



Our booth at this year's local PRIDE event

Sunday, July 7, 2024 - 11:15 am

Being Loving and Just in an Unloving and Unjust Society

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

Being Loving and Just in an Unloving and Unjust Society - Many societies past and present fall into patterns and practices that are not healthy are good for persons or the planet. This discourse will explore what can be done at the local community level to express love, do justice, and provide support for one another during such challenging times.

Sunday, July 14, 2024 - 11:15 am

Education for Beloved Community

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

Education for Beloved Community - We often focus on education as preparation for a job or for a career, but if that is all education is about, we lose the opportunity for education to not only help us be employed, but to also help us more fully and responsibly participate in the work of making beloved community a reality in our world.

Red River Ramblings



JULY 2024 ~ VOL 26, No. 1

Sunday, July 21, 2024 - 11:15 am

May You Live in Interesting Times.

Byron Miller, *leading*

It's been said "May you live in interesting times" is an old Chinese curse. Most probably not. But such times tend to be those of major change and challenge. They can be very demanding, full of surprises and sometimes containing risk and peril, unexpectedly changing the course of life as we've known it. Decades later the mere mention of such events conjures memories of where we were when we lived through them. Today we are living in "interesting times" ... and we can see them coming.

You may read Byron's bio elsewhere in this issue.

Sunday, July 28, 2024 - 11:15 am

Science of Mind: A Philosophy, Science, or Way of Life?

Jim Berrong, *guest speaker*

Our guest speaker will provide us with an overview of how Ernest Holmes (1887-1960) developed what is today known as the *Center for Spiritual Living*, with communities around the Globe, as well as what *Science of Mind* is. Your questions after his short talk are invited and will be appreciated.

Jim Berrong is a Religions Science certified Practitioner with the Center for Spiritual Living in Dallas (CSLDallas). He increased his exploration of spirituality through New Thought organizations starting in 1997 at Kansas City's Unity on the Plaza. In 2000, when he moved back to Dallas, he engaged with the First Unitarian Church of Dallas and as of 2008 Jim's been highly involved with CSLDallas, Science of Mind and Religious Science. He's looking forward to meeting our congregation, learning about our community, and answering all your questions.

New Leadership Starts



Our incoming president, Jana Norris sent a text regarding whether she will have a column this month. She says: *I am still one foot out of IU. I am not going to be writing anything for several days. Please write a brief piece about having a long way back to health and that while I hate this slow start, I look forward to serving Red River UU.* Perfectly understandable. Jana needs to regain her strength, enthusiasm and are glad she is getting what she needs to heal. We look forward to your return, Madam President! 😊.

PS You can review whose doing what starting today in the "Our Leaders" list on the last page of each month's newsletter.

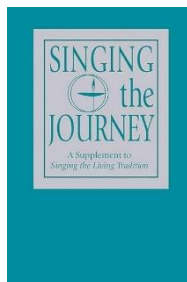
New Choir to Sing 7/28

Last month, six brave souls met to work on music to present during Sunday Morning Assemblies. Our first performance will be on July 28. We hope we will bring a "joyful noise" to fill the chapel. If you enjoy singing and have the guts to join us, that would be terrific. Speak to Marilyn, Bill, Jan, Byron, Cindy, or Doug if you're a secret singer! There is nothing like a mass of voices singing their hearts out that not only covers mistakes but can make a joyful noise unto the world. Join us, please.

Read the Sign . . .



Starting in July, each Sunday as you walk into the foyer you will see a new sign telling you which hymnal to pick up as you head to your seat in the chapel. Kindly remember to return all the hymnals to their home in the bookcase built into the front of the AV desk as you leave the chapel.



O.W.L Training



For many years UUs have been teaching an important class called **Our Whole Lives**. It began 35+ years ago as "About Your Sexuality"

Our congregation in Brookfield, WI was sued by the District Attorney claiming

we were damaging children by teaching them about sexuality. He lost the case and the local paper headline read, "D.A. Loses Sex Appeal."

In August, a weekend workshop will train facilitators to lead O.W.L. classes. Read on if you might be interested in participating:

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Facilitator Trainings are intended to prepare individuals to lead [OWL programs](#) in their community. This is a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curricula for use in both secular settings and faith communities. OWL Facilitators are required to be 21 years of age or at least four years older than the students at the level they will facilitate to teach in Unitarian Universalist congregational settings.

- If your congregation does not currently have an OWL program, it is recommended to send a diverse team of at least two people. If your congregation does have an established OWL program, you may send any number of prospective teachers.
- Each level is limited to twenty participants, with a minimum of ten; we need to have at least six people registered by the early cutoff of July 17th. In the unlikely event that the minimum is not met, that level will be canceled, and participants will be refunded the registration fee.
- A flyer in .PDF format will be coming soon to print, post, and help promote these workshops.

Read all the information here: [OWL - NTUUC](#)

Our Core Values & Beliefs



The years-long democratic process culminated with debate and the GA vote. A two-thirds majority was required for approval.

