



RED RIVER

Love is the spirit of this church

RAMBLINGS

February 2022 Vol. 23 – No. 8

February 6, 2022 – 11:15 am

Mindful Peacemaking: The Life and Legacy of Thich Nhat Hanh

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

Reflections on the life of one of the most important peacemakers of our time and the gifts he left us to address the urgent challenge of peacemaking in the present and future.

February 20, 2022

The Power of Justice: The Life and Legacy of Desmond Tutu

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

Reflections on the life of one of the most important leaders for racial and social justice of our time and the gifts he left us to address the urgent challenge for social justice in the present and future.

February 13, 2022 – 11:15 am

Standing With Love – Reproductive Justice

The Worship Team, *leading*

This year's [*Thirty Days of Love*](#) is focusing on four themes from the recently published report called [*Widening the Circle of Concern*](#), which was developed by the Commission on Institutional Change, a UUA Board commissioned group charged with researching, reporting, and making recommendations for transforming white supremacy and other oppressions in the institutional history and practices of the UUA and its 1,000-plus congregations and covenant communities.

In commemoration of the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade and the ongoing fight for reproductive health, rights, and justice, the Worship Team decided to have us join UU congregations across the country for a Sunday of solidarity, support, and reflection. Most of the worship elements this morning are come [Side with Love – Reproductive Justice Worship](#). You are invited to visit their website for more information.

February 27, 2022 – 11:15 am

Love After Love

The Rev. Dr. Thandeka, *preaching (video message)*

Many of today's "spiritual but not religious" people – one in four US adults – have found the access point to spiritual experience that Western Christianity lost: unconditional love. Thandeka sees in the emergence of the "spiritual but not religious" community a great potential for her goal of "love beyond belief." She has demonstrated in practice how, by paying close attention to the affects, dying established churches can come alive. She hopes that those who are alienated from these churches, often for excellent reasons, can develop community activities that will lead them to experience love beyond belief.

You are encouraged to read [About Rev.Thandeka](#) because she is probably one of the most influential Unitarian Universalist theologians living today. Information about her book *Love Beyond Belief* is also available on the same link.88888

To Call a Minister or Not – That's the Question!

In the 2021 Fall Congregational Meeting the membership voted to have an ad hoc team look into what the steps are to get a minister by reviewing our Bylaws, UUA requirements, and the financial feasibility to cover a minister's compensation and what the process entails. The Board appointed Dick Powell, Marla Loturco, and Linda Tracy to carry out this investigation.

In our January Board meeting we met with the Investigation Team and based on what we learned we decided to call our community together to explore the question whether to call a minister or not.

In early March we will email out a packet of information to all members and friends that will contain:

- Report on the Investigation Team findings
- Recommended Bylaw changes needed whether we vote to go ahead or not
- Agenda for a Special Congregational Meeting 20, 2022

We will hold a special congregational meeting (live and Zoom) immediately following the Morning Assembly to discuss the packet of information and to vote. Our bylaws state only voting members may vote and to be a voting member one must make a contribution of record (financial or volunteer time) within the last 12 months.

Friends of the congregation who would like to vote must sign the membership book and make a contribution of record by February 20, 2022. If you've been mulling over joining the congregation, this would be a perfect time to do so. Please email membership@redriveruu.org for details.

We have been a lay-led congregation for nearly 25 years, and some may fear getting a minister might hamper the style of worship we've come to enjoy.

The charge from the fall congregational meeting to consider a minister was based more on considering a minister to help improve the health of our community than on changing our style of worship.

Here are five critical facts that impact our future and cause us serious concern:

1. Over the last six months only 29 of our 39 members are active
2. Twenty are over 65 and 13 have health issues
3. Those over 65 contribute 73% of our pledge income
4. The members with health issues contribute 58% of our pledge income
5. There are 137 *ongoing* tasks that must be carried out and currently they are being done by 28 members and 4 friends
6. 12 of the individually are all doing five or more tasks

The essential teams (think Membership, Finance, Worship, Audio Visual) have members serving on multiple teams. Right now, we have several open positions that we can't fill. Continuing doing business as usual will be our downfall. We lack a critical mass of people to sustain our congregation. Frankly, it will take a larger congregation to ensure our future. We need folks who can network beyond the church to raise our visibility and attract new members. This is where a minister would greatly help.

Please attend the March 20 special congregational meeting in person or on Zoom. This is a discussion that needs to take place. It is happening just six days before our 25th anniversary. We need this meeting to forge a path that will enhance the hope that Red River UU will celebrate a 50th anniversary.

