

OUR CHURCH LIFE

CHURCH CALENDAR
DECEMBER 2015



2nd Wednesday 1p.m. UUCHC Justice Ministry Palmer Annex

6th Sunday Forum 9:00a.m.—9:45a.m.:

Service 10:00 a.m.: Peace, Love, and Gratitude with Ja Rickard. It is that season again, the one where we mortgage the house to buy presents for everyone and anyone, but what is the true meaning of this season for Unitarian Universalists. Let us look at all of the things we love, the things that bring us peace and how gratitude fits into all of this giving, giving, giving. Ja is a graduate of American Public University and holds a BA in Religion. Ja earned her Masters of Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School and has ministered in congregations in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Arkansas.

Most recently she has worked with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mountain Home, Arkansas where she has preached, taught, and worked with the Board to help them understand their meaning and mission.

Ja lives with her dog Sophie and their two cats. She enjoys camping, traveling around the country to see new things, and when the weather is not cooperating she spends time reading.

7th Monday We continue our study into Islam on December 7th and 14th and 21st at 2:00 in the Annex. We will take a poll of those attending on the 13th to see if the course will be continued for another couple of weeks. If you can't be there on the 13th, but want to express your opinion on continuing, talk to Marie Brown or Karen or Mike Burkett.

9th Wednesday, Women's Connection at 11 am in the

Annex: This group of women meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month for fun and support. (this month ONLY the Connection is changed to the 9th, return to the 3rd Wed. in Jan. 2016) Please join us and be prepared to go out to lunch afterward. You'll be glad you did!

6:30 p.m.: Board Meeting, Annex

11th Friday 11:30a.m.: Men's Fellowship Lunch in the Annex. News, views and thought-provoking discussion.

2:00p.m.: Needles, a crafting group in Annex. Please call Shari Gore if you are unable to attend.

13th Sunday Forum 9:00a.m.—9:45a.m.

Service 10:00 a.m.:, To Be Announced. Information not available at time of publication. Contact June Hartley, Service Chair, 896-5131 for details. **CAM CEREAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AT 11:30a.m.**

18th Friday 11:30a.m.: Men's Fellowship Lunch in the Annex. News, views and thought-provoking discussion.

20th Sunday Forum 9:00a.m.—9:45a.m.:

Service 10:00 a.m.:, To Be Announced. Information not available at time of publication. Contact June Hartley, Service Chair, 896-5131 for details **POTLUCK SUNDAY**

25th Like me are you going to be without family on the holiday? If so lets get together for an early dinner and some fun. Come to 916 Barnett St around 4pm. R.S.V.P. Marie Brown 896-519

27th Sunday Forum 9:00a.m.—9:45a.m.:

Service 10:00 a.m.:, To Be Announced. Information not available at time of publication. Contact June Hartley, Service Chair, 896-5131 for details. **CAM SOUP**

SAVE THE DATES

Jan 16th Monday night 7--9 in the Annex. The Movie Selma Feb 20, 21 and continuing March 5, 6. A UU Tapestry of Faith Workshop. Odyssey of Faith; From The High Hill. Watch for details and sign up opportunities in January Newsletter. 2014 Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the 1965 Selma to Montgomery March.

Chalice Table/Greeter

Following is the roster for decorating the chalice table and greeting members and guests. If you cannot participate on the Sunday listed, please contact Shari Gore, 367-3142 .

Dec. 6 Judy Ashcraft Dec. 13 Marie Brown
Dec. 20 Burkett Family Dec. 27 Troy Fannin

Our own Rev. Peter Bauer has a blog on the Huffington Post, check it out.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rev-peter-e-bauer/>

I heard the bells on Christmas Day...Their old familiar carols play,
When wild and sweet, Their words repeat,
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (Unitarian, poet)

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country 2015 S.O.C.S Christmas Service Drive

Last Christmas your Social/Outreach/Congregational Services Committee (SOCS) led a successful service campaign to bring gifts to many veterans in the VA Nursing Home who had no family around. More than 35 beautifully wrapped gifts were donated by our loving congregation. This year we decided to focus a little closer to home to try to bring needed funds, supplies and donations of time to Baxter and her Southwest Llama Rescue. Most of you know Baxter and Don have just moved their home and animals from Mountain Home to Kerrville. They both work very hard to make a loving home for the llamas who are not adoptable either for health reasons or age. Baxter receives no funding or help from the community like other animal charities in the area do.

This is the season for giving. Please take a few minutes to read the following article written and published by Baxter in 2007. Our Church Christmas Tree is decorated with photos of the llamas. Turn them over to reveal items on Baxter's Wish List. Then please write a check to drop in the donation boxes. If you don't feel like donating cash, please fill out a pledge sheet to donate some of your time to help out by taking a llama for a walk, helping with feeding, etc. Its a very large job for just two people with great big hearts. Let's all chip in to help out these magnificent intelligent animals and those who care for them.

