



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 24-week Great Courses "Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls" taught by Gary A Rendsburg, Rutgers University

Primary: "Love Surrounds Us"

Teens: "Families"

November 5: "Faith, Doubt, & Certainty" – Reverend Claudia M. Frost – Our monthly theme for this month is *Faith*. What does faith mean? Is your faith built on doubt or certainty? Where does your faith come from? Some say our faith affects everything we do. Join us for a look at what faith means for your life.

November 12: "Cultivating Gratitude" - Reverend Claudia M. Frost – Some say gratitude is the key to *joy and equanimity* in your life. What does cultivating gratitude involve? Is it possible that a spirit of gratitude can help grow our souls? Let us prepare to give thanks and actually enjoy the company of family and friends rather than just look forward to the Thanksgiving feast and football games.

November 19: "The Coyote and the Marshmallow Buddha" – Reverend Don Southworth – As we prepare for another holiday season we will explore one of the most important gifts we should have faith in and share this time of year – a sense of humor.

November 26: "The Unfairness of the Vietnam Era Draft Law (Project 100,000)" – Lay Service led by Ed Clark

Dates to Remember

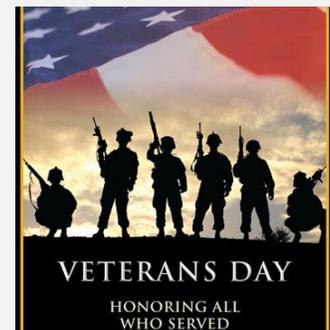
**November Touchstones
Monthly Theme "Faith"**

**November 4: Stew Fest at
Albertson**

**November 9: 11:30 a.m.
Dutch-treat lunch at
Johnny's Seafood
1:15 p.m. AUW meeting**

**November 12: Board
Meeting Following Services
and Covered-Dish Lunch**

**November 16: 6:00 p.m.
Emergency Preparedness
meeting with Duplin County
Sheriff's Dept. Officer Ben
Parrish**



Claudia's Comments

If you weren't able to attend the Harvest Sale last month, you missed a fun evening of fast bidding, a great variety of auction items, laughter, fellowship and a delicious dinner. Mark your 2018 calendar now for October 6, 2018! Plan to enjoy the afternoon and evening with us next year.

A special thank you to our auctioneers, Joe Price and Taylor Best. Also I wish to express my appreciation to everyone who donated auction items, attended and participated in the bidding and stayed to enjoy dinner and fellowship. I hope you went home with something fun, enjoyable, or unexpected. The event hosted one of the best crowds we've had in several years and your generous participation helped us have one of the best Harvest Sales in recent history. This is both inspiring and exciting as we begin to prioritize and start to work on the recommendations of last year's *Visioning for the Future* Task Force. Thank you for your help and generosity.

For many people this has been an exceptionally challenging year. Some may be wondering how you can find a way to give thanks this Thanksgiving amidst difficulties that tend to overwhelm your spirit. I truly believe that giving thanks helps us create personal resilience, hope and a sense of peace. I hope you will enjoy the following Thanksgiving poem as much as I did.

Be Thankful

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire,

If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something

For it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times.

During those times, you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations

Because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge

Because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes

They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary

Because it means you've made a difference.

It is easy to be thankful for the good things.

A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are

Also thankful for the setbacks.

GRATITUDE can turn a negative into a positive.

Find a way to be thankful for your troubles

and they can become your blessings.

(Author Unknown)

Happy Thanksgiving!

With Love, Hope and Joy,

Reverend Claudia