



Sunday, August 6, 2023 - 11:15 am

## Holistic Personhood

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

There has been a tendency for us to treat each other primarily as consumers and competitors within our contemporary society. If we are to live into a vision of beloved community, a more holistic and complex understanding of our personhood and our relationships with each other will be required. Read Mark's bio [here](#).

Sunday, August 13, 2023 - 11:15 am

## It Is Not Just About Us

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

We as humans have a tendency to see the world around us from an anthropocentric (human-centered) perspective and to see ourselves as the primary locus of value and meaning. The result of this perspective has been the devaluing and mistreatment of the non-human world. How can we move from an anthropocentric to an ecocentric vision in which we see ourselves as members of the ecological community, working together for its preservation and flourishing? Read Mark's bio [here](#).

**SAVE THE CHURCH PLANTS!** Someone, perhaps thinking they are saving water, has been turning off the water faucet and as a result the timer that is attached which provides water to the memorial garden area adjacent to the garages. Sadly, this makes the plants look wilted and stressed. When noticed, Marilyn turned the water back on. The timer flips on/off according to a plan that provides water without wasting it. If you see our plants praying, check the faucet, if it is turned off, save the garden by turning the water back on.

Sunday, August 20, 2023 - 11:15 am

## Envisioning the Future by Reimagining the World

Jana Norris, *leading*

Weaving together the threads of earth religions, permaculture, psychology, and city planning to come to a place that embraces all people and honors the earth.

Sunday, August 27, 2023 - 11:15 am

## The Twelve Steps: My Story

Sherrilyn B. *guest speaker*

*"Each day, somewhere in the world, recovery begins when one alcoholic talks with another alcoholic, sharing experience, strength and hope."*

Forward to the 3rd ed. of the Big Book

Today, one alcoholic will share her story with all of us. A story full of all of the things that make up a life well lived, Sherilyn B. speaks of her two lives, about the 36 years before sobriety and the 35 years since.



# Marilyn's Musings

Whew, it feels like we've already had August, but here it is for real. You won't need your fur lined slippers. Meanwhile, we are still cool at church and things are going well. Pledges are coming in and the board is considering special events for the year. Our Sunday Morning Assemblies are exceptional, and David keeps our Children's RE program fun.

The "Wholly Krap" Church Garage Sale was held on Saturday, July 22 from 7 A.M. to 1 P.M. Most everything was either sold or donated to other charities. The funds received benefit the Welcoming Committee to support their events.

We are gathering information for a 3-day "SumFun" summer children's program for the summer of 2024. If anyone would like to participate and give us ideas, the committee of David, Marilyn and Megan would love to hear from you.

Amy got information back that the City of Denison requires a permit for a textile recycling bin as well as a 3-sided privacy fence around it and the company she contacted doesn't service our area. She will continue looking for a company that does service our area.

Marilyn is trying out new lawn services since Kerry can't take care of the yard while he is healing from his car accident. Please be patient with us. Fortunately, David took up some of the slack by doing the yard work twice.

As a tiny congregation our ability to do as much as we do with sterling results is most laudable. We can be proud of how successful we are, but it is coming with a huge price. One we simply cannot afford. Too few people and working too much. The 80/20 rule (80% of any work is done by 20% of the people) we are sadly not even up to 20%. Too few wear too many hats. It has become more desperate since reopening after shutting down for all those months. Too few carrying too much = burnout. Burnout leads to dropout which reads to even less being done. Last month we started our 27<sup>th</sup> year, with fewer people carrying more of the work. We must change this if - we want to call a minister - realize our strategic plans for sustaining a religiously liberal

community in Texoma - enhancing our children's programs - and be the supportive, growing, involved church we all, in our hearts, want for ourselves and our larger communities.

## Events

Those of you who still want to provide school supplies for elementary age children whose parents come to the Clothing Swap on August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> can still bring items. Items suggested are spiral notebooks, crayons, glue sticks, scissors, erasers, pencils, pens, & colored markers. Please put them in the purple bin in the foyer for distribution.

Some events being considered are a fan drive and school supply drive for next summer. If you would like to suggest other potential events, I'm sure the board would like to hear them. If you would like to serve on either the fan drive committee or the school supply drive committee, please contact either Amy or me.

A committee is being formed to plan next year's June 19<sup>th</sup> picnic. Please contact me if you would like to serve on this committee. Some have suggested partnering with a local black congregation as well as getting the gospel music group that performed at the last Earth Day Festival. We need to get on the community's schedules and promote the event sooner.

