



April 2021 - Vol. 22 Issue 12

RED RIVER ChAt

To Seek the Truth in Freedom

RAMBLINGS

Virtual Worship Sundays @ 11:15 am on both our [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook page](#)

Sunday, April 4, 2021

THE TRUTH ABOUT EASTER, PART II: WOMEN CHANGE THE WORLD IN SECRET

the rev. Dr. Christine Tata, *leading*

Last week, Dr. Tata ended her Palm Sunday sermon with a mystery to solve: what happened to Jesus's body following his death by crucifixion? This Easter, she reveals the life-affirming solution, which is also the key to reclaiming the transformative potential of the Jesus movement. You won't want to miss the finale of this special two-part series, which offers seekers and believers a way of seeing Easter that challenges us not to settle for anything less than mystery and miracle.

Sunday, April 11, 2021

GOOD HABITS: CULTIVATING VIRTUE

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

Aristotle believed that possessing good character is about cultivating moral and intellectual virtue, and this requires practicing good habits for the sake of human flourishing. What might we learn from Aristotle in our contemporary context?

Sunday, April 18, 2021

SEEK AND YOU SHALL FIND: EMBODIMENT OF UNIVERSAL LAWS

Jared Treadway, *speaking*

Jared's unique Human Design and Geometry has led him on a spiritual quest to discover, embrace, and embody the universal underlying principles- the mystery behind the nature of a human life experience. He is excited to share with us – from at least a broad-strokes perspective – what he has come to know.

Read Jared's bio elsewhere in this issue.

Sunday, April 25, 2021

THE ANNUAL FLOWER COMMUNION SUNDAY

Worship Team, *leading*

A Sunday to celebrate one of the loveliest traditions from our Unitarian forbearers. Now in its 98th year, flower communion is an annual ritual that celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community. The history of flower communion will be shared, its purpose explored by the worship team who will leave to each of us time to connect to this unpretentious, yet significant part of a free religious tradition.

It will be different sharing Flower Communion virtually. Different by being separated, yet the same with the significance the [Unitarian minister Norbert Capek](#) of Prague, [Czechoslovakia](#), infused into a simple gathering to celebrate the end of the church year. While an annual event, it is not linked to any calendar giving each congregation the opportunity to celebrate it as each may so choose.

How to send the worship team your flower picture(s) and yes, you can send more than one!

Join us and plan on participating remotely. You are urged to "bring a flower" which will be a challenge. Some suggestions may help you. 1) Look through photos you have, you may well find one containing flowers. 2) Google your favorite flower and submit the photo. 3) Pick a flower and take a pix of it.

Once you've gotten your pix:

FROM YOUR PHONE: send a txt to 903-326-9929. In your txt msg, 1) identify yourself 2) say why you like the image you're attaching 3) attach the image. Send the text message.

FROM A COMPUTER/LAPTOP: send an email to: news@redriveruu.org. In your email: 1) identify yourself 2) say why you like the image you're attaching 3) attach the image. Send the email.

Having problems? Email us [here](#) and we'll help.

The Drop Dead Deadline: **Monday April 19th**.

Attacking Democracy

UUA CONDEMNS ATTACKS ON DEMOCRACY, RECOMMITTS TO PROTECTING VOTING RIGHTS

Mar 29, 2021

In the wake of historic voter turnout in the 2020 elections, state legislatures around the country are engaging in unprecedented efforts to restrict voting rights and make it harder for Americans to vote. Under the guise of renewed lies about voter fraud, GOP actions threaten to gut our democracy along the familiar lines of voter suppression and systemic racism. Recent legislation in Georgia is only the thin edge of this threat to our fundamental right to vote.

On March 25, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp signed SB202 into law after the Republican-led state legislature passed the measure. This bill is unapologetically intended to disenfranchise Black, Latinx, and new voters. These are the same communities that mobilized mass numbers of voters, contributing directly to the elections of both President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris and Georgia Senators Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff.

Instead of celebrating this groundswell of organizing and democratic participation, Georgia lawmakers have doubled down to consolidate their power and undermine the will of the people. When State Representative Park Cannon, a Black queer woman, knocked on the Governor's door to witness the signing of SB202 in a closed-door meeting of white male lawmakers, [police arrested and forcibly removed her from the Capitol](#).

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Jim's Jabber

Spring is officially here, and I know that I can feel the change in the air. My garden is sprouting, my trees are budding, my redbud is blooming, and we now have weather with attitude!

