

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country
Newsletter

January 2022



UUCHC Holiday Lunch
Saturday, January 8, 2022
1:30pm ♦ Billy Gene's Restaurant
1489 Junction Highway ♦ Kerrville, TX

Well the weather outside is frightful,
But a party is always delightful!

Bring a gift for the Gift Exchange (\$10 maximum: Re-gift or New). Order from the Restaurant Menu. Each attendee is responsible for their meal payment. RSVP by January 2 to Judy Ashcraft (sign-up sheet or call 210-326-0084).



Above, the December 26 Chalice Table by Carolyn Dreyer honors the African-American holiday of KWANZAA, a time of rejoicing and renewal, which begins December 26 and lasts for seven days. Each day, a new candle is lit and one of the seven Kwanzaa principles, which include unity, faith, creativity and purpose, is celebrated.

Left, Judy Ashcraft gestures toward a festively decorated table laden with cookies for the Annual Cookie Exchange on Christmas Eve. Chocolate, peanut butter, shortbread, mincemeat, coconut, oatmeal, every shape and flavor - all for enjoying on the spot with cider, hot chocolate, coffee and lively conversation. OR taking home by the dozen!

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country
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Email: churchofthehillcountry@uuchc.org
Check out our Facebook page



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PASTORAL REFLECTIONS...

"The Blessing of Being in This Together"

At the annual meeting I shared that I am inspired by the way this congregation really does make "service its prayer." The level of participation suggests a level of fulfillment achieved.

I have felt impressed by the team effort. It seems like everybody pitches in. The pandemic slogan "we are all in this together" is exemplified here. There is team spirit. One example; I've really enjoyed hearing people asking each other for help. You make it look it easy. I imagine this means that your "yeses" have been met with appreciation, and your "Nos" have been met with respect. True? At least most of the time? Being able to say "no," having a choice, makes it easier to say "yes!"

When I'm in a good frame of mind, I remember that every request offers an opportunity. For example, I consider it a wonderful honor being asked and permitted to bring my creativity to our worship service.

When I search and select a poem, story or reading, I'm hoping it will be gift, and maybe even touch somebody in a meaningful way. When I'm working on the sermon, it is also working on me. That's a perquisite!

I'm looking forward to your creativity as you take part in worship and other activities. All UUCHC activities offer opportunities to practice and grow in UU faith.

I want to thank those who have offered opportunities for connection. Several of you have had me to your homes. Others have shared bits of personal history, creative projects, and passions that enrich your lives. Several of you have helped me plug in to area events. I'm hoping there will be more of these. I could use help in getting connected to the wider community!

Thank you in advance for requests, offers, and suggestions to come!

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: Mike Burkett, Church Member (Pat Kobe, Service Associate) - Service: "Burning Bowl Service"** - A UU tradition of burning away the negative in preparation for the new year.
- 9 Rev. Phillip Schulman (Vicki Luther, Service Associate) - Sermon: "Taking It to the Streets"** - Erosion of civil rights, one natural disaster after another, and an attack on democracy. What does it mean to be religious today? How do we "keep the faith" in these times?
- 16 Speaker: Karen Maddox (Mike Burkett, Service Associate) - Service: Doyle Community Center** - Located at 110 West Barnett Street, the mission of the Doyle School Community Center is to provide a focus and location for the delivery of educational activities, community organizations, and services to children, adults, and senior citizens of Kerrville.
- 23 Rev. Phillip Schulman (Janet Belden, Service Associate) - Sermon: Second Coming of the Queen of Heaven?** - Women and Religion Resolution of 1977 challenged UUs to look at the roots of sexism in religion. The immensely popular adult RE curriculum "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven" had women experience the impact of divine images of the feminine. The impact was tremendous and continues to this day. What changes will women and allies bring us in the face of the current assault on women's rights?
- 30 Speaker: June Hartley, Church Member (Susan Lipp, Service Associate) - Service: Families & Literacy (also the recipient of the 5th Sunday "Donate the Plate" Program today)** - Families & Literacy is a non-profit organization dear to the hearts of many in our congregation who have spent decades teaching F&L's English as a Second Language, citizenship classes or GED exam prep courses. F&L's mission, which UUCHC has supported both financially and with thousands of

