



# Red River Ramblings

The Monthly Newsletter of Red River Unitarian Universalist Church ♦ Denison TX ♦ Vol 20, No. 3 ♦ June, 2018

Sunday June 3, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

## **Inclusion: A New Perspective**

Kelly Cofield-Dyer,  
What happens speaking

When the hell, fire and brimstone pastor of Tulsa's Higher Dimensions Evangelistic Center has an epiphany there is no Hell, what's he to do? As the leader of the 6,000-member megachurch, he preaches his revelation of doctrine; changing everything he has preached to the masses his whole life. Do his believers lay down the crosses of Holy War? Come join us to hear the amazing, life affirming journey from Christian to Pantheist of the Bishop Carlton Pearson.



*New UU Orientation – open to anyone wishing more information about our church. Meets 12:45-1:30 in the chapel.*

Sunday, June 10, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

## **The Lost Dream for the Community**

James Roa, *Speaking*

Former Educator, Critical Thinking Expert and Personal Development Enthusiast, Jaime "James" Roa, will tell his story as a Real Estate Entrepreneur and his court "debates" over the Central Ward School building and the ensuing lawsuit against the ones responsible for the demolition of the historic building. Don't miss this entertaining, informative and transformative presentation with video never shown before. One day only.



*Since I learned to read, at the age of 4 years, I have been interested in learning about virtually everything. I was very fortunate to have grown up in an environment that could be best called another Renaissance, when and where I developed a great interest and appreciation for the Humanities and all the branches of science. In the US, I obtained a B.S.*

*in Education and M.A in Person-Centered Education. I, also, did coursework in a Doctoral Program approved by the CA State Dept. of Ed. For 30 years I worked in educational institutions in several states. For the last 20 years, I have done work in real estate, on and off.*

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

## **Once Upon a Nightmare, Growing up Gay in America**

The Rev. Doug Strong, *preaching*

I've never approved of the process of 'outing' someone. For over 30 years I lived in fear of being outed, even though I'd compartmentalized my life and passed for straight (mostly). I came out in 1974 - by mistake - and it was all my fault. I was kissing a friend in the kitchen at Starr King School for the Ministry when a couple of students waltzed in. They smiled, giggled and one remarked, "About time, dude!" Every person whose thought they'd guarded their sexual truth knows precisely how I felt. Join me on Sunday as together we walk through that nightmare. Spoiler alert: It has a happy ending. It does get better.

Sunday, June 24, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

## **What Is Love?**

Megan Hutchinson, *Speaking*

Today we will explore different definitions and expressions of love and how they impact our perception of love throughout our lives.

- ♦ Meditation ~ 9 (*see note on next page*)
- ♦ Ault Forum ~ 10
- ♦ Morning Assembly ~ 11:15
- ♦ Conversations & Calories ~ 12:15

## Hello from Helen



Greetings to you all, in what, I think, is my last note here. It has been an interesting two years for me, as president of this lay-led congregation. I have

learned a great deal about what keeps an organization like this running...and it seems that several people do the bulk of the work, while many of us do a little bit on the side...and somehow it all gets done.

I still feel very strongly that we are an important part of the Texoma community, and that we represent the voices of many who might otherwise go unheard. We may be small, but we help demonstrate that there is room for many viewpoints in our culture. Our focus on love and tolerance, even for those who do not look like us or worship like us, sets us apart. We can be less discouraged when we face the outside world as a group.

I am so pleased that Jim Holmes has agreed to be our next president, and I look forward to the upcoming year.

All the best,

Helen.

## The Trash Troop



One year ago, 16 people volunteered to be part of The Trash Troop. One Wed. each month one or more of the Troop tramped off to church to tug the recycle bin and the garbage bin to the Bond St curb and trekked back Thurs to

tow the bins back to the building.

It is time to find volunteers to do it one Wed/Thurs during the new church year (Jul '18 – Jun '19).

