

# OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country  
Newsletter

September 2019



Above (from left to right) are Selma Gibson (at podium), church founder, Joyce Randle being presented with a silver necklace by Judy Ashcraft, Jill Wiggins (between Randle & Ashcraft) and founder, Steve Galland. (Founder, Ann Galland not present.)

In addition to the honoring of founders Joyce Randall, Steve and Ann Galland, great stories about fundraising with clown performances, listing dogs as members and making a rat infested, floorless hovel into our current sanctuary were shared and celebrated.



Above is Sarah Johanson who decorated the Chalice Table for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Johanson painted 25 stones silver and put "our" little church on a silver rock foundation.

**25<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary is Reason  
To Celebrate on Sunday, August 18!**

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country  
960 Barnett Street  
Kerrville, TX 78028-4667  
830.792-3626

[www.uuchc.org](http://www.uuchc.org)  
Email: [churchofthehillcountry@uuchc.org](mailto:churchofthehillcountry@uuchc.org)  
Check out our Facebook page



Church Service Detail~ pages 2 & 5  
Monthly calendar~ page 3  
Minutes of August Board Meeting~ page 4  
Movie Night information~ page 4  
New! UUA "Common Read" book~ page 5  
Donate the Plate~ page 5  
New Member Service~ page 6  
Board Members & Committees~ page 6

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

- 1 Speaker: Sandra Lane, Church Member - Topic: “History of the Labor Movement and UU’s Support; History and present condition of the labor movement from a UU perspective with excerpts from talks and actions at various UU Churches”.** The talk will also address the contributions of UU songwriter and activist Malvina Reynolds and her family who were labor organizers with Lane singing a couple of Reynolds’ songs.
- Lane is a freelance writer and amateur musician who was a UU before moving to Kerrville in 2013. She was a coordinator for a UU Coffeehouse in Carrollton, TX, a member of the Dallas Folk Music Society and presented programs on the History of American Folk Music. Sandra earned a B.S. degree in Journalism from the University of North Texas, Denton.
- 8 Speaker: Carolyn Dreyer, church member - Topic: “U? U/UU? WHO YOU?”** American Unitarians and Universalists merged in 1961, a marriage that was both damned and lauded - a not so surprising reaction since they represent two different, if not opposite, approaches to non-trinitarian, liberal religious practice. What were/are those differences? How have these opposites attracted to create a vibrant community of faith? Rev. Chris Buice of the Tennessee Valley UU Church compares Unitarians and Universalists to cats and dogs - and explains how they can live as peaceable together as our family pets do.
- After a Protestant-church-hopping childhood, Dreyer discovered UUism in 1965 when she married into a wildly Unitarian family. She didn't become an official UU until 1968 when she joined the 700+-member UU Church in Arlington, VA. She became an active volunteer in their social justice and outreach programs and continued that commitment in San Diego, CA and brought it to UUCHC when she moved to Kerrville in 2016. She began her "professional volunteer" career after 25 years in advertising/marketing and is involved with KerrKonnnect, HCCC, Habitat for Humanity, Freeman-Fritts Animal Shelter, League of Women Voters, TX Democratic Women, and the HC Archeological Association among others. She is the devoted servant of 'Felix' and 'Minnie', sibling rescue cats who are both Unitarian AND Universalists.
- 15 Speaker: Lee Legault, UU ministerial aspirant - Topic: “Stoic Spiritual Survival”.** Stoics were warriors of the mind who trained to build unbreakable will and character. Roman emperors and Vietnam POWs alike have dealt with challenges using Stoic

techniques. What might we learn about surviving in this day and age from the ancient mindset of the Stoics? Are your habits helping you build your Inner Citadel, and do you even want one??

Legault is a UU ministerial aspirant working on a dual master’s degree in social work at the University of Texas Austin and the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She practiced law in the areas of civil litigation and appeals for fifteen years before answering her calling to be a different kind of counselor.

- 22 Speaker: Mindy Wendele, Executive Director, Families in Literacy - Topic: “Adult Literacy”.**

A native of Kerrville, Wendele has been involved in Kerr County leadership roles for many years. She studied at Schreiner College, Angelo State University, and is a graduate of the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma. Mindy has served on the Kerrville City Council, is a trustee for the Community Foundation of the TX Hill Country and the Peterson Health Foundation Board. She is a member of many other prominent civic organizations and has been a small business owner. Married to Chief Raymond Holloway, retired, she has one daughter, Meredith and a grandson, Foster.

- 29 Speaker: Rev. Mark Skrabacz (UU) - Sermon: “UU Emergence”.** Skrabacz will address the process of emergence, which can be comprised of three steps: 1. Letting go, 2. Accepting the present moment, and 3. Moving across the threshold into something new. Look at just one phase of this process briefly - letting go. Five billion years of evolution have ensured that although it's well and good just to “be here now,” our primate and primal ancestors who did that got eaten. The ones who escaped, hunted, thrived and reproduced are the ones who were not satisfied with the present moment. They were the ones who developed keen senses of desire and aversion. We are the heirs of five billion years of that kind of paying attention. The survival of the fittest is the ability to adapt, which involves a lot of movement, processing and letting go. In this service, Mark will share how our UU Faith has grown as a result of processes of Emergence.

