

# OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country  
Newsletter

April 2022

## Janet Belden & Bryan Bristol Donate New Chalice Table to UUCHC

Noticing that the chalice table was hard to see from the rear of the church and hard to decorate because the previous table was quite low, Bryan Bristol and Janet Belden purchased a new chalice table and donated it to the church during the March monthly board meeting on Wednesday, March 9. It has been well received and two of the artistic endeavors of various church members may be found to the right →.



Presenting the new chalice table are Janet Belden (far left) and Bryan Bristol while board members Judy Bunch and Don Pyle look on.



Spring has sprung!  
Above is Judy Ashcraft's Chalice Table décor of Sunday, March 13 (Daylight Savings Time begins) and to the left is Vicki Luther's lovely tulips for the Sunday, March 27 service.

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Check out our Facebook page



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## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS...

### "You can't say that!" or "Maybe we can"

In one of my first visits to a UU service, I experienced liberation. Rev. Pontier articulated his reasons for rejecting the "doctrine of atonement," the idea that Jesus died for our sins. Today as Minister, I would say to anyone for whom this idea is important. "You are welcome here, and be prepared to have this idea respectfully questioned!" At 23, hearing my minister openly reject this doctrine took me into a new world. I had tried to make sense of the doctrine, and found no way. And there he was calmly articulation his rejection of this doctrine!

I had been raised Jewish despite having a Catholic mother. My father told me that we must respect others' religion. I thought it meant that I could never talk about the places where the two traditions were in conflict.

A UU congregation provided sanctuary for me to talk about things that I had been prohibited from expressing. Today I hold as sacred the creation of space where people get to talk about things that have previously been off limits.

I find it beautiful when we approach sensitive and difficult information with care and respect! I've looked back on several relationship breakups, and concluded that if we had only been able to talk it through, we could have stayed together or at least parted with love and understanding.

I imagine that each of us has things we find difficult to talk about, even things we believe we can't talk about. Trauma, loss and regret may fall in this category, and I'm not suggesting we abandon all protection of the tender things we carry. I imagine, however, that perhaps there are things we could remove from the "can't talk about it" folder and find we can share it in sacred space. UU congregations often encourage question of authority especially when our families or society has foisted unreasonable limits and prohibitions. For example we routinely challenge prohibitions based on sex, race, class and religion. Many souls have thrown off mental shackles with UU support. UU congregations often provide sanctuary, space for examining, reflecting, shifting and sometimes abandoning ideas that have held us back.

What is one way that this or other UU congregations have helped you question, reject or shift? When have you found space to discuss when there had been none? What have you placed in a folder marked "Can't talk about that!," or "Can't say that!?" that you might now reconsider? What are you ready to bring to the light of consciousness? What prohibitions have constrained your mind or spirit that you might be ready to challenge?

I pray that our congregation remains a place where people find fellowship, spiritual companionship, and permission to embody and fill spaces that were previously off limits to us!

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



*The UUCHC Steve Brooks Fan Club gathered at Schreiner University's Trailhead Beer Garden Sunday, 3/20 afternoon to applaud Steve and his fellow "LIMELITERS as they presented a free concert of old folk song favorites and timely pieces from their NEW album. Steve is a longtime UU in Austin and a favorite UUCHC guest speaker.*

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

- 3 Speaker: Stephanie Gross, church member (Trudy Boardman, Service Associate) - Topic: "We Are One and We Are Loved" from CLF**
- 10 Rev. Phillip Schulman (Janet Belden, Service Associate) - Sermon: "They're Gonna Crucify Me!" Jewish Perspectives on Palm Sunday - If you are looking for a traditional Palm Sunday service keep looking. If you are willing to have your views on Jesus, G\*d, and religion challenged, willing to consider a Jesus that could still have sway with Unitarian Universalists, we have seats still available.**

