



# RED RIVER

*Love is the Spirit of this Church*

# RAMBLINGS

November 2021 - Vol 23 - No. 5

**November 7, 2021 - 11:15 am (Winter Time)**

## WHY DOES THE WORLD NEED UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM?

Daniel Polk, *Director, North Texas UU Churches*

Why Does the World Need Unitarian Universalism? I was asked this question in a workshop and knew I had much to say. I'll share some of my answer.

*Daniel Polk is originally from Iowa but has lived in Texas for a few decades and has learned the drawl, sort of. He is the Executive Director of our group of congregations, North Texas Unitarian Universalist Churches (NTUUC), and in his spare time enjoys word play and coloring wood for art projects. He tries to use his privilege for the benefit of society.*

**November 14, 2021 - 11:15 am**

## REVISITING PATRICK HENRY'S SECOND CHOICE

Rev. Doug Strong, *leading*

Fifty odd years ago, Elisabeth Kübler-Ross gave us five stages of grief her seminal book *On Death and Dying* and I wrote a sermon I cleverly called "Speaking of Patrick Henry's Second Choice." Her book was immensely popular and preaching about death and dying was cutting edge stuff. November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month and there have been seismic changes in how we, as a nation, deal with death and dying. I think it is time to revisit Mr. Henry's second choice by exploring what options people now have regarding End of Life starting with a look at Advance Directives.

**November 21, 2021 - 11:15 am**

## INTERGENERATIONAL JUSTICE

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

In this discourse I will reflect with gratitude on what previous generations have done to contribute to our lives and discuss what justice requires of our generation for the future. What can we do to make future generations have more experiences for which to be thankful?

**November 28, 2021 - 11:15 am**

## OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS!

The Worship Team, *leading*

With Thanksgiving barely behind us, we ring in the holiday season on this first Sunday of Advent with music to celebrate the festivities and holy days ahead in December, with a special emphasis on beloved traditional tunes. In the best Unitarian Universalist style, we also respectfully acknowledge and appreciate the many religious traditions that also celebrate very special days during a very special month. Come for glad tidings, comfort, and joy!



*Red River Unitarian Universalists - Serving the World from Denison Texas*

## *Karma and Kindness*

Our Common Read for  
World Kindness Day, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>  
By Don Mathis

At its worst, pain is a nuisance; it's an annoying bother. Or maybe that's the best pain can be. Perhaps, at its worst, pain is a depressing numbness or a debilitating injury. It is dull or sharp, numbered one through ten, temporary or lethal.

But pain is an experience, and often a learning experience. If you burn your hand, you learn to respect fire. If you sit on a tack, you will move to avoid sharp objects.

The more serious types of physical or chronic pain can teach us compassion. Thus, we can offer hope and help to those in pain. If we have been emotionally or psychologically hurt, we can offer advice, we can offer a listening ear. With compassion, we can offer a shoulder to lean on, a helping hand, or a pat on the back.

If we learn nothing from pain, it is a lesson wasted. Pain can help us learn the Golden Rule – “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Luke recorded as much in the New Testament.

If one applies this lesson because of a commandment, that is all right. If one practices this maxim because it makes sense or because it works, that is fine too.

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## *Jim's Jabber*

On October 17th we held our fall meeting. It was a hybrid meeting with members live in the Chapel and members live but remote on Zoom. A big thank you to all that attended and to the AV team for making this hybrid meeting a success. Another first for the AV team was setting up the equipment to allow our remote Zoom users to be heard over the Chapel speakers. And while I'm in the “thank you” mood, thank you to all the teams and committees that presented their reports for the meeting.

During discussions, three items stood out.

1. The membership recommended that we let the Board decide when the Chapel doors should be locked during the service. For the October 24th service the board choose to not lock the doors and to continue this until further notice.
2. We had a lively discussion on “should we get a minister.” It was decided that the Board would investigate this in more detail. If anyone has any thoughts on this that they wish the Board to consider, please contact a Board member.
3. It was brought up that the Chapel windows let in a lot of light which looks good for people worshipping in the Chapel but causes issues with light balancing and colors with the cameras that reduces the quality of the video for those watching on our YouTube channel. The Aesthetics Team and the AV Team will investigate options to solve this dilemma by perhaps adding spotlights focused on the pulpit and/or reducing the lighting coming through the windows.

