



Sunday, July 2, 2023 - 11:15 am

An Alternative Imagination

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

The world in which we live today is influenced by the imagination of those who have come before us and by those who are living now. More often than not, the world in which we live is a product of the imagination of the powerful and affluent within society. How can we create an alternative prophetic imagination that will help us create a world that brings justice to all, including the most vulnerable? Read Mark's bio [here](#).

Sunday, July 9, 2023 - 11:15 am

Ever Willing: Becoming the People Our World Needs

The Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, *(video message)*

JOIN US for a worship experience we're sharing that took place June 25th at the UU General Assembly. You are encouraged to read the Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti's essay about the path which led him to Unitarian Universalism [here](#). It is a worthwhile read.

Sunday, July 16, 2023 - 11:15 am

Reflections on *Doughnut Economics*

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

In 2018, Kate Raworth published the book *Doughnut Economics* as an alternative to the dominant perspectives on economics that typically focus on growth in Gross National Product as the most important measure of economic progress. Raworth makes the case that economic growth should no longer be the primary way to understand societal flourishing, but rather we need to focus on economic activity that keeps us within the limits of earth's carrying capacity while making sure that the resources needed for human flourishing are distributed more equitably.

Sunday, July 23, 2023 - 11:15 am

Peace Sunday #8

Marla Loturco, leading

Astrid Lindgren and Jane Goodall also are known for "Valuing All Life" instead of just human life. Lindgren is also well known for her children's books and Goodall for her work with primates. Information on both of these leaders is based on the book *Great Peacemakers: True Stories from Around the World* by Ken Beller and Heather Chase.

Sunday, July 30, 2023 - 11:15 am

Discovering Unitarian Universalism

The Rev. Aaron White, *(video message)*

The Rev. Aaron White, a former associate minister at First Unitarian Church of Dallas, describes his first encounter with Unitarian Universalism and how that encounter dramatically changed his life. His story has a special resonance for us in this congregation, since he came to learn about Unitarian Universalism through a small, lay-led congregation meeting at that time in Sherman, a congregation which would soon be known as Red River Unitarian Universalist Church. His story is engaging and down-home. Join the Worship Team as we remind ourselves of UU power—and our own power—to inspire and bring about change.

5th Sunday Potluck ... *Salad Today*

Salad, noun: any of various dishes consisting of foods, such as vegetables, meat, seafood, eggs, pasta, or fruit, prepared singly or combined, usually cut up, mixed with a dressing, and served cold. Plan on staying today for a Summer Salad all-church potluck (we won't have another 5th Sunday potluck until October). See you there. Pls put your 'salad' in the refrigerator before worship.

Marilyn's Musings



It is July and we are in the throes of summer fun – and heat. We held our first ever Juneteenth Neighborhood Picnic on the evening of June 19th and we enjoyed meeting those who attended. Amy designed flyers that were distributed to neighbors' doors by two people from the

Texoma Family Shelter. Jan Fletcher prepared the music, but after transporting the equipment and setting it up on the porch, it failed to work. It gave us all more time to visit and get to know each other. Those attending opted to sit at the tables in the shade in the Memorial Garden next to the playground. Erik Jackson explained the history of Juneteenth and its origin in Texas. His talk was very interesting. As everything got put away, I recognized the planning for the next Juneteenth event needed to start earlier, be organized by a committee, and have better advertising. Don, David, Amy, Carole, Jack, Sheryl, Bruce, Carolyn, Doug, and I all worked to produce this event. Picnic supplies that were left over were donated to the Texoma Family Shelter.

Jim Runnels arranged a special event entitled "Awaken to Your True Nature." Fourteen attended and collected \$150 for the church, because the leader, Gian Girardi, donated his fee back to the church. Thank you, Jim.

The board entertained ideas for other special events and spiritual evening talks. Jim suggested that we have a booth at the Psychic and Holistic Fair to be held in the Municipal Building 1 in Sherman on July 30th, but nothing is planned for the immediate future. Jim will work with Amy to organize materials for the booth.

