

# OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Newsletter  
September 2018



Woody Woodward (left) of the UU Fellowship discusses a book on Julia Ward Howe with Carolyn Dreyer, new member of the UU Church of the Hill Country. Carolyn will be presenting Howe as part of a service at the Church on Sunday, September 2.



Above from left to right are Aaron Thomas and Mike Burkett, members of the UU Church of the Hill Country, Louise White (Lawrie Nomer's daughter) and Kevin Hartley, member of the UU Church of the Hill Country.

## Unitarian Universalists Enjoy Lunching Together at the YO Branding Iron restaurant in Kerrville on Sunday, August 26

Loads of fun was had by the nearly forty UUs in attendance at the luncheon get together between the UU Fellowship and the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country. Special thanks go to Lawrie Nomer and Louise White from the UU Fellowship for organizing and implementing this memorable day.



Judy Ashcraft (left), member of the UU Church and Lawrie Nomer, member of the UU Fellowship and co-organizer of this event.



Above from left to right are Marie Brown from the UU Church of the Hill Country, Jean Lowry and Ginger Keene of the UU Fellowship, and Karen Burkett from the UU Church of the Hill Country.



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Check out our Facebook page

## FROM YOUR MINISTER...

You may have already heard or read that I will be retiring the end of March, 2019. I am eager to move on and spend time tinkering with my new house and although March seems like a long way off, it really is just around the corner.

I love our little congregation and my decision to leave in March centers around our new Board of Directors. There is a chance that some of the new members might need a bit of getting used to the way our congregation works and I want to stay for the first three months of their new tenure. So, at the end of March I will toss them in the air and make sure they can fly.

I am also working with the current Board as we work out details of my transition and one of the most important things that I have been stressing is transparency. I want the congregation to know and be involved in all of the decisions that are made regarding the Ministry of the congregation. I know that our current Board is as honest and open as they can be, but like me and many of us, sometimes we forget little things like letting the rest of you know. If you hear something that sounds a bit fishy, it probably is. Just stop a Board member or myself and ask as we are the only people who can give you an honest answer because we are the people who are working on the problem and solution.

I will do everything I am able to do to help our congregation and to be sure that the congregation is on the same page, well, as close to the same page as we can be.

Looking forward to the next few months and ready and eager to start the work involved.

With Gratitude, *Reverend Ja*

### September 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



### September Chalice Table Décor

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

2 - Frances Osborne  
 9 - Curtis Overstreet  
 16 - Andy & Laurie Pesez  
 23 - Donna Schloss  
 30 - Linda Smith

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



## CRAFTOPIA

"We Make, We Create, We Donate!"


With a mission to pair our art talent with social justice, the UUHC Activities & Events Committee is forming "Craftopia", a group committed to using handcrafted art to benefit the local community. The group will choose projects to complete and charities to benefit. All arts are welcome and no artistic talent is necessary because we believe that anyone can produce art. Some suggested arts are knitting, sewing, quilting and any other craft that the group chooses to do.

The first meeting of "Craftopia" is Thursday, September 6 from 10am to noon in the Wilma Palmer Annex - 964 Barnett and meetings will be weekly thereafter. For more information contact Frances Osborne 512.468-9542/  
 osborne35@hotmail.com



