

*May the words spoken here be loving and uplifting, never hurtful or small. May we always be mindful that this church – both building and congregation – calls us to be our best selves, trustworthy, gentle of spirit yet courageous and strong when acting rightly, a build whose life has been long and useful but retains great potential for welcoming, serving, and charming us all.*

~ from *Litany for our Building Dedication*, Mar. 24, 2013 by D. M. Strong

## GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY

- ◆ Ringing the Tibetan Bowl
- ◆ Call to Community  
*Welcome to this Place*  
by Cathy Rion Starr\*
- ◆ Prelude and Candles of Community  
*One More Step*  
by Joyce Poley
- ◆ Lighting the Chalice  
*A Chalice Lighting on our 26<sup>th</sup> Birthday*  
by Marla Loturco
- ◆ Spoken Affirmation  
*Love is the spirit of this church . . . and service is its law.  
This is our great covenant . . . to dwell together in peace,  
To seek the truth in freedom . . . and to help one another.*

## EXPANDING OUR UNDERSTANDINGS

- ◆ Preface and Opening Thought  
*Together in a Sacred Space*  
by Lorelei Greenwood-Jones\*
- ◆ Song - 128  
*For All That Is Our Life*  
Words: Bruce Findlow | music: Patrick L. Rickey

## REMEMBERING OUR HISTORY

- ◆ Polishing the Silver – Part I  
brief video from Rev. Doug Strong  
our history in images – the early years  
song – 1017 *We Are Building a New Way*  
brief video from Rev Dr. Don Fielding

## ◆ Practices

### Meditation

*A Place of Meeting*  
by Eileen B. Karpeles\*

### Quiet Sitting for a Moment

### Musical Response – Song 346

*Come Sing a Song with Me*  
by Carolyn McDade\*

## REMEMBERING OUR HISTORY

- ◆ Polishing the Silver – Part II  
brief video from Rev. Dr. Christine Tata  
our history in images – the more recent years  
brief video from Dr. F. Daniel Althoff  
brief video from Rev. Dr. Lander L. Bethel

## CONFIRMING OUR FAITH

- ◆ Giving  
*Those who wish may bring their gifts to the table  
or donate on the church app*
- ◆ Song  
*Blue Boat Home*  
word: Peter Mayer\* | music: Roland Hugh Prichard
- ◆ Parting Thought  
*Be True, Be Well, Be Loving*  
by Cynthia Landrum\*
- ◆ Extinguishing the Chalice  
*We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth,  
The warmth of community or the fire of commitment.  
These we carry in our hearts until we are together again*
- ◆ Postlude  
*Let It Be a Dance* by Ric Masten\*  
please sit for the postlude *or dance!*

\*Lifting up contributions from Unitarian Universalists

## PROGRAM NOTES

**The Worship Team** designed this morning special morning assembly as we conclude our year-long Silver Anniversary (March 26, 1997 through today, March 26, 2023) and wish ourselves a happy 26<sup>th</sup> birthday. You are encouraged to stay for our Appreciation Dinner which starts immediately following the morning assembly.

**Very Important Today:** Following the postlude . . .

- 🕒 Please place your chair against a wall and help someone who may need it. Put hymnals away! Then leave the chapel so a crew can set up the tables post haste! It promises to be a glorious day, go visit our Monarch Wayside Station while the transformation can be swift and safe.
- 🕒 Three or four people are needed to place 5 chairs at each table (2 on each side and 1 on the end nearest the chapel doors.) THEN . . .
- 🕒 Two or three people are needed to set the napkins (with cutlery already wrapped inside), and glasses at each place where there is a chair.

The food will be arranged on round tables in the Alexander and Emerson rooms. Drinks (water, lemonade, coffee, wine) is self service with the beverages and glasses available on the counter outside the chapel. Best to grab your spot, place your food and then get beverages.

