

THE ORACLE



Thoreau Woods Unitarian Universalist Church May 2020 Newsletter

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

“Life has many ways of testing a person's will, either by having nothing happen at all or by having everything happen all at once.” - Paulo Coelho

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. Log in at 10:15 to greet others and check connections. People may create their own personal chalice to light at home when the chalice lighting is read.

Each week email with a link and password will be sent to those on the newsletter list. If you do not receive the newsletter, and would like to, please send an email to info@twuuc.org. If you think you should be on the list, but are not receiving emails from the church, you may want to check your spam folder and add info@twuuc.org to your safe senders or contact list.

Sunday May 3rd – “I Got Out of Bed” by the Rev. Adam Robinson

On Sunday May 3rd, the Rev Adam Robinson's sermon will be “I Got Out of Bed”.

The Jane Kenyon poem “Otherwise” has been much on my mind lately.

Otherwise

*I got out of bed
on two strong legs.
It might have been
otherwise. I ate
cereal, sweet
milk, ripe, flawless*



*peach. It might
have been otherwise.
I took the dog uphill
to the birch wood.
All morning I did
the work I love.
At noon I lay down
with my mate. It might
have been otherwise.
We ate dinner together
at a table with silver
candlesticks. It might
have been otherwise.
I slept in a bed
in a room with paintings
on the walls, and
planned another day
just like this day.
But one day, I know,
it will be otherwise.*

These words have both comforted me and challenged me right now in our Covid-19 separateness. I would like to take some time to share some of the thoughts and emotions that have been stirred by this poem.



Sunday May 10th - A Celebration of Motherhood

On Sunday May 10th, Thoreau Wood's Vice President, Pam Johnson, will lead us in a Celebration of Motherhood. Participants will be invited to share stories of their mothers, women who have been like a mother to them, or their own stories of motherhood.

Sunday May 17th - Bending With These Winds of Change

On Sunday May 17th Hilary Adamson will present a program entitled "Bending with These Winds of Change." In these challenging times the winds of change can easily send us reeling. From grateful for the simple things and a slower pace one second, to tears welling up at the news of a so many loved ones lost on the front lines of this pandemic...it is like a whirlwind that can send us in a tail spin. Like a willow in the wind, we ebb and flow with the gusts, but can continue to reach for the heavens, just like the willow tree. While we grow through these challenges, we can still reach for the heaven's, look up and find faith in the life-giving sun that rises with each morning.



This service will include music from Hilary and her husband Stuart. They call themselves the The Flyin' A's. They perform Americana with a Texas Kick. This husband and wife duo

hails from Austin, Texas. You can hear their Texas roots in all they do. This high energy duo is famous for their top-notch songwriting, breathtaking harmonies, and exceptional live performance. Their latest album *You Drive Me Crazy* was selected to be on the 2017 first round Grammy Ballot and has taken them on tour around the US, UK, EU and now they are headed to NZ for the first time. Their latest album *No Holds Barred* was released in February 2020 and is full of heart, Texas grit, and continues their legacy of critically acclaimed songwriting. From Stuart's outstanding lead guitar work and gritty vocals to Hilary's powerhouse vocal gymnastics and lilting harmonies, it is no wonder this duo is quickly gaining momentum both at home and abroad. They combine the best of Texas country, southern blues, folk and gospel to create an original sound that is all their own.

Sunday, May 24th, 2020 - Fellowship Sunday

On Fellowship Sunday, we will begin with our traditional prelude, announcements, chalice lighting, joys and concerns, meditation and hymn singing. Instead of listening to a speaker, Fellowship Sunday is a time for members to share topics and themes of concern and interest with others in the congregation.



Sunday, May 31st - Citizen's Climate Control

On Sunday May 31st, Roger Ingersoll will speak on The Citizen's Climate Lobby. Now retired, Roger worked for ExxonMobil for 33 years in the oil and gas industry. He worked on arctic, coastal and offshore projects, worldwide, and as witnessed changes in the North-slope Alaska area that have happened since the 1980's. Currently, Roger is a member of SHSU Industrial Advisory Board to gain accreditation for SHSU's Electronics and Computer Engineering Technology program. Citizens' Climate Lobby is a non-profit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change. Roger has been a member of the Citizens Climate Lobby for 4 years and is currently the group leader of the Huntsville chapter. He is also a member of the Climate Control Lobby's Conservative Caucus, Catholic and Faith Leader Action Team.