## September 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 style="margin: 0;"><b>All listed meetings are open and all are welcome to attend.</b></p> <p style="margin: 0; color: red;">Church friends may serve on committees.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">CS: Church Sanctuary      PA: Wilma Palmer Annex</p>						 Circle Supper
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Speaker: Ann Galland. Subject: "Visit from Some Famous UU Women"		Activities & Events Committee meeting: 4pm Cover Floors <small>(1204 Sidney Baker South-Kerrville)                  Contact- Judy Ashcraft 830.896-8319</small>	Committee Chair Council meeting: 5:30pm - PA	Craftopia - "We Make, We Create, We Donate": 10am-12pm - PA ⑤ - See page 2 Choir practice most Thursdays at 3:30pm ④	Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
CAM Sunday ② Service: Rev Ja Rickard. Sermon: "Vision is the Target - The arrow is your life. How is your aim?"	Adult Religious Education program: "Bill Moyers on Faith & Reason": 1-3pm - PA. See page 5. Rosh Hashanah: 10am-CS PFLAG meeting: 7pm-8:30pm - Dietert Center (451 Guadalupe Street). Contact Curtis Overstreet 210.262-8859/ deadeye1961@gmail.com		Women's Connection Lunch: 11:30am-1pm - PA Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All welcomed.	Craftopia: 10am-12pm - PA ⑤ - See page 2		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Hill Country Crisis Council ③ Speaker: Bill Gibson. Subject: TBA Pot Luck Dinner after Service- PA		Last day to submit articles for October's newsletter: <a href="mailto:communication@uuchc.org">communication@uuchc.org</a> Yom Kippur begins at sundown		Craftopia: 10am-12pm - PA ⑤ - See page 2 Habitat for Humanity lunch - 11:30pm	Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①	 "Saturday Night at 964 Barnett" - Game Night -see page 6 First Day of Autumn
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
CAM Sunday ② Special Congregational Meeting after the service. See page 6. Service: Rev Ja Rickard. Sermon: "Covenant is Neither Simple or Easy - How we see each other matters."			Women's Connection Lunch: 11:30am-1pm - PA Justice & Outreach Committee Mtg: 4pm - PA	Craftopia: 10am-12pm - PA ⑤ - See page 2		
30	All Sunday church services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary.					
Speaker: Rev Peter Bauer. Subject: TBA 5th Sunday "Donate the Plate" program featuring PFLAG. See page 4.	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/ 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/ pmeredith@yahoo.com ⑤ Contact: Frances Osborne 512.468-9542/ osborne35@hotmail.com

## Board Meeting of Wednesday, 8/8/18 Condensed Minutes

Board members present were Vicki Luther, Jerry Best 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 with special emphasis on the front-of-church sign; the new windows to be installed as well as methods of fundraising and monies already donated; Special Congregational Meeting scheduled for 9/9\* to focus on upcoming retirement of minister and congregational decisions about church future; UU Fellowship luncheon for the church on 8/26.
  - ⊕ Justice/Outreach reported urgent need for specific food items at Children's Advocacy; Candidate Beto O'Roarke this Sunday at Vet Center; UUCHC carpools.
  - ⊕ Sunday Service reported services planned through mid-September; plans in RE for program for older children starting September; need child care.
  - ⊕ Membership reported meeting for greeters, should have two greeters at each service.
  - ⊕ Activities Committee reported movie night 8/25 with chicken dinner provided; Circle Supper in annex planned for 9/1; Judy presented plans for UUCHC shirts with logo.
  - ⊕ The Minister's discussed her retirement and the transition and search process should the congregation decide to hire a new minister.
  - ⊕ The Board approved donation of \$1,000 to Kerr-Konnect originally scheduled for UU Musicians Conference for Meredith. She was unable to attend.
- For details, see the Binder marked 2017-18 Minutes in the office in the Annex.

\*After the meeting it was decided to shift the Special Congregational Meeting to September 23 because of scheduling conflicts.

--Meredith Hensley, Board Secretary



*Member, Pat Kobe expresses her delight upon meeting 2018 Democratic Candidate for U.S. Senate in Texas, Beto O'Roarke on Sunday, August 5.*



## "Donate the Plate" 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Program

Since there is a fifth Sunday in September, all moneys in the collection plate on Sunday, September 30 that are not designated for the church will be donated to PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays). Those wishing to donate using a tax deductible check, please indicate "Donate the Plate" or "PFLAG" on the "note" line of the check.



Plans are underway to replace 10 sanctuary windows with new, energy efficient, double pane windows. Each window will cost \$500 and donations are needed to make the transition to modernity painless!

Every donation over \$100 will get the donor's name on a plaque on a window. Please submit donations to either Andy Pesez (214.663-2798) or Judy Ashcraft (830.896-8319).



*Volunteers needed to present the curriculum, "Chalice Children". With enough volunteers, each presenter would need only help one Sunday every 6-8 weeks.  
Contact Judy Ashcraft:  
530.896-8319 or Mike Burkett:  
830.895-7076.*



## Getting To Know Us 🎵

**Carolyn Dreyer**  
**New member as of August 12, 2018**

**Carolyn** was born in Massachusetts just two weeks before her father was deployed to the South Pacific during World War II. She stayed with her grandmother until his return. Her parents, Ruth and Charles Holbrook were from Winchendon and Boston, Massachusetts respectively.

