



In this issue:

The 2025 Stewardship Campaign runs thru April. Pls Pledge!



Flower Communion on Easter.



Be an Earth Day Volunteer



What Kind of Bees?



Check out the various UUA Social Action Programs

April 6, 2025 - 11:15 am

I Dissent

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

The ability to express ourselves freely in ways that do no harm to others and to peacefully assemble in protest of injustices are critical to the well-being and flourishing of the human community.

April 13, 2025 - 11:15 am

The University and Human Flourishing

The protection of academic freedom and the free pursuit of truth and knowledge are critical to fostering excellence in our colleges and universities, and the critical and creative thinking cultivated in higher education are key contributors to a vibrant participatory democracy.

April 20, 2025 - 11:15 am

Essence of Spring

The Worship Team, *leading*

Easter for Unitarian Universalists has, from time immemorial, replaced the focus from the birth of a Savior to the rebirth of Spring. Flowers are peeking through the ground, trees are bursting forth scads of green leaves, and the length of our days is slowly increasing. It brings for us ways to explore the renewal of our energy and enthusiasm for life. Join us on Easter for our Spring Extravaganza with our annual [Flower Communion](#), planting of seeds ritual, and other fun spring topics.

April 27, 2025 - 11:15 am

Skills for Stressful Times

Marla Loturco, *leading*

Is your to-do list overwhelming? Do the demands of family or work stress you out? Or maybe it's politics, climate change, or global conflict that are making you feel anxious.

It's impossible to eliminate all your stress, but science shows you can learn to manage it better. This morning, we will explore some techniques to help us de-stress our lives and keep hope alive.

The Stewardship Campaign ...

On May 18 we will hold our spring congregational meeting. One of the main purposes of this meeting is to approve our budget for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. The Finance Team is recommending a budget of \$51,500 for this upcoming year. The breakdown of this budget is:

Facilities 43%	Worship 25%	Admin/Other 17%	Consultants 12%	Social Justice 3%

To pay for the items covered in this budget the Finance Team is recommending a pledge goal of \$48,000. As of April 1st, we have 12 members who have pledged to date and 3 non-members have also pledged for a total of \$23,680. That puts us at 48% of our target goal of \$48,000.

The stewardship campaign ends April 30th. If you have not yet filled out a pledge form, there are forms in the lobby. Please give your paper form to Carole Harner or mail it to RedRiver UU, P.O. Box 1806, Denison Tx. 75021.

You may also fill out an online pledge form by clicking on this link: [Online Pledge Form](#)

Your Finance Team:

Marilyn Alexander, Carole Harner, Jim Holmes

Shelter Dinner April 5th ...

Once a quarter, our congregation volunteers to provide supper for the residents at the Texoma Family Shelter. Our next turn is Sat. April 5th. If you would like to prepare a dish, please speak with Paula Jennings, who is the one who coordinates our participation. You can email her via the newsletter [here](#).

From the UUA ...

From the UUA, an update about Social Justice. Just as love knows no borders, our dedication to justice reaches across boundaries and walls. We show up on the side of love with all families, regardless of citizenship status, and strive to create welcoming communities and congregations. We organize and advocate for immigration reform, for an end to detentions and deportations, and for a world where hands are extended in peace and care across borders and no one feels forced to leave home or risk death in pursuit of a decent life for their family. We affirm immigration as a moral issue and have long spoken out in support of immigrant justice.

What We Are Doing

- The UUA-UUSC Love Resists campaign is activating and helping people resist the criminalization of immigrant and other communities targeted by the current administration by expanding sanctuary, growing solidarity and raising our voices.

We are partnering with [Mijente](#), [We Belong Love Resists](#)

- [#Not One More Deportation](#)
- [Together](#), the National Day Laborer Organizing Network, the Interfaith Immigration Coalition and others in their efforts to end deportations.
- [New Sanctuary Movement](#)
We are providing sanctuary to people appealing deportation orders, refugee children, and families fleeing violence. We are part of the movement to create “Sanctuary Cities” across the country that have welcoming policies towards immigrants.
- [Social Justice Trips to the U.S./Mexico Border](#)
The Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice offers service learning trips to the border. Journeys are grounded in theological reflection and help individuals, groups, and congregations understand the issues and discern a path toward effective action.

Why is the above in this newsletter? Simple. It is a reminder of an important reason we are UU’s.

Money Matters ...

