

Thoreau Woods  
Unitarian  
Universalist  
Church  
May 2019



# THE ORACLE

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

***Paraphrase of a quote from Henry David Thoreau, for whom our church is named.***

***"If we do not keep pace with our companions, perhaps it is because we march to the sound of a different drummer. Let us step to the music that we hear, however measured or far away."***

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

**We now have child care beginning at 9:15 AM until the end of the Sunday morning service.**

Month May 2019

Sunday, May , 2019

Cynthia Vagnetti

**5-/5 Cynthia Vagnetti - Mother's view of the Earth:  
Voices of American Farm Women**

**Cynthia will show a 10-minute video that represents the Voices of American Farm Women, and lead a discussion.**

**Cynthia is currently a Lecturer in Technical Communications at Sam Houston State University. She is a native of Michigan. She recently completed a PH.D in Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures and Master's in Art in documentary photography from Illinois State University (ISU). She understands photography as an emerging art form, as well as a tool for inquiry, with a focus on storytelling through still image, moving image and multimedia. She finds herself situated in the field of Technical Communication as a result of my work as an engaged scholar in collaboration with nonprofit organizations advancing the Sustainable, Organic and Regenerative Agriculture Movement. For fifteen years she worked alongside farmers, scientists, engineers, and government officials to help make complex ideas accessible to a general public. From 1991-2006, she traversed the United States to collect primary source materials in oral history interviews, and both still and moving visuals. She documented to inform, persuade and inspire action in an audience through communication composed, created, and distributed through multimedia. The scope of the events ranged from conferences, educational or entertainment venues, story-based public conversation events, public television, and workshops.**



Sunday, May 12, 2019

## 5/12 Heather Pierson - The Things That See Us Through

Life is full of both joys and challenges. What are the things that see us through? Songwriter and performer Heather Pierson, along with her acoustic trio (Davy Sturtevant and Shawn Nadeau), will share songs and stories of her own navigation through life's ups and downs.



Heather Pierson is an award-winning pianist, singer/songwriter and performer whose inspiring live performances and growing catalog of releases delve into Americana, blues, New Orleans jazz, vocal chants, instrumental piano, and poignant folk. She is best known for her virtuosity at the piano and her bell-tone vocals, and her songs and musicianship embody joy, honesty, and a desire to share from the heart. In 2018, she and fellow singer/songwriter Bernice Martin released a songbook and companion CD, 'Heart Songs & Circle Songs,' which has found its way into the repertoire of church and hospice choirs all over the world. In the fall of 2017, Heather launched *Musical Meditations*, an online library of improvised piano pieces for meditation and mindfulness, available for free download at her website. 2017 also saw the release of her acoustic trio's full-length debut, *Singin'*, which debuted at #1 on the Folk radio charts. A new full-length recording from Heather is currently in the works and planned for a mid-2019 release.

Sunday, May 19, 2019

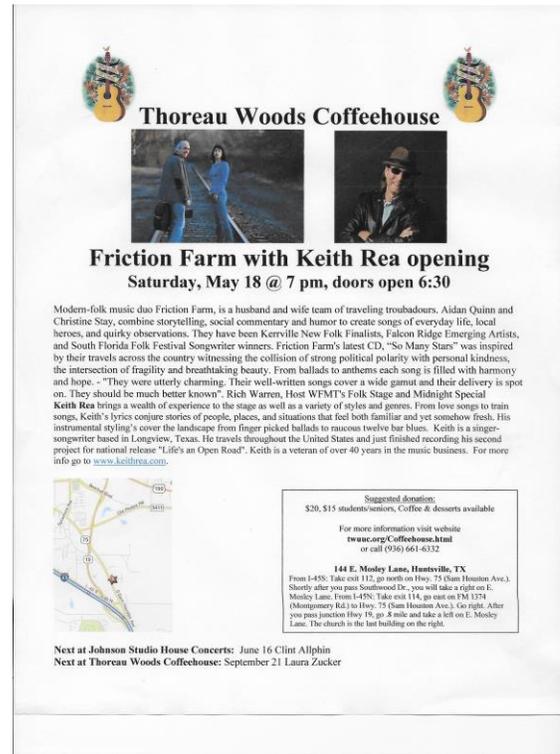
"Friction Farm"

We all seem to have so much stuff; objects, keepsakes, junk. While some may be "Marie Kondo-ing" each item to see if it sparks joy, perhaps we should also be asking if our stuff somehow suppresses joy. Does our pursuit of possessions stand in the way of physical, mental, and spiritual wellness?