This month I have several topics to discuss in no particular order.

Earth Day Festival: Unfortunately, it has been canceled for this spring. However, in its place the Earth day Team under Amy's leadership is having a recycling event on April 17th. If you want to find out more or volunteer, go to the link at the end of this paragraph. We need more volunteers so fill out the form (link at the top of the recycle page) or let Amy know. <https://www.earth-daytexas.org/special-recycle-event/>.

Our Little Library/Food Pantry: Back when we closed our doors, Jolene recommended we use our little library to also store food and other supplies for our neighbors that may be impacted by the pandemic. Thank you everyone for stepping up and supporting this effort through food and money donations. Lately the activity on the food side has slowed and I find that I need to restock only occasionally and only need to replace a few items. I also have noticed that nobody likes the cans of navy beans, so I have pulled them and replaced them with other canned vegetables. Thanks to everyone for their money donations. For now, we have plenty of funds to support this going forward so save your money for other worthy causes. A worthy cause coming up is that we will have to spend a few extra dollars in getting the church building ready to reopen. That brings me to my next subject.

When will we reopen the church? Reopening will depend on how many of us have shots, how effective those shots are against the new virus mutations, and how comfortable we feel as a community in regathering in our building. At our May Congregational (ZOOM) meeting we will discuss this and take a vote on when we feel comfortable to reopen. Meanwhile the Board has prepared a minor (only 3 page!) to-do list of items that need to be done before we can open. This document is now being reviewed to see if we missed anything and to clarify any item that's confusing. Also, Marilyn is creating a *Safe Church Opening Protocols* document on what we need to do to insure people are coming into a safe building and doing safe practices. Both of these documents will be in your spring packet mailout for the May meeting.

RE Team: One of the big holes we have in our organization is that we do not have a RE Team Leader. This is a critical position. To survive as a church, we need to attract new members and younger members, hopefully with children. If we can't provide adequate childcare and classes for a visitor's child, they will not return. In the past, Angie and Ellie have done a wonderful job in entertaining children that show up, but we need to do more going forward. If you are interested or wish to know more, please contact me.

That's it for now, back to my garden!

Take care, keep safe, and *Keep on Truckin'*

Jim Holmes,
President

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Pro-democracy advocates are hailing SB202 as the worst voter suppression measure since Jim Crow. The bill restricts early and absentee voting, imposes stringent voter ID requirements, and makes it a crime to provide food and water to voters waiting in long lines on election day. It allows this same group of lawmakers to usurp the authority of local election boards. In a democracy the people choose their leaders, but in Georgia and 42 other states, the legislature is trying to choose its voters. To be clear, the voters they are choosing to exclude are Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, immigrant, poor, new and young voters.

Voter suppression has always been a tool of white supremacy in this country. And, in this political moment, these kinds of attacks on Black communities and communities of color—that organized and mobilized in historic ways during the last election cycle—are only going to increase as national GOP plans move forward. Disturbingly, SB202 is likely to be a test case for similar anti-democratic voter suppression bills across the country in the coming months. The [Brennan Center for Justice reports](#) that “As of February 19, 2021, state lawmakers have carried over, pre-filed, or introduced 253 bills with provisions that restrict voting access in 43 states[.]”

As Unitarian Universalists, our values hold that all people should have a voice and a vote in choosing their leaders and determining what is best for ourselves and our communities. Our principles compel us to protect the broadest use of the democratic process and remind us that the oppression of any community is a moral injury to us all. As we witness the intentional undermining of the electoral process, our faith beckons us to resist these attacks on democracy and protect voting rights everywhere.

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) offers our support and solidarity to the powerful organizing happening in Georgia, especially from faith communities and Black-led organizations such as [New Georgia Project](#), [Black Voters Matter](#), and [Fair Fight](#).

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Jan's Virtual Musical Circle

We are having a terrific time each month with some phenomenal musicians. In March, the songs brought an Irish flair as well as the singer/songwriter favorites. With our listeners and 8 musicians, the 3 hours of music just flew by!

Our next circle is the usual **3rd Saturday, April 17th**. Sign in to catch up with friends or sign up to perform at 5:30 and the music will start at 6. April brings spring storms, blooming flowers, and thoughts of love; so that may give some ideas of songs for the month. But not required! If you haven't joined us to listen or play, you are missing a great way to spend a Sat. evening! Here's the Zoom link: Meeting ID: 970 4165 1332. Questions? Email me [here](#). Jan.

