

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country
Newsletter

November 2021

Thursday, November 11 Special Event "Fall Reflection at UbarU" 2:30pm until ?

KISS Keep It Simple Sweethearts; we will gather in the beauty of UBarU, maybe hike or ride to the labyrinth at 4pm, enjoy the 5pm Service at the fire circle: "Harvest the Spirit", sit by a fire and eat chili dogs from 6 - 7pm (RSVP Donnie Bunch 830.928-9345 or dbunch@stx.rr.com so enough food is prepared.) "Stay later if you want to enjoy the sky from the observatory?!"



Above is the October 3 Chalice table decorated by member, Judy Ashcraft. It represents the Hill Country; the hills, Lost Maples, Guadalupe River, turkey farm, llama rescue, deer, and Texas longhorns. A sign showing the UUCHC Logo stands on the "hill".

The folks at the Hill Country Crisis Council were thrilled to receive the UUCHC's generous August 29 "Donate the Plate" offering. Carolyn Dreyer presented the check for \$557 to Brent Ives, HCCC director, and Stephenie Cantu of the HCCC's Kids Advocacy Place (KAP).

In the background, a colorful Tree of Life features the handprints of the many abused and at risk children who've been helped at KAP. This entry wall helps kids find comfort in knowing they're not alone and illustrates the kind of heartfelt care that HCCC provides and that UUCHC wholeheartedly supports.



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FROM YOUR MINISTER...

Appreciation, Welcome, Honesty in the Beloved Community

The energy in me two months into my contract is curiosity about UUCHC and gratitude for my getting to be here with you.

Two months into my contract, the energy in me is curiosity about UUCHC and gratitude for the opportunity to be here with you. When I first started (virtually) visiting, I was told that “the group” is generally appreciative of what gets shared on Sunday. So far, I witnessed as much, a generosity of spirit.

I've experienced a warm welcome as I transitioned from guest minister to your Minister. I've received some invitations and visits. I've received help getting out to community events. I've seen evidence of people being thoughtfully considerate of my needs. I've been given feedback that's been rich in appreciation.

I've wondered: “do guests and newcomers experience anything like what I have?” Granted a minister begins with a different relationship than a stranger. Still I bet that you give a warm welcome to others. That would be a sweet asset!

Our religious tradition gives us a vision of beloved community. Whatever else we might imagine the beloved community (or heaven) will be like, I'm imagining everybody experiencing being known and appreciated. Who isn't positively impacted by understanding, care, consideration and appreciation?! So I'm looking to learn from you. Has your experience been at all like mine? If yes, how did the congregation get this way? What helps sustain warmth and generosity of spirit?

Most of us have also experienced times when communication gets difficult. I will be here to receive feedback and concerns when experiences are not pleasant! Our faith encourages us to grow in our abilities to share difficult feedback with kindness and respect. This too is part of creating beloved community.

For now, I'm just basking in the kindness I've found. I'm eager to learn more about how it got here and how we will nourish and sustain it so that those who come in 2022 and beyond will find it too.

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

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

- 7 Speaker: Jill Palmer, DSW (Vicki Luther, Service Associate) - Topic: “Journey to Wellness”.** Jill Palmer, DSW is Chief of Behavioral Health at Endeavors, Inc. of San Antonio and works on wellness and suicide prevention programs targeted at veterans and their families.



- 14 Rev. Phillip Schulman - Sermon: “Is Enlightenment Desirable?”** - No sermon today dharma talk. Come take a foray into a few core ideas attributed to Siddhartha Gautama, aka Buddha. The aim of this talk is to lessen cultural and ideological prejudices which get in our way of embracing practical teachings from Buddhist traditions. Suited for anyone interested in Buddhism, developing mindfulness or experiencing lasting peace.
- 21 Leader: Sarah Johanson, Church Member - Topic: “Gratitude”** - Members and friends will be asked to share gratitude experiences prior to our Thanksgiving Holiday. Sarah Johanson lives with 3 dogs (newest named “Frankie”). She works from home and dog sits a friend's dog during the week. She has been a UU for 2 years and recently joined the UU Board. She loves reading, walking in nature, surfing dogs, doing crosswords, comedy, and aurora borealis.





