

# OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country  
Newsletter

February 2022



## UUCHC Winter Gathering Sunday, February 27 ★ 4 - 8pm ★ UBarU

The people who planned and executed the "UUCHC Fall Reflection" which occurred at UBarU have planned the "UUCHC Winter Gathering".

Some of the tentatively scheduled events are a tour, walking or driving to the labyrinth, wandering the 142 acre campus, hanging out on the large wrap around porch or going inside the meeting house, twenty minute worship service at the fire circle, roast hot dogs (chili and condiments provided), and star gazing. Bring your binoculars. Since this is still in the planning stages with the theme TBA, the schedule is subject to change.

RSVP to Donnie Bunch @ [dbunch@stx.rr.com](mailto:dbunch@stx.rr.com) and questions to Reverend Phillip @ [minister@uuchc.org](mailto:minister@uuchc.org). UbarU is once again allowing us use of its fabulous retreat space so donations/love offerings will be greatly appreciated. (Basket will be passed.)

In the event of inclement weather, the event may be rescheduled for the forward week.

## Texas Power Hour for Democracy

- ⊕ Southlake, TX ... School board members scrap a diversity and inclusion program that was created to address racist behavior in schools.
- ⊕ Katy, TX ... Black author's award-winning book pulled from library shelves, his visit canceled.
- ⊕ Granbury, TX ... boxes of books (a student helpfully compiled a list at <https://twitter.com/cjtackett/status/1487132310306795525>) tagged with "Krause's List" are removed from school libraries prior to due process / review.

School boards continue to be a flashpoint for the culture wars. Many Texas elected officials are doubling down on their attacks on Texas public schools and libraries. Our **Texas Power Hour for Democracy** seeks to build our organizing and electoral power. This month's Power Hour will continue our focus on actions related to activism at the school board level. Then we will break out by regions/cities to build out plans for planning / participating in organizing activities in your own communities in 2022. Please join us! Register: <https://secure.everyaction.com/CznAvldM80WY0FR4EvDlwg2>

In faith,  
Sarah Berel-Harrop (She/Her or They)  
Acting Executive Director, Texas UU Justice Ministry  
"The generation of hope is a communal act" Gregory C. Ellison II

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country  
960 Barnett Street  
Kerrville, TX 78028-4667  
830.792-3626

[www.uuchc.org](http://www.uuchc.org)  
Email: [churchofthehillcountry@uuchc.org](mailto:churchofthehillcountry@uuchc.org)  
Check out our Facebook page



Pastoral Reflections~ page 2  
Church Service Detail~ pages 2 & 4  
Monthly calendar~ page 3  
Committee on the Ministry~ page 4  
Getting to Know Us~ pages 4 & 5  
Board Members & Committees~ page 5

## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS...

**"What do we have in store for us?"**

*The modern "store" is a place we buy goods. The word comes from the same root as storage. Stores were places where staples for living were kept. Grains, salted meats, root vegetables, dried fruits, and other staples were deposited in storerooms for later consumption"*

*In modern stores, the sellers make the deposits. Our favorite H-E-B employee\* goes into to restock when the store is closed. We shoppers come later, bring our cash or credit cards, pay for the food and take it home.*

*Our church is more like a co-op than a market. I was part of co-op once in Eugene, Oregon. I lived in an intentional community and did the shopping for our house of ten residents. We ate delicious healthy organic fruit, grains, vegetables and goods, and paid far them with less money than we would have spent at a grocery store.*

*Each co-op member put in a minimum of 30 minutes of volunteer labor each week. One reason I looked forward to my shift was the many hugs shared.*

*This was a big part of the culture of the co-op. There was good music played. Cleaning and restocking happened in a joyous atmosphere. People often worked past the end of their 30 minute shift. It was a sweet time of love, friendship and service. Along with food, we filled up on the sweetness of connection.*

*A church doesn't store organic produce. As I see it, we come together for spiritual nourishment. We find encouragement and challenge, meaning and purpose. Much that we find in store was placed there by community members. Much that's stored was given by people that served in years past.*

*I would like to thank you for helping to maintain our "store" here at UUCHC. We know you have a choice where to put your energy and share your gifts. We wouldn't be the same without you!*

**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...**

**6 Speaker: Linda Smith**, Church Member (Jill Wiggins, Service Associate) - **Service: "Centering: A Little Bit at a Time"** - Linda will share tips on slowing down and centering, offered by the Church of the Larger Fellowship.

