

OUR CHURCH LIFE

The Newsletter for the Unitarian Universalist
Church of the Hill Country
November 2016

Outreach/Social Justice Committee Announces Shower to Benefit La Casa de Raices Babies

La Casa de RAICES, an Interfaith Welcome Coalition refuge located near downtown San Antonio, provides temporary respite for women and children who have just been released from detention and are awaiting arrangements for transportation to family or other sponsors elsewhere in the United States.

The baby shower for La Casa babies will be held on **Sunday, November 6**, after the church service in the church sanctuary. Donations will be gathered before and after the service followed by a party with cupcakes and coffee. Contact Ellen Jackson - 830.895-4148

The focus is on gathering these much-needed supplies:

- ⊕ Baby Bottles w/o liners
- ⊕ Sippy cups
- ⊕ Diapers sizes 4, 5, 6
- ⊕ Baby wipes
- ⊕ Pedialyte
- ⊕ Cough / decongestant meds
- ⊕ Fever reducer meds
- ⊕ Upset stomach meds
- ⊕ Traveling blankets, fleece
- ⊕ Hoodies for 2 or 3 year olds
- ⊕ Juice boxes
- ⊕ Baby Shampoo
- ⊕ Baby Lotion
- ⊕ Shampoo for Lice

No bibs or pacifiers, please.



Above is Unitarian Universalist Reverend Lyssa Jenkins who delivered her sermon: "Defying Hate" on Sunday, October 23. Jenkins is on the board of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and spoke of its support for La Casa de Raices and other worthy groups and organizations.



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830.792-3626

www.uuchc.org

email: churchofthehillcountry@uuchc.org

Check out our Facebook page

FROM YOUR MINISTER...

Greetings!

What a great time to be with UU Church of the Hill Country! As we head into the cooler months our congregation is beginning to return to normal as members reappear after their summers away. Our committees have much in store for us in the coming months; Membership has welcomed new members, Spiritual Development will again host Tuesday afternoon Adult RE, Activities and Events has Thanksgiving and Christmas plans underway and Social Justice is continuing its benefit for La Casa de Raices with a special baby shower. Finance will be starting the annual pledge drive this month so that we can determine what funds we will have available for our next year. They will also be working on a new five-year plan to understand what the congregation wants to do and where we want to go.

Our Board and Committee chairs will be continuing the Feedback Circles conversation to ensure that every voice in the congregation is heard. The Policy Committee is continuing its focus on the steps needed to be taken when situations arise and what each committee's duties are so functions are optimally performed.

I have worked with the Committee on Ministry to craft a new contract for next year which, if approved by the Board, will allow me to gratefully be your Minister for another year.

In addition, we are also going to take a very strong look at growth. If you were at the second Start Up with Natalie Briscoe you will understand that growth is not that easy. Simply signing up members is a part of the growth process but the bigger part is welcoming them, making room for them at the table and understanding that things will be a bit different.

This is something that we will all work on together, grumble about together and in the end, rejoice in together.

If you are planning on traveling for the Thanksgiving holiday please be safe,

With gratitude, *Ja*



Feedback Circles Consolidated Report

The first round of feedback circles have been concluded and were a great success. Forty contacts were on the list and twenty-six were reached. Of the twenty-six, twenty-four liked the time of our services; 10am on Sundays. Three suggested a later starting time with the idea that the Forums might be better attended if they started later.

Everyone contacted liked the format of the service, however, they provided some general comments and suggestions. Five commented on the music; one praised the music while four indicated they would like to cut back on the number of hymns sung or have quieter, meditative music. Some of the other individual comments included:

- (1) the format getting a bit too predictable,
- (2) liking the informal, comfortable approach,
- (3) sitting in a circle sometimes,
- (4) too much time being taken up with announcements,
- (5) one "up and down" on service content, and
- (6) watching the time during talkback.

Three commented they preferred the offering be taken before the sermon rather than interrupt the contemplative time after the sermon. Several offered sermon topic suggestions. Your responses to our question on what you would like to be asked in the future were prolific! We have many excellent questions we will be using based on your suggestions.

The Board and Committee Chairs will take your comments under advisement and weigh them with the majority opinions. As always, your input is valuable to us in making decisions for the good of the church. If we did not make contact with you this time, we hope you are available for the next round of questions.