Adrian held another Clothing Swap, following the memorial service for Joe Combs. The next clothing swap will be August 4th, 3:00-8:00 pm and August 5th, 10:00-3:00 pm at church. The board suggested that the congregation gather school supplies to distribute during the swap. I have already started collecting some for my donation. Please bring supplies to the church so we can provide some support for needy families. Young school age children always need pencils, crayons, glue sticks, colored markers, spiral notebooks, etc. We don't need to get specific and try to fill the needs of a particular classroom or age group, since the children's clothing swap is for infants as well as Pre-K– upper elementary age children, so those school age children will be the ones we will be helping.

Planning is beginning for a 3-day summer children's program for the summer of 2024. Marilyn, David, and Megan are on that committee. If you would like to participate or provide input, speak with Marilyn. The dates will be announced once the committee meets and determines the curriculum, age groups and how it is going to be organized. Stay tuned.

Board Reps are the following: July – David, August – Marilyn, September – Carole, October – Jim, November – Don, December – Amy.

Marilyn Alexander, *president*

Moveable Feast

Tis hot in the summer, we all know this. This July everyone has two opportunities to break bread together without spending lots of time in the kitchen!

On Page 1, you read that there are 5 Sundays in July meaning a 5th Sunday potluck on July 30.

Movable Feast will have a its own potluck lunch at the church mid-month on **July 19 at 1:00**. Moveable Feast is our church's cooking/eating group that meets about once a month, sometimes at local restaurants, sometimes in members' homes, and sometimes at the church. (To get on the MF mailing list for information on upcoming Feasts, contact Elbert or Marion Hill, marionh3719@gmail.com or 580-924-7715,)

Everyone is welcome at Movable Feast events! If you've not attended an MF event, do come. They are informal, friendly, and engaging opportunities to enjoy spending time with kindred spirits.

Caring Circle News

Many may not know the name **Kerry Williams**, but he has been the guy who keeps the grounds looking clean, trimmed, and inviting for the last 12 years. He works for Marilyn full-time. Last Monday, June 26 while returning to Texoma from Dallas, Kerry was involved in a multi-car major accident on the northbound side of 75, in the midst of all that construction in Sherman. He suffered fractures in both legs and was pinned inside the cab of his truck with the dashboard pressing into his lap. He was released from the hospital on June 30, and is back home with his two sons who are caring for him. No weight on either leg for 8 weeks, His sons are gathering the necessary handicapped equipment that will help to make his recovery less painful.

Send notes of support and encouragement to Kerry Williams, 23 Butterfield Trail, Colbert, OK 74733.

July Common Read

Editor Note: Marion Hill is one of six local authors that write opinion columns for the Durant newspaper. She coordinates the pieces, so that every edition always includes at least one column from a Progressive point of view. Most of these columns also appear in the monthly online newsletter "Shield & Search" (shielding from fake news, searching for the facts), published by RedRiverUU's own Marilyn Alexander. Contact Marilyn (galex ranch@gmail.com) to get on her mailing list for the newsletter.

PRIDE MONTH AND ALLIES

by Marion Hill

June is Pride Month, a time for celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people, and a time to call attention to their need for allies in the fight for equality.

LGBTQ+ people have often been in a marginalized position in society, and that seems especially true now, when laws are being passed in many state legislatures targeting transgender folk.

I heard a good presentation earlier this month in my home church, Red River Unitarian Universalist Church in Denison, TX, by Adrian Hinman, a young non-binary person who spoke on the topic "For the good of society."

Hinman pointed out the need for all who oppose the religious right's targeting of trans people to speak up on their behalf, to become allies.

"Both Texas and Oklahoma are unsafe for transgender people right now," they said.

Actions that such allies can do include: contacting one's legislators to oppose anti-trans legislation; donating to Go Fund Me accounts to help fund transgender surgery for individuals who feel the surgery is right for them; and correcting acquaintances when they make transphobic jokes.

Supporting trans people doesn't always require large, bold steps, Hinman said. It can be as simple as escorting a trans person to a restroom, to help ensure their safety.

