



A month of Sundays:

August 2 - In Witness to Others

the Rev Eric Severson, *video message*

Simone Weil once wrote that "*attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity.*" Join us for a discourse on the transformative gift of offering our attention to others. Download the morning program [here](#).

August 9 - Planetary Boundaries

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

Scientists have identified nine planetary boundaries that we should not cross if we are to experience a sustainable future. Currently. We are surpassing seven of the nine boundaries, and returning within the boundaries will be much more challenging than it would have been never to surpass them.

August 16 - The End of the World as We Know It

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

In this discourse I will explore how we might work together to end the world as we know it in order to create the world as it should be.

August 23 - The Wisdom of Discernment: Seeking Truth Amid the Noise

Curtis Severns, *leading*

Every day we're surrounded by an endless stream of headlines, opinions, advertisements, algorithms, and certainty. How do we separate signals from noise? This lighthearted discourse explores the value of discernment, the importance of asking good questions, and the humility to challenge our own assumptions. Curiosity and careful inquiry can help us navigate an increasingly noisy world while continuing our search for truth and meaning.

August 30 - Take the 5th For Social Justice

Jan Fletcher, *leading*

Join us on this 5th Sunday for a special 5th Sunday morning assembly led by our Social Justice Team. Together we'll reflect on the UU commitment to equality, justice, and civic engagement through worship, music, and shared conversation. During the hour, we'll participate in our UU the Vote program by writing nonpartisan postcards encouraging voter participation. Postcards, pens, scripts, and stamps will all be provided, making it easy for everyone to take part.

It is also our **Fifth Sunday All Church Potluck**. Please, bring a dish of your choice to share. After the potluck, all are invited to stay for more postcard party as we continue writing together in community. We hope you'll join us for this meaningful opportunity to put our values into action.

The Lantern Room

Two announcements for the Lantern Room Crew

1. Don't forget that we are taking a group photo this **Sunday, August 3** after the end of the morning assembly. I believe the guideline regarding what to wear was "Wear something unique" or words to that end.
2. In my calendar I have a note that we are gathering **following worship on Sun, Aug 9** to run a trail layout of the room arrangements for both the chapel and the two rooms at the top of the stairs. It shouldn't take us more than 20-30 minutes.

See y'all there. Doug Strong

Social Justic Update

It's been a busy June & July in Social Justice here at Red River UU. June was the overview of UU the Vote, a nonpartisan program to get citizens to vote.

The July 19 morning assembly headed by Dr. Erin Walters of Texas UU Justice Ministry offered the opportunity for community to hear her message of The Music of Resistance. The video received a small but enthusiastic following.

Now the Social Justice Team will lead the 5th Sunday morning assembly August 30 with a presentation to "Take the 5th for Social Justice".

Members worked with the ideas for a postcard writing plan to write nonpartisan scripts provided by UU the Vote to registered voters in areas of Texas that have low voter participation. The photo in the next column shows the team at work with major ideas.

Michael takes the key words and creates an index of what was discussed so folks can read the trigger words and remember more of the conversation.



Please note: This is a reminder to members attending the NAAACP Banquet which will be held on Saturday, August 8 at 7 pm at Austin College. Finally, the Social Justice Team will meet again on our regular 4th Sunday, August 23 at 1 pm. There is still much to do. See you there. Take care of each other!!! Jan Fletcher, chair.

Earth Day Planners

The committee is taking a break from meeting in July and August. We will resume our regular monthly meetings on Thursday September 10 at 5:30 pm. We meet the second Thursday of the month unless otherwise agreed.

The theme for the 2027 festival will be nature tourism. We hope to work with local organizations and attractions to promote nature tourism in Texoma. We haven't decided on a tagline for promotion of the festival yet.

August Birthdays

06 Terra May Thome *
06 Linda Tracy
10 Lisa Cates
13 Leon Biasi *
22 Angelina Thome *
23 Jim Murphy
29 Carolyn Fridley
31 Doug Strong

*Youngster

It Happens in August

Every Monday @ 6 pm – Overeaters anonymous – open to all

Second Sunday @ 1 pm – Rainbow Team monthly meeting

Thursday Night at the Movies - on hold this month

Third Sunday – Board of Trustees meeting, following morning assembly

Fourth Sunday – 1 pm Committee on Ministry meets, following morning assembly

Fourth Sunday – 1 pm Social Justice monthly meeting

Banned Book Club – check church calendar to make sure if the banned book club is meeting in August

Emergency Preparedness Team

We have purchased many of the items for the first aid bags and supplies, but we are still missing some of the critically important (and most expensive) items to complete our supply list. If you would like to donate or purchase items to donate, please speak to Amy about the items needed.

From our non-resident poet

August 16 is National Tell a Joke Day. August 18 is National Bad Poetry Day. Our non-resident poet has a poem for both days!

The Clown – by Don Mathis

On the side of the street
in the bright August heat,
a kid stood wet with sweat.

The poor young fellow,
his face painted yellow,
cried and craved some shade.

It was hot in the suit
and the stupid red boots
collected the heat in his feet.

But he was getting paid
to stand there and wave
and usher cars in with a grin.

He had stayed up late
last night with his date,
a young thing with a nose ring.

Now his eyelids were heavy,
he had a pain in his belly -
for teenaged vice has a price.

He thought of her thighs
as sweat burned his eyes,
face-paint poured from his pores.

"Will 4:30 arrive?"
and "Will I survive?"
was his refrain in his pain.

After what seemed like a week,
he admitted defeat
and left his job with a sob.

He didn't know if it was bright
but he felt it was right
to be a fool for his honey, not money.