
March 2023: Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church

Welcoming Congregation

The Bridge

You are encouraged to join us for 11:00 a.m. church services.

We continue to socially/physically distance, wear face coverings, and wash our hands as necessary.

Please stay health and safe!

March 5: "March, Music and the Military" – Jimmy Merritt.

March 12: "Hymn Sing: Easter and Spring" – with Ann Malpass.

March 19: Services with Reverend Brian Clougherty.

March 26: "Truth" – with Linda Sutton Jones – Linda will be sharing a service prepared by her Father, William Sutton, our "Bill" from 1962.



Dates to Remember

March 9: A UW Meeting:
Meet at church at 11:30 a.m. to go to lunch at Johnny's Seafood. A UW meeting at the church at 1:00 p.m.

March 12: Following church service, covered-dish lunch and board meeting.
(Daylight saving time starts)



Excerpts from "Faith: A Journey for All"

Jimmy Carter

In *Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis*, published in 2005, I listed some characteristics of fundamentalism. To summarize, there are three words that characterize this brand of fundamentalism: pride, domination, and exclusion.

In sharp contrast, Jesus espoused humility, servanthood of leaders, and breaking down walls between people.

Our faith should be a guide for us in deciding between the permanent and the transient, the important and the relatively insignificant, the gratifying and the troubling, the joyful and the depressing. We sometimes study the principles on which our faith is founded, but we must not become obsessed with the belief that we have a special ordination from God to interpret the Scriptures and to consider anyone who disagrees with us wrong and inferior. The tendency of fundamentalists in Christianity and other religions to condemn those who differ from them is perhaps the most disturbing aspect of their current ascendancy. One of the worst sins is pride and the belief that we are good enough to look down on others. I guess it is human nature for nations, classes of people or even individuals to set their own standards and mores and then to find themselves to be good. Karl Barth says that religion is our search for God, and that this always results in our finding a god that is most convenient for our own purposes. He distinguishes this from Christian faith, which results from God's seeking us through Christ.

When people become alienated from one another it is important to search for a healing source. A husband and wife may have a child who can hold them together. Members of an athletic team who don't really like one another will cooperate in the heat of a game. Our faith in God should play a unifying role among believers. This may seem obvious, but all too often we forget or ignore it.

This book is about faith, which is a crucial element of human life and, more specifically, of all religions. Faith, however, is not the most important commitment or consideration in our human existence or in our relationship with God or with other people. That is *love*. We must remember that "God is love."

When he was asked which was the greatest of all God's commandments, Jesus replied "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this:

'Love your Neighbor as yourself.'

There is no commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:30-31).