

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country
Newsletter

December 2021



UUCHC Participates in the Kerrville Holiday Lighted Parade on Saturday, November 20

For the third year, UUCHC participated in the well-attended Kerrville Holiday Lighted Parade on Saturday, November 20. In addition to Judy Ashford's festive decorations to Linda Smith's striking red convertible, Reverend Schulman and church members, Jerry Best, Vicki Luther and Ed Alford (driver), enjoyed the view of the crowds from inside the car.

Fall Reflection Celebrated Thursday, November 11 at UBarU

Enjoying a crisp autumn evening, UUCHC members and friends gathered in the beauty of UbarU; relishing the labyrinth, the "Harvest the Spirit" service at the fire circle and eating chili dogs, s'mores and other goodies.

Below are members Amanda Biemer and Donnie Bunch with the telescope at the U Bar-U Observatory.



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Check out our Facebook page



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PASTORAL REFLECTIONS...

There have been some new faces in church. Some have recently come back to church for the first time since Covid shut us down. Many members and friends made it out to UBarU for "Fall Reflection." Carolyn Dreyer premiered the new UUCHC T-shirt. Do you feel an uplifting, hopeful, excited energy arising? I do.

As I slowly get a feel for Kerrville, I can't help but imagine that there are Hill Country residents who could contribute and find fulfillment in this congregation. Supposed a resident identified as Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim or as from other non-Christian faiths? What religious affiliation would they have in Kerrville? Suppose they are a liberal Christian, someone raised Christian or otherwise loosely oriented towards Jesus? What are the chances that they are going to feel a sense of belonging in the Christian churches in Kerrville? If they never experienced the different way we UUs approach religion, spirituality and faith, how would they even imagine what we have? How about those who have never been a member of a religious congregation? Why would they come here? What about those who identify as spiritual but not religious? And the person whose heart daily yearns for social justice! Where can these people find fellowship? Would they expect to find a community that would nurture their own sense of what is sacred?

Many of these people would love it here, and they are probably not looking for us. Maybe they can't even imagine a congregation of people with diverse theological beliefs, united by a bold faith and effort to create Beloved Community?

Do you know someone and wished they would visit? Can you imagine new people finding us? If people came to us from different cultures, races, classes, sexual orientations, political persuasions, would you welcome them? Would you like to discuss any of these questions? Your minister and your congregation value your perspective.

Alive in the Ministry of this faith,
 Reverend Phillip Schulman
 UU Church of the Hill Country

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

- 5 **Speaker: Sherri Curry, Church Friend** (Mike Burkett, Service Associate) - **Topic: "Tajikistan Trip Adventure"** - Curry shares her observations and thoughts on her recent trip to Tajikistan. She has lived in Kerrville with husband John Spreen since 2012. They moved from the Lake Travis area near Austin, where they ran a marina and were investors in two restaurants. They came from California; the 1989 San Francisco earthquake left them without running water for several months, which helped motivate the move to Texas. John now volunteers at Sea Turtle, Inc. on South Padre Island, while Sherri is a CASA and volunteers at KerrConnect.
- 12 **Rev. Phillip Schulman** (Ann Galland, Service Associate) - **Sermon: "Making Room at the UU Inn"** - UU tradition offers a passport to travel into the mystical tradition of Christmas. Hear a very different spin on "reason for the season," and "Keep Christ in Christmas." Reverend Schulman will draw on history and call us to radical inclusivity. All are welcome and called into this Celebration of rich, full and transformative holiday spirit.
- 19 **Speakers: David Gross & Vicki Luther, Church Members** (Mike Burkett, Service Associate) - **Topic: "Winter Solstice Poetry"**
 David Gross grew up in Maine where he attended first a Methodist and then a community church with a Congregational minister and service. He remained unchurched for his many years as a professor at the University of Oklahoma, and then at the University of Maine. He and his wife Stephanie moved to Kerrville in the fall of 2019 and almost immediately joined the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country. They have one grandson and four adult children scattered over the western U.S. and Japan. He reads, bicycles, gardens, cooks and dotes on Stephanie and their four cats.
 Vicki Luther happily serves on our UUCHC board. Currently, she shares a dwelling with two Corgis and two cats.

