



# THE MESSENGER

Unitarian Universalists of the Big Bend, Alpine, Texas

## A Month of Sundays

What Does It Mean to be a People of Expectation

**Sept 1** No Service

**Sept 8** Beckie Hagerman Celebrating the Water Communion for all ages

**Sept 15** TBA

**Sept 22** Jaime Escuder

**Sept 29** Tara Mack will lead a service for Rosh Hashanah

Sunday Worship 11:00am. If you are leading worship please send Beverly Escuder your hymn picks for Sunday worship by Wednesday so she may share them with our music team.

### Hymn of the Month

#123 *Spirit of Life* by Carolyn McDade. In six short lines *Spirit of Life* touches so much that is central to our faith—compassion, justice, community, freedom, reverence for nature, and the mystery of life.

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY NEWS

### Fall Kick-off Celebration

Children and Youth are invited to attend a kick-off celebration on Saturday, September 7 at 10:00am. Beckie Hagerman will once again lead a tie dye project using a rainbow of colors. The children will be reminded that the colors of the rainbow represent our seven principles, which are the promises we make to each other about how we are going to treat one another so that we all get along and do what's right.

### Family Night

Our next Family Night will be held on Friday, September 20 at 5:30, so mark your calendars!

### Children's Religious Education and Nursery Care

The children's RE classes will resume on September 8 at 11:00 am. This will also be the first week of regular nursery care for infants and toddlers.



## Message from the Church Board by Beverly Escuder

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Your board kicked off the new church year at a meeting on Sunday August 25. We studied the feedback that Cheryl Coppens put together from the congregational work session this spring to make sure our efforts are in line with the wishes of the congregation.

We discussed how to implement special worship services such as child dedications, weddings and memorials. We have already done one child dedication and plan to make that a yearly rite of passage for families who wish to have their child dedicated.

Another area where our congregation wanted to see growth was in adult education offerings. Carol Wallace has taken the lead on that, so stay tuned for adult classes coming this fall. We also have small discussion group packets as part of our Soul Matters theme based ministry subscription, so if anyone is interested in starting a small discussion group tied to our monthly themes, please ask Beverly for the resource packets.

We will soon be installing a large bulletin board to serve as a "communication hub" in the church. This is where all hard copy information will be found. There will be a calendar, directory, financial reports, hard copy of the newsletter and board meeting minutes. We also would like to make a section for "congregational care." This would be a place where people could list needs and requests for congregants like meals for a sick person.

We want up step our communication game this year. The board agreed to spread information through 5 channels: 1. Newsletter; 2. Website; 3. email; 4. Facebook; and 5. Bulletin board. In case of emergency, we plan to call the members who communicate primarily through phone instead of digitally. If you do not check email often and do not use social media, please let Linda Hedges know that you would like to be added to the "phone call" list.

We voted to donate both our spring and summer quarterly donations towards the purchase of toiletries and personal items to be donated to Our Lady of Peace in Alpine who will take the items to the Migrant Center in El Paso.

We voted to hold the fall rummage sale on **October 19th**, so start collecting any items that you might want to contribute to the sale. Items can be brought to church on Sundays and put in the shed. If you wish to volunteer to work the rummage sale, please contact Beckie Hagerman.

Sincerely,  
Your UUBB Board Members



## WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

As a lay led congregation, we need leaders for worship this fall. We will continue to use the Soul Matters monthly themes which are listed below. If any of these interest you, please let Beverly Escuder ([bescuder3@gmail.com](mailto:bescuder3@gmail.com)) know and she will help you get scheduled to lead a service.

**2019-2020 Worship Themes:** What Does It Mean to be a People of...

**September:** Expectation

**October:** Belonging

**November:** Attention

**December:** Awe

**January:** Integrity

**February:** Resilience

**March:** Wisdom

**April:** Liberation

**May:** Thresholds

**June:** Play

We will kick off the church year with a Water Service for All Ages on September 8. Weekly services resume after that. Email Beverly at [bescuder3@gmail.com](mailto:bescuder3@gmail.com) to sign up for a service.

