

Family of Choice is...the freedom to cultivate deep bonds where we find them while maintaining the option to honor biological ties—and the option to step away from them if they do not meet the levels of trustworthiness found elsewhere... ~ Rebekka Grun von Jolk Ph.D., Psychology Today, January 3, 2025

GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY

- Ringing the Tibetan Bowl
- Call to Community
by Rebecca Crystal
- Prelude/Candles of Community
Give Us Hope
by Jim Papoulis | performed by Bay Area UU Church
- Chalice Lighting
We Come Together Without Creed
by Maureen Killoran**
- Spoken Affirmation
*Love is the spirit of this church and service is its law
This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace,
To seek truth in freedom and to help one another.*
- Lighting the Peace Candle
- UU Snippet
We Really Don't Have a Creed?
by Rebecca Crystal*

EXPANDING OUR UNDERSTANDING

- Opening Thought
On Family of Choice
by Rebekka Grun von Jolk
- Song 188
Come, Come, Whoever You Are
singing Orange Coast, CA UU Choir
- The First Reading
from *I Hope We Choose Love: A Trans Girl's Notes
from the End of the World*
by Kai Cheng Thom

EMBRACING OUR LIMITATIONS

- Practices - *with words, stillness, music*
 - ~ words: *Blessed Are the Queer* by Helen "HP" Rivers
 - ~ stillness: *Quiet Sitting for a Time*
 - ~ musical response: *One Minute Giving Music*
composed and performed by Dan Althoff*
- The Second Reading
Blood Is Thicker Than Water
by Matt Starking

- Discourse ~ *Part I: Family of Choice*
by Jack (from biblewisdomhub.org & thetutorbridge.com)
- Song ~ *Chosen Family*
written by Rina Sawayama | performed by Elton John & Rina Sawayama
- Discourse ~ *Part II: Family of Choice*
by Rebecca Crystal

CONFIRMING OUR FAITH

- Giving
Bringing our gifts to the table
Offertory: *Would You Harbor Me*
composed & performed by Sweet Honey in the Rock
- Song 95 ~ *There is More Love Somewhere*
The UU Society of Grafton & Upton, MA choir, singing
- Closing
Call to Action
by Rebekka Grun von Jolk
- Extinguishing our Chalice
*We extinguish these flames but not the light of truth,
the warmth of community or the fire of commitment.
These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.*
- Postlude
Improv
a short beautiful piano piece
by Jerry Hou

WHOSE DOING WHAT THIS MORNING

Leading our morning assembly today are two members of the congregation, Rebacca Crystal and Jack,

The Social Team meets today from 1-3 pm today in the Carolyn Cameron Room. Newcomers are most welcome to attend.

The Tour of the Grayson Family Shelter will leave at 1 pm from the foyer outside the chapel. Speak with Jack for details if you forgot to sign up.

The Fae & Fairy Tea Party Sat, Feb 28th from 2-4 pm at church. Everyone is invited to come.

Our Annual Appreciation Save Saturday, March 7th, from 2-4 pm now so you won't miss out. The Bruce Cameron Distinguished Service Award will be given out.

WHO'S DOING WHAT THIS MORNING

- February board representative: *Carole Harner*
- Greeting you at the door: *Curtis Severns*
- Leading today: *Rebecca Crystal and Jack*
- AV Team: *Carole, Liz, Jim*
- Caring Circle: *Susie Norris*

WELCOME VISITORS

We are Unitarian Universalists. We are brave, curious, and compassionate thinkers and doers. We are people from many backgrounds who have different beliefs, but shared values.

Grounded in more than two hundred years of thoughtful, spiritual communities, we are people of many generations, ethnicities, genders and sexualities, and spiritual backgrounds. People engaged in making the world a better place. People focus on what really matters - love, justice, integrity, and hope.

We are a lay-led congregation. Lay-led congregations have no minister which means members of the congregation manage various aspects of our church life. Unitarian Universalism has a proud tradition of lay-led churches. We have different beliefs, but shared values.

We are Unitarian Universalists, and at the same time we may be Muslim, pagan, atheist, believers in God, and those who just let the great mystery be. The diversity of beliefs you'll find in our church community is one of our strengths - we're always learning how to see the world from a distinct perspective.

Learn more about us at your leisure by downloading our mobile app 'Red River UU' from Google Play or the Apps Store (or use the QR code below.) This is who we are. We are glad you joined us today because all of who you are is welcome here.

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026

10 am

The Adult Forum

**Emerson, Thoreau, & the Transcendentalist
Movement**

A Great Courses Series

11:15 am

**The Morning Assembly
Cosmic Humility**

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

In a universe with trillions of galaxies, each with hundreds of billions of stars, we should view our lives on this pale blue dot of a planet in a solar system on the edge of our galaxy with an appropriate amount of humility while embracing and treasuring the gift of experience that we all enjoy. What will it mean for us when we soon definitively discover that we are not alone and that the cosmos is teeming with life? We are not the center of the universe as so many past generations thought, but our lives and communities are nevertheless still important and possess inherent worth on this world that is our only home.

12:15 pm - Conversations & Calories

QR to our worship survey



QR to our mobile app



We are ...



**Spiritually Alive,
Joyfully Inclusive,
Justice Centered**

**Red River Unitarian Universalists
515 North Burnett Ave - Mail: PO BOX 1806
Denison, TX 75020**