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December 2021 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
<p>Church Friends may serve on committees. All listed meetings are open and all are welcomed.</p> 						
<p>CS: Church Sanctuary PA: Wilma Palmer Annex All Sunday Services held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary.</p>			1	2	3	4
<p>①There will be news, views, and thought provoking discussion. Guys bring your sandwich or gourmet repast as you wish. Contact: Bryan Bristol 214.392-4823/bryan.bristol@yahoo.com</p>					<p>Committee Chair Council meeting: 10:30am - PA</p> <p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①</p>	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>Speaker: Sherri Curry, Church Friend - Topic: "Tajikistan Trip Adventure" - see page 2</p>	 <p>Hanukkah ends</p>	<p>National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</p>	<p>Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All welcomed.</p>			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>Rev. Phillip Schulman - Sermon: "Making Room at the UU Inn" - see page 2</p> <p>Annual Congregational Meeting (held after service)</p> <p>New Member Ceremony!</p>			<p>Last day to submit articles for January's newsletter: communication@uuchc.org</p>		<p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①</p>	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>Speakers: David Gross & Vicki Luther, Church Members - Topic: "Winter Solstice Poetry" - see page 2</p>		 <p>First Day of Winter</p>			<p>Christmas Eve Service 5pm - Rev. Phillip Schulman (Susan Lipp, Service Associate)</p> 	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
<p>Rev. Phillip Schulman (Justin Biemer, Service Associate) - Sermon: "Climbing to Freedom?" - see page 4</p> <p>Kwanzaa Begins</p>					<p>New Year's Eve</p>	

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

Friday, December 24 - Reverend Phillip Schulman - Christmas Eve Service



26 Rev. Phillip Schulman (Justin Biemer, Service Associate) - Sermon: “Climbing to Freedom?” - Forgiveness doesn’t mean passivity and tolerating abuse. How can we find or give real forgiveness? We’ll take a thoughtful look, prepare for a journey and begin it. Our destination is freedom, peace and empowerment. We’ll look at some inspiring examples and how they achieved forgiveness.

UUCHC 5th Sunday Donate-the Plate Offering on October 31 Supports Kerr-Konnect



Carolyn Dreyer, UUCHC member and Outreach/Social Justice Committee co-chair presents a \$705 check to Kerr-Konnect’s Program Director Whit Matteson, office staff member Lorain Ellison and Mike Burkett, KK founder and Board President.

On each fifth Sunday of the year, the UUCHC donates that day’s offering to a non-profit that best reflects the church’s commitment to community service. Kerr-Konnect is an especially appropriate choice for UUCHC since 15 congregation members are volunteer drivers or office staff and have contributed to the 95,604 miles driven in Kerr-Konnect’s three-year history (including the “down” pandemic year).



Chalice Table Highlights November 28 sermon, “UU solidarity with Native American Activism”

Above is Kevin Hartley’s chalice table with the following description: Masks bought in Mexico City 40 years ago. Clam shells from Padre Island. Rocks left to right: crystalline gypsum from the Caprock Escarpment in northern TX, lava from the Carrizozo Lava Flow Field in New Mexico, welded tuff (volcanic ash cemented by temperature and pressure) also from New Mexico. Sugar pine cone is the largest cone of any species. Fabric is handmade batik bought in northern Sumatra 35 years ago.



Judy Ashcraft Chalice Table of November 7, “Fall Breeze & Autumn Leaves”



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
5	Mike Burkett	Judy Ashcraft	Mike Burkett
12	Ann Galland	Janet Belden	Sarah Johanson
19	David Gross & Vicki Luther	Jill Wiggins	Mike Burkett
Friday 24	Susan Lipp	Carolyn Dreyer	Sarah Johanson
26	Justin Biemer	Carolyn Dreyer	Sarah Johanson

- ⊕ To be a Service Associate, please contact Vickie Luther.
- ⊕ Chalice Table Decoration is handled by Pat Kobe 830.955-1139/ kobepat313@gmail.com
- ⊕ The Coffee Preparation List may be found on a clipboard found on the back table of the sanctuary and is handled by Sarah Johanson.



(left) June Hartley's Chalice Table décor for Rev. Schulman's Sermon "Is Enlightenment Desirable?"
Sunday, November 14

New Member Ceremony & Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 12

Join in the celebration of three new members to the congregation, plus there will be voting on new board members and other important items! If you are a member and cannot make the service, please give your proxy to another member.



Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Board Members for 2021

President ~ Jerry Best
210-633-7553/ bestjerry48@gmail.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 Chair: Vicki Luther
Wayside Pulpit, Coffee Set-Up, Music/Choir, Greeters,
Order of Service, Chalice Table, Service Schedule/Associates

Ex Officio Board Member (Past President):
Linda Smith

Spiritual Development Chair: Vicki Luther
Life Span Development (Adult and Children's Religious
Education), Free Speech Café, Forums

**Membership Co-Chairs: Bryan Bristol
& Gary Payne**
Congregational Care, Visitor Follow-Up, Exit Interviews,
New Member Orientation, Emergency Phone Tree,
Members/Friends List

Outreach/Social Justice Committee Co-Chairs:
Carolyn Dreyer & Stephanie Gross
La Casa de Raices, TXUUJM, PFLAG, Habitat for Humanity,
Donate the Plate, 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

Webmaster: (Contractor) Audra Arr
Facebook: Linda Smith
Newsletter/Weekly Calendar Update: Susan Lipp