hand, were about \$500 less than in January. As a result, net income for the month of February was \$3,880.07. Net income for this fiscal year-to-date was \$26,001.37.

As of February 28, 2022, we had \$5,404.95 available in checking, the decrease from January reflecting the disbursement of the \$1,469.13 which had remained available for Lanan Shelton. We also have a total of \$19,103.13 in all savings accounts, including \$2,545.00 in the Ronda Decaire Memorial Fund. I haven't made any adjustment yet, but it should be noted that the total market value of our investment in UUCEF funds has declined from \$81,847.52 to \$77,296.88, a market value decline of \$4,550.64 (5.6%).

Dick Powell, Treasurer

Adult Forum

Is continuing an exploration of the Great Books Series Science and Religion. During March, the topics include Church, Copernicus, and Galileo; Galileo's Trial; God the Watchmaker; and Natural Theology and Arguments from Design. The Forum meets in the Alexander room at 10:00 and via Zoom @ Meeting ID 989 0789 7878. Open to all who wish to join in.

Gay Pride in Dallas

A note from Daniel Polk, NTUUC executive director: Dallas Pride events are on for this year! Let's be part of the fest on Saturday, June 4. But how you ask? With people to staff them, we could do up to 3 booths: General, Teen, and Family. YRUers and advisors might have a booth, and if we want to reach those with little ones, we could do balloon animals, etc. Would you like to be involved? It's a mix of social action and visibility/marketing. I'll contact those I know. Reach me at 469-682-887.

April Moveable Feast

Moveable Feast is probably the most popular non-Sunday event in our community. There is nothing like breaking bread together to get to know one another, enjoy lively conversations, wonderful food in an assortment of venues. Feasters meet Dutch treat in local eateries, in homes for potluck suppers and at church as well. The purpose is nothing more than sharing quality time with friends and members at RedRiverUU. **The April MF will be a Dutch treat lunch @ 11:30 at Sage Grill in Sherman.** Email [Marion Hill](#) ASAP if you want to come along.



Elections have consequences. Progress is not an incident, but the cumulative impact of our commitment to justice. Right now, we are witnessing one amazing and crucial consequence of the 2020 election, the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the US Supreme Court.

But we know our work is not done. In both Judge Jackson's confirmation hearing and in state legislatures across the country, hateful ideology and rhetoric are used as a political tool to win points or gain power at the expense of marginalized communities. We see reproductive rights under assault and attempts to systematically strip away voting rights. Our 2022 midterm election will have consequences. It is our work to support and build power in our communities to make justice the consequence.

In 2020, UUs came out in historic numbers, responding to the moral call to combat the rise of fascism and white supremacist culture. UU the Vote reached millions of voters and made a discernible impact in pivotal states like Georgia, Wisconsin, and North Carolina.

This year, we're leveraging the power we built in 2020 to grow our work and our impact. This year, we're investing more resources in our state action networks, frontline partners, and volunteers. But we can't get the work done without you!

[Join us for the launch of UU the Vote 2022!](#)

We plan to kick off our UU the Vote work on Sunday, April 10 at 1pm PT / 2pm MT / 3pm CT / 4pm ET. This 90-minute live webinar will feature UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, our state partners, and our new UU the Vote Campaign Manager. Learn how our program is going deeper into values-based conversation, showing up for ballot measures to combat voter suppression, fight for reproductive justice, and resist the criminalization of Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities.

[Will you join us to launch UU the Vote 2022?](#)

Unitarian Universalists understand that democracy is a process and a practice. A movement for radical democracy requires us to create new coalitions and community partnerships to put power in the hands of the many, instead of the few. UU the Vote is part of [Side With Love](#), which shares four intersectional justice priorities; we hope you'll join us in connecting reproductive justice, LGBTQ+ justice, and climate justice with electoral justice. Friend, you are a part of this sacred work. Please join us for the launch and learn how you can UU the Vote in 2022!

[Register for the launch event for UU the Vote 2022.](#)

Our Leaders

Board of Trustees

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

Committee on Ministry:

Elbert Hill, Carolyn Cameron

Nominating:

Carole Harner, Don Rogers, Linda Tracy

Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: Marilyn, Jim, Amy, Marion

Aesthetics: Carol, Doug

AV: Don, Carole, Jim, Marla

Caring Circle: Carol, Carolyn, David

Communications: Doug

Endowment: Carolyn, Dick, Doug

Facilities: Jim

Finance: Jim, Dick, Jan, Marilyn

Grounds: Marilyn

Long Range Planning: Jim, Marilyn

Membership: Marion

Minister Investigation: Dick, Marla

NTUUC Rep: Elbert

RE Team: David, Ellie, Marilyn

Safe Congregation Panel: Dan

Social Action:

Welcoming Congregation: Adrian, Amy, Lisa, Marla, Thomas

Contact Us

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](#)

Find the church calendar on the home page of our website.