



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 May 2015 Newsletter

Sunday Morning Programs 10:30 AM

May 3, 2015 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We will do several important things.

1. We will need to **vote on next year's budget**. It will be a bit different next year because Rev. Tony will no longer be our minister.
2. We will also need to **vote for Board members**. Three of the current Board members—Rosanne Barker (President), Blaine Hinds (Treasurer), and Pam Maine Johnson (Secretary)—have all agreed to serve one more year if that is what the congregation wants. Our Vice President, Anne True, has asked not to serve next year. The Nominating Committee, consisting of Beth Williamson, Richard Lane, and Blaine Hinds, is eager to hear from each of you if you are willing to serve or know someone who would like to. The committee welcomes all suggestions, especially for the vice president. Please consider serving even if you have not done so before. Past and current board members are more than willing to train

new leadership!

3. A discussion of future leadership development.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the Annual Meeting on May 3rd.

Rosanne Barker, President.

May 10, 2015

**The Rev. Tony Lorenzen
Getting Wet**

Rev. Tony reflects on what makes something a spiritual practice: intention, depth, regularity, and consecration.



May 17

**Beth Williamson
Malala Yousafzai**

A young woman from Pakistan who was shot and almost killed by the Taliban for the horrible crime of attending school and desiring to have a career. She is the youngest person ever nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Malala and her family now live in England. She can never go home to Pakistan as long as the Taliban organization and other like-minded groups exist but she has spoken to the United Nations and traveled to Africa promoting education and freedom for women.

Beth Williamson grew up in Southern Baptist churches in Texas, graduated from Baylor University, and found a new church home at All Souls Unitarian Church in Brownsville, Texas. She served that church as program chair, president, and newsletter editor. She served on the board of directors for the Southwest District of the UUA for 11 years. Meanwhile, she got reacquainted with a Baylor classmate who had also become a Unitarian. She and Stuart were married in 1981 and they started what is now Thoreau Woods UU Church of Huntsville in 1983 when the Williamsons and Anne and Kelley Sigler met for lunch on the Sunday after Labor Day.

May 24, 2015
The Rev. Tony Loren zen
Time Out: The Spiritual Practice of Keeping the Sabbath

Rev. Tony reflects the spiritual practice of stopping, taking time out, and resting.



May 31
Caleb White
The awakening of the (Mainline Liberal) church

Did you know the UUA and UCC (United Church of Christ) 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, out of touch, yet I believe the “Mainline Liberal” church is awakening from a slumber to a world full of spiritual questions and want to “belong” to something that changes the world.

Caleb is a Masters of Divinity student at Chicago Theological Seminary and a Member in Discernment in care of the Heart of Texas Association of the South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ. The UCC is a mainline liberal denomination of approximately one million members 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 Wilke, Johnson, and Brown Scholar, has preached in UCC pulpits across North and Central Texas and has previously

served as Student Pastor at in Fort Worth for First Congregational United Church of Christ. You may also remember Caleb as a former Walker County Democratic County Chairman.

Minister: Rev. Tony Lorenzen
The Gift of Delight

Take a moment and stop. Breathe. Call to mind if you can any moment or experience that filled you with light, hope, joy, delight or happiness. Here's my recent list: A day spent kayaking in the rain with my partner, a complete stranger handing me two free tickets to see Bruce Springsteen at the Mitchell Pavillion, spending my son's 18th birthday with him, Christmas Day with my new nephew Calvin, The Boston Red Sox winning the 2004 World Series, Listening to U2 in the car and singing aloud at full voice. Our brains are hardwired for the negative. It's an evolutionary survival mechanism. Letting the fun, the delightful, and the optimistic rise to the surface may seem to take more emotional effort...and it does...so let us remember to note it and celebrate it. There are times when no amount of preaching, consoling, and counseling can stop our feeling pain, grief, and sadness. Yet there are times that joy crashes into us. Let us do our best to welcome it and let it wash over us. If we dare, we might even seek it out. Rev. Tony

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 Free Concert during Wine Down Thursday May 7, 5-9 PM

5 pm Huntsville High School Jazz Band
6 pm Bill Ward
7 pm Shellee Coley
8 pm Brian Kalinec



Optional Wine Down tickets are \$20. For Wine Down information, call 295-8322.

