



June 2021 - Vol. 22 Issue 12

# RED RIVER *Returning Home on July Fourth* RAMBLINGS

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

**Sunday, June 6, 2021**

**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR**

the Rev. Dr. Aija Duelm, *speaking*

*“Love takes off the masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within. I use the word “love” here not merely in the personal sense but as a state of being, or a state of grace- not in the infantile American sense of being made happy but in the tough and universal sense of quest and daring and growth.” James Baldwin*

As we celebrate the month of June as LGBTQ+ pride month, we are invited to reflect on love and its power in helping us to live our true authentic selves. What does it mean to truly love your neighbor? Where do you see that kind of love in your life? What is the call of love to you today?

**Sunday, June 13, 2021**

**A LONG HISTORY OF HERETICS**

**PART I**

The Rev. Art Severance, *speaking*

Mark Twain said, “Faith is believing what you know ain’t so,” and we know from that that he was thinking like Unitarians and Universalists had always thought, except we would then question that kind of faith! And when you start questioning, you become a heretic, a word that means “choice”, butt really means WRONG choice. I will argue that our Founding Fathers weren’t Christians but heretics and Unitarians, the Pilgrims heretics from the Church of England which were heretics from Catholicism. Emerson was a heretic from Unitarianism! And let’s talk about the difference between Arrianism and Socinianism - it was a huge debate in early Unitarianism!

**Sunday, June 20, 2021**

**A LONG HISTORY OF HERETICS**

**PART II**

The Rev. Art Severance, *speaking*

[See details under Sunday, June 13)

**Sunday, June 27, 2021**

**RISE AND SHINE FOR VIRTUAL SUNDAY SERVICE**

First Universalist Church of Minneapolis, *leading*

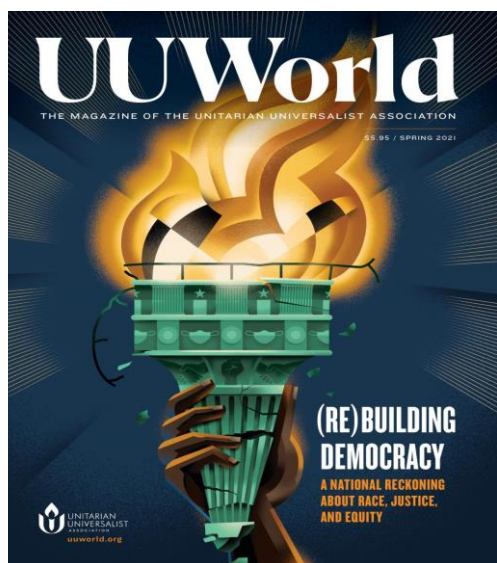


the [First Universalist Church of Minneapolis](#) will be the leaders of this worship experience. It is special because it comes at the end of the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual UU General Assembly. From the information, it appears that it will be streamed from Minneapolis to UUs everywhere! Last year’s Sunday worship was viewed on over 10,000 screens.

[Full details are on page 4.](#)

## Read the World

Instant Links to all articles. Enjoy!



## Jim's Jabber

To paraphrase President Whitmore's speech from one of my favorite 1996 movies *Independence Day*:

... this 4th of July will no longer be only known as an American Holiday, but as the day that Red River UU has declared in one voice:

*We will no longer just Zoom on Sunday.*

*We will no longer just wear sweatpants and t-shirts on Sunday.*

*We're going to live again - as normal.*

*We WILL come to the live morning assembly on our Independence Day.*

*The church reopens its doors on July 4<sup>th</sup>.*

Yes, in our May congregational meeting the attendees, along with the on-line survey participants, agreed that we are ready for the church to open. Since we need a month to get the church ready, we picked July 4<sup>th</sup> as our reopening date.

To get ready for the big day, the Board has created two documents. The first is a detailed list of what we need to do before we open our doors. The building has been closed since last March, so it has over a year of accumulated dust and clutter. Also, a few items need repairs. We are planning a **volunteer cleaning day on June 26th**. Please join us if you can.

The second document is a safety protocol document that details any procedures that need to be followed not only for cleaning but also for allowing people to safely be in the building. Since the CDC rules around these subjects are quickly evolving and changing, the Board will finalize this document in their June 20th meeting and post it in the July Newsletter, our website, and mobile app.

The Worship, Adult Forum, and AV Teams are working on the ability to have our virtual friends take part with us on Zoom Live sessions for the Adult Forum, Morning Assembly and Conversations & Coffee as well those that may feel uncomfortable coming into the building. We will continue to upload the recording of each morning assembly to Youtube and Facebook afterward for those who couldn't make the in house or Zoom session on Sunday.

