



May 2021 - Vol. 22 Issue 12

RED RIVER *To seek the truth in freedom* RAMBLINGS

Virtual Worship Sundays @ 11:15 am on both our [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook page](#)

Sunday, May 2, 2021

LIVING WITH INTEGRITY

the Rev. Dr. Aija Duelm, *leading*

Now is our time to harness our ability to reflect inward in order to re-emerge with a power greater than ourselves that gives rise to a new day.

the Rev. Rebekah Savage

This Sunday we will reflect on what it means to be people of integrity and wrestle with W.E.B Du Bois' question 'How does integrity face oppression?'

Sunday, May 9, 2021

HALLELUJAH ALREADY

Marion Moore Hill, *speaking*

Tommi Homuth, *worship associate*

Wisdom and self-deprecating humor meet in Anne Lamott's writing, as she talks forthrightly about her life as a daughter, mother, and grandmother, as well as a recovering alcoholic. Marion Hill will quote from Lamott's books of faith-based essays that have made her beloved by millions of fans, many of whom might not agree with her admittedly "left-wing politics." Her honest, sometimes laugh-out-loud, comments about her foolish mistakes, sincere efforts, and unexpected triumphs speak to us with sensitivity and experience that we recognize.

Sunday, May 16, 2021

WHEN THE UNIVERSALISTS AND THE UNITARIANS VOTED TO CONSOLIDATE, MY MOM VOTED NO!

the Rev. Doug Strong, *leading*

Upcoming on Wednesday, May 12th the Unitarian Universalist Association turns 60. A good time to take stock and wonder, "Would liberal religion have died if the Universalists and Unitarians hadn't joined forces?" "Why consolidate and not merge?" "What prompted these

two religious traditions to consider joining one another? "How come they didn't get a shorter name?" And if you thought the children of Israel took a long time (40 years!) to go next door and find the Promised Land, it took 100 years for these two groups - whose offices were walking distance from one another - to dowhat? Find the promised land? Hardly! They nearly went bankrupt before reaching 20! It's an intriguing thing, history and an important thing, too.

Sunday, May 23, 2021

THE GIFT OF QUESTIONS

the Rev. Dr. Aija Duelm

*Just when you seem to yourself
nothing but a flimsy web
of questions, you are given
the questions of others to hold*

Denise Levertov

Many UUs say they discovered Unitarian Universalism as part of their quest for truth. Our UU faith calls us to keep learning and continue to ask questions to help us grow. How do we honor questions? What brings out your curiosity? What are your questions currently? How do we hold each other's questions?

Sunday, May 30, 2021

WHY GO TO CHURCH

the Rev. Dr. Don Fielding, *leading*

For many churchgoing has become just a habit. We go because we always have. But might there be a more significant reason for going to church? It's true we, UUs do not go to church to be "saved", but might there still be an important reason to go to church? Don will reflect on how churchgoing began and why he goes to church. See if you agree.

Will You Help?



I am writing to you with a personal request. We know this legislative session is unlike any we've ever seen before and that we are attempting to fight all types of injustice in Texas at this point. Josh (TX UU Justice Ministry) shared with us at our board meeting last week the fires he has been putting out around voter suppression and how your advocacy is making a difference. He also shared that some of the most egregious legislation introduced this session has centered on transgender youth in Texas.

Most of you probably don't know that I am the mother of a transgender child. I don't often share this in professional circles because I live in a fairly constant fear that disclosing my child's authentic identity endangers their life. However, I am asking you as a friend, colleague, and fellow human being to please help me advocate for my child's continued existence here in Texas. To me, the stakes are that dire.

If these bills pass, not only will my child be prevented from accessing life-saving medical care, but I will be prosecuted as a child abuser, with my child being put into foster care, should I allow them to access that care.

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Jim's Jabber

I have several things that I am excited to talk about for this month's column.

Our 2021-2022 Stewardship Program, *RETURN AGAIN - to the land of our soul*: Thank you everyone for helping us surpass our goal. Our goal was \$36,000 and, to date, we have received \$38,600 in pledges!! These extra funds come at a wonderful time because the Board and Worship Team are committed to continuing with providing quality online Sunday morning assemblies. We are also committed to providing this after we reopen, and we return to live morning assemblies. This means that the Worship Team budget has almost doubled for the 2021-2022 budget year. A big thank you to the finance team for producing a good, working, balanced budget.

Jan's Virtual Music Circle: We had another successful and very entertaining music circle in April. Even if you don't play, but enjoy live music, please join us on Zoom. Our new meeting date is now the first Saturday of each month at 5:30 pm. Here's the Zoom Meeting ID: 970 4165 1332. See you there!

The April Recycling event: The Earth Day team held another successful recycling event in April. I want to give a big thank you shout out to Amy who leads the effort in making it successful. It was even more of a job for Amy this time because the morning of the event she found out that her mother fell and broke her hip. Her family covered for Amy until the event was over and Amy quickly left to attend to mom.

The Spring Congregational Meeting: This year it will again be a zoom meeting held on Sunday, May 16 at 1pm. The Packet of Documents containing the information that we will cover in the meeting will be emailed to the membership on Monday, May 2, per our bylaws. Among other things, we will be electing new church leadership, approving the 2021-2022 budget, and discussing when we all feel it will be safe to reopen the church.

Please join us on May 16 at 1pm. If you cannot attend, please be sure to vote on-line or give your proxy to someone that will be attending. Visitors and Friends: you are invited to attend the meeting as well if you wish.

