
July 2026: 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 5: "When God Keeps Not Coming Back" – Jimmy Merritt

July 12: "Universalist Convocation History" – Reverend Justin Lapoint – Justin will be speaking about the Universalist Convocations from 1990 to 2024. In addition, he will speak about the 2026 Convocation and share some of his hopes for the future.

July 19: "Incarnations of the Spirit of Selfless Love" – Reverend Brian Clougherty – In June I said that if Jesus were reincarnated, he would act like Paul Farmer. When and when else might we find human compassion that seems almost beyond human capacities? What might this suggest about the humanity of Jesus?

June 26: TBA



Dates to Remember

July 9: 1:00 p.m. AUW will meet at church.

July 12: Covered-dish lunch and Board meeting following services.



"The Nature of Patriotism"

Adlai Stevenson: August 27, 1952

We talk a great deal about patriotism. What do we mean by patriotism in the context of our times? I venture to suggest that what we mean is a sense of national responsibility which will enable America to remain master of her power – to walk with it in serenity and wisdom, with self-respect and the respect to all mankind; a patriotism that puts country ahead of self; a patriotism which is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime. The dedication of a lifetime – these are words that are easy to utter, but this is a mighty assignment. For it is often easier to fight for principles than to live up to them. Patriotism, I have said, means putting country before self. This is no abstract phrase, and unhappily, we find some things in American life today of which we cannot be proud.

Consider the groups who seek to identify their special interests with the general welfare.

True patriotism, it seems to me, is based on tolerance and a large measure of humility.

There are men among us who use "patriotism" as a club for attacking other Americans. What can we say for the self-styled patriot who thinks that a Negro, a Jew, a Catholic or a Japanese-American is less an American than he? That betrays the deepest article of our faith, the belief in individual liberty and equality which has always been the heart and soul of the American idea.

What can we say for the man who proclaims himself a patriot – and then for political or personal reasons attacks the patriotism of faithful public servants?

The anatomy of patriotism is complex. But surely intolerance and public irresponsibility cannot be cloaked in the shining armor of rectitude and righteousness. Nor can the denial of the right to hold ideas that are different – the freedom of man to think as he pleases. To strike freedom of the mind with the fist of patriotism is an old and ugly subtlety. And the freedom of the mind, my friends, has served America well. The vigor of our political life, our capacity for change, our cultural, scientific and industrial achievements, all derive from free inquiry, from the free mind – from the imagination, resourcefulness and daring of men who are not afraid of new ideas.

The tragedy of our day is the climate of fear in which we live, and fear breeds repression. Too often sinister threats to the Bill of Rights, to freedom of the mind, are concealed under the patriotic cloak of anti-communism.

Another feature of our current scene that I think invites a similar restraint is the recurrent attacks in some communities upon our public schools. There is no justification for indiscriminate attacks on our schools, and the sincere, devoted and by no means overpaid teachers who labor in them.

Men who have offered their lives for their country know that patriotism is not the fear of something; it is the love of something. Patriotism with us is not the hatred of Russia; it is the love of this Republic and of the ideal of liberty of man and mind in which it was born, and to which this Republic is dedicated.

With this patriotism – patriotism in its large and wholesome meaning – America can master its power and turn it to the noble cause of peace. We can maintain military power without militarism; political power without oppression; and moral power without compulsion or complacency.