On Saturday, November 6th, the facilities team is planning a trash clean out day. We will have a 12-yard dumpster and 6 volunteers from Austin College to make the work considerably easier. We will be removing all the unnecessary “treasures” that have been accumulating in the garages and basement and will donating usable items to the Family Shelter Thrift Store, on the curb for treasure seekers, or in the dumpster. If you have a hankering to help, show up around 9:30. We'd love to have you come.

Take care, keep safe, wear your mask!

And *Keep on Truckin'*

Jim Holmes, *president*

## *Karma and Kindness*

Karma is the spiritual principle of cause and effect. The intent and actions of a person (the cause) influence the future of that person (the effect).

One could do no better.

### [The Golden Rule – from Compassionate San Antonio](#)

The Golden Rule is the foundation of the Charter for Compassion. Every faith tradition has its own version. Here are some of them:

✚ Bahá'í – *“And if thine eyes be turned towards justice, choose thou for thy neighbor that which thou chooseth for thyself.”* Epistle to the Son of the Wolf

✚ Buddhism – *“Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.”* Udana Varga 5:18

✚ Christianity – *“And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.”* Luke 6:31

✚ Confucianism – *“Do not do to others what you do not want them to do to you.”* Analects 15:23

✚ Ancient Egyptian – *“Do for one who may do for you, that you may cause him thus to do.”* Tale of the Eloquent Peasant, 109 – 110

✚ Hinduism – *“This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.”* Mahabharata 5:1517

✚ Islam – *“None of you [truly] believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself.”* Number 13 of Imam “Al-Nawawi’s Forty Hadiths.”

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## *All Hands on Deck ....*



**Texas Faith** **votes**  
equipping Texans for faithful election leadership

### **All Hands On Deck for Democracy!**

**November 13 @ 9:00 AM**

White Rock United Methodist Church, 1450 Old Gate Ln, Dallas, TX 75218

Our board donated \$300 to help support this important FREE workshop.

It’s never been more important for faith communities to provide nonpartisan election leadership! Texas Impact is teaming up with our member faith communities to ensure that every eligible Texan can vote in free and fair elections in 2022. Learn how you and your congregation can:

- Register and resource voters
- Assist vulnerable voters with vote-by-mail applications
- Volunteer to work the polls

Texas Impact is teaming up with our member faith communities to ensure that every eligible Texan can vote in free and fair elections in 2022. In 2021, Texas lawmakers enacted [SB1](#), one of the most restrictive voting laws in the nation, and created hyper-partisan [electoral maps](#). In 2022, Texas will hold its first elections under the new maps—even though the maps and SB1 are both the subjects of multiple court challenges. Voters are confused, local election officials are stressed, and special interests already are sowing discord. It’s all-hands-on-deck time for democracy!

**Sat. Nov 13 from 9 - 12 live at White Rock UMC church or via Zoom.**

**Register for Upcoming All Hands on Deck Training**

**REGISTER HERE**

This is a free event, and you can participate via Zoom. You’ll receive the Zoom Meeting ID via email once you register.

## *Karma and Kindness*

- ✚ Jainism – *“In happiness and suffering, in joy and grief, we should regard all creatures as we regard our own self.”* Lord Mahavira, 24th Tirthankara
- ✚ Judaism – *“...thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”* Leviticus 19:18 *“What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow man. This is the law: all the rest is commentary.”* Talmud, Shabbat 31a
- ✚ Native American Spirituality – *“Do not wrong or hate your neighbor. For it is not he who you wrong, but yourself.”* Pima proverb
- ✚ Sikhism – *“Don’t create enmity with anyone as God is within everyone.”* Guru Arjan Devji 259
- ✚ Taoism – *“Regard your neighbor’s gain as your own gain, and your neighbor’s loss as your own loss.”* T’ai Shang Kan Ying P’ien.
- ✚ Yoruba – *“One going to take a pointed stick to pinch a baby bird should first try it on himself to feel how it hurts.”* Nigerian proverb



Oralee with her poem

## *Monarchs on the Move*

Each autumn the Monarchs return to Michoacán Mexico always appearing by October 31 in time to be a presence at the Dia de los Muertos celebrations, where some say they are the souls of their ancestors come to be present with them in the graveyard on this sacred day each year. Many Monarchs have made their way south coming through Texomaland.

Linn Cates neighbor, Oralee, learned about Monarch Waystations by visiting the one Linn has in her garden. Both became friends and Linn helped Oralee start her own Monarch Waystation.