- Continued on Page 5 - Skrabacz’ bio) -

## September 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><b>All listed meetings are open and all are welcome to attend.</b>                      All Sunday church services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary.                      Church friends may serve on committees.                      CS: Church Sanctuary      PA: Wilma Palmer Annex</p>						
1	<b>Holiday</b> 	2	3	4	5	6
Speaker: Sandra Lane, Church Member - Topic: "History of the Labor Movement & UU's Support" - see page 2				Committee Chair Council meeting: 5:30pm - PA		Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA <sup>①</sup>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Speaker: Carolyn Dreyer - Topic: "U? U/UU? WHO YOU?" - see page 2 - <b>Everyone is urged to bring framed pics of their cats &amp; dogs to adorn the Chalice Table!</b> 	PFLAG meeting: 7pm-8:30pm - PA. Contact Curtis Overstreet 210.262-8859/ deadeye1961@ gmail.com	Women's Connection "Girl's Night Out": 5:30pm - Broken Stone Pizza Co. (809 Sidney Baker Street, Kerrville) Adult Religious Education Committee Meeting: 1:30pm	Patriot Day  Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Hill Country Crisis Council <sup>②</sup> Speaker: Lee Legault - Topic: "Spiritual Survival" - see page 2 New Member Service - see page 4 Special Member Meeting after the service - see page 6 Pot Luck Dinner after Service- PA	 <b>First Day of Autumn</b>		 Last day to submit articles for October's newsletter: <a href="mailto:n@uuchc.org">n@uuchc.org</a>	 Kick off for Habitat for Humanity lunches - see page 5	Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA <sup>①</sup>	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Speaker: Mindy Wendele, Executive Director, Families in Literacy - Topic: "Adult Literacy" - see page 2 		Women's Connection "Girl's Night Out": 5:30pm - Sake Home Cooking & Sushi Bar (845 Junction Hwy, Kerrville)		Activities & Events Committee meeting: 1pm - C&R Design (1204 Sidney Baker South-Kerrville) Contact: Judy Ashcraft 210.326-0084/		 "Saturday Night at 964 Barnett" - Movie Night - see page 4
29	30					
Speaker: Rev Mark Skrabcz - Sermon: "UU Emergence" - see page 2 & 5 Free Speech Café after service - PA Rosh Hashanah begins 5th Sunday "Donate the Plate" program featuring KerrKonnct. See page 5.	Heart to Heart book organizational meeting: 6:30pm - PA (Contact is Vicki Luther)	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/sagalland143@gmail.com ② Hill Country Crisis Council 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 Linda Smith.

Vicki Luther presided and read the covenant.

Board meeting minutes from the July 10, 2019 meeting were approved. Bunch presented the financial report which was also approved. She reported receipt of the insurance check for the repair of the parsonage roof.

Committee Chair Council report: Hensley requested a discussion of whether to hire someone for child care during Sunday services. After discussion, the board postponed a decision.

Activities & Events Committee report: Ashcraft reported that attendance at girls' night out and men's lunches were increasing. She also reported on upcoming events.

Social Justice Committee report: the committee has met and is looking into working with the Kerrville Public School Foundation. Chair Frances Osborne has asked for permission to send out "blast" emails regarding important social justice issues. The board requested further information, such as whether the issue was emerging and if it was necessary to reach members before the next Sunday service. The board supports the idea but agreed it needs to be part of a Social Justice Committee plan.

Finance Committee: Mike Burkett has informed Meredith that a preliminary budget will be ready for a board work session by November.

Membership: Steve Galland reported on the recent prospective member orientation.

New Business: Ashcraft reported that Frances Osborne has closed her food truck and offered to donate the inventory of various meat products to the church for a fundraiser. The board discussed options on how best to take advantage of the offer.

Linda Smith explained that because of term limits in the bylaws, board appointments and a shortage of personnel to fill positions we are in violation of the bylaws. She submitted proposed revisions, and a motion was approved to accept an option that will conform to current practice. A special congregational meeting was tentatively scheduled for after church on Sunday, September 15, to approve the bylaw revisions.

Appointments: The board approved the appointment of Linda Smith to fill a vacancy on the Search Committee and Steve Galland as Membership Chair.

Vicki reported she has several designs for a memorial stained glass window that she will provide to the board. The board also agreed to move the banners depicting religious symbols to the wall behind the piano; move the wood sculptures in that space to the annex; and have a copy of the church's mission statement posted on the wall behind the podium.

Vicki also requested thoughts about whether to have a service Christmas Eve.

