

# Universalist Convocation 2020

## Back to the Future: 21st Century Universalism

May 15-17, 2020  
Celebrating 250 years of Universalism



**Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church**  
 4408 NC Highway 111 North, Seven Springs, NC 28578  
[www.outlawsbridgechurch.org](http://www.outlawsbridgechurch.org)



### Schedule of Events for the Weekend

#### Friday, May 15, 2020

- 4:00 p.m. Registration and time to visit
- 6:00 p.m. Supper
- 7:30 p.m. Welcome
- 7:45 p.m. Old Time Universalist Camp Hymn Sing with Jimmy Merritt and friends.



#### Saturday, May 16, 2020

- 8:30 a.m. Registration and time to visit
- 9:30 a.m. Welcome and Devotional



10:00 a.m. **"Arise, My Soul, Shake Off Thy Fears"** – Rev. Jake Morrill – **Rev. Jake B. Morrill**

In the midst of this age, how to sing a song of hope, such as this old Isaac Watts hymn our Universalist forebears sang in the 1800s? In a time such as this, how can one credibly put forth the Universalist gospel, when evidence of disaster, suffering, and oppression are everywhere to be seen? Even more, in a time when even the word "church" seems to have dust on it, through what forms of community and practice might we offer our saving good news, in a way that it could be received? On this morning, we'll listen to some of our ancestors, as we conjure up a dream for our grandchildren, and all who will come after them. Since 2003, **Rev. Morrill**, has served as the Lead Minister of the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church in Oak Ridge, TN. Formerly a Trustee on the Board of the Unitarian Universalist Association and also a Chaplain in the U.S. Army Reserve, Jake has been the Executive Director of the UU Christian Fellowship since 2015.

11:15 a.m. **"I'm Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table"** – Rev. Cheryl M. Walker  
 The promise of Universalism is a promise that all are welcome at God's table. But our table has not always welcomed everyone on earth. How do we continue to expand our table to live into the promise of Universalism? Are we ready or will we leave Universalism up to God? The **Rev. Walker** has



**Rev. Cheryl M. Walker**

served as the Pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Wilmington since 2009. Prior to coming to Wilmington, she served four years as the Assistant Minister at the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City. Rev. Cheryl is the immediate past President of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association.

12:30 p.m. Lunch

2:00 p.m. A visit with “**Keepers of the Southern Flame**”  
**Julie Kent Outlaw** (1824-1894) founder of the Outlaw’s Bridge Sunday School  
**Hannah Jewett Powell** (1866-1954) community service worker at Friendly House, Inman Chapel, Cold Mountain, NC  
**Annie Bissell Jordan Willis** (1893-1977) teacher at Jordan School, Norfolk, VA  
**Hope L. Bain** (1795-1876) Circuit Riding Minister who settled in eastern NC.

4:00 p.m. The Universalist Convocations Annual Business Meeting

6:00 p.m. Supper

7:30 p.m. “**Traditional Music, Song and Dance: From the Swamps to the Mountains**”



Rodney Sutton

**Rodney Sutton** is a traditional dancer, caller, musician, and storyteller. His earliest memories of dancing were with his family in Duplin County, NC. He was both a member and director of the Green Grass Cloggers in their early years, and co-founder of and principle dancer with the Fiddle Puppets(now known as Footworks). In demand nationally as a teacher of traditional dance styles, he has been on staff at numerous music and dance weeks including Pinewoods, Augusta, Ashokan, and the Swannanoa Gathering. He served as president of the Madison County Arts Council (MCAC) for five years, and he currently produces MCAC’s Bluff Mountain Music Festival, held each June in Hot Springs, N.C. Rodney's friendly style of sharing his love of clogging and flatfooting, along with his welcoming "put you at ease" calling, has made him a favorite at festivals, conventions, and retreats for over 40 years. He currently is the director of Joe Shannon’s Mountain Home Music in Boone, NC where he produces 16 traditional music and dance concerts each year. Visit [rodneyclaysutton.com](http://rodneyclaysutton.com)

## Sunday, May 17, 2020

11:00 a.m. “**Back To The Future - Love Leads The Way**” – **Rev. Claudia M. Frost**  
From our beginnings as a Universalist Sunday School in the 1800’s through a long history of love and service in a rural setting, Outlaw’s Bridge Church continues to embody the Universalist message, “God is Love”. Relationship based in love and human worth and dignity, not ideas, leads the way in the face of the reactivity, conflict, and change facing us in this new century. The Universalist message that spread throughout the south long ago still has an important role today.

