

# OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Newsletter

February 2019



*Julie Davis, Sarah Johanson & Amanda Biemer (from left to right, above) and Troy Fannin & Julie Davis (below), all show their enjoyment during the Holiday Party.*

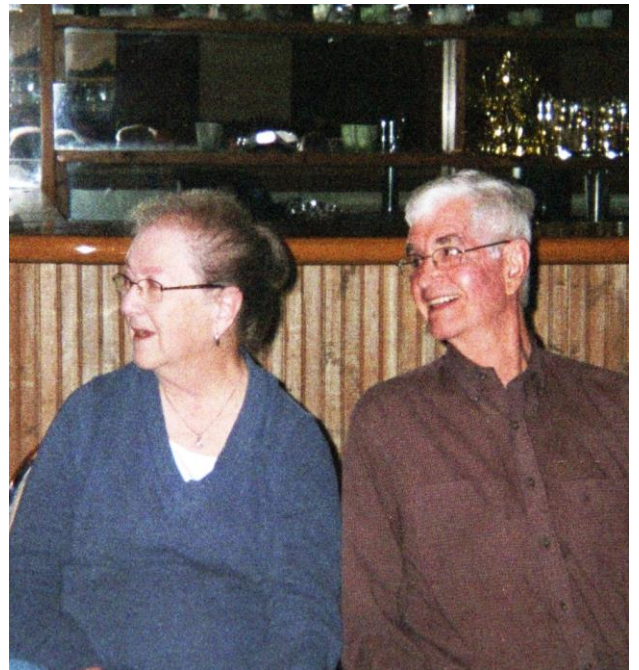
## Church & Fellowship Join Together for Holiday Party at Bella Sera restaurant

37 members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country and the UU Fellowship joined together for fun, fellowship, food, music and dancing for the Holiday Party held on Saturday, January 5, 2019 at Bella Sera Restaurant in Kerrville.

Music heralding from the 1950s and 60s was provided by the band "Time Bandits" and Chuck Smith from the Fellowship celebrated his birthday.

Each table was supplied with an analog camera to help document the fun along a list of picture suggestions. Some of the pictures are available at the church for viewing.

The date for next year's celebration has already been set so all may make preparations: **Saturday, January 4, 2020.**



*Joining in the fun are (above) are Karen and Mike Burkett.*



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Check out our Facebook page

## FROM YOUR MINISTER...

*Our congregation has started a new year and it looks like it is going to be a great year for UUCHC.*

*The new Board had their first meeting and with just a bit of shuffling of positions they are off to a great start. Jill Wiggins opted out of Member at Large in order to become our Secretary, a position previously held by Meredith Hensley. Jill took meticulous notes and asked very pertinent questions so that she could give you the best information on what the Board is doing. Meredith chose to be the Member at Large, a position previously held by Jerry Best. Meredith will sit on the Board but will also be the Chair of our Committee Chair Council. Jerry is our new President and in watching him conduct the meeting I believe he will do an awesome job. Vicki Luther is our Vice President and is working very well with Jerry and will take over the Board if Jerry needs to be absent. Judy Bunch is our new Treasurer and she is off and running, meeting with Andy Pesez and learning all she can about our finances.*

*The Search Committee is doing an excellent job of keeping the congregation informed and included in the search for my replacement and your new minister. Hopefully you have attended at least one of their cottage meetings to get up to date news on their happenings.*

*We have one other committee that is off to a great start. The Sunday Service Committee which has replaced Mike Burkett is busily finding speakers for Sunday mornings. Mike did an excellent job and we have had some great speakers. The new committee comprised of Vicki Luther, Donna Schloss and Linda Smith will do an equally fine job perhaps even better with their contacts in the community and beyond.*

*As for me, I am slowly slipping into retirement mode. Work continues on the house in New Mexico and I am looking forward to the day when I can honestly say I live there.*

**With Gratitude,**

**Reverend Ja**



### **February Chalice Table Décor**

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

**3 - Mary Jones**  
**10 - Pat & Dave Kobe**  
**17 - Susan Lipp & James Boyles**  
**25 - Vickie Luther**

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

### **Adult Religious Education (ARE) Active with “Long Strange Trip” Video Series**











“Long Strange Trip”, a six-part video series by Ron Cordes (UU member and amateur filmmaker) explores the history of Unitarian and Universalist thought and practice from the early, liberal stands in faith at the beginning of the Christian era to what we know today as Unitarian Universalism. Each video is approximately one hour long and will be shown weekly beginning at 7pm in the Wilma Palmer Annex. The conclusion of the program in February is as follows:

- ⊕ **Thursday, Feb. 7 ★ “Part III: American Unitarianism (1620 -1860) -** The early fracture between religious liberals and Congregationalists. The final split between the Unitarians and the Trinitarian Congregationalists. The Arian/Socinian fracture. Transcendentalism. Beyond our Bible centered roots. Abolition.
- ⊕ **Thursday, Feb. 14 ★ “Part IV: Universalism (1600-1860)**
- ⊕ **Thursday, Feb. 21 ★ “Part V: Evolution (1861-1961)**
- ⊕ **Thursday, Feb. 28 ★ “Part VI: Unitarian Universalism**



