



OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Newsletter

March 2018



Adult Religious Education Program to feature "Bill Moyers on Faith & Reason"

Beginning on **Monday, March 12 from 1 - 3pm** in the Wilma Palmer Annex, there will be a viewing of 1 or 2 videos from this series and thereafter, a discussion. Amazon describes this series in the following way:

"Renowned intellectuals discuss the role of religion in modern society'

In a world where religion poisons some lives but gives profound purpose to others, how do we learn to live together? Join veteran journalist Bill Moyers (*Joseph Campbell and the Power of Myth, Bill Moyers' Journal*) as he sits down with 12 noted writers and thinkers from a wide spectrum of beliefs to discuss their search for meaning. These frank, one-on-one conversations touch on the pressing issues in our post-9/11 world: the increasing politicization of faith, the perceived gulf between science and religion, the tension between tolerance and free expression, and more. Original voices such as **Margaret Atwood, Salman Rushdie, Martin Amis, Mary Gordon, and climatologist Sir John Houghton** add a personal dimension as they talk openly about their most heartfelt beliefs and how those beliefs inform their lives and work."

The church series will continue on the second Monday in April and May. During the summer the series will stop and resume in the fall. Look for details about each session in the Weekly Calendar Update and the monthly newsletter. Contacts: Mary Jones 830.896-9182 or Vicki Luther 830.496-3205.

"Saturday Night at 964 Barnett" Games & Fun on Saturday, March 24

As announced in the February "Our Church Life", monthly from March through October on the fourth Saturday, the Activities & Events Committee is hosting this new, free program.

The first of these events is a game night which to include board games, card games, and/or dominos.

Doors open at 6pm and the program begins at 6:30pm in the Wilma Palmer Annex located at 964 Barnett (hence the program name)

All are urged to bring their favorite beverage and snacks (share if you like). Free Popcorn will be provided.

Enjoy companionship, laughter and fun. The chairs are hard; bring a cushion if you want.
Everyone is welcomed.



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

FROM YOUR MINISTER...

Greetings!

You may have heard by now that our Board and Committee Chairs had a retreat. A retreat is a time when we come together to toss out ideas, determine what is working for the congregation and attempt to make adjustments just to keep things on track. This retreat was a wonderful learning experience for all. We spent the day looking at the things that we have done in the past year and figuring out which ones worked and why they worked as well as they did. We also came up with some new ideas for the coming year.

The last Sunday in February we asked you all to write down the answers to two questions. The questions were also printed in that Sunday's Order of Service. We will be taking these answers and making a pyramid with them on the wall. I am pretty sure we will ask again before we finish this project. Why are we doing this? Well, we are doing it so that we can all see what it is that makes us get up on Sunday morning and come to this particular church. Once we have an idea of what makes you happy we can keep doing it and maybe do it more and those things that are not bringing you joy can slowly be phased out. We want a happy congregation.

The other thing that we will be doing with these notes is beginning to formulate ideas for a UUHC Mission Statement. The one we currently use is rather broad and was written a while back, it is time to update a bit and narrow it down to what we would like as a mission for our congregation.

The mission statement is a long process and hopefully we can accomplish that this year but we can't do it without you and your input.

Thank you to all of you who filled out a card and for those who have not had a chance, we will be sure that you do get that chance so that your voice can be heard.

With Gratitude,

Reverend Ja



March Chalice Table Décor

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

4 - Jim & Diane McMahon
11 - Frances Osborne
18 - Curtis Overstreet

For more information about Chalice Table décor, please contact Pat Kobe 830.367-3142/kobepat313@gmail.com.

"Our Church Life" - More Material on Sunday Services in Chronological Date Order...

