



Red River Ramblings

The Monthly Newsletter of Red River Unitarian Universalists ♦ Denison TX ♦ Vol 22, No. 6 ♦ October 2020

Sunday, October 4, 2020 - 11:15 on our [YouTube](#) channel and our [Facebook](#) page

“Do Not Go Gentle”

the Rev. Dr. Christine Tata, *speaking*

In anxious times, Unitarian Universalists draw upon many sources of religious wisdom, including Jewish and Christian teachings that counsel us to be pure and meek and gentle. In *really* anxious times, when shadows seem to loom, we need some *really* powerful words--like the poetry of the precocious, troubled, modernist Welshman, Dylan Thomas: “*Do not go gentle into that good night.*” Join us as we commit ourselves to keeping the flame alive.

Sunday, October 11, 2020 - 11:15 on our [YouTube](#) channel and our [Facebook](#) page

“The UU Get Out the Vote National Worship Assembly”

the Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Grey, UUA President and other UU leaders, *speaking*

In this midst of global pandemic, rising authoritarianism, and uprising, lives hang in the balance and the future of democracy is on the line. In response, Unitarian Universalists are answering the call of our faith, building powerful partnerships to mobilize our communities to #VoteLove and #DefeatHate in the 2020 elections. Join UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray, the UU the Vote team, and a lineup of powerful, prophetic UU voices as we explore the intersections of faith, justice, and democracy in this collective virtual service.

Sunday, October 18, 2020 - 11:15 on our [YouTube](#) channel and our [Facebook](#) page

“Our Purple Home in E-flat Major”

the Rev. Dr. Christine Tata, *speaking*

In this pandemic year of isolation, protest, and division, Americans have had to reevaluate America, as one crisis after another has revealed deficiencies we thought had been overcome. When we go to the polls this November, we will vote for people we hope will care for—and repair—the country we want the United States to be. Join the Rev. Dr. Christine on October 18 to prepare for that historic vote by spending some time in positive reflection: What color is home? What song does it sing? And can we ever live there again?

Sunday, October 25, 2020 - 11:15 on our [YouTube](#) channel and our [Facebook](#) page
[United Nations Sunday](#)

“Climate Justice: We’re all in this together”

Bruce Knotts, Director, UUA Office at the United Nations, *speaking*

I will speak about the long road of advocacy for action on climate change which resulted in nothing of substance being done to prevent it. Now it is here and it’s bad and going to get worse. There appear to be two courses of action that nations are taking: 1. Protect our own, 2. We’re all in this together. I will argue that the second option is the best for us all and that the first won’t work and will succeed in only making things worse. The Paris Climate Accords are a good start to the work we have to do. I will also talk about the unique and important role indigenous communities play in their long fight for sustainable living on our planet. We need to protect forests and change our diets, eating a mostly plant-based diet with far less meat.

Jim's Jabber



It's October and time for our fall congregational meeting. It will be held on Oct. 18th starting at 1pm on Zoom. All members will be receiving their meeting packet via email or mail on Oct. 5. The board has made some financial moves

recently:

First, we are in the process of opening two accounts in the UU Common Endowment Fund (uucef.org). These accounts will be the Red River Endowment Fund and the Red River Savings Fund. Historically Red River UU has put our excess funds into CDs and a savings account at our bank and the interest on these accounts has been very low. By moving these funds to the managed funds service at the UUA, we should get around 5% in interest based on their historical performance. Details on the final amounts moved into these accounts will be reported at the Fall meeting.

Second, the board also approved giving the shelter \$500 to support their **42 Bed Bash** which is a benefit concert to support the Texoma Family Shelter. The concert will be on Oct 10th at Loy Lake Park Mayor Arena starting at 7pm. You can find out more about this event by going to <https://texomafamilyshester.com>. Our donation will make us a Bronze Sponsor. Buy tickets in the article elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.

Third, the church ended up with about \$6,200 in excess for the budget year 2019-2020. Pledges came in higher than anticipated (thank you everyone) and expenses were lowered due to some cost cutting the board did when the building was closed. The board has set this money aside into a special projects fund to cover any unusual expenses that come up. The \$500 we gave to the shelter will be paid out of this fund. We are also reserving \$600 from this fund to pay for replacing our sign out front which is showing its age. We also anticipate some extra cleaning costs once we prepare the building for reopening.

