

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Newsletter

September 2022



REVEREND PHILLIP SCHULMAN

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS...

From newsletter editor, Susan Lipp: Because the ordination ceremony for our Reverend Phillip Schulman is an auspicious occasion, I have moved his column from page 2 to page 1.

I am excited about the upcoming ordination ceremony! I've been thinking about it and what it means. A core part of being a religious liberal is respecting that meaning making is both personal and collective. There is power in our tradition that comes from being to look at events and concepts from different perspectives! You'll never hear me say that there is only way to think about something. By reflecting and sharing different perspectives we are collectively enriched.

In that spirit, I ask you to join me on reflecting on this event. What does ordination mean to you? What is ministry? What is UU ministry? Calling? Mission? What is most important and powerful about UU living tradition? If this ceremony was to imbue me or us with something new what would you have that be?

You may contribute to congregational conversation by sending your answers (or more questions) to communications@uuchc.org.

If you prefer privacy, you may send directly to me. Either would be a gift! If you are not subscribed to this discussion list and wish to be, email audraarr@gmail.com

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

From Board President, Vicki Luther: This is a special congregational event as we ordain Rev. Philip into the Unitarian Universalist denomination. You may watch the ceremony on Zoom at home OR on the big screen in the Annex. No reservations or sign up is needed but of course, it's a really important day for our congregation so please clear your calendar to participate. UU ministers from Texas, Arkansas, Georgia, Rhode Island, Louisiana, California, Florida and Virginia will be speakers and original, live music performance will also be part of the ceremony. It is our CONGREGATION that ordains our minister in this ceremony and that is a special privilege and responsibility for us. A Zoom invitation will be sent to you along with a reminder for the 2 PM Saturday, September 10 ordination. **A reminder about the 6pm Celebration at the Parsonage is on page 4.**

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Email: churchofthehillcountry@uuchc.org
Check out our Facebook page



Church Service Details~ page 2
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'Gathering in Nature/
Come Camp with Us' Event~ pages 5 & 6
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“Our Church Life” - More Material on Sunday Services in Chronological Date Order...

- 4 Speakers: UUCHC Members, Janet Belden & Vicki Luther** (Belden & Luther, Service Associates; Sherri Curry, Chalice Table) - **Talk: “Catholic Upbringing, UU Faith”**.

Janet joined UUCHC September 2019. She and her husband Bryan moved to Kerrville from the Dallas area where they attended Community UU Church. She retired in 2020 from a 38-year career in financial software.

Vicki happily serves on our UUCHC board. Currently, she shares a dwelling with two Corgis and one cat and her horse, Steve, lives at a friend's barn. Vicki rides 5 times a week (in a perfect week) and Steve's job is teaching her how to keep her balance.

- 11 UUCHC Reverend Phillip Schulman** (Sarah Johanson, Service Associate; Judy Ashcraft, Chalice Table) - **Sermon: “Ordination Harvest”**. Congregation and Minister will reflect and amplify takeaways, inspiration, challenges, and education, as well as personal and congregational gains.

- 18 Speaker: Steve Brooks** (Janet Belden, Service Associate; Kevin Hartley, Chalice Table) - **Talk: “True West: A Multicultural Mythology”**. In books, movies and songs, the archetypes of the cowboy and the frontier have shaped American values like rugged individualism. In recent years, though, historians have revealed a more inclusive West, not centered on heroic white men. Austin UU speaker and singer Steve Brooks explores how a multicultural West might rewrite our values and give us a richer picture of the cowboy.

Steve is a writer and performer whose creativity points in many directions. His songs have been recorded by more than a dozen folk and Americana artists like Slaid Cleaves, Russell Crowe and Albert & Gage. His two most recent CDs, “I’ll Take You Home” and “Chasing Grace,” have been played on more than 100 folk and Americana stations coast-to-coast. In an earlier incarnation on radio, he was a humorist who wrote a song-a-week for Jim Hightower’s nationally-syndicated talk show.

When he’s not onstage, you can find him in a pulpit, speaking on topics like “Songwriting as a Spiritual Path.” Or in a library, introducing kids to classic American folk songs. Or flexing his wits as six-time World Pun Champion. If that’s not enough, he’s been an award-winning journalist

for over 25 years. Kick off your shoes and poke around a bit. You’ll find plenty to keep you entertained and inspired, and you’ll find out why “Stave Magazine” calls Steve “simply the cleverest man you’ll hear with a guitar.”

- 28 UUCHC Reverend Phillip Schulman** (Helen Sherwood, Service Associate; Linda Smith, Chalice Table) - **Sermon: “Spiritually creative celebration of Mabon, the Autumn Equinox”**. Four volunteers will demonstrate themes and ways to celebrate the change of season that grow our consciousness. 1. Harmony, 2. female/moon ascent, 3. harvest/abundance and 4. balance/justice. Rev. Phillip will include reflection on current events.



