



RED RIVER RAMBLINGS

The Monthly Newsletter of Red River Unitarian Universalist Church ♦ Denison TX ♦ Vol 20, No. 9 ♦ December 2018

Sunday, December 2, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

We Are All Santas The Worship Team, *leading*

It is literally impossible to avoid Christmas in our culture, so the Worship Team decided to embrace it ~ heavenly flavored with doses of Unitarian Universalism. Come join in a Red River UU Christmas; singing some carols, hearing some familiar (and not so familiar) readings and stories, and touching on an assortment of meanings woven into Christmas by various religious and secular influences.

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Celebrations With Light The Worship Team, *leading*

Many fall/winter celebrations before the end of the year are called a "Festival of Lights". Others are celebrated by lighting candles even if the title is not formal. Today we are going to explore the celebrations that are held in late fall, early winter and how light plays a starring role.

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Light In The Darkness The Rev. Dr. Mark A. Y. Davies, *speaking*

Reflections on the effectiveness of non-violent action in a world of darkness.

Morning Meditation - 9 am
Adult Forum - 10
Emerson, Thoreau & the Transcendentalist Movement
A Great Courses Series
Now thru March 31

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Winter Solstice and Christmas ~ Let's Call It Sharing The Worship Team, *leading*

What do the two have in common? What rituals or images do they share? Why is this important? What does all this have to do with our UU principle of "The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all"

Sunday, December 30, 2018

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

What the Seven Principles Mean to You The Worship Team, *leading*

This year's annual winter sharing service is taking a bit of a twist by giving us a theme to work from as we each select something to share.

In our search for truth, we have seven principles that serve as moral guides. On Sunday, if you would, bring a favorite reading, poem or anecdote that reflects one of our seven principles.

Please remember to limit your selection to 5-7 minutes so others will have opportunities to share as well.



Afterwards this morning: 5th Sunday In4Lunch Potluck

Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to share, if it is a cold day, maybe soup, or chili. If we have a warm

spell, salads and ice cream! Your food choice is whatever you'd like to bring.

There are few better ways to spend time with old friends and new ones than breaking bread together. Do plan on staying!

~ Celebrating Compassion, Diversity, and Spiritual Growth ~



Jim's Jabber

On November 10th several of us from Red River went to the NTUUC meeting at First UU in Dallas. Thanks to Dick, Doug, Linn and Jack for attending. The meeting's purpose was for

NTUUC to get feedback from the different congregations in the organization as to what opportunities and changes NTUUC should adopt going forward. We broke into 6 discussion groups to get feedback in the areas of:

- Connect and Train UUs
- Grow and Spotlight/Market UU
- Social Justice
- Big UU Church Platform – Sharing and Resources
- Common Endowment
- Serving People of Color

Nothing profound came from these discussion groups other than the need to have more meetings and to have them better organized. One thing I did learn is that NTUUC now has around \$3M in the endowment and spends around 5% annually for NTUUC administration (\$100k) and grants (\$60k).

I will pass on any new information as it becomes available from NTUUC.

We have had an unusual year of high dollar expenses hit us and all of these are outside our budget. The Board has (in the Bylaws) the ability to approve up to \$10,000 in non-budgeted expenses and we have used this to cover some these expenses. Some of the bigger expenses to hit us so far are:

- Sewer repair - \$4500
- AC repairs and AC replacement - \$4000? (still waiting on final bill). This was approved in the prior budget year and should be covered by a \$4000 donation made last December to the Facilities improvement budget.
- 1st floor bathroom repair and upgrade - \$400 with thanks to David for his labor.

In addition, we are still facing future expenses for the following (approximate values):

- Repair of the brick fireplace and interior wall foundation in the basement. Bruce and I are looking into the best, most cost-effective way to do this. So far about \$100 in materials has been spent.

- Repair of the water damage from the roof leak; sheetrock repair and paint. Areas impacted are the main entry from the 1st floor landing all the way to the back door, stair wall going up to the 2nd floor, and the 2 bathrooms. - \$3,000.
- Upgrade the 2nd floor to support a youth RE area and nursery. – about \$8,000 in material and labor, the biggest being the repairs and upgrade of the back stairs to make them safe to use as an emergency exit.
- Improve lighting in the chapel (add more ceiling lights). - \$1000.
- Possible purchase of an adjacent lot should it become available. - \$6000.

We will be applying for 2 grants this year. One to cover the RE area improvement and the other to cover the repairs from the water damage and basement work. We should get one of them but not sure if we will get both. Also, the money for these grants will not be available until February 2019. Some of these fixes cannot wait that long so we are looking at creative ways to fund the work so that at least the emergency fix items are covered.

So that's it for now. I hope everyone has a great and safe holiday season.

Jim

Children's Clothing Swap



Our first new community outreach project is Sat. Dec. 8th from 10-2.