Carolyn was raised Protestant and attended the nearest church to where her family lived. Since she lived in many different locations because her father would finish one of his engineering jobs and then move to the next, she attended Congregational, Baptist and Presbyterian churches in Alabama, Tennessee, New York, Massachusetts and more.

She is particularly proud of her two “fabulous” step-daughters/husbands in the Bay Area of California, along with a grandson (Anthony- 18, a freshman Purdue University) and two “gorgeous” granddaughters (Laura- 16, a ballerina who just returned from a month in Taiwan and who speaks Mandarin and is an oboist) and (Tracina- 14, who just returned from international Kung Fu tournament and is a guitarist/singer). Her third granddaughter, Rebecca died at 14 in 2016 of mitochondrial disease. This continues to sadden Carolyn.

She has one sister, Judi who is 4 years younger than her. Judi lives in Knoxville, TN with her husband Gene and 13 of Carolyn’s nieces, nephews, grandnieces and nephews.

After graduating from Michigan State University in 1965 she began an extensive career in marketing, communications, public relations and advertising. Her first job was with Goodyear in their subsidiary “Motor Wheel” (auto wheels/brake drums) as their first female industrial editor. She won the Michigan Industrial Communication award in 1966.

A marriage brought her to California - San Diego and Los Angeles in particular. In 1969 Carolyn joined Phillips-Ramsey Ad Agency San Diego as Senior

Copywriter. Accounts included SDG&E, ZOO/Wild Animal Park, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, Mr Steak restaurants, General Dynamics and more.

After moving to Los Angeles (and commuting to San Diego) she began free-lance career with her own company, Carolyn Augustine Copy/Concepts. She was the Head Researcher/Script Writer for original cable TV show ANIMAL EXPRESS produced in San Diego.

Carolyn has been travelling since she was 12 and has visited 55 different countries and (almost) all 50 states. She notes that she is “supposed to be a travel writer but am too busy DOING it to write about it...”

In 1993 while in Virginia she became a member of a 700-member Unitarian church. When she moved back to San Diego in 1997 she attended UU churches but was not active.

Her friend, Tina Woods lured her to the Hill Country in April, 2016 and soon thereafter, Carolyn started attending the UU Fellowship and Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country. She did so mainly to seek out her “Tribe in this Conservative Wilderness”.

Her reason for joining the church after being a friend for over two years was “the PEOPLE”. She is impressed by “our tiny band of brothers and sisters who contribute SO much to this community and to each other!”

In addition to contributing fully financially to the church, she serves as the liaison to the Hill Country Crisis Council, is a member of the Justice/Outreach committee, cooks meals for Habitat for Humanity, works with the Raices group in the church to assist refugees and is a greeter.

What she would like to see from the church is more spiritual inspiration, more thought-provoking sermons, the “FREEDOM to discuss important issues, including political, OPENLY”.

*Note from the editor, Susan Lipp: I hope now that everyone has a glimmer of insight into Carolyn’s life. In October, we will learn more about Aaron Thomas who became a member of the church on the same day.*

**Adult Religious Education: “Bill Moyers on Faith & Reason” continues on Tuesday, September 10 featuring an interview with Pema Chondron, noted North American Buddhist monk and author. For more info, contact Mary Jones 830.896-9182.**





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

**2 - Julie Davis  
9 - Judy Ashcraft  
23 & 30 - Open**

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



**"Saturday Night at  
964 Barnett"  
Games & Fun on  
Saturday, July 28**

Game night to include board games, card games, and/or dominos. 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'd like). Free Popcorn provided.

Enjoy companionship, laughter and fun. The chairs are hard so bring a cushion if you want. All are welcomed.

**Important DATE!**

**October**

**23:** Special Congregational Meeting after Service

*This is an important meeting to discuss the church's future path. The official notification via email is forthcoming.*



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

**President ~ Linda Smith**

830.257-2529/ [iwasparc1@gmail.com](mailto:iwasparc1@gmail.com)

**Vice President ~ Vicki Luther**

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

**Secretary ~ Meredith Hensley**

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

**Treasurer ~ Jim McMahon**

830-377-9448/ [jjm7125@hotmail.com](mailto:jjm7125@hotmail.com)

**Minister ~ Reverend Ja Rickard**

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

**Member at Large - Jerry Best**

210-633-7553/ [bestjerry@hotmail.com](mailto: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, TXUUJM, 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](mailto:communication@uuchc.org)

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