

# OUR CHURCH LIFE

The Newsletter for the Unitarian Universalist  
Church of the Hill Country

August 2016

## Background & Recap of “A Deeper Look” Gatherings Monday, July 11 & August 1 2-4pm - Palmer Annex

In order to continue the thinking and sharing that arose during the Start-Up session led by Natalie Briscoe in May, members and friends were invited to submit questions/comments/concerns at two Sunday services. Thereafter, a gathering of twelve church members held conversations in the Annex addressing submissions.

The two questions/comments that were received became the conversation starters for the first gathering.

### July 11: Does the church really believe in our Mission Statement? Are we “living” the Mission Statement?

Our conversation addressed our knowledge of and the quality of our mission statement, as well as activities that supported our mission statement. We agreed there was room for improvement; however, this conversation was not to alter the statement, rather heighten our awareness and focus on our purpose. Although we reviewed the accomplishments that are in line with our mission, our conversation explored things we could do better.

Those actions included a review of IMPACT, the religious organizations we might partner with locally in support of IMPACT, and planning for group participation in the Legislative days sponsored by IMPACT. We also agreed we need to plan for our church’s organized participation in the National Day of Service. We will also explore understanding our black community better in able to work with them in light of recent national events. Along with our support and leadership provided by Karen Burkett in the city-wide Transportation initiative, we felt these were areas we could best focus on in with the purpose intended in our mission statement.

Other possibilities explored included a Dark Skies Community Night at U-Bar-U, supporting Habitat for

Humanity with lunches and ministerial blessings, expanding the Animal Blessing service to the neighborhood, and inviting friends to Sunday service or Adult RE events.

The second conversation starter discussed was: When we ask our visitors to stay after church for coffee so we can get to know them better, do we actually do this? This conversation addressed the feeling that our Sunday group seems to be in a hurry to go to lunch and concerned about who is going to secure the premises, resulting in those we invite to stay and talk feeling ushered out. Since all attendees do not go to lunch together, a decision was to try to serve snacks after the service rather than before. Coffee would still be available before and after services. By acting with intention, it was felt that all attendees would feel more welcomed and important.

**All are invited to the Monday, August 1 gathering. Please place index cards with your questions and/or comments on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. New thoughts are welcomed, or come expand on what has already been discussed.**

*Linda Smith*

President, UU Church of the Hill Country



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

## FROM YOUR MINISTER...

Greetings!

### Beloved Community

Our congregation is making great strides coming together as a beloved community. One of the bigger challenges that I have watched our congregation overcome with grace and gratitude is the opening of our hearts to our fellow Unitarian Universalists here in Kerrville. When the UU Fellowship discovered their building flooded and in need of repair members of our congregation approached several Board members and myself and asked if we could help. Our Board did not have to think twice about saying "yes, invite them in!"

For three weeks we hosted the UU Fellowship in our Annex. We provided them a space to meet, coffee/treats and exhibited our UU values by greeting them warmly. During this time, we were fortunate enough to have folks who were attending summer camps at U Bar U, our UU camp just west of Kerrville, join us. We had children use our Religious Education room, we had camp counselors and even had Hillary who currently is in charge of U Bar U.

To have children in the building, share with our fellow UU's and host overcrowded worship services was a blessing. During this time members of our congregation were delighted to assist in any way they could.

I have been meeting with the heads of our Committees who have worked through the fifth principle and created a space where the democratic process was fully implemented.

With gratitude,

*Ja*



In order to better facilitate our communications, all may now contact our minister by e-mail at [minister@uuchc.org](mailto:minister@uuchc.org), and our president at [president@uuchc.org](mailto:president@uuchc.org).

In addition, those submitting information and articles for publication in the Order of Service, Newsletter, Facebook or Web Page, may now email all communications to [communications@uuchc.org](mailto:communications@uuchc.org).

This email will go to Susan Lipp, Judy Ashcroft, and Kevin Hartley concurrently and allow each to be current on church happenings and publish in their area of responsibility.

We hope this helps improve our communications and is easy to remember. Thanks, Communications Committee, for keeping us informed!