Adult Forum for April

The history of earth and life. A crash course on Geology 101, Biology 101, and Civilizations 101

April 4 and 11

The history of earth - how our planet formed 1:31. We will watch half the video each week. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHUTbq-j0UU>

April 18

a. From the Cambian explosion to the great dying 11:50

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDQa0okkpf0>

b. The age of dinosaurs in three acts 11min.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZoHO3fAj_78

c. Life after dinosaurs 13 min.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbpeT9JQJY&t=29s>

April 25

a. The humans that lived before us 12:21.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANNQKKwWGk>

b. Homo Sapiens vs Neanderthals - the evolution of language 17:52

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9KnOjsc0g4>

c. The Two People We're All Related To: 9:30

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNQPQkV3nhw>

**RETURN
AGAIN**



To the land of your soul

The 2021-2022 Stewardship Campaign - starting April 12th

Continued from last page

We applaud leaders like Representative Cannon who have engaged in direct action and shown up with moral courage to condemn state repression. We encourage Unitarian Universalists across the country to organize to defeat voter suppression in their own states. We urge support for the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. These are crucial national measures to ensure that restrictive state bills like SB202 do not threaten the rights of the most marginalized communities.

As 19th c. Unitarian minister [Theodore Parker once said](#), "A democracy [is] a government of all the people, for all the people, by all the people." Access to the ballot and fair, transparent elections systems are fundamental to this vision. The UUA is proud of our Unitarian Universalist legacy of fighting for democracy and voting rights. We urge Unitarian Universalists to work in partnership with all those who share our values to take decisive action in support of a free, fair, and functioning democracy.

Take Action Today

- **Work to pass national voting rights legislation.** [Join Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice](#) in urging your Senators to take action in passing S1, the For the People Act, and [identify your U.S. House Representative](#) and ask them to vote YES on HR 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.
- **Organize for voting rights in your state.** Know [what voting-related measures](#) are on your state's legislative agenda this year, and work with your [UU State Action Network](#) to organize UUs in your state in support of a pro-democracy agenda.
- **Join other UUs to learn and organize for democracy together.** Follow Side With Love on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) as we connect UUs with opportunities for education and action in support of democracy. Join our [UU the Vote Facebook community](#) to connect with others working to combat voter suppression and ensure all people have a voice and a vote.

A Poem for Spring

Note: this was an active member of the congregation while he lived in Texoma. Now retired and living in Austin, on occasion he enjoys sharing a poem with us.

The Year There Was No Spring - by Don Mathis

Spring didn't come this year.
I guess she was too shy.
New growth just lay dormant.
Trees never budded or thrived.
Stunted by a winter's past
Or broken by the frost,
I'll never know what could have been
But I do know what was lost.
Lost, the chance to sing, to play,
Lost, the opportunity,
To be recharged and grow some more
To endless possibilities.
Can seasons be coaxed
To change, to go, to come?
I'm ready for a new one now.
I'm longing for the dawn.

Re: Jared Treadway

April Birthdays

I grew up in Windom, TX and studied architecture at Texas A&M and abroad. I returned to Sherman and joined the David Bacca Studio, architecture firm. I've always enjoyed exploring artistic disciplines like photography, landscape design, music, poetry, acting, filmmaking, and graphic arts. Nine years ago, an inner pressure inspired me to move to southern California where I sought spiritual guidance from Forward-Edge thought as well as ancient wisdom teachings. Having successfully navigating a mental/spiritual/emotional breakdown and the dark night of my soul, I'm now inspired to begin sharing what I've learned.

07 - Bruce Cameron
18 - Carol Powell
18 - Jolene Whitten
28 - Bill Mory

Treasurer's Report

In the month of February, we had total receipts of \$2,185.00. Expenses for the month totaled \$3,430.21. The result was an excess of expenditures over receipts of \$1,245.21.

As of 2/28/2021, we had \$3,851.72 available in checking, \$16,532.20 in general savings, \$13,581.55 in the Endowment Fund at UUCEF, and \$61,638.13 in the Savings Fund at UUCEF and \$62.07 in other savings for a total of \$91,813.95 in all savings accounts. We have a total of \$4,171.29 remaining on the renovation loan.

Marilyn Alexander,
Treasurer

Join us for the Texoma Earth Day **RECYCLING** EVENT!