Come. Listen. Share. Learn. We each are in the congregation because we want the church to be here. The special meeting may become the most important congregational meeting we've ever had.

In faith and fellowship.

*Jim Holmes, Marilyn Alexander, Dick Powell,
David Dyer, Amy Hoffman-Shehan*
Your Board of Trustees



Please remember to read this page

Jim's Jabber

Welcome to the 2nd month of 2022. We are all getting ready to be very busy for the next four months. Key events that are coming up are:

- February 20th: Appreciation ~~Dinner, Lunch~~, Meeting after the morning assembly. The Board still feels uncomfortable serving food due to the pandemic
- On or around March 3rd a packet of information goes out to the congregation on the Minister Investigation Team's findings to date
- February: Finance team holds meetings to recommend 2022-2023 budget and set stewardship campaign goal
- March 13th: Board reviews proposed 2022-2023 budget and approves stewardship campaign goal
- March 15th: Annual Stewardship Campaign begins
- March 20th: Special Congregational Meeting to review and discuss minister investigation packet and vote(Y/N) on proceeding with formal search for a minister
- Now to May 1: Nominating Committee selects people to run for open positions
- End of April: Finance Team and Board finalize proposed 2022-2023 budget based on stewardship campaign results. Packet for May Congregational Meeting is prepared.
- May 1st: May Congregational Meeting packet sent to members
- May 15th: Spring Congregational Meeting held after morning assembly - hopefully, the pandemic will have lessened enough for us to have real food prior to the meeting

Whew! That's a lot of stuff that we need to accomplish in the next four months, and these are just the big-ticket items. There will also be lots of activity between the bullets by various teams, committees, and members to make all this happen correctly and on time.

We had an interesting surprise on January 23rd. Seven members from the UU Fellowship of Jonesboro Arkansas joined us on Zoom. They thought our service was very professional and they hope to join us again.

Take care, keep safe, wear your mask!

And *Keep on Truckin'*

Jim Holmes
President

Marion Hill's Podcast

Just letting some book-loving friends know about a series of podcasts that may interest you. I've done one of the interviews for it, and my podcast will air beginning Feb. 18. I barely know what a podcast is, but now I've done one! If interested, go to Spotify, and sign up for free, then search for "Tornado Alley Mystery Writers." (See press release below about another TAMW podcast.) Marion Hill

With Amazement and Admiration

Our Annual Thanks & Appreciation Gathering

Sunday, February 20 right after the morning assembly
In the chapel and on Zoom – Meeting ID 989 0789 7878

This year's thanks and appreciation gathering will be on Sunday, February 20th – at the conclusion of the morning assembly. The notion of setting aside a special time to pause and acknowledge the amazing, astonishing, and even astounding things individuals have wrought over the last year to make sure our congregation thrives is important and deserves our applause.

The pandemic canceled this important event last year and is still intruding on our celebration since we feel it prudent to not serve food.

This special event was created by the Board of Trustees back in 2012 as a way of acknowledging the amazing, astonishing, and even astounding work people in our community had done over the previous 12 months since we moved into our current home on September 18, 2011.

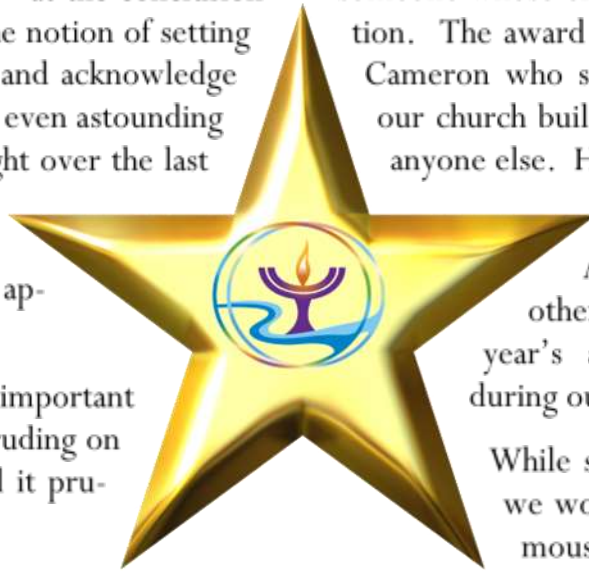
The dinner always concluded with the presentation of the *Bruce Cameron Distinguished Service*

Award, given to a member who was singled out as someone whose efforts deserved special recognition. The award was named in honor of Bruce Cameron who spent more hours working on our church building during the first year than anyone else. His efforts were awesome!

