

# THE ORACLE

*Thoreau Woods Unitarian Universalist Church  
October 2020 Newsletter*



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

***“The human soul finds its saddest imprisonment when it is helpless in the presence of cruelty, when it cannot right a wrong. It finds its highest freedom when it can secure justice to others.”*** - Jenkin Lloyd Jones (Unitarian, educator, soldier, reformer, clergy) *Love and Loyalty* (1907)

## OUR 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 October Services

**Oct. 11 – The Rev.  
Victoria DellaSperanzo**



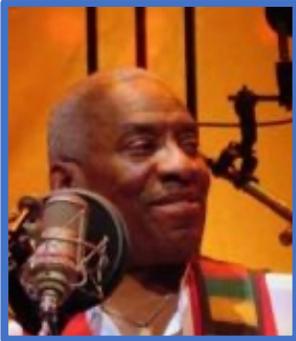
## Oct. 20 – A very special musical service with Reggie Harris

### HOPE IN A TIME OF STORM

Two years ago, Reggie was with us and provided us with one of our all-time great Thoreau Woods Coffee House evenings and then followed that up the next morning with an uplifting hope-filled service at our church.

Now, in this time of COVID-19 and worldwide social unrest, with our fast changing landscape, news of raging protests and our challenging political, social and racial awareness filling the space of every day, it can be hard to find a place for hope. What better time to have Reggie rejoin us in a Zoom service. His service in song and story will be aimed at helping our better angels to rise in our minds, hearts and actions!

Reggie has been a vital part of the international folk and acoustic music family for over 40 years. He has traveled the world spreading hope and light to audiences of all ages. Reggie is consummate musician and a spiritual force.



He is a Kennedy Center teaching artist, a Woodrow Wilson Scholar and the music education director for the UU Living Legacy Project, an organization that leads pilgrimages to sites of the Modern Civil Rights movement throughout the South.

Reggie continues to earn wide acclaim and standing ovations from audiences and peers throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe. With the release of his chart topping CD “Ready to Go” Reggie has staked a new claim as a song leader, an insightful songwriter and an activist for global peace and justice.

And, there’s more. After his Sunday service, Reggie will join Pam and James Johnson for a house concert via Zoom beginning at 6 p.m. It’s a vibrant, hope-filled double header! Pam will be sending our Zoom information. If you don’t receive it, please contact her [pammoon41@aim.com](mailto:pammoon41@aim.com).

**Oct. 25 – Fellowship Sunday with Rev. Vickie**

**Looking ahead to November**

**Nov. 1 – The Rev. Adam Robinson**

**Nov. 8 – Rev. Vicki**

**Nov. 15 – Fellowship Sunday**

**Nov. 22 – A Musical Service with Jack Williams**

**Nov. 29 – To Be Announced**

### ***Charity of the Month – The Hospitality House***

The Hospitality House provides guest housing for families visiting inmates in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice units. During COVID-19 TDCJ is not allowing visits so HH is not having overnight guests. But, it continues to provide meals, school supplies and other services to inmate families in the area. Checks may be written to the Hospitality House and sent to 912 10th St. Huntsville, TX 77320. If you want to donate supplies and goods and want to know specific needs you can call or email them at (936) 291-6196 or [director@TheHospitalityHouse.org](mailto:director@TheHospitalityHouse.org). They also have a PayPal account.

### ***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 via PayPal at [infor@twucc.org](mailto:infor@twucc.org) or [paypal.me/twuuc](https://paypal.me/twuuc)

## ***The Blessing of the Animals - Oct. 24***



How does a church that is not meeting because of COVID-19 reach out into the community to introduce itself? October is a month of events that traditionally honor St. Francis. On Oct. 4 Rev. Adam kicked it off in our Sunday service with a program on St. Francis. So, why not have a community wide blessing of pets? Rev. Vicki has worked to put this together.

Each pet will receive an individual blessing from Rev. Vicki through the open car window on the passenger side. If car travel is not your pet's idea of fun, or if your pet has passed away, bring a photo, collar, or other item for a blessing.

Please consider bringing a donation for the Rita B. Huff Humane Society of Walker County. Specific items needed are Purina One Adult Dog Food and Cat Litter (any brand). Donations of new or used dog toys, dog leashes and collars are also appreciated.



**We need volunteers to help with the drive-thru-blessing. Please contact Rev. Vicki at [petblessing.huntsville@gmail.com](mailto:petblessing.huntsville@gmail.com) or 617-970-5430**

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

Greetings!

I do not have much to report this month. Unfortunately our county continues to be one of the leading hotspots in the nation based on COVID cases per 1,000 population. Part of this is owed to the several prison units, but also personnel who work inside the prisons and then go out into the community. We also have Sam Houston State University back in session as well as public and private schools. Combine that with our conservative disdain for masks and social distancing ours is not an enviable situation.

For that reason the board does not feel we can hold in-church services any time soon. I am looking at ways we could have in-church services at some point for those comfortable with attending and broadcast live for those who do not. Unfortunately the “easy” ways to do that would cost money we don’t have and the “Zoom” jury-rigged ways are fraught with glitches and would require some skills many of us don’t have.

For the board, the bottom line is that a wrong decision about reopening could lead to serious illness and even death and with that in mind, we take very seriously our stewardship over you and all members and guests. We want to get back to our church but we have to do it responsibly. We will continue to brainstorm ways to do that and will keep you posted.

I do want to encourage you to attend our Oct. 18 service with Reggie Harris. His service the last time he was with us ranks as one of my all-time highs in terms of spirituality, hope and joy. And, Pam and James will be hosting him that evening as well. Wow!

We appreciate your continued support both financially and through Zoom. We have been having very well-attended services.

Best to you all, and stay safe!

We are trying to keep Facebook current and vibrate through a variety of posts. We welcome your sharing of your thoughts. And, we also urge you to “like” us and to share posts you think are relevant with all of your Facebook friends!

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

**\*\*\*\*\*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.



**October Birthdays**  
**George Roth Oct. 4 Helen Burrow Oct. 6**  
**Blaine Hinds Oct. 7. Anne True Oct. 23**

**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.



**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

**OFFICERS****President:**

Rich Heiland

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**Treasurer:**

Richard Lane

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**Secretary:**

Sandy Fruhman

sfruhman@savagebrands.com

**LEADERSHIP**

**Music Director:** Karen Peake

**Order of Service:** 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:** Vickie DellaSperansa

**Newsletter Interim Editor:** Rich Heiland

(Deadline last Sunday of month)