

# OUR CHURCH LIFE

*Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Newsletter  
January 2023*

**UUCHC Annual Holiday Party**  
**Saturday, January 14, 2023**  
**4:30pm ♦ Bella Sera Restaurant**  
2124 Sidney Baker Street ♦ Kerrville, TX

**The weather outside may be frightful,  
but a party is always delightful!**

The Italian Buffet is **\$20** (tax & tip included...you must prepay or pay at the door). The buffet includes Eggplant Parmesan, Spaghetti, Sauce, Meatballs, tossed salad with dressing, Dessert plus Coffee, Tea or Soda (alcohol not included in the price).

**RSVP by Saturday, January 7 to Judy Ashcraft**  
(53whodit@gmail.com/ 830.896-8319).



*Above, The Reverend Phillip Schulman conducting the Christmas Eve Service on Saturday, December 25.*

*Left, the Christmas chalice table as decorated by Pat Kobe.*



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Check out our Facebook page



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## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS...

### *Keeping It Alive in January*

*As a Jewish boy, with a Catholic mom, the holidays weren't really great at home. However, on TV, in school, over speakers, there was joy and good will. There were carols, cartoons and movies that told me love was coming to town. For a while I could believe that people cared. On December 26 I started feeling sad that the campaign for kindness and generosity was over. Soon it would be okay again to act as if many people do not matter.*

*When my brother married a woman that practiced Ukrainian Christianity, I learned that some people actually celebrated the twelve days of Christmas. Maybe it would be okay to play that holiday tune a little longer. Maybe I could savor the faith in love that had been on display.*

*As a UU adult I learned of our freedom to observe holidays and holy days in ways that were personally meaningful. Why should I be ashamed that I wished we could keep the spirit alive and carry it into the new year?!*

*I recently shared in a Christmas sermon, about UU embrace of multicultural diversity. I suggested reasons to wish some people "Merry Christmas" and others "Happy Holidays!" I've been wondering if UUs could demonstrate for society, appreciation of the myriad winter holidays! Was Christmas a celebration of good news of salvation coming to humanity? What if other traditions have different stories but similarly speak of faith, hope and love coming to humanity? Could the USA embrace Christmas, Chanukah, Solstice, Dwali, Kwanza, and many more?*

*Deep inside us, we all have the same basic needs. Recently I learned that humans celebrated twelve days of Yule thousands of years ago. Why not have more than one day or one holiday to inspire us on our way?! Can we enjoy our common efforts to stoke the fires, to realize human kinship and act to bring about a world that our hearts say can be?!*

*Blessings upon our large diverse human family!  
Happy New Year!*

*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...

- 1 **The Reverend Phillip Schulman** (Vicki Luther, Service Associate; Pat Kobe, Chalice Table) - **Sermon: "Something New"** - Today is as good as any to make a new start. We'll look at the power of habit, and the amazing human ability to change our hearts and minds. Humans have the power to consider new ideas, make new starts, and try new things! Resolution: Laugh and play more in 2023! Come trade "shoulds" and guilt for meaningful play and fulfillment!
- 9 **Speaker: Member, Mike Burkett** (Donna Schloss, Service Associate & Chalice Table) - **Program: "Burning Bowl"** - A UU Tradition of burning away the negative in preparation for the new year.
- 15 **The Reverend Phillip Schulman** (Helen Sherwood, Service Associate; Frances Osborne, Chalice Table) - **Sermon: "Martin, a Hard Lead to Follow"** - A reflection and personal tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.







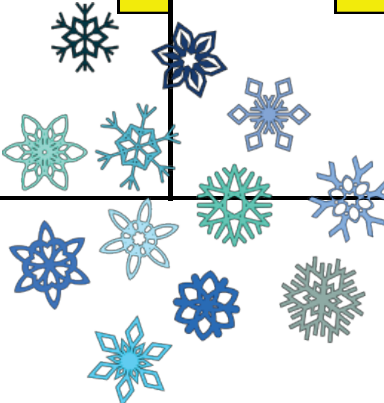
- 22 **UUCHC Members TBD** (Sarah Johanson, Service Associate; Kevin Hartley, Chalice Table) - **Service: Book Sunday** - Various church members will thoughts about recent books they have read.
- 29 **The Reverend Phillip Schulman** (Janet Belden, Service Associate; Carolyn Dreyer, Chalice Table) - **Sermon: "Inherent Worth of Every Person"** - Try to wrap our brains around it. What would be the effect on us and them?



