



# RED RIVER

*And to Help one Another*

# RAMBLINGS

September 2021 - Volume 23 No. 4

**September 5, 2021 @ 11:15 am**

### THE SIMPLEST OF SACRAMENTS

The Rev. Kelly J. Crocker (video sermon)

Each of us has experienced moments of deep communion with those we love and trust. What of those simple moments, perhaps completely unexpected with a friend or family member, or even a stranger? Can we be surprised by communion in very simple ways? I think we can, if we can find ways to keep ourselves open and ready with an answering yes.

You can read Rev. Crocker's bio [here](#)

**September 12, 2021 @ 11:15 am**

### MAKING DREAMS REAL

Arthur Horn, *speaking*

In 2015, a serious void was recognized by Jeannie and Arthur Horn. Grayson County was in dire need of a mental health residential recovery behavior modification program. At that time, when individuals were released from jail or a behavioral health center after a mental health crisis, there was NOT a single residential

care option in the county where they could turn for help. Join us on Sunday as we listen to Mr. Horn's story of starting the Making Dreams Real Organization

**September 19, 2021 @ 11:15 am**

### THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY, IMMIGRATION SO FAR IN THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION.

Bill Holston, *speaking*

It's a mixed bag so far and even some of the progress has been limited by Federal Court Appointments.

**Sunday, September 29, 2021 @ 11:15 am**

### LOOK FOR THE HELPERS

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

As we experience these daunting times, what wisdom might we gain from Mr. Roger's mother's advice that we should "look for the helpers." How can we be the helpers in these scary times and how can we create community with other helpers to support one another?



It Is a Challenge ~ *A brief video message from the Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Grey, UUA president*

*Red River Unitarian Universalists - Serving the World from Denison Texas*

## Stuff to Learn

### [Unitarian Universalism Today](#)

**Commission Prepares to Revise UUA's Principles and Sources** (you know, the We affirm and promote ... the 7 ideals framed on the wall in the Alexander Room and are Article II of the UUA bylaws.)

Article II Study Commission is in conversation about our values and purposes as an organization and as a faith community and will present a draft of a new statement for the 2022 General Assembly.

A study commission has begun work to revise Article II of the UUA Bylaws. [Article II](#) currently includes the Principles, Sources, and Purposes of the UUA, along with a Statement of Inclusion and a Statement of Freedom of Belief. It expresses the covenant that our congregations make to each other as part of the UUA.

Article II was [last revised in 1985](#), with amendments approved in 1995 and [2018](#). A [proposed revision narrowly failed](#) in 2009.

The study commission is engaging groups and individuals in conversation about our values and purposes as an organization and as a faith community and will be hosting workshops and conversations at the 2021 General Assembly. A draft of the new statement will be presented to the 2022 General Assembly.

The commission is chaired by Becky Brooks and the Rev. Cheryl M. Walker. Other members are Paula Cole Jones, Satya Mamdani, Rob Spirko, and Maya Waller. [Learn more about the commission and its work.](#)

*New article follows on next page*

## Jim's Jabber

This is a reminder that our October congregational meeting will be on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, we will be able to have it in the building and maybe even have a pot-luck lunch prior to the meeting. This will depend upon how the country is doing in suppressing the Covid-D variant. The Board will decide on this as we get closer to the date.

At the fall congregational meeting we will have the annual reports from various committees and teams. The Board is asking that these reports not only cover what each committee and team has done over the last year but also let us know what their plans are for the remainder of this budget year.

The AV Team is close to completing all the planned updates paid for by the NTUUC grant and from some generous donations from friends and members. Over the next few weeks, they will be improving their knowledge on how best to use the new equipment and software with the goal of directly live streaming our service to Facebook and YouTube. If anyone is interested on helping the AV Team, please come talk to Marla, Jim, Carole, or Don.

The AV team isn't alone in needing help. We need 2 or 3 more worship associates. A couple more people to ask as our host once a month would be most appreciative. Look at the list of teams on the last page of this newsletter. You will see the same names more than once of twice. Red River UU is strengthened by more people becoming more involved. I would enjoy answering any questions you might have about being more active. Let's do coffee, soon!

The church electronic keyboard has died. It served us faithfully since 2006. The replacement, a Roland RD-88, has better sound quality, plenty of options and was less expensive than the old one. A new music stand will arrive soon. Dan is thrilled!

Take care. Keep safe. Wear your mask!

