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# February 2026 ♦ Vol 17, No 8

Sunday, February 1, 2026

## STRIVING FOR JUSTICE

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

Unitarian Universalists have a long history of working for social justice and also taking a self-critical stance in order to be open to the change that is needed to bring about a more Beloved Community. In this discourse, we will look at this UU history of striving for justice and reflect on how we can continue to express this commitment in our troubled times.



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Sunday, February 8, 2026

## WHO ARE UU's?

The Worship Team & Rev. David Schwartz, via video

Curious about Unitarian Universalism? Join us this Sunday for a special look at Unitarian Universalism. We'll explore the values that guide us—like justice, equity, and a deep respect for the earth—and discuss how we live those out in the real world.

Newcomers, old friends, and the simply curious are all welcome.  
Come explore with us!



Sunday, February 15, 2026

## THE HISTORY OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

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

Augustine and Aquinas were both known for claiming that “an unjust law is no law at all.” We know from the experience of humanity that legality and morality are not synonymous. Many practices have been deemed legal by societies that are clearly immoral. This discourse will explore how civil disobedience to unjust laws has been an effective catalyst for social change throughout human history.

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Sunday, February 22, 2026

## WE GATHER AS F. O. C.

Rebecca Crystal & The Rainbow Team

Family of Choice (FOC) is made of people that provide shared values, emotional connection, and celebrations of life events. Originating in the LGBTQIA+ community primarily for people who lacked support from their Family of Origin (FOO), it has grown to encompass all who find a need for more nurturing relationships. Join us to learn how Red River UU can continue to grow to be more of a FOC.

# NTUUC Celebration!

Saturday, March 28 • 2:30-6:30 pm Choir rehearsal  
2 pm

**Slice to Meet You!**  
*Life is uncertain, so eat dessert first.*

Singing some FUN music

Connecting  
with your COUNTERPARTS from  
other congregations

Discussion of a  
**Big Question**

Entertainment & Dinner

**MISS DEVON AND THE OUTLAW**

RSVP to [NTUUC.org/Celebration](http://NTUUC.org/Celebration)

All Peoples Church  
Unitarian Universalist  
1959 Sandy Lane  
Fort Worth, TX



## What's on the Agenda?

We're kicking things off with a delightful **Pie Social!** But it's more than just dessert; it's a chance to mingle and swap brilliant ideas with friends from other congregations. You'll get to pick a topic table and dive into engaging discussions on different ways of handling specific, important aspects of church life.

The topics up for a cozy chat over pie include:

- ♦ **Adult & Children's RE:** *Sharing program and activity types.*
- ♦ **Social Justice:** *Discussing activities, social action, and political interfacing.*
- ♦ **Community Outreach:** *Creative ways to spread the word about your UU congregation.*
- ♦ **Worship:** *Exploring design, order of service, and service variations.*
- ♦ **Music:** *Best practices for selection, choirs, and oh-so-important copyright issues!*
- ♦ **A/V & Production:** *Tips for streaming, uploading, and YouTube channels.*
- ♦ **Food & Kitchen Activities:** *Sharing ideas for fellowship and food.*
- ♦ **Facilities Management:** *The ins and outs of care, maintenance, and renovations.*
- ♦ **Pastoral Care:** *Caring for the sick, reaching out to those who've been away, and hospital visits.*
- ♦ **Stewardship/Fundraising:** *Smart ways to support our beloved community.*

After our topic talks, we'll gather for a warm welcome, sing some funny songs, and tackle the "**BIG QUESTION**" in group discussions before summarizing our collective wisdom.

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*Hey There, Amazing North Texas  
Unitarian Universalists!*

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*Get ready to mark your calendars for a simply **fabulous** event coming your way! The North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations (NTUUC) are planning a grand Celebration, just for you and all our wonderful neighboring churches.*

*Join us for an afternoon of connection, learning, and pure fun on Saturday, March 28th, from 2:30 to 6:30 PM*

## The Grand Finale

*We'll wrap up the day with a delicious BBQ buffet dinner, with vegan options, and a musical treat. Get ready for some musical comedy entertainment by Fort Worth's **Miss Devon and the Outlaw**, who have performed in Branson and other venues far and wide.*

*So, don't miss out! Plan to attend, maybe even dance a little, celebrate our shared community, and have an absolute blast. We can't wait to see you there!*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>**

**ALL PEOPLES CHURCH, UU  
FORT WORTH, TX**

# I Need Help for the New Church Directory

I Need Help for the new Directory

The next new Church Directory is about to come out. Previously, I have copied out all of the information that is on file for each person to be included in the directory, send it to each of you – very time-consuming – and wait for everyone to reply confirming or updating their information so the directory can be more accurate. Then, often, I had to send a nudge followup email for those who didn't reply.

