



Sunday, May 7, 2023 - 11:15 am

## Flower Communion

The Worship Team, *leading*



This year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Flower Communion. Created by the Unitarian minister, the Reverend Norbert Čapek, for his congregation in Czechoslovakia, it was brought to the United States in 1940 by his wife, the Rev. Maja Čapek, where it slowly began to spread among various Unitarian congregations.

Join the Worship Team as we explore in depth the history of this beautiful and uniquely Unitarian Universalist celebration, using both contemporary and historical sources, including the original words of blessing written by Norbert Čapek and one of his original hymns.

Please bring a flower or two with you on Sunday.



**The Spring Congregational Meeting is Sunday, May 21 following the Morning Assembly.**

Sunday, May 14, 2023 - 11:15 am

## Education and the Beloved Community

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

With education and academic freedom coming under pressure and attack from autocratic forces within our society, how can we protect our educational systems and institutions from losing their ability to provide education that is conducive to the cultivation of beloved community? You can read Mark's bio [here](#)

Sunday, May 21, 2023 - 11:15 am

## The Value of Pluralism

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

Pluralism is one of the most important values for a vibrant democracy and the cultivation of beloved community. If we are to respect each person within our community, it is vital to protect free and pluralistic expressions of speech and action. You can read Mark's bio [here](#).

Sunday, May 28, 2023 - 11:15 am

## Peace Sunday #6

Marla Loturco, *leading*

Last year we had five "Peace Sunday's" based on the book *Great Peacemakers: True Stories from Around the World* by Ken Beller and Heather Chase. This Sunday we will continue exploring their work with peace leaders Riane Eisler and His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama. We hope you will enjoy learning about these individuals. You can read Marla's bio [here](#).

# Marilyn's Musings



I think my favorite month is May because I can finally plant flowers, spruce up the yard and plant the garden. This is a time of renewal. Everything is blooming and fresh, and the heat of summer hasn't wilted it. At Red River, we also have a time of renewal as we hold our Spring Congregational Meeting, have elections, set goals, vote on other matters, and set the budget for the new fiscal year, July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024.

Please set your calendar for the Spring Meeting that will follow the Morning Assembly on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Bring your favorite potluck dish to share for lunch and be able to enjoy finishing lunch while we also conduct the meeting.

This is an important meeting. We will be electing people to fill the following positions. The Nomination Committee will propose a slate of people for these positions and there will be the option for nominations from the floor.

## Board

- Vice-president
- Treasurer
- Trustee at-Large

## Committees

- Committee on Ministry (1)
- Nomination Committee (1)

By now, hopefully everyone has felt the need to contribute to the well-being of our church and acted on that generously by pledging to the 2023 Stewardship Campaign "Growing into the Future."

The budget will be presented at the meeting for membership approval. Thank you to everyone who pledged!

We also will be evaluating how we did on our goals for this year and will set our goals for this upcoming year.

Another item to discuss and act on is the UUA proposed 8<sup>th</sup> principle. The UUA has asked us to study it and vote on it as a congregation.

The Earth Day Festival was highly successful. Red River is the reason Earth Day is in Texoma! Thank you, Amy, and your team, for your leadership and many thanks to everyone who participated. We handed out pens and notepads and informative trifold to people who stopped by our Red River UU booth. Hopefully, that helps to get us noticed and encourages people to come visit.

Marilyn Alexander, *president*

# Spring Meeting Details

As is our custom, congregational meetings are open to all who wish to attend and begin with a potluck lunch so we can meet and eat (saves time). On Monday, May 8 the Official Call to Meeting, Final Agenda, Bylaw mandated Reports, Proposed Budget, and Ways to Vote will be emailed to all members as a PDF document. Links to online voting will be available in the email and on our website and mobile app.

The meeting is also streamed on our Zoom Account.

Members unable to attend can vote online from Sun May 14<sup>th</sup> through noon, May 21<sup>st</sup> which is the same deadline for returning proxy ballots to David Dyer. The packet of documents will be published on the church website and mobile app on May 8<sup>th</sup>

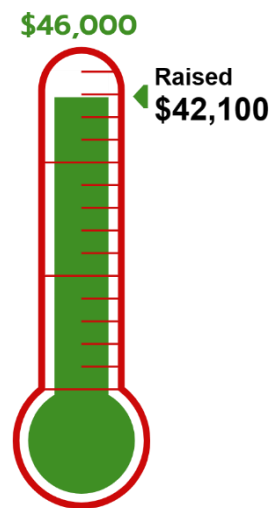
# Stewardship Woes

For the first time in years, the 2023 Stewardship Campaign has fallen short of the goal by \$3,900.

