

The Bridge

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

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

* The adults are studying the Old Testament.

January 1: "Reinforcements, not Resolutions" - Michael Mozingo - The custom of starting the New Year with a resolution has good intentions behind it. Michael joins us again with praise and song and will ask us to leave behind "resolutions" for 2017 and focus on "reinforcements". Let's be "intentional" in our lives this year by focusing on our body, heart, mind and being.

January 8: "Holy Listening - Sounds of Silence" - Reverend Claudia M. Frost - Silence is a much-needed quality in our lives. It is one of the foundational qualities of listening and an important quality of a spiritual life. What does it feel like to receive the gift of being *listened to* with total attention? Why are silence and listening spiritual gifts?

January 15: Musical Service with our own Jimmy Merritt

January 22: "Aging Courageously" - Reverend Claudia M. Frost - Thomas Moore says "Aging is not about growing older but about living more fully and identifying more with our soul." During our time of worship, let's take a look at what it means to live our best lives at any age.

January 29: "Awe" - Lay Led Service - Based on an article, "Feeling Awe May be the Secret to Health and Happiness" by Paula Spencer Scott. Awestruck: Altered in an instant by an electrifying emotion, that spine-tingling feeling you get when gazing at the Milky Way, listening to music, or the wonder you feel when a newborn's hand curls around your pinkie.

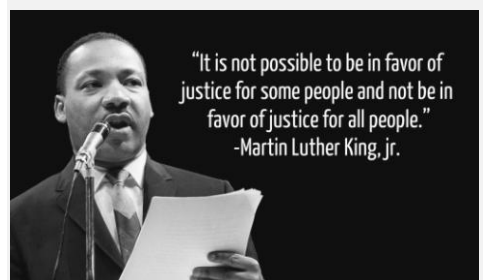
Dates to Remember

January 8: Board Meeting following service and covered-dish lunch.

January 12: 11:45 a.m. Dutch-treat lunch at Johnny's Seafood. AUW meeting following.

January 22: Final Task Force Meeting following services

January 25: Musical Concert at 7:30 p.m. following covered-dish supper at 6:30 p.m.



Claudia's Comments

The house is a bit quieter now since all the grandchildren and other family guests have departed for home. As I take a deep breath after Christmas, I'm reminded once again how much I need silence sometimes in order to just "be" for a little while and recharge myself. Enjoying some time for reflection on this past year, I came across a reading I might have shared before. It still speaks to me right now and maybe it will be helpful to you too. My New Year's wish for each of you is a little silence and contemplation of the year past and the days ahead.

For the New Year I'm sharing a reading for your reflection by Taylor Addison:

This is a time for reflection as well as celebration.

As you look back on the past year and all that has taken place in your life,

Remember each experience for the good that has come of it

And for the knowledge you have gained.

Remember the efforts you have made and the goals you have reached.

Remember the love you have shared and the happiness you have brought.

Remember the laughter, the joy, the hard work, and the tears.

And as you reflect on the past year, also be thinking of the new one to come.

Because most importantly, this is a time of new beginnings, and the celebration of life.

I think 2017 will be a busy year of celebration for us at Outlaw's Bridge. Getting our floors redone, presenting the work of the Future Vision Task Force to the congregation and making congregational decisions on the plan, collaborating with other congregations to offer the *Our Whole Lives* course as well as continuing our regular Sunday School and worship activities and monthly music concerts all make for a very busy 2017.



Happy New Year!

With Love, Hope & Joy,

Claudia