

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country
Newsletter

August 2019



Enjoying the comfort of new furniture and tasty food are (from left to right) Troy Fannin, Julie Davis and Marie Brown

Open House Cookout at the Parsonage on Saturday, July 20 a Great Success!

Enjoying grilled veggies, beef hotdogs and a large array of sides, desserts and beverages, church members and friends viewed the newly enhanced minister's residence on Saturday, July 20. The enhancements included new carpeting, fresh paint, and new furniture to give the parsonage a fresh new look.



Partaking of a robust array of food are church members (from left to right) Donnie Bunch, Judy Bunch, Don Pyle, Sarah Johanson. Meredith Henslev and Monte Henslev

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Check out our Facebook page



Church Services Detail~ page 2
Monthly calendar~ page 3
Minutes of July Board Meeting~ page 4
Movie Night information ~ page 4
Board Members & Committees~ page 5
25th Anniversary Celebration~ page 5

“Our Church Life” - More Material on Sunday Services in Chronological Date Order...

4 Speaker: Rev. Daniel O’Connell - Topic: “Unitarian Universalists are Good for Nothing”. Orthodox faith insists the fear of eternal damnation and the promise of heaven are the only motivations to turn inveterate sinners into good people. If we don’t act for good out of fear or favor, what drives us?

Rev. O’Connell served as the Senior Minister of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston from 2010-2018. He attended seminary in Chicago and received his Doctorate of Ministry degree in 1996 from Meadville Lombard Theological School and served as minister of UU churches in Connecticut and Missouri before his time in Houston.

11 Speaker: Marie Brown, church member - Topic: “Celebrating the Life & Work of Kenneth Patton”. Patton was a Universalist minister who served an experimental church in Boston at the time of the merger between the Unitarians and Universalists. It is said of him that he was a poet and prophet of the contemporary liberal religion of his time.

Brown has been a member of UUCHC since 2004. She is a former elementary school teacher, mother of four and was married to the Rev. Dwight Brown, a Unitarian Universalist minister for 60 years. She considers herself a Religious Humanist at the moment.

18 Speaker: Jill Wiggins, church member - Topic: “There Are No Rules”. Hear where Jill is going with this rather provocative statement. Are there really no rules? If not, how does society function? If she’s pulling our leg and there really are rules, how do we know which ones have value and which to ignore?

Wiggins and her husband, Gary Payne, have been members of UUCHC for about two years. She is originally from England, grew up in Ohio, and has lived all over the U.S. She co-chairs the Membership Committee with Payne and also serves as board secretary.

Wiggins is retired after 19 years working for the State of Texas in communications and graphic design. She spent 12 years as public information director of the Texas Medical Board.

She now paints, makes art postcards, knits with the Baptist ladies, sings in the Hill Country Chorale, and maintains two blogs, one called "Radical Retirement," and an art blog, "Jillybeanswiggins." She and Gary are also raising Jill's 12-year-old granddaughter, Chloe.

25 Speaker: Vicki Gettman - Topic: “Lead with Your Heart” which describes Gettman’s involvement with the Atheist movement around San Antonio.

Victoria Gettman is a mother of 5 and married over 20 years to Jed Gettman. She retired from the Army after serving 20 years and holds her Master of Science in Health Care Management with a Bachelor of Science in Health Science -Clinical Laboratory Science. She is the Texas Director for the American Atheists, Executive Director for South Texas Atheists for Reason (STAR), Humanist Chaplain with the Humanist Society, the Executive Director of the Atheist/Humanist meeting that is held every Sunday on Lackland Air Force Base for over 1500 trainees/airmen and the founder of Atheists Helping the Homeless San Antonio (AHSA) .

Gettman serves in the following organizations with the following positions:

- Military Religious Freedom Foundation, San Antonio Director of Affairs
- Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers, Joint Base San Antonio Point of Contact

She is also the recipient of the:

- American Humanist Association President’s Award 2016
- Foundation Beyond Belief Outstanding Leader Award 2018
- the American Atheists’ State Director of the year 2018

Her 501(c)3 organization “STAR”, is the recipient of the Foundation Beyond Belief Network’s:

- Heart of Humanism Rookie of the Year- Best New Team-2016
- Heart of Humanism Eat. Sleep. Volunteer.

Repeat Award- most volunteer events in a calendar year- 2017

Gettman has been a guest on several secular podcasts.



August 2019 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 most Thursdays.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>All listed meetings are open and all are welcome to attend. Church friends may serve on committees. CS: Church Sanctuary PA: Wilma Palmer Annex</p>				1	2 Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①	3
4 Speaker: Rev. Daniel O'Connell - Topic: "Unitarian Universalist are Good for Nothing" - see page 2	5	6	7 Committee Chair Council meeting: 5:30pm - PA	8	9	10 
11 Speaker: Marie Brown - Topic: "Celebrating the Life & Work of Kenneth Patton" - see page 2	12	13 Women's Connection "Girl's Night Out": 5:30pm - El Sol de Mexico (1000 Water St, Kerrville)	14 Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA	15	16 Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①	17
18 Hill Country Crisis Council② Speaker: Jill Wiggins - Topic: "There Are No Rules" - see page 2 Last day to submit articles for September newsletter: communication@uuchc.org  Silver Anniversary Pot Luck Dinner after Service- see page 5	19	20 	21	22 Activities & Events Committee meeting: 1pm - C&R Design (1204 Sidney Baker South-Kerrville) Contact- Judy Ashcraft 210.326-0084/ whodit@hotmail.com	23	24  Saturday Night at the Movies - "The Presidio" - see page 4
25 Speaker: Vicki Gettman - Topic: "Lead with Your Heart" - see page 2	26	27 Women's Connection "Girl's Night Out": 5:30pm - Brewdawgz Grille & Ale (2262 Bandera Hwy, Kerrville)	28	29	30  IT'S SUMMER!	31

All Sunday church 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 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

Please note that after some thought and consideration it has been decided that the church will no longer formally support CAM (Christian Assistance Ministry). It is felt that other organizations more closely align with church values and more urgently need our assistance such as Hill Country Crisis Council, Habitat for Humanity, PFLAG and others.

