

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Newsletter
October 2022



Above are some of the members and friends of UUCHC gathered together to enjoy the Belated 2021 Holiday Party (belated because of Covid). The church didn't want to cancel a perfectly good party! Below is the celebratory cake and right is the gift table.



Christmas in September!



Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country
960 Barnett Street
Kerrville, TX 78028-4667
830.522-5650

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



Church Service Details~ pages 2 & 4
Monthly calendar~ page 3
Meetings & Events~ page 4
Critical Situation at UBarU~ page 5
Board Meeting Minutes~ page 6 & 7
"Donate the Plate" Program~ page 7
Board Members & Committees~ page 8

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS...

Ordination & Religious Authority

From my perspective, the big recent story is that UUCHC ordained a UU minister. This is incredibly personal for me, and I want to shift the focus to the congregation. What meaning will the congregation decide it has? How will it influence our going forward?

In the 9/11 service, I asked you to say where or how the ordination moved, inspired or challenged you personally. I asked what it taught or reminded you about UU tradition. Maybe I was too high emotionally to be able to take in the answers. Maybe I want to hear more because I trust that our reflection will bear fruit.

*Rev. Kacela touched on the importance of wrestling with our experience of holy/sacred. My path to and in ministry has seen me do some wrestling with "religious authority." I wrestled with the idea of being "set apart." I've preached on the costs of setting G*d apart from nature, of placing "him" above and separate from nature. I've mourned the historical direction that diverted a movement of followers of Jesus to become a religion that insisted he be worshipped. Worshipping a set apart Jesus proved easier than wrestling with challenges he offered his followers. When called a saint, Dorothy Day replied "Oh no, you can't dismiss me that easily."*

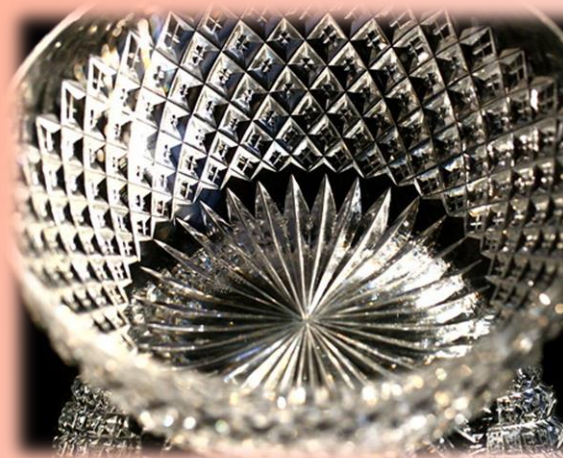
It also seems to me that liberal institutions have stalled and failed due to an inability to support leadership. Liberals love to make speeches on behalf of the underdog or downtrodden, but our distrust of authority interferes with our ability to organize and execute an agenda. Personally, my distrust of authority has been both an asset and a costly liability. I value religious authority (leadership) that facilitates connection.

My dream for this congregation is that we become a force of empowerment; the kind of place that touches, moves, inspires and empowers every person to grow in our ability to bring dignity, love and justice more fully to this world. As you reflect on what this congregation did on 9/10, its meaning and its influence heretofore, I hope you will share your thoughts and feelings, either publicly or privately in person, by phone or email. You need not wait until your thoughts are ready to be published. Share them, let us grow together.

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

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

- 2 **The Rev. Phillip Schulman** (Sarah Johanson, Service Associate; Frances Osborne, Chalice Table)- **Sermon: "Yom Kippur, Purification Ritual"**. We will honor the holiday's themes and encourage practical application of its wisdom in our lives. Themes include taking personal inventory, spiritual cleansing, repentance, reconciliation, renewal and resetting course for right relationship, social justice and community integrity.
- 9 **Congregation as Speakers** (Mike Burkett, Service Associate; Helen Sherwood, Chalice Table) - **Talk: "Poetry, Readings & Meditation"**. Enjoy poetry and readings of and about Music and a Meditation featuring a crystal bowl












- 16 **Congregation as Speakers** (Vicki Luther, Service Associate; Judy Ashcraft, Chalice Table) - **Talk: "The Kindness of Strangers"**.



