
March 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.

March 2: "Maybe This is Why Church Attendance is Down Across this Country" – Jimmy Merritt – A chapter in the book "Profit Without Honor, White Collar Crime and the Looting of America" can give us a clue as to why pews are empty across this country.

March 9: "Spring Celebrations" – with Ann Malpass – So many of our celebrations, both religious and secular take place in the Spring. We will look at several.

March 16: "Make Good Trouble" – Reverend Brian Clougherty – Justice – and democracy – do not happen by themselves; they only happen when people insist and demand fairness and stick up for those who cannot stick up for themselves, like children and those suffering more than most of us. The late congressman, John Lewis, said the example of Rosa Parks "inspired him to 'find a way to get in the way, to age in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble.'" Let's look into "good trouble".

March 23: "Hymn Fest" – Have a favorite hymn? Let Ann know so Jimmy can have advanced warning.

March 30: "Wilderness: A Sermon on Jesus' Time in the Wilderness and What it Means" – Reverend Cynthia Williams – From Luke 4:1-13: Temptations Jesus faced and that confront us.



Dates to Remember

March 9: Covered-dish lunch and Board Meeting following service.

March 13: 11:45 a.m.: Dutch-treat lunch followed by AUW meeting at 1:00 p.m.



“SPRINGTIME BRINGS OPTIMISM AND EXCITEMENT FOR FARMERS”

BY JEFF AIKEN: PRESIDENT OF TENNESSEE FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

I'll be honest – I feel a little out of my comfort zone writing this column. Those you have gotten to know through this column before me did such an impressive job of bringing their stories to life with what seemed to be the perfect words. Truth is, I'm not a writer; I'm a farmer. It's what I grew up doing and what I still love to do. I've learned a lot on the farm. So, I hope and pray that you will bear with this ol' farmer as I attempt to share some of the lessons I've learned from farm life, and that somehow, someway, it will encourage you in your life.

As a young boy, I always looked forward to spring because it meant school was almost over for the year and I could spend the summer running around the farm, riding the tractor with my dad or helping my mom feed the baby calves at our dairy. I rarely run, jump or play on the farm anymore, and if I did, aches and pains would replace the joy and excitement I once felt. Those childhood experiences were meaningful and instilled a passion in me for the rural way of life and my love of agriculture.

The farm provides yearlong work, excitement, opportunity and challenges, but for me, as well as many farmers, spring is a time to be hopeful – a chance to improve upon last year's success and learn from last year's struggles. As the days get longer and warmer, my senses are always heightened. The grass turns green, the flowers and trees begin to bloom, the songbirds sing a little louder and the bees begin buzzing. It also means seeing newborn animals romp through the fields, planting crops and anxiously awaiting the sight of tender new growth emerging through the soil. It's like all of God's creations awaken from a sleep.

Now as I get older, I realize our lives, just like nature, go through seasons. At this stage of life, I'm much closer to fall – when one begins to reflect on what you planted, how you nurtured it and the expectations for harvest. When I'm on the farm now, I hope I'm planting the same joy, hopes and dreams for my nieces and nephews my parents gave to me and my brothers.

I'll conclude by saying this – whatever season of life you might be in, take the opportunity this spring to smell the roses and plant something that has the chance to create a bountiful harvest for others.



designed by freepik