



Red River Ramblings

NOVEMBER 2024 - VOL. 23, NO. 5

Sunday, November 17, 2024 - 11:15 am

Sunday, November 3, 2024 - 11:15 am

The F-Word

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

For years it has been considered hyperbole to use the word “fascism” in reference to particular politicians or political movements within our society, but when politicians and their followers are using rhetoric that is identical to Hitler and Mussolini, promising to imprison their political opponents and anyone they deem “the enemy within,” and pledging to forcibly deport 11 million persons whom they call “vermin” who are “poisoning the blood of America,” then it is time to use the f-word and to do all in our power to save what is left of our democratic republic.

Sunday, November 10, 2024 - 11:15 am

Tension and Release: Music in Motion

Matt Meyer, *leading* (video message)

Matt Meyer is a musician and community organizer who has led hundreds of services for UU congregations across the country. He has a degree in music and has studied abroad in Cuba, Ghana and Central America. Matt is a founding resident of the Lucy Stone Cooperative in Roxbury and serves as Director of Community Life for The Sanctuary Boston. Sanctuary Boston is a progressive spiritual community of vibrant worship and real connection and are grounded in Unitarian Universalism and open to seekers of all kinds.

HELP Read an important article in this issue! Look for it and read it. Tis important

Take Courage

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

Often referred to as one of the four cardinal virtues, courage is the ability to persevere in the face of uncertainty and fear. Sounds like the kind of virtue that might be helpful to cultivate in times like these!

Sunday, November 24, 2024 - 11:15 am

A Choctaw’s Understanding of Thanksgiving

Adam Salazar, *guest speaker*



Thanksgiving today may have little connection with the Plymouth harvest festival 400 years ago, but it has a long history, nevertheless. Originally a regional observance in colonial New England, Thanksgiving began as a solemn affair.

Rather than a day of feasting, it was a day for fasting and quiet reflection. As the holiday took root in the United States, so did the need for a distinctly American origin story, and the harvest festival two centuries earlier was remade as the “First Thanksgiving.” While Thanksgiving continues to evolve as each generation of Americans brings new meaning to the day and how it’s celebrated, the tradition of coming together to share a meal and reflect on all that we’re grateful for endures.

We’ve invited Adam Salazar, who is on staff at the Choctaw Nations Community Engagement and Outreach Mission to speak about Choctaw’s history of Thanksgiving. It falls during the Native America Heritage Month.

VOTE FOR YOUR FREEDOM



What makes the United States a leader in the world? Our Freedom! We democratically lead the world toward freedom from oppression, freedom to elect our leaders, freedom to worship as we choose, freedom to love, freedom to speak, freedom to vote and more. America shines its light for democracy.

Our democracy is in a decline of voting citizens. Badly gerrymandered voting districts, excessive private campaign donations, volatile campaign rhetoric, fewer polling places, inconvenient voting times, lack of understanding of registration laws and more are reasons we hear at election time. How sad that such a great nation restricts and affects its citizens so negatively.

Democracy is not free! We all deserve to have our voice at election time. In local elections, just one vote can make the difference in a winner or a tie. And we need to care about our local elections as they impact our lives at home.

So, plan to vote in this upcoming election either in early voting through this Friday, November 1 or on Tuesday, November 5.

Your vote is important for your freedom. Vote for Democracy!

Community Resilience:

A Message from UU Leaders and the UUA

As religious communities, our responsibility in uncertain times is always to move deliberately, grounded in our values and in relationship with the key leaders, partners, and movements who share them. This video message offers guidance on what Unitarian Universalists can do right now to face the challenges that may lie ahead in the coming weeks with clarity and courage. Tap/click on the YouTube start button below to watch the video.



Resources for Community Resilience

Prezzy Speak - November

The holiday season is upon us, no matter how unprepared we feel. While I miss the glorious fall foliage of Maine, I do not miss knowing it will be seven months before the trees leaf out again.

These have been a hard several months for us as we have lost both Carolyn and Don. They both gave so much to our church, and both were beacons of kindness and compassion. Let us remember them by stepping up, as best we can, to share with others the love they gave us.

Once again, our Rainbow Team will host Friendsgiving from 2-4 on November 16 and Family Christmas from 2-4 on December 14. The Team will provide the meat. Appetizers, side dishes, and desserts are potluck. There will be a white elephant gift exchange at Family Christmas. Please come and join us. These events are great fun, as well as being great community outreach.

