

# OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country  
Newsletter

June 2019



Enjoying the Women's Tea Lunch on Sunday, May 12 in the Wilma Palmer Annex are (clockwise from left) Janet Belden, Meredith Hensley, June Hartley, Selma Gibson, Sarah Johanson, Pat Kobe, Ann Galland, Judy Ashcraft and Frances Osborne.



## "Donate the Plate"

On the fifth Sunday of every month with a fifth Sunday, all moneys in the collection plate not designated for the church are donated to a worthy non-profit organization. In June those proceeds will be given to

**Habitat for Humanity.** The church has supported this important organization for many years. Habitat for Humanity partners with people in our community to help them build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Homeowners achieve the strength, stability and independence they need to build a better life for themselves and their families.

**NOTE**→If you wish to make a donation by check to Habitat for Humanity through "Donate the Plate", please make your check out to UUCHC, then write "Donate the Plate" or "Habitat for Humanity" in the check's notation line.



## Making Lunch for the Crew Thursday, June 20 ★ 11:30am ★ Palmer Annex

Assistance is needed in preparing or buying a part of the meal (entrée, salad or vegetable, dessert) and making sure it is delivered to the Habitat for Humanity office at 121 McGinnis Court. As a lunch sponsor for the local Habitat for Humanity organization, the church provides a hot lunch for between 6-15 hardworking volunteer contractors and the families who are buying these homes. June is the last month for providing lunch until September.

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

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Check out our Facebook page



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## "Our Church Life" - More Material on Sunday Services in Chronological Date Order...

**2 Speaker: Steve Brooks - Topic: "Fighting Truth Decay"** - Truth with a capital T used to be a topic for philosophers. But as fake news and alternative facts threaten our democracy, it's become everyone's concern. Veteran journalist Steve Brooks draws on psychology and neuroscience to illuminate how easily we deceive ourselves, and suggests how each of us can put responsibility back in the free search for truth and meaning.

Austin folksinger Steve Brooks is a writer and performer whose creativity points in many directions. His songs have been recorded by more than a dozen folk and Americana artists like Slaid Cleaves, Russell Crowe and Albert & Gage. His two recent CDs, "I'll Take You Home" and "Chasing Grace," have been played on more than 100 folk and Americana stations coast-to-coast. In an earlier incarnation on radio, he was a humorist who wrote a song-a-week for Jim Hightower's nationally-syndicated talk show.

When he's not onstage, you can find him in a pulpit, speaking on topics like "Songwriting as a Spiritual Path" or in a library, introducing kids to classic American folk songs, or flexing his wits as six-time World Pun Champion. If that's not enough, he's been an award-winning journalist for over 25 years. Kick off your shoes and poke around a bit. You'll find plenty to keep you entertained and inspired, and will find out why *Stave Magazine* calls Brooks, "simply the most clever man you'll hear with a guitar."

**9 Speaker: Eric Lane - Topic: "The Greatest Threat to Religious Liberty"**. Eric Lane serves as President of the San Antonio Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. He also serves as Chair of the National Leadership Council at Americans United. Lane has written and published articles and editorials on the subject of liberty of conscience and separation of church and state.

**16 Speaker: Dr. Sheri Philabaum - Topic: "Consent: Myths and Tropes"**. Consent is the word of our times when it comes to sexual relationships. Navigating romantic sexual relationships is complicated by a culture that bombards us with images and plotlines that make a good story but don't work well in real life. Today we look at some dubious myths and tropes perpetuated in media, and how Unitarian Universalist values provide a better blueprint. Note: This sermon contains references to sex, sexuality, and assault; estimated rating: PG-13. Philabaum is a master-level credentialed religious educator serving First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio as Director of

Lifespan Religious Education since 2008. She has worked as a religious educator since 2001 and holds a bachelor's degree in religious studies and a PhD in Renaissance Drama.

**23 Speaker: Jerry Best - Topic: T-Shirt Sunday.** Come learn how the T-shirt became a messenger of our passions, beliefs, belonging and joys and sorrows. Please wear a T-shirt that has meaning to you and be ready to share with everyone. Best is a long-time member and current President of the Board for UUCHC.

