



THE ORACLE

"Conscience is an oracle of the Divinity" - William Ellery Channing

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



**Thoreau Woods Unitarian Universalist Church
January 2015 Newsletter**

**Sunday Morning Programs at 10:30
AM**

January 4, 2015
Scott Atnip
Lessons for American Faith
Communities from Malawi, a
country in Southeast Africa

Scott Atnip recently spent a week with a United Methodist delegation touring mission and ministry projects in Malawi, in Southeast Africa. He will be sharing lessons learned from his travels regarding how communities of faith in the United States can more effectively engage in their local communities and in influencing change on behalf of the “least of these” in society.

Scott Atnip is the statewide Congregational Outreach Director of Texas Impact, Texas’ oldest and largest interfaith public policy network. Texas Impact represents a wide range of religious institutions in the state legislative process on social justice issues. Scott is in his second tenure with Texas Impact, having served as an intern in 2002-2003 while completing his MPAff at the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs. Scott completed his undergraduate work at Sam Houston State University, majoring in Political Science with a minor in Management. Scott has also served as Executive Director of Huntsville’s Promise, a non-profit working on youth development and housing issues and Fund Development Manager for the National Office of United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth (U.M. ARMY), a youth home repair mission organization affiliated with the United Methodist Church.

Scott is also active in various leadership positions in the United Methodist Church, being elected as an alternate delegate to General Conference 2012 and delegate to Jurisdictional Conference, serving as the Corporate Secretary for the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries, the Texas Annual Conference West District Lay Leader, Texas Conference Board of Laity and has served on the Boards of the Heartspring Methodist Foundation and Junior High United Methodist Mission Project. Scott is also active in his local church, Wesley Memorial UMC having served as youth director with his wife Shannon, worship leader, Outreach Committee Chair and more.

In the community, Scott has served on the boards of CASA of Walker County, Walker County Community Development Corporation, Journey Though Bethlehem, Santa’s Helpers and Impact Huntsville.

Scott is married to his lovely wife Shannon and has a beautiful five year old daughter Emily and two dogs.





January 11, 2015

Rev. Tony Lorenzen

Having Faith as a Religious Liberal: Trust in our values and our journey so far

Rev. Tony reflects on what it means to have faith as a liberal. If we don't have faith in a who, then how do we have faith in a what and a why?"
Rev. Tony talks about how to find your sacred center in times of chaos and confusion.

January 18, 2015

Dr. Charles R. Carlson

Pessimism and Suffering in the Philosophy of Arthur Schopenhauer

The pessimism of Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860) contends that all life is suffering. Schopenhauer's pre-Darwinian depiction of nature as a blind desire-driven Will has been immensely influential, even though its unhappy conclusions have been frequently rejected. The talk will explain the basics of Schopenhauer's position and briefly discuss a couple of the attempts to overcome his pessimistic view of nature.

Charles Royal Carlson was born and raised in Fargo, North Dakota. He completed an undergraduate degree from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and has a masters degree in biology and a PhD in philosophy from Texas A&M University. He currently holds a post-doctoral fellowship at SHSU. His research interests include American pragmatism, existentialism and philosophy of biology.



January 25, 2015

Rev. Tony Lorenzen

Truth or Dare: Faith, Reason, and what we can learn from paranormal studies

Rev. Tony reflects on what recent studies into the paranormal can teach us about having an open mind and making our religious community a place where faith meets reason, not a place where the two struggle for a monopoly.

Minister: Rev. Tony Lorenzen

revtonyuu@gmail.com

508-344-3668

Office Hours

Please call or email for an appointment if you want to make sure to catch Rev. Tony at the church as he sometimes is at meetings or appointments in the community as part of his ministry.

Monday: Minister's Sabbath Day - Rev. Tony is tending to self care - and errands.

1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 2-7 p.m.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.



