

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"

June 4: "A Look at Universalist Convocation 2017" - Convocation attendees will share the highlights and their insights about the weekend at Liberty Universalist Church in Louisville, Miss. We will discuss the Saturday workshops and try to recreate the Reverend Richard Trudeau's Sunday service "Jesus and the Debate about Peace."

June 11: "The Message of Flowers" - Reverend Claudia M. Frost - Whether you are an avid gardener with a green thumb, one who finds problems keeping even house plants alive or know nothing about flowers, there is a spiritual message for you among the flowers. It's our annual **Flower Communion Sunday**. **Please bring a flower for the communal bouquet. Another person will choose your flower during the service.**

June 18: "Good Enough, Failures & Grit" - Reverend Claudia M. Frost - Parenting in the 21st century has changed dramatically. The role for many grandparents has changed too. As a congregation with a deep love for supporting and nurturing families, Father's Day is a good time to explore some important issues emerging from the pressures affecting parents and their children. Come celebrate Father's Day with us.

June 25: "Remember When" - Ms. Jane Wilkins Cherry - Jane will share memories from her past including Red Hill Universalist Church, Shelter Neck camp and her time as a teacher at East Duplin High School.



Dates to Remember

June 8: 10:00 a.m.: Quilting at church followed by Dutch-treat lunch at Johnny's Seafood and by AUW meeting at 1:00. (Please don't forget your old holiday cards for St. Jude's)

June 11: Covered-dish lunch and Board Meeting following church services.



Claudia's Comments

When Ralph Waldo Emerson spoke of opportunity he said, "Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything beautiful, for beauty is God's handwriting." After multiple days of rain and overcast skies, opportunities for viewing God's handwriting are all around today. The sun is out, blue skies and low humidity make for a glorious day at the beach as I see the waves breaking, people walking by and children playing in the sand.

Summer doesn't officially begin for another three weeks on the summer solstice, June 21st. The beauty of summer is ripening all around us as the plants sprout multiple shades of green in the fields I pass on the way to our church and in the varied colors of ripening fruits and vegetables from your gardens or roadside stands. As our annual Flower Communion approaches (June 11th-*The Message of Flowers*) I hope you will still have beautiful flowers to share. Don't miss the beauty surrounding us in June.

In addition to the natural beauty of the season, summer reminds me of the many picnics my family enjoyed when I was growing up. We were frequent visitors at several public parks in the San Antonio area. The Breckenridge Park was my favorite because of the beautiful old trees, lush vegetation, and meandering river- a rare thing in a city where scrub oaks, cactus and dry parched ground are the norm.

Hot dogs, Campbell's Pork & Beans, Fritos and lemonade comprised our usual picnic fare. I used to think our picnics were my Dad's idea because Mom packed his favorite foods and he always seemed to be so happy and present with us at those times. Playing in the park with Dad holds many happy memories. Many years later I learned all the picnics were my Mom's idea during the years when money was extremely tight in our household. Yes, the hot dogs and beans were a favorite of my Dad, but Mom said it was a way to have family fun and she could feed the whole family for very little cost.

The beauty of her plan resulted in gifting me and my siblings with many good memories of our Dad in that beautiful park setting. During those years, he worked long hours in the hot Texas sun in the construction business and we didn't get to spend much time with him. Saturdays or Sundays in the park were a special treat.

As Father's Day approaches, in preparation for our Father's Day worship service I'm thinking about what it's like to parent in the 21st Century. Family life has seen many changes since the 1950's and 60's when I was growing up. As I watch my sons and son-in-law, I know the role of fathers has changed.

I hope you will plan to join us on Father's Day (June 18th) for a reflection on parenting and grand parenting in today's world (*Good Enough, Failure, and Grit*). In the meantime, why not think about the best wisdom your Dad taught you? Perhaps this could be a good family dinner conversation starter. Much family wisdom is passed from generation to generation at the dinner table. Whether meeting at a restaurant, enjoying a picnic, a cookout or evening meal at a well-worn family table, I hope this summer will include many opportunities for your family to gather, share a meal and enjoy each other's company. Wishing you a memorable summer.

With Love, Hope and Joy,

Claudia