



OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Newsletter

March 2017



Church Friend, Carolyn Dreyer is now the Church's Hill Country Crisis Center (formerly called "Hill Country Cares") Liaison. On the third Sunday of each month, she will gather the donations of paper products and full sized baby shampoo for this Church-supported group.

The newest addition to the church's ongoing donation program, Hill Country Crisis Center, serves five counties and not only provides a safe place for women and children fleeing life-threatening danger of domestic violence, but also offers legal aid, counseling, and forensic investigation for abuse cases.

In 2016, Hill Country Crisis Council served 1030 clients; handled 48 cases of else abuse, aided 299 children and provided 1800 shelter nights for clients. As with CAM, there is a special box placed in the rear of the Church Sanctuary to place donations.

In addition to the aforementioned groups, periodically members of this Justice & Outreach Committee sponsor special collections for La Casa de RAICES (Refugee And Immigrant Center for Education and legal Services).

The Justice & Outreach Committee is actively looking for more members and will begin regularly meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month at 2:30 pm in the Palmer Annex. Please contact Committee Chair, Karen Burkett 830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net for more information.

👉 **Thanks to those who participated in the Women's Connection. Due to scheduling conflicts, this group has currently stopped meeting. Questions? Please contact Judy Ashcraft: 830.896-8319.**

Justice & Outreach Committee Coordinates Support for Area Organizations

The Justice & Outreach Committee oversees the church's regular annual donations to Texas UU Justice Ministry (TXUUJM), Texas Interfaith Impact, Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM), Habitat for Humanity, Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG), and the Women's Shelter of Hill Country Crisis Center (formerly Hill Country Cares).

Liaisons for the groups are Susan Lipp (C.A.M.), Carolyn Dreyer (Hill Country Crisis Center), and Curtiss Overstreet (PFLAG). There is a need for someone to work with Habitat for Humanity. This liaison would learn about Habitat for Humanity, share information with the congregation, collect needed items for them when appropriate, receive the Donate the Plate gift from the church treasurer and deliver it to a representative of the organization.

In addition, these and other Kerrville community organizations receive an additional monetary gift made possible by the church's "Donate the Plate" program on fifth Sundays.



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Email: churchofthehillcountry@uuchc.org
Check out our Facebook page

FROM YOUR MINISTER...

Greetings!

This month our Board had its yearly retreat. Beyond the peaceful and quiet setting, wonderful food, and Natalie Briscoe to guide us; the focal point of the retreat was that our Board and Committee Chairs came together for a day of learning, brainstorming and being.

One of the things that we spoke about was our membership numbers. In the past few years we have started to dwindle due to various reasons; members have passed on, some have moved away and others have found new church homes they feel are a better fit for them. We all feel the loss of those who have passed on or moved away. It is hard to lose members who have become our friends, participated in our Sunday services, pot lucks and other functions of the congregation. We feel that loss but we are still here with those who remain.

Members who have found another church home are also missed and many of them are still community members and we have the ability to keep in touch. As your Minister I am saddened by people who find another church home and pray that they find the right fit for them as not everyone is cut out to be a Unitarian Universalist. Some people need more structure and dogma in their spiritual lives. My hope is that they find a fit and that their new church home is filled with love and kindness.

This brings me to the dwindling of it of our membership. I listened as we spoke about bringing in new members and heard several comments about how there are not many liberals in Kerrville. UUCHC started with 12 members, an old house and a lot of courage. I am not sure that when we became a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association in 2002, there were more liberals in town or if we tried harder to find them. I feel there is the same number of liberals (or more) and I, along with the rest of the denomination, feel that they need us right now.

We, as the people you voted to be your Board members and that you trust to head your committees, will begin working to strengthen the bonds that hold us together, to understand why we come here every Sunday and other days and to strengthen our infrastructure so that we can get back to the spirit of the 12 people who began this congregation and to live up to our mission of creating a space for liberals in the Hill Country.

This is going to be a very exciting time to be a member or a friend of this congregation. If you should happen to run into someone with liberal values invite them to visit with us and many they will come along for the ride.

With Gratitude,

Reverend Ja



March Chalice Table Décor

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

5 - Pat & Dave Kobe
12 - June & Kevin Hartley
19 - Vicki Luther
26 - Jim & Diane McMahon

For more information
about Chalice Table décor,
please contact Shari Gore 830.367-3142.