4 Rev. Phil Mason. Sermon: "You are dust and to dust you shall return" - Answers to existential questions. Rev. Mason is a native of Austin, Texas and a 1996 graduate of The Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest. Ordained in the Diocese of Colorado, he served there as priest and rector for 13 years. In 2002 - 2003 he studied with the Interim Ministry Network of the Albin Institute and received certification of membership in the IMN. Upon retirement in 2009, he and wife Susan with whom he has been married for 28 years moved back to Texas and built a home near San Marcos. Since then he has served as Interim Rector at Grace Episcopal Church, Llano; St. Philip's Episcopal Church, San Antonio and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brady. He has spoken at San Marcos and New Braunfels UUF several times. Prior to serving as a minister he worked as a contract computer programmer and consultant. Susan and he have four children, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

25 Ann Galland, one of the church's founding members will lead the congregation in a "Flower Communion". She urges everyone to bring one flower to share with another member.

The title of her talk will be "Roots and Seeds" based on a sermon by UU minister, Rev. Gary Kowalski and the theme will be celebrating Spring and our connections to the Earth.

Rev. Kowalski is a UU minister, celebrated author of many books, and his interest lie in Eco-Spirituality, Science, History, and Animals. He graduated from Harvard Divinity School, and has served congregations in Vermont, Washington, Tennessee, Massachusetts, and New Mexico.

March 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>CS: Church Sanctuary</p> <p>PA: Wilma Palmer Annex (964 Barnett)</p>					1 Choir Practice on most Thursdays at 3:30pm④	2 Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①	3 
4 Service: Rev. Phil Mason from San Marcos - Sermon: "You are dust and to dust you shall return" - Answers to existential questions - see page 2.	5	6 Activities & Events Committee meeting: 2:30pm - Cover Floors (1204 Sidney Baker South-Kerrville) Contact- Judy Ashcraft 210.326-0084/ whodit@hotmail.com	7 Committee Chair Council meeting: 5:30pm - PA	8	9	10	
11 CAM Sunday ② Service: Rev. Ja Rickard - Sermon: "Border Crossings" - Can we cross borders without leaving the county? Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Ahead)	12 PFLAG meeting: 7pm-8:30pm - Dietert Center (451 Guadalupe Street). Contact Curtis Overstreet 210.262-8859/ deadeye1961@gmail.com	13	14 Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All are welcomed.	15 Habitat for Humanity lunch - 11:30pm Adult RE Committee meeting: 1:30pm - PA	16 Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①	17  St. Patrick's Day	
18 Hill Country Crisis Council ③ Service: Rev. Ja Rickard - Sermon: What Do We Value as UU's? - How near and dear do we hold our history? Last day to submit articles for next month's newsletter - Pot Luck Dinner after the Service - PA	19	20 First Day of Spring 	21	22 World Water Day  Justice & Outreach Committee Meeting: 3:30pm - PA	23	24  "Saturday Night at 964 Barnett" - Game Night. See page 1.	
25 CAM Sunday ② Service: Ann Galland, church member - Topic: "Roots & Seeds" & Flower Communion - see page 2.	26	27	28 Justice & Outreach Committee Meeting: 3:30pm - PA	29	30 Good Friday Passover begins at sundown	31	

All Sunday church services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary. Child care & Sunday School is held at 10am in the adjacent PA.

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@lipphealth.com

③ Hill Country Crisis Center Sundays are held on 3rd Sundays, monthly with a focus on paper products: toilet and facial tissue, paper towels, women's sanitary products, plus large bottles of baby shampoo. Contact Carolyn Dreyer 830.496-3094/ brightredmimi@gmail.com

④ Contact: Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ pmeredithc@yahoo.com



Getting To Know Us 🎵

**Frances Osborne, Gary Payne
& Jill Wiggins**
New members as of January 21, 2018

Frances was born in Austin, Texas and her parents are from Houston. She was raised Episcopalian and discovered Unitarian Universalism when she was searching for a liberal religious community in which to raise her son.

When she knew she was moving to Kerrville, she searched the internet to find a UU church as she is “a devoted, practicing UU and cannot imagine life without Unitarian Universalism”.

Frances has interests in fellowship, hospitality, communications, website design, pastoral counseling and small group ministry. The church in turn provides her with friendship, spirituality and community.