Our bylaws require us to vote on a balanced budget at our upcoming May 21<sup>st</sup> spring meeting.

If you wanted to donate but it slipped your mind, or if you have and wish to modify your current pledge, the links below will take you

you directly to completing or modifying your pledge easily and quickly. Presenting a balanced budget will save us having to cut by 8.48% the proposed budget.



[PLEDGE ONLINE](#)

[DOWNLOAD A PLEDGE FORM](#)



# 15<sup>th</sup> Texoma Earth Day Festival Red River UU ~ The Reason Earth Day is in Texoma

Reprinted from the April NTUUC Social Justice newsletter

The festival was a huge success! Four non-profit organizations provided children's activities in the Municipal Ballroom. In addition, our church sponsored a Children's Clothing Swap and two art shows. The Sherman Parks & Rec department sponsored a children's art show and contest, and we welcomed back the recycled sculpture show from Fred Douglass Early Learning Center families.

On the grounds, there was a nice variety of vendors, displays, music, demonstrations, and other entertainment. Several new food vendors, including a coffee truck, a wood fired pizza vendor and a gluten free baker were available.

The entertainment schedule was full of a nice variety of musical styles as well as belly dancing and karate demonstrations. Trashion VII, the annual trash fashion show, took the stage at 3:10 pm.

We added a workshop tent on the lawn this year, so we moved the workshops out of the ballroom kitchen. We had workshops on bee keeping scheduled as well as others. All of the workshops took place in the afternoon after the paper shredder stopped.

Recycling continued to be a major attraction to the festival, and we managed to add to the items accepted. This year, First United Bank sponsored a paper shred truck from 9:00 am to noon. The other recycling options were there the entire day. Those included cardboard, paper, plastics 1-2-5, tin/aluminum cans, Styrofoam, plastic bags/bubble wrap/ shrink film, textiles, latex paint, electronic waste, and unused medications. Recyclers entered Elm Street from the south on Pecan Street and needed to read the specific instructions and lists of materials accepted on the festival website.).

The Earth Day Festival was Saturday, April 22nd at the Sherman Municipal Ballroom and Grounds from 9 – 4. It was free and open to all, especially families and kids.

Volunteers filled out a volunteer registration form and were given the Volunteer Information (so they would know what to expect.)

This year's Earth Day Festival had a new handout with information about recycling. The Recycling Guide for North Texas and Southern Oklahoma was published by the Texoma Earth Day Festival. We had requests to publish a larger volume this year so it can be distributed to new

residents. This volume will be a targeted distribution. A small number will go to area libraries, some will go to the Sherman Chamber of Commerce for new resident packages. Some will go to TCOG (Texoma Council of Governments) for their household hazardous waste events.

The majority will be distributed through the City of Sherman utility billing office for new accounts who visit the office in person.

We printed 3600 copies. In the past 14 months, the City of Sherman had 3800 new residential accounts and close to 200 new business accounts.

Presenting the  
**15th Annual Texoma  
Earth Day Festival  
and Recycling Event!**  
April 22, 9am - 4pm

**Recycling Starts  
With You!!**

Visit our Website for details: [earthdaytexoma.org](http://earthdaytexoma.org)

**Items accepted for Recycling:**  
electronic waste, appliances, batteries, cardboard, cell phones,  
paper, styrofoam, plastics 1, 2, and 5, plastic bags, Ink cartridges  
**Sherman Police Unused Medicine Collection 9am-1pm**

**Featured Events**

- Trashion Fashion VIII
- Children's Clothing Swap
- Vendors - Workshops - Music
- Friends of the Library Used Book Sale
- Demonstrations - Children's Activities - Plant Swap

**Where: Sherman Municipal  
Ballroom and Lucy Kidd Key Park**

[www.earthdaytexoma.org](http://www.earthdaytexoma.org)

Red River UU placed this ad on the back cover of the recycling guide because we want to introduce ourselves to new people moving into the Texoma Community.

You can see all the images (4 pages worth) plus more Earth Day news by downloading the NTUUC Social Justice newsletter [here](#) and read the entire NTUUC SJ Newsletter (containing reports of other RedRiverUU activities) [here](#).





