



OUR CHURCH LIFE



CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY 2014

May 2 Friday 11:30am; Men's Fellowship Lunch in the Annex

May 3 Saturday 7:00pm; PFLAG 5th Anniversary Celebration (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) at The Gathering next door to Grape Juice. Come support this non-profit social action organization that our Church has helped sustain into its 5th year and meet some Millennials.

May 4 Sunday 10:00am; Service *What is Ubuntu and How Can We Learn from It?* with the Rev. Mark Skrabacz. This sermon is an opportunity for multi-cultural education as we examine this African humanist religion. Thanks to John Schlosser for naming the minister's sermon topic.

May 9 Friday 2pm; Needles a crafting group open to all, meets in ANNEX.

May 9 & 10 Circle Suppers will be held on the weekend of May 9 & 10. Sign up sheet located on snack table at the back of the church. Hosts and guests both needed. Let's get to know each other over a friendly dinner!

May 11 Sunday 9am-9:45am; Discussion in the ANNEX UU Magazine
10:00am; Service To Be Announced: Information not available at time of publication. Contact June Hartley, Service Chair 896-5131 for details.

May 14 Wednesday 6:30pm; Board Meeting in ANNEX.

May 16 Friday 11:30am; Men's Fellowship Lunch in the ANNEX

May 18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

May 18 Sunday 10:00am; Service *Integrating the Inner and Outer Self* with the Rev. Mark Skrabacz. What motivates people in their religious and spiritual beliefs? Today's worship will look through the discipline of psychology as a scientifically respectable means for viewing our own human sense of freedom and ethical responsibility. Our human condition calls us to an experience of accepting life as it is, and to the challenge of making a difference. That is a tension most of us deeply feel. **POTLUCK SUNDAY**

May 23 Friday 2pm; Needles a crafting group open to all, meets in ANNEX

May 28 Sunday 9am-9:45am; Discussion in the ANNEX UU Magazine
10:00am; Service To Be Announced: Information not available at time of publication. Contact June Hartley, Service Chair 896-5131 for details

May 30 Friday 11:30am; Men's Fellowship Lunch in the ANNEX.

June 1 Sunday 10:00am; Service *10 Things You Might Not Understand about being a Minister* with the Rev. Mark Skrabacz Would you like an honest look at what it's like to be a Minister? What is it like in the hard times, when none of us feels understood? Where do our intentions come from? How best can Members and Supportive Friends help a Minister to help the Church? Plan to attend and during Congregational Talk-Back, ask about things you always wanted to know.

Unitarian Universalism, or **Unitarianism**, is a liberal religion characterized by a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning". Unitarian Universalists do not share a creed, but are unified by their shared search for spiritual growth. The roots of Unitarian Universalism are in liberal Christianity, specifically Unitarianism and Christian Universalism. From these traditions comes a deep regard for intellectual freedom and inclusive love, so that currently individual congregations and members actively seek inspiration in and derive spiritual practices from all major world religions.

From Wikipedia the online Free Encyclopedia

May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 JCHC Men's Fellowship 11:30am	3
4 Service 10am Rev. Mark Skrabacz	5 Film Series 7p Annex	6	7	8	9 JCHC Needles 2p	10
11 9am Discus- sion in Annex Service 10am	12 Film Series 7p Annex	13	14 6:30pm BOARD MEETING - ANNEX	15	16 JCHC Men's Fellowship 11:30am	17
18 Service 10am Rev. Mark Skrabacz POTLUCK	19 Film Series 7p Annex	20	21	22	23 JCHC Needles 2p	24
25 9am Discus- sion in Annex Service 10am	26	27	28	29	30 JCHC	31

From Our Minister's Desk

By Rev. Mark Skrabacz

One of the most exciting shifts that we see in our future has come out of a study by Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI), which surveyed 2,000 adults in partnership with the Brookings Institute. The Huffington Post headline for an article about this study was: "Religious Progressives Predicted to Outnumber Conservatives, Survey Finds."

Like all headlines, this one needs a little fleshing out before we should conclude too much. There are still a lot more religious conservatives in our country, and especially in the Hill Country, than progressives. Based on this research, apparently 28% of the population consider themselves conservative, while only 19% adhere to the more progressive perspective.

However, it does tell us that progressive religion is more acceptable or meaningful to the younger generations, particularly the Millennials (18-33 years old). The average age of religious progressives is 44—just under the average age in the general population of 47—while the average age of religious conservatives is 53. And there is a nearly linear decline in the appeal of religious conservatism with age. Robert Jones, CEO of PRRI stated; "If you're using a generational snapshot today as a proxy for the future, it is safe to say that religious progressives hold a stronger appeal among Millennials." He then goes on to explain the result, that as conservatives age the number of progressives will eventually grow, at least as a percentage of the population.