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## April 2022 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><b>PA: Wilma Palmer Annex (964 Barnett) CS: Church Sanctuary</b></p> <p>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.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div>					1	2
					<p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①</p> 	<p>Ramadan begins</p> 
<p>Speaker: Stephanie Gross, church member - Topic: "We Are One and We Are Loved" from CLF - see page 2</p> <p><b>Happy Birthday Sunday - see page 7</b></p>						
<p>Rev. Phillip Schulman - Sermon: "They're Gonna Crucify Me!" Jewish Perspectives on Palm Sunday - see page 2</p> <p><b>Palm Sunday</b></p>			<p><b>Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All welcomed.</b></p>		<p><b>Good Friday</b></p> <p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①</p>	<p>Full moon</p> <p><b>Passover begins</b></p> <p>Last day to submit articles for the May newsletter</p> <p><a href="mailto:communication@uuchc.org">communication@uuchc.org</a></p>
<p><b>Easter Sunday</b></p> <p>Speaker: Elena Westbrook - Topic: "Resurrect the World" - see page 4</p> <p><b>Pot Luck Dinner after Service - PA - see page 7</b></p>	 <p><b>2021 Federal Income Taxes due</b></p>				 <p>"Pizza &amp; Pictionary" - see page 6</p>	
<p>Rev. Phillip Schulman - Sermon: Exodus; Lessons Learned and Not Yet Learned - see page 4</p>						<p>New Moon</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...

**17 Speaker: Speaker: Elena Westbrook** (Bryan Bristol, Service Associate) - **Topic: "Resurrect the World"** - Long before Christianity, spring was celebrated as a time of rebirth. Death seems to be all around us now, from the war in Ukraine to a lingering pandemic to a climate on fire. Can we find ways to come back to life, for ourselves and for all the other creatures with whom we share this planet?

Elena is a long-time UU and a member of Community UU Church in Plano, where she leads the worship associates and is a regular guest speaker. Her spiritual background was formed by liberal Christianity, Buddhism, neo-paganism and eclectic reading habits. With a long career in writing and speaking, Elena currently manages content marketing and proposals for a national public accounting firm.

**24 Rev. Phillip Schulman** (Helen Sherwood, Service Associate) - **Sermon: "Exodus; Lessons Learned and Not Yet Learned"** - Telling the story of deliverance from slavery is a Jewish obligation and blessing. Is this story sacred to us? Could there be a retelling? In a world with so many refugees, so many oppressed, what does Exodus teach us today?



### Summary of Wednesday, January 12, 2022 Board Meeting

**Present:** President Vicki Luther; Vice President Janet Belden; Treasurer Judy Bunch; Member-at-Large Don Pyle; Ex-President Jerry Best; Secretary Sarah Johanson; Rev Phillip Schulman.

**Welcome:** New, old, everlasting Board Committee. Reading of the Covenant. December 8, 2021 meeting approved.

**Finance:** Judy reported everything in order. Finances Approved.

**Parsonage:** The Biemers moved out December 14. Cleaning - Tuesday. Carpets deep cleaning - Wed.



*Pictured above is Vicki Luther with her chalice table decoration of Sunday, March 27*

### Committee Appointments:

- ⊕ Facilities - Zeke
- ⊕ Finances - Mike Burkett
- ⊕ Sunday Services - Janet Belden
- ⊕ Social Action - Carolyn Dreyer and Stephanie Gross Membership - Gary Payne and Bryan Bristol
- ⊕ Communications - Jill Wiggins
- ⊕ Committee Ministry - Linda Smith
- ⊕ Activities and Events - Judy Ashcraft
- ⊕ Adult Religious Education - Janet Belden

**Office Filing:** Janet Belden has extensively sorted, labelled, filed all the paperwork in the annex, rearranged the office and is collecting electronic files, too. It is an on-going project.

**Landscaping:** Board approved.

**Minister's Report:** Rev Phillip advised his sermons are going well and are well received; they are thought provoking and are challenging. Not going well - members who are considered shut-in's, who cannot attend church services. Rev Phillip is going to start Pastoral Care and/or phone calls. Future - projects, creativity, improvements.