# January 2023 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) SA: Service Associate CT: Chalice Table</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 unless otherwise noted.</p>						
<p><b>Happy New Year!</b></p> <p>The Reverend Phillip Schulman (Vicki Luther, SA; Pat Kobe, CT) - Sermon: "Something New" - see page 2  <b>January Happy Birthday Sunday! - Kwanzaa ends</b></p>					<p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA</p>	<p>Goddess Gathering - 10am - PA - see page 4</p> <p>Final day to RSVP to Annual Holiday Party (Judy Ashcraft: 53whodit@gmail.com or call 830.896-8319).</p>
<p>Speaker: Mike Burkett, church member (Donna Schloss, SA &amp; "C.T.") - Talk: "Burning Bowl Service" - see page 2</p> 		<p>"Kindred Spirits" - UUA Small Group Ministry Program - see page 4</p>	<p>Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All are welcomed.</p>			 <p>Annual Holiday Party 4:30pm - see page 1</p>
<p>The Reverend Phillip Schulman (Helen Sherwood, SA; Frances Osborne, CT) - Sermon: "Martin, a Hard Lead to Follow" - see page 2</p>	 <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day &amp; Holiday</p>		<p>Last day to submit articles for Feb newsletter: <a href="mailto:communication@uuchc.org">communication@uuchc.org</a></p>		<p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA</p>	<p>Full Moon</p> <p>Presentation Saturday with Kevin Hartley - pm - PA - see page 5</p>
<p><b>Lunar New Year</b></p> <p>Speakers: UUCHC Members (Sarah Johanson, SA; Kevin Hartley, CT) - Talk: "Book Sunday" - see page 2</p> 		<p>"Kindred Spirits" - UUA Small Group Ministry Program - see</p>				
<p>The Reverend Phillip Schulman (Janet Belden, SA; Carolyn Dreyer, CT) - Sermon: "Inherent Worth of Every Person" - see page 2</p> <p>5th Sunday "Donate the Plate" program benefitting TXUUJM - see page 5</p>				<p>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/<a href="mailto:bryan.bristol@yahoo.com">bryan.bristol@yahoo.com</a></p>		

## Goddess Gathering

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, monthly ★ Palmer Annex ★ 10am

Goddess Gatherings (from the [uuwr.org](http://uuwr.org)) is a 13-session gathering, meeting the **first Saturday of the month at 10am in the Palmer Annex.**

Learning about different goddesses helps to you move into a more confident and authentic state of being. Learning about the goddesses is empowering in and of itself, but doing so with a group of like-minded helps us all to recognize more of our own innate power.

If you need a copy of the curriculum, email Frances Osborne for a free pdf:  
[osborne36@hotmail.com](mailto:osborne36@hotmail.com)

**The UU Small Group Ministry Meeting** is planning to open up for two sessions beginning in January. If you are interested (or think you may be) in this sharing, listening, and supportive group, which follows topics from a book by UUs such as aging, prayer, spiritual growth, etc., please plan to attend to see if it's for you. Depending upon how much interest there is, we may split into two groups of eight after the two open sessions. We have determined groups of only eight (maximum) work best. Each meeting lasts about an hour to an hour and a half. Anyone who joins for the long term of a few months should commit to being there for every meeting, please. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month in the Annex, at 6:30. Feel free to find Sarah J., Stephanie, Marie, Karen, or Meredith after Sunday service or call Marie at 830-496-3318, Karen at 817-734-6856, or text Stephanie at 207-974-6928 for more information or questions.



*Sarah Johanson's Chalice Table on Sunday, December 11 Celebrates Our Animals at Xmas*

## Summary of the UUCHC Monthly Board Meeting held on Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Board President Vicki Luther called the meeting to order at 6:33pm. A quorum was present.

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

### Financials

Balance lower than usual, is a substantial deficit, next year facing more deficit. Janet motioned to approve; Judy seconded.

### Congregation Meeting

- In annex keep business separate from church on TV screen.
- Social Justice committee - continue the "Donate the Plate" program in 2023.
- June 26, 2023 Congregation Meeting - Election of Officers.
- Church savings - budget \$55,000
- Send out pledge cards.
- 56 members.
- Overview of year, highlights - ordination, new members, church beautification.
- Minister's Report.