Modern-folk duo Friction Farm is a husband and wife team of traveling troubadours, Aidan Quinn and Christine Stay, who combine storytelling, social commentary, and humor to create songs of everyday life, local heroes, and quirky observations. They have toured internationally, been Kerrville New Folk Finalists, Falcon Ridge Emerging Artists, and South Florida Folk Festival Songwriter winners. Friction Farm's latest CD "So Many Stars" was inspired by their travels across the country witnessing the collision of strong political polarity with personal kindness, the intersection of fragility and breathtaking beauty. From ballads to anthems each song is filled with harmony and hope.

Sunday, May 26 Fellowship Sunday. On Fellowship Sunday, we have a shorter service without a program or speaker in order to have time for congregational questions and discussions.

There will be a potluck lunch following the service. Please bring something to eat and something to share.



**Thoreau Woods Coffeehouse**

**Friction Farm with Keith Rea opening**  
Saturday, May 18 @ 7 pm, doors open 6:30

Modern-folk music duo Friction Farm, is a husband and wife team of traveling troubadours. Aidan Quinn and Christine Stay, combine storytelling, social commentary and humor to create songs of everyday life, local heroes, and quirky observations. They have been Kerrville New Folk Finalists, Falcon Ridge Emerging Artists, and South Florida Folk Festival Songwriter winners. Friction Farm's latest CD, "So Many Stars" was inspired by their travels across the country witnessing the collision of strong political polarity with personal kindness, the intersection of fragility and breathtaking beauty. From ballads to anthems each song is filled with harmony and hope. "They were utterly charming. Their well-written songs cover a wide gamut and their delivery is spot on. They should be much better known". Rich Warren, Host WFMT's Folk Stage and Midnight Special

**Keith Rea** brings a wealth of experience to the stage as well as a variety of styles and genres. From love songs to train songs, Keith's lyrics conjure stories of people, places, and situations that feel both familiar and yet somehow fresh. His instrumental styling's cover the landscape from finger picked ballads to raucous twelve bar blues. Keith is a singer-songwriter based in Longview, Texas. He travels throughout the United States and just finished recording his second project for national release "Life's an Open Road". Keith is a veteran of over 40 years in the music business. For more info go to [www.keithrea.com](http://www.keithrea.com).

**Suggested donation:**  
\$20, \$15 students/seniors. Coffee & desserts available

For more information visit website  
[www.org/Coffeehouse.html](http://www.org/Coffeehouse.html)  
or call (936) 661-6332

144 E. Mosley Lane, Huntsville, TX  
From I-45: Take exit 112, go north on Hwy. 75 (Sam Houston Ave.). Shortly after you pass Southwood Dr., you will take a right on E. Mosley Lane. From I-45N: Take exit 114, go east on FM 1374 (Montgomery Rd) to Hwy. 75 (Sam Houston Ave.) Go right. After you pass junction Hwy 19, go 2 mile and take a left on E. Mosley Lane. The church is the last building on the right.

Next at Johnson Studio House Concerts: June 16 Clint Alphin  
Next at Thoreau Woods Coffeehouse: September 21 Laura Zucker

