

# OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Newsletter  
December 2017

## Holiday Festivities

The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country kicked off the holiday season in style by participating in the annual Holiday Lighted Parade which rode through downtown Kerrville on the evening of Saturday, November 18. Linda Smith, Board President donated her red convertible for use in the parade. It was lavishly decorated with lights, green garland, and red and white poinsettias.

*Pictured below in the back seat of the car are Sunday school participants, Chloe Whitworth and Mark Biemer and in the front seats are church members, Karen and Mike Burkett. Whitworth and Biemer were excited to see some of their classmates in the sprawling crowds and despite the autumn chill, a fun time was experienced by all.*



## “Donate the Plate” 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Program

On the fifth Sunday of every month with a fifth Sunday, all moneys in the collection plate not designated for the church are donated to a worthy non-profit organization. Since there are five Sundays in December, La Casa de Raices (**Refugee And Immigrant Center for Education and legal Services**) has been selected to be the recipient of this important program on December 31. As Ellen Jackson, head of this church outreach endeavor has noted, refugees continue to enter the United States particularly from Central America numbering in the hundreds despite what is being reported. La Casa de Raices is also a focus for the Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry (TXUUJM).

*NOTE → Those wishing to make a donation by check to the group through “Donate the Plate” will need to make their check payable to UUCHC, then write “Donate the Plate” or “La Casa de Raices” in the check’s notation line.*



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email: [churchofthehillcountry@uuchc.org](mailto:churchofthehillcountry@uuchc.org)  
Check out our Facebook page

## FROM YOUR MINISTER...

### Greetings!

As of November 19 we have received pledges from 13 people for our 2018 budget. We are hopeful that everyone will remember to get their pledge cards back to Andy in the next couple of weeks so that by the congregational meeting we can present the 2018 budget. We are hopeful that we come up with a few extra dollars so that we can increase our Children's RE Program and make a few more repairs on our buildings.

As we plan activities for the upcoming year I want to remind you that everyone is welcome to become a part of the planning process and all of your ideas are welcomed.

The holiday season is in full swing beginning with our amazing Thanksgiving Pot Luck. Thank you to everyone that contributed amazing food! Christmas is coming up sooner than we think and we have some special services planned culminating with our Christmas Eve Service on the Sunday, December 24 at 5:30pm.

If you will be traveling this season, please drive carefully.

With gratitude, *Reverend Ja*



### Remember, Members!

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 17

After the service

If you cannot attend, please complete a proxy and give it to another member who will be in attendance. Proxies are available in the rear of the sanctuary and have been emailed as an attachment to all members on several Thursdays.



### December Chalice Table Décor

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

**3 - Karen & Mike Burkett**

**10 - Sherri Curry**

**17 - Carolyn Dreyer**

**24 - Troy Fannin**

**31 - Ann & Steve Galland**

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...

**17 Speaker - Reverend Art Severance.** Severance, now retired, is a former minister of First Church San Antonio, most recently minister of East Shore Church in Kirkland, OH, and interim minister in Boulder, CO; Stockton, CA; and Amherst, NY. He has moved back to San Antonio to be near grandchildren and three daughters who live in San Antonio and Austin.



### Making Lunch for the Crew Thursday, December 21 ★ 11am Palmer Annex







As the only local church providing this service, help is needed to prepare and deliver lunch to the Habitat for Humanity crew which numbers from 6 to 12. Some of the items that the crew likes are fried chicken, 6” Subway sandwiches, BBQ, potato salad (apparently a favorite), chips, cookies or brownies (another favorite). Several people have already stepped up but more help is needed. Contacts: Karen Burkett 830.895-7076 or Judy Ashcraft 210.326-0084.



December 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><b>Church Friends may serve on committees.</b></p> <p>All listed meetings are open and all are welcome to attend.</p> <p><b>CS: Church Sanctuary      PA: Palmer Annex</b></p>					1	2
Service: Rev Ja Rickard. Sermon: "The Chalice & The Chalica" - Why do we light a chalice & how did chalica come to be?			Committee Chair Council meeting: 5:30pm - PA	Activities & Events Committee Meeting: 5:30pm - PA	Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ① Adult Religious Education Meeting: 2pm - PA	
CAM Sunday ②  <p><b>Special Holiday Music Service</b></p>	PFLAG Meeting: 7pm-8:30pm - The Unity Church, (corner Tivy & Jefferson Sts). Contact- Curtis Overstreet 210.262-8859/ mrcl61@yahoo.com	 <p><b>Hanukkah begins at sundown</b></p>	Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All welcomed.		Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ①	
Hill Country Crisis Council ③ Service: Rev. Art Severance. Subject: TBA - see page 2. Annual Congregational Meeting  Pot Luck Dinner after Service- PA	Last day to submit articles for January's newsletter: communication@uuchc.org			Habitat for Humanity lunch First Day of Winter		
CAM Sunday ② <b>Christmas Eve</b> 5:30pm Service: Rev Ja Rickard. Sermon: "Christmas is a time of blessings & grace. Let us join together to celebrate."	 <p><b>Christmas Day</b></p>	 <p><b>Kwanzaa Begins</b></p>		January newsletter emailed		
CAM Sunday ② <b>New Year's Eve</b> Service: Mike Burkett, church member. Subject: "Burn the Last Year & Kindle Hope for the Upcoming Year" 5th Sunday "Donate the Plate" program benefitting Casa Raices	<p><b>All Sunday church services (except 12/24) are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary.</b></p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>					



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

- 3 - Julie Davis**
- 10 - Amanda & Justin Biemer**
- 24 - Judy Ashcraft**
- 31 - Marie Brown**

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



**“Christmas Side of Love” Money Tree**

A family has been selected to receive items that will be purchased to make their lives easier during this holiday season. Please make your cash donations and attach them to the tree you will find in the rear of the sanctuary. For more information contact Karen Burkett 830.895-7076/ [m.k.burkett@att.net](mailto:m.k.burkett@att.net) or Judy Ashcraft 830.896-8319/ [whodit@hotmail.com](mailto:whodit@hotmail.com).



**Guest at Your  
Table Continues**

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC’s annual inter-generational program to raise support for and awareness about work to advance human rights. There are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work that members make possible. GAYT is an opportunity to support human rights, celebrate grassroots partnership, and learn about just four of these individuals - the “guests” in Guest at Your Table.

UUSC’s grassroots partners make a big difference in their communities and so does participation in GAYT. That is why this year’s program theme is “Small Change is Big Change”.

In the past our church has supported this program very generously. Boxes, envelopes, and information will be available at upcoming church services. Contact: Donna Schloss: 830.792-6189/ [dschloss@ktc.com](mailto:dschloss@ktc.com).



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

- President ~ Linda Smith**  
830.257-2529/ [iwasparc1@gmail.com](mailto:iwasparc1@gmail.com)
- Vice President ~ Mike Burkett**  
830.895-7076/ [m.k.burkett@att.net](mailto:m.k.burkett@att.net)
- Secretary ~ Vicki Luther**  
830.792-3240/ [vbluther@stx.rr.com](mailto:vbluther@stx.rr.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: Mike Burkett**  
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



**CHILDREN'S CORNER**

- December 10--- Linda and Steve
- December 17---Judy Ashcraft & Mike
- December 24--Steve and Mike
- December 31---Donnie & Judy Bunch