



## The Bridge

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

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

\*Primary: "Love Surrounds Us"

\*Teens: "Families"

\*Adults: "Transforming Faith" by Fred Howard

**January 7: "Amazing Grace"** – Lay Service led by Jorge Trujillo, Spanish Instructor, James Sprunt Community College.

**January 14: "To Savor the World or Save It"** – Reverend Claudia M. Frost – Join us for reflections on the monthly theme of *Justice*, our second UU Principle, which calls for "Justice, Equity and Compassion in human relations" and explanations of the various types of justice.

**January 21: "Jesus Without Christianity"** – Reverend Justin Lapoint

**January 28: "Captured by Grace"** – Reverend Claudia M. Frost – Have you ever experienced moments of grace? Would you recognize grace if you encountered it? Through the lyrics of John Newton's hymn, *Amazing Grace*, let's explore the theological concept of grace, its place in our lives and the ability of grace to transform human brokenness into a life of purpose and meaning.

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### Dates to Remember

January Touchstones theme is "Justice".

**January 11: Taking down Christmas decorations at 10:00 a.m.; AUW meeting following Dutch-treat lunch at Johnny's Seafood at 11:30 a.m.**

**January 14: Board meeting following services and pot-luck lunch.**



## Claudia's Comments

Once again another year passed at relentless speed. The months have flown by with one event following another in quick succession. By the time you read this, the year will have already drawn to a close, but still it's a good time to consciously reflect, listen to our hearts and take stock of the accomplishments and fun memories we built in 2017. I've heard that making memories is one of the most effective ways to keep our brains sharp. So let's look at the memories we made together, then look ahead toward a new year full of opportunities for *memory making* at Outlaw's Bridge in 2018.

2017 was an eventful year for the church. I'm happy to report our church events were well attended with Harvest Sale being one of the best in several years, both in participation, fundraising and fun. Continuing our tradition of monthly music concerts since 2012, we enjoyed another fine season under the leadership of our church musician, Jimmy Merritt. We welcomed two new families into church membership and renewed our dedication to nurturing and supporting children in the church community during a child dedication. Our "Vision for the Future" task force presented its work at the Annual Meeting with an assessment of our regular activities, a strengthening of our mission statement and a simplification of our church covenant. Work continues on restructuring some of our church activities and focusing more on families in the future.

Starting last July, the *Touchstones Journal* became a regular monthly feature sent via email to members and friends to enhance our monthly theological themes. I hope you have found the journal helpful in your personal reflections and perhaps some dinner table discussions as well. Justice is the theological theme for January. The day before our nation celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, our worship service will feature readings on different types of justice and reflections on our second UU Principle, which calls for "Justice, Equity and Compassion in human relations."

Recently I reviewed the sermon titles and topics I shared with the congregation this past year. It was a good exercise in reflecting on messages that uplift, challenge and renew our faith. As I look to making memories in 2018, I plan to use the peace and tranquility of the winter days to listen to my innermost thoughts and find what I truly want for myself in 2018. I wish for you an opportunity to do the same. May this New Year hold many opportunities for us to be of service to one another and to the wider community.

Happy New Year!



With Love, Hope and Joy,  
Reverend Claudia