## February 2019 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
<b>PA: Wilma Palmer Annex (964 Barnett)      CS: Church Sanctuary</b>					1	2
 <p>All listed meetings are open and all are welcome to attend. Church Friends may serve on committees. Sunday church services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary. Child care &amp; Sunday School is held at 10am in the adjacent Wilma Palmer Annex (964 Barnett Street).</p>					Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA 	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Service: Rev. Ja Rickard - Sermon: "Emerson & the Divinity School Address"		 Chinese New Year	Committee Chair Council meeting: 5:30pm - PA	ARE Program: 7pm - PA - see page 2		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
CAM Sunday ☯  Service: Rev Ja Rickard - Sermon: "Love is All You Need"	PFLAG meeting: 7pm- 8:30pm - The Unity Church (corner Tivy & Jefferson Sts). Contact- Curtis Overstreet 210.262- 8859/ mrclo61@yahoo.com	Girls Night Out 5:30pm - LaFours restaurant (1701 Junction Hwy)	Board meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All are welcomed.	  ARE Program: 7pm - PA - see page 2	Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA 	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Hill Country Crisis Council ☯  Speakers: Karen & Mike Burkett - Subject: KerrKonnnect presentation	<b>President's Day</b>  Last day to submit articles for <b>M</b> arch newsletter: communication@ uuuchc.org			  - see page 6 ARE Program: 7pm - PA - see page 2		
24	25	26	27	28		
CAM Sunday ☯    Service: Finnish duo "Vellamo" music service by the performing and songwriting team of Pia Leinonen and Joni Tiala		Girls Night Out 5:30pm - Monroe's East End Grill (1700 Water St)		ARE Program: 7pm - PA - see page 2 Activities & Events Committee meeting: 4pm - Cover Floors (1204 Sidney Baker S-Kerrville) Contact- Judy Ashcraft 210.326-0084/ whodit@hotmail.com		

- 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 🎵



**Sandra Pounders Lane**  
New member since January 6

**Sandra** is a fourth-generation Texan, born in Waxahachie (30 miles south of Dallas) and lived there with her grandparents until she moved to Fort Worth with her parents in the sixth grade. In her junior year in high school, she moved to Dallas. She has spent most of her life in the Dallas / Fort Worth area, but also lived for short periods in Austin and San Antonio. She moved to Kerrville in March 2013 to get away from the gas drilling (fracking) in Fort Worth and surrounding areas. She feels that there's a lot to be said for clean air and clean water.

Sandra is divorced with two daughters. Her current family now consists of eight cats.

Sandra attended college several times and finally completed a B.S. degree in Journalism in 1988 at the age of 53 at the University of North Texas, Denton. For several years she worked as a technical/proposal writer and now is doing some freelance writing from home for newspapers and trade journals.

Sandra's mother was a "hard shell" Baptist, so now she considers herself to be "recovering". At 25 years old, she felt she had had enough of that faith and joined the Presbyterian Church. She liked them because they were very active in social projects during the 1960s. In 1989 she discovered the Unitarian Church when she met some UUs in the

Dallas Folk Music Society. In the early 90s, she joined Horizon Unitarian in Farmers Branch / Carrollton (Dallas) and opened a coffeehouse named Malvina's. She lived in Arlington and East Fort Worth from 1999 to 2013 and attended First Jefferson UU and Westside UU in Fort Worth as well as the UU Fellowship in Arlington. She has also attended the Unity Church, which she feels is similar to the Unitarian Church in some ways.

Sandra didn't feel it was difficult to find the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country. She knew some of the members of the church from her activities with the Democratic Party. After attending Unity Church for some time she felt like making a change and the fact that many of the UUCHC church members were Democrats and "concerned about making life better for everyone" made the transition easier.

Sandra thinks that the best way to become involved with the church is to just show up. She likes talking with church members, whom she finds to be very interesting. From time to time, she hopes to sing one of her original inspirational songs or to fill in for Meredith if she cannot play the piano on a Sunday. She has also taught meditation and is open to opportunities for service.

Since becoming a member, she feels a strong sense of friendship and support. She feels accepted as she is which she feels "means quite a lot!" She looks forward to knowing each member better and finding common areas of interest.

Sandra would like to become a successful writer and musician, to create things that help people to see the beauty of their own being and to have some fun! At 83, she feels she is still "working on it".

Note from the editor, Susan Lipp:

*I hope now that everyone has a glimmer of insight into Sandra's life they will want to get to know her even more. In February, you'll be introduced to another new member that signed the membership book on Sunday, January 6.*

### January Greeters

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

3 - Mike Burkett & Andy Pesez  
 10 - Monte Hensley & Gary Payne  
 17 - Marie Brown & Jill Wiggins  
 24 - Selma Gibson & Susan Lipp

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

### Summary of Wednesday, January 9, 2019 Board Meeting

**Present:** Reverend Ja, Board President Jerry Best; Vice President Vicki Luther; Treasurer Judy Bunch; Secretary Meredith Hensley; member-at-large Jill Wiggins; Donna Schloss, representing the Committee on Ministry; Andy Pesez, Finance; and Judy Ashcraft, Activities and Events.

