



## The Bridge

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

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

\* The adults will be sharing the book "Missionaries, Builders and Pathfinders: UU Stories from the Midwest, West and South 1830-1930"

Primary – "Love Surrounds Us"; Teens – "Families"

**July 2: "Spiritual Garage Sale"** - Lay Service - adapted from "Listening Hearts" by Christine Robinson & Alicia Hawkins. A garage sale lets us discard those items cluttering our life. Let's explore the idea of a spiritual garage sale giving us an opportunity to grow, change, learn or come to a new way of thinking or feeling, leaving behind old ideas, beliefs and ways of being to become more connected and compassionate people.

**July 9: "Circle of Life - A Band of Hope"** - Reverend Claudia M. Frost - Nothing is static in the "Stream of Life". Life moves in circles...cycles of planting and harvesting...circles of inclusion and processes of exclusion. The "Circle of Life" is a web of holy relationship where nothing is static. Let's explore this time which has the potential for great transformational seeds to be planted. The time is ripe to make the world a better place.

**July 16: Services with Reverend Barry Whitemore**

**July 23: "Celebrate the Sacred"** - Reverend Claudia M. Frost - Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions are one of our six Unitarian Universalist sources. People have always come together to consider the sacred; to express gratitude for their lives and for creation, calm fears and ask forgiveness. The oldest religions are traditions of people who lived close to the land. Their rituals revolved around the cycles of the seasons; their sacred objects emerged from nature. Ancient spiritual paths have much to teach us about living on this precious earth. Join us as we celebrate the sacred.

**July 30:** Lay Led Service: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Collection to go to The Outlaw Foundation.

### Dates to Remember

**July 9: Covered-dish lunch and Board meeting following services.**

**July 13: 10:00 a.m.: Quilting at church followed by Dutch-treat lunch at Johnny's Seafood and by AUW meeting at 1:00.**

**July 15: Supper with Reverend Barry Whitemore**

**September 1-4: Retreat/Canoeing Weekend at Shelter Neck**

**"If our country is worth dying for in time of war, let us resolve that it is truly worth living for in time of peace." -Hamilton Fish**



## Claudia's Comments

Sitting at the cottage kitchen table, I see ocean waves rhythmically washing onto the sunlit beach. "I'll be there soon enjoying my grandchildren playing in the sand and surf", I tell myself, but *first* I must share my July news. It's past time...quit procrastinating!

I recently attended the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Minister's Association and part of the UU General Assembly in New Orleans. I arrived in New Orleans with a heavy heart, wondering if the disagreements and disparaging Facebook conversations I've witnessed among our UU leadership over the past several months would continue during the annual meetings. Although I didn't stay for the entire General Assembly, I am pleased to report the Minister's meetings far surpassed my expectations. The UUMA Board and Planning Committee totally revamped the worship and meetings. Our gatherings were powerfully honest, thoughtful and respectful. It renewed my hope for healing and return to Covenant. I witnessed the beginning of the General Assembly to be on a similar path. After reviewing the General Assembly "on-line" information, I plan to update the Board at our July meeting.

For the first time, "on-line" voting was accepted in the UUA Presidential elections. We had two delegates selected by the Board of Trustees. Although our top candidate, Reverend Jeanne Pupke of Richmond, Virginia didn't win, I'm pleased our congregation participated in the voting process. You were represented in the vote by Dave Kundtz, Robert Stolar and myself. Our new UUA President is Reverend Susan Frederick-Grey of Arizona.

On a more local note, many of you may remember the time when our congregation followed a worship calendar that incorporated a monthly worship theme. I believe it's time to return to the discipline of monthly themes. Recently, I used part of my professional expenses to enroll our church for an 18-month subscription with the "Touchstones Project". This is a whole-church approach that uses an annual topic to weave the monthly themes together and provide resources for worship, religious education, faith development and UU identity for all ages.

From 2011-2014, I used themes in worship and sometimes wrote something for our monthly newsletter. I'm excited that each congregational member/family will receive a monthly "Touchstones" newsletter via email which will include more in-depth material, stories and activities for families to explore the monthly theme at home. We'll also have materials available with many resources to choose from if any of our lay leaders would like to provide a worship service on some aspect of our monthly theme.

The annual theme is "Reimagining the Common Good". More information on the annual topic will appear here next month. Our July monthly theme is "Circle of Life". At least one worship service per month will be based on the theme. This month however, both July 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> worship services will draw on the "Circle of Life", but the messages will go in different directions. Please see the sermon "blurbs" for hints on what I'm thinking.

As you celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with family and friends, please take time to remember all those who are representing us around the world by serving in the U. S. Military. With appreciation for our freedom:

"Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!"

With Love, Hope and Joy,

*Claudia*