

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Newsletter
October 2018



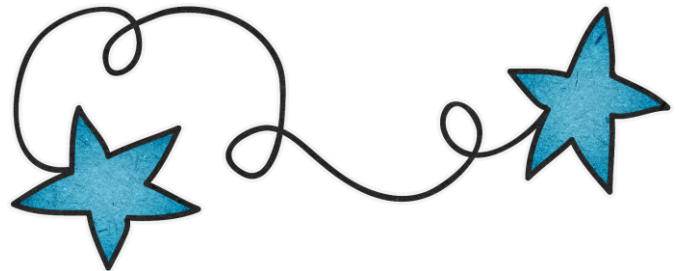
Learning the Night Sky Wednesday, October 10 ★ 6pm Palmer Annex with “Star Party” thereafter

UUCHC ARE (Adult Religious Education) Committee would like to invite all to the first session of “Learning Our Night Sky” led by church member, Donnie Bunch. Dinner will be served while watching a “Great Courses” DVD titled “The Constellations and Their Stars”, a 30 minute lecture given by Professor Edward M. Murphy of the University of Virginia.

Thereafter, and weather permitting, participants will car pool to the Schreiner University Loftis Observatory (which is just a mile from the church) for a **Star Party** which is open to the public. The Loftis Observatory is located in the 2000 block of East Main Street across from the Schreiner University baseball fields. There all will meet Dr. Kim Arvidsson of Schreiner University and will be able to utilize the university’s large telescope. Donnie will also have his personal telescope there to assist with the observing.

Everyone is urged to bring binoculars and a lawn chair or if you just want to lie in the grass, a nice blanket will do. There will be a sign-up sheet after Sunday services on the rear sanctuary table to reserve a seat at the dinner table. Contact Mary Jones: 830-896-9182/ austinbound216@yahoo.com

For questions about the presentation contact Donnie Bunch at dbunch@stx.rr.com.



Celebrating their Ann Galland directed performance of “A Visit from some Unitarian Universalist women” on Sunday, September 2 are from left to right: Carolyn Dreyer (aka Julia Ward Howe), Selma Gibson (aka Abigail Adams), Mary Jones (aka Clara Barton), Meredith Hensley (aka Frances Watkins Harper), Donna Schloss (aka Florence Nightingale) and (not pictured) Susan Lipp (aka Lydia Maria Child).



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FROM YOUR MINISTER...

I want to thank everyone who came out for our special congregational meeting on Sunday, September 23. It is my firm belief that every member should and needs to be a part of this decision and although there were a few members who were absent I am fairly sure that we received their vote by proxy. Thank you all for voting with your heart and for voting for the good of the congregation.

The next step that will be taken is the forming of a search committee. Frances Osborne and Jill Wiggins have both agreed to participate and the Board had a short meeting after the congregational meeting and created a list of members that they will contact to see if they are willing to be on the committee. If you are a member of the congregation and would like to be involved in the search committee, contact Linda Smith.

If you do not have the time to add another committee to your already busy list don't worry, the Board and the search committee will be giving you updates on a regular basis. As I stated at the meeting, this search will be as transparent as we can make it. Also, the search committee will be filling out a search packet and will be asking for your input. As soon as a committee is formed they will begin that process and let you know what, where and when they will be asking you to provide input.

I know this is a difficult time for any congregation due to the uncertainty and the change. If you feel the need to speak with someone I am here for pastoral care, Linda Smith is here to help you understand the Board's part and the head of the Search Committee will be announced soon and you will be able to contact that person.

We are here for you to help navigate this time in our congregation.

With Gratitude,

Reverend Ja



October Chalice Table Décor

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

7 - Kay White

14 - Jill Wiggins & Gary Payne

21 - Baxter & Don Pyle

28 - Judy Ashcraft & Jerry Best

For more information about Chalice Table décor, please contact Pat Kobe 830.955-1139/ kobepat313@gmail.com

"Our Church Life" - More Material on Sunday Services...

14 Speaker - Reverend Art Severance.

Sermon: "The Tao of Unitarian Universalism" - "Religion is a matter of opinion, like politics. And you may quote me on that! But people believe that their interpretation of religion or politics is the ONLY right way. The Chinese word 'Tao' may be translated as 'Way', but also as 'Path', or even 'Wisdom', but never the only one! My opinion, as educated as it may be, is that Unitarian Universalism has a lot of Taoism in it."

Severand, 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.

28 Speaker - Mary Grace Ketner. Talk: "The Story of Michael Servetus" - "With the tale of Renaissance Man Michael Servetus, we discover that we UU's have a true martyr to our faith as well as a role model and pacesetter for the stubborn Unitarian Universalist nerds of today. (You know who you are!)"

Ketner is a retired storyteller. She is a member of First Unitarian Church of San Antonio, co-chair of the Social Justice Committee and a proud alto in the choir. She serves as co-chair of the leadership council of San Antonio's Interfaith Welcome Coalition which greets and assists asylum seekers passing through San Antonio's bus station and airport.



