

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Newsletter

May 2022



Mother Nature Tea Sunday, May 8 ★ following service Wilma Palmer Annex

All who identify as female are invited to join together and celebrate Mother Nature.

A light meal served buffet-style with complimentary beverages and dessert included will be featured.

A contest for the most creative bonnet or fascinator (with Mother Nature in mind) will be rewarded. **Be creative, serious or silly!** The winner will be selected by a vote of attendees.

A sign-up sheet to assist in preparing enough food may be found on the table to the rear of the sanctuary.



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Pastoral Reflections~ page 2
Church Service Details~ pages 2 & 4
Monthly calendar~ page 3
5th Sunday "Donate the Plate"~ page 4
Steve Galland~ page 5
"Writing for Yourself"~ page 5
Board Members & Committees~ page 6

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS...

Life at UUCHC

In service on Easter I gave testimony, expressing pleasure at what I called a "UU Revival" that has been happening inside of me as a result of inspiration from this congregation. I actually meant "UU Renewal", but it's all good. Things that I've appreciated about being UU for almost 40 years have been coming together inside of me in new ways. There have been a few new strands too.

We lack some things that older or more staid traditions have, but we have great advantage in our ability to participate in new shifts in human understanding, consciousness and culture. I think we are riding waves of a paradigm shift happening in humanity. Reactionary figures talk about culture wars for a reason. The world is changing. Some of the paradigm shift reflects science and the new understandings we have gained. I have been revisiting Chaos (Systems) Interdisciplinary science lately, and am excited about bottom up learning of self organizing systems. I'll likely be weaving this into upcoming sermons.

I also see this renewal here in our shared ministry and leaderful congregation. Rather than believing that "the word" is something that came down from above in a long ago past, we journey together and keep learning together. Because we are pleased to be part of the mission of this church, and sense the difference we can make individually and collectively, members and friends are empowered to contribute and come together in new exciting ways.

Two places where the congregation is teeming with new organizational life are the upcoming "Pastoral Care Teams" and the "Earth Connections Group." The Committee on Ministry has sought input from some of the leaders in pastoral care in order to develop an organizational structure that we hope will leave no one behind, and facilitate all-congregation participation. You will be hearing more about Pastoral Care Teams soon! "Earth Connections" is another spurt of new organizational life. It grew out of our efforts to plan four seasonal outings that include a worship element. Going beyond the Beltane ritual that they will do on May 1, Helen and Dave Sherwood stepped up to lead, not a committee, but a group to support Earth Connections. One thing

I love about their plans to support nature based spirituality is their intention for cooperation, collaboration and integration. The group will aim to support Earth connection spirituality in many different kinds of activities. Watch for word from them or ask them for details. As is true of new science, no one knows for sure what will come out of this group (and UUCHC as a whole) in the future. I for one am excited!

Alive in the Ministry of this faith,
Reverend Phillip Schulman
 UU Church of the Hill Country



Truly an international chalice table decoration by Carolyn Dreyer for the "We Are One" service held on April 3, 2022. The hen basket is from China and decorative eggs are from Ukraine, Italy, Prague, Norway, Spain, Mexico and France.

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

- 1 **Speaker: Neil Cassidy** (Mike Burkett, Service Associate) - **Topic: "Transcendentalism in the music of Charles Ives"** - How the transcendentalists associated with Concord, Massachusetts, including Emerson, Thoreau, the Alcotts, and Hawthorne influenced Charles Ives' composition. After the service we will be celebrating **Beltane**, the ancient Pagan festival that celebrates fertility, creativity and connections to earth. Please bring a camp chair for sitting outside. If you feel so inspired, wear flowers in your hair and/or dress in green or white. (Paper flower wreaths for your hair are available at Hometown Crafts for \$5.)

