



Sunday January 5, 2025

11:15 am – The Morning Assembly

**Our Shared Values: *Justice***

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

We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive.

We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregations, our Association, and society at large.

Sunday January 12, 2025

11:15 am – The Morning Assembly

**Our Shared Values: *Transformation***

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

We adapt to the changing world.

We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

**From the church Calendar for January:**

- Adult Forum: Sundays @ 10 am
- Morning Assembly: Sundays @ 11:15
- OverEaters Anonymous: Mondays @ 6-7 pm
- Spiritual Perspectives: Tuesdays @ 6:30-8 pm
- Jan 11 – free kids clothing swap
- Jan 12 – Rainbow Team mtg 1-2 pm
- Jan 12 – Board Games 2-5 pm

Email items for the calendar to:

[webteam@redriveruu.org](mailto:webteam@redriveruu.org)

Sunday January 19, 2025

11:15 am – The Morning Assembly

**A Ritual of Letting Go, Cleansing, Intention, and Hope.**

**The Worship Team, *leading***

Today's morning assembly is about letting go, metaphoric cleansing and quenching of thirst, setting of intentions, self-anointing, healing, new beginnings, and possibilities. It is a service of words, music, and the ritual of the burning bowl. At each stop around the circle of flame, water, oil, and light, each one of you becomes your own healer, priest/priestess, minister, teacher. It is your circle of release, cleansing, intention, and hope to walk.

Sunday January 26, 2025

**Freedom as Liberating Love**

**The Rev. Renee Ruchotzke, *video message***

The results of the November 2024 election have shown that many of our neighbors don't share the same vision of what kind of world we want to live in. Christian Nationalism has been on the rise and democracy is under attack. In this service, we explore how the recently adopted UU Shared Values can help us model a compelling alternative. The Rev. Reneé Ruchotzke, UUA Congregational Life Staff, Central East Region.

## "Share the Bowl" History

Before Covid19 Red River Unitarian Universalists had a tradition of Share the Bowl. At the time we did it just one Sunday a month. However, it is recommended that that churches do it every Sunday. In this practice, all cash that is deposited in the bowl each Sunday is donated to charity unless it is otherwise designated.

Currently we have two charities we donate to. The Texoma Earth Day Festival and The Texoma Family Shelter.

The Worship Team would like to restart the weekly cash donation going to these two charities. We would collect for six months and then divide the proceeds between the two entities. This is also a social justice program as well.

Comments from other churches on their Share the Plate efforts:

"So often there seems to be a disconnect between what we do in our worship and the real-world expression of our values. This practice makes a clear and intentional connection. I think members are hungry for concrete ways to regularly express their values. And this is more tangible for people than just giving a percentage of the budget." Dupage Unitarian Universalist Church in Naperville, Illinois member Dean Reschke says of their sharing program. \*

James Lieb, a member of the East Brunswick congregation, said he had not been in the habit of putting money in the bowl, apart from pledge payments, until the congregation began giving the money away. "Now that the money goes for a special purpose, I'll put in \$10 for whatever the cause is. It's only a few hundred dollars a year for me, but when you add it to what everyone else donates, it adds up. And it also opens up one's perspective. I'm giving to charities I'd never heard of before. It feels like an incredibly positive thing to do.\*

\*For more information check out the UUWorld article [here](#).

## Spiritual Perspectives ...

Is starting a new discussion this month by exploring *Sacred Nature, Restoring Our Ancient Bond with the Natural World* by Karen Armstrong. She is not unknown within Unitarian Universalist circles; in fact, she delivered the prestigious Ware Lecture at our 2011 General Assembly. If you are interested in exploring her work, you might enjoy watching the 57-minute video of her Ware Lecture [here](#).

## January Birthdays



03 – Bill Holloway  
05 – Hannah Peterson  
09 – Kelly Cofield-Dyer  
26 – John Biasi  
26 – Megan Hutchinson

## Money Matters

As of November 30, 2024, we had \$23,589.04 available in checking for general operations. There was also \$9,934.74 available in the bank savings account for general operations plus \$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. In addition, we invested a total of \$66,784.40 in the UUA Common Endowment Fund. The congregation voted to use up to \$51,000.00 of the UUA Savings Fund for minister compensation. *Carole Harner, Treasurer.*

# Our Non-resident Poet

National Coffee Break Day is celebrated annually on January 20. Celebrate the day with your favorite blend, with a new brewing technique, or with a poem.

## My Cup Runneth Over

— by Don Mathis

When I was a little pup,  
Grandma would splash coffee in my cup  
of milk and I would drink it up.

One of the things she'd enjoy most  
was to take a piece of toast  
and 'baptize' it in Maxwell's roast.

As she sat there drinking  
her coffee, her eyes twinkling,  
God knows what she was thinking.

It was almost like a ritual,  
partly habit, partly mystical,  
down to earth, but also spiritual.

Now I'm old but I can see  
how that kind of memory  
has helped define the present me.

As I grew a little older,  
I liked my coffee a little bolder  
and soon I left my brand of Folgers.

I'd run it through the filter twice  
just to make it hot and nice,  
but still the taste would not suffice.

I would grind the beans a little rough  
but I just couldn't get enough  
so, I tried that espresso stuff.

I knew it was probably wrong  
to like my coffee super-strong  
so, it wasn't very long

I began to see little critters  
running around with caffeine jitters  
after drinking about three liters.

One side effect from my fixation  
on the pleasures of caffeination  
was my favorite hallucination.

Sometimes the cup itself  
would hop down from the shelf  
with the legs of a tiny elf

And fill itself from the coffee pot,  
nice and steaming, screaming hot,  
and then it would actually trot

With style, elegance, and flair,  
leaping wild without a care,  
my cup runneth over to my chair!

## Our Elected Leaders

### Board of Trustees

Jana Norris, *President*

Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *Vice president*

Carole Harner, *Treasurer*

Billie Barber, *Secretary*

David Dyer, *Trustee at large*

### Committee on Ministry

Jim Holmes, Elbert Hill, Bruce Cameron

### Nominating

Liz Rapp, Marilyn Alexander, Jack Bolerjack

## Our Various Teams

*The first name is the team leader*

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

**Aesthetics:** Amy, Adrian Jana

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

**Caring Circle:** David, Paula, Susie

**Choir,** Marilyn, Bill, Cindy, Doug

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

**Endowment:** Doug

**Facebook Admin:** Amy

**Finance:** Carole, Jim, Marilyn

**Grounds:** Marilyn, Paula

**Historian:**

**Long Range Planning:** Jim, Marilyn

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

**Minister Search:** Jim, Liz, Marilyn, Marla, Walter

**Monarch Way Station:** Linn, 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, Adrian, Dan