The information for the directory includes printing the following for **each member** or **friend**:

- ◆ Last Name
- ◆ First Name
- ◆ Birth Month/day
- ◆ Member/Friend
- ◆ Home Address
- ◆ Home phone
- ◆ Pronouns
- ◆ Email
- ◆ Cell phone
- ◆ Church Activities (team, group, committee etc. for each person)
- ◆ Interests
- ◆ Profession
- ◆ Spouse/significant other
- ◆ Children

If you have changes for the new directory from the August 2025 edition, you are responsible for getting them to me at [directory@redriveruu.org](mailto:directory@redriveruu.org) by **February 15** when I will create a directory with the current information in the database.

**To our new members and friends:** We always include the above list of information so everyone can get to know you while you can learn more about people in the congregation.

By sharing the listed details everyone can know one another a bit more. Providing the information is optional for all of us. If you want that information included so people can get to know you better and you may learn more about others, please send to [directory@redriveruu.org](mailto:directory@redriveruu.org)

**For everyone,** if you move, change your address, email address, phone, or change church activities, please help me keep the database up to date by sending me what's changed in your listing.

Our directory is the resource so each of us can learn more about one another and reach out to you need/want to.

One other item of note: If you do not want your address, home phone, cell phone, or actually most of your data (nothing but your name and membership status) printed in the directory, I have flags in the database to control these options. You must let me know for me to set the flag.

In gratitude for making the work of a new directory less time consuming, a big thanks!

Marla Loturco, *Church Database Administrator*

## Treasurer's\$ Report

Treasurer Report as of December 31, 2025, For the fiscal year-to-date period of July 1 through December 31, we had an operating net profit of \$6,104.95. This was due to the timing of pledge donations and to lower expenses in several categories, partially offset by unbudgeted expenses for yardwork. As of December 31, 2025, we had \$22,151.53 available to be used for general operations in our bank checking account, \$9,960.21 available in our bank savings account, and approximately \$25,356.49 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; \$16,824.66 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 \$2,747.05 year-to-date from restricted funds leaving \$18,443.88 restricted to cover continuing repairs and renovations to the building and to increase visibility in the community to grow membership.

Carole Harner, *Treasure*



## Whatcha Doing on Wednesday?

For those of you who read the newsletter the day it arrives: Whatcha doing on **Wed, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>**?

How about spending a measly one hour joining UUs across the country in creating an unbroken chain of phone calls to key members of congress every three minutes for 40-straight business hours? The goal isn't to piss off our elected leaders, but to demonstrate how widespread the need to get ICE OUT! Jan has asked the Phone Call Blitz folks for this Wed. Feb 4 in the morning. Call Jan now if you're willing to help.

# Social Action Updates

## “Free Families” Vigils Successful

On January 18, the National Coalition to End Family and Child Detention, comprised of over 40 organizations across the country, called for an end to family detention, no funding for ICE and immediate action to stop the widespread abuse and neglect that children and adults are experiencing in ICE custody after weekend protests by those children and families. Protesters were heard chanting “*libertad*” (or “freedom”). The group called for a “Freedom Vigil” for Wednesday, January 28 at the Dilley, Texas Detention Center, south of San Antonio. Numerous members of Texas UU Justice Ministry hopped in buses and drove to join in the struggle to protect these children. U.S. Representatives [Jasmine Crockett](#) (TX-30) and [Joaquin Castro](#) (TX-20) planned to conduct an oversight visit of the facility, followed by a press conference in San Antonio with Ramos’ attorney.

Detainees in Dilley include 5-year-old Liam Ramos, who was detained along with his father in Minnesota after the boy came from preschool last week.

Also being held at Dilley is a 7-year-old named Diana Crespo. She and her parents were detained in the parking lot of a hospital in Portland, Oregon, two weeks ago. Her parents were trying to get help for the second grader who had a long-lasting nosebleed — but they never made it inside the hospital. The Oregon Nurses Association condemned what happened, saying, “No parent should ever be forced to weigh their child’s A federal judge has issued a temporary restraining order that Little Liam cannot be deported. However, ICE continues their tactics which continue to keep our immigrant community living in fear. Please, write your Federal Senators and Representatives to stop all funding for this ICE “reign of terror”!

Note: You can read the excellent article **All Eyes On Dilley** in the current issue of Texas Monthly [here](#). The Rev. Erin Walker, TXUUJM Minister & Executive Director, is prominently mentioned.

## Bending Texas Toward Justice Together

By the Rev. Erin Walker

While our procession was grounded in peace and love, seeking to uplift the voices of children and families, in the end, our cries were still met with aggressive state violence. This is deeply traumatic and not OK, whether you were on the front line, face to face with trooper's shields, or whether you were on a bus waiting and praying for other people's safety.