I admit that I am an imperfect ally. I sometimes forget to use people's correct personal pronouns. I'm trying to do better.

I have learned, from a couple of websites that Hinman mentioned in their talk, transequality.org and thetrevorproject.org, much helpful information about how to be a better ally.

Here are a couple of guiding principles for any who wants to be allies to marginalized people in our society. (These are specific to supporting LGBTQ folk, but they can be adapted for the support of people of color, people with disabilities, immigrants, and others who may find themselves on the fringes of society.):

We can educate ourselves about what it means to be non-binary. Although we may not fully understand another person's feelings about their gender designation—and we needn't further burden transgender persons by demanding explanations from them—we can all respect another person's stated identity.

If we make a mistake in referring to someone who's non-binary—using the wrong pronoun, for instance—we can apologize and move on. We need not make a big deal of every mistake, since mistakes are part of learning. But we need to keep trying to do better.

Reasons to try to be a better ally for transgender people include these:

1. It's the right thing to do, to treat others as we would want to be treated.
2. It's easier for us, who are not part of a marginalized group, to take a stand. Like it or not, we are the privileged. And with privileges come responsibilities.
3. Knowing people that are "different" in some way—from diverse backgrounds or with unfamiliar challenges—enriches our own lives.

Just as becoming friends with someone from a different country and another culture can open a part of the world to us that we hadn't known before, getting to know a trans person (with whatever individual interests and abilities they have) can expand our experience of what it means to be human.

Adrian Hinman enriches our church in numerous ways. They sometimes speak during worship services. They organize clothing swaps, to which people donate clothing they no longer need and from which others take garments they can use. And they periodically lead "games nights," which attract people to the church to play board games and solve puzzles, just for fun.

Being an ally of a trans person isn't just something we can do FOR that person; it's also something we can do FOR ourselves.

Welcoming Congregation update

WOW! What a month of Pride & your WCC was present & active in our community like never before!

We supported the Grayson Pride Organization's fundraising efforts at their Maker's Market that highlighted local LGBTQIA+ craftspeople & small businesses by hosting our own very popular booth! We helped people make their own buttons, selling quilt raffle tickets & talking up RedRiverUU while handing out swag & lollipops.

Jack & Sherilyn also ripped RedRiverUU at Grayson Pride's Midsummer Night's Drag Show at Austin College! We ran the Hella Heel Throwing booth & watched an absolutely amazing show.

Closer to home, Adrian presented "For the Good of Society" about the prescience of historic threats and violence against everyone on the LGBTQIA+ spectrum. If you missed Adrian's address & Jack's helping with the readings, you can catch it on the church's YouTube channel or, if you are reading the e-Edition of this month's newsletter, tap/click [here](#) to watch the whole morning assembly [44:53 min], and [here](#) to watch the readings & Adrian's discourse [25:39 min].

Finally, as we pass the Summer Solstice & head towards the last half of the year, we are busy planning for the Grayson Pride Festival, another service in November and lots more in 2024!

Minister Search Team

Our last meeting was held on June 15th. at 2pm in the Alexander Room. We went over the UUA Profile questions that Marla has been working on. We all agreed that the answers look good. The next step will be to schedule a work session with Marla (and her computer) to go over the questions and answers and fill in any additional information that we come up with collectively.

We also reviewed the latest updates to the UUA's minister compensation package. When we first did this, we estimated a compensation target of \$89,383 for the first year. Since then, enough time has passed that the UUA has increased the salary by 3% a year for two years. Our new estimate for a compensation target is now \$96,237.

Our next meeting will be held on Sept 14th at 2pm in the Gil Alexander room. We will also be scheduling work sessions with Marla on the UUA church profile questionnaire and with Jana on her work on the church history.

Jim Holmes. *chair*

July Birthdays



03 Don Rogers
08 Jana Norris
10 David Dyer
13 Linn Cates
16 Susie Norris
26 Scott Bowie

Money Matters

In the month of May, we had total receipts of \$1,458.00. Total expenses for the month were \$3,608.41, leaving us with a net loss for the month of (\$2,150.41). The net loss for the month was primarily due to lower pledge income and to the timing of insurance payments.

