

May 3, 2026

My Journey

Karrisa Hodge, *guest speaker*

Our morning speaker is the President and founder of *Missing Murdered Indigenous Women Chahta*. She has ancestry to 3 Tribal Nations from her mother's and father's sides, but she is a Tribal member of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma. She is a single mother to two daughters, ages 10 and 3, and has raised and had guardianship of her two brothers, ages 17 and 21. Karrisa has worked for the Choctaw Nation for 6 years and is a certified Public Speaker, Trainer, and Coach through John Maxwell. She is also a part of the Oklahoma City Matriarch. Karissa feels it is her duty to her Indigenous Relatives to help create safe spaces where our people can gain knowledge, overcome oppression and become stronger together.

May 10, 2026

Income Inequality

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

Income Inequality - equality. As the gap between the rich and poor widens so does the inequality in their political power and participation, with fewer and fewer people controlling our economic and political processes.

May 17, 2026

Post-Truth Society Spring Congregational Meeting is today

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

Democracy cannot survive in a post-truth society. The truth and evidence-based critical thinking matter if we are to develop the shared understanding of reality that makes beloved community possible. **We will have a potluck lunch today (and none on 5th Sunday).**

May 24, 2026

For The Good of Society

Adrian Hinman, *via video*

presenting via video

Transgenderism must be eradicated from public life entirely—the whole preposterous ideology, at every level!" These words were spoken in March of this year, highlighting a terrifying trend of increasing transphobia in the United States and abroad. Anti-LGBTQ bills in the US have more than doubled since last year. This isn't the first time the queer com

May 31, 2026

Music & the LGBTQIA + Community

The Rainbow Team, *leading*

Music has been an integral part of the Queer community for its entire history. From innuendo to bravely speaking our truths out loud; major hits to B side and forgotten references; it buoyed us along & let us know that we existed, that there IS a place for us & that we can be loved. *BTY since we will have a potluck lunch on May 17th we will not have a 5th Sunday potluck.*

Celebrating 26 years of liberal religion in Texoma.

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From the President

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.

Report for April 2026:

The Work Day on April 11th was an enormous success. We scheduled it on this date so that we could go through the myriad boxes of old files and take what is no longer needed to the Earth Day Festival the following Saturday to be shredded. There were far too many documents to be managed at Earth Day, so we will be making a trip to a commercial shredder. There will be a Fall Cleaning Day, so if you missed out this time, you have another chance coming up.

Jack was our commanding officer, and she did a wonderful job. Edwin power-washed the front of the church, the porch, and our walkways. I helped by scrubbing the vinyl siding and the wheelchair lift to get off the greasy dirt. Curtis did a magnificent job cleaning out the basement. Mira shampooed most of the chairs in the chapel and mopped floors. Jana and Brand shampooed the rest of the chairs. Rebecca wiped down surfaces in the chapel and cleaned the chair arms with Lysol. Susie, Marty, and Jack went through all the boxes of old files. Minnie, Brand, and Sue cleaned the bathrooms, the kitchen, the rooms upstairs, and the foyer floor. They also shampooed upstairs carpets. Cristin cleaned windows and helped clean the second floor and reorganize the library. Sue brought her steam cleaner and made the fireplaces and curtains look new. Unfortunately, the long hours put in on the Spring Cleaning and Earth Day meant we were unable to have a booth at Doc Holliday: Saints and Sinners Festival. Three long weekends in a row were just too much. Next year, the Spring-Cleaning Day will be in March, so start getting ready to be a part of the Saints and Sinners in April. Our motto will be "Saints and Sinners Both Welcome!"

Thanks to Jan, we will have a booth at the Denison Juneteenth Festival. We need volunteers to staff it.

The proposed budget was approved, with the \$130 overage added to our Social Action fund. The Community Outreach Team, the Social Justice Committee, and the Rainbow Team can share it. The congregation will discuss and vote on a final budget at the Spring Congregational Meeting.

There have been questions about paying members for providing Sunday services, although the policy has been that we do not. The Board voted to uphold the policy that we do not pay members for Sunday services.

They are given receipts for in-kind donations of \$200, which is what we pay non-member speakers who are not ordained ministers.

Jim and Marla have been busy developing a members portal for our website. They plan to make it live at the Spring Congregational Meeting. Be sure to come so you can get your password. And to vote, have your voice heard in running our church, and other important things, of course!

The 501c3 application is with the lawyer, we are getting estimates for our new sign, all of the fire extinguishers have been charged and certified, and things are looking good.

Social Justice Update

Don't miss the opportunity to gain experience what you as a Unitarian Universalist can do about today's urgent assaults on democracy. [Do a Ctrl + Click to follow the link on the image below to learn more about the "Freedom Demands We Organize" event on Tuesday, May 5th at 7 pm.](#)



I need your volunteer spirit!