October 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</p> <p>All Sunday services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary. All listed meetings are open & all are welcome to attend. Church friends may serve on committees.</p>						<p>1</p> <p>Goddess Gathering - 10am - PA - see page 4</p>
<p>2</p> <p>The Rev. Phillip Schulman (Sarah Johanson, Service Associate; Frances Osborne, Chalice Table) - Sermon: "Yom Kippur, Purification Ritual" - see page 2</p> <p>Happy October Birthday Sunday!</p>	<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Yom Kippur begins</p> <p>Deep Listening League: 4-5:30pm - PA - see page 4</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Church "On Your Own" UGRA clean up led by Carolyn Dreyer</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①</p>	<p>8</p>
 <p>9</p> <p>Speakers: Congregation Members & Friends (Mike Burkett, Service Associate; Helen Sherwood, Chalice Table) - Talk: "Poetry, Readings & Meditation".</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Indigenous People's / Columbus Day</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>"Kindred Spirits" - Small Group Ministry - see page 4</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All welcomed.</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> 	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Speakers: Congregation Members & Friends (Vicki Luther, Service Associate; Judy Ashcraft, Chalice Table) - Talk: "The Kindness of Strangers".</p> <p> Pot Luck Dinner after Service - PA</p>	<p>17</p> 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Last day to submit articles for November's newsletter: communicate@uuchc.org</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA①</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>The Rev. Phillip Schulman (Helen Sherwood, Service Associate; Sarah Johanson, Chalice Table) - Sermon: "Choice As UU Value and Spiritual Practice"- see page 4</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>"Kindred Spirits" - Small Group Ministry - see page 4</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> 
<p>30</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Sheri Phillabum (Mike Burkett, Service Associate; Jill Wiggins, Chalice Table) - Talk: "Who Loves the Dark?" - see page 5</p> <p>5th Sunday "Donate the Plate" program benefitting UBarU - see page 5 & 7</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Halloween</p> 	<p>① There 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>				

~ Continued from Page 2 ~

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

- 23 The Rev. Phillip Schulman** (Helen Sherwood, Service Associate; Sarah Johanson, Chalice Table) - **Sermon: "Choice As UU Value and Spiritual Practice"**. We'll dig deep into voluntary participation, consensual relationships, covenant and the use of democratic process in UU tradition. Why is choice so important to us?
- 30 Speaker: Dr. Sheri Phillabaum** (Mike Burkett, Service Associate; Jill Wiggins, Chalice Table) - **Talk: "Who Loves the Dark?"** Unitarian Universalists covent to “affirm and promote the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part.” This means cherishing and preserving the wonderful and awe-inspiring diversity of human and non-human animals with all of their varying and sometimes conflicting needs. As diurnal, or day-dwelling creatures, we humans can better support the interdependent web by taking some time to learn about the needs of our nocturnal cousins. We may be rewarded with a greater sense of our own connection with the amazing interdependent web!

Dr. Sheri Phillabaum has enjoyed a 20 year career as a UU religious educator and is credentialed with the Unitarian Universalist Association at the master level. She recently retired after fifteen years as Director of Lifespan Religious Education at First UU Church of San Antonio. Her title of “Dr.” is a relic of a previous career as an English professor: Sheri holds a PH.D. in renaissance drama.

Sheri is also the author of the children’s book, Who Loves the Dark, which teaches children to appreciate the value of darkness in the natural world. Sheri and her husband Dr. Roy Ellzey are both nature lovers devoted to sustainability.



UbarU Pool Leaking (see story on page 5 & 6)



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

Goddess Gatherings (from the uuwr.org) is a 13 session gathering, meeting the first Saturday of the month at 10 am 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

**“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



Enjoying the KerrKonnnect Volunteer Appreciation Party are from church members and friends from left to right (rear) Julie Sentell, Carolyn Dreyer, Mike Burkett, Linda Smith, Karen Burkett, Chuck Smith and Sherri Curry (seated) Janet Belden, Bryan Bristol and The Reverend Phillip Shulman. Those highlighted received special honors!



UBarU Pool & Windmill



Critical Situation at UBarU

UBarU is running out of water and must have a new well in the near future or it will have to shut down. Climate change has affected the level of water in the aquifer that supplies UbarU much more quickly than anticipated, and that problem has been exacerbated by the drilling of more new wells throughout the Hill Country area.