Birthday Calendar

Josh Owens was born on May 1st.
Roseanne Barker was born on May 27th.
If you have a June birthday, please tell the editor.



Thoreau Woods Coffeehouse



10th Anniversary Show

This will be a live broadcast on Facebook Live on the Thoreau Woods Coffeehouse page
<https://www.facebook.com/thoreauwoodscoffeehouse/?ref=bookmarks>



The Flyin' A's with Viator & Maxey opening Saturday, May 16, 7 pm

Donations greatly appreciated: The Flyin' A's via Venmo: @theflyinas or Paypal: [paypal.me/theflyinas](https://www.paypal.com/merchot?p=the-flyinas)
Viator & Maxey: Paypal or Venmo mlviator@gmail.com,

The Flyin' A's perform Americana with a Texas Kick. This husband and wife duo hails from Austin, Texas. You can hear their Texas roots in all they do. This high energy duo is famous for their top notch songwriting, breathtaking harmonies, and exceptional live performance. Their latest album You Drive Me Crazy was selected to be on the 2017 first round Grammy Ballot and has taken them on tour around the US, UK, EU and now they are headed to NZ for the first time. Their latest album No Holds Barred was released in February 2020 and is full of heart, Texas grit, and continues their legacy of critically acclaimed songwriting. From Stuart Adamson's outstanding lead guitar work and gritty vocals to Hilary Claire Adamson's powerhouse vocal gymnastics and lilting harmonies, it is no wonder this duo is quickly gaining momentum both at home and abroad. They combine the best of Texas country, southern blues, folk and gospel to create an original sound that is all their own.

Americana roots duo Mark Viator & Susan Maxey owe their musical chemistry to the thunderstorm that brought them together at the Kerrville Folk Festival, back in 1991. A Viator Maxey show brings you an ever-evolving repertoire of original songs about highways, hurricanes, red tail hawks, and love gone right. Their tightly woven vocal arrangements are underscored by Mark's National slide guitar and distinctive acoustic lead playing. Susan's soulful voice is an instrument all its own. Together, they deliver a powerful show that draws on the rhythms of South Louisiana and the timeless qualities of the Texas troubadours.

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.

Due to Covid-19, there will be no 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.



Charity of the Month: Good Shepherd Mission

The Mission State of the Good Shepherd Mission is “meeting basic human needs through feeding, clothing, sheltering, counseling and changing lives for Good, based upon New Testament teaching of Jesus Christ.” Since we cannot bring food to the church right now, please consider writing a check made out to the Good Shepherd Mission and sending it to P.O. Box 6751, Huntsville TX 77342-6751.

Stewardship

Even though the church is not meeting, there are still expenses. If you would like to make a donation to Thoreau Woods Unitarian Universalist Church, you can mail a check to P.O. Box 6751, Huntsville TX 77342-6751 or pay via Paypal by sending to info@twuuc.org or going to paypal.me/twuuc.

*****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.

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

Membership Committee: We still need someone to head this committee. Anne True is maintaining the membership list.

OFFICERS

President: Beth Williamson
betwil@aol.com
936 661-7114

Vice President/Program Chair: Pam Johnson
pammoon41@aim.com

Secretary: Richard Lane
rhlane1999@yahoo.com

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: Vicki DellaSperanza Hernandez
Webmaster: Pam Johnson
Newsletter Editor: Anne True
(deadline last Sunday of the month)

We are on Facebook!
Thoreau Woods UU Church
Thoreau Woods Coffee House

CONTACT US

Church Location

144 East Mosley Lane
Huntsville TX 77340
Off HWY 75 South
Turn left on Mosley Lane approximately 1 mile south of McCoy's

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 6751
Huntsville TX 77342-6751