**Tuesday events:** Chair yoga @ 10 am and Self-help group/bookclub gathers at 6:30 pm. Each event lasts an hour.

**Committee on Ministry** members are available today if you wish to speak with them. See Jim, Elbert or Carolyn.

## MAKING IT HAPPEN THIS MORNING

- ◆ Board Rep: *Carole Harner*
- ◆ Greeting us at the door: *Bruce Cameron*
- ◆ Ask Me Host: *Doug Strong*
- ◆ Keyboardist today: *Dan Althoff via video*
- ◆ Leading today: *The Worship Team*
- ◆ AV Crew: *Carole Harner, Don Rogers, Jim Holmes*
- ◆ Sunday School Leader: *David Dyer*

## WELCOME GUESTS

*We are Unitarian Universalists. We are brave, curious, and compassionate thinkers and doers. We are people from many backgrounds who have different beliefs, but shared values.*

*Grounded in more than two hundred years of thoughtful, spiritual communities, we are people of many generations, ethnicities, genders and sexualities, and spiritual backgrounds. People engaged in making the world a better place. People focusing on what really matters – love, justice, integrity, and hope.*

*We are a lay-led congregation. Lay-led congregations have no minister which means members of the congregation manage the various aspects of our church life. Unitarian Universalism has a proud tradition of lay-led churches.*

*We Unitarian Universalists have different beliefs, but shared values. We are Unitarian Universalists, and at the same time we may also be agnostic, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, humanist, Jewish, Muslim, pagan, atheist, believers in God, and those who just let the great mystery be. The diversity of beliefs you'll find in our church community is one of our strengths – we're always learning how to see the world from a different perspective.*

*Learn more about us at your leisure by downloading our app 'Red River UU' from Google Play or the Apps Store.*

*This is who we are. We are glad you joined us today.*



## NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2022

10 am - Adult Forum

The Long Strange Trip  
A Journey Through 2,000 Years Of Unitarian  
Universalist History  
Now through April 23rd

11:15 am – Morning Assembly

Rise of Religious Fundamentalism in the  
20<sup>th</sup> Century  
Walter Norris, *leading*

My last message was related to indicators during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century of an impending world-wide phenomenon known as Religious Fundamentalism. My current message relates to the rise and evolution of this religious circumstance during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, with most of us present today, witnessing this rise in the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It will consider the start of this abnormality which began in the United States and particularly with evangelical denominations. In addition, we will consider how this reality evolved into a political powerhouse along with its spread internationally.

12:15 pm – Conversations & Calories

Our answer to traditional coffee hour. We gather at the top of the stairs in the Alexander and Emerson Rooms for conversations along with an variety of munchies – compliments of one of our 4 Good Times Teams. Good company and a nice way to meet others.

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# THE MORNING PROGRAM

SUNDAY, March 26, 2023

*Our Twenty-Sixth Birthday*



B8 HERALD DEMOCRAT FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2000

**CHURCH:** *more news from area churches*

## 35 sign as charter members of Unitarian Universalist Church

On Sunday, June 4, 35 people ceremoniously signed as charter members of the newly formed Red River Unitarian Universalist Church.

The group has been meeting for three years as an outreach ministry of Community Unitarian Universalist Church in Plano. Charter Sunday marks the beginning step toward affiliation with the Unitarian Universalist Association as an independent UU congregation.

The Charter Sunday worship service was conducted by the Rev. Douglas Morgan Strong, minister

of Community UU Church, who has been serving as extension pastor for the Sherman congregation.

Members of the Plano church participated in the service by handing a flower to each member as he or she signed the membership book. Special music was provided by Dan Althoff, church pianist and members shared stories about the first three years of the group's existence. Members of the Denton UU Fellowship also joined in the service.

Unitarian Universalism is liberal religious denomination which

grew out of the Christian tradition, but which now welcomes members holding many diverse theological beliefs.

Although most participants are from Grayson County, several members drive from as far as Durant to attend the church since it is the only Unitarian Universalist congregation within a 50-mile radius of Sherman.

Red River Unitarian Universalist Church meets at 4:15 p.m. Sundays in the UU Room of Grand Avenue Presbyterian Church in Sherman.