

THE ORACLE

Thoreau Woods Unitarian Universalist Church June 2020 Newsletter



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

“To cheapen the lives of any group of men, cheapens the lives of all men, even our own. This is a law of human psychology, or human nature. And it will not be repealed by our wishes, nor will it be merciful to our blindness.” - William Pickens

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, June 7th - The Rev. Adam Robinson will speak on “Righteousness or Goodness”

I have had the hardest time thinking about what to call the message I feel lead to share with you. A longer title might be, “Even when I know I am right I would rather choose to be good.” But even with more words seem murky to me.

Sometimes I find that my “rightness” leads me to a place of righteousness, well self-righteousness might be more accurate. And that righteousness all too often leads to righteous indignation; especially when other was of understanding don’t match my “right” one. That indignation all too often leads to negative feelings and actions. And I don’t feel my best when that happens.

I am not advocating being inaccurate, ignorant, or just plain wrong. But I believe there are sometimes when I should let my good works speak to my rightness rather than my words speak of my self-righteousness. I would much rather show my goodness than rightness if it means acting in a more loving, kind, compassionate, healing, healthy and holy manner.



My inspiration for this sermon is an article from the Chronicle from 2018. I was given it by members of a group of folks who met weekly up until we had to take time off for Covid-19. The article is titled, “The downside of being ‘right’”. It is written by Rev. Bill Richter an Episcopal priest. You might want to look at the article. I will be using it as inspiration and will pull a few quotations from it.

Here is a link to the article: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/amp/The-downside-of-being-right-12530789.php>

Sunday, May 14th – Annual Congregational Meeting

We will be meeting at the church to discuss and vote on the slate of officers and the budget for the next fiscal year. We will also be voting on an amendment to the bylaws that will allow for the board to have emergency operations that will allow for virtual congregational meetings. In concordance with the bylaws, the meeting will be held in person. To hold a vote, we need a quorum and we ask that those who are able, to please attend in person. If you are ill, we ask that you do not attend. We will observe social-distancing parameters during this meeting. Masks and sanitizer will be available. The proposed slate of officers is as follows:

President - Rich Heiland
Vice President - Beth Williamson
Treasurer – Richard Lane
Secretary – Sandy Fruhman



Sunday, June 21st – A Celebration of Fatherhood

On Sunday, June 21st, Thoreau Wood's Vice President, Pam Johnson, will lead us in a Celebration of Fatherhood. Participants will be invited to share stories of their fathers, men who have been like a father to them, or their own stories of fatherhood.

Sunday, June 28th, 2020 – The Rev. John Pepper will speak on “The Myth of Control”

We live in a world where we often believe we can control our lives. The truth is, there is precious little we actually control. Author and priest Richard Rohr tackles the subject where he maintains the first half of life is trying to control life while the second half is settling into the fact that you can't control it. His insights are valuable for us all. Please join me as I explore some of his insights. Namaste!



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.

Birthday Calendar

Paul Culp was born on June 19th.

Jon Rogers was born on June 23rd.

If you have a July birthday, please tell the editor.

In Memoriam Kathleen Marie Hoff Donovan



Kathleen Marie Hoff Donovan, age 87, born in Windthorst, Texas, passed away on November 20, 2019, at Lakeway Hospital, near Austin, Texas. She was a member of our church from 1999 – 2007.

A Memorial Dinner for Family and Friends will take place at 1:00 PM at The Old School Historical Preservation Society of Cameron, Missouri, on Saturday, June 13, 2020. The interment of ashes will take place prior, at 12:00 noon, at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, in DeKalb County, under the direction of Turner Funeral Home, Maysville, Missouri.

If attending the graveside service at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, you are invited to bring a card, photo, or small memento to put in the urn with the box holding Kathleen's ashes. At the memorial dinner at the Cameron Old School, we will share food, stories, photos and memories.

If you are able to join us for graveside service or the Memorial Dinner, please call or text Rachel at 816.301.4198 or send an e-mail to Donovan.Rachel@gmail.com. Cards, memories, and condolences may be sent in advance, by mail to Rachel Donovan, 236 West Portal Ave #516, San Francisco CA 94127, or via e-mail to Donovan.Rachel@gmail.com. We are looking forward to sharing memories with family and friends.

*****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.

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: The Boys and Girls Club of Walker County.

The Mission State of The Boys and Girls Club is "To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens." During the school year, they offer after-school programs that serve up to 250 youth each day. During the summer, they offer a full-day summer camp that provides 100 children fun and growth-oriented activities all summer long.

To donate please write a check made out to The Boys and Girls Club of Walker County and sending it to P.O. Box 8600, Huntsville TX 77342-8600 or donate at their website: <https://www.walkercountykids.org>

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.

OFFICERS

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

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

Secretary: Richard Lane
rlane1999@yahoo.com

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

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)

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