Let the festivities begin! Jana Norris, *president*



HELP!

THIS IS CRITICAL! Do you think that Worship is an important part of your experience at Red River UU Church? If it isn't important to you -then you may stop reading here. If it is important to you – we, the worship team, need HELP!

Whether we call it a program, an assembly, a service, or worship, what we do together every Sunday morning is the central part of what makes us a faith community. We rely on it. We look forward to it. We expect it. It is where we meet each other and our own selves. It is where we connect with the broader movement of Unitarian Universalism. It is where we support each other as we travel on this human journey.

Organizing Sunday worship involves many things, but nothing about the process is magical or mysterious or particularly difficult. Unfortunately, the Worship Team is now stretched perilously thin.

Dan and Marla are the two currently working members of the team. Dan is in Florida and Marla is the only one who fully knows all the workings of the Worship Team. If something happened to Marla, who would step up to do all the pieces of putting services together? Some members appreciate the quality of our current services, and some do not. If Worship is important, then all who care and especially those who are not satisfied should step up to the mark and volunteer.

As a lay-led church, we have only ourselves to look to for the leadership and direction of our Sunday programming.

We need:

- Ideas
- People to find and interface with speakers
- People to find possible videos to use
- People to select music for services which complement the topic
- People to find worship pieces which complement the topic for videos and lay speakers.
- People who would like to create a worship service and work closely with the worship team members.

Above all the rest, the two most important qualifications are commitment and persistence. If you are interested in serving on the Worship Team, please contact Marla. She will be happy to answer any questions about what we do.

November birthdays

- 08 Dan Althoff
- 13 Marla Loturco
- 13 Mars Shehan
- 16 Cylvia Lawrence
- 22 Peter Schulze

Is your birthday in November but not listed above? It's because we don't know when your birthday is.

You can solve this problem easily, just email the day in November you were born, (no year needed) to [Marla](#) and next year you'll be on the list.



It Happens in November

every Sunday

- **Adult Forum - 10-11 am – new series for Nov.**
- **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

- **Nov 10 - The Rainbow Team meeting 1-2 pm**
- **Nov 10 - Board Games 2-5 pm**
- **Nov 16 - Friendsgiving dinner 2-4 pm**
- **Nov 17 - Board of Trustees Meeting**
- **Nov 23 - NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - 10 pm**
- **Nov 28 - All Church Thanksgiving Potluck - 2-4 pm**

Earth Day Planning

The Earth Day Festival planning committee will meet on Thursday, November 14 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. We are currently working on graphics for the 2025 festival, recruiting workshop leaders and submitting the festival to different community calendars. We are always looking for committee members and volunteers. Please let Amy know if you would like to be added to our team email list.

Rainbow Team Update

Greetings & salutations from the Rainbow Team! I am positive that you've noticed by now that we have postcards in the foyer that list our Upcoming Events! We'd love to see each & every one of you at our Friendsgiving, our Family Holiday Celebration, Nerdy New Year's Eve, and the Fairy & Fae Tea Party! We thoroughly enjoy spending our time, effort & limited funds to host events that provide invitations & outreach to our community. The holidays can be challenging in the best of situations, and there are few of us in those. Many in our Rainbow crew have been abandoned & rejected by their families & their faiths of origin simply because of who they truly are. They need Family! Come with a side dish & open arms! We can't wait!

For details contact us at

Our email redriveruurainbowteam@gmail.com

Our FB: [Red River UU Rainbow Team](#) Or speak to one of our members! We're listed on the Leader's list, last page of the newsletter.



Aesthetics Committee:

Work on the kitchen continues the last week of October and into November. Upper cabinets will be delivered, assembled, and installed. There will also be a few minor changes made during the final stage of the kitchen renovation. The interior of the window will be painted white to match the trim. The door to the kitchen will be removed and will be stored in the basement. Over the next month or so, a labeling system will be added to the cabinets and drawers to make it easier for everyone to find things.

The addition of upper cabinets will create the opportunity to store items in the kitchen that have been scattered around the building. There will be a designated area for worship supplies, and another for infrequently used items for entertaining.

