



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 **Mid-March 2015 Newsletter**

Sunday Morning Programs at 10:30 AM



March 22, 2015

Rev. Tony Lorenzen

Silly String

Rev. Tony reflects on the necessity of wonder, delight, fun, laughter, and frivolity as part of a healthy spiritual life.

March 29, 2015
The Rev. Susan Buchanan
"Death Penalty Fault
Lines: A Seismic Shift in
Ground."

The Rev. Susan Buchanan has served in a variety of ministries connected to the United Methodist Church, from congregational pastor to hospital chaplain to campus minister. She is currently appointed as the Director of Recruitment and Student Services of the Houston-Galveston Extension Program for the Perkins School of Theology at SMU. The Rev. Buchanan believes that as this region is the home of the most active death chamber in the US, people of faith in Texas have a special responsibility to work for the abolition of the death penalty. She became involved in the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty several years ago in order to make a greater commitment to advocacy and education on death penalty issues.

Her talk will build on the theme of the TCADP Annual Conference: "Death Penalty Fault Lines: A Seismic Shift in Ground." She will talk about trends, the culture in Texas, and what we can do to help change the culture around the death penalty.



Easter Sunday - April 4, 2015
Note: Special Time and Place
8:30 AM at Gazebo

The Rev. Tony Lorenzen
Resurrection:

The Language of the Flowers

On Easter Sunday, we will have a Not Quite Sunrise Service and Flower Communion at 8:30 a.m. at the Gazebo located at the Katy and E. Don Walker Education Center at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum Complex on 19th Ave St and N 1/2 Ave.

During his sermon the Rev. Tony will reflect on the topics of Easter, Renewal, Rebirth, and Spring. Flower Communion will be conducted.

April 12, 2015
The Rev. Tony Lorenzen
Don't Keep the Faith: Give it
Away

Rev. Tony reflects on how helping other transforms us.



Minister: Rev. Tony Lorenzen
Beautiful and Terrible Things

I think our culture is over focused on happiness. "The pursuit of happiness" is built into American DNA. Being happy *is* important, but it's completely unrealistic for us to seek to be happy all the time. Perhaps it is unrealistic to seek to be happy in general. I remember the 1988 song by Bobby McFerrin, "Don't Worry, Be Happy." This tune, catchy and upbeat as it is, reflects our culture's unrealistic attitudes toward happiness. The lyric offers a series of what we all might consider negative life experiences and replies to them with "don't worry, be happy."

I think the song is trying to promote a sense of balance and reminding us to not let all the things that can get us down keep us down. Yet on the surface it seems to say that we just need to change our attitude. I do believe, and research suggests, a power to positive thinking and that meditation, breathing, and stress reduction techniques can and do help us rewire our anxious brains. At the same time, it's important to remember that some people can't and don't experience joy and happiness. Depression saps people of joy. Clinical depression is an epidemic worldwide. It does little good to tell depressed people to cheer up, get over it, or get on with it. The insidious evil of depression robs people of energy, of will, of feeling anything good or bad, happy or sad. As we begin our monthly theme of joy I ask us to remember first that we seek not to be happy all the time, nor are we insensitive to the reality that for some people happiness has been removed from their experience. At the same time, I encourage us to treasure moments of delight, joy, and happiness as they come our way.

Frederick Beuchner wrote "Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid." Treasure the beautiful. Recognize it for the gift it is. Have compassion for the terrible. Most of all, in either case, don't be afraid. Don't be afraid of

the darkness and don't be afraid to revel in and enjoy the light.

revtonyuu@gmail.com

508-344-3668

Office Hours

Tuesdays 10-3

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.

*******NEW WEBSITE DESIGN*******

Please check out our newly designed website at <http://www.twuuc.org>, which is the same domain name. There is a monthly calendar feature, and the ability to make a donation via Paypal will be added soon.



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.



March 18, 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.

March 21 @ 7 pm

Ellis with John Guedry & Jon Hall opening

There's just something about Ellis. She is at once funny and wise, thoughtful and uninhibited, and her captivating voice is matched by her uplifting lyrics.

Ellis' performances are transformational; she leaves her audiences better than she finds them, with softened edges & opened hearts. She is simply delightful.

Jon Guedry is a local resident, has opened before, and frequent audience member of the coffeehouse. He will be accompanied by Jon Hall.



Standing Vigil

We will be standing vigil in meaningful faith-filled presence to protest the non-redemptive nature and violence of the death penalty during the following executions.

March 18, 2015 - Randall Mays

April 9, 2015 - Kent Sprouse

We ask that everyone join together 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. Any stay of execution will be published on the church's Facebook page by 5:00 p.m. the day of the scheduled execution. The vigil is usually over by 7:00 p.m. We often hold a candle in visual protest during our vigil as a signal that there is always hope for personal redemption. If you would like to do so, please bring one. Extra candles from church will be provided for those who forget. If any of us have "Standing on the Side of Love" t-shirts, please wear them as a demonstration of faithful solidarity.



March 29 - April Newsletter Deadline

Please submit any items for the newsletter to pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net.

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.

Worship Committee

Thoreau Woods UU church is assembling a dynamic, faith-filled Worship Committee to help develop a joyous and meaningful worship experience for all. We invite all interested people to join this committee. We expect the people that join the Worship Committee to be hard-working, thoughtful individuals that are open to new ideas and models of celebration.

