

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country
Newsletter

March 2020



2020 FREE "Saturday Night at the Movies"
Saturday, March 28
6pm (NEW Time) ★ Wilma Palmer Annex
First Movie ★ "Jane" ★ 90 minutes



"Jane" is a National Geographic documentary about the life and work of Jane Goodall. Award winning director Brett Morgen tells the story of "JANE, a woman whose chimpanzee research challenged the scientific consensus of her time and revolutionized our understanding of the natural world." It draws from over 100 hours of never-before-seen footage that has been tucked away in the National Geographic archives for over 50 years.

All are urged to join together on the fourth Saturday between March to October to enjoy either watching a movie or playing a game. Please bring your favorite beverage but note that this is a non-alcohol activity.

Each movie night includes a prelude followed by the movie and game nights may include board games, card games and/or dominoes.

Some movie nights may include a meal or potluck so please check for updates. Game nights (May 23 and August 22) include pizza. Be prepared for a night of companionship, laughter and fun. The chairs have been reported by some to be hard, so please bring a cushion if needed.



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
5th Sunday "Donate the Plate"~ page 2
Monthly calendar~ page 3
Minutes of February 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: Mark Ackerman - Topic: "Why I Call Myself a Non-Theist - Religion and Narrative" -** Ackerman will address the confrontation that can happen between atheists and God believers, as both believe stories that prompt their religious views. Some of the stories are true and some are not, and that doesn't matter. It is belief that matters and can be respected, even across differences.

Mark Ackerman served as the principal oboist of the San Antonio Symphony from 1975 to 2014. He has been very active at First UU Church of San Antonio as he teaches Adult RE and serves on several committees. He is on the faculty of Texas Lutheran University as an Associate Professor of Oboe. Mark was born and grew up in McLaughlin, South Dakota on the Standing Rocker Sioux Indian Reservation. He lives in San Antonio with his partner of 34 years, Michael Kjar, and their dog "Maddie".

- 8 Speaker: Tara Bushnoe, Natural Resources Coordinator for Upper Guadalupe River Authority - Topic: "Preserving the Health of the Guadalupe River; how we monitor and treasure our river".**

Bushnoe administers all UGRA water quality monitoring, outreach and education activities and is a technical director for the UGRA Environmental Laboratory as well. Tara serves on the board of Riverside Nature Center and is a member of Kerr County Women's Chamber of Commerce. She is a past participant of the Kerrville ISD Leadership program and served on the Kerrville 2050 subcommittee for water, wastewater and drainage. Tara received her Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources from Cornell University and has over 10 years of experience in the aquatic sciences. Tara also taught environmental education in Paraguay as a Peace Corps Volunteer. She has been an employee of UGRA since 2007.

- 15 Speaker: Reverend Peter Bauer: United Church of Christ minister and Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist - Sermon: "When Going to Church Becomes Subversive".**

Bauer currently works at the Frank Tejada Outpatient Clinic, South Texas Veterans' Health Care System in San Antonio. Peter is a long-time friend of UUCHC, having served as a part-time pastor in the church's early years.

- 22 Speaker: Marie Brown, Church Member - Topic: ""The Minister in a Free Religious Society,"** a sermon by the late Rev Dwight Brown who was a UU minister for 34 years holding three administrative positions and serving four churches. Marie selected this sermon as this congregation is in the process of "search" for a new minister and feels it may be instructive to take a look at how a member of the profession viewed the important ways in which he or she may expect and be expected, to serve as part of our community.

Marie Brown is a treasured member of UUCHC our church since 2004 and wife of the late Rev Dwight Brown, has long been interested in church development and Adult Religious Education. She is the mother of four children and was an elementary school teacher for 24 years.

- 29 Speaker: Ken Zysko, Director of Rafael Clinic - Everything you want to know about the Kerrville Gem, the Raphael Clinic.** Zysko will discuss the history, staff and volunteers, services, patient demographics, eligibility for services, clinic hours and how to help.

