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## August 2018: Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church

*Welcoming Congregation*

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### The Bridge

**\*10:00 a.m. each Sunday: Intergenerational Devotional**

**\*10:10 a.m. Religious Education for all ages**

**\*Primary: "Love Surrounds Us"**

**\*Teens: "UU Kids"**

**\*Adults: "Transforming Faith" by Fred Howard**

**August 5: "Ethical Monotheism: Fruit of the Exodus"** – Reverend Justin Lapoint – With the help of Richard Elliot Friedman's book, "The Exodus: How It Happened and Why It Matters", Reverend Lapoint will outline the development of ethical monotheism, its impact on the development of Judaism and therefore Christianity and Islam, and why its practice is important now more than ever.

**August 12: "A Theology of Anger"** – Reverend Claudia M. Frost – This is the first in a new sermon series dealing with the theology of negative emotions. Anger that consumes mind and body is sometimes necessary for survival. A theology of anger that views anger as a response to injustice is spiritually healthy. Such a theology can help construct healthy boundaries. Let's explore the differences between intelligent anger in response to a wrongful situation and destructive anger the Biblical scriptures warn against.

**August 19: "Celebrate Diversity as We Embrace Unity"** – Reverend Claudia M. Frost – Beneath our diversity, behind all of our differences, there is a unity which makes us one and binds us together forever in spite of time and death and the space between the stars. How do we create the space in our congregation for diversity while doing the challenging work of developing unity within that diversity?

**August 26: "Our Seven Principals in Reading and Song"** – Lisa Stolar – We will revisit our Universalist Unitarian Principals in story and song.



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#### Dates to Remember

Touchstones topic for August is "Unity and Diversity".

**August 9: Quilting at 10:00 a.m., lunch at Johnny's Seafood at 11:30 and AUW meeting at 1:00 p.m.**

**August 12: Board Meeting following church services and covered-dish lunch.**

**August 31-September 3: Church Retreat Weekend, Shelter Neck, Burgaw, NC**

**September 11: Lifetouch Directory with free 8 x 10 portrait 2:00-9:00 p.m.**

**September 23: Annual Meeting following church and covered-dish lunch.**



## Claudia's Comments

"Better late than never" is my motto this summer. I was late to plant flowers this year but finally did get it done in July. Ever the optimist, I picked out a tomato plant a week ago. I chose the one that already had a tomato growing and other blooms ready to set in hopes of getting at least one ripe tomorrow. Telling myself it wasn't too late, I squeezed in time to prepare the hummingbird feeders and hung them last week. The larger feeder was promptly broken by our resident pesky squirrel and all the food leaked out in rivulets of sweetness on the patio. I guess the ants are happy with their sweet feast. I missed putting up the feeders the last two summers so it made me really happy when one lone hummingbird braved the heat and found my smaller feeder attached to the window with suction cups. It was a beautiful sight to watch the Hummingbird up so close at the window feeder.

Just think about it. Hummingbirds have hearts the size of a pencil eraser which beats ten times a second in such a tiny body. They are called, *Joyas volardores* or flying jewels as early explorers of the Americas named them. Years ago a friend sent me a quotation about hummingbirds I think you will like:

*Legends say that hummingbirds float free of time, carrying our hopes for love, joy and celebration. Hummingbirds open our eyes to the wonder of the world and inspire us to open our hearts to loved ones and friends. Like a hummingbird, we aspire to hover and to savor each moment as it passes, embrace all that life has to offer and to celebrate the joy of everyday. The hummingbird's delicate grace reminds us that life is rich, beauty is everywhere, every personal connection has meaning and that laughter is life's sweetest creation.*

Like the tiny hummingbirds, I hope you will continue to enjoy the sweetness of summer and the beauty that surrounds you. Be it outside in nature, the companionship of family or the smiling faces of friends, look up...look out and celebrate summer days. Another summer thought: be sure to sign up for a photo appointment for our church directory on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Appointment times are filling up and we want all our church members and friends who are able to participate to have an opportunity to have their photo in the directory and receive a free 8 x 10 picture. Sign up at church on Sunday or call Ann Malpass to set up your appointment.

Our monthly theological theme during August is "Unity and Diversity". Be sure and watch for your *Touchstone Journal* in your email "inbox".



With Love, Hope, and Joy,  
Reverend Claudia

Enjoy Summer!