After a democratic process involving thousands of Unitarian Universalists discussing the faith's values and core theology over the past three-plus years, delegates at General Assembly 2024 voted decisively to approve [a new statement of values and beliefs for Unitarian Universalism](#).

"This is a historic moment for Unitarian Universalism, as we move our living tradition forward to focus on shared values that will help promote liberation, radical inclusion, and communal care both within our church and across society," said [UUA President Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt](#).

Take a few minutes and read the details. This is a huge shift and will guide us for many decades to come. Here's the [link](#).

Our delegates to the General Assembly this year (Marla and Doug) both voted to accept the new process. It may be useful for the church to have the image above enlarged and framed for use in our building. It will replace our current 7 Principles and 5 Sources that have defined who we are for the last half century.

Money Matters

In the month of May, we had total receipts of \$2,395.00. Total expenses for the month were \$3,607.77, leaving us with a net loss for the month of \$1,212.77. The net loss for May was primarily due to the timing of both income and insurance payments.

We had a net profit for the fiscal year-to-date of \$8,109.13. The year-to-date net profit was primarily due to higher other income and the prepayment of some pledges for next year. We also had lower worship expenses, lower costs for copying and supplies, and lower costs for the church app. These savings were partly offset by costs to improve building security and an additional donation to the Earth Day Festival.

As of May 31, 2024, we had \$18,169.22 available in checking. There is a total of \$20,752.52 in the bank savings account, including \$4,871.08 restricted for the Minister Fund and \$5,951.89 held in trust for Kat Walston from the sale of her personal effects prior to moving into assisted living. There is a total of \$66,784.40 invested in the UUA Common Endowment Fund. The congregation voted to use up to \$51,000.00 of the Savings Fund for minister compensation.

Carole Harner, *treasurer*

Social Action Update

TXUUJM takes off in the month of July to prepare for the Fall and further. That means I will not be sending out weekly Action Hour items to take time to write or call about issues going on in the state, nation, and world. But that is not really a break for activism. There are still issues that will come up to be resolved.

In the Fall we will begin UUTHE VOTE. This will be opportunities to participate in phone banking, letter writing and postcards to increase voter turnout for the November Election. This is a non-artisan effort for Justice. We will be one of 25 congregations taking part in this effort. Please contact me for more information.

Jan Fletcher, *Social Action chair*

It Happens in July

Every Sunday

- Adult Forum - 10-11 am
- Morning Assembly - 11:15-12:15
- Conversations & Calories 12:15-1 pm

Every Week

- Mondays - OverEaters 6-7 pm Tuesdays - Spiritual Perspectives 6:30-8 pm

During the Month

- July 14 - The Rainbow Team meeting 1-2 pm
- July 18 - Minister Search Team 2-3 pm
- July 21 - Board of Trustees - 1-2 pm
- July 27 - Newsletter Deadline 10 pm

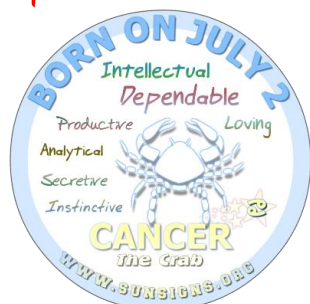
Our Annual Stats

Each week, we count the attendance of the people who attend worship (adults and kids) in person and on Zoom. We also count people who connect with us via our YouTube channel. As each fiscal year concludes we add up the results. The following stats cover July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024.

We total the number of people who attended in person, on Zoom, or watch worship on our YouTube channel. Totals for in-person at church: 1,469 who were 1,299 adults, and 78 children. We had 92 on Zoom, and 2,065 who watched some or all of our YouTube videos. This makes our grand total outreach to the world of 3,534 people.

July Birthdays

- 03 Don Rogers
- 08 Jana Norris
- 10 David Dyer
- 13 Linn Cates
- 16 Susie Norris
- 23 Melleissa Bayes
- 26 Scott Bowie



Were you born in July but are not Listed here? Email Marla when your Birthday is & it will appear next year.

Social Witness Statements

We Unitarian Universalists shape our justice commitments through the Social Witness process. We are stronger together. Our collective wisdom and creativity combine to bring more justice into the world in ways that could not be imagined among any of us working alone. As Unitarian Universalists, we call one another into our better selves through collectively discerning social justice actions to clarify our shared commitments to justice, equity, and compassion.

While called by various names, the social witness process is the method by which the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) comes to understand and act on the social issues of our times, finally bearing witness through statements adopted as Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) policy by the delegates of a [General Assembly](#) (GA). The process has been an integral part of our faith since the merger between the Unitarians and the Universalists in 1961.

Each year at the General Assembly, the delegates discuss and vote on a series of social witness statements that congregations submit (after getting the requisite number of signatures from multiple congregations).

Here are the three Social Witness statements that were affirmed at the General Assembly and are undergoing review by UUA legal counsel. Final text will be posted at [UUA Statements](#) by July 15th.

