

# THE ORACLE



## *Thoreau Woods Unitarian Universalist Church April 2020 Newsletter*

We welcome everyone to our congregation, recognizing no distinction of class, nationality, race, gender, or sexual orientation.

“I am going to try and pay attention to the spring. I am going to look around at all the flowers, and look up at the hectic trees. I am going to close my eyes, and listen.” – Anne Lamott

### **Sunday Services**

Until further notice, because of Covid-19, all Sunday Services will be conducted via Zoom. Zoom Services will be held each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Our first Zoom service was well attended. There were a few technical hiccups, but that was to be expected. People may create their own personal chalice to light when the chalice lighting is read.

Next week, the meeting ID is the same as last week. Please contact the Reverend Vicki if you would like a practice session or can't find the meeting ID. To ensure the integrity of the service, all participating members and visitors must be present on video. Please check your email each week for a ZOOM link. If you are not getting, them please let Pam know at [pammoon41@aim.com](mailto:pammoon41@aim.com).

**Rev. Vicki will be doing April 5 and 12, Rich Heiland will be doing April 19, and we will have Fellowship Sunday on April 26.**



### **THOREAU WOODS COFFEE HOUSE**

Joe Crookston was scheduled to play at the coffeehouse on April 4, but it has been cancelled due to Covid-19.

### **Birthday Calendar**

Payson and Elliot Norman were born on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Richard Lane was born on April 14th.  
Tamela Shirley was born on April 26th.  
Richard Arnold was born on April 27th.  
If you have a May birthday, please tell the editor.



## **JOIN OUR PRISON MINISTRY**

The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons.  
– Fyodor Dostoyevsky

The Unitarian Universalist First Principle affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Yet every day millions of incarcerated people are told the exact opposite of this principle, that they are worthless and undeserving. Through prison visits and letter writing, we at TWUUC have a special opportunity to show incarcerated people living right here in Huntsville that they are inherently worthy of love and justice.

We need you to help nurture our nascent prison ministry. Working together we can show incarcerated people that they are not forgotten and that those of us in the “free world” care about their well-being. Our program consists of one-on-one visits, letter writing and phone calls with local inmates at the Ellis Unit located on FM 980 in Huntsville.

This ministry is organized and led by Vicki DellaSperanza Hernandez and her husband Martin Hernandez who is incarcerated at Ellis Unit. Vicki organizes and trains volunteers in the so-called free world, and Martin leads the program from inside the prison. Together they launched a letter-writing campaign that connects pen-pals who write monthly. Their vision is to establish one-on-one (non-contact) visits with men, who over the years, have had either very few visits or none at all. Whether you are interested in writing or visiting, you will receive guidance and assistance every step of the way. Vicki and Martin are committed to ensuring a safe, secure and

mutually beneficial experience for both volunteers and inmates. For more information contact Vicki at (617) 970-5430 or [vicki@thriveafterloss.com](mailto:vicki@thriveafterloss.com).

Due to Covid-19, there will be no one-on-one visits to the prisons until future notice.

## TWUUC Mission Statement- JUST HELP .

There are three interpretations of this mission.

It is the journey to answer the complex question "Why am I here?"

It is help that is just.

It is to do no harm of any kind against ourselves, others or the environment.



### Death Penalty Witness

We will be standing vigil in meaningful faith-filled presence to protest the non-redemptive nature and violence of the death penalty during executions. For a list of upcoming executions, go to [www.tdcj.state.tx.us/death\\_row/dr\\_scheduled\\_executions.html](http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/death_row/dr_scheduled_executions.html). For more information on when, where, and how we participate, go to <https://twuuc.org/fellowship/death-penalty-witness/>.

## \*\*\*\*\*VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES\*\*\*\*\*

**Treasurer:** We are in immediate need of an interim treasurer through June 30, 2020. Please contact Pam, Beth, or Richard if willing and able.

**Sunday Morning Programs:** If you would like to be the meeting leader, guest speaker, or have something you want to share during Fellowship Sunday, please contact Pam Johnson at [pammoon41@aim.com](mailto:pammoon41@aim.com).

**Building and Grounds:** If you would like to help maintain the building and/or grounds, please contact Paul Culp at [culp@shsu.edu](mailto:culp@shsu.edu).

**Coffeehouse:** If you would like to help with the coffeehouse, please contact Pam Johnson via email above or call James at 936-661-6332. We need help with the admission table, kitchen, setup and teardown, and bakers.

