



# Red River Ramblings

June 2025 ♦ Volume 25 ♦ Issue 12

June 1, 2025 - 11:15 am

In this issue:

Welcoming  
two new  
members!



Special survey  
for you to  
complete (re-  
garding our  
Sunday Morn-  
ing Assem-  
blies.)

DEADLINE IS  
WED. Jun 4!!



5<sup>th</sup> Sunday all  
church pot-  
luck! Bring a  
dish to share.



A poem for  
Father's Day

## Human Rights

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

"Human Rights" - We hear a lot of talk about the rights granted by the United States Constitution, but even more fundamental than our constitutionally guaranteed rights are our universal human rights that are shared by every person on earth and ought to be respected by all persons whether one is a citizen of the United States or not.

June 8, 2025 - 11:15 am

## Point of Pride

The Rainbow team, *leading*

The focus of this morning assembly will be WHY we started PRIDE & why it's needed.

June 15, 2025 - 11:15 am

## Collaboration

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

When it comes to the most important things in life and as we face the most urgent challenges of our time, we cannot go it alone. Community and collaboration are key to our personal and social well-being.

June 22, 2025 - 11:15 am

## When the Storm Comes, We Move Together

The Rev. Summer Albayati, *leading (video message)*

There is so much change happening right now that it may feel as if the entire world is in a storm. How do we find the way to move with and through the storm? Not running for cover but finding who we must become to ride it out and emerge triumphant.

When the storm settles, as it must, how do we help to keep the house from blowing away?

June 22, 2025 - 11:15 am

## A Different Kind of Morning

The Worship Team, *leading*

At the Congregational Meeting in May, several people said they wanted to try some diverse types of mornings. The worship team has decided to make this fifth Sunday in June one of our trials. We will have a short service and then break into small groups to talk about special questions, provided by the Worship Team.



## Meet Eva and George Novak



**Eva was raised by parents** who were not overly religious. Attended Baptist church in high school, but a few years later began quest for more information. Found Joseph Campbell.

Interests include books, movies, music (listening), gardening, travel, family. Former teacher, technical writer/editor. Programmers, project manager, quality analyst. Worked at EDS in Plano 20 years and Lockheed Martin in Ft. Worth for 10. Retired 2014. BA, SOSU; MA, Oklahoma University. Studied English and Journalism Education.

Married to George, stepchildren, Adam, and Judi. Adopted daughter, Galixa. Three grandsons. Raised primarily in Antlers, OK. Live briefly in Colorado, and Oregon. Husband and I built our current home after retiring from Lockheed Martin. We're very happy with it.

**George was raised** a Roman Catholic, Russian Orthodox household. Catholic grade school. Humanists since 1997. He continues ... Adopted at 4 mo. From Catholic Charities by wonderful parents, raised in blue collar environment in western PA, with lots of freedom. I migrated to Texas in 1981. Worked and raised family in Ft Worth area. MBA after 10 years of night school. Single parent of 2 children from 1987-97. Met Eva in 1997 and married in '98. Adopted Ukrainian child in 2001. I retired to OK in 2014 with Eva. Retirement has been the best time in a very fortunate life.

27 years in Aerospace – principal systems engineer at Lockheed Ft Worth. 7 years at Motorola – distinguished member of technical staff. Early jobs as machinist and inspector. Various jobs since age 7. Avid reader, exercise regularly. Basketball, played until mid-forties. Enjoy music, movies, woodworking. Now engaged with PK state Democratic party.

Look for a report of the actions taken at the congregational meeting held at the May 18<sup>th</sup> congregational spring meeting in this week's UPDATE!

## From the President

I never know what to write about in these columns, which is why I so often don't. I come up with some fairly good ideas, but they seem fully fleshed out in a paragraph rather than a column. In the interest of having something to add to the monthly newsletter, I will try for a couple of paragraphs and see where it goes.

I have often noticed that we tend to sing most of our hymns in the key of dirge. A recent video showed that even the larger churches with good-sized choirs often suffer from this.

I have no training in music or in diction. I am not passing this off as expertise in anything. But let's try this. Let's sing our hymns while smiling. Let's see if it makes a difference. We want to find joy in our music, but I think we first must bring that joy. I can't even claim originality here. "Enjoy" originally meant "to make joyful" in Middle English.

For the next month, let's bring whatever joy we can scoop up to church and let it shine forth in our singing. Smile and mean it. Let's see what our combined joy and merge into and become.

Jana Norris, *president*

## Birthdays in June



- 03 Rebecca Crystal
- 03 Thomas Garland
- 11 Marsha Runnels
- 17 Minnie Cantu
- 20 Sherilyn Bolerjack
- 26 Walter Norris

## Money Matters

In the month of April, we had total operating receipts of \$3,547.00. Total operating expenses for the month were \$5,345.88, leaving us with a net loss for the month of (\$1,798.88). The net loss for the month was due to the timing of pledge payments.

For the fiscal year-to-date we had an operating net profit of \$5,454.74. The year-to-date net profit was due to the timing of pledge payments for the current year and the prepayment of some pledges for next year, in addition to lower worship and communication expense.

Marilyn Alexander's daughter, Merrilee Kick, donated \$60,361.00 this year to cover repairs and renovations. A total of \$57,035.07 has been spent. That leaves \$3,325.93 remaining in this fund as of March 31.

As of April 30, 2025, we had \$24,534.65 available in checking for general operations. There was also \$9,939.91 available in the bank savings account plus \$4,871.08 restricted for the Minister Fund and \$5,951.89 held in trust for Kat Walston. In addition, we invested a total of \$66,784.40 in the UUA Common Endowment Fund in 2020, which has increased in value. The congregation voted to use up to \$51,000.00 of the UUA Savings Fund for minister compensation.