Jan's Music Circle will meet on Saturday June 6th starting at 5:30 pm. If you enjoy live music, please join us on Zoom. You can join the music [here](#) (or open Zoom and type in the Meeting ID: 970 4165 1332

Take care, keep safe,

Jim Holmes,  
*president*

### Fault Lines of Injustice

This special issue of *UU World* examines how we can create a more just, equitable, and antiracist society, reflecting fundamental values of the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition.

by Christopher L. Walton and Lisa Gregory in [From the Editor](#)

### Our Commitment to Democracy is Theological

Unitarian Universalist values call us to audaciously imagine a world where no one is disposable and where everyone can thrive. They also call us to the struggle that brings these ideals to fruition.

by Susan Frederick-Gray in [From the president](#)

### Part 1: Showing up for Justice

### 'Our Community Has Power'

UU the Vote reached millions of voters. by Andrea Dulanto

## UUs Who Made a Difference

Unitarians and Universalists have a long history of advocating for justice. Here are just a few who left their mark on the world.

## Q&A: Sam Ames

Civil rights attorney on strengthening trans rights.

## Media Roundup: Faithful Responses to Election Day

Unitarian Universalist congregations in the news

Defining Citizenship by Taking It Away Citizenship stripping exemplifies the bundle of contradictions that is the United States of America.  
*by Amanda Frost*

## UUA Condemns Anti-Asian Violence

## Moment of Reflection: Witness and Protest]

## Part 2: We the People?

## Pandemic Reckoning

Six experts on deep fissures the past year has revealed.  
*by Joshua Eaton*

## Q&A: jessie little doe baird

Wampanoag leader on challenges facing Native Americans.

Media Roundup: Pandemic Memorials, Promoting Diversity, Grants for Community Service UU congregations in the news.

June is **PRIDE** month

During June the Adult Forum will focus on four different aspect of PRIDE during their weekly Zoom gathering @ 10 am each Sunday. The group gathers, checks in briefly then watches a video and has an open discussion following. Here's the schedule:

**Sun Jun 6:** A video to look at queer political action (<https://youtu.be/XoXH-Yqwyb0>)

And

A video exploring the event that gave birth to Gay liberation in the United States: The Stonewall Riots (<https://youtu.be/GjRv7dJTync>)

**June 13:** The Intersex Children Forced Into Genders – a longish video (<https://youtu.be/ugd31cXIYzk>)

**June 20:** Doug Strong will give some UU history “LGBTQ+ Unitarian Universalists vs. the UUA” (since he went through all of it.)

**June 27:** “The Trevor Project – reaching out to the 1.8M youth who need us “with two brief videos (<https://youtu.be/CO5uKgTETSI> and <https://youtu.be/HEDgLT8RMao>)

*Preparing to Returning Home Again*

Pick a Job - Do it – Smile!

Our big day to clean the building is **Saturday morning, June 26<sup>th</sup> - 9 am until everything is complete.** Here's the list of things we need to do:

- Dust **EVERYWHERE!** Pick a room/area and dust away! Chapel Foyer Upper lobby Alexander Room Emerson Room
- Polish the Wood Paneling and banister in the upper lobby
- Vacuum **EVERYWHERE!**
- Clean rooms (tidy, vacuum, dust and don't forget the blinds): Nursery F. Church Library Arts & Crafts Room Church office
- Organize the kitchen
- Organize the Hall closet outside the Emerson room and the storage cabinets in the back hallway
- Yard work (see Marilyn for details)
- Spirit of Life Monarch Waystation (see Linn for details)
- Restock Little Free Library
- Wash Windows – take your pick, there are enough for everyone!

Would you rather work alone on a different day? Or work with only one other person? We all have our own individual approached to Covid. We have the entire month of June to get ready. Pick you job, speak with Jim about when you want to do it and enjoy.

## Moment of Reflection: Incongruous

Poem by Everett Hoagland

## **Part 3: Policing Crisis**

### Sanctuary for Change

First Unitarian Church of Louisville harbors protesters demanding police accountability.

by Elaine McArdle

### Roots of the Crisis

Notable guides to the roots of white supremacy in American policing.

### Congregations Reaffirm Black Lives Matter

Unitarian Universalist congregations targeted by police or by right-wing protesters remain steadfast.

by Elaine McArdle, 10/13/20

### Q&A: Justice Gatson

Community organizer on ending cash bail.

## Moment of Reflection: Memorial for People Killed by Police

## **Unitarian Universalism Today**

### Improvisations for a Pandemic Year

Congregations continue to evolve to foster faith and worship online.

by Sherri Daye Scott

*Special Worship on Sunday June 27*

Join us virtually for the largest annual gathering of UUs joining in worship. Recognizing the importance of shared ministry and the many innovative approaches to worship created by congregations during the pandemic, UUA President, Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick Gray, selected the First Universalist Church of Minneapolis to serve as worship leaders for this year's GA Sunday Morning Service.