*And Keep on Truckin'*

Jim Holmes, *president*

## Stuff to Learn

[Bearable Together](#)  
by [Elizabeth Stevens](#)

September 1, 2021

“Are you sitting down?” These were not words I wanted to hear at the end of a day spent sheltering in place due to an active shooter situation in my small town—the second in ten years. But I sat down, took a deep breath, and began my journey alongside the friends and family of one of the victims, alongside a congregation and a community that had experienced a terrifying, confusing, inexplicable loss. I also began a journey through my own trauma and grief.

Traumatic experiences, by definition, make us feel overwhelmed, out of control, disconnected, and uncomprehending. Pain and grief are not pleasant feelings, either. I'm often tempted to travel as fast as I can through these uncomfortable places, but trauma defies my attempts to rush.

In the weeks and months following the shooting, I stayed in the midst of the pain by letting go of my need for control and tolerating the feelings of powerlessness. Healing wasn't an intellectual process, but an embodied unfolding. I gave myself the space to be baffled and broken-hearted, to lament. I held space for other confused and grieving people, bearing witness to one another in love and celebrating the miraculous ways that together, we discovered a deeper resilience and a greater wisdom.

Five years later, I got another “are you sitting down?” call. This one came when I was a continent away, supporting my mother after my stepfather's death. “Do you need me to come home?” I asked.

“No,” said the voice on the other end of the line, a member of our lay pastoral ministry team. “You taught us how to do this. We'll sit and stay and hold the space until you get back.”

*New article follows on next page.*

## It is Annual Report Time Friends

Our bylaws are the culprit here. They require a written report of all committees and team each autumn. Despite the damnable humidity and heat, autumn is must around the corner. “But” you moan, “we've been sheltering in place for the entire 2020-2021 church year. There's nothing to write.” Our faithful board has an answer. While it is true most teams and committees only met infrequently (if ever), history tells us it is important to write a summary of what your committee did. The change this year is that the board wants you to think about what you're want to do now that we again up and running. What plans did you think about all last year? What hopes and dreams do you have for your team or committee between now and June 30, 2022!

Dream. Think. Plan. Write - and presto! You have your report.

Deadline to send your report to [president@redriveruu.org](mailto:president@redriveruu.org) is Sunday, Sept.26.

PS Here's the list of teams/committees that must author a report:

- Adult Forum - Marilyn
- Art Fest - Amy
- Aesthetics - Doug & Carol
- Caring -
- Communications - Doug
- Community Outreach - Jim
  - Shelter Meals - Joyce
  - Women's Suffrage Program - Joyce
- Earth Day Planning - Amy
- Endowment Committee - Dick
- Facilities - Jim
- Finance - Dick
- Grounds - Marilyn
- LGBTQ+ Welcoming Committee - Amy
- Little Free Library - Joyce
- Long Range Planning - Marilyn
- Moveable Feast - Marion & Elbert
- North Texas UU Congregations - Marla
- Religious Education - David
- Safe Congregation Panel - Dan
- Social Justice
- Website - Jim
- Web of Life Monarch Waystation - Linn
- Worship Team - Doug
  - AV Team - Jim

Please email your report - *in plain text (sans bullets, italic, bold etc.)* to [president@redriveruu.org](mailto:president@redriveruu.org) by **Sunday, September 26**

## Stuff to Learn

[Ingathering in Complicated Times](#)  
by [Susan Frederick-Grey](#)

August 31, 2021

*We have all worked extremely hard during the pandemic to keep our families, congregations, and communities safe, while longing for the time when the pandemic is behind us. Unfortunately, vaccine hesitancy, breakthrough cases in vaccinated individuals and the alarming contagiousness of the COVID-19 Delta variant (even among the vaccinated) call for re-evaluation of many of our plans.*

*The way forward will be different across communities. Rates of vaccination, the ability to meet outside, quality ventilation, physical space, congregation size and the particular needs and risks of our staff and leaders—these all vary and are vital factors in our planning. We urge leaders to be guided by the latest information from the CDC and trusted local public health departments in planning how your congregations can worship safely. We have also issued [Updated Guidance for the Delta Variant](#) in response to the Delta surge, including six specific recommendations for congregations.*

*The Delta variant setback has many of us, especially leaders, feeling frustrated, heartbroken, and exhausted. We are not where we hoped to be. As vaccine inequity and disparity continues, with only 15% of people across the globe vaccinated, we are all coming to terms with the reality that the pandemic will be with us in various forms for some time.*

*While we are not able to share Ingathering services as we have in the past, nor in the ways we may have planned, these rituals are still needed. Ingathering, regardless of the form it takes, celebrates the ways we are held by a wider circle of love and care.*

*I invite you to share this Ingathering message from me with your congregations or as part of your Ingather-*

Continued next page

## Jan's Musical Circle

Jan's Music Circle will gather in the chapel on Saturday, Sept 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:30 for the monthly evening of live home-grown music. So, get out your acoustic instrument of choice, warm up your voice, plan on performing (if you wish) and join us for Jan's Music Circle. All acoustic song styles as well as non-performing listeners are welcome *and encouraged*. We gather following closely Covid 19 protocols, for everyone safety.