Net loss for the fiscal year-to-date was (\$2,404.79). The year-to-date net loss was due to lower pledge income and expenses for garage repairs, partially offset by lower expenses in other categories.

As of May 31, 2023, we had \$8,029.71 available in checking. There is a total of \$20,647.17 in all savings accounts, including \$4,077.08 restricted for the Minister Fund and \$5,951.89 held in trust for Kat Walston from the sale of her personal effects prior to moving into assisted living. There is a total of \$66,784.40 invested in the UUA Common Endowment Fund. The congregation voted to use up to \$51,000.00 of the Endowment Fund for minister compensation, if needed.

A total of \$15,690 has currently been pledged for the minister's compensation fund. Additional pledges can be made by contacting the minister's search team.

Carole Harner, *treasurer*

Editor Note: Michelle Haynes is a friend of the congregation who hosted, along with her husband Jeff, a Moveable Feast last year. Their country home is a wonderful location for informal gatherings. They would warmly welcome folks from our church.



Hosted by Jeff and Michelle Haynes

55 Possom Trot Hollow Rd, Whitewright, TX 75491

R.S.V.P.s REALLY appreciated:

(949) 350-5335 | MichelleDeetsHaynes@Gmail.com

Saturday, July 1, 6:30 p.m.

- ❖ Live Music: The Oliver White Group
- ❖ "Keoni" ~our favorite professional bartender~ will serve up alc and non-alc delights in Rusty's Tavern
- ❖ Chef Jeff's amazing menu!

- BYOB + please bring an appy, side dish, or dessert
- We're in the country: fireworks are allowed!
- Pack a favorite lawn chair or picnic blanket
- Camp overnight, enjoy Sunday morn' PJs 'n' Pancakes
- Watch for signs for parking on the prairie

From our non resident poet

July 15 is National I Love Horses Day, a good day to horse around! July 1 is International Joke Day, a time for unbridled merriment! What could be better than celebrating July with a good horse laugh!

Why the Long Face? – by Don Mathis

The sadness in the horse's eye
seemed a bit displaced.
She seemed she was about to cry.
So, I asked, "Hay, Why the long face?"

"I fell down in the mud," she said,
"and I could not Giddy Up."
I thought of some horseplay I read
of a perfidious politician in a murky rut.

But this was not the 'Old Gray Mayor,'
the butt of a dirty joke.
This horse had dappled hair
and she looked at me and spoke,

"The vet couldn't make a horse call
and I didn't want to stirrup stress.
And whinny said he had to stall,
my tail of whoa became a mess.

"Medics thought I was foaling 'round,
that I was barn with low horsepower.
But my neigh-bor who lives uptown
said he could help in 'bout an hour.

"They took me to the horse-pital.
They thought I was lame.
The doctor fixed me up a little
from my tail up to my mane.

"I had to pony up some hay.
How sad for a thoroughbred!
I offered credit, but they said nay,
they only would take bread.

"I felt like a colt had run its course
on my neigh-kid neck.
Although I was just a little hoarse,
it cost my whole paycheck."

I felt so sorry for this horse,
her cure was an imposition.
But she said it could be worse;
she's listed in stable condition.

Our Leaders

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Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *Vice-President*
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Committee on Ministry:

Carolyn Cameron, Elbert Hill, Jim Holmes

Nominating:

Jana Norris, Jim Runnel, Linda Tracy

Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *Marilyn, Jim, Amy, Marion*

Aesthetics: *Doug*

Audio Visual: *Carole, Don, Jim, Marla*

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Membership: *Marion*

Minister Search: *David, Jana, Jim, Marilyn, Marla*

NTUUC Rep: *Marilyn*

RE Team: *David, Marilyn*

Safe Congregation Panel: *Marilyn*

Social Justice: *Jan*

Web Team: *Hannah, Jim, Marla*

Welcoming Congregation: *Adrian, Amy, Marla,*

Thomas, Jana, Jack, Sherilyn

Worship: *Dan, Jana, Marla, Walter*

Contact us

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