

The Bridge

You are encouraged to join us for 11:00 a.m. church services.

No Sunday School programs and no childcare.

The playroom is clean and open for parents who wish to use it.

August 4: "It All Starts with Rhythm" – Jimmy Merritt – Of the elements of Music, Rhythm is the element that connects us to the earth, the stars, the emptiness between and each other.

August 11: "Women of Influence We Know Nothing About" – Lisa Stolar – Amazing the list of women who have done and invented amazing things that we never learned about in school.

August 18: "What is Love?" – Reverend Brian Clougherty – I receive a daily email/newsletter called "The Conversation". One weekly feature is called, "Curious Kids, a series for kids of all ages". It invites kids to submit a question for an expert to answer. On 7/29 the question was "What is love?" Let's take a look at what some experts have to say and see if it makes sense to us.

August 25: "Where Universalism Can Prosper" – Reverend Justin Lapoint – This sermon will deal with the future of Universalism. I will raise the question, "In the light of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly's decision to abandon the 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism, is the UUA the best place for Universalism to prosper as a faith?"



Dates to Remember

The quilt is out of the frame and being readied for hemming.

Aug. 8: AUW Meeting; hemming the quilt.

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



Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church has a history of members and friends who are educators. That history continues with our children and new friends. We know how important education is to our children. That is why I chose this "lesson" for this month. Lisa

"I was Feeling Pretty Jaded...."

Leland Michael, Teacher: Des Moines, Iowa

I was feeling pretty jaded this morning as two different sets of parents at Walmart stopped me in the school supplies aisle to complain about how much they had to get their kids this year. "This is just ridiculous. I don't know how these teachers think we are supposed to get all this stuff."

As they complained, they seemed to be oblivious to the fact that my cart was filled with a class set of all the supplies they were buying—which should have been a pretty clear indication that I was one of those greedy teachers they were complaining about.

While I was checking out, though, things took a very different turn. I noticed the man in front of me in the checkout lane was buying school supplies for his daughter. As he went to leave, he said to me, "You are a teacher, right? I just want to thank you for everything you do. I see your cart is filled with supplies, and I just wanted to help out as much as I can." Then he handed me a \$25 Walmart gift card, shook my hand, and walked away with his daughter smiling big at me. While I was extremely moved by the man's generosity, the part that stuck with me the most was the difference in his message to his daughter compared with the parents who had been complaining earlier.

The kids who heard their parents complaining heard this message: "School is not important enough to spend money on it, teachers are not to be trusted and have bad judgement and learning does not require investment."

The kid whose dad handed me the gift card heard: "School is important enough that we should give more than required to make sure it is successful, teachers should be respected and valued, and learning requires us giving it everything we have."

If money is tight, and you struggle to buy your child school supplies, I understand. Don't worry; more than likely your child will have a teacher and a school that makes sure they have the supplies they need to be successful this year. However, as a parent, do your best to send the right message to your child. The man who gave me the gift card not only made my day, but I also know that his daughter will enter the classroom this year with a very different perspective about her teacher and her education and that is extremely powerful!