

## The Bridge

No Sunday School Programs and no Childcare during Phase 3.  
The playroom is clean and open for parents who wish to use it.

**February 7, 2021: "If Love is the Answer, What are the Questions?"** – Ann Malpass – Think about it and bring your questions/answers about LOVE. Part of the service will be based on Henry Drummond's 1874 analysis on love as written by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 13.

**February 14, 2021: "Love and Death"** – Reverend Claudia Frost – The late Reverend Dr. Forrest Church said many times, "The goal of life is to live in such a way that our lives prove worth dying for." On this Valentine's Day let's look at Dr. Church's theological lessons on the ultimate realities of love and death. In this time of social isolation, we need to remind one another how precious and fragile life is. We need to remember how important love is both in the face of death and also in living wholeheartedly.

**February 21, 2021: "The Articles of Confederation"** – Ed Clark – America's First Constitution, 1781-1789. The first of a two-part series.

**February 28, 2021: "The Kindness of Strangers"** – Reverend Claudia Frost – Someone said, "Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give." In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus responds to the question from a lawyer, "Who is my neighbor?" by telling the parable of the *Good Samaritan*. As stress of the Pandemic wears on, kindness can be an antidote to stress. Please join us to learn more about the parable's message and this stress reducing way of being in the world.



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### Dates to Remember

Because of the COVID-19 Virus, formal activities at Outlaw's Bridge are curtailed. We are in Phase 3.0 for reopening activities for ourselves and the state. We are still encouraged to practice "Safer at Home" orders when possible and gather in groups of no more than 10 inside and 50 outside. We are asked to practice social distancing, wash our hands and wear face coverings.

**February 11: AUW Meeting at 1:00 p.m. following lunch ordered from Johnny's Seafood. Be at church by 11:30 a.m. to place order.**

**February 14: Board Meeting following church service. Lunch will be provided.**



## Claudia's Comments

Although the COVID Pandemic continues to overshadow our everyday interactions, we continue to do our best to lead full lives, stay healthy and safe and meet for worship each week in the new year. For many years, the month of February has been celebrated not only for Valentine's Day (2/14/21), the Mardi Gras and the beginning of Lent (2/17/21) but it's African American history month. Most of us know a lot about prominent Civil Rights leaders of the 1960's such as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Medgar Evers and John Lewis. However, there are so many other people we know little about who worked tirelessly and risked their lives and health to bring much needed change for the Black citizens of this country.

One of those little-known leaders I learned about when I was in seminary is Fannie Lou Hamer. Born on a plantation in Mississippi in 1918, Mrs. Hamer was the last child in a family of twenty children. Her parents were sharecroppers in the Delta. Fannie only had six years of formal education at a time when the school term was only four months a year. Fannie loved to read and improve her knowledge. In 1962, when the Civil Rights Movement began in Mississippi, Mrs. Hamer became first a participant and then a leader. One time when she tried to vote she was arrested and put in jail along with others. While in jail she was severely beaten and suffered kidney damage, foot injuries, a head injury and eye damage that challenged her health for years.

Fannie joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) as a fieldworker in voter registration drives. She became a leading figure in the organization of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and attended the 1964 National Democratic Convention to challenge the seating of Mississippi's Regular Democratic Party. It was during a credentials committee hearing at this convention that she made a television appearance telling of the problems she encountered trying to vote in Mississippi. She recalled that "The first vote I cast, I cast...for myself, because I was running for Congress." She opposed the incumbent from her congressional district Representative Jamie Whitten. Mrs. Hamer was also instrumental in forming the farming cooperative, Freedom Farms, in Sunflower County Mississippi so the people could have land to raise fresh vegetables for their families.

Her speech at the 1974 Democratic Convention is considered one of the most important of the Civil Rights Movement. She was a powerful orator who usually spoke without a written script. Her passionate, plain-spoken message motivated the national media to pay attention to the horrible conditions African Americans lived under in Mississippi. Fannie Lou Hamer was known for her deep faith, her belief in working with all races and unwillingness to hate her enemies. Besides her powerful oratory style, she was a passionate singer who often used songs as part of her public speeches.

Fannie Lou Hamer challenged people all around her to share their talents. She believed our talents are a light. Mrs. Hamer challenged all of us to use our talents against injustice and evil wherever we encounter it. Her favorite song "*This Little Light of Mine*" has become a favorite of mine too.

Come celebrate with your masks on...Black History Month, Valentine's Day & Mardi Gras!

With Love, Hope & Joy,

Reverend Claudia