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Johanson, Secretary

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### Summary of Wednesday, February 9, 2022 Board Meeting

**Present:** Vice President Janet Belden; Treasurer Judy Bunch; Member-at-Large Don Pyle; Ex-President Jerry Best; Secretary Sarah Johanson.

**Absent:** President Vicki Luther, ill.

**Welcome:** Covenant was read by Vice President Janet Belden. January 12, 2022 Board Meeting was approved.

**Finance:** Finance report from Judy Bunch was approved and she reported the finances need an adjustment from the bookkeeper.

**2022 Pledges:** Janet reported we have only received 11 pledges which is 22 as a couple. Don suggested we add a reminder in our newsletter and follow up with a letter. [See Page 6](#)

**Zoom:** Kerr County is considered very high risk on "covidactnow". It was decided to keep church services on Zoom for one more month and re-evaluate at next board meeting.

**TXUUJM:** Reverend Erin Walter requests to add a blurb on our newsletter.

**CCC:** Review outreach and communications of the church.

**Minister's Report:** Reverend Phillip lost his keys, didn't attend this meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Johanson, Secretary

### Summary of Wednesday, March 9, 2022 Board Meeting

**Present:** President Vicki Luther; Vice President Janet Belden; Treasurer Judy Bunch; Member-at-Large Don Pyle; Secretary Sarah Johanson; Rev Phillip Schulman; Ex-President Jerry Best; Ex-President Linda Smith; Bryan Bristol.

Present for her report only: Audra Arr.

**Welcome:** February 9, 2022 Board Minutes approved.

**Zoom:** Board President, Vicki Luther decided the church will pay Zoom for another year for shut-in's and visitors.

**Audra Arr:** Board welcomed Audra who gave a quarterly review of the website. All pictures/content/changes to go through Jill Wiggins and one person should have access to the website. Board requested that Audra contact Justin to add Rev Phillip's sermons to church's YouTube channel.

**Finance:** Judy reported Spectrum internet bill increased. Justin is going to add equipment in church to improve Zoom. Motion Approved.

**CCC:** Don reported Judy Ashcraft requested to schedule events for the rest of the year.

⊕ March 19 Games and Dessert.

⊕ April 17 Pot Luck.

⊕ July 4th Party.

⊕ Monthly birthday cake.

Motion Approved.

**Masks and Singing:** On "covidactnow" Kerr County is considered medium risk. UUA - masks optional, decide locally. Masks optional and singing restored.

**Communications:** Identity Zoom visitors so we can contact them. Jill created a postcard for visitors on Zoom. Carolyn Dreyer needs a Social Justice co-chair, David Gross offered. Motion Approved.

**Phone Numbers/Website:** Establish a Google phone number with a local 830 area code that is tied to Zoom and an email account, all combined. Create a phone number that also sends an email.

Rev Phillip needs to have access to reply to the messages. There are a couple of sermons on the church website, chosen by Rev Phillip, starting with the "pray" sermon.

**Minister's Report:** Rev Phillip and Audra created a Minister's Report on his computer; allocation of his time, pie charts, keeping records.

⊕ Member Care - spends a lot of time with members and is starting Pastoral Care and is in dialogue with UUA minister regarding mental health care.

⊕ Rev Phillip received his new business cards.

⊕ UBarU - first two gatherings were led by Donnie and Judy, maybe add more leaders. Another gathering is scheduled in May.

⊕ Vacation - coordinated with S.S.C.

⊕ Parsonage. Got beds into the parsonage. Ed is an electrician. Hill Country Pest Control did treatments.