Money Matters

The new year started in July 2024 with a very generous donation of \$50,000 from Marilyn Alexander's daughter, Merrilee Kick. A total of \$28,809.44 has been spent on repairs and renovations. That leaves \$21,190.56 remaining in this fund as of August 31.

In the month of August, we had total operating receipts of \$2,682.00. Total operating expenses for the month were \$2,212.68, leaving us with a small net profit for the month of \$469.32. The net profit for the month was primarily due to the timing of worship and insurance expenses partly offset by the timing of pledge payments.

We had an operating net profit for the fiscal year-to-date of \$1,136.08. The year-to-date net profit was primarily due to the timing of worship and advertising expenses partly offset by the timing of donations.

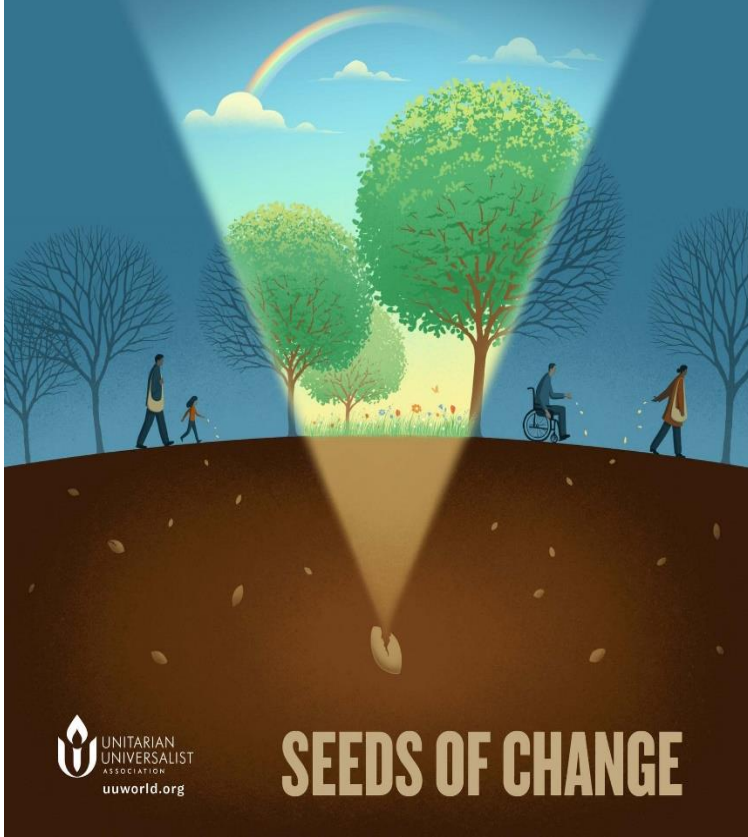
As of August 31, 2024, we had \$16,897.84 available in checking for general operations. There was also \$9,932.13 available in the bank savings account for general operations plus \$4,871.08 restricted for the Minister Fund and \$5,951.89 held in trust for Kat Walston from the sale of her personal effects 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 UUA Savings Fund for minister compensation

Carole Harner, *treasurer*

UUWorld

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Red River Unitarian Universalists

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Board of Trustees

Jana Norris, *President*

Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *Vice president*

Carole Harner, *Treasurer*

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David Dyer, *Trustee at large*

Committee on Ministry

Jim Holmes, Elbert Hill, Bruce Cameron

Nominating

Liz Rapp, Paula Jennings, Marilyn

Alexander

Our Various Teams

The first name is the team leader

Adult Forum: Marilyn, Amy, Jim, Marion

Aesthetics: Amy, Adrian Jana,

Audio Visual: Jim, Carole, Marla

Caring Circle: David

Choir, Marilyn, Bill, Cindy, Doug

Earth Day Planning: Amy, Cristin, Jan,

Marla, Megan,

Endowment: Doug

Facebook Admin: Amy

Finance: Carole, Jim, Marilyn

Grounds: Marilyn, Paula

Historian:

Long Range Planning: Jim, Marilyn

Membership: Susie, Amy, Adrian, Doug,

Paula, Marla

Minister Search: Jim, Liz, Marilyn, Marla,

Walter

Monarch Way Station: Linn, Paula

Moveable Feast: Elbert & Marion

Music:

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, Adrian, Dan, Liz