Earlier this week I received Jan Fletcher's letter of resignation as the church Treasurer. Unfortunately, Jan's health issues are slowing her down and she needs to concentrate on improving her health. The Board is sorry to lose Jan both as a board member and as treasurer. She has been a great asset to us and we wish her well in her quest to get better.

We now have two open positions that the board needs to fill until the May elections. We need a treasurer and we need a nominating committee person, due to the death of L.D. Clark. If you are interested in either of these positions, please let the board know. Both of these spots are very important to the smooth running of the church so please help us fill them. Take care, keep safe, and keep on Truckin'

Jim

Voting is an act of faith

UU the VOTE

Harvest the Power

Week of Action
October 21-27

A poster with a dark blue background. On the left is a white line drawing of a raised fist. The text 'Voting is an act of faith' is written in a light blue script at the top. The main title 'Harvest the Power' is in large white and yellow letters. At the bottom, a yellow brushstroke contains the text 'Week of Action October 21-27'. In the top right corner is a circular logo for 'UU the VOTE'.

Details on how you can participate are listed on the next page

Following National Voter Registration Day on September 22nd and our Gather the Spirit event on September 23rd, we're inviting everyone to join us for a week of action to harvest the power! Running Wednesday, October 21st through Tuesday, October 27th, this is one of our final pushes to ensure we reach 1,000,000 voters before Election Day.

Join us!

Wednesday, October 21: National Phonebank to Wisconsin

Join UUs in Wisconsin as we call voters across the state. We need all hands on deck in this crucial moment to reach voters in Wisconsin – answering questions about the changing election details and getting them all they need to vote safely! [Sign up!](#)

Congregational Call-in Days: October 21 – October 27

Organize your congregation to host a phonebank! Join us in activating congregations across the country to organize their members to contact voters. You assemble your team, and national and state organizers will help you with the rest. To reach 1 million voters and defeat hate in 2020, we need you and your congregation to go all in. [Take the pledge](#) to host a congregational phone bank and then [download the toolkit](#) with all the steps!

Sunday, October 11: UU the Vote National Worship Assembly from our FB page or our YouTube Channel - 11:15 am

We're hosting a UU the Vote worship service! Our UU the Vote service is a full 1 hour service with the typical elements of a UU liturgy, as well as some unique components. Join UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray, the UU the Vote team, and a lineup of powerful, prophetic UU voices as we explore the intersections of faith, justice, and democracy in this collective virtual service.

Monday, October 26: Vote Love Pledge Rally

As we near the close of our Harvest the Power Week of Action, let us celebrate our work and gather in joyful community. We're inviting everyone that has pledged to #VoteLove and #DefeatHate to a private virtual rally! We'll have music, speakers, highlights from the week of action and the latest numbers towards our goal of contacting 1 million voters. Come celebrate your work and our UU the Vote community. You deserve it. Haven't taken the VoteLove Pledge? [Sign up now, and get an invite to the rally!](#)

Tuesday, October 27: National Phonebank to Florida

Join New Florida Majority and UU the Vote to make calls to Florida voters to make sure they have the information they need to cast their ballot safely and overcome any attempt at voter suppression.

We'll be mobilizing Black and Latinx voters as well as expanding the coalition of voters in the state ready to #votelove in 2020 and put issues like police accountability, climate, and economic justice at the top of their priorities when they go to the polls. [Sign up!](#)



Common Read for October

Humanize the Vote

By Amanda Poppei



AMANDA POPPEI IS THE SENIOR LEADER OF THE [WASHINGTON ETHICAL SOCIETY](#)

For the last twelve years, as the senior leader at the Washington Ethical Society, I have been a movement-bridger—often feeling like the most religious person in secular gatherings and the most secular

person in religious gatherings. The Washington Ethical Society (WES) in Washington, DC, is part of the American Ethical Union, and through that connection is active with the American Humanist Association and the broader humanist movement. WES is also a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and the larger UU world. These connections, as well as my role as president of the Unitarian Universalist Humanist Association (UUHA), have allowed me to work with many amazing people working in the humanist world and in the UU world—but I’ve often wished they knew each other better.

My wish has been granted—and even better, it is emerging out of our shared work for justice in the world.

