

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Newsletter
July 2017



UUCHC members (from left to right) Curtis Overstreet, Don Pyle, Baxter and Pat Kobe at a Texas 21 Indivisible Rally for affordable healthcare on Friday, June 23. The rally took place at the Fredericksburg city festival grounds with over fifty participants in attendance.

The Committee on Ministry

Understanding our church includes learning about the different groups and committees starting with the Committee on Ministry.

What is the function of the Committee on Ministry?

The Mission of the Committee on Ministry (COM) is to support the Minister and the congregation in fulfilling the Mission of the Church by:

- ⊕ functioning as a channel for communication, when needed, between the congregation and the Minister, and
- ⊕ championing all activities that promote the total ministry of the church.

What is the Committee on Ministry?

The Committee on Ministry is a small group of church members. The chair is appointed by the President of the congregation and the other members are chosen by the minister and the committee chair. The current members are Donna Schloss (chair), Karen Burkett, Andy Pesez, and Ellen Jackson.

Please contact any committee member if you have an issue you would like to bring to the COM. If there is an issue or concern the COM should know, you are welcome to speak to any member, submit a written note, or present your concerns in person at a meeting. The COM meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 1:30pm. While meetings are confidential, anyone wishing to address the committee is welcome to come and speak to the committee.

-submitted by Donna Schloss

“Donate the Plate” 5th Sunday Program

Since there is a fifth Sunday in July, all moneys in the collection plate on Sunday, July 30 that are not designated for the church will be donated to Hill Country Crisis Council. Those wishing to donate using a tax deductible check, please indicate “Donate the Plate” or “Hill Country Crisis Council” on the “note” line of the check.

Below, celebrating the April Donate the Plate 5th Sunday are (from left to right)

Karen Burkett -UUCHC Justice & Outreach Chair, Philip Stacy -Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity and Judy Ashcraft - UUCHC Liaison for Habitat for Humanity. \$220 was raised for Habitat for Humanity.



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

FROM YOUR MINISTER...



Welcoming Congregation

On Sunday, March 19, 2017 our congregation took a vote to determine if we were ready and willing to become a Welcoming Congregation and on May 30 the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country became one. If you look at our congregational listing on the UUA website, note a UU Chalice over a Pride/Rainbow flag. This designation tells anyone who is looking for a congregation that is welcoming to the LGBT community that we will gladly accept them and if they choose to remain with us, we will welcome them into our congregation with open arms.

There are many ways to become a Welcoming Congregation and our congregation took a somewhat different approach in educating our membership. Rather than hosting a lecture series, we invited the congregation to watch TED Talks and thereafter, discussed each. Curtis Overstreet and Ellen Jackson spent much time watching TED Talks and then picked the best of the best to use as our teaching tools. The conversations were filled with understanding and learning for both myself, as the facilitator and the members of the congregation.

We had a good turnout for the TED Talks, but if you were unable to attend and would like to educate yourself, the following is the list of talks we watched and discussed. All of these are available on YouTube.

Our first session revolved around being a gay ally:
 "Homosexuality: It's About Survival - Not Sex": James O'Keefe
 "The Ally Within": John Dehlin
 "A Toolkit for Becoming a Transgender Ally": Eli Green

The second session talked about who gay people are and the issues of coming out:
 "The Danger of Hiding Who You Are": Morgana Bailey
 "The Myth of the Gay Agenda": LZ Granderson
 "Fifty Shades of Gay": IO Tillett Wright

The third week three TED talks revolved around transgender issues:
 "Beyond the Gender Binary": Yee Won Chong
 "Gender Assigned to Us at Birth Should Not Dictate Who We Are": Sarah McBride
 "Why I Must Come Out": Geena Rocero

Congratulations to our congregation for doing the work and becoming a Welcoming Congregation,

With Gratitude, *Reverend Ja*



July Chalice Table Décor

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

2 - Troy Fannin
9 - Ann & Steve Galland
16 - Bill & Selma Gibson
23 - Meredith & Monte Hensley
30 - Kevin & June Hartley

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...