The life path she most identifies with is as a UU Pagan. She writes and leads rituals for all kinds of occasions.

Gary was born in Fort Worth, Texas and brought up in Fort Worth and Arlington. His father was a banker and his mom, a homemaker and secretary. He’s the eldest of two boys.

He was baptized as a baby in the Methodist faith and attended a Presbyterian church where he was baptized again as an adult. Thereafter, he was a Lutheran for about ten years. He became involved in the First UU Church of Austin after meeting his wife, Jill Wiggins. They married on May 31, 1996.

Gary and Jill found out about the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country when attending retreats at UbarU.

When asked why he became a member of the church, Gary simply responded, “the people”. He is interested in church membership and doesn’t rule out a future church leadership role.

He relishes “tasty potlucks, juicy sermons, food for thought, friendly people, great conversations and eclectic services”. His interests are golf, current

events/politics, movies and theater, both to attend and to perform. He has a one-man show about Clarence Darrow that he is interested in performing as a fundraiser for the church.

Jill was born in England and moved to the U.S. when she was 8 where she grew up in Norwalk, Ohio. She moved all over the States until landing to Austin in 1982. Kerrville became her home last June.

Her father was in the British RAF when she was born and her mother, a homemaker, knitter and wonderful cook. She reports that they were “both incredibly creative and smart despite relatively little education”. Her older sister, Pat lives in Florida and a brother died in 2000.

Jill was christened in the Church of England on her first birthday and was confirmed in the Presbyterian Church. She lost her belief in Presbyterianism at age 18 and was unchurched until her late thirties, when she acted on a suspicion that she was a UU. She joined First UU Church of Austin in 1982.

After attending the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country beginning last summer she decided to become a member because she felt very welcomed, was impressed with the community and engagement of the membership. Her grand-daughter, Chloe who lives with her and Gary, enjoys the tiny RE program.

She loves the Joys & Concerns portion of the Sunday program as she feels she will be supported through good and bad times. This support is very important to Jill. She also likes sermons and services that provide spiritual and intellectual growth.

In addition to singing in the choir, Jill would like to flex her artistic self, as she has a degree in art. Her primary art currently is original art post cards, which she calls “Kindness cards”. She gives them to people with a message asking the recipient to pass them along with a kindness.

She also loves knitting, walking/hiking, reading, movies and travel. She reports never being bored.

Note from the editor, Susan Lipp: *I hope now that everyone has a glimmer of insight into the lives of these three interesting new members that they will take a minute to get to know them even more.*



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

**4 - Julie Davis
11 - Judy Ashcraft
25 - Marie Brown**

**Thanks for the Yummies
for our tummies!**



UBarU Camp & Retreat Center

UBarU is the only Unitarian Universalist camp and retreat center in the central United States south of Minnesota and is just twenty miles west of Kerrville. To register for the following events go to www.ubaru.org under the "events" tab:

- ⊕ April 6 - 8 Men's' Retreat
- ⊕ April 13 - 15 Women's Retreat
- ⊕ May 25 - 28 Family Camp
- ⊕ June 17 - July 14 Summer Youth Camps

Note:

- ⊕ *The location for the PFLAG meetings (see the calendar on page 3) has changed. It is now being held monthly on the second Monday in the Dietert Center.*
- ⊕ *Please consider a donation to CAM/ Hill Country Crisis Council. There is a need for items listed below the calendar on page 3. In particular, The Hill Country Crisis Council needs HAND SANITIZER and CLOROX WIPES.*



**Terrific
"Guest at Your
Table"
Results!**

The "small change makes big change" collection boxes collected \$196.71 and total donations to the UUSC exceeded \$2,000. **THANK YOU** to all who showed their concern for others!



Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Board Members for 2018

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

Spiritual Development Committee Chair: Mike Burkett/Vicki Luther

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
Electronic Media (Facebook & web site): Amanda Biemer
Newsletter/Weekly Calendar Update: Susan Lipp