

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country
Newsletter

February 2020

-Great January Sunday Programs Inspire Thought & Inspiration-

Church member, Judy Ashcraft (below) created the perfect chalice table for the January 12 service which featured local environmentalist Stephanie Ertel who stressed the importance of preserving green open spaces. Her talk "Don't Fence Me In", described how she and her husband practice what they preach as they live "off the grid" on 60 acres in Mountain Home, Texas and maintain a wildlife preserve. The service's preservation theme, music and readings were all particularly meaningful as all mourned the devastating losses in Australia.



Above at the Burning Bowl Ritual held on January 5 is service leader and church member, Mike Burkett (left) and church member, Kevin Hartley



→ Another January Sunday Program photo and recap may be found on page 2.



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

- 2 **Speaker: Rev. Art Severance - Sermon: "Forgiving the Past, Co-creating the Future"** - As we begin a new year, especially in these trying times, so much depends still on our relationships more than what's happening in the world! Even in the midst of our past wars, we've had to continue to learn how to get along with each other. A congregation is also a relationship, what is called a "family system" and ministry is a way of relating as well. Co-creating a future with compassion is the hope for the world as well as a congregation.

Rev. Art Severance retired after almost 30 years in ministry and moved back to San Antonio, where he served as minister at First UU Church from 1991-2006, helping it grow from 250 to over 400 and building a 500-seat sanctuary. Originally from New Hampshire, he has been married to wife Cathie since 1973, has 3 married daughters and 5 grandchildren. He served UU Congregations in PA, NJ, CA, CO, TX, NY, and OH -either as interim, part or full-time or Developmental minister and has served on the old District Board, was one of the district's Ministerial Settlement Representatives, and currently serves on the board of UURMAPA (UU Retired Ministers & Partners Association). Art is a folksinger & songwriter and considers himself a "Mystical Humanist with a good sense of humor."

- 9 **Speaker: Vicki Luther, Church Member - Topic: "Life Cycles: Spending time with Billy Collins"** - Collins is a contemporary American poet whose work transforms the everyday into the extraordinary. He has been named US Poet Laureate twice and this service will offer a selection of his poems focused on stages/cycles of life.

Vicki Luther serves as our Board Vice President and Co-Chair of the Sunday Services Committee, is active in AAUW, and is a Board Consultant for Families and Literacy. She was the owner of a Non-Profit Consulting firm in Nebraska before retiring to Kerrville with her husband Joe, owner of four Corgis and Henry, a beautiful Andalusian horse. She is a PhD who can lift and throw a 50# hay bale with a single bound, two feats she is not boastful about. (Description by Linda Smith without input from Luther.)

- 16 **Speaker: Gary Payne, Church Member - Topic: Sharing of "Love us Like a Box of Chocolots" by Rev. Sarah Movius Schurr.** Schurr examines types of love and introduces us to a chocolate communion.

Gary Payne was born in Fort Worth, Texas and brought up in Fort Worth and Arlington. He was baptized as a baby in the Methodist faith and attended a Presbyterian church where he was baptized again as an adult. Thereafter, he was a Lutheran for about ten years. He became involved in the First UU Church of Austin after meeting his wife, Jill Wiggins. They married on May 31, 1996.

His interests are golf, current events/politics, movies and theater, both to attend and to perform. He has a one-man show about Clarence Darrow that he performed for the church.







- 23 **Speaker: Robin Stout, Director of UbarU - Topic: Creating Community: UbarU Past, Present, and Future.**



Leading the Meaningful Books Service held on January 26 are UUCHC Members (left to right) Stephanie Gross, David Gross and Janet Belden. Stephanie chose Willa Cather's O Pioneers with its diverse cast of characters finding their place and settling the vast Western plains. Janet discussed Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism and Progress by Steven Pinker with its realistic, hopeful and, yes, even optimistic look at Where We Are Now and where we go from here. David shared stirring poetry from Romantic poets William Blake and William Wordsworth about our relationship with Nature and its importance to our well-being - physical, mental and MORAL. Janet's book was the centerpiece of the Chalice Table decoration which even included library cards and reading glasses.