Once the trooper gets to church it takes about 8 minutes to complete the task. Two trips = 16 minutes. Will you sign up? If so, email [info@re-driveruu.org](mailto:info@re-driveruu.org) and say YES.

Speaking of recycling, check out [Six Things You're Recycling Wrong](#) from the New York Times. May 28, 2018. Surprising what ought **not** to be recycled!

## Spring Meeting summary

What a difference food makes! The quorum for the spring meeting recorded 33 people participating, in person or by online or paper voting!

All candidates were elected, the budget was passed, reports accepted and previous minutes approved.

After a good discussion we approved 3 goals the new church year (Jul 1 – Jun 30)

- 🌱 Create a Monarch Waystation on our campus
- 🌱 Re-establish an Endowment Committee
- 🌱 Create a Long-Range Planning Committee

Share the Bowl recipients will be the Grayson County Shelter and the Earth Day Festival. The Boys & Girls Club was also discussed with the idea that we might look at ways to offer support to this worthwhile organization

The roof needs repair and we will have to replace one of the H/VAC systems. Bids have been received and the work should be done before the really hot weather hits us.

Since there will be some repainting necessary to repair the ceiling in the upper foyer, this might be a good time to repaint the Barton Parlor and the Emerson room, along with the hallways and bath.

We learned the codes for installing a parking lot will make the cost/parking space (and we would only gain 7 spaces) too expensive. There is ample street parking on both Burnett and Bond streets, however.

The need for a proper nursery is one thing that hampers getting younger families and this is one priority for the long-range planning committee to address.

### Morning Meditation on break for a month

Sunday morning meditation is being suspended because we can't locate someone to facilitate it. The last morning meditation will be Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> and it will resume on Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Fair Trade Coffee

Marion Hill will be placing another order soon for Fair Trade coffee. This is ordered wholesale from Equal Exchange, which buys directly from small growers in coffee-producing regions, who thus earn more for their beans than if they're forced to sell to large coffee companies. Yes, prices are somewhat higher than you pay for Folger's or Maxwell House, but more of your money supports small farmers and helps them be independent of large corporations. You can go to the website [equalexchange.coop](http://equalexchange.coop) to see what flavors are available and the country of origin (Nicaragua, Ethiopia, Colombia, etc.). Click on "Shop" at the top of the page," then on "interfaith Store," then on coffee (or whatever product that interests you), and you'll see retail prices. But if you order through the church, you'll pay the wholesale price. (For example, a case of 6/12 oz. packs of Organic Decaf is \$56.50 retail, but wholesale is \$44.40.) Whole beans as well as ground coffee are available on some varieties. If you're interested in buying, or just want to ask a question, contact Marion Hill, [mhill2015@att.net](mailto:mhill2015@att.net) or 580-924-7715. She'll be placing the order about June 8.

## Moveable Feast ~ June 15

Carolyn and Marla have a good suggestion for a June MF meal that wouldn't be burdensome for anyone. Since people have a variety of special diets, everyone could bring a sack lunch that includes foods they can and like to eat. Several dates were tossed around and your Feaster Facilitors settled on Friday, June 15.

Bring your sack supper and plan on arriving by 5 pm. After eating everyone is invited to remain for this month's Friday Night Flicks (details in the next column).

## Treasurer's Report

In addition, our church purchased a new AV desk computer for \$799 and a new Optima projector for \$599, which will be much appreciated by everyone in the chapel. As of April 30, we had \$2,689.65 available in checking, a total of \$71,860.58 in all savings accounts and a total of \$14,572.71 in Certificates of Deposit. All bank accounts have been reconciled with no exceptions noted.

Dick Powell, *treasurer*

## Friday Night Flicks ~ June 15



This month's selection is a movie a lot of people might easily miss. That's why it is the one we'll watch Friday night, June 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm.

"God's Own Country" is a tricky movie, but not in a way that's dishonest. Its first feet are in the school of miserabilist realism, and while director Francis Lee never abandons his things-as-they-are approach, he tells a love story by letting magic in at unusual angles. Most of which involve, yes, God's own country, a ravishing landscape captured beautifully by the cinematography of Joshua James Williams. The land can be contended with, inhabited, but it can't ever be tamed, is what the images tell us.

