

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Newsletter
December 2018

“Merry Christmas Y’all Peoples!”

This continued, cheerful shout emanated from Mark Biemer (below right) who rode along with Chloe Whitworth in holiday lighted parades for both Kerrville (November 17) and Comfort (November 24). Biemer is the son of church members Amanda and Justin Biemer and Whitworth is granddaughter of church members Jill Wiggins and Gary Payne. As in 2017, Linda Smith, Board President donated her red convertible which was festively decorated for the parades.



“Donate the Plate” 5th Sunday Program

On the fifth Sunday of every month with a fifth Sunday, all moneys in the collection plate not designated for the church are donated to a worthy non-profit organization. Since there are five Sundays in December, Hill Country Crisis Center is the recipient of this important program on December 31. Recently, HCCC church liaison Carolyn Dreyer has reported a need for twin sheet sets as well as towels (bath, hand and face).

An important part of HCCC is the Kids’ Advocacy Place which provides district attorneys, law enforcement and child protective agencies in a child-friendly place in which to record the outcry reports of abused children.

NOTE → Those wishing to make a donation by check to the group through “Donate the Plate” will need to make their check payable to UUCHC, then write “Donate the Plate” or “Hill Country Crisis Center” in the check’s notation line.



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Check out our Facebook page

FROM YOUR MINISTER...

Greetings!

Christmas is a time for people to spend time together. Not all of us have family here in Kerrville and if you are one of those people feel free to spend more time with your church family here at UUCHC. We have activities that include lunch or dinner and time to be shared with others. There is no need to be alone this holiday season.

If you will be traveling to visit family or friends, please be careful and return to us safely. Your church family will be thinking of you.

Whatever holiday you chose to celebrate this season, have a happy one.

With gratitude, *Reverend Ja*



Open Ministerial Search Committee Meetings ★ 5pm Wednesdays ★ Wilma Palmer Annex

The co-chairs of this committee are Frances Osborn and Andy Pesez with help from Justin Biemer, Mary Jones, Meredith Hensley, Don Pyle, Donna Schloss, and Alice Leuchtag (representing the UU Fellowship of Kerrville). Please let this important committee know what you would like to see in a prospective new part-time minister.



Remember, Members!

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, Dec. 16 ★ after the service

If you cannot attend, please complete a proxy and give it to another member who will be in attendance. Proxies are available in the rear of the sanctuary and have been emailed as an attachment to all members.



December Chalice Table Décor

Thank you to the following members decorating the chalice table on these Sundays:

- 2 - Sherri Curry
- 9 - Carolyn Dreyer
- 16 - Amanda & Justin Biemer
- 23 - Troy Fannin
- 30 - Ann & Steve Galland

For more information about Chalice Table décor, please contact Pat Kobe 830.367-3142/
kobepat313@gmail.com

Adult Religious Education Presents Baha'i Faith video & discussion led by Mark Schultz ★ Monday, December 10 1pm ★ Wilma Palmer Annex

Schultz a member of the greater San Antonio Baha'i community will provide a closer look at the Baha'i religion which teaches the essential worth of all religions and the unity and equality of all people. Contact Mary Jones at 830-896-9182 for information.








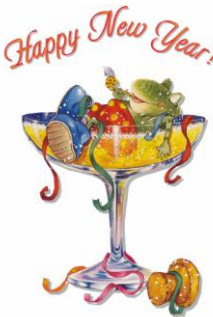
Free Speech Café is Sunday, December 30, 11:15am - 12:30pm in the Wilma Palmer Annex. Bring your questions, issues, and commentary to share. A light lunch will be served.