February 2020 Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Calendar

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>PA: Wilma Palmer Annex (964 Barnett) CS: Church Sanctuary</p> <p>All listed meetings are open and all are welcome to attend. Church Friends may serve on committees. Sunday church services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary unless otherwise noted.</p>						<p>1</p> 
<p>2</p> <p>Speaker: Rev. Art Severance - Sermon: "Forgiving the Past, Co-creating the Future" - see page 2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>New! Senior Chair Exercises: 9am - PA - see page 5</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>ARE Program Part 3: 7pm - PA - see page 4</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ☺</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Speaker: Vicki Luther, Church Member - Topic: "Life Cycles: Spending time with Billy Collins" - see page 2</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>Hill Country Rainbow (LGBTQ Community of Friends) meeting: 7pm-8:30pm - PA - contact: Curtis Overstreet 210.262-8859</p>	<p>11</p> <p>ARE Committee Meeting: 1:30pm - PA</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Board meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All are welcomed.</p> <p>Women's Connection: 11:30am - Café at the Ridge (13439 S Ranch Road 783, Kerrville)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Activities & Events Committee meeting: 1pm - PA - contact: Judy</p> <p>ARE Program Part 4: 7pm - PA - see page 4</p>	<p>14</p> 	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Hill Country Crisis Council ☺ Speaker: Gary Payne, Church Member - Topic: Sharing of "Love us Like a Box of Chocolots" by Rev. Schurr - see page 2</p> <p>☺ Pot Luck Dinner after the Service - PA</p>	<p>17</p> <p>President's Day</p>  <p>New! Senior Chair Exercises: 9am - PA - see page 5</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Last day to submit articles for March newsletter: communication@uuchc.org</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>- see page 6</p> <p>ARE Program Part 5: 7pm - PA - see page 4</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ☺</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Speaker: Robin Stout, Director of UbarU - Topic: Creating Community: UbarU Past, Present, and Future</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Women's Connection: 11:30am - Green Grocer Deli (225 W Water St. Kerrville)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>ARE Program Part 6: 7pm - PA - see page 4</p>	<p>28</p> 	<p>29</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/sagalland143@gmail.com

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

Summary of Wednesday, January 8, 2020 Board Meeting

Present: President Jerry Best; Vice President Vicki Luther; Treasurer Judy Bunch; Secretary Jill Wiggins; Member-at-large Don Pyle; visitor Donnie Bunch

Minutes of the December 15, 2019 Congregational meeting were approved. Board meeting minutes from December 11, 2019 were approved. The January Treasurer's report was approved.

CCC report:

- ⊕ The holiday party was a success, with 30 people attending. Steve Galland has resigned as membership chair.
- ⊕ Sunday services are booked through March, except for March 22; and the adult RE program "Long Strange Trip" will begin on January 23 at 7 pm and will continue for six weeks. There was also a request that RE rooms be cleaned up after potlucks and other activities.
- ⊕ After discussion about child care, Vicki agreed to develop language for the website to notify parents of our current inability to offer RE and childcare to children under six without parental assistance. She will also investigate websites that provide listings of babysitters.

A motion was approved to create a security team. Vicki will discuss legal issues with Mike Burkett. Jerry recommended purchasing pepper spray.

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



*The January 4th Holiday Party held at Bella Sera restaurant was enjoyed by 30 members and friends who gathered to celebrate the new year with a plated meal and 2 flavors of cake for dessert.
More information to right →*

"Long Strange Trip" Adult Religious Education

Thursdays beginning January 23 for 6 weeks
7pm ★ Palmer Annex

This popular six-part video series by Ron Cordes (UU member and amateur filmmaker) explores the history of Unitarian and Universalist thought and practice from the early, liberal strands in faith at the beginning of the Christian era to what we know today as Unitarian Universalism.