Paint Recycling



Some of the many booths

Paper Shredding



Recycling Restrictions

A variety of recycling opportunities

Recycling Map

Entertainment



Praise Band



Dulcimer Band



DAVE GRANLIND www.davegranlind.com



Belly Dancers, and more



# Social Justice in Oklahoma

Red River UU President Marilyn Alexander publishes a monthly newsletter titled Shield & Search (shielding from fake facts & searching for the truth) that includes articles and cartoons expressing a liberal or progressive point of view. Major contributors include RedRiverUU Membership Chair Marion Hill and four other columnists: Joe Littlejohn, Phyllis Rustin, and Jane Hicks of Durant and Henry Brigman of Frisco, TX (formerly of Durant). These columnists also regularly contribute to the Durant Weekly Democrat's Forum page and The Oklahoma Observer (Oklahoma's only liberal newspaper, published monthly in Oklahoma City). Besides columns by these regular contributors, Shield & Search includes cartoons and other articles from various online sources.

Red River UU Membership Chair Marion Hill regularly publishes her columns in the Durant Weekly Democrat, Shield & Search, and The Oklahoma Observer. She also coordinates and edits columns by four other columnists (Littlejohn, Rustin, Hicks, and Brigmen), so that the group always has at least one and often two columns in each edition of the Durant Weekly Democrat.

The DWD has gone from publishing daily to publishing three times a week, now weekly, and is barely surviving, as is true of many print newspapers. The editor and publisher writes most of the content himself and welcomes submissions of local interest that he doesn't have to write. He also welcomes help in the form of picking up copies of the printed newspaper in McAlester, OK (about an hour's drive from Durant) for him to deliver to post offices for mail-out. Trying to help print journalism stay viable in southern Oklahoma, Elbert and Marion Hill do this duty about once a month, and another time each month Red River UU members Walter and Susie Norris volunteer. (The Norrises live in Denison, so their drive is longer than is the Hills'.)

Marilyn Alexander and Marion Hill are both officers in the Bryan County Federation of Democratic Women (BCFDW), and Marion is second vice-president of the state group (Oklahoma Federation of Democratic Women). Both are long-time members of the local and state federations, and each has been recognized in the state federation's Hall of Fame. Susie and Walter Norris are also members of BCFDW.

# Social Justice in Texas

“Important local elections are happening across Texas **on Saturday, May 6**. Depending on where you live, they'll determine everything from your next mayor or city council member to the makeup of your school board. These are the people who decide whether or not to ban books, fund public schools, and hold the police accountable. Turnout is typically lower for these elections, so every vote is critical. Early Voting is happening NOW!

Get a personalized sample ballot, information about candidates, and information about where to vote [here!](#)”

In honor of Earth Day, Federal legislation – Recovering America's Wildlife – is back! Texas Wildlife Alliance helps us advocate for conservation. These crucial investments in conservation will help struggling wildlife across the country, and the habitats they depend on.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (S.1149) is a bold, bipartisan bill that will provide legislation, introduced by Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC), would dedicate nearly \$1.4 billion annually to local led efforts aimed at preventing extinctions and helping wildlife thrive. Texas would receive over \$50 million per year to help our over 1,200 Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Funding would go towards on-the-ground conservation activities such as scaling up habitat restoration on public and private lands. Take Action [here](#).

## **ACTION NEEDED! HB 2744 Gun Safety**

Please take a moment TODAY to call the chair of the Texas House Community Safety, Select Committee, Rep. Ryan Guillen (512) 463-0416 to BRING HB 2744 to a VOTE to make it out of committee! Please CALL TODAY!

HB 2744 is also known as the "Uvalde Bill", which would raise the minimum age to purchase an assault weapon or semi-automatic rifle to age 21. If it is brought to a vote, we have the votes to move it forward. It is the LEAST we can do to move closer towards ending gun violence and mass shootings! Please Help!

Red River UU Social Justice Team is working with Texas UU Justice Ministry to keep local communities and congregations informed about the current 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature activities. We receive updates from Austin on the status of House and Senate proposed bills that will affect Texans. At this point, we are not aware of a similar organization in Oklahoma.

We would love to hear from you if you are interested in joining in our phone calls, emails and letter writing or you can join the Thursday night txuujm.org action hour at 7 pm. Contact Jan Fletcher for the zoom id or more information.

We are also working on bringing some special video programs to church and will announce the dates as they are booked. If you would like to be part of this group, please join us at our monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month at church at 6 pm.

Jan Fletcher, *chair*

## Birthdays / Caring

09 – Eleanor Dyer

27 – Don Mathis



RedRiverUU member Lanan Shelton is now living at **Heritage Park, 2806 Real Street, Austin 78722**. Same phone: **512-317-6167**. She loves the place, gets up daily, is active and was in the garden planting a pepper plant in memory of Robert yesterday.