In the last few months the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has rolled out [UU the Vote](#), an outgrowth of their justice campaigns that focuses on bringing our “passion to the polls,” motivating voter turnout and voter engagement, and working against voter suppression. It’s an amazing campaign that promises to engage Unitarian Universalists across the country. Even during these strange virtual times, the campaign is responding with ways to reach out from your own home. (Read more at [uuthevote.org](#).)

But, you may be asking yourself, is this just for Unitarian Universalists?

I wondered that too. Specifically, I wondered how the congregation I serve, which has Ethical Culture and humanism as core identities, might feel about being involved in a UU-branded campaign. Imagine my delight when I met with UU the Vote

organizer B. Loewe and discovered that he had already been in discussion with Emily Newman—who works for the American Ethical Union and the American Humanist Association and also happens to be a member of the Washington Ethical Society—in thinking of ways to connect deeply and authentically with humanists across the United States. They adapted the #UUtheVote campaign to be #HumanizeTheVote. All the same resources and connections and ideas, with a humanist identity and connection.

My conversation with Loewe and with other folks at the UUA helped me to realize that #UUtheVote may be an internal rallying cry for Unitarians but ultimately the campaign is about relationships, not about branding—and all our relationships are about justice in the public sphere. Publicly, the UUA is using #VoteLove and #DefeatHate. The UUA is sharing their resources as broadly as they can, and they’re delighted to have communities make the work their own. We all know how delicate our democracy is and that we must take action together to protect it against growing narratives and policies of hate.

The UUA recommends ways that our [local groups can take action](#) and provides more great ideas with their [comprehensive toolkit](#). They even made it easy to connect with other groups working on these actions so we can support and encourage each other.

So whether you are UU, humanist—or, like me, find yourself as a bridge-builder among worlds—I hope you will get connected with this campaign. Bring it to your local AHA chapter or affiliate, your local Ethical Society, your local UU congregation. Bring it everywhere you can, and bring our relationships and our work for justice with you.

Let’s #HumanizeTheVote!



Adult Forum for October:



We will screen and discuss two films about voter suppression. In addition, information will be provided about Get Out

the Vote programs that congregants can participate in.

October 4 - *Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook*.

Between 2016 and 2018, over 17 million names were purged from voter rolls across the United States. Narrated by Jeffrey Wright, the illuminating documentary *Rigged* shows us how some of our politicians silence minorities.

N.B. The film is longer than the allotted time, so we will watch approximately 45 minutes and leave time for discussion.

October 11, 18 and 25 - *All In: The Fight For Democracy*.



This documentary examines the issue of voter suppression in the US. The film interweaves personal experiences with activism and historical insight to expose a problem that has corrupted our country from the beginning. With the expertise of Stacey Abrams, the film offers an insider's look into the barriers to voting. We will watch the film in 3 segments, leaving time for discussion.

Amy Hoffman-Shehan, October coordinator for Adult Forum.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee creates the slate of candidates for the Board of Trustees and elected special committees (Nominating Committee and Committee on Ministry). The committee begins meeting at the beginning of the calendar year to discuss the positions that will open with the next annual meeting and discuss possible candidates.

Sadly, LD Clark's death left us with a vacancy on the nominating committee. We need to fill it as quickly as possible. Please speak to Amy if you are interested and able to fill the vacancy.

Fall Congregational Meeting

This year our fall Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, October 18th @ 1 pm via Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent with the Packet of Documents for the meeting to the membership on Monday, October 5th.

Here is the proposed *DRAFT* agenda.

- Light the chalice and opening reading
- Approval of the minutes from the June 28, 2020 Spring Congregational Meeting
- Financial Report – pledge income to date, UUA Funds transfer status
- Discussion and Approval of the Annual Reports
 - Adult Forum
 - Art Fest
 - Aesthetics
 - Building and Grounds
 - Caring
 - Communications
 - Community Outreach
 - Earth Day Planning
 - Endowment Committee
 - Facilities
 - Grounds
 - LGBTQ+ Welcoming Committee
 - Literary Domination Society
 - Little Free Library
 - Long Range Planning
 - Moveable Feast
 - North Texas UU Congregations
 - Religious Education
 - Safe Congregation Panel
 - Shelter Meals
 - Social Justice
 - Website
 - Web of Life Monarch Waystation
 - Worship Team
- Review current congregational annual goals
- Open Discussion
- Closing Reading & Extinguishing the Chalice
- Adjournment

Online voting opens Sunday, October 11. Members may access online voting [here](#) and vote any-time during the week Oct 11-17. Voting closes at 1:15 pm on Sunday Oct 17.