- 9 **Speaker - Michael Wurth - Topic: "Why The Most Intolerant Always Wins - And How Unitarians Can Grow From That".** In this talk, Counselor and Buddhist Wurth examines a special kind of intolerance - the tyranny of the most intolerant. From handicapped bathrooms to kosher water and automatic transmissions, we are faced with decisions about tolerance every day without thinking of it. But as Unitarians, we observe the Fifth Unitarian Principle; the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. And this goal seems like it might be in conflict with any notion of intolerance. And the growth of more and more radical approaches to fundamentalism and spiritual purity may suggest that the time for a democratic congregation may be limited. It isn't. In this talk, Buddhist Unitarian Wurth discusses how modern and social media may endanger the spiritual growth we are capable of together, but the test of our own tolerance can actually build our spiritual strength. Using examples from smoking sections in airplanes to the Duncan Hines company, Wurth will show how to use intolerance to make us more observant, democratic, and above all, more tolerant of ourselves as we walk the common path of our lives.

July 2017 Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Calendar

Updates & Revisions to this calendar may be found in the Weekly Calendar Update which is emailed on Thursdays.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>All meetings listed are open and everyone is welcome to attend.</p> <p><i>Church friends may serve on committees.</i></p> <p style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> CS: Church Sanctuary PA: Palmer Annex </p>						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<p>Service: Rev. Ja Rickard. Sermon: "Independence Day (Liberal Religion and Patriotism)"</p>		 	<p>Last day to sign up to participate in Circle Suppers</p> <p>Committee Chair Council meeting: 5:30pm - PA</p>	<p>Activities & Events Committee Meeting (open): 5:30pm - PA</p>	 <p>← Circle Suppers →</p>	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<p>CAM Sunday ☉</p> <p>Speaker: Michael Wurth. Subject: "Why The Most Intolerant Always Wins - And How Unitarians Can Grow From That" - see page 2 for more info</p>	<p>PFLAG Meeting: 7pm-8:30pm - The Unity Church, (corner Tivy & Jefferson Streets). For more information about PFLAG, contact Curtis Overstreet 210.262-8859/</p>		<p>Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All welcomed.</p>			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p>Hill Country Crisis Council ☉</p> <p>Service: Rev. Ja Rickard. Sermon: "Evil (Do We Have the Right to Condemn?)"</p> <p>🍲 Pot Luck Dinner after Service- PA</p>		<p>submit articles for August's newsletter: communication @uuchc.org</p>				 <p>Saturday Night at the Movies See page 4.</p>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<p>CAM Sunday ☉</p> <p>Speaker: Judy Ashcraft. Subject: TBA</p>			<p>Justice & Outreach Committee Meeting: 3:30pm - PA</p>	<p>August Newsletter delivered</p>		
30	31	 <p style="text-align: center;">All Sunday church services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary.</p>				

☉ 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

☉ 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. Contact Carolyn Dreyer 830.496-3094/ brightredmimi@gmail.com



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

**2 - Julie Davis
9 - Judy Ashcraft
23 - Marie Brown
30 - Susan Lipp**

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



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. For directions or to register for the events go to www.ubaru.org under the "events" tab. Upcoming Summer Youth Camps: Grades 8 & 9: 7/2-8; Grades 10 - 2017 high school graduates: 7/9-15.



**"Saturday Night at the Movies"
Saturday, July 22 - 6:30pm - Palmer Annex
"3 Godfathers" (1948 - NR - 1hr 46m)**

Movie night includes refreshments, prelude, movie, and church members, friends and guests are invited. Participants bring their favorite beverage and snack for themselves or to share. Popcorn is provided. 6:35pm prelude: 'The Vicar of Dibley' series; 7pm movie begins.

July Movie Description: John Ford directs this first-rate retelling of Per Kyne's allegorical novel. After holding up an Arizona bank, Bob Hightower (John Wayne) and his partners in crime (Harry Carey Jr. and Pedro Armendariz) hightail it out of town, only to find themselves derailed by a very unexpected event. Eventually forced to travel on foot, the fugitive trio happens upon a dying woman in labor who makes them promise to care for her child.



**Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country
Board Members for 2017**

President ~ Linda Smith
830.257-2529/ iwasparc1@gmail.com
Vice President ~ Mike Burkett
830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net
Secretary ~ Vicki Luther
830.792-3240/ ybluther@stx.rr.com
Treasurer ~ Jim McMahon
830-377-9448/ jim7125@hotmail.com
Minister ~ Reverend Ja Rickard
262.237-0634/ minister@uuchc.org

**Spiritual Development Committee Chair:
Mike Burkett**

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

Membership Committee Chair: Curtis Overstreet
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: Joyce Randle
communication@uuchc.org

Electronic Media (Facebook & web site):
Judy Ashcraft

Newsletter/Weekly Calendar Update: Susan Lipp



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Child care is provided every Sunday with advance notice from 9:45-11:15am. Please contact Joyce Randle the Saturday before: 830.257-2346/ maofteacup@gmail.com