Online Voting: Online voting will open on Sunday, May 9. The link will be in the Packet of Documents. For those wishing paper ballots, you can download one from the church website. Just remember it must be returned to David Dyer, Secretary, by noon on Saturday May 15.

A Quick Survey before the Spring Meeting: . that is attached to the online voting system. The Board would like your thoughts about a few things. After voting, take two minutes and answer the questions: *Have you received Covid-19 vaccinations? What congregational goals do you hope we will discuss during the meeting? When might you feel comfortable returning to the building? How often did you watch Sunday Morning Assemblies over the last year?* If you vote via proxy, the questions can be answered on the proxy.

Take care, keep safe, and *Keep on Truckin'*

Jim Holmes
President

Will You Help?

Here is a list of bills that I am asking you to call your legislators about:

1. **HB 1399 and SB 1311:** prevents health providers from giving children medically necessary transition care (e.g., puberty delaying medications or hormone support).
2. **SB 1646:** adds the provision of transition care to transgender youth as statutorily child abuse.
3. **SB 1148:** prevents children from changing their birth certificate to reflect their gender expression.

These are the key talking points:

1. Medical decisions should be kept between parents and their team of medical providers. The Texas government should not be intervening in the private medical decision of parents.
2. These bills promote vast government overreach and do not reflect the small government values we have as Texans.
3. These bills are discriminatory toward children- a vulnerable population we should be protecting not politicizing.
4. Bills like this make it difficult for Texas businesses to recruit and retain a vibrant workforce since it doesn't allow for families to receive equal treatment and medical care. These businesses have all come out against these bills and have threatened to pull financial support.
5. The religious community won't stand for the discrimination and targeting of children. It stands against the principles of every faith tradition.

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Jan's Virtual Music Circle

If you enjoy acoustic music and friendship, join Jan's Virtual Music Circle on Zoom each month. We meet on Zoom. You are invited to log on to our Zoom meeting to hear singer-songwriter favorites, as well as original songs. And there is always some new tidbit shared.

Our virtual music circle is moving from the 3rd Saturday to the 1st Saturday, starting on Saturday, May 1st. Email me [here](#) if you have question. The Zoom Meeting ID: 970 4165 1332

Jan.

Treasurer's Report for March

In the month of March, we had total receipts of \$6,403.59. Expenses for the month totaled \$2,459.42. The result was an excess of receipts over expenditures of \$3,944.17.

As of March 31, 2021, we had \$6,472.41 available in checking, \$16,532.20 in general savings, \$13,784.67 in the Endowment Fund at UUCEF, and \$62,560.41 in the Savings Fund at UUCEF for a total of \$92,883.40 in all savings accounts. We have a total of \$4,171.29 remaining on the renovation loan.

Marilyn Alexander,
Treasurer

Congrats to Ellie ... Prom Queen and Singer too

Ellie just competed OK State Choir Competition in 3 arrangements categories: **Ensemble:** *Cantate!* By Mary Lynn Lightfoot - The group received a 1 **Duet:** *In Winter So Many Stars* by John Purifoy - the two each received a 2 **Solo:** *Night Winds* by Laura Farnell - Ellie received a 2
Congrats, Ellie! *Keep on Singing!*



A proud mom writes, "Ellie was voted Prom Queen! The vote is taken during prom. All attendees including students, staff and chaperones vote at the event. No one could have been more shocked than Ellie! She always felt a loner with few friends. As the end is in sight, she realized that she is thought of highly by the majority. Ellie's graduates May 14. There are no Covid restrictions or limits on the number of attendees.

May Birthdays

09 - Eleanor Dyer | 27 - Don Mathis

Will You Help?

It is particularly important to lobby the House Calendars Committee to keep HB 1399 off the House for a vote.

I really need and appreciate the support of you and your community. This effects children of all backgrounds, faiths, and political ideologies. I also want you to know that you can come to me personally and ask questions about transgender youth if you have them.

Thank you for your help.

Best,
Annaliese
(a member of a TX UU church)

CLICK [HERE](#) TO DOWNLOAD A PDF WITH TALKING POINTS TO USE WHEN CALLING YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES

GA Pride Drag Show

Thanks to sponsorship support from UUA Ministries and Faith Development – LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Team, the Virtual GA Pride Drag Show returns! Register for GA and plan to join Rev. Presha Mann (Rev. Marcus Fogliano), our most fabulous host, for an evening of joy and fun!

Attention Queens and Kings: [upload a 3-to-5-minute video](#) of your drag performance by **Thursday, May 27**. Selected videos will premiere Friday evening, June 25 at 5:30 pm PT / 6:30 pm MT / 7:30 pm CT / 8:30 pm ET. \$50 compensation will be offered per original submission, plus tips via Venmo and CashApp.



Our Leaders

Board of Trustees

Jim Holmes, *President*

Lisa Cates, *Vice-President*

Marilyn Alexander, *Treasurer*

David Dyer, *Secretary*

Sabra Jones, *Trustee*

Committee on Ministry:

Dan Althoff, Elbert Hill, Marla Loturco

Nominating:

Kelly Cofield Dyer, Don Rogers, Amy Hoffman-Shehan,

Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *Sabra*

Aesthetics: *Carol, Doug*

Caring Circle: *Kelly*

Communications: *Doug*

Endowment: *Carolyn, Dick, Doug*

Facilities: *Jim (until we find someone)*

Finance: *Jim, Dick, Jan, Marilyn*

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, Thomas*

Worship: *Dan, Doug, Keller, 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