In the month of February, we had total operating receipts of \$1,600.00. Total operating expenses for the month were \$2,608.69, leaving us with a net loss for the month of (\$1,008.69). The net loss for the month was due to lower donations, partly offset by the timing of insurance costs.

For the fiscal year-to-date we had an operating net loss of (\$707.30). The year-to-date net loss was due to lower donations, partly offset by lower communication and worship expense.

Marilyn Alexander's daughter, Merrilee Kick, donated \$60,361.00 this year to cover repairs and renovations. A total of \$56,467.82 has been spent. That leaves \$3,893.18 remaining in this fund as of February 28. Part of this will be spent in March for handrails by the back door.

As of February 28, 2025, we had \$18,942.42 available in checking for general operations. There was also \$9,937.35 available in the bank savings account plus \$4,871.08 restricted for the Minister Fund and \$5,951.89 held in trust for Kat Walston. In addition, we have invested a total of \$66,784.40 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

April Birthdays ...



- 07 Willow Biasi *
- 07 Bruce Cameron
- 18 Jolene Whitten
- 29 Michelle Haynes

*Youngster

From our nonresident Poet ...

April 5-12 is National Bee Active, Bee Healthy, Bee Happy Week. Celebrate with a Riddle!

What Kind of Bees?

by Don Mathis



What Kind of Bees pollinate apples?

Applebee's

What Kind of Bees Gather at the Grocery Store?

H-E-Bees

What Kind of Bee Acts like a Little Bastard?

S-O-B

What Kind of Bees Practice Sorcery?

Spelling Bees

What Kind of Bees are Forever Young?

Babies

What Kind of Bees Aim for the Daisy?

B-Bees

What Kind of Bees are Frightened?

Heebie-Jeebies

What Kind of Bees Float like a Flying Saucer?

Frisbees

What Kind of Bee Used to Spy for the Russians?

KGB

What Kind of Bee is found in the Lung?

TB

What Kind of Bees are Inexperienced?

Newbies

What Kind of Bee writes Classical Music?

Beethoven

What Kind of Blood does a Bee have?

Bee Positive









What Kind of Bees?

What Kind of Bees?

Regarding <https://nationaltoday.com/bee-active-bee-healthy-bee-happy-week/>

Looking backwards to the July 2007 issue of the church newsletter – At ten years of age, the congregation has several options for individual participation. These were called Chalice Circles, small groups of folks gathered monthly and bound together by a common theme.

Here's the list of Chalice Circles that drew people:

-  Being Peace Meditation group
-  EvenSong - spiritual deepening group
-  Environmental Action - now Earth Day Planners
-  It Takes a Village - parent's support group
-  A Moveable Feast - a cooking & eating group
-  The Reel Deal - movie watching group
-  One More Step - social action group
-  Red River Earth Spirit Nature Based – outdoor stuff

Earth Day is April 26th ...



We depend on the Earth. The Texoma Earth Day Festival is a fun community-wide family event where ordinary people learn practical ways to reduce their environmental footprint and impact on our planet. Attendance is free and open to the public.

If you would enjoy being a volunteer, you need to know that you can volunteer to set up on Friday, work on Saturday, and take down after the festival closes. Volunteers get a free festival T-shirt (but you must register to be a volunteer by April 10th in order to get a T shirt.)

- [Volunteer Information](#)

This is the 17th annual Earth Day festival. Did you know that our congregation created the festival and are continue to be the main force – working in partnership with other organizations – to assure the festival takes place each April.

Moveable Feast for April ...

Our cooking and eating group *A Moveable Feast* was coordinated by Marion and Elbert Hill, who began it probably several years before it was listed in the July 2007 newsletter. They were, and still are, the Fearless Feast Facilitators and this morning an email arrived at the newsletter from the F.F.F's:

MOVABLE FEAST is planning a meal for April and would like suggestions about restaurants in Denison or Sherman. Eggsquisite has been recommended, and one or two others. We also need to pick a date. Suggestions? Anyone is welcome at Movable Feasts. Just get in touch with us at marionh3719@gmail.com.

