



# OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Newsletter

January 2018



**“Christmas on the Side of Love” Money Tree Brings Holiday Cheer to Local Family**



**Making Lunch for the Crew  
Thursday, January 18 ★ 11:30am  
Palmer Annex**

Co-chairs to this special holiday program, Karen Burkett (Justice & Outreach) and Judy Ashcraft (Events & Activities) wish to express deep thanks and a very special gold flaming chalice to each person who contributed to the “Christmas on the Side of Love” money tree in December. A special “thank you” goes to Carolyn Dreyer for a masterful shopping trip which included the purchase of a generous H.E.B. gift card for groceries. The gifts were delivered on Saturday, December 23 to Belinda Valero, her husband, grown son and children, Daren and Hazalez.

**Belinda uttered a heartfelt “THANK YOU” and “GOD BLESS!” when receiving the gifts.**

## **Adult Religious Education Program to Discuss White Privilege & Racism on Wednesday, January 17 & 24**

Inspired by a 2017 UUA Common Read, Witnessing Whiteness: First Steps Toward an Antiracist Practice and Culture by Shelly Tochluk, a few short, thought-provoking videos related to the topic have been selected for viewing. After the screening, there will be discussion and refreshments. All are urged to join together to examine white privilege in the United States on these two consecutive Wednesdays beginning at 1pm in the Wilma Palmer Annex. A sign-up sheet is available on the table at the rear of the sanctuary. For more information, contact Karen Burkett (895-7076), Mary Jones (896-9182), Don Pyle (575-534-8259), Marie Brown (895-5138), or Rev. Ja (262-237-0634).

UUCHC is presently the only church in Kerrville providing lunch once a month for the work crew at Habitat for Humanity! On the **third Thursday of each month** lunch in the form of sandwiches or a main dish, salad, bread or chips and a dessert is brought to the Habitat for Humanity office, 129 Rankin Nix, between Singing Wind Drive and Legion Drive in Kerrville where the work crew take their lunch break. Volunteers may stay and enjoy lunch and conversation with the crew and staff or just set it up in the kitchen and return around one o'clock to pick up dishes and/or leftovers.

There is a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the Sanctuary where volunteers may indicate what they would like to provide.

Judy Ashcraft and Karen Burkett wish to bestow gold flaming chalices on the chefs' hats of Pat Kobe, June Hartley and Carolyn Dreyer for providing the lunch on December 21. Program contacts: Karen Burkett 830.895-7076 or Judy Ashcraft 210.326-0084.



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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!

*As we head into the New Year I want to thank our wonderful congregation for just being the people that you are. What a great group and what a great ministry we have here in Kerrville! Thank you for your continued support.*

*I also want to thank each and every one of you for making our pledge drive a success. I believe that every member of our congregation realizes the importance of our community. We must all work together to continue to thrive as a small, liberal religious community. Every member of our congregation plays a part in our success and I am happy that I can be a part of what this congregation does.*

*As we go forward this year we will be making some changes due to the fact that we are short one Board member. We may be asking you to step up and fill in one of the parts that Mike spoke about at the Congregational Meeting. Perhaps being Vice President of the congregation might be a bit too much but you might consider another area where you can be of service. We need Worship Associates and someone to schedule them and/or someone to coordinate the Adult Religious Education programs. If you find something that is a part of our congregational life to be more interesting to you please talk to Linda, Jerry, Jim, Vicki or myself and we will help you to realize your dream of becoming more involved.*

*Let's make this year the year that Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country can look back and call the year of growth and wonder.*

**Happy New Year,**

**Reverend Ja**



### January Chalice Table Décor

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

**7 - Bill & Selma Gibson**

**14 - June & Kevin Hartley**

**21 - Meredith & Monte Hensley**

**28 - Ellen Jackson**

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

### 2018 Begins with New Youth RE Program for the Church

The Youth RE program welcomes the new year with a new UUA program called "Tool Box of Faith: A Tapestry of Faith Program for Children".

Judy Ashcraft, the new Youth Director who is assisted by a volunteer each Sunday feels it is a wonderful program using the tools in a Tool Box to explain UU principles and beliefs to youth.

Volunteers help usually about once a month on a rotation basis. Current volunteers include Linda Smith, Donny & Judy Bunch, Steve Galland, Mike Burkett and the parents of our current youth. Those wishing to volunteer are urged to contact Judy Ashcraft (830.896-8319).

#### "Our Church Life" - More Material on Sunday Services...

**21 Rev. Ja Rickard.** Sermon: "The Swiss Anabaptist Movement - The Swiss Anabaptist Movement was born when Conrad Grebel, Felix Manz, George Blaurock, and a dozen others baptized each other in the home of Manz's mother in Zürich, which broke a thousand-year tradition of church-state union.