Above is the chalice table for August 21 (Talk: “Relationships” by Hal Robinson and décor by Janet Belden). Below is the chalice table for August 28 (Talk: “Reflections on the 134th Annual Gun and Knife Show” by Michael Wurth and décor by Karen & Mike Burkett).



“Goddess Gathering”
First Saturday Monthly (beginning 9/3)
Palmer Annex ★ 10am

Goddess Gatherings (from the uuwr.org) is a 13 session gathering, meeting the first Saturday of the month at 10 am 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 copy: osborne36@hotmail.com

“Kindred Spirits”
UUA Small Group Ministry Program
2nd & 4th Tuesday (9/13 & 9/27)
Palmer Annex ★ 6:30 - 8pm

For more information on the programs and joining the group, please contact Marie Brown (830) 496-3318 or Karen Burkett - (817) 734-6856

“Deep Listening League”
Wednesdays ★ Palmer Annex ★ 4-5:30pm

For more information on the program and joining the group, please contact Reverend Schulman: minister@uuchc.org



Belated Holiday Party
El Jimador Restaurant
Saturday, 9/24 ★ 4:30pm
(1550 Junction Hwy. ★ Kerrville)

Order from the Restaurant Menu. Each Attendee is responsible for payment of their meal. Bring a wrapped gift for the Gift Exchange Game (Re-gift or New - \$10 maximum cost. Don't put your name on it.)

Other games will be played as time allows. **RSVP by Sunday, September 18** by using the sign-up sheet on the table at the back of church or to Judy Ashcraft 210-326-0084.



Ordination Party!
Saturday, September 10 ★ 6pm
Parsonage (121 Village Drive, Kerrville)

Reverend Philip will host the congregation at the Parsonage a celebration of his ordination. A special invitation will be sent out regarding this gala and all will be asked to **RSVP for planning purposes.**

If you have any questions, please call Vicki Luther at 830-370-7470



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. As a newly ordained UU minister considering how I might fulfill my duty to serve the larger faith, this seemed like the perfect opportunity.

Feel free to reach out to me directly at uuflower100@gmail.com with input, suggestions, offers for help, or anything else.

Members and friends of Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country are

GATHERING *in* NATURE



COME CAMP WITH US SEP 30-OCT 2

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT AT
SCHREINER PARK'S FOX RUN LOOP OR HIGH POINT MINI CABINS**

- DRUM CIRCLE
- POTLUCK
- DANCING
- STORYTELLING

RESERVE
YOUR
SPOT



- FACE PAINTING
- CRAFTS
- FISH-SWIM-HIKE
- AND MORE!

For questions contact Desiree at (817) 736 - 6910 or Helen at helensherwood@comcast.net

More Information about Page 5 "Gathering in Nature - Come Camp with Us"

Spend the weekend outdoors Sept. 30-Oct 2 camping at Schreiner Park. Reserve your campsite at Fox Run Loop (tent camping, \$20 per night, water, no electricity) or at High Point Mini Cabins (\$60 per night, water, electric, AC, two sets of bunkbeds, bring your own linens.) Both areas share community bathrooms. Invite your family and friends.

Or, if you do not want to camp, come spend the day with us on Saturday, Oct. 1 by paying the Schreiner Park day use fee or using your season pass. For more information, contact Desiree at (817) 736-6190 or Helen at helensherwood@comcast.net



Church Safety Response Team Meeting Thursday, 9/29 ★ Palmer Annex ★6:30pm

Be part of this important team who will review church safety rules and procedures. Training programs: Active Shooter, First Aide, Fire Safety, etc. For more information, please contact Donnie Bunch 830-459-8509



Reminder! Covid Act Now Alerts <www.covidactnow.org>

Covid Act Now provides a 3-color Covid community risk level score for every state, county, and metro in the U.S. The scoring is informed by 3 key metrics: weekly, new reported COVID cases, weekly COVID hospital admissions and the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID patients. The UUCHC Board uses these alerts to determine whether our church needs to change its mask wearing/singing stance.

The framework is based on the CDC's Community Level framework.

For those who sign up to receive alerts, they are only emailed on Tuesday and Friday, and only to locations where the community risk level has changed. For the most up-to-date community risk level assessments, check out the real-time metrics on the site.



It is with sadness that we relay that long time UUCHC friend, Cornelia Ryan passed away on August 11 after a long illness.



Bryan Bristol (second from right) and Carolyn Dreyer (second from left) of the UUCHC present a check for \$468 to the Upper Guadalupe River Authority's Board treasurer Maggie Snow (center); new General Manager, Tara Bushnoe (right) and Natural Resources Specialist Matt Wilkinson (left).

