



February 2, 2025 – 11:15 am

**Reflections on our Shared Values: Generosity**

Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies

Generosity – We Cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

February 9, 2025 – 11:15 am

**Wise Choices**

The Rev. Dr. Elaine Strawn – *video message*

As the proverb goes, we are surely blessed by living in interesting times! But a blessing? Joanna Macy writes of the Great Turning; Rutger Bregman's research reminds us that humans are evolutionarily decent and friendly. What kind of world will you create, will we create? Together, as we calm our fears, we recognize the deep Wisdom within. Together we develop our awareness and flexibility. And together we become a force for transformation. Presented by Rev. Dr. Elaine Strawn, UUA Congregational Life Staff, Central East Region.

February 16, 2025 – 11:15 am

**Reflections on our Shared Values: Equity**

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

Equity – We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love,

and compassion. We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.

February 23, 2025 – 11:15 am

**The Significance of Ramadan**

Dr. Riem Rostom – *video message*

This year, the holy month of Ramadan is expected to begin on Friday, Feb. 28, or Saturday, March 1, 2025. The exact timing is based on the sighting of the moon. For practicing Muslims is a time for reflection, prayer, fasting, doing charitable deeds and spending time with family. Adults fast during daylight hours, abstaining from food and drink as an important self-discipline to show devotion to their faith and become closer to Allah. At the end of Ramadan, *Eid al-Fitr* a three-day celebration as they break their fast. Ramadan is the fourth of the five pillars of Islam. The other four are one. declaration of faith, 2. the five daily prayers, 3. charity. 4. Pilgrimage to Mecca

*This week's morning assembly is presented by Dr. Riem Rostom, a professor of mechanical engineering at Indiana State University. Her topic - Ramadan, the holy month of fasting in the Muslim faith – is a way for us to learn about this holiday*



## From the President...

The holidays have somehow sped by, and suddenly we are not only in January, but at the end of it. We have a lot coming up as we leap into an exciting year.

Did you catch last week's UPDATE? This year's **30 Days of Love** kicked off with Week One: *We Are Home*, from the Immigrant Justice Coalition led by United We Dream. This week's UPDATE included Week Two: Trans People Are Divine from the creators of the Black Trans Prayer Book. The three brief videos are well worth watching. Each week also offers exercises, a body practice, a journaling practice, and a creative practice. Our last Update featured the link for the first week. It is worth setting time aside for. Is this something we would like to work through as a group?

Our Annual Appreciation Luncheon will be held after the morning assembly on February 23rd. Every single one of you is welcome, and every single one of you is appreciated. At a recent workshop, Marilyn and I heard people from other churches say, "Oh, we would love to do this, but we only have 60 members." " Oh, we would love to do that, but we only have 150 members." Red River UU was doing everything because we are an amazing group. This is how we keep liberal religious values alive.

Have you ever been asked what you believe in as a UU and floundered as you tried to gather your thoughts to give a cogent, meaningful answer? NTUUC is offering us a three-hour workshop (one hour per week) on April 2, 9, and 16 that will teach us to collect and edit our thoughts into a concise, short speech, the kind you could give if someone on an elevator asked you about your faith. Let's do this together. Put these dates on your calendars. It is a Zoom gathering, but let's all gather in the Chapel so we can do it together. It will be fun learning from each other.

By the end of spring, we are going to be loved and appreciated, have new tools for navigating life and our faith, and we will be an even more amazing group.

I love you all

**Jana Norris,**  
*president*

## Our Rainbow Team ...

Howdy y'all! This month has been so busy! We had our first meeting of 2025 & debriefed 2024. We have decided on some changes for the coming year that we hope will make people happier than ever & will encourage others to join our causes of justice, visibility & peace.

Our first Kids Clothing Swap had to be postponed for a week to send Canada back her weather, but we were still able to serve ten families and take down nearly all of Christmas.

We are selling T-shirts! As a fund-raising activity for the Rainbow Team & to show solidarity and our church's Pride, we have designed a shirt that we feel embodies us. Please see any member of our Rainbow Team or follow our Face Book page to get the details!



