

# Red River Ramblings



AUGUST 2024 ~ VOL. 26, NO. 2

Street festival in Denison

Sunday, August 4, 2024 - 11:15 am

## Moving Forward with Love in the Center

Marla Loturco, *leading*

At the last General Assembly, delegates voted to approve the new [Article II of the UUA Bylaws](#). Six one-word values are highlighted in Article II that replaces our previous seven principles to broadcast our core values to the world.

This morning a brief exploration of these six values: Equality, Generosity, Justice, Interdependence, Pluralism, and Transformation that when practiced – individually or together – form the core of who we are as Unitarian Universalist: People with Love at the Center.

Sunday, August 11, 2024 - 11:15 am

## Invisible Bricks

Marla Loturco, *leading*

During the recent UUA Shared Pulpit Class which Marla attended, each participant explored how sermons differ from lectures. Crafting a sermon often starts by the preacher stumbling on a random quote that becomes the foundation of the resulting discourse. On Sunday, a sermon Marla crafted germinated by a quote in “*Blessed Are the Weird*” by Jacob Norby: “*When you no longer need approval from others like the air you breathe, the possibilities in life are endless. What an interesting little prison we build from the invisible bricks of other people’s opinions.*”

Sunday, August 18, 2024 - 11:15 am

## TBA

Jana Norris, *leading*

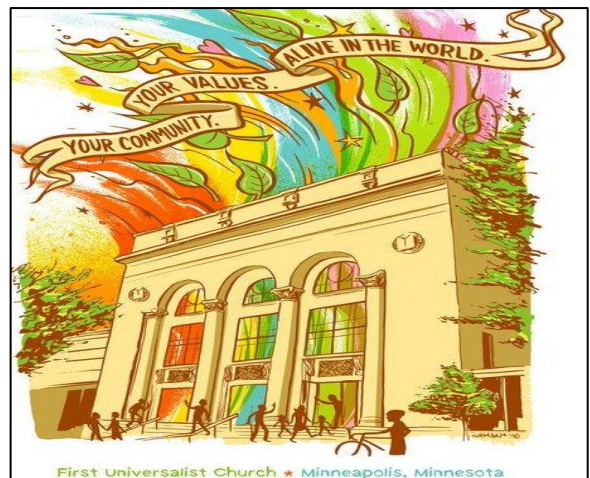
Recently both Jana and Marla completed a UUA course “The Shared Pulpit” in which each student was required to prepare and present a Sunday morning assembly - including the discourse. Marla shared hers last week. Jana will lead today’s morning assembly to share her discourse.

Sunday, August 25, 2024 - 11:15 am

## Reflections on Life After Doom

Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, *guest minister*

This discourse will explore Brian McLaren's most recent book, *Life After Doom*. McLaren believes that we cannot ignore that "unpeaceful, uneasy, and unwanted feeling" that the world is not as it should be, and we have to be awake to the reality of the peril of our current situation in order to experience and engage life more fully even in the midst of doom.



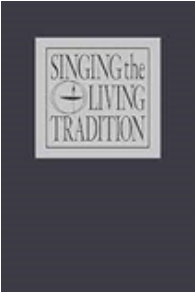
First Universalist Church • Minneapolis, Minnesota

## Update on the Pres!

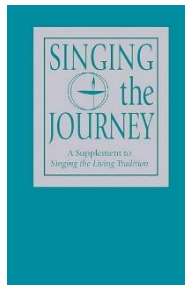


Jana has returned home and has participated in her work on the Search Team as well as leading the July Board of Trustees meeting. As with any of us when we're recovering from a stretch in both hospital and residential after-care, it happens that the energy we long for doesn't materialize when needed. Her spirits are good and with time her commitment and devotion to church will match her strength to engage and we look forward to having her smile and enthusiasm at full steam.

## Read the Sign . . .



Starting last month, each Sunday as you walk into the foyer you will see a new sign telling you which hymnal to pick up as you head to your seat in the chapel. Kindly remember to return all the hymnals to their home in the bookcase built into the front of the AV desk as you leave the chapel.



## Search Team report

The Minister Search Team and the Board have decided to officially change our minister search for a full-time minister to a half-time minister. We have made the changes in the UUA Minister Search portal and are also in discussion with NTUUC on how this impacts the grant.

**Believing only 12.5%  
of the Bible makes you  
an eighth theist.**

## Letter Writing Party Aug 17

August 17 from noon to 3 pm, volunteers are invited to help in the nonpartisan Get Out the Vote project of Texas UU Justice Ministry (TXUUJM) through our Social Action Team. This will be held during the Red River UU Rainbow Team's Free Children's Clothing Swap that day. You can help with the back-to-school clothing swap and help inspire people to vote on November 5.