Linda Smith (Member) became a UU in 1974 in Jackson, Mississippi. She joined UUCHC in 2005 when she and Chuck moved to Kerrville after retirement. She has been Board President, Finance Committee Chair, Membership Chair, and currently is chairing the Committee on Ministry (CoM). She retired from government service contracting after 38 years, has six children, 13 grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

**13 Rev. Phillip Schulman** (Sarah Johanson, Service Associate) - **Sermon: "Families, Love and Violence"** - Let's discuss families: How do they serve individuals & society? What challenges do families face today? What do we like/dislike about changes for families in society? Have we replicated or replaced our families of origin? How do families become agents of love and/or violence? How do we take UU Principles and Purposes into families?

Service will include a Valentine's Day honoring of love known inside and outside families.






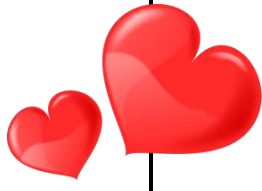

**20 Speakers: Amanda Biemer, Chuck Smith and Zeke**, all Church Members (Stephanie Gross, Service Associate) - **Service: Book Sunday** - Always a church favorite, Amanda, Chuck and Zeke will discuss books that have been meaningful to them.

**Amanda Biemer** (Member) has been a UU since 2009 and a practicing witch for 23 years with traditions that include Wicca, Kemetic, Brujeria, and "whatever you have on hand" witchcraft. She is currently the happiest chicken slinger this side of Houston. She and her husband Justin have a 13 year old son. They are all UUs, and spread love wherever they can.

**- Continued on Page 4 -**

## February 2022 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 style="text-align: center;"><b>UUCHC is currently only sharing Sunday services via Zoom and church committee meetings have been temporarily suspended. Zoom Sunday church services are held at 10am and Justin Biemer is managing them. Please contact him (justin.d.biemer@gmail.com) if you haven't requested to join any Zoom meetings in the past. If you have requested this, you are already on the invitation list for all future meetings.</b></p>						
		<p style="text-align: center;">1</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Happy Groundhog Day!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>Speaker: Linda Smith, Church Member - Service: "Centering: A Little Bit at a Time" - see page 2</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>Rev. Phillip Schulman - Sermon: "Families, Love and Violence" - see page 2</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>Last day to submit articles for <b>March</b> newsletter: communication @ uuchc.org</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>Speakers: Church Members - Amanda Biemer, Chuck Smith and Zeke - Subject: "Book Sunday" - see page 2</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>President's Day</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>Rev. Phillip Schulman - Sermon: "Prayers; Yours, Mine &amp; Ours" - see page 2</p> <p>UUCHC Winter Gathering - see page 1</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>MARCH</p> 				

~ Continued from Page 2 ~

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

**Chuck Smith** (Member) became a UU in 1974 in Jackson, Mississippi. He joined UUCHC in 2021 after 16 years trying to merge the two UU bodies in this small town. He has been Board President, Vice President (Log Cabin Church, Anchorage AK), Immediate Past President and Chair of Building and Grounds (14 years). He is retired from the USAF with slightly more than 30 years of service. He has six children, 13 grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. He has a double major BS from FSU and a Graduate Certification from TSU (Legal Studies).

**Zeke** has been a UUCHC member for many years and currently serves as Facilities Chair.

- 27 **Rev. Phillip Schulman** (Selma Gibson, Service Associate) - Sermon: “Prayers; Yours, Mine & Ours” - Many of us have rejected the practices and explanations of prayer given to us as children. Prayer certainly need not be understood as a petition of an all-powerful deity for special requests. UUs offer liberal; generous, not strict interpretations on most religious matters including prayer. Let's look at a number of different ways prayer can be prayer can be understood and expressed. UU right of conscience affirms our power to find our own way to understand, practice/abstain or just relate to prayers. All welcome.



#### What is the function of the Committee on Ministry?

The Mission of the Committee on Ministry (COM) is to support the Minister and the congregation in fulfilling the Mission of the Church by:

- functioning as a channel for communication, when needed, between the congregation and the Minister, and
- championing all activities that promote the overall ministry of the church.