In thinking realistically about growth for our religiously progressive UUCHC, we are acutely aware that Kerrville is not a population rife with Millennials. Still though we might find ways to reach out to this age group. I think of all the Recovery (AA, Al Anon, Lambda) Meetings I have attended in Kerrville, as well as PFLAG. More than half of the participants are Millennials. Are they satisfied and sup-

ported by the conservative view of a relationship to their Higher Power that is available to them? Might they be interested in attending a Church where they are given a choice about how to frame their beliefs? How would your example as a participant or supporter of their group influence them?

Of course, UUCHC has welcomed new members recently which speaks well to its capacity to attract people of the retirement age group. Yet Numerical Growth is not the only way our Congregation can grow. There is also a Maturational Growth of our UU experience. Hence our emphasis on socializing, studying through a curriculum like Building Your Own Theology, and conversing about our faith and principles through Sunday Forums, Congregational Talk-back after Sermons, and other Religious Education avenues. Also there is Incarnational Growth through social action and how we show up collectively in our greater community. How could we be more visible as a Church group or in collaboration with other groups in Kerrville and the Hill Country?

What might be some of the highest aspirations of our congregational community? To be:

- aligned with our mission and vision,
- significant to the people who make up our community,
- relevant to the needs of our wider society, and
- intentional in service of others, as good stewards of our resources.

These aspirations are challenging. Yet imagine what our congregation would look like if it rose to meet these aspirations!

Chalice Table/Greeter

Following is the roster for decorating the chalice table and greeting members and guests. If you cannot participate on the Sunday listed, please contact Shari Gore, 367-3142

May 4 Schloss Family May 18 Skrabacz Family
May 11 Schlosser Family May 25 Silva Family

A NOTE FROM MEMBERSHIP

**A new Member/Friends list will be published the first part of June. If you have any changes/additions please contact a member of committee.... Joyce Randle 257-2346
rjpa47@stx.rr.com or Sandy Schlosser 512-657-3782 jssvdr@gmail.com**

We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have already done.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (Unitarian, poet)

LET'S PLAN TOGETHER

We have recently started a long range planning process.



The first step is to get feedback from all of the congregation members and friends on our strengths and aspirations. **There will be four cottage meetings starting in the middle of May and ending by the middle of June.**

Our long range plan will help us as a church to identify:

- * *Our current strengths and how to grow these strengths.*
- * *What we value the most.*
- * *Our aspirations for the future of our church.*
- * *and most of all, what is the mission of our church.*

Beginning Sunday April 27 there will be sign-up sheets in the rear of the church. You can select the meeting you would like to attend. Everyone is invited to come and join us. Let's plan together.

Seek the underlying harmonies of love and the overarching rainbow of hope, rather than the surface distinctions of creeds and of sects. Work for peace in religion.

Jenkin Lloyd Jones (Unitarian, educator, soldier, reformer, clergy) Love and Loyalty (1907) p.55

CHURCH CONTACTS

Board of Directors 2013-2014

Pres. Diane McMahon 896-3195 dianelm@windstream.net

VP June Hartley 896-5191 june@ktc.com

Sec. Jan Lentner 719-371-6825 macawma2001@yahoo.com

Treas. Judy Ashcraft 896-8319, whodit@hotmail.com

Past Pres. Steve Galland 634-7668 sgalland@afgimail.com

Minister

The Rev. Mark Skrabacz

890-5784, markskrabacz@hotmail.com

Other Key Contacts

Service Committee—June Hartley (see above)

Newsletter— Joyce Randle-257-2346, rjpa47@stx.rr.com

Book Club - Kevin Hartley kevinh@ktc.com 896-5191

Music Director —Meredith Hensley 830-522-0802

Director of Children's Religious Education—Joyce Randle (above)

Lifespan Faith Development Marie Brown 895-5138

Care—Shari Gore 367-3142, Marie Brown 895-5138,

Chalice Lighter—Judy Ashcraft (above)

Chalice Table Coordinator— Shari Gore (above)

Librarian— Shari Gore (above)

Maintenance— Jerry Best 210-633-7553

bestjerry@hotmail.com

Publicity—Judy Ashcraft (above)

Social Committee—Jan Lentner (above)

Community Outreach - Laurie Pesez

Membership - Joyce Randle (above) Sandy Schlosser 512-657-3782 jssvdr@gmail.com

Men's Fellowship Lunch - Steve Galland 634-7668

Ministerial Relations Committee - Donna Schloss 830-792-6189 dschloss@ktc.com

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UUCHC

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