
July 2018: Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church

Welcoming Congregation

July

The Bridge

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

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

***Primary: "Love Surrounds Us"**

***Teens: "UU Kids"**

***Adults: "Transforming Faith" by Fred Howard**

July 1: "Celebrating Our Country" – What speaks to you about the 4th of July? Does one founding father say more to you than the others? Or maybe it is a more recent leader. Bring your thoughts with you to church as we celebrate our great country.

July 8: "Dreams of Liberty" – Reverend Claudia M. Frost – Like worth and dignity, liberty is inherent – a condition of being human. Liberty requires wisdom and virtue when one has the power to act and speak without restraints. Dreams of liberty are not without great cost and responsibility. Joins us as we celebrate sacred liberty.

July 15: "The Fellowship Movement and its Influence on Unitarian Universalism" – Reverend Lois Cavanagh Daley – based on the book by Holley Ulbrich.

July 22: "The Transformative Power Of Unitarian Universalism" – Reverend Claudia M. Frost – Through stories of exploration and challenge, spiritual integrity and meaning making, let us bear witness to how people return from the brink of despair, find welcome and acceptance while others discover the life-saving power of religious community. Join us for testimonies of the transformative, life-saving power of our liberal religious faith.

July 29: To Be Announced: Offering will go to All the King's Children, Mount Olive, NC



Dates to Remember

Touchstones topic for July is "Liberty".

July 8: Board Meeting following church services and covered-dish lunch.

July 12: Quilting at 10:00 a.m.; lunch at Johnny's Seafood at 11:30 and AUW meeting at 1:00 p.m.

August 31-September 3: Church Retreat Weekend, Shelter Neck, Burgaw, NC

September 11: Lifetouch Directory with free 8 x 10 portrait 2:00-9:00 p.m.

CONCERT

**July 7: MUSICAL CONCERT
FEATURING JIM SCOTT:
COVERED-DISH SUPPER AT 6:30
P.M. FOLLOWED BY CONCERT AT
7:30 P.M.**

Claudia's Comments

As we approach two hundred fifty years since the signers of the Declaration of Independence risked everything for *Liberty*, let us reflect on the theme of *Liberty* this month. According to the July edition of the *Touchstones Journal*, although freedom and *Liberty* are often thought of as synonymous, freedom refers to being free from something while *Liberty* means to be free to do something. It is said that Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, was very clear about the difference. Freedom was “never spoken of as a right by Jefferson but *Liberty* is listed in the Declaration of Independence as one of our inalienable rights”. Like human worth and dignity, *Liberty* is also inherent...a condition of being human. It is an internal force that causes us to rise again regardless of whether we have freedom or not.

Recently I read an interesting article in *American Way*, The American Airlines magazine that you find in the seat back pockets of all their planes. I knew I wanted to share it with you sometime and the topic of *Liberty* seems appropriate. The story about Azriel “Al” Blackman, an Aviation Maintenance Technician Crew Chief at John F. Kennedy International Airport surprised me and made a point on behalf of seniors that *age is just a number*. Having the *Liberty* to follow your passion regardless of being well past retirement age is a right that’s sometimes denied by mandatory retirement restrictions.

This year marks Al Blackman’s 75th year as an Aviation Maintenance Technician at American Airlines. Yes, 75 years! He is now 92 years old, in good health and going strong. Although he still does some sheet metal work on occasion, his primary role at this time is coordinating the American Airlines maintenance team at JFK International Airport so they’re safe and successful in putting planes back in service. He enjoys going to work with the many friends he’s made on the maintenance crew. Al also loves to restore vintage aircraft for the Historical Aircraft Restoration Project at Floyd Bennett Field.

Compulsory retirement would interfere with the *Liberty* of individuals to act as they are willing and safely able. Sometimes people who are forced to retire from a career they love before they want to leads to unhappiness and loss of vitality. I think Kahlil Gibran’s words, “Life without liberty is like a body without spirit...” reflects what such interference might look like on a personal level.

Life without *Liberty* interferes with the human spirit in other ways. As you make plans to celebrate the 4th of July with family and friends, let’s take time to think about the freedoms we enjoy, the *Liberty* to make choices that are right for ourselves and others, and the pursuit of happiness. Religious *Liberty*, liberation theology, and uses of our *Liberty* to create good for others will be among the topics found in your July *Touchstones Journal* and our worship service on July 8th.

Parades, Cookouts & Fireworks...Yes!...Let’s celebrate the 4th of July.

With Love, Hope and joy,

Reverend Claudia