UBarU's current well was drilled in 1945 and is only 180 feet deep which only reaches the upper level of the Edwards Aquifer; most neighboring wells are significantly deeper. Available data indicates that the water level will continue to drop such that the well may not have enough

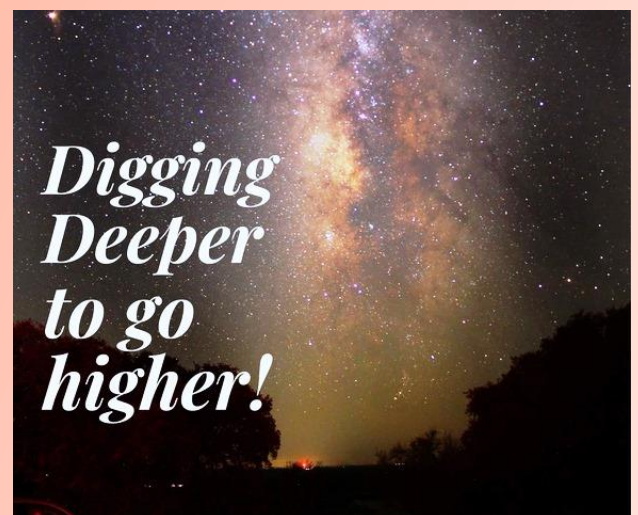
water for UBarU to hold youth camps for summer 2023, and will be completely dry shortly after that. There are two other serious infrastructure issues that must be addressed, even if not as critical as that of the well.

The Ranch House septic system must be replaced. It is the oldest septic system on the property and cannot be improved to meet required TCEQ standards. This means the Ranch House, the most popular rental at UBarU, would be taken out of service the next time we are inspected by the TCEQ if the system is not replaced.

The swimming pool is leaking badly and must be repaired. The pool was originally a stock tank for ranch animals that was created by using an outcropping of native stone as the base with a masonry ring added to hold water. While this served its original purpose well, once chlorine and other chemicals were added to make the pool safe for swimming, these begin to dissolve the limestone rock making it porous. It would be very difficult to hold summer camps and attract others to stay at UBarU in the summer without a pool.

The board of directors of UBarU has authorized a capital campaign to address these issues, along with modest improvements that are consistent with long-range planning and strengthening commitments to UU values and principles to make the plan more appealing to a wider array of potential donors.

The Capital Campaign is explained in detail on the UBarU website at: [Digging Deeper capital campaign – UBarU Camp & Camp Retreat center](#). We hope you will consider helping UBarU and encourage other friends of UBarU to do so as well. (Please see 5th Sunday Fund Raiser on page 7)



Summary of the September 14, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

Board President Vicki Luther called the meeting to order at 6:28pm. A quorum was present.

Present: Board President Vicki Luther; Vice-President Janet Belden; Treasurer Judy Bunch; Member-at-Large Don Pyle; Ex-President Jerry Best; Secretary Sarah Johanson; The Rev Phillip Schulman; Donnie Bunch, and Bryan Bristol.

Present for his report only: Mike Burkett

Safety Response Meeting

Report by Mike Burkett, insurance for a shooter situation is being checked by Germania. Insurance we do have now - sanctuary casualty, fire, weather, roof, including the Annex.

Mike is also looking into price only of content insurance. Vicki is going to contact the Southern Region of UU, they may know some context in safe congregations. Safety Response Meeting needs to be added to newsletter, September 29, 630pm and Red Cross Safety Training November 5, 9am - 2pm.

Financials

Rev Phillip received a stove and was reimbursed. Judy Ashcraft is looking into getting a security camera and laptop set, (Vicki is looking into a grant for that). UUA may have discretionary funds for Red Cross Safety Response training, \$40 each for 5 people. Janet moved to accept; Judy seconded the motion.

Ordination

Sunday Service's budget paid for 2 ministers and musician. Board decided the church needs an appreciation of the ordination; improving the sanctuary and grounds. We have ordered a bird bath with 10% discount. Rev Phillip will donate his time to landscaping. Don moved to accept; Judy seconded. Also, beautification of the church and grounds, landscaping since no mowing was needed this year. Janet moved to accept; Vicki seconded the motion.