Andy presented the **financial report:** the bottom line is that finances are good going into the 2019 calendar year despite expenses for new windows, replacement of a leaking toilet and unusually high water bills. With a new treasurer (Judy Bunch) and some new procedures in place, monthly reports from the bookkeeper should be more accurate.

Andy and Judy B. are working on procedures to reconcile donations that are “pass-throughs” and come up with handling pass-throughs more efficiently. Committee chairs will receive an email informing them of their committee budgets. The financial report was approved with corrections.

**Minister’s Report:** Rev. Ja reported that with a new Sunday Service committee she looks forward to a smooth operation with Sunday services, orders of service and the newsletter.

Rev. Ja has updated the congregational certification with the UUA and reported that Jerry is president, Judy B. is treasurer and Meredith continues as music director. Andy and Jerry will need to do this certification next year.

**Congregational Care and Activities and Events:** Judy A. reported on a successful holiday party, and on ongoing activities such as girls’ night out and men’s fellowship. On the last Sunday of each month, the committee will provide cake after the service to celebrate that month’s birthdays. A chili cook-off is planned for March 2; a going-away party for Rev. Ja will be held during the March 17 potluck. Next movie night will be March 23. Circle suppers will be on fifth

Saturdays (this year March 30, June 29, August 31 and November 30.) Signups will be the month before. Craftopia has gone into hiatus.

**Membership:** The old sign (at the front of the church) has been removed. Gary Payne needs to contact the sign company and tell them the old sign is down so they can install the new sign.

The phone in the annex has been reprogrammed with Jill’s voice on the greeting. The greeter program is going well but could use more greeters.

Sandra Lane, Sarah Johanson, Cisco Cameron and Ellen Bateman joined Sunday, January 6.

### Committee on Ministries/Spiritual Development:

Donna reported that the committee will meet as long as there is a minister, and they intend to make Rev. Ja’s transition as smooth as possible. The committee has Sunday service speakers and service associates lined up for January and February. Small group ministry will start in February. More volunteers are needed for children’s RE. Linda Smith has created a spreadsheet for Sunday service expenses and will have a check placed so that the Sunday speaker can be paid. Nothing is scheduled for adult RE.

In **new business**, the board approved a motion for Jill and Meredith to switch board positions. Jill will resume responsibilities of Secretary and Meredith will be Member-at-Large.

There was discussion about lack of Social Justice and Outreach chair and committee. Rev. Ja noted this can have a negative impact on the search for a minister.

Committee chairs for 2019 were approved. Linda Smith will serve as representative for the Sunday Service Committee on the CCC council. Linda, Vicki and Donna are the Sunday service “triad.”

Vicki announced that Texas Impact and ACLU will hold a session at First Presbyterian Church in Kerrville January 19 to train people to be observers in San Antonio immigration court.

Check out full minutes on bulletin board at back of sanctuary or in office book marked “Minutes”.

--Jill Wiggins, Board Secretary

### February Service Associates

Thank you to~

3 - Vicki Luther  
 10 - Linda Smith  
 17 - Selma Gibson  
 24 - Anne Galland



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

**4 - Marie Brown**

**10 - TBA**

**24 - Judy Ashcraft**

*(February Birthday Celebration)*

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



**Making Lunch for the Crew  
Thursday, February 21 ★ 11:30am  
Palmer Annex ★ Coordinator Needed!**

A coordinator is needed to make this church effort a success for February! 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 through June 2019.

The coordinator organizes one meal, recruits others to assist in preparing or buying a part of the meal (entrée, salad or vegetable, dessert) and makes sure it is delivered to the Habitat for Humanity office at 121 McGinnis Court. These are simple meals. You will get reminder when your “adopted” month arrives (and it will also be on the church calendar).

**PLEASE choose a month to help in 2019:**

March 21   April 18   May 16   June 20

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



**Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country  
Board Members for 2019**

**President ~ Jerry Best**

210-633-7553/ [bestjerry@hotmail.com](mailto:bestjerry@hotmail.com)

**Vice President ~ Vicki Luther**

830.496-3205/ [vbluther@twc.com](mailto:vbluther@twc.com)

**Secretary - Jill Wiggins**

512.965-9947/ [jillyrosemary@gmail.com](mailto:jillyrosemary@gmail.com)

**Treasurer ~ Judy Bunch**

830.459-8509/ [dbunch@stx.rr.com](mailto:dbunch@stx.rr.com)

**Minister ~ Reverend Ja Rickard**

262.237-0634/ [minister@uuchc.org](mailto:minister@uuchc.org)

**Member at Large - Meredith Hensley**

830-522-0802/ [pmeredithc@yahoo.com](mailto:pmeredithc@yahoo.com)

**Sunday Services: Donna Schloss,  
Vicki Luther & Linda Smith**

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](mailto:communication@uuchc.org)

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