



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"

September 3: "3 Men, 2 Songs, 1 Woman: An American Story" – Jimmy Merritt

September 10: "Beauty in the Mud" - Reverend Claudia M. Frost – This month's theme is Beauty. Do not mistake glamour for beauty. Our human souls are hungry for beauty. Beauty's invisible embrace invites new heights of passion and creativity...even in uncertain times of global conflict and national distress. Let us explore this endless and elusive theme for the spiritual and life giving gifts that surround us in beauty.

September 17: **Motivational Speaker** – Garret Bliss – Mr. Bliss has become fascinated by the many different ways people approach success, enjoyment and fulfillment in their lives. After gleaning the best ideas and philosophies from hundreds of books and lectures and learning from some of the brightest minds in *positive living and fulfillment*, Garrett began to write his own books. Garrett's writing portrays his personal philosophy on living by weaving together the greatest wisdom and advice of others and distilling through his own experience and personal traits.

September 24: "Return Again" - Reverend Claudia M. Frost – In the Jewish tradition, the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mark the New Year and the Day of Atonement. It is a time of prayer, introspection and attention to making amends and forgiveness. Although we don't have a similar liturgical tradition, September begins our new church year. It's a good time for reflection; letting go of old wounds and hurts. How do we forgive? Is it really possible in some circumstances?

Dates to Remember

September Touchstones Monthly
Theme: "Beauty"

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

September 3: 3:00 p.m. CUA
ordination of John Sutton

September 10: Annual Meeting
following services and pot-luck
lunch.

September 14: 11:30 a.m. Dutch-
treat lunch at Johnny's Seafood
1:15 p.m. AUW meeting

October 7: 3:00 p.m.
Harvest Sale

November 3: Stew Fest
(Albertson) Small Congregation
Workshop (Raleigh)



Claudia's Comments

As I write this message, the flood waters are still rising in Houston, Beaumont and surrounding counties. Hurricane Harvey is on its way to Louisiana and like you, my heart is heavy with the suffering of so many people. As many of you know, I grew up in Texas...went to college in the Houston Medical Center, did my ministry internship in Houston at Emerson UU Church and I still have many close friends there. I've been able to get in touch with some but the welfare of many others remains unknown. My family members in San Antonio and New Braunfels are okay and I'm grateful their homes haven't suffered any significant damage. One of my Houston friends has lost their family business due to total flooding, but I'm thankful she and her husband were able to evacuate their home and get to a hotel. It's been difficult to watch the disaster unfold and know the human suffering in this historic deluge will continue for a long time.

PLEASE NOTE: The UUA and UUSC are partnering in the *Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund*. The funds will be administered by leaders from the UUA's Southern Region. *The UUSC will work with and support local grassroots community partners on the ground in Texas serving at-risk populations who may not be able to access relief services and who are traditionally left out of mainstream response efforts. UUSC and their partners will work to bolster locally led relief efforts that are serving immigrant families, in particular young mothers and their children. If you wish to donate directly to this fund, you can do so at*

<https://giving.uua.org/harvey-floods>. There is also an address for mailing checks at the same website.

There are many other groups who are working hard to help meet needs in the flooded areas. Here are a few more that might appeal to you:

The Texas Diaper Bank, based out of San Antonio is putting together relief kits for families with very small children who need access to clean diapers in the midst of flooding and evacuations. Diapers take up a lot of space in a delivery truck, which means that other relief organizations have to decide between bringing diapers or food to affected areas.

<https://texasdiaperbank.networkforgood.com/projects/33717-change-a-life>

The **SPCA of Texas** is taking in hundreds of animals transferred from shelters along the coast. Donations will help defray costs. https://www.sPCA.org/news_hurricane-harvey

Portlight is an agency working to ensure that people who require medical equipment and assistive devices have what they need after evacuation. <http://www.portlight.org/home.html>

Donations can be made to the American Red Cross: <https://www.redcross.org/donate/hurricane-harvey>

As you continue to hold the people of Texas affected by Hurricane Harvey and all those helping in the relief efforts in your thoughts and prayers, please make plans to attend our annual congregational meeting after the potluck lunch September 10th. The *Visioning for the Future Task Force* will present the final report and submit changes in the church Mission Statement and Covenant. This is a time for all members and active "friends" of the congregation to come together on behalf of the future of our church. I hope to see you there.

With Love, Hope and Joy,

Claudia