
January 2021: Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church

Welcoming Congregation

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.**

January 3, 2021: "Chances Taken, Chances Missed" – Lisa Stolar
– Each of us have taken and missed chances in our lives. Let's share some of ours!

January 10, 2021: "Beginnings, Endings and Letting Go" –
Reverend Claudia Frost – Welcome to 2021. A wise person said letting go is freedom, autonomy and emancipation. With a difficult year such as 2020 in the record books, what do we need to let go of to embrace a new beginning in 2021? Join us in celebration of the New Year and how to spiritually prepare for whatever lies ahead.

January 17, 2021: "Services with Jimmy" – Jimmy Merritt -

January 24, 2021: "People of Influence" – Don Outlaw – A look at some of the people who have influenced my life.

January 31, 2021: "Hatred: A Patch of Self Destruction" –
Reverend Claudia Frost – The last sermon in our long running worship series on difficult or negative emotions deals with hate. It's important to pay attention to negative emotions...to go to what's at the bottom...rage, hurt, fear or more. Hate causes a lot of problems in the world, but it never solves anything. Hate has power and should not be ignored.

Martin Luther King Day: Monday, January 18th, 2021



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.

January 10: Board Meeting following church service. Lunch will be provided.

January 14: 10:00 a.m. Undecorate from Christmas. 11:00 a.m. Dutch treat take out lunch from Johnny's Seafood. 1:00 p.m. AUW Meeting.



Claudia's Comments

Last January I wrote about changes, challenges and opportunities that I was anticipating as my husband Dave and I welcomed our son and his family to live with us for a while upon their move from Atlanta. They needed to save money for a house down payment and decide where they wanted to live in the area. We anticipated enjoying more time with grandchildren and knew we would need to be flexible as we navigated combining two households.

Like most people, we had no idea what 2020 had in store for us. COVID-19...a worldwide Pandemic...business shutdowns and closing of schools...government health mandates and COVID-19 guidelines...travel concerns and trip cancellations...quarantine mandates and contact tracing...restrictions on the number of people allowed to attend worship services...lockdowns of assisted living facilities and nursing homes...wearing masks.

In review, 2020 brought challenges not only due to COVID-19 but also personal health challenges for me with recovery from rotator cuff surgery and rehab as well as multiple foot surgeries. However, throughout the year, many blessings top the list of my 2020 Pandemic memories. I'm grateful my son and his family agreed to our invitation to move and live with us for a while as they both work in the restaurant industry. I'm grateful for all the chauffeuring and household help my family did for me after each surgery to get to PT appointments, doctor visits and even a few round trips to the church. 2020 will always be remembered for all the smiles and fun times with two of my granddaughters, cooking together and all sharing family dinners each evening. Thinking about church challenges: although we were disappointed the annual Harvest Sale had to be cancelled, I feel a deep sense of gratitude to everyone who answered the call to make donations. It has been a big help to our budget shortfall. Even though we couldn't work on a quilt together for the Harvest Sale, a quilt has been donated and a silent auction is planned for February. Gratitude is also in store for all of you who have continued to donate generously during this time even though you haven't been able to come to church. This is also the year a special gift made it possible to upgrade the church sound system.

Other blessings of 2020 included a sabbatical time for me. Although I was unable to do any of the travel I had planned or the projects, I am grateful for the time off because it turned into much needed time for recovery from my foot surgeries. During this time of pandemic, it has not been possible to invite visiting ministers so I'm also grateful for all of our members and friends who answered the requests for extra lay-led services. I appreciate Outlaw's Bridge's long tradition of quality worship on Sunday mornings.

How about you? How will you remember 2020? The challenges and difficulties of the Pandemic won't be forgotten any time soon, but what are you grateful for over this past year? How do you want to remember 2020?

In closing here is an anonymous quote I believe speaks about what we hold dear as Universalists:

Sometimes it feels like there are so many things in the world that we can't control. Earthquakes, floods, wildfires...a Pandemic. But it's important to remember the things that we can control like forgiveness, second chances, fresh starts. Because the one thing that changes the world from a lonely place to a beautiful place is love. Love, in any of its forms, love gives us hope.

Happy New Year!

With Love, Hope & Joy,

Reverend Claudia