We need 6-8 volunteers to make the day a great success. Can you help? Maybe an hour, perhaps longer?

This project was Adrian's idea. She said to her

knowledge there are no children's clothing swaps in Texoma. She suggested we try having one. She has posted it on Facebook. It is also on the church website, app and Facebook page.

If you are able to help, please speak with any board member or send an email to news (at) redriveruu.org

There are a lot of people in Texoma that will benefit from this project. Do help make this a success.

LBTQ Welcoming committee
will meet on Sunday **Dec. 4th @ 12:45** in the chapel.

Worship Team

The Worship Team will meet on Sunday Dec. **9th at 12:45** to plan Sunday morning assemblies for next year.

Literary Domination Society

will get together on Friday afternoon, **December 14th** for their one-hour briefing on what people are currently reading. Open to all book lovers who enjoy hearing a quick recommendation about books others have enjoyed. Read something you think others will like? Come tell the group.

Call or text Carolyn Cameron for more info. 903 786 8646

Share our Good News



Check out the wide selection of books, pamphlets and merchandise now available from [InSpirit](#), the UUA bookstore.

Here's some useful links:

Stay [cozy warm](#) with UU socks, hoodie, etc.

Enjoy sending [holiday cards](#)?

How about [UU apparel, jewelry and more](#)?

For booklovers, here's [what's new on their shelves](#).

TXUUJM ~ legislative day: Mar 20

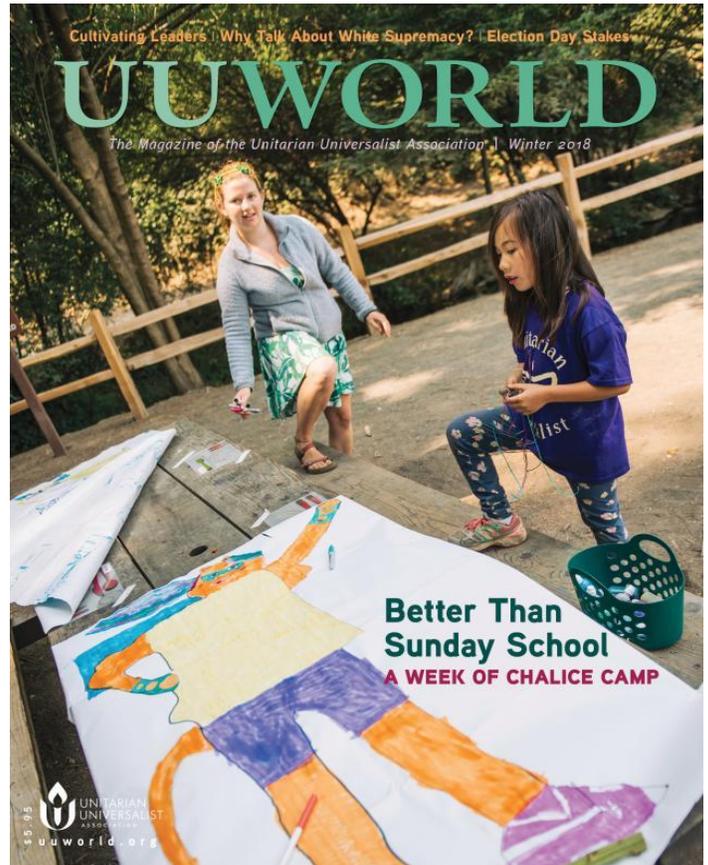
It's official! The UU Day at the Texas Legislature has been processed, approved and added to the calendar by the State Capital staff. If you'd like to be among the hundreds of UUs who are planning on attending the March 20th day-long event, put it on your calendar now so you won't schedule something else.

The day is a time for UUs to express our desires and hopes that the state legislature will consider bills that support our 7 principles and to let them know we vote!

Marla Loturco has attended in the past and can give you an overview of what the experience was like.

Winter Issue ~ in your mailbox

The UU World magazine comes free to all members. After you finish reading your copy, drop it off at church so visitors and friends can enjoy it as



well. Here are some articles from the current issue:

[Better than Sunday school](#) One week of Chalice Camp—a summer day camp sponsored by First Unitarian Church in Oakland, California—forges deeper connections between children and their UU faith than an entire year of Sunday school classes.
by Nicole Sweeney Etter

[Why talk about white supremacy?](#) Sure, racism is bad, but what's with all this talk about “white supremacy culture” and “institutional racism”? An introduction to critical race theory.
by Crystal M. Fleming

[Love the hell out of this world](#) If we are not acting fearlessly for human dignity, compassion, justice, and peace, then we are failing to live our mission.
by Susan Frederick-Gray

[‘I would still undertake the call’](#) A church tries to repair past wrongs against a biracial minister and his family.
by Heather Beasley Doyle

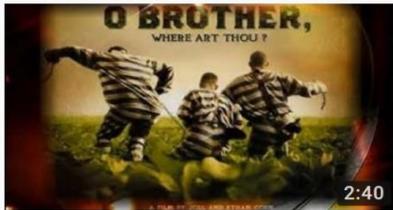
[A flower grew](#) What my young daughter taught me about the meaning of death.
by Carl Johnson

Trash Troop Schedule 2019

It isn't the most exciting church job, but important and it gives you points toward sainthood by being someone who recycles! Here's the schedule for most of next year. Want to take a month? Send a message via the church app, just remember to include your name, otherwise the Trash Troop won't know who you are!