The movie asks a lot of its actors, physically and emotionally, and they come through. Overall this is a pretty exceptional find; a solid story about how committing to what you believe in requires finding out what you believe in first. Sounds simple, but it's not.

Those who wish may linger after the movie for an informal discussion before night fall. The movie is 1:44 hr. long, and the sunset that day will be at 8:38 pm; time to talk and still get home before dark.

Comfy Seats, Two Screens and Free Popcorn!

See you there!

## Social Action Update

This was a busy month for me again – I was ill all of it! You may have noticed that I wasn't at church and that I didn't post on our Facebook page much. I hope to be more active in the coming months.

I have continued participating in our [Welcoming Congregation Program](#) meetings and I look forward to the coming activities. Everyone is invited to join our [Meet Up](#) and come to our first Meet and Greet after church on June 24.

I have noticed that only a few people “LIKE” posts to our Facebook page. If you LIKE a post it is tabulated (by magick, heh heh) and counts towards our Facebook algorithm. It also encourages those of us doing the work of the church (which is most of us). Please visit our [Red River UU Church](#) Facebook page and LIKE us: you will see on the left side a list of options starting with “Home.”

LIKING a Facebook post is a social political act if it has to do with social political actions. One fast way to support the church and the people who serve Red River UU is to visit the Facebook page and LIKE the posts. You could even post a story about a cause yourself – an idea for another column.

So far no one has contacted me about a Facebook or internet training. If you did try, please try again to email me, or see me in church when I return after my long illnesses.

Rebecca Crystal, facilitator

## LGBTQ Meet Up ~ June 24

The Welcoming Congregation Committee has created a MeetUp group (see Social Action article above) and everyone is encouraged to come. The informal get-together is a time when gay and no-gay folks can meet and get to know one another.

It is no secret that there are precious few places in Texoma where LGBTQ people can meet up, for coffee, or food, or just to ‘hang out’. The only gay bar in the area was recently sold and its future is in flux.

Consider lingering afterwards on Sunday afternoon, June 24<sup>th</sup> and check out the MeetUp.

## Come Be a Host!

Red River UU has begun a program of having a designated Host to assist greeters with the process of welcoming visitors on Sundays, and currently has three people acting as Hosts: Linn Cates, Marion Hill, and Carol Powell. We need more volunteers to be Hosts!

This isn't a hard task. The Host wears an “Ask Me” button and is available to answer questions such as: where to take children for R.E., where to hang coats, where to find a hymnbook, etc.; the meaning of certain elements of our services (candles of community, the chalice, etc.); and other questions that someone new to our church might have.

Even if you're not a charter member or a long-time attendee, if you've attended for a few months you probably know enough about Red River UU to help a “newbie” feel comfortable among us. Some Hosts choose to sit with a visitor and answer questions he or she may have during a service, although that isn't necessary. If you'd like to join the Host team, please get in touch with Marion Hill at [mhill2015@att.net](mailto:mhill2015@att.net).



## Board of Trustees ~ June 10

Our Board of Trustees will meet on Sunday June 10 at 1 pm, in the F. Church Library for their regular monthly meeting. Board meetings are open to all who wish to attend. Incoming board members are invited to attend this meeting.

## Worship Team ~ June 10

The Worship Team will also meet on June 13<sup>th</sup> to plan summer Morning Assemblies. They'll meet in the chapel.

## Monarch Waystation

Our monarch waystation has started. Rather than one 10x10 area, the various plants were added to all the current flower beds, on 3 side of the building and in the Memorial Garden. Check them out!