Zoom Groups for RedRiverUU?

During this time of enforced “social distancing,” the Membership Team suggests the formation of several small groups that can meet regularly via Zoom (tentatively referred to as RRUUZoom groups). These can be interest groups (similar to Chalice Circles), or just a group of members and friends that want to stay in touch during this pandemic.

If you're interested in being part of such a group, please get in touch with Marion Hill, mari-onh3719@gmail.com or 580-924-7715. Suggest an interest group that would appeal to you, such as World Travelers (armchair or otherwise), Bookworms, Knitters, Needleworkers, Empty-Nesters, etc. You get the picture, and can no doubt come up with better group names than my suggestions.

Or just indicate your interest in being part of a Zoom group, and I'll try to figure out pairings. Also, suggest the best meeting time(s) for you, and especially times you could NOT meet. And since each group will need someone to lead, coordinate meeting times, etc., indicate whether you would be willing to do this function.

These groups may be only around 6 people (which could make for easier coordination of meeting times), or they might grow much larger.

For anyone who hasn't used Zoom before, it's easy and free. (Believe me, if I can do it, anyone can.) Just go to the website <https://zoom.us> and download the software. Each group has someone who acts as host (that's also easy; see parenthesis above), sets up each meeting, and sends invitations to each person who will be involved. Zoom does most of the thinking for you!

Please get back to me soon and let me know if you're interested in being a RRUUZoomer. This can be great fun and will help us feel a little less isolated while we're stuck at home.

Other UU Church Zoom Groups

Daniel Polk, the Executive at North Texas UU Congregations sent us a PDF file listing of small group interest groups from several North Texas congregations. The list is 4 pages under the headings of Book Clubs; Faith Development; Spirituality. He reports each group would welcome newcomers from other UU congregations. Check out the list [here](#).

Share your UU Values NOW

This issue of Red River Ramblings has a lot of information about UU the VOTE. Jan Fletcher offers us a path to volunteer:

Now the timing is critical for all of us to “Harvest The Power.” Now is time for our congregation to commit to UU values of interdependence, democracy and the inherent worth of all people.

But how do we get involved? We volunteer! The first step is to [become a registered voter](#). Verify to make sure your voting information is current and accurate [here](#).

Next, educate yourself on all the issues. Research what the candidates present on their websites, not what you hear in a 10 second headline or on Facebook. Next, do not listen to the sensationalism in the press. Look for the positive aspects that appeal to your UU principles.

When you find the values you support, contact the campaign office or the political organization nearest you. Volunteer your time, energy and money (if you choose) to support the candidates that reflect those values. Organizations and campaigns need volunteers to call voters. Those calls can be from your own home with the aid of a script provided with your list of names or it can be from an organized and socially distanced venue. Some of those calls are reminders to register or update an address or asking to vote for the candidate.

If phone calling is not for you, volunteer to write postcards. Mailed postcards are often preprinted and all you need do is address them. Supplies are provided by the campaign. Or, you can volunteer to distribute information packets door to door in certain voting precincts. Volunteer to drive voters to the polls.

If none of these important opportunities appeal to you, contact your local Election Office and to work a voting location during early voting and on Election Day. These are not volunteer but paid positions. A balanced staff in election locations protects honest elections.

If you want to help RedRiverUU to become the active congregation with [UU the VOTE](#), let's get involved. I am a Grayson County Deputy Registrar and I can answer your questions of how you can help. We can make a difference! Let's pitch in! Contact the party of your choice in your county and say, “I want to VOLUNTEER.” [Jan Fletcher](#)

Benefit Concert for the Shelter

BENEFIT FOR TEXOMA FAMILY SHELTER

10.10.2020

42 BED BASH

LOY LAKE PARK - MAYOR ARENA
457 RC VAUGHAN RD. - DENISON, TEXAS
GATES OPEN AT 6PM - LIVE MUSIC AT 7PM
CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE

#42BEDBASH
FOR MORE INFO VISIT: TEXOMAFAMILYSHELTER.COM

JASON BOLAND
AND THE STRAGGLERS

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE! **\$30**

JARROD MORRIS

TANNER FENOGLIO

As Jim mentioned in his column, RedRiverUU has helped support this important benefit concert for the Texoma Family Shelter. Everyone is invited to attend; social distancing standards will be strictly enforced.