(936) 661-6332

www.twcoff.org

Courthouse Gazebo

Corner of University & 12th St.
Huntsville TX



THOREAU WOODS COFFEEHOUSE

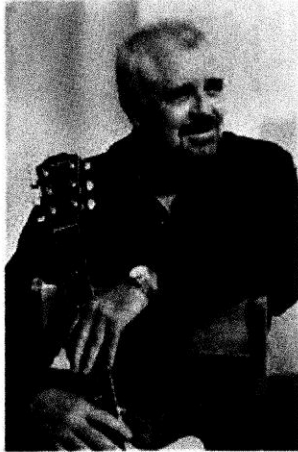
MAY 16, 2015 **5th Anniversary**

JAMES LEE STANLEY

with

C. DANIEL BOLING

opening



JAMES LEE STANLEY
Heartwood Records



"So where have they been hiding James Lee Stanley? We could say that James Lee Stanley is probably the last great undiscovered singersongwriter in America. But true as that may be let's say something else. Let's say that diamond has been smuggled into the wasteland... and here where the wasteland ends."

– Tom Robbins, Author of *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*

It is only a long lived singer-songwriter career that lets JAMES LEE STANLEY unite the unpredictable creativity and the eclectic elements that make up his world. His remarkable ability as a vocalist and composer allow him to create songs, each recorded with a finely crafted backing that sonically enhance the impulse behind the lyric, coupled with his outrageously hilarious repartee. He is one of the few all time greats and undisputed geniuses among singer-songwriters. *Fi Magazine* listed his *FREELANCE HUMAN BEING* as "one of the finest recordings of 1998 and one of the Top 200 Recordings of all time." – *Fi Magazine* March 1999.

144 E. Mosley Lane, Huntsville TX

7:00 pm, doors open 6:30 pm

\$20/\$15 students/seniors, refreshments free this show only

www.twuuc.org/coffeehouse.html

(936) 661-6332



May 19 (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.

May 17 - Mid-May 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.

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
Good Shepherd Mission

This month we will collect monetary donations as well as food. Please make your check payable to Good Shepherd Mission and place in collection basket any Sunday in May. From their website: We serve over 1,000 hot meals each month; we deliver groceries to 140 households each week; we have over 700 beds used monthly; we give out over 4,500 articles of clothing, coats, and household items each month. Funding is through churches, Local United Way, businesses, civic clubs, and individuals. We work with other local organizations and share resources as available. We serve all walks of life equally. Most clients or users of services are local and under the poverty level of Federal Income Guidelines. One third are elderly, and many are disabled. Most are of the working poor class.

Joys & Concerns

Church Building & Grounds

During the storm on April 27, the church grounds did have several trees

down. Currently some trees are blocking the parking lot. The church was also without power. This may have affected food in the refrigerator/freezer.



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

11 Robert Cope

14 Rev. Tony

25 Don Ko

27 Roseann Barker & Sunisa Gillespie

DENOMINATIONAL EVENTS



May 09, "Building a Strong Tomorrow: Taking Stewardship to the Next Level" with UUA stewardship consultant, Bill Clontz. UU Fellowship of Waco. Details [here](#).



The Bookshelf by Ann Staples

[Killing Patton - The Strange Death Of World War II's Most Audacious General](#) by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard, page 331. The lively style in which this book is written captures your attention. This is a very good World War II book with excellent descriptions of all the major "players". I probably will now read [Killing Lincoln](#).

[The Golden Ratio - The Story Of Phi - The Worlds Most Astonishing Number](#) by Mario Livio, copyright 2002. This is a very interesting and readable book about a fascinating number and its application or lack of application in art, music, architecture, and other areas. (Richard if you haven't read this book, I think you would like it). Though leaving out the geometric construction of a golden rectangle a mistake.

[Revisiting The Titanic - The Exploration Of The Wreck And Current Controversies Of The World's Most Famous Ship](#) by Charles River Editors. This is a [very](#) interesting update. It is a book with a small font and light print but it is very short so dealing with those two issues is okay. Really neat!



EVENTS

Huntsville Music Festival

April 30 5 pm

Rather Park, 1221 University Avenue, Huntsville

https://www.facebook.com/COHmainstreet?_rdr

General Sam Houston Folk Festival

May 1-3

<http://samhoustonfolkfestival.blogspot.com/>

Airing of the Quilts

May 2, 9 am - 4 pm

Cinco de May

May 2, 10 am - 8 pm

Walker Co. Annex

Downtown Farmer's Market

Every Saturday starting May 2, 8 am - noon

Wine Down, Shop Small

May 7, 5 pm - 9 pm

Downtown

SAAFE House Crawfest

May 21, 6-11 pm

Walker Co. Fairgrounds

Memorial Day Concert

May 25, 7-8 pm

Veteran's Conference Center

Shot in the Dark Golf Tournament

May 29

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

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vertical EMAIL+
response SOCIAL
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