

The Bridge

No Sunday School Programs and no Childcare during this time. The playroom is clean and open for parents who wish to use it. Due to Covid-19, except for Sunday 11:00 a.m. services, many activities remain cancelled. Sunday School programs have been cancelled until further notice.

January 1: "Janus" – Jimmy Merritt – January is named for Janus. In ancient Roman religion and myth, Janus is the god of beginnings, gates, transitions, time and durability. Let's learn more.

January 8: "Not for Ourselves Alone: A Universalist Survival Guide" – Facilitator: Dave Kundtz – Universalist Convocation 2022 – Rev. Schuyler Vogel – "We would be wiser to spend our energy and creativity in what this moment in history actually calls for: a religion that cares more about the world than itself; a religion that understands that its true calling is about justice, hope, human connection, and service with humility."

January 15: "Morality and Economics" – Reverend Brian Clougherty – "Neo-liberal" economics says that free markets make prosperity "for everyone" out of selfishness and greed, and (severe) income inequality provides the capital needed for innovation and progress. In such thinking, regulation (moral or otherwise) interferes and weakens "the prosperity engine". Supposedly "science" supports these theories. But that "science" is pseudo-science. "Amoral" economics is a moral travesty. Economics and capitalism grounded in actual science promotes humane prosperity via humane capitalism. Let's look at economics and morality.

January 22: "Peeling the Onion" – Reverend Charlie Davis – Who are we at our core when we peel away all the layers of identity thrust upon us? We are not our race, our gender, our sexuality, our class, our education or our culture. What exists when everything is peeled away? What is unique to each of us and what is universal?



Dates to Remember

January 8: Covered-dish lunch and Board Meeting following service.

January 12: 11:30 a.m.: meet for lunch at Johnny's; 1:00 p.m. AUW Meeting.



"What I Know to be True for Me"

Sarah Rivenbark

I have a few days left in my 30's and this is what I know to be true for me:

*Every chapter in life is "the good old days," save the moments now.

*Dogs are the best teachers for what life is about: Unconditional love and living in the moment.

Adopt a dog and commit to it for its entire life. You'll receive the biggest return on that decision.

*Time is more important than money. Money spent on experiences over "things" is always worth it though.

*Don't buy off brand mayonnaise, ranch dressing, cheese, underwear, chocolate or coffee. This is NOT worth it.

*Life can be short, or it can be long, take care of yourself first so you can take care of others. It's not selfish to put yourself first, it's necessary. It's also necessary to teach our kids that self-care is not selfish, it's an act of love.

*I do not care what anyone thinks of me anymore. You may think you feel like this in your 20's and early 30's but just wait. And I have a feeling that the I do not care feeling keeps growing with age and I'm here for it.

*People who don't have children, by choice or not, do not have it easier than those who do. As someone who has been on both sides (suddenly), it's wrong for parents to judge childless adults and assume they have it easy. Priorities change and where you decide to use your energy changes when you have kids, but it doesn't automatically make you a person with a load heavier than others. We don't talk about this enough and it's important. Shut down the segregation between parents and non-parents.

We should all come together to help each other as humans.

*Just show up. Show up for yourself, your community, your family and others who are important to you. However you are, just show up.

*Kindness goes a long way. If you screw that up with someone, admit it and move on. No one is perfect.

*It's crazy that we wait until a person dies to share all the amazing and beautiful aspects about them.

Why do we do this? What if we made it a point to tell people how much they mean to us, or share a wonderful memory with that person, or how the world views the person? Why would we wait to share the beauty after they are gone and not now so that they get to know how people feel about them?

*Figure out what purpose you can have in life. The world may make it seem like you only have one purpose or identity...it's not true. Pick a purpose or a way you can impact the world right now...it will evolve and change and lead you to your next purpose. Don't think long term (that evolution happens naturally), just think of what you can do right now. Everything is temporary, but the impact you can have on others creates a domino effect that makes a huge difference, and that difference can be permanent.

Sarah Rivenbark is a friend and teacher who lives with her wife in the mountains. They are the foster parents of three sisters.