I will say again. State violence is NOT OK. We cannot normalize this. We cannot accept it. We will not accept it.

Our UU faith holds love at the center, affirms that every person has worth and dignity, and that we are all connected. Therefore, our souls yearn and our minds and bodies work for everyone to be free.

I was so moved late yesterday afternoon when a pocket of the crowd started to sing "This Little Light of Mine," on the edge of the protest line, in the face of ICE agents.

Please keep shining your light for Liam, for all the children and families, and for "Libertad" for all.

If you were NOT there, please call and email your legislators today and every day. Tell them to do their jobs for the people. Don't stop calling until they end this hell of violence, ICE, and family separation and incarceration. We [hope to see you at Action Hour](#).

Rev. Erin Walker,

*TXUUJM Minister & Executive Director*

## Rainbow Team 2026 Calendar



I hope this article finds you all well & warm in this New Year! Here is our planned event calendar. This does not include services or events that are not scheduled yet but may be added as the year goes on.

- Feb - 08<sup>th</sup> Monthly Meeting  
28<sup>th</sup> Fae & Fairy Tea Party 2-4 pm
- Mar - 08<sup>th</sup> Monthly Meeting 1-2 pm
- Apr - 12<sup>th</sup> Rainbow team Monthly Meeting  
18<sup>th</sup> Earth Day Festival with Kids Clothing Swap (Sherman Municipal Ballroom Stage) All Day
- May - 10<sup>th</sup> Rainbow team Monthly Meeting 1-2 pm
- June - **PRIDE MONTH**  
13<sup>th</sup> Grayson County Pride Day – Sherman Muni Park  
14<sup>th</sup> Rainbow team Monthly Meeting -2 pm
- July - 12<sup>th</sup> Rainbow team Monthly Meeting -2 pm
- Aug - 09<sup>th</sup> Rainbow team Monthly Meeting -2 pm  
15<sup>th</sup> Kids Clothing Swap 2-4 pm
- Sep - 13<sup>th</sup> Rainbow team Monthly Meeting -2 pm
- Oct - 11<sup>th</sup> Rainbow team Monthly Meeting -2 pm
- Nov - 08<sup>th</sup> Rainbow team Monthly Meeting -2 pm  
14<sup>th</sup> Framily Holiday Celebration 2-4 pm
- Dec - 13<sup>th</sup> Rainbow team Monthly Meeting -2 pm
- Jan '27 10<sup>th</sup> Rainbow team Monthly Meeting 1-2 pm  
16<sup>th</sup> Kids Clothing Swap 2-4 pm

Jack

*for the Rainbow Team*

## Overeaters Anonymous (O.A.)

is a community of people who support each other in order to recover from compulsive eating and food behaviors. We welcome everyone who feels they have a problem with food. The local OA group meets each Monday at 5:30 and newcomers are warmly invited to come. Please note that in March we will change our meeting start time from 5:30 back to 6:00 pm

## Our non-resident Resident Poet

February 8-14 is [Freelance Writers Appreciation Week](#).

Celebrate with a poem!

### Natural High

by Don Mathis

I write when I like.  
Lay down my pen, pick it up again.  
Write to my son or congressman  
or fire a letter to the editor.  
Mail it and then forget.  
Until another idea  
compels me to scamper for paper.  
Or the phone rings on my answering machine,  
"We need your OK to run your essay."  
Or I glean a magazine  
and see my handle in the contents table.  
Maybe a legislator will answer my letter.  
Or I get a warm greeting at the poetry reading.  
I smile for a while  
and sigh – A Natural High.

## February Birthdays



- 05 Jamie Bias
- 06 Curtis Severns
- 15 Martina Hernandez
- 16 Mira Chris Mory
- 17 Paula Jennings
- 20 Olivia Pettyjohn

## Providing refreshments each Sunday.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

Amy Hoffman-Shehan  
George & Eva Novak  
Lady Hulsey  
Jack Bolerjack

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

Carole Harner  
Jim Holmes  
Walter and Susie Norris  
Andrea Kysor

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

Elbert & Marion Hill  
Liz Rapp  
Cindy Buffington  
Christina Wyatt

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

Marilyn Alexander  
Bill Holloway  
Pat Bley  
Mira Mory

## Our Elected Leaders

### Board of Trustees

Jana Norris, *president*  
Susie Norris, *vice president*  
Carole Harner, *treasurer*  
Jack, *secretary*  
Christin Macken, *trustee at large*

### Committee on Ministry

Jim Holmes  
Mariln Hill  
Bruce Cameron

### Nominating

Marilyn Alexander  
Liz Rapp  
Walter Norris