
July 2021: Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church

Welcoming Congregation

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.

July 4, 2021: "Celebrating our Country with Patriotic Songs & Hymns" – Join us as we sing songs that remind us why Independence Day is so important.

July 11, 2021: "Three Brave Women" – Lay Led by Lisa Stolar – Based on the book *"The Agitators"* by Dorothy Wickenden. "Three friends who fought for abolition and women's rights."

July 18, 2021: "God of Many Names and Great Mystery" – Reverend Claudia Frost – The God of your childhood is probably different from the beliefs and images you hold close to your heart today. Join us for an exploration of the many ways people understand and experience the Divine.

July 25, 2021: "The Secret of Life" – Reverend Claudia M. Frost – Wouldn't you like to know the secret of life? Would it make a difference in the choices you make and how you live your life? Join us for this worship service and I will share the secret as it is known to me.



Dates to Remember

July 8: AUW Meeting at 1:00 p.m. following Dutch-treat lunch at Johnny's Seafood.

July 15: 8:00 a.m.: Grounds Clean-up.

July 18: Covered-dish lunch following church service. Board Meeting following lunch.

August 6-7: Universalist Convocation, Sandy Springs, GA.

August 29: Retirement Luncheon for Reverend Claudia Frost.

September 12: Sunday School Program for All Ages Resumes.

October 2: Harvest Sale

Claudia's Comments

Another month passes, signaling my time with you is growing short. Upon retirement I will have to refrain from any church activities with you for at least a year or more. I will truly miss our conversations and visits. I know our conversations constantly shape our lives. They can change us. Both the discussions we have and those we fail to engage in tell us a lot about ourselves. I've learned the number one thing people crave is to be seen and to be heard; to know that we matter. Each of us can give the gift of paying attention. It's key to transforming our relationships. I hope you will all continue the ways we pay attention to one another in our church community; listen with our hearts and spirit, not just our ears. As time passes before a new minister is welcomed into the congregation, hopefully everyone will continue to check on one another and pay attention to those who haven't been able to return to church since the onset of the pandemic. A note, a call, a visit are good gifts of attentive conversation.

Not knowing it would be my last conversation with my sister, I'm so glad I called her the night before she died. A poem by Carly Benson reminds me how important such conversations can be. *Conversations...*

We put off having. That leave us grinning from ear to ear.

We have to admit we are wrong.

Those we don't know the right words to say.

We have to ask for advice.

The one in our head which keeps telling the same story over and over.

Those that challenge us. The uplifting talks. The debates. Our cries for help.

The ones that move us to tears. The ones we say things we can't take back.

Those that bring us much needed healing.

The laugh-from-your-belly hilarious ones.

Those we realize we did all the talking or all the listening.

The unforgettable ones. The difficult ones.

Those where we learn the bitter taste of swallowing our pride.

How about the ones where life decisions are made?

Or the ones where we have to show the nitty-gritty rawness of our feelings.

Can you recall your recent conversations? Were they meaningful? Are you holding onto anything left unsaid? When a loved one died, were there things left unsaid? When I retire at the end of August, let us not leave things unsaid to one another. I look forward to being in conversation with you in person, or call me, text, email or send a card.

Wishing you a safe and happy 4th of July!

With Love, Hope & Joy,

Reverend Claudia