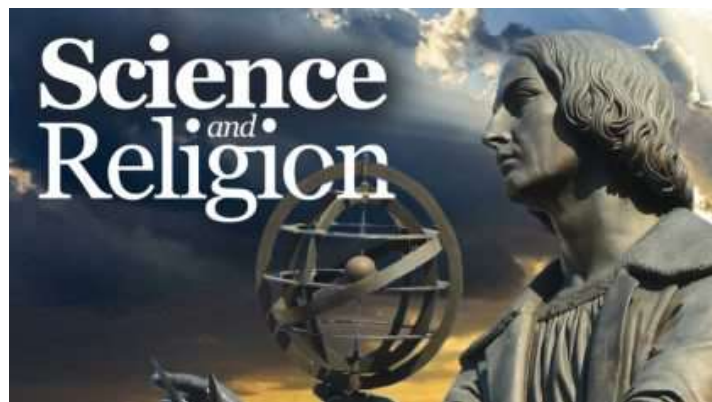
A Plaque on the wall by the AV desks includes the names of other awardees of the award. This year's awardee will be announced during our gathering.

While somewhat constrained because we won't be enjoying one of our famous potluck dinners, we can still gather to offer our appreciation and thanks for those who, this year, stood out as making a significant difference in keeping our congregation well and growing.

Bring your smiles, thoughts about who you would like to thank and plan on staying after the morning assembly. You won't be disappointed.



Adult Forum



Starting in February and continuing through April, the Adult Forum will explore The Great Courses Series *Science and Religion* with Dr. Lawrence M. Principe.

During February:

1. Science and Religion
2. The Warfare Thesis
3. Faith and Reason – scripture and Nature
4. God and Nature – Miracles and Demons

During March:

1. Church, Copernicus, and Galileo
2. Galileo's Trial
3. God the Watchmaker
4. Natural Theol-

The course overview: *Two crucial forces, science, and religion, helped shape Western civilization and continue to interact in our daily lives. What is the nature of their relationship? When do they conflict, and how do they influence each other in pursuit of knowledge and truth? Contrary to prevailing notions that they must perpetually clash, science and theology have actually been partners in an age-old adventure. This course covers both the historical sweep and philosophical flashpoints of this epic interaction. Professor Lawrence M. Principe unfolds a surprisingly cooperative dynamic in which theologians and natural scientists share methods, ideas, aspirations, and a tradition of disputational dialogue.*

The Forum will meet at 10 am the Alexander room for those attending in person and for those attending g on Zoom at 10 each Sunday. Each segment is 30 minutes and will be followed by an open dialogue.

You may take part in person in the Alexander Room or virtually on Zoom. The Zoom Meeting ID is 989 0789 7878.

The Forum meets at 10 AM. Participants are invited to join the congregation for the Morning Assembly – live in the chapel and streaming on Zoom using the same meeting ID. [Read About Dr. Lawrence M. Principe.](#)

Black History Festival

Jan Fletcher is working with Barbara Bowie on the upcoming Black History Month Festival. It begins **Thursday, February 10 at 7 pm** at Knight Furniture with the Welcome for the Original Freedom Riders. Get in touch with us if your group wants to be part of the parade.

Friday February 11 is the Civil Rights Youth Summit for Sherman High in the morning and Denison High in the afternoon. Friday night at First United Bank in Sherman at **6 pm is the Empowerment Summit** with Jennifer Parsley of Eisenhower Birthplace as the Guest Speaker.

Saturday the 12th starts with our parade in downtown Denison which will be led by a Freedom Rider Greyhound Bus. Do you want to get on the Bus?! Get in touch!

We will close out the festival with our **60's Valentine Sweetheart Banquet that night at 7 pm**. The banquet will be at the Elks Lodge #2280 at 1730 FM 1417 (Heritage Pkwy) and tickets are \$30 each. We are excited that Senator Royce West is taking time from his busy schedule to be our keynote speaker followed by Dallas band, Fingerprints. Barbara says for the Banquet, "Dress to Impress, 60s preferred". You can buy tickets from Jan and her with your questions. This will be a great 3-day event you won't want to miss! Here is the [Registration Form](#).

Treasurer Report

December 2021 was a pretty quiet month. Total receipts were \$3,337.00, including pledges totaling \$1,680.00, and other income of \$1,100.00 for the purchase of new AV equipment. Expenses for the month totaled \$2,104.44, resulting in net income for the month of \$1,232.56. Net income for this fiscal year-to-date was \$22,998.43.