Linda Smith

President, UU Church of the Hill Country



November Chalice Table Décor

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

6 - Shari Gore
13 - Joyce Randle
20 - Donna Schloss
27 - Chuck & Linda

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

November Calendar of Upcoming Events, Programs & Meetings

-Subject to Change; Consult www.uuchc.org and/or
Weekly Calendar Update emailed most Thursdays-

- 1 Tuesday - 2-3:30pm - Palmer Annex: Seminar Series #3 of 4 - "Who Wrote the Bible...if it wasn't Moses?" "It is a strange fact that we have never known with certainty who produced the book that has played such a central role in our civilization," so states Richard Elliott Friedman in his book, Who Wrote the Bible. "For centuries scholars have assembled small pieces of an enormous puzzle. Now, modern research and recent archaeological discoveries offer answers to the mystery of who wrote the Old Testament." Friedman's book reads like a detective story, and will be the basis of this four week discussion, facilitated by congregation member, Don Pyle.
ALL SAINTS DAY - día de los muertos begins
- 2 Wednesday
ALL SOULS DAY - día de los muertos ends
- 3 Thursday - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: Choir Practice ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ pmeredithc@yahoo.com
- 4 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/ sagalland143@gmail.com



- 6 Sunday - 10am - Church Sanctuary: Speaker - June Hartley; Church Member. Subject; TBA. ☎ Contact Mike Burkett 830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net for more information.
11am: Baby Shower for La Casa de Raices. Refer to the front page of this newsletter for more information. ☎ Contact Ellen Jackson 830.895-4148/ ellenj227@icloud.com for more information.
- 7 Monday - 7pm-8:30pm - The Unity Church, (corner Tivy & Jefferson Streets): PFLAG Meeting ☎ Contact Ja Rickard 262.237-0634/ jauhle@hotmail.com
- 8 Tuesday - 2-3:30pm - Palmer Annex: Seminar Series #4 of 4 - "Who Wrote the Bible...if it wasn't Moses?" Refer to the Tuesday, November 1 entry in this newsletter for more information. This discussion is led and facilitated by congregation member, Don Pyle.

ELECTION DAY



- 9 Wednesday - 6pm - Palmer Annex: Monthly Board Meeting. Open to all. ☎ Contact President Linda Smith 830.257-2529/ iwasparc1@gmail.com
LAST DAY to enroll in November Circle Suppers ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830.895-5138/ marieuu34@gmail.com
- 10 Thursday - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: Choir Practice ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ pmeredithc@yahoo.com
- 11 Friday - 6pm - "Circle Supper" ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830.895-5138/ marieuu34@gmail.com
VETERANS DAY
- 12 Saturday- 6pm - "Circle Supper". ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830.895-5138/ marieuu34@gmail.com
- 13 Sunday - 10am - Church Sanctuary: Speaker - Steve Galland; Church Member. Subject: "Spiritual but Not Religious", a talk taken from a book by Robert C. Fuller and a sermon by Rev. Jeremy Nickel of Mission Park U.U. Congregation; one of our previous UU churches. ☎ Contact Mike Burkett 830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net for more information.
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

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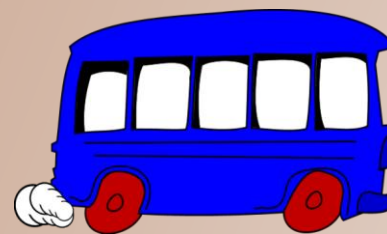
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- 16 **Wednesday** - 10:30am - Palmer Annex: **Women's Connection**. Church women and their female friends meet for fun, support and then enjoy lunch afterward. This month, the eatery is "Chi-Cho's Cafe" in Ingram (241 Old Ingram Loop). Since reservations for lunch are necessary this month, please contact Kay if you plan to attend the lunch for 11:45am. (3rd Wed. each month.) ☎ Contact Kay White 830.896-2852/ kaywhite201222@gmail.com
- 17 **Thursday** - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: **Choir Practice** ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ pmeredithc@yahoo.com
- 18 **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/ sagalland143@gmail.com
- Last Day to Submit items for December newsletter** ☎ Contact Susan Lipp 619.248-0669/ susan@lipphealth.com or communication@uuchc.org
- 20 **Sunday** - 10am - Church Sanctuary: 10am - Church Sanctuary: **Sermon - Reverend Ja Rickard**; "The Sermon on the Amount". Explore with Ja how our congregation works and why we need money to keep our doors open. ☎ Contact Ja Rickard 262.237-0634/ jauhle@hotmail.com