Ken is a retired civil attorney, and member of the Texas Bar and Federal Bar for the Western District of Texas since 1988. He has been a member and officer of various professional and civic organizations including the Kerrville Bar Association, Kerrville Rotary Club, Notre Dame School Board and Endowment Fund, Hill Country Independence House, Special Opportunity Center, and Dietert Claim Senior Citizen Center. He received his B.S. degree from St Mary's College, MN and J.D. degree from Texas Tech University. He has been married to his wife Bonnie for 56 years and has three children and five grandchildren.



“Donate the Plate” - 720 Club

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 March those proceeds will be given to the 720 Club.



March 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
--------	--------	---------	-----------	----------	--------	----------



PA: Wilma Palmer Annex (964 Barnett) CS: Church Sanctuary
 All listed meetings are open and all are welcomed. Church Friends may serve on committees. Sunday church Services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary.



1 Speaker: Mark Ackerman - Topic: "Why I Call Myself a Non-Theist: Religion and Narrative" - see page 2	2 Senior Chair Exercises: 9am - PA - see page 4	3	4	5	6 Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ^①	7
8 Speaker: Tara Bushnoe, Natural Resources Coordinator for UGRA - Topic: "Preserving the Health of the Guadalupe River; How we Monitor & Treasure Our River" - see page 2 Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Ahead)	9  Hill Country Rainbow (LGBTQ Community of Friends) meeting: 7pm-8:30pm - PA - Contact: Curtis Overstreet 210.262-8859	10 ARE Committee Meeting: 1:30pm - PA	11 Women's Connection: 11:30am - Pint & Plow Brewing Company (332 Clay Street, Kerrville) Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All welcomed.	12 Activities & Events Committee meeting: 1pm - PA - contact: Judy Ashcraft	13	14
15 Hill Country Crisis Council ^② Speaker: Rev. Peter Bauer - Sermon: "When Going to Church Becomes Subversive" - see page 2  Pot Luck Dinner after the Service - PA	16 Senior Chair Exercises: 9am - PA - see page 4	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Last day to submit articles for April's newsletter - communication@uuchc.org	19 First Day of Spring   - see page 6	20 Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ^①	21
22 Speaker: Marie Brown, Church Member - Topic: reading of Dwight Brown sermon "The Minister in a Free Religious Society" - see page 2	23	24	25 Women's Connection: 11:30am - Taqueria Jalisco (2190 Junction Highway, Kerrville)	26	27	28  "Saturday Night at 964 Barnett" - Movie - see page 1
29 Speaker: Ken Zysko, Executive Director of Rafael Clinic - Topic: "Everything You Want to Know About the Kerrville Gem: the Raphael Clinic" - see page 2 5th Sunday "Donate the Plate" program - see page 2	30	31	<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</p> <p>② Hill Country Crisis Center 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</p>			

Summary of Wed., February 12, 2020 Board Meeting

Present: President Jerry Best; Vice President Vicki Luther; Treasurer Judy Bunch; Secretary Jill Wiggins; Member-at-large Don Pyle; Past President Linda Smith, Finance Chair Mike Burkett and Activities & Events Chair Judy Ashcraft.

Minutes of the January 8, 2020 Board meeting were approved. The February Treasurer's report was approved. Discussion included finding ways to get more pledge cards since there have been only 13 turned in for this budget year.

Jerry worked with the UUA to reduce our payment to the Association because we do not have a minister's salary in our budget.

The board approved a motion to look into hiring a contract minister for a speaker once a month. Linda will contact area UU ministers to see if there is interest.

After discussion regarding renting out the parsonage for the Kerrville Folk Festival, it was agreed that Linda would look into. Criteria for rental would include renting to people we know or could be vouched for and a deposit would be required. Linda will also contact festival organizers.

Judy Ashcraft reported that senior chair exercises have begun on the first and third Mondays. Women's Connection lunches are the second and fourth Wednesdays. Men's fellowship continues. The next potluck is February 16. The movie March 28 will be "Jane," about Jane Goodall. Two upcoming dinners and movies will be Italian and Mexican. In May and August there will be game nights.

Donnie Bunch has put together a security team. The team does regular checking of doors and the parking lot during services.