Oralee, thinking about the incredible trip the Monarchs take twice a year was moved to write a poem about their journey. She graciously said we could publish it. Here it is:

### *October...*

*Time to start farewell wishes for our monarch beauties--*

*Mexico bound--*

*Bittersweet, storms, cold fronts, pesticides.*

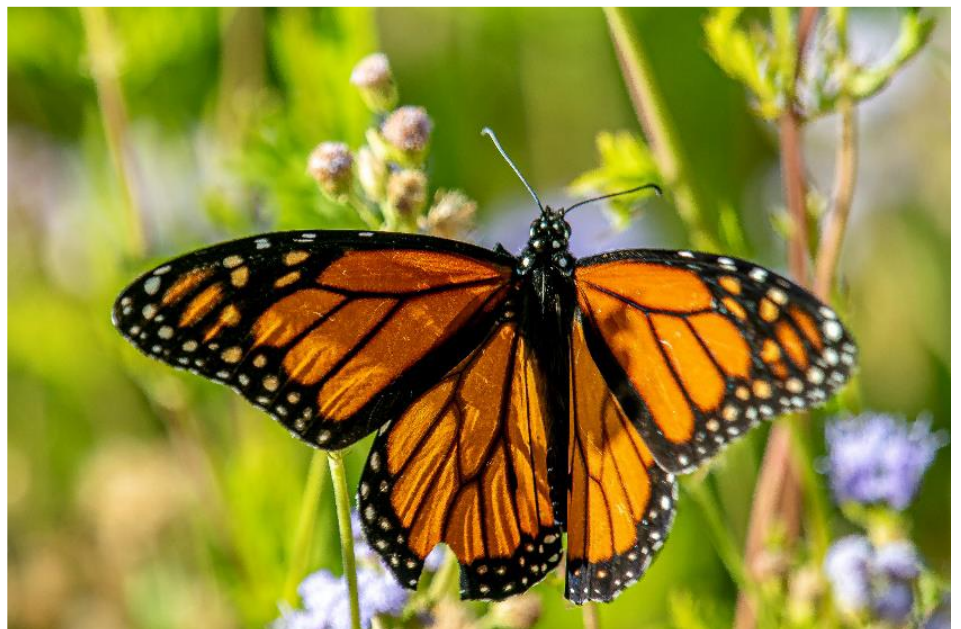
*All billion.*

*Prayers, prayers, prayers for them all.*

*O, I wonder, don't you?*

*How do they do it?*

*Oralee Crockett  
Autumn 2021*





## Dollars and Cents

As of September 30, 2021, we had \$10,428.25 available in checking, a total of \$19,097.53 in all savings accounts, which includes the \$2,545.00 for the Rhonda DeClaire Memorial Fund, and a total of \$81,847.52 in the UUA Common Endowment Fund. Also, with the NTUUC Grant and donations, a total of \$8,702.86 of new AV equipment has been purchased. In addition, it is worth noting that the final payments of the Renovation Loans were made in October.

All bank accounts have been reconciled with no exceptions noted.

Dick Powell, *Treasurer*

## Let The Music Play

Saturday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:30 is the next evening of live acoustic music. It's Jan's Music Circle via Zoom and you're invited to listen, sing along and perform, should you wish. Here's the Zoom Meeting ID: 970 4165 1332.

Let The Music Play!!

## November Birthdays

Nov 08 - Dan Althoff  
Nov 08 - Carolyn Cameron  
Nov 13 - Marla Loturco  
Nov 13 - Maura Shehan  
Nov 16 - Cylvia Lawrence  
Nov 22 - Pete Schulze



### Board of Trustees

Jim Holmes, *President*  
Marilyn Alexander, *Vice-President*  
Dick Powell, *Treasurer*  
David Dyer, *Secretary*  
Amy Shehan-Hoffman, *Trustee*

### Committee on Ministry:

Elbert Hill, Carolyn Cameron, ?

### Nominating:

Kelly Cofield Dyer, Don Rogers, Linda Tracy

### Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: Marilyn, Jim, Amy, Marion  
Aesthetics: Carol, Doug  
Caring Circle: Kelly  
Communications: Doug  
Endowment: Carolyn, Dick, Doug  
Facilities: Jim  
Finance: Jim, Dick, Jan, Marilyn  
Grounds: Marilyn  
Long Range Planning: Jim, Marilyn,  
Membership: Marion  
NTUUC Rep: Marla  
RE Team: David, Ellie, Marilyn  
Safe Congregation Panel: Dan  
Social Action:  
Welcoming Congregation: Adrian, Amy, Lisa,  
Marla, Thomas  
Worship: Dan, Doug, Marla

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### How to reach us:

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[Mobile App](#)

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