

## The Bridge

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

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

\*Primary: "Meet Jesus: The Life and Lessons of a Beloved Teacher": Lynn Tuttle Gunney

\*Teens: "UU Kids": Brotman & Marshman

\*Adults: "Bible Stories for Skeptics": Richard Trudeau

**August 4: "Idolatry of the Mind"** – Reverend Brian Clougherty– Making thinking into an idol can lead to insensitivity to the wholeness and wholesomeness of human nature, a blindness to part of ourselves. The fullness of life is in relating fully, not in knowing fully.

**August 11: "Gather the Spirit"** – Reverend Claudia M. Frost – Our 3<sup>rd</sup> UU Principle calls for acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations. Continuing our sermon series on the Seven UU Principles, we'll gather to look beyond the surface of the words to discover the challenges as well as the rich rewards inherent in this 3<sup>rd</sup> Principle.

**August 18: "Your Community College: The Best Value to be Found"** – Lay Service led by David Kundtz

**August 25: "White Fragility – What is it?"** - Reverend Claudia M. Frost – Have you heard the term white fragility? Perhaps you've read Robin DiAngelo's book by the same name or read UU World magazine articles on the subject. DiAngelo's question "Why is it so hard for white people to talk about racism?" frames this challenging sermon. Courageous conversations about race draw us into sacred and holy work.

### Dates to Remember

**August 2:** Yard cleanup at the parsonage at 8:00 a.m.

**August 8:** 10:00 a.m. Sort through old photographs. 11:30 a.m. Go to Johnny's Seafood for lunch. 1:00 p.m. A UW meeting at the church.

**August 11:** Covered-dish lunch and Board Meeting following services.

**September 22:** Covered-dish lunch and Annual Meeting following services.

**October 5:** 3:00 p.m.: HARVEST SALE 6:00 p.m. Barbecue Supper



**Special Request:** In the process of renting the parsonage, it was discovered that the HVAC unit and the duct work needs replacing. A special donation to help with this huge expense is much needed and would be greatly appreciated!

## Claudia's Comments

During a recent flight on Southwest Airlines, I noticed an article in the Southwest seatback magazine by the airline CEO & President, Gary Kelly. He says, *people often ask him what the "secret sauce" is that makes the airline successful. It's really not a secret, he continues. Just like all recipes, it takes several ingredients to make the secret sauce just right.* The article describes the various things that make up the unique culture of his company. Mr. Kelly emphasizes, *the true essence at the HEART of the company is our PEOPLE.*

Reading that made me think of the "Secret Sauce" that makes Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church (OBUC) such a special place. I like to say we're a "destination church" because people always feel welcomed here and think it's worth traveling long distances to be a part of this congregation.

The HEART of OBUC is also the PEOPLE of this welcoming congregation. Love and respect for one another is the essence of our church DNA. Since July of 1869 when Julia Kent Outlaw began the ministry that later became this congregation, the love of Universalism has continued to flourish here. The people of Outlaw's Bridge Church means ALL of you...Members and Friends...those who show up almost every Sunday and shoulder so much of the day to day church work...those who come as often as their health challenges, family commitments or work schedules allow...and all the folks who love and support the church from many miles away.

Since Outlaw's Bridge was officially organized in 1905, people have found a caring church community at OBUC where they can be known and included just as they are. Our church culture values not only new ideas and many different theological viewpoints, but also the need for dedicated lay leadership, professional ministry and service to others.

Ten years ago, when I began my ministry with the congregation, I quickly discovered part of the "secret sauce" that keeps this small but "mighty" church going is the willingness of volunteers who help when something is needed. I love the dedication people have for the church, the "can do" attitude that steadies us when faced with a new challenge, and the willingness of so many people to help with our main fundraiser, the annual Harvest Sale.

When I think of the people that stir the "special sauce" at OBUC, I want to say "thank you" to everyone who has been showing up for "work days" to get the parsonage ready for our new renters. "Thank you" to the Board of Trustees who quickly organized the bids and upcoming repairs to the parsonage air conditioning system. Additionally, let us all be grateful for the dedicated member who graciously loaned the congregation the large sum of money necessary for the immediate HVAC repairs. It's going to take a "chunk of change" to repay that loan!!

Together we can make that happen.

With Love, Hope and Joy,

Reverend Claudia