There are several ways volunteers can help:

1. Write the postcards with the provided script
2. Address the postcards
3. Place labels with details for the 2 different counties we are assigned on the postcards ( Denton and Collin Counties).
4. Keep the cards organized by county
5. Create packets for volunteers who prefer to pick up postcards and work at home
6. Donate supplies or funds for the supplies (colorful ink pens, postcard stamps, & refreshments for volunteers).

TXUUJM is working with the Center for Common Ground on this "Reclaim Our Vote" postcard program. It's a colorful and encouraging project that uses a script that is approved by Center for Common Ground.

If you haven't participated in a postcard party before, come join us to have fun and promote democracy. Volunteers are caring people and Red River UU members fit the bill! Contact [Jan Fletcher](#) or [Amy Hoffman-Shehan](#) with any questions.

**Postcard writing party**

**GET OUT THE VOTE**

**Sat. Aug 17  
Noon - 3 at church**

**Goal: to write 500 cards!**

**See you there! PLEASE**



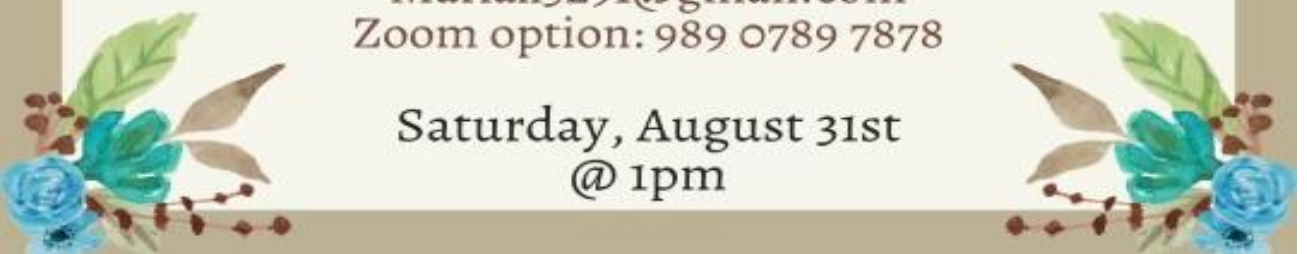
*Celebrating*  
The Beautiful Life Of



*Carolyn Cameron*

November 8, 1942– June 18, 2024

Red River Unitarian Universalist Church  
515 N Burnett Ave, Denison, TX 75020  
RSVP to Marla Loturco: (940) 367-3291  
Marlall3291@gmail.com  
Zoom option: 989 0789 7878



Saturday, August 31st  
@ 1pm

# Money Matters

In the month of June, we had total receipts of \$1,950.58. Total expenses for the month were \$4,355.46, leaving us with a net loss for the month of (\$2,404.88). The net loss for May was primarily due to the timing of income and to costs for supplies and training.

We had a net profit for the fiscal year-to-date of \$5,704.25. The year-to-date net profit was primarily due to higher other income and the prepayment of some pledges for next year. We also had lower expenses for worship, the church app, and religious education. These savings were partly offset by costs to improve building security and an additional donation to the Earth Day Festival.

As of June 30, 2024, we had \$15,761.76 available in checking. There is a total of \$20,755.10 in the bank savings account, including \$4,871.08 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 Savings Fund for minister compensation.

Carole Harner, *Treasurer*

# Social Action Event

Friends in Wichita Falls are reaching out to share information about an annual "Hotter Than Hell" bike ride to support the ICC's Grace Children's Hospital in Haiti. Learn details from Jeannine and Chuck Hatt - 903-870-6709 or 903-821-6799



The poster features the logo for Grace Children's Hospital International Child Care and the text "Race for Grace August 24, 2024". It includes a photo of a young boy and two cyclists. A QR code is provided for more information.

GRACE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
INTERNATIONAL CHILD CARE  
**Race for Grace**  
August 24, 2024

Join our Race for Grace Team as we ride in the Hotter 'n Hell 100 to benefit Grace Children's Hospital and bring health and hope to Haiti's children and families.

Visit our booth at Hotter'n Hell to get a chance to win a carbon road bike made by Giant!

Learn more by scanning the QR code today!

# Kid's Clothing Swap Aug 17



Our next Kid's Clothing Swap will again be held in the chapel, on Aug 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 - 2. This event is for kids' clothes only. Unfortunately, accepting all sizes quickly becomes a storage issue, so we must politely decline. Adult sizes may be donated elsewhere or given to textile recyclers.