Linda updated the board on progress in organizing the office. Janet Belden has offered to help. Jerry reported on the outside building that's used for storage: the insurance company will not insure it and wants it demolished. Jerry got the insurance company to agree that we remove the lean-to and front porch and leave the parts that are still viable, which will be insured.

After discussion of the current child care advisory on the website, Linda agreed to check on babysitting services in Kerrville to find out fees and other requirements.

Linda reported for the Search Committee that there are no new applicants, and that she is in regular contact with the UUA to keep our information updated. 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



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

Senior Chair Exercises continue in February. This is 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



UBarU is the only Unitarian Universalist camp and retreat center in the central United States south of Minnesota and is just twenty miles west of Kerrville. To register for the following events go to www.ubaru.org under the "events" tab:

- ⊕ **March 27 - 29: Men-Aligned Retreat (led by Rev. Mark Skrabacz)**
- ⊕ **April 3 - 5: Contemplative Spiritual Practices Retreat (led by Rev. Rob Moore and Rev. Sandy Moore)**
- ⊕ **April 17 - 19: Women-Aligned Retreat (with Rev. Addae A. Kraba)**
- ⊕ **May 1 - 3: Writer's Weekend (led by Sheri Phillabaum)**
- ⊕ **May 22 - 25: Family Camp**



Getting To Know Us 🎵

Stephanie and David Gross New members as of December 15, 2019

Stephanie and David Gross moved to Kerrville from the Bangor, Maine area where they lived from 2004 to September, 2019. Stephanie was Associate Professor of English and American lit, and former chair of English and Humanities, then Associate Dean of Science and Humanities before retiring in May, 2019 from Husson University. She also taught in the University of Maine's Honors program for many years, was head of the President's Women's Leadership group at Husson, a HERS fellow, and led the General Education revision initiative on her campus. She still teaches part-time online—poetry, World Literature, and other literature classes.

David was Associate Professor of English at the University of Oklahoma from 1973-2004 before retiring and returning to Maine, where he grew up. He then taught part-time in Honors at the University of Maine and served as interim Dean of Honors for a year before moving to Texas. He still teaches part-time for OU online. During his time in Maine and after his father's death, David worked to organize the Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust, serving as Board President twice, and later on the board in other capacities, working with larger organizations such as the Maine Coast Heritage Trust and accreditors. During his tenure, the Trust protected 4300 acres of what is now called the Wildlands in Orland, Maine. Many new acres are gradually being protected each year—up now to 4500 acres of forever protected land, accessible for free to all for hiking, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, hunting, and other outdoor recreation.

The Grosses raised five kids in a blended family in Norman, Oklahoma, and now have “kids” in Northern CA, Denver, Dallas, and Japan, and have one grandson. They also have an assortment of felines at any given moment. Right now they have four rescues, all gorgeous part Maine Coons.

Unitarian Universalists are the best religious fit for Stephanie and David as both have worked for years in social justice groups. David, for example, led campus protests after seeing Martin Luther King, Jr speak at his undergrad (Wesleyan University in Connecticut).

Stephanie has taught feminist theory and literature as well as cultural theory for thirty years, although her undergrad degree was first in religious anthropology and then Philosophy. David has taught cultural studies and theory for fifty years and helped write the inclusive and diverse Honors curriculum for OU's college. He was a theatre and French major as an undergrad and lived and studied in France twice.



Stephanie and David with Selma Gibson (top) and Steve Galland (bottom) on December 15



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	Donna Schloss	Kevin & June Hartley	Julie Davis	Mike Burkett
8	Susan Lipp	Meredith & Monte Hensley	Sarah Johanson	Monte Hensley
15	Justin Biemer	Sarah Johanson	James Boyles	Marie Brown & Jill Wiggins
22	Vicki Luther	Mary Jones	March Birthday Cake	Selma Gibson
29	Selma Gibson	Pat & Dave Kobe	TBA	Carolyn Dreyer & Jill Wiggins

TBA = to be announced

- ⊕ To be a Service Associate, contact Linda Smith, Vicki 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, March 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 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: Open
communication@uuchc.org
Electronic Media (Facebook & web site): Amanda Biemer
Newsletter/Weekly Calendar Update: Susan Lipp