



October 2023 - Vol. 25 No 4

Red River Ramblings

Sunrise along Colorado's route 20 - 9/17/2023

Sunday, October 1, 2023 - 11:15 am

The Power of Love for Justice

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

Love, power, and justice are inextricably intertwined, but the greatest of these is love. Unless we find ways to love one another and love the community of all life, we will likely never gain the power to cultivate justice for all. Read Mark's bio [here](#).

Sunday, October 8, 2023 - 11:15 am

The Principles and Article II

The Worship Team, *leading*

As a community, we Unitarian Universalists do not necessarily agree on belief issues like, is there a God? What is God like? How should God be worshiped? What we do agree on is our seven UUA principles, and now for our church the eighth principle. Ours is a constantly growing, learning, and deepening faith. Join us in learning about the new proposed Article II and its possibilities.

Sunday, October 15, 2023 - 11:15 am

Socially Engaged Mysticism

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

"Socially Engaged Mysticism" - The inward journey is often seen as an escape from external reality, but perhaps it offers one of the most effective ways to engage the challenges our world faces today. Read Mark's bio [here](#).

Sunday, October 22, 2023 - 11:15 am

The Fall Congregational Meeting is Today – details on page 2

Unitarian Universalist Spirituality

The Rev. Dr. Don Fielding, *leading*

Don Fielding, who used to be a rather common fixture in our pulpit, will return on Sunday, October 22nd, with a Reflection about Spirituality: what it is, and how it might be useful in our lives. You can read Don's bio [here](#).

Sunday, October 29, 2023 - 11:15 am

Peace Makers #10 – More Leaders Caring for the Planet

Marla Loturco, *leading*

Why worry about the planet? It certainly seems a relevant topic to me right now with all of the extreme weather experiences, loss of pollinators and other natural struggles. Our last two peace leaders from the book "Great Peacemakers: True Stories from Around the World" by Ken Beller and Heather Chase are Nader Khalili, an advocate for "Sustainable Community," and Wangari Maathai, who through planting seeds sees it as "Planting Seeds of Peace."

NOTE: There will be NO all-church 5th Sunday Potluck today (the potluck will be on Oct 22 after the morning assembly and before the Congregational Meeting.)

Marilyn's Musings

Ahh, October! Don't you just love the weather in October? It brings us cool nights, warm days, not too hot and not cold yet. Refreshing! Autumn colors and the promise of rain are in our view. Children are excited about spooks and goblins and a potential sugar high, much to their parents' and teachers' dismay.

At Red River, we are anxiously preparing for our Fall Congregational Meeting on October 22nd after the Morning Assembly and potluck lunch. We have one in the spring and one in the fall. This is our opportunity to review what we have accomplished and prepare to fulfill our year. The fiscal year for Red River extends from July 1- June 30, annually. We set goals to move us forward every year, reevaluate, adapt, and progress. This fall, we hope to have a report back about the status of the funding of our grant proposal to hire a contract minister. Jim will have information at the meeting. Plus, we will have a report from each of the teams about what they have done over the past year since their last report. A lot of things are happening at Red River that you may not know about. You may even find something new that you want to become a part of. When you get your Meeting Packet, read through the Annual Reports to see what is happening and what an amazing place this is. You may find where you want to become more involved.

Notes from the September Board Meeting

The board is preparing for a board retreat on September 28th from 10 am- 4 pm. Daniel Polk will be leading the retreat. I gave him a list of items that I thought we needed to address and there are probably more items than we will be able to cover, but they included our strategic plan, mission statement, delegating responsibilities to get more involvement of less active members, progression to having a contract minister, building membership and preparing for stewardship campaign. Yes, that is an auspicious list. In other board news, Amy is heading up a coat drive. Please see Amy about providing coats for needy people needing winter coats. She can tell you the timing and where to bring them.

Amy had a booth at Arts Fest and sold a few quilt tickets and said that the rainbow bracelets were a big hit. Some who visited with her said that they had LGBTQ+ children and were looking for a church where they would be accepted.

Jim reported on where we are with the Minister Search Team. He will have a full report at the Congregational Meeting in October.

Jim also reported on a new updated security system for \$464 plus \$27.07 per month fee. The board approved this purchase and Jim will install. The locks on the doors will be changed and can be operated electronically. Check with Jim if you still need a key. There are many keys out and we need better control.

Jan provided us with a list of businesses who joined the Sherman and Denison Chambers during the third quarter. There are seven for Sherman and 33 for Denison. We want to provide them with our church flyer and the ½ page information sheet about our current activities that Amy and Doug prepared. When mailing, we will include a cover letter asking that they make them available to their employees. Amy was going to meet with Jan to make sure that both flyers could also be included in new business welcoming packets.

