



Sunday, June 4, 2023 - 11:15 am

“Ecological Responsibility and the Global Biodiversity Crisis”

The Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, leading
Sometimes as we rightly focus on the climate crisis, it is easy to forget the global biodiversity crisis (exacerbated and accelerated by the climate crisis) we are now facing. Since 1970, we have lost nearly 70% of animal wildlife populations on the planet, with much of their habitat being lost to animal agriculture.* Ecologists note that our current extinction rate is currently 1,000 to 10,000 times the normal background extinction rate, with 50% of species potentially facing extinction by the end of the 21st Century.** We are experiencing the Sixth Great Extinction on Earth and the only one caused by the activity of one species. It is a moral imperative for us all to address the global biodiversity crisis, but what, realistically, can we do? You may read Mark’s bio [here](#).

*<https://phys.org/news/2022-10-wildlife-populations-plunge-wwf.html>

**<https://www.britannica.com/science/extinction-biology>

PRIDE Sunday, June 11, 2023 - 11:15 am

“For the good of society ...”

Adrian Hinman, *leading*

“...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 community has been under attack from its government, and it is vital to remember history in order to protect the futures of those who are threatened.

Sunday, June 18, 2023 - 11:15 am

The Quest for Truth

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

Perhaps commitment to the Truth is best expressed in a realization that we as individuals, communities, cultures, political groups, and religions will never fully possess the Truth and therefore ought to proceed with great humility about truth claims concerning the what, how, and why of Reality and that which is Ultimate. This is not equivalent to moral relativism as we have significant consensus that we should do no harm to others and help each other flourish as persons. It is an attitude of humility that allows us to appreciate truth, goodness, and beauty in our own perspectives without absolutizing them in ways that diminish the perspectives of others. You can read Mark’s bio [here](#).

Sunday, May 28, 2023 - 11:15 am

Peace Sunday #7

Marla Loturco, *leading*

Henry Salt and Albert Schweitzer are the two peace leaders we will learn about this Sunday. They are two of the leaders who advocated for "Valuing All Life" instead of just human life. They are definitely proponents of our seventh principle: *Respect for the Interdependent Web of All Existence of Which We Are a Part*. You can read Marla’s bio [here](#).

A Gathering to Celebrate the Life of
Joe Combs will be Saturday, June 3
10 am ~ in the chapel and on Zoom (meeting
ID: 989 0789 7878 – no password needed)
with a complimentary lunch following at
Dragon Thai and Vegetarian Restaurant.

Marilyn's Musings



Welcome to summer! Green grass and trees, flowers, birds, bees, bugs, picnics, and heat – it is all here now.

We held our Spring Congregational Meeting in May and adopted the preliminary budget that was reduced by the finance team to meet our pledged income. Through some very generous last-minute pledge revisions, we didn't need to cut as deeply as we thought we might need to.

We also elected the following church leaders.

Board of Trustees:

- Amy Hoffman-Shehan, Vice-President – to fulfill 2-year term ending 2025
- Carole Harner, Treasurer – to fulfill remainder of Dick Powell's term ending
- Secretary, David Dyer – to fulfill 2-year term ending 2025
- Don Rogers, Trustee-at-Large – to fulfill 2-year term ending 2025

Committee on Ministry:

- Carolyn Cameron, to fulfill the 3-year term ending 2026

Nominating Committee:

- Jana Norris, to fulfill 3-year term ending 2026

Jim Runnels, to fulfill remainder of Carole Harner's term ending 2025

Walter Norris, to fulfill remainder of Linda Tracy's term ending 2024

We all appreciate their commitment and service.

We approved the proposed 8th Principle of Section II of the UUA bylaws to be considered at the General Assembly this June: "We covenant to affirm and promote journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions." The wording doesn't just profess a belief, but calls us to action.

We accepted the reports with few corrections from the Board, Membership, Committee on Ministry, Nominations and Minister Search Team.

We evaluated the goals we had for this fiscal year. Through that process, we adapted and extended some of those goals and added some additional goals. They are listed below for you to remember and put into play as we move through this fiscal year on July 1 st .

1. Become more visible in the community through participation in community events and usage of the building for outside organization events.
2. Hold one cleanup day and several tidy-up days.

