



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
April 2015 Newsletter**

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



**Easter Service and
Flower Communion
April 5, 2015
Note: Special Time and Place
8:30 AM at Gazebo**

**The Rev. Tony Lorenzen
ResUrection:
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.

**Bring Your Own Chair
Refreshments & Fellowship to follow**

Rain Venue: TWUUC

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

Rev. Tony reflects on how helping other transforms us.





April 19, 2015

Trent Hale

A Vocation for the Mundane

How can our experiences of the mundane, frustration, suffering, even death call us to joy, life, and unity? How do we find meaning and purpose in a world that, at many times, seems to have no inherent meaning or purpose...and, more importantly, why should we even bother in the first place? These deep and “angsty” questions are central to the existentialist movement in philosophy, but they are also lurking at that heart of our everyday life. Struggling with these questions deserves further consideration because of their potential for giving rise to a life that is full of joy, purpose, meaning, and nourishment even in the midst of absurdity, futility, and our ultimate mortality.

Trent Hale is a senior philosophy student at Sam Houston State University. He is currently developing an undergraduate thesis concerning an aesthetically-centered existential philosophy of religion. Trent, spent his first two years of college in a Roman Catholic seminary program and religious order, but after discerning to leave the program, found his way to Sam Houston where he now serves as the student minister of the Episcopal Student Center and the founding president of the on-campus Food Pantry. Upon his graduation this May, Trent hopes to begin graduate studies in theology.

April 26, 2015

**The Rev. Tony Lorenzen
Not What You Think it Is:
Firewalking and Transformation**

Rev. Tony reflects on transformation being different than the process of pain, change, and growth usually associated with it.





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

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.

THOREAU WOODS COFFEEHOUSE

APRIL 18, 2015



Ken Gaines



George Ensle



Greg Whitfield



Scott McCarley

Ken Gaines is in his 18th year of producing & hosting the Thursday night Songwriter's Series "Anderson Fair in the Round" at Houston's legendary Anderson Fair. We asked him to recreate this wonderful experience here at TWC. He has selected George, Greg, and our own local Scott to share the stage. Ken, George & Scott have all graced our stage before.

144 E. Mosley Lane, Huntsville TX

7:00 pm, doors open 6:30 pm

\$15/\$10 students/seniors, refreshments available

(936) 661-6332 www.twuuc.org/coffeehouse.html



Standing Vigil

As a demonstration of a Unitarian Universalism presence in Huntsville, our church will gather as a group to stand vigil in front of the Walls Units during executions. As a church and as a religious people, we cannot accept retribution or social vengeance as a reason for taking human life. The use of the death penalty by the state increases the acceptance of revenge in our society and gives official sanction to a climate of violence. We thank everyone who showed up for the previous vigils.

There are currently four executions scheduled for the month of April:

April 9, 2015 - Kent Sprouse

April 15, 2015 - Manuel Garza

April 23, 2015 - Richard Vasquez

April 28, 2015 - Robert Pruett

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.



April 21 (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. 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.

April 12 - Mid-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.



Fire at the First Universalist Church of Southold NY

The historic First Universalist Church of Southold on Long Island NY burned down last week. The church building was over one hundred and fifty years old, and the congregation is understandably very upset. We have a card for everyone to sign over on the table and we are collecting funds to help them replace the items that are not covered by insurance. If you have a donation, please make the check out to the First Universalist Church of Southold NY and drop it in the collection plate, or you can mail it to

First Universalist Church of Southold
P.O. Box 221
Southold NY 11971

Online donations can be made at

<https://ohiomeadville.wufoo.com/forms/q1qoajp19zrev9/>



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

Worship Committee If you are willing to be on the Worship Committee, 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.

Charity of the Month

Rita B. Huff Humane Society Their Mission Statement is "To preserve the lives and well being of animals through adoption, rescue, spaying and neutering, and education. We serve the citizens of Walker and select neighboring counties, and we strive to protect the health, safety, and welfare of animals, children and citizens who reside in these communities." For more information go to <http://www.ritabhuffanimalshelter.org/>. Please make check payable to Rita B. Huff, and place in the collection basket.



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 April a HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

- 6 Payson & Elliot Norman
- 7 Richard Lane

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

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.



Huntsville Music Festival

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (every Thursday), 5:30 - 9 pm
Rather Park, 1221 University Avenue, Huntsville
https://www.facebook.com/COHmainstreet?_rdr

Walker County Fair Parade

April 2, 2015, 7 PM
<http://www.walkercountyfair.com>

Walker County Fair

April 3-11
Walker County Fair Grounds
<http://www.walkercountyfair.com/>

Easter Egg Hunt

April 4, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Wynne Home
<http://www.thewynnehome.com>

Walker County Country Music Star Competition

Apr 4 & 11, 7-10 pm
Walker County Fairgrounds
<http://www.walkercountyfair.com>

Sam Houston Memorial Museum

April 4 10 AM to 2 PM, Spinning and Weaving Demonstration, Woodland Home Front Porch
April 11 10 AM to 2 PM, Woodworking Demonstration, Guerrant Cabin - Museum Grounds
April 18 Margaret Lea Houston's Birthday Celebration, Museum Grounds

Climate Change (Global Warming) Presentation

April 13, 2015, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Walker County Storm Shelter, 455 State Highway 75 N

Cabaret

April 15-18
SHSU Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre

Arsenic & Old Lace

April 17-19
Old Town Theatre, 1023 12th Street
<http://www.HuntsvilleCommunityTheatre.org>

Carson & Barnes Circus

April 20-21 4:30 & 7:30 PM
Walker County Fairgrounds
<http://www.bigtopshow.com>

The Language Archive & The Other Place

April 22-26, 2015, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM
SHSU Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre
Website:<http://www.shsu.edu>

Casino Night

April 25, 6:30 pm

Veteran's Conference Center

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