"The SOUTHWEST LLAMA RESCUE came into being in the wake of a severe animal cruelty case that took place in October 2001. The case involved a mixed herd of llamas and Arabian horses in Tijeras, a small rural village in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, east of Albuquerque. Suffering from mental illness, the animals' owner had stopped feeding her herd. Several of the animals starved to death, and concerned neighbors called the sheriff to complain about the smell. Upon discovering what was going on, officials took the woman to a mental health facility, while Bernalillo County Animal Control seized her animals, several of whom had to be euthanized. The story made headlines all over the state.

In response to the news reports, a small group of New Mexico llama owners decided to take action. Baxter was one of the group involved in this rescue. They gathered what money they could and purchased eight of the rescued llamas. These lucky animals settled into a new, safe home, got proper medical attention and a good diet, and started on their long road to recovery.

In 2004, Baxter and Pat Little officially formed Southwest Llama Rescue as a 501(C)(3) nonprofit with tax-exempt status. But even before they were formally incorporated, they were busily taking in animals. Since that first rescue in 2001, SWLR volunteers have taken in 122 neglected and/or abandoned llamas, many with very sad stories. In fact, Baxter's home in Silver City was transformed into a major llama sanctuary with approximately 40 resident animals.

They also maintain a small network of foster homes throughout the Southwest. SWLR consists of a network of about thirty volunteers in Texas and western states. These people donate their own time, resources, and money to rescue llamas from some pretty horrible situations.

Many of the animals they rescue aren't adoptable because of age or medical issues. These animals stay at the Sanctuary. Baxter currently has 8 of the permanent llamas.

Not all of the animals they rescue or foster stay with them. As of August 2012, SWLR has successfully adopted out 233 llamas to farms around the United States. They are very careful to make sure that the animals end up with better homes than they came from! All prospective owners sign a "no breeding" contract, and their facility check ensures that the animals will have proper shelter, fencing, vet care and food. They also connect new owners with a local, experienced llama mentor who can offer advice and assistance when needed. In the event that a placement doesn't work out or the adoptive farm can't care for the animals anymore, SWLR will step in and take the animals back.

SWLR is actively seeking new adoptive families in the region. They are also working to strengthen their foster farm network, and to find new sources of funding for our rescue operations. Individually, llamas aren't that expensive to keep - but providing medical care and food to the Sanctuary residents requires funding for hay, vet bills, medications, transportation, and facility upkeep costs.

UPDATE:

SWLR has been busy since this article was written in 2007! As of September, 2012

250 llamas have been surrendered to SWLR

233 llamas have been adopted into new forever homes and 318 additional llamas have found new forever homes through our networking! "

**UUA Common Read Discussion Group
Coming January 2016**

From the UUA website--

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson (2014, Spiegel & Grau) is this year's selection. Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, has dedicated his legal career to defending those who are trapped by an often capricious, political, and willfully unjust criminal justice system - poor people, people of color, children, and others over whom the system has run roughshod. It speaks to justice, mercy, and compassion, themes of concern to us as Unitarian Universalists and as human beings.

New York Times Bestseller | Named one of the Best Books

of the Year by The New York Times • The Washington Post • The Boston Globe • The Seattle Times • Esquire • Time

I am half way through this year's common read as I write this notice. Although it is non-fiction, it reads like a finely crafted tale. It is an eye-opening, shocking, and inspirational story. I hope you will join us for two (possibly three) Monday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00PM beginning January 25th in the Annex. If you wish to order a paperback copy of the book, there will be a signup sheet on the table at the rear of the church. Cost per copy will be \$10.20.

Contact Mary Jones for more information.