**The Psychic and Holistic Fair** was held in the ballroom of the Sherman Municipal building on July 30 from 11 A.M. – 6 P.M. Amy, Jim H and Jim R staffed a table at the fair and visited with people who stopped by. They spoke about our church and handed out our new flyer *Imagine A Congregation That Wants You To Think For Yourself*.

**Chambers of Commerce Report:** Jan has delivered our trifold brochures to the Sherman and Denison Chambers. She noted that there will be After Hours Networking at Schulman's Movie Bowl Grille, August 29, 6-8 P.M. Our church members might want to attend this event.

There is also a new teacher luncheon at 11:30-1:00 at Sherman High School, sponsored by Knight Furniture. Jan is taking a door prize to each of the Sherman and the Denison luncheons. Each door prize is a Red River UU mug with our trifold brochure and other literature plus a \$20 gift card inside for them to use to buy supplies for their classroom. *Continued next page*

Jan also said that there is an opportunity for us to host an After Hours meet-up networking event at the church for both chambers, to introduce us to the members. Amy suggested hosting that event in February or March just before the Earth Day Festival. We will try to get on their schedule. This will be an open house event and we will need to provide hors d'oeuvres, adult beverages and soft drinks.

We may also want to have a ribbon cutting event at the church, since we are new members, and have that coincide with the times that new industry comes to this area. You have probably heard on the news that Texas Instruments broke ground on what's expected to be a \$30 billion, four-factory semiconductor manufacturing campus in Sherman. Also, GlobiTech, a subsidiary of Taiwan-based GlobalWafers Co., recently agreed to build a \$5 billion semiconductor manufacturing plant in Sherman. It is expected to bring 1,500 jobs. These businesses will bring thousands of high-tech employees to this area and could be a potential source of members for our church.

Marilyn Alexander, *president*

## To Greet or Not to Greet?

Imagine being invited to a friend's home for supper. You've never been there before, so you put it in your calendar along with the address and remind your significant other (and if there isn't one, the host told you to bring a "plus one" - to keep the place settings 'balanced).

The day arrives and you remembered, got ready, drove over to the house, parked, and walked up to the front door where you found a note saying "Door's open, come in."

You open the door feeling just a wee bit weird about thinking, "Sure hope, we're at the right place." In you and your plus one or significant other go, smiling and see a handful of people chatting with one another. A stranger's hand sort of waves, but you're unclear if it is an invitation to join or to go away.

That's sort of what it feels like for a visitor to open the door and come into the church foyer. For those who show up most Sundays, you know what to do. Visitors don't. That's why we have someone "greeting us at the door." It is an important gift to first-time visitors, and it

may well determine whether a person, couple, or family turns around and leaves or waltzes in and introduces themselves.

That old adage, "You never have a second chance to make a good first impressing." is not off point. It is true and that's why the membership committee is hoping that two or three more people will step up and volunteer to be greeters. If we have eight greeters, it will mean doing only a few times a year. Doing it that infrequently makes it easier to find volunteers to do the job. Greeters arrive a few minutes before 11 AM, stand or sit on the greeter comfy stool, smile, and give everyone their own copy of the morning program. But most importantly they make a great first impression of RedRiverUU 😊 The job's done at 11:15 when the morning assembly begins. Speak with Marion Hill if you'd like to give greetings a go.

## Moveable Feast for August

The Fearless Feasters decided in May to have lunch at Lovejoy's on Main Street in Whitesboro at some future date. How about August? Lovejoy's has an old-fashioned soda fountain which sounds fun. They do salads, sandwiches, quiches, and soups. A Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday would work best for the Hills, say around 1:00 pm?

The dates in August that do NOT work for Marion and Elbert are Aug.2, 15, and 16.

Please get back to the Hills with your preferences. And remember, newcomers are always a joy! If you've not been to a moveable feast, try it. Restaurant feasts are always Dutch-treat events.

Elbert and Marion,

FFF's



LOVEJOY RESTAURANT & SODA FOUNTAIN. Open for lunch Tues-Sat and enjoy freshly baked goods and step back to 1954 with our old-fashioned soda fountain.

# The New Worship Survey is Coming!

The Worship Team would like to get some feedback from the congregation about how we are doing in providing worship experiences that you find stimulating and worth attending either in person, on zoom or YouTube. To this end we have created a short survey that we would like every person who attends the morning assemblies as well as those who are in the area and do not attend to take.