Marilyn Alexander, *president*

Fall Congregational Mtg

The Fall Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 22, following a potluck lunch. That starts at the conclusion of the Morning Assembly. All members are urged to attend, friends and visitors are warmly invited to witness how our UU tradition lives out our heritage by empowering the congregation to make all formal decisions regarding the life of the community.

The Packet of Documents will be emailed to all members NLT Monday, October 8th. The packet will also be downloadable from the home page of the church website (ww.redriveruu.org) and by tapping on the "Meeting Docs" logo on the church mobile app.

Meet Our Newest Members



Christin Mackey joined 9/17/23. I grew up in Sherman attending Southern Baptist, other Baptist, and other Christian churches, with and without the rest of my family. I got up for at least one altar call and was baptized at least once.

Then I went to college in Denton, where I sought not to do that. During those few years, I could have told you I was an atheist or agnostic or even pagan, and I was lucky enough to meet some wild and wonderful people to share their experiences with me.

I had a brief turnabout in the early 2000s. I also voted for a Republican. Y'all, these were bleak times. There was a period of confusion, marriage (2006), and general lack of decision. churches, more variety, more pagans.

In the last couple of years, I stayed out of church and considered myself More agnostic but wouldn't say that out loud because I was married to a Southern Baptist conservative Republican, and I just didn't want to "hear it". Toward the end of my marriage, I was trying to identify a Christian denomination that I could take interest in and "deal with". The closest I got was Episcopal, and I suppose that was mainly just because it was neat to watch the fancy people do The Things while saying Nice Things. But now, now I am home.



Shannan (Jack) Bolerjack – joined 6/18/23, she/her, retired Correctional Nurse, founding member of LGBTQIA+ Welcoming Congregation Committee, Head of Welcoming Congregation Team. Parent of 4, grandparent of seven.



Sherilyn Bolerjack – joined 6/18/23, she/her, career wife & mother, founding member of LGBTQIA+ Welcoming Congregation Committee, member of Welcoming Congregation Team, Ally. Parent of 3, grandparent of 9, great-grandparent of 8.

Enjoy Poetry Readings?



Michelle Haynes extends an invitation for all who enjoy poetry readings to join her as her dad shares his work at Rusty Dog Ranch in Whitewright, TX on Sunday, October 15 from 4:30-7 pm. A free gathering but you need a ticket, which you can get [here](#). Of the event, Michelle writes, *Let's gather as poets and poetry enthusiasts and channel the spirit of the Samhain / Halloween season*. If the link doesn't work, get help [here](#).

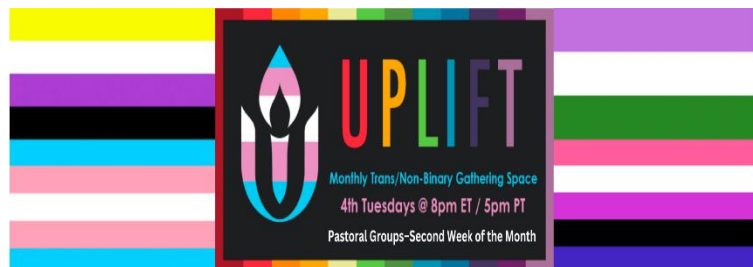
Inherent Worth and Dignity



Join the Trans and Nonbinary+ Pastoral Group Online

The UUA's UPLIFT team for LGBTQIA+ and gender justice offers an online meeting space for folx who identify as trans and nonbinary+ to gather for pastoral small group engagement. You need not be a Unitarian Universalist to attend. You can read more and sign up [here](#).

[Trans/Nonbinary+ Pastoral Space](#)



October Social Action Alert

On Tuesday, September 19, 2023, Rep. Terri Sewell (D-Ala.) [introduced H.R. 14](#), the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2023. In response, Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice issued the following statement:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 19, 2023 **Contact:** Pablo DeJesús | info@uusj.org

Voting Rights Strengthens American Democracy Congress must pass the **John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act**



Washington, D.C. – Today, federal legislators reintroduced the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2023. The Voting Rights Act had a long history of bipartisan support, and this bill merits similar bipartisan support. If passed, the measure will restore and strengthen the Voting Rights Act, repairing the damage done since *Shelby County* and *Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee*.