If you chose not to attend in person, we live streams our gathering on Zoom for those wishing to shelter in place. The meeting ID is 970 4165 1332. Let the Music Play On! [Please note: There will be no Music Circle in October.]

## Treasurer's Report

We have started the new fiscal year with very positive results. In the month of July, we had total receipts of \$17,016.96, which included the NTUCC grant of \$7,200.00, and pledges of \$8,000.00. Expenses for the month totaled \$2,758.62, leaving net income for the month of July of \$14,258.41.

During the month, we used some of that cash to purchase \$2,941.69 of new AV equipment. More will be purchased in the coming months.

As of July 31, 2021, we had \$12,521.50 available in checking, a total of \$19,090.31 in all savings accounts and a total of \$80,281.13 in UUCEF funds.

We begin the year in a very solid financial position.

Dick Powell, treasurer

## September Birthdays

09 - Victor Ratliff      22 - Chris Grimes      29 - Kat Walston  
20 - Angela Cates      26 - Paula Blackstone

## Adult Forum for September

During September the Forum will be studying the growth of religion from its dawn.

Sept 5: The Dawn of Religion focusing on the First Beliefs of Ancient People

Sept 12: Comparison of World Religions & Seven Bizarre Religions that Actually Exist

Sept 19: UU History Parts 1 and 2

Sept 26: UU History Parts 3 and 4 plus The Rise and Fall of Unitarianism in America

Videos followed by discussions. Each Sunday morning from 10 - 11 am.

## Stuff to Learn

Service.

*There is great healing power in our tradition, and our work is to make that power manifest in our communities. I am inspired by the incredible creativity I witness in our congregations, by the way we are all leaning into mission and remembering how much our families, children and elders need support and ministry.*

*Let us continue to prioritize inclusion and consent, centering those who are most at risk, following the science, being flexible in making decisions and changing course when necessary. Our ministry is life-saving and resilient, especially when it is responsive to our realities, helping us all navigate these unprecedented and precarious times. As we celebrate Ingathering, let us draw strength from this time of renewal, this time to reaffirm our covenants and commitments to one another and to our wider community.*

*May we remember that care, kindness, and patience—with ourselves and others—are needed in abundance. Practice these often!*

*Thank you for your commitment to Unitarian Universalism and your leadership for your UU community. We will get through this together, caring for one another and being held by the larger embrace of abiding love. Many blessings to each and every one of you.*

*Yours in love,*

*Susan*

The Rev. Dr. Frederick-Grey is the president of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Watch her brief video on page one of this issue of *Red River Ramblings*

## Our Leaders

Board of Trustees

**Jim Holmes, President**

**Marilyn Alexander, Vice-President**

**Dick Powell, Treasurer**

**David Dyer, Secretary**

**Amy Shehan-Hoffman, Trustee**

Committee on Ministry:

**Elbert Hill, Carolyn Cameron, ?**

Nominating:

**Kelly Cofield Dyer, Don Rogers, Linda Tracy**

Team Leaders/Members:

**Adult Forum: Marilyn, Jim, Amy, Marion**

**Aesthetics: Carol, Doug**

**Caring Circle: Kelly**

**Communications: Doug**

**Endowment: Carolyn, Dick, Doug**

**Facilities: Jim**

**Finance: Jim, Dick, Jan, Marilyn**

**Grounds: Marilyn**

**Long Range Planning: Jim, Marilyn, Robert**

**Membership: Marion**

**NTUUC Rep: Marla**

**RE Team: David, Ellie, Marilyn**

**Safe Congregation Panel: Dan**

**Social Action:**

**Welcoming Congregation: Adrian, Amy, Lisa, Marla, Thomas**

**Worship: Dan, Doug, Marla, Robert**

## Contact Us

Red River Unitarian Universalists

515 North Burnett Ave

mail to:

PO BOX 1806

DENISON, TX 75021-1806

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