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## December 2025 ♦ Vol 16, No 6

December 7, 2025 - 11:15 am

### Jane Goodall: A Life for Good

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

Reflections on Jane Goodall's good life for good, mixed with a few memories of the day I was privileged to spend with her in 2007 when she was a distinguished speaker at Oklahoma City University.

December 14, 2025 - 11:15 am

### Holidays of Light and Hope

The Worship Team, *leading*

Join us for a joyful and reflective service honoring the many holidays that illuminate December—Advent, Chanukah, Yule, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. Together we'll explore the shared themes of light, renewal, community, and hope that weave through these traditions. Through readings, music, and celebration, we'll embrace the rich diversity and spiritual resonance of this season of many stories.

December 21, 2025 - 11:15 am

### The Light of Our Chalice

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

On this day with the most darkness of the year, let us reflect on the rich meaning of the chalice in our Unitarian Universalist tradition and challenge ourselves to bring "the light of reason, the warmth of community, and the flame of hope" into a broken world.

December 28, 2025

### Beginnings and/or Endings

The Congregation

For this morning assembly, we invite you to bring something meaningful to share—stories, poems, songs, dances, or any expression that speaks to beginnings, endings, or the space in between. If you have a short YouTube video you'd like included as your sharing, please send the link to Marla by December 23. Let's create a rich and reflective experience together through the many ways we express transition and transformation.

## Mutual Aid Results: New Social Action

During the discussion period after the Mutual Aid with Dean Spade Presentation on Sunday, November 23, attendees (Chris “Mira” Mory, Cristin Mackey, Jim Holmes, Marla Loturco, Megan Hutchinson, and Thomas Garland) decided to re-form the Red River UU Social Action Team. The topics invigorated members to action. It is a natural flow of ideologies. The topics invigorated members to action. It is a natural flow of ideologies.

The discussion, or Asset Mapping, focused on aspects of resources of a community with the intention of leveraging those assets for the common good. We discussed positive traits of Red River UU based on our physical infrastructure, communications & technology, finance & liquid assets, volunteer & membership base, human resources, and partnerships.

However, an hour is not sufficient to fully discuss what’s good about Red River UU. And there is always room for improvement. To continue our discussion, it was agreed to set a time for our Social Action Team to meet regularly the fourth Sunday each month.

Beginning December 28 at 1 pm, Red River UU Social Action Team will meet to further explore ways we can increase our Solidarity as an organization so that we might further implement ways to support our community and Texoma. We would love to have you join us in this endeavor. For more information, contact me.

*Jan Fletcher*

*New Social Action Team leader*

972-897-5796.

## Treasurer’s Report

For the fiscal year-to-date period of July 1 through October 31, we had an operating net profit of \$7,511.96. This was due to the timing of pledge donations, partially offset by expenses for yardwork.

We continue to expect to have a loss this fiscal year due to lower pledges and additional expenses for yard work.

As of October 31, 2025, we had \$23,276.95 available to be used for general operations in our bank checking account, \$9,955.00 available in our bank savings account, and approximately \$23,967.06 available in our UUA savings fund. The amount available in the UUA savings fund varies based on market value. In addition, we have the following restricted amounts: \$4,871.08 in our bank savings account restricted for the Minister Fund; \$5,951.89 in our bank savings account held in trust for Kat Walston; \$424.67 in our

bank checking account for share the plate; \$16,518.51 in the endowment fund; \$51,000.00 restricted in the UUA Savings Fund for minister compensation; and \$21,053.06 restricted to cover continuing and renovations to the building and to increase visibility in the community in order to grow membership.

*Carole Harner,*

*Treasurer*

## Rainbow Team Update

Happy Holidays Framily! This is our Year in Review message for 2025.

2025 was a challenging year, both for me personally and for our group. Like a lot of churches who advocate thinking for yourself and learning & embracing others, we are struggling to stay together. Our Rainbow Team has had some issues, but we are working diligently to continue to spread our message of inclusivity and worth to everyone on our Rainbow Alphabet Framily.

We have led educational and emotional services for Transgender Day of Remembrance and Transgender Day of Visibility as well as for National Coming Out Day. We shared our unique perspectives and experiences of growing into our own skin. We have come to understand the gratitude that comes with knowing that we are freer to live our authentic lives than ever before in recorded human history.