- Continued on Page 4 -

May 2022 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 most Thursdays.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Ramadan Ends at sundown 1 Speaker: Neil Cassidy (Mike Burkett, Service Associate) - Topic: "Transcendentalism in the music of Charles Ives" - see page 2 Happy Birthday Sunday! "Beltane" after service - see page 5</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Cinco de Mayo 5 </p>	<p>6 Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①</p>	<p>7 "Writing for Yourself" - 10am - PA - see page 5</p>
<p>8 Rev. Phillip Schulman (Janet Belden, Service Associate) - Sermon: "Spirituality of Democracy" - see page 4 </p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Joanna Macy - "Climate Change As Spiritual Practice" - Transforming Anxiety into Empowerment 2pm-4pm - see page 5</p>	<p>11 Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA All welcomed.</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Speaker: Susan Lipp, Church Member - Talk: "Unitarian Universalists, Cats and Dogs" by Rev. Christopher Buice - see page 4  Pot Luck after Service- PA Total Lunar Eclipse</p>	<p>16 Full Moon Last day to submit articles for next month's newsletter communication@uu.chc.org</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA① Endangered Species Day</p>	<p>21 Armed Forces Day</p>
<p>22 Rev. Phillip Schulman (Helen Sherwood, Service Associate) - Sermon: "Biodiversity Sunday" - see page 4</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Speaker, Michael Tafoya (Vicki Luther, Service Associate) - Topic: "VA Voluntary Service" - see page 4 5th Sunday "Donate the Plate" program benefitting VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) - see page 4</p>	<p>30 New Moon </p>	<p>31</p>	<p>CS: Church Sanctuary PA: Wilma Palmer Annex ①There will be news, views, and thought provoking discussion. Guys bring your sandwich or gourmet repast as you wish. Contact: Bryan Bristol 214.392-4823/bryan.bristol@yahoo.com</p> 			

All Sunday church services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary. All listed meetings are open and all are welcomed. Church Friends may serve on committees. Sunday church services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary unless otherwise noted.

- Continued from Page 2 -

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

- 8 **Reverend Phillip Schulman** (Janet Belden, Service Associate) - **Sermon: “Spirituality of Democracy”** - The prohibition of the establishment of a religion is crucial for the protection of democracy. Promoting democracy is one of our UUA’s 7 Principles and Purposes. How can we protect democracy today? Why is democracy part of our spirituality?
- 15 **Speaker and church member, Susan Lipp** - **Topic: “Unitarian Universalists, Cats and Dogs”** from Rev. Christopher Buice - Bring pics of your favorite pets to share on the chalice table!

The Reverend Chris Buice is minister of the Tennessee Valley UU Church in Knoxville, Tennessee.



- 22 **Reverend Phillip Schulman** (Helen Sherwood, Service Associate) - **Sermon: “Biodiversity Sunday”** - Service is given in conjunction with the UU Ministry for Earth. This first annual event aims to promote the concepts of “ethic of accountability to Place” and “the Rights of Nature.” It will also promote congregational sponsored “Endangered Species Art Projects.” It’s a day to celebrate biodiversity, to honor, commit to restore and protect the Web of Life.
- 29 **Speaker, Michael Tafoya** (Vicki Luther, Service Associate) - **Topic: “VA Voluntary Service”** - A look at the many ways volunteers can help veterans.

Michael Tafoya was born and raised in Colorado and moved to Texas in 2005. She started working for the VA in 2006 as a Certified Nursing Assistant. After 6 years of working in the

Dementia/Alzheimer’s neighborhood, she started working for the Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE), formally known as Voluntary Service. She has four beautiful, outgoing boys.



“Donate the Plate” 5th Sunday Program -

will honor all UUCHC members and friends who’ve served our country’s military. So, fittingly, the recipient of the 5th Sunday Donate the Plate will be the **VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE)** - a long name for a non-profit that serves local vets and the VA Hospital in myriad ways:

- * Recruiting volunteers to transport vets and assist with special events like the annual Veterans Day Parade and Car Show and annual fundraising golf tournament.
- * Sponsoring the Valentine’s week Salute to Veteran Patients which features community visits, Valentine cards and sweets.
- * Hosting monthly luncheons for in-house veterans and nursing staff sponsored by the Gary Sinise Serving Heroes Foundation.
- * Funding and distributing items such as toiletries and clothing throughout the VA Hospital for in-house veterans’ needs.

Checks should be made out to UUCHC, with VAVS (Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service) on the “FOR” line.





WRITING FOR YOURSELF!

