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Sunday, June 7, 2026
11:15 am

Bread and Circus

The Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, *guest minister*

When empires are in decline, they often create spectacles and distractions to keep much of the citizenry from seeing the depths of debauchery to which the society has sunk.

Sunday, June 14, 2026
11:15 am

The Problem of Omnipotence

The Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, *guest minister*

Many adherents of the Abrahamic religions hold a belief that God, or the Divine, possesses unlimited power. This discourse will explore the many problematic implications of such a belief, especially at a time when our taking responsibility for addressing the challenges for our human and ecological communities has never been more urgent.

Sunday, June 21, 2026
11:15 am

Celebrate the Longest Day of the Year

Jana Norris, *leading*

This is the longest day of the year--the harbinger of both the long, sweltering summer ahead and the beginning of the shortening of each day as we begin the inexorable march into winter.

Sunday, June 28, 2026
11:15 am

Finding Freedom Through Letting Go

Brand Kosloski, *leading*

Much of our suffering arises from trying to control what was never ours to hold—other people, their choices, and life’s unpredictable circumstances. In this thoughtful and reflective morning assembly, Brand draws on Buddhist wisdom to explore the practice of letting go—not as resignation, but as a pathway to clarity and compassion. Together, we will consider how loosening our grip on what cannot be changed can create space for deeper peace, greater acceptance, and a renewed sense of freedom in our daily lives.

Emergency Preparedness Team

The Emergency Preparedness Team has been collecting donations to create 7 First Aid Bags to position around the building. In addition, we would like to create two enhanced first aid kits for the main floor bathrooms. We were also advised during our CPR, AED, and First Aid Training on May 1 that we need to have an additional set of AED pads and a sign for the device itself. We created an updated first aid kit supply list that also includes signage for places to shelter during severe storms and in case of a tornado.

We have collected \$600 of the \$1127 needed, and some of the supplies have been ordered. If you would like to contribute to the first aid and emergency supplies, please speak to a member of the EP Team (Amy, Brand and Jack). A printed list of the remaining items that are needed has been posted on the bulletin board in the foyer, and Amy can forward the Amazon wish list upon request.

Here's the breakdown of the cost to get what we need:

For First Aid Bags	Blood Clot Infused Gauze 2 ft (Amazon)	1	7	\$15.50	\$108.50
	Hydrogen Peroxide (Dollar Tree)	1	7	\$1.50	\$10.50
For AED Machine	AED replacement pads (AED Superstore)	1	1	\$150.00	\$150.00
	AED sign	1	1	\$9.00	\$9.00
For First Aid Kits in bathrooms	Liquid Benadryl	1	2	\$7.50	\$15.00
	Liquid Benadryl Pediatric	1	2	\$7.00	\$14.00
	Liquid Tylenol	1	2	\$10.00	\$20.00
	Liquid Tylenol Pediatric	1	2	\$8.00	\$16.00
	Antacid	1	2	\$10.00	\$20.00
	Rolls of Burn Gel Dressing	3	3	\$23.00	\$23.00
	Tubes Hydrocortisone Cream	1	2	\$7.00	\$14.00
	Pepto-Bismal Tablets	1	2	\$11.00	\$22.00
	Tubes Triple Antibiotic Cream	4	1	\$7.50	\$7.50
	Doses of Narcan	2	4	\$35.00	\$70.00
Severe Storm Shelter Sign	1	2	\$10.00	\$20.00	
Tornado Shelter Sign	1	1	\$7.50	\$7.50	
					\$527.00

Board of Trustees Report

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.

Last month:

The Board mostly focused on the Spring Congregational Meeting itself and preparing the minutes afterward.

I was reelected as President of the Board, Carole was reelected as Treasurer, and Susie was elected to finish the one year left in the Vice President's term.

We discussed our congregational goals, which were:

- Expand our visibility,
- Seek a pianist,
- Engage more speakers,
- Continue to seek a minister,
- Committees will plan for succession.

As promised, we are working on creating SMART-Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-bound—parameters for each goal.

We are finishing up our 501(c)(3) application, which is now under review by our legal counsel, and the review of the Bylaws and Policies & Procedures Manual is underway.

Banned Books Club



The Banned Book Club meets on **Thursday, June 18, at 2:00**. Our book this month is *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. *The Giver* is a 1993 novel written by American author Lois Lowry, and it is set in a society which at first appears to be utopian but revealed to be dystopian as the story progresses.

It was made into a movie in 2014. Watch the movie trailer [here](#).

Red River UU Social Justice Team Gears Up

A small group met on Sunday, May 24, for our regular fourth Sunday meeting. Most of the discussion focused on the upcoming Juneteenth event in Denison Saturday June 20 and our participation in UU the Vote. Michael Lagocki facilitated the meeting.

We will host and coordinate the church booth at the Denison Juneteenth festival. Brand and Amy will be there to set up, and we welcome additional volunteers. Jan has posted a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer. Voter registration will be available at the booth throughout the day, and Kurt Cichowski has offered to help. We also need additional booth signs, including “Register to Vote,” “Vote Your Values,” and “Do you need a ride to the polls?” In addition, we need sign-up sheets to collect contact information from interested visitors. Please consider volunteering to help increase Red River Unitarian-Universalist visibility in the community.