3. Continue pursuing funding for the minister compensation fund.

4. Increase membership.

5. Seek additional members for the team that responds to comments on YouTube, Facebook, Website, Meetup, etc.

6. Bring in special speakers and events to the church and advertise them extensively to the wider community to let the community and employees of new businesses know what is happening at RedRiverUU as an effort to introduce them to our liberal, inclusive religion.

7. Market the church to the wider community, especially the employees of new businesses.

8. Seek a song leader.

9. Organize and hold a 3-day summer children's program to be held during 2024 summer.

The Power of NOW program led by Jim Runnels and Chair Yoga led by Marsha Runnels have resulted in some new visitors to RedRiverUU. Some people participating in the clothing swaps led by Adrian Hinman have also expressed interest. So, these programs are a service to our church and to the wider community and they are bringing new people to our doors.

By the way, there is another Kids Clothing Swap in the chapel on Saturday, June 3 rd from 3-8 pm. An outside event "Awaken to Your True Nature" by Gian Girardi, was May 24th and came about through the Power of Now program.

A Juneteenth Jubilee, June 19 th , music and hotdog event on our church lawn has been proposed for 5:00-8:00 pm, but is not yet confirmed. Stay tuned.

Put on your thinking caps and bring your outreach ideas to the board so we can find the people to implement new plans and sign additional special speakers or events.

In other business, Marla made a plea for people to step up and serve on the worship team or as worship associates. They are understaffed and overwhelmed. This is a vital part of our church and must be supported. Please volunteer.

At the board meeting held in early May prior to the Spring Meeting, the board approved contacting American Textile Recycling Service to put a drop off box on our property at no charge for receiving recyclable clothing. Anyone may put clothing they wish to recycle into the box which will be emptied by American Textile Recycling Service on a regular basis. They have cameras to monitor the outside and inside of the clothing bin so they know when to empty the bin.

I volunteered to substitute in Children's RE for David when he has to be absent. I will need to hold the class in the Emerson room, since I can't climb the stairs well. We would appreciate others volunteering to assist occasionally as well. We have a curriculum guide that provides step-by-step lessons and activities and we have support materials for crafts to enhance those lessons. Having a second leaders would make things more enjoyable to everyone.

Marilyn Alexander, president

Welcoming Congregation update

Greetings & salutations from the LGBTQIA + Committee. We are continuing to keep the Principles by participating in our local Queer events!

Grayson Pride held a Pride Prom in May that attracted young people from all over. RedRiverUU provided snacks & drinks as well as Jack & Thomas participating as escorts & by "holding the line", standing with Allies and community members as a wall of protection, shielding the young people from the prejudice of the protesters across the street.

Since the Prom, the venue & members of Grayson Pride have received threats of violence. However, the joy we heard & saw that night, from the kids who were free to be their complete selves to the adults who showed them love & acceptance, makes it all worth it.

Coming up in June, which is Pride month, the Committee will host a service about our history. Also, Grayson Pride, in partnership with United Way of Grayson County, is hosting a Maker's Market, highlighting LGBTQIA + & ally businesses & crafters. We will have a booth offering Pride & Pronoun buttons as well as literature. The Market will be in the United Way building on the 3rd, from 10-3 & we hope to see you there, supporting our piece of the Beloved Community.

Lastly, our meeting will be held on the 4th Sunday at 1 pm & we invite all who are interested to attend.

Minister Search Team

The Minister Search Team meets each month at 2pm in the Alexander Room on the Thursday prior to the Sunday monthly Board meeting. It is an open meeting so join us live or at Zoom with the Zoom ID 989 0789 7878.

We continue to work on putting together our church history (led by Jana) and putting together our church profile (led by Marla). This information will be needed once we formally pursue acquiring a minister.

We will also review our financial status based on the outcome of our Stewardship Campaign and the end-of-year budget vs. actual projections. We also continue to receive

pledges for the minister's compensation package. To date we have commitments of \$15,400. If you wish to pledge, go to the [Minister Compensation Pledge Form](#). Money will not be needed until the minister starts.

Jim Holmes. *chair*

June Birthdays



03 Rebecca Crystal
03 Thomas Garland
11 Marsha Runnels
17 Minnie Cantu
20 Sherilyn Bolerjack
26 Walter Norris

Money Matters

In the month of April, we had total receipts of \$3,080.08. Total expenses for the month were \$3,363.07, leaving us with a net loss for the month of (\$282.99). The net loss for the month was primarily due to expenses to repair the garage.