“Better to write for yourself and have no public, than to write for the public and have no self.” ~ Cyril Connolly

What does it mean to write for yourself? It means that the story, the characters and the style are what you would want to read. And what you enjoy writing. This group is intended for any person, any level. Using a combination of prompts, photos, reading the work of others, plus free-form, the group will process with each other our own stories and our own authentic self. The first meeting will be Saturday, May 7 at 10 am in the Palmer Annex. All are welcome to see if this is “up your alley”. We will be doing the obligatory boring housekeeping details regarding frequency of meetings and what we would like to see the group doing! Plus, if there is enough time, let’s do a little spontaneous writing; so bring pen and paper! This group’s long-term goal is intended to be a democratic process, in which any person can lead, create, and design a session.

For more information contact church member, Fran Osborne: 512.468-9542/ osborne35@hotmail.com



For the spring season in nature, we are celebrating “Beltane”, the ancient Pagan festival that celebrates fertility, creativity and connections to earth. All are welcome to gather **May 1**, on the grounds of UUCHC, directly after the Sunday service.

Please bring a camp chair for sitting outside. If you feel so inspired, wear flowers in your hair and/or dress in green or white. (Paper flower wreaths for your hair are available at Hometown Crafts for \$5.)

Join JOANNA MACY for “Climate Change As Spiritual Practice” - Transforming Anxiety into Empowerment Tuesday, May 10: 2 - 4pm

Join in this sacred council with Joanna Macy, author of Active Hope, and PGI Founder Jonathan Gustin to discover your authentic place in the world and to offer your soul-level purpose as a gift of service to life in this time.

A powerful and unlikely spiritual teacher has arrived, sweeping everyone into the shadows of its cloak. This teacher has begun to interrupt life as we know it, showing us the impermanence and fragility of our lifestyle and our way of seeing the world. This teacher goes by the name of “Climate Change”.

This is an invitation to join in imagining a new future together. Join in this special gathering to discover your authentic place in the world and to offer your soul-level purpose as a gift of service to life in this time.

Copy and paste this link to register:
<https://www.purposeguides.org/ccspwithjoanna>

Steve Galland

We all miss Steve Galland, one of our church founders who passed away in March. His family has indicated that a donation to our church in his memory would be welcomed. Please contact our treasurer, Judy Bunch, if you have questions.

Vicki Luther, Board President



A special **THANK YOU** goes to Jim McMahon who is providing Sunday coffee to the congregation once again!



May Chalice Table Décor

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

- May 1 – Vicki Luther
- May 8 – Judy Ashcraft
- May 15 – Susan Lipp
- May 22 – Linda Smith
- May 29 – Donna Schloss

Chalice Table coordination is handled by Pat Kobe 830.955-1139/ kobepat313@gmail.com.



The 3rd Sunday Church Pot Luck began again on April 17 with 27 in attendance at the Wilma Palmer Annex. It was a feast with ham, sausages, vegetarian entre, and salads galore. Everyone had a great time visiting and left with full bellies. First in line is Chuck Smith.



Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Board Members for 2022

- President ~ Vicki Luther
- Vice President ~ Janet Belden
- Secretary - Sarah Johanson
- Treasurer ~ Judy Bunch
- Member at Large - Don Pyle

Sunday Services Chair: Janet Belden
Wayside Pulpit, Coffee Set-Up, Music/Choir, Greeters, Order of Service, Chalice Table, Service Schedule/Associates

Ex Officio Board Member (Past President):
Jerry Best

Committee on Ministry (CoM) Chair: Linda Smith

Spiritual Development Chair: Janet Belden
Life Span Development (Adult and Children's Religious Education), Free Speech Café, Forums

Membership Co-Chairs:
Bryan Bristol & Gary Payne
Congregational Care, Visitor Follow-Up, Exit Interviews, New Member Orientation, Members/Friends List

Outreach/Social Justice Committee Co-Chairs:
Carolyn Dreyer & David Gross
TXUUJM, Donate the Plate

Finance Committee Chair: Mike Burkett
Stewardship, Budget, Financial Management & Reports

Facilities Chair: Zeke
Building/Grounds

Activities/Events Chair: Judy Ashcraft
Special Social Events, Recurring Events, Building Usage

Communications Chair: Jill Wiggins
communication@uuchc.org
Webmaster: (Contractor) Audra Arr
Facebook: Linda Smith
Newsletter/Weekly Calendar Update: Susan Lipp