
March 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.

March 1: "Music Theory as a Metaphor for God and Religion" –

Jimmy Merritt – What does the way we organize sound tell about the potential insights into our relationship with religion and God?

March 8: – "When the Drummers were Women" – Reverend

Mary Martin – A look at Women's history and a continued examination of the 2024 revisions to Article 2; this time with a focus on interdependence.

March 15: "The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times" –

with Lisa Stolar – Using the book of the same name, acknowledging the life and times of Jane Goodall.

March 22: "The Authentic Gospel of Jesus (Not Matthew, Mark, Luke or John)" – Reverend Brian Clougherty – Jesus' original

Good News and its context, and what it might offer in our present crises of division and discontent.

March 29: "Against Christian Nationalism" – Reverend Justin

Lapoint – Using quotations from Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels, I will demonstrate how the Christian Nationalist agenda is irreconcilable with the teachings of Jesus and does not even reflect traditional Christian values. As it will be Palm Sunday, there will be a Palm Sunday reading.



Dates to Remember

March 8: Following the service, covered-dish lunch and board meeting.

March 12: The AUW will be visiting New Bern to obtain a new quilt top and to visit Barbara and Earl Miller.

March 29: Fifth Sunday offering will be for Maynard Children's Hospital at ECU.



Excerpts from: "Theo of Golden"

Author: Allen Levi

Characters: Theo: Visitor to Golden; Older man with respect and love for all

Ellen: Intelligent, unhoused woman who rides her bike around Golden

Mrs. Ocie Van Blarcum: Matriarch and "saint" of Golden

Site: St. James Church of Golden

"An usher, fighting an onset of total astonishment and embarrassment, was trying to restrain a wild-eyed woman wearing a blue hat from bringing her bicycle into the sanctuary. She had forced her way through the door, bicycle in tow, and was intent on joining the congregation assembled there. St. James had never experienced and likely never would again, such a display of righteous indignation on its premises. Some of the congregation watched or ducked down cautiously behind their pews, horror-stricken at this unexpected visit from an uninvited guest. Others, who recognized the woman from having seen her around town, were curious and even amused that an actual sinner had entered the elegant premises of James, the saint.

Panicked cell phone calls were made to 911 with the expectation that, in a matter of seconds or minutes, officers would arrive, arrest the troublemaker, and restore dignity to the meeting. In the meantime, Father Lundy implored the parishioners to remain seated and be calm. Few paid attention. And then came a voice. 'Darling, Ellen, darling. Hello, dear. Good morning, dear.' Mrs. Ocie Van Blarcum stepped between Ellen and the others and touched her hand. There was no sense of alarm or urgency in her voice. But her forceful presence made it abundantly clear who was now in charge. Immediately, the confusion began to subside, affirmation that a gentle answer (still) turns away wrath. 'Ellen, please come with me sweetheart. We'll find a place for your bicycle. Would you like to sit with me and my family?' (Ellen and Theo knew Mrs. Van Blarcum.) She knew well and lived devotedly the ethic of the eponymous James: 'Faith without works is dead.' While she fit in comfortably in the highbrow world of St. James, Ocie Van Blarcum was no stranger to the soup lines and homeless shelters in Golden. She and Ellen had seen each other often at such places. She understood the difference between 'troubled mind' and 'troublemaker,' and she recognized in Ellen all the signs of the former – a wounded soul, a lost sheep, a 'least of these, my brethren.' Ellen shook her head. 'No, ma'am. I'm looking for Mr. Theo.' 'And Mr. Theo has been looking for you,' he said cheerfully. (They take a seat.) Father Lundy began to speak. He knew a teachable moment when he saw one. 'Let us be silent and pause to reflect before we have our morning prayer.' The organist played a simple rendering of 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'. Most, 'the oldest first,' had redirected their attention away from the spectacle of her strange appearance and had turned their gazes inward.

One could almost hear the sound of stones dropping to the ground."