January 2024: Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church Welcoming Congregation

The Bridge

You are encouraged to join us for 11:00 a.m. church services. No Sunday School programs and no childcare. The playroom is clean and open for parents who wish to use it.

January 7: "Scouts Honor" – Jimmy Merritt – My experience in Scouts and why the Scout Oath and laws early on supplemented and deepened my understanding of the world.

January 14: "1973: The Year of Great Contrasts" – "Forged in the Stars" – A love letter to NASA – by Jay O'Callahan commentary by Ed Clark.

January 21: "Resolutions and 'Sober Januarys': The Psychology of Change" – Reverend Brian Clougherty – Change is hard to do. Habits can be hard to break. Let's look at how to support ourselves through positive change.

January 28: "Music" – Jimmy Merritt has arranged for friends to do a musical service.





Dates to Remember

January 14: Covered-dish lunch and board meeting following service.

January 15: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Make it a Day of Service.

January 18: AUW Meeting: Meet at the church at 11:45 a.m. for lunch at Johnny's Seafood; meeting at church at 1:00 p.m.

Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church 4408 N NC Highway 111, Seven Springs, NC 28578 <u>www.outlawsbridgechurch.org</u> <u>outlawsbridge@att.net</u>. A Green Sanctuary, A Welcoming Congregation, Affiliated with the Universalist Convention of North Carolina, Inc. (UCONCI), The Universalist Convocations, The Southeast District of the UUA, and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

"BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR" KAYLEEN ASBO PH. D

As the hours of darkness begin to slowly wane from the winter sky, So too may the fearful places of your heart unclench their grasp on your life. As the presence of light begins to grow with greater sureness with each passing day May your own courage blossom to open more brightly to truth and love. Let this be the year that your turn off the television and silence the talk radio chatter in order to pick up the writing pen, the paintbrush and watch the candle slowly burn. May this be the year that you delight in seeing how much joy you can extravagantly spread. May you discover just how much beauty you can recklessly shower upon this thirsty world. May this be the year that you tune both the dusty piano in the corner and the inner listening of your care-worn heart So that both can play in harmony with the chorus of creation. May you break the invisible yardstick of impossible expectations and learn that just as you are, you are enough. May this be the year that you cease trying to march to an imagined ideal and instead, wrap your arms around the messy wonder your life really is, hold it close and do the tango. Let this be the year you befriend your soul in its radical particularity, not forsaking it yet again for the bland demands and cravings of the masses. Instead, may you elope with the wildness of your own true calling, marry your soul to its deepest longings and invite the hungry world to the wedding feast.

new year

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