CHRISTMAS PAST

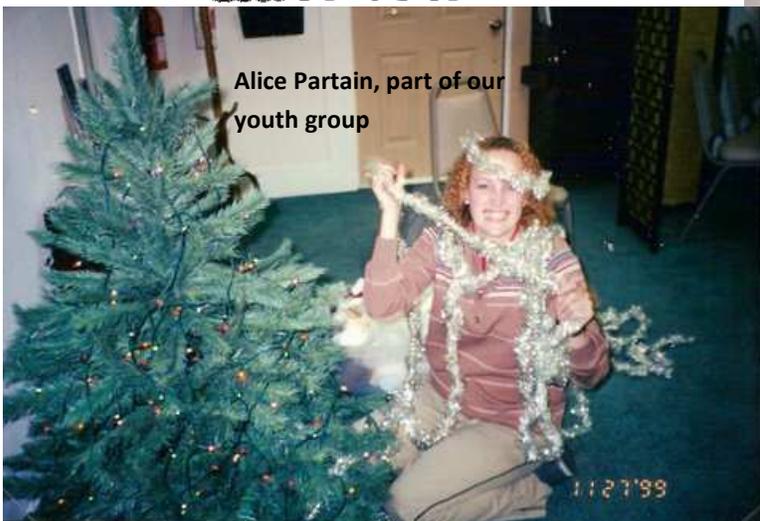
Ginny Pagel, Ann Galland, Selma Gibson



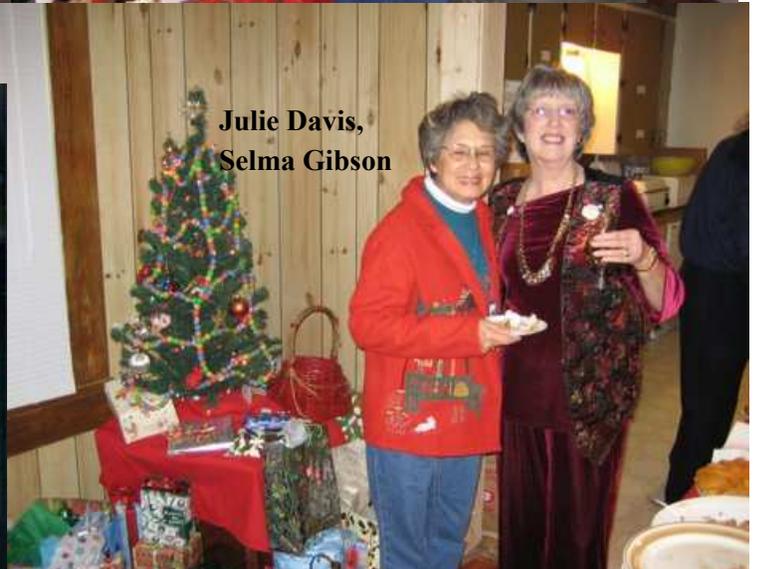
Bill Davis, Chuck Smith, Julie Davis, Troy Fannin



Alice Partain, part of our youth group



Julie Davis, Selma Gibson



UUCHC JUSTICE MINISTRY

December Newsletter Article

November 22, 2015

After the 2015 Texas Legislative Session ended in May 2015 Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry Director Chuck Freeman asked the member congregations across Texas to do two things: identify our priority state-wide issues to be addressed with our legislators in the next session and identify priority issues locally to be studied and addressed by each congregation in their communities. The state-wide issues our congregation voted for were Women's Reproductive Rights and Health Care, Voting Rights, and Immigration. For our local issue we selected Public Transportation in Kerrville.

We introduced our action topic to the Adult Forum on September 11, 2015, and identified what sources of transportation we currently have in Kerrville, and found not much at all. We began attending monthly meetings of the Kerr County Interagency Partnership, whose first task in its two year existence was to develop a directory of non-profit agencies in Kerr County.

Our first UUCHC Action meeting took place October 29, 2015. We made a more specific list of transportation options in Kerrville, brainstormed the kinds

of needs our citizens have and began defining the people who have the greatest needs, and we began building a list of resources for interest, experience, information, organization, contacts, funding. Before we closed the meeting, the energy and motivation in the room led us each to take on an assignment to research in records or interview persons on our list. We had two invited guests: Nick Villanueva, whose job includes finding rides for citizens who call wanting to get to the Dietert Center for activities or services; and Marion Worthington, a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church and volunteer in the office of St. Vincent de Paul charities.

November 11 was our second meeting, at which the interviews mentioned above were presented. Information was gained about Alamo Regional Transit, previous bus service here, records (or not) at city hall and in the Kerrville Daily Times, an entity that might help small towns set up public transit. Many new ideas and directions emerged as a result. Marion Worthington (St. Vincent de Paul) gave us a brief history of SVdeP, and told of the many services it provides for Kerrville citizens in need. More interview and research assignments were noted.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday December 2, at 1 pm in the Palmer Annex at church. All interested – or curious – people are invited to join this exciting venture! Karen Bu

CHURCH CONTACTS

Board of Directors 2015

Pres. Bob Lentner 719-371-6824
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VP June Hartley 896-5191
juneh@kctc.com

Sec. Jan Lentner 719-371-6825 ma-cawma2001@yahoo.com

Treas. Judy Ashcraft 896-8319,
whodit@hotmail.com

Past Pres. Diane McMahon 896-3195 dian-elm@windstream.net

Other Key Contacts

Service Committee—June Hartley (see above) (Service, Music, Chalice Table, Coffee, Wayside Pulpit, Ministerial Relations committee)

Membership Committee Chair Mike Burkett 895-7076 m.k.burkett@att.net (Library, Adult/Youth RE, Newsletter, Child Care, Book Club)

Budget, Finance, Operations and Planning Committee Chair Andy Pesez 895-4764 hpesez@stx.rr.com (Budget, Audits, Property Management and Maintenance, By-laws, Op directives, Long and Short term Planning, Pledging, Fundraising, Telephone and church email distribution., Chalice Lighter)

Social/Outreach/Congregational Committee Chair Jan Lentner (above) (Care, Social, Webpage, Facebook, Publicity, Men's Fellowship Lunch,)

Address: 960 Barnett St,
Kerrville TX 78028

Church phone: 830-792-3626

Webpage uuchc.org

Check out our church facebook page.

Email churchofthehillcountry@uuchc.org

**Be the change you want to see
in the world. [Mahatma Gandhi]**

UUCHC

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