“As Unitarian Universalists, we are deeply committed to a profound inclusionary American democracy. The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2023 moves us in this direction,” said Pablo DeJesús, executive director of Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice. “For the good of our entire nation, we affirm today that our democracy works best for each of us as individuals when it covers all of our communities in the liberty we want, a liberty that is secured by peaceful means, at the ballot box, in free and fair elections; a liberty based on participation that includes all of us regardless of color, political party, or zip code,” said DeJesús.

“In our faith tradition, we uphold the inherent worth and dignity of every person as well as a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We value the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process. As a consequence of our principles and our values, we believe that voting rights matter for every person in the U.S.,” continued DeJesús.

“We reject the forces of hate and exclusion that seek to deny and dilute our fundamental right to vote, especially for voters of color. Our generation’s federal legislators must rise to the challenge of this moment and meet their obligations to protect the right to vote. Congress must pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2023,” concluded DeJesús.

Minister Search Team

We are still waiting to hear from NTUUC on our grant request for \$45,000 per year for 2 years. Meanwhile we continue to work on the UUA profile document and the church history document. We will have more details on our status at the fall congregation meeting, Jim Holmes, chair

Money Matters

In the month of August, we had total receipts of \$1,654.00. Total expenses for the month were \$5,397.01, leaving us with a net loss for the month of (\$3,743.01). The net loss for the month was primarily due to the timing of pledge income, building repairs, and the timing of insurance payments.

WE had a net profit for the fiscal year-to-date of \$5,105.92. The year-to-date net profit was primarily due to the timing of pledge income.

As of August 31, 2023, we had \$15,208.81 available in checking. There is a total of \$20,709.72 in all savings accounts, including \$4,317.08 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. The congregation voted to use up to \$51,000.00 of the Endowment Fund for minister compensation, if needed.

A total of \$15,690 has currently been pledged for the minister's compensation fund. Additional pledges can be made by contacting the minister search team or by pledging [here](#).

Carole Harner, *Treasurer*

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 welcome to come.

Welcoming Congregation update

GRAYSON PRIDE! October 21st at Mustang Creek Ranch! This month our focus is totally on Grayson Pride. We have gathered over \$1k in donations of gift cards & in-kind items to put in our Pride Prizes gift baskets & we're not done yet! Jack & Cristin have plans to hit up businesses around Sherman square this coming weekend. We'll be at the Chalk Art event Saturday in front of Knight Furniture so stop by & participate in our community with us. Jack & Sherilyn did represent the team along with Amy at Sherman ArtFest & we were able to garner some additional prizes there as well.

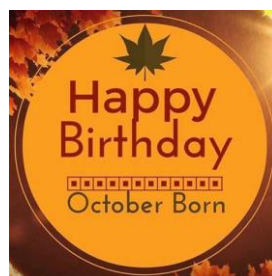
We are in the process of planning our Friendsgiving & Family Christmas parties with Grayson Pride & will have more details soon. There will be games, conversation & tons of food so please join us if you can.

We have been busy and feel like we've had a great year since picking back up. We've had some additions to our "chorus " but we're always looking for more voices! We meet the 4th Sunday every month after Calories and Conversation.

Aesthetics Changes

Invites you to see the new arrangement for the religious banners in the chapel. Watch the brief video [here](#).

October Birthdays



- 05 Marion Hill
- 16 Angus Zaphod Peterson *
- 17 Adrian Hinman
- 17 Tommi Homuth
- 18 Joyce Peak
- 26 Carla Murphy

*young person

From our non resident poet

October is Fire Prevention Month; October 8-14 is Fire Prevention Week. Here's a poem (and pictures of my granddaughter, Lynnea & yours truly) to celebrate. Regarding fire, [here's](#) some resources worth reviewing. Here's the poem "Hey Chief" by Don Mathis

"Hey, Chief! Your replacement's here,"

the firefighter shouts with a smile

as a young child, complete with suit and boots, enters the station.

Wide-eyed wonder is shared with all waiting for a call.

"What's that? What's that?"

Tailored explanations, politely proffered by hard flame-fighters, saturate and satisfy a five-year-old mind.

"Show me the tool that you can open up a car like a can-opener."

This request stumps the guide and brings a smile when he realizes the answer is "The Jaws of Life."

"Why? Why? Why?" is the answer to each answer.

"Two steering wheels?"

"A pickax?"

"A mask?"

But no one can come close to, "Who enjoyed it the most; the firefighter or the five-year-old?"



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: Amy, Jana, Adrian

Audio Visual: Carole, Don, Jim, Marla

Caring Circle: Carolyn, David

Communication: Amy, Doug, Marla

Endowment: Carolyn, Doug

Facilities: Jim A 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, Jan

Contact us

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