

# OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country  
Newsletter

November 2022



Above is the October 30 Chalice table decorated by Jill Wiggins who requested that church members bring pictures of cherished friends and family members no longer with us.

It also served as a backdrop for member, Gary Payne's memorial service which was held later on the same day.



Gary Payne's wife, Jill Wiggins, below left, leads the memorial service for Gary, while member, Linda Smith, above left, adds to the service with her memories of Gary. For Gary's service, the minister was the Reverend Nell Newton, and the musician was Freddy Carnes.



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Check out our Facebook page



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## FROM YOUR MINISTER...

### *Our Religious Religion and Politics*

You might be reading this after the election. You might be celebrating or mourning. Right now, I feel and imagine a lot of tension in the air.

We know that elections will impact our nation's future. Our nonprofit status leads us to remain nonpartisan as a congregation.

We do not endorse one political party or candidate. However, we do advocate for issues. For example, there is extreme UU support for reproductive rights, including access to safe legal abortion. So, the cheer has gone out "Roe, Roe, Roe the Vote!"

UUs engage in the political sphere through TXUUJM, UUtheVote, Side with Love, UU Ministry for Earth and other organizations. Our UU tradition encourages us to roll up our sleeves and get involved in the work to remove the barriers to justice and planetary well-being. Preeminent Unitarian theologian James Luther Adams called agency one of the 5 smooth stones of religious liberalism. He wrote: "We deny the immaculate conception of virtue and affirm the necessity of social incarnation. Good things don't just happen. People make them happen."

We UUs will continue to engage in politics. To do otherwise would be to turn away from social responsibility. Political decisions can lead us closer to the Beloved Community or further into oppression. Our congregations covenant with each other to promote democracy (one of 7 purposes). Whether midterm elections give us cause for celebration or mourning, we will continue in the struggle to achieve justice and social wellbeing!

Tradition gives us a vision of beloved community. Whatever else we might imagine the beloved community (or heaven) will be like, I'm imagining everybody experiencing being known and appreciated. Who isn't positively impacted by understanding, care, consideration and appreciation?! So I'm looking to learn from you. Has your experience been at all like mine? If yes, how did the congregation get this way? What helps sustain warmth and generosity of spirit?

Most of us have also experienced times when communication gets difficult. I will be here to receive feedback and concerns when experiences are not pleasant! Our faith encourages us to grow in our

abilities to share difficult feedback with kindness and respect. This too is part of creating beloved community.

For now, I'm just basking in the kindness I've found. I'm eager to learn more about how it got here and how we will nourish and sustain it so that those who come in 2022 and beyond will find it too.

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



Above from left to right are Pat Kobe, The Reverend Phillip Schulman and Kevin Hartley attending the "Roe the Vote!" Assembly, March and Rally for Reproductive Rights on Sunday, October 23

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

- 6 **The Rev. Phillip Schulman** - (Donna Schloss, Service Associate) **Sermon: "Fueling our Journey"**. UU tradition illumines a spiritual path toward social responsibility and spiritual growth. How do we sustain ourselves for the long haul? Two essential ways to fuel the journey are joy and mourning. Come tank up!
- 13 **Speakers: Members, Carolyn Dreyer & Helen Sherwood** (Helen Sherwood, Chalice Table) - **Talk: "Banned!"** - Our fourth principle is the right to a free and responsible search for



# November 2022 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 most Thursdays.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>CS: Church Sanctuary PA: Wilma Palmer Annex  <i>All Sunday Services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary.</i></p> <p>Church Friends may serve on committees.</p> <p><i>All listed meetings are open and all are welcome to attend.</i></p>		<p>1</p> <p><b>DIA DE LOS MUERTOS</b></p>	<p>2</p> <p>Listening League: 3:30-5pm - PA - see page 4</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Goddess Gathering - 10am - PA - see page 4</p> <p>CPR Class: 9am - 3pm - Red Cross Office, 333 Earl Garrett - see page 4</p>
<p>6</p> <p>The Rev. Phillip Schulman (Donna Schloss, Service Associate) - Sermon: "Fueling our Journey" - see page 2</p> <p>November Happy Birthday Sunday</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time Ends (set clocks back one hour)</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p><b>VOTE!</b></p> <p>"Kindred Spirits" - Small Group Ministry - see page 4</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Deep Listening League - see page 4</p> <p>Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All welcomed.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p><b>Veterans Day</b></p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Speakers: Members Carolyn Dreyer &amp; Helen Sherwood (Helen Sherwood, Chalice Table) - Talk: "Banned!" - see page 2 &amp; 4</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Deep Listening League - see page 3</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①</p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>Kerrville Holiday Lighted Parade: 6pm</b></p>
<p>20</p> <p>Speaker: Brian Cutean - Talk: "The Poetic Songs of Brian Cutean" - see page 4</p> <p>Pot Luck Dinner after Service - PA</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>"Kindred Spirits" - Small Group Ministry - see page 4</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Deep Listening League - see page 4</p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>Happy Thanksgiving</b></p>	<p>25</p> <p><b>BLACK FRIDAY</b></p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Speaker: Member Helen Sherwood - Talk: "Bread Communion" (Janet Belden, Service Associate &amp; Chalice Table) - see page 4</p> <p>Drum Circle - see page 4</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p><b>#GIVINGTUESDAY</b></p>	<p>30</p> <p>Deep Listening League - see page 4</p>	<p>① There will be news, views, and thought provoking discussion. Guys bring your sandwich or gourmet repast as you wish.</p> <p>Contact: Bryan Bristol 214.392-4823/bryan.bristol@yahoo.com</p>		