Accepted for Recycling at the Event:

Electronic Waste, Appliances, Batteries, Cardboard, Paper, Glass (all colors), Styrofoam, Plastics 1,2,5, Plastic Bags, Ink & Toner Cartridges, Cell Phones, Outdated Prescription Drug Collection, Paper Shredding, Latex Paint

Paper Shredding:

Sensitive documents only – flattened cardboard and newspaper will be recycled on sight **Not open to businesses**

Choctaw Nation: Paper, including shredded paper, Plastics 1,2,5 including medication bottles, Styrofoam Ink & Toner Cartridges, Cell Phones, Plastic Bags

City of Sherman: Flattened Cardboard

Glass Recycling: sponsored by Strategic Materials

Glass Bottles and Jars – All Colors Accepted
No Plate Glass, Cookware, Baking Dishes, Vases, Measuring Cups

Electronic Waste Collection: sponsored by Keystone Ent.

Anything powered by a cord or battery – flat screen televisions, computers, computer equipment, flat monitors
large appliances (drained of freon)

Open to businesses and individuals

Latex Paint: sponsored by TCOG

Limit of 10 cans per household, any condition, cans must be closed
No oil-based paint or varnish

Pet Adoptions: sponsored by Sherman Animal Shelter

Tacos Hondumex! For your dining pleasure



When: April 17, 2021 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Where: North Rusk Street in Sherman (Municipal Building)

Visit our website for full details:

www.EarthDayTexoma.org



Contact Us

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DENISON, TX 75021-1806

How to reach us:

- Phone: 903.231.3232
- [Mobile App](#)
- [Email](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Facebook](#)

The church calendar is now merged with the EVENTS listing on the church website home page

Our Leaders

Board of Trustees

Jim Holmes, *President*

Lisa Cates, *Vice-President*

Marilyn Alexander, *Treasurer*

David Dyer, *Secretary*

Sabra Jones, *Trustee*

Committee on Ministry:

Dan Althoff, Elbert Hill, Marla Loturco

Nominating:

Kelly Cofield Dyer, Don Rogers, Amy Hoffman-Shehan

Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: Sabra

Aesthetics: Carol, Doug, Joyce

Caring Circle: Kelly

Communications: Doug

Endowment: Carolyn, Dick, Doug

Facilities: Jim (until we find someone)

Finance: Jim, Dick, Jan, Marilyn

Grounds: Marilyn

Long-Range Planning: Jim, Marilyn, Robert

Membership: Marion

NTUUC Rep: Marla

RE Team: Tommi

Safe Congregation Panel: Dan

Social Action:

Welcoming Congregation: Amy, Marla, Adrian, Lisa, Angie, Thomas

Worship: Dan, Doug, Keller, Marla, Robert

Be at GA - from your home

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. That remains true even when we cannot gather physically. Last year, GA had more than 4,900 registered attendees participate from remote locations around the world. Virtual GA retains our dedication to community and *make our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable*. Cost is \$200. NTUUC is helping with the cost by offering \$100 scholarships to all who apply.

Attending GA via Zoom works really well. You can attend workshops, business meetings, worship events, lectures. Many events can be watched *after* GA via the GA app, free to all attendees.

Here are some details to learn more about GA. You can also speak with Marion, Elbert or Doug - all have attended previous GA's.

Tap/Click the images for more details about each area.



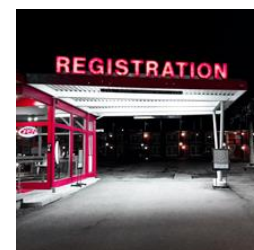
General Assembly registrants receive access to the 2021 Online Participation Portal, including live, simulive, and on-demand video content, the virtual exhibit hall, chat features, support, and a (**new!**) GA mobile app.

Virtual volunteers have the option of receiving complimentary GA registration. Those with anti-racism/anti-oppression and/or conflict management training, moderation experience, or previous General Assembly experience are especially sought. Read about the volunteer job descriptions.



GA 2020 RECAP General Assembly 2020 (June 24-28) happened entirely online, with the theme "Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!" Look over last summer's virtual GA to get a better idea of what it is like.

Register! The dates are **June 23-27, 2021!** Cost is \$200 but NTUUC is tossing in half the registration to encourage you to participate. \$100 vs. attending in person which cost 3x the registration, plus travel, hotel, meals, shopping. Virtual GA is a steal!



Lots more information on the UUA General Assembly here:

[Schedule of What's Happening on Each Day - a special preview](#)

[Virtual Participation in General Assembly](#)

[Online Discussions During General Assembly](#)