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April 5, 2026

## Environmental Justice is Attainable

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

In a world in which those in poverty and persons of color are much more likely to experience environmental injustice, what will it take to attain environmental justice and ensure that all persons have access to clean water, clean air, and nutritious food.

April 12, 2026

## Reflections on Ibram X. Kendi's *Chain of Ideas*

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

A look at the Origins of Authoritarianism as presented by critically acclaimed author Ibram X. Kendi of Howard University.

April 19, 2026

## Would You Like Fresh or Plastic?

Rebecca Crystal, *leading*

Combining two near and dear Unitarian Universalist services, Earth Day and our flower communion, we ask everyone to bring at least one flower to share. Discussion will be on how plastic is not evil, but needs to be honored in what it offers to us as well as how we can rethink, renew, reduce, reuse, recycle, and upcycle!

April 26, 2026

## Emergency Preparedness: Necessary for Survival.

Amy Hoffman-Shehan, Brand Kosloski, and Jack, *leading*  
(the Emergency Preparedness Team)

Emergency Preparedness is vital knowledge, at home, work, and church. Being aware of your surroundings and knowing what to do in case of a medical or weather emergency or even a hostile situation can give you the confidence to save lives, including your own. We will discuss the various types of emergencies you may face here at church, what to do during those emergencies and what the EP Team is planning to make our gathering place safer for everyone.

April, 2026  
Vol 17, No 9

*Celebrating 26 years of liberal religion in Texoma.*

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## From the President

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The Board of Trustees meets at 1:00 on the third Sunday of each month. Every member of the church is invited to attend and speak. We keep the minutes of board meetings in the Board Book in the Carolyn Cameron room. They are always available for inspection.

This month:

We received a report from the Worship Team regarding their changes as Marla has stepped down from leadership. She put together a great team, and she will make sure they are up and running for a smooth transition. I have no words that can adequately thank Marla for all she has done to make our services not only happen but be beautiful and meaningful.

We heard from the Emergency Preparedness Team (Jack, Brand, and Amy) and approved the procedures they will begin implementing to keep the congregation members safe in case of medical emergency, fire, or severe storm.

The Fae and Fairy Tea Party was a great success. So was the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. I felt greatly honored to be a part of the beautiful program Marla designed. It was wonderful to see Susie Norris honored for all the work she does. If you missed all the fun this year, put these on your calendar for next year.

We have an attorney who will review our 501(c)(3) application *pro bono*. This is happening!

Jim, our Facilities: Building Manager, reported that we recently passed our fire safety inspection by the Denison Fire Department. They recommended installing a “knock box” that allows the fire department to access keys to the building, and the board approved it. Jim and Edwin are going to replace the back doors, which are rotting. The board approved that as well.

The board approved the Rainbow Team holding a raffle at Grayson Pride to provide funding for the events they hold here at Red River UU Church.

We are beginning the work of putting together the Spring Congregational Meeting.

We are holding a Spring Work Day on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 10 am to sort out boxes of documents that can be shredded at the Texoma Earth Day Festival, clean the front of the building, put away the bounty

donated from last Christmas (behind the red blanket under the counter in the foyer), replenish our Little Free Library (and liberate it from the literature left by Christian Nationalists), using wood preserve wipe down the paneling in the upper foyer, wash windows and clean carpets and upholstery. Please come help. Our church home has gotten dingy, and it's time for a good spring cleaning.

Jana Norris, *president*

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## Social Justice Update

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Is it only April???

We already left the first quarter of 2026 and started the second quarter. The first quarter just flew by. And the meetings are piling on top of each other.

March 3 Primary elections revealed increased public interest in our political system. But the percentage of registered voters who actually cast a ballot still falls short of half the eligible population. We hope to improve this shortcoming for the November election. Red River UU Social Justice team will participate in the annual UU The Vote program offered by the Texas UU Justice Ministry (TXUUJM). We will begin planning in our April meeting on Sunday, April 26 at 1 pm.

At the March Social Justice meeting, we had an impromptu postcard party. Members were asked to write postcards to our Texas Representatives on several TXUUJM topics. In that short time, we mailed over 50 postcards. We will hold another postcard party Saturday, April 4 at Panera's in Sherman at 2 pm.

