

December 2018

# IN SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS CHURCH OF HOT SPRINGS

Welcoming Congregation for Religious  
Liberalism

### BOARD MEMBERS:

Jesse Davis - President

Linda Puckett - Vice President

John Nino - Treasurer

Ann Hair - Secretary

Values in Action (Programs) - Joe Sturgill

Membership - Jason Nickerson

Community Action (Social Justice) - Casey Wiley



### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our congregation! We as Unitarian Universalists welcome you, whomever you are, regardless of race, creed, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or physical or mental ability. We strive together as a community to celebrate diversity and to investigate together the spiritual questions that concern us all.

Who are Unitarian Universalists? They can be Christian, Jews, Buddhists, Agnostics, Atheists, Muslims, Pagan, or Other. The one thing we all have in common is that we respect each other for who we are, where we come from, and our reasons for seeking spiritual connectiveness with each other. We believe in making this world a better and just world for everyone.

**Welcome!**



### SPEAKERS FOR DECEMBER

**December 2** – Joe Sturgill and the “Birds” will start the season off, leading the Church singing Christmas carols.

**December 9-** Rick Hudson will speak to the church, Misquoting Jesus. The origins of the Christian scripture and a look at the changes made throughout the years. Based on New Testament scholar Bart Erhman’s bestseller Misquoting Jesus: The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why.

**December 16-** Rebecca Bingham and Diane will present a program of Christmas Music.

**December 23** – Trevor Lewin will speak on “ The Grass is Always Greener: Our Perpetual Pursuance for Preferable Pastures”. Mankind is always eager to get to the other side of the fence. Whether financially, socially or even mentally. We often strive to achieve that which

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we do not have and what forever eludes us. Yet like a reflection in a mirror, that which we chase if often just a shadow of where we are.

**December 24-** Christmas Eve. During the Christmas Eve service our SCA friends will offer Yuletide songs from medieval and Renaissance Europe.

**December 30** – Bob VanHook will speak on “Endings and Beginnings”. His talk will be about the end of the year and the start of a new year. (Pot luck will be after the service).

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

**CRAFT NIGHT** – Is held on Tuesday evenings beginning at 6:00 pm at the church. Bring your craft and/or learn Medieval Art skills such as Calligraphy. Cookies are served.

### SUPPORT GROUP

An emotional support group is available to church members on the second and 4th Friday nights of each month beginning at 6:00 pm. Jason Nickerson invites all those who will benefit from this group to attend. We all need people at some time or another. Thanks, Jason, for all you do for the church.

### THE BIRDS



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The Birds meet on Thursday nights beginning at 5:15 for choir practice. Come join us!



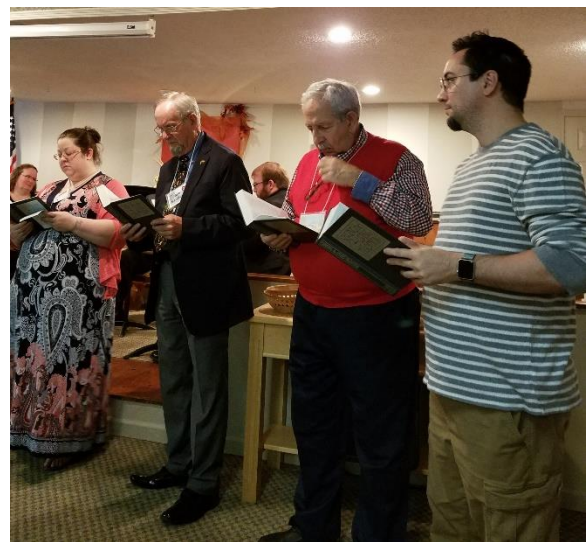
### YOGA

Bryan leads yoga classes on Wednesday nights beginning at 6:00 pm. It is a very fun, relaxing time for our church members. Bryan accepts donations for his instruction. Come join us and feel your worries dissolve!