December 2018 Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Calendar



Updates & Revisions to this calendar may be found in the Weekly Calendar Update which is usually emailed on Thursdays.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Church Friends may serve on committees. All listed meetings are open and all are welcomed. CS: Church Sanctuary PA: Wilma Palmer Annex						1 Tarot Class: 10am-12pm - PA
Service: Rev Ja Rickard. Sermon: "Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays & Bah Humbug"  Hanukkah begins at sundown		Activities & Events Committee meeting: 4pm Cover Floors (1204 Sidney Baker South-Kerrville) Contact - Judy Ashcraft 830.896-8319	Ministerial Search Committee meeting: 10am - PA Committee Chair Council meeting:	Craftopia - "We Make, We Create, We Donate": 10am-12pm - PA	Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am PA ①	Tarot Class: 10am-12pm - PA
CAM Sunday ② Service: Rev. Art Severance. Subject: TBA - see page 4	ARE program: 1pm - PA see page 2 PFLAG meeting: 7pm-8:30pm - Dietert Center (451 Guadalupe Street). Contact Curtis Overstreet 210.262-8859/ deadeye1961@gmail.com	ARE meeting: 1pm - PA Girl's Night Out 5:30pm - see page 4	Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All welcomed.	Craftopia - "We Make, We Create, We Donate": 10am-12pm - PA		Tarot Class: 10am-12pm - PA
Hill Country Crisis Council ③ Service: Steve Brooks. Talk: TBA - see page 4 Annual Congregational Meeting Pot Luck Dinner with free ham after Service- PA		Last day to submit articles for January's newsletter: communication@uuuhc.org		Habitat for Humanity lunch - see page 4 Craftopia: 10am-12pm - PA	Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am PA ① First Day of Winter 	Tarot Class: 10am-12pm - PA
CAM Sunday ② 5:30pm Christmas Service: Rev Ja Rickard. Sermon: "Christmas is a time of blessings & grace. Let us join together to celebrate." Cookie Sharing - see page 6	Christmas Eve		 Kwanzaa Begins	Craftopia - "We Make, We Create, We Donate": 10am-12pm - PA		Tarot Class: 10am-12pm - PA
Service: Michael Wurth. Talk: TBA - see page 4 5th Sunday "Donate the Plate" program benefitting Hill Country Crisis Center Free Speech Café after service: PA light lunch provided - see page 2	New Year's Eve 		All Sunday church services (except 12/23) are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary.			
① There will be news, views, and thought provoking discussion. Guys bring your sandwich or gourmet repast as you wish. Contact: Steve Galland 830.634-7668/sgalland143@gmail.com ② CAM (Christian Assistance Ministry) Sundays are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. On the 2nd Sunday, the collection focuses on food and the 4th Sunday; on personal/cleaning items. Contact Susan Lipp 830.634-2173/ ③ Hill Country Crisis Council Sundays are held on 3rd Sundays and focus on paper products: toilet and facial tissue, paper towels, women's sanitary products, plus large bottles of baby shampoo and liquid soap. Contact Carolyn Dreyer 830.496-3094/ brightredmimi@gmail.com						



**Making Lunch for the Crew
Thursday, December 20 ★ 11:30am
Palmer Annex ★ Judy Ashcraft, Organizer**

Help is needed to make this church effort a success! As a lunch sponsor for the local Habitat for Humanity organization, the church provides a hot lunch for between six to 15 hardworking volunteer contractors and the families who are buying these homes. Lunch is provided on the third Thursday of the month and in December, the organizer is Judy Ashcraft.

Volunteers are needed to assist Judy in preparing or buying a part of the meal (entrée, salad or vegetable, dessert) and to get it delivered to the Habitat for Humanity office at 121 McGinnis Court. These are simple meals and you will get reminder when your “adopted” month comes (and it will also be on the church calendar).

PLEASE choose a month to help in 2019:

January 17	February 21	March 21
April 18	May 16	June 20

Contact Judy Ashcraft (830) 896-8319/ whodit@hotmail.com with your choice or sign up on the list located on back table at the rear of the church sanctuary.

**“Girl’s Night Out” ★ 5:30pm
Tuesday, December 11**

Held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays on most months (not December) at 5:30pm, ladies meet at the chosen restaurant (1011 Bistro - 1011 Guadalupe Street) to have a great meal and conversation. It’s “Dutch treat”, of course. Restaurants will be chosen by attendees.

Contact Judy Ashcraft (830) 896-8319/ whodit@hotmail.com

UbarU Capital Campaign

UbarU, located just twenty miles west of Kerrville, is the only UUA affiliated camp and retreat center in the central US south of Minnesota. An important capital campaign is now going on for an infrastructure requirement plus meeting and lodging plans. For more information see www.ubaru.org or talk with UbarU and church members Donnie Bunch and Kevin Hartley.

“Our Church Life” - More Material on Sunday Services...

9 Speaker - Rev. Art Severance. Severance, now retired, is a former minister of First Church San Antonio, most recently minister of East Shore Church in Kirkland, OH, and interim minister in Boulder, CO; Stockton, CA; and Amherst, NY. He has moved back to San Antonio to be near grandchildren and three daughters who live in San Antonio and Austin.