If you are socially conscious, you may be going as crazy as I am lately! Those of you who take the time to read info from txuujm know there is too much going on right now to keep up! I will limit this newsletter entry to considerably basic content.

In our April meeting, members worked on upcoming UU the Vote. It was decided to hold our first Phone Bank Event at our next meeting on Sunday, May 24 at 1 pm. The Social Justice Team will provide call lists and scripts for contacting voters in the Texoma area. At this time, we are working on the details. Please set aside time to join us on this.

I hope to see an enthusiastic group then...

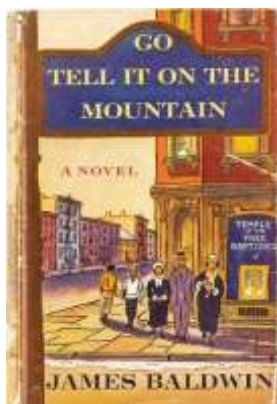
In Peace,

Jan Fletcher, *chair*

Social Justice Team Leader, 972-897-5796

Banned Books Club

The selection for May is a classic. Did you read *Go Tell It on the Mountain* the 1953 semi-autobiographical novel by James Baldwin. It tells the story of John Grimes, an intelligent teenager in 1930s Harlem, and his relationship with his family and his church. The novel also reveals the back stories of John's mother, his biological father, and his violent, fanatically religious stepfather, Gabriel Grimes. The novel focuses on the role of the Pentecostal Church in the lives of African Americans, both as a negative source of repression and moral hypocrisy and a positive source of inspiration and community.



In 1998, the Modern Library ranked *Go Tell It on the Mountain* 39th on its list of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century. Time magazine included the novel on its list of the 100 best English-language novels released from 1923 to 2005.

OK. Now that you either remember reading the book or if you have never read it, check it out from your local library and come talk about it.

The Banned Book Club will meet on Thursday, May 21 @ 2 pm at church. Newcomers are always welcome as well as those who haven't read the book but are intrigued why it was selected and want to learn more!

Money Matter\$

For the fiscal year-to-date period of July 1 through March 31, we had a small operating loss of (\$842.80). This was primarily due to the timing of pledges and unbudgeted expenses for yardwork, partially offset by lower expenses in several categories. As of March 31, 2026, we had \$14,666.10 available to be used for general operations in our bank checking account, \$9,967.89 available in our bank savings account, and

approximately \$26,927.65 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; \$530.00 in our bank checking account for share the plate; \$17,170.86 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.
Carole Harner,
treasurer

Thursday Night at the Movies

May 28 @ 6 pm



This month's Thursdays at the Movie is Into the Woods with the original Broadway cast. Into the Woods is a 2014 American musical fantasy film directed by Rob Marshall, with a screenplay by James Lapine based on his and Stephen Sondheim's 1987 Broadway musical of the same name. Produced by Walt Disney

Pictures, it features an ensemble cast that includes Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, James Corden, Anna Kendrick, Chris Pine, Tracey Ullman, Christine Baranski, and Johnny Depp. The film is centered on a childless couple who set out to end a curse placed on them by a vengeful witch, and the characters are forced to experience the consequences of their actions. It is inspired by the Grimm Brothers' fairy-tales of "Little Red Riding Hood", "Cinderella", "Jack and the Beanstalk", and "Rapunzel".

May Birthday

It is hard to believe, but according to the latest release of the church phone directory, there is only one person in the congregation who has a birthday in May and that is (drum roll please) ...

Eleanor Dyer
born on May 9

From our Non Resident Poet

May 20 is National Flower Day, a time to celebrate the beauty of flowers. When I worked in the floral industry, every day was Flower Day!

Business is Blooming
by Don Mathis

*I spend my working, waking hours
under a sign, "Will Work For Flowers."*

*We get more calls than anyone
except for maybe nine-one-one.*

*Telephone sales may not sound thrilling
but to me, it's very fulfilling.*

*There is always lots of overtime
Mother's Day, Christmas, and Valentine.*

*It's an honor to be privy
to emotions of so many.*

*A sympathy order is so sad,
even more so if a child has died.*

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*A sympathy order is so sad,
even more so if a child has died.*

*Apology bouquets may contain
a wish of friendship to be regained.*

*Flowers for birthdays will display
a gift of love on their special day.*

*A dozen roses are so sweet
to mark an anniversary.*

*Flowers for one under the weather
often make that one feel better.*

*New job, new house, or graduation;
plants are great for any occasion.*

*But nothing can surpass the joy
of flowers for a new girl or boy.*

Our Elected and Appointed Leaders

Board of Trustees

Jana Norris, *president*

Susie Norris, *vice president*

Carole Harner, *treasurer*

Jack, *secretary*

Christin Macken, *trustee at large*

Marilyn Alexander, *past president*

Committee on Ministry

Jim Holmes

Marion Hill

Bruce Cameron

Nominating Committee

Marilyn Alexander

Liz Rapp

Walter Norris