We continue to support the efforts of Grayson County PRIDE by hosting a booth at the PRIDE Festival and volunteering at various events throughout the year, such as PRIDE Prom, drag shows and their first Friendsgiving in their new offices. By partnering with PRIDE, we are increasing exponentially our efforts to reach people who struggle in secrecy. Their next event is a Friendsgiving on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, 11/29 from 4-6 pm at their brand-new offices in the One Grand Center building at 1800 Teague Dr, Suite 301 in Sherman. Their Christmas Drag Show will be at Austin College December 13th. You can keep up on Grayson PRIDE's Facebook page or their website [here](#).

Saturday, December 6th, from 2-4 pm, mark your calendars for the Rainbow Team's annual **Framily Holiday Celebration** at the church! Whether you celebrate with your FOO (Family of Origin), your FOC (Family of Choice), or both, come celebrate with us! We will have a cooked turkey, ham and all the fixings you want to bring! We will be having a White Elephant Gift Exchange and several different sweater



contests. The limit on the gifts is \$20, and we will have extras if you forget.

**Rainbow Team Update**, continued from previous page

We will also be hosting our annual Nerdy New Year's celebration on December 31st from 8pm to 1am. Bring your favorite snacks & non-alcoholic drinkies and join us in gaming & laughing until we count down to 2026. We will have a Nerdy themed re-gifting/ gift at 10pm then more fun until midnight when we go outside to watch the illegal fireworks and cheer. See you there!

Peace! & Thank you,  
*The Red River UU Rainbow Team*  
*This email sent by: Jack*

## Welcome new members

During the morning assembly on Dec First, the congregation welcomed 5 new members: Standing next to Susie Norris, membership committee chair: Lady Hulsey, Eva and George Neval, Chris, and Eva Kysor.



If you have yet to meet any of them, introduce yourself to them so y'all can get better acquainted.

## Dinner for the Shelter

Our next date to provide dinner for the residents at the Texoma County Shelter is Sunday, Dec 14. There's a signup sheet on the bulletin board for all who wish to participate in our support of shelter dinners. We are one of several congregations that participate in the shelter dinner program. Anyone who wishes to be part of our next turn can signup on the and/or you may reply to Paula at 760.828.7768 or email her [here](#).

## Earth Day Planners

The Earth Day Festival planning committee will meet Thursday December 12 at 5:30 at the church. We will continue to work on plans for the 18th Annual Texoma Earth Day Festival. Please let Amy know if you would like to be added to the email list for updates about the event and meeting notices.

## No Adult Forum this month



Not to worry, the Forum returns in January to explore Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau who were big players in Transcendentalists Movement. Starting in January.

## World AIDS Day Banned in USA

Yearly since 1988 the United States has marked December 1 as World AIDS Day, when people mourn those who died of the disease, honor efforts to contain the epidemic and raise awareness among the public. Not this year. Tommy Pigott, a State Department spokesperson, said the Trump administration was modernizing its approach to countering infectious diseases. So far this year, the White House has issued proclamations for dozens of other observances, including World Autism Awareness Day, National Manufacturing Day and World Intellectual Property Day.



Credits: Pete Marovich for The New York Times

An event on the White House South Lawn to commemorate World AIDS Day in 2024.

The Trump administration froze foreign aid early in the year, derailing many public health programs dedicated to fighting H.I.V., the virus that causes AIDS. From the NYTimes, Nov. 26, 2025 "[Trump Administration Will No Longer Commemorate World AIDS Day](#)" Read it [here](#).

# Brighten Our Church Home

## Join the Red River Giving Tree ❁

Hello, wonderful congregation,

It's that special time of year again where we come together to care for our shared home. The Red River Giving Tree is ready to be decorated, and we'd love your help nurturing our vibrant church community! Please list what you plan to donate on the list on the counter (in the foyer outside the chapel) so that others don't select the same items and can choose something else.

Your generous donations of everyday essentials truly brighten our building and help us keep the lights on - not just literally, but in a way that feels warm and welcoming to all who gather here. Supporting operational costs together means we can focus more resources on worship and fellowship.

We invite you to pluck an "ornament" from our wish list below. Every item, big or small, helps maintain a clean, comfortable, and inviting space for everyone.

Our Giving Tree Wish List:

- ❁ Pantry Staples: Regular coffee (4 large cans), sugar/sweetener packets, coffee creamers, coffee filters.
- ❁ Cleaning Essentials: Toilet paper, Bounty select-a-size paper towels, paper napkins, Cascade Platinum dishwasher detergent (2 large boxes), Dawn dish detergent (2 bottles), Bar Keepers Friend cleanser (1 can), toilet bowl cleaner (2 bottles), Windex refill bottles (3 bottles), foaming hand soap (4 bottles), furniture polish (3 cans).
- ❁ Grounds & Gardens: Soaker hoses (replacements), lawn fertilizer (1 large bag), fire-ant killer (2 large bags).
- ❁ Handy Helper: Wasp spray (2 cans).
- ❁ Hand steamer to clean chapel chairs.