Phone: (936) 439-9505

Email: info@twuuc.org

Website: www.twuuc.org

THOREAU WOODS PLANT INVENTORY

Compiled by Paul Culp

NON-INDIGENOUS TREES PLANTED INTENTIONALLY OR DEPOSITED BY WILDLIFE

Callery (Bradford) Pear [Pyrus calleryana]	Loquat (Japanese Plum) [Eriobotrya japonica]
Chinaberry [Melia azedarach]	Mimosa [Albizia julibrissin]
Chinese Privet [Ligustrum sinense] #	Persimmon [Diospyros virginiana]
Chinese Tallow [Sapium sebiferum] #	Plum, Chickasaw [Prunus angustifolia]]
Crepe Myrtle [Lagerstroemia]	Tung-Oil [Aleurites fordii]
Fig [Ficus carica]	Vitex [V. agnus-castus]
Japanese Privet (Wax-Leaf L.) [Ligustrum japonicum]#	Yew, Common [Taxus baccata]

Invasives that need removal

SHRUBS

Althea (Rose of Sharon)*	Oleander, Common [Nerium oleander]*
Beauty-berry, American [Callicarpa americana]	Quince, Flowering*
Cycad (Sago Palm) [Cycas revoluta]*	Red Yucca*
Gardenia*	Silver-berry
Dwarf Palmetto [Sabal minor]*	Sumac, Smooth [Rhus glabra]
Lantana, Common [L. camara]*	Turks Cap [Malvaviscus arboreus]*
Mountain-Laurel [Kalmia latifolia]*	Yucca, Aloe [Yucca aloifolia]*
Nandina (Heavenly Bamboo) [Nandina domestica]	

*indicates not on grounds prior to TWUUC

FLOWERING AND OTHERWISE ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

Agave, Blue [Agave tequilana] *	Iris, White Bearded [Iris germanica] *
Aspidistra (Cast-Iron Plant) [Aspidistra elatior] *	Liriope [Liriope muscari] *
Bee Balm [Monarda punctata]	Rose, Climbing [Rosa setigera] *
Brown-Eyed Susan [Rudbeckia triloba]	Rosemary [Salvia rosmarinus] *
Cactus, Prickly Pear [Opuntia genus] *	St. Johns Wort [Hypericum perforatum]
Cactus, P. P. (Spineless) [Opuntia ellisiana] *	Spider Wort [Tradescantia virginiana]
Dewberry [Rubus mississippianus]	Wandering Jew [Tradescantia zebrina] *
Grape, Muscadine [Vitis rotundifolia]	Yucca Arkansana (Yucca native to East Texas) *
Honeysuckle [Lonicera]	

* indicates not on grounds prior to TWUUC

FOREST TREE SPECIES

Ash, Green [<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>]	Oak, Bur [<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>] *
Blackhaw, Rusty (<i>Viburnum</i>) [<i>V.rufidulum</i>]	Oak, Post [<i>Quercus stellata</i>]
Blackgum [<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>]	Oak, Southern Red [<i>Quercus falcata</i>]
Cedar, Eastern Red [<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>]	Oak, Water [<i>Quercus nigra</i>]
Cherry, Black [<i>Prunus serotina</i>]	Oak, White [<i>Quercus alba</i>]
Cherry Laurel [<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>]	Oak, Willow [<i>Quercus phellos</i>]
Dogwood [<i>Cornus florida</i>]	Pine, Loblolly [<i>Pinus taeda</i>]
Elm, Cedar [<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>]	Plum, Mexican [<i>Prunus mexicana</i>]
Elm, Winged [<i>Ulmus alata</i>]	Prickly-Ash, Common [<i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i>]
Fringetree [<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>]	Redbud, Eastern [<i>Cercis canadensis</i>] *
Hackberry [<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>]	Sassafras [<i>S. albidum</i>]
Hickory, Mockernut [<i>Carya tomentosa</i>]	Sweetgum [<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>]
Magnolia, Southern [<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>] *	Yaupon Holly [<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>]
Maple, Red [<i>Acer rubrum</i>]	

*Natives not originally on TWUUC site.