

# OUR CHURCH LIFE

The Newsletter for the Unitarian Universalist  
Church of the Hill Country

July 2016

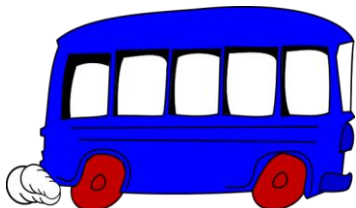
## Transportation Study Group UPDATE

Led by Karen Burkett, the Transportation Group, a subcommittee of the Social Justice/Outreach Committee has made headway in making this initiative viable for the Kerrville and surrounding communities.

Initiated in September 2015, the Transportation Study Group has evolved to include representatives from church social services, community medical services, veterans' services, Dietert Center, BCFS and other non-profits organizations. Members are working toward developing and implementing public transportation services in Kerrville ranging from door-to-door senior transportation with volunteer drivers to, potentially, a traditional bus system serving students, employees, seniors, families and all others who don't or can't drive. Clearly this ambitious goal will be met slowly and in incremental steps, beginning with a small and singularly focused project.

At the Study Group's June meeting, work began on selecting members for a Planning Council to be comprised of community leaders who have an interest in the development of an efficient and effective transportation system for Kerrville. Secondly, a date in mid-August was set for a community forum to gather information regarding citizens' transportation needs.

There will be no Transportation Study Group meeting in July, and no regular meeting in August. Currently the group is preparing for the community-wide Transportation Focus Forum on Monday August 16, 5:30-7pm at Dietert Center, 451 Guadalupe St, Kerrville.



Everyone is urged to attend and share ideas for the future of Kerrville - especially for those with lower incomes and those who struggle for jobs, health, recovery and homelessness because they don't have access to affordable and reliable transportation.

Monthly meetings are customarily held the third Wednesday at 1:30pm in the BCFS Kerrville Resource Center on East Main Street.

## "A Deeper Look" Gatherings On Monday, July 11 & August 1 2pm - Palmer Annex

As indicated in the Weekly Calendar Update, in addition to continuing the thinking and sharing that arose during the Start-Up session led by Natalie Briscoe on May 14, the conversation starter for each meeting is as follows:

**July 11** - Does the church really believe the Mission Statement that has recently been included in the Sunday Order of Service?

**August 1** - When we ask our visitors to stay after church for coffee so we can get to know them better, do we actually do this?



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!

### Welcoming Congregation

There was a shooting in Orlando during the week before Father's Day. Many people were murdered and many others were injured in a gay nightclub. I spoke about this in my sermon on Father's Day and I mentioned that I would like to see our congregation become a Welcoming Congregation.

Churches are not always very friendly to people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgendered (LGBT). In fact, many churches will ask you to leave if they find out. For the last 25 years, the Unitarian Universalist Association has worked to make sure that people who identify as LGBT are welcomed and made a part of our church communities. Many congregations are identified on the UUA website as welcoming congregations which allow members of the LGBT community to know that there is a place where they can worship without fear. I would like to see our congregation become one of those congregations.

I have heard members of our congregation say that we are already welcoming and indeed we are. However, if I were traveling from another state and didn't know this wonderful little congregation in Kerrville, I would not know that.

I will be presenting a plan to the Board in July which will include some educational opportunities for the members of our congregation. If the Board approves moving forward on this, I will be asking for your help in making our congregation one of the hundreds of congregations in the United States identified as welcoming.

If you have questions, concerns or words of encouragement please feel free to come and talk to me. I would love to hear your views.


*With gratitude,*

*Ja*



## July 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-*

- 3 **Sunday** - 10am - Church Sanctuary: **Sermon** - Pastor Ja Rickard; "Religious Tolerance." We, as Unitarian Universalists, come from many religious backgrounds. Let's explore how we can come together in one place and accept each other. ☎ Contact Ja Rickard 262.237-0634/ [jauhle@hotmail.com](mailto:jauhle@hotmail.com)
- 4 **Monday** -  **INDEPENDENCE DAY**
- 6 **Wednesday** - **LAST DAY to enroll in June Circle Suppers** ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830-895-5138/ [marieuu34@gmail.com](mailto:marieuu34@gmail.com)
- 8 **Friday** - 6pm - "Circle Supper" for July. Find out more and sign up to be a host or a guest by Wednesday, June 8 on the special enrollment form on the back table of the sanctuary. ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830.895-5138/ [marieuu34@gmail.com](mailto:marieuu34@gmail.com)
- 9 **Saturday** - 6pm - "Circle Supper" for July. Find out more and sign up to be a host or a guest by Wednesday, June 8 on the special enrollment form on the back table of the sanctuary. ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830.895-5138/ [marieuu34@gmail.com](mailto:marieuu34@gmail.com)
- 10 **Sunday** - 10am - Church Sanctuary: **Speaker** - Rev. Peter E. Bauer, Minister from The United Church Of Christ; "Jesus And The Hermeneutic of Suspicion". The sermon will deal with an understanding of Jesus within a Jewish context and address anti-Semitic understandings on Jesus' teachings that have influenced church teachings.  
 Christian Area 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)

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### July Chalice Table Décor

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

- 3 - Shari Gore
- 10 - Joyce Randle
- 17 - Donna Schoss
- 24 - Chuck & Linda Smith
- 31 - Kay White