**Membership Committee:** We still need someone to head this committee. Currently Rev. Vicki is visiting members who are ill, and Anne True is maintaining the membership list.

## CONTACT US

**Church Location**  
144 East Mosley Lane  
Huntsville TX 77340

**Mailing Address:**  
P. O. Box 6751

Off HWY 75 South  
Turn left on Mosley Lane approximately 1 mile south of  
McCoy's

Facebook: TWUUC and Thoreau Woods Coffeehouse

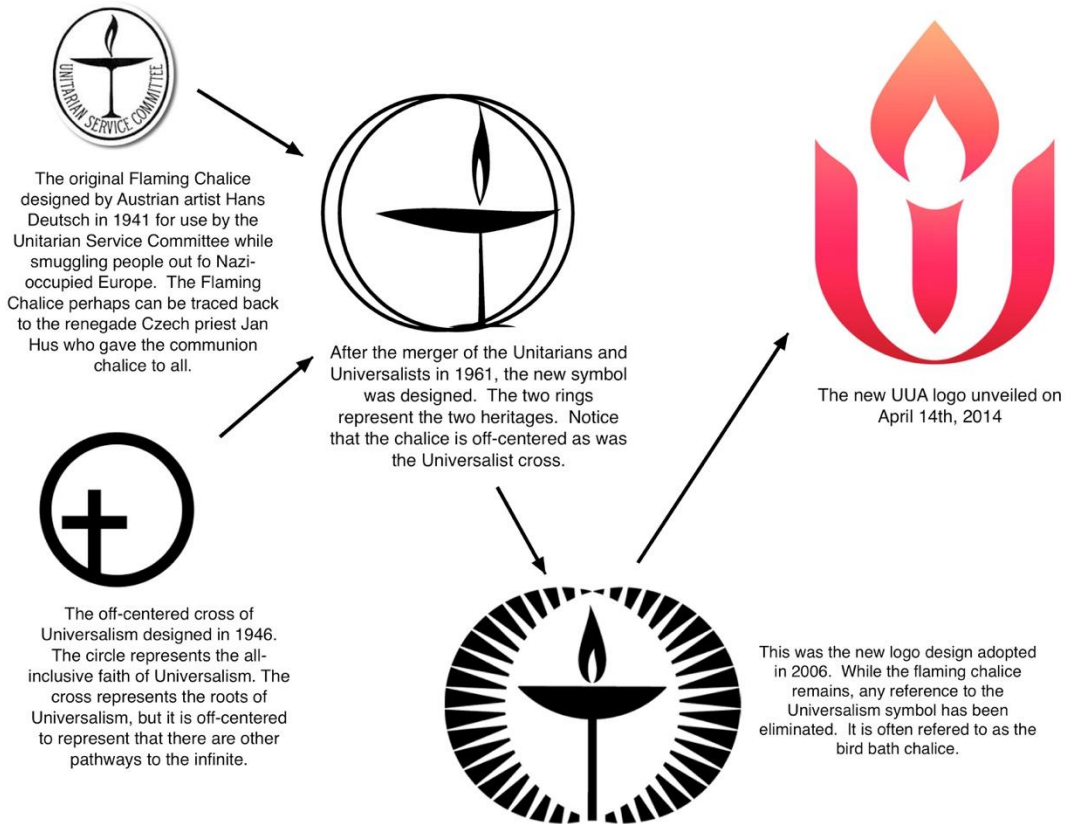
Huntsville TX 77342-6751

Phone: (936) 439-9505

Email: [info@twuuc.org](mailto:info@twuuc.org)

Website: [www.twuuc.org](http://www.twuuc.org)

## Evolution of the Chalice



### MINISTER:

Rev. Vicki DellaSperanza Hernandez

[revvicki@twuuc.org](mailto:revvicki@twuuc.org)

### OFFICERS

**President:** Beth Williamson

[betwil@aol.com](mailto:betwil@aol.com)

936 661-7114

### LEADERSHIP

Music Director: Karen Peake

OOS Editor: Sandy Fruhman

Youth R.E. Chair: Tamela Shirley

Adult R.E. Chair: Richard Lane

Building and Grounds: Paul Culp

Membership List: Anne True

Parliamentarian: Rick Norman

Public Relations: Rev. Vicki

Webmaster: Pam Johnson

**Vice President/Program Chair:** Pam Johnson  
[pammoon41@aim.com](mailto:pammoon41@aim.com)

**Secretary:** Richard Lane  
[rhlane1999@yahoo.com](mailto:rhlane1999@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Editor: Anne True  
(deadline last Sunday of the month)