Jan	16	17	Shelton
Feb	13	14	Harner
Mar	13	14	Holmes
Apr	10	11	Cameron
May	8	9	Hinman
Jun	5	6	Dyer
Jul	10	11	Strong
Aug	7	8	
Sept	4	5	
Oct	9	10	
Nov	6	7	
Dec	4	5	

Saturday Afternoon Flicks



Saturday, Dec. 15
– **2 pm** in the chapel. Take a break from the holidays! Come listen to some fine period folk music

along with a charmingly funny crime comedy flick. In the deep south during the 1930s, three escaped convicts search for hidden treasure while a relentless lawman pursues them. Directed by the Coen Brothers (of *True Grit*, *Burning After Reading*, *The Ladykillers* fame) and starring [George Clooney](#), [John Turturro](#), and [Tim Blake Nelson](#)

Treasurer's Report

In the month of October, we had total receipts of \$4,530.00, and total expenses of \$2,797.27, including \$83.00, Share the Bowl donation to Earth Day, leaving an excess of receipts over expenditures for the month of October of \$1,732.73.

As of October 31, 2018, we had \$6,478.81 available in checking, a total of \$60,911.46 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*

Common Read for December



"How the Unitarians and the Universalists Invented Christmas, plus an anthology of historical Unitarian Christmas stories."

Harvard Square Library is delighted to present our first eBook, which includes an account of the Universalist and Unitarian role in giving shape to the American Christmas celebrations we know today.

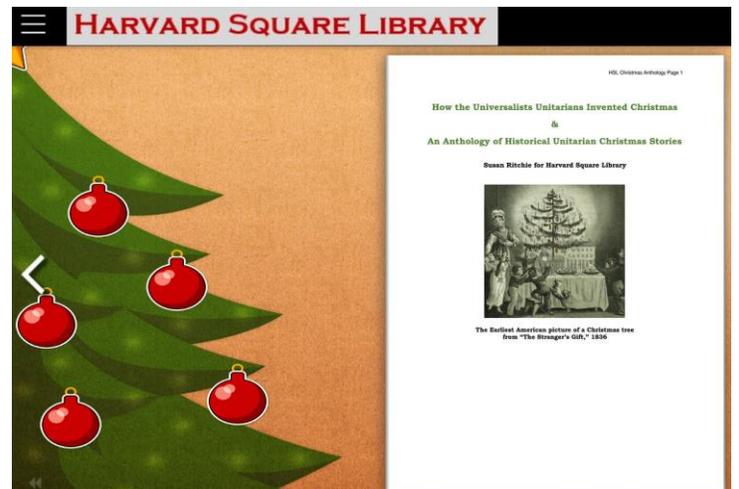
It also includes five classic Christmas stories by Unitarian authors, including Rev. Theodore Parker's own Christmas story.

In Parker's story, the gospel story of Jesus' birth is overlapped with the account of the Christmas generosity of an elderly brother and sister that heals their New England village of its social divisions (including those related to which villagers voted for which Presidential candidate).

To read the book online, simply tap/click [here](#) or on the image of the book below.

The book is a gem, over 100 pages of history, story and fond memories.

Happy Holidays from Harvard Square Library!



Leaders

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Finance:
Long Range Planning: *Jim, Marilyn,*
Robert, Ronda
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NTUUC Rep: *Marla*
RE Team: *Linn, Tommi*
Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*
Social Action: *Rebecca*
Worship: *Doug, Marla, Rebecca,*
Robert, Tommi

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Our mobile App: 'RedRiverUU' free
at the [Apps Store](#) & [Google Play](#).

Church Calendar [here](#)

Chalice Circles & Interest Groups

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

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. The committee has not yet made a decision whether there will be a festival in 2019. We'll keep you posted. Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *facilitator*

LITERARY DOMINATION SOCIETY ~ 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 2nd Friday at 1 pm. They meet in the Emerson Room. Carolyn Cameron, *facilitator*

MEDITATION ~ a wonderful way to start your Sunday by sitting quietly in the chapel. Open to everyone, 9 am each Sunday morning.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON FLICKS ~ As the days are getting shorter, FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS is shifting to a winter schedule, meeting on the 3rd Saturday at 2 pm. **Note: In December: 2nd Saturday.** Comfy chairs, nice surroundings - even two screens! 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. Marion and Elbert Hill, *facilitators*



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