## A gentle nudge

One Sunday in May four different groups scheduled meeting at the same time. There's a nifty way to avoid that – the church calendar! That only works when people remember to let Doug who is the person who oversees building usage and the church calendar. Simplest way to get something on the calendar? Email [info@redriveruu.org](mailto:info@redriveruu.org)

## Little Free Library needs a friend



We have plenty of books to put in the library and many people use the library, but we have no one to replenish the library when it runs low on books. A plea

for a book lover or someone who hopes more people will get hooked on books to keep taps on the library full. If you'd like a small but mightily important church assignment, speak with any board member for details.

## A Date to Save!

Most of our congregation has never attend a cluster conference. This upcoming August 11th conference at First Unitarian Church, Dallas is a golden opportunity to meet and get to know UUs from other churches; to learn things and to be inspired.

A variety of intriguing workshops, along with an opportunity to enjoy remarks from one of our favorite visiting ministers, the Rev. Annie Foerster.

There is another nice reason to spend a Saturday at First Church – the conference is free (for surely a cost would have been listed)!

Why not add it to your calendar now and if it turns out you can't go, you can delete it. Better than leaving the date blank and accidentally scheduling something because you forgot about the conference.

## How We Get Church News

The most popular way most of us see the Wednesday UPDATE, *Red River Ramblings* or other communications sent from the church is on our smart phones, followed by a computer, then a tablet.

The church app was opened 150 times over the last 90 days, 58% of the users were first time. Our most popular operating system is iOS, then Android.

On the church app, you can access *everything!* The current issue of *Red River Ramblings*, the church calendar (remember you can tap or click on any listing to get details, for example when each of the Trash Troopers is schedule to take out the recycles). The 'On Sunday' tab is updated every Sunday afternoon giving details for the upcoming Sunday. You can open the church Facebook page and web site as well.

Coming over the summer will be a completely revised church web site – using our new domain RedRiverUU.org.



## NTUUC SUMMER CONFERENCE

August 11, 2018

First Unitarian Church of Dallas  
4015 Normandy Avenue

## EQUIPPED FOR ACTION: Training for UU Volunteers

*A gathering for renewal of energy, hope, and connection  
for teachers, greeters, and other volunteers*

### WORKSHOP TOPICS

Security: Intruder and Emergency Preparedness  
Spiritual Practices and Self-Care; Side with Love  
Small Group Ministry  
Youth Ministry

Opening Speaker: Rev. Annie Foerster

*Jumping In On Time*

*In the sport of jump rope, "on time"  
is the highest skill!*



North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations

4015 Normandy Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75205-1750 469.682.8870 NTUUC.org

# Our Read for June:

From the First Unitarian Society, Madison WI



How do you respond when someone says:

🌐 But ALL lives matter:

- ❖ Yes, all lives should matter, but it is important to specifically name the worth of Black lives, because they face more violence and scrutiny from law enforcement and society at large, something we erase when we say, All Lives Matter.

🌐 But...Do Black people REALLY undergo more violent scrutiny from Law Enforcement?

- ❖ Across the country Black male teens are 21 times more likely to be killed by police than White male teens, and across all ages Black people are 4.5 times more likely to be killed by police than white people
- ❖ Black men receive sentences 20% longer than White men for similar crimes.
- ❖ Black people make up 40% of the prison population but only 13% of the general population across the country.
- ❖ Arrest data for Madison (source: Madison Police Dept) shows while Black people make up 7.2% of Madison's population, nearly half of the people Madison police arrested in 2013-2014 were Black. Blacks were arrested at a rate more than 10 times higher than whites.

🌐 But don't Black people commit more crimes?

- ❖ No. Black people are overrepresented in every crime statistic; they are targeted more, arrested more, charged more and sentenced more harshly than white people.

- ❖ 5 times as many Whites are using drugs as Black people, yet Black people are sent to prison for drug offenses at 10 times the rate of whites.

- ❖ And...it doesn't really matter if Black people did commit more crime. Over 100 unarmed Black people were killed by police last year. *There is no crime for which summary execution is the legal or appropriate punishment.*

🌐 But the police need to defend themselves...