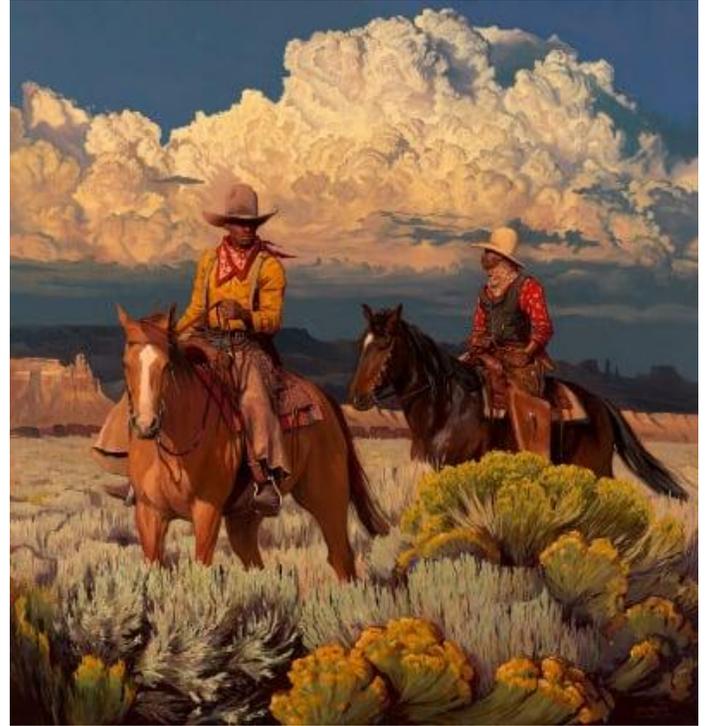
Carole Harner, *treasurer*

## Worship Team Meeting

Our faithful worship team is meeting on Wednesday, June 4 @ 6:30 via Zoom. The team will be reviewing those questionnaires that those who attending the Spring Congregational Meeting completed. Since worship is the most important part of the life of any religious institution, the team will be reaching out to those who volunteered to be an independent scout looking for ways to enrich our Sunday Morning Assemblies.

During the meeting there will be a review of the questionnaire completed by those who attended the May congregational meeting. The results may well change what we do on Sundays. If you want to be part of creating worship, you will find attending this month's Worship Team meeting an effective way to learn more about keeping what we do on Sundays inviting, challenging, and rewarding. The Zoom meeting ID is 989 0789 7878 and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm.

## From our non-resident Poet



Mark Maggiori, *Once Upon a Time* (image courtesy of Briscoe Western Art Museum)

*A painting can inspire a poem. A remembrance can add texture. A Father's Day reflection can provide depth. RedRiverUU wishes a Happy Father's Day to all good men everywhere.*

## LOUDY MEMORIES

by Don Mathis

The stratus in the distance  
lies flat like a memory of a memory  
Grey recollections begin to form  
swirling, joining, dissipating, uniting again  
Mammatus memories begin to build  
shaped by the weight of lenticular light  
Remembrances rise like cumulus  
into the atmosphere  
Cirrus shapes shift,  
lifting on the latitude, altitude,  
attitude, all rising  
And there in the cumulonimbus  
near the top of the troposphere,  
I see the face of my father

# Rainbow Team Update

HAPPY PRIDE MONTH!!! This month we celebrate all things diversity! There are Pride parades & celebrations all over the world this month & this year they are exponentially more important.

The Grayson PRIDE Prom was the evening of May 31st in the Municipal Ballroom and Jack & Cristin helped serve food as ambassadors of our team. The theme was "Enchanted Forest" and the evening lived up to that in every way! The outfits, from tailed tuxedos to a blue elf, were amazing and the DJ kept everyone entertained with fabulous iconically queer dance music and impressive karaoke. Thanks to the ladies at our Ally church, Grace United Methodist, there were divine ham & cheese & pimento cheese sandwiches along with salad & fresh fruit. A local member of the queer community created a diabetic nightmare of a dessert table that included lots of delicious offerings. Mocktails were served & a professional photographer was present to save the memories for anyone who so desired. All in all, a night to remember.

The Rainbow Team will be telling you all about it on June 8th with our service, Point of PRIDE. We will discuss a little of the history but more importantly, what it means now & how important PRIDE will be moving forward.

Grayson PRIDE is June 21st at the Municipal Ballroom & Kidd Key Park. Our church & the Rainbow Team will be there with a booth of our own, representing our Beloved Community. It is free to attend so please, as members & Allies for the Rainbow community, come & join us in a most important show of solidarity & joy.

The T-shirts are in!! Amy picked them up & we will be distributing them over the next couple of weeks! Find a Rainbow Team member to learn more!

It is with a mix of sadness & joy that we say "See ya later!" to Adrian & Marko. They are off on their next big adventure this month as they relocate to a state much more Trans friendly & more amenable for people living with autism: Minnesota. Please feel free to wish them well on their journey.

Lastly, this month also brings us Juneteenth, also called Emancipation Day, Freedom Day or Jubilee Day, it is the commemoration of June 19th, 1865, the day enslaved African Americans in Galveston, TX learned they were free. Locally, there will be a 3-day event at the Sherman MLK park June 19-21. Please go to [shermanparks.com](http://shermanparks.com) for more information.

## Our Various Teams

Open the list here.

## Our Elected or Appointed Leaders

### Board of Trustees

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

### Committee on Ministry

Jim Holmes, Elbert Hill, Bruce Cameron

### Nominating

Marilyn Alexander, Liz Rapp, Jack

## Connect with Us

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Red River Unitarian Universalists

515 North Burnett Ave

PO BOX 1806

Denison TX 75021-1806