Each Thursday evening TXUUJM offers an Action Hour from 7 – 8 pm on Zoom covering numerous social justice topics. This is open to anyone willing to do the work. It may be phone calls to demand ICE not build a detention center in a community, Help secure the release of families and children detained at the Dilley family detention center, information on Trans Day of Visibility or saving our voting rights by opposing the SAVE Act. Topics change based on urgency.

Whew!!! That's a lot that needs to be done. And that means I need some help. Please call me to volunteer to work with me on planning our postcard parties, monthly meetings and the upcoming UU The Vote activities. I need your volunteer spirit!  
Jan Fletcher, *chair*

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## Earth Day is April 18th

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The Texoma Earth Day Festival is a fun community-wide family event where ordinary people learn practical ways to reduce their environmental footprint and impact on our planet. Attendance is free and open to the public.

The 18th Annual Texoma Earth Day Festival is coming up quickly on April 18. The planning team is working hard to pull together all the components of the festival and make sure it is promoted effectively.

- ♦ Red River Unitarian Universalist Church created this festival and continues to be the driving force to make it happen. Members and friends volunteer in many capacities.
- ♦ **The Rainbow Team** coordinates one of their free children's clothing swaps at the festival. You will be able to find them on the stage of the Sherman Municipal Ballroom.
- ♦ In the kitchen in the ballroom, **George and Eva Novak** will lead one of the five workshops focusing on the build of their energy efficient cord house.
- ♦ **Rebecca Chrystal** will host the plant swap.
- ♦ **Marilyn Alexander** will host a children's activity, also in the ballroom. Children will learn about Native American lodges and how to decorate and create a plains style tipi.

Out on the grounds (Lucy Kidd-Key Park), you will find vendors, educational displays, music and demonstrations. Jan Fletcher is our entertainment coordinator and has put together a fantastic assortment of music, dance and physical fitness demonstrations.

- ♦ Our church will have a booth that focuses on education about attracting pollinators to your yard. Jim Holmes will appreciate anyone who will volunteer to run the booth. The church will also host a free plant swap at an adjacent space.
- ♦ The Earth Day planning team runs an information booth where we hand out free shopping bags and recycling guides for the region.

The festival consists of multiple kids activities that focus on arts, recycling and science; workshops for adults and kids; recycled art shows and contests; vendors, music, demonstrations, educational displays, and a drive-through recycling area.

Coordinated events include ...

- ♦ a blood drive,
- ♦ pet 44adoptions,
- ♦ a drug take back event,
- ♦ and the Friends of the Sherman Public Library Used Book Sale.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Texoma Earth Day Festival is held in Sherman at the Sherman Municipal Building, Lucy Kidd-Key Park and surrounding streets. You can find all the details on our website:

[www.earthdaytexoma.org](http://www.earthdaytexoma.org).

**See y'all at the festival 9:00 – 4:00 on April 18, 2026.**

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## Money Matters

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Treasurer Report as of February 28, 2026 For the fiscal year-to-date period of July 1 through February 28, we had an operating net profit of \$1,731.43. This was due to lower expenses in several categories partially offset by unbudgeted expenses for yardwork. As of February 28, 2026, we had \$17,394.06 available to be used for general operations in our bank checking account, \$9,965.16 available in our bank savings account, and approximately \$25,451.99 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; \$379.00 in our bank checking account for share the plate; \$16,845.70 in the endowment fund; and \$51,000.00 restricted in the UUA Savings Fund for minister compensation. In addition to the results from operations, we have spent \$3,628.30 year-to-date from restricted funds leaving \$17,562.63 restricted to cover continuing repairs and renovations to the building and to increase visibility in the community in order to grow membership.

Carole Harner, *treasurer*

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## Emergency Preparedness Team

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The emergency preparedness team (Amy, Brand, and Jack) has made arrangements for CPR/AED training at church on May 2. I will print the graphic to post on the bulletin boards. Anyone who wants to be trained will choose the level of training they want and will pay their own fee. All of us will receive training the same day. The EP team will provide snacks.

There's the information about this important training opportunity, from the trainer.

### CPR & Safety Training – Join Us!

We're excited to offer **CPR & AED (and optional First Aid) training** right here for our church family! This is a great opportunity to gain life-saving skills and feel confident stepping in during an emergency.