The work of the Worship Committee includes scheduling speakers, organizing participants, preparing the Order of Service, coordinating with the musicians and developing a liturgical calendar. We will also be working on developing new models and methods for worship services.

Please contact Anne True or the Rev. Tony if you are interested in joining the Worship Committee. We will welcome your enthusiasm and talents with open arms.



Charity of the Month

Tri-County MHMR

Their mission is to enhance the quality of life for those we serve and our communities by ensuring the provision of quality services for individuals with mental illness, substance abuse disorders and intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Their Vision is to develop a mental health and developmental disabilities care system with adequate resources that ensures the provision of effective and efficient services to meet the need of our community.

To achieve our vision we will partner with the community to:

- Expand the availability of new and existing resources; and
- Assure the availability of technically and culturally competent staff

For more information, go to <http://www.tricountyservices.org/>.



Good Shepherd Mission

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



News from the Annie Margaret Barr Children Village

As you may know, our church sponsors a child, Rispahlang Marboh, at the Annie Margaret Barr Children Village in the Khasi Hills of India. This is a very isolated region of India and mail to and from this region is sporadic at best and we only get mail from this Children's Village when someone from the UUA goes and visits. We are pleased that we have recently received a letter from Rispahlang. The following is the text of the letter that Rispahlang sent us. He also sent us a picture of a truck.

How are you,

I am Rispahlang Marboh. I had passed class-V and join cl VI on Feb. 10,2015. Now we have winter holiday. I spent my time on playing football, carom board, watching T.V., and reading story books.

On 18th of December from A.M.B.C.V. we all went picnic to village Mawlynnong. It is a wonderful place surrounded by many types of flowers. It is a very clean village.

Every Sunday, all of us go to church. In the morning we have Sunday School. I like to stay at A.M.B.C.V because we love and respect each other. We play, sing, laugh.

We had done special this New Year by dancing and having a nice lunch. I will go to my relative for 2 weeks this month then come back to A.M.B.C.V.

Thank you for your grateful heart for helping me. I pray God to bless you through out your life. With love, Rispahlang Marboh



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 a 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



Wish these members and friends born in March a HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

- 8 *Roberta Krock*
- 17 *Ken Krock*
- 26 *Mary Welborn*
- 29 *Linda Parks*
- 30 *Richard Arnold*

DENOMINATIONAL EVENTS



April 10-26, NTUUC and **First Jefferson UU Church** in Ft. Worth present **OWL (Our Whole Lives)** training for grade K - Adult class facilitators. Go to http://ntuuc.org/OWL_2015.shtml for complete information and registration.



EVENTS

LGBTQ RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE SUMMIT

WHEN

**March 21st, 2015
1-5 pm**

WHERE

**Sam Houston State University,
College of Humanities & Social Sciences,
Room 140**

**TO REGISTER AND FOR MORE
INFORMATION GO TO**

LRESUMMIT.EVENTBRITE.COM

COMMUNITY & CAMPUS-WIDE EVENT!

Keynote Address:

The Rev. Dr. Jeff Hood,
"The Courage to Be Queer: A
Theological Exploration"

Breakout Sessions:

- "The Psychology of Religion for LGBT Person and Allies," Dr. Beatriz Craven, SHSU Counseling Center
- "The History of Religion and the LGBT Movement," Dr. Wesley Phelps, SHSU History Department
- "Creating Inclusive Faith Communities," Breaking the Silence



The Episcopal Student Center

[facebook.com/EpiscopalStudentCenterES](https://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalStudentCenterES)



The SHSU Counseling Center

shsu.edu/dept/counseling

The Rev. Tony to Speak at Holy Week Luncheon

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church will be hosting its annual Holy Week Luncheons each day Monday through Friday of Holy Week, March 30th - April 3rd. The luncheons begin with a meal at noon in the church Fellowship Hall, and feature a different pastor every day sharing a message for the days preceding Easter. Luncheons conclude by 12:50 each day to allow time for those returning to work. The meals are provided for free, though donations are welcomed. Wesley Memorial UMC is located at 700 Hwy 30 in Huntsville. The Rev. Tony will be speaking during Good Friday's Lunch. Since Good Friday represents the day that the Romans executed the Rabbi, Jesus, the Rev. Tony will talk about abolishing the death penalty. During Holy Week, an interactive "Stations of the Cross," a 14-station display depicting Jesus' final hours, will be available in the church sanctuary for reflection.



SHSU

March 19, 2015 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

LET'S TALK!: A Night of Conversation @ Lowman Student Center

<http://www.shsu.edu/letstalk>

March 25-28

Arabian Nights @ Showcase Theatre

For more information & other theatre events, go to

www.shsu.edu/academics/theatre/productions/season.html.

March 26-28

Jazz Festival @ PAC

For more information & other music events, go to <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/fine-arts-and-mass-communication/events/>.

March 27, 2015, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Magic Treehouse-Space Mission @ Planetarium

<http://www.shsu.edu/~phy/www/>

Sam Houston Memorial Museum

March 21 10 AM to 2 PM

Kick Wheel Pottery Making Demonstration

Raven's Pottery Shed, Museum Grounds

Wynne Home

March 28

Herb Festival

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