**Rev. Frost** has served as minister of Outlaw’s Bridge Universalist Church since 2009. Before that she was Minister of Pastoral Care, Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Durham, NC



**Rev. Claudia M. Frost**

12:15 p.m. Lunch, last visits, and goodbyes.

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**Registration Form - last day to register - May 9, 2020**

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** (please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary needs: \_\_\_\_\_ [  ]Vegetarian [  ]Vegan

REGISTRATION FEE:	cost	# of registrations	Total
<b>All</b> Convocation 2020 Activities: Includes all speakers/programs, and meals	\$80.00	x _____ people	_____
<b>Friday</b> night activities only with supper	\$25.00	x _____ people	_____
<b>Saturday Morning</b> Activities only with lunch	\$45.00	x _____ people	_____
<b>All Day Saturday</b> Activities with lunch and supper	\$55.00	x _____ people	_____

Send completed registration form with check made payable to **The Universalist Convocations** to Ann Malpass, 378 Jones Turner Road, Mount Olive, NC 28365 or register and pay on line at [universalistconvocation.org](http://universalistconvocation.org).

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

You will need to make hotel reservations. The nearest hotel is the **Sleep Inn in Mount Olive** (203 NC Highway 55 W, Mount Olive, NC 28365; Phone (919) 658-1002 or at Choice Hotels). The distance to the church is approximately 14 miles. Accommodations are also available in Goldsboro (22 miles) including Hampton Inn Goldsboro (919-778-1800), Best Western Plus Goldsboro (919-751-1999), Townplace Suites by Marriott (919-429-4530). Many other hotels can be found on-line. Camping is available at the Cliffs of the Neuse State Park, 240 Park Entrance Rd, Seven Springs, NC 28578 (919-778-6234) which offers 33 camp sites with a new bathhouse and showers in their family campgrounds. Reservations can be made at [www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov). Make reservations early as the campsites fill up fast in the spring.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church is located at the intersection of NC Highway 111 and Outlaw's Bridge Road. This is approximately 22 miles **south** of Goldsboro, 2 miles north of Albertson. If GPS sends you north or near Goldsboro, use Albertson, NC for the city instead of Seven Springs, NC. Church signs are located approximately a mile in either direction from the church. Questions? You can reach Ann at 919-658-6233; leave a message.

We are truly in the country; there is not a McDonalds or Applebees around the corner. You will want to eat breakfast at your hotel and share other meals with us. We are planning meals with plenty of options!

See [universalistconvocation.org](http://universalistconvocation.org) or [www.outlawsbridgechurch.org](http://www.outlawsbridgechurch.org) for the registration form & schedule of activities.

Universalist Convocation 2020 Planning Committee: Rev. Claudia Frost, Dave Kundtz, Linda Jones, & Ann Malpass.

**Weekend Service Project:** Please bring your old or unused eyeglasses to be donated to the Lion's Club

**The Universalist Convocations Membership Form** The mission of the Universalist Convocations is to gather Unitarian Universalists together to learn about, celebrate, and draw from the heritage of Universalist faith and experience, to the end that this heritage shall inform Unitarian Universalism today and help to light its way toward the future. The Universalist Convocations began in 1990 and is organized exclusively for educational, religious and charitable purposes. It is affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association as a Related Organization.

Membership is open to any interested person and annual membership dues are only \$5.00. If you are interested in joining us or would like to be added to our mailing list, please complete the form below and return it to the address below. You are not required to be a member to attend our gatherings. However, membership is required in order to vote at the Annual Business Meeting. We hope to see you at our next gathering.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church or Society: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues Payment \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00 each person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contribution if desired \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Earmark for: \_\_\_\_\_ Total remittance \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: The Universalist Convocations  
Please remit to: Peggy Jones  
P O Box 235  
Seven Springs, NC 28578-0235