Summary of Wednesday, July 10, 2019 Board Meeting

Present: Board President Jerry Best; Vice President Vicki Luther; Treasurer Judy Bunch; Secretary Jill Wiggins; Member-at-Large Meredith Hensley; Activities & Events Chair Judy Ashcraft and Mike Burkett.

Board meeting minutes from the June 12, 2019 meeting were approved. Bunch presented the financial report which was also approved. She reported staff changes with the current bookkeeping service. There was discussion of changing bookkeeping services or bringing it in-house, as in the past. Judy Bunch and Mike Burkett, prospective Finance Chair, will meet with Judy Ashcraft to discuss options. Judy Bunch also reported that the current bookkeeping firm will provide QuickBook backups.

Search Committee: Meredith Hensley reported that the committee continues to work with the UUA and will begin evaluating prospective candidates in August.

Committee Chair Council report: Hensley reported that some people would like an explanation of chalice table décor. The board consensus was that the display should speak for itself and questions could be directed to the person who decorates the table whose name would be included in the order of service.

Judy Ashcraft reported the following:

- ⊕ Girls' night out and men's lunches are going well;
- ⊕ The next Game Night will be July 20;
- ⊕ Circle Suppers have been suspended temporarily because of the lack of hosts. After discussion, the board decided to suspend Circle Suppers for the remainder of the year and revisit the issue at the end of the year; and
- ⊕ there will be an open house at the Parsonage on July 20 with hot dogs and grilled veggies available and sides provided through potluck. The Board, Activities & Events Committee, and CCC will provide setup and cleanup. Leftovers not taken home will be taken to church and refrigerated for the next day's potluck.

Membership plans to set up an orientation for prospective members (or current members who wish to brush up or learn more) in August. Membership is also recruiting members for a Care Team.

The Board approved Mike Burkett as Finance Chair.

A Nominating Committee Chair is needed; the board discussed the possibility of amending the by-laws to

change current two-year term limits because of the small size of the congregation and limited number of available candidates.

Mike asked if an upcoming Sunday service could include recognition and celebration of the 25th anniversary of the church's founding. A future date will be chosen.

Vicki reported that she has a designer and cost estimate for a stained glass window to honor the memory of Andy Pesez.

Check out full minutes on the bulletin board at the back of sanctuary or in the office in the book marked "Minutes."—Jill Wiggins, Secretary



"Saturday Night at 964 Barnett" Saturday, August 24 - 6:30pm - Palmer Annex Movie Night featuring "The Presidio" (1988 - R - 1hr 36m)

Movie night includes refreshments, prelude, movie, and church members, friends and guests are invited. Participants bring their favorite beverage and snack for themselves or to share. Free popcorn is provided. Doors open at 6pm.

A detective must cooperate with an old rival when he investigates a murder at the Presidio, a military base on San Francisco's perimeter. Meanwhile, the base commander's wild-child daughter becomes an attractive distraction for the detective.

Cast: Sean Connery, Mark Harmon, Meg Ryan, Jack Warden, Mark Blum, Dana Gladstone, Jenette Goldstein, Marvin J. McIntyre Director: Peter Hyams





Thanks to the following people for participating in these important duties for the church. Interested? Please reach out to the contact leaders listed under the table below. You'll be glad you did!

Sunday	Service Associate	Chalice Table	Coffee Hour Treats	Greeters
4	Mike Burkett	Kevin Hartley	tba	Mike Burkett
11	Vicki Luther	Meredith & Monte Hensley	tba	Monte Hensley & Gary Payne
18	Selma Gibson	Sarah Johanson	tba	Marie Brown & Jill Wiggins
25	Steve Galland	Mary Jones	Judy Ashcraft (birthday cake)	Selma Gibson & Susan Lipp

⊕ To be a Service Associate, contact Linda Smith, Vickie Luther or Donna Schloss.

⊕ Chalice Table Decoration is handled by Pat Kobe 830.955-1139/ kobepat313@gmail.com.

⊕ Sign up to provide coffee hour treats on the sheet located on the table to the rear of the sanctuary.

⊕ Greeters are coordinated by Gary Payne 830.890-5378/ garryraypayne209@gmail.com



**Unitarian Universalist
Church of the Hill
Country's
25th Anniversary
Celebration**

**Sunday, August 18
Pot Luck**

The church will provide a roast ham & all are urged to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

The Activities & Events Committee cookbooks are still available for purchase at \$15 each from Judy Ashcraft.



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

President ~ Jerry Best

210-633-7553/ bestjerry@hotmail.com

Vice President ~ Vicki Luther

830.496-3205/ vbluther@twc.com

Secretary - Jill Wiggins

512.965-9947/ jillyrosemary@gmail.com

Treasurer ~ Judy Bunch

830.459-8509/ dbunch@stx.rr.com

Member at Large - Meredith Hensley

830-522-0802/ 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:

Frances Osborne

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

Finance Committee Chair: Mike Burkett

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