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January 2022 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 PA: Wilma Palmer Annex (964 Barnett)</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>1</p> <p>Happy New Year!</p>
 <p>2</p> <p>Speaker: Mike Burkett, church member - Topic: "Burning Bowl Service" - see page 2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Committee on Ministry meeting: 11am - PA</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Committee Chair Council meeting: 10:30am - PA</p> <p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ①</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Rev. Phillip Schulman - Sermon: "Taking It to the Streets" - see page 2</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All are welcomed.</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Last day to submit articles for February newsletter: communication@uuchc.org</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Service: Karen Maddox of Doyle Community Center - see page 2</p> <p>Holiday Lunch at Billy Gene's Restaurant (see page 1)</p>	 <p>17</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day & Holiday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ①</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Rev. Phillip Schulman - Sermon: "Second Coming of the Queen of Heaven" - see page 2</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> 	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Speaker: June Hartley, church member - Topic: "Families in Literacy" - see page 2</p> <p>5th Sunday "Donate the Plate" program benefitting Families in Literacy - see page 2 & 4</p>	<p>31</p>	<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</p>				

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

30 volunteer hours, is to create a community of literate, responsible and productive adults who can then use their learning to benefit generations to come. In a time when the number of Texas residents with a high school diploma is the lowest in the country and when the fee for taking the citizenship exam has risen to \$725, the need for our support has never been greater.



“Donate the Plate” - Families & Literacy

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. On January 30 those proceeds will be given to Families & Literacy.



UUs HONORED BY KERR KONNECT

At a festive Kerr Konnect gathering on Thursday, December 9, 2021, UUs Carolyn Dreyer, Karen Burkett and Mike Burkett were honored for “Exceptional Performance” in their dedication to the growth and support of Kerr Konnect, Kerrville’s all-volunteer, non-profit transportation service.

Carolyn and Karen were thanked for 200+ hours of volunteering and Mike received an Exceptional Service award for 300+ hours.

In just three years, KK volunteers have driven 100,000 miles! FIFTEEN of UUCHC’s members and friends have served KK in that time.



On December 11, UUCHC welcomed three new members into the congregation. From left to right are Helen Sherwood, Jan Pickett and Dave Sherwood. More about all three will be shared in the February “Our Church Life” newsletter.



Jill Wiggins chalice table on Sunday, December 19 complemented the Service; “Celebrate the Solstice with Poetry” led by David Gross and Vicki Luther.



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
2	Pat Kobe	Vicki Luther	Mike Burkett
9	Vicki Luther	Judy Ashcraft	Sarah Johanson
16	Mike Burkett	Mike & Karen Burkett	Mike Burkett
23	Janet Belden	TBA	Sarah Johanson
30	Susan Lipp	TBA	Sarah Johanson

- ⊕ To become a Service Associate, please contact Janet Belden.
- ⊕ 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.



Project for Saturday, December 18 was the collecting of kitchen/household supplies for women who were transitioning from the Hill Country Crisis Council Shelter to their new homes. UUCHC member, Carolyn Dreyer shows her pride for fellow Democrats...a tiny minority here but mighty generous.



Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Board Members for 2022

President ~ Vicki Luther
830.496-3205/ vbluther@twc.com
Vice President ~ Janet Belden
214.769-6878/ zjaybee@yahoo.com
Secretary - Sarah Johanson
830.257-2768/ sarahtjwee@windstresam.net
Treasurer ~ Judy Bunch
830.459-8509/ dbunch@stx.rr.com
Member at Large - Don Pyle
575.534-8259/ 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
Webmaster: (Contractor) Audra Arr
Facebook: Linda Smith
Newsletter/Weekly Calendar Update: Susan Lipp