- AIW: [Centering Love Amidst the Ongoing Impact of COVID-19](#)
- AIW: [Solidarity with Palestinians](#)
- AIW: [World on Fire: Humanitarian Work and Climate Change](#)



*Earth Day Images
June 15, 2024*

Rainbow Team update

Happy Independence Day friends! This is the month we celebrate our country's success at freeing ourselves from a crazy guy who didn't care what we needed, he just wanted power & money. Sound familiar? But I digress.

June was Pride month and in accordance with the sense of identity and acceptance, the Welcoming Congregation Committee has made some changes. We are now the RedRiverUU Rainbow Team! We have new social media with our new name and a new email addy: redriveruurainbowteam@gmail.com. We are very excited and feel that since our direction changed from just getting and maintaining the Welcoming Congregation certification to working on making positive things happen in our community, FOR our community, our name change is reflective of that.

We participated greatly in the Grayson County PRIDE celebration on June 29th with a booth that offered button making and a Pride Prize Basket giveaway with hundreds of dollars' worth of donations from local businesses. We made over 300 buttons that day and the winner was the owner of one of the food vendors! We look forward to next year's event and hope to be even more successful at reaching out to people and letting them know about UU.

Coming up, we have a Kids Clothing Exchange on August 17th from 10 am to 2 pm (ish) and planning for Friendsgiving and the Family Holiday Celebration which were so successful last year!

Jack Bolerjack

Byron Miller's Bio

Byron has spent half his adult life in the mid-west and half on the west coast. He took his BA specializing in religious studies, the Greek language and Philosophy, his M.Div. with an emphasis in Hebrew bible studies and three and one half years of graduate studies toward a PhD in Ancient Near Eastern Studies at Claremont Graduate School and University Center in Claremont, California. A decade later he was advanced to candidacy for a PhD in History of Religions in America at the University of Chicago.

He has also been active in the Unitarian Universalist Congregations in Long Beach, California, Grand Junction and Colorado Springs, Colorado, Houston, and Waco Texas. He has spoken in Unitarian Universalist congregations in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, and Iowa and served in numerous capacities at the Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. and taught at Pasadena College in Pasadena, California, California State University in Northridge, California and Butte County Community College in Chico, California. He has been a guest lecturer for classes in California, Colorado, Illinois, and Texas. He also served in leadership capacities in the Central Mid-west District and the Mountain-Desert District of the UUA in Colorado and New Mexico.

He is currently active in research and writing projects and developing a private library and research center as part of that endeavor.

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Our non-Resident Poet

Summer Has Arrived

By Don Mathis

You know summertime has finally arrived when you open your car but don't get inside because the temperature is 125.



Rain clouds appear but then they quickly fizzle. We'd be lucky if we just got a drizzle. Any rain evaporates with a sizzle.



Electric bills will be astronomical. A high thermostat is economical, still, the kilowatt hours are comical.



Ten minutes outside and you begin to fry. It's so hot; you think you are going to die. That's the way it is in a Texas July.



But there is an upside to all of this heat. The beauty of summer flowers can't be beat. Who doesn't like the way the Crepe Myrtles creep?



Texas Sage is one of the plants I love most, but its magnificence cannot come as close to the colors of the Pride of Barbados.



This is the time for the river for swimming and check out the scanty clothes on the women. I think it's healthy, my wife thinks it's sinning.



It doesn't get dark now until nine at night. So we've got these extra hours of daylight. The July sun at noon is never so bright.



It's so hot and dry, even the rust has dust. And just when you think the heat index can't bust, you ain't seen nothing till we get to August!



Our Leaders

Board of Trustees:

Jana Norris, *President*

Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *Vice-President*

Carole Harner, *Treasurer*

Don Rogers, *Secretary*

David Dyer, *Trustee*

Committee on Ministry:

Elbert Hill, Jim Holmes, _____

Nominating:

Our Various Teams:

The first name is the team leader

Adult Forum: Marilyn, Jim, Amy, Marion

Aesthetics: Amy, Jana, Adrian

Audio Visual: Jim, Carole, Don, Marla

Caring Circle: David

Choir: Marilyn, Bill, Jan, Byron, Cindy, Doug

Earth Day Planning: Amy, Marla, Jan, Megan, Cristin

Endowment: Doug

Facebook Admin: Amy

Facilities: Jim

Finance: Carole, Jim, Marilyn

Grounds: Marilyn, Paula

Historian:

Long Range Planning: Jim, Marilyn

Membership: Paula, Marla, Doug, Amy, Adrian

Minister Search: Jim, David, Jana, Marilyn, Marla

Monarch Way Station: Lynn

Moveable Feast: Elbert & Marion

NTUUC Rep: Marilyn

Publications: Doug

Rainbow Team: Jack, Adrian, Amy, Billie, Cristin, Jana, Olivia, Sherilyn, Thomas

RE Team: Jack

Safe Congregation Panel: Jana

Social Justice: Jan

Web Team: Jim, Hannah, Marla

Worship: Marla, Dan, Jan