10 Speaker - Steve Brooks. Brooks is a writer and performer whose creativity points in many directions. His songs have been recorded by more than a dozen folk and Americana artists, like Slaid Cleaves, Russell Crowe and Albert & Gage. His two most recent CDs, “I’ll Take You Home” and “Chasing Grace,” have been played on more than 100 folk and Americana stations coast-to-coast. In an earlier incarnation on radio, he was a humorist who wrote a song-a-week for Jim Hightower’s nationally-syndicated talk show. When he’s not onstage, you can find him in a pulpit, speaking on topics like “Songwriting As a Spiritual Path.” Or in a library, introducing kids to classic American folk songs. Or flexing his wits as six-time World Pun Champion. If that’s not enough, he’s been an award-winning journalist for over 25 years. Kick off your shoes and poke around a bit. You’ll find plenty to keep you entertained and inspired, and you’ll find out why Stave Magazine calls Steve “simply the most clever man you’ll hear with a guitar.”

30 Speaker - Michael Wurth. Talk: TBA. Wurth was raised as a UU who was first exposed to Buddhism in the UU Religious Education curriculum “The Church Across the Street” in the late 1970s. He has since embraced Buddhist principles as part of his growing spirituality and in his counseling work. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor with a Masters from the University of Texas, San Antonio (and has almost recovered from being a screenwriter and film producer, director, and editor.) He has worked with youth, mindfulness and meditation, addiction, the blind, and specializes in counseling for men who find it difficult to seek help. He has been selected to serve as the San Antonio Director of Clinical Outpatient Services for a Hill Country rehabilitation center.



Gary Payne as Clarence Darrow at church on Saturday, November 10

Through the joint efforts of the Activities & Events and Adult RE Committees, plus members Gary Payne and Jill Wiggins who presented this memorable program, lawyer "Clarence Darrow" edified all present about life in his time and the many cases Darrow was involved with.

After the presentation, everyone moved to the Wilma Palmer Annex for beverages, food and mingling.

Special thanks to all who helped with food and other needs: Meredith & Monty Hensley, Pat & Dave Kolbe, Julie Davis, Linda & Chuck Smith, Selma Gibson, Carolyn Dryer, Mary Jones, Judy Ashcraft, and Jerry Best.



Board Meeting of Wednesday, November 14 Condensed Minutes

Board members present were Linda Smith, Vicki Luther, Jerry Best, and Meredith Hensley.

Reports:

- ⊕ Highlighted topics were the review of Bookkeeper's Report and financial status; the 2019 Pledge letter to members; nominating committee report; UU webinars; congregational meeting notification letter; mailing lists; report on holiday planning from the Activities & Events Committee and report from the Committee on the Minister by Donna Schloss.
- ⊕ The property appraisal was reviewed and Andy Pesez will review the church insurance coverage.
- ⊕ Comments regarding the mission statement were discussed and the revision agreed upon. This new statement will be included in the congregational meeting notification letter. The Board approved revisions to the three-month contract with Reverend Ja.

➔For details, see the Binder marked 2017-18 Minutes in the office in the Annex.

--Meredith Hensley, Board Secretary



December Greeters

Thank you to the following members serving as greeters on the following Sundays:

- 2 - Gary Payne & Andy Pesez**
- 9 - Jill Wiggins & Monte Hensley**
- 16 - Marie Brown & Steve Galland**
- 23 - Selma Gibson & Susan Lipp**
- 30 - Carolyn Dreyer & Jill Wiggins**

*For more information contact Gary Payne
830.890-5378/ garyraypayne209@gmail.com*



Kerr-Konnect Transportation Is Up and Rolling!

More than thirty volunteers in the office and behind the wheel have started the engines (and computers). AND more than sixty community members have become part of this great experiment in transportation.

The response has been greater and faster than anyone expected, and it is now realized that more volunteers; especially drivers, will be needed sooner rather than later in order to keep up with the growing Rider Membership. Drivers are trained and their background is checked. Then they are ready to start checking the list of requests and decide which clients' requests and needs fit their schedules, vehicles and interests.

Everyone is urged to pick up a brochure or Volunteer Application Form in the sanctuary and to talk with Linda Smith, Andy and Laurie Pesez, Don Pyle, Steve Galland and Mike or Karen Burkett or simply call the new Kerr-Konnect office, 830-315-5377.



**Give the
Gift of
Cookies
after the
5:30pm
service
Sunday,
Dec. 23**

Following the 5:30pm service, all are urged to bring their favorite holiday cookies to share. There will be coffee, hot tea, cider, milk and eggnog. Plan to take some cookies home and spread the joy of giving during this festive season.