- ❖ The rate of police officers killed in the line of duty is at an all-time low while the rate of civilians killed by police officers is at an all-time high.
- ❖ Police work ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in deadliest jobs, below taxi/chauffeur drivers. And interestingly more than half die from traffic accidents, not bullets.
- ❖ There is a nationwide trend toward a more militarized and reactionary police force. Most individual police officers are moral people, yet the culture of policing in this country needs to be reformed.

🌐 I don't support violence by police, but I also don't want to condone violence and rioting like what happened in Ferguson after the Michael Brown decision.

- ❖ Some of the violence in response to Ferguson and other incidents was incited by White people and even undercover police to discredit the Black lives matter movement.
- ❖ But I do hear you, anger and violence can be upsetting for people who don't encounter it as part of their daily lives. Which violence upsets you more? The smashing of a police car, or the death of a Black child? What would you do if your child was killed by those charged to protect them?

We don't have to say All Lives Matter ... because it should be true. We do need to say Black lives matter, because we, as a nation, keep acting like they don't.

## Leaders

Board of Trustees

Helen Schulze, *President*  
Linda Tracy, *Vice President*  
Dick Powell, *Treasurer*  
Kelly Cofield-Dyer, *Secretary*  
Jim Holmes, *Trustee*  
Dan Althoff, *Past President*

Committee on Ministry:

*Carole Harner, Marla Loturco,  
Robert Shelton*

Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *various members*  
Building & Grounds: *Marilyn*  
Caring Circle: *Kelly*  
Communications: *Doug*  
Finance:  
Membership: *Marion*  
Nominations: *David, Elbert, Lanan*  
NTUUC Rep: *Marla*  
RE Team: *Dan, Tommi*  
Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*  
Social Action: *Rebecca*  
Worship: *Chris, Doug, Jack, Marla, Rebecca, Robert, Tommi*

## Contact Us

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announce@rruu.org

Facebook: [RedRiverUnitarianUniversalistChurch](https://www.facebook.com/RedRiverUnitarianUniversalistChurch)

Our mobile App: 'RedRiverUU' free  
at the [Apps Store](https://apps.apple.com) & [Google Play](https://play.google.com).

Church Calendar [here](#)

## June Birthdays

June 9 Richard Newlin

*Were you born in June? If so, your birth date (not year) is not in the church database. Send your birth date to [directory@rruu.org](mailto:directory@rruu.org).*

## Chalice Circles & Interest Groups

*Church activities are open to everyone. Contact the facilitator if you wish more information.*

**BOOKED FOR LUNCH** ~ an informal monthly gathering for those who love to read and enjoy hearing about what others are reading. The group meets September - June on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 1 pm. They meet in the Emerson Room. The group is on their annual summer hiatus. See y'all in September [Carole Harner](#), *facilitator*

**EARTH DAY PLANNING COMMITTEE** ~ the group is responsible for the creation, each year, of the Texoma Earth Day Festival. All who enjoy planning a large-scale community event are invited to learn more. During the Festival many church members and friends volunteer to help. Look for the committee to reconvene later in the year. [Amy Hoffman-Shehan](#), *facilitator*

**FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS** ~ a replay of an old idea to see if it flies. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month @ 6 pm, a movie on the screens in the chapel for all who want to come. Comfy chairs, nice surroundings - even free popcorn! The June selection, in honor of Pride Month is *God's Own Country*. (1:44 Hr. film, sunset isn't until 8:39 pm) [Doug Strong](#), *ersatz facilitator*

**MOVEABLE FEAST** ~ a culinary chalice circle of people who enjoy food, preparing, sharing, and enjoying. A very popular church group that welcomes newcomers. The Feasters meet monthly and may gather in someone's home, at a restaurant, or church. In June everyone (feasters plus everyone else, including you!) to bring a sack supper to church on Fri. June 15 @ 5 p, and stay for the 6 pm Friday Night Flick [Marion and Elbert Hill](#), *facilitators*

**ZEN MEDITATION** ~ on sabbatical until later in the year. HOWEVER, remember you can always join in the Sunday morning meditation starting a 9 am, in the chapel. Open to everyone.