

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country
Newsletter

December 2019

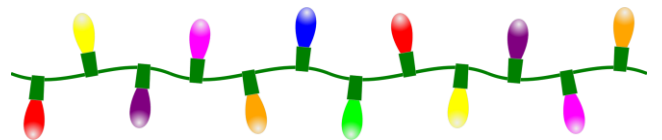
UUCHC Enjoys the Kerrville Holiday Lighted Parade in Style!



Above are (from left to right) Linda Smith (driver & owner of the red convertible), Vicki Luther, Selma Gibson & Cynthia Gibson Dandridge. Selma & Cynthia are also below.



Below is the convertible trunk decorated with lights for the big night; Saturday, November 23. Special thanks go to church member, Keven Hartley who provided the festive lights. Folks that helped decorate were treated to a lunch of submarine sandwiches, potato salad and cookies!



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

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



Church Service Detail~ page 2
Monthly calendar~ page 3
Minutes of Nov. Board Meeting~ page 4
"Getting to Know Us"~ page 5
Board Members & Committees~ page 6

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

- 1 Speaker: Ann Galland, church member - Topic: “What the Heck is Chalica & What Does it Have to Do with our 7 Principles?”.**

Ann and husband Steve Galland are founding members of our UU congregation. Ann was raised Southern Baptist, growing up in both Texas and Oklahoma. Since retiring to this area in 1989, she discovered her passion for the performing arts. She has served the Point Theater (Hill Country Arts Foundation), Ingram, as actor, director, board member, and volunteer. She and Steve have a blended family of 6 children.

- 8 Speakers: Kathy Sears Hall, Big Sister and Caitlin Jones, Little Sister - Topic: “A Different Kind of Gift; how the Big Sister and Little Sister Program Has Enriched Our Lives.”**

Hall is a Kerrville native and graduate of Tivy High School. She holds an Accounting Degree from the University of Texas and spent 27 years in the energy industry. She now enjoys being back home and managing The Center for Fitness, a business her mother started over 40 years ago. Jones is a Senior at Tivy High School and is the Corp Commander for the Air Force Junior ROTC. She is an Athletic Trainer for Tivy Athletics and is active in her church. She hopes to go to Texas A&M University to major in biochemistry/chemistry.

- 15 Speaker: Don Pyle, church member - Topic: “Is There a Real Christmas Story?” - Now that Christmas is rapidly approaching, we find ourselves surrounded by the images of the nativity. Even non-Christians know the story itself: no room at the inn, the manger, the shepherds, the star. Have you ever wondered how it all got started...where it came from...does tradition represent what really happened? We will present a study of the available information to uncover what we really know, based on the book Born Divine, The Births of Jesus & Other Sons of God by Robert J Miller, a senior scholar with the Jesus Seminar.**

In a previous life cycle, Pyle was an architectural and structural engineer specializing in the evaluation, repair, historic preservation and maintenance of structures of all types. He is definitely not a biblical scholar; however, he has devoted a lifetime to the avocational study of archaeology, history, religion, especially that of the near east. He has lectured and facilitated

discussion groups on related subjects, and is an Associate member of the Westar Institute, the sponsor of the Jesus Seminar.

- 22 Speaker: Frances Osborne, church member - Topic: “Celebrating the Winter Solstice.”**

Osborne was born in Austin, Texas and her parents are from Houston. She was raised Episcopalian and discovered Unitarian Universalism when she was searching for a liberal religious community in which to raise her son. When she knew she was moving to Kerrville, she searched the internet to find a UU church as she is “a devoted, practicing UU and cannot imagine life without Unitarian Universalism”. Frances has interests in fellowship, hospitality, communications, website design, pastoral counseling and small group ministry. The life path she most identifies with is as a UU Pagan. She writes and leads rituals for all kinds of occasions.

- 29 Speaker: Michael Wurth, MA, NCC, LCDC, LPC - Topic: “The Seven Principles and the Eightfold Path”** which will examine the Buddhist concept of the Fourth Noble truth with the UU exploration of wisdom and values.

Wurth was raised as a UU and spoke to his first UU congregation at the age of ten. He graduated from Indiana University with a Masters in Comparative Literature, became an Independent Film Screenwriter, Producer, Director, Editor winning critical praise and awards at multiple film festivals. He returned to graduate school to become a Licensed Professional Counselor and owns and operates the counseling service; Mainbrain, Inc. in San Antonio, is married to Shelagh Vale Wurth and has three children.





December 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
--------	--------	---------	-----------	----------	--------	----------

