



In this issue:



A month of String Theory, Design Justice, UUism, Having Enough and The Ten Command
Only at RedRiverUU!



Kid's Clothing Swap returns on Aug 16 from 10-2 – in the Chapel



OK why haven't YOU filled of the Worship Team feedback survey?
It is easy, quick you can use the QR code in this newsletter.



August Moveable Feast update



A poem about Frankenstein nearly 200 years old now!



And more!!

Red River Jamblings

August 2025 ♦ Volume 26 ♦ Issue 2

August 3, 2025 - 11:15 am

Reflections on Design Justice

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

In an interview with Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, design justice pioneer Bryan C. Lee Jr. defines "design justice" as "what love looks like in public spaces," and he describes it as "an active display of care for beloved communities." What would our communities look like if we designed them in ways that create for culture and opportunities for persons to be in connection with the things we love and care for?

August 10, 2025 - 11:15 am

What is Unitarian Universalism

Rev. Tim Kutzmark, *video message*

If you tell someone you are a Unitarian Universalist, sometimes the question is asked – what does that mean? Are you prepared to answer? This morning Rev. Tim Kutzmark prepares us for what is commonly called an "Elevator Speech", a way to define what we believe in the time it might take to go several floors in an elevator.

August 17, 2025 - 11:15 am

How Much is Enough?

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

So much of how we define success and well-being in our society revolves around the money we make and the things we accumulate, and it is clear this acquisition and consumption culture where the quantity of stuff counts more than the quality of our relationships is leading to a dead end for humanity. How can we move away from an overemphasis on acquisition accumulation, and consumption and move towards a life of qualitative meaning and purpose?

August 24, 2025 - 11:15 am

A Different Kind of String Theory

Megan Hutchinson, *leading*

Everything around us, the air we breathe, the rivers and streams we drink from, the food we eat, every institution, relationship, and connection with others, is a string supporting a world of 8 billion people. What happens when those strings are cut, one by one? What happens when our rivers and fields are poisoned; when the wealth gap becomes a chasm; when people lose agency over their own bodies; when governments are actively working against their citizens and institutions have failed us? Will those strings that remain be able to withstand the weight of the collected burden, or will the entire world come crashing down? Explore these questions and what we can do as individuals to add more strings to distribute the load for the future.

August 31, 2025 - 11:15 am

Exploring What Guides Us

The Worship Team, *leading*

The Ten Commandments have long served as a foundation for how many Jews and Christians strive to live their lives. As Unitarian Universalists, we come from many diverse backgrounds and beliefs—we may or may not accept all the Ten Commandments as our own. So, if we don't follow those commandments, what values or principles do guide our lives?

Join us this Sunday as we explore together what truly matters to us—what inspires our choices, shapes our ethics,

Spiritually Alive ~ Joyfully Inclusive ~ Justice Centered

Worship Team Survey

Hopefully, you have noticed the new Worship Survey in our Sunday Morning Program. The Worship Team would really like to have your feedback, but so far there has not been much participation. Going forward, every time you fill out the survey you will be automatically entered into a drawing for a prize. In December one entry will be drawn for the prize. Since providing your name on the survey is optional, we will need a way to identify the winner if no name is given. If you don't want to put your name on the survey, please start using the same fake name or number each time you complete the survey. That fake name or number will be entered into the drawing just as an individual's name would be. Please be sure to include your comments about the service, entries without will be discarded. Let's help the Worship Team by giving our feedback!



PS To date only 5 surveys have been returned. Come on good people, can't we support our Worship Team better than this?

Money Matters

In the month of June, we had total operating receipts of \$1,094.65. Total operating expenses for the month were \$5,029.29, leaving us with a net loss for the month of (\$3,934.64). The net loss for the month was primarily due to the timing of pledge payments and the payment of share the plate cash for the last six months to the Earth Day Festival and the Texoma Family Shelter.

For the fiscal year-to-date we had an operating net profit of \$312.90. The year-to-date net profit was primarily due to lower facilities, worship, and communication expenses, offset by lower pledge donations.

Marilyn Alexander's daughter, Merrilee Kick, very generously donated a total of \$79,361.00 during the July 2024 – June 2025 fiscal year, including \$19,000.00 donated in June. A total of \$58,170.07 has been spent on renovations and repairs. The \$19,000.00 donated in June will be used to cover continuing repairs and renovations to the building and to increase visibility in the community in order to grow membership.

As of June 30, 2025, we had \$16,062.30 available in checking for general operations. There was also \$9,944.49 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 invested a total of \$66,784.40 in the UUA Common Endowment Fund in 2020 which has increased in value. The congregation voted to use up to \$51,000.00 of the UUA Savings Fund for minister compensation.

Our new fiscal year started on July 1. Due to lower pledges, we have a very tight budget for the fiscal year July 2025 through June 2026. Until we build our membership and pledges to a better level, we are going to have to be very careful with our spending. Due to changes after the budget was approved, we are expecting a loss for this year and for some future years. We plan to use our savings to cover the expected losses. Carole Harnet, *treasurer*

Rainbow Team

For the Rainbow Team, the month of July was sort of a recovery month. The festivities of Pride Month are finished for another year, and we will carry on being proud of who we are as we look down the road of the second half of the year.

In August we will host a Kid's Clothing Swap again for families in our area of the country who need help with providing school clothes. There are a lot of places doing supply drives, but we are the only continuous source of free clothing exclusively for kiddos. This is part of our community connection that brings us joy with everything that leaves the building. The KCS is scheduled for Saturday, August 16th from 10 am to 2 pm in the sanctuary.