Speaking of details, here's the details for our next event! The Fae & Fairy Tea Party will be on Saturday, February 8th, from 2-4 pm at the church. You may dress as your favorite version of someone or something from your fantasy Fae & Fairy world & we will have prizes! Amy will again be teaching us about tea & tea service while a lovely assistant helps pour. Fabulous food & photo ops will abound! Please join us for a friendly non-Valentine event that will be sure to entertain and enlighten! Can't wait to see you there!

**Jack Bolerjack**

## February Birthdays



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

## Earth Day Planners

The planning committee for the Texoma Earth Day Festival will meet on Thursday, February 13 at 6:00 pm at the church. The festival will be April 26, 2025.

The festival always includes children's activities, workshops, vendors, displays, demonstrations, music, and drive through recycling. The Red River UU Rainbow Team will hold a free kid clothing swap at the festival.

This year's festival will coincide with the Sherman Symphony Orchestra's Spring Concert, and we are collaborating with the director of the orchestra to coordinate a transition between the two events. Recycled art shows coordinated by TCOG (Texoma Council of Governments) and Sherman ISD early childhood centers will remain on display for the reception following the concert. Awards will be given to winners in the TCOG art show during the reception.

Sherman's new professional soccer team Texoma FC has a game that evening at Bearcat Stadium adjacent to the festival. Their marketing manager reached out to coordinate activities, and we will meet with him very soon.

Anyone interested in joining the planning team is invited to reach out to Amy and attend the February 13 meeting. There will be volunteer opportunities for everyone during the festival.

## 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 TOOTHACHE DAY - February 9](#)



by Don Mathis

**B**ig John, he was a Buddhist.

**A**nd he hated to go to the dentist.

**H**e once cried for Novocain.

**H**e didn't want any pain.

**B**ecause the fear, he couldn't resist.

**N**ow John was cold with perspiration,  
but he muttered with some hesitation,

"**N**o Novocain this time.

**I**t's matter over mind.

**I**'m trying to Transcend Dental Medication."

# Annual Appreciation Gala

This year's Annual Appreciation Gala will be Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, immediately following the morning assembly.

- *When eating bamboo sprouts, remember those who planted them.* ~ Chinese Proverb
- *Silent gratitude isn't much use to anyone.* ~ G.B. Stern
- *We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle our inner spirit.* ~ Albert Schweitzer
- *The smallest thanks are always worth more than the effort it takes to give it.* ~ Unknown

Ours in a small congregation filled with people who work hard in a variety of ways to assure that we continue to be a sanctuary for religious liberals in Texoma. Each February we set aside time to come together and pat each other on the back; to give hugs; to shake hands; to tell one another how grateful we are for the work they do.

This year's gala starts after we finish worship, and everyone is invited to come. Members, Friends, Visitors alike! Enjoy a time of appreciation – offered and accepted.

It is during this gathering that a special award is given to a member whose efforts are noted and appreciated by everyone. The Bruce Cameron Distinguished Service Award is given in recognition of extraordinary volunteer service to the life of this congregation and to the cause of Unitarian Universalism.

It is the most prestigious award given by the Red River Unitarian Universalist Church and represents the congregation's gratitude, appreciation, and recognition for volunteer efforts of individual members. This Award is a tribute to Bruce Cameron who through his involvement, dedication and outstanding service to the church community has created a level of commitment unaccomplished by anyone else. His work was beyond the normal service contributed by members of our beloved community, and it is with profound appreciation and respect that this Award be named in his honor.

A wall plaque in the chapel lists those in our midst who have received the award over the years. The first recipient was Carolyn Cameron. Previous awardees nominate potential recipients and then all vote on the nominees with the winner announced at the Appreciation gala.



Jan Fletcher was diagnosed with an ongoing illness in the fall. It is treatable and she is on a long road to recovery. She recently had a setback

and is at T.M.C. She is improving but best not to visit right now. Cards, however, would be nice for Jan to receive.

Send to:

Texoma Medical Center  
5016 South US Hwy 75  
Denison TX 75020  
Attn: Jan Fletcher ICU Rm 712.



As we navigate the challenges ahead, including President-Elect Trump's second term and its impact on BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) leaders and communities, we call on you to deepen your relationships with [DRUUMM](#), Diverse Revolutionary UU Multi-cultural Ministries. DRUUMM and BIPOC colleagues.