**Church Friends may serve on committees.
All listed meetings are open and all are welcomed.**

CS: Church Sanctuary PA: Wilma Palmer Annex All Sunday Services Held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>Speaker: Ann Galland - Topic: "What the Heck is Chalica & What Does it Have to Do with our 7 Principles?"</p> <p>First Day of Advent</p>				<p>Social Justice Committee meeting: 10- 11:30am - PA Contact: Frances Osborne 512.468-9542/ osborne35@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①</p>	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>Speakers: Kathy Sears Hall & Caitlin Jones - Topic: "A Different Kind of Gift; how the Big Sister & Little Sister Program Has Enriched Our Lives" - see page 2</p>	 Hill Country Rainbow (LGBTQ Community of Friends) meeting: 7pm- 8:30pm - PA - Contact: Curtis Overstreet	<p>Girls Night Out Lunch - 11:30 - Pinnacle Grill - Comanche Trace, Pinnacle Club Drive</p>	<p>Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All welcomed.</p>			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p>Hill Country Crisis Council② Speaker: Don Pyle - Topic: "Is There a Real Christmas Story?" - see page 2</p> <p>Annual Congregational Meeting</p> <p>Pot Luck Dinner with free ham after Service - PA</p>			<p>Last day to submit articles for January's newsletter: communication @uuchc.org</p>	 Habitat for Humanity lunch see page 4	<p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①</p>	 First Day of Winter
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>Speaker: Frances Osborne - Topic: "Celebrating the Winter Solstice" - see page 2</p> <p>"Give the Gift of Cookies" - after service - see page 6</p> <p>Hanukkah begins at sundown</p>		<p>Christmas Eve</p>	 Merry Christmas	<p>Activities & Events Committee meeting: 1pm - PA Contact: Judy Ashcraft</p> <p>Kwanzaa Begins</p>		
29	30	31				
<p>Speaker: Michael Wurth - Topic: ""The Seven Principles and the Eightfold Path" " - see page 2</p> <p>5th Sunday "Donate the Plate" program</p> <p>Free Speech Café after Service: PA - light lunch provided</p>	<p>Hanukkah ends</p>	 Happy New Year New Year's Eve	<p>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</p> <p>② Hill Country Crisis Council Sundays are held on 3rd Sundays and focus on paper products: toilet and facial tissue, paper towels, women's sanitary products, plus large bottles of baby shampoo and liquid soap. Contact Carolyn Dreyer 830.496-3094/ brightredmimi@gmail.com</p>			

Summary of Wed., November 13, 2019 Board Meeting

Present: Board President Jerry Best; Vice President Vicki Luther; Secretary Jill Wiggins; Member-at-large Meredith Hensley; Judy Ashcraft, Activities and Events; and Mike Burkett, Finance Chair.

Board meeting minutes from the October 9, 2019, meeting were approved.

Jerry presented the Finance report, which was also approved after questions and discussion.

CCC report: The CCC did not meet on November 6, but will meet on November 20.

Nominating Committee: Judy Ashcraft reported there are people looking at job descriptions.

Membership: Steve Galland informed the board that two prospective members will attend orientation after the service November 17 and will be installed during the November 24 service.

2020 Budget

Mike Burkett presented the 2020 budget, which will be presented at the December 15 Congregational meeting for approval. Pledge cards will be included in the order of service November 17, and cards can be completed and returned that day.

Vicki reported that the stained glass window memorial to Andy Pesez will be installed prior to November 24 and that the service leader that day will call the congregation's attention to it after joys and concerns, followed by a hymn.

Jill entered into the record a letter from Peterson Hospice thanking the congregation for a contribution in memory of Joe Meurer.

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



Remember, Members!
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, Dec. 15 ★ after the service

If you cannot attend, please complete a proxy and give it to another member who will be in attendance. Proxies are available in the rear of the sanctuary and have been emailed as an attachment to all members announcing the meeting.



Making Lunch for the Crew
Thursday, Dec. 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. There is still time to "adopt" a month and organize the meal since this monthly program will continue through May 2020.

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 with your choice or sign up on the list located on back table at the rear of the church sanctuary.



Free Speech Café is Sunday, December 29, after the Service in the Wilma Palmer Annex. Bring your questions, issues, and commentary to share. A light lunch will be served.





Getting To Know Us 🎵

Bryan Bristol & Janet Belden New members as of September 15

Bryan was born in Dallas, raised there and in Midland with a year in Houston in between. Parents Ray and Pam are both deceased. Ray was a minister, Pam a piano teacher and accompanist. His older brother Gary lives in Woodstock, NY, and his older sister Sheryl lives in Dallas. Both are musicians. He has two sons: Carter is 29, lives in Ft. Worth, is a Paramedic and is working towards a nursing degree; Tanner is 23, lives in Lubbock, and is an Apprentice Electrician.

Bryan was raised in the Disciples of Christ denomination, attending the churches his father served as minister. "It's a moderate- to progressive-leaning Protestant denomination. Mostly a nice bunch of folks."

Janet was raised in Midland, with a few years in Ft. Worth. She has one older brother, two younger sisters, eight nephews, three nieces, three great-nephews, two great-nieces, and of course two stepsons. Her Dad still lives in Midland. Her Mom and younger brother are deceased. She grew up in the Catholic church, but stopped attending 40 years ago.

Bryan and Janet, high-school sweethearts, reconnected thanks to the internet and married in 2009. They started attending Community UU Church in Plano in 2011. They looked for UU congregations in the Hill Country when searching for a retirement destination, and moved here in 2018. Bryan retired from IT Sales that year and Janet plans to retire from Programming/IT Support in 2020.

Note from the editor, Susan Lipp: *I hope now that everyone has a glimmer of insight into the lives of these two interesting new members that they will take a minute to get to know them even better.*



New Members Bryan Bristol & Janet Belden

Thursday, December 26 - 1pm Activities & Events Meeting Wilma Palmer Annex (964 Barnett St)

All interested in working on the committee for 2020 are welcomed. There is a wide variety of activities suggested for the year and volunteers are needed to help sort through for the good ones and make them happen. If you cannot attend this first meeting, but would like to be included please call or email Judy Ashcraft. Meetings are open and held on the 4th Thursday of each month. **2020 will be a year of changes.**





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	Susan Lipp	Ann Galland	Julie Davis	Mike Burkett
8	Vicki Luther	Baxter & Don Pyle	Marie Brown	Monte Hensley
15	Selma Gibson	Amanda & Justin Biemer	Not adopted yet	Marie Brown & Jill Wiggins
22	Amanda Biemer	Trudy Boardman	Amanda & Justin Biemer	Selma Gibson & Susan Lipp
29	Donna Schloss	Judy & Donnie Bunch	December 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
- ⊕ 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



Give the Gift of Cookies after the service Sunday, Dec. 22



Bring your favorite holiday cookies to share with coffee, hot tea & cider. Plan to take some cookies home and spread the joy of giving during this festive season.



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

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