'Let's Go Fly a Kite'
Spring Picnic in the Park
Saturday, March 18: 11am-3pm
Louise Hays Park (off Thompson Drive)

Everyone is urged to bring their own favorite non-mechanical flying thing. Don't have a kite? There will be some to borrow (bring your own tail). Don't feel up to flying a kite? Enjoy helicopters, bubbles, and glider planes. Guests are welcomed for sunshine and fun while sharing public spirit. Bring a own picnic lunch, seats & beverages. Ice will be provided.



"Saturday Night at the Movies" Returns
Palmer Annex - 964 Barnett Street - 6:30pm
4th Saturday, monthly from March - October

Church members, friends and guests are invited to enjoy watching comedies, dramas, musicals; more. Each movie night includes a prelude, refreshments, movie, and lots of companionship and fun. Participants bring their favorite beverage and snack for themselves or to share. Popcorn is provided. Some find the chairs are hard so bringing a cushion is suggested. 6:35pm prelude: 'The Vicar of Dibley' series; 7pm movie starts. March 25 movie is "Monty Python's Life of Brian" (rated R).

April 2017 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 Thursdays.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p style="text-align: center;">CS: Church Sanctuary</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PA: Palmer Annex</p> 			<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ash Wednesday</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>Choir Practice: 3:30-5pm - CS - Subject to change. ④</p> <hr/> <p>Activities & Events Committee Meeting (open): 5:30pm - PA</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ☎</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>Service: Rev. Ja Rickard - Sermon: "What Will You Do With Your One Wild and Precious Life?" - We are changing our clocks next week, time is moving on, what will we do?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Welcoming Congregation" Class (#3 of 3): 1-3pm - PA.</p> <hr/> <p>PFLAG Meeting: 7pm- 8:30pm - The Unity Church, (corner Tivy & Jefferson Streets). For more information about PFLAG, contact Curtis Overstreet 210.262-8859/ mrclo61@yahoo.com</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All are welcomed.</p> <hr/> <p>Last day to sign up to participate in Circle Suppers</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>Choir Practice: 3:30-5pm - CS - Subject to change. ④</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">← Circle Suppers →</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>CAM Sunday ② Speaker: Mary Grace Antony, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at Schreiner University - Topic: "Intercultural Dialogue and Cultural Adaptation"</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Ahead)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>Life Span Learning (#1 of 2) - "Mormonism": 1- 3pm - PA. Led by Rev. Ja Rickard.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>Choir Practice: 3:30-5pm - CS - Subject to change. ④</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ① ☐</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">St. Patrick's Day </p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">'Let's Go Fly A Kite' Spring Picnic in the Park - 11am-3pm. See page 2.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Last day to submit articles for next month's newsletter - communication@uuchc.org</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>Hill Country Crisis Center ③ Service: Cathy Marston, President of "Free Battered Texas Women" - Topic: TBA</p> <hr/> <p>☎ Pot Luck Dinner after the Service - PA</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Day of Spring </p> <p>Life Span Learning (#2 of 2) - "Mormonism": 1- 3pm - PA. Led by Rev. Ja Rickard.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">World Water Day </p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>Choir Practice: 3:30-5pm - CS - Subject to change. ④</p> <hr/> <p>Justice & Outreach Committee Meeting: 2:30pm - PA</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>Saturday Night at the Movies. See page 2.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>CAM Sunday ② Service: Rev. Ja Rickard - Sermon: "Justice Sunday" - Talks about the justice work our congregation does.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>Choir Practice: 3:30-5pm - CS - Subject to change. ④</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p>	

All Sunday church services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary.

④ 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

☎ Contact: Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ pmredithc@yahoo.com



GETTING TO KNOW YOU Profiles of Our Church Family

From a 2017 Interview with
Meredith Henslev

Laurie was born in Providence, Rhode Island, and grew up in upstate New York in the Rochester area.

After graduating from State University of New York at Albany with degrees in English and French, Laurie volunteered for the Peace Corps. As her two-year destination was Malaysia, she first spent several months in Hawaii for intensive language training by native Malay speakers as well as classes in the history of the area and in teaching English as a Second Language. In addition to Malay, other languages are also spoken in Malaysia, including various dialects of Chinese.