**30 Speaker: Michael Wurth - Topic: "The Spirituality of Imperfection: Sagata Thera, Drunken Buddhism, and the Ethical Challenge of a Liberal Faith."** - The Buddha is a spiritual figure of profound importance. But it is too tempting to think of him as perfect; it is more difficult to imagine him as his own Buddha-in-training. (If he emerged in the days of Twitter, who knows who he might have had to become.)

Fortunately, we do have some idea. There is a story from the Pali Canon about one of his attendants, Sagata Thera, a man gifted with powers of concentration and a remarkable power of will. What happens when those powers encounter moonshine is one of those stories that may help us see not only the value of moving past imperfection, but celebrating what it teaches us.

Wurth is a Nationally Board Certified Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor. He is a Unitarian by upbringing, Buddhist by habit, and father of three children: Matthew, Kathryn, and Aubrey. Wurth holds a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology, a Master of Arts in Comparative Literature, and several Putt-Putt trophies from the 1970s.

He has worked as a college instructor of logic and critical thinking, stockbroker, technical analyst, translator, English instructor abroad, script doctor for Warner Brothers and 20th Century Fox, and an independent filmmaker and producer. Wurth has written and produced two award-winning features, five short films, and over 40 broadcast commercials. He is a member of the private practice Balanced Counseling of San Antonio, Texas, and the founder of Manbrain Inc., a company which designs and installs mindfulness-informed therapeutic programs for addiction treatment centers.

# June 2019 Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Calendar

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p><b>All meetings listed are open and everyone is welcome to attend.</b></p> <p>CS: Church Sanctuary</p>						 <p>UUCHC 2020 Planning Session: 10am-3pm - UU Fellowship</p>
<p>Speaker: Steve Brooks - Talk: "Fighting Truth Decay" - see page 2</p>			<p>Committee Chair Council meeting: 5:30pm - PA.</p>		<p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①</p>	
<p>CAM Sunday②</p> <p>Speaker: Eric Lane - Talk: "The Greatest Threat to Religious Liberty" - see page 2</p>	<p>PFLAG meeting: 7pm-8:30pm - PA. Contact Curtis Overstreet 210.262-8859/ deadeye1961@gmail.com</p>	<p>Women's Connection 5:30pm - Bill's BBQ (1909 Junction Hwy, Kerrville)</p>	<p>Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA</p>		 <p>Flag Day</p>	
<p>Hill Country Crisis Council③</p> <p>Speaker: Dr Sheri Philabaum - Talk: "Consent: Myths &amp; Tropes" - see page 2</p> <p>★ Congregational Meeting immediately following the service.</p> 	<p>Small Group Ministry Heart to Heart begins: 7pm - PA</p>	<p>Last day to submit articles for July's newsletter: communication @uuchc.org</p>		 <p>Habitat for Humanity lunch - 11:30pm - see page 1</p>	<p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①</p>  <p>1st Day of Summer</p>	 <p>"Saturday Night at 964 Barnett" - Game Night - see page 4</p>
<p>Pot Luck after Service- PA</p> <p>CAM Sunday②</p> <p>Speaker: Jerry Best, church member &amp; board president - Program: T-shirt Sunday - see page 2</p> 		<p>Women's Connection: 5:30pm - Carmine's Italian (1170 Sidney Baker South)</p>		<p>Activities &amp; Events Committee meeting: 1pm - C&amp;R Design (1204 Sidney Baker South-Kerrville) Contact- Judy Ashcraft 210.326-0084/ whodit@hotmail.com</p>		 <p>Circle Supper see below</p>
<p>Speaker: Michael Wurth - Talk: "The Spirituality of Imperfection: Sagata Thera, Drunen Buddhism, and the Ethical Challenge of a Liberal Faith" - see page 2</p> <p>Free Speech Café after service: PA - light lunch</p> <p>5th Sunday "Donate the Plate" program featuring Habitat for Humanity - see page 1</p>	<p><b>All Sunday church services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary.</b></p> <p>① There will be news, views, and thought provoking discussion. Guys, bring a sandwich or gourmet repast as you wish. Contact: Steve Galland 830.634-7668/sagalland143@gmail.com</p> <p>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</p> <p>③ Hill Country Crisis Center Sundays are held monthly on 3rd Sundays 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</p> <p>If you are interested in participating in Circle Supper, please enroll on the sheet found on the table at the back of the Church Sanctuary.</p>					

## Summary of Wednesday, May 8, 2019 Board Meeting

**Present:** Board President Jerry Best; Vice President Vicki Luther; Treasurer Judy Bunch; Secretary Jill Wiggins; Member-at-Large Meredith Hensley; Activities and Events Chair Judy Ashcraft and Linda Smith representing the Adult Religious Education Committee.