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, Sept 28 - 6:30pm - Palmer Annex**  
**Movie Night featuring**  
**"A Prairie Home Companion"**  
**(2006 - PG-13 - 1hr 46m)**

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 quirky piece of fiction based on the real-life radio program of the same name, with a wry screenplay penned by the show's host, Garrison Keillor, who also stars. Fueled by a high-powered cast that includes Meryl Streep, Lily Tomlin, Lindsay Lohan, John C. Reilly, Tommy Lee Jones and Kevin Kline, the film takes a behind-the-scenes look at the mayhem surrounding the folksy program's final broadcast.*

**4 New Members will be added to the  
Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill  
Country on Saturday, September 15!**

**Bridget Ellison ★ Bryan Bristol  
Janet Belden ★ John Ellison**

**Continuation of Page 2 “Our Church Life” - More Material on Sunday Services in Chronological Date Order - September 29 Mark Skrabacz' bio**

Rev Mark Skrabacz; Demonstrating his own emergent evolution, Mark earned a BA in Speech and Drama from the University of Notre Dame and an MDiv from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley. After working in service jobs for 15 years as a student, Mark was a professional leader for 15 years in the oil and gas industry, and then director of social service, educational and environmental non-profit organizations for another 15 years. Mark was ordained as a UU minister at the UU Church of the Hill Country on October 4, 2009, and installed as minister, where he served for 5 years. He has served on numerous Boards including that of UBarU where he led the semi-annual Men's Retreats for 11 years. He is a Minister in Final Fellowship with the UUA and recently retired after 7 years of service as minister for San Gabriel UU Fellowship in Georgetown. Married to Carolyn, a retired Environmental Attorney, together they love to orchestrate conscious change in community, be with people and facilitate groups, study history, exercise, hike, read and write, enjoy music, dancing and singing. They also enjoy cooking, traveling and working in the garden.



**“Donate the Plate”  
Sunday, September 29**

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 September those proceeds will be given to **Kerr Konnect**, a church supported nonprofit group which has the mission statement; “Connecting the Kerrville area community by providing safe and reliable transportation that will help maintain independence and enhance quality of life”.

NOTE→if you wish to make a donation by check to Kerr Konnect through “Donate the Plate”, please make your check out to UUCHC, then write “Donate the Plate” or “Kerr Konnect” in the check's notation line.



**Making Lunch for the Crew  
Thursday, Sept 19 ★ 11:30am ★ Palmer Annex**

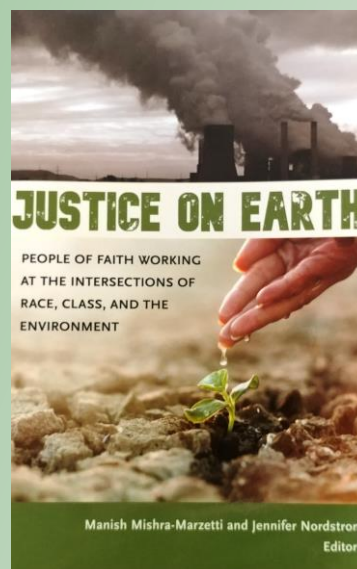
The house building is continuing and the church will be providing a meal hot lunch for between 6-15 hardworking volunteer contractors and the families who are buying these homes. This event marks the kick off for this monthly program which will continue through May 2020. Please choose a month to help!

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.

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



**UUA Common Read**



*This book is available for purchase (only \$18) from Mary Jones before or after Sunday services in September or call her (512.809-5671) to reserve a copy. If you prefer an electronic copy, Amazon sells the eBook. There will be a sign up sheet on the table at the back of the sanctuary.*

At a time when racial, environmental, and economic justice are seen as issues competing for time, attention, and resources, Justice on Earth explores the ways in which the three are intertwined. It asks us to recognize that our faith calls us to long-haul work for justice for our human kin, for the Earth, and for all life. It invites us to look at our current challenges through a variety of different perspectives, offers tools to equip us for sustained engagement, and proposes multiple pathways for follow up action.



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
1	Mike Burkett	Pat & Dave Kobe	Julie Davis	Mike Burkett
8	Susan Lipp	Carolyn Dreyer See Calendar	Karen & Mike Burkett	Monte Hensley
15	Selma Gibson	Sandra Lane	Sarah Johanson	Marie Brown & Jill Wiggins
22	Vicki Luther	Vicki Luther	?	Selma Gibson
29	Frances Osborne	Frances Osborne	Judy Ashcraft (birthday cake)	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 Steve Galland 830.634-7668/ [sagalland143@gmail.com](mailto:sagalland143@gmail.com)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### Sunday, September 15 Special Church Member Meeting After the Service

This meeting will be brief; however, Church members need to attend to an important issue regarding the Bylaws.



### 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: Steve Galland**  
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](mailto:communication@uuchc.org)  
Electronic Media (Facebook & web site): Amanda Biemer  
Newsletter/Weekly Calendar Update: Susan Lipp