When her training was complete, Laurie was sent to the small island of Labuan in the State of Sabah, Malaysia to teach English in the Chinese school system. After a year in Labuan, she was transferred to Tawau, a larger town on the coast of Sabah. There she worked as a supervisor of local teachers of English, traveling by motorbike to visit several different schools.

Despite the popular image of the hardships endured by Peace Corps volunteers, Laurie's postings were both fairly comfortable, with running (cold) water and electricity. The small wood houses were very simply furnished, and in Labuan all cooking was done on a kerosene stove. There were, however, no 'frills' like telephone, television or air conditioning.

After completing her two-year service, Laurie and her friend Judy spent three months traveling home, with stops in Thailand, Cambodia, Japan, The Philippines, Hong Kong, and several European countries including Germany, where she visited relatives.

Upon returning to the U.S., Laurie continued her teaching career as well as doing graduate work at Bread Loaf School of English, part of Middlebury College in Vermont. There she met

and became friends with Mary Pesez, who later introduced her to her cousin Andy; a year later Laurie and Andy were married. In 1972 their daughter Michelle was born, followed in 1975 by their son Andre (named after his father). When Andre was three years old, Laurie returned to teaching.

Andy was working for General Electric and, in the following few years, they were transferred to Georgia, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and back to upstate New York. In 1979 Andy was offered a position with another company with the opportunity to move to the Houston area. They lived there (in the Spring area) for fifteen years. During that time Laurie taught English and French at the high school level.

In the mid 90's, while attending their daughter's graduation from Trinity University, they met a couple from Kerrville with whom they would become friends. Laurie had been considering retiring from teaching and, as Andy would be able to continue his work from an area other than Houston, they decided to move to Kerrville.

Laurie had met June Hartley while teaching ESL classes and also attending yoga classes and June would occasionally talk about the UU Church. Andy and Laurie began visiting and eventually joined our church. In addition to her service as Secretary of the Board, she is also a member of the Adult RE committee.

In her years in Kerrville Laurie has volunteered for a number of groups, including Riverside Nature Center, Friends of the Library and CAM. She has also taken and taught a number of Adult ED classes. She is an active member of AAUW, Story Circle, and the Fourth Wednesday Book Group, which she founded in 1995. Her interests include yoga, writing and knitting; however, her primary passion is reading, and she tries to spend time every day with a good book.

We value your years of community service, Laurie, as well as your services to our Church. And we appreciate your generosity with your smile and with your words of appreciation and encouragement. We are so happy you are part of our Church family.

~Meredith Hensley



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

**5 - Marie Brown
12 - TBA
26 - Judy Ashcraft**

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



UBarU Camp & Retreat Center

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. To register for the following events go to www.ubaru.org under the "events" tab:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| ⊕ March 31 - April 2 | Men's' Retreat |
| ⊕ April 28 - 30 | Women's Retreat |
| ⊕ May 26 - 28 | Family Camp |
| ⊕ June 11 - July 15 | Summer Camps |



**TXUUJM Shines Light at the Texas Capitol
with 240 strong!!**

Here is a pic of UUs from across the state singing in the open air rotunda on Wednesday, February 15. A Texas state trooper told Erin Walter after hearing the singing, "Was that y'all singing down there in the rotunda? You sounded so good; you made the sun come out. You gotta sing more."

Sing your song and let your light shine!

Soulfully, Chuck Freeman, Executive Director TXUUJM



Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Board Members for 2017

- President ~ Linda Smith**
830.257-2529/ iwasparc1@gmail.com
Vice President ~ Mike Burkett
830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net
Secretary ~ Laurie Pesez
830.895-4764/ lpesez@stx.rr.com
Treasurer ~ Jim McMahon
830-377-9448/ jjm7125@hotmail.com
Minister ~ Reverend Ja Rickard
262.237-0634/ minister@uuchc.org

Spiritual Development Committee Chair: Mike Burkett

Lifespan Development, Free Speech Café, Wayside Pulpit, Coffee Set-Up, Music/Choir, Greeters, Order of Service, Chalice Table, Service Schedule/Associates

Membership Committee Chair: Curtis Overstreet

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: Joyce Randle

communication@uuchc.org

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