October 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 or Fridays.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>CS: Church Sanctuary PA: Wilma Palmer Annex</p> <p>All listed meetings are open & all are welcome to attend. Church friends may serve on committees.</p>	1	2 Activities & Events Committee meeting: 4pm Cover Floors (1204 Sidney Baker South-Kerrville) Contact - Judy Ashcraft 830.896-8319	3 Committee Chair Council meeting: 5:30pm - PA	4 Craftopia - "We Make, We Create, We Donate": 10am-12pm - PA ⑤	5 Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①	6 Tarot Class: 10am-12pm - PA - see page 5 
<p>CAM Sunday ② 7 Service: Rev Ja Rickard. Sermon: "Care for the Soul" - Soul is a hard word for UU's. Is it real? Do we need to care for it?</p>	8 Columbus Day PFLAG meeting: 7pm-8:30pm - Dietert Center (451 Guadalupe Street). Contact Curtis Overstreet 210.262-8859/ deadeye1961@gmail.com	9	10 Girls Night Out 5:30pm - see page 4 ARE Program - see page 1 Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All welcomed.	11 Craftopia: 10am-12pm - PA ⑤ Choir practice begins④	12	13 Tarot Class 10am-12pm - PA TXUUJM General Assembly - see page 5
<p>Hill Country Crisis Council ③ 14 Service: Rev Art Severance. Sermon: "The Tao of Unitarian Universalism". More on page 2</p>	15	16	17 (Change of date!) Justice & Outreach Committee Meeting: 3:30pm - PA	18 Craftopia: 10am-12pm - PA ⑤ Last day to submit articles for November's newsletter: communication@uuchc.org Habitat for Humanity lunch - 11:30pm - see page 4	19 Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①	20 Tarot Class: 10am-12pm - PA - see page 5 
<p>CAM Sunday ② 21 Service: Rev Ja Rickard. Sermon: "Wisdom & Faith" - It takes courage to be a UU but wisdom guides us.</p> <p> Pot Luck after Service</p>	22	23	24 Girls Night Out 5:30pm - held at Café at the Ridge, 13439 South Ranch Road - see page 4	25 Craftopia - "We Make, We Create, We Donate": 10am-12pm - PA ⑤	26	27 Tarot Class  Saturday Night at 964 Barnett - see page 6.
<p>28 Speaker: Mary Grace Ketner. Talk: "A Martyr of Our Very Own" - The story of Michael Servetus. More on page 2</p>	29	30	31 	 All Sunday services 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 619.248-0669/ susan@lipphealth.com

③ Hill Country Crisis Center Sundays are held on 3rd Sundays, monthly with a focus on paper products: toilet and facial tissue, paper towels, women's sanitary products, plus large bottles of baby shampoo. Contact Carolyn Dreyer 830.496-3094/ brightredmimi@gmail.com

④ Contact: Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ pmeredithc@yahoo.com



Getting To Know Us 🎵

Aaron Thomas
New member as of August 12, 2018

Aaron was born in Amarillo, Texas and spent much of his childhood living in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, then McCarney, Texas. He is one of three children with a sister, Megan who lives in Chicago, Illinois and a brother, Zach who lives in Capel Hill, North Carolina. His parents, Gary and Donna Thomas have lived in Kerrville since 2006 and he married Katie Desobry in 2013.

Aaron did not grow up as a Unitarian Universalist. Several years ago he visited the UU Church in San Marcos and it was a positive experience for him. When he moved to Kerrville in 2017 he explored and found the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country.

Since first attending services in 2018, he always felt welcomed and enjoyed the sermons, discussions and activities in the church. Aaron feels that his background of involvement with non-profit organizations will be helpful for the church and in turn, he looks to the church for a sense of community, friendship and for exploration of spiritual and philosophical ideas.

Aaron's hobbies are studying history, watching college football and learning to cook new things.

Note from the editor, Susan Lipp: *I hope now that everyone has a glimmer of insight into Aaron's life they will take a minute to get to know him better.*

October Greeters

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

7 - Gary Payne & Andy Pesez
14 - Jill Wiggins & Monte Hensley
21 - Marie Brown & Steve Galland
28 - Selma Gibson & Susan Lipp

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



Making Lunch for the Crew Thursday, October 18 ★ 11:30am Palmer Annex

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 for ten months and there are nine months more to complete.

Volunteers are needed to organize one meal, to recruit others to assist 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 (some favorites are fried chicken, potato salad, cole slaw and brownies for example). You will get reminder when your "adopted" month comes (and it will also be on the church calendar).

PLEASE choose a month to help:

2018: October 18 (Linda Smith)	Nov 15	Dec 20
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.