TWUUC EVENTS

Religious Education News

Every Sunday - Religious Education for adults and for children will be held from 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. During multi-generational worship all children will remain with their parents during the entire service. The younger members of our congregation will be invited to help with parts of the service such as Responsive Reading, Chalice Lighting and Offertory. If a parent is concerned that a child needs a little entertainment during the sermon, coloring books will be provided for use during the sermon only. If a child needs some time alone, the parent and child may retire to the children's R.E. classroom.



January 20, 3rd Tuesdays of the Month, September – June in the sanctuary. A spiritual Deepening Program for Unitarian Universalists. Firewalkers live their lives on fire for Unitarian Universalism. Firewalking is the spiritual formation program that helps people become firewalkers. Over ten months, firewalking will transform you and your spiritual life. As a Firewalking participant you will develop and commit to your own spiritual practice, learn to listen to your own heart and the hearts of others, connect your life and deepest values to Unitarian Universalism. See the detailed explanation of Firewalking in our recent newsletter and on our website. Registration is required for Firewalking and there is some required reading and viewing (videos). Contact Rev. Tony for more information or see our website for more information. Rev. Tony at revtonyuu@gmail.com.

January 25 - Newsletter Deadline. Please submit any items for the newsletter to pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net by the last Sunday of the month.

If Not Us, Then Who?

by Anne True

Starting with its inception in 1961, the Unitarian Universalist Association has opposed capital punishment as inconsistent with human life on account of its retributive, classist, racist, and non-deterrent character. At our last session of "Love Reaches Out," it was decided, in holding with our UU principles, that our church should become more active in opposing capital punishment. Therefore, we will endeavor to show up in vigil as a group to show our support for the abolition of the death penalty.

I know that some people might say that there are more immediate causes to rally around: stopping the death of many young black males before they even have the chance to have a trial; ensuring that everyone has the right to a living wage and affordable health care; or ensuring that everyone has the right to marry the person of their choice. I am not going to argue with you on this. Everyone has his/her own favorite cause. However, sometimes, because of our circumstances and our geography, we must become the champion, the apostle of the fight against a specific injustice. Just as the UU's of Hidalgo County must be the ones to lead the way when undocumented immigrant children are thrown in detention centers, just as the UU's of Austin must lead the way in dealing with the state legislature, and just as the UU's in St. Louis MO must lead the way in supporting the people of Ferguson, we at Thoreau Woods UU church must lead the way in the abolition of capital punishment. This is happening in our backyard, in our neighborhood. If we do not take up this fight, then who will?

So we will show up at each execution as a group to protest this inhumane and unjust practice, and if any of us have "Standing on the Side of Love" t-shirts, we will wear them as a demonstration of faithful solidarity. In the near future, we will be planning to order t-shirts that will include the names of our church. There are four executions scheduled for the month of January:

January 15, 2015 - Richard Vasquez

January 21, 2015 - Arnold Prieto

January 28, 2015 - Garcia White

January 29, 2015 - Robert Ladd

Please join me in front of the Walls Unit (at the corner of Ave. I and 12th St.) by 5:30 p.m. the evening of each scheduled execution (check the internet before showing up, the execution may have a last minute stay). The vigil is usually over by 7:00 p.m. If you do not remember to bring a candle, I will bring extra.

THOREAU WOODS COFFEEHOUSE

Please join us for the Spring 2015 Season

February 21: TBA with Tom Tranchilla & Buddy Allen

March 21: [Ellis](#) with [John Guedry](#) & Jon Hall opening

April 18: **Anderson Fair in the Round**
[Ken Gaines](#), [Scott McCarley](#), [George Ensle](#) & [Greg Whitfield](#)

May 16: [James Lee Stanley](#) with [Annalise Emerick](#) opening *****5th Anniversary*****

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.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Order of Service If you are willing to take over the weekly OOS, please let Anne True know.

Religious Education If you would like to help with RE, please talk to Beth Williamson at 295-3170.

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

Coffeehouse If you would like to help with the coffeehouse, please contact Pam Johnson via email at pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net or call 936-661-4313/936-661-4313. We need help with admission table, kitchen, setup and teardown during the event, as well as bakers.



Good Shepherd Mission

Please continue to bring food. They are very low right now. Thanks for helping however you can. They also need volunteers.