## Money Matters

In the month of March, we had total receipts of \$8,002.41. Total expenses for the month were \$7,347.98, leaving us with a net profit for the month of \$654.43. The net profit for the month was primarily due to the timing of the pledge income partially offset by expenses to repair the garage. Net profit for the fiscal year-to-date was \$28.61.

As of March 31, 2023, we had \$11,095.19 available in checking, including \$5,951.89 held in trust for Kat Walston from the sale of her personal effects prior to moving into assisted living. There is a total of \$20,015.09 in all savings accounts, which includes \$3,445.00 for the Minister Compensation Fund. There is a total of \$66,784.40 invested in the UUA Common Endowment Fund. The \$1,326.00 included in Other Current Assets is the prepayment of our UUA Fair Share for this year.

A total of \$15,440 has currently been pledged for the minister's compensation fund. Additional pledges can be made by contacting the minister's search team.

Carole Harner, *treasurer*

# General Assembly



This is the PERFECT year for people to attend the annual General Assembly. Why? Because NTUUC has 50% funding for anyone who wants to attend via Zoom. The Zoom cost (until May 15) is \$300, less NTUUC's grant of \$150 does make it more afforda-

ble. Take time to explore the info below as it helps you get a better impression of the event. First off – NO! You will not be sitting in front of your computer screen for 8 hours a day. Rather, you can pick and select what workshops, lectures, small group gatherings, worship experiences etc. you might find intriguing. Learn everything you need at the GA 2023 Webinar, an overview.

**“What to Expect at GA 2023” a Webinar** At this year's multiplatform GA 2023, we will explore the power, possibility, purpose, struggle, and joy of meeting the moment as Unitarian Universalists. Whether you're a first-time delegate or a long-time attendee, we invite you to join us to learn more about what will happen at GA this year. Members of the Board of Trustees will provide an overview, along with information for delegates regarding the business sessions. This webinar will be 75 minutes in length, and a recording of it will be posted on this page at a later date. Registration is required. Monday, May 22, 2023 - 7pm ET / 6pm CT / 5pm MT / 4pm PT. [Register now for the May 22nd webinar.](#)

**View the GA Schedule** You may now [view the GA schedule](#) to see the lineup of informative workshops, inspirational worship services, and more! You will also be able to view preview videos from a selection of the dozens of workshops at the 2023 UUA General Assembly. [View the GA Schedule](#)

**Register Now for GA!** In-person registration is \$500 for adults, and \$350 for high school youth, emerging adults (18-24), and retired and candidate ministers. Full Virtual Registration is \$300. Register now before in-person rates increase on May 15. [Financial support](#) is also available from [Register Now!](#) NTUUC.

# Article II Final Report

Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) By-laws, 'Principles and Purposes,' is the foundation for all of the work of our UUA and its member congregations and covenanted communities. It is the covenant to which all of our congregations and covenanted communities pledge themselves when they become members of our UUA. After several years of study, the Commission appointed by the UUA Board of Trustees has issued their report. This was outlined in the current WORLD magazine. Tap/click on the image to read the report. If not all 24 pages, read their 2-page recommendations and 2-page conclusions because it may impact the upcoming vote at our Spring Meeting relating to an 8<sup>th</sup> principle.

professional, to foster lifelong faith formation, to heal historic injustices, and to advance our Unitarian Universalist values in the world. The purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Association is to actively engage its members in the transformation of the world through liberating Love.

Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant. As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love. Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:

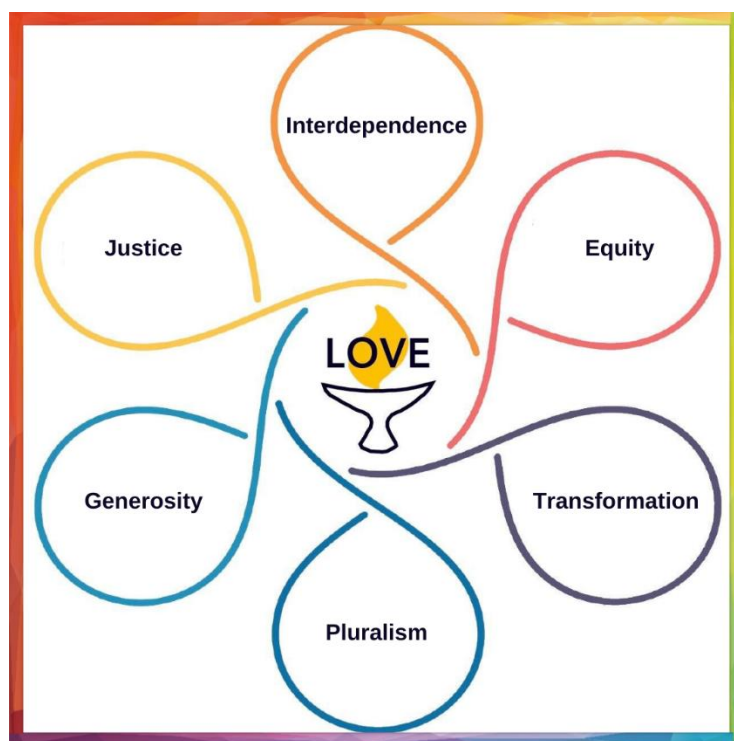


*Tap/click the image to open the commission's report*

Proposed revision of article ii

Unitarian Universalist Association: Bylaws and Rules Article II Purposes and Covenant

Section C-2.1. Purposes. The Unitarian Universalist Association will devote its resources to and use its organizational powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. Its primary purposes are to assist congregations in their vital ministries, support, and train leaders both lay and



We recognize the fact the proposed version of Article II we have presented is indeed a significant departure from our current version, just as past changes to Article II were significant changes from their predecessors. The 1985 version which first introduced the Principles was a radical change from the Purposes and Objectives of the previous version. We are continuing in the line of proposing changes that fit the times in which we live. We fully expect that one day another Commission will review our work and significantly change it. We are writing this in pencil, not etching it in stone.

Page 23 of the commission report expands on the significance of the six words which interweave Love. The commission submits this format as a replacement for our current 7 Principles. No sentences, just seven words.



# Building Security

On Monday morning April 21<sup>st</sup>, Doug went to church to fetch his coffee travel mug and found the light on in the foyer, upper lobby, Alexander room, Emerson room, and Servedy. He came in through the Back Hall and before leaving he pushed on the front door and was surprised that it opened. While it was key locked, it had not been tightly closed – making the lock useless. Until the Facilities team can get it repaired, you're urged to take an extra pull or push to make sure it is closed

# From our non-resident Poet

*The International Day of Light (May 16) promotes awareness for the appreciation of light and the role it plays in science, art, education, and sustainable development. At Red River, we celebrate light every Sunday by igniting a candle in a chalice.*

A Flame – by Don Mathis

A flame, similar to the one on this candle,  
could warm our hands on a cold day.

This flame, a symbol of Unitarian Universalism,  
warms our hearts when others treat us coldly.

A flame, just like the one on this candle,  
could cast enough light to help us in the dark.

This flame, the emblem of our faith,  
serves to illuminate our search for meaning.

A flame, a little larger than the one in this chalice,  
could cook our food, boil our water, make our tea.

This flame, like thousands of others across the world,  
could heat the crucible that distills our reason,  
solidifies our logic,  
and fires our compassion for each other.

This divine spark represents  
our hope and helpfulness,  
our commitment to community,  
our actions of justice, and our practice of love.

Let us dwell on these things  
as the light shines brightly  
and in the spaces in between the light.

# Our Leaders

## Board of Trustees

Marilyn Alexander, *President*  
Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *Vice-President*  
Carole Harner, *Treasurer*  
David Dyer, *Secretary*  
Don Rogers, *Trustee*

## Committee on Ministry:

*Carolyn Cameron, Elbert Hill, Jim Holmes*

## Nominating:

*Jana Norris, Jim Runnel, Linda Tracy*

## Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *Marilyn, Jim, Amy, Marion*

Aesthetics: *Doug*

AV: *Carole, Don, Jim, Marla*

Caring Circle: *Carolyn, David*

Communication: *Amy, Doug, Marla*

Endowment: *Carolyn, Doug*

Facilities: *Jim*

Finance: *Jim, Carole, Marilyn*

Grounds: *Marilyn*

Long Range Planning: *Jim, Marilyn*

Membership: *Marion*

Minister Search: *David, Jana, Jim, Marilyn, Marla*

NTUUC Rep: *Marilyn*

RE Team: *David, Marilyn*

Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*

Social Justice: *Jan*

Web Team: *Hannah, Jim, Marla*

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

Worship: *Dan, Jana, Marla, Walter*

# Contact us

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**[Current Newsletter](#)**

**[Mobile App](#) [Email](#) [Website](#)**

**[Facebook](#) [LGBTQ+ Facebook](#)**