Whether you're a parent, volunteer, student, or simply want to be prepared—this training is for YOU.


### Special Group Pricing:


- Friends & Family: \$44
- CPR/AED: \$66
- CPR/AED + First Aid: \$84


### EXTRA Group Bonus **\*\*Just for US\*\***:

If we reach **15+ participants**, everyone will receive a refund to match our **best discounted rate (20% off)** no action needed! Refunds will be given at, or before, the time of class:

- Friends & Family: \$40
- CPR/AED: \$60
- CPR/AED + First Aid: \$76

 Let's look out for one another, invite a friend, family member, neighbor, or a volunteer to join you!

 **Date:** Saturday, May 2nd @4:30PM

 **Location:** Red River Unitarian Universalists Church  
- 515 N Burnett Ave, Denison, TX 75020

 **Register with Adrian @NTX** CPR: 972-835-2994 (call/text) or email: [hello@ntxcpr.com](mailto:hello@ntxcpr.com)

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## April Birthdays

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07 Willow Biasi \*  
18 Jolene Whitten  
21 Dawson Torres  
29 Michelle Haynes  
\*child

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## Pledge Drive Update

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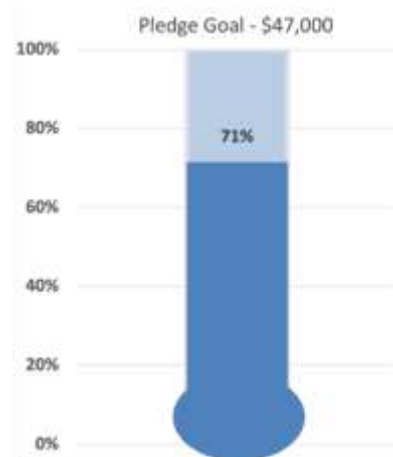
### Your 2026-2027 Stewardship Campaign

We have a proposed budget of \$50,400 to support our upcoming year starting on July 1, 2026. To support this proposed budget, we have set a goal of \$47,000 in pledge income.

Please help protect Carole's and Jim's and Marilyn's sanity by not waiting until the last minute to pledge. The pledge forms are in the lobby, or you may use the QR code to pledge online.



### Progress as of 4/01/2026



So far only 20 active members out of 53 (38%) have pledged.

**Are you one of them?**

**We are still \$13,390 short.**

**Only 12 more days left to PLEDGE!**

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## Thursday Night at the Movie

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While as it turned out, no one came last month to see the flick *Green Book*. However, maybe all folks need to do is to watch the trailer. So, good folks here it is: Play Trailer [here](#)



Editors note: If the link doesn't work, open YouTube, type in "Green Book" and watch the trailer from there.

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## From our non-resident Poet

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[April 18<sup>th</sup>](#) is World Circus Day, a time to reflect on the ringmaster's schedule.

### I Must Buy a Program by Don Mathis

*I came to see the circus.  
I must buy a program.  
I want to see the acrobats.  
I want to see the clown.*

*When is the dancing bear?  
What time is the lion?  
When is the high-wire act?  
I must buy a program.*

*I can't wait to see the sideshow.  
Pass the peanuts and popcorn.  
The knife thrower gives me chills.  
I hope the trapeze stays airborne.*

*It's dark under the big top  
Waiting for spotlights to come on.  
I wonder what's happening next?*

*I must buy a program.*

*What's this? The spotlight's on me!  
Something's terribly wrong!  
I didn't know I'm part of the act.  
I must buy a program.*

*I don't know what to do.  
I feel betrayed and forlorn.  
I'm on after the elephants,  
Too late to buy a program.*

*Am I to tell jokes?  
Or give a dance and song?  
Am I the juggler?  
Or writer of my own program?*

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## Banned Books Club

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gathers on Thursday, April 16 to continue exploring *Last Night at the Telegraph Club*. Newcomers are warmly invited to join the conversation.

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## Doc Holiday Saints & Sinners Festival

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is Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> & the Community Outreach Team is hosting a booth for the church. It will be poker themed and everyone is encouraged to dress for the era. Please sign up for a shift to help spread our message to as many people as possible. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

### *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