

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Newsletter
February 2018



Chloe Whitworth (above) and Mark Biemer (below) get into the festive mood of the Church Holiday Party.

Church Holiday Party, “12 Days of Christmas” Held on Saturday, January 6 at Bella Sera restaurant

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country members and friends of UUCHC gathered together to enjoy the end of the season at an all you can eat buffet. There were stories told and toasts made and all around fun, reported Judy Ashcraft, Chair of the Activities & Events Committee.



Festively adorned church choir members (from left to right - front row), Ann Galland, Selma Gibson, Jill Wiggins and Pat Kobe assist in leading the congregation in the singing of “Silent Night” at the end of the Christmas Eve service.

Christmas Eve Service Ends on “High Note”

After a Christmas Eve service conducted by Rev. Ja Rickard, church members, friends and visitors lit candles and sang “Silent Night.” Thereafter, a Cookie Exchange/reception was enjoyed at the back of the church which included hot apple cider, coffee and non-alcoholic Bellini’s and Mimosas.



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Check out our Facebook page

FROM YOUR MINISTER...

We have made it through the first month of the New Year! It has been and will continue to be a bit too chilly to get outside and start yard work and since we have been stuck in the house due to the cold, the house is probably clean.

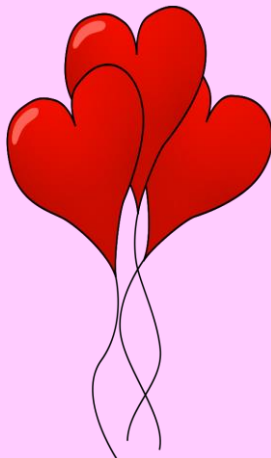
What can we do when "cabin fever" sets in? Since it is February and Valentine's Day is upon us, maybe we could plan a wonderful dinner. If you have no one to share it with, take some cookies to a nursing home and share with them the joy of the day.

Warmer weather is coming and we shall have activities at the church that I hope you will all participate in. Stay tuned as Judy Ashcraft comes up with new ideas, Karen Burkett continues to help us understand Social Justice issues and our Adult RE committee moves forward with another program to enrich our lives.

If you have a problem keeping track of it all, keep your eyes posted for the monthly newsletter and Weekly Calendar Updates as Susan Lipp attempts to keep us all on track.

With Gratitude,

Reverend Ja



February Chalice Table Décor

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

- 4 - Mary Jones
- 11 - Pat & Dave Kobe
- 18 - Susan Lipp
- 25 - Vickie Luther

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

March 24 is Start of "Saturday Night at 964 Barnett"

Monthly from March through October on the fourth Saturday, the Activities & Events Committee is eager to announce this new, free program which will alternate between Playing Games and Watching Movies.

- ⊕ Each **game night** could include board games, card games, and/or dominos.
- ⊕ Each **movie night** includes a prelude, refreshments, and a movie.
- ⊕ Doors open at 6pm and the program begins at 6:30pm in the Wilma Palmer Annex located at 964 Barnett (hence the program name)

All are urged to bring their favorite beverage and snacks (share if you like). Free Popcorn will be provided.

Enjoy companionship, laughter and fun. The chairs are hard; bring a cushion if you want. Everyone is welcomed.



February 2018 Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Calendar

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
PA: Wilma Palmer Annex (964 Barnett) 		CS: Church Sanctuary		1	2	3	
				Groundhog Day Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ☉			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Service: Rev. Ja Rickard - Sermon: "Lilith" - Did Adam have a first wife?		Activities & Events Committee meeting: 2:30pm - Cover Floors (1204 Sidney Baker South- Kerrville) Contact- Judy Ashcraft 210.326-0084/ whodit@hotmail.com					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
CAM Sunday ☉ Speaker: Steve Brooks - Subject: TBA		PFLAG meeting: 7pm-8:30pm - The Unity Church (corner Tivy & Jefferson Sts). Contact- Curtis Overstreet 210.262-8859/ mrclo61@yahoo.com  MARDI GRAS		Board meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All are welcomed.  HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!!! Ash Wednesday		Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ☉ Lunar New Year	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Hill Country Crisis Council ☉ Last day to submit articles for the March newsletter - communication@uuchc.org Speaker: Dr Jeannette Cockroft - Subject: TBA		President's Day  Presidents Day		Justice & Outreach Committee meeting: 3:30pm - PA		Committee on the Ministry meeting: 1:30pm - PA March newsletter emailed	
25	26	27	28				
CAM Sunday ☉ Service: Rev. Ja Rickard - Sermon: "When God Was a Woman" - Prior to becoming a patriarchal society could we have worshipped a female God?							

All Sunday church services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary. Child care & Sunday School is held at 10am in the adjacent Wilma Palmer Annex (964 Barnett Street).