CCC

Don reported that the Gary Payne Memorial Service would be October 30 at 3pm. S.S.C. - 4th quarter and working on hymns. A.R.E. - 5 subgroups. Building security is much improved, no unlocked doors. Zeke is going to redo the sanctuary. UU brochure has been stalled, Vicki is going to email Jill with ideas, for example, a photo of Rev Phillip, we have active volunteers, also have small group meetings.

Minister's Report

Post ordination - looking forward to congregation response/feedback. Important for Rev Phillip but palpable for the congregation. Position of leadership is solidified.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:42pm

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Johanson, Secretary



The Chalice table décor of September 18 (Talk: "True West: A Multicultural Mythology" and décor by Kevin Hartley)

Summary of the August 10, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

Board President Vicki Luther called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. A quorum was present.

Present: Board President Vicki Luther; Vice President Janet Belden; Treasurer Judy Bunch; Member-at-Large Don Pyle; Ex-President Jerry Best; Secretary Sarah Johanson; The Rev Phillip Schulman; Ex-President Linda Smith; Donnie Bunch, Judy Ashcraft, Bryan Bristol. For their presentation only: Helen Sherwood and Desiree Ewing.

Religious Education

Helen Sherwood and Desiree Ewing presented information about starting a CUUPs (Covenant of UU Pagans) group. We distinguished between Small Group Ministry and Affinity Groups.

Small Group Ministry - like a ritual, light a candle.

Affinity Groups - i.e., men's luncheon.

CUUPs would be small group ministry and would celebrate seasonal holidays, study of small categories of paganism such as nature, spirituality. There is a national CUUPs organization; to start a group here, Vicki and Rev Phillip need to produce

- Continued on Page 7 -

- Continued from Page 6 -

Summary of the August 10, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes...

letters. Janet moved to accept; Judy seconded. Earth Connections is an affinity group. They will celebrate Winter Solstice.

Desiree is leading children's RE.

Safety Response Team

Presented by Donnie Bunch: first meeting August 23. Plan to get a First Aid kit/trauma kit, plan to get metal signs regarding "doors are locked during church service" at \$25 for three signs. Make Safety Response Team official, created as Ad Hoc committee. Also have insurance for members of congregation who assist in an emergency. Chair of Safety Response Team Donnie Bunch. Judy moved to accept; Don seconded. Also, in the future to set up training sessions i.e., fire dept, EMS, also how to use the fire extinguisher.

Financial Report

Fifth Sunday Plate for UGRA raised \$468 and church donated \$100, total \$568. Janet moved to accept the financial report, Sarah seconded. October 6th UU UGRA clean-up.

Zoom Ordination

Will have an upgraded camera and sound system, will be on a tripod also.

CCC

Jill Wiggins created a new church brochure and the Board agreed it is a major improvement. The Board decided the brochure needed slight adjustment such as taking out other organization names and promoting just our church. Also, to put in our affirmation or activities or Children's R.E or childcare.

Belated Holiday party is September 24th. Cookie exchange in December. Holiday party will be January 14, 2023.

The Little Library is painted.

49 members, 25 friends, 21 visitors YTD.

Music

Desiree's boyfriend is going to record more hymns, no contract is needed.

Building/Grounds

Doors are still not being locked, dead tree in car parking area, air conditioning should only come on in Rev Phillip's office not the whole annex. Ask Zeke to measure the stove in church kitchen and see if it works to decide if it fits in the Parsonage or if we need to buy a new one.

Minister's Report

Big story - Ordination.

Continued pastoral concerns. UBarU involvement and connections outside our congregation.

Janet made a form; Rev Phillip liked the form.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Johanson,
Secretary



Feeling Animal Feisty at the September 25 service (Sermon: "Spiritually Creative Celebration of Mabon, the Autumn Equinox") are from left to right Sherri Curry, Susan Lipp and Jan Pickett. And no, this was not planned.



"Donate the Plate" 5th Sunday Program - will benefit UBarU on Sunday, October 20.

Checks should be made out to UUCHC, with UBarU on the "FOR" line.





Reminder!

The UUCHC "On Your Own" UGRA clean up led by Carolyn Dreyer will be on Thursday, October 6.



*The Reverend Phillip Schulman
Picture taken last year*



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

Webmaster: (Contractor) Audra Arr
Facebook: Linda Smith
Newsletter/Weekly Calendar Update: Susan Linn