Each video is approximately one hour long and will be shown weekly on Thursdays at 7pm in the Wilma Palmer Annex continuing in February after a start date of January 23. Each part can be viewed separately without seeing any other part in the series. There will be a sign-up sheet on the rear table in the sanctuary.

- ⊕ February 6 - Part III- American Unitarianism (1620 - 1860) Topics: The early fracture between religious liberals and Congregationalists. The final split between the Unitarians and the Trinitarian Congregationalists. The Arian/Socinian fracture. Transcendentalism. Beyond our Bible-centered roots. Abolition.
- ⊕ February 13 - Part IV - Universalism (1600 - 1860) This film documents the development of Universalism through the early German and English pietists, migration to America with explosive growth, precipitous decline after the death of Hosea Ballou.
- ⊕ February 20 - Part V - Evolution (1861 - 1961) The path of Unitarianism and Universalism from Christian bible-oriented religions to our present-day non-creedal movement. Discusses the influences of Darwin, the Civil War, Feminism and Suffrage, and the Social Gospel.
- ⊕ February 27 - Part VI- Unitarian Universalism The century-long "courtship" between Unitarianism and Universalism told as a love story. The role of Humanism in the story and the part Liberal Religious Education played in the merger. The story continues after the merger with some personal comment about what the future may be.

Holiday Party continued: There were a variety of nutcrackers (the theme of the party) on the tables from a cat and dog, bakers and firemen to "real" nutcrackers. Sarah Johanson won the decorating contest with her imaginative use of standard nutcrackers and holly. Selma Gibson was runner-up with her tribute to public service people, cooks, our river, and musicians.



NEW! Senior Chair Exercises
1st & 3rd Monday monthly - 9am
Wilma Palmer Annex (964 Barnett)

Beginning on Monday, February 3 UUCHC will be offering Senior Chair Exercises! This will be a video program that is open to all. Please wear comfortable clothing for optimal movement.

Description:

- ⊕ The Stronger Seniors Core Fitness Program is a Chair-based Pilates program designed to strengthen the abdominals, lower back and pelvic floor. The focus is on improving balance, posture, and maintaining proper breathing.
- ⊕ The Stronger Seniors High Intensity Interval Training Program is designed especially for seniors to improve their heart health, strength, metabolism, and overall well-being. The exercises may be done seated in a chair or standing and are appropriate for seniors and the mobility challenged.

👉 For more information contact Judy Ashcraft
 (830) 896-8319/ whodit@hotmail.com



2020 FREE "Saturday Night at the Movies"
Begins Saturday, March 28
New TIME ★ 6pm ★ Wilma Palmer Annex
First Movie ★ "Jane"

The discovery of half-century-old footage of celebrated primatologist Jane Goodall and her jungle menagerie of chimpanzees provides a new and engrossing look at her lifetime of work with humans' closest evolutionary relatives.



On Sunday, January 26, Peg Hainey of the UU Fellowship presented a \$1000 check for KerrKonnect to KerrKonnect founder and UUCHC member Mike Burkett. Happily helping him accept the generous donation are Kerr Konnect volunteers and UUCHC members. Pictured from left to right are Mike Burkett, Carolyn Dreyer, Peg Hainey, Sherri Curry and Gary Payne.





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	Donna Schloss	Troy Fannin & Julie Davis	Julie Davis	Mike Burkett
9	Susan Lipp	Ann & Steve Galland	Marie Brown	Monte Hensley
16	Justin Biemer	Selma & Bill Gibson	TBA	Marie Brown & Jill Wiggins
23	TBA	Stephanie & David Gross	February Birthday Cake	Selma Gibson

TBA = to be announced

- ⊕ 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.



Making Lunch for the Crew Thursday, Feb. 20 ★ 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 Frances Osborne with your choice or sign up on the list located on back table at the rear of the church sanctuary.



Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Board Members for 2020

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 - Don Pyle
575.534-8259/ dtpyle@gmail.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: Open
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