UU the Vote is a Side with Love initiative that has helped drive record-breaking voter turnout across three election cycles. The threats to justice and democracy

cannot be addressed at the ballot box alone; they also call us to care for our neighbors and affirm human dignity.

The Social Action Team has requested the 5th Sunday service slot on August 30. The service will include a song, a 10-minute talk, and a postcard-writing activity. To prepare, we need postcard topics, addresses, stamps, and a brief script with a clear, compelling message.

By August, Amy will outline three pillars of a Get Out the Vote campaign:

1. Voter registration. Amy and Jan are voter registrars. We should encourage more members of the congregation to become registrars so we can expand opportunities to register voters. We also plan to add

signage to the Little Free Library about voter registration at the church.

2. Voting our values. This includes crafting messages for block walking, phone banking, and texting voters. Amy will clarify the difference between the MiniVAN and Texas Connect apps before the our June 28 meeting.

3. Getting people to the polls. This includes providing rides, encouraging group voting to reduce insecurity and discourage voter intimidation, and coordinating observers outside polling places to report intimidation.

The last discussion centered on ways to support growth of the Social Justice Team. We should focus on storytelling through photos and history and create fun, easy, and low-risk ways for people to get involved in social action. Photos taken during meetings can also be used in our monthly newsletter articles.

Brand shared a zine he recently picked up, which led to a discussion about creating our own zine on voting our conscience. Michael offered to help with illustrations, and the content still needs to be developed.

The annual NAACP Scholarship Banquet will be held on Saturday, August 8, at Austin College. Each year, NAACP and Sherman Interdenominational Alliance co-host this special event to recognize and support graduating high school seniors from across Grayson County.

Did you know that our church has been a life member of the local NAACP chapter for many years? We reserved and paid for a table for eight. If you would like to attend, the cost is \$40 per person to reimburse me. Please let me know if you plan to join us. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Jan Fletcher, team leader.



Money Matter\$

For the fiscal year-to-date period of July 1 through April 30, we had an operating profit of \$7,660.05. This was primarily due to lower expenses on most line items and higher donations than budgeted, partially offset by unbudgeted expenses for yard work. I expect that this profit will reduce over the next two months.

As of April 30, 2026, we had \$23,074.39 available to be used for general operations in our bank checking account, \$9,970.45 available in our bank savings account, and approximately \$24,141.69 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; \$622.00 in our bank checking account for share the plate; \$16,556.99 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 to grow membership.

Carole Harner, Treasurer

Our Elected & 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

Thursday Night at the Movies

June 4 AND June 28 @ 6 pm



The **May Thursdays at the Movie** got **rescheduled** and will be screened on **Thursday, June 4 6:00 pm** is **Into the Woods** with the original Broadway cast. Note that this is a film version of the original Broadway Play of the same name.



The **June movie, shown on June 25th** at 6:00 pm, is **Secondhand Lions**. Secondhand Lions is a 2003 comedy-drama film written and directed by Tim McCanlies. It tells the story of an introverted young boy (Haley Joel Osment), who is sent to live with his eccentric great uncles (Robert Duvall and Michael Caine) on a farm in Texas. Watch the trailer [here](#).

June Birthday



03 Rebecca Crystal
03 Thomas Garland
12 Spencer Hulsey *
14 Sue Severns
17 Minnie Cantu
20 Sherilyn Bolerjack
26 Walter Norris

*Denotes a youngster

“Don’t be too timid and squeamish about your actions. All life is an experiment.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson,
Unitarian Minister, 1803-1882

From our non-resident Poet

A Father's Day Beatitude

by Don Mathis

Blessed is the father who spends time with his child,
for he shall reap a garden of remembrances.
Blessed is the father who gives consolation to his child's minor misfortunes,
for he will be called on for great things in life.
Blessed is the father who is proud of his child,
for he shall have a child who is proud of his father.
Blessed is the father who imparts love,
for his child will give love.
Blessed is the father who is gentle with his child,
for he will have a child who can turn away wrath.
Blessed is the father who listens to his child,
for he shall be rewarded with the trust of his child.
Blessed is the father who has patience with his child,
for patience will be bestowed on him.
Blessed is the father who shows mercy to his child,
for he shall experience mercy.
Blessed is the father who does not exasperate his child,
for he shall receive compassion.
Blessed is the father who shall accept the unintentional insults of a developing child,
for he shall know the glory of fatherhood.

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Thanks for reading this far! Here's your reward:

A Unitarian Universalist was taking a walk through the woods, admiring all that the "accident of evolution" had created. "What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!" he said to himself. As he was walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned to look. He saw a 7-foot grizzly charge towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing in on him. He looked over his shoulder again, and the bear was even closer. His heart was pumping frantically, and he tried to run even faster. He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw the bear right on top of him, reaching for him with his left paw and raising his right paw to strike him.

At that instant, the UU cried out: "Oh my God!"

Time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent.

As a bright light shone upon the man, a voice came out of the sky. "You deny my existence for all these years, teach others I don't exist, and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?"

The atheist looked directly into the light, "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask You to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps could You make the BEAR a Christian?"

"Very well," said the voice. The light went out. And the sounds of the forest resumed.

And then the bear dropped his right paw... brought both paws together and bowed his head and spoke:

"Lord, for this food which I am about to receive, I am truly thankful."

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