### “Birds” Singing at Thanksgiving Service



From left: Allen, Casey, Lily, & Jessica



Jessica, Bob, John, & Jason

### SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

*BY: Casey Wylie*

Girls participating in the Miss Victorious anti-bullying program will be visiting nursing homes at Christmas time. They would love to give fuzzy socks, lap robes, fingerless gloves and other cozy items as gifts to the residents. Please donate for the residents and these amazing girls!

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Dee Marion is collecting jackets for Jackson House to distribute in the cold weather. Coats of all weights and sizes are welcome.

There will be collection boxes for both items in the church starting this week.

### THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The Unitarian Universalist Church had a wonderful Brass Musical Ensemble perform for our Thanksgiving Service. The Henderson State University Music Ensemble rang in the spirit of the Holidays. Thank you for coordinating this wonderful music service for us Joe Sturgill!



After the service we all chowed down on the church's annual Thanksgiving potluck. The Hot Springs Unitarian Universalist Church has some fantastic chefs among its congregation. Thank you everyone who contributed to our feast and socializing event.



*Thanksgiving Potluck Fun Time*

### FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



During the Holidays, we will likely spend time with opinionated relatives or friends with whom we may not agree. At these times, it may be helpful to remember our principles of Unitarian Universalism. If you can, stay in the moment and listen with compassion and care.

*Ten Thousand flowers in spring*

*the moon in autumn,*

*a cool breeze in summer,*

*snow in winter.*

*If your mind isn't clouded by unnecessary*

*things, this is the best time of your life.*

**Wu Men**

On a less thoughtful note, this is the note:

*“Christmas is the time we celebrate Santa Claus.”* **Bart Simpson**

*Jesse Davis, UU Church Board President*



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### CHRISTMAS BLUES

It is that time of year again? As we all know, Christmas time and the Holidays can be either a joyous or sad occasion. We may miss loved ones who have passed on. It can bring up memories of Christmases past. Sometimes the distance is too far to travel to be with our loved ones (Elvis Presley even sung a song about it). For that reason, I am very grateful to Linda Puckett who opens her home every Christmas to all of us who may be feeling misplaced but feel the need to socialize with others.

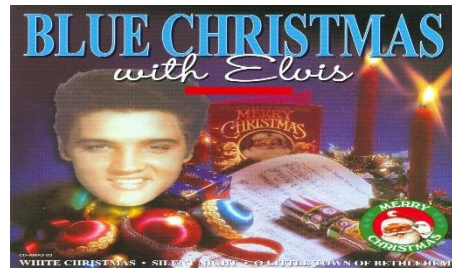
Well known is that The Hot Springs Unitarian Universalists Church loves to offer a sense of family to all its members. Our church community loves to celebrate holidays and offers a sense of belonging and connectiveness to all. Thank you, Linda, for letting our church family celebrate Christmas together at your home.

**Linda’s 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Puckett Place Open House Christmas Dinner and Orphans Gathering will**

begin at noon or 1ish (which is Californian for anytime after 1:00) on December 25<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome including the youngsters. The main course will be provided by your host, Linda. Maybe goose plus an alternative. Maybe something else according to Linda’s whims in the day leading up to Christmas. All guests are asked to bring their own beverage and a side dish or dessert to round off the feast. Come prepared for a relaxing and fun afternoon including the taking of a group photo.

Just please let Linda know if you will be attending so she can prepare for everyone.

Linda’s address: Puckett Place, 25 LaGrange Circle, Hot Springs Village Phone: **405-627-6840**



Doesn't have to be.

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is

### SPOTLIGHT ON CHURCH MEMBERS



Our ‘Spotlight on Church Members’ section is honoring Joe Sturgill and Alan Clark for their service provided to our church. Joe and Alan became members of the Hot Springs Unitarian Universalists Church in April 2008. They have each served our church in various capacities. Alan has served for five years as the church treasurer, RE: facilitator, board nominating committee, and co-facilitator of the welcoming committee. Joe serves on our church’s decorating committee, nominating committee,

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and program chair. He is responsible for all our wonderful speakers and music program for each Sunday service.