First Universalist has been a model of shared ministry and what it means to put the work of dismantling white supremacy and building anti-racist, anti-oppressive practices at the center of their ministry. They have been on the front lines in support of the Movement for Black Lives in Minneapolis, bringing spiritual care and moral leadership in the wake of George Floyd's murder by police and the important uprisings for justice that followed. Children and families are a vital part of their ministry, and they have been using creative approaches to engage all ages in worship during the pandemic. Their leadership exemplifies some of the best practices for the creativity, spiritual depth, and moral leadership that is possible when we embrace the work of shared ministry rooted in love and justice.

*Rev. Jen Crow; Rev. Arif Mamdani; Julica Hermann de la Fuente; Karen Hutt; Lauren Wyeth; Dr. Randy Buikema; Franco Holder; Aimee K. Bryant*



*Rev. Jen Crow*



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*Julica Hermann de la Fuente*



*Karen Hutt*



*Lauren Wyeth*



*Dr. Randy Buikema*



*Franco Holder*



*Aimee K. Bryant*



## **Media Roundup: Congregations Engage with Their Communities**

Unitarian Universalist congregations in the news.

## **UUA Seeks to Build on 2020's Success with Second All-Virtual General Assembly**

## **Commission Prepares to Revise Principles and Sources**

## **UUA Will Present Five-Year Institutional Change Plan**

## **In Memoriam: President O. Eugene Pickett**

*by Tom Stites*

## **In Memoriam: Co-Moderator Elandria Williams**

*by Elaine McArdle*

## **Clergy Deaths**

Death notices in *UU World's* Milestones section are abridged for print from the full obituaries published by the UU Ministers Association.

## **Families Weave a Tapestry of Faith**

### **Love Over Walls (PDF)**

Four-page insert adapted from *Tapestry of Faith* lifespan faith development programs. *by the UUA Faith Development Office in Families Weave a Tapestry of Faith*

## **UU World Families Pages**

## *June Musical Circle*

Summer's here and Jan's Virtual Music Circle will meet on line Saturday, June 5 from 5:30 till 8 or later. Hmm ... what themes might I suggest for June? How about school's out, summer's here, summer solstice, summer fun & vacations. You don't have to perform...listeners are always welcome. Just sign in to the zoom link below and kick back with some great acoustic singer/ songwriters and covers of songs for a couple of hours on a Saturday.

There was a good crowd in May and I hope that will be true for June 5. A great collection of songs as always. Looking forward to seeing everyone..."let the music play on, play on, play on."

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/97041651332> Meeting ID: 970 4165 1332

Jan

## *Financial Report for April*

In the month of April, we had total receipts of \$2,598.75 after the Ronda DeCaire Memorial Fund of \$2,545.00 was transferred out of Other Income into its own fund account and \$233.75 investment income from our UUCEF account was transferred and shows as increases in those funds. Expenses for the month totaled \$4,246.76. The result was an excess of expenditures over receipts of \$1,648.01.

As of April 30, 2021, we had \$6,635.22 available in checking, \$16,538.32 in general savings, \$13,826.94 in the Endowment Fund at our UUCEF (Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund), and \$62,751.89 in the Savings Fund at UUCEF for a total of \$95,662.15 in all savings accounts. We have a total of \$2,841.09 remaining on the renovation loan. Ronda DeCaire Memorial Fund has a total of \$2,545.00.

This is somewhat confusing because we actually had income of \$2598.75 and actual expenditures of \$1701.76, leaving an excess of income over expenditures of \$896.99.

The other expenditures were really transfers of the Ronda DeCaire Memorial Fund of \$2545.00 to Other Income and the \$233.75 investment income from UUCEF was transferred to the UUCEF savings accounts, so they really weren't expenditures, but transfers within our own account.

Marilyn Alexander  
*treasurer*

# Breaking News!!

Note: Remember last month's side bar story centered around the various anti-trans bills in the Texas legislature? Here's the outcome, succesful in part by UU involvement.

TUESDAY, JUNE 1<sup>st</sup> ....

From Rev. Chuck Freeman, TX UU Justice Ministry

In the midst of so much distressing news in the Legislature let's celebrate a victory! A dozen Members from First UU San Antonio led by Annaliese Cothron and its minister Rev Mark Skrabacz gained a Trans Justice Victory @ the Capitol!! A UU Seminarian from Starr King who is also a member at Wildflower—Ken Ripperger-Suhler, a UU member from Bay Area UU—Jim Elder also bore witness.

Tap/click the 2:05 minute video clip report:



If you saw our article on our Facebook page or in the May newsletter and called your legislators, thanks. It worked! The voice of the people prevailed, at least until the next time those who refuse to *affirm and promote the worth and dignity of every person.*

*Returning again  
to the land of our soul  
on Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup>*

**Come be part of the homecoming**

## Our Leaders

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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*

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Adult Forum: *Sabra*  
Aesthetics: *Carol, Doug*  
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, Ronda*  
Membership: *Marion*  
NTUUC Rep: *Marla*  
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Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*  
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Welcoming Congregation: *Adrian, Amy, Lisa, Marla, Thomas*  
Worship: *Dan, Doug, Marla, Robert*



## Contact Us

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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