- 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 on the 4th Sunday, on personal/cleaning items. Contact Susan Lipp 619.248-0669/ susan@lipphealth.com
- 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



Getting To Know Us 🎵

As promised in the January newsletter, below is the first of many columns devoted to introducing new members of the congregation.

Amanda & Justin Beimer New members on October 15, 2017

Amanda was born in Austin, Texas and then adopted and raised in Elmhurst. She has an older brother and sister but has never met them.

She was raised Catholic. Her first doubts about her religion occurred when she wondered where help was after being severely bullied. When the time came for her confirmation she knew that it was a “huge step”, but felt she just could not just pay lip service to keep her mom happy even though she was told to do that several times. Her recourse was to rebel and read the satanic bible, but then could not figure out why this bible made no more sense than the Christian bible. So she dabbled in Buddhism, but found it difficult due to her ADHD.

Now she states that she is an “out of practice wiccan” who doesn’t know “what to think anymore”. She continues that “thanks to the internet” she has a healthy sense of skepticism.

Amanda’s husband, Justin discovered the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country during a random Google search one night and when they visited the church for the first time Amanda says she said they were “so jazzed” and felt like they were home. She exuberantly adds, “*I LOVE UU’s!! Everyone is sweeter than a sack of sugar; we do good things in our little town, and (Reverend) Ja is super cool! I feel like with this group I am being the change I want to see in the world. We are just putting good out there. I have received a sense of community and love from this church*”.

Justin was born in Houston, Texas, grew up in Boerne, but traveled a lot. His only sister passed away but he has a half-sister who lives in Austin.

As a child, Justin attended the Methodist church. He reports that he “*asked too many questions*”. Later in his childhood he was exposed to the Pentecostal church, but was disturbed by the misogyny and hypocrisy. As a teen he studied a variety of religions and tried to live by the ones he found interesting which were primarily Buddhism and paganism. Since college he has identified himself as an atheist, although he does “*support some of the ‘parody’ religions (Discordianism, Dudeism, Rastafarianism) online.*”

After attending the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country he felt he would become a member because “*on our first visit we felt welcomed and had a sense of belonging that I hadn’t felt before*”.

He has enjoyed finding people to have stimulating discussions with within the church and feels that his technical expertise might be useful for keeping the church current in this digital age. His experience as an addict (clean since December 15, 2003) might help someone else in their time of need.

Justin and Amanda married on July 7, 2014. Their son, Mark was born August 23, 2008 in San Antonio. He was a month early and the couple spent a month in the hospital at his side.

Note from the editor, Susan Lipp:

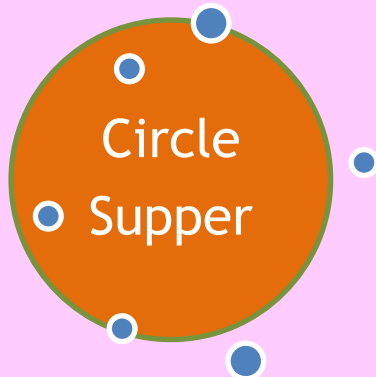
I hope now that everyone has a glimmer of insight into the lives of these two interesting new members that they will take a minute to get to know them even more. In February, new members that signed the membership book on Sunday, January 21 will begin to be explored.



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

**4 - Julie Davis
11 - Judy Ashcraft
25 - Karen & Mike Burkett**

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



**Circle Supper Program Resumes
First 2018 Event on
Saturday, February 3 at 6pm**

The first of the church Circle Suppers will be hosted by Susan Lipp and James Boyles. They just finished building their new, dream retirement home in August which is located on 250 Cook Lane East in Center Point, TX and can accommodate a large group of people.

The object of Circle Suppers is fellowship, FUN and getting to know one other! Those wanting to be guests may invite friends and need to continue to sign up on the form located at the back of the church sanctuary or call Marie Brown 830.895-5138 through next Wednesday, January 31. Thereafter, guests will be contacted by the host who will assign them a dish to bring and provide directions.



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

President ~ Linda Smith
830.257-2529/ iwasparc1@gmail.com
Vice President ~ Open
Secretary ~ Vicki Luther
830.496-3205/ vbluther@twc.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

Spiritual Development Committee Chair: Open
Lifespan Development, Free Speech Café,
Wayside Pulpit, Coffee Set-Up, Music/Choir, Greeters,
Order of Service, Chalice Table, Service Schedule/Associates

Membership: Reverend Ja Rickard
Congregational Care, Visitor Follow-Up, Exit Interviews,
New Member Orientation, Emergency Phone Tree,
Members/Friends List

Outreach/Social Justice Committee Chair:
Karen Burkett
CAM, La Casa de Raices, TXUJUM, 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 (temporary): Linda Smith
communication@uuchc.org
Electronic Media (Facebook & web site): Judy Ashcraft
Newsletter/Weekly Calendar Update: Susan Lipp