## SEPTEMBER ADULT ACTIVITIES AT UUBB

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### **An Evening Teaching on Tonglen Meditation: Wednesday, September 11, 7:00 pm UUBB**

**Meeting Room** Rev. Jean O’Cuilinn introduces the practice of Tonglen: Giving and Receiving. It develops our compassion and our ability to be present for our own suffering and the suffering of others. It is also a practice of great kindness that opens up our whole being to the overwhelming presence of suffering and our strength and willingness to transform alienation into compassion through the energy of mercy and the cultivation of openness. One hour session open to anyone interested.

**Current Border Issues, Immigration - what can we do?** Books and discussion focusing on our own geographical area. **Thursday, September 12, 7:00pm.** Led by Judith Brueske, Carol and Alan Wallace. What is true and what is false? What is the history of US Immigration Policy? How did we get in this mess? What can we do about it? (Supported by ‘Band-aids on the Border’ group in Alpine) Sharing our stories. Recommendation and discussion of books. Discussion and sharing of thoughts and ideas. Open to anyone interested.

Some of the books recommended for discussion:

*The Beast, Riding the Rails and Dodging Narcos on the Migrant Trail*, Oscar Martinez (2013) “a gritty firsthand chronicle of the dramatic journeys undertaken by Central American migrants on their journey northwards through Mexico to the United States.” Jon Lee Anderson

*A History of Violence: Living and Dying in Central America*, by Oscar Martinez (2016) “a collection of fourteen investigative pieces written by Oscar over the past several years from Central America itself; it is intended to explain to Americans why it is that Central Americans flee - they don’t migrate - from their homelands, due to the violence generated there, year after year, with a great deal of American participation.” Jon Lee Anderson

*Ex Mex; from Migrants to Immigrants*, by Jorge G. Castaneda (2007)“ we learn who the newest generation of immigrants from Mexico is, why they have chosen to live in the United States, where they work, and what they ultimately hope to achieve.”

*Undocumented: How immigration Became Illegal*, by Aviva Chomsky (2014) “explores what it means to be undocumented in a legal, social, and historical context. The result is a powerful testament of the complex, contradictory, and ever shifting nature of status in America.”

*The Line Becomes a River*, by Francisco Cantu (2018) “Lays bare, in damning light, the casual brutality of the system, how unjust laws and private prisons and a militarized border have shattered families and mocked America’s myths about itself - The New York Times Book Review”

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## Interest Groups

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### The Big Bend Book Club

meets on the second Wednesday of the month, September 11, at 5:30pm at the UUBB. The reading selection in September is *Mistakes Were Made (But Not By Me) Why We Justify Foolish Beliefs, Bad Decisions, and Hurtful Acts* by Carol Tavris and Elliot Aronson. Two distinguished psychologists look at the role of self-justification in human life, explaining how and why we create fictions that absolve us of responsibility and restore our belief in our intelligence, moral rectitude, and correctness; assess the potential repercussions of such a course of action; and reveal how it can be overcome. Anyone interested in attending is welcome even if you didn’t read the book. If you have any questions please call Peter Koeppen at 713-702-6564.

### Love to Read Book Club

The next meeting at the UUBB will be on September 19 (the third Thursday of the month) at 10:30am. The book selection for September is *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Alan Bradley. Eleven-year-old Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison, is propelled into a mystery when a man is murdered on the grounds of her family’s

decaying English mansion and Flavia's father becomes the main suspect. If you have any questions please call Louise Parmely at 713-702-1689.

### Zen Meditation Group

Group meditation meets Monday evening's at 6:00pm. Contact Jean O’Cuilinn 432-364-2462 if you are coming for the first time & have questions. A small donation to the church is appreciated.

## Upcoming Events

### Fall Rummage Sale

**Saturday, October 19 at 8am**

This is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, so we need a lot people to help out to make it a success. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Beckie Hagerman at [bexxeden@gmail.com](mailto:bexxeden@gmail.com).

### Newsletter Deadline -

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Newsletter deadline the 25th of each month. Please submit your article, pictures (please send lots of pictures!) or comments to [rozolens@hotmail.com](mailto:rozolens@hotmail.com)