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

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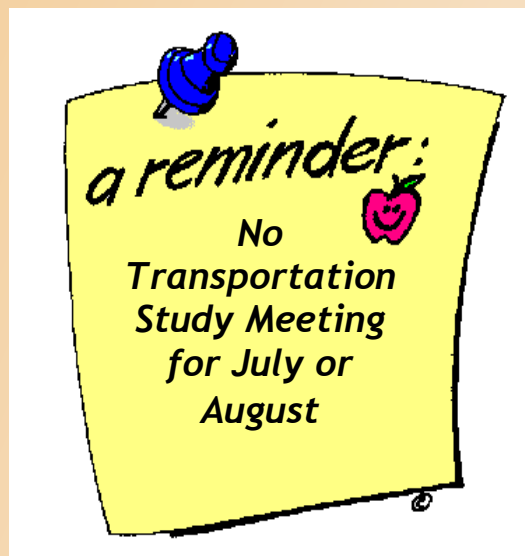
- 11 Monday - 2-4pm - Palmer Annex: **Adult R.E. Gathering.** All interested members, friends and visitors will continue the thinking and sharing that arose during the Start-Up session led by Natalie Briscoe on May 14. The conversation starter for the meeting is, "Does the church really believe the Mission Statement that has included on the Order of Service recently?" ☎ Contact Karen Burkett 830.895-7076/ [m.k.burkett@att.net](mailto:m.k.burkett@att.net)
- 7pm - Unity Church of the Hill Country - 1016 Jefferson Street, Kerrville - **PFLAG meeting** ☎ Contact Ja Rickard 262.237-0634/ [jauhle@hotmail.com](mailto:jauhle@hotmail.com)
- 13 Wednesday - 6:30pm - Palmer Annex: **Monthly Board Meeting.** Open to all. ☎ Contact President Linda Smith 830.257-2529/ [iwasparc@windstream.net](mailto:iwasparc@windstream.net)
- 14 Thursday - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: **Choir Practice** ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ [pmeredithc@yahoo.com](mailto:pmeredithc@yahoo.com)
- 15 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)

Sunday Program on next column →

- 17 Sunday - 10am - Church Sanctuary: **Sermon** - Pastor Ja Rickard; "Who are we as UU's and what do we believe?" Let's take a look at who we are and how our belief system guides us. ☎ Ja Rickard 262.237-0634/ [jauhle@hotmail.com](mailto:jauhle@hotmail.com)

#### ☎ Pot Luck Dinner after the Service

- 18 Monday - **Last Day to Submit items for August newsletter** ☎ Contact Susan Lipp 619.248-0669/ [susan@lipphealth.com](mailto:susan@lipphealth.com)
- 20 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 "Pint & Plow" - 332 Clay Street - 11:35am. ☎ Contact Kay White 830.896-2852/ [kaywhite201222@gmail.com](mailto:kaywhite201222@gmail.com)



- 21 Thursday - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: **Choir Practice** ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ [pmeredithc@yahoo.com](mailto:pmeredithc@yahoo.com)
- 23 Saturday - 6:30-9pm - Palmer Annex: **"Saturday Night at the Movies"** - "No Time For Sergeants" 1958 movie (1 hour, 59 minutes). Drafted into the Air Force, country bumpkin Will Stockdale (Andy Griffith) drives Sgt. Orville King (Myron McCormick) crazy with his overly friendly, dim-witted style. But Will bonds with fellow private Ben (Nick Adams) and the two try for a transfer to the infantry in this classic comedy. Meanwhile, King attempts to keep Will out of his hair by appointing him Permanent Latrine Orderly. ☎ Contact Judy Ashcraft 210.326-0084/ [whodit@hotmail.com](mailto:whodit@hotmail.com).

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24 Sunday - 10am - Church Sanctuary: **T-shirt Sunday; the Great American Cover-up** led by Judy Ashcraft. All are urged to don or bring their favorite T-shirt and share its importance or meaning with everyone. ☎ Contact Judy Ashcraft 210.326-0084/ [whodit@hotmail.com](mailto:whodit@hotmail.com).



**Christian Area 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)

30 Saturday - 10:30am - Palmer Annex: **Activities & Events Committee Meeting**. All interested in working on any of the programs for the rest of the year or the regular recurring social events are invited. Details for the October Handicrafts Fair & Auction, Thanksgiving, and Christmas are being solidified. Movie suggestions for next year's "Saturday Night at the Movies" are welcomed as well as activity ideas. ☎ Contact Judy Ashcraft 210.326-0084/ [whodit@hotmail.com](mailto:whodit@hotmail.com)

31 Sunday - 9-9:45am - Palmer Annex: **Adult Forum - Free Speech Café** led by Jim McMahon. A free wheeling, open discussion on whatever is of concern to you. ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830-895-5138/ [marieuu34@gmail.com](mailto:marieuu34@gmail.com)

10am - Church Sanctuary: **Sermon** - Pastor Ja Rickard; TBA. ☎ Contact Ja Rickard 262.237-0634/ [jauhle@hotmail.com](mailto:jauhle@hotmail.com)

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/ [iwasparc@windstream.net](mailto:iwasparc@windstream.net)  
**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

Electronic Media: Judy Ashcraft  
210.326-0084/ [whodit@hotmail.com](mailto:whodit@hotmail.com)

Order of Service: Kevin Hartley  
830.496-2174/ [khartley@windstream.net](mailto:khartley@windstream.net)

Newsletter Editor & Head of Information Services:  
Susan Lipp 619.248-0669/ [susan@lipphealth.com](mailto:susan@lipphealth.com)



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

**3 - Judy Ashcraft  
10 - Julie Davis  
17 - Susan Lipp  
24 - Marie Brown  
30 - Shari Gore**

*Thanks for the Yummies in our tummies!*