Covid: Medium risk; from low

Choir: Starts in January per Meredith.

### CCC

Recognize individual people on their birthday.  
Holiday Party - January 14th at Bella Sera.  
Banned Books service - received banned books for our Little Free Library.

### Minister's Report

Parsonage is getting new doors - Linda has been in hospital. Rev Phillip has long Covid.  
Congregation - accepting, warmth, support, shared values.

**Meeting Adjourned 7:39pm**  
**Respectively Submitted,**  
**Sarah Johanson, Secretary**



**“Donate the Plate” - TXUUJM ★ January 29**

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 29 those proceeds will be given to TXUUJM (*Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry*).

Guided by Unitarian Universalist principles, TXUUJM educates & organizes Texas UUs, member congregations, and partners to advocate effectively for public policies that:

- Uphold the worth and dignity of every person;
- Further justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Ensure the use of the democratic process;
- Protect religious freedom;
- Promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence; and
- Accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.



*UUCHC welcomed four new members into the congregation in December: Sheri Phillabaum and Roy Ellzey (above), Debby Gibson (left) and Dee Sierra (below). Give them each a big UUCHC welcome!*



**REGISTER NOW for "TXUUJM: 10 Years & Growing!" event on Saturday, January 21 ★ 10am-4pm!**

Your [Texas UU Justice Ministry](#) invites you to our [10th Anniversary gathering](#). This event -- 10am-4pm Saturday, Jan. 21, in Austin -- will serve as a time of reconnection and preparation for TXUUJM Legislative Action Day in the spring, as well as inspiration for the year of justice action ahead. [Please register now](#). Scholarships available and encouraged! We do not want cost to be a barrier, we just want to see YOU! Your advance registration helps the TXUUJM team plan and prepare for a powerful event.

Thank you! - Reverend Erin Walter  
TXUUJM Minister & Executive Director



***Fellow Unitarian Universalists and friends:***

*The 100th anniversary of Norbert Čapek's flower ceremony is next year. Let's join together to commemorate the occasion! My name is Pastor Joshua Berg and I am volunteering to lead the worldwide commemoration.*

*I saw a post on social media recently noting that 2023 will be the 100th anniversary of Norbert Čapek's first flower ceremony. There were, as you might expect, subsequent comments suggesting something should be done to celebrate this occasion. As a newly ordained UU minister considering how I might fulfill my duty to serve the larger faith, this seemed like the perfect opportunity. With experience in both production and project management, it fits right in my wheelhouse and I offered to take it on.*

*Even though there is less than a year to put it together, a diverse team is taking shape and exciting plans are being considered. However, in order to pay authors for liturgy elements, license music and images, contract composers and musicians, hire video crews, graphic artists, mail material worldwide to congregations, research planting local and native plants and so many other possibilities that are being considered...funds must be raised.*

*To that end, would you consider sharing [this promotional video](#) in your social media, your newsletter, in worship, and wherever else you think appropriate?*

*Link URL: <https://youtu.be/X9MMXsgmpr0>*

**← Adding humor to the holiday season was Jan Pickett who was "caught" wearing her lovely chemise inside out!**



Many enjoyed Caroling after the "Pancakes in PJs" Christmas Day Service!

**Presentation Saturday with Kevin Hartley  
Saturday, January 21 ♦ PA ♦ 3:30-5pm**

Utilizing the "Quiz Show" format we have enjoyed in the past, Kevin Hartley will discuss the Northern Chihuahuan Desert including:

- ⦿ a Few Great Vistas and Hikes,
- ⦿ Some Plants in Big Bend,
- ⦿ Guadalupe Mountains,
- ⦿ White Sands National Parks and
- ⦿ Big Bend Ranch State Park



Fresno Divide Trail facing south



**Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country  
Board Members for 2023**

- President ~ Vicki Luther**
- Vice President ~ Janet Belden**
- Secretary - Sarah Johanson**
- Treasurer ~ Judy Bunch**
- Member at Large - Don Pyle**

**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 Chair: Bryan Bristol**  
Congregational Care, Visitor Follow-Up, Exit Interviews,  
New Member Orientation, Members/Friends List

**Outreach/Social Justice Committee Co-Chairs:  
Carolyn Dreyer & David 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