In addition to the service to the church, they are both on the LGBT Alliance board of directors. They are charter members of the LGBT Alliance which has been meeting at the church since 2013. Alan serves as the education chair and Joe as the social chair. Joe is responsible for the wonderful Halloween party entertainment and its fundraising success for the LGBT organization.

A little background history on the two of them which some of us may not know. Alan grew up in Hope, Arkansas. He has one brother, Joey, two great nephews, and two great nieces. Joe on the other hand is the baby of two brothers and two sisters, has 12 nieces and nephews, and countless great and great-great nieces and nephews. In addition, they have one puppy together, Bella.

Alan attended Henderson State University and received a degree in History and Sociology. He received his graduate degree in History from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Joe attended National Park College and Henderson State University specializing in Art.

Joe began his career in interior/floral design 48 years ago. He enjoys his work, especially challenging projects. He works part-time now and says he can't imagine retiring, it would be too boring. His husband, Alan, is retired from the Social Security Administration. Since he has been retired Alan enjoys his hobbies of online video gaming and collecting. Cooking and collecting are Joe's hobbies.

The Hot Springs Unitarian Universalists Church is so very lucky to have them as members of our organization. We don't know what we would do without them. Thank you both for your service to our church and the community!

## UU WOMEN'S GROUP

*SWUU Conference Update by Linda Griffin Puckett*

What a marvelous conference we will host in 2019! Planning is moving along on schedule. Lots of information is now posted at [swuuw.org](http://swuuw.org). Registration will be open by the first of December. Eleven fabulous workshops have been added to the schedule! Vendor applications are still coming in (Thanks Ann H.). There will be lots of lovely merchandise for your shopping pleasure. Hot Springs Trolley will provide trolleys right to the hotel to take those who sign up for it on a fun and informative tour of town on Friday afternoon. (Thanks Sara N. for suggesting the Trolley Tour). Local musicians, including our own Laura Lee Willard will entertain us during group sessions. Yoga will be led each morning at the hotel for those who want to begin the day with a good stretch. The Red Tent Room Team, headed by Sunny D., is working on décor and more and I feel certain that our Red Tent Room will be exceptional. Myra Rustin of UUVC is rallying women from their community to help during the conference. It will take many of us to keep things running smoothly. Those who have volunteered to fill bags, assemble name badges and such will hear from Casey W. as we get into February preparations. A big thanks to Casey for volunteering to be our Volunteer Coordinator!! Keep your ears perked for announcements each month leading up to the conference and watch the newsletter for monthly updates. If you have been working on the event and I haven't name you -THANKS.

**Linda Puckett-2019 SWUW Conference Convener**

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What a difference a year makes – Flash back to 2017!



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### Aids Awareness Day

Aids awareness Day will begin at 6:30 December 1. All are invited to attend.

[This Photo](#) by Unknown



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						6:30 Aids Awareness Day
2 9:00 Study Group 10:30	3	4 6:00 Craft Night	5 No Yoga tonight Board Meeting	6 5:15 Choir Practice	7	8
9 9:00 Study Group 10:30 Rick	10	11 6:00 Craft Night	12 Yoga 6:00	13 5:15 Choir Practice	14 6:00 Support Group	15
16 9:00 Study Group 10:30	17	18 6:00 Craft Night	19 Yoga 6:00	20 5:15 Choir practice	21	22
23 9:00 Study Group 10:30 The	24 6:00 Christmas Eve Service- Caroling	25 Christmas Dinner at Linda Griffin- 12 ish	26	27 5:15 Choir Practice	28 6:00 Support Group	29
30 9:00 Study Group 10:30 New	31					