November 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>CS: Church Sanctuary PA: Wilma Palmer Annex <i>All Sunday Services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary.</i> Church Friends may serve on committees.</p> <p><i>All listed meetings are open and all are welcome to attend.</i></p>	<p>1</p> <p>VOTE!</p> <p>2</p> <p>ELECTION DAY</p> <p>DIA DE LOS MUERTOS</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>Committee Chair Council meeting: 10:30am - PA</p> <p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>Veterans Day</p> <p>Board meeting: 6:30pm - PA - all welcomed.</p> <p>Fall Reflection at UBarU 2:30-7pm - see page 1</p>	<p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>Speaker: Jill Palmer, DSW - Topic: "Journey to Wellness" - see page 2</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time Ends (set clocks back one hour)</p>  <p>Rev. Phillip Schulman - Sermon: "Is Enlightenment Desirable?" - see page 2</p> <p>Screening of "The Condor and The Eagle" 6:30pm - PA - see page 5</p> <p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①</p> <p>Kerrville Holiday Lighted Parade: 6pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p>26</p> <p>27</p> <p>Leader: Sarah Johanson - Topic: "Gratitude" - see page 2</p>  <p>Happy Thanksgiving</p> <p>BLACK FRIDAY</p>	<p>28</p> <p>29</p> <p>30</p> <p>Rev. Phillip Schulman - Sermon: "UU Solidarity with Native American Activism" - see page 2</p> <p>Hanukkah begins at sundown</p>  <p>#GIVINGTUESDAY</p>

① There 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

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

28 Rev. Phillip Schulman - Sermon: "UU solidarity with Native American Activism" - Native Americans are taking a lead in ecological organizing in "defense of the sacred," mother Earth; land, air and water. They are reclaiming native traditions, revitalizing culture and seeking to end centuries-long genocide attempts. How can we UUs be part of healing the racism that Natives face? How shall we side with love for justice, dignity and for life on Earth? What does solidarity look like?

UUCHC makes its mark by helping to clean the Hill Country



On Tuesday, October 5 an 8-person team from UUCHC started out bright and early to clean up a stretch of the River Trail from Louise Hays Park to the G Street Bridge. Armed with bright green 2021 UGRA T-shirts, trash picker-uppers, large dog food bags, gloves and wagons were used. *Pictured from left to right: Kevin Hartley (June Hartley also assisted in the clean-up), David Gross, Carolyn Dreyer, Bryan Bristol, and Rev. Phillip Schulman.*

First find was a fully-loaded dirty diaper followed by the usual beer cans, fast food containers, plastic bottles, etc. David was injured as he and Kevin struggled with a huge rusted metal cylinder. They were assisted by a passing cyclist who thought our UUCHC sounded pretty cool. Bryan, lost in the rough, stumbled across a homeless camp and beat a quick retreat, but, on the whole, the clean-up went smoothly. (Thanks Kevin for the mapping, GPSing and supply pick-up).



Armed with water, grapes and three kinds of muffins were Chuck and Linda Smith, the clean-up team's shuttle/support team.

UUCHC Leads Local Support of Texas Women's Rights

On Saturday, October 2, a group of UUCHC members and friends joined thousands of men and women across the country to support women's rights and to protest the recent TX abortion ban. The rally, planned solely by word of mouth, drew more than 75 people, making it the largest gathering of its kind in recent memory. Response from passersby was overwhelmingly positive. UUCHC Reverend Phillip Schulman was the ONLY clergy present!



From left to right is Linda Smith, Carolyn Dreyer, Rev. Phillip Schulman, (friend) Elaine Horobec, June Hartley, Audra Arr, Vicki Luther and Jill Wiggins.



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
7	Vicki Luther	Judy Ashcraft
14	Frances Osborne	June Hartley
21	Sarah Johansen	Ann Galland
28	June Hartley	Kevin Hartley

- ⊕ To be a Service Associate, please contact Vickie Luther.
- ⊕ Chalice Table Decoration is handled by Pat Kobe
830.955-1139/ kobepat313@gmail.com
- ⊕ Coffee is prepared by Sarah Johansen and other dedicated church goers.



November 18 Screening of "The Condor and The Eagle" ♦ Palmer Annex ♦ 6:30pm

SYNOPSIS: Indigenous environmental leaders embark on an extraordinary trans-continental adventure from the Boreal forest to deep into the heart of the Amazonian jungle to unite the peoples of North and South America and deepen the meaning of "Climate Justice". "The Condor & The Eagle" documentary offers a glimpse into a developing spiritual renaissance as the film four protagonists learn from each other's long legacy of resistance to colonialism and its extractive economy. Their path through the jungle takes them on an unexpectedly challenging and liberating journey, which will forever change their attachment to the Earth and one another.

At UUA General Assembly in 2018, our congregations passed a statement of immediate witness encouraging UUs to find way to stand in solidarity with Native American and other Indigenous People mobilizing resistance to development (i.e. transcontinental pipeline) that will have catastrophic effects re climate and ecology. Let's learn of these Indigenous leaders. This documentary is beautiful and inspiring. It's been provided on a donation/love offering basis. <https://www.uumfe.org/condor-eagle/>



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 Raíces, TXUJUM, 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