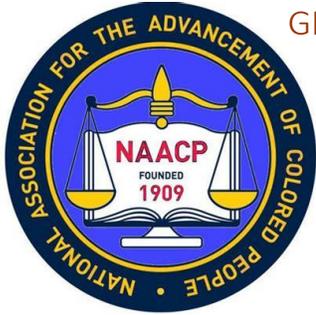
This survey link will be emailed out around **August 13, 2023**. We ask that you complete it by **September 10, 2023**. This will give us enough time to correlate the statistics for presentation at the Fall Congregational Meeting on October 15.

The survey is completely anonymous so please be clear and concise in answering the questions. We welcome all feedback. There will also be paper copies of the survey available at church beginning August 13, 2023 if you would rather take it on paper. Please remember to write clearly and return it to one of us.

Thanks

The Worship Team (Dan, Jana, Marla)

# Social Justice Update



GRAYSON COUNTY NAACP  
Scholarship Banquet  
Austin College  
Wright Center  
August 12, 7:00pm  
Tickets-\$35.00

Each year, Grayson County NAACP sponsors a banquet to provide scholarships for area youth. The Red River UU congregation holds a life-time membership in the chapter but has rarely been involved in any of its work. Some years we purchased a table for their annual youth scholarship dinner.

As Social Justice leader and a member of NAACP, I talked with Marilyn Alexander, who agreed. Red River UU should sponsor a table.

I purchased the table and began to fill the seats! Besides, I was a fourth of the way there...Marilyn and me. Then another two sold. The next few weeks were a teeter-totter of yes's and no's

As of this newsletter, The Red River UU Church table is filled.

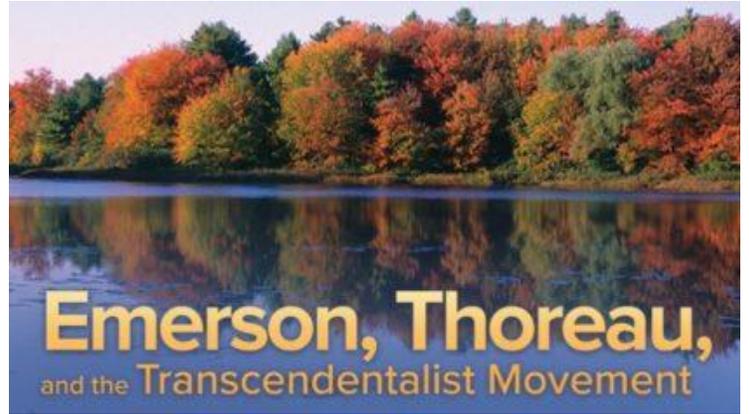
If you are interested in attending the Banquet, I am checking on availability of seats. The tickets are \$35.00 each. Please contact me.

Jan Fletcher  
*Social Justice Leader*

# Kids Clothing Swap

Several times each year, we have children's clothing swaps. The next one is **Saturday, August 5 from 10-3 in the chapel.** Anyone may come to the swap and exchange gently used children's clothes for other donated clothes for the children in their lives. We do require that all clothes be brought in to be clean, in good condition, and free of stains or holes. We also welcome members of the community who are in need but have no clothes to swap – ensuring that all kids have access to clean, fitting clothes is the priority.

# The Adult Forum



This award-winning series from The Great Courses is an excellent introduction to one of the most significant contributions of Unitarians to the transcendentalist movement in America. The series runs through October 22 @ 10 am in the Alexander Room and on Zoom (meeting ID 989 0789 7878).

# Search Team Update

HOT-OFF-THE-PRESS:

NTUUC has reinstated their grant program so we will be meeting on August 17 in the Alexander Room to go over the grant request and see where we are on the UUA church profile and the Red River History document.

Jim Holmes, *chair*

# Chair Yoga

The weekly chair yoga under the leadership of Marsha Runnels meets each Tuesday from 10-11 am in the chapel. It is gentle impact approach which leaves participants feeling pretty spiffy when done. Newcomers are always welcome.

# Spiritual Self help / Book Club

Revitalize your love of truth and understanding by studying with us each Tuesday evening 6:30 – 7:30 in the chapel. Good conversations in a caring atmosphere. Newcomers and the curious are most welcomed to come.

# Welcoming Congregation update

Greetings & salutations dear friends! This month there is much to report & much to look forward to!

After many days & many hours of exhausting work by the Welcoming Congregation Committee (WCC), spearheaded by Amy Hoffman-Shehan, the "Holy Krap" yard sale benefitting Red River UU & the WCC is done! Final numbers aren't in yet, but we did surprisingly well helping the church & some of our members get rid of an assortment of things that were just lying around. (No spouses or teenagers were harmed, I promise!) Amy's listed some of the big-ticket items that were left on FB Marketplace & eBay & Adrian has posted some of the smaller stuff on the FB Buy Nothing Sherman/Denison page. We are striving to find loving forever homes for as much krap as possible.