UU Fellowship Member, Dr. H Richard Leuchtag, PhD awarded Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Awards

Marquis Who's Who, the world's premier publisher of biographical profiles, presented UU Fellowship member, H. Richard Leuchtag, Ph.D., with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Leuchtag celebrates many years' experience in his professional network, and has been noted for achievements, leadership qualities, and the credentials and successes he has accrued in his field. As in all Marquis Who's Who biographical volumes, individuals profiled are selected on the basis of current reference value. Factors such as position, noteworthy accomplishments, visibility, and prominence in a field are all taken into account during the selection process.

A retired biophysics researcher and biology educator, Leuchtag taught at Texas Southern University, beginning in 1982 as an assistant professor and concluding his career in 1997 as a professor. A former researcher at the University of Texas Medical Branch and instructor at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Leuchtag also served as an associate editor for "Physics Today" in New York City and as a research associate in the biophysics research laboratory at New York University (NYU).

In his work on the biophysical problem of ion conduction across excitable membranes, Leuchtag rejected approaches based on questionable assumptions. With James Swihart, he focused on classical electrodiffusion theory based on electrodynamics and the Nernst-Planck equation. He developed a family of ordinary differential equations for stationary multi-ion electrodiffusion systems and found approximate solutions for time-varying ion currents across membranes.

For more, please visit <http://www.24-7pressrelease.com/press-release-service/457638>



**December Sunday
Coffee Hour
Church Treats
brought to you by...**

**2 - Julie Davis
9 - Judy Ashcraft
23 - Amanda & Justin Biemer
30 - Marie Brown**

**Thanks for the Yummies
for our tummies!**



**Guest at Your
Table Continues**

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC's annual inter-generational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. UUSC works in over 25 countries and with over 75 grassroots partners. There are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work UUSC members make possible. .

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country's participation began during the Thanksgiving Potluck on November 18 with special coin boxes displayed at every table and will continue through the Potluck on January 20. In addition to the Potlucks there will be a box by the coffee urns and treat table for coins and there are envelopes on the back table in the chancery with the information about joining. Any donation is welcome and those over \$125 will be matched. If you would like to send in your donation just indicate UUCHC on your check and inform Donna Schloss so that she can include it in our tally sheet.

2018-2019 Theme: Justice Across Borders

From the Northern Triangle of Central America, to deserts of Mexico and Arizona, to detention centers in the United States, the road away from danger is paved with injustices. Partnering with grassroots allies along the Central American migration trail, UUSC addresses root causes, supports migrants in transit, and protects the right to seek asylum. Join with UUSC for Guest at Your Table to learn more about UUSC's and our nation's involvement in Central America - historically and presently - and our courageous Migrant Justice partners.

--Donna Schloss: 830.792-6189/ dschloss@ktc.com



**Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country
Board Members for 2018**

President ~ Linda Smith

830.257-2529/ ivasparc1@gmail.com

Vice President ~ Vicki Luther

830.496-3205/ vbluther@twc.com

Secretary ~ Meredith Hensley

830-522-0802/ pmeredith@yahoo.com

Treasurer ~ Jim McMahon

830-377-9448/ jjm7125@hotmail.com

Minister ~ Reverend Ja Rickard

262.237-0634/ minister@uuchc.org

Member at Large - Jerry Best

210-633-7553/ bestjerry@hotmail.com

Sunday Services Chair: Mike Burkett

Wayside Pulpit, Coffee Set-Up, Music/Choir, Greeters, Order of Service, Chalice Table, Service Schedule/Associates

Spiritual Development Chair: Vicki Luther

Life Span Development (Adult and Children's Religious Education), Free Speech Cafe, Forums

Membership Chair: Gary Payne

Congregational Care, Visitor Follow-Up, Exit Interviews, New Member Orientation, Emergency Phone Tree, Members/Friends List

Outreach/Social Justice Committee Chair:

Position Open

CAM, La Casa de Raices, TXUJMJ, PFLAG, Hill Country Crisis Center, Habitat for Humanity, Transportation Planning Council, Texas IMPACT

Finance Committee Chair: Andy Pesez

Stewardship, Budget, Building/Grounds
Financial Management & Reports

Activities/Events Chair: Judy Ashcraft

Special Social Events, Recurring Events, Building Usage

Communications Chair: Position Open

communication@uuchc.org

Electronic Media (Facebook & web site): Amanda Biemer
Newsletter/Weekly Calendar Update: Susan Lipp