

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country
Newsletter

January 2020

~Holiday Events Bring
Holiday Enjoyment for All~

Left is the large assortment of cookies for the Holiday Cookie Exchange on Sunday, December 22. Below from left to right are Sandra Lane, Judy Ashcraft, Jim McMahon, Gary Mabry and Kay White leading the Christmas Eve singalong. Further below are church friend Robert Ward and church member Don Pyle.



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

- 5 **Speaker: Mike Burkett, church member - Topic: “Burning Bowl Service”;** A UU tradition of burning away the negative in preparation for the new year. Burkett is a retired lawyer, a long time UU, has served as a UUCHC Board Officer, former Sunday Service Chair who cheerfully helps the current committee when a speaker cancels, and is the co-founder and current Board member of KerrKonnnect.
- 12 **Speaker: Stephanie Ertel - Topic: “Don’t Fence Me In”.** Kerrville native and well known environmental advocate, Ertel lives in an “off the grid” sustainable home near Mountain Home and has been active in many environmental organizations, locally, state and nationwide. She has run for state office twice and she and her husband Rick are retired attorneys.
- 19 **Speaker: Rev. Betty Swarek - Sermon: “Reality Based Religion”.** There was a time when practicing religion was a major part of the social fabric of our society. Religion still matters but its reputation has been tattered by the malpractice of its followers, the irrelevance of its message, and the glaring appeal of competing activities. How do we thrive in a world that no longer honors the rules and truths passed to us by our ancestors? When the old is no longer relevant and the new is intolerable; how do we bypass the baubles and distractions to find what really matters? Rev. Skwarck is a community minister affiliated with the Live Oak UU church in Cedar Park, TX. Her ministry, UU Free Range Ministry, reaches out to everyone who wants to explore religious ideas, organizations and practices from a liberal perspective and is not able to do that effectively in a traditional religious setting.
- 26 **Speakers: David and Stephanie Gross, Janet Belden, and Curtis Overstreet - church members. - Topic: These members will share with us a book that has great meaning to them and why.**



UUSC

**Guest at Your Table
Program Continues**

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC’s annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. Since UUSC works in more than 20 countries, with over 60 grassroots partners, there are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work that our members make possible. The program is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these individuals - the “guests” in Guest at Your Table.

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country’s participation began again in November with special coin boxes displayed in the Sanctuary and in the Wilma Palmer Annex. In addition to the coin boxes there are envelopes on the back table in the chancery with the information about joining. Any donation is welcome and those over \$125 will be matched. If you would like to send in your donation just indicate UUCHC on your check and inform Donna Schloss so that she can include it in our tally sheet.

2019-2020 Theme: Women Leaders, Strong Communities Since its founding, UUSC’s work has been shaped and sustained by women’s leadership. Today, we are proud to partner with women leaders who are increasing representation for women in their communities, while strengthening access to justice for all. During this year’s Guest at Your Table program, please join us to learn more about women leaders from UUSC partner organizations taking on some of today’s greatest human rights challenges.