September is Back-to-School for those families who haven't already started, so the RT will be working with Legend Martial Arts to support their Trunk-or-Treat for Halloween. More details on that and our Holiday plans will be coming soon!

Kid's Clothing Swap Aug 16

The next scheduled KCS is Saturday, August 16th from 10 am to 2 pm at the church. Donations of lovingly used kids clothing are welcome, as are volunteers, especially for pack up. Thank you!

August Moveable Feast

This month the “Feasters” will gather at a restaurant in Denison, **The North Rig Grill**, at 6pm. It is located just off Hwy 75 at 414 US-75, Denison, TX 75020. I know some of you don’t like to drive at night. Since it’s summer and doesn’t get dark so early, we should be able to get home before dark. Hopefully, this will allow the folks that work a chance to also attend.

The available dates we have for August are as follows: 11,12,13,15,22, 25,27,28. Please let us know which dates work best for you and if you are interested in coming by sending us a email [here](#).

It was great to have so many people at Marilyn’s house for our Feast in July, and I hope we can continue to have so many join us. I have a list of people who regularly attend our Movable Feast each month. We mostly have been having them at lunch during the week at a restaurant. To allow more people the chance to participate, I am also going to schedule some of these during evenings and weekends. Please let me know if you would like to be on the “Movable Feast” list so you will continue to receive the information about each month’s feast.

Happy Feasting!

Susie and Walter Norris
The Fearless Feast Facilitators

Water Communion

Yes, it is hot this summer. But, if you are venturing out whether north to cooler weather or staying inside next to the AC, remember to bring a small vial of water so you can participate in one of the UU’s most beloved rituals: Water Communion. Our Water Communion Sunday is September 14th, so try and remember to bring a small container of water with you.

August Birthdays



06 Linda Tracy
09 Helen Schulze
10 Lisa Cates
13 Debra Biasi *
23 Jim Murphy
29 Carolyn Fridley
31 Doug Strong
*Youngster

From our non-resident poet

Frankenstein Day is August 30; the day author Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley was born in 1797. Two centuries later, her masterpiece still offers a warning.



21st Century Frankenstein by Don Mathis

The Modern Prometheus is still with us
very near 200 years.

This literary creation was the first science fiction.

His hideous progeny lives in human memory
and spawns discussion of biomedical innovation.

Now, more than ever before,
Frankenstein alters the mind.

The world of imagination
fuses with the realm of legislation.

Ultrasound sonography
shows us things we cannot see.

A CT scan, MRI, and EEG
are benefits of electricity –
the same joule that caused the monster to move.

Genetics may alter but processes may falter.

It is a fact, science is not exact.

With a clone you are never alone.

Will dependence on engineered corn
hold traditional farming methods to scorn?
Agrochemicals may give us a longer lifespan
but it may be the end of man.

Will our diet of hormone-fed beef
ultimately bring us grief?

Would you trust a café that sells
burgers from lab-grown muscle cells?

The locks on Pandora's Box
are there for a purpose, not to thwart us.

A lifetime of research into DNA
may allow us to choose our legacy someday.

Future babies we hold dear
could be scientifically engineered.

If we tamper with genetics,
do we meddle with our ethics?

We must watch the path we trod
when we suppose we act as God
or Mary Shelley's creature
will seem tame in our future.

Our Various Teams

The first name is the team leader

Adult Forum: Jim, Amy, Cristin, Marilyn, Marion
Aesthetics: Amy, Jana
Audio Visual: Jim, Carole, Liz, Marla
Caring Circle: Susie
Choir: Marilyn, Bill, Cindy
Children's R.E. Teacher: Jack
Children's Clothing Swap: Amy, Cristin, Jim, Sherilyn
Communications: Amy, Doug, Marla
Earth Day Planning: Amy, Bruce, Cristin, Jan, Jim, Marla, Megan
Endowment:
Facebook Admin: Amy
Finance: Carole, Jim, Marilyn
Good Times Team: Marilyn, Amy, Andrea, Bill, Carole, Cindy, Elbert, Eva, George, Irene, Jim, Lisa, Liz, Marion, Pat, Samuel, Susie, Walter.
Greeters: Susie, Amy, Jack, Sherilyn
Grounds: Marilyn
Historian: Marla
IT Support: Jim
Membership: Susie, Amy, Doug, Marla
Minister Search: Jim, Liz, Marilyn, Marla, Walter
Monarch Way Station: Linn, Sherilyn, Susie
Moveable Feast: Susie, Amy, Bruce, Carole, Cindy, David, Doug, Irene, Jan, Jana, Joyce, Kelly, Liz, Marilyn, Marla, Michelle, Walter. This event, usually monthly, is open to everyone who wishes to participate. Speak with Susie if you're interested.
Music:
NTUUC Rep: Marilyn
Publications: Doug
Rainbow Team: Jack, Amy, Billie, Cristin, Jana, Jamie
Social Justice:
Strategic Plan: Jim, Bruce, Marilyn
TxUUJM Rep:
Web Team: Jim, Hannah, Marla
Worship: Marla, Eva, Marilyn, Megan, Susie
Worship Associates: Marla, Cristin, Jana, Marilyn, Megan, Thomas

Please Note: Changes happen. If your team's listing is wrong, email news@redriveruuu.org with updates. Keeping this list as current as possible is important for us all. Thanx.

Our Elected or Appointed Leaders

Board of Trustees

Jana Norris, *President*
TBA, *Vice president*
Carole Harner, *Treasurer*
Jack, *Secretary*
Cristin Mackey, *Trustee at large*

Committee on Ministry

Jim Holmes, Marion Hill, Bruce Cameron

Nominating

Marilyn Alexander, Liz Rapp, Walter Norris