



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
March 2015 Newsletter**

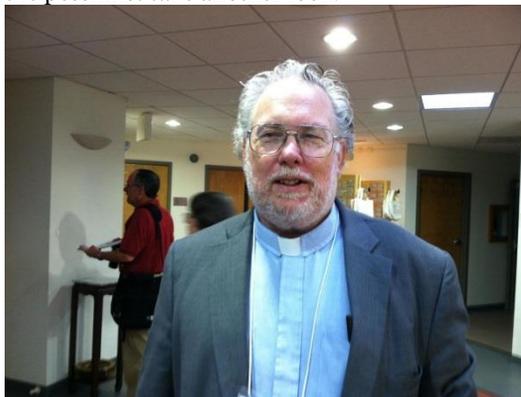
**Sunday Morning Programs at 10:30
AM**

March 1, 2015
Caleb Bishop White
Resurrection, It's not Just a
"Jesus" Thing, It's an
"Everyone" Thing

"As Unitarian Universalists, we harness love's power to stop oppression. Working in interfaith coalitions and partnerships, we affirm and promote the values and principles so important to us: justice, compassion, the worth and dignity of all, and the interdependence of life on earth." – Social Justice Action, UUA

Currently a Masters of Divinity student at Chicago Theological Seminary and a Member in Discernment in care of the Brazos Association of the South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ. The UCC is a mainline liberal denomination formed in 1957 from the merger of the Congregational Church and the German Evangelical and Reformed Church. He graduated from Huntsville High School in 2005, Sam Houston State University in 2010 with a B.S. in Political Science. Caleb is both a Harold Wilke and William Johnson Scholar, has preached in UCC pulpits across North and Central Texas while previously serving as Student Pastor at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fort Worth. You may also remember Caleb as the previous Walker County Democratic County Chairman.

Did you know the UUA and UCC have a common heritage? Did you know there are currently ongoing talks on how our two churches can work closer together to promote our shared values? Many argue the "Mainline Liberal" church is dying, I suggest the pessimist take another look.



March 8, 2015
Rev. Ron Robinson
Third Places and
The Future of The Church

As we move from church to unchurched culture, and toward what some call a post-congregational culture, how might faith communities respond to increase its impact in the world around it? Rev. Ron Robinson will bring the story of The Welcome Church and its A Third Place Community Foundation, featured as a cover story in the UU World magazine.

Rev. Ron Robinson has served for 12 years as the executive director of the national Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship founded in 1945; he is also an adjunct professor of practical theology and director of

ministerial formation for unitarian universalists at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa; he is the executive director of the A Third Place Community Foundation, a neighborhood renewal nonprofit located in the high poverty low life expectancy area of far north Tulsa that created both a community gardenpark and orchard and a community center where abandoned buildings were located; the foundation was started by The Welcome Table Church which he planted.

March 15, 2015

Rev. Tony Lorenzen

If you're lucky, your heart will break

Rev. Tony reflects on the idea of calling, the beautiful and terrible things that break our hearts, grace, universalism, inclusion, love and acceptance.



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.

Minister: Rev. Tony Lorenzen

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.



TWUUC EVENTS

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 5, 2015 - Rodney Reed

March 11, 2015 - Manuel Vasquez

March 18, 2015 - Randall Mays

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.

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 8 - Mid-March Newsletter Deadline

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.

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



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



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

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 SWUUW 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

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 2

Texas Independence Day and General Sam Houston's Birthday. Several events will be taking place throughout the day around Huntsville.

March 7 10 AM to 2 PM

Spinning and Weaving Demonstration

Woodland Home Front Porch

March 14 10 AM to 2 PM

Woodworking Demonstration

Guerrant Cabin - Museum Grounds

March 21 10 AM to 2 PM

Kick Wheel Pottery Making Demonstration

Raven's Pottery Shed, Museum Grounds

Walker County Fair Grounds

March 5

Trade Expo

March 14 & 15

Rusty, Chippy, Vintage, Hippy & Garden Show

Walker County Fair Grounds

Wynne Home

March 28

Herb Festival

LEARN MORE

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