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Johanson, Secretary

***A lunch billboard has been created so that everyone will know the selected place to eat after services on Sunday!***

**Remember!**

2022 Pledge Cards are due to Mike Burkett, Finance Committee Chair. Please pick up a card found on the table to the rear of the chair, complete and return it to Mike, ASAPI

#### From the Unitarian Universalist Association:

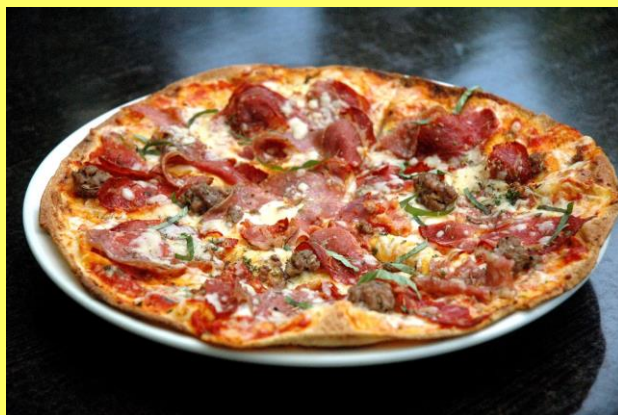
As the situation in Ukraine continues to unfold, there has been an outpouring of prayers and concern from Unitarian Universalists. We hope that you will continue to hold the people of Ukraine in your hearts, and everyone around the world who is suffering because of war and injustice. In the links below, we have gathered our most up to date information on how UUs in the United States and around the world are responding to the humanitarian need, and to amplify the ways that we can all help.

This UUA statement amplifies the Unitarian Universalist outcry against the terrible events in Ukraine. Russian aggression is a stark reminder of the authoritarianism and imperialism of colonialist ideologies globally—which endanger the lives and well-being of BIPOC individuals, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and other marginalized populations. The statement includes information from our organizational partners to help us grapple with the intersectionality of world events and take meaningful action in response to the crisis.

~Rachel Walden

*Rachel Walden supports UUA Communications as senior manager for digital & marketing strategy. When she's not brainstorming content with her colleagues, you'll likely find her outside.*

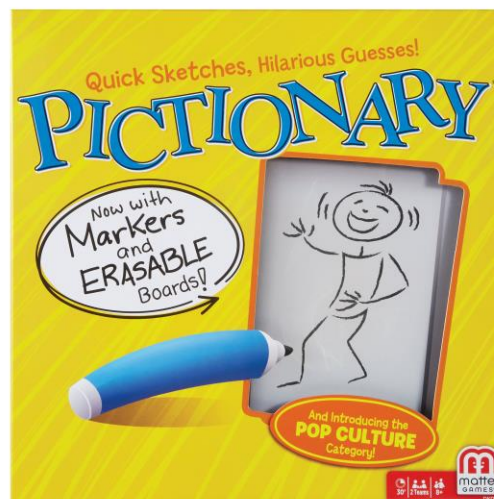
Do you have changes to the Membership Directory? Please let Brian Bristol, Membership Co-chair know:  
214.392-4823/bryan.bristol@yahoo.com



#### Pizza & Pictionary Saturday, April 23 - 5:30pm

The church will provide the pizza and you bring your favorite beverages and creative imagination.

**Interested?** Sign-up on the sheet on the back table in the church sanctuary so enough pizzas may be ordered. Pictionary is like charades except you draw instead of act out the subject. **Fun and laughter always.**





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	Chalice Table	Church Coffee Volunteers
3	Carolyn Dreyer	Sarah Johanson
10	Judy Ashcraft	Judy Ashcraft
17	Janet Belden	Mike Burkett
24	Jill Wiggins	Sarah Johanson

- ⊕ Chalice Table Decoration is handled by Pat Kobe  
830.955-1139/ kobepat313@gmail.com
- ⊕ Sign up to provide coffee on the sheet located on the table to the rear of the sanctuary.



Happy Birthday Sunday on April 3! A sweet treat will be shared and all will celebrate those with April birthdays!

Potluck Sunday in the Palmer Annex following Service - beginning THIRD Sunday in April. Bring a dish to share (or not). The Men's Fellowship will set up tables the Friday prior and A&E committee will set up dinner service. A cold beverage will be available. All are welcomed.



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

**President ~ Vicki Luther**  
830.496-3205/ [vbluther@twc.com](mailto:vbluther@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**

TXUUJM, 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