--Donna Schloss: 830.792-6189/ dschloss@ktc.com



January 2020 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 most Thursdays.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>CS: Church Sanctuary</p> <p>All listed meetings are open and all are welcome to attend. Church Friends may serve on committees. All Sunday church services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary.</p> <p>PA: Wilma Palmer Annex (964 Barnett)</p>			<p>1</p> <p>Happy New Year!</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Social Justice Committee meeting: 10-11:30am - PA Contact: Frances Osborne 512.468-9542/ osborne35@hotmail.com</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ①</p>	<p>4</p> <p> Nutcracker Holiday Party: 1pm - Bella Sera - see page 4</p>
<p>5</p> <p> Speaker: Mike Burkett, church member - Topic: "Burning Bowl Service" - see page 2</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All are welcomed.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Speaker: Stephaie Ertel - Topic: "Don't Fence Me In" - see page 2</p> <p></p>	<p>13</p> <p> Hill Country Rainbow (LGBTQ Community of Friends) meeting: 7pm-8:30pm - PA - Contact: Curtis Overstreet 210.262-8859</p>	<p>14</p> <p>ARE Committee Meeting: 1:30pm - PA</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p> Habitat for Humanity lunch - see page 5</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ①</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Last day to submit articles for February newsletter: communication@uuchc.org</p>
<p>Hill Country Crisis Council ② 19</p> <p>Service: Rev. Betty Swarek - Sermon: "Reality Based Religion" - see page 2</p> <p> Pot Luck Dinner after the Service - PA</p>	<p>20</p> <p> Martin Luther King, Jr. Day & Holiday</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>ARE Program (Part 1): 7pm - PA - see page 4</p>	<p>24</p> <p></p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Speaker: David & Stephanie Goss, Janet Belden, Curtis Overstreet, Church Members - Topic: "Book Sunday" - see page 2</p> <p></p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>ARE Program (Part 2): 7pm - PA - see page 4</p>	<p>31</p> <p></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 Wed., December 11, 2019 Board Meeting

Present: Board President Jerry Best; Vice President Vicki Luther; Treasurer Judy Bunch; Secretary Jill Wiggins; Member-at-large Meredith Hensley; Past President Linda Smith; Mike Burkett, Finance Chair
Board meeting minutes from the November 13, 2019, meeting were approved.

Judy presented the Finance report. Following a discussion of bookkeeping costs, the report was also approved.

CCC report:

Meredith passed on a request (from Spiritual Development) that committee chairs be included in new member orientations, and that new members be invited to attend committee meetings. Meredith also reported on upcoming activities, including Christmas Eve, Free Speech Cafe on December 29, and the holiday party on January 4 (location TBA).

December donate-the-plate will go to the Hill Country Crisis Council; Vicki will look into assistance for Families & Literacy.

Meredith announced her departure as member-at-large and that two candidates were running to replace her. Without a candidate for president, Jerry will continue as president.

Linda reported for the Search Committee that one candidate had been considered. The committee determined that the candidate was not suitable because of unwillingness to relocate.

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



On the last Sunday of 2019, UUCHC welcomed families from the UBarU Christmas week camp. Marie Brown seated the children on a special quilt and read them a story about kindness. The young UU's enthusiastically offered their ideas before retiring to the Annex for RE with Linda Smith.



**Nutcracker Holiday
Party**
Saturday, January 4
1pm ★ Bella Sera
restaurant
(2124 Sidney Baker -
Kerrville)

Cost - \$15 per person
Menu: Plated meal by
Reservation Only
(Contact Judy Ashcraft -
830.896-8319 or
whodit@hotmail.com)
Payment must be made prior
to the event. Checks to
Unitarian Universalist
Church of the Hill Country -
sorry, no credit cards.

Complete the separate
reservation form and return
to Judy Ashcraft with
payment.

**CONTEST! Decorate your Nutcracker
themed table limited to 7 individuals or
teams. Notify Judy Ashcraft if you would
like to participate.**

"Long Strange Trip"
Adult Religious Education
Thursdays beginning January 23 for 6 weeks
7pm ★ Palmer Annex

This 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 beginning January 23 for six weeks (two sessions in January and four in February). 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.

- ⊕ January 23rd - Long Strange Trip, Part 1: In the Beginning (0:59:36)
- ⊕ January 30th - Long Strange Trip, Part 2: The Birth of Unitarianism (1:03:13)



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
5	Karen Burkett	Mike & Karen Burkett	Marie Brown	Mike Burkett
12	Donna Schloss	Janet Belden & Bryan Bristol	Bridget Ellison	Monte Hensley
19	Pat Kobe	Carolyn Dreyer	James Boyles	Marie Brown & Jill Wiggins
24	Vicki Luther	Judy Ashcraft & Jerry Best	Judy Ashcraft	Selma Gibson & Susan Lipp

⊕ 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



Making Lunch for the Crew

Thursday, Jan. 16 ★ 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.



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: 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