The contribution, specifically earmarked for the annual UGRA River Clean Up, is in addition to the UUCHC's \$100 sponsorship and is the result of the UUCHC's 5th Sunday Donate the Plate program which benefits a different non-profit whenever there's a 5th Sunday in a month.

Small UUCHC teams have always participated in the River Clean Up but, this year, nearly half of the congregation's members and friends have registered for the On Your Own Clean Up in October. Yay!



ACTING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE with TXUUJM

Below are minutes taken by Carolyn Dreyer, Outreach/Social Justice Committee Co-Chair who “attended” the Zoom call on Thursday, August 11.

“If you, like many UUs, are looking for individual ways to effectively battle racism, poverty and environmental destruction...If you want to fight FOR health care, truthful public education, voting and reproductive rights and equality, look no further than the TXUUJM’s Action Hour ZOOMED every Thursday at 7pm.

UUCHC has long been a member of the Texas UU Justice Ministry but our participation has been limited. Now, dynamic young minister Rev. Erin Walters is spurring us to action. I “attended” the first post-summer break Action Hour on August 11. It actually began at 6:30pm with a We Cry Justice half hour of “spiritual reflection” led by Jim Crosby of the Poor People’s Campaign. This included prayer, a Bible reading (Luke 4: 18-21) and Martin Luther King’s stirring declaration to “dedicate his life to those left out of the sunshine of opportunity.” The concept of “othering” was discussed: the often-too-easy putting aside of those unlike us.

In the chat, someone remarked that Jesus was the ultimate revolutionary, yet we liberals who are actually practicing his teaching are defiled as evil RADICALS. Interestingly, another newer “evil” was listed during this time: the “distorted moral narrative of Christian nationalism.”

At 7pm, Rev. Walters lit the UU Chalice and the Action Hour began. TXUUJM has allied itself with a number of state and national NON-PARTISAN, ISSUE-ORIENTED organizations such as Planned Parenthood, Teach the Truth, the Sanctuary Movement and the League of Women Voters.

Each week, working with these groups, the Action Hour features concrete, real-time, hands on ACTIONS to take. For example, Action Step One on Aug 11 was working with Teach the Truth to prepare and submit either online/phone/in-person testimonials supporting

public education to the State Board of Education which meets Aug 30-9/2 in Austin.

Action Step 2: A Side with Love rep offered links to a “Skill Up”: how to set up/host a phone or text bank.

Action Step 3: How to contact Congress to support the leaders of the Sanctuary Movement who have been heavily fined and threatened with deportation.

All recommendations, links, and contacts, are offered during the Hour and participants are urged to share with their congregations and like-minded friends. Rev. Walters reminded us the recent victory for reproductive rights in Kansas was the result of three long years of door-to-door canvassing; community engagement; phone banks; personal conversations working with Planned Parenthood’s “Bans Off Our Bodies”. This kind of boots-on-the-ground effort, like the ones for Civil Rights and Women’s Suffrage, is what’s needed to make the massive changes needed today.

But we ALL have to ACT NOW. So ZOOM in THURSDAYS at 7pm (or 6:30) to the TXUUJM ACTION HOUR. Get the link on Facebook or txuujm.org. (DAVID GROSS, the official UUCHC TXUUJM rep is on hiatus in Maine. He’ll return mid-Sept and will be our TXUUJM contact.)”

✳ Important update on UU the Vote and TXUUJM Thursday programming:

The Texas UU Justice Ministry, our UU state action network, is ramping up work leading into the fall election season and the Texas Legislative session in the winter! Want to get TXUUJM’s action alerts as soon as possible? Sign up for the newsletter at TXUUJM.org.

Missed the TXUUJM August newsletter? Read it at <https://bit.ly/TXUUJMAug2022>

Connect more at: txuujm@gmail.com.





Thanks to all who participate in the important duties that keep our church running smoothly. Interested in helping out? Please reach out to the Board Members listed to the right.

In the past, Service Associates and Chalice Table Participants for Sunday Services were listed in a table found in this area of the newsletter. You may now find them listed next to the specific Sunday they are handling under “More Material on Sunday Services” listed on pages 2 and 4 of this newsletter.

Service Associates are handled by the Sunday Services Chair, Janet Belden and Chalice Table Decoration is handled by Pat Kobe 830.955-1139/ kobepat313@gmail.com.



Thanks to the sweat and painting skills of church member, Judy Ashcraft our Little Free Library which is between the Church Sanctuary and Wilma Palmer Annex, has a facelift!



Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Board Members for 2022

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
 Webmaster: (Contractor) Audra Arr
 Facebook: Linda Smith
 Newsletter/Weekly Calendar Update: Susan Lipp