Women's Connection is Changing! NOW "Girl's Night Out" ★ 5:30pm

Women's Connection is now "Girl's Night Out" and will be held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. Meet at the chosen restaurant (see below) to have a great meal and conversation. It's "Dutch treat", of course. (Board members may leave early without hurting feelings.)

Restaurants will be chosen by attendees:
Oct. 10: Thai Ocha - 417 Water Street
Oct. 24: Café at the Ridge - 13439 South Ranch Rd
Nov. 14: Pint and Plow - 332 Clay Street
Nov. 28: Billy Gene's - 1489 Junction Hwy.

"Let the men take care of the children and 4 legged 'kids' and come step out with the girls for girl talk."

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

Board Meeting of Wednesday, 9/19/18 Condensed Minutes

Board members present were Linda Smith, Vicki Luther, Jerry Best, Jim McMahon and Meredith Hensley. Rev Ja was also in attendance.

Reports:

- ⊕ Highlighted topics were the review of Bookkeeper's Report and financial status; the CCC report on all committee activities; the new Mission Statement to be sent out to the congregation; the Special Congregational Meeting of September 22 with focus on discussions and balloting for congregational decisions about the church future; Nominating Committee status; Annex as alcohol-free space unless otherwise designated.
- ⊕ CCC reported the following:
 - ⊕ Financial Committee reported that the window fundraising is completed and donation plaques will be purchased.
 - ⊕ Justice/Outreach reported that the Little Library has had some use.
 - ⊕ Adult Religious Education reported that on October 10 Donnie Bunch will show a video and then those present will go to Shreiner University.
 - ⊕ Membership reported that the sign for the front of the church will be installed soon.
 - ⊕ Activities & Events reports and excellent game night; November parades in Kerrville and Comfort are planned and November 10 tentative date for Gary's play.
- ⊕ The minister requested a discussion on church service(s) for Christmas. The Board approved that the Christmas church service will be Sunday, December 23 at 5:30pm.
- ⊕ The Palmer Annex was designated as an alcohol-free zone unless a specific event received a waiver.
- ⊕ Reverend Ja's December evaluation was waived as she is retiring.

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

--Meredith Hensley, Board Secretary



Tarot Reading Classes ★ PA Saturdays in October ★ 10am-12pm

Beginning class on tarot reading will be led by church member, Frances Osborne on all Saturdays in October.



UBarU Camp & Retreat Center

2018 Capital Campaign

UBarU is the only Unitarian Universalist camp and retreat center in the central United States south of Minnesota and is just twenty miles west of Kerrville. UBarU has launched a capital campaign for 2018. The previous campaign for a single large project, the Rev. Dwight and Marie Brown Center in 2013 raised over \$600,000, thanks in significant part to the support of the members of First UU Austin. This beautiful facility has hosted nearly a thousand people since opening.

The campaign is structured into three tiers composed of several smaller projects that will be implemented in order of urgency, need and available funding. These three tiers address:

- ⊕ critical infrastructure, including upgrading the septic system(\$60,000) and the water system(\$80,000);
- ⊕ additional public meeting space (enclosing the end of the Brown Center - \$25,000-30,000) and adding a outdoor 100-150 seat amphitheater (\$75-100,000); and
- ⊕ expanded private lodging (\$75,000 each).

Since UBarU receives no outside support from the UUA or other institutional sources they depend almost totally on usage fees and donations for daily maintenance and operations.

For more information please visit www.ubaru.org or contact Board members Michael West, Melanie Walter-Mahoney, Mark Kilpatrick or Derek Howard.

-submitted by church member, Kevin Hartley



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

**7 - Julie Davis
14 - Judy Ashcraft
28 - Amanda & Justin Biemer**

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



**"Saturday Night at 964 Barnett"
Saturday, October 27 - 6:30pm - Palmer Annex
"Death Becomes Her"
(1992 - PG13 - 1hr 44m)**

This is the final movie of 2018! Please bring your favorite **non-alcoholic beverage** and something to complete a meal. A beef entree will be provided.

The key to the meal is ANYTHING WITH A HOLE IN IT. You can be creative and shape it yourself, but there are lots of foods with holes, both tiny and big. Have fun with it and be prepared for lots of laughter, fun and companionship. The chairs are hard so bring a cushion if you would like. Everyone is welcomed, popcorn is provided and doors open at 6pm.

October Movie Description: Goldie Hawn and Meryl Streep run wild in this black comedy that mixes rapier wit with cutting-edge special effects. Insufferably vain, the two "frenemies" discover the secret of eternal youth—and find that it has a few unadvertised drawbacks. Also starring Bruce Willis.



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

President ~ Linda Smith
830.257-2529/ iwasparc1@gmail.com
Vice President ~ Vicki Luther
830.496-3205/ vbluther@twc.com
Secretary ~ Meredith Hensley
830-522-0802/ pmeredithc@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:
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: Open
communication@uuchc.org
Electronic Media (Facebook & web site): Amanda Biemer
Newsletter/Weekly Calendar Update: Susan Lipp