Our chaplain team, steering committee, and staff continue to provide vital spaces for healing, organizing, and mutual support. But we need your active allyship. How can we collectively ensure spaces of safety, mutual relationship, and inclusivity in our congregations and leadership? What intentional steps can we take to bridge the gap between our values and our practices? Reflect on your connections, assess inclusivity in your leadership, and commit to actions that go beyond gestures—actions that build true solidarity and equity.

We encourage you to [read our full letter](#), which shares key experiences and calls for deeper engagement, mutual accountability, and sustained allyship.

Together, we can build a faith community that thrives on equity and shared purpose.

In community,

DRUUMM Chaplain Team *Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Rev. Katie Romano Griffin, Rev. Xolani Kacela, Rev. Cathy Chang, Rev. Sangye Hawke, Rev. Claudia Jimenez* | DRUUMM Steering Committee *Esperanza Flores Garza, Tomi Fatunde, Rev. Carol Thomas Cissel, Michelle Venegas-Matula, Sean Alphonse, Karin Lin, Rev. Verdis Robinson, Karishma Gottfried, Devin Dadah* | DRUUMM Staff *Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons, Noemi de Guzman, LJ Williams*

## Our Various Teams

*The first name is the team leader*

**Adult Forum:** Marilyn, Amy, Cristin, Jim, Marion  
**Aesthetics:** Amy, Adrian Jana  
**Audio Visual:** Jim, Carole, Liz, Marla  
**Caring Circle:** Paula, David, Susie  
**Choir:** Marilyn, Bill, Cindy, Doug  
**Children's R.E. Teacher:** Shanna (Jack)  
**Children's Clothing Swap:** Adrian, Amy, Cristin, Jim, Sherilyn  
**Committee on Ministry:** Bruce, Elbert, Jim  
**Communications,** Amy, Doug, Marion  
**Earth Day Planning:** Amy, Bruce, Cristin, Jan, Jim, Marla, Martina, Megan, Michelle  
**Endowment:** Doug  
**Facebook Admin:** Amy  
**Finance:** Carole, Jim, Marilyn  
**Good Times Team,** Amy, Bill, Carole, Cindy, Elbert, Eva, George, Jim, Lisa, Liz, Marilyn, Marion, Pat, Paula, Samuel, Susie, Walter  
**Greeters:** Amy, Paula, Shanna, Sherilyn, Susie, Walter  
**Grounds:** Marilyn, Paula  
**Historian:** Marla  
**IT Support:** Jim  
**Long Range Planning:** Bruce, Jim, Marilyn  
**Membership:** Susie, Amy, Adrian, Doug, Marion, Marla, Paula  
**Minister Search:** Jim, Liz, Marilyn, Marla, Walter  
**Monarch Way Station:** Linn, Michelle, Paula, Sherilyn, Susie  
**Moveable Feast:** Elbert & Marion, Amy, Bruce, Carole, Cindy, David, Doug, Jan, Jana, Joyce, Kelly, Liz, Marilyn, Marla, Michelle, Susie, Walter,  
**Music:** Dan, Jan  
**NTUUC Rep:** Marilyn  
**Publications:** Doug  
**Rainbow Team:** Jack, Adrian, Amy, Billie, Cristin, Jana, Jamie, Jana, John, Lisa, Lynda, Olivia, Sherilyn, Thomas  
**RE Support Team:** David, Marilyn  
**Safe Congregation Panel:** Jana  
**Spiritual Perspectives Group:** Jim, Liz, Melleissa  
**Social Justice:** Jan  
**TUUUM Rep:** Jan  
**Web Team:** Jim, Hannah, Marla  
**Worship:** Marla, Adrian, Dan  
**Worship Associates:** Adrian, Cristin, Jana, Marilyn, Marla, Megan. Paula. Thomas

## Our Elected Leaders

### Board of Trustees

Jana Norris, *President*  
Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *Vice president*  
Carole Harner, *Treasurer*  
\_\_\_\_\_, *Secretary*  
David Dyer, *Trustee at large*

### Committee on Ministry

Jim Holmes, Elbert Hill, Bruce Cameron

### Nominating

Marilyn Alexander, Liz Rapp, Shanna (Jack) Bolerjack

## Connect with Us

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