As of December 31, 2021, we had \$8,871.14 available in checking, of which \$1,469.13 remains available for additional support for Lanan Shelton. We also have a total of \$19,103.13 in all savings accounts, including \$2,545.00 in the Ronda DeCaire Memorial Fund and a total of \$81,847.52 in UUCEF funds.

Looking at our performance through December compared to our Budget, we see that total income was \$20,506.40 over budget due to receipt of an NTUUC grant of \$7,200 (which wasn't budgeted) and the receipt of \$10,400.00 of donations restricted for the purchase of new AV equipment. Operating expenses are under budget through December by \$2,769.03, leaving us with a significant positive budget variance for net income of \$23,275.43, of which \$13,478.62 has been used to purchase new AV equipment.

A Letter from Lanan

Saturday, January 29, 2022

Dear Friends,

It was a real surprise when someone came in my room last Thursday and said, "You will be leaving tomorrow at 10 am." I called Carolyn to get Amy to come and helped me pack things. Many thanks to you both for packing that stuff. My niece will drive up to Denison to get the rest soon.

The ride was bumper than I thought it would be. I asked the driver, "Are we going over railroad bumps?" The ride was long and comfortable. The first day my niece was here, and she brought Little Mack Lovin' my dog. I got lots of kisses which I've been waiting for.

This place is not as fancy, but it is very comfortable, and the people have been very nice to me and the food has been better. Today I had chili and corn bread. It tasted really good. At the other place I sometimes didn't even know by tasting what was in my mouth.

I am right by a big window. There's a school nearby and I can see cars go by and school buses about 4 pm on weekdays and I get to see the kids walking by. I like seeing the children. It is nice to be by a window so I can see outdoors.

I have a neighbor in the bed next to me. She is Elsie, she is really hard of hearing, but seems nice. She has an orchard by her window, and I like seeing it. I haven't put up my pictures but will when my niece Nichole goes to get them from Denison.

The administrator is Chris, like my younger son, and he stopped by and had a nice talk with me. He told me to reach out to him if I need anything. I liked that.

I miss everybody. So many of you who came to see me were really great. I miss you all very much. I'll send some pictures when I can.

I'll keep calling y'all often. I have more time than money. I miss you a lot, everybody. You were so good to come and see me. You are in my heart if not in my room. All of you.

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for being such good friends and for all you've done to me. It has been monumental for my happiness. I can't tell you how helpful. I wish there were some way to repay you, all I can do is to send you my love and you have all of that.

Lanan

Lanan Shelton

Austin Wellness and Rehab

11406 Rustic Rock Drive, Austin TX 78750

My cell: 903.436,2423



Our Leaders

Board of Trustees

Jim Holmes, *President*

Marilyn Alexander, *Vice-President*

David Powell, *Treasurer*

David Dyer, *Secretary*

Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *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 (until we find someone)*

Finance: *Jim, Dick, Jan, Marilyn*

Grounds: *Marilyn*

Long Range Planning: *Jim, Marilyn*

Membership: *Marion*

Minister Investigation: *Dick, Marla, Linda*

NTUUC Rep: *Marla*

RE Team: *David, Ellie, Marilyn*

Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*

Social Action:

Welcoming Congregation: *Adrian, Amy, Lisa, Marla, Thomas*

Movable Feast

Movable Feast will share a lunch on February 9, 11:45 a.m., at 691 Restaurant. For anyone not familiar with 691, it is in the Culinary Arts Building at Grayson College, and is staffed by students who are preparing for jobs in the hospitality industry. The food is excellent, worthy of being served at a nice Dallas restaurant. (The menu for 2/9 isn't yet available, but here's a recent menu: First course: Asian beef & shrimp soup OR Caesar salad; second course, Teriyaki-glazed chicken with shitake mushrooms, bok choy & rice OR grilled sirloin steak with potatoes au gratin and asparagus; dessert: vanilla Crème brûlée.)

Cost is \$15 per person; tipping is encouraged since tips go to support student scholarships and activities. MF already has a reservation for the day and time announced; changes can be made until a few days before the lunch. Everyone is welcome, but anyone wishing to participate in this lunch should let [Marion Hill](#) know by February 2. Also, let her know if you need a particular type of diet, such as gluten-free, vegetarian, or sugar-free; 691 gladly adjusts for individual needs.

News Flash

The second full week of February is National Secondhand Wardrobe Week. Now we can stock up on a spring wardrobe and be in the know!



Contact Us

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DENISON, TX 75021-1806

How to reach us:

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

The church calendar is now listed on the church website home page