If you might enjoy going, look for other UU's so we can all sit safely apart together. Hope to see you there.

BUY TICKETS HERE - \$30

Jan's Music Circle

will meet via zoom Saturday, October 17 starting at 7 pm. Sign up to perform begins at 6:30. All forms of acoustic music are welcome at this event and listeners are encouraged to join us. Please notify Jan if you want the zoom link.

Jan Fletcher
972-897-5796

Birthdays in October

- Oct 05 - Marion Hill
- Oct 17 - Tommi Homuth
- Oct 18 - Joyce Peak

Earth Day Planning

The Earth Day Planning Committee is hosting a recycling event on **October 24 from 9 am to 1 pm**. Volunteers are needed, especially since Red River UU is a sponsor of the event. We will practice distancing and will provide masks for volunteers. It's a drive through event that should provide minimal contact. Our event description states that people will need to unload their own materials, but we anticipate some people will need assistance.

Please visit our website for the full list of items you can recycle. www.earthdaytexoma.org

Join us for our Texoma Earth Day **RECYCLE EVENT!** October 24, 2020 9am - 1pm

Items accepted for Recycling at the Event:
Electronic Waste, Appliances, Batteries, Cardboard, Paper, Glass (all colors), Styrofoam, Plastic Medicine Bottles, Ink Cartridges & Cell Phones, Outdated Prescription Drug Collection, Paper Shredding

Paper Shredding: sponsored by Douglass Distributing
sensitive documents only - flattened cardboard and newspaper
will be added to Choctaw Nation container
no trailers allowed - not open to businesses

Drug Collection: sponsored by Sherman Police
outdated or unused prescriptions
includes outdated or unused OTC medications and pet medications

Choctaw Nation
paper, including shredded paper - flattened cardboard of any kind
Plastics 1, 2 & 5 (including medicine bottles)
Styrofoam - Ink & Toner Cartridges - Cell Phones

Electronic Waste Collection: sponsored by Keystone Enterprises
Anything powered by a cord or battery - televisions of any kind
computers, computer equipment, monitors - large appliances (drained of freon)
open to businesses and individuals

Glass Recycling: sponsored by Strategic Materials
Glass Bottles and Jars - All Colors Accepted
no Plate Glass, Cookware or Bakeware



Visit our website at earthdaytexoma.org for full details

Where: Sherman City Hall South Parking Lot
at the Corner of Pecan and South Elm Street

think
BEHIND BETTER THOUGHTS

www.EarthdayTexoma.org



Curbside Recycling in Sherman

Church folks in Sherman might want to know that a commercial curbside recycler is starting operations in Sherman. \$12 per month. Details [here](#).

Our Leaders

Board of Trustees

Jim Holmes, *President*
Lisa Cates, *Vice-President*
Jan Fletcher, *Treasurer*
David Dyer, *Secretary*
Sabra Jones, *Trustee*

Committee on Ministry:

Dan Althoff, Elbert Hill, Marla Loturco

Nominating:

Kelly Cofield Dyer, Amy Hoffman-Shehan,

Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *Sabra*
Aesthetics: *Carol, Doug, Joyce*
Caring Circle: *Kelly*
Communications: *Doug*
Endowment: *Carolyn, Dick, Doug*
Facilities: *Jim (until we find someone)*
Finance: *Jim, Dick, Doug*
Grounds: *Marilyn*
Long Range Planning: *Jim, Marilyn, Robert, Ronda*
Membership: *Marion*
NTUUC Rep: *Marla*
RE Team: *Tommi*
Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*
Social Action:
Welcoming Congregation: *Adrian, Amy, Lisa, Marla*
Worship: *Dan, Doug, Marla, Robert*

Contact Us

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How to reach us:

- Phone: 903.231.3232
- [Mobile App](#)
- [Email](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Facebook](#)

The church calendar is now merged with the EVENTS listing on the church website home page

Sneak Peek: Oct 4th Promo!



“Do Not Go Gentle”
the Rev. Dr. Christine Tata, *speaking*

Sneak Peek: Oct 11th Promo!



“The UU the VOTE National Worship Service”
The Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA President

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