*Linda Smith*

President, UU Church of the Hill Country



## August Calendar of Upcoming Events, Programs & Meetings

-Subject to Change; Consult [www.uuchc.org](http://www.uuchc.org) and/or Weekly Calendar Update emailed on Thursdays-

- Monday - 2-4pm - Palmer Annex: Adult R.E. Gathering.** See page 1 of this newsletter for more information. The conversation starters for this gathering will be:
  - ⊕ What do you see as your role in church ministry (within and outside the church)?
  - ⊕ What do you see as this church's ministry/role in Kerrville? What can/would you do to make it happen? How can our minister lead us into this church's ministry in Kerrville?
  - ⊕ What clear difference has UUCHC caused in your life? How can we as congregation and minister together continue such changes in you and others?
  - ⊕ What do you dream this church will be like in five to seven years? How can we, with our minister, bring your dream to reality? ⊕ Contact Karen Burkett 830.895-7076 / [m.k.burkett@att.net](mailto:m.k.burkett@att.net)

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### August Chalice Table Décor

Thank you to the following members  
decorating the chalice table  
on these Sundays:

**7 - Jerry Best/Judy Ashcraft**  
**14 - Marie Brown**  
**21 - Karen & Mike Burkett**  
**28 - Julie Davis/Troy Fannin**

For more information about Chalice Table décor,  
please contact Shari Gore 830.367-3142.

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- 4 **Thursday** - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: **Choir Practice** ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ [pmeredithc@yahoo.com](mailto:pmeredithc@yahoo.com)
- 5 **Friday** - 11:30am - Palmer Annex: **Men's Fellowship Lunch**. There will be news, views, and thought provoking discussion. Guys bring your sandwich or gourmet repast as you wish. ☎ Contact Steve Galland 830.634-7668/ [sgalland@afgimail.com](mailto:sgalland@afgimail.com)
- 7 **Sunday** - 10am - Church Sanctuary: **Speaker** - Dr. Jeannette Cockroft, Professor-History & Political Science at Schreiner University; "The Transformative Power of Work". ☎ Contact Mike Burkett 830.895-7076/ [m.k.burkett@att.net](mailto:m.k.burkett@att.net)
- 10 **Wednesday** - 6:30pm - Palmer Annex: **Monthly Board Meeting**. Open to all. ☎ Contact President Linda Smith 830.257-2529/ [president@uuchc.org](mailto:president@uuchc.org)  
**LAST DAY to enroll in August Circle Suppers**  
☎ Contact Marie Brown 830-895-5138/ [marieuu34@gmail.com](mailto:marieuu34@gmail.com)
- 12 **Friday** - 6pm - "Circle Supper". Find out more and sign up to be a host or a guest. ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830.895-5138/ [marieuu34@gmail.com](mailto:marieuu34@gmail.com)
- 13 **Saturday** - 6pm - "Circle Supper". Find out more and sign up to be a host or a guest ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830.895-5138/ [marieuu34@gmail.com](mailto:marieuu34@gmail.com)

- 14 **Sunday** - 10am - Church Sanctuary: **Sermon** - Pastor Ja Rickard; "Letting Go". We carry much baggage with us. What would it look like if we just let it go?

Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM) Sunday - Focus is on boxed and canned food items. The basket for these items may be found at the back of the church. ☎ Contact Susan Lipp 619.248-0669/ [susan@lipphealth.com](mailto:susan@lipphealth.com)

- 17 **Wednesday** - 10:30am - Palmer Annex: **Women's Connection**. Church women and their female friends meet for fun, support and then enjoy lunch afterward. This month the eatery is "Save Inn Restaurant" - 1806 Sidney Baker- 11:35am. ☎ Contact Kay White 830.896-2852/ [kaywhite201222@gmail.com](mailto:kaywhite201222@gmail.com)
- 18 **Thursday** - **Last Day to Submit items for September newsletter** ☎ Contact Susan Lipp 619.248-0669/ [susan@lipphealth.com](mailto:susan@lipphealth.com) or [communications@uuchc.org](mailto:communications@uuchc.org)
- 19 **Friday** - 11:30am - Palmer Annex: **Men's Fellowship Lunch**. There will be news, views, and thought provoking discussion. Guys bring your sandwich or gourmet repast as you wish. ☎ Contact Steve Galland 830.634-7668/ [sgalland@afgimail.com](mailto:sgalland@afgimail.com)
- 21 **Sunday** - 10am - Church Sanctuary: **Sermon** - Pastor Ja Rickard; "Starting Over". New beginnings can be very unsettling, how can we approach things from a different point of view? ☎ Ja Rickard 262.237-0634/ [minister@uuchc.org](mailto:minister@uuchc.org)
- ☎🎯 **Pot Luck Dinner after the Service**
- 
- 25 **Thursday** - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: **Choir Practice** ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ [pmeredithc@yahoo.com](mailto:pmeredithc@yahoo.com)