## January 2017 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 Thursdays.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>PA: Palmer Annex (964 Barnett) CS: Church Sanctuary</p>	<p>1</p> <p><b>Happy New Year!</b></p>	<p>2</p> <p>Activities &amp; Events Committee Meeting: 2:30pm - Cover Floors (1204 Sidney Baker South-Kerrville) Contact- Judy Ashcraft 210.326- 0084/ whodit@hotmail.com</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Committee Chair Council meeting: 5:30pm - PA</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ☺</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Church Holiday Party: 1pm - Bella Sera (see page 4)</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Service: Rev. Ja Rickard - Sermon: "White Privilege" - Do we have special privilege due to the color of our skin?</p>	<p>8</p> <p>PFLAG Meeting: 7pm- 8:30pm - The Unity Church, (corner Tivy &amp; Jefferson Sts). Contact- Curtis Overstreet 210.262- 8859/ mrcl061@yahoo.com</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Youth Education Meeting: 6:30pm - PA Planning assignments &amp; dates for new curriculum. Contact- Judy Ashcraft 210.326- 0084 (see page 2)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All are welcomed.</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>CAM Sunday ☺</p> <p>14</p> <p>Service: Linda Smith, Church Member - Reading of Sermon: "To Whom it May Concern: A Sermon on Prayer" by Patrick T O'Neill, Minister, Rosalyn Hill Unitarian Chapel, London, United Kingdom</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Adult RE Program: 1pm - PA (see page 1)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Last day to submit articles for February's newsletter: communication@ uuchc.org Habitat for Humanity lunch</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ☺</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>Hill Country Crisis Council ☺</p> <p>21</p> <p>Sermon: "The Swiss Anabaptist Movement" - see page 2 New Member Welcome to Jill Wiggins, Gary Payne and Frances Osborne</p> <p>☺ Pot Luck Dinner after the Service - PA</p>	<p>22</p> <p> Martin Luther King, Jr. Day &amp; Holiday</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Adult RE Program: 1pm - PA (see page 1)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>February newsletter distributed</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>CAM Sunday ☺</p> <p>28</p> <p>Service: Bill Gibson, Church Member - Subject: TBA</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>All listed meetings are open and all are welcome to attend. Church Friends may serve on committees.</p> 		

All Sunday church services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary.

- ① 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/sgalland143@gmail.com
- ② CAM (Christian Assistance Ministry) Sundays are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. On the 2nd Sunday, the collection focuses on food and the 4th Sunday; on personal/cleaning items. Contact Susan Lipp 619.248-0669/ susan@liphealth.com
- ③ Hill Country Crisis Council Sundays are held on 3rd Sundays and focus on paper products: toilet and facial tissue, paper towels, women's sanitary products, plus large bottles of baby shampoo and liquid soap. Contact Carolyn Dreyer 830.496-3094/ brightredmimi@gmail.com

**Annual Church Holiday Party  
“The 12 Days of Christmas”  
Saturday, January 6 \* 1pm**

(Bella Sera restaurant  
2124 Sidney Baker Street - Kerrville)

Your choice 3 entrée Italian buffet consisting of Lasagna, Eggplant Parmigiana or Spaghetti with Meatballs along with tossed salad, dessert (cannoli), beverage, tax, and tip for only \$20 per person.

**RSVP to Judy Ashcraft by Monday, January 1  
830.896-8319**

**December 2017 Board Meeting Abbreviated Report**  
3 board members, Rev Ja, 2 committee chairs & 3 members present.

- ⊕ June Hartley presented information on RAICES refugee art show in which UUCHC will participate
- ⊕ approved prior board minutes
- ⊕ reviewed bookkeepers report, received updated pledge status report, and discussed the annual congregational meeting financial report and Identified action items for further review
- ⊕ Committee Chair Council meeting report addressed the month’s actions for each committee
- ⊕ Donna Schloss advised that the Committee on Ministry is meeting on 12/14
- ⊕ Rev Ja provided the UUA comments on last year’s Ministerial Fellowship evaluation and advised she was granted one year of her three-year fellowship requirement. She provided two memorial services, one for member, Vicki Luther and one for a Fellowship member.
- ⊕ Jerry Best will approach Men’s Group about using funds designated for the group to buy a second sanctuary headset
- ⊕ Board voted to modify and approve Minister’s contract with revised termination terms to meet UUMA guidelines
- ⊕ Linda reported no response to our letter to UUA regarding the Gift
- ⊕ Discussed preparation for Annual Meeting on 12/17
- ⊕ Presented invitation from the Jewish Community to join them on Court House Lawn at sunset on 12/15 to dedicate the Menorah.
- ⊕ Thank you note was received from Joyce Randle.
- ⊕ Celebrated and thanked Mike Burkett’s ending VP term with brownies provided by Rev Ja

Check out full minutes on bulletin board at back of sanctuary or in office book marked “Minutes”.

-Linda Smith, President



**Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country  
Board Members for 2018**

- President ~ Linda Smith**  
830.257-2529/ [iwasparc1@gmail.com](mailto:iwasparc1@gmail.com)  
**Vice President ~ Open**  
**Secretary ~ Vicki Luther**  
830.496-3205/ [vbluther@twc.com](mailto:vbluther@twc.com)  
**Treasurer ~ Jim McMahon**  
830-377-9448/ [jjm7125@hotmail.com](mailto:jjm7125@hotmail.com)  
**Minister ~ Reverend Ja Rickard**  
262.237-0634/ [minister@uuchc.org](mailto:minister@uuchc.org)  
**Member at Large - Jerry Best**  
210-633-7553/ [bestjerry@hotmail.com](mailto:bestjerry@hotmail.com)

**Spiritual Development Committee Chair: Open**  
Lifespan Development, Free Speech Café,  
Wayside Pulpit, Coffee Set-Up, Music/Choir, Greeters,  
Order of Service, Chalice Table, Service Schedule/Associates

**Membership: Reverend Ja Rickard**  
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, PFLAG,  
Hill Country Crisis Center, Habitat for Humanity,  
Transportation Planning Council, Texas IMPACT

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

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

**Communications Chair (temporary): Linda Smith**  
[communication@uuchc.org](mailto:communication@uuchc.org)  
Electronic Media (Facebook & web site): Judy Ashcraft  
Newsletter/Weekly Calendar Update: Susan Lipp



*Beginning with the  
February “Our Church Life”  
will be a special column  
devoted to our newest  
church members, beginning  
with Amanda & Justin  
Biemer who both became  
members on 10/15/17.*