Net loss for the fiscal year-to-date was (\$254.38). The year-to-date net loss was due to expenses to repair the garage partly offset by lower expenses than budgeted on many different line items.

As of April 30, 2023, we had \$10,220.12 available in checking. There is a total of \$20,607.17 in all savings accounts, which includes \$4,037.08 for the Minister Compensation Fund and \$5,951.89 held in trust for Kat Walston from the sale of her personal effects prior to moving into assisted living. There is a total of \$66,784.40 invested in the UUA Common Endowment Fund.

A total of \$15,440 has currently been pledged for the minister's compensation fund. Additional pledges can be made by contacting the minister search team.

Carole Harner, *treasurer*

Social Action Changing

RedRiverUU Social Justice Team will no longer meet monthly at church. Members will continue to work on various projects on their own initiative. Information will continue to be emailed to you regarding news updates on these issues of interest. Contact me to receive this information.

We are still working on a video presentation, The Abortion Talks, to present to the public, but a date is still not available. I am hoping for a July date and will know more later.

In the meantime, our democracy works if "We, the People" are active citizens making our opinions known to our elected officials. Democracy starts with me!

Jan Fletcher, *chair*



TXUUJM Presents: A Conversation on the 8th Principle w/ Paula Cole Jones 6:30-8:30pm CT Tuesday, June 13

FREE, via Zoom (link after you register) All RedRiverUUers welcome -- church members, lay leaders, staff, and new UUs too. Register via email to Rev. Erin: <mailto:txuujm@gmail.com?subject=June 13 event with Paula Cole Jones>

Happenings in June

- Sundays – Adult Forum @ 10 | Morning Assembly @ 11
- Tuesdays – Chair Yoga @ 10 | Spiritual, Self-help Book Club @ 6:30
- Jun 03 – Celebration of Joe Combs' Life @10 | Kid's clothing swap 3-8
- Jun 15 – Minister search team @ 2
- Jun 18 – Board of Trustees meeting @ 1
- Jun 24 – Newsletter Deadline
- Jun 25 – Committee on Minister
- Jun 25 – LGBTQAI+ meeting

From our non-resident Poet

The Answer to Your Cycle Logical Problems

June 3, 2023 is World Bicycle Day. Bicycling is fun, it's economical, and it's healthy. And if we pay attention, riding a bicycle can provide some lessons for everyday life.

Writing about Riding – by Don Mathis

It was back in the days I can barely remember remembering. Daddy decided it was time to take the training wheels off my bicycle.

"Oh, Don, be careful," Mom advised.

Daddy balanced the bike and trotted along, pushing me.

"Pedal," Daddy said, "Pedal."

I did.

And I kept glancing back to see his smile of approval.

"You're doing it," he said!

And I looked back one more time to see him standing 10 feet... 15 feet... 20 feet behind me, smiling and waving.

I panicked. I forgot to pedal. I forgot I knew how to steer.

Somehow, I must have figured crashing into the bushes would be less painful than hitting the pavement. I got a little scratched up by the shrubs. My tears were more from abject terror than from pain.

Daddy got a tongue-lashing from Mom.

A day or two later, Daddy gave me more guidance; how to brake, how to keep balance. These are two important lessons in life:

Know when to slow down. Always strive for balance.

Contact us

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Our Leaders

Board of Trustees:

Marilyn Alexander, *President*
Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *Vice-President*
Carole Harner, *Treasurer*
David Dyer, *Secretary*
Don Rogers, *Trustee*

Committee on Ministry:

Carolyn Cameron, Elbert Hill, Jim Holmes

Nominating:

Jana Norris, Jim Runnel, Linda Tracy

Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: Marilyn, Jim, Amy, Marion

Aesthetics: Doug

Audio Visual: Carole, Don, Jim, Marla

Caring Circle: Carolyn, David

Communication: Amy, Doug, Marla

Endowment: Carolyn, Doug

Facilities: Jim

Finance: Jim, Carole, Marilyn

Grounds: Marilyn

Long Range Planning: Jim, Marilyn

Membership: Marion

Minister Search: David, Jana, Jim, Marilyn, Marla

NTUUC Rep: Marilyn

RE Team: David, Marilyn

Safe Congregation Panel: Marilyn

Social Justice: Jan

Web Team: Hannah, Jim, Marla

Welcoming Congregation: Adrian, Amy,
Marla, Thomas, Jana, Jack, Sherilyn