Charity of the Month

Minister's Discretionary Fund

Please make check payable to TWUUC with "Minister's Discretionary Fund" in the memo line, and place in the collection basket. This will be used for local, national, or international emergencies to be utilized by the minister.





In order for Thoreau Woods UU Church to more adequately respond to the needs of our members and friends, we are now registered on the Lotsa website. Maybe you just need a ride, help when you are ill or just a visit from a friendly face or a chat with Rev. Tony. This site can help us keep track of all that so no one falls through the cracks. If you need help or are willing to help, please go to <http://www.lotsahelpinghands.com>.

Joys & Concerns



Please wish a happy birthday to these members and friends with January birthdays!

- 1 Alex Norman
- 2 Emil Barker
- 11 Dixon Lichtenauer
- 26 Thomas Jones

DENOMINATIONAL EVENTS



February 20-22, 2015 **SW LREDA Mid-Winter Conference**, featuring a keynote address and concert by Nick Page, will be held at U-Bar-U, in Mountain Home, TX, 20-22 February, 2015. For a webflyer, go to http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/images/SW_LREDA_Advertising_Flyer_Registration_2015.02.pdf.

Our Sacred Springs
Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women's Co.
www.swuuw.org • March 6-8, 2015 • San Marco

Registration fees are \$165 for early registration by February 4, and \$185 after February 4. The registration fee for the Maiden Program is \$110. Scholarships are available, and may be applied for during the registration process. Your registration fee also includes your SWUW membership dues of \$25 for the year. For more information, go to

<http://reg.attendeenet.com/profile/web/index.cfm?PKwebID=0x2528e126&varPage=location>



EVENTS



Save the date TXUUJM Legislative Action Day @ the Capitol

Jan. 20, 2015 Plan now to join fellow UUs from across Texas as we gather at the Capitol for our first Texas UU Justice Ministry Legislative Action Day Tuesday, Jan. 20 to promote our main issues: women's reproductive justice, medicaid expansion and economic justice. We'll start the day from 8:30-10:30 a.m. with supportive legislators, who'll teach us about the legislative process and their views about the upcoming session. We'll also get briefed on how to handle legislative meetings from Austin UU Karen Neeley, who's worked as a lobbyist for community banks for about 25 years. From there, we'll visit legislators from the districts where each of us reside. We will do that in teams because numbers talk. Don't worry if you're just one person visiting from your area, because you'll have fellow UUs with you, but know the more people from an area signing the book will catch legislators' attention. We'll reconvene as a big group to debrief our day from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Those planning to arrive Monday, Jan. 19, will have the option of a special tour of the Capitol, by Karen Neeley, who will show us the shortcuts, back stairways and other secret spaces most people never discover, along with sharing a few juicy stories. Please sign up on our Evite invitation - <http://www.evite.com/event/0325J7M2B3VPRMKKOEPEKSPBFA7MC4>. You and also contact our TXUUJM Executive Director, Rev. Chuck Freeman - Exec.Dir@TXUUJM.org. For more info about joining us from Thoreau Woods UU Church, please contact Anne True at ae_true@yahoo.com



The Bookshelf by Anne Staples

The Element Encyclopedia of Secret Signs and Symbols by Adele Nozedar, pg 639 plus "Further Reading". This is a very interesting collection. I enjoyed reading through parts of it and looking at the illustrations. Very informative.

Goddess: A Celebration in Art and Literature A beautiful book with lots of lovely illustrations. It presents goddesses down through the ages from many countries arranged by category.

Birdmen: The Wright Brothers, Glenn Curtiss and the Battle to Control the Skies

Interesting account of the personalities of the Wright brothers, Curtiss, and other personalities involved in the beginnings of flight as well as an account of the trials and tribulations as well as the successes.

LEARN MORE

➔ Follow Us 

💬 Share Email  

Thoreau Woods Unitarian Universalist Church
144 E. Mosley Lane
Huntsville, TX 77340

Update your [Email Preferences](#) or [Unsubscribe](#)