# August Calendar

## EVERY SUNDAY

- Adult Forum - 10-11 am
- Morning Assembly - 11:15-12:15
- Conversations & Calories 12:15-1 pm

## EVERY WEEK

- Mondays - OverEaters 6-7 pm
- Tuesdays - Spiritual Perspectives 6:30-8 pm
- Wednesdays - the UPDATE arrives in your inbox

## DURING THE MONTH

- Aug 14 - The Rainbow Team meeting 1-2 pm
- Aug 15 - Minister Search Team 2-3 pm
- Aug 17 - Kids Clothing Swap
- Aug 17 - Postcard Writing Party noon-3 (see article)
- Aug 18 - Board of Trustees - 1-2 pm
- Aug 24 - **Newsletter Deadline** - 10 pm
- Aug 28 - Worship Team - 6:30 via Zoom
- Aug 31 - Carolyn Cameron Memorial - 1 pm

# Facilities Report

Some of you may have noticed various work being done in and around the church building. We've received, from Marilyn Alexander's daughter Merrilee Kick, a generous donation honoring Marilyn Alexander that is underwriting the cost of the terminate abatement.

We have removed the termite damaged floor in the basement and have replaced it with concrete (after the termite treatment).

1. The building and garage have been treated with termite chemicals. These are nontoxic to pets and people and give off no fumes.
2. The back steps to the porch outside the kitchen have been replaced with new, treated wood. The porch has been cleaned and new flooring material installed.
3. The iron railing on the outside porches has been painted.
4. The grout on the outside and inside of the foundation is being repaired and the outside will be painted.
5. The kitchen is being upgraded with new cabinets, flooring, and wall paint and a stove is being added which also requires some electrical work.
6. Several other small, miscellaneous things are also being done.

So, forgive any inconvenience this may cause, especially when we start in the kitchen.

Jim Holmes, *facilities manager*

# August Birthdays

06 Linda Tracy  
09 Helen Schulze  
10 Lisa Cates  
13 Debra Biasi \*  
23 Jim Murphy  
29 Carolyn Fridley  
31 Doug Strong



Were you born in August but are not Listed here?  
Email [Marla](mailto:Marla) when your Birthday is & it will appear next year.

# Our non-resident Poet...

*August 2 is National Ex-Girlfriend Day; a time to acknowledge the transformative power of relationships, even after they have ended. It is a day to reflect on past love, to appreciate the lessons learned, and maybe even learn something about yourself – or not.*

## Sleeping with Pride

By Don Mathis

*Pride is the name of my new lover.  
I sleep with her. don't need another  
I'm picky with whom I share my covers.*

*I don't mind my old Love has gone.  
I've got my Pride. I'm never alone.  
I live my life free and on my own.*

*My dear Pride is the one for me.  
She is all I need for company.  
She's the only one I care to see.*

*There was a time that I believed  
Love was all I'd ever need.  
Then Love walked out. but I don't grieve.*

*With Pride. there's no deception.  
I need not ever fear rejection.  
Or is Pride really a misconception?*

# Our Leaders

## Board of Trustees:

Jana Norris, *President*  
Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *Vice-President*  
Carole Harner, *Treasurer*  
Don Rogers, *Secretary*  
David Dyer, *Trustee*

## Committee on Ministry:

Elbert Hill, Jim Holmes, \_\_\_\_\_

## Nominating:

Liz, Paula, Marilyn

## Our Various Teams:

*The first name is the team leader*

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

**Aesthetics:** Amy, Jana, Adrian

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

**Caring Circle:** David

**Choir:** Marilyn, Bill, Jan, Byron, Cindy, Doug

**Earth Day Planning:** Amy, Marla, Jan, Megan, Cristin

**Endowment:** Doug

**Facebook Admin:** Amy

**Facilities:** Jim

**Finance:** Carole, Jim, Marilyn

**Grounds:** Marilyn, Paul

**Historian:**

**Long Range Planning:** Jim, Marilyn

**Membership:** Paula, Marla, Doug, Amy, Adrian

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

**Monarch Way Station:** Lynn, Paula

**Moveable Feast:** Elbert & Marion

**Music:**

**NTUUC Rep:** Marilyn

**Publications:** Doug

**Rainbow Team:** Jack, Adrian, Amy, Billie, Cristin,  
Jana, Olivia, Sherilyn, Thomas

**RE Team:** Jack

**Safe Congregation Panel:** Jana

**Social Justice:** Jan

**Web Team:** Jim, Hannah, Marla

**Worship:** Marla, Dan, Jan

# Connect with us

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our [Facebook](#)

our [LGBTQ+ Facebook](#)

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