One of the things we've decided to do at Grayson Pride this year is give away 2 Pride Prizes - baskets full of Pride related goodies. In exchange for being entered into a random pull drawing, each person will complete a contact form that we can use to build an audience for emails about local & RedRiverUU queer events. If you, or someone you know can donate \$\$, in-kind or even ideas, we would accept all of them! Talk to Jack if you have questions and/or answers!

Also, we've decided to explore having t-shirts made for our little alphabet soup gang. We don't have any details yet, but we'll let you know when we do. Then you can order one for yourself to show your support for us all!

All this is as we begin to ramp up our planning for Grayson Pride on October 21st! In addition to our regularly scheduled monthly events on the 4th Sundays, we will be meeting August 13th & September 10th from 1-2ish to be sure we are as well set as possible. If you want to join in the fun but can't make a meeting, let one of us know & we can set up Zoom or something for you to participate. We have also canceled the October 22nd meeting as we will all be utterly exhausted & lucky to get out of bed, much less think.

Finally, we are planning, in partnership with Grayson Pride, to host a Friendsgiving & a Christmas gathering for mid-November & December, respectively. These family-centric holidays can be horrible for those whose families have outright rejected because of their sexuality/gender expression. Jack will be meeting with representatives of Grayson Pride to iron out the details and all will be invited! Hydrate, rest & have a great month everyone!

# August Birthdays



- 10 Lisa Cates
- 23 Jim Murphy
- 29 Carolyn Fridley
- 31 Doug Strong

# Money Matters

In the month of June, we had total receipts of \$5,218.55. Total expenses for the month were \$3,082.82, leaving us with a net profit for the month of \$2,135.73. The net profit for the month was primarily due to the timing of pledge income and insurance payments.

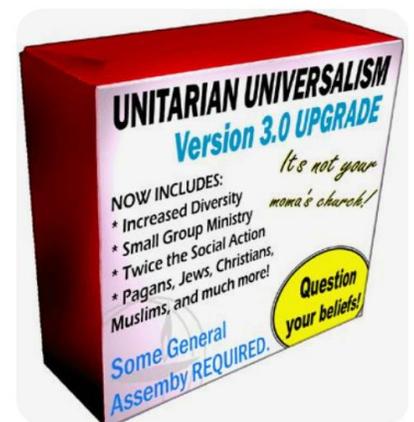
For our fiscal year from July 2022 through June 2023 we had a very small net loss of (\$269.06). The year-to-date net loss was primarily due to expenses for garage repairs, partially offset by lower expenses in other categories.

As of June 30, 2023, we had \$10,162.89 available in checking. There is a total of \$20,649.72 in all savings accounts, including \$4,257.08 restricted for the Minister Fund and \$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 \$66,784.40 invested in the UUA Common Endowment Fund.

A total of \$15,690 has currently been pledged for the minister's compensation fund. In addition, the congregation has voted to use up to \$51,000.00 of the Endowment Fund for minister compensation, if needed. Additional pledges can be made by contacting the minister's search team.

As of July 1, 2023, we are starting a new fiscal year. The pledges made in the spring should be paid over the next twelve months. Let me know if you don't remember how much you pledged. Thank you in advance for all the generous donations.

Carole Harner, *treasurer*



# From our non resident poet

From the editor: Don's submission for August disappeared before it could be saved. From the archives is this poem Don sent as an alternative for his June 2023 poem.

*Every year during the summer solstice, World Peace and Prayer Day encourages people of all faiths and all nations to pray for the planet.*

Our non-resident poet suggests an alternative to praying for peace.

## Fighting for Peace – by Don Mathis

What can one do to fight for peace?

Get out in the street, march with your feet.

What can you do if you oppose war?

Lay down your weapon and fight no more.

And if your politician is filled with hate,  
vote for the other candidate.

For we really do have a choice  
if we speak out and raise our voice.

The sword will fall before the pen  
if we stand together with a friend.

Fornicating for chastity  
is like drinking for sobriety.

But fighting for peace is what we must  
do

if we want life on earth to continue.

# 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*

*Audio Visual: 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: Marilyn*

*Social Justice: Jan*

*Web Team: Hannah, Jim, Marla*

*Welcoming Congregation: Adrian, Amy, Marla,*

*Thomas, Jana, Jack, Sherilyn*

*Worship: Dan, Jana, Marla, Walter*

# Contact us

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