🍴🎯 **Pot Luck Dinner after the Service**

- 24 **Thursday** **THANKSGIVING**
- 25 **Friday** **BLACK FRIDAY SHOPPING DAY**
- 27 **Sunday** - 10am - Church Sanctuary: Speakers Mike Burkett and Marie Brown, church members. Subject: Sharing of a sermon written by Reverend Dwight Brown. ☎ Contact Mike Burkett 830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net for more information.
- 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

John Hainey passed away October 8 after a courageous battle of many years with Parkinson's disease. The Hainey's are part of our larger UU family in Kerrville, and Peg is a past member of our church. Please hold them in your hearts and minds as Peg goes on with life's journey. A memorial service will be held at a later date.



Transportation Planning Council Update

The Transportation Planning Council, originally known as the Transportation Study Group is distributing detailed surveys across Kerrville in early November. The focus of this delivery is in apartment complexes and churches, as well as a few medical facilities and non-profits organizations.

Packets of surveys have been prepared to be delivered to a contact person at each location. This person will then distribute and collect the completed surveys. The Planning Council will retrieve the completed packets of surveys from the contact persons.

Karen Burkett will be at the church all day on **Thursday, November 3** to count and pack up surveys and their cover letters for our contacts. A special need is for a family of apartment units that needs a short explanatory statement added to the top of the survey.

IF YOU HAVE ANY AMOUNT OF TIME DURING THE DAY ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, YOUR ASSISTANCE WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. It isn't hard, it won't take much; it just must be done.

There is also a need to deliver some of the packets as well! It will be a great way to meet folks inside some of the churches in town.

The Transportation Planning Council, and especially I, thank you in advance,

Karen Burkett, Chair

TPC Kerrville
m.k.burkett@att.net
830-895-7076





November Sunday
Coffee Hour
Church Treats
brought to you by...

- 6 - Julie Davis
- 13 - Judy Ashcraft
- 20 - Pot Luck Dinner
- 27 - Linda Smith

Thanks for the Yummies
for our tummies!

Church Outreach Activities



Thanks to the ♥ and Kindness of Unitarian
Universalist Church of the Hill Country
members over 300 food and toiletry items
totalling over 3,700 pounds and \$450 was
donated to CAM (Christian Assistance
Ministry) in Kerrville, Texas!



The CAM challenge and goal for the
end of this year is over 320 food and
toiletry items totaling over \$500!

Updates & additions to this
newsletter may be found on
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
- Vice President ~ Mike Burkett
830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net
- Secretary ~ Laurie Pesez
830.895-4764/ lpesez@stx.rr.com
- Treasurer ~ Judy Ashcraft
210.326-0084/ whodit@hotmail.com
- Past President ~ June Hartley
830.896-5191/ june@windstream.net

Spiritual Development Committee Chair: Mike Burkett

Lifespan Development, Free Speech Café,
Wayside Pulpit, Coffee Set-Up, Music/Choir,
Order of Service, Greeters, Chalice Table, Service
Schedule/Associates

Membership Committee Chair: Ellen Jackson

Congregational Care, Visitor Follow-Up,
Exit Interviews, New Member Orientation,
Emergency Phone Tree, Members/Friends List

Outreach/Social Justice Committee Chair: Karen Burkett

CAM, La Casa de Raices, TXUUJM, Transportation
Planning Council, CAM, PFLAG, Habitat for
Humanity, Texas IMPACT

Finance Committee Chair: Andy Pesez Stewardship, Budget, Financial Management & Reports, Building/Grounds

Activities/Events Chair: Judy Ashcraft Special Social Events, Recurring Events, Building Usage

communication@uuchc.org

Electronic Media (Facebook & web site):
Judy Ashcraft

Order of Service: Kevin Hartley
Newsletter, Weekly Calendar Update, Publicity:
Susan Lipp