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

- 13 truth and meaning. What if censorship threatened that right? Texas is leading the nation in banned books in public and school libraries. Learn how we can support free speech and help fight censorship. Bring your banned books to donate for our Little Free Library.
- 20 **“The Poetic Songs of Brian Cutean”** (Reverend Schulman, Service Associate; Judy Ashcraft, Chalice Table). Cutean was a UUCHC guest performing artist earlier this year in June. Members said of the day, “felt like I went to church today” and “Very UU!” His clever, quirky lyrics deeply touch on the human condition.



- 27 **Speaker: Member Helen Sherwood** (Janet Belden, Service Associate & Chalice Table) - **Talk: “Bread Communion”**. Breaking bread together is an ancient tradition of family, friendship, and religion. Helen and Janet will discuss the origins and history of bread and its connection to gratitude; lead a bread communion, using homemade breads; and invite the congregation to tell their own stories of “breaking bread” in community with others.

**DRUM CIRCLES**

**every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Sunday, November 27)**  
**4 to 6pm**

*Outside & behind the Wilma Palmer Annex (in good weather) and inside the Wilma Palmer Annex in inclement weather*

All are invited to bring a little something for a make-shift altar. Bring a chair if we are drumming outside. Please tell any of your friends who would be interested. Extra drums and shakers are available.

**“Goddess Gathering”**  
**First Saturday Monthly 11/1**  
**Palmer Annex ★ 10am**

Goddess Gatherings (from the [uwr.org](http://uwr.org)) is a 13-session gathering, meeting the first Saturday of the month at 10am in the Palmer Annex.

Learning about different goddesses helps to you move into a more confident and authentic state of being. Learning about the goddesses is empowering in and of itself, but doing so with a group of like-minded helps us all to recognize more of our own innate power.

If you need a copy of the curriculum, email Frances Osborne for a free pdf:  
[osborne36@hotmail.com](mailto:osborne36@hotmail.com)

**“Kindred Spirits”**

**UUA Small Group Ministry Program**  
**2nd & 4th Tuesday (10/11 & 10/25)**  
**Palmer Annex ★ 6:30 - 8pm**

For more information on the programs and joining the group, please contact Marie Brown (830) 496-3318 or Karen Burkett - (817) 734-6856

**“Deep Listening League”**  
**Wednesdays ★ Palmer Annex ★ 4-5:30pm**

For more information on the program and joining the group, please contact Reverend Schulman:  
[minister@uuchc.org](mailto:minister@uuchc.org)

**Where A.R.E. We Going?**

*You can help create the answers for the coming year's programming! The A.R.E. (Adult Religious Education) Committee is looking for new committee members, for program ideas, and for folks willing to be leaders, moderators, facilitators. What interests you? Inspires you? Motivates you? Email:*

- Janet Belden [zjaybee@yahoo.com](mailto:zjaybee@yahoo.com) ,
- Karen Burkett [m.k.burkett@att.net](mailto:m.k.burkett@att.net), or
- Marie Brown [marieuu34@gmail.com](mailto:marieuu34@gmail.com).

### Donate Banned Books!

The following list is in reference to the Sunday service, "Banned" on November 13, led by Carolyn Dreyer and Helen Sherwood.

ALL of these books have been banned at one time or another. Some have been on the banned list for years. **Please Donate** any copies you may have to Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country to place in our Little Free Library.

Book	Author
<u>To Kill a Mockingbird</u>	Harper Lee
<u>The Diary of Anne Frank</u>	
<u>Brave New World</u>	Aldous Huxley
<u>Beloved</u>	Toni Morrison
<u>1984</u>	George Orwell
<u>Dune</u>	Frank Herbert
<u>A Wrinkle in Time</u>	Madeleine L'Engle
<u>Kite Runner</u>	Khalid Hosseini
<u>13 Reasons Why</u>	Jay Asner
<u>Homer's Odyssey</u>	
<u>The Grapes of Wrath</u>	John Steinbeck
<u>Catcher in the Rye</u>	J.D. Salinger
<u>George</u>	Alex Gino
<u>The Lorax</u>	Dr Seuss
<u>Secret Garden</u>	Frances H. Burnett
<u>The Handmaid's Tale</u>	Margaret Atwood
<u>Huckleberry Finn</u>	Mark Twain
<u>The Hate You Give</u>	Angie Thomas
<u>Out of Darkness</u>	Ashley Hope Perez
<u>The Great Gatsby</u>	F. Scott Fitzgerald
<u>Invisible Man</u>	Ralph Ellison
<u>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</u>	Sherman Alexie
<u>Harry Potter</u>	J.K. Rowling
<u>The Bluest Eye</u>	Toni Morrison
<u>MAUS</u>	Art Spiegelman



### 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 Chair: Bryan Bristol**  
 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](mailto:communication@uuchc.org)

Webmaster: (Contractor) Audra Arr

Facebook: Linda Smith

Newsletter/Weekly Calendar Update: Susan Lipp