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27 **Saturday** - 6:30-9pm - Palmer Annex:  
**“Saturday Night at the Movies” - “Harvey”**  
 1950 - 1 hour, 45 min. Affable tippler Elwood P. Dowd (James Stewart) lives with his sister, Veta (Josephine Hull), and her bashful daughter. They hate his drinking, but what rankles them more is his faithful companion: a 6 foot tall invisible rabbit named Harvey. Elwood's embarrassing flight of fancy is foiling Veta's plans to marry off her daughter, so Veta decides to commit Elwood. But when she confesses she's seen Harvey, the doctor institutionalizes Veta instead! ☎ Contact Judy Ashcraft 210.326-0084/  
[whodit@hotmail.com](mailto:whodit@hotmail.com).

28 **Sunday** - 10am - Church Sanctuary: **Speaker** - Dr. Mary Grace Antony, Assistant Professor, Communication Studies Program Coordinator Office, Schreiner University; Topic TBA.  
**Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM) Sunday** - Focus is on personal products; shampoos, soaps, facial tissues, etc. The basket for these items may be found at the back of the church. ☎ Contact Susan Lipp 619.248-0669/  
[susan@lipphealth.com](mailto:susan@lipphealth.com)



**Reminder! Sunday, September 11 is our Water Communion Service. If you are travelling this summer, remember to gather water from the areas where you visit to share with the congregation at this traditional service.**

Updates & additions to this newsletter may be found on [www.uuchc.org](http://www.uuchc.org) and/or in the weekly calendar updates emailed Thursdays.

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country  
**Board Members for 2016**

- President** ~ Linda Smith  
 830.257-2529/ [president@uuchc.org](mailto:president@uuchc.org)  
**Vice President** ~ Mike Burkett  
 830.895-7076/ [m.k.burkett@att.net](mailto:m.k.burkett@att.net)  
**Secretary** ~ Laurie Pesez  
 830.895-4764/ [lpesez@stx.rr.com](mailto:lpesez@stx.rr.com)  
**Treasurer** ~ Judy Ashcraft  
 210.326-0084/ [whodit@hotmail.com](mailto:whodit@hotmail.com)  
**Past President** ~ June Hartley  
 830.896-5191/ [juneh@windstream.net](mailto:juneh@windstream.net)

**Service Committee Chair: Mike Burkett**  
 Service, Music, Chalice Table, Coffee, Wayside Pulpit, Ministerial Advisory Committee

**Membership Committee Chair: Ellen Jackson**  
 Adult/Youth RE, Child Care, Greeters, Library, Congregational Care

**Budget, Finance, Operations & Planning Committee Chair: Andy Pesez**  
 Budget, Pledging, Fundraising, Property Management & Maintenance, Audits, By-laws, Operational Directives, Long & Short term Planning

**Activities & Events Chair: Judy Ashcraft**  
 Social, Women's Connection, Men's Fellowship Lunch, "Needles", Building Scheduling, Interior Decor

**Communications Committee Chair: Susan Lipp**  
[communications@uuchc.org](mailto:communications@uuchc.org)  
 Electronic Media (Facebook & web site): Judy Ashcraft  
 Order of Service: Kevin Hartley  
 Newsletter, Wkly Calendar Update, Publicity: Susan Lipp



**August Sunday  
 Coffee Hour  
 Church Treats  
 brought to you by...**

**7 - Julie Davis  
 14 - Judy Ashcraft  
 21 - Ann Galland  
 28 - Shari Gore**

*Thanks for the Yummies in our tummies!*