

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: "A Faith People Make": Stephen Kendrick

February 2: "Ethics" – Reverend Charlie Davis – Our New Year's resolutions are probably broken by now. The yearly effort of failing to live up to our ideals is over. What if instead of making grand pronouncements, we simply tried to do our best each day? What if we tried to live ethically?

February 9: "The Last Word in Lonesome is ME" – Rev. Claudia M. Frost – Continuing our sermon series on negative or difficult emotions, we will explore the rise of loneliness and isolation in the 21st century. Why is this a concern for people of faith, both the young and advanced in years? Join us for exploration of this difficult theme in an uplifting service.

February 16: "Eve and Original Sin" – Reverend Brian Clougherty – Eve made a decision in the Garden of Eden. Did Eve sin, make a mistake, make a bad decision? Let's look at a story of the way things were that has driven so much of Christianity for so long.

February 23: "Sight of the Soul & The Democratic Process" – Rev. Claudia M Frost – This is the last in our sermon series on the Seven Unitarian Universalist Principles, 5th Principle – *The Right of Conscience and Use of the Democratic Process Within Our Congregations and Society at Large*. What do conscience and democratic process have to do with congregational life and spiritual concerns? What does *Sight of the Soul* mean?



Dates to Remember

February 9: Covered-dish lunch and Board Meeting Following Service.

**February 13: 6:30 p.m.: Covered-dish Supper
7:30 p.m.: Musical Concert Featuring Duke Ladd and Bill Perks
Accompanied by Jimmy Merritt**

**February 22: 11:00 a.m.: Dutch-treat lunch at Albertson Fox Hunt
1:00 p.m.: AUW Take Home Sale at the Church**



Claudia's Comments

For me, February means LOVE. We celebrate Valentine's Day, African American History Month and later, on February 26, Lent begins a time of reflection on the Love for all people and all creation embodied by Jesus' ministry and sacrifice.

At a recent potluck dinner and conversation, the Reverend Dr. Arvid Straube, Minister Emeritus Eno River UU Fellowship, Durham, NC, spoke to us about what members and friends who love this church can do to create a legacy of giving to help sustain Outlaw's Bridge into the future. He shared information about planned giving, or legacy gifts that designate assets in your estate and come to fruition at your passing. Without distracting from your family's inheritance, you can create a legacy when you include Outlaw's Bridge in your will. Legacy gifts may also come from retirement accounts or charitable trusts.

A number of years ago, Mr. W. H. Williams left his estate to the Universalist Convention of North Carolina for "the growth of Universalism". As a member of the Convention, Outlaw's Bridge received significant financial resources. We know his legacy of love as the "Williams Fund". Without his gift, we would not be the vibrant congregation we are today.

However, the time has come when we need to pay attention to how we can continue to boost the principle of this fund. There are multiple ways you can express your love for Outlaw's Bridge by arranging a planned gift or a donation of cash, appreciated stocks or real estate. I encourage you to consult with your legal or financial advisor. At Outlaw's Bridge we plan to continue to learn together about the variety of ways to create a legacy gift that provides greater sustainability of our congregation's mission well into the future. Feel free to contact me by phone or email with your questions or for more information.

February LOVE also means appreciation for Black History Month. The 2020 theme, *African Americans and the Vote*, is in honor of the centennial anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment granting women's suffrage and the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment, which gave black men the right to vote. I'll be speaking of this history when I talk about our 5th Principle on February 23rd.

This month includes Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. For the last several years, I've provided a daily calendar of words for reflection during Lent. So far, I've been unable to find the 2020 Word Reflection Calendar so I may have to create our own to share with you in March. In the meantime, I suggest a spiritual reflection practice of thinking of someone each day who has had an impact on your life in some way. Then take the time to write a note to that person. Email will do, but a handwritten note would be really special. Send a note without any expectation of a response. Sending a note of affirmation is not only a good spiritual practice, but also a gift of love.

Happy Valentine's Day,
With Love, Hope & Joy,
Reverend Claudia