Thank you for your incredible kindness and for making Red River UU Church a place where everyone feels cherished. Your participation makes a real difference!

With gratitude,

The Building & Grounds Team

*Jim Holmes & Marilyn Alexander, with advice from Minie Cantu.*

# December Moveable Feast

The Moveable Feast for December will be at Picante Taco, located at 3116 Regency Lane in Denison. More details to follow soon, including the date and time.

For those who may not know, Moveable Feast is a terrific way to enjoy a meal with others from church. Our Fearless Feast Facilitators select a restaurant and everyone who wants to join in for a Dutch Treat liberal religious meal are warmly invited. Currently there are 32 folks on the M.F. text message list. Look for details about our sojourner Picante Taco in an upcoming UPDATE.

*Your Fearless Feast Facilitators,*

*Susie and Walter Norris.*

## From our non-resident poet

National Communicate with Your Kids Day, December 5, promotes and spreads awareness about the importance of talking with your children.



*Charlie Mathis, Feb. 1995*

### *Baby Talk*

*by Don Mathis*

*"Obey Me!"*

*I said in anger to my little one  
when he was so young.*

*"Oh Baby!"*

*he replied with impish fun,  
the fuse extinguished  
with toddler tongue.*

## December birthdays

**04 Donna Toerper**

**07 Cristin Mackey**

**12 Cindy Buffington**

**17 Amy Hoffman-Shehan**

**18 Jim Holmes**



## Our various teams

*The first name is the team leader*

Adult Forum: *Jim, Amy, Cristin, Marilyn, Marion*  
Aesthetics: *Amy, Jana*  
Audio Visual: *Jim, Carole, Liz, Marla*  
Caring Circle: *Susie*  
Choir: *Marilyn, Bill, Cindy*  
Children's R.E. Teacher: *Jack*  
Children's Clothing Swap: *Amy, Cristin, Jim, Sherilyn*  
Communications: *Amy, Doug, Marla*  
Earth Day Planning: *Amy, Bruce, Cristin, Jan, Jim, Marla, Megan*  
Endowment:  
Facebook Admin: *Amy*  
Finance: *Carole, Jim, Marilyn*  
Good Times Team: *Marilyn, Amy, Andrea, Bill, Carole, Cindy, Elbert, Eva, George, Irene, Jirn, Lisa, Liz, Marion, Pat, Samuel, Susie, Walter.*  
Greeters: *Susie, Amy, Jack, Sherilyn*  
Grounds: *Marilyn*  
Historian: *Marla*  
IT Support: *Jim*  
Membership: *Susie, Amy, Doug, Marla*  
Minister Search: *Jim, Liz, Marilyn, Marla, Walter*  
Monarch Way Station: *Linn, Sherilyn, Susie*  
Moveable Feast: *Susie, Amy, Bruce, Carole, Cindy, David, Doug, Irene, Jan, Jana, Joyce, Kelly, Liz, Marilyn, Marla, Michelle, Walter.* This event, usually monthly, is open to everyone who wishes to participate. Speak with Susie if you're interested.  
Music:  
NTUUC Rep: *Marilyn*  
Publications: *Doug*  
Rainbow Team: *Jack, Amy, Billie, Cristin, Jana, Jamie*  
Social Justice: *Jan*  
Strategic Plan: *Jim, Bruce, Marilyn*  
TxUUJM Rep: *Jan*  
Web Team: *Jim, Hannah, Marla*  
Worship: *Marla, Eva, Marilyn, Megan, Susie*  
Worship Associates: *Marla, Cristin, Jana, Marilyn, Megan, Thomas*

Please Note: Changes happen. If your team's listing is wrong, email [news@redriveruu.org](mailto:news@redriveruu.org) with updates. Keeping this list as current as possible is important for us all. Thanx.

Here's the QR code to offer feedback about our Morning Assemblies



Here's the QR code to download our free Red River UU mobile app



## Our Elected or Appointed Leaders

### Board of Trustees

Jana Norris, *President*  
TBA, *Vice president*  
Carole Harner, *Treasurer*  
Jack, *Secretary*  
Cristin Mackey, *Trustee at large*

### Committee on Ministry

Jim Holmes, Marion Hill, Bruce Cameron

### Nominating

Marilyn Alexander, Liz Rapp, Walter Norris