Thanks, Doug

Elbert and Marion

Fearless Feast Facilitators (F.F.F's. for short)

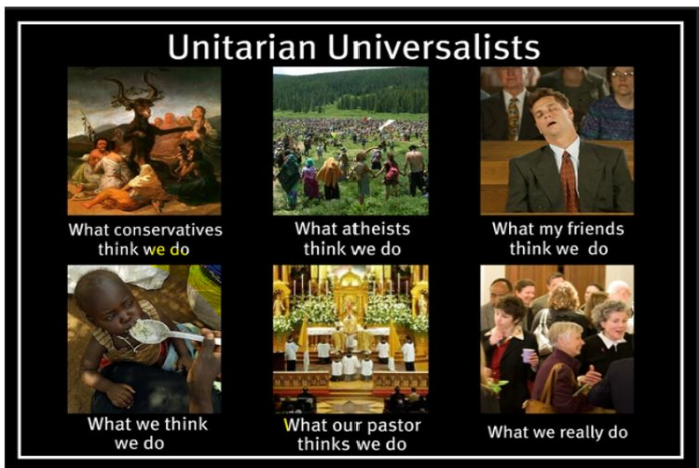
In years past, Feasts were, more often, held in people's homes as the congregation was twenty years younger, by in large, and being at people's homes removed the need for babysitters.

There has been, from time immemorial, a human need to gather to break bread with others. Homes vs. restaurants isn't an either/or but both/and. For April, going to a restaurant is our F.F.F.'s choice.

I'm hoping we might go to Eggsquisite in Sherman – wonderful food, quiet surroundings, a wall of glass making the place inviting, comfortable, and you can read the menu.

Lunches do have advantages for many, it removes the need for nighttime driving and restaurants are, I'm guessing, less crowded middays.

A SPECIAL NOTE: for those who have yet to come to a Feast. They are as warm and inviting as our 5th Sunday Potluck lunches and a wonderful way to make new friends.



Our Various Teams

The first name is the team leader

Adult Forum: Marilyn, Amy, Cristin, Jim, Marion
Aesthetics: Amy, Adrian Jana
Audio Visual: Jim, Carole, Liz, Marla
Caring Circle: Paula, David, Susie
Choir: Marilyn, Bill, Cindy, Doug
Children's R.E. Teacher: Shanna (Jack)
Children's Clothing Swap: Adrian, Amy, Cristin, Jim, Sherilyn
Committee on Ministry: Bruce, Elbert, Jim
Communications: Amy, Doug, Marion
Earth Day Planning: Amy, Bruce, Cristin, Jan, Jim, Marla, Martina, Megan, Michelle
Endowment: Doug
Facebook Admin: Amy
Finance: Carole, Jim, Marilyn
Good Times Team: Amy, Bill, Carole, Cindy, Elbert, Eva, George, Jim, Lisa, Liz, Marilyn, Marion, Pat, Paula, Samuel, Susie, Walter
Greeters: Amy, Paula, Shanna, Sherilyn, Susie, Walter
Grounds: Marilyn, Paula
Historian: Marla
IT Support: Jim
Long Range Planning: Bruce, Jim, Marilyn
Membership: Susie, Amy, Adrian, Doug, Marion, Marla, Paula
Minister Search: Jim, Liz, Marilyn, Marla, Walter
Monarch Way Station: Linn, Michelle, Paula, Sherilyn, Susie
Moveable Feast: Elbert & Marion, Amy, Bruce, Carole, Cindy, David, Doug, Jan, Jana, Joyce, Kelly, Liz, Marilyn, Marla, Michelle, Susie, Walter,
Music: Dan, Jan
NTUUC Rep: Marilyn
Publications: Doug
Rainbow Team: Jack, Adrian, Amy, Billie, Cristin, Jana, Jamie, Jana, John, Lisa, Lynda, Olivia, Sherilyn, Thomas
RE Support Team: David, Marilyn
Safe Congregation Panel: Jana
Spiritual Perspectives Group: Jim, Liz, Melleissa
Social Justice: Jan
TUUUM Rep: Jan
Web Team: Jim, Hannah, Marla
Worship: Marla, Adrian, Dan
Worship Associates: Adrian, Cristin, Jana, Marilyn, Marla, Megan, Paula, Thomas

Our Elected/Appointed Leaders

Board of Trustees

Jana Norris, *President*
Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *Vice president*
Carole Harner, *Treasurer*
Jack, *Secretary*
David Dyer, *Trustee at large*

Committee on Ministry

Jim Holmes, Elbert Hill, Bruce Cameron

Nominating

Marilyn Alexander, Liz Rapp, Jack Bolerjack

Happy Birthday to Us!

It was a warm evening, on Wednesday, March 26, 1997, when the first UU worship gathering happened in Texoma. We turned 28 this year. Click/tap on the video below to watch a snippet in appreciation of our special day.



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