
July 2025: Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church

Welcoming Congregation

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.

July 6: "Life's Lessons in the Language of Music" – Jimmy Merritt –
Applying the vocabulary of Music to who we are.

July 13: "Right and Wrong" – Facilitator Ann Malpass – Rev.
Michael Barnett, M. Div, M. Ed. Rev. Barnett writes that great
civilization is achieved in every era when "when greatest
happiness of the greatest number...is the measure of right and
wrong." We will explore with Rev. Barnett.

July 20: "What's Love Got to Do With it?" – Reverend Brian
Clougherty – I covered faith (the better translation is trust) and
hope in May and June. It's time to look at the third in Apostle
Paul's trilogy of faith, hope and love. The title is from Tina Turner's
1984 song. The answer: Love has everything to do with it.

**July 27: "Coming Out in Faith: Voices of LGBTQ Unitarian
Universalists"** – Facilitator: Lisa Stolar – Lisa will be using the book
by Susan A. Gore and Keith Kron and other stories of LGBTQ+
persons to further our understanding of their lives.



Dates to Remember

**July 10: A UW Meeting after
quilting at 10 and going for
lunch at 11:45.**

**July 13: Covered-dish lunch
and Board Meeting following
services.**

**Quilting Dates to Be
Announced**



“What Does Independence Day Mean to Me: A Veteran's Perspective”

Ryan Burnett: Clear Path for Veterans New England

The 4th of July is one of America's greatest holidays, with today's celebrations including fireworks and parades across the country. But what exactly is Independence Day and what does it celebrate? On 2 July 1776, during the American Revolutionary War, representatives from 13 North American colonies voted to declare themselves independent from the crown, forming the United States of America. Two days after the historic vote, on 4 July 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed – and each year since Americans have celebrated their independence. Drafted mostly by our Founders, a lawyer and planter from Virginia (and later the third president of the United States), the Declaration of Independence features the famous lines: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal” and have “certain unalienable rights” – among them “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”.

We as Americans are responsible for protecting our unalienable rights, and throughout history, the sacred document itself has been sought after with intentions of destruction. There are many stories of “Secret Service protection, bullet-proof cases, concrete and steel-reinforced bunkers” and more. Protesting for equality in our country is not a new idea, although we as a country are going through unsettling times, protesting for equality has been going on since the drafting of the Declaration of Independence itself. The cornerstone of America's freedom rings from the words of one of our Founding Fathers “That all men are created equal”.

To me, Independence Day is more than the smell of burgers on the grill or the colorful fireworks lighting up the night sky. I equate Independence with the freedom that comes with a price.

When asked to write this article, I initially found a quiet place to relax and sit back reflecting on the article title “What does Independence Day mean to me: A Veteran's Perspective”. Being able to find that quiet spot to reflect brought me back to my childhood and how I celebrated the holiday growing up in the 1970's/1980's, it was all about community parades and picnics with my family and enjoying fireworks together. As my mind races with celebratory happy times, I can't help but think of those unsettling times in between. Military training, Korea, being a new husband and father, moving away from family/loved ones, finding new friends, September 11, 2001. Just to name a few. When traveling through time it is often difficult to understand the significance of the matter, especially when working so close to impactful and later historical time periods. Independence Day allows for reflection and although this looks different to everyone, we Americans will pause and “unite” as one on this day. It is our very freedom that allows us to celebrate how so we choose. I appreciate that freedom every day and also those who continue fighting to keep it. I feel so grateful for being able to walk freely. The pride towards our country, paying respects to our troops, past and present. I enjoy taking the time listening to the Star-Spangled Banner while placing my hand over my heart. I love teaching children about what America stands for and how wonderful our nation is, even in its darkest of hours. Our Independence has made us stronger together as Americans.

Our service members and Veterans defended our freedom. When they continue their journey home, it is our duty as grateful citizens to care for them.