#### Who is the Committee on Ministry?

The Committee on Ministry is a small group of church members, the chair is appointed by the President of the congregation and the other members are chosen by the minister and the chair of the committee. The current chair is Linda Smith, and current members are Donna Schloss and Bryan Bristol.



On December 11, UUCHC welcomed three new members into the congregation. From left to right are Helen Sherwood, Jan Pickett and Dave Sherwood. Below is a quick introduction to the trio.



Getting To Know Us 🎵

**Dave and Helen Sherwood** began their UU journey at Northwoods UU Church (18 years), then helped create Tapestry UU Church (4 years) and, since retiring to Kerrville, are now new members of UUCHC. Between them both, they have either chaired or participated on every committee/task force/board conceivable except choir - they love to sing but don't do it well. They recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary and have two sons, Alex (age 27) and Will (age 24.) Alex works with youth/ young adult programming and activism for the UUA and lives here in Kerrville, working remotely. Will lives in Queens, NY and works as a computer programmer for Citadel.

- Continued on Page 5 -

## “Getting To Know Us” - continued from page 4

**Dave Sherwood** retired from Shell six years ago as a Principle Scientist and now devotes his time to being on the UBarU board, helping with UBarU Friday Fellowship services and attending the UUCHC Friday Men’s Lunch Group. Helen is a current board member of Harmony Public Schools charter school system and is still co-leading a decluttering covenant group at Tapestry UU (via Zoom.) They both enjoy reading, traveling, being outdoors (camping and hiking) and backyard bird-watching. In addition, Helen enjoys most crafty things, but especially weaving and collage art, while Dave is getting pretty good on the ukulele!

They look forward to being active members and figuring out how they can best be of service to UUCHC and the broader Kerrville community.

**Jan Pickett** grew up in Midland Texas, the daughter of a geophysicist and school teacher. Jan fell in love with her future husband, Denny Pickett, while they were both in high school and they were married for forty years. She practiced nursing also for 40 years, first in cardiovascular critical care and then as an oncology and hospice nurse practitioner. She has one son who is a chef and musician in Austin, two grandsons and now a 20 month old great granddaughter, who is the joy of her life! Jan enjoys hiking, photography, and yoga and is currently studying shamanistic journeying.



*Despite not having an opportunity to share Chalice Table displays while the sanctuary is closed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Carolyn Dreyer created her own Chalice Table in her home to focus on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday “Donate the Plate” program. On January 30 those proceeds were be given to Families & Literacy which several church members and friends have been supporting for years.*



## Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Board Members for 2022

**President - Vicki Luther**

830.496-3205/ [vb Luther@twc.com](mailto:vb Luther@twc.com)

**Vice President - Janet Belden**

214.769-6878/ [zjaybee@yahoo.com](mailto:zjaybee@yahoo.com)

**Secretary - Sarah Johanson**

830.257-2768/ [sarahtjwee@windstresam.net](mailto:sarahtjwee@windstresam.net)

**Treasurer - Judy Bunch**

830.459-8509/ [dbunch@stx.rr.com](mailto:dbunch@stx.rr.com)

**Member at Large - Don Pyle**

575.534-8259/ [dtpyle@gmail.com](mailto:dtpyle@gmail.com)

**Sunday Services Chair: Janet Belden**

Wayside Pulpit, Coffee Set-Up, Music/Choir, Greeters, Order of Service, Chalice Table, Service Schedule/Associates

**Ex Officio Board Member (Past President):**

**Jerry Best**

**Committee on Ministry (CoM) Chair: Linda Smith**

**Spiritual Development Chair: Janet Belden**

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, Members/Friends List

**Outreach/Social Justice Committee Co-Chairs:**

**Carolyn Dreyer & Stephanie Gross**

TXUJMJ, Donate the Plate

**Finance Committee Chair: Mike Burkett**

Stewardship, Budget, Financial Management & Reports

**Facilities Chair: Zeke**

Building/Grounds

**Activities/Events Chair: Judy Ashcraft**

Special Social Events, Recurring Events, Building Usage

**Communications Chair: Jill Wiggins**

[communication@uuchc.org](mailto:communication@uuchc.org)

Webmaster: (Contractor) Audra Arr

Facebook: Linda Smith

Newsletter/Weekly Calendar Update: Susan Lipp