Board meeting minutes from the April 10, 2019, meeting were approved. Approval of the April financial report was postponed due to delays in receipt of the report. Given issues with the current bookkeepers, it was suggested that we get a bid from Judy Bunch's firm, Douville Goldman Associates.

Committee Chair Council report: Meredith reported that only she, Judy Ashcraft and Linda Smith attended the meeting. Linda reported that there will be Adult R.E. May 13, with Kevin Hartley speaking on Bear Ears National Monument. Adult R.E. committee will meet May 14, and Free Speech cafe will be May 26. Judy Ashcraft announced upcoming activities, including the women's lunch and tea on Mother's Day, men's fellowship, girls' night out, upcoming movie night and circle suppers. The June potluck will be Father's Day. She said the cookbook was proofed and ready to go to the printer and a motion was approved to cover printing costs for the cookbook and for Judy Ashcraft to set the price.

In old businesses, Vicki said she would call everyone who is to participate in the Leadership Retreat June 1.

Linda provided an update on the web page revisions. It was agreed that if Justin Biemer is unable to complete the revisions in a reasonable time it may be necessary to pay someone because of the urgency of having a strong web page while we are in ministerial search.

Jerry reported the cost of parsonage upgrades and repairs was \$4,100, within the estimate of \$5,000. Vicki volunteered to paint the bathroom. It was suggested an open house be held when the parsonage is ready.

A motion was approved to appoint Frances Osborn as Social Justice Chair. Vicki suggested that, given Frances' departure from the search committee and Andy Pesez's illness, rotating conveners be used for search committee meetings. The committee's next phase will be assessing applications.

Check out full minutes on 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, April 27 ★ 6:30pm Wilma Palmer Annex GAME NIGHT

Bring your favorite game (board, card, domino, word) or come learn a new one. Free pizza will be provided, meat and vegetarian. Bring your favorite beverage and any snacks you want to share. Please remember, that all church sponsored activities and meetings are alcohol free. If you still wish to bring adult beverages, they are NOT to share; and you are asked to keep it under wraps. Please take any leftovers home. Contact: Judy Ashcraft 830.896-8319/ [whodit@hotmail.com](mailto:whodit@hotmail.com)

### Andy Pesez

It is with **great sadness** that we announce the death of our beloved Andy Pesez. Andy accomplished the many roles in his life well: husband, father, friend and colleague in church leadership. His sense of humor, dedication to our church in his Finance and Facilities roles, serving as KerrKonnnect driver (by providing the most rides to our community from October to April), his support of friends in recovery, and his providing of wise informal guidance to those who needed someone to listen are to be acknowledged and celebrated. At this time, his family plans no service. Church leadership will discuss ways our congregation can honor him at the Board Retreat. However, we will also extend time to those who want to express their remembrance of him during "Joys and Concerns" on Sunday.  
**Thank you, Andy. You made a difference in this life for so many.**



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
2	June Hartley	Trudy Boardman	Julie Davis	Mike Burkett
9	Justin Biemer	Marie Brown	Amanda & Justin Biemer	Monte Hensley & Gary Payne
16	Mike Burkett	Judy & Donnie Bunch	Susan Lipp & James Boyles	Marie Brown & Jill Wiggins
23	Ann Galland	Karen & Mike Burkett	Marie Brown	Selma Gibson & Susan Lipp
30	Linda Smith	Sherry Curry	Happy Birthday Cake (Judy Ashcraft)	Jill Wiggins & Carolyn Dreyer

- ☉ 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](mailto: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/ [garyraypayne209@gmail.com](mailto:garyraypayne209@gmail.com)



The Activities & Events Committee cookbook is completed and ready for purchase at \$15 each. There are wonderful contributions and the book is expandable. All recipe contributors will receive a free copy. See Judy Ashcraft for yours.



## 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)

**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, TXUJUM, PFLAG,  
Hill Country Crisis Center, Habitat for Humanity,  
Transportation Planning Council, Texas IMPACT

**Finance Committee Chair: Position Open**

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