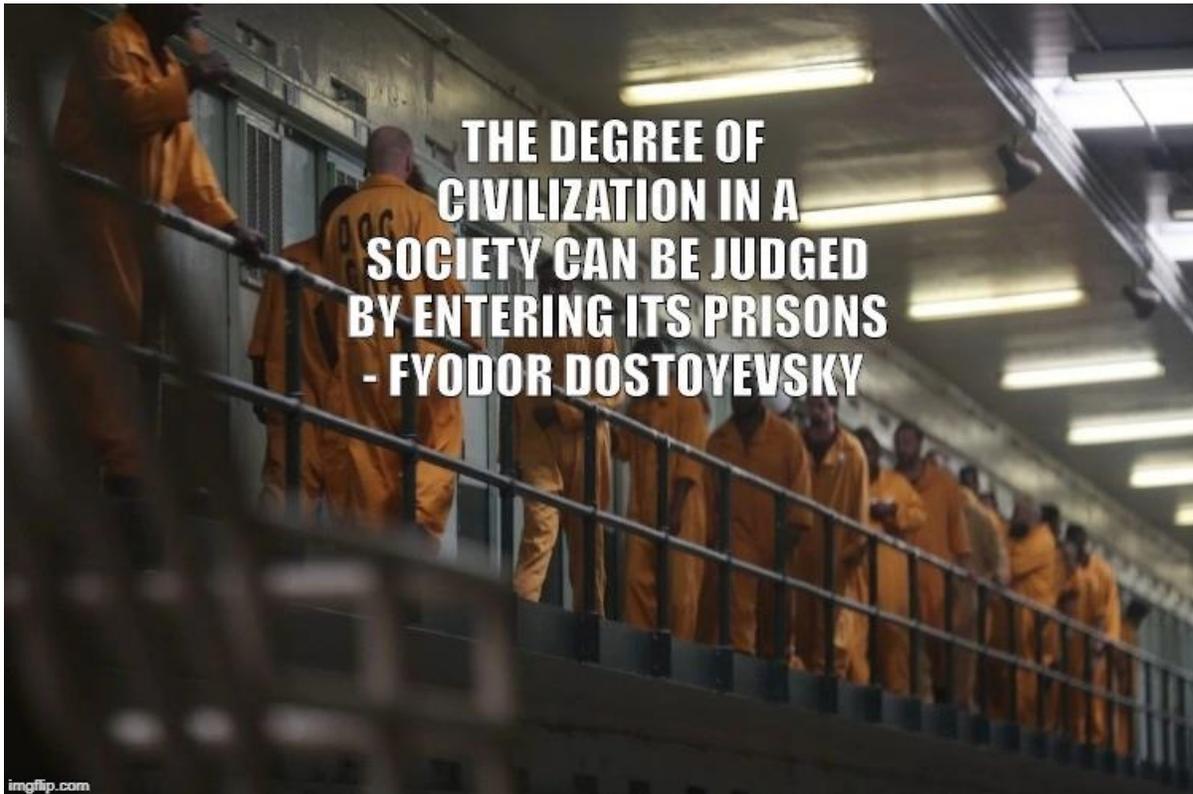


Book Reviews from Ann Staples

[The Real Wallis Simpson: A New History of the American Divorcee Who Became the Duchess of Windsor](#) by Anna Pasternak. Very Interesting.

[Brief Answers to the Big Questions](#) by Stephen Hawking. A small book of essays.

[Dreyer's English: An Utterly Correct Guide to Clarity and Style](#) by Benjamin Dreyer. He is chief copy editor of Random House



## JOIN OUR PRISON MINISTRY

The Unitarian Universalist First Principle affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Yet every day millions of incarcerated people are told the exact opposite of this principle, that they are worthless and undeserving. Through prison visits and letter writing, we at TWUUC have a special opportunity to show incarcerated people living right here in Huntsville that they are inherently worthy of love and justice.

We need you to help nurture our nascent prison ministry. Working together we can show incarcerated people that they are not forgotten and that those of us in the "free world" care about their well-being. Our program consists of one-on-one visits, letter writing and phone calls with local inmates at the Ellis Unit located on FM 980 in Huntsville. This ministry is organized and led by Vicki DellaSperanza Hernandez and her husband Martin Hernandez who is incarcerated at Ellis Unit. Vicki organizes and trains volunteers in the so-called free world, and Martin leads the program from inside the prison. Together they launched a letter-writing campaign that connects pen-pals who write monthly. Their vision is to establish one-on-one (non-contact) visits with men, who over the years, have had either very few visits or none at all. Whether you are interested in writing or visiting, you will receive guidance and assistance every step of the way. Vicki and Martin are committed to ensuring a safe, secure and mutually beneficial experience for both volunteers and inmates. For more information contact Vicki at (617) 970-5430 or [vicki@thriveafterloss.com](mailto:vicki@thriveafterloss.com).

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Birthday Calendar

Rosanne Barker May 27

If you have a May birthday please inform the editor

\*\*\*\*\*VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES\*\*\*\*\*

Sunday Morning Programs If you are willing to be the meeting leader, guest speaker, or read a story for all ages, please contact Rosanne Barker [his\\_rmb@shsu.edu](mailto:his_rmb@shsu.edu) or email [info@twuuc.org](mailto:info@twuuc.org)

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

Coffeehouse If you would like to help with the coffeehouse, please contact Pam Johnson via email at [pammoon41@aim.com](mailto:pammoon41@aim.com) or call James at 936-661-6332 We need help with admission table, kitchen, setup and teardown during the event, as well as bakers

Membership/Outreach Committee--We still need volunteers to handle a more organized way of greeting people, providing assistance to members who are ill, and outreach to the community.

## CONTACT US

Church Location  
144 East Mosley Lane  
Huntsville TX 77340  
Off HWY 75 South  
Turn left on Mosley Lane approximately 1 mile south of McCoy's  
Phone: (936) 439-9505  
Email: [info@twuuc.org](mailto:info@twuuc.org)  
Website: [www.twuuc.org](http://www.twuuc.org)  
Facebook: TWUUC and Thoreau Woods Coffeehouse

Mailing Address:  
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Huntsville TX 77342-6751

OFFICERS  
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text tp 675 5514936

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[pammoon41@aim.com](mailto:pammoon41@aim.com)

Treasurer: Beth Williamson  
[betwil62@live.com](mailto:betwil62@live.com)

Secretary: Anne True  
[ae\\_true@yahoo.com](mailto:ae_true@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Editor: Beth Williamson (deadline last Sunday of the month)  
Webmaster: Pam Johnsonply click to edit or choose the "edit" option from the block menu.