

# THE ORACLE

*Thoreau Woods Unitarian Universalist Church  
August 2020 Newsletter*



WE WELCOME EVERYONE TO OUR CONGREGATION, RECOGNIZING NO DISTINCTION OF CLASS, NATIONALITY, RACE, GENDER, OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

**"YOU ARE A LIGHT. YOU ARE THE LIGHT. NEVER LET ANYONE — ANY PERSON OR ANY FORCE — DAMPEN, DIM OR DIMINISH YOUR LIGHT ... RELEASE THE NEED TO HATE, TO HARBOR DIVISION, AND THE ENTICEMENT OF REVENGE. RELEASE ALL BITTERNESS. HOLD ONLY LOVE, ONLY PEACE IN YOUR HEART, KNOWING THAT THE BATTLE OF GOOD TO OVERCOME EVIL IS ALREADY WON."** U.S. REP. JOHN LEWIS 1940-2020

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@twuuc.org) to your safe senders or contact list.

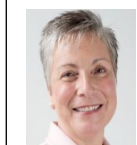
## Our August Services

**Aug. 2 – Rich Heiland**

**TWUUC Present and**



**Aug. 9 – The Rev.  
Victoria DellaSperanzo  
Hernandez**



## Aug. 16 – Fellowship Sunday

Join us for Fellowship Sunday. The third Sunday of each month is set aside for fellowship. We cannot have our potluck lunch, but we can be together. Join Rev. Vicki for an hour sharing and connecting with each other.



**SUNDAY, AUG. 23 - BLACK LIVES MATTER: HUNTSVILLE ALLIANCE  
AGAINST INJUSTICE AND RACISM(HAAIR) WITH JULES AND  
MUSTAPHA WILLIAMS**

Jules and Mustapha Williams were an integral part of creating Huntsville Black Lives Matter and they will be joining us by Zoom to share their experiences of growing up and living Black in many parts of the US. We invite everyone to join us to hear their story and to understand why, at this moment, they are joining others to make a stand for justice in Huntsville, and Walker County.



**Sunday, Aug. 30 – Terry Klein – A ZOOM music service**

Terry is an Austin song writer and singer. He tours extensively in North America and Europe. His 2017 album “Great Northern hit the year’s Top Ten lists.



**Looking ahead to September....**

**Sept. 6 – the Rev. Adam Robinson. Sept. 13 – Rev. Vicki**

***Charity of the Month - SAFFE House***

SAFFE House is celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and asking people to consider \$35 donations – “\$35 for 35.” In these times of COVID isolation concerns over domestic violence are rising. SAFFE House operates in Walker, Trinity and San Jacinto counties. It is fully engaged in helping build stronger families in our community. In the last annual report, it served a total of 395 women and children in outreach services and 171 clients resided in shelters. Clients in shelters average about 35 nights of stay, and collectively amount to ,887 shelter nights, but stays can actually be only one day or a number of months. In serving 395 outreach clients staff logged about ,792 days of client service.

You can donate directly to SAFFE House through PayPal at :  
<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/saafhouse>

Or by mail to: SAFFE House PO Box 1893, Huntsville, TX 77342

## ***President's Letter – Rich Heiland***

Greetings. These certainly have been strange and challenging months since COVID showed up on our doorstep, and closed our door physically. We all have been adjusting to a sense of isolation and “apartness” but at the same time, we all have been what we can to retain a sense of community.

At Thoreau Woods that has meant doing services by ZOOM. While we have had respectable participation, we know it's not ideal. We all have different levels of technology comfort and it's been a learning and growing experience not just for those attending but those of us who have had our share of “oops” moments as service leaders and presenters. We also know not everyone has technology and so we are saddened that we have lost touch with some friends and members.

The Board would like to announce that Rev. Vicki is returning as our part-time minister. The Board has been meeting with her and discussing what her “scope of duties” will be. But, topping the list is drawing on her experience and compassion to help us reach out to all our members and friends who may be feeling alone, suffering from physical and spiritual malaise. As always, we want you to let us know what Vicki, and all of us, can do to help you.

Some have asked when we will “be back.” At our July meeting it was the consensus of the Board that the best answer is “we don't know.” It all depends on not just our ability to follow guidelines but the rates of injection and the comfort level of each member and friend. For now we are saying January but monitoring the situation.

### ***Stewardship***

Even though the church is not meeting, there are still expenses. The Board is managing finances as closely as possible and as of the end of July the church is solvent with money in the bank. However, any unplanned, uninsured crisis could eat into that cushion. 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](mailto:info@twuuc.org) or going to [paypal.me/twuuc](https://paypal.me/twuuc).

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

**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 Rich Heiland at [heilandr1@gmail.com](mailto:heilandr1@gmail.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).

**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.



## 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](mailto:info@twuuc.org)

Website: [www.twuuc.org](http://www.twuuc.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](mailto:vicki@thriveafterloss.com).

### *Upcoming at Johnson Studio House Concerts*

**Aug. 30 – Double the Fun!**

**Jordi Baizan and Terry Klein**

**Sept. 19 – Dave Dersham**

**Oct. 18 – Reggie Harris**

**Pam and James will provide details as we get nearer events.**

## **OFFICERS**

**President:** Rich Heiland  
heilandr1@gmail.com

**Vice President/Program Chair:** Beth Williamson  
betwil@aol.com

**Treasurer:** 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